



BALLYGARVAN GAA CLUB



STRATEGIC PLAN 2010-2015



LIAM MacCARTHY 1853-1928

The elements of coincidence and justice have combined to ensure that the name of Liam MacCarthy - a name indelibly associated with one of the GAA’s most treasured prizes is paid adequate homage in the families native village.

When deciding to officially dedicate its grounds Liam MacCarthy Park, the Ballygarvan Club focussed attention and curiosity on this famous name in the most worthy and dramatic way possible. And thanks to the zealous research of his grandson, Patrick, and great grandson, Michael MacCarthy, it gives us also the opportunity to appreciate that the donor of Hurling’s most coveted trophy, was not a wealthy business man seeking a means of immortalising his own name, but a person deeply attached to the homestead and country of his parents birth, and to any cultural characteristics that helped to distinguish an independent Irish identity. For although Liam MacCarthy was born in London on the 21st. May 1853 son of parents who had emigrated from Shanagraigue, Ballygarvan, the dominant trust of his subsequent life was orientated towards the land of his forefathers. The home which he established on marrying Alice Padbury in 1875, became an acknowledged meeting place for many Irish emigrates seeking either a job or simply a place to stay. Paralleling the MacCarthy’s prospering proprietorship of a box-making business was William’s interest in local affairs as a Councillor in the Camberwell Borough.

Community Activist

He became a man of considerable influence and understandably enjoyed immense popularity amongst the Irish fraternity. In a diverse range of activities his devotion to the homeland was unmistakable. He was Vice-President of the Gaelic League in London, a member of the IRB and it is clear from surviving documentation unearthed by his relatives, he enjoyed a close association with Michael Collins and the Pearse family in Dublin. His friendship with Collins was forged during that period at the beginning of the Century during Collins hurling playing days while domiciled in London. His regard for the ideals and national vision then being propagated by Padraig Pearse is vindicated in the fact that he sent his son Eugene to be grounded as an Irishman at St. Endas, Pearse’s own Academic creation, a bi-lingual second level institute embracing Montessori principles and Gaelic ethos.

“Father of the GAA.....”

But, of course, it was his work for the Gaelic Athletic Association in London which best illuminates Liam MacCarthy’s interest in Ireland. An article in the Irish Post, written circa 1908 described MacCarthy as the “Father of the GAA in London”. The acclamation was probably well founded for MacCarthy, a founding member, occupied the Chairmanship of the London County Board for over a

decade during which time London carried off the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championship in 1901 and almost captured the Football title in 1908.

Made to His Own Unique Design

In view of Liam MacCarthy’s nationalistic zeal, it seems appropriate now, in retrospect, that the gesture which was to link his name with All-Ireland Hurling Final Day for the last ninety years, should have a connection with the movement to establish Irish statehood. For, it was the same £50 which in conjunction with his two sons William and Eugene had donated for the purchase of ten Certificates in the Irish Loan, set up by Michael Collins (then Minister for Finance) that, on the redemption of these certificates when the Irish Free State came into being in 1922, was used for the purchase of a magnificent Silver Cup made to his own unique design based on the ancient Meather (Irish friendship cup). This was offered to the Central Council of the GAA in Croke Park and through the then Runaí Luke O’Tool, was gratefully accepted as the Trophy to be presented annually and in all perpetuity to the winners of the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championship and to be known as “The Liam MacCarthy Perpetual Challenge Cup”. In a letter written in 1922 MacCarthy conveyed the joy, which the GAA’s acceptance of his gift had offered in this comment “to identify my name for all time with the movement with which I have had the privilege of being associated with for 50 years. I played hurling on Clapham Common 50 years ago”. So, Liam MacCarthy’s love for Hurling preceded the creation of the GAA itself.

Native Place

Ballygarvan GAA Club is rightly proud of the distinction bestowed by its association with this noble exile. Our dedication to him is undoubtedly fortified by the knowledge that he cherished Ballygarvan as much as Ireland. It was his desire that his father’s name should be identified with his native place when he presented “The Eoghan MacCarthy Challenge (Hurling) Cup” for competition in Ballygarvan, “...I am desirous that my father’s name should be identified with his native place...” Liam MacCarthy May 1928. An obituary published in the Cork Examiner of October 1st 1928, notes that the deceased Liam MacCarthy recently testified his affection for his home district in a greatly appreciated manner by presenting a set of gold medals to Revd. Fr. Russell to be played for in a tournament in aid of the renovation of the Church. Liam MacCarthy may not have been able to be at the cradle side of the Association, but we know that he lavished enough love on the fledgling association from abroad, to deserve the honour conferred on him by Ballygarvan.

Teachtaireacht an Uachtaráin

It is with great honour and pleasure that I am here today to launch the Ballygarvan GAA Club Plan, 2010-2015, a ‘roadmap’ for the future direction of the Club. It is a wonderful day for the people of Ballygarvan with a number of events over the next few days to mark the 125th anniversary of the inaugural GAA fixture held in Ballygarvan.

I know that you have high hopes for the future and with this plan you are continuing to ensure the development of our culture and games among the youth of Ballygarvan and surrounding areas. Indeed, one can see that a strong emphasis within the plan is placed on forging strong links and bonds within the Club and with the wider community. The contribution of your Club to the social and cultural development of its local community should never be underestimated.

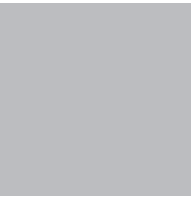
The Club is the heart of the Association’s activities. Our Clubs train and foster the players that eventually go on to represent their respective counties at the highest level and in addition to those who play for their clubs at various different grades. This has been as evident in Ballygarvan GAA Club as anywhere else and a further example of the excellent work within your Club Plan to help facilitate player and coaching developments into the future.

As one of the Associations oldest and proudest clubs, you are a fine and appropriate example to others and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you continued success both on the field and off.

Ar aghaidh len ár gcluichí,

Criostóir Ó Cuana

Uachtarán Cumann Lúthchleas Gael



Cathaoirleach Comhairle na Mumhan

Mar Cathaoirleach Comhairle na Mumhan, is mór an onóir dom, an foilseachán seo a sheoladh. Tá an foilseachán seo an-thábhachtach do thodhchaí cumann Ballygarvan.

As Chairman of the Munster Council, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate everybody associated with the publication of the Ballygarvan Strategic Plan 2010-2015.

Since the foundation of the G.A.A. in 1884, clubs throughout the country have made massive contributions to their communities. Ballygarvan is a case in point of such contributions.

Past officers of Ballygarvan had a vision for what they wanted for the club and worked tirelessly to ensure their aspirations came to fruition. These solid foundations helped to bring the club to where it is today. The achievements of Ballygarvan G.A.A. come as a result of the hard work and help of many members of the local community. They have given generously of their time, manual labour and financial support.

The Strategic Plan published today is the next step in the process. It is the vision and plan that the current officers have for Ballygarvan G.A.A. to ensure that the club will continue to grow and be in a position of strength when the plan is completed by 2015.

Huge changes have occurred in the years since Ballygarvan G.A.A. purchased their first field in 1977. We are living in a different era and the needs of Ballygarvan G.A.A. have also changed in the interim. The Strategic Plan, when successfully implemented will ensure that the club will be in a strong and vibrant position to meet and carry out these aforementioned needs and requirements into the future. This in turn, will ensure that Ballygarvan will continue to grow as a club and to serve it's members and community in a fulfilling manner.

I congratulate the officers and members of Ballygarvan on the publication of their Strategic Plan, a plan that I have no doubt will transform a vision into reality. This working document, over the next five years will ensure the continued success and growth of Ballygarvan G.A.A. when completed.

Is mise le meas,

Seán Breathnach.

Cathaoirleach Comhairle na Mumhan



Cathaoirleach Coiste Chontae Chorcaí

Ar son Choiste Chontae Chorcaí ba mhaith liom comhgáirdeachas a gabháil le Cumann Baile Garbháin as ucht an dea obair atá déanta acu leis an phlean stráitéiseach seo. Foilsíúcháin an-tábhachtach é seo i gcomhair na blianta le teacht do Cumann Baile Garbháin agus gúim go mbeidh na cuspóir go léir atá ann bainte amach. Dá bhri sin beidh an cumann níos fear agus níos láidre as seo amach.

As chairman of Coiste Chontae Chorcaí I congratulate Ballygarvan club on the publication of their Strategic plan for the future of the club. This is a critical document for the club and I sincerely hope that all the aims and aspirations will be achieved. As a result Ballygarvan will be a stronger and better club.

