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The past 12 months have been quite memorable for many reasons - on and off the pitch - and we believe that we are moving in the right direction at the Football Association of Ireland.

We have spent the last week visiting the clubs in the region and the passion for football in Kilkenny is as strong in this county as we’ve seen in our Festivals of Football through the years.

Of course this year was a massive one for Evergreen FC who reached the FAI Junior Cup Final in association with Umbro and Aviva in May. Although they were ultimately unsuccessful on the day, the club should be rightly proud of all they have achieved this season and in recent years.

Kilkenny has produced numerous underage and female internationals in recent seasons and there is great work being done at grassroots level in the region.

The strength of the FAI is in the grassroots. While the Association gains most attention for the activities of the senior international teams and the SSE Airtricity League, the reality is that football happens around the country throughout the year at so many different levels catering for the needs of people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities.

Through our work with the local councils, government agencies and many other organisations our sport reaches into the hearts of communities nationwide that no other sport can do.

The world’s most popular sport can be played by anybody. From Powerchair Football to Walking Football to social football and down to a bunch of children playing with jumpers for goal posts, our game is open to all.

Of course the elite level is critical. The Player Development Plan is designed to raise standards and ultimately we want young Irish footballers reaching the top of their game without having to leave their families behind while they are still at school age.

The development of the SSE Airtricity Under 19 and U17 Leagues, and this year’s commencement of the U15 National League, is with the aim of having our best young players being tested against their peers regularly, working with qualified coaches and helping them to fulfil their potential.

It should be repeated that this year Republic of Ireland Under 17 men’s and women’s teams each reached the last eight in the UEFA European Championships at their age groups. Only six nations out of UEFA’s 55 members achieved that this year.

While both sides may have wanted to even go a step further in the
competition I feel the achievements of Colin O’Brien’s men and Dave Bell’s women should not be undervalued. Tom Mohan’s U19 men’s team had a very good campaign - beating Italy and Belgium in the Elite Phase - so they were very unlucky not to reach the UEFA Finals this year. Dave Connell’s WU19s were also eliminated at the Elite Phase.

The Men’s Senior Team will always capture the most headlines and there is no doubt that Martin O’Neill’s side has performed brilliantly in the 2018 FIFA World Cup qualifying campaign and we have every faith in them to progress to the finals in Russia next year.

The Women’s Senior Team are also seeking to qualify for a major tournament as they prepare for their 2019 FIFA Women’s World Cup qualifiers. There is a freshness about the squad since Colin Bell took over and I’m sure they will do the country proud in their qualifying games.

Dundalk’s progress in the UEFA Europa League last year - and the performances of Cork City in the same competition - highlighted the quality that home-based Irish players and clubs can produce on the big stage. We are confident that all of the representatives of the SSE Airtricity League have the quality to make further progress in Europe.

Stephen Kenny’s side proved their class again in the title race but Cork City’s memorable Irish Daily Mail FAI Cup win has been the catalyst for John Caulfield’s side to move up a notch and the standards in our league are rising year on year.

Similarly, in women’s football Shelbourne Ladies and Wexford Youths raised the bar and it has been interesting to see how the other clubs have responded to that challenge.

The Continental Tyres Women’s FAI Cup Final meeting between the two sides was a great advertisement for the game. We hope that as our representatives in the UEFA Women’s Champions League, Shelbourne can benefit from the switch to a single calendar season when the qualifying round starts in August.

Off the pitch the Association continues to look at progression and the election of our CEO John Delaney earlier this year reflects how Irish football is viewed amongst our colleagues in Europe. His tenure at the FAI for more than the past decade has seen many development milestones for our game - both on and off the pitch.

Our small country does not have revenue streams to compare with most of our UEFA neighbours and we are competing with other popular sports for the support of spectators and sponsors.

To that end, I believe John and the board have directed our game through testing times and it is thanks to our stakeholders, the often unheralded commitment and effort of the FAI staff and the brilliant support from blue chip sponsors such as Three, Aviva and many others that we’ve continued to serve the football family.

Progress continues and there are many challenges ahead but that commitment to achieving the best for our game remains as strong as ever.

Finally I would like to remember at this time some of the great football people we lost in the past year including former FAI President Milo Corcoran, Derry City captain Ryan McBride and many others who gave so much to football in Ireland.

May they rest in peace.

