**Secretary’s report on the activities of Eastern Harps G.A.A Club 2019**

Tá fáilte romhaibh go léir chuig ár gCruinniú Ginearálta Bliantúil ar feadh dhá mhíle agus naoi mbliana déag.

Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, I welcome you all to our AGM for 2019. I am delighted to present to you, all club activities in Eastern Harps G.A.A Club during 2019. Before I begin I would like to sincerely thank Shaun Dorrian who held the position of Secretary for the past two years and who had to regrettably step down due to other commitments. Shaun left two very big footprints behind to which with great difficulty I will try and fill. Shaun was a very efficient secretary and was very helpful to me when taking over this position as this was a new challenge for me and a challenge that I had no experience in but willing to learn. I apologise in advance if I have omitted anyone or anything from this report, I can assure you it is not intentional by any means.

2019 was a somewhat successful year on the playing field, but I believe it is for our off field activities that 2019 will be remembered. On the pitch there was success for the U12, U14 and U18 girls and also the U13 and U16 boys while the U14 boys and U21’s lost out in their championship finals. Off the field there was great excitement with the official opening of our new clubhouse in June.

**Senior Men**

Beginning with the on field activities first and our senior men’s team with an average age of 24 and a mixture of youth and experience maintained their Division 1 status by finishing 8th in the league. This position did not reflect the teams effort in the league, having lost 6 games 5 of which were lost by less than 3 points which suggests we were well able to compete at a high level with a young team and if some of those results had gone our way we could have been much closer to the other end of the table.

Our championship campaign was quite poor having been drawn in a very competitive group. We couldn’t have got off to a worse start with a loss to Drumcliffe/Rosses Point and a heavy defeat to eventual table toppers and recently crowned Division 2 champions Calry/St Josephs. The team regrouped for the next 2 games and with a very spirited performance against Coolaney/Mullinabreena we fell 2 points short of picking up our first win of the championship. Our final group game was against Coolera/Strandhill where a win could still see us qualify for the quarter finals depending on other results in the group. The lads put in a very gutsy performance against the eventual county finalists and came away with a 1 point win which left our fate in the hands of Drumcliffe/Rosses Point and Coolera/Strandhill in the final round of the championship. We needed Drumcliffe/Rosses Point to defeat Coolera/Strandhill but unfortunately for us Coolera/Strandhill were victorious on the day which left us in a relegation battle with St Molaise Gaels. In the relegation final played in very difficult conditions in Tubbercurry, we came out on top in what was a real battle thanks to an improved and spirited performance which saw us retain our Senior Championship status for 2020.

I’d like to thank our very experienced management team of Keith Carty, John Bruen and Morgan Mc Cormack for their work all year with the lads. To blend youth and experience is always a tough task but credit to the lads overall they done well with a young team and hopefully 2019 was a learning experience for the younger lads and something they can build on for 2020. I’d also like to thank Aiden Ward for his strength and conditioning work with the lads at the start of the year and then maintaining their programmes throughout the year. Des Horan also deserves huge credit for the work he does being the First Aid for the Seniors, Juniors, U21’s Minors and some of the U16 games. This service is of huge importance for our teams and is greatly appreciated by the club and on behalf of the club I would like to sincerely thank Des.

Unfortunately Keith Carty, John Bruen and Morgan Mc Cormack have stepped down for 2020 so once again a huge thanks to the lads for their work in 2019. Team management takes a lot of time, dedication and huge personal sacrifice which often goes unnoticed.

**Senior Ladies**

Our senior ladies had a disappointing year on the pitch with numbers being an issue and were therefore totally reliant on minors and U16’s. The fixture schedule for the ladies in 2019 was quite disjointed with the championship being run before any league game was played. Part of this was due to the good run of the Sligo Senior Ladies team in the league. The ladies played in the spring league and in this league the ladies won 2 games and lost 2 games.