Ballygarvan is, I believe, the first club in our county to draw up such a plan and they are to be congratulated on their foresight and initiative. The visit of an t-Uachtarán Criostóir Ó'Cuana on his "ag Éisteacht" mission planted the idea and the club has put a lot of time and effort into the plan since. It is hoped that in due course every club in the county will draw up such a plan and so be well prepared for the future in these ever changing and challenging times.

I am glad to know the club is embracing many of the aims of the national and county plans and particularly at under-age level. Now more than ever it is vital that as many people as possible are afforded the opportunity to participate in gaelic games from an early age. This is especially important at fé 12 level where the tendency has been to cater for the best and to ignore the rest. The "Go games" concept of first touch, quick touch, and smart touch affords everybody an opportunity to progress and develop the skills of hurling and football. We cannot discard players at such an early age.

This document sets standards for all aspects of the club at adult and juvenile level. It sets standards for games development, communications, finance, planning and infrastructures, child welfare protection, officer support, and club culture and community. I congratulate all who were involved in the drawing up of this plan and I wish them every success with their endeavours. Cumann Luthchleas Gael Baile Garbháin will be all the better for it.

Mise le meas

Diarmuid Ó'Súilleabháin (Cathaoirleach)

Coiste Chontae Chorcaí.

Chairman South East Board

In these times of change and often turmoil it is both prudent and very necessary to take stock and seek out a clearly defined path into the future.

We see our Association at a national level defining a Strategic Plan to take us up to the year 2015 and in a similar vein the Munster Council and Cork County Board are working on and finalising provincial and county stratagem.

It is only sensible and wise for the Club units within each county to pursue a similar philosophy. The foundations stones on which the G.A.A. must be replaces with great care as the society of the 21st century has little similarities to the late 19th century when it all began. In those days we were a colony, deeply depressed and sore from the heavy foot of an imperialist master. The memories and scars of the famine years bore heavy on our minds and shoulders. History demonstrates to us all in the G.A.A. has done for our Irish society nationally and internationally since then. To-day we are an independent nation trading internationally with an almost transformed society. The older order has certainly changed, much for the better and some, sadly for the worse. The Irish are now an extroverted society taking our place in the world stage with a migration of many other nationalities into our ranks.,

Our founding fathers had a plan and indeed some vision. To-day the same criteria are necessary as we define our own particular path into the future. Our local community and parish are still our greatest assets. In the past the G.A.A. enriched them with pride, spirit and self-respect. We must continue to do this perhaps with different strategy and finesse. Respect must be a huge code word followed with integrity and mutual respect for all. In the past the volunteer and amateur status gave us a corner stone that was un-breakable. It was envied and admired by others who found it difficult to follow and copy. Going forward we must again preserve and maintain these two great bulwarks. The Irish society has definitely changed with new developments transforming many towns and villages. Many regions have been enveloped by radical and fast moving housing developments. The new people outnumber the old in several areas. These are truly several defining challenges for our Clubs to address and overcome.

Cumann Iomaniochta agus peil Baile Garbhain, a typical rural Club, is up for this challenge too. They have been busy in recent times carefully and astutely working on their own regional and parish plan. Ballygarvan is a Club that has already transformed itself in the recent decade through good initiatives and planning and it now stands proudly in the Intermediate ranks in Cork County. Its people play vital roles in our Association either playing for the Cork teams throughout the County in Hurling Football and Camogie and in providing dedicated and efficient mentors and officials

Message from the Club Chairman

It is with great pride that I introduce this comprehensive plan on behalf of Ballygarvan GAA Club.

Since the GAA was founded in 1884, the organisation has played a huge role in every parish in Ireland, and abroad.

Ballygarvan has always been to the forefront of the organisation. The earliest reference to Ballygarvan National Hurling Club is recorded in an account of the 1828 Cork County Hurling Championship, while the first competitive game played in Cork, was played in Ballygarvan in 1885.

And of course it was from Ballygarvan that Eoghan and Brigid MacCarthy emigrated to London in 1851, and it was their son Liam, who donated the Liam McCarthy Cup, which is presented annually to the All Ireland Senior Hurling Champions.

For a long time in our club's history, we were at the mercy of the many landowners who kindly allowed the club to use their grounds as pitches. While these were temporary arrangements they allowed the club to continue during some difficult periods. This all changed in 1977 when we purchased our first field, and we added a second field in 1986.

Due to the outstanding work of our club members at the time, these ventures were funded and developed in a very short time. However life has changed a lot in recent times that that type of growth is no longer possible or feasible without detailed planning and attention to detail.

Society has changed so much in the last 25 years. Ballygarvan, as a small rural community has also changed. No longer is it the small village, a new housing scheme has added to a growing community as our parish pushes into the urban areas of Douglas, Carrigaline and Togher.

With a larger membership, comes a greater use of our facilities. With more players and members, comes more teams and matches. Add in a very successful Camogie club, and our resources are stretched to the limit, and suddenly what seemed adequate 25 years ago can no longer cater for the needs of our community.

Hence we have our 5 year club plan. The main objective of our club plan is to make sure we continue to effectively serve our members, supporters, and the community that sustains us. With this plan we offer a blueprint for the future of C.L.G. Baile Garbháin, and address the key issues facing us over the next five years.

Our players and members are our main priority. The welfare of our young boys and girls, while in our care is of upmost importance, and we strive to make sure that their parents have full confidence in our coaches and administrators.

To this end, we encourage all parents to take “hands on” role in their child's participation in our games. The training and vetting of all coaches is now a part of club policy, while we also strive to ensure that our coaches receive the best tutoring available. Our aim is to provide a better player experience from child to adult.

This year we have taken the brave step of endorsing the “Go Games” formula at under 12 level, where every player is playing, and no player is left on the side-line. In the past year, over 40 coaches have achieved at least “Foundation Level” grades in their development as coaches. These are just two examples of the forward thinking that exists within our club.

We also want to ensure that all our players and members have the best facilities available to them. To ensure this, we have a very able financial committee, who are working tirelessly to ensure that all the elements of this plan are achieved on attainable budgets.

They say that your playing days are the best days of your life. While this is true, a lot of our members don't play, or have gone beyond their playing days. With this in mind, we are committed to organising events that will bring our community together. We recently had some of our Scór entrants entertain us on our medal presentation night.

As already mentioned, Ballygarvan has a very successful camogie club. At present they operate as a separate club. However, both clubs are pulling from the same families for players, and from the same revenue stream. Perhaps, the day is coming when all our players, male and female take to the field wearing the same club colours and backed by one club and community.

For the past 126 years, our members have worked tirelessly to get our club where it is today. For the past six weeks, our members have put this plan together, and I would like all our members to continue this work for the next five years, and ensure that this plan is successful, and that our club continues to be to the forefront in the Gaelic Athletic Association.

Ar aghaidh linn le chéile

Seosamh Ó Cinifeic

Cathaoirleach

Message from Ballygarvan Camogie Club

Ballygarvan Camogie Club are delighted to have been involved in the process of formulating the strategic plan for Ballygarvan GAA Club.

Ballygarvan Camogie Club was originally founded in the 1920s and was reformed for a brief period in the 1960s and was re-established in 1987. The re-established club included Chairperson, Nora Brady (RIP), Ollie Hallahan, Eily Kidney, Gaye Foster, Sadie Mackey, with a membership of 30 girls. The club has grown from strength to strength and currently has in excess of 150 members. In 1995, the club won the county under 12A, under 14B and under 16C competitions. Success at underage level led to a win at Junior B level two years later. The club won the Junior A Championship in 2000 and six years later, graduated to the top level of competition in Cork having won the Senior B competition. Many players in the club have played on county teams at various levels. One of the club's most successful inter-county players is Emer Dillon, who has won four All-Ireland Senior Championship medals.

The Camogie Club is delighted to have been invited to become involved in the process of formulating the Ballygarvan G.A.A. 5-year plan. The workshops brought together local people of all ages and variety of experience and expertise. This ensured that knowledge and ideas were assembled to create a vision that will fulfil the specific needs of our own locality and build on the great work that has been done over the years by those dedicated to promoting Gaelic games. The G.A.A. club has been extremely co-operative in providing pitches for camogie training and matches and we now look forward to working together towards implementing the plan and improving all aspects of our clubs so that the optimum training facilities and coaching is available for all players, male and female.