TONY FITZGERALD
FAI President
The heart and soul of Irish football lies in the grassroots of the game. During 2016, thousands of volunteers once again invested so much of their personal time for the benefit of those who take part in our sport at every level, right across the country.

It is the work of these volunteers - great community people - which I have the pleasure of witnessing first hand each week, as I travel around the country, visiting clubs and leagues. The entirely selfless work that goes into their local league or club is the solid foundation on which our great game is built.

As an Association we are committed to serving our grassroot members across all areas of the game as they go about managing, growing and developing football in key areas, including:

- Player Development
- Coach Education
- Football for All
- Increasing female participation numbers

The growth and development of our game from grassroots right through to international football is supported through the FAI’s 2020 Strategic Plan, which includes nine key areas of focus:

1. Participation
2. Club and Community Development
3. Women’s Football
4. Player Development
5. SSE Airtricity League
6. National Competitions
7. International Football
8. Facilities
9. Organisational Development

The specific goals outlined in our Strategic Plan are monitored in detail on a quarterly basis and reported to our members annually.

While grassroots football is the foundation of Irish football, the success of the game reaches a pinnacle in terms of public interest with our international teams and with the success at the highest stage of all for our Republic of Ireland men’s and women’s senior teams.

Both squads enter into crucial periods in their attempts to qualify for FIFA World Cup finals, with the women’s side starting out in their campaign for France 2019, while the men’s team enter an important period in their attempts to qualify for next year’s finals in Russia.

In February, we welcomed the arrival of Colin Bell as the new women’s senior team head coach, from Frauen Bundesliga side SC Sand, in Germany. Colin is a proven winner as his success with FFC Frankfurt, whom he lead to a UEFA Women’s Champions League in 2015, demonstrates. I wish Colin and the Women’s squad the very best as they look to qualify for a first major tournament at senior level.

Martin O’Neill and the men’s senior team have built on the great achievements at UEFA EURO 2016 to give themselves a very strong opportunity to reach the World Cup in Russia. There have been memorable results in the campaign to date, including a draw away to Serbia and a brilliant win on the road against Austria.

It’s important to mention the loss of both Shay Given and Robbie Keane to retirement. Two of the country’s most loyal servants on the pitch, Shay and Robbie loved representing Ireland since they were teenagers and maintained that passion right until they bowed out. I’m delighted to see Robbie has been completing his UEFA coaching qualifications through the FAI Coach Education Department. I hope he can inspire the next generation who are already emerging through our underage set-up thanks to the investment made in the game over the last 10 -15 years.

CEO’S MESSAGE

JOHN DELANEY
FAI CEO
Martin O’Neill has continued to monitor all players available to him, including those in the SSE Airtricity League. During the year three Dundalk players were called into his squad adding to the list of former League players gaining senior caps. This reflects the progress made by the League in recent years, particularly in higher coaching standards and the introduction of the underage National Leagues.

Seeing Dundalk perform so well in the UEFA Champions League and then the UEFA Europa League last year demonstrates that Irish-developed players can compete at European level. It is a huge credit to Stephen Kenny, the Dundalk board, and everyone connected to the club that they were able to become such terrific ambassadors for the country on the European stage while also retaining the SSE Airtricity League Premier Division and reaching the Irish Daily Mail FAI Senior Cup Final.

Cork City ultimately spoiled Dundalk’s double bid by lifting the FAI Cup and their progression has also been quite remarkable. Aside from John Caulfield’s senior team, there was the magnificent run of Stephen Bermingham’s Under 19 team in the UEFA Youth League that showcased the talent coming through at the club.

The SSE Airtricity League is a key part of the national league system in Ireland. By 2018, the changes will have served the game well, overall structure will serve the game well, especially in the longer term.

Another aspect of the development of young players rests with our underage international teams, which include more home-based players on a regular basis – thus indicating that the Under 17 and Under 19 National Leagues are working in terms of developing elite players. I want to acknowledge the work of our underage international managers and I would like to record my appreciation to Noel King, Tom Mohan, Jim Crawford, Colin O’Bien, Paul Osam, Jason Donohue, Dave Connell, Dave Bell and Sharon Boyle.

I would like to pay tribute to Sue Ronan, after a six year spell as the Women’s Senior International Head Coach and I look forward to her continued work with the Association in a full time capacity as Head of Women’s Football.