We competed in the Senior League and Championship this year, but with a limited panel of predominantly young players we came out on the wrong side of the score line in a lot of our games. However our girls were not found wanting in terms of effort. These results mean that for 2020 we will play in the Intermediate League and Championship. The experience of playing at senior level this year will hopefully stand to the younger players in the future and I hope to see them all return next year.

Thanks to Gary Ward and Gabriel Gallagher who looked after this team. I’m sure it wasn’t always easy due to a lack of numbers for various reasons and working with such a young team.

**Junior Men**

Our junior men had a disappointing league campaign with numbers being a continuous problem left us being relegated to division 4 for 2020. With that being said similar to the seniors, had a few results gone our way we also could have been competing at the top of the table. In the last round of the league against Cloonacool this junior team displayed what they can do with a full complement, as they defeated a fancied Cloonacool team, who ultimately competed in the Division 3 League final.

The junior championship draw saw us in a relatively difficult group with St Michaels, Cloonacool and Curry. Before a ball was kicked Curry withdrew from the competition which guaranteed us a quarter final spot without playing a game. The first round saw us playing Cloonacool in what was a very tough and competitive game throughout with a goal being the difference in the end. We then lost heavily to eventual junior A championship winners St Michaels in the last round of the group. We played Tourlestrane in the quarter final but after poor first half left us with too much to do. We rallied well in the second half but it wasn’t to be as the deficit was 3 points at the final whistle.

Again with a relatively young team the future is bright and with a junior team, it’s a stepping stone to bring young players on to the senior grade with the likes of Kyle Cosgrove and Kieran Breheny making their debuts for the juniors this year. It’s important that this team is maintained as it proves crucial for the development of young players into senior football.

Huge thanks goes to George Garvey, Tom O Connor and Colm Duffy who looked after the team for the year. A junior team is not an easy team to look after as the senior team must take priority, which results in some players not being available on a given day. With that in mind it’s a credit to the coaches who ensured we fulfilled every fixture. Also thanks to John Bruen who also assisted the lads when needed.

**U21**

The U21 championship was ran earlier in the year which I thought worked well as players are enthusiastic to get the year started compared to previous years where it was ran at the end of the year and it was very difficult to motivate players at that time of year and also weather conditions played a part at that time of year also.

Our U21 team had a good group campaign by defeating Curry and Coolaney/Mullinabreena which saw us meet Tourlestrane in the semi-final. In a game where our lads didn’t play to their potential they got through by 1 point. In the final we met Easkey/Enniscrone and unfortunately they were a more physical team. The experience of the Easkey lads just back from the All Ireland Junior final told as they got their scores much easier, while we struggled to gain possession towards the end.

Thanks to Keith Carty, John Bruen and Morgan Mc Cormack who also looked after this team.

**Underage**

**Minor Boys**

Our minor boys struggled all year with numbers with only 6 minors available to play and were totally reliant on the U16’s. With this in mind the team done very well considering two thirds of the team were U16.

In the league the team finished 5th getting a win and a draw while being very competitive in all their games with a young team.

In the championship the team was graded in the C championship but due to injuries and work only 3 out of the 6 minors were available to play. In the group the team finished bottom of the table picking up only 1 win and unfortunately unable to field in the last round of the championship due to the fact that 3 of the U16’s were unavailable to play due to their involvement with Sligo in the Tedd Webb competition. However this game had no significance in the outcome of the group.

This team should be immensely proud of themselves for the effort and pride they showed in all games with small numbers and such a young team.

The management deserve great credit for looking after this team and encouraging them to keep competing in all games. The management consisted of Michael Hannon, Mikey O Grady and George Garvey.

**Minor Girls**

Our minor girls had a successful year and with no league it was just championship. A lot of these girls were already training with the seniors so the girls were gaining experience while playing and training with the senior ladies.

The girls began their championship with a draw against CT Gaels after being dominant in the opening half. The girls went on to beat St Farnans, were awarded a win against Geevagh/St Michaels and then had a convincing and dominant victory against Owenmore Gaels which meant the girls had qualified for the B Championship final.