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Ballygarvan: Embracing a Competitive Mindset - Building on the Basics

The Ballygarvan Club has been intertwined in the fortunes of the Gaelic Athletic Association throughout its 126-year history. While the hurdles facing the founding members in 19th century Ireland were considerable, the challenges confronting this 21st century generation are no less daunting set against a backdrop of fiscal, socio-economic and cultural transformation. We are however, better placed to deal with the prospects posed in this era.

We have a versatile and resilient membership confident in their individual and collective capabilities, a diverse community with the capacity to build and the courage to chart its passage forward.

As today’s custodians of this proud Club, we owe it to future generations to enrich its precious heritage and position it to take advantage of the many emerging opportunities. This plan is formulated by Club members and forms the genesis for a new era of growth, promotion and prosperity.

In terms of lifestyle and demographics, Ballygarvan has experienced many changes over recent decades. Statistics for the Ballygarvan DED confirms population growth of 30% in the period 1996-2006. The population in the Frankfield district shows an even more dramatic growth pattern. Harnessing the potential and the opportunities represented in these emerging profiles needs an expansive promotional response. To cultivate this expansion and develop games and activity programmes commensurate with member’s expectations we must create a Club environment with the capacity to promote and sustain these additional supporting programmes.

Building Capacity

Resourcing future Club needs demands cohesive planning and investment. Building additional capacities across the Club is required in terms of administration, technical skills and games development. This will be resourced through member recruitment, coach education, voluntary support and funding. This ambitious plan considers these issues and endeavours to address needs and programme delivery in a practical way through integrated planning.

Strategic Plan

The Ballygarvan GAA Strategic Plan 2010–2015 represents the initial module in that journey. Essentially, it is a dynamic project, a work in progress, predicated on member engagement and periodic review. It is our opportunity to translate vision into action and deliver viable effective solutions, compatible with the needs of a progressive Club that is aware of its leadership role in the community. The revised administrative structures required to underpin this plan is presented as a core objective. The plan maps out in simple terms the key objectives posed under the central headings and aimed to create the capacities, competencies and skills base necessary to ensure we have well prepared,

skilful and competitive teams enjoying our games and activities –

- Games Promotion
- Coach Education
- Player Welfare
- Membership
- Facilities
- Funding
- Club Activities
- Community Integration



Ní Neart go Cur le Chéile

Effective teamwork is the cornerstone of our Club’s success on and off the field. The consultative process engaged in devising the plan channels member’s energies in a unified intelligent manner. When documenting these programmes we are discharging our custodial responsibilities and proactively addressing the challenges presented by mapping a path for the Ballygarvan Club’s future growth. In rising to meet this challenge, the Club must reappraise its role in terms of community engagement and members reaffirm their support with creative engagement and common commitment to its implementation and delivery.

Edmond Forrest

Development Officer

Methodology

The brief for the Club planning process was clear. The club wanted a plan that would:

- Be constructed around the values and traditions of the club
- Be volunteer-led;
- Be managed with excellence;
- Maximise participation across all areas of the club; and
- Provide a roadmap for the Club for the future.

The Club is a key part of a community, with a rich G.A.A. heritage in the area. The plan will build on the strengths and successes of the organisation. The planning team identified the immediate and potential challenges that the Club would face. The plan would be clear, practical and ready to put in place. The plan should be for everyone—most importantly the players, ordinary members and parents—and have clear and understandable objectives. The process used to develop the G.A.A. Strategic Vision and Action Plan 2009-2015 was tailored to suit our circumstances and develop our Club Plan. In consultation with Peter Hanan of O’Kelly Sutton, Strategic Planning Consultants, the process was designed to suit the unique needs of our Club. It acted as an advisory team to the process and added value, developed ideas and encouraged participation throughout the project.

The process began with listening to the membership of the Club. On March 10th 2010 a club planning workshop was held in which 46 members took part with others joining in the subsequent workshops.

The workshop, included members and non-members from the following areas:

- Junior Club Coaching - Hurling
- Junior Club Coaching - Football
- Junior Club Administration
- Senior Club Coaching - Football
- Senior Club Coaching - Hurling
- Senior Club Players
- Senior Club Administrators
- Schools Representatives
- Camogie Club Administrators
- Parents

- Supporters
- Community Leaders

A significant percentage of those taking part were female. Some were members of the Association for only a short time, whilst others had more than 50 years involvement with the G.A.A.

There were players and former players, coaches, teachers, students and many were at their first G.A.A. meeting.

Working in small groups, the teams shared stories of their experiences of the GAA in every aspect of their lives, on and off the field. Through this listening process the workshop developed a deeper understanding of what was important for people and what Ballygarvan G.A.A. was really about.

A wide range of areas were discussed at the workshop including coaching, facilities, finance, fundraising, communications and Club Structure & Administration. Each person was given an opportunity to outline areas where improvement could be made.

The workshop also asked people to describe the ideal club of the future. At the end of the workshop people were requested to volunteer to attend three further meetings in their area of interest in order to develop all ideas further. Almost half of the persons attending volunteered. To develop the ideas five focus groups were formed under the following headings

1. Club Structure & Administration
2. Coaching and Games
3. Finance and Fundraising
4. Facilities Development
5. Communications, PR and Community

Each focus group met for three, 90 minute sessions to develop ideas and formulate the plan. In the process, focus groups engaged expert opinion on certain matters. As the work proceeded, common themes began to emerge. By the 25th of March, all of the focus groups came together to present their final ideas for discussion. The final two hour workshop was very beneficial in distilling the various ideas and drafting the plan.

The output from all of the workshops and meetings included specific details on how the members and officers believed the performance of the club should be measured in future.

The five themes were progressed and aligned as the focus areas for the plan; these are outlined in detail in this

document. They will be reviewed annually against the targets defined and will be refined and developed. Other areas may well emerge and be included as the planning process evolves. The plan will be tabled at the clubs monthly meeting to ensure progress is being tracked.

A key outcome from the process is that the Club has decided to keep on using this strategic planning methodology in its future planning. The club will host an annual workshop one month prior to the A.G.M. to give the membership the opportunity to review the plan and draft the next episode.

The methodology is simple. It is based on consulting the membership at all levels and enabling them to develop the plans of the Club for the future.

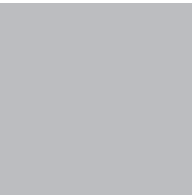
The people who are Ballygarvan GAA Club developed this Club Plan.

reviews –

The plan will be tabled at the clubs monthly meeting

They will be reviewed annually - a strategic plan would usually not be redrafted bi-annually

The club will host an annual workshop one month prior to the A.G.M. to give the membership the opportunity to review the plan and draft the next episode



Vision, Mission, Values

The GAA's values, when lived well, are the heart and soul of our Association. In every club and around the world they are what binds us, what make us unique, what attracts more and more players, members, volunteers and supporters.

We need all our members and key audiences to fully understand our values. We will use them to guide our planning and decision making and behaviours. They will guide us in how we interact with one another and with the GAA's diverse set of stakeholders.

The G.A.A.'s core values and leadership principles have been handed down over the last 125 years but are expressed clearly for today's world. They guide the attitudes and behaviours we display to one another as members, our players at all levels, our officers, full time staff and all stakeholders.

By living in accordance with these values, the G.A.A. will continue to grow a culture that is uniquely its own. This dynamic culture brings wonderful satisfaction to all involved, draws people to us, energises, and enables us to bring life, energy and identity to the communities we serve.

Mission

"The G.A.A. is a volunteer organisation promoting Gaelic games, culture and lifelong participation."

The G.A.A. is a **volunteer** organisation. We develop and **promote Gaelic Games** at the core of Irish identity and culture.

We are dedicated to ensuring that our family of games, and the values we live, enrich the lives of our members, families and the whole **communities** we serve.

We are committed to active **lifelong participation** for all, and to providing the best facilities.

We reach out to and include all members of our society. We promote individual development and well-being, and strive to enable all our members achieve their full potential in their chosen roles.

Vision

Our vision is that **everybody** has the opportunity to be **welcomed** to take part in **our games and culture**, to participate fully, to grow and develop, and to be inspired to keep a **lifelong** engagement with our Association.

