

**Cumann Luth Chleas Gael,**

**Ceann Tuirc**

**Comhdhail Bhliantuil 2016**

**27/11/2016**

The season under review saw success in county football league gaining promotion for the second year in a row. Success in the Duhallow Junior 'B' football championship, retaining our title, was also note worthy.

#### **FOOTBALL.**

In football, having gained promotion the team played in division 3 of the county leagues and fulfilled all games with a 100% success rate taking full points on offer and received a walk over from Aghabullogue in their remaining tie. St Michaels provided the opposition in the league final at Carrigadrohid on October 8<sup>th</sup> and our side romped to a 5-20 to 0-13 victory.

In a revamped championship, Kanturk opened with a 1-15 to 2-06 victory over Carrigaline's second string at Mallow on 1<sup>st</sup> May. Victory over Mitchelstown at Charleville on 17<sup>th</sup> June on a 0-20 to 1-11 score line qualified us for the quarter final of the championship.

When the draws were made, we were paired with Cill na Martra in a repeat of the 2015 championship. Our preparation in the month leading up to the game on 9<sup>th</sup> September was hindered with players involved in two county senior football and one senior hurling championship games, an Intermediate hurling league and a championship relegation semi final at PIH level along with two Duh U21HC ties.

Aug 6<sup>th</sup>; IFL; Kanturk v Kinsale  
Aug 9<sup>th</sup>; Duh U21HC; Kanturk v Croke Rovers  
Aug 14<sup>th</sup>; Cork SFC; Duhallow v Douglas  
Aug 21<sup>st</sup>; Cork SHC; Duhallow v Bishopstown.  
Aug 23<sup>rd</sup>; IHL; Kanturk v Ballincollig  
Aug 26<sup>th</sup> PIHC Relegation Play Off; Kanturk v Tracton  
Aug 29<sup>th</sup>; Duh U21HC; Kanturk v St Marks  
Aug 31<sup>st</sup>; IFL; Kanturk v Rockchapel  
Sept 3<sup>rd</sup>; Cork SFC; Duhallow v Bishopstown.

All these commitments only gave us a chance of playing one league game to prepare us for the test ahead.

While giving a below par performance, we hindered our hopes of victory by failure to take our chances from placed balls and lost out to the mid Cork side on a 0-10 to 1-11 score line.

In Junior 'B' football, failure to play league games early in the season militated in our hopes of progressing in the championship, and our knock out tie against Knocknagree on 8<sup>th</sup> July was our first competitive game of the season at this level. Knocknagree had home advantage and we lost out on the minimum on a 2-09 to 1-13 score line.

League victories over Lyre, Lismire, Dromtarriffe, Millstreet, and Freemount saw us qualify for the semi final away to Millstreet on 20<sup>th</sup> October which won 2-20 to 0-13 and retained our league title with a hard fought 1-12 to 2-08 victory over Newmarket in the final played at Boherbue on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November. There needs to be a concerted effort to get more league games played earlier in the season to relieve the busy third quarter of the year when most championships at Minor, U21 and Adult level are played.

In U21 football we opened our Duhallow championship challenge with a surprise 3-10 to 1-15 victory away to Knocknagree on 4<sup>th</sup> March. We faced Boherbue in the semi final at Ballydesmond on 28<sup>th</sup> March and lost out on a 2-08 to 2-09 score line.

## HURLING

Having gained promotion to division two for the 2016 season, we recorded victories over Milford, Eire Og while losing to Valley Rovers, Watergrasshill and Carrigaline before we opened our PIHC at Pairc Ui Rinn on 28<sup>th</sup> May with Cloyne providing the opposition.

After a solid opening half one felt we looked in a comfortable position at the interval, but a Cloyne goal early in the second half saw the East cork side bring all their experience to bear and we lost out disappointingly on a 0-13 to 1-15 score line.

