



March 2021

A chairde,

I hope that this message finds you and your families safe and well. In what has undoubtedly been the most difficult of years, following recent announcements, we are hopeful that in the coming weeks, some normality will return to life.

While no official announcement has been issued as at today's date, we will ensure that the Club once again adheres to best practice laid out by the relevant authorities and the GAA in a safe return to playing. We remain hopeful that all our players and members can once again reap the personal and societal benefits to be derived from participating in our national sports.

Membership numbers

I think it is important to give you, the members, an overview on how the club runs. Membership continues to increase and we now have just over **1,000 members** ranging in age from 0-90. Participation on the field in Gaelic football, hurling, Ladies football and Camogie grows each year. It is particularly noticeable that our Nursery is experiencing record levels of new players. To those children and their parents, I extend the warmest of welcomes.

It is a testament to our coaches that female participation at all levels in the Club is growing rapidly. Our Ladies Football and Camogie teams cater for all abilities and irrespective of age, there is a team for those who would like to participate in either training to improve fitness or for those players who may have taken a few years off, a chance to pick up a football or hurley again.

Our juvenile boys teams participate in Go Games and championship games throughout the summer months while our adult men's teams participate at both Senior and Junior grade at county level. I would like to take this opportunity to wish them well for the months ahead and am positive your support would be gratefully appreciated once the championship comes around.

Finance

In any given year, the club costs **€200,000** to run. This comprises insurance, equipment, match expenses, annual charges from our governing bodies and maintenance of our grounds. In the past 18 months significant works on upgrading the floodlights, fencing and the ball wall have taken place at a capital cost of **€120,000**. Membership fees each year make up only 25% of our annual running costs. We, as a Committee have always endeavoured to keep membership fees as low as possible and that is something we will continue to do. The other 75% of our income each year comes from the fundraising efforts of the committee and the kind donations from members. The club would be in a difficult financial position were it not for the efforts of all these people.

Other projects of note over the last 18 months include: -

- The provision of a Games Development Officer to all schools in the locality. Kevin Spain has been a tremendous addition to the club and will hopefully again be a regular feature in the local schools to provide an hours GAA to the children there.
- 20x20 Women in Sport initiative. 20x20 is about creating a cultural shift in our perception of girls and women in sport. My thanks to the organisers on a highly successful initiative.
- Healthy Club Project: Established to harness and formalise the health promotion activity carried out in GAA clubs.
- Strength & Conditioning facility: Headed up by John Lane this facility provides elite level S&C to our GAA club members and the wider community in Greystones.

- Renaming our club grounds Pairc Suain de Barra in recognition of the efforts of two past members of the Club

Membership for 2021 is due before 30 April 2021 and we have adopted the GAA's centralised online platform (Foireann) www.foireann.ie to administer memberships, payment and in time correspondence to teams and members. Registration is available on the club's website at <https://eireoggreystones.com/memberships/>. This page also contains instructions and a video to guide you on the registration process. Should you require any assistance feel free to contact pro.eireoggreystones.wicklow@gaa.ie (Daniel) or treasurer.eireoggreystones.wicklow@gaa.ie (Helen) who will be more than happy to help.

While we reduced our membership rates by almost 50% in 2020 in response to the shortened playing year, we are not in the same position to do the same in 2021. Membership rates for the year are:

Category	Cost
Family: Two parents/guardians and all children under 18	€250
Juvenile/Nursery membership: Under 18s	€120
Full adult membership: Over 18s	€120
Student/Apprentice: For over 18s in full-time third-level education or Apprenticeship	€100
Social member: No voting rights at club's AGM.	€60

If you are experiencing financial difficulties, please contact me at chairperson.eireoggreystones.wicklow@gaa.ie. Be assured that all such correspondence will be dealt with in the strictest confidence.

While the club's main aim is to promote the playing of Gaelic games in the community, it is the sense of belonging and assisting in our community that reinforces all the good things the GAA was founded on.

The efforts made by members, both playing and non-playing in the last year such as organising delivery of shopping for the elderly, collating prescriptions from surgeries for local pharmacies, helping the vulnerable day to day and right up to today, volunteering as marshals at local GP surgeries are activities that delivers most pride in being a member of Eire Og Greystones CLG . To all those members a special thank you for the work you have done.

We look forward to welcoming you back to Pairc Suain de Barra in the very near future.

Is mise le meas



Larry Howard

Chairperson