

## **Secretary's Report on the activities of Eastern Harps G.A.A. Club 2017**

A dhaoine uaisle, tá fáilte romhaibh uilig go dtí an Cruinniú Ginearálta Bliantúil anocht.

Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, I welcome you all to our AGM this evening. I'm delighted to present the Secretary's Report on the activities of Eastern Harps GAA Club in 2017. It was a daunting task taking on the role of secretary following the retirement of Padraic Duffy, our previous secretary of 44 years, a record which I can safely say will never be surpassed. I would like to thank Padraic for the many years of dedicated service to the club, and indeed to the county and province. A task equally as daunting was writing this report and I apologise in advance if I have left anything or anyone out. I can assure you it is not intentional.

This year past was a relatively successful year on the playing field with our minor boys and girls both winning their respective 'A' Championships. Our 16 boys won the U16 B League and, at time of writing, they are awaiting the U16 'A' Championship Final fixture. Also, our U12 Division 2 team went on to win the Shield.

Also, our senior mens team provided great excitement in the Senior Championship by reaching the final for the first time since 2010. Unfortunately, despite leading Tourlestrane by 4 points at half-time, the greater experience of our opponents told in the second half and they ran out winners by 3 points. Paul Judge has provided an excellent report on the activities of the senior panel for 2017 so I don't intend to go over the same ground in detail.

In general, the seniors form in the league was disappointing, amassing only 6 points from 8 games. For the 9<sup>th</sup> game we failed to field a team against St. Mary's, the same team we would face in the first round of the Championship two weeks later on 13<sup>th</sup> August. This game came at the end of the league and it was of no importance for either team, or for the positioning of other teams in the league. However, the Senior League is the second most important competition in Sligo senior football and we should always endeavour to field a team if at all possible. The only way, barring a force majeure, in which our club should fail to field a team, at any level, is if there are physically not enough eligible players available for the match.

With the league programme of matches completed, our seniors really got focused for the Championship. While losing to St. Mary's and Tubbercurry in the group stages, sandwiched in between those two losses was a win over Curry which left us looking forward to the knockout stages of the Championship, while Curry were left facing the relegation play-offs. Qualifying in third place in the group, there was still cause for encouragement in that we were very close to winning the games against St. Mary's and Tubbercurry, had a couple of things gone our way. Shane King and his backroom team of Shane Gallagher, Paul Judge, Paul Duignan knew that with a few minor tweaks and a greater level of concentration and discipline, that they could look forward to the knockout stages with optimism.

Coolera / Strandhill awaited in the quarter-final in Bunninadden and a very encouraging display led to us winning by 4 points and a date with our first-round opponents, St. Mary's, awaited us in the semi-final on 1<sup>st</sup> October in Markievicz Park. A super display, showing

great character and determination, resulted in a one-point win and a place in the final against Tourlestrane on 22<sup>nd</sup> October. As stated earlier, a place in the senior final generated huge positivity and excitement around the club and the management and panel deserve huge credit for this.

Great credit is also due to Kieran McGill, Jimmy Casey (with some help from Edward East and Thomas Taheny in Ballinafad) for ensuring that the area was fully decked out in flags, car flags, caps bunting etc, the like of which hadn't been seen for a number of years.

Unfortunately, the final result didn't go our way but there is growing cause for optimism when one looks at the performances of our senior team in the latter stage of the Championship and those of our underage teams in the past few years. However, underage success is no guarantee of future success and we must make every effort to ensure that these younger players are brought through to the senior ranks with the appropriate guidance of their coaches and indeed the established senior players. That being said, the younger lads coming through must earn their positions on the senior panel and be prepared to work hard to improve their game. I expect that the senior players, while helping to integrate the younger lads into the panel, will be doing everything they can to hold on to their own place on the team and that is exactly the way it should be. I want to sincerely thank Shane King, Shane Gallagher, Paul Judge and Paul Duignan for their work with our seniors throughout 2017. One cannot overestimate the valued contribution of Des Horan, who attended to first aid with our seniors, juniors and minors all year.

Our junior mens team had a mixed league campaign saw us have wins at the start and end of the round stages but this was sandwiched in the middle by a run of defeats which left us 6<sup>th</sup> in the table. The Championship was a story of what might have been after snatching a draw from the jaws of victory by allowing Tourlestrane in for a 'soft' point to level the game in injury time. This was followed by a defeat to Owenmore Gaels. This resulted in a relegation play-off against St. Johns which we won thankfully. With an influx of eligible minors becoming available for 2018, competition for places should be more in evidence which can only be a good thing for the club. Thanks to Aiden Ward, Patrick Henry and Tom O'Connor for looking after our junior team during 2017.