The girls would play against St Farnan’s who they had already beaten in the group stage in what was a game of 2 halves. In the final the girls made sure what happened in the group stages did not re-occur in the final and dominated St Farnan’s in the first half and had a healthy lead at half time. The girls made sure history did not repeat itself and gave St Farnans no chance of a comeback and the Harps girls ran out convincing winners by 34 points.

The girls were coached by Gary Ward and Gabriel Gallagher. Thanks to the lads for taking over the team as they would have had most of this group at training with the seniors. Hopefully this team can stick together as this team have a great future if they keep playing and training.

**U16 Boys**

Our U16 boys competed in the B league and finished joint 1st but on score difference we qualified to the semi-finals as 2nd. In the semi-final we played the eventual league winners Owenmore Gaels in what was a very high scoring and entertaining game but came up 2 points short in the end.

In the championship there was only 1 group of 6. This team won 4 games convincingly and lost 1 game to near rivals Shamrock Gaels by 1 point. The team finished in first position so qualified for the semi-final against the 4th placed team in the group which was St Johns. This game was a very tough physical game which our lads won. The team would play Shamrock Gaels in the final but this game proved very difficult to fix as the weather wreaked havoc. At the 4th attempt the game was fixed for Bunninadden 4 weeks after the semi-final but it was worth the wait as our lads had complete control of the game from the very start and ran out comfortable winners by 10 points.

The management team of Erroll Flynn, Stephen Keane, Conor Higgins and Michael Hannon deserve great credit for looking after this team.

**U16 Girls**

Our U16 girls team competed in the A league. They competed well in the league but were amongst some very tough teams which consisted of CT Gaels, Drumcliffe/Rosses Point, Calry/St Josephs, Eoghan Rua and St.Marys. The team only picked up their first win in the last round.

With the team finishing second from the bottom meant the team would also compete in the A championship. This didn’t faze the girls as they once again competed well against similar opposition as in the league with St Molaise Gaels replacing St Marys. The team could not get a win but not from the lack of effort. Like all underage teams holidays and the Gaeltacht hampered the team’s preparations for championship.

I would like to thank the management team of Barry Convey and Una Higgins.

**U14 Boys**

Our U14 boys had a busy year with the competitions in Sligo but also in the mix was Feile in June which we were a host club. There will be more on the Feile weekend further on.

In the league there was 2 groups of 5 and in our group we finished 2nd to a very strong St Marys team who were the only team that beat us in the group. In the semi-final we were paired with Drumcliffe/Rosses Point who beat us comfortably in the end.

In the championship there was 1 group of 5 with 1st going straight through to the final and 2nd and 3rd would meet in a semi-final. The team finished 2nd in the group and again the only game they lost was to St Marys which set up similar to the league a semi-final against Drumcliffe/Rosses Point only this time our lads were completely dominant and ran out 12 point winners. In the final against St Marys the lads lost out by 12 points which was a huge improvement from the league meeting earlier in the year where they lost by 24 points. This result just showed how much the lads improved as the year went on and if some of the chances were taken in the final it may have been a different result.

Thanks to Ronan Higgins, Paul Dwyer and Ross Donovan for looking after the team and also to Ronan Higgins, Brendan Mc Hugh and Seamus Hannon who were heavily involved with organising Feile in the club.

A huge thank you to all the parents who volunteered and donated refreshments for the Feile weekend.

**U14 Girls**

Our U14 girls had a relatively successful year winning the U14 B League.

The girls were in a group of 5 teams which consisted of St Johns, St Marys, St Molaise Gaels and Calry/St Josephs and only losing 1 game the girls had qualified for the league final against St Johns.

In what was a tough game the girls came through after a strong second half and claimed the U14 B League title.

After winning the B League the girls were moved up into the A Championship which proved very tough for the girls. The team were in a group with Tourlestrane, St Johns, Eoghan Rua, CT Gaels and Drumcliffe/Rosses Point. With numbers being an issue through injuries and holidays the girls battled well but only managed 1 win in the group stages.

