

## **ÓRÁID AN CHATHAOIRLIGH/CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS 2012**

**Having had the advantage of reading The Secretary's Report which precedes my address in advance, I am conscious of the fact that the activities of the club both on and off the field have been well documented within that report, so I will confine myself to making some general observations and references to concerns.**

**It was disappointing that our Senior Team failed to win The Division 2 League. There did appear to be a lack of urgency from the team in the early stages and then having realised that this division is a tough one from which to advance, performances improved greatly, however the crucial match against Rossa was disappointing to say the least. We may of course be in Division 1 next season if the proposed new league format is approved at convention. The failure to come out of Division 1 is no reflection on the manager Raymond and his assistants who deserve credit for their commitment to the task, indeed I would like to thank all the team mentors across the spectrum for a job well done in the season past.**

**At our monthly meeting concerns has been frequently expressed that the club does not have a proper juvenile structure. At no time did this concern apply to the actual mentoring of the teams rather it related to the administering of juveniles affairs and the burden placed on the club secretary having to deal with matters which should be within the remit of a properly structured juvenile section of the club.**

**While on the subject of juveniles I want to emphasise the importance of all mentors and helpers in whatever form having proper Child Protection accreditation. We are all aware that we are living in a world where anyone working with children should be conscious of the fact that bullying and discrimination can occur in seemingly simple situations and if someone decided to make an issue out of an incident the resolution could be difficult and unpleasant.**

**Leaving juvenile matters I would like to turn my attention to the proposed Club/Community Project. Let no one be in any doubt that the main beneficiary of this venture will be the Hurling Club. I am sure there will be few if any in the community who have not given financial support in one way or another to the fund raising but I would urge members to give practical support also to the fantastic few who have achieved so much in short time. My admiration for them knows no bounds.**

**If re elected as Chairman I will be entering my tenth year in office. In my tenure I have been fortunate to have worked firstly with Fiona Mackle and for the last four years with Maggie McToal as club secretaries. Unfortunately Maggie has chosen to relinquish her position and I want to express my thanks and gratitude for the assistance she has given me and for her attention to detail together with an unstinting commitment to club affairs. Her value to the club is recognised by all and thankfully she will continue to make a contribution albeit as a normal member.**

**The GAA is widely recognised as a leader in the promotion of amateur sport and its rules and guidelines on club organisation and welfare of players etc. are used as a template of best practice by other sporting bodies. I feel that we could be more supportive of our county, certainly financially, as Club Aontroma endeavour to raise funds for the development of the Dunsilly Centre of Excellence. I make this comment while well aware of our own commitments.**

**The modern day GAA club is required to be run on very different lines from that in the past and to this end the burden of administration has increased greatly as is evident from the list of posts required to be filled. Those who take up such posts have everyday commitments but still make**

**time for club affairs and multi tasking is quite normal for many. As an example I would point out that Gerry Cosgrove and Malachy Leech have refereed a large number of matches in addition to being ever present when help is required. Gerry of course also carries the additional burden as Treasurer. I would like to thank them both and show my appreciation to all those who have undertaken the posts for which they were elected to serve in the year 2012.**

**My wish for 2013 is see a much larger uptake of club membership, the subscription for which is a very modest amount and that a greater number of members will decide to attend the monthly meetings so that decision made will widely represent the member's opinions.**

**In conclusion I would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and hope that 2013 will be a good one for us all both as a club and personally.**

**Niall Wheeler**

**Chairman**