



CUALA GAA – ADULT GAMES SECTION

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2009

During 2009 the Adult Games Section aimed to continue the developments of the previous year, integrating as many players as possible coming out of the Minor Section into the Adult Section and assigning them to panels commensurate with their skills.

On the field

The year began with the promotion of the first football team from Intermediate to Senior League. For the first time for many years Cuala has achieved Senior status in both codes. The Junior A Football Team gained promotion to Division 6 and the Junior B Team to Division 10. A fourth football team was created and it played in Division 12 of the League. The Senior Hurling Team continued in the Senior league and Championship and the Junior Team played in Division 7. The Junior B Team with regret was withdrawn from official competitions as it could not field due to lack of numbers.

Cuala was invited to enter its Intermediate Football Team in the Celebrity Bainisteoir Competition broadcast on RTE TV. George Hook was assigned celebrity Bainisteoir and Paddy Cullen his expert assistant and trainer. Unfortunately the timing of the match could not have been worse for Cuala, coming just two days before the play-off game to gain promotion to senior ranks. Cuala lost the match to St Patrick's, Dromahair, in extra, extra, extra time. All sections of the club did a great job in supporting the organisation of the week-end celebrations under the guiding hand of Willie Braine.

It's been a challenging year to consolidate the gains made in 2008 and as the season draws to a close we are hopeful of maintaining our achievements.

In the Committee Room

The appointment of team managers was made by an Coiste on the recommendation of the Adult Games Committee. This year the chairmen of the respective code forums with the officials of the AG Committee made up the interview panels for the posts.

At the beginning of the year Karl Schuttee agreed to accept the position of Chairman of the Hurling Forum. The Hurling Forum set about building on the work initiated last year. It established its own structure of specialist sub-groups/sections and is at present finalising the Cuala Hurling Strategy 2010-2014.

The Football Forum continued to meet regularly during the year.

Both Forums have the approval of an Coiste, come under the aegis of the Adult Games Committee and are accountable to it. In summary, we have two functioning forums in which the detailed planning of games and training is managed.

The Adult Games Committee was streamlined this year to comprise the chairpersons of the forums, the managers of each team and the officials of the Committee.

The Adult Games Committee unanimously ratified the establishment of the newly established Cuala Complaints Committee.

An extraordinary meeting of the Adult Games Section was held with the Officers of Cuala GAA Club on 22/09/09 to discuss matters of discipline and respect for club and members. Following this meeting, a working group with representatives of both Hurling and Football under the chairmanship of the Adult Games Chairman was established to finalise the Players and Managers Charter, building on the work carried out earlier by the Football Forum, and to develop a Dual Player Protocol. The Charter has been finalised and the Dual Player Protocol is almost completed.

Welfare

As last year, all teams have had to contend with injuries and the accessibility of the VHI Swiftcare Clinic in Dundrum has been a major asset in player welfare.

Unfortunately we are given to understand that fees have now to be paid at point of service and outstanding costs recouped from the GAA Insurer at a later date.

The integration of players moving up from Minors has continued and as these numbers increase there will be more and more faces familiar to the new Minors in the adult Section. In the Adult Section we are aware of the need to be especially sensitive to the welfare of the younger players who have just joined us or who play up for us during the year.

Finance

The Adult Games Section had no major fundraising this year to date. Both Football and Hurling raised funds from focussed fund-raising events and from direct sponsors. It is planned to hold an electronic-game fund-raising event during the Christmas holidays targetted at the players and their friends. A sub-committee from both codes is being formed to bring this forward. The annual corporate lunch and golf outings which are club fundraisers have continued to be organised and strongly supported by members of the Adult Section. Liam Breathnach, Treasurer, has worked closely with both the Football and Hurling Forums and with the club Treasurer, Enda McGowan, in ensuring accurate recording and accountability for funds raised and expended during the year.

Registration

There has been a huge improvement this year in the payment of membership fees and players' team subscriptions of €80, with about ten memberships outstanding to date. The process was drawn out over the year and we plan to be more efficient in 2010 by holding a set Registration Week during which all the resources possible will be made available to collect membership fees and team subscriptions from all adults.

In summary

The Adult Games Section is becoming ever more rich in numbers of young skilled and enthusiastic hurling and football players. We have the responsibility to provide the training, resources and teams at a range of levels which will facilitate them playing to their highest abilities and enjoying it. Many are playing in other arenas for colleges and county which we respect and we take pride in reading Cuala after their names in match programmes. If anything we are poor in the numbers available to manage and train an increasing number of teams. The structure of having the two forums has helped in supporting management and training of all of the teams.

The two codes, Hurling and Football, have worked well together this year. The few difficulties which arose were resolved in frank discussion with the position of dual players being respected and not being left with the onus of choosing one code over the other. The steady hand and respectful approach of Ciaran Irwin and Karl Schutte, Chairmen of the Forums, along with the openness of the team managers contributed greatly to achieving a good working relationship with each code supporting the other. We end the year with a written Players & Managers Charter and a Dual Players Protocol.

I wish to thank the team Managers and the Management Teams for their dedication, their commitment, generosity and reliability during the year. I wish to thank the players for their enthusiasm, commitment, loyalty and hard work in consolidating the gains from last year. I wish to thank the Chairmen of the Forums for their hard work and for holding their nerve when needed. I wish to thank an Coiste for its support and from time to time its guiding hand. Finally, I wish to thank the officials of the Adult Games Committee, Pat Divilly, Secretary, and Liam Breathnach, Treasurer, Registrar and Coiste Representative, for their attention both to the global context of club and to the detail of adult games section policies, structures and finances.

Paul Linnane,
Chairman Adult Games Committee 2009.
9th November 2009.