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Cruinniú Cinnbhliana

Ostán Mount Errigal, Leitir Ceanainn
Dé Sathairn, 4ú Márta 2023



Donegal



CUMANN mBUNSCOL



Presidential Address

A Cháirde,

Cúis áthais dom isea é fáilte chaoin a fhearadh romhaibh go léir go h-Ollchruinniú Chinnbliana an Chumainn anseo i Léir Ceanainn, agus is deas i gcónaí cuairt a thabhairt ar chontae álainn, ársa na gConnallach.

As Cumann na mBunscol embarks on our second half-century after the COVID hiatus, nach bhfuil sé go h-iontach a bheith ar ais ar pháirceanna imeartha na tíre agus páistí na hÉireann a fheiscint ag bláthú fé'n ár stiúr arís. It has always been our proud choice and freely-given obligation, as Educational Professionals, to further the ideals set out by the founding fathers of the GAA on that historic November 1884 afternoon.

The role of the “múinteoir” within society has utterly changed since Cusack, Croke agus a gcáirde, but the centrality of the professional teacher in today’s fast-paced, cosmopolitan, multi-ethnic and multi-racial Ireland is more important than ever now.

We have a unique working network, in that we are active in virtually every school and parish from Mizen to Malin, whether they be big, small, co-ed or single sex, urban, rural or suburban. Táimid i lár an aonaigh. I know our work is difficult to quantify, but I equally appreciate how easy it can also be to underestimate it. As members of Cumann na mBunscol, we should never be shy in highlighting all that is positive in our work.

Certainly, the post-pandemic GAA landscape is a different world to what we inhabited a few short years ago, but while the condensed intercounty season is welcomed by most of us, I think the jury is still out on the playing of our All Ireland Finals “in árd an tsamhraidh”. I feel we are discarding a huge Promotional and Marketing opportunity, with the schools on Summer Holidays.

Guím gach rath ar bhúr saothar inniu agus amach anseo, agus táim cinnte go leanfaidh an obair go dtí go mbeimid i bhfochair a chéile arís.

Beir bua,
Mairead Ní Cheallacháin
Uachtarán, Cumann na mBunscol



*To make Gaelic Games the games of choice for
Ireland’s Primary School Children*



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Standing Orders

1. The Cathaoirleach shall preside over all meetings and shall see that the rules of the organisation be enforced sensibly and fairly on all occasions.
2. Motions to the Annual General Meeting, which shall be in the name of an affiliated area or Provincial Council and formally adopted at a meeting of that body, must reach the National Secretary not later than the last Friday in January.
3. All nominations for positions on the National Committee which shall be in the name of an affiliated area or Provincial Council and formally adopted at a meeting of that body, must reach the National Secretary not later than three weeks before the AGM.
4. The National Committee shall consider all motions and nominations and decide if they are in order and acceptable for consideration at the AGM.
5. Copies of the agenda for the AGM together with list of motions and nominations for elections to National Committee shall be circulated to all affiliated areas and Provincial Councils at least 7 days before the AGM.
6. Amendments and agenda will be with the National Secretary in writing in the name of an affiliated area or Provincial Council at least one hour before the AGM.
7. Contrary motions shall not be accepted.
8. All motions must be clear and unambiguous and must not conflict with the aims and objectives of Cumann na mBunscol.
9. (a) To be deemed in order a motion must be implementable and must be specific to Cumann na mBunscol.
(b) However motions may call on Cumann na mBunscol to negotiate with relevant bodies on a specific matter that is of interest to Cumann na mBunscol.
10. The mover of a proposal shall speak for not more than three minutes.
11. The seconder of a proposal shall speak for no more than three minutes.
12. No motion shall be discussed for more than 20 minutes. The motion must be disposed of when the 20 minutes have elapsed.
13. The mover shall have the right of reply in all cases. 2 minutes maximum.
14. Voting shall be by a show of hands on all motions. A simple majority shall ensure the adoption of any item. Where rule changes are proposed, a two thirds majority shall be necessary in every instance to ensure their adoption.
15. The usual method for the disposal of amendments and agenda shall be followed.
16. In the event of the proposition "That the question be put", and that this proposition be seconded, the presiding Cathaoirleach shall on a show of hands either continue the debate or 'Put the question'.
17. In the event of the proposition "That the AGM, move to next business " and that this proposition be seconded, the presiding Cathaoirleach shall put the proposition to a vote immediately. If defeated the debate shall be resumed.
18. If a position on the National Committee be contested, voting shall be by secret ballot. A successful candidate must have 50% + 1 of the valid votes cast by delegates present and voting at the AGM. In the event of a tie, the winning candidate will be drawn by lot.
19. The chairman may at his discretion ask if there is no obvious objection to a motion that the motion be put in order, to save time.
20. The chairman may at his discretion and in consultation with order officers change the order of business in the interest of efficiency.
21. The order of business may also be changed at the request of a majority of delegates present and voting.
22. Only properly constituted delegates may speak at the AGM. Other speakers may only address the AGM when prior arrangements are made through the National Committee.



Minutes of 2022 Annual General Meeting



Cumann na mBunscol Náisiúnta

Date: Saturday 5th March 2022.

Venue: City West Hotel, Saggart, Co. Dublin.

Present: An An Coiste Náisiúnta, County and Provincial delegates, John Murphy (GAA representative).

Welcome of Delegates

Chairperson Joe Lyons welcomed all delegates. He introduced a slideshow presentation put together by PRO John Manley.

A minute's silence was observed for all deceased members and friends/family members of delegates. Mairéad O Halloran, Tomás Ó Beaglaíoch, Pat Dowling and Nora Collinsmother of Cork delegate, Dave Collins were remembered.

Adoption of Standing Orders

The Cathaoirleach requested that the Standing Orders be adopted. This was agreed.

Proposed: Tim O'Byrne

Seconded: Jim Fennelly

Minutes

Minutes of AGM 2021

The minutes of the 2021 AGM were adopted.

Proposed: Tony O'Farrell

Seconded: Br. James Dormer

The only matter arising was a follow up query about hurley/helmet subsidies. John Murphy will follow up with GAA and contact the National Committee re same.

Correspondence

No correspondence had been received.

Oráid an Chathaoirleach

Cathaoirleach Joe Lyons began his address by welcoming all delegates and thanking them for travelling. He made reference to the 'unique' nature of Cumann na mBunscol and pointed out that it relied on the goodwill and dedication of volunteer teachers. He mentioned that there are over five thousand primary schools on the island of Ireland and that it was a great testament that Cumann na mBunscol reaches the vast majority of those schools. Joe lamented the loss of games over the past two years during the pandemic and said that it was a shame that children were denied the chance to represent their schools during this time.

The Cathaoirleach stated Cumann na mBunscol's belief that it is essential to children's well-being that our games return as soon as possible. He said that a primary focus of the National Committee in the past year was navigating a safe way back to playing Gaelic Games

but he alluded to the complexity of the situation and the confusion surrounding rules and restrictions. Joe informed delegates that he and the committee had been lobbying TDs, INTO reps and others to gain further clarity and seek a return to games. He thanked John Boyle (INTO) for bringing our questions to departmental meetings and working on our behalf on this matter.

Now that restrictions have been eased, Joe said, he is encouraged to see county and provincial committees kickstarting games and competitions and activities once more. He noted that Mini Sevens officer Bernie Ryan was already putting plans in place for this year's Mini Sevens' exhibition games, which was very welcomed.

The Cathaoirleach made reference to the Club-School link and the need for clubs now to show their support for their school team. He mentioned a meeting with GAA delegates he and former chairperson, Liam Magee had attended to discuss the club-school link in 2020. Joe expressed his disappointment that nothing further had arisen since this meeting.

Joe thanked Allianz for their continued support and sponsorship. He urged county/provincial units to use @AllianzIreland and #AllianzCNMB in their PR work. He praised John Manley for the articles and PR work that was produced this year. He mentioned John's work for Allianz Cumann na mBunscol week and he said he is sure it will be a great success again this year.

Joe then went on to speak about the 50th anniversary of the foundation of Cumann na mBunscol. He said that, although Covid prohibited our formal celebration dinner event from happening, exciting developments are happening elsewhere. Joe informed the AGM that he and Ciaran Crowe have been working hard on the book. He expects it to be ready by the end of 2022. Cumann na mBunscol are actively seeking financial contributions and Joe stated that he hoped the GAA would help to fund the project.

Joe finished his address by saying that there are "challenges ahead, but there is light at the end of the tunnel".

Secretary's Report

Secretary, Gary Farrell gave a detailed report covering last year's AGM, Allianz Sponsorship, the new website, Cornmarket insurance, Child Protection and Garda Vetting and the 50th Anniversary Book. He thanked his colleagues on the National Committee and expressed his delight at the return to games this spring/summer term. Proposed: Niamh O'Dea



Minutes of 2022 Annual General Meeting

Seconded: Br. James Dormer

Treasurer's Report

Micheál MacThiarnáin delivered the Treasurer's report as the financial year concluded while he was still Treasurer. Micheál pointed out the absence of the €68,000 games development grant from the GAA. He hopes it will be forthcoming in the near future. Micheál reported a loss of €22,768 as a result. He also informed delegates of the second account for the book and recorded a balance (at 31 August 2021) of €3,848.