On the Ladies side, unfortunately there was a delay in getting a senior management team in place. When eventually a senior management team was put in place, it was the very experienced trio of Gabriel Gallagher, Morgan McCormack and Claudia McGovern who took charge. We thank all three for taking on the job and ensuring that at the end of the season the 'graph is on an upward curve' for the ladies.

After an understandably slow start in the warm-up competition, our senior ladies team competed well in reaching the Intermediate League final, eventually losing narrowly to Tourlestrane in the final. The Championship proved a difficult task for our team, winning just one of the four matches played. However, the experience gained by a lot of our younger players will stand them in good stead for next year. The emergence of our minor Championship winning girls, many of whom are already playing senior, also augurs well for the future. However, as rightly pointed out by Gabriel in his report, getting these players

through to senior ranks is a major challenge for our club. Indeed, it seems to be a major challenge for all clubs within the county at least, if not nationally. I'd like to congratulate Lisa Casey who won her second Connacht Intermediate medal with Sligo during the year.

Another major disappointment was that the position of Ladies Chairperson remained unfilled during 2017. It is vital to co-ordinate the many activities on the ladies side, just as it is on the mens side. I am encouraged to see that Claudia McGovern has been nominated as Ladies Chairperson for 2018 and, if and when she is confirmed in the position, I have no doubt that she will bring the same drive and determination to the role as what marked her out as a fantastic player for the club over the years. I hope that this will see a resurgence of efforts on the ladies side to ensure that, as a club, we are providing the best possible environment for our female participants to develop and improve.

Off the field of play, the year got off to a mighty start as our club won the "Community Participation Initiative Award" in The Sligo Champion's inaugural SLIGO SPORTS AWARDS. The awards were presented in the Radisson by former Irish soccer international, Paul McGrath, and accepted by our Chairman on behalf of all our volunteers and the entire community who have made our events such a success over the last number of years. I'd like to thank Deirdre Gillen for her work in putting the application together. Padraig and Deirdre were on hand again to accept a Volunteer award presented to the club on County Final day. Padraig and Deirdre accepted the award on behalf of all the volunteers who have given great service to the club over the years.

By far the most exciting development, pardon the pun, this year was obviously the beginning of our new clubhouse project. Phase One is nearing completion at this stage with only the external stonework remaining to be done. It is fair to say that the new building looks truly magnificent.

However, there remains a huge amount of work to be done to see the development through to completion. At time of writing, we are awaiting the announcement of the Sports Capital funding by Minister Brendan Griffin. I'd like to acknowledge the support we have received from political representatives, both local and national, of all political parties and none and we are hopeful that our application will be successful. We have also applied for a bank loan of €120k which is required to complete the development and a decision on this application from Bank of Ireland is also awaited.

I'd like to thank my fellow members on our Development Committee, Sean Scott (Chair), Tom Murray, Damien McGovern, Lisa Casey, Thomas Cryan and Padraig Henry for their tireless work on this project. I'd also like to thank our engineer who designed and is overseeing the building of the clubhouse, Michael Rowley and Associates. Also, I'd like to thank our contractors, T & S Gormley Ltd. for their excellent work on the project to date, overseen by the Site Foreman, Paul McGovern.

Huge work has gone into raising funds to make this project a reality. The weekly bingo in Gurteen Hall, held in conjunction with Gurteen Hall Committee, is central to the success of this project. Gurteen bingo celebrated 10 years in operation this year and many of the original committee members are still present. Great credit is due to the current and

previous members of Harps Bingo Committee, who unselfishly give up their Friday evenings for the good of the club. If we all could make a greater effort to attend the bingo more regularly, it would help the club greatly and perhaps a few euro could be won by some of us in the process.

Our main fundraiser held this year was the Buy-a-Block ticket sales. A huge effort was put in across the club area selling the tickets from door-to-door. A target of €20k was set for this fundraiser and we are nearing the target as the end date is in sight. It has been decided to postpone the final draw until December to make a final push on sales. I'd ask those who still have an unsold allocation of tickets to make use of this extended time to make a final effort to sell their allocation. Those who received a direct allocation of tickets are those whom, it is fair to say, should benefit directly from these excellent new facilities.

