**Secretary’s Report to the Carryduff AGM 2017**

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**Foreword**

Domsa féin, cuireann an Cumann Lúthcleas Gael paisean, grá an pharóiste agus an chontae, a chuid agus a chomhroinn do gach aon duine agus obair foirne, cairdeas, meidhréis, bród, áthas agus briseadh croí i mbeart comhionann, cuimhní cinn spraoi agus mór, ach ciallaíonn sé fosta fás cathartha, oideachas, ceannaireacht, meas, smacht, obair dheonach agus tógáil airgid, flaithiúlacht spiorad, dea-thoil, tiomantas, uaillmhian agus aisling fís.

Míceal D Ó hUiginn, Uachataran na h-Éireann

For me, the GAA embodies passion, love of parish and county, sharing and teamwork, friendships, exhilaration, pride, joy and heartbreak in equal measure, fun and great memories but it also means civic growth, education, leadership, respect, self-discipline, volunteerism and fundraising, generosity of spirit, goodwill, commitment, ambition and vision.

Michael D Higgins, President of Ireland

**1 Introduction**

I have great pleasure in presenting my Secretary’s Report to Carryduff GAC’s AGM..

**Acknowledgements**

As another year comes to a close Carryduff GAC and wider community are indebted to the many volunteers who continue to contribute so tirelessly to the running of the club.

On behalf of the Executive Committee and the wider membership of the club, I extend a huge thank you to the many volunteers who continue to give up their time so generously and without whom the club would simply not exist.

A particular word of thanks to all the Executive Committee and Sub-committee members, managers, mentors, parents, sponsors, friends of the club, players young and old and anyone else who helped in any way.

Developing our facilities remains a priority. And 2017 has seen some tremendous developments to the benefit of the entire club membership. Our Development Sub-Committee have continued to work behind the scenes to secure grants and funding in face of on-going and increasing financial constraints. Quite simply, their efforts have continued to sustain the club and progress our development in spite of many challenges.

A word of thanks to the wider parish for its support throughout the year and thank you to Fr. Michael and Fr. Conor for their support and encouragement throughout the year. Thank you to Fr. Brian, one of our regular sideline influences of calm and decorum.

A particular thanks to those members who have remained committed to Club Carryduff. Their contributions have continued to provide the ‘life blood’ necessary to sustain the club; their contribution to our development fund have undoubtedly kept the club and its future plans alive.

On behalf of the Executive and club membership thanks to Patrick rice our chairman who has presided over many development this year.

Personally I want to extend a heartfelt and genuine “Go raibh mile maith agaibhse” to all the members of the Executive Committee who have helped me in my role as Secretary over the year and to those club members whose willingness to come forward and volunteer to take on the hard tasks and contribute to the development of the ‘whole club’. You may not realise how helpful and encouraging your enthusiasm actually is.

**2 Executive Committee (EC)**

The 2017 EC was comprised of 20 members who met on a monthly basis throughout the season. Attendance at the meetings was variable as a consequence of work commitments and family issues.

Extensive and varied discussions took place on numerous issues relating to the running of the club.

All codes within the club were represented on the EC with some of the EC members also acting in the role of Chairs of various sub-committees and County Board representatives. In addition to attending the club EC meetings these representatives also chaired regular meetings within their various codes. I would like to acknowledge the contribution made by EC members to the maintenance and running of the club and for their generosity with their time and efforts to deliver of club business throughout the year.

**3 Financial Management**

Our club treasurer Paul Lavery has continued to diligently manage club financial affairs in challenging circumstances.

As the club’s growth continues we have operated in a climate of ever increasing costs, a lack of available grants and limited income opportunities. Funding the club relied heavily on members, sponsors and family and friends for support. It is self-evident that Carryduff GAC will face strident financial challenges, not only to realise the ambitions for continued future growth of our club, but indeed to survive and maintain the assets the club has progressively developed.

Membership fees did not increase in 2017 year and some of our costs have been offset as the club secured a loan and was awarded an Alpha Grant this year.

As our accounts indicate, the club relies heavily on our own internal fundraising to secure the income that is vital to keep this club alive. The successful fund raising events held during the year have contributed significantly and, on behalf of the entire club, sincere gratitude is extended to all those who organized and coordinated activities which brought income into the club. The opening and operation of the Hub has contributed significantly to the overall income of the club and has enormous potential to continue to do so into the future with the support of the general body of club membership.

2018 will undoubtedly require a major and significant fundraising effort that will require the commitment and contribution from all who genuinely have the interests of Carryduff GAC at heart. Whilst we will continually strive in our efforts to obtain funding from various sources, contribution is a collective responsibility for us all. I would urge everyone to support **all** social and fundraising events during the forthcoming year.

Club Carryduff continues to raise vital revenue for the future development of our club. Club Carryduff monies were used to assist us realize the multi-purpose ball wall the 3G training facility, the outdoor gym and the opening of the Hub facility, all of which have added so much to the physical fabric and the activities of the club. However, we now face the challenge of maintain these assets and developing further.

The sale of advertising boards around the pitch continues with each board generating £200 per year in revenue.

The Lottery is a regular source of income although numbers have decreased during the year. It is vital that this regular source of income continues and I would encourage new members to become involved.

Our clothes bank is a free source of funding and was consistently used throughout the year. Whilst the amounts may seem minimal every penny counts for the club and there is no effort involved.

We remain grateful to all who have provided the club with sponsorship.

Thank you again to everyone who has supported the club financially in any way.

**4 Membership**

Membership of the club stood at 1,003 at 10 October 2017 [828 members at 30 September 2016 (879 – 2015)].

**5 Communication**

Our club website continues to be a key means of cascading information to members. We thank Ronan Lawlor who has contributed to the maintenance of the site and continues behind the scenes to keep our website up to date.

The Club has developed its own social media identity and information about all club activities and achievements are regularly populated on Facebook and Twitter, both of which provide instant information and imagery.

We require a considerable effort to ensure that information continues to be added into and organized in the club website as the on-going day-to-day repository of the living history of the club. There is also a pressing need for the history of the club to be ‘organised’ onto that digital platform (and for those with historical information to contribute it) so that the club ‘heritage’ is neither lost nor forgotten.

I also believe that here is a need for the club to take both ownership of and pride in its Corporate Identity and assure that this continues to be promoted on a ‘whole club’ basis.

**6 2017 Male Football Reports**

**Carryduff Senior Male Football 2017**

The senior men started the season under a new management team of Paddy Doherty, Danny McConnell, D.J. Morgan and Charlie Reilly. After a players meeting in mid January, the squad started into pre-season training. This consisted of a mixture of boxing training in East Down Boxing Club, Crossgar, running sessions and challenge games. During this period Donal McKeever was playing for Queens in the McKenna Cup and represented Down in the NFL. In March, James Guinness, Josh Connery and Mark Hynds were also selected to represent Down in the Ulster under 21s, with James having the additional honour of captaining the side.