Tim O'Byrne expressed his hope that the Allianz sponsorship would be renewed to its 'pre-Covid' value of €90,000. Jim Fennelly echoed this and asked if there was a reduction in the insurance premium as a result of reduced activities. Micheál informed the meeting that there was a 25% rebate reported.

Tony O'Farrell expressed his gratitude that Allianz continued to sponsor us despite the lack of activities and exposure for the brand. Dave Collins echoed this and said that he would be hopeful that there should be no issue getting the higher sum once activities resumed.

Micheál paid tribute to the county units who, through the pandemic, turned to Twitter and continued their fantastic PR work and promotion of Allianz.

Gerry O'Meara and Mairéad Ní Cheallacháin expressed their concern at the absence of the games development grant from the GAA and hoped that it would be forthcoming.

Micheál wished his successor Liam Breathnach well in his role.

Proposed: Tim O'Byrne
Seconded: Aodán Wrenn

PRO's Report

PRO John Manley gave a detailed report, making reference to Social Media, Allianz and their importance and the Green and White magazine. He thanked the PROs in all the counties and he looked back at Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Week which took place from June 14th - June 18th. He thanked the GAA and LGFA/Camogie stars who contributed so valuably to the week and reported a resounding success from a PR point of view. John echoed Joe Lyons' thanks for submitting content for the 50th celebration book.

Cork delegates, Tony O'Farrell and Dave Collins complimented John on his comprehensive report and work throughout the year.

Aodán Wrenn raised a question about each county having a Twitter account.

John Manley reminded all delegates to please continue to use @AllianzIreland and #AllianzCNMB when posting content online.

Proposed: Dave Collins
Seconded: Niamh O'Dea

Development Report

Development Officer Gerry O'Meara gave a report in which he welcomed the return to games and the easing of restrictions which made any development in the past year virtually impossible. In his report, Gerry outlined many areas which could be developed and he signalled his intentions to set up a forum to identify a number of projects which could be worked on during the coming years. He welcomed other suggestions for development. Gerry informed the meeting that the National Handball day has been set for April 2nd.

Proposed: Michael Smyth
Seconded: Frank Reidy





Minutes of 2022 Annual General Meeting



Mini 7's Report

Mini-Sevens officer Bernie Ryan distributed information to the delegates outlining the counties' allocations for 2022, noting that it is the same as the proposed allocation for 2020 that never happened. In the information sheet, Bernie outlined the dates for the semi-finals and finals and stated that the names and details of the players needed to be submitted by the end of April. She also reminded delegates that the standard of playing needed to be high so careful consideration needed to be given in choosing hurlers/camogie players in particular. She suggested that (for this year only) that counties could possibly hand back allocated places and these could be redistributed to other counties if necessary. This would have to be done early.

Bernie finished her report by thanking the Dublin Teachers again for their help in Croke Park.

Election of Officers

There were no nominations for new officers. It was proposed to re-elect the committee 'en-bloc'. This was agreed and the committee was re-elected. Proposed: Niamh O'Dea
Seconded: John Byrne

Motions

There were four motions:

- 1) Motions to the provincial AGM which shall be in the name of a County Coiste and formally adopted at a meeting of that body, must reach the Provincial Secretary not later than three weeks before the AGM;
Proposed: Liam Magee
Seconded: Tim O'Byrne
- 2) All nominations for positions on the provincial committee which shall be in the name of a county Coiste and formally adopted at a meeting of that body, must reach the Provincial Secretary not later than three weeks before the AGM;
Proposed: Liam Magee
Seconded: Tim O'Byrne
- 3) Copies of the agenda for the provincial AGM together with a list of motions and nominations for elections to the provincial committee shall be circulated to the county Coiste in that province at least seven days before the AGM;
Proposed: Liam Magee
Seconded: Tim O'Byrne
- 4) The provincial secretary must inform the National Secretary of the venue and date of the provincial AGM at least three weeks in advance

of the meeting (amend rule 3 Provincial Councils)

Proposed: Liam Magee

Seconded: Aodán Wrenn

All motions were carried.

AOB

50th Anniversary Publication:

Joe updated the delegates on the progress of the book. He suggested Autumn/Winter 2022 as a likely launch timeframe. He said that it has become a huge task. Their goal is to celebrate Cumann na mBunscol. Thirty out of thirty-two counties have submitted information and materials. Joe thanked those who contributed.

The book publication costs will be approximately €70,000 - €75,000 for 6,000 copies. These will be hardback and that price is for printing only, not distribution. The committee approached the Dept. of Education to ask them to finance distribution to each school in the country. The department has unfortunately declined but re-directed us to the Dept of Arts, Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to ask their assistance. The INTO has donated €10,000, Cornmarket have given €5,000 and although all 32 GAA County Boards have been approached for €500 each, only eight counties have so far donated. Joe Lyons thanked Kilkenny, Leitrim, Kerry, Sligo, Wicklow, Limerick, Cork, and Fermanagh County Boards. Delegates were asked to approach their GAA county secretaries to follow up.

John Murphy paid tribute to Cumann na mBunscol and highlighted its importance to the GAA. He noted the strong link between the GAA and Cumann na mBunscol and alluded to the importance of continuing this strong connection.

Tributes

The Cathaoirleach paid tribute to Francis Lagan, Derry, who died in November 2021 and Eamonn Ryan, Cork, who also died in 2021. Joe extended a vote of sympathy to the families and friends of Paddy Campbell, Down, and Aisling Murphy, Tipperary.

Pat Trainor Award

Dermot Keane, Mayo was the 2021 recipient of the Pat Trainor Award. Fidelma Sheridan read out the citation submitted by the Mayo committee. Dermot was presented with his award by Clodagh Trainor and Mairéad Ní Cheallacháin. Mr. Keane then addressed the meeting.

Conclusion

Joe Lyons thanked all delegates for attending and concluded the meeting at 12:40pm.



Minutes of General Meeting September 2022

Date: 11am, Saturday 24th, September 2022.

Venue: Croke Park Hotel.

Present: Uachtarán Mairéad Ní Cheallacháin, Cathaoirleach Joe Lyons, Leas Cathaoirleach Fidelma Sheridan, Leas Rúnaí Mícheál MacThiarnáin, Cisteoir Liam Breathnach, Mini Sevens Officer Bernadette Ryan, PRO John Manley agus Oifigeach Forbartha Gerry O’ Meara.

Delegates from Dublin, Kilkenny, Offaly, Meath, Westmeath, Wexford, Wicklow, Louth, Connacht, Sligo, Down, Fermanagh, Monaghan, Waterford, Munster, Cork, Kerry, Limerick, Ulster, Armagh, Cavan, Donegal.

Apologies: Rúnaí Gary Farrell, Tomás Ó hAiniféin, (Toscaire Don Ard Chomhairle) and Paddy Kelly, (Tipperary).

Welcome/Chairperson’s Address

Joe welcomed delegates and thanked them for attending the first September General Meeting since 2019. A moment’s silence was observed for Br. Colm Moloughney. Bernie also remembered the mother of a Mini-Sevens participant who died recently.

Secretary’s Report

Mícheál (leas-rúnaí) read out the secretary’s report in Gary’s absence. The report highlighted the meetings held this year. Gary thanked counties for their co-operation with the distribution of All-Ireland tickets and Bernie Ryan for co-ordinating the mini-sevens so diligently. The report mentioned the work being carried out by John Manley on Twitter and the new website and by Joe Lyons and Ciaran Crowe on the 50th Anniversary book. He mentioned the email from Cornmarket and said that he hoped that Cormarket will continue to support our Awards event. Gary mentioned our Awards and AGM events for 2023 on the 3rd and 4th March in Letterkenny. Gary finished his report by thanking Mícheál for launching the Awards on his behalf this morning.

Proposed by: Dave Collins (Sciath na Scol)

Seconded by: Br. Dormer (Luimneach)

Finance

Liam gave his presentation which included the new suggested template for county treasurers. This template was distributed to delegates. He informed delegates that the accounts are being certified and he reported a similar turnover to 2019.

31st August is the end of our financial year. Delegates were reminded of this.

Liam highlighted some of the issues around honoraria and advised that these must be de-clared to revenue.

Liam gave a deadline of November 30 for finance reports.

Joe thanked Liam.

Proposed by: Frank Reidy (An Mhí)

Seconded by: David Dillon (Sligeach)

Oifigeach Forbartha

Gerry addressed the meeting to share some of the ideas he has in relation to the role of the development officer.

Handball - many counties are running handball but teachers are not involved, rounders, Young Whistlers, developing ties with London GAA or possibly working with committees and focusing on good practice. He suggested that there may be a survey circulated to county units to assess where the need for support is. Gerry asked delegates for further suggestions:

John Byrne (Meath) asked if the GPOs have come to schools in other counties to promote handball/rounders. Manus O Donnell (Ulster) reported that there is a full-time handball of-ficer in Ulster and he and Pat McGivern (Tyrone) will meet her.

