



# Tempo Maguires G.A.C.

An T-Iompú May Uidir



## Chairman

Sean Murphy,  
218 Tempo Road,  
Garvary,  
Enniskillen .

## Secretary

Conor Meehan,  
163 Glen Rd,  
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Co. Fermanagh.

## Treasurer

Michael Corry,  
24 Glengesh Rd,  
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A warm welcome to all who join us for the 2020 AGM, a strange one to prepare for and we hope better times await. This year's report is written against the back drop of a very difficult year for the whole community, not alone the club. In these unparalleled times the value of the club has been an important beacon and the welcome developments with the lower field have provided a chink of light in an often dark time. A year that promised so much, but one that has been fractured by Covid-19 has seen a great effort by club members to provide a sense of normality and provide a sporting and social outlet where possible. I must give special thanks to Teresa McNabb and Stephen Jackson for the work they did to provide the youth with online training during the first lockdown, an ingenious and simple way to give a platform to exercise and promote health and wellbeing. This was done with no fuss, but allowed a lot of children to see their friends and interact social. We are blessed to have people like this leading the way and helping us through the hard times. The efforts of all coaches and parents during the year has allowed youngsters and adults alike to have some time where the activities on the pitch allowed a sense of freedom from the dark cloud of Covid. The club would like to extend a warm welcome to our new Parish Priest Monsignor O'Reilly, we look forward to working towards a positive a bright future for the community.

A special thanks to the club officers who have represented the club so well over the past 12 months, a lot of work has carried on behind the scenes and it can be seen that progress is taking place and we are close to having an estate that will rival anything in Ulster. It would be remiss of me not to mention the contribution of our outgoing Chair Sean Murphy, he has completed a 3 year term in what has been a transformative period for the club. He accepted the position when whilst double jobbing as secretary and has overseen a great period of development for the club. He completes his term in office having presided over a successful stage of development and leaving the club in a very healthy place The unseen work that Phil and Michael get through is something that amazes me and without them, this club would not have a developed training pitch and we would not be in a good place. I cannot stress enough the value people like this add to Tempo Maguire's, their work and the work of others ensure we have the platform to be able to function as a club and provide such opportunities to our youth and senior teams.

Even though the year was severely disrupted there were instances of success, with pride of place going to the Ladies senior and minor teams who were successful in their respective championship and League campaigns. I close my welcome by extending the club's condolences to anyone who has lost a loved one throughout the year, a tough time made even worse by the restrictions and we hope that the club can provide a healing environment to help with your grief.





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## Team reports

### Senior

A new senior management team led by Pat McNabb, took on the task of preparing Tempo's Senior & Reserve squads for the 2020 season. An initial early, well-attended meeting with the squad took place on the 24th January with collective training then commencing on 28<sup>th</sup> January. Training began on the pitch at the Lakeland Forum but had to be abandoned after the first night due to the awful weather that was prevalent at that time. I would like to thank our club secretary, Conor for his diligent efforts around this time, to find us another venue for training. In the meantime, a couple of sessions were conducted using the clubhouse and road up past the school to undertake some running. Eventually, Conor secured the use of the soccer pitch at the Leisure Centre in Lisnaskea from then on, as our training base.

In all, our pre-season training entailed a 6-7 week programme of high intensity training throughout the last week of January, February and early March dove-tailed with a couple of challenge matches against St. Pat's Donagh and Aghyaran.

The commitment from the majority of players throughout this phase of the season was excellent on the whole. A significant number of players were given an opportunity to stake a claim for a place for the start of the league. A number of strategies were also tried out in these games, dealing with the principal issues of securing possession from our own kick-out, defending with a structure, as well as having variety of options in how we attack. As a management team, we felt that the players approached these plans with enthusiasm and feedback was often very positive.

However, unfortunately Covid stepped in, with result that by the second week of March, everything came to an abrupt halt.

The resumption in late June saw the majority of players back in attendance at training again. However, a couple of players were hesitant about attending collective training, expressing very valid concerns about the potential spread of the coronavirus. On top of that, one or two other players had their involvement hampered by work and one player was not able to commit to the travel required to be a part of the plan for the rest of the season. The arrival of Keelan Kelly from Trillick provided a timely boost amidst some of this uncertainty. Obviously, the league campaign was short-lived with only five fixtures fulfilled. Performances in these games were good as the team worked at, not only gelling together, but also familiarising themselves with various game-plans that management had been working on at training. The short time-period leading up to the championship match against Teemore meant that everyone was trying to learn quickly, and maybe this proved to be a disadvantage for some players.