The development of the game through High Performance Director Ruud Dokter and our own staff, working closely with the volunteer community, continues to make huge strides in developing Irish football.

The development of the game through the Player Development Plan (PDP) continues to be rolled out around the country and the commencement of the Under 15 National League is another step forward in that process. Since its launch in 2016, 17 workshops have been conducted as part of the PDP with 1,416 participants attending. In addition, 18 referee workshops have taken place with 722 participants attending.

Similarly, the launch of the Coach Education Pathway 2017-2020 is designed to allow coaches to improve in all levels of the game, catering for grassroots and volunteer level as well as the elite/professional level. Our latest group of the UEFA Pro Licence are at the top end of the pyramid but everybody who looks after a football team should aim to grow their knowledge of the game via coach education. More than 54,900 participants have now benefitted from over 2,600 FAI coach education programmes over the past five years.

Women’s football has been a priority of the Association for many years and the game has made significant progression in recent years thanks to the dedicated work of the FAI Women’s Committee, FAI Women’s Department, the clubs and volunteers all working together. We’ve seen playing numbers increase year on year, our underage teams regularly qualifying for UEFA finals – as our Women’s Under 17s did this year – and the Continental Tyres Women’s National League is now in its seventh season.

The development of women’s football in Ireland is a key pillar of the FAI Strategic Plan. We know that the work that has been done up until now has been successful and we are determined to continue to improve. Our plans include growing participation, improving coaching standards and helping develop better elite level players. A major milestone in the Women’s game in the past year came during the Gaynor Cup tournament thanks to an exclusive link-up with Fota Island Resort. We achieved record-breaking numbers including:

- 1,000 girls participating
- 45 teams taking part
- 115 games being played

This year’s Annual General Meeting in Kilkenny marks a historic development, in the almost 100-year history of the Association, as a first female member will be elected to the FAI Board. The election of Niamh O’Donoghue marks a significant time for football in the country and I wish Niamh the very best in her new role.

With the ongoing developments in Governance structures in Ireland and globally, we have set up a committee, led by Rea Walsh, our Company Secretary, to review these developments and implement good practice as necessary to ensure the Association remains at the top level of governance in sport.

The other members of this important committee, both of whom are external, are Tom Jordan, Director of OPD Consultancy Limited and former chair of CORU and
Miriam Malone CEO of Paralympics Ireland. We are fortunate to have on board terrific Commercial, Corporate and Community supporters. We are extremely thankful to our core sponsors Three, and their CEO Robert Finnegan for his loyal support.

My thanks also to Toplion, who, through Umbro Ireland, have served us so well over many years and we welcome their New Balance brand, who will be our new kit supplier from August this year.

I would like to thank Aviva, SSE Airtricity, SportsDirect.com, Celtic Pure, Carlsberg, Ford, DHL, EA SPORTS, CityJet, Irish Daily Mail, Bank of Ireland, Tetrarch Hospitality, SPAR, D.I.D. Electrical, Continental Tyres and Bus Eireann, who have all been brilliant partners to the FAI in recent years and their support is critical to maintaining the work required to continue to grow and develop the game at all levels throughout the country.

We have also welcomed new partners on board in the past year including Fulfil, iPro Sport, Rustlers, Ladbrokes and Benetti, and we’re delighted to be working with them.

During 2016, we also announced a partnership with Beacon Hospital and Cappagh Hospital to establish a medical care pathway for all international players, and we thank them for their professional assistance.

Government support is vital for all Irish sports and we are thankful for all ongoing assistance. In addition to the financial assistance provided through Sport Ireland, the Association invests heavily through our own income generation, and for every €1 received through grants we invest €3 into grassroots football.

We are very grateful to Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport Shane Ross TD and Minister of State Patrick O’Donovan TD, for their support and assistance. I would like to wish Patrick well in his new role and wish Brendan Griffin the very best as he takes over as Minister of State for Tourism and Sport.

I would like to thank the officials of their department for the commitment, interest and support they have shown in Irish football. We also thank the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for its support.

In September, the Association was proud to support the candidacy of Aleksander Ceferin as UEFA President and I am certain that his tenure will lead to a strong UEFA which will help countries, such as ours, to continue to develop and grow the game.