Jim Fennelly (Kilkenny) expressed concern that dates traditionally set aside for Cumann na mBunscol have become crowded with GAA fixtures since Covid.

Nicola Kennedy (Port Láirge) echoed this point, stating that some school games couldn’t be played as clubs were playing/training. Then in July and August, the same children have no games or training.

Jim Dempsey (Loch Garman) suggested delegates sit down with county board/coiste na nóg officers to decide a workable calendar well in advance of games. It was also suggested that these issues be brought to Ard Comhairle (coaching and fixtures).

A point was raised about the content and standard of coaching schools are receiving. The programme of movement and balance is being taught and delegates questioned whether it should be more games-based. Development report proposed by:

Rosena Jordan (An Cabhán)

Seconded by: Jim Dempsey (Loch Garman)

Mini Sevens

Bernie Ryan addressed the meeting:

Cumann na mBunscol are pleased to have retained our place at semi finals and finals.

Bernie thanked Mairéad and Gerry for their help and support this year.

With the condensed season, dates were tight and late submissions caused a lot of problems.

Bernie expressed her thanks to everyone; discussed issues around counties “making promises” to parents/ children; gave the new cut-off date for names/details



Minutes of General Meeting September 2022



(28th April 2023). She noted the difficulties around teacher tickets and the need to collect them. Mini-Sevens Review was mentioned and Bernie suggested that Cumann na mBunscol should display our “brand” on our Mini-Sevens’ correspondence to parents and teachers - let people know who we are. Bernie went on to thank Tadhg Kenny, Michael Smyth, Gerry O’ Meara, Gearóid and Michelle in Croke Park. She acknowledged the work that went into marking the 50th Anni-versary of Cumann na mBunscol on the jerseys’ crests. Next year, forms must be returned on time. Tadhg Kenny raised the issue that the goalie’s position on the field is not ideal and switching goalies is not always an easy task, but he said that it was great having the games at half time. Tony O’ Farrell (Sciath na Scol) expressed his disappointment at the cut to the teachers’ tick-ets, stating that “lack of appreciation for teachers seems to be a recurring theme”. He also asked why, in the absence of full houses (semi- finals) were teachers’ tickets cut. Rosena Jordan paid tribute to Bernie and the work done and echoed the disappointment in cuts to teacher tickets. Dave Collins thanked the officers involved and said “Well done!” David Dillon (Connacht) suggested lobbying to have all exhibition games at half time. John Byrne wondered if age limits for Mini-Sevens were being implemented everywhere. Bernie asked all schools and county committees to take responsibility for this. Joe thanked Bernie for her work and her report. Proposed: Manus O’ Donnell (Dún na nGall) Seconded: Dave Collins (Sciath na Scol)

Rounders Presentation

Fidelma Sheridan gave a comprehensive presentation on behalf of Michael Dowling. She also reported that coaching sessions are available and there is a national (mixed) competi-tion open to all. Delegates were directed to www.gaarounders.ie for more details.

PRO Report

John Manley gave a detailed report of the year’s PR activities. He referred to Cumann na mBunscol Week, highlighting the daily menu of activities available, the videos from adult players from all codes displaying skills and challenges. Michael Murphy’s video had 26,000+ impressions on Twitter. John again stressed the importance of using @AllianzIreland and tagging #AllianzCNMB in all tweets.

John launched the new Cumann na mBunscol Náisiúnta website.

Joe thanked John for all his hard work and reiterated the need for tagging Allianz on Twitter.

Liam Magee suggested that old AGM booklets should be uploaded to the website. John will sort this.

Report proposed by:

Máiréad Ní Cheallacháin (Uachtarán)

Seconded by: Dave Collins (Sciath na Scol)

50th Anniversary Publication

Joe suggested that the book will now be launched near the AGM 2023.

€500 from GAA County Boards is still on the agenda.

Joe stressed that this is the last call for information/ submissions to the book.

AGM

Gary has checked out the hotel in Letterkenny (Mount Errigal Hotel).

AOB

Joe mentioned the correspondence from Orla Casey (Cornmarket) and informed the meeting that he would respond. The Awards for 2023 were officially launched. Micheál Mac Thiarnáin explained the various PR projects and gave delegates a breakdown of grant categories and how grants are distributed. He urged all counties to submit a project to avail of a PR grant. No grants would be issued without PR material.

Provincial delegates were asked to give a brief report of activities in the various provinces. Each province was represented and gave a run-down of activities: there were reports of games streamed online, which was a huge success (Munster), full return to games and a day of games at the Dome in Began (Connacht). Leinster reported a large number of activities and Ulster are back up and running after Covid and eager to host the AGM in Donegal in March 2023.

Pat Trainor Award

Michael O’ Donoghue (Luimneach) – Fidelma Sheridan read the citation and John Manley showed a slideshow of photographs. He will be presented with the award at a later date.

Chairperson Joe Lyons thanked delegates.

The meeting ended at 13:05.



Secretary's Report

I would like to begin my report by thanking the City West Hotel Dublin for their support and efforts in assisting us with our AGM in March 2022.

AGM 2022

After election, Cumann na mBunscol Náisiúnta membership was as follows:

Uachtarán	Mairéad Ní Cheallacháin, Corcaigh
Cathaoirleach	Joe Lyons, Luimneach
Leas-Cathaoirleach	Fedelma Sheridan, Co Cabhán
Rúnaí	Gary Farrell, Ard Mhacha
Leas-Rúnaí	Mícheál Mac Thiarnáin Co Liatroma
Cisteoir	Liam Breathnach, Corcaigh
P.R.O.	John Manley, Tiobraid Arainn
Central Council Delegate	Tomás Ó hÁinfeín, Ciarraí
Development Officer	Gerry O Meara, Baile Átha Cliath
Mini-7's Officer	Bernie Ryan, Sligeach

Motions 2022

The following motions were passed.

1. Motions to the Provincial AGM, which shall be in

the name of a County Coiste and formally adopted at a meeting of that body, must reach the Provincial Secretary not later than three weeks before the AGM. Contae Fear Manach

2. All nominations for positions on the Provincial Committee which shall be in the name of a county Coiste and formally adopted at a meeting of that body, must reach the Provincial Secretary not later than three weeks before the AGM. Contae Fear Manach

3. Copies of the agenda for the Provincial AGM, together with list of motions and nominations for elections to the Provincial committee, shall be circulated to the county Coiste in that province at least 7 days before the AGM. Contae Fear Manach

4. The Provincial Secretary must inform the National Secretary of the venue and date of the Provincial AGM at least three weeks in advance of the meeting. Contae Fear Manach

Allianz Sponsorship

Cumann na mBunscol wish to express our gratitude to Allianz for their continued financial support. Our funding from Allianz depends on Counties using the





Secretary's Report



Allianz Logo and name as well as the specific hashtags when using Twitter. We are constantly looking for new ways to promote and develop this sponsorship. It will be important for all counties to submit their PR projects in January each year so that we can show the excellent work that goes on in every county. It gives us all a great feeling of satisfaction when we hear the name Cumann na mBunscol mentioned in the Allianz Advertisement on our televisions

Awards

I would like to congratulate all the schools and counties that won awards at our Awards ceremony last night. The standard of entries was excellent. I would like to thank our judges, John Boyle, John Hughes and Emma Dineen for their efforts in taking time to meticulously go through each project to ensure fairness and transparency in the process. Cumann na mBunscol will review the award categories and criteria for 2024.

Website

Our new website is up and running and I would like to thank Mr John Manley for his excellent efforts in bringing this to fruition. Any information for inclusion on the website can be submitted directly to the site or to John at duallans@gmail.com.



Our Twitter account also continues to grow. This was evident during our Activity Week in June 2022. John also has a Cumann na mBunscol page in Intouch Magazine every month and is always looking for new material. The profile of our organisation is continually promoted by John and on behalf of Cumann na mBunscol I would like to thank John for all his work.

Cornmarket Insurance

I thank Cornmarket for their continued support and sponsorship. They have also provided sponsorship for our new book. I thank Orla Casey from Cornmarket with whom we have a great relationship. Orla continues to be very supportive of our work.

50th Anniversary Book

I would like to thank Joe Lyons and Ciarán Crowe who continue to work away on the much anticipated book on the History of Cumann na mBunscol. I would like to thank all counties that have engaged with Joe and Ciarán and we look forward the launch of the book later this year.

Child Protection and Garda Vetting

Coiste Náisiúnta would like to remind all units of the importance of these issues. As previously indicated all Cumann na mBunscol Officers should be Garda Vetted. Garda vetting is now a legal requirement and all Cumann na mBunscol units have to comply with the law. The Department of Education and Science have issued a circular on this topic. Please familiarise yourself with this document. The situation is the same in the 6 Northern Counties. ALL PERSONNEL MUST BE VETTED.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I would like to thank our Chairperson, Joe and fellow officers, Mairéad, Tomás, Fidelma, Michéal, Willie, John, Bernie and Gerry for their support, dedication and work ethic. They work incredibly hard to ensure that the work of Cumann na mBunscol Náisiúnta is carried out in a professional and efficient manner.

