

EASTERN HARPS GAA CLUB

6th December 2015



**Annual
General
Meeting**

Eastern Harps Premium Sponsors 2015

Eastern Harps GAA Club would like to thank their Premium Sponsors for all their help and support throughout 2015:-

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East Brothers



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The Traveller's Rest



James Duffy & Co., Accountants



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Chairman's Address

A Chairde Gael,

Ta áthas orm fáilte a chur roimh chuile dhuine anseo anocht agus tá súil agam go mbeidh cruinniú maith againn. Bhí blian an-ghnóthach agus sásúil go leor againn ar páirc na himeartha agus gabhainn buíochas ó chroí do gach duine a d'oibrigh ar shon Cláirsigh an Oirthear i rith na bliana. The 2015 sporting year has come to an end and I would like to thank you all for your co-operation, enthusiasm and assistance throughout the year.

To begin with I wish to thank each and every one, for the financial assistance that you contributed to our club. Money is what turns the wheels in motion and in this club it costs a lot of money to service the vast array of games that our players participate in, the courses we provide and also the maintenance of our facilities. Once again we thank most sincerely our premium sponsors whose businesses are featured elsewhere in this booklet. We hope that their sponsorship is recognised in the community and as a result, their business is enhanced. We congratulate Brendan and Marie Mc Hugh and their company Mc Hugh Express for their success in winning the owner/driver category in the Fleet Transport of the Year Awards, held at a function in the City West Hotel. Another of our Premium Sponsors, Pdraig O'Dowd, featured prominently in an AIB advertisement and when I last checked it out, it had over 100,000 likes. Many of the pillars which communities were built on are slowly eroding. It's fashionable now to do online purchases and frequent multi-national stores to the detriment of businesses in our own locality. Please if possible support our own locality.

A very constructive meeting of the executive earlier in the year highlighted the need for a well-planned fundraising drive to recruit new members to our Annual Club Draw. Numbers in the draw had fallen steadily in recent years, due in no small measure to the recession and emigration. After a concerted and well-co-ordinated effort, it was heartening to see over 50 new members signing up. A big thank you to all people in the draw, but especially to the members who went out knocking on doors and made this drive a huge success.

To add a bit of variety to the club draw we decided to hold it in the studio of Ocean FM. It worked out very well and we thank Margaret Gormley who acted as an independent witness to the whole draw. We congratulate the winners from that evening, John and Kathleen Higgins who were the recipient of a cheque for €10,000. They were very popular winners as they are immersed in this club since its inception and John is our current President. John and Elizabeth Freehill won the 2nd prize of €5,000 and former player Paddy Grady was happy that his honeymoon in Thailand was interrupted to hear the news of his third place, and a cheque for €3,000. We congratulate Paddy and Patricia on their wedding.

Gurteen Bingo continues to receive widespread acclaim as been extremely well run, its popularity due in no small way to the effort and efficiency of the Bingo Committee. Our club has assembled a team that thrives on hard work and attention to detail and they work in tandem with an excellent Gurteen Hall Committee. This is now proving to be a fantastic social outlet for many people. All profits that Eastern Harps get are ring-fenced for development purposes. Our sincere thanks to Damien Mc Govern, Eamonn Clarke, Aisling Stephenson, Ciaran Mc Govern, Jake and Ciara Stephenson, Pauline Gorman and Jimmy Casey.

It's difficult to think of any one event that has had a more positive impact on the community than Operation Transformation. Hailed as the catalyst that has seen the club become a lot more health conscious, we have been involved in Couch to 5k, Gaelic for Mothers & Others, thump boxing classes and circuit training since Operation Transformation was introduced 3 years ago.

For the coming year the Committee of Aisling Stephenson, Damien Mc Govern, Shaun Dorrian and Sean Scott are taking a break and later on in the year they will make a decision on OT for 2017. We thank them sincerely for the work that they have done, not just this year but for the last 3 years.

Sean Scott, our Development Chairperson, will describe in greater detail the progress to date and the plans we have for the future. However, I would like to acknowledge and commend the work Sean and his team did this year. They had several very detailed applications to assemble, that saw us getting awarded €59,000 in grants towards our dressing room project.

Submitting the application was the easy part, but the work that was done in the background by the Development team included acquiring Planning Permission, getting approval for a commercial bank loan, getting our trustees in order, doing a costing on the building project not to mention canvassing local politicians for the support of this project. Sean will give much more details in his comprehensive report. Sean also serves a dual role as he is Secretary of Coiste na nÓg, the underage fixtures in Sligo which is an onerous task and demands great patience.

2015 was the 1st year of the newly established Bord na nÓg. Any new committee needs time to find its feet, but they were to the fore in the organising of Feile and have introduced many subtle changes to the underage coaching. Many thanks to Kieran Mc Gill in his role as Chairman, ably assisted by Teresa Horan as Secretary.

In the early part of the year we had two ladies who came on board the executive and had a hugely positive influence on the club. Deirdre O'Brien assumed the role of Registrar and displayed her organisational skills by conducting seamless registration over a couple of nights in the spring time. She later, together with Conor Fitzgerald from Tubbercurry Family Resource Centre, assisted in hosting several informative talks on Resilience in our Community. This was open initially to members of the executive, coaches and parents and eventually was rolled out to the teenagers in the area. This proved to be a great success and if there is sufficient interest in the area the T.F.R.C. will organise an ASIST course which abbreviates for Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training.

Edel Mc Nulty, as well as picking up an intermediate ladies medal and a nomination for a club all-star, also assumed the demanding role of Children's Officer. This she did effortlessly with a minimum of fuss and was efficient and discrete in any dealings she had within the club. She was also instrumental in introducing the Code of Conduct and Anti-Bullying Policies in the club. These policies can be viewed on our website or are available from any executive member.

While there is a lot of talk at present about our development plans it is very important to remember that bricks and mortar won't win titles. Our seniors had a very positive year. Silverware was achieved by winning the Kiernan Cup for the 1st time since 1995. However, it was not without its pitfalls as in that same final, club captain Paul Mc Govern picked up a serious knee injury to join Shane Regan who got injured earlier in the year. A month later Barry Convey also picked up a knee injury which meant we were down three senior players for the entire year. I am sure you all join with me in wishing all three a full and speedy recovery. In the new Championship format, which was the brainchild of our club, we succumbed to Curry in the quarter final by the narrowest of margins. In a year where 3 teams were relegated in league and championship, we were never in relegation trouble in any of the grades. We also congratulate Ross Donovan, Michael Clarke and Thomas Cryan on their nomination as Club All-Stars.

Our juniors also performed admirably, being very competitive in the league and reaching the Junior A Championship final, where they were narrowly defeated by Owenmore Gaels. We thank both panels of players for their commitment and dedication.

We also thank Shane King, the senior manager, ably assisted by Paul Judge and Shane Gallagher. To the manager of the juniors, George Garvey we extend our gratitude along with his selectors Aiden Ward and Mikey Grady. We must also commend our vice chairman, Des Horan, who seems to assist every team from under age upwards.

We are indebted to our large volume of coaches and our Coaching Officer, Fintan Mc Gowan, for their fantastic and unyielding dedication to all of our teams from under 6 upwards. We have in excess of 50 coaches that give up their time voluntarily 2 or 3 times a week for the benefit of underage players and the club. Our coaches are the lifeblood of the organisation and are fundamental to our success. All coaches are Garda vetted, have attended a Code of Ethics course and have, as a minimum, completed a foundation course. We encourage everyone within the club to develop and learn new skills and take an active role in the development of our club. We, as always, had a huge turnout at our annual and very enjoyable Cúl Camps and Fintan also took the time to organise an Easter camp.

On the playing fields our U.16 boys team dominated their age group and completed the double by winning the League and Championship A titles. In both finals they defeated St Molaise Gaels and became the first Eastern Harps team since 1996 to win the elusive double. The Championship final was probably the best underage final of the year. Played in a deluge, the better ball skills and teamwork of our lads came out on top over our physically stronger opponents. Congratulations to the entire panel of players and the coaching team of Shaun Dorrian, Neil Molloy and Paul Dwyer.

Our Feile team travelled to the south east coast of Wexford/Wicklow and Carlow and represented us with distinction and pride at the All-Ireland Feile. They experienced a fantastic weekend compliments of their hosts, Muinebheag. The hospitality that they bestowed on us was truly amazing and in turn the behaviour of our team was a credit to their parents, coaches and club. Before leaving, all players received an embroidered O'Neills T- shirt with both our own crest and the crest of our hosts on them. It was a very touching gesture and we appreciated it very much. The weekend will live long in the memory of these young lads as Muinebheag showed the true meaning of Feile as it was a weekend of fun, adventure and making new friends. We are indebted to our host club and thank them sincerely. We wish to thank all parents who travelled to Carlow, who supported our fundraising efforts and to all other donations received by the club towards the cost of sending the team to Carlow. Not forgetting Sean Higgins, the driver of the bus, who negotiated the path to and from the south east and to all the tricky match venues as well. We are thankful to Bord na nÓg for their assistance and especially the management team of Mark Cosgrove, Eamonn Clarke, P.J. Langton, Damien Mc Govern, and Cathal Dowd for their wonderful work that weekend, and indeed all year.

On the playing field the team bowed out at the semi-final stage at Feile Peile na nÓg, while at home they lost the B League semi-final to Curry, and later in the summer the A Championship final to Tubbercurry/Cloonacool. They actually beat Tubbercurry/Cloonacool in the group stages of the Championship, which was the only defeat the South Sligo team saw all year.

Jamie Mc Coy became the youngest winning captain in the club when he led his U.11 charges to victory in Markievicz Park. They train alongside the U.12 team who lost their semi-final to St Marys by the narrowest of margins and are coached by Ciaran Mc Govern, John Bruen, Peter Walsh, and Ronan Higgins. Apart from the training and the games, the coaches organised a day trip to Belmullet GAA club. There to greet them was Pdraic Barrett, a man who in the past had strong connections to this club. We thank him very much for the hospitality that was bestowed on our young lads, and also to our coaches for giving up their time on that Saturday. The boys, I am told, had an excellent day of fun.

The same management team also took the responsibility of the U.13 team and led them to the B final where they succumbed once again to Tubbercurry/Cloonacool. We also wish to acknowledge and thank Ronan Higgins and Charles Morrisroe for the sponsorship of a set of jerseys for these young lads. It is much appreciated. Two of the panel, Dylan Walsh and Caelan Hunt, featured prominently for the Sligo/Leitrim soccer team during the year winning a tournament in Derry during the summer.

The Minor and U.21 teams showed the same management team of Michael and Ray Hannon along with Ross Donovan and Anthony Breheny. The minors competed very well and reached the knockout stages of both the League and Championship but alas picked up no silverware. The management must be commended for being able to assemble an U.21 football team. Playing the first round of football in November on cold wet Saturdays will hardly inspire any footballer to come out, especially as this age group tend to have a lot of students who work weekends. A quick look at the Sligo GAA web page will reveal the amount of games where teams got walkovers and it should prompt the fixtures committee to find an alternative date in the calendar for this age group.

We congratulate Ross Donovan on one of his best years in a Sligo jersey and also to Keith Carty as Sligo senior selector on their appearance in a Connacht Final. We also extend best wishes to Paul Taylor on his appointment as Sligo U.21 manager and wish him well in his role.

After falling at the final hurdle last year the ladies pulled out all the stops and fulfilled their ambition by landing the Intermediate title in fine style by beating St Marys in a goal fest in Markievicz Park. Huge congratulations to the panel of players and management team of Paul Judge and Jack Haran. Their adventure came to an end in Kilglass when they lost to Shannon Gaels in the semi-final of the Connacht Club Championship. Their performances didn't go unnoticed as no less than 6 girls got nominated for a club All-Star, Shereda Davey, Ciara Stevenson, Aisling O'Gara, Edel Mc Nulty, Megan Mc Cormack and Lisa Casey are all included in the panel of 45 that was announced. Megan also had the honour of being the recipient of the Player of the Match in the County Final. Also along with Aisling and Lisa, Maria Doherty and Katie Higgins were all part of the Sligo Ladies team that beat Waterford to clinch the Division 3 title in Parnell Park.

That we can't play our games without a referee is an understatement but yet many of us forget this when we see a perceived injustice against our team. All of us have a part to play in changing this culture while also at the same time insisting that the highest possible standard of refereeing is adhered to. This is something we all need to work on. In the county this year there were over 600 underage games and there is an acute shortage of referees. From our perspective, it was fitting to see Ciaran Mc Govern's work as a referee getting recognition. As one of the best young referees in Connacht he was selected to travel to California to officiate at a major juvenile blitz. At the other end of the scale, Ciaran Dorrian took his first tentative steps as a referee when he officiated at several U.12 games this year. We wish him well in the future and hope that more might follow the example set by these two lads.

Along with the success of the ladies team the Ladies Chairperson, Liz Coyle went off on a new venture and introduced "Gaelic for Mothers & Others" abbreviated to G4M&O. It does exactly what it says on the tin. It's non-competitive Gaelic football for Ladies who had played previously and had gone into semi-retirement, or ladies that never played the game before. It became a fun-filled weekly activity with up to 29 ladies registering and a core group of 14 to 18 ladies training every Tuesday evening during the summer, under the watchful eye of Paul Dwyer. This is the second innovative idea that Liz has brought to the fore during her reign as Ladies Chairperson. Her first idea was the extremely popular Gaelic4Girls, which increased participation among young girls that culminated in a day long blitz in Croke Park. We congratulate the U.12 girls on their victory in the Championship and the U.16 girls on their League title.