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From a management point of view, it was somewhat frustrating that freakish injuries disrupted some of the preparation for the championship with, initially Niall McCusker injuring his shoulder in an in-house match which ruled him for approximately four weeks, and then our captain Rory McCaffrey damaging his cruciate ligament in the league game against Irvinestown. On top of this, we also had Peter Rafferty having to have his game-time carefully manged due to his persistent hip injury and then Tiernan Bogue missed the Derrygonnelly game due to suspension, as well as sitting out two other games due to a niggly Achilles heel problem.

Despite these issues, other players were taking their chance and there were some very notable performances from many players including, Matthew Jackson, Eunan McCann, Tommy Warnock, Lorcan McStravick, Aidan Breen, Declan Owens, Fergus Fee and Keelan Kelly amongst others.

Our championship defeat to Teemore was extremely disappointing, as the performance overall was not reflective of the capabilities of the players who lined out that day. Despite the defeat, it was very encouraging how the players went straight back to training, participated in a very positive feedback exercise about the Teemore match and then set about taking those lessons on board. Unfortunately, events overtook everything and the chance to put right some of the mistakes made, will have to now wait until the 2021 season.

On the Reserve/Junior side of things, I wish to thank Declan for his time and efforts in managing this team on match days. Again, there were quite a few positive performances here and with one game left in the league, there was every confidence that a league final could have been reached. However, the coronavirus restrictions also put paid to that ambition for this season.

## Reserve

The team came within one win of a league final. Some good wins and promisingly a number of the younger personnel on the team progressed well and will be an important part of the senior team for years to come. As mentioned the team were one win away from a final (an un-played fixture against Brookeborough) and showed enough potential for the team to push on next year. In my view a strong reserve team going well pushes on the senior team and players that are on the periphery of the senior staring team should make themselves available for the reserves and not see it as a demotion. Provided 2021 schedule can run smoothly and the requisite effort is put in the reserves should be aiming for league and championship honours.





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### U17 boys

A successful enough season for the U17 given that this age group has found the going tough in recent seasons. There are only 7 of this squad who were the final year U17 so they were always going to find it difficult to complete against teams with more lads of the right age. Having said that they acquitted themselves well in Division 3, and came to within a point of making the final. The only team that beat them was an Ederney/Coa amalgamation who were a particularly strong team for Division 3 level.

I would hope to see most if not all the 7 lads (Cathair Breen, Brendan Cassidy, Dermot Corry, Niall Fee, Eoin Gallagher, Liam Moore, and Ruairí Moore) join up with the Senior/Junior panel for training next year. Strong performances this year from Liam and Ruairí in midfield but I think if there is an award for an U17 player it should go to Niall Fee this year who scored some great points and contributed the majority of scores throughout the league. Great to see good numbers from the U15 panel adding to the numbers and to the strength of this group. Some notable talent in that group that hopefully will add to Tempo's adult teams in the future.

I think it would be better if there was some link up from adult level to encourage u17 to stay on. We had Stephen Jackson help with our goal keeping at the start of the season and that was well received by the young lads.

Something to note (these just my personal observations). I think there should be more emphasis and indeed encouragement for players to use both feet from Tempo Og right through to adult. Too many lads and girls are still completely one footed by the time they play u17/minor. Also we did a couple of sessions on tackling and a lot of lads get to u17 without understand what the rules are around tackling and how to execute clean tackles without fouling.





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### U15 boys

Two attempts to get the season started.

Earlier on in the year we did manage to play 1 competitive game, a drawn game away to Lisnaskea.

Lockdown was introduced just after the first round of fixtures. Unfortunately circumstances dictated that the 2nd attempt to start the league also failed, this time we managed just one friendly game against Enniskillen.

It's a pity because we would have been playing against the best teams in the county in division 1 this year and had a large panel of very good players. We had a panel of 35 players with a large attendance at training every week. Thanks go to Nigel Moore for helping to manage and coach, and also to Gareth Flanagan who took on the role of Covid officer. Thanks also to Liam Donoghue who was training the team before the first Covid lockdown.