Finally, I would like to thank all the teachers in every county and province for their tremendous work, time and dedication in promoting Gaelic games and Culture throughout the country and to all the children who continue to be our inspiration.

Gary Farrell Runaí
Secretary's Report



Treasurer's Report (AIB Account)

Cumann na mBunscol (AIB Account) Profit & Loss Account
Year ending 31 August 2022

	12 months to 31-Aug-22 €	12 months to 31-Aug-21 €
Income		
INTO Sponsorship	23,000.00	-
Allianz Sponsorship	65,000.00	65,000.00
Cornmarket Sponsorship	-	-
National Awards Income	616.00	-
GAA Games Development Funding	68,000.00	-
	156,616.00	65,000.00
Expenses		
Allianz PR Grants	18,800.00	18,800.00
Grants to Counties	72,900.00	57,700.00
Handball	998.00	-
National Awards	262.00	-
Insurance Cover	6,120.00	6,089.00
Publications & Website	11,948.00	153.75
Committee Travel	12,676.00	1,852.00
Committee Meals & Accommodation	3,540.00	370.00
Complimentary All Ireland Tickets	2,160.00	1,260.00
AGM	6,035.00	350.00
Accounting	646.00	605.00
Bank Charges	371.00	288.00
Mini Sevens	2,866.00	-
Affiliation fees	600.00	300.00
Sundry Expenses	15.00	-
Blazers/Gear	1,178.00	-
	141,115.00	87,767.75
Excess income over expenditure	15,501	(22,767.75)



Treasurer's Report (AIB Account)



Cumann na mBunscol (AIB Account) Balance Sheet As at 31 August 2022

	2022 €	2021 €
Current Assets		
Debtors	108,000	65,000
Prepayments	-	-
Cash at Bank and in hand	246,278	193,789
	354,278	258,789
Current Liabilities		
Accruals	165,788	85,800
	165,788	85,800
Net Current Assets	188,490	172,989
Capital Account		
Brought Forward	172,989	195,757
Surplus/Deficit for the year	15,501	(22,768)
	188,490	172,989



PRO's Report

The past year has seen the welcome resumption of Allianz Cumann na mBunscol action on the playing fields. We were thrilled to see the return to the playing fields during the summer term of 2022 with our competitions back up and running in all counties. This brought so much joy to so many people and helped us all to remember what we had missed so much during our enforced absence.

In recent months, it was wonderful to see the huge amount of Press and social media coverage given to football finals in the different counties; it was phenomenal. There has also been huge coverage given to handball competitions and indoor competitions all over Ireland during January and February of 2023. We were also delighted to launch our new website at our General Meeting in the Croke Park Hotel on September 24th 2022. It is very user friendly and we hope to attract many visitors to it.

National Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Week was held between June 13th and 17th and it was a phenomenal success once more with record participation levels. There was huge engagement across all counties during this amazing week. We had an amazing response from so many current GAA stars during this week who were only too happy to post daily challenges for the stars of tomorrow.

Work on the history of Cumann na mBunscol book has continued for the last few months. The plan is to publish a special book over the coming months which will reflect on the work of Cumann na mBunscol across the 32 counties during the past fifty years. Two notable Cumann na mBunscol volunteers Joe Lyons and Ciarán Crowe continue to work diligently behind the scenes as they hope to bring yet another exciting project to fruition. We couldn't wish for two better people to lead this project.

Social Media continues to impact the way we market our games. Many schools across Ireland now have their own Twitter accounts which enable them to share news about various Cumann na mBunscol activities and events on a daily basis. Our National Cumann na mBunscol Twitter account @cnambnaisiunta serves as a central platform where news on all the different GAA events taking place in our primary schools can be communicated to and shared with many primary schools all over the country. Good links have been maintained between the different provinces and also between neighbouring counties. Social media allows us to keep an eye on how all our close neighbours operate in their own counties which may ultimately raise standards around the country.

Our national sponsor Allianz continues to provide invaluable financial assistance and it has been very pleasing to see so many of the different Coiste in Ireland tagging @AllianzIreland and tweeting with the hashtag #AllianzCnmb when promoting events. We must continue to do this at every opportunity when our games resume. The use of the word Allianz when writing about Allianz Cumann na mBunscol is vitally important. I would urge each county to ensure that every time Cumann na mBunscol is mentioned, in an email or article, the word Allianz precedes it. We do not want to lose Allianz as our sponsors.



The work being done all over Ireland with regard to Public Relations is very impressive. The county PROs are working diligently to promote the work of Allianz Cumann na mBunscol. They are doing a fantastic job of selling our product to the public. Counties must also continue to promote our games in local newspapers and on local radio at every opportunity when our games resume once more. Most radio stations are only too happy to do features in advance of County Finals. Local radio stations are also happy to attend county finals and to produce shows/features on them following these events.



PRO's Report

I sincerely thank all the Cumann na mBunscol PROs across Ireland who submitted material to local and national media outlets on a regular basis during what was a very busy year once more. I also want to thank them for devoting time and energy into spear-heading their county's PR activities during 2022 and into 2023. We continued to receive great exposure in the different counties' GAA Yearbooks in 2022 which reflects so well on the significant efforts of all our different coistí. National Allianz Cumann na mBunscol is very grateful for all their hard work, time and dedication. At this time, we also remember our departed colleagues who have gone to their eternal rest.



I would like to thank all my fellow officers for the support they have given to me in my role this year. I wish everybody well for the school year ahead. Wishing all schools well in all the different Allianz Cumann na mBunscol activities you're taking part in for the remainder of the school year. Below are some additional highlights the past twelve months.

Ní neart go cur le chéile.
Le meas,
John Manley
Dualla N.S. & PRO National Allianz Cumann na mBunscol

Máiréad O Callaghan - Laoch Sciath na Scol

On June 30th last, Mairéad O'Callaghan completed her last day of teaching in Glenville National School having taught there for 40 years. She was given an emotional send off by the children, staff and parents of Glenville and it was obvious that she was held in the highest esteem by all.

This of course does not tell the whole story of a person who has devoted her time to the playing and promotion of Gaelic Games in Watergrasshill, Glenville, Cork and throughout the country. She was a star camogie player for Watergrasshill GAA and in 1982 was a member of the team that won the All-Ireland Club Championship. It is no surprise that Máiréad had such a strong interest in Gaelic games having come under the early tutelage of the legendary Eamonn Ryan who taught in Watergrasshill NS. Her school, Glenville NS, was one of the first schools to play boys and girls on the same teams, with great success, in an era when it was a boys only domain!

Máiréad immersed herself in the activities of Sciath na Scol and a few short years later took up the role of secretary as the only female officer among all the males. She was and is, an administrator second to none! Sciath na Scol thrived and developed under her stewardship and it is hardly surprising that she has held positions at Provincial and National Cumann na mBunscol level. Currently Máiréad is President of Cumann na mBunscol Náisiúnta. Here's to many more fruitful years; retired but not gone! Beir Bua.

National Allianz Cumann Na Mbunscol Week June 2022

National Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Week took place from June 13th – 17th. We had a massive response across the whole country with hundreds of schools participating in a hugely successful week. Daily activities were set in hurling, camogie, gaelic football, handball and rounders by some prominent inter county stars such as Donegal's 2012 All Ireland Senior Football winning captain Michael Murphy, Dublin Footballers Dean Rock and Ciarán Kilkenny, Kilkenny's All Star Hurling goalie Eoin Murphy, Armagh GAA's Ryan Gaffney, Cork's All Ireland Handball champion Catriona Casey, Limerick Footballer Peter Nash, Wexford's nine time All Ireland Senior Rounders Medal winner Kate O'Reilly, Sligo footballers Jackie Mulligan, Katie Walsh & Joshua Flynn, Roscommon Footballer Jenny Higgins, Leitrim star Ryan O'Rourke, Tipp hurlers John McGrath & Paddy Stapleton along with former Tipperary senior hurling captain Shane McGrath. There was huge engagement on social media with these daily activities. Michael Murphy's video received almost 26000 impressions on Twitter. Our menu of activities proved very popular with schools participating in skills challenges, recreating famous match scenes, interviews with teachers, art competitions, jersey days and much more. The week was an incredible success and we cannot wait to do it all over again next year!



Development Report

The past year saw a full return to Cumann na mBunscol activities in all 32 counties and in the four provincial units. This was a welcome change from the previous two years of uncertainty and interrupted games promotion. Well done to all the counties in each of the units for their hard work in promoting Gaelic Games as the game of choice in their school, county and province. The role of Development Officer at National level is to help in the promotion and the expansion of all activities associated with Gaelic Games in primary school. In many cases, the officers are well on top of all that needs to be done, however the National Committee and myself, as Development Officer, are always on hand to help with advice, encouragement and ideas if needed. We learn from each other all the time. There are excellent promotions taking place in each county from handball to refereeing courses, blitzes, quiz, Scór activities as well as the promotion of hurling, football, girls' football and camogie. Social Media, in particular Twitter, have opened our eyes to what is happening in the Cumann na mBunscol schools in every county. Please contact me at omeag60@gmail.com or 087 7921409 if I can help you in any way over the coming year.