Many thanks to Kevin Cryan in his role as PRO. The website that he has developed over the years is testament to his ability as a computer genius within the club. In truth this is a section that has increased beyond recognition in the last number of years due to the advent of social media. We now have Facebook and Twitter to complement our web page. All this demands more than the attention of just one person and Kevin would be first to acknowledge the assistance of Shaun Dorrian, P.J. Mc Keon, Aisling Stephenson and Damien Mc Govern. It's said a picture paints a thousand words and we must all acknowledge the work that Aisling does with her camera. She can be found hovering at any event from County finals, Medal presentations, Feile weekends, Paintballing, Bingo and can also be spotted traipsing along country roads during OT looking for that perfect snapshot during family fun walks. We extend our gratitude and thanks to Aisling.

We also had a team competing in the inaugural Sports Quiz, Pole Position. This was broadcast on Ocean FM radio weekly during the month of January. We fielded a very formidable team of Nicholas Ryan, John O'Neill, P.J. Mc Keon and Paddy Casey. It was an enjoyable experience, where we reached the semi-final before losing to the eventual winners.

The winner of the Kerry Mc Keon competition this year hailed from Keash National School with the essay of Ailish Duggan the transcript that caught the judge's eye. It was a family affair as her cousin Orlaith Connolly from Culfadda National School scooped the runner-up prize. There was also a prize for the winning entry in each school. Mary and David Mc Keon presented Ailish with the perpetual trophy and a cash prize on the last day before the summer holidays. It's a competition that is proving very popular and enjoyable and we thank the teachers in all the schools for their co-operation. P.J. also kept us enthralled with his very informative and sometimes amusing blogs on the website. A lot of people can easily relate to the stories that he recalls over the years. Keep them up P.J.; there is an audience for them. It's also nice to see the old traditional Scór making a re-appearance in the club and, thanks to the efforts of Mai Mitchell and Annette Henry; we had representation in this year's Scór na nÓg for the first time in a number of years.

Our Healthy Club continues to work away out of the spotlight, and Carmel Taheny in her role as Chairperson was to the forefront in organising a two day First Aid Course which now means that we have a coach trained in First Aid with every team that takes the field. We also have a Defibrillator located at Ward's old shop with many personnel trained in the use of this vitally important piece of equipment. Carmel, in conjunction with Sligo GAA, organised a Healthy Club Day in Keash with many guest speakers talking on a range of health issues both physical and mental.

John Cryan's attention to detail as head of the Pitch Committee is evident in the presentation of the pitch on a year-long basis. The pitch surface remains one of the best in the county and it's a credit to John, Eamonn Clarke and the Committee that no match had to be called off this year due to inclement weather. Our two home Senior Championship matches were played on probably the two worst days of the year but the quality of the pitch stood up to the task. We thank all the volunteers that turned out in force those days to manage the traffic and also provide refreshments. We are thankful to Gurteen Games Committee and in particular Jimmy Casey for the work that has been carried out on the community pitch in Gurteen which makes it an invaluable outlet to cater for the huge volume of games and training sessions each year.

A special mention to all coaches who realise the importance of a good playing surface and are happy to co-operate by conducting training sessions and warm up drills on the training pitch. A pitch that gets so much use needs regular maintenance and the expensive job of sanding, seeding and spiking was conducted this Autumn with the pitch then remaining closed for the rest of the year.

Our Finances are the single most important issue going forward and the trusted lieutenant in this job is Thomas Cryan. In a very unassuming way, he deals meticulously with the finances and it's to our benefit as

all grants that we have been promised, and bank loans secured are done on his excellent bookkeeping. His presentation of accounts here tonight and during the year are an example of the high standards he has set. Tom Murray had a very busy year as Insurance Officer and his diligence ensured that all injury claims were dealt with efficiently and promptly. He has also deputised for me on occasions and chaired some meetings. Louis Carty acts as the sole link with the County Board in a role that has mutual benefit for both club and county. He is extremely well respected and his wise counsel is often sought in delicate situations. Likewise our steadfast Secretary of 43 years, Padraic Duffy, is a conscientious man who does his work without fuss or fanfare. He is loyal, committed and habitually dependable. To each of our executive, I wish to thank you for your commitment to our club, and the many sub-committees that you serve on. We have a club that we can be immensely proud of and that over the years has evolved. This evolution is apparent tonight as I believe this is the first time we have held our A.G.M. before the festive season has commenced. We are now on the cusp of a new phase and I detect a new sense of enthusiasm as we are within touching distance of our new development.

While there have been many highlights that I have mentioned, the area once again experienced great tragedy with the death of Karen Powell, who died as a result of a car accident. Just shy of her 21st birthday a dark cloud descended on Gurteen and especially on the Powell family in Cloonsilla when Karen was called from this life. The Powell's are great supporters of this club with Karen an active playing member alongside her sisters on our Ladies teams. Words cannot adequately express the numbness and shock in the area and the void that Karen has left in her family. If there was a chink of light it was that Karen was an organ donor and the unselfish actions of her and her family will have brought great joy to many donor families.

Sadly we also lost some great supporters and stalwarts throughout the year. Our Patron Jim Taheny, former ladies coach Johnny Downes, John Joe Nerney, the coach of the first Eastern Harps men's team to win the County Senior Championship, and the great supporter and former sponsor, Ted Mc Gowan, to name but a few. To all of the above and anyone else that suffered a bereavement we sympathise with you on your loss.

On a brighter note we wish the best of luck to Dylan Towey, a 4 year old boy as he heads over to America for surgery as part of his treatment that will help his mobility and allow him learn to walk. The 'Dylan's Path to Walk' fundraiser that was due to take place recently was postponed to a later date. We appeal to you for your support for this worthy cause.

Also, we afford heartiest congratulations to Aine Mc Grath, vice principal of Culfadda National School, on receiving an award from an tUachtarainn Cumann Luth Chleas Gael, Liam O'Neill for her promotion of Rounders in National Schools. She is also very good at promoting Gaelic football in the school and she can boast about having a Cumann na mBunscoil title to her name as coach of the girls team in Culfadda School.

Finally, I am sure you will agree we must complement our assistant secretary Shaun Dorrian for this excellent production of this booklet. I especially must thank him for his patience as I was certainly one of the worst culprits in breaking deadline after deadline as he tried to get it off to the printers. He has amassed a booklet that in years to come will be looked back at as a hive of information on one year in Eastern Harps. Alongside him Brian Stephenson used his undoubted talents and artistic mind with the production of the cover picture. We thank them both very much.

In conclusion, may I wish you all a very Happy and Prosperous Christmas and Good Health and Happiness in 2016.

Padraig Henry
Chairman

Minutes of the AGM of Eastern Harps GAA Club held in the Clubhouse on Sunday, 11th January 2015

1. There was an attendance of 40 members present for the 2014 A.G.M. which was chaired by Pdraig Henry, who welcomed all present. He referred to the array of 7 trophies on display; a measure of success achieved, principally by underage teams in 2014. He complimented Brian Stephenson on the A.G.M. booklet cover design and Shaun Dorrian on its compilation.
2. The minutes of the 2013 A.G.M. were read by the Sec. Pdraic Duffy and adopted on the proposal of Damien Mc Govern, seconded by Aisling Stephenson. There were no matters raised arising from the minutes.
3. The Chairman went through his lengthy address in which he thanked many people who assisted in club activities in 2014. He praised the work of Barry Cryan and Tom Murray who surveyed the club grounds and clubhouse and produced a series of recommendations. He thanked all the sub-Committees, the Ladies Committee, the Registrar, the Premium sponsors, the sponsors of gear and after match meals and our Lotto supporters. Referring to the success of Operation Transformation, the Chairman posed the question: "Can we think it over before we pull the curtain?" He paid a special tribute to the Bingo Committee, pointing out that a profit of €23,000 was shown in 2014. Thanking Sean Scott and his assistants, the Chairman recalled that two applications for Sports Capital funding had been turned down but he promised that we wouldn't give up. The Kerry Mc Keon Literary Award was a very successful innovation and the specially commissioned carving was awarded to Eimear Mc Coy, Carn N.S., with Aoibhe Carty, Keash N.S. taking the runner-up spot. The Chairman referred to the Circuit Court case in May and the subsequent conviction of a former club coach. He expressed satisfaction that the club had Child Protection policies in place and a Children's Officer who understood the need to have these policies implemented and updated as necessary.

He informed the meeting of written complaints from three parents of our under-14 boys team, which were forwarded 5 weeks after the final. In keeping with G.A.A. guidelines, the club had established a Behaviour Advisory Committee to investigate the complaints against the members of the team management. The Committee met both sides and devoted approx. 140 hours to the investigation. They complimented the team management on their record keeping of attendance at training, matches etc.

After careful consideration, the B.A.C. fully exonerated the u-14 team management of any mistreatment of players and their report was subsequently ratified by the club's Executive Committee. The serious allegation made by a parent that the u-14 training sessions were "an arena for bullying" was subsequently withdrawn in writing.

The Chairman wished to have it recorded that our u-14 management were "exemplary coaches". He thanked them and all the club coaches who give of their time and talents to transmit the skills of our games to our underage players. He also thanked the B.A.C. for the professional manner in which they carried out their duties.

The Chairman concluded his address by thanking his fellow officers and the many people who are involved in the day to day operation of the club. He indicated that he didn't wish to continue as Chairman, having completed 5 years.

His address was adopted on the proposal of Louis Carty, seconded by Sean Higgins.

4. The Secretary's Report dealt in some detail with a variety of club activities over the year. He reviewed the performance of our adult teams and complimented many sub-committees and individual members who all contributed in different ways to the running of the club. His report was adopted on the proposal of Teresa Horan, seconded by Ronan Higgins.
5. Treasurer, Thomas Cryan produced a comprehensive set of accounts, which showed that income was reduced by almost €8,500 and expenditure was down by €7,500 when compared to last year. The accounts showed a deficit of €4,500 and an urgent need to secure more Lotto members. The

Current Account showed a credit balance of €11,000 with €88,000 in the Development Account. A total of €13,000 was to be repaid to the Development Account.

The Financial report was adopted on the proposal of C. Gallagher, seconded by F. Mc Gowan.

6. Sean Scott, Chairman of the Development Committee, presented his report. He referred to the new online Sports Capital grant application, known as Oscar, which restricted the scope for submission of information. He reminded the attendance that the process is very political. He suggested that we set a target of having €100,000 raised before next year's application. He predicted a busy year ahead as we progress the plans for a new clubhouse/dressing rooms. He complimented our Treasurer, Thomas Cryan on the preparation of monthly accounts and thanked the members of the Development Committee for their assistance and support.
7. Carmel Taheny reported on the Healthy Club Initiative. She highlighted the Heart Screening programme and the purchase of a defibrillator, adding that a First Aid course was planned for early in the year. She explained that some funding may be provided from Croke Park to promote the Healthy club ideas.
8. Liz Coyle reported on Ladies football in the club. She commented on the success of separate coaching for the u-10 boys and girls in 2014. She thanked Shaun Dorrian, Paul Judge and Benny Connolly for their assistance as well as paying tribute to all who promoted ladies football in the club.

Her report was adopted on the proposal of Fintan Mc Gowan, seconded by John Lynch.

9. The election of Officers for 2015 followed, as listed:

Position	Name	Proposer	Seconder
Patrons	Jim Taheny Christy Gallagher	Kieran McGill	John Higgins
President	John Higgins	Teresa Horan	Tom Murray
Chair	Not Filled at AGM – outgoing not seeking re-election		
Vice-Chair	Tom Murray Des Horan	Shaun Dorrian Kieran McGill	Christy Gallagher Jimmy Casey
Secretary	Padraig Duffy	Ronan Higgins	Paul Dwyer
Assistant Secretary	Shaun Dorrian	Thomas Taheny	John Higgins
PRO	Kevin Cryan	Des Horan	Fintan Mc Gowan
Oifigeach na Gaeilge	Áine Nic Craith	Kevin Cryan	Sean Higgins
Delegate to Co. Board	Louis Carty	John Higgins	Shaun Dorrian
Registrar	Damien Mc Govern	Kieran Mc Gill	Teresa Horan
Ladies Chairperson	To be elected at Ladies AGM		
Ladies Secretary	To be elected at Ladies AGM		
Schools Liaison Officer	Michael Hannon	Louis Carty	Sean Higgins
Coaching Officer	Fintan Mc Gowan	Paul Judge	Ronan Higgins
Insurance Officer	Tom Murray	Sean Scott	Teresa Horan
Pitch Committee Chair	John Cryan	Shaun Dorrian	Sean Scott
Healthy Club Chair	Carmel Taheny	Sean Scott	Des Horan
Children's Officer	Aisling Stephenson	Sean Higgins	Christy Gallagher
Bord na nÓg Chair	Kieran Mc Gill	Tom Murray	Paul Judge
Bord na nÓg Secretary	Teresa Horan	Brendan McHugh	Carmel Taheny
Scór Committee Chair	Mai Mitchell	Annette Henry	Peter Mitchell
Scór Secretary	Annette Henry	Teresa Horan	Liz Coyle
Executive Committee	Ciarán Mc Govern and Robert Reid withdrew from the Committee. The outgoing Executive was re-elected with the addition of Edel Mc Nulty on the proposal of Paul Judge, seconded by Teresa Horan.		

