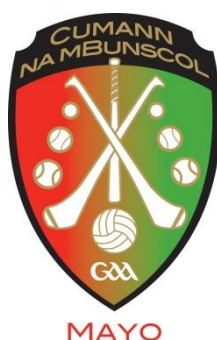


## Cumann na mBunscol | Mayo GAA Convention Report 2016



2015/16 was another very busy year with a range of activities from September right through to June. We have almost 150 participating schools.

### Use of Pitches

We are very grateful to the clubs all around the county who allow us to use their facilities free of charge. Our activities simply would not be possible without this.

This year saw the welcome return of our Divisional Finals in both hurling and football to Elverys McHale Park. These finals are our showpiece events and it is a great privilege to host them in our county ground. It is a wonderful opportunity for the children and schools involved. We are most grateful to the County Board for facilitating this and we would like to thank Phil Heneghan, who is always so accommodating.

### Quiz

Our quiz took place again this year in The Welcome Inn Hotel on January 20th. Congratulations to our winners, St Patrick's BNS, Castlebar. Thank you to Seán Mac Éil for his assistance.

### Handball

Competitions took place in January with 64 children across 15 schools participating. County winners went on to compete at provincial and All Ireland level. Thanks to An Sportlann for hosting and facilitating.

### Rounders

Rounders Introduction Days are ongoing with 456 children across 18 schools participating. Introductions Days are being held in Began CoE. We are hugely indebted to Billy McNicholas and his coaches for supporting this endeavour. We intend to run Rounders blitzes and competitions in spring 2017 and we are planning a rounders exhibition during the National Football League.

## Hurling

As always, we are extremely grateful to Adrian Hession for his support. 34 schools are in receipt of coaching, and all of these schools participate in Cumann na mBunscol blitzes or competitions. 12 schools participated in camogie competitions.

Congratulations to Scoil Padráig, Westport, Carracastle, Balla and Derrinabroc who won their respective divisions in the boys' competitions and to Tooreen and Kilmovee who won out in the girls' competitions. Thanks to Yvonne Byrne for helping with camogie.

The "First Hurley Scheme" is now in its fifth year with over 1,000 quality hurls distributed to children around the county at a very reasonable cost.

## Mini 7s

Our football Mini 7s finals were played in April in the Centre of Excellence. Congratulations to Crossmolina Boys and Quay Ballina Girls who were crowned champions.

Our Hurling and Camogie Mini 7s also took place in Began. Winners were Carracastle boys and Tooreen girls.

## Football

Our football finals were held in Elverys McHale Park over two days. These finals were the culmination of competitions which began in our nine local areas, the winners of which progressed through county quarter and semi finals.

Sincere thanks to all teachers who organised these competitions at local level and to those who helped out on county finals day. We are hugely grateful to Billy McNichols and his coaches for their help in running these very large competitions.

Congratulations to our football county champions for 2016:

Division (based on school size)	Boys Champions	Girls Champions
5	Eachleim	Gortjordan
4	Mount Pleasant	Midfield
3	Bohola	Aghamore
2B	Balla	Knock
2	Crossmolina	Gaelscoil na Cruaiche
1B	Culleens	Culleens
1	Quay Ballina	Quay Ballina

## **Exhibitions**

We ran football and hurling half-time exhibitions throughout the National Football League for all Mayo's home games. These are a very successful way of promoting our activities and a great opportunity for children to play in Elverys McHale Park in front of large crowds. We are very grateful to Padraic Carolan, Billy McNichoals and Adrian Hession, The County Board and all the teachers who make these exhibitions happen.

We fielded teams for the half-time exhibitions during the Mayo V Galway Connacht Semi-Final and eight children represented their schools during the Connacht Football Final. A number of children went on to play in exhibitions in Croke Park in both Hurling and Football throughout both All Ireland Championships.

Thank you to the County Board for providing playing gear for the children who participated in the Connacht Semi-Final.

## **Young Whistlers**

The children of Brackloon National School took part in the Young Whistlers Refereeing Programme. Thanks to Mel Kenny for his involvement. Pupils from the school officiated at exhibition games during the Connacht Football Championship and All Ireland Football Semi-Finals.

**Danny Charlton**

**Cumann na mBunscol**