### U13 Boys

Played in division 3 this year alongside a Brookeborough/Maguiresbridge amalgamation, Devenish, Coa and Roslea. The squad of around 19 players ranged from P6 to 2<sup>nd</sup> Year. The boys trained hard from the start with nearly always a full turnout two evenings a week and always gave their best in games. The league started in Mid-July and they played Devenish and St Mary's, losing both games. They started to improve beating Coa in the next game, this was a big game for the players as there was a lot of rivalry due to the connection with the school in Mullanaska, it was almost like a league final to them.

It was to be 5 weeks until our next league game, so we played 3 challenge games in between losing to Derrygonnelly but beating Teemore (a division 2 team) and Clogher. The last league game was against Roslea whom we beat by 5 points. In conclusion, after a slow start to the campaign we finished strong in third place. The league was won by St Marys.





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## Senior Ladies

This year's campaign has been a very different year from what we are used to while taking part in Gaelic Games. However, it has been a very successful season for our senior ladies squad.

Having won division two in 2019 our senior ladies participated in Division one for the first time in many years and competed very well having won 50% of our league games and narrowly missing out on a league final in a tapered season.

With a successful first season in division one our senior ladies participated in the intermediate championship in which they beat Ederney and Belcoo to reach a final. They played Lisnaskea in the final and won leading to a first championship in ten years.

Unfortunately due to the current pandemic our Ulster Junior championship quarter final against the Down champions has been postponed. We hope that this will take place in January 2021.

Not only has it been a successful year for silverware but it has been a very successful year for the transitioning of younger players into the senior squad helping them gain valid experience throughout the year. We hope that this continues in 2021 having had a successful U18 season.

The coaching team and playing squad would like to thank the club for their continued support throughout the year. We would also like to personally thank Mairead McNally for continuing her role as team physio, Stephen Jackson for videoing and analysing matches and Eamon Fee and Kevin West for umpiring at all games.

Lastly, we would also like to thank our team sponsors of The Nally Stand and Ennsikillen Skip services for their support in this year's campaign.





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### Minor Girls

Highlight of the year for minor girls has to be the division 2 final against Bellanaleck in Brookeborough. Bellanaleck had beaten us in the league only a few weeks earlier. It was a wet and windy night in Brookeborough, and playing with the wind in the first half the teams went in level in a top quality exhibition of football and score taking, the teams level at 3-6 apiece. Tempo battled hard in the third quarter against the wind, but at the final water break found themselves 4 points down and up against it. However, a spirited and inspirational last quarter saw them turn it around and win by a goal for a victory that will live long in the memory of the girls, their families and those lucky enough to be in attendance. Final score was 5-10 to 3-13. Misfortune affected their preparation for the championship, losing one player to a broken bone in her hand and another player who had to isolate. Both players were influential and this left a difficult task against Derrygonnelly even harder. However the girls done their best, and put in a respectable performance. Credit to the Fermanagh Heralds coverage of ladies underage games this year, the coverage was very good. Particularly the coverage of the Division 2 final, it was great to get a full page with several colour photos. Thanks to Edel Jackson who took on the role as Covid Officer as well as assisting with team management, and also to Orla Cassidy and Cleona Bogue as team coaches. Thanks also to Stephen Jackson who took several sessions for the development of the goalkeepers.

### U16 Girls

Training started for the girls in early August and continued until the end of September when the session was curtailed due to the ongoing health crisis. Training occurred twice a week and turnout was excellent with more than 20 girls at each session, three new players from outside Tempo joined us who had not previously played any underage with the club. No competitive or friendly games were completed due to Covid.