10. Before the meeting concluded Fr. Joe Caulfield raised the matter of a Ladies football fixture which was arranged for Easter Sunday morning. He felt a more suitable time could have been chosen. The Secretary pointed out that the fixtures are decided by the Ladies Co. Committee. It was agreed that the issue be raised with them to avoid a repeat.
11. Sympathy was extended to the Meehan family, Daughloonagh, Keash and the Flaherty family, Monasteraden on recent bereavements.

This concluded a successful AGM.

Kerry Mc Keon Literary Award Winner – Ailish Duggan



Annual Club Draw – Main Prize Winners 2015



€10,000 – John Higgins, €5,000 – John & Elizabeth Freehill, €3,000 – Paddy Grady

Secretary's Report on the Activities of Eastern Harps G.A.A. Club 2015

A Chairde Gael,

Is cuis áthais domsa teacht os bhur gcomhair arís chun tuarascáil a thabhairt diobh ar cursai Cláirsigh an Oirthear sa bhliain atá caite. Is fíor le rá go raibh bliain sásuil go leor ag an gclub ar páirc na h-imeartha anuraidh.

D'éirigh go maith le foirne buachailli is cailini sna comortaisi ogánach agus tá toradh a gcuid iarrachtaí ar taispeáint anseo inniu. Comhghairdeas doibh go leir agus do na mná a bhuaigh Craobh Chomortas an Chontae Idirmheánach. Bhí diomá orainn nuair a theip ar ár foireann sinsir sa cluiche ceathru-cheannais, Craobh Chomortas Peil Sinsir Co. Shligigh. Bhi cuilin idir Curraigh agus na Cláirsigh agus lean na buateoiri ar aghaidh go dtí cluiche cheannais an Chontae.

D'oibrigh a lán daoine, idir óg is aosta, go dian dicheallach ar son Cláirsigh an Oirthear ar feadh na blianta. Gabhaimid ár mbuíochas doibh go leir as ucht an t-am, an suim is an dea obair a rinne siad. Ní neart go cur le cheile!

Chairman, Rev. Fr., Ladies and Gentlemen, once again it is my pleasant duty to report to ye on the activities of Eastern Harps G.A.A. Club in the year 2015 as it draws to a close. It would be true to say that we had a very busy and quite a successful season on the playing field, particularly at underage level. Our Ladies team did us proud by winning the Intermediate Championship.

Our men's senior team performed quite well in the league before losing out by a point to Curry in the championship Qtr.-finals. Curry progressed to the County final. This was certainly one that got away. We were well capable of beating Curry and progressing further but we missed too many scoring opportunities following a two goal salvo from the opposition.

The championship was run on a new format with a double round, home and away. It was rather drawn out and could have been completed in a much shorter time span. The idea of home and away games had limited success. Attendances were increased but not to the extent anticipated. The fact that the early rounds were on a league system meant that interest was muted and the championship never caught the imagination of the general public.

On a positive note our seniors avoided the dreaded relegation play-offs which resulted in some prominent teams making the drop. One would have to be concerned with the overall standard of club football during the year. We are all aware that we need more players coming through to the county panels but on the evidence of 2015 they are scarce. On a brighter note our underage structure is producing some talented players, who we hope will form the basis of successful Harps teams in the future. Winning is a great habit to develop and build confidence and a taste of success whets the appetite for more.

Congratulations to our nominees for the Sligo Champion Club All-Stars 2015; Shereda Davey, Edel Mc Nulty, Aisling O'Gara, Ciara Stephenson, Megan Mc Cormack and Lisa Casey for the Ladies team and Ross Donovan, Michael Clarke and Thomas Cryan for the men's team. It is a great honour for them to be nominated and we hope that a few awards will come to our club.

The adult playing season in 2015 began on Sunday 15th February with the opening round of the Kiernan Cup and ended on Saturday 31st October when the u-21 team lost to St. Michael's. In between those dates there were plenty of great games, fine individual and team performances and, of course, some hard luck stories. There were many players, male and female, involved and many coaches and mentors who gave so much time and effort to represent the club to the best of their ability. This is something that is not always appreciated by supporters, who can be critical in the wake of defeat.

Only one team can win a competition, but it is often the case that several others put in the same effort and give similar commitment, often with little to show for it at the end of the playing season.

Over the years, success in the Kiernan Cup may not have been top of our priorities. Our victory in the final over the then County champions, Tubbercurry on Easter Monday, 6th April in Scarden was a timely boost. The senior team featured in the opening game of the season, defeating Bunninadden by 3-09 to 3-07 on February 15th. Round 2 saw them travel to St. John's and record a comprehensive 1-15 to 0-03 victory. On March 8th the seniors defeated Coolera/Strandhill in Keash on a 2-08 to 1-06 scoreline. Three straight victories qualified the team for the final and a tilt at the County champions. Our seniors collected the first trophy of the season with a 3-14 to 4-06 win in Scarden.

Unfortunately, the victory was spoiled by a serious knee injury sustained by Paul Mc Govern. His loss to the team as the season progressed was huge. We all wish him well as he continues his recovery. He has been an outstanding player and ambassador for the club over the years.

The seniors had a promising start to their league campaign. They opened with a 1-08 to 1-07 win at home to Coolaney/Mullinabreena on Sunday, 22nd February. Round 2 saw them away to St. John's whom they defeated by 1-12 to 0-08. We played our first draw with St. Molaise Gaels 1-09 to 0-12 in Keash on Saturday 11th April. Round 4 turned a likely victory into a last minute defeat. Leading Coolera/Strandhill by 1-10 to 0-11 in the closing minutes we conceded two goals to lose by 2-11 to 1-10.

The 5th Round game at home to Tourlestrane was one of our poorest of the year. Although both sides were level at 0-5 each at the interval, we lost by 0-8 to 1-12 on Sunday, 26th April. Another defeat followed, away to St. Mary's in Round 6 on Sunday, 3rd May, losing by 1-14 to 1-05. Round 7 was played on Friday evening, 15th May and our seniors returned to winning ways, defeating Curry in Keash by 2-15 to 1-11. The improved form was carried on in Oxfield on Sunday, 24th May when we had a 1-10 to 1-07 win over Drumcliffe/Rosses Point, who would later be our opening championship opposition.

A much too lengthy break from league football followed as club fixtures took a back seat and county football took precedence. This is something that must be addressed by fixture planners. The club players must get more football at the best time of year for playing our games. There is no simple solution as hard pressed clubs demand the availability of their county players. Perhaps the recently published report from my namesake in Croke Park may bring about a better balance in favour of our club players. It is a matter that deserves serious consideration.

Almost seven weeks elapsed before our seniors were at home to Tubbercurry and lost by 0-14 to 0-07 on Saturday, 11th July. It was not the ideal performance as the championship approached. Perhaps in hindsight, it would have been better to complete the programme of league matches before embarking on the championship.

We had a bye in the opening round of the championship, which meant that our first game was away to Drumcliffe/Rosses Point on August 9th. It was disappointing to lose it by 0-12 to 0-11, particularly when our team seemed to have got on top early in the second half.

The league resumed on the following Sunday and the seniors had a 1-17 to 0-08 victory over Calry/St. Joseph's in Keash. The game had a 12 noon throw-in as the Fleadh Ceoil took centre stage in Sligo. A week later we had our second championship game which we lost to Tourlestrane on a 2-10 to 0-13 scoreline. This game had a 6.30pm start due to the All-Ireland football semi-final on television.

The championship moved ahead slowly and at last it was time for the return game at home to Drumcliffe/Rosses Point. A 1-10 to 0-09 win was just the boost we needed on Sunday, 13th September.

The focus was now on the return game versus Tourlestrane, which was away. A well-deserved 1-11 to 0-14 draw put our team right back in contention for the knock-out stages.

Our championship hopes were ended by Curry in Kilcoyne Park on Saturday, 3rd October in the Qtr.-finals. After a promising start we conceded two quick goals, had a point disallowed and eventually lost on a 2-12 to 1-14 scoreline. It was disappointing for everybody as Curry went on to contest the County final.

On reflection we made too many basic errors and paid the price. So our season ended in disappointment after a series of mixed performances where we struggled to find consistency. The players and team management had worked hard in training since February. Shane King put in a massive effort and was ably assisted by Shane Gallagher and Paul Judge. They got a positive response from the players. Thanks to Des Horan who once again was on hand to assist with player injuries. Thanks also to Shane Gallagher who assisted several players to recovery through physio consultations.

To achieve any worthwhile success a club needs a fully committed panel of players allied to a strong backroom who plan everything in detail and provide the platform for the players to perform. I believe we have the right ingredients at the moment and can build on the past season to bring further success in the coming one. I hope that we can retain the present management and the current panel and challenge for County titles in 2016.

Early in 2015 we opted to relocate our second adult men's team from Intermediate grade to Junior A. A decrease in player numbers was the main reason for this unusual move. It worked out quite well with most players, who wished to, being accommodated at this level. George Garvey, Mikey Grady & Aiden Ward took charge of the team and put in a huge effort with them. The team played in Division 3 where they encountered some stiff opposition.

The Division 3 league began on Saturday, 21st March. We were just finding our feet at this level and lost the opening game in Keash to St. Mary's by 1-10 to 0-05. Matters improved for Round 2 on Saturday, 28th March when our team travelled to St. Pat's and beat them 2-05 to 2-04. We had St. John's in Keash on Sunday, 12th April and our team had a deserved 3-11 to 0-09 victory. They built on this good form on Saturday, 25th April when defeating Owenmore Gaels by 2-10 to 1-09 in Round 4.

On May 9th, the Junior A team recorded their highest score of the season to date when defeating Shamrock Gaels 5-17 to 3-12 in Coola. They were quickly brought down to reality when losing heavily to St. Mary's in Round 6 on Sunday, 17th May in Kent Park. We had just 13 players on the June Bank holiday when losing 2-08 to 2-09 to St. Pat's in Round 7. St. John's conceded Round 8 to us. Just like our Division 1 team there was little activity for our Division 3 team in June. Our team travelled to Connolly Park for Round 9 on 12th July but lost by 4-13 to 0-08 to Owenmore Gaels. Six days later we had a change of fortune in Round 10, defeating Shamrock Gaels 2-09 to 1-08.

The championship was now on the horizon. Curry provided the opposition in Round 1 in Curry on Sunday, 2nd August and our team defeated the home side by 2-08 to 1-06. The following Sunday they were at home to Owenmore Gaels and won well by 5-06 to 0-10. The game was played at 12 noon as the seniors were in action later that day. There were no championship games on the following weekend as the Fleadh Ceoil in Sligo became the focus.

On Saturday, 22nd August the junior team had a great battle with old rivals Shamrock Gaels and won on a 2-12 to 1-13 scoreline. Having topped the Group the junior team qualified for the Junior A championship final. The final was played in Markievicz Park. Our team was somewhat understrength but performed well as a curtain-raiser to the Division 1 league final. After a good final our team were defeated by 1-13 to 0-10. That completed their programme for the year.

Our thanks are due to George Garvey, Mike Grady & Aiden Ward for the effort they put in with this team. Well done to the players too for their application. The one disappointment about this panel is that not enough of them came training regularly, while others put in a huge effort. For both senior and junior teams to progress we need the numbers at training. Our most successful seasons were those when we had big numbers at training and keen competition for places on the starting fifteen.

Our under-21 team were very disappointing. We played St. Michael's in Gurteen on the afternoon of Halloween. They were beaten by 1-12 to 0-06. Michael Hannon, his son Ray, Ross Donovan and Anthony Breheny put in a big effort with them but our numbers at training were limited. I suppose this is understandable as many are students who may or may not be home at weekends. It seems a shame that our team only got one game and it brings into question the wisdom of trying to organise this competition in Oct/Nov. Unfortunately there seems to be no ideal time to run this competition and indeed there are currently doubts being expressed about its future.

On the other hand, if this competition has a future, teams need to get more than one game. We need to have some of these players moving on to the adult teams and making an impact there. We need new talent who are committed to regular training and have the ambition to play club football at the highest level. Our thanks to Michael, Ray, Ross and Anthony for looking after the u-21 team.

Underage Football

The long-term outlook is very encouraging with several promising players emerging from the underage ranks. It is a tribute to the quality of the coaching now available to our underage players that they have enjoyed considerable success in 2015. We owe a debt of gratitude to those who give freely of their time and energy to impart the skills of Gaelic football to the players of the future. Most parents are very supportive and some have done the Foundation level course and are assisting with coaching at different grades. There is lots of room for more volunteers and there are coaching courses to suit all available. Sincere thanks to Coaching Officer, Fintan Mc Gowan, for his work in co-ordinating the underage coaching programme.

Our under12's had a great run in the Division 1 and Division 4 leagues, between May and July. Both reached their respective County semi-finals, with the Division 1 side losing the semi-final by a point to St. Mary's. They beat Drumcliffe/Rosses Point by 0-13 to 0-09 in the 3rd place play-off. The Division 4 team defeated Tubbercurry/Cloonacool by 0-20 to 0-08 in the Shield final. A more detailed report on all underage teams is available elsewhere in our AGM booklet.

Our u-14 boys team also had a good season. They reached the semi-final of the league, losing by a point to Curry on 13th June. Many of these players had the experience of playing in the National Feile competition in Carlow/Wicklow, losing the semi-final of the Division to Armagh champions, Silverbridge, who won the title. They also performed well in the u-14 Division 1 Championship. They played 4 games on a league system, reaching the semi-final. On August 28th they defeated Shamrock Gaels by 4-11 to 1-12 in the semi-final. The final was played in Bunninadden on Friday, 4th September and after a good contest, our team lost to Tubbercurry/Cloonacool by 4-11 to 2-08.

