



LOUTH LADIES GAA



Chairmans Report To Annual Convention 2018

You are very welcome to our 25th AGM tonight in St. Mary's Complex. The year just ended was a very eventful one for the LGFA in Louth with many highs and lows.

The lowest point being on an early June morning as our players and mentors prepared for a championship game against Kilkenny when word filtered through that county manager Michael McKeown had been taken seriously ill. Despite the shocking news the players responded in splendid fashion to record a convincing win. Following the game the thoughts of all involved in the LGFA turned to Michael's health as all in the wider GAA community prayed that Micheal would recover.

Sadly Michael passed away on the following Tuesday evening leaving behind Mary, his devoted wife of nearly 40 years, and his brother Patsy as well as a devastated county football team. The huge turnout at both his wake and funeral reflected the high esteem in which he was held.

While shocked by their manager's death the county panel and management reacted in a very respectful manner by attending the wake and providing a guard of honour at his removal

We were fortunate that we could call on the expertise of Darren Bishop along with the other members of Michael's backroom team to guide the team with considerable success for the remainder of the season taking the Leinster Junior Championship title and reaching the All-Ireland final in Croke Park.

County Teams

Our county teams again performed very well on the national and provincial stage. Our senior team took the Leinster junior championship title and reached the All-Ireland final where they lost to a strong Limerick XV and also contested the Division 4 League decider before losing out to Wicklow

The minors beat a fancied Offaly team but lost to Meath in the semi-final while the U16 and U14 also had very good seasons.

Domestic Scene

Despite being held up due to the unusually harsh spring weather conditions, the domestic football saw all of our leagues and championships being keenly contested.

A feature of the year was the increased attendances at our games with both our senior and intermediate championship final attracting huge crowds. Great credit must go to our fixtures committee for the good work they did in getting our fixtures played.

Annual Congress

Louth County Board also had the honour of holding the LGFA annual congress which was attended by delegates from all 32 counties and from overseas for the first-time and was considered a major success by the organisation nationally.

Louth Ladies County Board
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Feile

Many of our members were also involved the National Feile competition which was hosted by Louth, Meath and Down.

Disappointment

I was disappointed that two of our under age competitions were decided in a committee room instead of a football field. In both instances the fixtures committee decided the date, time and venue for these finals. On both occasions the dates were not suitable for one of the teams involved. As the clubs involved couldn't agree an alternative date the game (as competition guidelines state and were agreed by our clubs before the start of the season) reverts to the date originally set by fixtures committee. The decisions to award the titles were decided by club delegates at a county board meeting as per official guide rule.

Concern

Another area of concern is the approach of at least one club towards their players and advising them that they would lose their place if they attended county training over club training.

This behavior is totally wrong and unacceptable and shows a complete disregard for the efforts of the county management, and club managers or management teams who behave in this way are bringing the game into disrepute and as such place the offending club at risk of removal from the league or championship or both. This also throws the spotlight on a disconnect between club and county.

This problem I feel has got to be tackled and a solution found before the start of next season and maybe a meeting of club and management teams early in New Year might be helpful in this regard.

Discipline

Discipline, or the lack of, is an area of huge concern particularly at juvenile level with at least two referees being physically assaulted along with a number of mentors. Two clubs were also hit with big fines due to the misbehavior of some of their supporters, while a couple of clubs also had mentors suspended and hefty fines being imposed for verbal abuse of young players.

The sometimes poor behavior of adults and parents attending the under age games also leaves a lot to be desired as they can often be heard yelling at match officials and players alike.

This type of behaviour is a stain on our game and those indulging in such unacceptable conduct must be held to account.

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Thank You

I would like to say a sincere thank you my fellow officers for their dedication, loyalty and friendship over the last 12 months. Also to our various sub committees, without their input the sport would be all the poorer. All our committees have been short in numbers in recent years resulting in a much-increased workload for our people with the increased number of clubs and our playing membership almost 2,500.

There is a huge good will towards what we are doing for our young people but we need urgently need more volunteers to come forward and join the various committees.

More people are urgently needed to take positions on our County Board if the good work that has been done in recent times is to continue.

I would also urge more of you to attend our monthly county meetings as important matters are debated and decided upon. It is demoralising for our officials who book meeting rooms, have reports available and clubs don't bother to send a representative.

Also a big thank you to the people who take charge of all our county teams and all our sponsors and to anyone who helped in any way.

These people give of their time willingly and on a voluntary basis. I wish all our clubs success in the coming year and thank you for all you have done this year.

Also to the local GAA clubs who gave us the use of their facilities for our club competitions and county games.

Also to the media, Dundalk Democrat, The Argus, Drogheda Independent, Dundalk Sports and LMFM for their excellent coverage over the past twelve months.

Your's in Sport
Dermot Woods
3/12/2018



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