**Chairpersons address**

I would like to thank all those who contributed to making the 2019/20 playing season a successful year both on and off the field for Munster Post Primary Schools. I would like to congratulate the winners of each competition in particular St. Flannan’s College Ennis for winning the Harty Cup and Tralee CBS for winning the Corn Ui Mhuiri Competitions.

We had no more than seven schools progressing to All-Ireland glory when we were unfortunately hit with Corona-Virus pandemic, leading to closure of our schools on March 18th. We had St. Flannans College Ennis (Croke Cup), Tralee CBS (Hogan Cup), Beara Community School (Br. Edmund Ignatius Rice Cup) and Patrician Academy Mallow (Paddy Drummond Cup) competing at All-Ireland Semi-final level. We also had Cashel C.S. (Paddy Buggy Cup) and Colaiste Treasa Kanturk (Michael Cusack Cup) both competing in All-Ireland hurling finals. Finally, we also had St. Brendan’s Killarney in the Paul McGirr Football final. However, An Coiste Bainistiochta accepted a recommendation from the CCCC that all second level All-Ireland schools competitions be cancelled due to the Corona-virus pandemic. It was also a disappointment that we were not able to finish our Un.16 ½ Football and Un. 15 Hurling competitions due to the wholescale school closures.

I would like to thank the Munster Council staff for their continued support. In particular, a special word of thanks to Eoin Ryan (Munster PPS Games Administration Officer) and Ed Donnelly (Munster GAA Communications Manager) for their work. I would like to thank Eoin Ryan for his professionalism, dedication and commitment to his role having completed his second year as Munster PPS Games Administration Officer. Eoin and each of the county servicing officers deserve a special mention for their dedication and ability to get a very busy programme of games played off on time no matter what the weather conditions were over the 2019/20 season.

Also, a word of thanks also to those who have contributed to the greater exposure of our games in both the print media and on social media this year. Here, I would like to thank Ed Donnelly, Eoin Ryan and Munster PPS PRO Dave Minogue for promoting Munster Post Primary Schools competitions not alone on the dedicated website but also through social network channels such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

To the incredibly hard-working committee who have given so much of their time and expertise in ensuring that our games have been organised, promoted and run in such a professional manner. We are very lucky to have such a dedicated committee in place who are interested in ensuring that our players have a well organised programme of games in place. I would like to thank our Secretary Declan Fitzgerald and Eamonn Phelan for stepping in while Eoin was out for the super job that you both did. I would also like to acknowledge the professionalism that Declan brought to his role as Secretary and we are in safe hands as Declan moves into the Vice-Chairperson role. To Liam O’Mahoney, I would like to thank you sincerely for your help support and advice, your role as chairman of the CCC and involvement at All-Ireland Post-Primary Schools level. Liam is leaving his position of Leas-Cathaoirleach and I am glad to say that he will continue to represent Munster PPS as All-Ireland PPS representative for the coming season. To Hugh Flavin, our treasurer who has taken over from Fergus Ryan (who did an excellent job), you have really grown into your role and we are very lucky to have such a competent Treasurer. To David Minogue, you have taken on the role as Munster PPS Pro and have contributed significantly to the promotion of our games through Twitter, communicating with our schools and collaborating/leasing with schools surrounding match reports which are displayed on our official website. I wish you the very best of luck as you step into your new role as Secretary. To Mike Nash I thank you for your contribution at All-Ireland level and as part of our core Committee. To the servicing officers, the County representatives on our CCC and Gradings Committee, we thank you for your commitment and significant role in assisting us in making effective decisions on matters arising.

I would also like to extend a word of gratitude to all referees and officials who have taken time and effort in ensuring that the highest standards of refereeing which has been applied to all our school games this year. All officials give freely of their time throughout the year to officiate at school’s games at all levels and we really appreciate it.

To the teachers, coaches, students, school managements and parents who continue to support the promotion of our Gaelic Games throughout the province at all levels, your contribution is much appreciated. Playing school sports has a very positive effect on students’ well-being in the short term and in the long term the memories of the fun that they had will live on for many years to come.

As we look forward to the year ahead with optimism, we await Post-Primary schools in Munster to make decisions when and if they are ready to return to play our games at Post-primary school level. We have new Covid-19 fixture structures put in place, all squads correctly graded and a full programme of games put in place to cater for all our players and look forward in the very near future to getting back to the playing fields.

Remain safe and look forward to working with you in the season ahead. Fan Slán.