Great credit is due to all those who sold tickets, especially the minor boys and the minor/u16 girls. It is truly great to see some of the younger members of the club prepared to put their shoulder to the wheel to help with the fundraising. These young lads and ladies have experienced some great days as a result of being involved in our club, as indeed have we watching them play, and I know this will give them a better understanding of how difficult it is to raise funds and that progress in any club takes hard work. I'd like to thank my fellow Buy-a-Block Committee members, Aisling Stephenson, Damien McGovern, Edward East (aka Steven Spielberg with his Buy-a-Block videos), Padraig Henry and Anne Marie Healy for their work on this fundraiser.

In what has become an (almost) annual event in the past few years, Operation Transformation was held from January to March again this year. After a break of one year, there was even more interest than ever with over 180 participants signing up to take part. As a result of the additional participants, for the first time we also had fitness classes in Keash Hall as well as Gurteen Hall, in addition to bootcamps on the training pitch and walks around the locality on Sundays. We also teamed up with the excellently run event Parkrun in Lough Key each Saturday morning, swelling the numbers taking part there each Saturday to over 300 people. The Parkrun goes on each and every Saturday in Lough Key at 9:30pm and is totally free to take part. I'd strongly encourage everyone to go along and give it a try, you will not regret it. We also had a very enjoyable walk around the Killaspugbrone Loop in Strandhill and the participants enjoyed the free coffee (and ice cream for the kids) afterwards in Mammy Johnston's. As per usual, after seven weeks of exercising and watching the calories, a great party was held in Drury's Lounge, Monasteraden to mark the closing of the event. A great band, Backwater Jack, played brilliant music into the early hours and it was a fitting end to a great seven weeks. I'd like to thank my fellow OT Committee members, Aisling Stephenson (whom has written a full report on OT later in the booklet), Damien McGovern and our new member for 2017, Anne Marie Healy. Anne Marie was brilliant and gave the other committee members great assistance throughout, especially looking after the refreshments after each and every Sunday walk. I'd also like to thank our fitness instructors, Aiden Ward, Gavin Horan and Ann Wynne.

As I said earlier, a loan of 120k has been applied for our clubhouse development and, when approved and drawn down, this will require us to repay the loan over the next 10 years.

This will necessitate the club running one large fundraiser per annum over each of those years to service the loan. We also hope to avail of a tax incentive scheme whereby those paying PAYE can make a donation to the club of €250 or more and have the tax which they would have paid on the amount of the donation also paid by Revenue to the club. The finer details of this fundraiser still have to be ironed out but the details will be published as soon as possible.

### **Underage Football**

While we have had notable success at underage level this year, as already mentioned at the beginning of my report, we cannot be complacent in thinking that this will continue without massive effort being put in at all levels of coaching. Undoubtedly, in my opinion, the most important years of coaching are those prior to and including u10s. This is where the children learn the basic skills of the game and, equally importantly, it is where a love of the game develops. Children at this age learn best in a fun, non-competitive environment where the emphasis is on participation for all. I want to thank all the coaches involved from u6 to u10 for their efforts during the year. I'm sure they will join with me in saying that we need more coaches at these levels. At the younger age groups, the coach to player ratio should be much higher than at older age groups. I'd like to wish the best of luck to Martin Doherty and Thomas Murphy, who have both taken up teaching positions in the east of the country. We hope that they will make their way back closer to home and take up the coaching mantle for the club once again in the future.

It is disappointing to see such a low turnout of girls at u10 level. This may have been due to their season starting later than it should have done. Once again, this was due to a lack of coaches being available. This highlights the importance of getting in to our local schools to make sure that we are not missing out on any child who may be interested in playing but, for whatever reason, 'fall through the net'. I wish to thank Eleanor McMahon and Joanne O'Grady for taking on the job of coaching the girls this year. It is noted that equipment needs to be invested in this group of players and I am happy to report that through the Supervalu 'Get Behind the Ball' campaign run during the year, the club has secured several footballs which will be very useful next year.

I encourage anyone interested in coaching, particularly parents, to help us ensure that our young players receive the best possible opportunity to improve. Please give your name to any committee member and the necessary steps will be put in place to get you up-and-running as a coach. This involves taking a foundation level coaching course, a code of ethics course and being Garda vetted. As the safety and welfare of our children are paramount, these are the absolutely right and proper steps which need to be taken to become a GAA coach in 2018. So please get your name in early (as in right away) to get the ball rolling in time for next year. Seeing the young players develop their skills and grow in confidence is very rewarding.