The first league game of ACFL 2 was against Bredagh. We enjoyed an exciting 2 point victory in front of a large home crowd. The first half of the season continued with the young squad playing exciting, attacking football. Some high scoring victories were recorded over St Johns, Shamrocks and Ballymartin, however the stand out performance was away to Loughinisland. The first half of the league concluded with 8 wins, 2 losses and 1 game to be rearranged. As a result of his impressive performances James Guinness was called into the Down squad for the championship.

The second half of the season was very indifferent due to various reasons, unavailability of players, reluctance of other clubs to change fixtures and inconsistency. However there was some stand out performances such as home victory to Rostrevor, Annaclone and away performance at Newry Shamrocks. The second half saw 5 wins, 2 draws and 4 defeats. Resulting in a final league position of 3rd and securing senior championship football next season.

The Intermediate championship started with a game against Tullylish in Hilltown. In poor weather conditions, we conceded a freak goal to lose by 2 points in a dull game that we looked to be in control off. We then had a comfortable victory over Attical in the qualifier rounds, to set up a meeting with Annaclone in Newry. This was also a game we were in control of and led by 8 points during the second half, only to lose by 3 points.

In summary, quite a promising season with good progression made in the league but a disappointing championship campaign. However the age profile of the squad with 7 players, under 19, finishing the Rostrevor game and 25 being the oldest player on the pitch away to Newry Shamrocks, it augers well for the future. With Senior championship ensured for next season, the next aim must be to achieve Division 1 status.

**Reserves**

This year’s reserves had a very frustrating year, we started with a strong team against Bredagh and after an outstanding performance beat them 2-16 to 0-9. However this was to prove to be a bit of a false dawn. We struggled all year to field teams, the clash with the Antrim Hurling league took some players, exams and other run of the mill events took others but the disappointing thing was some players thought it was beneath them to play reserve or simply did not travel to away matches. This attitude needs to change. When we fielded a strong team we were not beaten and a PRFL title is within our grasp if players commit next year.

Unfortunately we had to withdraw from the championship, however I believe this was more to do with the rules due to player eligibility rather than the players themselves. We had 26 players unavailable due to playing in last year’s intermediate championship, this rule needs to be looked at if the PRC is to survive.

To finish on a positive note those players that did play had a tremendous year; young players like John McGeogh, Daniel McCartan, Daniel Coogan & Donal Og Rooney all progressed to make debuts with the senior team, others progressed to play regularly for the seniors like Rauri McKay, Conor Rooney, Shea Reilly & Gareth Henderson, and most importantly Conor McCann, Conor McLornan, Ronan Lavery, Dylan Stronge and Rory Oakes ( all Minors) all played adult football for the first time this year and none looked out of place. (Apologies if I have missed anyone).

**Mark McCartan**

**Minors**

This year has been a mixed year for the Carryduff Minors. Although we finished well down the league placings there were a number of notable victories and some excellent performances. There were 2 in particular and that stand out which were the victories over Burren (who went on to win the Minor Championship) and Bredagh in June. The championship was disappointing in that we failed to get out of the group beating Bryansford and losing to Kilcoo and Clonduff.

There were a number of players who played for our Senior and Premier reserve team, namely John McGeough, Daniel Coogan, Ronan Lavery, Conor McCann, Dylan Stronge and Rory Oakes. Caolan Cunningham, Tommy Connery, Michael Lawson and Ryan Tweedy were also members of the Down U-17 squad.

A big thanks to the head coach Liam Doherty and his fellow coaches Enda Cunningham and Charlie Reilly for the work put in this year.

**Under 16 report.**

The under 16A team finished joint 4th in the All county league and reached the semi-final of the All-County Championship. The players showed a great level of improvement through their hard work and competed strongly with the best teams in the county. Having finished top of their championship group after wins over Burren Clonduff and Bryansford and having beaten RGU in the quarterfinal they were unfortunate to meet a very strong side in eventual winners Kilcoo in the semi-final. The club were represented at county level at under 16 by Lorcan Toal, Adam Loughran, Oran O’Neill Conor McKeever and Joshua Cullen and by Dermot Donaldson at under 15. Best wishes to Joshua Cullen on his recovery from a bad knee injury early in the season.

The B team fielded in all matches except one and performed admirably in a difficult league. Two wins over Ardglass and some other very commendable performances showed the improvement in the players and their will to keep going to the end of every game.

Many thanks to the coaching team of Joe Tunney, Phil Doherty, Eugene McNicholl, Kieran Swail, Michael Tunney, Paddy Tinnelly, Darragh Brownlee and goalkeeping coaches Declan  Alder, who helped out towards the end of the season, and Darren Ross, who helped out at the start of the season.

**Joe Tunney**

**U-14 Football**

There were initially 39 no. eligible Carryduff U14 players, with 3 no. subsequently joining through the year for a squad of 42 players. Due to the large numbers, we entered the Division 1 (15-a-side) and Division 2 (13-a-a-side) leagues to enable the boys to get as much game time as possible throughout the year. We began the U14 football year training at the start of February, with an early challenge game against Donaghmore, Tyrone on a very bitterly cold mid-February Sunday. The boys got off to a slow start but came good in the later stages with players showing well in various playing positions. It was a good performance from the boys after only one weeks training. Training continued through February with further friendlies against St Brigid’s and Clonduff in early March in preparation for the first league games at the end of March.

The U14As started off with a good win against Loughinisland while the U14Bs had a tough starting match against a big strong Bredagh team. Both A & B teams had varying degrees of success throughout the league campaign, with the A’s having good competitive battles with Kilcoo, Byransford and Bredagh as the main competition. The B’s had good wins over Ardglass and tight game against Saul.

The **Féile** was played in early April, on Easter Monday. The Carryduff team was weakened by many of the senior players being off on holidays and/or injured, but this allowed the younger players to step up and impress the coaches. There were good wins against Byransford and Warrenpoint, but ultimately Mayobridge were just a little too strong for us in the Section B semi-final.

The **A Championship** was played on a round robin basis in a group of six, with the top four playing off in semi-finals. This lead to the A’s having a tough semi-final against Kilcoo, in Kilcoo. The boys got together and played as unit and a team, giving their all in a difficult arena with a magnificent performance and well deserved win against a strong Kilcoo team. The U14A final was played in Newcastle against Bredagh, who had dominated everyone in the league during the year. Nevertheless, the Carryduff boys put the fight up to Bredagh with a very hard fought battle to narrowly miss out on the victory.

The **B championship** was played on a league basis in a group of four, with the top two progressing through to the semi-finals. Without some of the stronger younger players, the younger team had two difficult first games against very strong Ardglass and Castlewellan teams. But in their final championship game, they beat a strong Liatroim team with a great team performance.