Here are some updates on this year to date:

Liathróid Láimhe

This year our National Day takes place on February 18th. The provincial days have just finished up, as I write on February 5th. This year saw more schools and counties than ever participating in the handball days. Well done to all involved and a big Thank You to the coordinators in each of the four provincial units. Handball has definitely made a resurgence in the past year. There is plenty more to do and we hope to run a workshop at some stage next year for the counties who would like to start promoting this game.

Rounders

Another of the Gaelic Games family of activities. Many units have started to develop the game at a county level and a number have plans to have inter county fun days. We hope to explore the idea of a 'Rounders Day' in each of the provincial Cumann na mBunscol units over the next year or so.

Young Whistlers

This programme, encouraging young referees, is very strong in a number of counties. This project will be supported in any county that wishes to develop training for young referees in the coming year. Please get in

touch. We use these referees in our mini games and during the Mini Sevens in Croke Park at All Ireland Semi Final and Final day.

Tráth na gCeist

I have spoken to a number of Cumann na mBunscol secretaries who run a quiz in their respective counties. This is an area we could develop further over the next few years and have perhaps a National Cumann na mBunscol Quiz. Please let me know if you would be interested in helping with such a venture.

Provincial Committees

All four Cumann na mBunscol Provincial committees are up and running. The work at provincial level with mini games returned again and games took place in all four provinces during the provincial championships. Some of the provinces have organised other blitz days such as girls' football, indoor football, camogie, Lift & Strike, etc. As already stated, the provincial units played a huge part in the promotion of handball this year.

Cornmarket Awards

The quality of entries this year was of a very high standard. There are still a number of county units that do not enter. I would like to meet with these counties to discuss how might help at National level to promote these awards in each and every county. The School of the Year award is a huge honour for any school or county to win. This category could be promoted better, I feel, with encouragement and advice from officers. I am willing to help in any way I can.

Cumann na mBunscol Week

This week of activities has gone from strength to strength. Well done to John Manley P.R.O. for spearheading this great development. It has a huge impact in schools throughout the country and the publicity garnered for Cumann na mBunscol has been extraordinary. I would encourage all counties and schools to engage with the week in 2023.

Social Media

Our presence in social media has really progressed to a high level. Twitter is full most days of Cumann na mBunscol activities in the schools. If your county has not been involved, please get in touch and we can put you in contact with counties that are doing great work on this platform. Publicity of our games is good for promotion and sponsorship.



Development Report

Website

The development of our new National website this year was very welcome by all counties. The site is updated regularly and a great source of information for teachers and pupils alike. John Manley, again, spearheaded this project with help from members of our committee.

Mini Sevens

The Mini Sevens has always been our flagship development at National level. Once again this year was no exception. Well done to National Coordinator, Bernie Ryan, for her dedication and hard work in relation to all this. We look forward to a successful 2023 Mini Sevens in July.

London

For many years London schools had affiliated to Cumann na mBunscol. This has fallen away over the past few years. We need to work at getting the relationship built up again. If any of you have contact with teacher in London schools who are, or wish to start, promoting Gaelic Games, you might let us know.

Sponsorship

This is the life blood of any voluntary organization. We are lucky to have Allianz as our major sponsor.

Sponsorship is difficult to come by in a trying time for many businesses. We must do our utmost to keep this sponsorship by promoting the Allianz brand whenever we can, whether online or in the other media outlets. Games development in our schools depends on the money coming in from our sponsors. I acknowledge also the generous sponsorship of Cornmarket towards our National Awards.

Survey

Apologies for the delay with this project. We hope to survey all counties soon in relation to activities, numbers, successes, issues in promoting Gaelic games. This will take the form of an online survey through Google Forms. I will keep you posted.

Thank you to all county officers for their help and support this year and a special word of thanks to my colleagues on National Committee for their hard work and support in developing Gaelic Games across the 32 counties.

Le meas,
Gerry O' Meara
Development Officer
Cumann na mBunscol Náisiúnta





Mini 7's Report

In life we can sometimes take things for granted. For years we celebrated and participated in Gaelic Games in our primary schools. The games were embedded in our annual school calendar and win, lose or draw they were something to look forward and plan for. Likewise, our INTO Mini 7's. Our small-sided, national competition has been a great part of our schools and games calendar. It is rare to have a competition that encourages all schools, no matter what size, to participate equally in. For the lucky schools, winning the County Mini 7's competition can be a historic event and the excitement of the school being represented in Croke Park during All Ireland semi-finals and finals is a huge honour for the school. What a shock Covid 19 gave us all – not only was our freedom to move about taken away but the joy of games in our schools was also taken away by this virus. A trip to visit Croke Park was more likely to be for a vaccine!

When we were given the green light to resume sports in our schools, there was delight and hope of a more normal school life. It was then fantastic when I got the word from Gearóid Ó Maoilmhichíl that the GAA INTO Mini 7's would go ahead in the same format, with the same numbers, as it did before Covid19. To then receive confirmation from Deirdre O' Connor in INTO Head Office that sponsorship would resume, we knew we could get back to games in our schools. Last year was a short year for the Mini 7's competition. Rather than having two terms to plan for the games, we had approximately 2 months.

Great tribute must be paid to county committees throughout the country who worked hard to get the Mini 7's games up and running. Well done to all the schools who braved training, coaching, games and buses to allow the children the opportunity to participate in games. Things that were so common place before Covid19 were now more than a little challenge. What a sign of the commitment our teachers have to promoting Gaelic Games in our schools!

I received the first completed Excel document on 20th April. Despite having been involved in Mini 7's games for years, nothing prepares you for the responsibility of minding these precious names which appear on the Excel document. In schools, we are used to collecting and monitoring data. However, this precious data is the Golden Ticket for so many pupils. I will admit I had the data saved many times to make sure I didn't manage to lose any name. The expectation to ensure those children get to Croke Park is all consuming until the Football Final is complete.

I want to thank all the county secretaries for collecting the data for the Excel document. I would also like to thank the counties for completing the games to ensure we have children to represent us. For the 2023 school year, county secretaries are asked to return a hurling and football Excel document. There are some changes on the Excel document to reflect challenges we had last year. I would ask all secretaries to have the documents returned by April 27th 2023. Late arrivals delay the allocation of all places and are frustrating for other counties.



I would also like to remind committees of the following:

- Please adhere to the allocation of places that was given out at the September meeting and emailed to counties following the September meeting.
- Please include any provincial allocation on the Excel sheet. I would ask provincial secretaries to inform me of the counties getting extra places.
- Young Whistlers should be included on the Excel documents.
- Age limits should be adhered to in all counties.
- Please check that the emails and phone numbers provided are correct.
- Please remember I cannot magic extra places for All-Ireland Finals. Don't make promises to families that I can't follow through on!!

The children who are selected for these exhibition games have the most fantastic day. This year the children were playing at half-time in the games and what a huge honour it was for them to play in front of a full stadium. From our early morning meeting, to getting their kit, getting photographs taken on pitch, enjoying lunch with new friends and lastly walking out on to



Mini 7's Report

the green, grass of Croke Park! A lifetime of memories! There is huge collaboration to enable the children and their families have a great experience. I would like to thank Gearóid and Michelle in Croke Park for all their work with me during the year. They were patient and understanding over the many changes and challenges that occurred during the season. I would like to wish Gearóid health and happiness for his retirement and congratulate Michelle on her new role.

I would like to thank Uachtaran CLG Larry McCarthy, John Murphy, Michael Naughton and Hilda Breslin for joining us and making the day even more special for the children. My thanks also to John Boyle, John Driscoll and Joe McKeon (INTO) for attending our days – welcoming parents and children, making speeches and committing to the support of Gaelic Games in Primary schools.

I would also like to thank Gerry O' Meara, Michael Smyth and the Dublin teachers who work so hard on these days to make sure everything runs smoothly. Mile buíochas to the catering staff in Croke Park, Handball Centre and the Barbara Ward for ensuring that the children and their families are catered for on the day.

Lastly, I would like to our Uachtarán, Mairead O Callaghan for all her help in the planning and organising of the Mini 7's this year. Her help was invaluable. Thanks to Gerry for sharing his knowledge and work as Mini 7's co-ordinator which made my planning much easier. Mile buíochas to my fellow officers who came to support the games on each of the days.



Following the AGM, we hope to have our review of Mini 7's. A subcommittee with representatives of National Committee and Provincial Officers will review the current guidelines. The findings will be presented at the September meeting for discussion. In keeping with our



Constitution, the proposed changes will be voted on at AGM , and if successful come into effect the following year.