While all the progress is documented by the various team managements, I think special mention has to be made regarding our U16 boys. Damien McGovern details their year to date (as they are awaiting their 'A' Championship Final) in his report but, as usual, he

downplays the huge role he played getting this team up and running and ensuring that games were changed to ensure that the maximum number of players on this small panel were available. It is a minor miracle, or should I say due to Damien's organisational skills, that we managed to fulfil all but one of the fixtures (the first of the season) for this team this year. When it appeared that all avenues were exhausted in our efforts to put a coaching team in place, Damien added this role to his already demanding schedule and refused to let this talented panel of players be left without coaches for the year. Thanks also to Mark Cosgrove, Patrick Henry and Mikey O'Grady for coming on board also. The achievement of the management and the players to win the Division 1 League Shield and qualify for the 'A' Championship final is outstanding, given the very small pool of players available. I'm heartened to see that 3 players whom had sought a transfer out of the club at the beginning of the season are playing their full part in this team's success following their decision to return to play with the club. I'd also like to thank Michael Keville for his generous sponsorship of training tops for the panel.

Our minor boys had a disappointing end to the league by being well beaten by our local rivals, Shamrock Gaels in the semi-final in Gurteen. However, despite this setback, they showed their true character by bouncing back to claim the club's first Minor Championship title since 2004, with a resounding victory by 1-15 to 1-05 over Curry in the final under lights in Tourlestrane on 28<sup>th</sup> October. For the first time at minor level, this meant that we progressed to a Connacht semi-final against the Mayo champions, Balla. This game was held in the Connacht Centre of Excellence in Began. After a poor start and being down by 5 points in the first few minutes, the lads rallied to go in level at the break 2-04 to 1-07. Unfortunately, in the second half we were outscored by 3 points, a crucial second goal for our opponents which came towards the end of the half. Things may have been different had a goal-bound effort of our own not been cleared of the Balla line, but that's football. Having said that, Balla were deserving winners on the night. The experience of playing at this level can only stand to these lads in the future, especially as the majority of this panel are under 18 again in 2018. Many thanks to their coaching team of Michael Hannon, Paul Dwyer and Paul McGovern.

Our u14 boys competed well but had a disappointing year overall. Our coaches report poor attendance at training and unreasonable demands from other sports as being contributory factors in the team being less competitive than it could have been. In addition to this, many members of the panel and the coaches travelled to Coolera/Strandhill in the belief that we would have enough players to field a team, which turned out not to be the case. While I am not fully aware of the circumstances, I can only assume that our coaches and parents would not have travelled had they know in advance that there was not going to be enough players. I would appeal to parents and guardians of all our young players to communicate with their coaches so that they know before setting out exactly what the position is regarding player availability. It is only fair on the coaches who give of their time voluntarily and to the other parents who make the effort to travel. Thanks to their coaches John Bruen, Thomas Murphy and Peter Walsh.

Our U13 feile team endured a difficult competition as they appeared to be drawn in a group in which two of the other three teams were much stronger. This led to a play-off game away to Castleconnor which also ended in a heavy defeat. It is disappointing to see our players suffer heavy defeats and it is important that we keep an eye on the grading of this team for next year. Thanks to their coaches Ronan Higgins, George Garvey and Ciaran McGovern.

On a much brighter note, for the first time in our history, we fielded 3 teams at U12 boys level. It's fantastic to see these numbers at this age group and the fielding of 3 teams ensured that the boys got maximum playing time during the year. While success in terms of trophies is not hugely important at this age level, it is noteworthy that the Division 2 team won the Shield final. I have high hopes for this age group and I have no doubt that they will progress to become a talented bunch of players in the future. Thanks to their coaches Ronan Higgins, Paul Taylor, Brendan McHugh, Fintan McGowan and Eamonn Molloy.

Our minor girls team set the tone for our minor boys by being the first team to claim a minor title in the club this year. While it was a disjointed year by all accounts, the girls played out a thrilling final in Kent Park against Tourlestrane on 22<sup>nd</sup> October. The match was a very tense affair but our girls held on for a victory by the slimmest of margins on a scoreline of 1-10 to 2-06. I would like to express my congratulations to the girls and their management team of Patricia McDonagh, Morgan McCormack and Martina Clohessy. Congratulations are also due to Rachel Hogge and Aideen Coyle who won All Ireland C medals with Sligo.