Disappointingly the girls did not enter a team into Feile which was a shame considering their success in the league in Sligo.

The girls had a successful year by claiming the B League title and thanks to their coaches Patricia Mc Donagh and Dawn Mc Gowan.

**U13 Boys**

Our U13’s which were mostly made up of our U14 team and then the addition of some U12’s received a bye into the A Championship. In the preliminary round the lads played Ballymote/Bunninadden at home and were convincing winners. The lads then played Easkey/St Farnans away in the quarter-final and again were convincing winners. In the semi-final the team played a fancied St Molaise Gaels team but our lads were comfortable winners.

In the final the team played Drumcliffe/Rosses Point in Collooney on a very cold day. The team came through the game without much difficulty having 17 points to spare. This team will now represent Sligo for Feile in 2020.

Thanks to the management team of Ronan Higgins, Paul Dwyer, Ross Donovan and Fintan Mc Gowan. It’s safe to say the management team found the right balance with the U13’s and older U12’s and we can hope that these lads keep playing and stick together as they have a very bright future ahead.

Best of luck to the team in Feile 2020.

**U12 Boys**

Our U12 boys entered two teams this year an U12 and an U11 team. There were 20 teams in division 1 and 10 teams in division 3. The division 1 team finished 5th in their group and qualified for a semi-final against Enniscrone/kilglass which they lost 15-7.

The division 3 team finished 8th in their group which qualified them for a semi-final against Coolera/Strandhill which they lost 19-7. The last game of the year was a challenge against St Margarets of Dublin on the 24th of August and a great day was had by all.

The team also had a trip to Croke Park for 2 super 8 games Mayo versus Meath and Kerry versus Donegal. The team stopped into Feericks on the way home for some food after an enjoyable day in Croke Park.

Thanks to the coaches Fintan Mc Gowan, Peter Mitchell, Damien Carty and Adrian Cooke who looked after both these teams. This age group can be challenging during the summer due to kids and coaches being on holidays and organising enough kids to be able to field both teams for the league and to organise coaches to look after both teams.

**U12 Girls**

These girls had a slow start due to a difficulty in finding a coach. After finding a coach in April the girls were straight into a league without much training. The girls struggled in the league and as a result found themselves in the bottom half of the league and were entered into a blitz in Tubbercurry where the girls came through and claimed the C league trophy.

The girls got to work after the league and this paid dividends in the next competition in July where the girls had beaten some of the teams that had already beaten them in the league. Again with holidays the girls failed to field a team for some games and being totally reliant on U10’s they narrowly missed out on the playoffs.

The girls finished up with a party in the clubhouse which was enjoyed by all.

Thanks to Samantha O Gara and Mathona Conheady who looked after this team at such short notice and with very little time to prepare.

**U10/U8/U6**

The U10/U8/U6’s had a great year with very big numbers. Both U10’s and U8’s participated in many blitzes throughout the year and this is key for the development of the players as it is vitally important that the skills are learned at such a young age.

As always big numbers requires a lot of coaches and this year while there was a sufficient amount of coaches there are never enough. If anyone wishes to join the coaching team please contact the clubs coaching officer and they will do their utmost to get you started in the correct manner.

Kelloggs Cul Camps was another success this year in the club with the third highest amount of participants in the county with 171 participants. This is encouraging and it is important that these numbers are reflected in our underage trainings and that all the resources possible (i.e. coaches) are put in place to cater for these numbers.

Also during the Easter there was a 2 day camp organised in Keash with over 80 kids taking part and as a result of this camp there was a slight increase in registration. It was a very enjoyable camp with lots of fun organised for the kids.

Also another positive for this age group is an indoor training camp every Wednesday night in the Colaiste Mhuire gym in Ballymote for the ages between 5 and 10. Our Coaching Officer Linda Donovan with the assistance of the experienced Ross Donovan are looking after this programme and it should be supported as it is a great initiative to keep kids active during the winter while also improving their GAA skills.

There are too many coaches to mention so thanks to all coaches who helped out at this crucial level and we hope to see them all and more in 2020.