As one of the coaches has said, ‘*In what was a challenging year for a young squad there have been a full range of games. The highlights being hard fought victories and wonderful skills on display. Other outings found us battling against the odds but most importantly never giving up. We have been very impressed with the boys’ development in both skills and attitude.*

*This future is very bright for this squad*’*.*

**Ruán Ó Laitháin**

**U10.5/11 Boys Football 2017**

U10.5 Boys training commenced at the start of March and over the course of the season have trained over 25 times and participated in fortnightly East Down Blitzes, several challenges games and tournaments. We had 52 registered players with all playing regular football throughout the season. I’d like to thank my 8 fellow coaches for all their support. Their dedication throughout the year has ensured every boy have developed that little bit further along their footballing journey.

 In terms of footballing success, highlights include winning both u10.5 East Down Super Blitzes and winning the shield at the Downpatrick tournament. But the high point of the year was how the club pulled together to put on our Festival of Football at the end of August. We hosted 32 teams from across Ulster including 4 Carryduff teams, with 2 of our teams lifting silverware. Our main aim for the day that every child left Carryduff that day with a smile having enjoyed themselves – I think we as a club achieved that.

 East Down County Board ran the inaugural U11 league during September and we fielded a team in each of the A and C Leagues. Both teams competed well with the A team narrowly missing out on the final berth. It augers well for the U12s next year.

 Finally, many thanks to all the parents for their continued support during the year.

**Conor O’Neill**

**Under 8s**

Training commenced at the end of Feb in Lough Moss on Saturday afternoons, moving to the club on Tuesday evenings in April We employed the 'GAA Activate' for our warm ups and the whole-part-whole method for the remainder of the training sessions.

We averaged 45/50 players at each session and had approximately 7/8 coaches each session

We attended all East Down Blitzes (which were held every 2 weeks, as opposed to 4 in previous years) and competed well in each one. We won the inaugural Sentel East Down U8.5 Blitz in June in Drumaness which was a proud day for the boys. We attended tournaments in Dungannon (Thomas Clarkes) and Newry (Ballyholland). We accepted invitations to tournaments in the Moy, Clonduff and Darragh Cross but these did not take place for various reasons

We won the shield at our own inaugural U8.5 Joe Beattie Memorial Tournament which was a great occasion.

We played against our seniors one Friday evening after their game was postponed, which was a fantastic occasion, one the boys talked about for weeks after..

We visited the indoor 3G in Erins Own Lavey GAC in October, which was a great event

We commenced our skills based autumn training program in our 3G ball wall area at the start of October (continuing on from our grass based sessions) and will continue this until the start of December

**Ed McQuillan**

**Nursery**

The Nursery training went very well during the year, we had luck on our side with the weather and we only had to cancel 1 session due to bad weather. The kids all had great fun, which was the priority for every session and we had a couple of challenge games with Breda during the year that proved very enjoyable for all concerned and gave the kids a taste of playing against a local rival that they will hopefully meet again in the years to come. The support and assistance from the parents was a great help, although at times some were reluctant to step forward and help out, I mentioned on my weekly emails to all parents that we need their help to make the sessions run but it was always the regular faces who helped out. Not sure how we can get more parents involved, but this seems to be the eternal question for this age grouping. More assistance from the club for assisting at this age group is needed going forward, and I would recommend that the club looks at dividing this group into 2 smaller groups as there is a huge divide between the older Primary 2 kids who have good basic skills and the kids who are in pre-school and need a lot of guidance and assistance. This will result in the older kids getting more exposure to the core skillset they need to develop at this early stage and help them progress onto more difficult aspects of the game.

**Gerry Heverin.**

**7 2017 Ladies Football Reports**

**CARRYDUFF GAC SNR LADIES FOOTBALL 2017 REVIEW**

PRE- SEASON

The 2017 season preparation began in early February with circuits organised mid-week on a Wednesday night in Rathmore Grammar School and Pitch sessions each Sunday morning. Time trials were conducted at Shaws Bridge on the first Sunday session February 5th at 10am. The players had to run as quick as they could a distance of 2km to measure where they are in terms of aerobic fitness. This was visited again 6 weeks later on Sunday March 19th at 10am. Very good progress was made by all players with a number of girls knocking off over one minute off their first Trial. These sessions were all well attended and put the girls in good order going into the start of the leagues. Challenge matches were also arranged in March where we played Clan Eireann on March 12th in Lurgan and Moneyglass on March 27th in Cookstown. These games helped the players get their match fitness up and allowed myself and the management team to try some tactical things out as well as get a look at some players trying to break into the team. Pre-season worked very well and i was pleased on how the fitness levels increased along with our skill sessions, this put us in a good position to start the campaign off with confidence.

IN – SEASON PHASE 1

The Thursday before the first league match I held a meeting to outline what was expected from players for the year ahead in order to win Championship. I went over a number of key points which included sacrifice, preparation, work ethic and sisterhood. The theme for this season was “RISE UP”. Rise Up meant the challenge to go and win Championship, win Championship by putting everything they have into this goal, Rising Up to their potential as players and as a team to accomplish our goal and making it into reality. This would be the main focus throughout the year as it was written at the top of our white board with the named team below before every match. The first half of the season went very well by winning every match we found ourselves top of the league and playing decent Football, training was going well numbers remained high and every player in both Junior and Senior wanting to improve not only themselves but the teams as a whole. This would prove to be crucial of what was to come in the later stages of the season.

IN – SEASON PHASE 2

The second half of the season began with a away League defeat to rivals Bredagh in Cherryvale, it would prove to be our last. We would continue to train hard and build for Championship with intensifying training by holding sessions when we had no match. We would not play three of our scheduled matches as Annaclone could not field due to numbers. The Bryansford match was the most frustrating as they wanted it called off a few days before scheduled due to a concert they wanted to attend instead. I agreed to refix the game to another date but once that came round they again said they could not field due to a “Club Day”. By this stage I had prepared the planner for the run into Championship. I decided to stick with the planner as I had grown inpatient as it seemed that they did not take themselves as seriously as we did. The remaining matches would go ahead and the wins kept coming. We would play what would turn out to be a League final away against Castlewellan with us only needing a draw or win to seal it. This would be the best performance the girls put together since I became involved. The team played with great intensity and expansive Football in a dominating display. The game finished up with a great win of 5 – 23 to 3 – 10 and another League trophy won back to back and medal for the players. This win would give the team great confidence going into Championship as they ticked every box in terms of preparation. The team’s game pattern and fitness was in top order and we were only weeks away from Championship v Bredagh.

CHAMPIONSHIP V BREDAGH

With a home draw and a big crowd expected the girls were ready and had a buzz about them from winning the League title. The pain of last year’s Championship defeat was still there but the girls weren’t going to let it happen again. A few changes were made and the confidence was high and eagerness to win was there. The loss to them earlier in the season was forgotten about and the girls played some nice Football. The game went back and forth but the girls stuck to the task and never gave in. In the end we ran out 5 points to the good winning 5 – 08 3 -09 in a good hard game of Football.