Last November, we were delighted to work with UEFA, Dublin City Council and Government to officially launch the UEFA EURO 2020 Dublin City Brand. As one of the 13 host cities, Dublin will play host to three group matches and one Round of 16 game in that show-piece championship finals and we want to ensure Ireland showcases itself to the world in three years’ time.

Personally, I had the honour of being elected to the UEFA Executive Committee this year. It was naturally a proud moment for myself and my family but, truly, it is a sign that Irish football does have a voice which can be heard at the highest levels of the game. That should send its own message to all involved in Irish football that we can achieve so much in this game we love.

I look forward to my new roles with UEFA as Chairman of the Youth and Amateur Committee, and Deputy Chair of the Women’s Football Committee.

Our UEFA Regions’ Cup squad showed great quality under Gerry Davis to reach the finals in Turkey, where they won a silver medal.

The work that Gerry and his staff put into preparing the Connacht-Munster players for the finals after qualifying through a very testing group is a testament to the dedication of all involved.

Our referees are also making progress with Michelle O’Neill named as one of the assistant referees at the UEFA
Women’s European Championships in the Netherlands, while Limerick referee Robert Hennessy is the latest Irish official to be elected on to the FIFA International Referees panel.

Over the past 10 seasons, FAI referees and assistants have received over 120 appointments at FIFA World Cups (men & women), UEFA European Championships (men & women), UEFA Champions League (men & women), UEFA Women’s Champions League, UEFA Europa League, UEFA Under 21 European Championships, UEFA Under 19 European Championships and UEFA Under 17 European Championships.

The FAI is proud of the huge amount of programmes that we include in our work as an Association, for those suffering disabilities. It is important for everyone to have access to our game, regardless of ability or disability. Included in these programmes are:

- Amputee Football
- Deaf Football
- Blind Football
- Powerchair Football
- Cerebral Palsy Football
- Football for All

Similarly, the Education and Training Boards (ETB) and the FAI have reinvigorated their long-standing partnership and young players continue to get the chance to complete that programme and get back on the education and employment pathway – just like successful graduates Daryl Horgan and Andy Boyle did in the past.

One of the great initiatives that sets the FAI apart is the role of the Football Development Officer. These DOs operate at real grassroots level in communities up and down the country – funded in a true partnership with Local Authorities.

We recently launched the role of a co-funded Development Officer (DO) with Offaly County Council – ensuring that every county in Ireland now has a presence on the ground using football to help deliver great community benefit.

This year also saw the appointment of new Football Development Officers in Limerick and Cavan. The Association is able to implement our numerous programmes and initiatives into communities through our DOs and these partnerships with our local councils are vital for the growth and development of our game throughout the country.

From a development perspective, our work with Cork County Council and FORAS, the trust that operates Cork City FC, will see the development of a Munster Centre of Excellence in Glanmire, for which Government support is essential.

That the FAI National Training Centre was recognised for excellence at the Association of Landscape Contractors of Ireland Annual Awards ceremony shows the great work put into that project. The Training Centre won the Best Sportsground and a Special Award recognising its Design and Build Quality.

We are working with many clubs around the country to improve facilities and the FAI Club Mark scheme can help our clubs to achieve excellence in administration and aid their club’s growth across all sectors.

The Irish Football National Draw has also been beneficial in this area with more than 100,000 tickets sold by over 350 clubs last year, resulting in €1m additional funding for many clubs across the country.

As part of our technology development, further implementation of FAlnet has allowed clubs and leagues across the country to improve their administration through our football management system.

An enormous amount of work has gone into giving the Irish football community a world-class system which compares with any such programme worldwide.

Working with our volunteers remains a cornerstone of the Association but ultimately the biggest priority bar none is that our children can play the game they love in a safe environment and without fear of abuse or discrimination. The issue of Child Protection and Welfare is taken very seriously and our Child Welfare Department continues to work with clubs to ensure they are equipped to take the right steps to ensure the safety and well-being of their young players.

Sadly, the past 12 months saw us lose some truly dedicated members of the Irish football family. The legacy of former FAI President Michael ‘Milo’ Corcoran will never be forgotten and the naming of the Milo Corcoran International Department ensures that his work will always be remembered.

We were also struck by the devastating passing of Derry City captain Ryan McBride. His loss hit Irish football in such a way that it was felt not just by his family and friends, but everyone connected with the game.