Some of the u-14 panel were also involved with the u-13 Feile team which did very well to reach the Feile B final. They beat St. John's by a point and Tourlestrane by two points to qualify for the final. The final itself saw our team stage a fantastic second half comeback in Bunninadden on Sunday, 18th October, eventually losing narrowly by 5-9 to 5-7 to Tubbercurry/Cloonacool. The management, comprising Ciaran Mc Govern, John Bruen, Peter Walsh and Ronan Higgins, deserve great credit for the coaching done with this group and the under-12's.

The under-16 boys team had a very successful season, winning both the league and championship. They defeated St. Molaise Gaels in the Division 1 league final by 1-10 to 1-08 on May 11th. Later, on September 21st, they got the better of the same opposition by 1-07 to 0-07 in the championship final played in horrific weather in Markievicz Park. This is a very talented group of players, well coached by Shaun Dorrian, Neil Molloy and Paul Dwyer, who deserve a sincere word of appreciation for their work with the u-16 panel. Several of the panel were involved on Sligo Development panels. Well done to Ciarán Dorrian who also managed to fit in some refereeing too.

Once again, Michael Hannon took charge of the minor team, assisted by Ray, Ross and Anthony. A limited panel did very well. They played in Group 2 of the Division 2 league and won four games out of four. They lost the league semi-final to Ballymote on a 1-12 to 3-09 scoreline.

The minors had two games in their Group 4 in the championship, defeating both Bunninadden and St. Michael's on August 13th and August 20th. They were beaten by Calry/St. Joseph's by 1-12 to 1-09 in the Qtr.-finals on September 10th. Well done to the players and to the management who got the best out of them, even though actual minor numbers were limited.

Ladies Football

Ladies football in the club continues to thrive, thanks to a very small but dedicated group of mentors. A full report on the progress of our ladies teams appears elsewhere in this booklet. There certainly was progress and success.

Pride of place must go to our adult ladies team who won the Intermediate County title. Their thrilling 6-06 to 3-12 victory over St. Mary's in the County Final on Saturday, 19th September was one of the highlights of the football calendar. It was no more than the dedicated panel and management of Jack Haran and Paul Judge deserved.

The girls underage teams also did very well. The successes achieved reflect the commitment of the young players and their mentors. Their participation and progress helped to involve more parents in the club. This is very important. Once parents realise that there is a role for them at different levels in the club it opens the possibility of broadening the numbers of those needed to keep the club active and progressive.

Pitch Matters

All the football activities put a lot of pressure on our training pitch and main pitch. Recently we had the main pitch spiked and sanded at considerable cost. It is essential to do this in order to maintain a good playing surface. A special word of appreciation is due to our Pitch Committee Chairman, John Cryan who has given so much time at the pitch. We thank all who assisted and in particular Eamon Clarke, Frank Casey, Jimmy Casey, Damien Mc Govern and, of course, Bryan Mc Crann who has been part-time on a work scheme there.

There are times during the year when hard decisions have to be made about the use of the pitch. Poor weather conditions dictate that the main pitch may not always be available for training or indeed for matches. It is very important that team managers follow the advice of the Pitch Committee Chairman and insist that players in their respective panels warm up and train on the training pitch when advised by the pitch committee. Such directives, although unpalatable at the time, are given in the best interest of all club teams and should be accepted in that context.

Thanks to the Gurteen Community Pitch Committee who provided us with their facilities regularly throughout the year.

Development

Sean Scott and his development Committee deserve the plaudits for getting a detailed application together for the Sports Capital funding and getting a very positive response in the form of grant aid. Thanks also to our local politicians and those who lobbied them to help Michael Ring T.D. share some of those lottery funds with us. Good progress has been made. We have our new trustees sorted and in the process of being formalised legally. Our planning permission is in place; funding has been raised and we are well placed to seek expressions of interest in tendering for the new building.

Our involvement with Gurteen Bingo has proven very successful and I thank the very committed members of our Bingo committee, Damien Mc Govern, Ciarán Mc Govern, Eamonn Clarke, Aisling Stephenson, Jake Stephenson and Jimmy Casey who week after week have been available to organise the sessions. As well as the financial benefits to our development fund, the weekly Bingo sessions provide a lot of goodwill towards the club.

Operation Transformation

Recently our club Executive committee decided to give O.T. a break for next year as the organising committee were not in a position to continue. Over the past three years O.T. has been a tremendous success, mainly due to the dedicated group who really gave it everything. We thank them sincerely. It had obvious health benefits for the increasing numbers of participants year-on-year. Apart from individual and collective weight loss, it is difficult to quantify the many health and well-being benefits. Of equal importance from a club perspective is the huge amount of goodwill generated and the gradual involvement of some participants in other roles in the club. You will see from our Balance Sheet that O.T. also generated considerable finances, which is a bonus in the overall scheme of things.

Finance

Our Treasurer, Thomas Cryan, has produced monthly Statements of Account for our Executive meetings, as well as producing a projection of future finances for our Sports Capital application, Connacht Council grant application and our recent successful Development loan application. He has done so in a very professional manner, easily read and understood by those who may not be familiar with accounting. Again here today he has presented a detailed account of income and expenditure for the year up 31st October 2015. On behalf of all of us I thank him for his professional approach despite a busy schedule.

The recent blitz aimed at increased membership of our Draw has proven very successful and we thank the promoters and those who have brought about a substantial increase in membership of the Draw. Our thanks to Fintan Mc Gowan, Kieran Mc Gill and Tom Murray, who assisted in collecting gates at home matches. It is not an easy task in all kinds of weather.

Sincere thanks to our Premium sponsors, O'Dowd Transport, James Duffy Accountants, East Bros., Tansey's Centra, Brendan Mc Hugh Express and Mc Manemy's Traveller's Rest for their generosity. Thanks too to Ronan Higgins and Charles Morrisroe who sponsored club jerseys for the under-12s/13's. Thanks also to Damien & Fiona Tansey, Gurteen and John Lavin, Ballymote & The Coach House Hotel who contributed sponsorship to Operation Transformation.

Communication

Well done to our P.R.O., Kevin Cryan who combined his playing career with regular contributions to our website and notes in the Sligo Champion and Roscommon Herald. Well done to Shaun Dorrian who kept various units in the club informed by text, often at very short notice. P.J. Mc Keon produced several interesting blogs on our website, his script is a fitting tribute to his son Kerry R.I.P. as he continues the blog begun by Kerry just before his untimely death in 2013. Keep up the writing P.J.!

The Kerry Mc Keon Literary Award was won by Ailish Duggan, Keash N.S. Second place went to Orlaith Connolly, Culfadda N.S. while Robin Richardson, Mullaghroe N.S., Sean Conheady, Corrigeenroe N.S. and Amy Mc Govern, Carn N.S. each earned runner-up prizes. Thanks to the staff of all the local schools who facilitated the running of the awards.

Health and Fitness

Thanks to Carmel Taheny who led the Healthy Club Initiative for the past two years. She represented us at meetings in Connacht and in Croke Park and was available to report back to us regularly. The Healthy Club open evening in our clubhouse on July 31st, hosted by our club had a disappointing attendance from other clubs in the county. There were fine presentations from the Blood Transfusion Service, the Samaritans and our own Aiden Ward. Thanks to Damien and Fiona Tansey who sponsored refreshments.

Due to pressure on her time, Aisling Stephenson stepped down from her position as Children's Officer in March. She did excellent work in her role, which is a relatively new post but a very important one in his day and age. Sincere thanks to Aisling for this and many other assists she has given the club.

We were fortunate that our adult ladies player, Edel Mc Nulty came on board and accepted the role of Children's Officer. She has proven a good choice. Deirdre O'Brien deserves great credit for her part in facilitating the Tubbercurry Family Resource Centre's Positive Mental Health programme. Thanks to Conor Fitzgerald and his committee for requesting the club to pilot the programme. The issues dealt with are important for all age groups. The message is clear; help is available for those who need it and we all have a responsibility to point people in the right direction.

Other Matters

Our Scór Committee organised some representatives for the recent Scór na n-Óg competitions but they need more members and support. There is lots of musical talent etc. around; it is another matter to get them organised.

Congratulations to Áine Mc Grath on receiving a President's Award in February for her role in promoting Rounders among the schools in Cumann na mBunscoil.

Congratulations to Ciarán Mc Govern who was chosen by the Connacht Council to referee juvenile games in San Francisco in early August. He has been a regular referee at club level here in Sligo and has also performed in inter-county games. Well done also to Ciarán Dorrian who has taken up the whistle in underage competitions. There is a great need for more competent referees in the county. Courses are available for those interested.

1975-2015

2015 marks the 40th anniversary of the club's first senior championship success. It is timely to remember those heroes of the time, most of whom thankfully are still with us. We may be in a position to honour them in some tangible way at the club Dinner Dance early next year. It is timely too to reflect on the progress of the club over the intervening forty years. As a founding member, I am proud of the contribution of this club to the community in the four decades since we took what was then a step into the unknown. Many of those present here today for our 2015 A.G.M. would not be aware of the possible risks and difficulties in merging what were then two traditional great rival junior clubs, Keash and Gurteen. We had our detractors, our critics and the sceptics who predicted an early divorce. I personally have no doubt that the senior championship success of 1975 was the bonding agent that set the foundations for a successful and progressive club. We can look forward with confidence to the future.

Fellow Officers

Thankfully, our Chairman, Pádraig Henry continued as club Chairman in 2015. He continued to work hard, involving himself in a whole host of club activities and kept all the sub –Committees and fellow officers motivated to progress club matters. His considered opinion and solid advice is appreciated by each of his colleagues on the Executive. Sincere sympathy to him and the extended Henry family on the recent passing of his mother, Mary R.I.P.

Thanks too to our Vice-Chairman Tom Murray who assisted in so many ways. He has taken responsibility for administration of the Players Injury Scheme in recent years and has done a fantastic job, processing injury claims, following up on them and saving the club considerable expenditure.

Our club has been ably represented by Louis Carty at County Board meetings and he always keeps up informed and updated on the most recent developments. Louis is one of those “go to” men when advice is needed and decisions to be made. Thank you Louis!

Shaun Dorrian continues to be involved in different roles in the club from administration to successful team management. I wish to record my appreciation of his assistance to me in different areas of administration; this was only one aspect of several roles he fulfills diligently. Míle Buíochas duit a Sheáin!

I want to thank the members of the club Executive Committee. We met regularly; often had a lengthy agenda which was discussed, amended at times but in the end decisions were made in the best interest of the club. As we embark on the development of a new clubhouse it is important that we have a vibrant Executive Committee who can steer our club on the correct course.

Thanks to the County Board, the C.C.C. and Coiste na n-Óg for their co-operation throughout the year. Thanks also to my colleagues on Connacht Council who recently approved grant aid for our development. In January we lost our club Patron, Jim Taheny R.I.P., a gentleman who was a great G.A.A. supporter. In June our trainer of the 1975 team, former Roscommon All-Ireland winner, John Joe Nerney passed to his eternal reward. Another good friend of the club, Ted Mc Gowan R.I.P. passed away just a few weeks ago. Just two weeks ago the club was hit with bereavement with the tragic death of Karen Powell following an accident. Karen R.I.P. was a member of our County title winning panel just a short few weeks ago.

On behalf of all of us, I extend sympathy to all those who were bereaved during the year. Congratulations to those who got married or engaged in 2015.

This report was hastily compiled. I would have preferred to have more time to give it more thought but things have been quite busy for me of late. Apologies if people or events are omitted. I can assure ye it was unintentional.

Looking to the New Year, it is sure to bring its usual quota of challenges and opportunities. We need everybody working together to overcome the challenges and avail of the opportunities. Let us resolve here today to do what we can to maintain and improve whatever aspect or activity of the club we get involved in for 2016.

Ar aghaidh linn le cheile agus guim Ráth De ar ár saothair.

Pádraig S. Ó Dubhthaigh (Rúnaí)

Underage Team Reports

Under 21s

The under 21s, made up largely of minors and looked after by the same management as the minors, only had one Championship game on October 31st. Unfortunately, they came up against a much stronger St. Michael's side and lost out on a scoreline of 0-06 to 1-12.

Minor Boys

Our minor team for 2015, while not successful on the trophy front, performed well in both league and championship competitions.

Drawn in the B league, we won our four group games at home to St Michaels and Drumcliffe/Rosses Point and away to Calry and Coolera/Strandhill. In the semi-final we were beaten by Ballymote who performed better on the evening. In the B Championship we won our group beating Bunninadden and St. Michaels. In the quarter finals we were beaten by the eventual winners, Calry/St. Josephs, by two points in a very competitive game.

Our sincere thanks to the entire minor panel who trained and performed so well throughout the year. Thanks to the under 16 players who assisted us during the year also.

Team mentors for the minor team were Michael Hannon, Ray Hannon, Ross Donovan and Anthony Breheny.

Ross Donovan

U16 Boys

The club is well served at this age group with a panel of 24 players available, comprising of 9 born in 1999 and 15 born in 2000. The year began with a training session on 20th February in Keash and our first 'A' league game, which we won comprehensively, was against Coolaney/Mullinabreena in Keash on Sunday, 15th March. Two further away wins against Tubbercurry/Cloonacool and Tourlestrane resulted in qualification as group winners for the league quarter-finals.