CHAMPIONSHIP SEMI FINAL V CASTLEWELLAN

We continued to train and prepare for our next opponent in the Semi Final which was Castlewellan in Downpatrick. This was a very tight affair and it came down to who wanted it most, every score counted and in the end it most certainly did. We went in at the break 1 -01 to 0 -2 up with it all to play for. The second half was much like the first with back to back scores and the game being levelled each time. With the match in the balance we were dwelt a blow as we received a yellow card which meant we were down to 14 players for 10min. Within those ten minutes the players held strong and kept working away not to concede much and give hope to Castlewellan. The match continued to sway back and forth, point for point, free for free and a crazy scramble in front of our goal with us coming out with the ball. The 10min sin bin time was up and we went back to full strength with not long to go. We took the lead into injury time but in fairness to Castlewellan they went right back down the pitch and got the equalizer. Not to be out done the girls picked themselves back up and done the same thing heading down the pitch and getting the free 25yrds from goal. The free was kicked right over the black spot and with that the ref blew up just after the kick out and we were heading to the County Final.

DOWN SNR LADIES COUNTY FINAL

With just a week between the Semi Final and Final it was all about recovery and that Tuesday night we headed to Tyrella Beach for a swim cool down session. We had a light session on the Thursday night and a meal plus a team meeting in the Hub after that. Game day had arrived and the Team was kitted out with Windcheaters and looked the part. There was a great crowd on hand to cheer them on as there was a chance to make Carryduff history. We started off nervy with condescending a goal in the first 2min of the half but came back to answer with a few points of our own before again conceding a second goal. The nerves soon settled and the team got into a good rhythm of play and we began to cut out there passing by placing a sweeper in and added a lot more pressure out the field to their kick passing. Goals came flying in for us and we made full use of our forward line and went in 5 – 2 to 2 -5 at the half. The players knew they had one hand on the Cup but still had 30min to go and were reminded “it’s not over until we win”. Within the first 10min the girls scored 1 – 03 without reply before Bryansford registered a point and i could see the girls relaxing into the game. The team played really good Football with some great passages of play and were continually attacking linking up very well. You could see that particularly in the second half the confidence was so high among all the players as each pass and score was taken. Bryansford continued their effort but the skill and fitness levels we had were much greater than they anticipated. Each player stepped up and from the keeper to the subs that came on it was inevitable how it was going to end. Everything that was talked about, practiced and most importantly the want to win was there. Then it came, the final whistle sounded and history was made, the first Down Senior Championship was heading to Carryduff, final score Carryduff 6 – 11 Bryansford 2 – 10.

ALL IRELAND LADIES 7 A-SIDE COMPITITION

We went down to Dublin with a Senior and Junior team, the girls were excellent and enjoyed it very much. We played some good Football beating teams from Tyrone, Dublin and Mayo. The Senior team topped the group which was a first and went into the quarter finals in good spirits. In the quarter final the game ended in a draw and we had to go into extra time to get the win. The semi-final came and we faced Clan Eireann of Armagh who funnily enough we were due to play in Ulster Club in a few weeks time. The girls battled very well and it was a close game but the extra time in the previous game took its toll on the legs and we came up short. All in all they were fantastic and went further than ever before which was great and to finish in the last four was brilliant.

ULSTER CLUB SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

A first Ulster Senior Club Championship match beckoned for the club and our challenge was multiple Armagh Champions Clan Eireann of Lurgan. We played them in a challenge match and knew a little about them and myself and Greg Price went to watch the Armagh Final. We trained away after a few days off to let the girls celebrate what was achieved and rightly so. We had a home draw which was a bonus and had a good crowd to cheer the girls on. This was always going to be a difficult game and it turned out to be true. Clan Eireann had that Ulster Experience over us and were the better team on the day. We didn’t play to our potential and i know the girls are disappointed in that but they did play better in the second half. We came out the other end of a bad day at the office losing 5 – 16 to 1 – 05. This was the first loss suffered since a League match back in April but even though the score line is hard to look at this is the level you get when you go into Ulster.

FINAL NOTE

The goal was to win Championship, though we fell short of this in 2016 it actually played a part in winning it this year. To lose by a point in the quarter final to the eventual winners that year made you think what could have been. There was to be no what if’s or maybe’s this time round and the if’s buts’ and maybe’s don’t win Championships. From the start of pre-season there was a sense of determination from this group, the willingness to get better, and improve in areas as individuals and as a team. Winning the League for a second time in a row was a great achievement. The plan was always “one game at a time and play the game not the occasion”. This keeps focus on what’s in front of you without worrying about anything down the line. This again worked well and is partly to do with the consistency they brought to each match. All the players are a credit to the club and themselves with the attitude that they have towards what they want to accomplish. The sacrifice that was put in by them i can’t speak highly enough of. The girls work ethic from early morn 7am session’s at the weekends, driving straight from work to training, arranging their work schedules to make session’s and matches and putting holidays on the back burner. I must also note that when Championship fixtures changed we had players cut short their holiday and fly back early to make the match.

From a Manager and Coaching point of view they are a dream to work with, they are very responsive and coachable. While discussing game play and options they engaged very well with a positive attitude. We had a look at a number of players this year to break into the Senior team and we managed to bring a few through. Having played well and learned their craft at Junior where they proved their ability it was time to move them onto the Senior panel. When given the chance they showed very well and had an impact in each game they played and this bodes very well for the future. Winning this year’s Championship is absolutely brilliant and the girls will go down in Carryduff history. The squad is strong and will only get stronger in the years to come. There has been an improvement in players again this year above the level even of last year and it is exciting to see them further develop into a very effective team. It was a privilege to again take the team this year and i would like to take this opportunity to thank Greg Price, Jim Magee and Darren Swail for their hard work and support this year. Without them none of this year’s accomplishments would have happened as they are a credit to Senior, Junior and Minor teams and the club. Thank you also to the Committee for the support and encouragement again during this campaign and for making the effort to acknowledge the girls on their historic win at the Gala.

Go raibh maith agat

**Steven Millar**

**Junior Ladies**

Preseason

The Junior Ladies looked to kick on from a good first season back in the Junior league in 2016 and preseason saw an increase in numbers training along with Minors and Seniors at Rathmore circuits. With 40 plus players registering and training the signs were good for our three Ladies teams for the 2017 Season. Training as one squad meant the Juniors and younger girls would benefit from regular training with great numbers.

League

The Junior Ladies hit the ground running winning our first league game against Tullylish, one of last year's stronger teams 1-16 to 1-7. A good mix of U16s, Minors and Juniors were playing impressive football going on to win the next 5 games and sit joint top of the league with St. Johns. St John's were up next and an under strength team gave the eventual league and Championship winners their toughest game of the year losing out 3-9 to 1-7.

Competitive all season, the Juniors went on to achieve a very creditable 2nd in the Junior League and considering we are the only Ladies Club in the County to field two teams at Senior age we can be very proud of the Junior Team achievements in 2017. The girls were notably supported by 6 U16s all season and with many more coming through for next season the future looks good for our Junior Team.