We have also lost some truly remarkable members of the Football Family, including former internationals Liam Tuohy, Anne O’Brien, Shay Dunne, Ray Brady, Eddie Bailham, Dessie Glynn and Paul McCarthy, manager Charlie Walker, former Shelbourne chairman Finbarr Flood, and administrators including Kevin Nugent, Jim O’Shea and Tommy Heffernan.

There are too many to mention but rest assured we are well aware of how much they and others have done for our game in their communities.

JOHN DELANEY
FAI CEO
NEW DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS

The FAI continues to develop partnerships with local authorities and social programmes nationwide to cement football’s role in the community.

Amongst the progressions in the past year was the confirmation of Thomas Heffernan as the new FAI Football Development Officer for Cavan.

Working with the Association since 2007 as an assistant coordinator on the Emerging Talent Programme in Clondalkin, Monaghan native Heffernan is a UEFA A Licence holder who has helped in various aspects of the game since retiring from playing following stints with Monaghan United and Dungannon Swifts.

Barry McGann (pictured above) was also brought onboard as a Football Development Officer after he took up a vacancy in Limerick. He has been making great strides since commencing his role.

In June, the FAI confirmed that an agreement had been struck with the Offaly County Council for a co-funded Football Development Officer - with John Delaney and Martin O’Neill in attendance in Tullamore at the announcement.

The FAI now has at least one Football Development Officer in every county in the Republic of Ireland.

The Offaly Football Development Officer adds to the 52 other Football Development Officers implementing football in the community programmes across the country.

ANNUAL GARDA FAI DCC PROJECT

More than 500 boys and girls from North Dublin came together to participate in the Annual Garda FAI DCC Project at the Alfie Byrne Road Complex in February.

Pupils from schools from Clontarf, Harmonstown, Killester, Artane and Raheny took part in the project which focused on Anti-Bullying and Personal Safety and Show Racism The Red Card for fifth class Primary Schools.

Raheny/Clontarf Community Gardai led by Sgt Jim Clavin and FAI Development Officer Jimmy Mowlds ran the classroom Anti-Racism, Personal Safety and Anti-Bullying modules over three days at the beginning of February.

“We had 28 classes to deliver the full ‘Show Racism The Red Card’ programme with the assistance of Paul Whelan and Jamie Wilson and their Project Futsal students from Ballymun who were complimented by the Gardai on their professional delivery of the school football sessions and coordinating them with the classroom talks,” said Mowlds.
One of the initiatives introduced by FAI Development Officers in the past year was the establishment of the country’s first ever Football and Fitness Course for Transition Year students held in conjunction with Fingal County Council.

The ground-breaking course provided 25 young students with the opportunity to meet their educational requirements while developing a whole range of football skills and also gaining a full Fitness Instructor’s qualification from Litton Lane Training.

This football-centred education initiative was run in Corduff Sports Centre over the course of the 2016-17 academic year with all students getting permission from their respective schools to attend.

The course was officially launched by Republic of Ireland star Robbie Brady and his endorsement was crucial as he fielded questions about his own career progression and how he maintains his fitness whilst playing at the top level.

The course, run in partnership with the FAI and supported by Blanchardstown Area Partnership and Sport Ireland, was extremely well-attended and recorded an impressive average attendance rate of 93% throughout the school year.

Denis Hyland, an FAI-Fingal County Council Football Development Officer and Course Coordinator, and Martin Doyle, FAI Development Officer for Blanchardstown, ran this successful pilot course with year two ready to commence in the next school year.
more than ever it is essential that every club is well organised in all areas of club management. Clubs must work to the highest standards of governance, planning, financial management and volunteer management while also keeping child welfare and safety at the core of what they do. They must also be committed to quality coaching, player development, coach development, inclusiveness and raising the standards of behaviour in the game.

To facilitate this the Club and League Department has developed the FAI Club Mark. This identifies, promotes and recognises best practice in club management and provides the necessary guidance, direction and resources to ensure clubs are empowered to implement it.

The FAI Club Mark is currently being piloted with 14 clubs across the country. The clubs are working closely with the Club and League Department to complete their Entry Level Award. Once completed the clubs will assist to provide a detailed evaluation of the programme to ensure it runs as effectively as possible before a national launch.

The FAI Club Mark is supported by the Club Management Guide which has been completed in consultation with key stakeholders. The guide provides advice and guidance on all aspects of running a club in addition to practical templates, sample documents and role descriptions.

