



LOUTH LADIES GAA



Chairmans Report To Annual Convention 2019

I welcome you all to our 26th Annual Convention here in St Mary's GFC.

It is of course my first year in the role, which I must say was busy, and enjoyable.

I would say it's no easy job, but I'm not complaining as I knew from the outset what is involved.

On the Field of play the year was very successful, bring two Leinster and All Ireland Titles to the county at u16 and Adult level.

Off the Field well that's another story, with a lot of activity taking place with CODA being quite busy (sometimes overworked along with with the Hearings group.

Co Teams:

I wish to compliment all Co Teams and their management teams, and while it's not always about winning it's nice to bring home silverware at some stage.

This year as already stated above it was our u16's and Adults who done the business.

The u16's Managed by Martin Duffy, who got things underway with winning a Leinster title followed by a magnificent All Ireland win over Sligo. Here I must compliment Martin and his entire backroom team and of course the players on their success. Definitely stars of the future.

We then finished off a magnificent season when our adult team captured the Leinster Title, followed All Ireland with a fantastic win over Fermanagh. Here the team played some great football and won the game in style. Darren and his backroom team deserve the utmost praise for the work they put in over the season, and the team deserve likewise.

Unfortunately Darren has stepped aside for personal reasons and I thank him and his management team for their work.

Club Level:

At club level we had a very good season, with a good quality of football being played around the county.

Louth Ladies County Board
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Our finals were well contested at all levels,with our Co Finals being one of the best if not the best ever.The build up to the games,the entertainment,and the attendance made it a day to remember.It may have cost a bit to stage the occasion,but it was well worth it.I always maintain that one must speculate to accumulate,and that day proves that.

Generally fixtures ran according to plan,but yes there were a few exceptions.

Various things cause this to happen,bad weather,bereavements,Co Team fixtures, amongst others.

As far as I'm concerned clubs should not get fixtures off for any reason other than those mentioned above,because one fixture being off can have catastrophic consequences as competitions progress.So if reelected tonight I will be formalising the Fixtures Committee straight away as I feel there is no point in wasting valuable time in waiting until Jan/Feb to put this committee in place.It needs to get to work straight away and prepare for a Fixtures Forum in Mid January.I congratulate all teams who took part in our competitions,and especially those who were successful.

Concern:

I am very concerned at the amount of indiscipline going on between clubs and within clubs this year.Currently there are unresolved issues to be concluded and I hope that they are sorted before our new season gets underway.

It's hard to believe that an organisation like LGFA have to deal with these on a weekly if not daily basis.

Referees:

Referees is an area of concern whereby we have to seriously look at recruiting referees to take charge of our games.

I realise that John Boyle our development officer has been doing this at underage level,but we require more to get involved at adult level also.So I am proposing now to put a committee in place with the sole task of getting more referees on board for 2020.

I also thank all referees who officiated at our games from both inside and outside the county.I must also congratulate Paul Burke who is doing well on the National Panel and David Loughran who is now on the Leinster Panel.

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Sub Committees:

I wish to thank all our sub committees who done Trojan work over the year, but I give a special mention to The CODA group and Amanda Lane particularly who are still dealing with issues that are ongoing. Lily Dowdall also as Childrens Officer who was and still is dealing with issues on an ongoing basis.

The Fixtures committee especially with Chairman Bob Doheny and Secretary Angela O'Neill definitely worked very hard on a sometimes hourly basis, (not sure if that is acceptable) and in my opinion requires attention.

I also express my disappointment at the failure to get our Golf Classic of the ground.

Many hours were spent by a few people to get this up and running, and with a course booked and plans in place it failed to get the momentum to push it over the line.

We require a major commitment this year from within the Finance committee to drive this forward in 2020. It was replaced by a Breakfast Morning which was quite successful with players gaining some great sponsorship, and we sincerely thank the players and their sponsors for this.

Sponsorship:

I wish to thank all our sponsors over the past year, especially our County Team Sponsors Blackstone Motors (Adult) Lenra Construction (U16), and DEFY our Kit Sponsor, and Dundalk Credit Union who assisted financially in the run up to the All Ireland Final.

It is my intention to have all competitions sponsored for this coming season 2020, as this has always been my intention but these things take time.

Thank You:

I must say again a big thank you to all my fellow officers and volunteers who looked after gates etc, and to all the clubs who made their facilities available for meetings and games.

I also must mention Veronica Traynor who done Trojan work with the underagr Blitze's and also Orlaith Nugent who organised the u12 & u13 tournament.

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I also include the media for their coverage of our games, and a special mention to Caoimhin Reilly from the Dundalk Democrat who gave us extensive coverage and attended most of our games over the year.

Conclusion:

It would be my intention going into 2020 to review the past year and continue to improve yet again where we left off.

We can't afford to sit back and wait for things to happen, for instance over the past 3 years we have built on the work of our predecessors especially in the area of PR (and thanks to Anthony O'Connor) for maintaining our New Website, we are using Servasport For Fixtures and Results/We are getting great exposure in the Local Press and Social Media, new clubs are springing up across the county, so LGFA is a rising sport and all this comes about with hard work in clubs and in the Co Board. So we need to stay proactive in all areas to make this happen.

I wish you all a very Happy, Healthy AND ENJOYABLE Christmas, and a very Happy and Sporting New Year.

Regards
Liam O'Neill
02/12/2019



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Passion for life



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