Values	What this means
Community Identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Community is at the heart of our Association, everything we do helps to enrich the communities we serve.We foster a clear sense of identity and place
Inclusiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">We are anti SectarianWe are anti RacistWe welcome everybody
Respect	<ul style="list-style-type: none">We respect each other on and off the playing fieldsWe operate with integrity at all levelsWe listen to the views of all
Player Welfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none">We will provide the best playing experience for all our players.We will structure our games to allow players of all abilities reach their potential
Amateur Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none">We are volunteer led organisationAll our members play and engage in our games as amateurs
Teamwork	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Effective teamwork is the cornerstone of our Association- Ní neart go cur le chéile (There is strength in working together)

Club Structure

Aim
To achieve best practice in Club Administration

Key Project
To have a club structure in place that promotes involvement and has inclusive representation of all aspects of our Club.

In 2014 in Ballygarvan GAA Club we will be able to say...
“In Ballygarvan we have excellence in terms of the way we are structured to run our Club, All of the key groups in the Club are treated with respect and are represented on all of the appropriate committees and on the Club Executive - this has resulted in all of our teams being successful and that everybody has a clear sense of belonging in the Club. ”

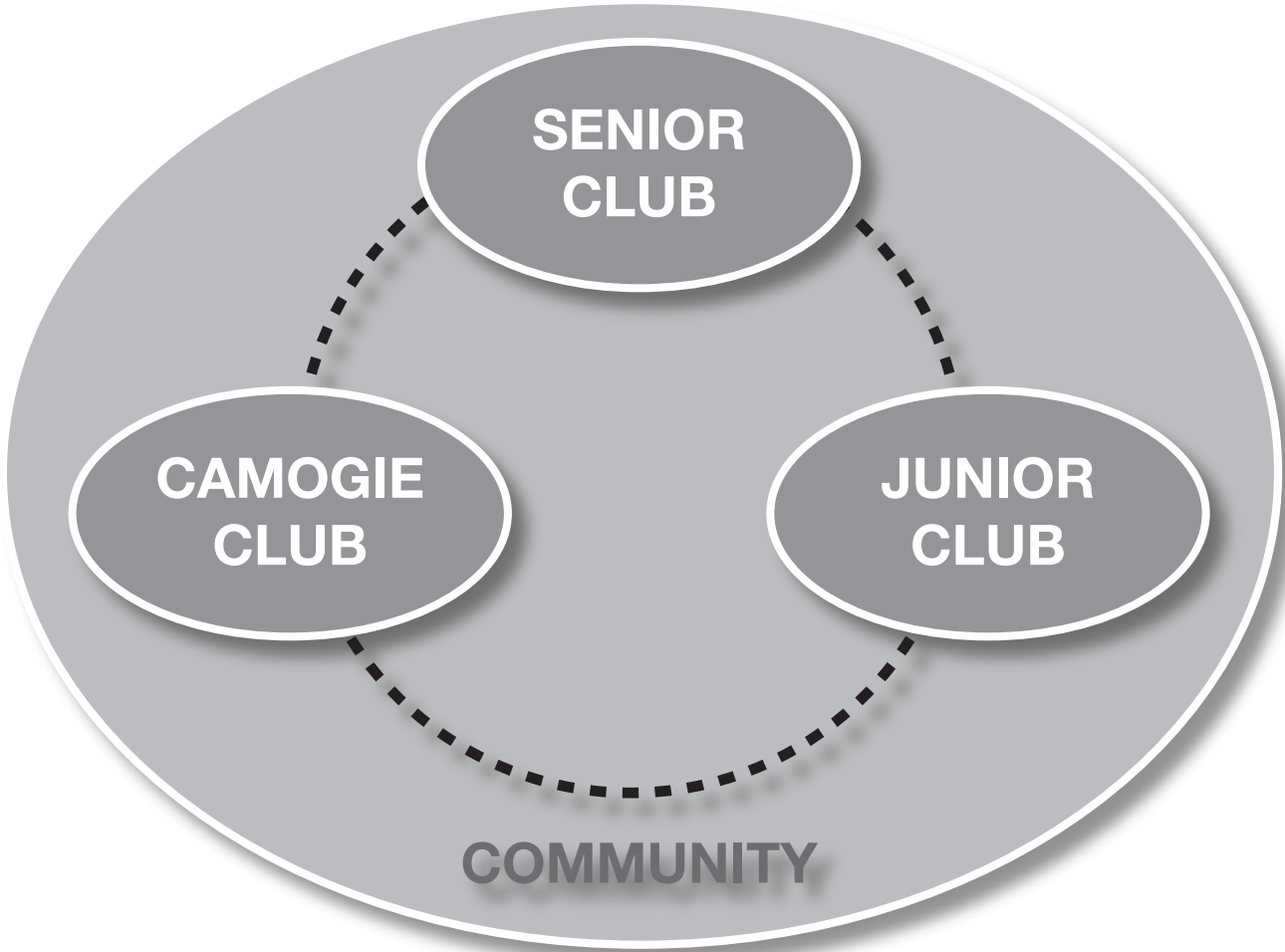
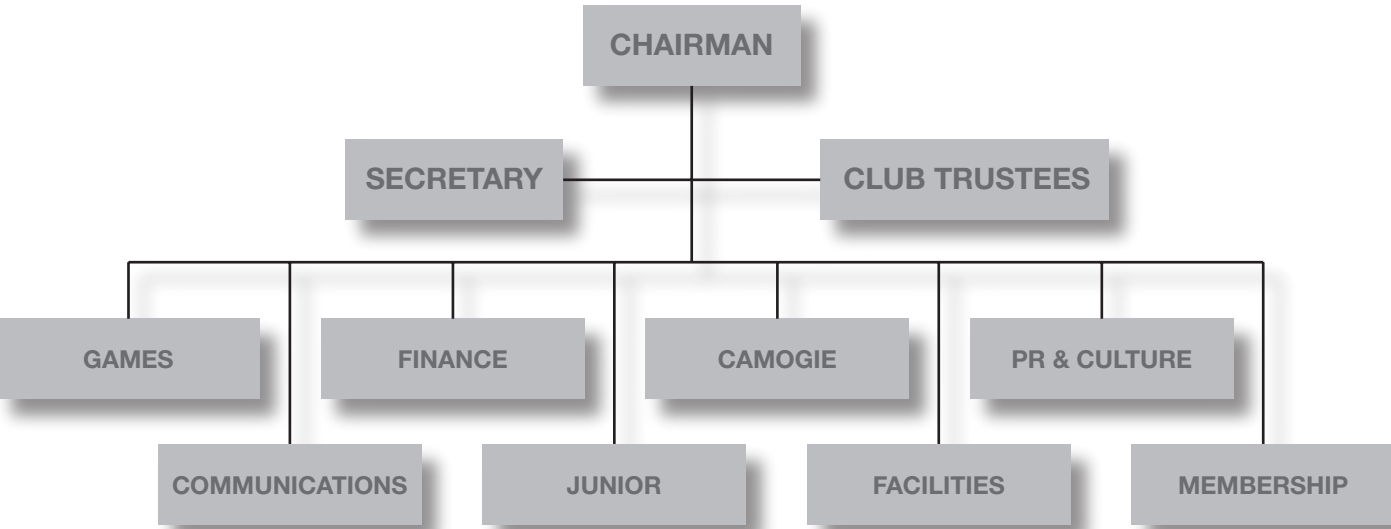
Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is elected annually at the Club AGM. The Executive Committee has the sole right to appoint sub-committees as required. The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer shall be ex-officio members of all sub-committees as outlined in the Club constitution.

The Executive Committee shall have power from time to time to make, alter and repeal all such regulations as is necessary, expedient or convenient for the proper conduct and management of the club. All such regulations so long as they shall be in force, shall be binding upon all members of the Club. The Plan identifies a new club structure, which aims to share the workload and have equal and inclusive representation and put in place a reporting structure that can deliver the aims and objectives of this plan.

Ballygarvan Junior Club is having tremendous success since its inception in 1979 and now is at the leading edge of under-age innovation by promoting and adopting the “Go Games” model in the county of Cork. This Plan will support this initiative and help bring success to Ballygarvan in the future.

Ballygarvan Camogie Club has seen remarkable success and growth since it was re-established in the late eighties. A process at national level to amalgamate Camogie and the G.A.A., is in planning. However, in Ballygarvan, at a local level, we propose to work as closely as is practicable with the Camogie Club to promote and achieve our common goals. We will jointly coach, promote and fundraise and develop our facilities together. Integration.