Round 2B of the championship was played on 24<sup>th</sup> June with Kilworth providing the opposition at Ballyhea. It came a week after our intermediate football 2<sup>nd</sup> round victory over Mitchelstown and five days after Duhallow senior footballers comprehensive victory over Seandun in which a number of our players played starring rolls.

With no chance of fitting in a league game to help preparations, we still opened with a solid first half performance and the tie was deadlocked at the interval 10 points each. A Kilworth goal entering the last ten minutes gave them the edge and the missed scoring opportunities that we spurned against Cloyne returned to haunt us and we lost out on a 0-16 to 1-16 score line. Championship exit before the end of June with two defeats after the investment in a hurling coach was a major disappointment.

A home league victory over Ballincollig on 23<sup>rd</sup> August preserved our Division 2 status and prepared us for our championship relegation semi final with Tracton at Mourneabbey on 26<sup>th</sup> August. After racing into a 0-7 to 0-2 lead midway through the opening half, we looked like being comfortable winners. By half time we lead by 0-9 to 0-6. Tracton levelled the tie five minutes after the resumption and when they goaled entering the closing stages to take a two point lead, Kanturk found the battling qualities required to shoot the scores which gave them victory on a 0-20 to 1-14 score line.

The remaining league fixtures were played after our footballers had exited the championship and after a high scoring 2-17 to 1-23 away defeat to Bandon, we defeated Fr O'Neills and Castlelyons to wrap up our league programme.

For the second year in succession our Junior 'B' Hurling league participation was weak in the extreme, with only two games being fulfilled, both victories over Newmarket and Freemount.

A proper team management needs to be put in place for 2017 or we as a club must ask, are we failing our players by not fulfilling league games at this grade and preparing properly for participation in the Duhallow JHC where players not making the breakthrough at PIH level can develop?

We fielded a team in the Duhallow Junior Hurling championship again in the past year and lost out to Newmarket at Meelin on 26<sup>th</sup> June 1-09 to 0-22. In round two at Kilbrin on 15<sup>th</sup> July, we lost out to Freemount on a 1-07 to 1-17 score line.

In U21 hurling, we lost out to Robert Emmetts in a high scoring 1<sup>st</sup> round tie at Kanturk on 5<sup>th</sup> July on a 2-16 to 3-14 score line. In round two Croke Rovers were defeated at Kilbrin on 9<sup>th</sup> August ( 2-20 to 1-15 ) before we defeated St Marks in the quarter final at Newmarket on 29<sup>th</sup> August (1-28 1-12). We disappointed as we exited the championship to Dromtarriffe at Kilbrin on 11<sup>th</sup> September on a 0-07 to 1-12 score line.

## **JUVENILE CLUB**

Our Juvenile section had a busy year with many highlights including the U14 teams playing Premier 2 hurling and football. Finals in league and championship were reached by both teams with the hurlers recording championship success over Inniscarra and league victory over Fermoy while the footballers lost out on the double to Ballincollig in the championship and St Nicks in the League final.

The highlight of the season was the hosting of John West sponsored Feile Peil in Kerry, North Cork and West Limerick over the weekend of 24/25/26<sup>th</sup> June. Kanturk played host to Coralstown-Kinnigad (Westmeath). Kanturk defeated Kilshannig and drew with Boyle (Roscommon) before sharing the spoils with their visitors' 2-06 each. Our team went onto the Division 3 cup quarter finals losing to a stronger South London while our visitors from Westmeath went onto defeat Castlegregory (Kerry) in the division 3 shield final. In the lead up

the Feile, the President of the GAA Aoghan O Fearghail visited the schools in the area on 11<sup>th</sup> May.

On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June the Ladies football team hosted a BBQ at the club grounds for both boys and girls teams and our visitors from Sligo and Westmeath. On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June the community of Kanturk helped the club and feile organising committee when one of the national parades was hosted through the town with over 30 teams parading through the town from Banteer Road, through Strand St, O'Brien St and on to the Town Park where a BBQ and open air disco was held. It was a culmination of a great weekend with many new friendships forged.