As group winners, we had a home draw against Owenmore Gaels which turned out to be a very competitive match. After a struggle, we managed to progress to the semi-final on a score line of 2-05 to 0-07. Our semi-final opponents were St Marys and, once again, the game was played at home. After a titanic battle, we managed to hold on for a win by the minimum, on a score line of 1-07 to 2-03.

This meant that we had reached the league final against St Molaise Gaels. To give some perspective on the magnitude of the task ahead of the lads in the final, when the same group of lads met at u14 level in 2013 in League and Championship, St Molaise Gaels ran out winners by 16 and 23 points respectively. However, this only served to increase the resolve among the panel to come out on the right side of the result in the final.

The final took place on a wet and windy day on 11th May in Connolly Park, Collooney. The lads got off to a very slow start and were 1-03 to no score down after 10 minutes. However, it what can only be described as a remarkable comeback, and showing great courage and character, the lads outscored their opposition by 13 points to 5 points for the remainder of the game to win on a score line of 1-10 to 1-08. The scenes of celebration which followed the final whistle were a joy to behold and the cup was lifted by captain, Evan Lavin, to tremendous cheers.

There was a long wait for our next competitive action as the season took a break for the Junior Certificate and the Fr. Manning Cup. The Championship started on 20th July and wins against Coolaney/Mullinabreena, St Marys and Owenmore Gaels resulted in qualification for a home semi-final against Curry. In perhaps their most complete performance of the year, and in front of a large home crowd, the lads ran out comprehensive winners on a score line of 3-16 to 1-08.

Our Championship final opponents were, once again, St Molaise Gaels. The lads were in no doubt that they would face their toughest challenge of the year in the final, as the north Sligo lads would be seeking to avenge their league final defeat. The final was played in Markievicz Park on the 21st September in what can only be described as atrocious conditions. However, the lads were only focused on their performance and a display of pure grit and determination, and no little skill, resulted in a three point victory on a score line of 1-07 to 0-07. The Harps goal was scored just before half-time by Ciaran Hannon, after picking up a loose ball in the large square and neatly slotting it low into the back of the net. Once again, the scenes of jubilation which followed the final whistle will never be forgotten by those lucky enough to be present.

As he had done previously for the league final win, our own clubman and secretary of Coiste na nÓg, Sean Scott, presented the Cup with great pride to our captain, Evan Lavin. The lads embarked on a victory cavalcade through the area, ending up with a fantastic bonfire reception at our pitch in Keash. The refreshments laid on by parents of the u16 girls were second to none and a very enjoyable evening was had by all.

The season was drawn to a close with a very enjoyable paintballing outing with the u16 girls' team in Battlebridge. The club would like to especially thank those who sponsored the day. Thanks also to Brian Stephenson and Jesse Richardson who prepared a delicious barbecue on site in Battlebridge, which was gratefully received by the hungry sharpshooters.

The 2015 season has been both memorable and rewarding for this group of players and their success is a product of the dedication and effort which they put in throughout. The success only shows what can be achieved when everyone is focused on the greater good of the group and, in some cases, sacrifices are made when required.

Thanks to all the parents for transporting the lads to training and matches and, most especially, providing huge encouragement through their vocal support throughout the season. The value of a vocal support should not be underestimated and hopefully this will continue into the future. Thanks also to John Bruen and Eamonn Clarke, both former Senior Championship winning managers, who provided valuable direction and encouragement to the lads on the 'far' side-line for both county finals. Thanks also to those who helped out during the year, preparing the pitch and dressing rooms, umpiring or doing line official, particularly to Thomas Taheny, who did umpire for us at all of our matches, rain, hail or shine. Lots of work also goes on behind the scenes and the club would like to thank Mary Frances Dwyer and Anne Dorrian for their hours of hard work scrubbing, washing and drying the team's jerseys throughout the year. Thanks also to Aisling Stephenson who spends hours taking photos for the club and posting them on our club website and Facebook. These photographs are an invaluable record of the club's activities and perhaps will be valued even more as time passes.

We wish all the lads the very best of luck in the future. When talent is backed up by huge determination, belief and a willingness to work for each other, anything is possible. That, perhaps, is the most important message to take away from such a successful season.

Shaun Dorrian

U14 Boys

The U-14 season began with a trip to the new Sligo Centre of Excellence in Scarden where the lads competed in the 'B' Feile Competition. With good wins over St Johns, St Marys and Calry/St Josephs, we ran out eventual winners and secured our place in the National Feile Competition in Carlow on the last weekend in June. The National Feile (which has been documented in detail previously) was an experience that proved most enjoyable and rewarding and will live long in the memory for all concerned.

For the League competition we were again placed in 'B' and acquitted ourselves pretty well with wins over St Johns, Owenmore Gaels, St Marys and Calry/St Josephs while suffering defeat to St Molaise Gaels in the group stages. This left us in the semi-final where we were defeated by Curry in a well contested game.

For the Championship, Coiste na nÓg, Contae Shligigh, in their wisdom, decided to place us in the 'A' competition. We failed to field in the first round away to Shamrock Gaels due to the lack of players but managed to draw with Coolera/Strandhill in Round 2. Our best performance of the year followed this, with a surprise win over Tubbercurry/Cloonacool after a thrilling encounter in Keash. We avenged our league semi-final defeat to Curry in Round 4 and this secured a home semi-final spot against Shamrock Gaels.

As per usual when Harps and Gaels meet, a close contest is assured and this one proved no different. However, after a fine game of fast open football we pulled away in the closing stages to win on a score line of 4-11 to 1-12. Despite putting in a courageous performance in the final we were defeated by 9 points by an excellent Tubbercurry/Cloonacool outfit who were physically much stronger than our boys.

Full credit to this fine panel of players for their efforts over a long season and to the Under-12 lads on whom we were so dependent.

Sincere thanks to the parents of the players, Eastern Harps Bord na nÓg and those who so generously sponsored the team.

Sincere thanks also to my fellow coaches – PJ Langton, Mark Cosgrove, Cathal Dowd and Damien Mc Govern for their commitment, impartiality and for the amount of time and effort they put into the development of the panel, in what proved to be a challenging and at times difficult year.

Loyalty, honesty and dependability are qualities that members of all successful teams and clubs possess. Maybe these are traits that we all – players, parents, coaches and officials may need to revisit during the "less busy season".

Eamonn Clarke

U13 Boys (Feile)

We had a very young U13 team this year with only 4 players born in 2002, 10 players born in 2003 and 7 players from our U11 team born in 2004 to make up a panel of 21. We knew we would have an uphill battle from the start. We were in Group 2 of the A & B Feile with St. Marys, Ballymote and Owenmore Gaels. The way it stood was the top 2 in the group would compete in the A Feile and the bottom 2 competing in the B Feile.

Our first training session was on the 7th of September and 2 days later on the 9th of September we started off our U13 campaign at home against a very strong St. Mary's team we lost out on a score-line of 9-12 to 1-05 in comparison to our young team, St. Marys had 16 players born in 2002 compared to our 4 as it shows the growth of GAA in Sligo town.

Our next game saw us travelling to next door neighbours Ballymote on the 16th of September, in what was a thrilling game that saw each team swap the lead over the course of the game but it was Ballymote who held out in the end to defeat us on a score-line of 4-12 to 4-08. With this result going against us it meant that we would be competing in the B Feile competition going into our last group game.

The last group game was against Owenmore Gaels in Keash on the 27th of September. The travelling team could only manage to gather 10 players on the morning. We gave them 5 players so we could play out an entertaining challenge game with some of our own players causing us problems on the day. We were victorious on the day defeating the away team by 7-12 to 7-04.

Finishing in the bottom 2 of the group it meant we were paired off with St. Johns who finished 4th in Group 3. As we finished higher placed team in the group out of the 2 teams we got home advantage, the game was played on the 4th of October in Keash. We came out winners in the end on a score-line of 5-6 to 5-5. It was an exciting game with 20 minutes remaining we trailed by 11 points but the lads dug deep and came back and finished very strong winning the game by the minimum margin.

Up came the Semi-Final against Tourlestrane in Tourlestrane on the 12th of October under lights which added to the excitement of the game. The game was tit for tat the whole way through with the Harps lads holding out for a 2 point win against the home side on a score-line of 5-06 to 3-10. The win against Tourlestrane saws us go through to the final against another South Sligo opposition of Tubbercurry/Cloonacool.

The final took place on the 18th of October in Bunninadden. Once again like the St. Johns game we were trailing at the break by 4-05 to 1-02 and like the St. Johns game the lads dug very deep to get back to within 2 points of Tubbercurry/Cloonacool losing out by 5-09 to 5-07. If the game hadn't been blown up early there was no doubt that the lads would have been triumphant in the end.

Huge credit goes to the panel for the effort they put in for the weeks leading up to the final and huge credit to them for the effort they put in to come within 2 points of the winners. We wish all the best to Tubbercurry/Cloonacool in Feile Peil 2016 in Kerry.

We wish the best of luck to Diarmuid Higgins who successfully made it through to the Sligo U13 development squad, getting them ready for the 2016 U14 County team.

Thanks to the lads for their effort, thanks to the coaches for their time and thanks to the parents for bringing the lads to matches and trainings.

The management team was the same as the U12, Ciarán Mc Govern, Ronan Higgins, John Bruen and Peter Walsh.

Ciarán Mc Govern

U12 Boys

Our U12 panel was made up of 10 players born in 2003 and 17 born in 2004. The management decided to divide the panel into 2 teams U12 and U11. The U12 team would compete in Division 1 of the league and the U11 team competing in Division 4. With the lesser number of players on the U12 team we decided to give all the U11s a chance to play with the older lads with all U11s getting a chance to play in Division 1. The league was set up that the top 4 in each division would go through to the Cup semi-finals and the bottom 4 going into the Shield semi-finals.

With that we started the U12 season on the 7th of April with our first training session in Keash. Our first match in Division 1 was on the 14th of April in Keash against Tourlestrane. We came out on top of that game with a 16-07 win. Our first match in division 4 had the same date, venue and opposition and came out with an entertaining draw 07-07.

The next Division 1 game saw us up against St. Johns on the 28th of April in Cleveragh on a very wet day for football and we played a depleted St. Johns team who were missing players for various reasons. Considering the conditions there was some good skill shown by both sides and we came out winners on a score-line of 26-09. In Division 4 our lads played a depleted St. Johns team on a very wet evening and came out comfortable victors on a score-line of 18-04.

Next up on the 16th of May in Keash was St. Molaise Gaels who were very strong on a dry but very windy day in Keash and the northern Sligo side showed their quality and physicality in beating us 33-05 even though we were missing some players due to soccer. In Division 4 on a very windy day and very difficult scoring conditions we played out a very entertaining draw of 5-5.

We then had a short journey to Tubbercurry on the 26th of May to take on Tubbercurry/Cloonacool and this was a very physical game with some hard hitting from the South Sligo side but our lads managed to hang on and get a win by the minimum margin on a score-line 12-11. In the Division 4 league in what was also a physical game like the U12 game we came out of a hard fought game on a score-line of 08-05. Drumcliffe/Rosses point travelled to Keash on the 2nd of June in what were excellent conditions for football and the standard was excellent the skill and talent on show from both teams was outstanding. The game was end to end with the lead changing hands constantly our lads just came through in the last few minutes to win by 13-11. After a good start from our U11 lads the North Sligo team pulled away and ran out comfortable 16-07 winners.

On the 23rd of June we travelled to near neighbours Shamrock Gaels knowing that a win would guarantee us a place in the cup semi-finals and after a nervy 1st two quarters our lads came through easily with an 18-08 win. In what was a very entertaining and high scoring game by our U11s, after a huge effort our lads lost out on a high scoring 24-21.

We then had to take on St. Marys in Keash on the 30th of June with lots at stake for both sides. A win for us would guarantee a home semi-final against the same opposition but a loss or a draw would mean we would have to travel to Kent Park to take on the same opposition. As was expected the game was a cracker and the lead changed hands numerous times in the game with both sides going hammer and thongs at it known what was at stake. In the end there was no separating the sides as it finished 18-18 which meant we would be on the road in the semi-final to go at it again with St Marys in Kent Park. The U11 lads needed at least a draw in this game to possibly get to the Division 4 cup semi-finals but we played a very strong St Marys Division 4 team who had too much in the end for our big effort and we lost out on a score-line of 18-06 so this result meant we would be competing in the Division 4 shield semi-finals.

On the 13th of July our Division 4 team, played Tourlestrane in Keash in the division 4 shield semi-final. The lads got off to a great start in the 1st two quarters and the lads held on to finish up winning by 8 points on a score-line of 10-02. This result meant we would be competing in the shield final against Tubbercurry/Cloonacool.

On the 14th of July we had to travel to Kent Park for the Division 1 Cup semi-final against St Marys in what was an even more entertaining game with skill levels and effort levels exceeding expectations even from the first meeting, we lost out by the minimum margin on a score-line of 16-15. If a small bit of luck went our way we would have been in a Cup final but that's football. Our lads gave absolutely everything and left nothing behind and deserve huge credit for the effort they put in.

On the 27th of July in Markievicz Park our U11's played Tubbercurry/Cloonacool in the Division 4 shield final. This was a huge achievement for the lads to get to a final in Markievicz Park at such a young age. The occasion didn't seem to faze the lads at all.

After a rocky start the lads settled down into it and started to take control halfway through the game and finished the game strong and came out victors of the shield final 20-08. Captain Jamie Mc Coy lifted the shield to the delight of the U11 players.