**G4M&O**

G4M&O was quite slow to get started in 2019 as there was difficulty in finding a coach for the team as the established coach Paul Dwyer and co-ordinator Eleanor Mc Mahon had stepped away. Thank you to Paul Dwyer and Eleanor Mc Mahon for all their work with this team over the past few years. In March Joanne O Grady was appointed as the G4M&O co-ordinator but there was no coach for this group even after approaching numerous people in the area. The ladies decided to self-train.

The team took part in many blitzes and games with other G4M&O teams.

Unfortunately the team did not partake in the blitz in Dublin this year due to an over subscription of teams.

The numbers were slightly down this year which made it difficult to train and play matches but hopefully for 2020 numbers will improve again. This group is very important as it is a great social outlet for those involved by meeting new people of all ages and having fun which it is all about. I hope that 2020 will see an increase in numbers.

Thanks to all who took part and thanks to Joanne O Grady who co-ordinated the group for 2019.

**Ladies All-Ireland Final day trip**

Including coaches, parents and players from the U12’s, U14’s and U16’s 42 people in total went to the Ladies All Ireland finals in Croke Park on the 15th of September. Everyone had a great day out in Croke Park. This was a great opportunity for the girls to see how the best compete and what they can achieve if the hard work is put in at training.

Thanks to Gary Ward, Catherine Cryan and Barry Convey for organising the trip for the girls.

**Feile Peil Na nÓg**

In 2019 it was Connacht’s turn to host Feile. It was decided the club would enter a boys and a girls’ team but unfortunately the girl’s team had to withdraw. The draws were made and it was announced that the club would be hosting Warwickshire from the UK in Division 8. There was a lot of preparation required to be ready to host a team but with Ronan Higgins, Brendan Mc Hugh, Seamus Hannon and Deirdre Gillen at the helm all the preparation was completed on time.

The Feile competition began on the 28th of June and we were fortunate to host all of the first round games in Keash and included Delco Gaels from the USA, Warwickshire from the UK and St Johns from Sligo. There was a great crowd in attendance and they were treated to some wonderful football. Unfortunately for our lads we lost heavily to a very strong Delco Gaels team but managed to get a draw against St Johns. The following morning we played our host team Warwickshire in what was a very competitive and entertaining game but we came out on the wrong side of the result. That result meant that we would play in the Division 8 shield and Warwickshire would play in the cup.

Later that day we lost out to another UK team in Gloucestershire with Warwickshire losing out in their cup quarter final. That evening both teams had a meal in the clubhouse which was enjoyed by all. After the meal Warwickshire presented our Bord na nÓg Chairman with a Warwickshire jersey and tracksuit and our Bord na nÓg Chairman presented a framed poem to Warwickshire’s coach. This poem was also read out on the day the clubhouse officially opened.

A special thanks to everyone who made the weekend a huge success from coaches, parents, volunteers and anyone else who contributed, there are just too many people to mention.

**County Commitments**

The club is fortunate to have a good representation on county panels this year with Paul Taylor being ratified as Sligo Senior team manager again for 2020, Alan Davey part of the Sligo Senior men’s team, Lisa Casey, Una Higgins and Tara Phillips part of the Sligo Senior ladies team, Dylan Walsh part of the Sligo Minor boys team, Edel Henry, Lisa Powell, Roisin Molloy and Orlaith Connolly part of the Sligo Minor girls team, Dylan Walsh, Matt Henry and James Kiernan part of the Sligo U16 boys team who recently played against Armagh in Keash, Riona Hannon and Maeve Molloy part of the Sligo U16 girls team, Donal Mitchell part of the Sligo U15 development team, Oliver Nerney, Barry Cryan and Evan Powell part of the Sligo U14 team, Sarah Conheady, Ada Conheady and Lauren Lohan part of the Sligo U14/U13 girls teams.

Congratulations to all those who were involved with county teams for 2019 and particularly to those who were fortunate enough to have success for their county in 2019.