Championship

A tough draw saw the girls face a young and talented Dundrum side new to Junior football in 2017. With both our Seniors (V Bredagh) and Juniors awarded home draws on the same day and time, there was a big crowd and superb atmosphere at Carryduff Pitches 1and 2 on the 12th of August.

The Juniors fought out an end to end battle of a first half going in one point down at the break. In a game that looked like it could go either way for most of the game was eventually won by Dundrum 3-12 to 2-9 but seeing the club field two highly competitive teams at the same time can't be underestimated.

**Minors 2017 Report**

League

The Minors joined the Juniors and Seniors in preseason circuits and training at the start of February. With an already established 4 or 5 Minors on the Senior first 15 and another 4 in the squad the Minors were looking forward to the new season. We entered a 2nd team to the B League to provide extra games for our U16 team. The newly resurrected Minor A league would only contain 5 games so the Senior and Junior leagues would provide much needed regular games for all the Minor Panel numbering 15 players in all.

The league would again be dominated by Carryduff and Bredagh who were now reigning Ulster Champions. Both teams were too strong for Clonduff, Burren, Downpatrick and Rostrevor so the league would come down to the Bredagh game at home on the 29th of March. Despite a 2nd half rally Carryduff couldn't match a Bredagh team still buoyant from their Ulster win. Final score 4-6 to 4-15 to see Bredagh win the Minor league and Carryduff 2nd. The Minor B team performed very well to come 2nd in their league to a strong Ballymartin team.

Championship

The Minor B team had a great win at home v Warrenpoint 7-7 to 3-9 setting up a semi final with Saval away.

A brave 2nd half fight back in the Semi Final against Saval wasn't quite enough to progress to the final, final score 3-7 to 3-3.

With the benefit of league seasons with Seniors and Juniors the Minor A team were determined to make up for getting beat by just 1 point in last year's Championship Final against neighbours Bredagh. The success of the Senior Ladies gave the team extra incentive to add more silverware to the Ladies trophy cabinet.

A Semi final against Burren away saw a convincing win 7-14 to 0-5 with some impressive football setting up another final v Bredagh.

It's never been easy against neighbours Bredagh at this age level and the 2017 final would be no different. A big Carryduff support turned out on a windy night to see a fantastic championship battle between two sides who simply wouldn't give up. A stiff breeze down the pitch saw both teams dominate a half each. Carryduff needed a point late in the 2nd half to take the game to extra time. Full time 3-7 to 3-7.

Extra time provided more full tilt football from both teams and had a boisterous crowd on their feet unable to tell who would lift the trophy.

A crucial goal in the first half of extra time and a wonder point from 45 yards out by Carryduff were befitting scores to clinch another Minor title.

Scenes of joy mixed with relief spilled out on to the pitch. At the time of writing this report the Minor team are preparing for their Ulster Qtr Final game v Moville.

**Ladies U16s**

The Carryduff ladies u16s have a squad of 33 players who all have trained well and formed 3 team competing in the u16 A league and u16 B league and the Minor u18B league. We finished 3rd in both Under 16s leagues and second in the Minor B league. All 3 team were narrowly beaten in their respective championship at semi-final stages.

The under 16 girls also worked well with the u14s and trained with the u14s so that going forward there is better continuity. Turnout at training was in the 80% range over both session. Whilst no finals were achieved or titles one the girls all improved over the year helping the minor A team and juniors and represented at senior level also.

**Ladies U14s**

The Carryduff u14 ladies have had a great season. With a squad of 25 made up in equal parts of girls that were u14 last year, new u14s and some u12s; there was some uncertainty whether this young team could match the success of the u14s the year before. However, any doubt was quickly erased as with the first competition of the year, in a wet Clonduff in March the girls went unbeaten all day to bring the Down Féile cup back home.

The league campaign started well with two wins from two but with too many older girls away for the Mayday bank holiday they suffered a convincing defeat at the hands of Saval. The league was starting to show how tight it was going to be with four teams on level points after three games. The next game was a home game to Bredagh a goal late in the second half saw the girls narrowly beaten and drop behind the other three teams they had been level with.

The girls quickly put this behind them as they prepared for national Féile in Cavan with three convincing wins in the league setting them up nicely for the competition. With the Down champions competing in Division 2 for the first time our opening group game at Féile was eye opener as they faced a much more physically strong Edenderry side from Offaly. After a slow start, the girls got themselves together to have a much better second half but unfortunately it wasn’t enough. With little time to dwell on the loss their next match was an hour later against Cavan Gaels; learning the lesson from the previous game the girls got off to a flying start and won convincingly. The final group game on the Saturday morning was against their hosts Cuchullains from Mullagh, the winners of this game would go through to the cup competition with the others entering the shield. After yet another slow start the game was extremely close at half time but Carryduff pulled away towards the end of the second half to see them win the game and face Derrynoose, the unbeaten Armagh champions in the cup quarter final. A drive down the road took them to Cavan Gaels pitch for the quarter final. With a fresh approach needed to compete against Derrynoose a few girls found themselves in playing in positions they weren’t quite used to; however, it seemed to have the desired effect as the girls battled hard and at half time there was little between the team. Their fired up performance was maintained throughout the second half but the experience of the Derrynoose side saw them through to the semi-final and Carryduff field activated for Féile 20147 at an end. Our hosts had organised a disco that night and the disappointment of the loss were forgotten as the girls danced the night away with their new friends.

There was no rest for the girls and an exhausted bunch of girls took to the pitch against Bredagh in the league less than a week later only to suffer a heavy defeat; that removed any remaining league aspirations. A well-earned break followed the Bredagh game and with summer holidays depleting the team, the strength of the entire squad was a huge benefit as the girls finished out the league campaign extremely well to finish 2nd on points difference.

Next up was championship and the first round saw the girls face Kilcoo, who had finished the league with the same number of points. However, the girls dominated the match from the first throw in and sailed through to the semi-final. The draw for the semi-final put us against runaway league winners Bredagh, the only team in Down to have beaten the girls at every encounter this season.

Before this match could take place, Carryduff had their annual trip to Kilmacud 7s. As with the previous year it was decided that the entire squad would come down and it was made into a team bonding weekend; with 10 players taking the field on Saturday morning supported buy their 12 other team mates. A cinema trip on the Saturday night and the ladies All Ireland Finals on Sunday all helped bring the girls together before they faced their biggest challenge of the year.

Carryduff had the advantage of a home draw for the semi-final and with the senior ladies playing their first Ulster Championship match immediately after, Carryduff u14s took to the field in front of a large crowd of supporters in what would be one of the most entertaining games of football from any of the ladies teams this year. The first half was very tight and a goal with the last kick of the half saw Carryduff leave the pitch at half time two points up. The second half saw Carryduff pull away and hold on to a comfortable lead for the majority of the half; however, the determined Bredagh never gave up and with two goals of their own in the last 5 minutes the teams were level. With the large Carryduff crowd cheering the girls on the girls dug deep and scored three points from play. With minutes left Bredagh had possession of the ball and worked it down the field. This time it was the Carryduff defence that came to the rescue and the Bredagh shots were forced wide. Bredagh won the kick out and kicked a score but it was to be the last kick of the game as Carryduff finally had a championship victory over their neighbours.