A Cul camp was held from 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> July and was well attended. The Fun Day at the park with the Duck Race as a major fund raiser on 24<sup>th</sup> July was a great success. A 5k fun run was held 24<sup>th</sup> April, as was the annual Church gate collection in March and a coaching plan was launched on 24<sup>th</sup> May.

Much worthwhile work is being put in at Juvenile level and it is hoped this will bear fruit in the years ahead with a steady stream of talented players being produced for the adult teams of tomorrow. Thank You to all those involved and best wishes into the future.

### **DUHALLOW TEAMS;**

In Senior football, Duhallow lost to Nemo Rangers in round 1 on 3<sup>rd</sup> May. Seandun were defeated at Coachford on 19<sup>th</sup> June in round two and Douglas in round 3 on 14<sup>th</sup> August. Bishopstown were defeated at Macroom in round 4 on 3<sup>rd</sup> September before Duhallow lost to Avondubh at the quarter final stage at Mourneabbey on 13<sup>th</sup> September. Pdraig Kearns was team manager with John & Lorcaín Mc Loughlin, Aidan Walsh, Alan Sheehy, Mark Healy, Lorcan O'Neill, Kyril Holland and Jordan Fullerton all involved at different stages over the season.

In Senior hurling, Duhallow defeated Carrigdhoun in the first round on 5<sup>th</sup> June before losing to Blackrock in the second round and made their exit when losing to Bishopstown in round 3. Tom Walsh was a selector with Anthony Nash,

Lorcain & John Mc Loughlin, Aidan Walsh, John & Darren Brown, Lorcan O'Neill, Donagh Duane and Barry Kenneally were involved.

In the new Premier U21 hurling championship, Duhallow defeated Mallow in the opening round on 20<sup>th</sup> July and accounted for Midleton in round 4 on 30<sup>th</sup> August before losing to Glen Rovers in the quarter final on 14<sup>th</sup> September. Tom Walsh acted as selector with Barry Kenneally, Darren Browne, Liam O'Keefe, Dan O Donoghue, Paul & Ryan Walsh all involved.

In Minor hurling Duhallow lost to Midleton, Douglas & before exiting the championship. Barry Kenneally, Dan o Donoghue, Ryan Walsh, Chris Mullane and Conor O'Donoghue were all involved.

## **CORK**

At inter county level it was a disappointing year with the Senior Hurlers losing to Tipperary in the Munster championship at Thurles on 22<sup>nd</sup> May. While Cork recovered to register a home victory over Dublin in round 1 of the qualifiers on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, they suffered a surprising defeat a week later to Wexford at Thurles and exited the championship. Anthony Nash, Lorcain Mc Loughlin & Aidan Walsh were all involved.

In Senior football Cork exited the Munster championship at the quarter final stage away to Tipperary on 12<sup>th</sup> June. Victories over Limerick and Longford set Cork up for a rematch with Donegal at Croke Park on 30<sup>th</sup> July and after a promising opening half, the northern side took the spoils as Cork exited championship 2016. John Mc Loughlin was involved as a sub for two of the qualifiers while Aidan Walsh returned to the football fold for the Donegal game.

Cork U21 hurlers exited the championship at the first time of asking losing a home tie with Limerick on 28<sup>th</sup> June. Darren Browne was involved on the night.

At Minor hurling level, Cork travelled to Waterford and defeated the home team on 6<sup>th</sup> April in the opening round before losing to Tipperary in the Munster semi final at Pairc Ui Rinn on 30<sup>th</sup> June. Ryan Walsh and Barry Kenneally were involved.

## **GROUND DEVELOPMENT**

The revamp of a section of the steps along with instillation of 100 seats from the old Pairc Ui Chaiomh was a welcome addition. The access road way and parking area at the Freemount rd venue has been repaired in recent weeks along with extra lighting erected to enhance the existing facilities and should help with early season training in the New Year.

One defibrillator was purchased to replace an obsolete one. Sanding of both pitches was put on hold during the past year with a commitment to ring fence funding for this to take place as early as possible in 2017.