The last Division 1 game for the lads would be a third place play-off against the other semi-finalists which was Drumcliffe/Rosses point. This match was played in Scarden on the 5th of August and once again with another impressive performance from our lads we came out victorious on a score-line of 13-09. That then finished our Division 1 campaign but the lads can be very happy with their effort.

On the 6th of June the entire 27 on the U12 panel, with 3 coaches Ciarán Mc Govern, John Bruen and Ronan Higgins also on the bus was Cathal Dowd who wanted a trip to the West coast, all travelled to Belmullet GAA club which was kindly organised by Padraig Barrett an ex member of Eastern Harps. This trip was a return trip from 2014 but it was a very enjoyable trip. When we got there the hospitality was immense. The day was a fine day but as expected an extremely windy day. The weather didn't seem to bother the lads as the U12s played and the U11s played in separate games and both games were very competitive taking the weather into account. When the match was over we were invited upstairs into their state of the art clubhouse for tea, coffee, cake, buns, sandwiches, biscuits and whatever else they could make up for us they had it, much to the delight of our lads and coaches. Belmullet's biggest supporter Sean Crean made a speech after the refreshments and shortly after Ciarán Mc Govern made a short speech and presented Sean with a plaque thanking Belmullet GAA for having us. The good hospitality hadn't finished, just before we got on the bus Padraig Barrett kindly gave us a box of goodie bags for everyone. Before we left Belmullet we went to visit the RNLI Ballyglass Lifeboat Station and everyone got a detailed tour of the Lifeboat station. Thanks to Padraig Barrett who organised this for us as it was a very enjoyable experience for everyone. Thanks also goes to Gary Smyth the bus driver for bringing us and who also had goodie bags for everyone on the bus.

Thanks go to Damian Tansey (Tansey's Centra) who sponsored goodies for the lads. The trip away wouldn't be right without a stop at Supermacs in Ballina. It was a very enjoyable day for everyone. Thanks to Belmullet GAA for their hospitality, for having everything organised for us and for having us on the day. We also had the skills competition within the club on the 22nd of August and we had 14 of our panel taking part in it and there was some great skill on show on the day. The lads that represented us on the 31st of August in Scarden for the Sligo skills competition were Ryan Nerney, Darragh Cogan, Dylan Walsh and Caelan Hunt. They were unlucky not to make it through to Connacht but they represented us well in Sligo. It was a very busy year but thankfully we got through everything without any glitches.

Thanks goes to the lads for the effort they put in all year at training, matches and challenge matches. Thanks to the parents for all the running and racing to and from trainings and matches. Thanks to the coaches also as it would not be possible without them.

The management team for the U12 panel consisted of Ciarán Mc Govern, Ronan Higgins, John Bruen and Peter Walsh.

Ciarán Mc Govern

U10 Boys

The u10s first outing was at the half time interval between Sligo and Fermanagh. They then started their training the following Wednesday under the lights at Keash. They played numerous games all through the summer competing well against local opposition. Thanks to all the coaches, and parents for turning up to all the trainings and matches.

Fintan Mc Gowan

U8 Boys and Girls

The u8s training began in mid-February with the annual sending out of notes to the boys and girls of the local schools. This year's boys and girls played a lot of football with practice every second Wednesday and games every other Wednesday, with 2 blitzes in Scarden and 1 in Markievicz Park. The year finished up with a very competitive game against Boyle. Thanks to all the coaches especially the new ones that came on board, but as per every year we are always looking for new ones, and thanks to the parents for bringing the children.

Fintan Mc Gowan

U6 Boys and Girls

Nursery programme started in Gurteen hall in mid-February, Saturday mornings from 10-11am under the supervision of Ross Donovan. Then when the time changed in March we moved to Keash pitch on Wednesday evenings for the u6s, which ran all the way through to September under the helm of the ever reliable Shane and Ailish Duggan.

Fintan Mc Gowan

U16 Boys & Girls Paintballing - Battlebridge



Eastern Harps Ladies

Ladies Chairperson's Address

Chairperson, Rev Fr, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to take this opportunity, while presenting our annual report, to thank you all for your continued support of ladies football within the club. Our ladies club continues to grow and develop each year, attracting new members. While other ladies clubs are struggling to survive, we have seen a number of girls return to football and join us from other neighbouring clubs. This is a testament to the continued success of the growth and development of ladies football within our club at each level, from the nursery programme through to senior level. With the addition of the Bord na nÓg and other club initiatives, our club is a very safe nurturing environment where our children can grow and develop both on and off the field.

Each year we go through the process of identifying coaches for each age group and next year will be no different. Many will want to stay on while others may need to be encouraged and coaxed, but what is very clear is anyone who has taken on this role has done so with the best of intentions and integrity. Our young girls have had the good fortune to be coached and coaxed by our wonderful and much appreciated managers, all of which are listed at the back of this booklet.

I wish to thank you all sincerely for all your hard work and effort throughout the year, it does not go unnoticed. I hope you intend to continue your great work and also invite anyone who wishes to get involved in any way with the club to contact myself or any of the coaches who will be more than willing to take you under their wing. There is always room for anyone who wishes to participate at any level and in any way.

While football is the foundation of our Ladies club, the social and community aspect is an integral part of who we are and what we represent. So this year we decided to develop on this idea and reach out to a very important group within our club and community, our mothers. And so our very first Gaelic 4 Mothers & Others was born. Like all of Eastern Harps initiatives, it has been a roaring success. As this group is open to anyone over 18 who is not registered with LGFA to play competitive football the ladies who have come out to play are a mixed bunch of every age and ability. There are a few who struggled into the Harps jersey having previously played with our neighbouring rivals (we won't mention any names???) but it was not long before this group gelled into a very cohesive team, developing their skills under the watchful eye of Paul Dwyer, but also having the craic.

In such a short period of time this group has become very valuable to our club promoting a feel good factor, not to mention their very successful fundraising efforts to date. Having succeeded to win all 4 of their matches at the All-Ireland blitz, this group is here to stay and anyone out there who wants to give it a go; you will be welcomed with open arms. With initiatives like this our Ladies club will continue to grow and flourish into the future.

Our club continues to be represented on our County panels both at under-age and adult level, and six of our Ladies panel have been put forward for a County All-Star award. They are Aishling O'Gara, Shereda Davey, Lisa Casey, Edel Mc Nulty, Megan Mc Cormack & Ciara Stephenson. We are very proud of their nominations and achievements and wish each of them the best of luck. These girls are great ambassadors and help to raise the positive public profile of our club.

I wish to extend our sympathy to all who have suffered a bereavement since our last AGM and in particular the Powell family.

I would like to thank all those who have helped me in my role as Ladies Chairperson over the last couple of years and wish the club a continued success on into the future.

Kind regards

Liz Coyle

Ladies Chairperson

Our G4M&O Ladies (and Paul) before heading for National Blitz in Naomh Mearnóg



Eastern Harps Senior Ladies

The 2015 season for the senior ladies got underway when they got together for their first training session on Friday March 6th. Jack Haran and Paul Judge were in charge of the team again this year.

This year there was a pre league 13 a side competition which started on Saturday 14th March when we made the journey to Drumcliffe. Despite having trained only once, being short several regulars and some players playing through illness we won a very close game, 4-11 to 3-10. In the second round of this competition we travelled to play Tourlestrane. The girls made it 2 wins from 2 winning on a scoreline of 5-8 to 1-1. The third round against St Marys was not played so we qualified for the final against St Nathy's. The game took place on Friday May 15th and was originally fixed for Bunninadden. At short notice on the day of the game it was switched to Mullinabreena. A performance full of work-rate from everyone and a determination to keep going to the very end paid off as the girls rescued a dramatic draw in injury time thanks to a goal from Katie Hannon. The replay didn't take place until Sunday 21st June in Keash. St Nathy's ran out easy winners on the day.

Having won the Intermediate League in 2014 we made the step up to Senior for 2015. Round 1 saw us up against familiar rivals St Michaels in Keash. After a close game we lost by 2 points. Round 2 on Easter Saturday saw us travel to Mullinabreena to take on St Nathy's. Despite a much improved 2nd half performance we suffered defeat by 10 points. However, the girls deserve huge credit as this was their second game in 24 hours! They played and beat Shannon Gaels in the Connacht Club League in Keash on Good Friday and decided to play again the following evening to leave Easter Sunday free of games. In round 3 we had a home game against Tourlestrane and recorded a comfortable victory. We travelled to Geevagh in round 4 and short a number of players the home side ran out easy winners. This was our final game of the league campaign and while it was a successful one some of the team performances were encouraging ahead of the Championship.

Well done to all of our Club players who were involved with Sligo as they won the National League this year. The success of the county team however meant that we were without a competitive club game for nearly 2 months. Hopefully something can be done to ensure this does not happen in the future.

Championship preparations were underway as the girls looked to make up for defeat in the 2014 final. Challenge games took place against St Michaels, Dromahair and Ballinameen as the management tried to finalise their starting 15 ahead of the first round against Eoghan Rua in Enniscrone on Sunday August 23rd. The game was played in terrible and dangerous underfoot conditions with constant rain throughout. In fact before throw in the ref asked if we wanted to call off the game but after making the long journey over and with determination in their eyes the girls decided to play the game. This proved to be a wise decision as we ran out winners on a scoreline of 6-10 to 8 points. We played Curry in round 2 in Keash the following Sunday and made it 2 wins from 2 on a scoreline of 5-13 to 8 points. This win put us into the semi-final against Drumcliffe which was played in Keash. After a slow start we ran out winners 5-15 to 9 points. Part 1 was achieved – we had reached the final!!

St Marys would be our opponents in the final which for the first time in 11 years was played in Markievicz Park on Saturday 19th September. We hadn't met or seen St Mary's in any competition this year but based on our 1 point victory over them last year this was going to be a close battle once again. Led out by team Captain Annette O'Hara it was time for the final to begin. Some wayward shooting from both teams saw a tense start to the game. St Mary's settled quickest and led early on until a point from Lisa Casey and goal from Megan McCormack settled the nerves for us. It was end to end stuff and after a goal from Katie Hannon the teams were level at half time. Some harsh words from the management at half time left the girls in no doubt as to what it was going to take in the second half to get the win. It was a tense second half with the lead changing hands numerous times. Goals from sub Eimear Hannon, Una Higgins and a second for player of the Match Megan McCormack seemed to give us breathing space but back came St

Mary's with goals of their own. A point from a free as well as a late penalty both converted by Lisa Casey proved crucial. As the game entered 2 minutes of injury time and with St Mary's on the attack it was a real show of defensive strength from the girls as they tackled and blocked to deny St Mary's the goal which would have levelled the game. The final whistle from referee Dermot Walsh was met with a huge cheer from the large number of Harps supporters and sparked jubilant scenes among the team and the management as we had won on a scoreline of 6-6 to 3-12. It was a fitting reward for the entire panel after the disappointment of losing in 2014. In her speech after the game Annette O'Hara dedicated the victory to the late Johnny Downes, R.I.P. who was a great supporter of ladies football over the years and was no doubt looking down on the girls as the final unfolded. Great scenes and bonfires greeted the girls as they returned to Keash with the cup. Following stops in Macks and the Foxes Den it was on to Gurteen to continue the celebrations.

We would now face Shannon Gaels of Roscommon in the Semi Final of the Connacht Club Ladies Intermediate Championship. Confusion surrounded the day, time and venue of the game. It was fixed for Saturday 10th October in Kilglass GAA Pitch in Rooskey, Roscommon. Our supporters once again travelled in big numbers to cheer the girls on but unfortunately this was not to be our day as unlike the County Final the goals did not come for us as we lost out by 2 points, 1-13 to 3-5 after a brave and battling performance right to the end.

And so after a total of 78 times together since March 6th the season came to an end following that heart-breaking defeat on October 10th. This year overall though must be viewed as a successful one having won the Championship. The challenge now is to establish ourselves at Senior Level over the next number of years and with a supply of players coming through from u-16 and minor on to the senior panel this can be achieved.

Thanks to the Pitch Committee for having the pitch lined and the flags out for our games, to all who provided tea and sandwiches after our games, to the Club who paid for dinner in Molly Fulton's after the final and to Team manager Jack Haran who provided food after our Connacht Semi Final and also after the 'Pre League final against St Nathy's. Thanks also to Gary Smith and his bus drivers for bringing us to the County Final and the Connacht Semi-Final.

Finally, on behalf of the management, we would like to sincerely thank the entire panel for their hard work, commitment and dedication throughout the year.

Paul Judge

Minor Girls

Although managed by Martina Clohessy and Patricia Mc Donagh, our ladies minor team was made up of all ages from u14 to senior. Therefore, their training was done within their respective age groups so their success or failure can be attributed to many people. Our first game was against Calry and we had a comprehensive win there. However, St Nathy's and Drumcliffe proved to be more difficult. After digging deep against both teams we prevailed. Therefore, we met Drumcliffe in the final in Tubbercurry. However, due to injuries and absenteeism, we struggled against Drumcliffe and left what probably should have been our title, behind. This was a very disappointing result for a strong team but we will have to go on and try again next year, minus a few girls moving up the age groups. We wish them luck.

Martina Clohessy

U16 Girls

The U.16 Girls had a very good year, claiming the 'A' League title and also reaching the decider in the 'A' Championship, only to be defeated by Drumcliffe/Rosses Point.

The year started in March and the girls played some terrific football, beating St Nathy's, Eoghan Rua, Drumcliffe/Rosses Point, St Mary's and Shamrock Gaels in the round robin stage. These wins set up another meeting with Drumcliffe/Rosses Point in the final. A toss of a coin between the two finalists resulted in the final being held in Keash. On a lovely spring evening, Shannon Doherty had the honour of leading out the girls in the final, and ultimately to victory on a scoreline of 6-06 to 2-06.