Action	Outcome Sought	Timescale	Milestone	Responsibility
Document Club Structure	Organisational Chart	2010	Club Plan launch	Club Executive
Terms of reference for the Sub committees	Aligned Sub Committees roles and responsibilities &promote best practice	2010	2010 AGM	Club Executive
Appointment Process for Committees and team management	Set clear objectives	2010	2010 AGM	Club Executive
Bi-Annual workshops to review and update Club Plan	Involvement of all members	2010	Sep-10	Club Executive
Junior Club integration	One Club - One focus	2011	2010 AGM	Club Executive
Camogie Club integration	One Club - One focus	2011	2011 AGM	Club Executive
Senior Club integration	One Club - One focus	2011	2010 AGM	Club Executive
Linkage between committees	Improve communications. Clear Representation	2010	2010 AGM	Club Executive

Games and Coaching

Aim

Games for Everyone

Key Project

Establishing a proactive and progressive Coaching and Games Development Committee to develop and implement a Games Development Programme.

In 2014 in Ballygarvan GAA Club we will be able to say...

“Ballygarvan GAA Club continues to one of the most successful clubs in Cork winning competitions every year in both football and hurling. This is because they have the best coaching systems and structures in place in the County”.

Coaching & Games Development Committee

A games committee will be established to coordinate coaching activities within the club. The committee should appoint a Club Coaching Coordinator as soon as possible. A key function of the committee is the promotion of the club’s Games Development Programme. The committee will monitor best practice developments from both within the GAA and from other sources as applicable. It will provide support to coaches, facilitate training and promote best practice at all levels.

Coaching Coordinator

The appointment of club Coaching Coordinator will be critical to improving coaching standards. Their role will be to develop and implement a Games Development Programme and support coaches within the club.

Games Development Programme

The development of the Club Games Development Programme is central to achieving the highest standards of coaching and player performance within the club. This document will set out a coordinated approach to coach education, coaching best practice, team preparation and motivation. It will provide support to coaches in the form of playing equipment, coaching materials, workshops and learning aids. The Games Development Programme will include detailing the clubs interaction with the local primary school with a view to increasing the extent of coaching support provided.



Player Retention

Player retention is particularly important in a club like Ballygarvan with such a limited player pool. It is very important that an enjoyable environment for players is promoted at all levels within the club. The Use of ‘Go Games’ from U12 down is one measure to ensure all players receive equal playing time and appropriate skills development. As younger players progress through different teams within the club they are more likely to be retained if they enjoy friendships with team members. The club aims to increase the range of social activities undertaken; this will include trips (including non-match trips) to help build friendships within a group of players. This will also facilitate integration of different age groups and teams within the club.

Increased Participation of Former Players & Senior Players

Former players have valuable experience and knowledge that can be applied to the coaching and preparation of teams within the club. It is proposed to increase the number of former players involved in coaching or team preparation.

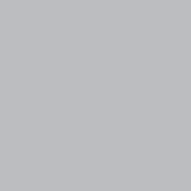
Young players respond well to seeing senior players, particularly inter county players, taking an interest in their games. It is proposed to align three current players to each team in the Junior Club.



Lee Flag Programme Games Development Programme

Its main goal is to promote best practice at Club level in terms of coaching and games development in both football and hurling. Ballygarvan G.A.A. Club will strive to meet 15 targets which have been indentified as key areas in terms of promoting our games amongst our child and youth players. Many of the objectives are all ready in place in Ballygarvan G.A.A .Club. The targets outlined in the programme are as follows:

- 1 Club Coaching Officer
- 2 Schools Liaison Officer
- 3 Summer Cúl Camp
- 4 Schools coaching programme (incl. Heads of Agreement)
- 5 Annual coach audit
- 6 10 Foundation level coaches
- 7 2 Award 1 coaches
- 8 Club Games Development Plan
- 9 Club Nursery Programme
- 10 5 U12 Go Games blitzes
- 11 5 Supertouch Blitzes
- 12 Blitz / game tracker monthly sheet
- 13 Referee Education –Young Whistler & Young Referee
- 14 Respect Campaign
- 15 Code of Best Practice



Action	Outcome Sought	Timescale	Milestone	Responsibility
Establish Coaching Coordinator in the Club	To put a structure in place within the club to coordinate coaching activities, to provide support to coaches and to promote best practice at all levels. To help coaches deliver age appropriate coaching.	Spring / Summer 2010	Committee set up by May	Club executive & Games Committee for the Club
Design Club Games Development Programme for each club	To promote best practice coaching standards for each age group	Spring / Summer 2010	1st draft by August, subject to annual review	Games Committee
Appoint coaching officers for both hurling and football	To provide one point of contact for those within the club for coaching matters related to each code. Distribute info among coaches, ensure uniformity of approach, implement coach	Spring / Summer 2010	Officers appointed in June	Games Committee

Action	Outcome Sought	Timescale	Milestone	Responsibility
A pathway for players and coaches	To provide a structure where players / coaches can achieve a level that they aspire to	2012		Games Committee
Lee Flag Games Development Programme	Implement the 15 objectives	2011	AGM 2010	Club executive , Games Committee & Junior Club
Senior Club training for all players tuesday and thursday . Both hurlers and footballers should have the same physical trainer	More focused approach to fitness	2011	In place for Jan 2011	Club executive & Games Committee
Implement 'Go Games' for age groups Under 12 down	Promote use of modified games in line with National Policy	Spring / Summer 2010	Under 12 coaches briefed by Summer 2010	Games Committee
Recruit U 16s to referee 'Go Games' and participate in Young	Develop club referees	Summer 2010	Participant's receipt of refereeing qualifications	Games Committee
Appoint coaching assessors	Improve the standard of coaching and support coaches	Summer 2010	Agree Objectives	Games Committee
Increase participation of ex-players and current players in coaching	Recruit three players to coach / manage each team. Build upon their playing experience and knowledge. to assist with coaching or team preparation.	Summer 2010	Growth in participation of former / current players in team preparation	Games Committee
Address psychological element to team preparation (Identify someone with knowledge of sports psychology, develop reading material for players)	Improve motivation element to team preparation at all levels within club.	Summer 2010	Template for psychological preparation of teams developed	Games Committee
Find a Partner Club	Facilitate opportunities for trips, blitzes, challenge matches etc	Summer 2011	Identify suitable clubs and approach to set up partnership arrangement	Games Committee
Arrange social trips	Increase sense of enjoyment for younger players. Builds friendships within teams and could assist in longer term retention of players	Summer 2010	Arrange schedule for six monthly period in advance where possible	Games Committee

All Stars



Emer Dillon



Ger Spillane



Finance

Aim

To achieve Financial excellence with full transparency within the Club

Key Project

To have Finance available for any agreed venture for the Club

In 2014 in Ballygarvan GAA Club we will be able to say...

“Our Club has done a tremendous job in the finance and fundraising area to support the continued development of our Club. We are constantly adapting our approach to fundraising by being highly innovative and including new people in the fundraising efforts so that it completed without being dependant all the time on the usual suspects”.

Finance and Funding

The club is debt free and annual income just about covers the cost of running the club. The custom and practice up to now has been to fundraise first and then implement a project. The delivery of the ambitious projects and time frame set out by the Facilities Sub-Committee means that the club will have to resort to borrowing. To ensure we are in a position to meet club commitments to the bank the Finance Sub-Committee will be tasked with increasing regular club income and identifying unique fundraising activities for the benefit of the club.

Governance

A club Finance Sub-Committee is already in place. This Sub-committee will ensure that the club complies with the highest accounting and financial regulatory standards. We already have in place:

- A Budgeting system
- A new financial reporting system focusing on cash flow management and club profitability.

The Sub-committee will ensure that we

- Have appropriate financial controls in place
- Protect our assets
- Always get value for money
- Have appropriate resources to achieve our aims
- Have clear lines of responsibility and accountability throughout the club
- Ensure the annual accounts are subject to audit by independent persons.
- Have effective succession management

Club Spending

We will continue to seek value for money in all costs we incur. We will constantly review how we spend money and, at all times, ensure we use existing expertise within the club rather than going outside. All plans to incur costs on behalf of the club must be submitted to the finance sub committee for approval.

Increasing Regular Club Income

The club needs to increase its regular income by focusing on

- Increasing the weekly lotto
- Increasing participation in the County Board Draw
- The introduction of the 200 club
- The introduction of overseas membership

- Increasing pitch advertising

Weekly Lotto

We will endeavor to increase the weekly lotto income by the introduction of weekly text/e-mail reminders to all members, encouraging the use of on-line playing and the introduction of standing orders through the bank. We will require the assistance of the registrar in establishing a club data base of contacts.

County Board Draw

We will carry out a full review of existing participants in the scheme. With the help of the club registrar we will identify and encourage new participants.