I hope that the numbers the club have involved with county teams will encourage more players from our club to work hard and establish themselves as county players in years to come.

**New Clubhouse**

Moving to the off field events and to begin with the incredible building we are sitting in today. There is a more detailed report later in this publication.

The journey to this clubhouse began almost 10 years ago and it certainly was worth the wait to be sitting in this state of the art building that we can be very proud of.

The clubhouse was officially opened on the 22nd of June 2019 on what was a historic day for the club. People came from near and far to celebrate the day with us. There was a fun day organised for the kids on the pitch with lots of different games to be played. I wish to thank our coaching officer Linda Donovan for organising the coaches and activities, ensuring the kids had an enjoyable day while the adults were in awe of the clubhouse enjoying all the refreshments which were generously donated by local businesses and club members.

We had speeches from representatives of Leader, LCDC, Sligo County Council including our own local Councillor Paul Taylor, Development Committee Chairman Sean Scott and Club Chairman Padraig Henry. The building was blessed by Fr Gabriel Murphy P.P Keash.

I would like to thank anyone who kindly donated refreshments on the day. I would also like to thank all the volunteers who helped out, anyone who helped to make the day such a huge success and everyone who attended the event. Thank you to all the musicians and singers who provided the entertainment.

I’d also like to thank the contractor Tony Gormley who has done a wonderful job in completing the construction of the clubhouse. Thank you to Michael Rowley the engineer who oversaw the building of the clubhouse and ensured every little detail was covered and that everything was in its proper place.

I’d also like to thank LEADER for the funding of €200,000 received as it reduced the cost on the club significantly and without this funding the clubhouse would still not be complete. We are very grateful to those who made that possible.

Most of all I would like to thank the development committee of Sean Scott, Tom Murray, Padraig Henry, Shaun Dorrian, Lisa Casey, Damien Mc Govern, Paul Taylor and Thomas Cryan. These members in particular spent an extraordinary amount of their time planning and preparing for the successful construction of the clubhouse.

I would also like to thank anybody who donated or contributed to any fundraiser the club had organised over the past 10 years as this fundraising is the main reason we are sitting here today in this state of the art building.

Now that the clubhouse is virtually complete it is vitally important the incoming executive prepare a development plan for the club and continue to develop the club even further.

**Bingo**

The local bingo in Gurteen hall every Friday night is a huge benefit to have in the area as a percentage of the monies raised are going towards club development and without the money the bingo has raised for the club over the last number of years it is safe to say the clubhouse would not be in the position it is now. It is very important that everyone supports the bingo when they can as this is a very important fundraiser for the club and provides a steady income to meet repayments on our bank loan which must be repaid over the next few years. Bingo is not everyone’s cup of tea but it is a cheap night out and who knows you might even win a few quid and as they say “if you’re not in you can’t win”.

The club owes a sincere debt of gratitude to its volunteers who have given up most of their Friday nights over the past couple of years to run bingo on behalf of and for the benefit of the Club. Thank you to the Eastern Harps Bingo committee.

**Race Night**

Although the Race Night was held last year the committee of Brendan Mc Hugh, Ronan Higgins, Seamus Hannon and Kevin Cryan were gathering the remaining sponsorship during 2019. Thanks to the four lads who organised a brilliant Race Night and for gathering much needed funds for the completion of the clubhouse. The sponsorship signs were also fitted to the fence around the pitch as part of the sponsorship from the Race Night.

**Healthy Club**

2019 was a quiet year compared to other years in the Healthy Club with the completion of the clubhouse taking preference. Once again this year Operation Transformation was ran between January and March and though not as popular as it once was this event is still a very popular social event with people meeting up numerous times during the week for fitness classes, runs and walks. This is another vital fundraiser for the club and thanks to the healthy club committee. This event has reduced in numbers from a couple of years ago and if ran again it should be supported. It is a very beneficial fundraiser and gives a great social and physical boost to all participants for the New Year after Christmas. Operation Transformation was finished off on the 23rd of February with a Grand Finale Night Celebration in Drurys Pub Monasteraden where the winners were announced.