Our U16s girls had a successful year without gaining any silverware to show for it. They reached the 'B' Championship Final, which was a highly entertaining game, on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October in Collooney against Shamrock Gaels. The game was end-to-end with both sides enjoying periods of superiority. However, Shamrock Gaels proved the stronger team overall and won the final on a scoreline of 3-11 to 2-08. Congratulations to Róisín Molloy and Lisa Powell who also picked up All Ireland C medals with Sligo during the year.

Earlier in the year this team was on the receiving end of a very poor refereeing decision to abandon one of their games. Despite winning the game comfortably at the time, the referee determined that he had to abandon the game due to the alleged verbal abuse he was receiving from the Harps girls. Bizarrely, having been persuaded to restart the game, our opponents refused to do so and got on their bus and went home. I've spoken to many who were present on the evening and they said that there was absolutely nothing of note said to the referee. Despite this, this nonsensical decision was subsequently compounded by the Sligo Ladies Co. Board as they proceeded to award the points to the opposition and fined the club. Luckily, our team management were not prepared to let this lie and, following the approval of the club executive, set about appealing this awful decision by the Co. Board. The appeal was heard by Connacht LGFA and I'm pleased to say that our club was fully vindicated and our appeal was won. This was a very important action to take to protect the reputation of our girls and our club. I commend the team management of Eamonn Clarke, Neil Molloy and Deirdre Gillen for the efforts in this regard and indeed throughout the year.

The U14 girls started off their year with the feile competition where they competed well winning two of three games, however, Shamrock Gaels beat them and progressed in the competition. In the league they competed well but only won 2 out of 5 games. Their group in the Championship was very difficult consisting of Drumcliffe/Rosses Point, Calry/St. Joseph's and St. Mary's. While the girls did not win any of their matches they showed true spirit and tried their best to the very end. Having watched a most of their matches this year I can see the progress they have made as players and especially as a team during the year, which is testament to their coaches Patricia McDonagh, Aoife Wynne, Barry Convey and Fintan McGowan. I'd like to acknowledge the sponsorship of a new set of jerseys for this team by Declan Wynne and Gaeltec Utilities.

Our U12 girls were very competitive in their competitions without managing to pick up any silverware. However, they did get to play in Markievicz Park which is always a memorable experience for our young players. Reaching the semi-final of the 'B' Championship, unfortunately they bowed out to a physically stronger St Farnan's team. These girls also improved during the year & Thanks to their coaches, John O'Neill and Dawn McGowan.

### **G4M&O**

It is great to see our G4M&O team progressing year-on-year. Having played numerous matches and blitzes during the year, as usual, the final event of their year was the annual blitz in Portmarnock. This is a hugely successful blitz held annually where teams from all over the country take part. Our team, coached as usual by Paul Dwyer, returned from Portmarnock undefeated AGAIN they tell us, even though the scores aren't supposed to be counted! The G4M&O provides a great outlet for ladies of all ages to enjoy some sporting activity without the pressures usually surrounding competitive sport. As they say, the emphasis is on the fun, craic and camaraderie, more so than competition (although I'm sure this isn't always the case in the heat of battle). I'd like to thank the Hill Hotel for sponsoring a lovely new set of jerseys (with pink trim included) for these ladies which was very much needed.

### **Our pitch**

I'd like to thank our Pitch Committee, led by John Cryan and Eamonn Clarke, for the many hours work they put into ensuring our pitch is kept in good shape. Brian McCrann has once again done many hours of work on the scheme which is of enormous help to the Pitch Committee members. Coming towards the end of the season it is evident that the pitch needs to be sanded, seeded and spiked to ensure that it continues to remain in good shape. This will probably be done in the early part of next year and it is a costly but necessary exercise. It is noted this year that one part of the pitch was particularly susceptible to holding water this year and it remains to be seen whether this may have been caused by heavy machinery entering the pitch. All pitches have drains which can collapse if there is too much heavy traffic on them and this is something which must be borne in mind in the future.

## **Referees**

We had three referees in the club this year, Ciarán McGovern, Ciarán Dorrian and Ciara Stephenson. Other referees in the club were not able to take up the role due to work and educational commitments. However, we are lucky to have three active referees and hopefully others will take it up next year too.