The final was now set with a game against Saval. Although they have picked up a few injuries; the girls are well prepared for the challenges that Saval will present and though hard-work, skill and fight the girls hope to bring home the silverware on the 5th November!!!

**STOP PRESS – Congratulations to Carryduff U14 Ladies Down Champions for 2017**

**U12 Girls 2017**

League – Girls split into two evenly matched teams for East Down League and Mid down league. Both teams did very well with east team not losing any matches and mid team losing one in the entire competition. It was beneficial to split the girls up as it increased amount of game time for each player and also made the games more competitive as with full strength team Carryduff girls were too strong for any team in either league.

**Croke Park** – Beth Morgan and Ciara McGeough had opportunity to play in Croke Park in April.

**Tournaments**

**Ulster tournament** in Killeavy attended in July. All matches were won but it was a non-competitive tournament.

**Burren Tournament** attended in September with Carryduff Gaels team and Carryduff Ogs team. Gaels won the Cup and Sian O Neill of Carryduff won Player of the tournament. The Ogs also won the plate.

**Carryduff Tournament** – U12 Girls hosted 16 teams from all over ulster for tournament on 16th September. There was a Gaels and Ógs team again. Ógs reached the shield semi-final and Gaels went on to win the cup.

**Louth St Geraldines Tournament** was attended in October. One Gaels team was entered and we won the Cup.

**Fun Activities.**

Team bonding to Carryduff Resorvoir Water Park occurred in August 2017. 30 children had great fun!

U12 girls attended the Ladies finals in Croke Park in September.

We had a pizza party for our last training session at the beginning of October.

**Carryduff U10 Girls**

The U10 Girls had a very enjoyable and busy season in 2017. We had a total of forty girls registered and our weekly average attendance at Friday evening training ranged from twenty five to thirty girls. We commenced training at Loughmoss in early March before moving to our training pitch (pitch 2) on Friday 2nd June. Throughout the season the U10 Girls took part in various friendly games and blitzes. These were as follows;

1. We travelled to St. Paul’s Belfast on Saturday 11th March.

2. On Saturday 29th April we went to Newry to play Bosco.

3. We took part in a Co. Down LGFA U10 blitz in Dundrum on Saturday 3rd June

4. Bredagh U10 Girls came up to Carryduff on Friday 9th June to play a friendly game.

5. We took part in an Ulster LGFA U10 development blitz in Owenbeg (Co. Derry) on Saturday 17th June.

6. We took part in an Ulster LGFA U10 development blitz in Dromore (Co. Tyrone) on Saturday 8th July.

7. We took part in a Co. Down LGFA U10 blitz in Teconnaught on Saturday 9th September.

8. Our last Friday evening training session concluded with a pizza party (courtesy to Domino’s Pizza) on Friday 22nd September. A big thank you to the coaches who covered the cost of the pizzas.

9. We took part in an Ulster LGFA U10 development blitz in Clonduff on Saturday 30th September.

10. We travelled to Moneyglass to take part in an invitational competitive blitz on Saturday 1st October.

A thank you goes out to the four coaches (Garry Mc Caul, Noel Napier, Gerard Sergeant, and Damian Horisk) and our helpers (Ciara Mc Kenna and Niamh Meehan) for their time, encouragement and dedication.

**U8 Girls 2017**

Under 8 girls began training in March at Lough Moss alongside U10’s, with a panel of over 20 girls, many graduating from the nursery and with a number of new members, keen to learn the basics for the first time.

With a mix of abilities the focus for the year was to develop the basic skills for younger and less experienced players as well as to equip the older, more experienced players for step up to U10’s in 2018 but most of to ensure the girls had fun while doing so.

Throughout the year, it was clear that the girls’ hard work at training on Friday evenings was paying dividends with strong performances at friendly blitz’s and challenge matches with convincing wins for two evenly split mixed ability teams at local clubs such as Bredagh and Sarsfields.

A number of the girls stood out with dominant displays and competitive edge. These included Evie McHugh, Hannah Cassin, Niamh Napier, Catriona Blaney and Aisling McCaul a number of whom joined U10’s for blitzs including an Ulster Blitz’s at Omagh and Dungiven – getting great experience and enjoying the challenge of more competitive games and strong opposition.

Evie and Hannah we also very excited to have joined up with the U8 boys in September for a blitz in Bryansford where both put in fantastic performances demonstrating their skill and tenacity against strong opposition. Many other clubs fielded mixed teams at this level and this is perhaps something Carryduff should consider in the future at this age to progress the girls’ and their teams.

The season came to an end in September, frustratingly for all this was just as the squad were showing some real progression with individual skills and team play but following discussion with U10’s management it was decided that due to pitch availability and weather it was best to give the girls a rest for the winter months. We finished up with a pizza party at the Hub which was enjoyed by all.

**Carryduff GAC Gaelic 4 Mothers & Others**

This was the inaugural year for this grouping. The philosophy of M&0 centers on social aspects and fitness. We learned very early that on the ground a competitive ethos existed with tournaments hotly contested.

Backboned by former players and camógs this grouping with numbers around 30 made surprising advancement. They held their own in 8 blitzes and other matches but saved their best displays for the year end tournament in Dublin where they topped their group.

Apart from the football they proved to be a big boost to fundraising and social aspects of Carryduff GAA. With the large number of their children involved in underage teams and the G4M&O own team interest looks like the Carryduff club is a winner all round with this group.

**8 2017 Hurling Team Reports**

**Senior Hurling**

In 2017, Carryduff Senior hurlers contested two league competitions.

In Down All County League (Division 2), the team played all 12 fixed games, finishing the league in 2rd position (in a league of seven teams), win 10 wins, one draw and one defeat.

In Antrim, following a restructuring of the leagues, Carryduff played in a Div 3/4 combined, a league of 17 teams giving 16 fixtures. The team finished in 5th position winning nine games, with two draws and five defeats. The standard was a major set up from our previous two years in Div 4 and a top half finish was an excellent achievement for our Seniors and shows the progress being made. Senior Manager Chris Clarke was appointed at the start of the season and through his knowledge and experience was a significant influence on bringing the team to the next level.

In the Down Intermediate Championship, Carryduff were beaten by Bredagh in Ballycran by a single point. A poor first half from Carryduff left too much to recover from, despite a stronger performance in the second half. While disappointing, the loss by just a single point does mark very significant progress from last year’s championship when the loss to Bredagh was by a much clearer margin.

The season ended with Carryduff winning the Betsy Gray competition. A victory over Ballycran set up the final against CPN, Warrenpoint. The match was played at Abbey CBS in Newry under lights on a very wet and windy evening. Carryduff contained CPN in the first half playing into the strong wind, and then were able to take good advantage of conditions in the second half to push for victory.

With a number of younger players coming through and some players returning to the senior ranks, there was a larger panel to select from in 2017. Although again exams, holidays, etc. did impact on numbers at times.