When presenting the Cup, the Ladies County Chairperson, Kathleen Kane, was loud in her praise for the manner in which the club hosted the game. The Pitch Committee had the pitch in pristine condition, freshly cut, marked, flags out and scoreboard working in honour of having a county final played at our grounds. Afterwards, the parents of the girls provided refreshments for both teams, officials and supporters. It was a most generous gesture and we would like to thank them.

Having won the League in early May it was most disappointing that the Championship did not start until the end of August. In the meantime, Shannon Doherty, Megan Mc Cormack, Rachel Hogge, Orla O'Dowd and Aideen Coyle lined out for the County team but unfortunately without much success. The girls also teamed up with the U.16 boys and headed off Paintballing on a Saturday afternoon. It was a thoroughly enjoyable day and the barbeque cooked up by Brian Stephenson and Jesse Richardson went down a treat. We would like to thank all who sponsored, and organised the day.

Back to Championship action and after wins over Eoghan Rua, Owenmore Gaels and Drumcliffe/Rosses Point, we were back once again in a final. However, we had to wait a further 7 weeks for that to happen and, in the meantime, we were dealt a blow losing the services of Aideen Coyle due to sickness, having already lost Niamh Hannon and Ellen Murray to injury earlier in the year. We wish all 3 a speedy recovery. The Final itself was played in November at the Centre of Excellence in Scarden, where we were up against old foes, Drumcliffe/Rosses Point. We were captained by Leanne Powell but in truth it was a game where we never got going at all. The big gap to the final left us rusty and the loss of the aforementioned girls took its toll. We eventually lost on a score line of 2-14 to 2-06. Having said that, we congratulate our opponents on being deserving winners.

There was also joy for two of our girls, as Megan Mc Cormack and Ciara Stephenson were both on the Senior Ladies team that won the Intermediate Championship, with both girls getting a nomination for a Club All Star.

Morgan Mc Cormack, Padraig Henry & Michelle Mullen

U14 Girls

Our U14 girls had a good run in the league getting to a C league final but were unlucky to be beaten by a stronger Molaise Gaels on the day. We were entered into the B championship, winning our first game but being beaten in the next 2 games. That meant we weren't in the running for any silverware. This group of girls showed great commitment to training and games. They were trained by Patricia McDonagh with Mary Hannon and Deidre O'Brien helping her out. Well done to all involved and here's looking forward to 2016.

Mary Hannon

U12 Girls

Our U12 girls started off gingerly bowing out at the quarter final stage of the league. Although the team had some strong players, there was a lot to be learned. However, Benny Connolly, Kerrie Scanlon & Martina Clohessy stuck at the task and by championship stage & after a lot of hard work, all the girls were playing well. Reaching the final of the A2 championship on Sunday 18th October was a great achievement. A great game of football unfolded with a very even battle, ending in a draw at full time. Ten minutes extra time saw Eastern Harps win by a very deserving 4 points. Unfortunately, we are losing eight players to U14s next season, so it's back to the drawing board. Best wishes to those moving on and more hard work for the trainers and players remaining and arriving anew.

Martina Clohessy

U10 Girls

A new U-10 Development League format was introduced for 2015 due to an increased number of teams taking part. This proved challenging at the start of the season & we had to postpone our opening 2 league matches against Ballymote & Shamrock Gaels. The numbers at training increased gradually as word spread through the schools & we were optimistic of a good showing at the first County blitz day at Markievicz Park on 23/5/15. Due to unforeseen circumstances, we were missing a number of players on the day, however, the girls rose to the occasion & did themselves proud on the hallowed turf (even including a special guest appearance in goals!!).

The experience of playing in Markievicz Park had a very positive effect on the girls & we got a great response at training & for the league matches as the season gathered momentum. Playing regular matches improved the skill levels no end & we had great battles with our neighbours Ballymote & Shamrock Gaels in the re-arranged fixtures!

The final County blitz was scheduled for Saturday 29/8/15 & took place at Ballisodare's new pitch. The girls had trained hard during the summer & really showed it on the day by winning 3 matches from 3 in impressive fashion. The manager of Drumcliffe/Rosses Point was so impressed by what he saw that he offered to travel to Keash for a challenge match a few weeks later, which we gratefully accepted to finish off the season.

It was a privilege to coach the girls throughout the season & to watch the improvement in skill & fitness levels as the time went by. They showed huge spirit & determination against sometimes physically stronger opponents & also accepted victory or defeat in a sporting manner.

John O'Neill, Linda Kiernan & Niamh Lillie

Gaelic for Mothers and Others

2015 saw a very exciting string being added to the Eastern Harps bow with the creation of the **Gaelic for Mothers and Others** (G4M&O) team. Whilst the focus for G4M&O is fun non-competitive social interaction, our 2015 season record will be the envy of the club as we won 7 of our 8 games, with only 1 narrow controversial defeat.

It all began with a trip to Ballyhaunis by Liz Coyle & Eleanor Mc Mahon to see what it was all about and what was involved with setting up such a team. After a lot of consideration we decided to implement a six-week pilot program to try and gauge the interest in the local area and, if successful, to take it further. Little did we know that there was an entire community of fiercely competitive women who were just itching to lace up the boots.

We were hoping that if we got 10 people to start we would be delighted but over the 6 weeks we had 30 women come and join us. After the 6 weeks, 16 Women decided to take it on full time and became members of the Eastern Harps G4M&O's team. Paul Dwyer, Chris Hannon and John Higgins were the three brave men who came on board for the initial 6 week run and at the end of the successful pilot program, Paul Dwyer was offered the job on a full-time basis.

The initial 16 ladies were made up with a combination of seasoned campaigners and enthusiastic newcomers. There is no border involved so our ladies come from various areas and different clubs so a massive thank you to all involved for taking the time to make this work. We must also say a special thank you to Joanne O'Grady who sponsored the Shorts (not Shots) for the team. Unfortunately (for us), on August 26th, we lost one of the organisers Liz to her new job in Dublin and on that note, we would like to wish her continued success in her future endeavours. Monica Henry has stepped up and taken over Liz's role and has done a fantastic job thus far, so thank you Monica for that.

Our G4M&O campaign kicked off with an away friendly on Sunday August 23rd against Shamrock Gaels in Riverstown. Unfortunately Paul could not make that game but the girls done him proud with an overwhelming victory (although no scores were kept in keeping with the ethos of the game). After this both teams convened at the local for a full and proper analysis of the game. We must thank Shamrock Gaels for being great hosts and putting on a very enjoyable evening. We hope to return the favour in the coming season.

Curry's G4M&O team decided to host a blitz day on October 4th. Eastern Harps joined Shamrock Gaels, Crossmolina and Tubbercurry for what turned out to be a great day's enjoyment. Our women won 3 out of the 4 games with only Curry victorious on all fronts. It was then onto the 'local' for refreshments and a good laugh with our fellow mothers & others. Again, Curry G4M&O club cannot be praised highly enough for putting on such a great day for all.

Then it was the highlight of the year, what we had trained for since the beginning, the All-Ireland Blitz in Naomh Mearnóg, Portmarnock. We arrived to Mr. Motivator, 1600 Women, 122 Teams and 18 Pitches. Each team had 4 games and we finished in a blaze of glory with 4 WINS and declared ourselves unofficial All-Ireland Champions. What could top it all off you may ask - well the answer is, the night that followed!!! Enough said. Till next year ladies!!

Eleanor Mc Mahon

Report from Building Development Committee

Project progress to date

Early 2011	Club approached two adjoining landowners to explore the possibility of obtaining ground for new dressing rooms. This was unsuccessful
July 2011	Special sub-committee established to look at existing dressing rooms. Recommended economically unviable to upgrade existing facility and that the dressing rooms should be knocked in favour of new dressing rooms on the same site. This was approved by the Executive.
August 2011	Development Committee established with Seán Scott as chair.
Autumn 2011	Engineer appointed to take the project from design to build – Michael Rowley and Associates, Consulting Engineers. It was made clear to the executive that it would be 4-5 years before the club would be in a financial position to commence development.
30 th April 2012	Planning permission lodged.
8 th June 2012	Further Information requested.
24 th August 2012	Planning Permission Granted.
2013	Club fundraisers specific to development are strongly promoted.
10 th March 2014	Sports Capital Application Lodged for dressing rooms. Application valid. No funding.
March/April 2015	Approval from County Board and Connacht Council to seek 100k loan.
21 st April 2015	Approval from BOI for 100k loan.
24 th April 2015	Further Sports Capital Application Lodged for dressing rooms.
Summer 2015	Extensive political lobbying.
8 th October 2015	Email from Sports Capital awarding €39,000. Grant to be drawn down by 31 st October 2017.
September 2015	Connacht Council Grant submitted.
27 th October 2015	Met with Connacht Council in Ballyhaunis.
29 th October 2015	€20,000 awarded to project by Connacht Council..

A detailed report has been presented each year since 2011 at our club AGMs outlining the above plans and progress achieved.

The development committee are in the process of seeking a Croke Park loan approval for €100k at a more preferential rate to a commercial loan (5.7-6%). Works have also commenced in relation to the preparation of tender documents.

The situation regarding trustees has also been reviewed. New trustees have been appointed and our solicitor has been instructed to prepare the necessary documentation to ensure that the club is vested in accordance with the GAA Model of Trust with a representative from the Connacht Council, the County Board and three club representatives.

It is recommended that a separate fundraising committee be put together with an eighteen month to two year time period to organise a number of specific events for the development. This is essential in order to see the project through financially.

Sean Scott

Report from Children's Officer

I took over the role of Children's Officer from Aisling Stephenson during the beginning of 2015. As Aisling had all her records very up to date, all that had to be done was to get any new coaches Garda Vetted. This was completed at the beginning of the training season for all new coaches and anyone else that has more than occasional contact with any of our underage players.

We held a Code of Ethics course in Keash Hall on June 12th, delivered by Eamon Mullen. Thanks to all coaches and others interested in getting involved in coaching who attended, it's not easy to find time in the middle of an already busy schedule for coaches.

From next year all GAA coaches must have as a minimum the foundation level coaching course completed. Also at least one coach from each team needs to have completed the Level One qualification. In order to achieve this we plan on running a foundation course in the club in January followed by a Level One later in the year.

Edel Mc Nulty

Bord na nÓg

The club's first Bord na nÓg was set up at the beginning of 2015. The committee was made up of Michael Connolly, Martina Clohessy, Ronan Higgins, Teresa Horan, Kieran McGill, Fintan Mc Gowan, Edel Mc Nulty and Deirdre O'Brien. The committee took on many roles during the year and, with the watchful eye of the executive, made a lot of progress in relation to the running of underage teams.

The Bord began by setting up an information system to pass on important information to all coaches. This included information re the wearing of gum shields, the selection of captains, the recording of attendance, insurance claims for girls teams and other important information as outlined in 'Our Games Our Code'.

The next important role the Bord undertook was the organising of the trip to Feile Peil na nÓg by our U14 boys. The Bord organised the transportation, the gear and a fun walk to help fund the cost.

Three members from the Bord, Michael Connolly, Edel Mc Nulty and Deirdre O'Brien all completed the second stage in Child Protection training by participating in the Children's Officer Course held on June 3rd by the Irish Sports Council.



The club was selected as a pilot club for facilitating a Resilience programme run in conjunction with Tubbercurry Family Resource Centre. Members of Bord na nÓg were involved in the hosting of three very successful information nights in Carn NS. The first of these programmes was aimed at members of the executive and Bord na nÓg, followed by one for coaches and parents and finally one for all underage players and the youth of the wider community. We would like to thank Conor Fitzgerald and Kevrina Hannon from the Tubbercurry Family Resource Centre for providing us with the opportunity to host these very beneficial information nights and for all the work they put into the presentations and information packs provided on the night.

The main focus for the year for the Bord was the renewing, updating and the developing of existing and new policies in the club. As a result, the club now has an up-to-date Code of Conduct, Bullying and ASAP policy. We also updated our registration form to make all members more aware of these policies. Our aim for 2016 is to hold a short meeting with all coaches and players at the beginning of the training season to make all parties involved aware of these policies. These policies are for the protection of everyone involved from player to coach and by making all aware of them we aim to create and maintain the safest possible environment for all young people who wish to participate in our Gaelic Games and activities.

Edel Mc Nulty

Our First Senior Championship Title.....October 5th, 1975

It was a Christopher Columbus voyage. Just like the legendary Italian explorer 483 years earlier in 1492, when we set out we didn't know where we were going - we didn't have full government approval either - but we were going anyway. Unlike Columbus, when we got there we knew where we were, right in a NEW WORLD of respect inside Sligo GAA, while Columbus thought he was somewhere in Asia so he had to return and set sail again to find out where he had been. Our first senior championship win in 1975 was mould-breaking for Eastern Harps, historic for our fledgling club, unforgettable for the players, the management and supporters, and so this year on the 40th anniversary of that momentous occasion, we graciously and deservedly honour the men who fashioned it as they justifiably take their place in the annals of our history.