Our grounds man, Jim O'Connor stepped aside from taking pitch bookings during the year and to help alleviate the situation a Pitch Booking Rota, which is available on our website and google apps on a smart phone, was set up in mid year. All the pitch bookings for Juvenile, Ladies and adult teams which were the day of the week, time, the pitch of choice along with name and phone number of the team manager who held the booking were available to view on the website/app. These bookings were the same each week and were a guide for all to see.

While you will never satisfy everyone, it was a step in the right direction and if team mentors buy into the principle of the workings of the pitch rota, with a few tweaks of the bookings guidelines, if needed, the rota can work well for the benefit of all.

With teams across Adult, Juvenile and Ladies seeking training and match time on our pitches we need to make maximum use of the facilities we have for now. Maybe there is a need to look into renting an additional pitch which could be used for training and matches.

Looking to the future, a development committee needs to be set in place to draw up a strategic plan to add and grow our facilities including the possibilities of providing extra playing and training pitches.

Once again our thanks to Jim and Michael O'Connor for their continued work on the pitches and looking after the dressing and meeting rooms for all occasions.

## **ANNUAL MASS**

Our Annual Mass for deceased members and associates was held on Wednesday last 23<sup>rd</sup> November. Former & present members, family members and friends who were taken from us during the past year were remembered in a prayerful way. Fr Brian Boyle cc, celebrated the Mass and Seamus Lynam prepared the leaflet and prayers and provided the music to add to the occasion. Thank You to the ladies who provided the refreshments on the night.

During the past year we lost former players, Pat Kenneally, Brendan Flanagan and Tony Sheehan. April 16<sup>th</sup> 2016 will always stand out as we lost our President, Frank Healy, after a time in hospital. Frank gave a life time of service to Kanturk GAA being involved as a player, committee, and officer over a 65 year period. Frank served as Vice Chairman to James Manley from the late 1950's until 1968, serving as Chairman in 1969, the year in which Kanturk completed the five in a row of Duhallow Junior Hurling championship titles and annex the Cork County Junior Hurling title that year. He stepped down after one year to take over as Chairman of Coiste Du Ealla in 1970 to 1972 before assuming the role of President from 1973 until his death. In Kanturk's hour of need, Frank took over as club chairman in the early 1980's for a period.

He was a leader in setting the founding stones in the club developments over the years being a club trustee from the 1960's when the Freemount road pitch was purchased, continuing to the purchase and development of the Kilroe pitch, and remained a trustee until his untimely death. In truth Frank Healy gave a life time of service and leaves a void which will be impossible to fill. Ar Dheas De go raibh a anam.

## **FINANCE;**

Raising funds continues to be a constant battle, and is a 52 week a year process. The weekly club lotto continues to play an important part of our funding in servicing the loan repayments in AIB Bank. It is a pity more support of the draw within our club membership & players across adult and juvenile level isn't forthcoming as increased support in both purchase of, and selling the tickets would lessen the need to run big fundraisers each year. As I outlined in last year's report, if we can generate a surplice of €200 per week to put towards day to day funding, it is €10,000 over a twelve month period which we don't have to raise from a BIG fundraiser.

The rota to sell lotto tickets outside Super Valu is a constant headache to maintain with less and less volunteering their services. It is hoped that the proposed sharing of the rota across the adult player body and sections of the club will be embraced and acted upon. What is suggested is the lotto rota would work as follows on a monthly basis; 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday; Adult Players; 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday; Adults from Juvenile Club, 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday; Adults from Ladies Club, 4<sup>th</sup> (and 5<sup>th</sup>) Saturday; Adults from Adult club.

Membership fees were greeted with mixed feelings and support. I think the club failed to communicate with the players how the level of membership was decided upon.

In 2015, players were asked to bring €2 each night of training to help pay for the strength & conditioning coach. If one had 2 training sessions and a match each week from January to October, at €6 per week over 43 weeks = €258.