Ciaran Goodwin was named player of the year at the Gala Ball in the Hilton. His flexibility in playing position and his positive team attitude were noted.

**Minor Hurling**

In 2017 our minor hurlers struggled for numbers with just eight boys making themselves available at the start of the year. Options were considered and it was decided to amalgamate with Newry Shamrocks who were in a similar position in terms of numbers. Other teams had sufficient numbers to field alone, and so other possible amalgamations couldn’t guarantee that all of our players would get games. The Carryduff/Shamrocks amalgamated team was named Michael Cusacks. Michael Cusack taught in Newry and his wife was from Co Down.

The logistics of training proved difficult, and the players were asked to train mostly with their respective Senior teams. Despite this the team gelled well on the pitch in games and had some good performances. In the league, Cusacks won two games and lost two games. As the league ran into exam and holiday season, the final two games were not played. In Championship, Cusacks didn’t qualify from the group stages and so went into the Shield final where they beat Liatroim in an exciting and entertaining game.

Cusacks also won the South Ulster Hurling Shield, in a blitz beating Warrenpoint and Knockbridge from Louth. A number of our U16 helped boost the squad in Championship and the Ulster Blitz.

Carryduff Minor Eoin Maguire featured at fullback for the Down U17 team which won their Section in the Celtic Challenge, an All-Ireland competition. Eoin and Lorcan McCaughey were part of the Down Minor panel which were beaten in the All-Ireland B final by Meath.

**U16 Hurling**

The U16 hurlers faced a very challenging year in 2017 and with numbers depleted it was difficult to keep a full squad together but we managed to keep a core 12-13 players engaged and supplemented the squad with a few of the older U14’s. We competed in the Division 2 league in Down and whilst we had some real competitive games and the occasional victory we did snatch defeat from the jaws of victory on a couple of occasions and struggled against the strongest teams at that level. We did not have a particularly great run at Championship with 1 victory and 3 defeats but it has to be said that the commitment and effort levels had definitely improved throughout the year.

We did have representation at county level with a few of the lads but unfortunately they were not selected for the final squad and on a real positive note we did have 3 lads who stepped up to play at minor level with our amalgamation team for a couple of games and two of them were part of the Minor shield winning team in October!

There is a capability within this bunch of lads but it remains to be seen if there is real desire there to push on to another level. I would encourage them all to look hard at this, particularly those moving up to minor level next year and those we need to step up and be leaders in their second year at U16.

**U14 Hurling**

An enjoyable year for the U14 hurlers from taking part in the Down Féile and the Ulster Féile where we reached the Semi final to competing in the Down Division 2 league finishing 3rd as well as the round Robin Down Championship.

Throughout the year skill levels have improved across the panel with several players attending the down development trials and Tony Loughran making the final Down U14 squad.

A big commitment from players and parents throughout the year which continues with attendance at the Brid Og 9 aside tournament in October and the antrim U13 3G tournament in November.

**U12 Hurling**

The season began with the Ulster Blitz in Magherafelt and then enjoyed a weekend away playing Ballyhale Shamrocks (Kilkenny) and St Sylvester’s (Dublin), before taking in the Dublin/Kilkenny NHL match. Also faced Raheny (Dublin) in challenge matches prior to a trip to Croke Park for the All Ireland semi-final between Cork and Waterford. The team played 15 league matches winning seven and drawing one. Finished the season with very successful U12 tournament in Carryduff.

**U10/P6 Hurling**

Season commenced in January at Eddie Irvine followed by Ulster Blitz in Magherafelt in March and successfully competed in all the Down Blitzes available. Won the plate competition at the Annual St Gall’s Tournament.

**U8/P4 Hurling**

The under 8.5 have a great year with numbers continuing to grow. Focus has moved to ‘air’ hurling and the team really enjoyed and grew in confidence over the course of the year.

Highlights included playing in Armoy tournament where the kids played against Antrim and Derry teams and they played very well qualifying for the cup competition by winning two group games only to be just beaten by the eventual champions Loughguile in the quarter finals.

They have also made great use of the new facilities with extra training being offered on Thursday evenings allowing an extra session to practice.

Many thanks to the parents that helped along the way with special thanks to Oliver Young, John Paul Woods and Fintan Brady

**U6/P2 Hurling**

The Sunday morning nursery hurling sessions at the club continue to thrive with numbers attending now stronger than they have ever been.

The ethos continues to be to provide children with a safe and fun environment in which the fundamental elements of the game can be introduced to children.

This year we have introduced onto the club website a Parents’ Guide to Under 6 hurling, acknowledging that many parents who bring their children to the sessions are not familiar with the game.

Training venues continued with the seasonal split between our summer season sessions using the newly opened 4G surface at the club grounds and winter training moving indoors to the Parish Hall. This year teams from Carryduff attended blitzes in Kilclief and Portaferry, and attended the Armoy Invitational Tournament.

Particular thanks to Niall McCullagh and Jack McPoland for their coaching support. Jack received his 50 Hour Millennium Volunteer award from the Ulster Council to recognise the work his has put in with our U6 Hurlers. Thanks also to the Parish Hall committee for the continued use of the premises and to Donal Rooney and Ronan McCaughey for their input into the running of the sessions.

**9 Club Coaching Report.**

The club continued to promote coaching qualifications in 2017 and increased the number of coaches with Foundation, Level 1 and Level 2 as well as Child Protection.

A successful winter programme took place across all three codes with similar plans in place for this winter. The Club continued to support the local primary schools and had placed coaches in St Josephs and St Itas for afterschool activity. The annual Schools Coaching Week took place in St Ita's, St Joseph,s and Millenium in June and thanks to all the young coaches who took part, particularly Aine Kerr who acted a Coordinator.

**Joe Tunney**

**10 Cultural**

Tá an cultúir ag dul ar aghaidh go mall sa chlub in 2017 mar a bhí in 2016.

Cultural life in Carryduff GAC is coming on slowly in 2017 as it was in 2016.

Irish language and Music classes run weekly from October to May and are held in the Parish Centre. Music classes are provided in Fiddle, Whistle, Junior Session Class and Senior Session Class. New musicians and Gaelgoirí off all ages and stages are always welcome….

 As there are plans to commence an Irish language Naiscoil and Bun Scoil in the locality it is somewhat ironic that we need to increase participation in Irish Language classes otherwise our classes will not remain viable into the future.

Our musicians have represented the Club at a Mass to honour our deceased member’s and ‘cairde CLG Ceathrú Aodha Dhuibh’ in January which was a great success.

We have continued to promote Gaeltacht Scholarships to our juvenile members and we have endeavoured to promote the use and visibility of our language in and around the Club. It is central to the ethos of the GAA that we continue to promote use of Irish as much as possible.

The Club is taking part in Scor and Scor na n-Óg again this year and we wish the best of luck to all representing Ceathrú Aodha Dhuibh. Ádh mór ar achan duine atá ag glacadh pairt.