The GAA INTO Mini 7's is one of the most unique and rewarding primary school sporting ventures in the country and probably beyond. It represents a unique collaboration between GAA, teachers, the INTO and children. Placing our schools on the centre stage during the most exciting annual sporting event in our country helps us all to keep Gaelic Games to the fore in our schools. It is hugely appreciated by the children involved, their parents and families, their teachers and school communities, the local and county GAA clubs and lastly by me!

Bernadette Ryan
National Mini 7's Co-ordinator

All Ireland Dates 2023

Iomáint	Peil
Semi finals - 8th & 9th July	Semi Finals - 15th & 16th July
Final - 23rd July	Final - 30th July



Nominations for National Committee AGM 2023

Uachtarán

Maireád Ní Cheallacháin (Corcaigh)

Cathaoirleach

Joe Lyons (Luimneach)

Leas- Cathaoirleach

Fidelma Sheridan (An Chabhán)

Runaí

Gary Farrell (Ard Mhacha)

Leas Runaí

Michéal Mac Thiarnáin (Liatroim)

Cisteoir

Liam Breathnach (Corcaigh)

Oifigeach Caidreamh Poiblí

John Manley (Tiobraid Árann)

Toscaire Ard Comhairle

Tomás Ó hAiniféin (Ciarraí)

Oifigeach Forbartha

Gerry O Meara (Baile Átha Cliath)

Oifigeach Mini 7's

Bernie Ryan (Sligeach)





Motions 2023

Motion 1

Cumann na mBunscol Luimnigh condemns the decision of Cumann Luthchleas Gael to reduce by 50% the ticket allocation to teachers whose school is represented in the INTO GAA Mini Sevens on the days of the All-Ireland semi-finals and finals.

Cumann na mBunscol Luimnigh calls on an Coiste Naisiúnta to seek a reversal of this decision before the commencement of the 2023 Mini Sevens series. (Luimneach)

Motion 2

Should a child be chosen to play in the Mini 7's in Croke Park, 2 tickets should be allocated to the relevant teacher and sent directly to the teacher before match day. (Corcaigh)



Motion 3

Coiste na Mumhan are requesting that two tickets be given to teachers when a child from their school is involved in the mini-7's (as was the case previously). (Coiste na Mumhan)

Motion 4

Cumann na mBunscol will adopt the following policy on establishing positive club/ school links. The policy will be published on the website of Cumann na mBunscol and communicated to all Coistí before the end of June 2023. (Luimneach)

1. Step 1

Club Chairman contacts the Principal of school(s) in the club's catchment area to arrange a meeting to discuss club/school link for the next school year. This contact to be made in mid to late August

2. Step 2

A meeting takes place, usually in the school, between the Club Chairman and the school Principal.

The aim of this meeting is to clarify

- (a) Does the school want a person to act as a club / school liaison? If so, identify a suitable person to act in this role.
- (b) Identify the needs of the school in the promotion of Gaelic Games for the year ahead
- (c) Clarify how the club can help to meet these needs

3. Step 3

The following conditions are fully understood.

Any person acting as club/school liaison must be Garda Vetted or PSNI vetted. This person will make an appointment when he or she intends to visit the school.

If coaching is identified as an area where the school needs assistance, the liaison person and school will agree on the choice of coach.

Areas to be clarified:

If the school is a mixed school, boys and girls are treated equally.

The coach signs the visitors' book on arrival and departure.

For insurance purposes, a teacher must be present for all coaching sessions.

A timetable is agreed and adhered to. This may be from term to term or for the full school year.

The coach shall familiarise himself/herself with the school's Code of Behaviour before taking up duty.

If a disciplinary issue arises, the coach shall refer the matter to the class teacher.

Confidentiality is non-negotiable.



Motions 2023

Priorities: Coaching may not be the only requirement. Access to the club pitch(es) may be a priority identified. In such cases, the following need to be agreed. This list is not exhaustive.

Who will open the pitch if required for school training or matches?

Will there be portable (juvenile) posts? Who will put them up? Who will take them down?

Who will the school contact for access to club grounds? Club school liaison? Groundsman?

Other areas where the school may need assistance are: equipment, transport to matches, cost of transport to matches etc

4. Final Step

The school Principal and Club Chairman will meet at the end of each school year, usually in late June or early July and review the year to identify successes or shortcomings.

Both parties will seek to agree on what can be done to

improve in the future,

5. Games Manager

The Games Manager in each county shall have a list of all club/school link officers.

Games Manager shall meet Principal / Teacher with responsibility for Gaelic Games before the end of each school year to evaluate the success of the club/school link.

The Games Manager shall collate list of the main issues highlighted in schools in the county in the area of promoting Gaelic games e.g. coaching, finance etc

6. What can the school do for the club?

The school can promote club activities such as registration evenings,

The school can invite club personnel to medal presentations etc.

Successful club teams may visit the school by appointment.

The school may arrange Colours Day, bunting etc when the club is in a county final etc.





Pat Trainor Award

Michael O' Donoghue, former Principal of Courtenay BNS in Newcastle West, was honoured at a dinner in the town in November 2022 when he received the Pat Trainor Award for Lifetime contribution to Gaelic Games in primary schools. Michael was presented with his award by Mairéad O'Callaghan, Uachtarán of Cumann na mBunscol. Mairéad paid tribute to Michael for his work in several roles over many years. She noted that Michael's involvement in Cumann na mBunscol spanned almost four decades and that his contribution to the development of Cumann na mBunscol was immense.

Michael's record as a Cumann na mBunscol activist included the following:

Michael was centrally involved in establishing Cumann na mBunscol in West Limerick in 1974 with the help of Liam Lenihan (Glengurt NS), who went on to become Chairman of Limerick and Munster GAA, Larry Begley (Mountcollins NS) and the late Noel Liston (St Joseph's BNS, Rathkeale) who served as Chairman for over thirty years. Michael was a founder member of the Board and was elected Rúnaí two years later. West Limerick is a vast rural area stretching from the outskirts of Limerick City to the County Kerry border on one side and to the Cork border on the other. It also includes large centres of population in Newcastle West, Abbeyfeale and Adare.

Michael served as Secretary and Treasurer of Cumann na mBunscol West Limerick from 1976 -2007. There are more than forty schools participating in the Cumann na mBunscol West Limerick competitions, which include football for boys and girls, hurling, camogie, I.N.T.O. / G.A.A. mini games and handball.

Joe Lyons, Cathoirleach of Cumann na mBunscol, said that Michael was an unsung hero who did a huge amount of work promoting Gaelic Games in primary schools. As Rúnaí of the West Primary Schools Board, he was responsible for the purchase and distribution of subsidised equipment, i.e., hurleys, helmets, footballs, and hurling balls, for the school in the West Limerick. Michael also organised handball in West Limerick in conjunction with Limerick Handball Board.

As well as his role in West Limerick, Michael served as Secretary of Cumann na mBunscol, Condae Luimnigh from 1989 to 2011, a period of twenty two years unbroken service.

Michael was the first Secretary of Cumann na mBunscol na Mumhan. He served in this role for the first three years of the Coiste's existence from 1990 to 1993, with Donal Whooley (Cork) as Chairman and Brother Anselm



Barrett (Waterford) as Treasurer.

Michael was a Limerick delegate to Cumann na mBunscol na Mumhan meetings for many years. He was also delegate to Cumann na mBunscol Naisiúnta meetings. Michael was Cumann na mBunscol delegate to Limerick County Board meetings and Limerick Coaching and Games meetings.

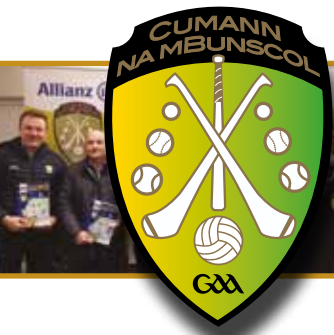
Michael was involved in the first coaching scheme where coaches went into primary schools to coach Gaelic games, and this scheme continues today and has proved to be an outstanding success.

It must be remembered that Michael was secretary to the above organisation and committees long before the days of notifying people by e-mail, text, Twitter, or other social media.

Michael's wife, Peig, was a great support to him in the organisation of meetings, securing the services of referees, booking playing fields as well as notifying schools of upcoming fixtures.

Speaking after accepting the award, Michael said that he would dedicate the award to the memory of the late Noel Liston, who was the first Chairman of West Limerick Primary Schools Board in 1974 and continued in that role for over thirty years. Noel, who taught in St Joseph's BNS, Rathkeale, was 'Mr West Limerick' and Michael said that his love of Gaelic Games benefitted generations of children in Limerick.

Paul Kennedy, the only other Limerick-based teacher to win this coveted award, was a guest at the presentation.



An Coiste Náisiúnta Constitution

Cumann na mBunscol is an autonomous National Federation of Primary School Teachers promoting Gaelic Games in an educational context, having affiliated to it County and Provincial Primary Schools Committees. The philosophy of Cumann na mBunscol shall be to promote Gaelic games in an atmosphere of fun and enjoyment and to make Gaelic Games the games of choice in our Primary Schools

- A** This Federation shall be known as “Cumann na mBunscol”. The National logo of “Cumann na mBunscol” shall be The “Cumann na mBunscol” logo”.