Gingerly welded together just two years earlier in 1973, the local atmosphere in Keash and Gurteen parishes was clouded in doubt as to our motives and indeed more prominently, as to our survival. Many people could not comprehend the idea that two local junior clubs who had been bitter enemies for decades could now become allied forces. The bond of singular parochialism was strong in both parishes, and indeed that is a noble almost tribal and traditional feature of rural society, however, the basic truth is that both junior clubs were struggling to field teams and the future for both clubs appeared bleak. And so the fire of our formation in 1973 was now lit, was kindling nicely via a decent league run in 1974 and 1975 as we faced into the landmark championship of 1975. Nevertheless we fully knew we were sailing into the uncharted waters of top level Sligo Club GAA, so accordingly we approached this assignment with torque in our muscles, spirit in our veins and hope in our hearts.

Frank Kielty was a wonderful goalkeeper. Safe and dependable with lightning reflexes, he surely would have had a strong inter county career had an unfortunate road accident not robbed him of his talents. Celebrated national sportswriter Eamonn Sweeney, then a local kid at one of his first matches, wrote in his book "THERE IS ONLY ONE RED ARMY", a description of a save from Frank as "*Young Kielty sprang across the goal to deftly touch it wide*". Michael Reid, at corner back, was another who should have had a decent inter county career. He had great pace, a strong tackler and extremely versatile as he later proved by becoming a goal scoring full forward. Kevin Cryan, then highly experienced, was rock solid at full back while not many forwards got around Terry Garvin in the other corner of our defence without displaying the scars of battle. Youthful Pat Gallagher was a speedy and intelligent half back, while captain Michael Hannon, a true leader at centre half back, was a marvellous reader of the game with his forward forays and skilled low foot passing a stand out feature. At left wing back, Fergal Gallagher always showed commitment and courage and pound for pound must surely have been one of our greatest ever defenders.

At midfield we generally paired Frank Casey and Denis Johnson, though then youthful Eamon Clarke had some spells there too. Frank was a massive ball winner, very strong in the air, always fit and dependable. Denis, who was to have a massive managerial input in future years, was more of a general, a gifted two footed player who was full of creativity and rarely wasted a ball. Eighteen year old Rory Tansey, a fine attacker who went on to collect two more senior medals in 1993 and 1995, held down the right wing forward position. When not operating at midfield, Eamon Clarke, then another teenager, plied his trade in

the centre half forward position and he did so with the same leadership and authority he has always shown for Eastern Harps at playing, coaching or board room level.

Owen Garvin, an extremely fast and dangerous attacker, normally operated in the number 12 position but often switched to the inside line or in a straight swap with Rory Tansey. Pdraig Molloy, a highly skilled left footer and an excellent free taker, took up the right corner forward position, while the veteran of the side, the highly respected and experienced Brian Tansey R.I.P. operated in the full forward position. The final corner forward position was usually filled by Robert Taylor, a converted left footed midfielder and a first class ball winner in aerial duels, or Sean Gallagher, a hard working attacker, always good for a score or two, whose levels of energy and fitness matched anything seen since or before. Other players who made up the panel, which wasn't as extensive as we see nowadays, were goalkeeper Liam McDonagh, elusive forward Gerry Mc Cormack, Micheal Mc Gill, a wonderful score getter, tenacious defender Jimmy Casey and the highly experienced and strong running Patrick Brehony. Several of these players later wore the county jersey, with Denis Johnson and Eamon Clarke having extended county careers. Four of the most important men of course in the overall scheme of things were team manager and then club chairman, John Higgins who was also the primary club founder, selector Sean Coleman, club secretary Pdraic Duffy and team trainer, John Joe Nerney R.I.P., who had won an All-Ireland senior football medal with Roscommon in 1944.

Training took place twice sometimes three times weekly in Conlon's field in Gurteen – we also played home league matches there – while being allowed through negotiation the special treat of the odd training session at Ballymote's Corran Park. No track suits, no training bibs, no physios, no water carriers, no ice packs and no showers were the order of the day. To tog in and tog out in the car, near the car or under a bush was normal. Nonetheless, these boys were fit – seriously fit. John Joe, a strict fitness disciplinarian saw to that. And so without county recognition or pundit rating and without our own ground – anonymous and homeless – we embarked on the 1975 senior championship, being drawn against and defeating Coolera in the first round on August 17th. The following Sunday, August 24th we had a big win over Enniscrone in Round two, leaving us matched with the also undefeated Tourlestrane in Round three. With the winner going straight to the semi-final, a lot was at stake but our side, whose star was now rising, claimed a massive six point win on August 31st. The semi-final on September 14th saw us drawn against the powerful Mickey Kearins led St. Patricks. Not many fancied our chances but in an exciting match we came from behind with a couple of second half goals to win on a scoreline of 4-04 to 0-10.

The final itself was played at Corran Park on October 5th against a very strong Craobh Rua side who shortly afterwards merged with Mhuire Naofa of Sligo to become St. Mary's. A huge crowd of well over 2000, mostly Harps supporters, turned up paying gate receipts of £800 which equated to an admission fee of 40 pence – good value indeed! Craobh Rua were backboned by five county players - Vincent Nally (Mayo), Barnes Murphy, Tommy Carroll, Des Kearins and Mick Laffey – all four recent Connacht Championship winners with Sligo - while Vincent Nally was the Connacht Railway Cup full back and Barnes Murphy was a current All-Star. We were still considered rookies and complete outsiders but, after a tremendously exciting match, a first half goal from our top scorer Pdraig Molloy (1-03) greatly assisted us to a smashing victory to capture the Owen B Hunt Cup for the first time on a scoreline of 1-08 to 0-05.

The scenes which followed the match were ones of unbridled joy with fans, young and old, delirious. Bonfires blazed for days while the cup was paraded inside our borders. An eight point defeat to Roscommon Gaels – who went on to win the All-Ireland that year - in the first round of the Connacht Championship didn't dim our celebrations in the slightest. Our boys had delivered. Speeches were made, songs were sung and even victory poems - one from John J Gurhy of Riverstown and one from Phil Walsh of Doon appeared in "The Sligo Champion". To come from nowhere to win the Sligo senior football championship was the talk of the county.

It even entered the political arena. Colourful Co. Councillor of the day, Michael “The Boxer” Conlon, raised the matter at a Co. Council meeting. “I must congratulate Eastern Harps on their magnificent victory”, stated the Boxer before throwing in a missile. “Isn’t it remarkable that Eastern Harps has not even one player on our county team. Would it not be about time our county selectors opened their eyes”!

The rich harvest of trophies at all levels gathered since 1975 has been reaped from the seeds sown by those trailblazers of 1975. They have set the bar. Their bloodlines have performed and continue to perform on the field of play with dedication and distinction as the genes and the spirit of four decades ago propels their bodies onwards. The conflict of old between two neighbouring parishes is now a distant memory and a memory exclusive to pensioners at that. An enduring legacy has been bequeathed on all of us. It is one of preparation, co-operation and, more than anything else, discipline. We can have intense rivalry, abrasive combat and still retain excellent discipline. Our future will be predicated on that. The soldiers of 1975 wouldn’t want it any other way. Let all of us raise our hat to the men of 1975, on this the 40th anniversary of their achievement which was spectacular and stunning, given the fact that our infant club was still on the do-do. Second voyage around Christopher Columbus found he had discovered the NEW WORLD. Most of his crew liked what they saw and stayed. We at Eastern Harps liked what we saw and stayed too.

PJ McKeon, Eastern Harps founder member

Healthy Club Initiative

The Healthy Club Initiative entered its final pilot phase in 2015. Early in 2013, following on the success of Operation Transformation, the club entered an expression of interest in the GAA Healthy Club Project in Croke Park and was one of sixteen clubs to be selected to participate in the project. The project was jointly launched by Uachtarán CLG, Liam Ó Néill, and Chief Medical Officer at the Department of Health, Dr. Tony Holohan, on the 11th March reflecting its collaborative nature between the GAA and the HSE.

At its core, the project aims to assist GAA clubs in responding to the wide and varied health needs of their members, while extending that positive influence out to the wider communities they serve. At the launch Uachtarán CLG Liam O’Neill said “The GAA Healthy Club Project aims to highlight and re-enforce the great work already being done by clubs while assisting them in identifying and responding to the most important health issues amongst their membership and in their communities”.

As the project has progressed it has intertwined with a number of areas in the club based on the survey that was carried out at the beginning of the initiative. The results of the survey had a number of priority areas in relation to improving the health of our club. Physical Activity, Alcohol & Drugs, Anti Bullying, Resilience & Well Being, Diet and Nutrition, Community Interaction, Health Safety, Physical Environment, Stress Management, Engaging Older Adults, and Smoking Cessation. Initially we concentrated on the top priorities from the survey with Operation Transformation achieving results under a number of headings. In 2015, members of the Healthy Club Committee participated in The Health and Well Being Conference run by Croke Park and submitted material for a poster presentation. At the conference the Club was presented with a Framed Cert for the club’s participation in Phase 1 of the initiative. The new Uachtarán CLG Aogán O’Feargáil on the day announced that €1m was being made for Phase 2 and 3 of the initiative. This will give us the opportunity to continue the work and apply for some funding to work on our priority areas.

In April, the committee organised First Aid Training for coaches/club members and this was supported by Sligo Sports Partnership. In July, the Healthy Club Committee hosted a County Healthy Club Initiative organised in conjunction with the Sligo GAA Health and Well Being Committee. The aim of this day was to provide information on Healthy Club Initiative and to get other clubs in the county to participate.

In July, as a result of our involvement in the Healthy Club Initiative, the Club was approached by Tubbercurry Family Resource Centre with a view to running a Positive Mental Health Resilience Programme for coaches and players. This was rolled out in Sept/Oct and to date has received very positive feedback and fits well with the priorities of our healthy club survey.

The final report on the Phase 1 of the Healthy Club Initiative is due to be launched on Monday 30th November in Croke Park. Earlier in the year the Healthy Club Committee fed into this report through a healthy club index which is a Club Self-Assessment Questionnaire. We look forward to the report and continuing the work of Healthy Club in 2016.

Carmel Taheny

Club members who participated in First Aid Training
(with George Williams – tutor)



CLUB OFFICIALS 2015

PATRONS	Jim Taheny (RIP), Christy Gallagher
PRESIDENT	John Higgins
CHAIRPERSON	Padraig Henry
VICE-CHAIRPERSON	Tom Murray, Des Horan
SECRETARY	Padraic Duffy
ASSISTANT SECRETARY	Shaun Dorrian
TREASURER	Thomas Cryan
P.R.O.	Kevin Cryan
OIFIGEACH NA GAEILGE	Áine Mc Grath
CO. BOARD DELEGATE	Louis Carty
REGISTRAR	Deirdre O'Brien
LADIES CHAIRPERSON	Liz Coyle
LADIES SECRETARY	Hannah Clohessy
HEALTH & SAFETY OFFICER	Barry Cryan
SCHOOLS LIAISON OFFICER	Michael Hannon
COACHING OFFICER	Fintan Mc Gowan
INSURANCE OFFICER	Tom Murray
PITCH COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON	John Cryan
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON	Sean Scott
HEALTHY CLUB CHAIRPERSON	Carmel Taheny
ALCOHOL & SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION OFFICER	Ross Donovan
CHILDREN'S OFFICER	Edel Mc Nulty
ASSISTANT CHILDREN'S OFFICER	Deirdre O'Brien
BORD NA NÓG CHAIRPERSON	Kieran Mc Gill
BORD NA NÓG SECRETARY	Teresa Horan
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: listed on next page)	

Executive Committee: Áine Mc Grath, Aisling Stephenson, Brendan Mc Hugh, Carmel Taheny, Colm Duffy, Damien Mc Govern, Deirdre O'Brien, Des Horan, Edel Mc Nulty, Fintan Mc Gowan, Jimmy Casey, John Cryan, John Lynch, Kevin Cryan, Kieran Mc Gill, Liz Coyle, Louis Carty, Padraic Duffy, Padraig Henry, Paul Dwyer, Paul Judge, Ronan Higgins, Sean Higgins, Sean Scott, Shane O'Connor, Shaun Dorrian, Teresa Horan, Thomas Cryan, Tom Murray.

TEAM MANAGEMENT 2015

<u>MEN / BOYS</u>	
Senior	Shane King, Shane Gallagher & Paul Judge
Junior	George Garvey, Mikey Grady & Aiden Ward
U-20	Michael Hannon, Ross Donovan, Raymond Hannon & Anthony Breheny
U-18	
U-16	Shaun Dorrian, Neil Molloy & Paul Dwyer
U-14	Eamonn Clarke, PJ Langton, Mark Cosgrove, Cathal Dowd & Damien Mc Govern
U-13 Feile	Ciarán Mc Govern, Ronan Higgins, John Bruen & Peter Walsh
U-12	
U-10, U-8, U-6	Peter Walsh, Keith Carty, Paul Taylor, Fintan Mc Gowan, Dawn Mc Gowan, Con Murray, Adrian Cook, Peter Mitchell, Shane Duggan, Ailish Duggan
First Aid	Des Horan

<u>GIRLS / LADIES</u>	
U-10	John O'Neill, Linda Kiernan & Niamh Lillie
U-12	Martina Clohessy, Kerrie Scanlon & Benny Connolly
U-14	Patricia McDonagh, Mary Hannon & Deirdre O'Brien
U-16	Morgan McCormack, Padraig Henry & Michelle Mullen
U-18	Martina Clohessy & Patricia McDonagh
Senior	Jack Haran & Paul Judge

Team Photos

U11 Boys – Division 4 Shield Winners



Feile Peil na nÓg – Muine Bheag



U16 Boys – ‘A’ League & Championship Winners



Ladies – Intermediate Championship Winners



U16 Girls – 'A' League Winners



U12 Girls – A2 Championship Winners