We felt players in full time employment should be asked to pay €20 per month (€240 annually) and students €10 per month (€120). In both instances, this level of fees covered, Club Membership, contribution towards Gym, and weekly entry into the club lotto. 24 players paid membership but not all embraced the fees as outlined.

Membership collected from those playing Junior 'B' was almost nonexistent. Of the 19 players used in last Sunday's league final, I counted 6 that paid membership fees.

I feel there is a need to set up a membership committee of three to five people with player involvement who will agree the level of membership to be charged for 2017 and organise its collection in the first two months of the year. A policy of "no pay, no play" needed to be agreed upon and implemented.

The Cork GAA Clubs draw is another source of income for the club. At the end of the last draw in August we had 120 members and the Cork GAA Clubs Draw organising committee sought us to increase our level of membership to 150. After the first three draws, we have 95 members collected/DD, and there are another 29 or so outstanding for which monies need to be collected, or the persons continued participation is ascertained one way or the other. Help is needed to finalise this over the coming weeks. If we do succeed in retaining the members outstanding, we will have a slight increase to 124 in draw. The draw organising committee will be asking the clubs to make a big push in the

New year to sign new members up for the remaining draws. Who knows, if we can sign up a member for the final 5 or 6 draws, they might be prepared to stay involved in the longer term.

A Golf classic was held in July and our night at the dogs returned in August and both yielded a combined €23,000 plus for the club. My thanks to those involved in both fundraising initiatives.

## **THE FUTURE**

I often think there is a great void of loyalty and sense of belonging in our club. We host such things as Club Lotto, County Championship Games at the pitch, Annual Mass, etc and support is poor in the extreme.

As outlined earlier in my report, to maintain a presence outside Super Valu to sell lotto tickets is a constant headache. Is it beneath some people in our club to offer to do an hour or two once a month?

When hosting County & Duhallow Championship games is it beneath some people in our club to come up to the pitch an hour before hand to offer their help? Instead we have many who walk up five minutes before the game start time to watch the fare on offer and let others look after stewarding, ticket selling, etc.

Even at our Annual Mass for deceased members held last Wednesday night, there was little or no representation from our Juvenile section. Yet the Juvenile club is but a subcommittee of the Adult club, We are all the one club, not two distinct clubs. The Annual Mass was a CLUB event open to ALL to attend.

It all begs me to ask the question, What is our Club Ethos? Are we at both adult and Juvenile level lacking in ethos, which brings a sense of belonging and loyalty to ones club and the people within it?

If so, how can we set about building a club & community which espouses an attitude of loyalty and volunteerism, which develops the well rounded young men of the future and is intertwined with the aspirations of furthering our club and community in sporting, economic and cultural spheres?

I often feel should the AGM be replaced with a work shop of sorts that will help us as a club focus the minds on setting the pathway to building a club

which is built on volunteerism, and fosters a sense of loyalty to the club and its people, being loyal to the town we represent and thus supporting the business within our town which support us.

#### COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP;

The new format of the Cork county championships giving Divisions & clubs the same chance of retaining their interest in the competition is one which lessens our chances of gaining championship success at club level. To maintain a panel of players, fully fit, injury free, fresh and ready for the championship battles as they arrive is almost impossible when divisional championship games are set 5 or 6 days in advance of our club games. If there was a change, I would suggest that divisions return to a straight knock out basis with one or two entering the championship at round 4. It would alleviate many problems encountered when a dual club like ours wants to progress in both codes.

#### CONCLUSION;

In conclusion I wish to pay tribute to all who have played a part in our club's fortunes over the past year. To my fellow officers, committee members, board delegates, team management, trainers, selectors, players, logistic personnel, jersey washers, field and clubroom caretakers, medical personal, those who provided refreshments and anyone else who helped in any way. To one and all I thank you sincerely for the special contribution you made for the betterment of our club in 2016.

Let us all redouble our efforts and put KANTURK first as we strive to develop the adults of the future at juvenile level, and realise the aspirations of winning county championships in 2017.