**11 Fundraising Sub-Committee Report**

The committee were drawn from all corners of the club with the vision of bringing the membership together to help foster a more collegiate approach, giving every code ownership of fundraising for the voluntary organisation that we are. We would like to put on record our thanks to all those who supported our events throughout the year.

In May, we ran a successful "Fundraising Fortnight" which raised almost £2000 with contributions from every team in the club culminating in a celebration evening after a senior match with almost 300 members in attendance.

Throughout the year, the fingerprints of many committee members were all over other fundraising ventures including G4MO raising £1500 from a bag pack in tesco and the underage football tournaments which raised circa £4000.

Our work this year culminated in a hugely successful Gala Fundraising Ball in October which brought together 250 adult members and raised £4900. We feel that this event in particular demonstrated achievement of our original goals for the year and there is an opportunity for this positive atmosphere to be built upon for future fundraising activities.

In the absence of a committee from the start of the year, we are proud of our efforts in a such a short space of time. Whilst we are delighted to have raised such significant sums, as a committee we feel our biggest achievement in the bringing the membership of the club as one club.

Go raibh mile maith agaibh

**Sean Spillane**

**12 Lottery Report.**

The Lottery is a main income source for the club and 2018 should see a concerted effort to promote its growth.

**13 Club Carryduff**

We are grateful to those members who continue to contribute monthly to our club development fund. Club Carryduff has enabled us to progress the developments outlined throughout this report. We would encourage new and existing members of the club to demonstrate their commitment to the future development of our club and facilities from which everyone will benefit.

**14 Development**

We have this year developed our social hub, multi-purpose training wall and 3G Training facility.

The usage to date of the multi-purpose wall and the 3G Training facility has been overwhelming!

Who amongst us cannot have been completely lifted by the sight of so many young children being introduced to the benefits of sport, healthy lifestyles and the founding of friendships every Tuesday night when our Nursery sessions were in full flow. We are indebted to all those coaches, mentors, volunteers and parents determined to use our facilities to such successes.

**Mól an óige ‘s tiochfaidh siad** Praise youth and they will flourish

**The Hub**

A sub-committee was formed in early 2017 to manage the use of the club’s ‘hub’ facility including members Kate Connery, (Chair) Collette Morris-Spillane, (Secretary) Noirín McArdle Julie Maguire, Edna Mc Conville, Mary Orr, Ursula Loughran

The objectives initially set and agreed for the Hub’s use were to;-

1. Enhance the community spirit in the club;
2. To raise funds for the club.

Policies and procedures to attain these objectives were drawn up and the Hub has been run for its first year on a trial basis. Policies for the use of and running of the Hub are currently under review with advice, feedback and direction from the Club’s Executive Committee.

Throughout the year the shop, with the commitment of Hub Sub-Committee members, has been opened during matches and some training sessions and has facilitated hospitality on both a post-match and ‘available at tournaments’ basis. As a club, we remain indebted to those who have given so generously of their time to ensure the shop continued to generate much needed income for the ‘whole club’ and that the facility was available for the duration of the Club Cúl Camo and all juvenile tournaments. **Go raibh mile maith agibh go leir.**

The Hub has provided a very successful and much appreciated ‘gathering/social space’ for members old and young. Members from all codes and age groups have worked hard in the Hub throughout the year and the community spirit within the club has been significantly enhanced by the availability and consistent management of the Hub.

However, there is still much work to be done to maximise the opportunity this facility offers. This will require the understanding and commitment of all codes, teams and managers and mentors in a continuing spirit of a ‘whole club’ ethos.

The running of the Hub this year shows that there is great potential for fundraising through the Hub - not only as a shop but as a venue and a vehicle to facilitate members fund raising efforts.

A review of the use of the Hub in its initial year of operation and its potential for the future will be carried out over the winter months.

The Hub Management Committee have expressed their thanks to all members, all volunteers and the Executive Committee for their support throughout the year to ensure that the Hub is used for the collective benefit of the entire club and to further our ‘whole club’ ethos.

Sincere thanks on behalf of the Executive Committee and club membership to those who have contributed so much to make this happen and to those who came forward to volunteer with the administration associated with ensuring such facilities are adequately and appropriately managed and maintained.

This will require considerable work and the support of the body of the club membership as we continue to develop the use of all our facilities.

The Development Committee and Hub Management Committee have expressed their thanks to the members of Club Carryduff who have made this development possible.

**Club Maith Registration**

Work is still ongoing regarding this.

**15 Sympathy**

The Club and community were deeply saddened by the deaths of family members of Club members throughout 2017. Our club is indebted to many who have gone to their eternal reward and it is only right that we acknowledge their memory. All those club members who lost family and friends during the year will be remembered in our thoughts and prayers. Our sincere sympathy and condolences are extended to all those families who have been bereaved during the year.

It is fitting that one of the last events of the year will be the Club Mass in memory of deceased members and friends.

**A Mhuire, mathair na nGeal guí ar a son.**

Our Lady Queen of the Gael pray for them.

**16 Summary**

In tits 45 years of existence Carryduff GAC has enjoyed much success on and off the field. 2017 has been a memorable year seeing our Senior Ladies bringing a first ever Senior County title to Carryduff. Great prospects ahead too as, at the time of writing, our Under-14 Ladies have just secured the football championship title.

In football, ladies football, hurling, cultural and celebratory events the club enjoyed a memorable year.

Our competitive squads continue to flourish at underage and senior level with an abundance of younger talent progressing steadily through the ranks.

To reiterate, regular income is a necessity to meet the running costs of the club. Significant effort goes into raising income from areas such as Club Carryduff, the club lottery, sponsorship and pitch-side advertising signs to contribute to these costs. A necessity, especially in the current difficult economic climate. It remains vital that all our members share responsibility for funding the club collectively and support all our ventures in whatever way they can.

Our Club Carryduff members have continued to finance the development of our club and –through their efforts - we have been able to make progress with work on our facilities. Our thanks to all those members of Club Carryduff cannot be expressed strongly enough.

If you have cause to wonder who the members of Club Carryduff are . . . . . you have probably just taken the first steps to realizing what you need to be doing next!!

Carryduff GAC is growing in strength and numbers and whilst we have many volunteers in various roles, every member has a contribution to make. Membership subscription enables members to avail of the facilities of the club. But that is only a part of ‘contributing’ to the club. We require members to honestly ask of themselves “What do I *give*?”

We need more members coming forward, willing to work for the club, offering their active assistance, taking up roles on the EC and various sub committees or contributing from their own skill-set and experience to the benefit of the club.

I would encourage everyone, especially those new to the club, to come forward and contribute to our vision and activities to make our club the very best it can be for all our community.

Finally, I would like to thank you, the membership of the club, for affording me the opportunity and trust to serve as secretary of Carryduff GAC.

**Is míse le meas**

**Pól MacConmhaoil**

**Runai, Cumann Lúthcleas Gael Ceathrú Aodha Dhuibh**

**5ú Samhain 2017**