## **County Commitments**

Keith Carty, who was involved as a selector with Niall Carew over the past number of years, has stepped away from inter-county duties for the time being at least. We'd like to thank Keith for the huge work put in with the county team during this time. Some of us can only imagine the work involved in preparing a county team and I know that no stone was left unturned by Keith and his colleagues hoping to bring success to the county. Alas, it was not to be in terms of silverware this year. However, Sligo's loss is hopefully our gain and we hope that Keith will bring his expertise, gained over the past few years, to bear with some of our own teams in 2018.

Ross Donovan once again represented the county with distinction in 2017. His assured performances in many positions for Sligo are what we have come to expect from such a consistent performer over the years. Only Ross knows at this stage what he intends to do in respect of the county in 2018 and we wish him well with his decision. Tony Taylor, who had also returned to the county panel this year, unfortunately had to leave the panel due to work commitments.

The success of our underage teams has seen a very welcome increase in the club's representation at county level. Most notable here is the performances of our minor club captain, Evan Lavin and Alan Davey, who both played a central part of the county's minor team. But for a long-range Sligo effort hitting the post and Derry subsequently going straight up the field to score the winner, it could've been a very different year for Sligo minors. Derry, who went on to the All-Ireland final against Kerry, in what was a final which will be remembered by the individual performance of Kerry captain, David Clifford. He looks a special talent and I think we all look forward to seeing him play in the senior ranks with Kerry. Also on the Sligo minor panel were Jonathan East, James O'Hara and Jake Stephenson.

We also had numerous representatives on the Sligo U17 Championship team which was heavily defeated by Mayo in Castlebar. Despite the loss, it was a proud day for the club to have so many representatives from the club on the team and on the panel. These lads, Jake Stephenson, Ciaran Hannon, Ciaran Dorrian, Shawn O'Hara, Marcus Meehan, Sean O'Connor, Bryan O'Hanlon, Tomás Taheny and Bryan Molloy, are unlucky in that the Minor (U18) County Championship is being discontinued the very year they turn 18 but I've no doubt they can go on to represent Sligo at U20 and senior level in years to come. Our club was also represented by Kyle Cosgrove (Sligo U17 & U16) and Eoghan Higgins at Sligo U16 level.

Paul Taylor, as manager again, and Michael Clarke as a player represented the club at county U21 level and progressed to a Connacht Final where unfortunately they came up short against a strong Galway side.

While Sean Scott stepped down from his role as Coiste na nÓg Secretary in 2017, he was still very much involved in the work of the committee, particularly in relation to fixtures. We thank Sean very much for this work which is a huge undertaking on a voluntary basis.

I'd also like to thank Louis Carty, who is stepping down as our Co. Board delegate this year. Louis has represented our club with distinction over several years at Co. Board level. Louis' experience and know-how will be sorely missed and I think we'd all welcome if he would reconsider his decision to step down.

### **Sponsors**

I'd like to thank our premium sponsors who have provided invaluable support to our club over the past year and previous years. I sincerely hope that your support will continue into the future. If any other organisation or individual would like to become a premium sponsor, please contact any member of our committee.

Speaking of the committee, I'd like to thank all of our Executive Committee members for their guidance of the club over the past year. It is invaluable to have a committee who have the interests of the club at heart and are prepared to do the work behind the scenes. I'd particularly like to thank my Assistant Secretary, Avril East, who is always eager to help out whenever called upon. I also thank my colleague as Secretary of the Ladies, Hannah Clohessy and Annette Henry and Mary Hannon who attended Ladies Co. Board meetings.

I'd also like to thank Carmel Taheny, as Healthy Club Chairperson, for her work during the year. The club has the distinction of being one of only two Sligo clubs which were recognised as being 'Healthy Clubs' at a special ceremony in Croke Park on November 4<sup>th</sup> last. This is fitting reward for the work Carmel and other members of the Healthy Club Committee have put in over the last number of years.

I'd like to congratulate all those who got married, engaged or had new additions to the family in 2017. I extend our sympathies to those whom have been bereaved during the year.

As all of our volunteers know, while it can be very rewarding, it also cuts down on the amount of family time available. I would like to especially thank my family, Anne, Ciarán, Aisling & Orla for their support during the year.

Even though this report is much longer than I intended it to be, I apologise again for any omissions or errors.

Here's to continued success and enjoyment for our club in 2018!!!

*Seán Ó Dorraidhín*

Rúnaí