Club 200

We will establish a “200” confined members club. A specific

number of members will be entitled to club membership, entry to the County Board Draw, weekly entry to the club lotto and entry to a number of free draws throughout the year.

Tax Relief on Charitable Donations

Tax relief is available in return for the payment of an annual sum to any registered charity. Ballygarvan GAA club has sought and been granted such charitable status. Where the club receives a qualifying donation tax relief on the contribution can be claimed either by the club or contributor. The club issues a contribution receipt and benefit can be then be claimed from the Revenue Commissioners. The club will avail of this relief where possible.

Overseas Membership

We will endeavor to establish an overseas membership. This would include members/former players living in Ireland and outside Cork. Members will be encouraged to participate in the weekly club lotto and to purchase items on line from the club shop.

Pitch Advertising

A full review will be carried out of existing pitch advertising. Redundant signs will be removed and replacement signs identified. An annual invoicing system will be set up.

Fundraising

Fundraising will be the principal means of ensuring we meet commitments made to repay bank borrowings. Projects identified by the facilities sub-committee are for the benefit of all codes within the club. To this end we will establish a special group, to include non members of the finance sub-committee, to identify unique fundraising events for the benefit of the club. In addition to established fund raising activities we hope to be the first to try new ideas. In these difficult economic times we will try to set up joint-venture fundraising events with a set number of other clubs in our division. If this succeeds we will rotate annual responsibility for organizing each event across clubs.



Action	Outcome Sought	Timescale	Milestone	Responsibility
000'aire night joint promotion with Ballygarvan NS	Fundraiser with the School	01/11/2010	30% raise by September	Finance Sub Committee
Poker Classic	Fundraiser	01/06/2010	Start May	Finance Sub Committee
Joint Fund raising event with four other Clubs	Shared Annual Events	01/06/2011	Contact Clubs January 2011	Finance Sub Committee & Club Chairman
Golf Classic	Fundraiser	01/05/2011	Launch Nov 2010	Finance Sub Committee
Promote weekly lotto by text and E-mail; Encourage Standing Orders,	Increase Revenue	01/06/2010	Format in place by May 2010	Finance Sub Committee
Overseas Membership	increase Lotto, Membership and Kit sales Revenue-	2010	On the web by August 2010	Finance Sub Committee & Registrar
200 Club	Increase Clubs Core Revenue	01/09/2010	Launch Nov 2010 at AGM	Finance Sub Committee
Pitch Advertising	Maxamise Revenue	01/08/2010	Compete by AGM and reveues in	Finance Sub Committee
Tax Back Scheme	Fundraiser	2011	Optimise Revenue	Finance Sub Committee
Car Draw	Fundraiser	2012	Launch Jan 2012	Finance Sub Committee

Facilities and Development

Aim

To provide top class playing facilities for the development of our games

Key Project

To build the Ball Wall and all weather surface areas

In 2014 in Ballygarvan GAA Club we will be able to say...

“We have transformed our facilities in Ballygarvan over the last few years by working hard and ensuring we derived an acceptable return for all our investments. Our Players and Members now enjoy the very best facilities in the area on and off the pitch”

It is acknowledged that we need to upgrade our clubhouse and expand our facilities in order to cater for the growing population in the Ballygarvan Catchment Area . As part of our plan for the next five to ten years we have undertaken to carry out a number of Key Projects to this end .

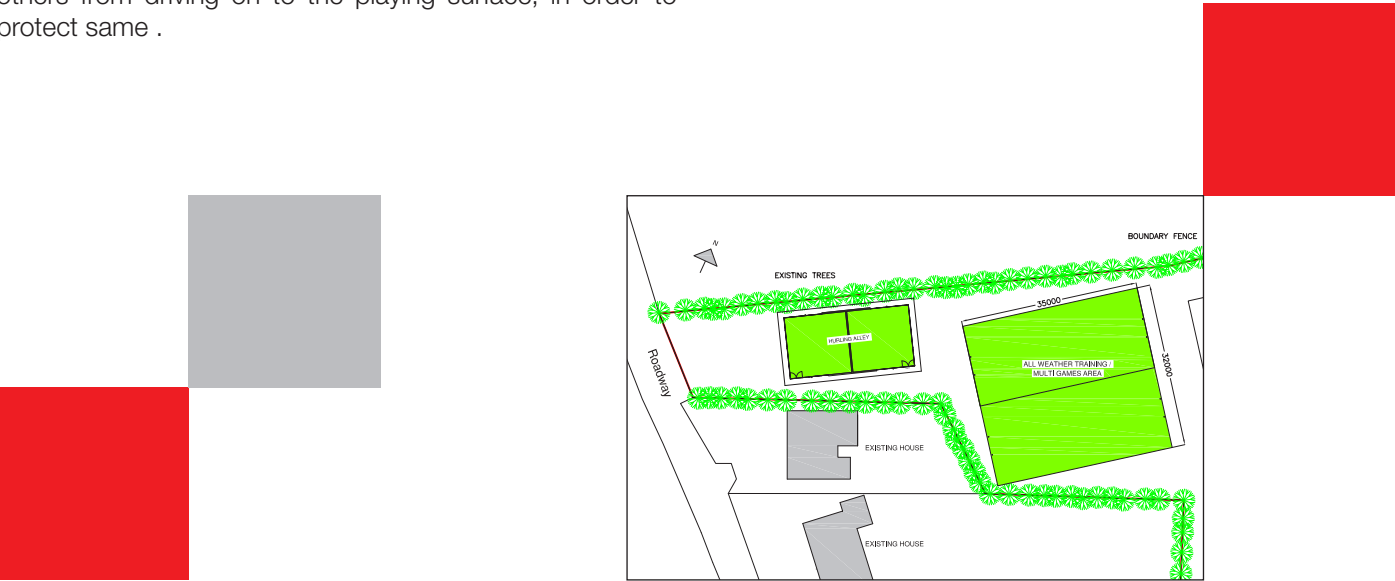
We now have a development and facilities committee in place to plan and oversee projects which are ultimately decided by the executive committee .

Ball Wall and All Weather Surface

The construction of the ball wall combined with an all weather surface (for winter training) which will be floodlit and is on target to be completed in 2010. It will be positioned adjacent to the proposed new school, and will be of great benefit to the pupils, who will have easy access to the area, and should be revenue generating in time .

Railing Pitch side

It is intended to rail off our second pitch on the southern side to accommodate people attending games and to prevent others from driving on to the playing surface, in order to protect same .



Action	Outcome Sought	Timescale	Milestone	Responsibility
Complete Ball Wall	Upgarde Facilities - Enhance ball skills	2010	Finished by June 2010	Facilities & Development
All weather surface	UpgradeFacilities and be self sufficient for all weather conditions	2010	Oct-10	Facilities & Development
Notice Board at Entrance		2010	Oct-10	Facilities & Development
Walk / Driveway Clubhouse to Ball Wall	Upgrade Facilities. Pedestrian Access	2010	Nov-10	Facilities & Development
Rail off 2nd Pitch - Southside only	Upgrade Facilities. Community Involvement	2010	Nov-10	Facilities & Development
New Dug outs Both Pitches	Improve Facilities	2011	Sep-11	Facilities & Development
Upgrade ScoreBoard	Improve Facilities	2011	Jun-11	Facilities & Development
Feasability study on a third pitch	Plan for the future capacity	2011	Mar-11	Facilities & Development
Upgrade existing Dressing Rooms	Improve Facilities	2010	May-10	Facilities & Development
Feasability for New Complex	Plan for the future capacity	2012	May-12	Facilities & Development
Full championship size pitch	To prepare our teams to play in full size pitches	2015	Nov-15	Facilities & Development

Communications, PR, Social & Cultural

Aim

To get the Ballygarvan Club message out to Community in the most effective and efficient way possible. We will strive to promote the clubs games and coaching programmes at all levels and also to promote the cultural side of our club, promoting and celebrating both the diversity of our membership and our community’s longstanding Gaelic traditions.

Key Project

To develop a Ballygarvan GAA Club “Welcome Pack” for distribution to all parents of children of five and six years of age through the schools in our catchment’s area.

In 2014 in Ballygarvan GAA Club we will be able to say...

“We have achieved excellence in communicating the messages about our games and our culture with our members and with the Community at large. This has resulted in transforming the Club to become the centre of all the Community, increasing our membership and being recognised as a place where everybody is welcomed.”