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### Lower Field

As mentioned earlier, the developments on the lower field have provided a source of optimism in a bleak year. After lengthy meetings with the FODC we were delighted to agree a final plan for the development of the lower field. A great start was made, aided by the fantastic weather in early spring/summer. The appointed contractors ATMAC worked quickly and the outline of the perimeter path and entrance was soon to develop. The work progressed quickly, but was also affected by Covid restrictions. The standard of work is of the highest order and we now have a development that can showcase the progressive thinking of the club and will allow our club to cater for increased pitch demand. We have also created a fantastic community hub with the walking track around the outside of the pitch, this is a facility that will allow the whole community to access and use and with the provision of lights it can be used in winter and during the evenings. As mentioned last year in my report, these developments do cost a lot of money and we need extra capital to continue to develop the estate. The Gym will be completed in the near future, the walkway and carpark have had street lighting provided; work to improve access and drainage to the back lane is nearly completed. Access to link the top and bottom pitch is planned and floodlighting planning is in the development stages to allow training during winter months. These are some of the many projects that are being progressed by club money, and as will be discussed later the need for capital generation within the club needs to be created in order to drive the development into the final stages of completion





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### Lotto

The lotto continues to be the major force financially. The lotto jackpot went in February and since then we have been lucky to hold onto the £10,000. Sales were close to or above 1600 before the February winner which was unprecedented. The executive met and decided that the jackpot should be set at £10,000 again to capitalise on these sales, this decision has been proved to have been the right choice and although lady luck has been present on a few occasions we continue to lead the way within the county on our Lotto strategy. Due to Covid the lotto went exclusively online, and I must thank Phil for his massive contribution to setting up and maintaining the lotto for several months every Saturday evening. This alone is a huge commitment to the club, and one I feel that may not have got the appreciation it deserves. Online sales held steady, although not at record levels it was still well above average sales and huge bonus for the club in difficult times. I would like to thank all patrons who subscribed to the online lotto, I feel it worked very well and again showcased the progressive thinking in the club. With the return to tickets, we are faced with limited help as expected with the rise of cases in the local area, this is a situation that needs looked at, as we will be facing disruption for some time to come and this will affect volunteers and income. On doing the lotto on a Saturday evening, there has to be discussion around where this takes place. Whilst doing it in a pub has been the norm, we are no longer in that norm and due to safety concerns and lack of volunteers we need to have the discussion on where we do count the tickets and money. I realise this has the potential to be a difficult conversation but the needs of the club come first.

### Sponsorship

As with every year we are indebted to those kind sponsors who provide vital financial help to the club, we ask the club members to support these sponsors in these challenging times so we can keep the local community prosperous. With the lower field development, we find ourselves with prime location for brand enhancement throughout the estate. This will allow local companies to show support for the club and this is an avenue of finance that we as a united club must develop to maximise financial support from the local business community. We have neglected this area for too long and need to ensure we approach any renewed campaign with sensitivity in the current climate





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### Membership

Membership has long been an issue where this club has sold itself short, in a motion that will be discussed at the AGM we need to develop the membership structure to help the club progress the development and help make the club more self-sufficient as has been the case for many clubs in recent times. All members must evaluate the value of the club to them and their families, a rebranded Caride Tempo where members would pay a monthly subscription would allow the club to generate vital funds and help us realise the dreams of a fully developed estate. We had 352 members last year and if all families/players/adults bought into the scheme we potentially have a revenue stream that would make the full development of the clubs estate a realistic proposal. I ask you all to consider the proposals that will be presented in a serious way. There were 107 members who started the last club Tempo scheme; this allowed the making of the grass pitch on the lower field and the council grant did the work to the walkway and associated works. We are so close to making this development a fantastic success and if the club members buy in and support this then Tempo Maguires will have an estate that will serve our children and our children's families for decades to come.

### Volunteers

As with every year there are a dedicated number of valued volunteers who help keep this club going, from Toots looking after the changing rooms to the coaches of the teams, lotto helpers, match day stewards, committee members. Each we are extremely grateful for and thank them for the precious time they give to the club. We have seen new faces enter the club this year and continue to need fresh help and ideas to move the club onwards. For the coming year, we will see a host of new faces on the committee. I hope that they can bring new enthusiasm and vigour to their roles as we try to move the club onwards and upwards in realising the further development of the estate and creating a club that will cater for the needs of its members

To close my report, I sincerely thank you all for the help you have given to the club over the past year. At the end of the day we all have lives away from football, but the work and dedication shown by our members is something that truly amazes me. I hope that 2021 provides us with the opportunity for brighter days, where we can meet and enjoy success for Tempo Maguire's. I have been privileged to serve as secretary for the past 3 years, in this time the club has developed massively and still has lots to do. Let's all get involved in the push to make this special club the envy of the county.

*Conor Meehan*

