



LOUTH LADIES GAA



Secretary's Report To Annual Convention 2018.

Introduction:

Good evening and welcome to our 2018 Annual Convention.

I really don't know where the time goes as I have just completed two years in the position.

A very happy two years it has been serving you the clubs and players of the county.

Yes there have been challenges we all faced during the year, and I'm sure people will have different views on their outcomes. But we are governed by the Official Guide and must work within that.

At this stage I'm not sure what position I will hold come the end of convention, but whatever it is you can be assured of my full attention as always.

Sub Committees:

Generally sub committees worked well. In relation to our Fixtures Committee (Led by Chairman Rory McCullough) who come in for criticism from time to time I feel this unwarranted. We must remember that fixtures are agreed and ratified at County Committee meeting, and changes are made from time to time as situations arrive.

But I've been on record as saying that Fixtures have to be reviewed each year to see if we can improve, and this year should be no different. However as we have to plan around Co Teams activities it doesn't make things easy.

Towards the year's end three of our Sub Committee members resigned for personal reasons.

I sincerely hope that this doesn't mean that we have seen the last of them.

In relation to our disciplinary committee I would rather have seen a more speedy approach to getting issues concluded, and I presume that the new CODA system will improve things.

Competitions:

In relation to our competitions I would hope to see a forum take place which would include all Club and Co Managers take part to get views on board as to how they would see a smoother way of avoiding a Club v County problem develop at all levels.

This is something that may assist in fixture making for the year ahead.

Louth Ladies County Board
Dermot Woods: 0894666644. email: Dermot.woods@yahoo.com. (Chairperson). Liam O'Neill (Secretary) Drumcar Dunleer Co
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Co Teams:

We had various successes at various age levels in the County with the Adult team reaching three finals and winning one.

However this was overshadowed by the untimely passing of Team Manager Micheál McKeown.

Micheál, was a very popular figure and a person I had the pleasure of knowing for many years.

His death affected us all emotionally, but especially the players and team management, as they were all just like a happy family. However in fairness they hit the ground running under new manager Darren Bishop who continued where Micheál left off with the same backroom team.

All going well this could be our year.

Referees:

Referees are in short supply, as we are depending on Referees from the GAA Pool only, which is not really a problem if the numbers are plentiful.

However we have no Referees on the list who have come into the game simply from a LGFA background.

So we have to compete with our GAA colleagues for the services of these people on a week to week basis.

We need to get clubs on board and provide/recruit Referees as a matter of urgency.

There are a few ladies who have come through the development system who operated as linespersons in a few underage finals which is great. But we need to see more (especially Lady Referees) coming along. So I appeal to those who may have retired from playing to consider taking up the whistle for 2019. Otherwise while I hate to say it...sanctions may have to be considered on clubs who do not supply an active referee.

You may have noticed that we had the Referees in The Championship Finals kitted out in Official LGFA Referees Gear. This was sponsored by a company who wishes to remain anonymous and we thank them most sincerely for this kind gesture.

In fact it is a desire of mine to have all those who Referee LGFA matches wearing The Official LGFA Referees Kit. That is something we will address in 2019.

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Venues:

I wish to thank all clubs who provided venues for our various finals throughout the year, some who currently are not involved in The LGFA.

I must single out one club who came under pressure this year as we had some finals at night time, and that is Stabannon Parnells. They under the guidance of **Teresa Hanratty** were absolutely first class in providing stewards and assisting in whatever way they could in making our major finals a success.

Discipline:

The whole area of indiscipline is a constant concern, with a number of assaults taking place.

There were penalties imposed on some clubs and individuals, and while it's not the nice side of the game our heads must over-rule our hearts and stick by the Official Guide, and if people are not happy then most decisions can be contested. Supporters and in some instances team mentors get a bit too excited and this has to be curtailed.

Sponsors:

I wish to thank all our sponsors including our **Main Sponsor Blackstone Motors**, our **C'Ship Sponsors, Halpenny Coaches/Hollywood Developments/Watters Of Collon** and anyone who **contributed along the way**. Hopefully we will get perhaps all competitions sponsored in the coming year. Currently I am working on that possibility and one has volunteered to come on board without asking. So if you have any ideas or offers please make contact.

Website & Social Media:

In relation to the above I'm sure you will agree we have come a long way in this area.

The Results and Tables are instantly available after games, and this year the issue of getting All Amalgamated Teams named on the Web via Servasport will be sorted.

A special thanks again must go to **Anthony Connor** for his work on maintaining the Website and posting notices on demand!!.

Facebook and **Twitter** is absolutely brilliant for getting the message out there given the amount of hits that appear. In one instance recently when I posted a few photos from our presentation night we had over 600 views in less than thirty minutes, and over 1000 hits in less than one hour.

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General:

Overall it was a great year for Louth LGFA, with Co Teams at all levels doing us proud, we hosted Annual Congress and a sincere thanks goes to the organising committee who helped to make it the success it was.

Then we were co hosts for The Feile, and it too was a major success. But personally I would have liked to see some involvement from the LGFA side locally in the running of same.

At this stage I wish to thank all my fellow officers for all their hard work over the year, and in particular a sometimes overworked fixtures committee.

I also wish to thank all the Co Management Teams who put so much time and effort into the preparation of their various squads.

Bereavements:

We should all remember those loved ones and club members who have passed on since our last Convention.

Conclusion:

Looking forward to 2019, we need to hit the ground running, in that we again need a strong executive who will get things moving **ASAP** in early January, and have Sub Committees in place. As **the saying goes, A Lot Done But More To Do.**

Before the Christmas dinner is digested the season is upon us, so be prepared.

I also wish all management teams well in the year ahead, and let's hope that we can bring some more silverware home to compliment the work of all.

In the meantime I wish you all a Happy and Holy Christmas and a Happy and Successful 2019.

Liam O'Neill

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Louth Ladies Secretary



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