The Healthy Club organised some walks around the region this year as part of the Healthy Club but was not well supported.

On the Monday of the May Bank Holiday weekend the club hosted a walk to the Caves of Keash from our clubhouse as part of the Big Hello weekend in conjunction with Sligo County Council LCDC which was attended by over forty people both young and old. After the walk there were refreshments in the clubhouse and finished off with some live traditional music. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped out.

I would like to thank the Healthy Club committee for organising Operation Transformation and the walks during the year.

**Pitch**

I would like to thank John Cryan and his committee for maintaining the pitch during the year. Testament to the work John and his committee do during the year it was great to see the club hosting a Senior Club Championship match between Tourlestrane and Shamrock Gaels, an Intermediate Club Championship match between Ballymote and St Farnans and more recently an U16 Fr Manning Cup game between Sligo and Armagh when most other pitches were unplayable due to the inclement weather. Unfortunately the weather was very poor for these matches and it highlighted the need for a stand at the pitch.

The grounds also looked superb on the day of the Official opening of the clubhouse with many people complimenting our pitch and facilities.

I’d like to thank our Fás workers Bryan Mc Crann and Michael Francis Casey (recently appointed) for their work on the pitch as they relieve some of the work load from the pitch committee. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Michael Francis Casey.

Again I’d like to thank the pitch committee for the tremendous work they do to have the grounds looking so well and the pitch in such good condition.

**Referees**

At present we have 3 active referees in the club. I would like to compliment Gavin Gardiner and Tom O Connor who now join myself in this enviable position. This is a thankless job but someone has to do it and without referees there simply would not be any games. We suffered the consequence of this recently when an U13 game was called off due to a shortage of referees. In Sligo there is a serious shortage of referees. A game is very easy refereed from the stand so why not be the man in the middle with the whistle. If there is anyone that might like to give refereeing a go please contact me or any executive member.

**Annual Draw**

Congratulations to all the winners in our Annual Club Draw. There is €22,000 in prize money paid out every year with a 1st prize of €10,000 and the money raised from this fundraiser is responsible for the day to day running of the club and is vitally important to the club.

I’d also like to thank those who have taken part and are currently in this draw and if anyone wishes to purchase a ticket for this draw please contact any member of the executive.

**Sponsors**

Every year we are very lucky to have such valued support from our premium sponsors. Year after year they support the club in any way possible and I hope that their support will continue for the foreseeable future. If there are any more companies or organisations who would like to become a premium sponsor, please contact any member of the executive.

I’d like to thank the club officers and members of the executive committee of 2019 for the work they do for the club behind the scenes and unselfishly give up their time for the betterment of the club. It is so important to have an active and enthusiastic executive to guide the club in the right direction. There is always room for more on the executive especially those new to the area or those with new and fresh ideas that can benefit the club in the long run. If you are interested in joining the executive please contact any member of the current executive for more information.

I’d also like to thank all coaches who through rain, wind or snow coach our players to have fun and improve as players. This can sometimes be a thankless job and is time consuming but can be very rewarding. Without our coaches there would not be any teams so again thanks to all coaches. Also thanks to all the parents and players who attend all trainings and games, without you it would not be possible to field so many teams and your support on the side line is vital to the players during games. If there any other players or coaches out there that would like to get involved please contact any of our existing coaches or executive members.

I also want to sincerely thank everyone who assisted me during the year in any way as I am sure I required assistance at some stage and as there are far too many to mention I wish to thank you all. I have learned a lot in my first year as Secretary and without a doubt a lot more to learn if re-elected.

Congratulations to all who got married, engaged and those who had new additions to the family in 2019. I would also like to send our condolences to all those who suffered bereavements during the year.

Again I apologise if there are any omissions or errors in this report.

Here’s to a fun and successful 2020!!

I submit this report to our members for ratification at our AGM.

Is mise, le meas,

Ciarán Mac Samhráin

Rúnaí

Clairsigh an Óirthear