All business pertaining to “Cumann na mBunscol” shall be carried out under this name and/or under the “Cumann na mBunscol” “logo”.

- B** Schools with GAA affiliations in other countries may be accepted as associate members on application to the National Committee and subsequent approval.

- C** The aims and objectives of “Cumann na mBunscol” shall be:

(1) To promote and foster our national games, Boys’ Football, Girls’ Football; Hurling; Camogie; Handball and Rounders, Athletics and cultural activities in all the Primary Schools of Ireland and other affiliated areas, in line with National Policy of Cumann na mBunscol and Cumann Lúthchleas Gael.

(2) To promote and foster a positive attitude towards our national games among teachers, pupils, parents and all involved in the promotion of Gaelic Games in the primary education system.

(3) To promote Gaelic Games in an atmosphere of fun and enjoyment and to make Gaelic Games

the games of choice in our primary schools whilst emphasising participation for all.

- C** The function of “Cumann na mBunscol” shall be:

(1) To provide a means for the expression of the collective opinion of its members on matters affecting the interests of Gaelic Games in the Primary Schools of Ireland and other affiliated areas. To this end Cumann na mBunscol shall endeavour to align ourselves to Cumann Luthchleas Gael, its policies and national programmes.

(2) To provide a means whereby talks and negotiations can take place with the relevant Departments of Education and other bodies to promote the aims and interests of “Cumann na mBunscol”.

(3) To establish and administer funds for the general administration of the organisation under the aegis of the GAA and provide financial assistance to affiliated areas by:

- Preparing and submitting an annual budget.
- Raising sponsorship and other finances nationally to help with the overall promotion of the games.
- Using the Cumann na mBunscol logo in franchising arrangements with business and industry to help raise funds.

(4) To provide advice to members on the best ways of promoting Gaelic Games in Primary Schools.

(5) To endeavour to raise standards in all affiliated areas by

- Coaching
- Seminars
- Publications.

(6) To identify weaknesses with the co-operation of County Coisti, Provincial Councils and other relevant bodies and endeavour to rectify them.

(7) (a) To organise and administer a National Skills Programme (Mini-Sevens) in Boys’ and Girls’ Football, Hurling and Camogie, culminating



An Coiste Náisiúnta Constitution



- C** in Croke Park on All-Ireland Semi-Final and Final days.

(b) To organise a National Skills programme in individual schools in Hurling and Camogie.

(8) To organise and administer National Handball skills programmes, culminating in a National Handball Skills Exhibition in a suitable venue.

(9) To operate and maintain an insurance policy so that cover can be provided for officers and members of committees of “Cumann na mBunscol” while organising and promoting the games/activities.

- D** The philosophy of “Cumann na mBunscol” shall be:

To promote Gaelic Games in an atmosphere of fun and enjoyment and to make Gaelic Games the games of choice in our primary schools.

- E** Constitution: “Cumann na mBunscol” shall be constituted as follows:

- (1) Annual General Meeting
- (2) General Meeting
- (3) Special General Meeting, if required
- (4) National Committee
- (5) Provincial Councils
- (6) County Schools Committees
- (7) Associate Members
- (8) Members

* Annual General Meeting

- (a) The A.G.M. shall be the supreme governing body of the organisation but shall not be involved in the running of local units.
- (b) The AGM shall be held in the month of February or March at a suitable venue chosen by the National Officers.
- (c) The AGM shall consist of
 - (1) The National Officers
 - (2) Two delegates from each county
 - (3) Two delegates from each Provincial Council
 - (4) Two delegates from each affiliated area

- (d) The hosting of the AGM shall rotate between the four provinces.

The Business of the AGM shall be:

- (1) Welcoming of Delegates
- (2) Minutes
- (3) Matters arising from Minutes
- (4) Correspondence
- (5) Address of Chairperson
- (6) Secretary’s Report
- (7) Treasurers’ Report
- (8) Other Reports as necessary
- (9) Elections
 - President.
 - Chairman.
 - Vice-Chairman.
 - Secretary.
 - Assistant Secretary
 - Treasurer.
 - P.R.O.
 - Development Officer.
 - Delegate to Central Council.
 - GAA/INTO Mini 7’s Co-ordinator
 - (a) Provincial Delegate Leinster.
 - (b) Provincial Delegate Ulster
 - (c) Provincial Delegate Munster.
 - (d) Provincial Delegate Connaught.
- (10) Motions
- (11) Addresses of invited Speakers
- (12) Any Other Notified Business (In writing/email and to be with the National Secretary two weeks before the AGM)

N.B. In the event of a Province not being represented on An Coiste Náisiúnta a provincial delegate can be elected at the AGM.

N.B. Every third year the Annual General Meeting will consider a review presented to it by a sub-committee of Cumann na mBunscol on the organisation of the ‘Mini-Sevens’. Proposed changes will be voted in and if successful, will come into effect for the following years ‘Mini-Sevens’.



An Coiste Náisiúnta Constitution

*Special General Meeting

1. A special General Meeting may be called by An Coiste Náisiúnta or by the special written request of 12 or more County/Provincial Coisti stating the reason for such a meeting.
2. (a) On the receipt of 12 or more written requests for a Special General Meeting, the National Secretary must inform the Chairman who will call a meeting within 14 days.
(b) An Coiste Náisiúnta must also give 14 days written notice of the Special General Meeting.
3. The Special General Meeting shall consist of
 - (a) The Officers of Cumann na mBunscol
 - (b) Two delegates from each affiliated County
 - (c) Two delegates from each Provincial Council.
 - (d) Two delegates from each affiliated area (non-voting).
4. Business of Special General Meeting.

The only business that will be discussed at the meeting is the business requested as the reason for calling the meeting.

* Officers and National Committee

1. All members of the National Committee shall be elected annually at the AGM. All officers may hold office for a maximum period of five years.
2. All members of the National Committee are limited to two consecutive maximum terms of office, but not in the same office.

A member may however seek office again after a minimum of one year's break.
3. The National Committee shall carry out the business of Cumann na mBunscol between Annual General Meetings. They shall meet regularly and attend to all current business.
4. The National Committee may appoint sub-committees as required to assist them with a current task or problem.

5. The National Committee may accept units from other countries on approval of application for associate membership of Cumann na mBunscol.
6. The Cathaoirleach shall see that the rules of the organisation are enforced sensibly and fairly on all occasions.
7. In an event of the enforced absence of the Cathaoirleach, the Leas-Chathaoirleach shall preside over the meetings and act in all cases as Cathaoirleach.
8. All sub-committees set up by the National Committee will be chaired by another member other than the Cathaoirleach and Leas-Chathaoirleach.
9. The Assistant Secretary shall minute all meetings and ensure that a copy of the minutes be available for the next meeting.
10. All routine correspondence with affiliated areas shall be done by the Secretary.
11. All correspondence with the GAA, State Departments and Public Bodies shall be carried out by the Secretary in consultation with the other bodies.
12. (a) The National Treasurer shall be responsible for verification of all expenses

(b) The Treasurer, in conjunction with Accounts Department Croke Park shall be responsible for
 - (i) The maintenance of proper financial records.
 - (ii) An annual audit of the accounts.
 - (iii) Presentation of accounts to the Annual General Meeting.
13. The PRO shall in consultation with the other officers:
 - (a) Take every available opportunity to publicise the work of Cumann na mBunscol and to ensure that Gaelic games are promoted as the games of choice in our primary schools.



An Coiste Náisiúnta Constitution



- (b) Ensure that the 'Aims and Objectives' of Cumann na mBunscol be protected and advanced in dealing with outside agencies.
- (c) Prepare all National Press Releases on behalf of An Coiste Naisiunta, Cumann na mBunscol.
- 14.** The Development Officer shall in consultation with the other officers:
- (a) Endeavour to raise standards in all counties by holding seminars, coaching courses, issue publications and liaise with relevant bodies in pursuit of this objective.
- (b) Identify weaknesses and with the help of County Coisti, Provincial Councils and other relevant bodies seek to rectify them.
- 15.** The delegate to Central Council will in consultation with the other officers promote the interests of Cumann na mBunscol at Central Council and endeavour to promote Primary School games at all times.
- 16.** The remaining members of the National Committee shall be the President, Assistant Secretary and if necessary Provincial delegates.
- 17.** A Provincial Delegate will be a full member of the National Committee with full voting rights.
- Provincial Councils**
- 1.** Provincial Councils shall be properly constituted under the aims and objectives of "Cumann na mBunscol".
 - 2.** An Annual General Meeting of each Provincial Council will be held annually. This AGM is to be attended by the President of Cumann na mBunscol or his/her nominee from An Coiste Náisiúnta.
 - 3.** The Provincial Secretary must inform the National Secretary of the venue and date of the Provincial AGM.
 - 4.** Provincial Councils shall meet at least three times annually.
(b) The Provincial AGM is to be held before the National AGM.
 - 4.** Those entitled to vote at this meeting shall be the elected provincial officers and two delegates from each county.
 - 5.** Those entitled to speak at this meeting shall be the elected officers and either of the two delegates from each county.
 - 6.** Invited guests may speak at the invitation of the Provincial Council.
 - 7.** Delegates must attend a minimum of two out of three meetings.
 - 8.** At this meeting the delegates will elect officers and a committee to run the affairs of the Provincial Council between Provincial Annual General Meetings.
 - 9.** The Minutes of the Provincial AGM must be sent to the National Secretary within a month of the Provincial AGM.
 - 10.** The annual financial statement must be sent to the National Treasurer within a month of the Provincial AGM.
 - 11.** Failure to send either the minutes or annual financial statement within a month of the Provincial AGM shall result in sanctions.
 - 12.** This committee shall promote the aims of Cumann na mBunscol and endeavour to raise the standards of Gaelic Games within the Province.
 - 13.** Each Provincial Council will liaise with An Coiste Naisiunta and the Provincial Councils of the GAA and other relevant bodies and endeavour to generate funds for the promotion and development of Cumann na mBunscol activities in that Province.
 - 14.** Two delegates from each Provincial Council will attend the Annual General Meeting and Special Meetings of Cumann na mBunscol.



