



## Shamrocks GAA

### CLG Na Seamróga Cúntas an Rúnaí 2020

### Shamrocks GAA Club Secretary's Report 2020

A Chairde Gael,

As has been well documented, 2020 was a very difficult year in lots of ways, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, which gripped the country and had a devastating impact on the lives of our people. Little did we know when we began our GAA season, what lay ahead. Nevertheless, the Executive Committee continued to function, managing the constantly evolving situation, with the myriad of instructions from Government, GAA Headquarters, Cork Co. Board and our own Carrigdhoun Division. The Executive had their first meeting on 16/1/2020, following our AGM 2019 which was held on 25/11/2019. Chairman for the previous 9 years, Pat McCarthy stepped down and Kieran Lynam took the position. Kieran has completed his year as promised and as he vacates the post, the Club now faces a challenge to find an able replacement for those two exemplary leaders.

That was the only change to the outgoing Executive. Priority was given to putting in place management for Football and Hurling. Dave O'Neill was ratified as Football Manager, with Selectors, Dick Andrews, Pat McCarthy, Mark Hickey and John Twomey (Ringaskiddy). Alan Geary was ratified as Hurling Manager, assisted by Selectors, Liam Shanahan, Jim Ronayne and Kevin O'Grady. Coach David Nolan was added to the Ticket as the season progressed. The management of both Hurling & Football met together and agreed that all would work together in supporting the players in training and both hurling and football matches. The

players were delighted with all this support on the line. Mark Hitchmough was appointed Club Hurling Captain and Alan McCarthy was appointed to Club Football Captain.

**Under 21:** Shamrocks and Crosshaven amalgamated and formed “Diarmaid Ó Murchús” in u21 Football. Rúnaí Liam Shanahan co-ordinated with Crosshaven, 2 Championship matches which were played in February. We lost both, the 2<sup>nd</sup> was a very close match versus Ballinhassig. We had 6 players on the team. That Championship was not finished.

**A Lifetime Award in Sport by Cork Media** was given to our Honorary Treasurer, Seán Ó Tuama at a very well attended celebration on 17/1/2020. A more-than-merited appreciation of John’s contribution to GAA over a lifetime of participation. We were all proud of John’s representation of Shamrocks that night.

**Dealing with the Covid-19 Pandemic:** A lot of time, effort and resources, both human and financial, was expended on dealing with and managing out Club and its members throughout two Level 5 lockdown periods this year and being severely restricted by Level 3 throughout a lot of it. Special thanks must go to Diarmaid Murphy and Mark Hickey who supervised the implementation of the Guidelines and all its paperwork. Also, the Covid Supervisors appointed for all the teams, including Underage and Ladies Football, must be applauded for their commitment during the season. It was a super feat that enabled Shamrocks to compete at all grades of competition in a safe and thorough manner.

Alas, it was with great shock that we received the news of the death of our esteemed Member and Treasurer of our Underage Club, Mr. Paddy Andrews R.I.P. on 29/4/2020. Paddy, since a young boy, was a great Shamrock, giving fantastic service to the Club over a lifetime. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dilis.

**Football:** The Footballers began the season with enthusiasm including a win over Ballymartle. Overall in the league, 6 games were played, 2 wins, 2 draws and 2 losses. Challenge wins against Glanmire and Nemo Rangers. Dave put in great work and we had a comprehensive win against Crosshaven in Championship, 3-15 to 1-6 (15/6/2020). Then Football had to take a back-seat as the Hurling Championship progressed, and in reality, this had a huge detrimental effect on any preparations for the next round of Championship, where we exited against Courcey Rovers on 4/10/2020, 2-11 to 4-10. It was very disappointing for the players and management – but in fairness, preparations were severely hampered. Thanks to Dave O’Neill and his Selectors and Players for their efforts in this crazy season of 2020.



**Hurling:** Last season (2019) we had a panel of 23 players to choose from, but with a few new additions to the panel of some very good players, it became apparent that these Hurlers of ours were now a serious bunch who enjoyed their training and matches. Sure enough, with scores such as 2-20 to 3-16 (V. Ballinhassig), 0-21 to 3-18 (V. Valley Rovers) and 2-19 to 3-15 (V. Ballygarvan) in the League, it showed we were in a very competitive mode. With the addition of David Nolan as Hurling Coach – our hurling competitiveness sharpened considerably. We had three savage Championship matches, against Kinsale (2-14 to 1-16), against Valley Rovers (1-19 to 2-15) and the semi-final against Ballinhassig (2-20 to 3-16). Three brilliant and exciting one-point wins! Covid-19 meant our faithful supporters were denied the best hurling experience in the Club for many years. After 15 long years we were once again in a South-East Final – talk of 1959, 1963, 1979, 1980, 1981 and 2005 brought memories flooding back.

The final v. Kinsale in Ballygarvan was once again a very close affair. We started in fine fashion but faltered before half-time. In reality we were in catch-up mode for the rest of the match – despite a fantastic finish. Final score Shamrocks 2-14, Kinsale 0-21. A one point loss. We experienced fierce disappointment. The vital week running up to the game was severely marred by a Covid-19 case with one of our panel, which curtailed our preparation, and other disappointing intrusions to our focus by unhelpful outside interference. We would like to sincerely thank the Players, the Management and all associated with the team for an unforgettable season of Hurling. It's now our challenge to build on this experience and drive on in 2021.

Note: Except for 3-4 players, our panels for Hurling and Football are basically the same, numbering approx. 30 and as well as committing to multiple training sessions, they played a combined total of 20 matches in our compacted season. Quite a number played every one of those games.

Another great Shamrock passed to his eternal reward on 19/10/2020, Joe O'Driscoll R.I.P. Please see John Twomey's tribute on our website, where he outlines the great legacy Joe had with Shamrocks and the Carrigdhoun Board. Joe was a leader and visionary, and those of us who played and worked with him will never forget his contribution to Shamrocks GAA. Go ndéana Dia trócaire air.

This being the year of Covid-19 now requires me to keep this report shorter than normal, and issue a general thank you to all who have worked to keep Shamrocks GAA to the

forefront of our Community, here in the Lower Harbour, together with the Underage and Ladies Football Clubs. A special word of thanks to Seán Kidney who worked so diligently on acquiring all the new gear for our Junior players. Seán assures me his focus next year will be on playing!

**Lotto Online:** Our finances were seriously impacted due to Covid-19. Our Lotto disappeared until we were able to put it online. This is only helping in a fair way to complement our finances. It will be a challenge once again in the coming year to finance our activities. Please consult with our Treasurer Seán O Tuama on any aspects of our Financial Report which is available from him – Email: [seansfotuama@gmail.com](mailto:seansfotuama@gmail.com) or phone: 086-2517740.

*God bless all and have a happy Christmas.*

*Is mise, le meas,*

*Liam Ó Seanachain*

*Rúnaí Nollaig 2020*

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