Public Relations Officer (PRO)

The role of the P.R.O. has become more central and more important to all clubs and organizations in recent years. Clubs and organizations that place a high value on what they have to offer to both its membership and its prospective membership need to have an effective means by which to convey such a message. Because people are now bombarded with an almost continuous stream of messages and advertising etc. it is now more important than ever that community based clubs like ourselves ensure that our message does not get lost in these promotional blizzards. Because of the importance that Ballygarvan GAA Club places on this part of our function rather than just having a P.R.O. to deliver our message we will now set up a Communications Committee to deal with the very important job of telling as many people as possible, as much as possible, about our club and us.

Communications Committee

The role of this committee will be to

- Examine how we currently communicate to our membership
- Identify best practice in the delivery of club communications
- Draw up a communications plan
- Deliver on the clubs communications plan
- Assess the communications plan on an ongoing basis and upgrade same as required.

Club Website: www.ballygarvangaa.ie

The Clubs website will continue to be at the centre of the Clubs communications network. It will continue to hold all current and historic information regarding Ballygarvan GAA Clubs activities. It will be the means by which we will publicise our message to those living both inside and beyond our clubs boundaries. It is the primary means by which we will reach the clubs membership and also help our friends keep in touch with the club even from abroad. It is how we will deliver our club’s newsletter to those who have e-mail addresses and hopefully in the future it is how we will deliver texts to club members both regarding training and matches etc. but will also be used to give match and lotto results and details of upcoming events to those who wish to receive them. The intention for the future development of the website is that all of the websites content would also be available in the Irish language version. It is also envisaged that within the next three years Ballygarvan GAA clubs website will attempt to win a McNamee website design excellence awards.

Newsletter

The club’s newsletter continues to be a great success and plans are to be drawn up to have a printed version available to those who do not have access to the Internet.

Notice Board

There is a proposal to design and erect at a new club/ community notice boards. The plan is to identify the most suitable locations for such notice board and have it maintained with a continuous flow of club and community information including all upcoming matches, community and club events.

Branding

The club also intends to develop a Ballygarvan G.A.A. Club brand, which would be easily and readily identifiable. This would include the designing and sourcing of club merchandise for sale through the clubs “virtual shop” on the website.

Roving Reporters

The communications committee will have 3 “roving reporters” who will do match reports for the different age groups with a view to having them included on the website and the local newspapers. They would also cover local community news events and anything that might be of relevance to our audience.

Social Committee

As part of our proposal to strengthen our clubs role within the wider community we propose to establish a new social committee. This committee would have the role of organizing the more social side of the club, be it the odd table quiz, awards nights and the La na gClub, which was such a success in 2009. This committee is also to promote the cultural side of the club and would be required, as the name suggests, to develop the social/community side of the club. Its main aim would be to attract people who though might not have any interest in becoming an active club member but who would appreciate an opportunity to enjoy community based social events with a Gaelic hue.

Community Fun Day

There is a proposal for the club to hold an annual Fun Day. This would be an opportunity for people from both inside and outside of the G.A.A. community to get together in an

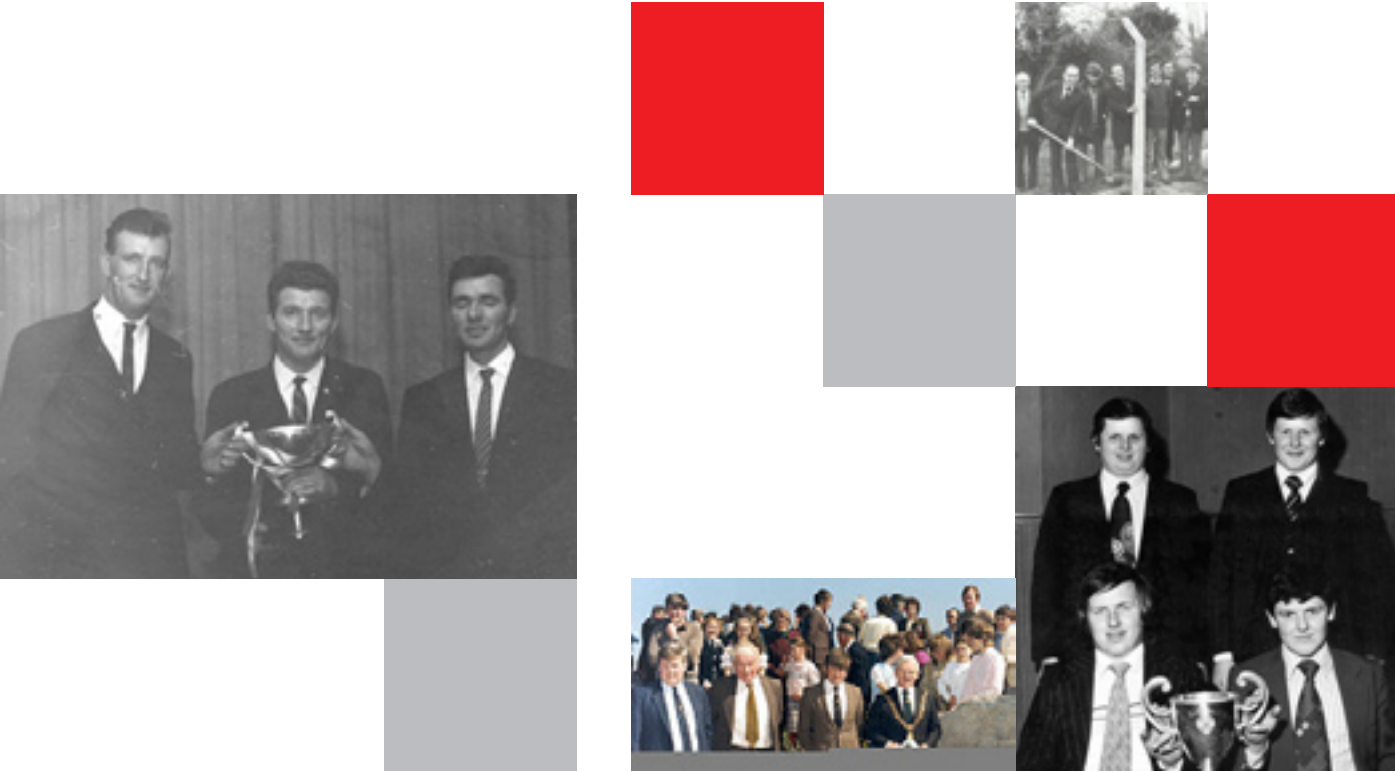
annual ‘Fun Day’ and would be an opportunity for the club to introduce people to the club and for new members of our community to get to know their neighbours and have a ‘Fun Day’ out with them. This would also be an opportunity for the club to promote its policy of inclusion and integration.

Social Responsibility

The clubs role does not end at the provision of training and games for our athletes. We also ensure that all club activities are undertaken within the very strictest codes of behaviour. The club has ensured that a Child Protection Scheme is in place and is continually updated. We have a Garda Vetting Program in place for all coaches within the club who are involved with our youth members, i.e. those under the age of 18.

We have a drug awareness scheme in place called A.S.A.P., Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program. This program is designed to raise awareness for all club members including committee members, coaches and players of the inherent dangers of the abuse of drugs and alcohol. The new G.A.A. Respect Initiative is now also being embraced by the club and hopefully will be formally adopted at the earliest possible opportunity.

We also have club members who are trained in C.P.R. and are trained to use the defibrillator which is located at the club. The club continues to provide a location for the Community Playgroup as it has done for over twenty years and also helps to provide facilities for different community groups from time to time as requested. We continue to give support to Ballygarvan N.S. by way of coaches provided by the club for training children of all ages as part of the schools curriculum. This club sees its role as central to the Ballygarvan Community going into the future.