An Coiste Náisiúnta Constitution

15. An annual written report shall be presented to An Coiste Náisiúnta.
16. (a) The Provincial Treasurer shall be responsible for verification of all expenses
(b) The Treasurer, shall be responsible for
 - (i) The maintenance of proper financial records.
 - (ii) An annual audit of the accounts.
 - (iii) Presentation of accounts to the Annual General Meeting.
17. Each Provincial Committee will notify and invite a delegate from An Coiste Náisiúnta to the Provincial AGM, in the absence of the National President.
18. Provincial status is to be granted to GB.
19. Motions to the Provincial AGM, which shall be in the name of a County Coiste and formally adopted at a meeting of that body, must reach the Provincial Secretary not later than three weeks before the AGM.
20. All nominations for positions on the Provincial Committee which shall be in the name of a county Coiste and formally adopted at a meeting of that body, must reach the Provincial Secretary not later than three weeks before the AGM.
21. Copies of the agenda for the Provincial AGM together with list of motions and nominations for elections to the Provincial committee shall be circulated to the county Coiste in that province at least 7 days before the AGM.
22. The provincial secretary must inform the National Secretary of the venue and date of the Provincial AGM at least three weeks in advance of the meeting.
2. The Cathaoirleach shall preside over all meetings and shall see that the rules of the organisation be enforced sensibly and fairly on all occasions.
3. Motions to the Annual General Meeting, which shall be in the name of County Coistí, Provincial Council or An Coiste Náisiúnta and formally adopted at a meeting of that body, must reach the National Secretary not later than four weeks before the AGM.
4. All nominations for positions on the National Committee which shall be in the name of an affiliated area or Provincial Council and formally adopted at a meeting of that body, must reach the National Secretary not later than three weeks before the AGM.
5. Copies of the agenda for the AGM together with list of motions and nominations for elections to National Committee shall be circulated to all affiliated areas and Provincial Councils at least 7 days before the AGM.
6. Amendments and agenda will be with the National Secretary in writing in the name of an affiliated area or Provincial Council at least one hour before the AGM.
7. Contrary motions shall not be accepted.
8. All motions must be clear and unambiguous and must not conflict with the aims and objectives of Cumann na mBunscol.
9. (a) To be deemed in order a motion must be implementable and must be specific to Cumann na mBunscol.
(b) However motions may call on Cumann na mBunscol to negotiate with relevant bodies on a specific matter that is of interest to Cumann na mBunscol.
10. The mover of a proposal shall speak for not more than two minutes.
11. The seconder of a proposal shall speak for no more than two minutes.

Standing Orders

1. A Standing Orders sub-committee comprising of the Provincial Chairmen or Secretaries or their nominee shall consider all motions and nominations and decide if they are in order and acceptable for presentation at the AGM.



An Coiste Náisiúnta Constitution



12. No motion shall be discussed for more than 20 minutes. The motion must be disposed of when the 20 minutes have elapsed. No speaker shall speak for more than two minutes.
 13. Each delegate shall register and each speaker shall identify themselves, name and unit.
 14. The mover shall have the right of reply in all cases. 2 minutes maximum.
 15. Voting shall be by a show of hands on all motions. A simple majority shall ensure the adoption of any item. Where rule changes are proposed, a two thirds majority shall be necessary in every instance to ensure their adoption.
 16. The usual method for the disposal of amendments and agenda shall be followed.
 17. In the event of the proposition "That the question be put", and that this proposition be seconded, the presiding Cathaoirleach shall on a show of hands either continue the debate or 'Put the question'.
 18. In the event of the proposition "That the AGM, move to next business" and that this proposition be seconded, the presiding Cathaoirleach shall put the proposition to a vote immediately. If defeated the debate shall be resumed.
 19. If a position on the National Committee be contested, voting shall be by secret ballot. A successful candidate must have 50% + 1 of the valid votes cast by delegates present and voting at the AGM. In the event of a tie, the winning candidate will be drawn by lot.
 20. The Cathaoirleach may at his/her discretion ask if there is no obvious objection to a motion that the motion be put in order, to save time.
 21. The Cathaoirleach may at his/her discretion and in consultation with order officers change the order of business in the interest of efficiency.
 22. The order of business may also be changed at the request of a majority of delegates present and voting.
 23. Only properly constituted delegates may speak at the AGM.
 24. Other speakers may only address the AGM when prior arrangements are made through the National Committee.
- * Grievances and Complaints in all matters**
1. Grievances and complaints in regard of matters within an area will be settled within that area.
 2. Each County will have a constitutionally elected Coiste Gearán to deal with appeals arising from decisions of the County Coiste.
 3. Complaints, Objections and Counter Objections:
Any complaints or objections must be lodged with the Runaí Chontae in writing within 3 days of the game. The Runaí informs the other party who also has 3 days to respond in writing.

The matter can then be dealt with by the Coiste Chontae. The decision will then be conveyed to both parties. Any party dissatisfied with the decision of the Coiste may appeal in writing to the Runaí Chontae Cumann na mBunscol within 3 days. This appeal will be heard by the Coiste Gearán.
 4. Coiste Gearán:
This is an appeals body.

A minimum of 5 are elected to this committee at the A.G.M. No member of the Officer Board of Coiste Chontae, Cumann na mBunscol or anybody who has heard the original objection may sit on An Coiste Gearán. No member of the Coiste Gearán may consider any appeal involving their own school. The Coiste Gearán may call all interested parties. A quorum of 3 is necessary to hear all appeals. The decision of the Coiste Gearán is final and binding.



An Coiste Náisiúnta Constitution

(a) Grievances, complaints and objections dealing with issues outside County Jurisdiction will be dealt with by the National Committee and that decision will be final.

5. Sanctions will be taken against any Coiste, National, Provincial or County or any member for the following reasons:
- bringing the organisation into disrepute, or
 - failure to implement National Policy.

* Sanctions

1. Misuse of organisational funds. Automatic Disassociation.
2. Conduct unbecoming a member of 'Cumann na mBunscol'. Automatic Disassociation.
3. Failure of a County to furnish a statement of accounts. Withholding of grants and tickets.
4. Failure of a County to furnish a secretary's report. Withholding of grants and tickets.
5. Failure to hold an A.G.M. plus relevant meetings and two additional meetings. Withholding of all monies and tickets due to that County / Provincial Coiste.
6. Failure of County / Provincial units to honour obligations to sponsorship agreements. Withholding of sponsorship monies.
7. Failure to comply with/implement the Constitution. Withholding of grants and other benefits.
8. Failure to comply with/implement National Policy. Withholding of grants and other benefits.





Insurance Certificate



Allianz 

Cumann na mBunscol
Corrin Na Coille
Drumaweel
Drumcong
Co. Leitrim
N41 PX39

1st February 2023

For the attention of: Gary Farrell

Insured Name: Members ftb, Cumann na mBunscol
Policy Number: DN RPL 6707271

Dear Gary,

I confirm a Summary of your Cover is:
Allianz p.l.c. will indemnify Cumann na mBunscol in respect of all sums which they shall become legally liable to pay for damages arising out of accidental

- (a) Bodily Injury to any person
 - (b) Nuisance
 - (c) Loss of or damage to material property
- occurring during the Period of Insurance and arising out of and in the course of all Cumann na mBunscol activities.

The limit of indemnity is €6,500,000 (£5,000,000) any one Event.

Cover is subject always to the terms Definitions Extensions Exclusions Conditions limitations and any Endorsements of the Policy currently in force issued by Allianz p.l.c.

All incidents or events likely to give rise to a claim under this Policy must be notified to Allianz p.l.c. immediately irrespective of the view as to the validity or otherwise of such claim or prospective claim.

Yours sincerely,
Sandra McCormack

Sandra McCormack
Religious Education Team

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Allianz p.l.c. registered in Ireland No. 142108.
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Allianz p.l.c. is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland.

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Standard acceptance criteria apply.
Information correct at 01st April 2021.