Action	Outcome Sought	Timescale	Milestone	Responsibility
To have a list of all members contact details	To populate the GAA Database with mobile numbers , email& postal address of all members	2010	80% complete by May	Registration Sub Committee
Notice Board	To design and erect an electronic cum standard notice board at a suitable location in Ballygarvan for match and club updates	2010	design to be completed by September	P.R. Subcommittee
Club Welcome Pack	To design and print a Ballygarvan Club Welcome Pack to be delivered to the parents of all 5 & 6 year old school children in our catchment area each September.	2010	design and content to be completed by June 2010	P.R. Subcommittee and Juvenile Club
Webtext via the Ballygarvan GAA web site	To send weekly club match fixtures and results and also to send weekly lotto results to all club members.	2011	research re viability to be completed by 2010 AGM	P.R. Subcommittee
Newsletter	To issue a periodical newsletter to all club members by e-mail and by hardcopy to those without an e-mail a/c.	2011	design and content to be decided by June 2010	P.R. Subcommittee
Articles to be submitted to Carrigdhoun, Southern Star and Parish Newsletter	To publicise club activities by use of the local newspapers and Parish Newsletter	2010	team of writers to be identified by June 2010	P.R. Subcommittee
Establish a Social Committee	A committee to be formed to organise club social events such as La na gClub, Awards Night, Quiz, Card Drive etc	2010	members to be identified by next AGM	P.R. Subcommittee / Finance Committee
Establish an Annual Community Fun Day	To establish an Annual Fun Day for both parents and children before the end of school term. This should be done along the lines of and with a similar ethos of the Macra “Get to know your neighbour” day.	2011	proposal to main club committee by end January 2011	P.R. Subcommittee
Develop stronger links with the local school	develop a training program in conjunction with the local school especially as regards the Sciath na Scoil Competition	2011	proposal to be designed and signed off with the school before end of June 2011	P.R. Subcommittee and Juvenile Club
Develop La na gClub in conjunction with the local school.	Establish an annual competition to do with the local club and develop the historic side of the club with the school	2011	proposal to be designed and signed off with the school before end of June 2011	P.R. Subcommittee and Juvenile Club
Promote Club outings	to establish more club outings particularly for underage players to big matches and to to other clubs both within and outside of County Cork	2011		P.R. Subcommittee and Juvenile Club

Acknowledgements

Invitation - Come on board and help us!

In this document the club has laid before you its plans and vision for the club over the next number of years. Ballygarvan G.A.A. Club would now like to extend an invitation to you to join in and help us to achieve the goals set out in this plan – contact us at – info@ballygarvangaa.ie

Forename Surname

Mary	Aherne	Jim	O Halloran
Ken	Anthony	Richard	O Leary
Paddy	Ashman	Simon	O Leary
Myles	Barry	Michael	Ó Sé
David	Bouse	Bernie	O Sullivan
Pat	Bouse	Con	O Sullivan
Michael	Brady	Eddie	O Sullivan
Terence	Brady	Donie	Ronan
Padraig	Browne	Gary	Ronan
Pauline	Browne	Derek	Shears
Kevin	Cleary	John	Spillane
John	Corcoran	Micheal	Spillane
Pat	Daly	Pat	Sweeney
Anthony	Doody	Michael	Twomey
Aileen	Dunlea	Gary	White
John	Dunne	Stephen	White
Edmond	Forrest	Dave	Williamson
Michael	Forrest	Nan	Wyndham
Tom	Gavin		
Donncha	Kavanagh		
Joe	Kennefick		
Miriam	Lynch		
Mary	Lyons		
Richard	Mackey		
Barry	Mannion		
Ted	Mc Carthy		
Declan	Murphy		
Maria	Murphy		
Aine	Ní Cheallacháin		
Tony	O Brien		
Sean	O Hallaron		

Expert Group

Peter Hanan
Donncha Kavanagh
Canice Kennedy
Aodán MacGearailt
Éibhear O'Dea
Kevin O'Callaghan



BALLYGARVAN GAA 125th ANNIVERSARY

In 2009, the Gaelic Athletic Association marked the 125th Anniversary of its Founding. At the time, Ballygarvan was to the forefront in promoting the newly founded organisation and staged the inaugural regional fixture of the Gaelic Athletic Association.

On Tuesday, 28th April 1885, THE CORK EXAMINER, carried the following front page announcement-

SPORTS!

“THE CORK SOUTHERN HUNT CLUB and BALLYGARVAN ATHLETIC SPORTS and DRAG HUNT

to be held at BALLYGARVAN on MAY SUNDAY, at 1.30 sharp; to be held under the Gaelic Rules.

- 1. - 1.30, Boys under 14 years, Half Mile, open.
- 2. - 2 o’Clock, Quarter Mile Race, handicap.
- 3. - 2.30, One Mile Race, handicap.
- 4. - 3 o’Clock, 220 Yards, handicap.
- 5. - 3.30, Drag Hunt, to be confined to the hounds of the C.S.H.C. Some valuable prizes will be

presented by the Club to the owners of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd hounds.

- 6. - 4 o’Clock, Two Mile Race, handicap.
- 7. - 4.30, Half-Mile Race handicap.
- 8. - 5 o’Clock, High Jump.

Intending Competitors will kindly send in their names, with entrance fee, to,

Mr. Thomas Gillespie, 26, South Main-street, Cork, or, to Mr. Patrick Twomey, Ballygarvan.

Time for entries extended to Friday, 1st May, at 6 p.m.

General entry 5s ; single entry, 1s. No charge for Boys Race.

DANIEL SULLIVAN, Hon. Sec.”

In point of fact the fixture took place a week later, Sunday May 10th 1885, reflecting the logistical challenges experienced by the emerging national organisation and the local organising committee with regard to communications, funding, travel and declarations for the newly established Association.

Despite these challenges, the Ballygarvan committee, embracing the objectives of the new Association went ahead and ‘flew the flag’. The G.A.A. flag hoisted that day consisted of green ribboned borders, with verdant G.A.A. in embroidered lettering, centred on a white background. The officers on the day wore green rosettes. It was a festive occasion with the Barrack Street Band adding to the colour. Encouraged by Cusack and with the assistance of fellow Founder, John McKay, (Cork Examiner), and Jerome

O’Crowley, Jeweller, Oliver Plunket Street, the event was staged.

The following day the Cork Examiner recounted that - “These annual sports were held yesterday at the old trysting place in the meadow at Ballygarvan, and proved a most decided success - a much greater success in fact than the promoters anticipated, and far in advance of anything witnessed before in the same place. The attendance was something enormous..... The meeting was held under the rules of the Gaelic Athletic Association, and, as a consequence, the entries were numerous and the competition A1. The greatest punctuality was observed in the starting of the events, and the crowd was extremely orderly.....”

The Ballygarvan fixture proved an overwhelming success, attracting thousands of spectators from city and county and represented a watershed in terms of mobilising the G.A.A. on a nation wide scale.

Declarations of support for the new Association continued apace. Bolstered by this success the G.A.A.’s national committee continued to promote weekly fixtures around the county; Blarney (West), Kilavullen (North), Knockraha (East), culminating a month later, with a meeting in Cork City, at the Mardyke Cricket Grounds. The Gaelic Athletic Association had been established in Cork county, much to the satisfaction of its visionary founders and to the acclaim of its enthusiastic supporters. The county administrative structures, as we understand them today, emerged a year later in December 1886, when, at a meeting attended by the twenty-one Founding Clubs, convened in Dan Horgans, Billiard Rooms, at 23 Maylor Street, the Cork County Board was formed to manage affairs on a countywide basis. It was from these humble beginnings the G.A.A. grew to capture the imaginations of the masses. The lighting of the flame in Ballygarvan, 10th May 1885, marked the dawn of a cultural renaissance, from which, to quote Cusack; “the Association swept the country like a prairie fire”.

The Ballygarvan organising committee on the day included –

Tom Sheehan, Michael Callanan, John J. Marshall, J Finn, John P. Sheehan, Jim Sullivan, James Marshall, Denis Cronin, Jim Bowen, John Crowley, James Butler and Tom B. Scannell.

Hon. Treasurer – Tom J. Sheehan.
Hon. Secretary – Dan Sullivan.

Tom Gillespie, the Grocer on the South Main Street, and Paddy Twomey, the Village Blacksmith, when accepting

those entries, mustered an event that reverberated around the county. From this chrysalis emerged an organisation embedded in community, of community, enriched by community; therein lies the foundation on which it prospered: be it at our peril we underestimate that bedrock.

“The old trysting place in the meadow at Ballygarvan” today is floodlit and plays host to club, school and college competitions, uniquely standing in vibrant testimony to the visionary Founding Fathers.

Gaelic Athletic Association Championship Medal 1885

A circular silver Medal, engraved with Irish motifs of Harp, Round Tower and Celtic Cross with crossed Hurley & Hammer, the reverse decorated with the Shamrock and each leaf engraved with the names of Croke, Davitt and Parnell. This is an example of the medals presented by the G.A.A. in Ballygarvan.

In the early years, the Gaelic Athletic Association promoted Track and Field events alongside Hurling and Football, hence the image of the crossed Hurley and Hammer. The figurative detail on the engraving is rich in symbolism, a mythical resonance alluding to Gaelic learning, culture and athleticism, favoured in the neo-Celtic revivalist style of the time.







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