The guide is currently in use with the 14 pilot clubs engaging in the FAI Club Mark and will be made available for all grassroots clubs. Further supports are being developed through the means of a club education training course.

This initiative will assist administrators in clubs with the practical skills required to effect positive change in their football club.
Recreation studies at QQI level 5 with most achieving a QQI major award enabling them to apply for college places via the CAO system.

All students also participated in the ITEC Gym Instructor course, which is a professional qualification and a gateway qualification to work in the leisure and fitness industry. All students participating have achieved FAI coach education certification up to national D license level. The academic/football programme has also enabled many students to avail of soccer scholarships and coaching opportunities in the USA.

From a football development point of view, players continue to benefit from the knowledge and experience of top FAI coaches, who are qualified to UEFA A and UEFA Pro Licence level. Indeed, almost 40% of players who are currently with SSE Airtricity League clubs are graduates of the programme. Amongst the recent graduates are Andy Boyle and Daryl Horgan, who played a starring role in Dundalk’s UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League adventure in 2016 before both moving to Preston North End. The duo have since become full Republic of Ireland internationals.

The partner Education & Training Boards recognise the powerful attraction of football to re-engage young people with formal education and are happy to continue a fruitful cooperation, which has been in place for many years. Indeed, other ETBs have expressed an interest in co-delivering the programme and it is anticipated that it may expand into other areas of the country in the future.
Once again, the FAI National Football Draw proved to be a huge success as it raised over €1million for clubs and leagues last year.

With more than 100,000 tickets sold by over 370 clubs, the Draw has maintained its popularity amongst grassroots clubs all around the country.

The draw continues to be an effective and risk free means of fundraising for clubs of any size in every part of the country. The 2016 prize draws took place at Aviva Stadium on November 23rd. Four lucky winners went away with a brand new Ford Fiesta car. In total, there were more than 2,000 prizes on offer.

Benefits to a club taking part in the Draw is that it is a readymade fundraising option with little or no financial risk, clubs can make a minimum order of just 20 tickets and there is no maximum order, their club name will be printed on every ticket thus providing further exposure, and promotional materials will also be provided to the club.

The 2017 National Draw launched early in July and we encourage all clubs to get involved by emailing nationaldraw@fai.ie

We thank our sponsors for their continued generosity and support and wish all clubs the best of luck in their fundraising efforts.
THE DRAW CONTINUES TO BE AN EFFECTIVE AND RISK FREE MEANS OF FUNDRAISING FOR CLUBS OF ANY SIZE IN EVERY PART OF THE COUNTRY
SPAR FAI PRIMARY SCHOOL 5s PROGRAMME
The third year of the sponsorship agreement with SPAR saw another increase in numbers in the SPAR FAI Primary School 5s programme with 3,572 teams (17% increase) from 1,495 schools (15% increase) competing. This was a total of 28,576 participants, which was broken down as 11,384 girls and 17,192 boys (37% female participation). The National Finals were held in the Aviva Stadium on May 31st and more than 3,000 people were in attendance.

The programme received fantastic local and national media coverage and continues to go from strength to strength each year.

SPAR FAI Primary School 5s National Winners 2017
‘A’ Cup
Granagh NS, Kilmallock, Limerick

Girls ‘A’ Cup
Drimina NS, Tubbercurry, Sligo

‘B’ Cup
Scoll Mhuire gan Smál, Ballymote, Sligo

Girls ‘B’ Cup
Carnmore NS, Oranmore, Galway

‘C’ Cup
St. Ciaran’s NS, Hartstown, Dublin

Girls ‘C’ Cup
Our Lady’s of Good Counsel GNS, Johnstown, Dublin

PRIMARY SCHOOLS FUTSAL
The Primary Schools Futsal programme was a fantastic success again this year and there were a record number of participants with 501 schools and 9,924 children taking part (41.96% female participation). This represented an increase of 33% in overall participation as Futsal’s popularity in Primary Schools continues to grow.

FAI SCHOOLS POST PRIMARY SCHOOLS COMPETITIONS
With extra competitions added for small schools this year there were 14 National Cup competitions in the FAI Schools calendar at Post Primary Schools Level. 7 Boys and 7 Girls competitions ranging from U14 to U19.

The Senior Cup competitions in particular received exceptional coverage with sponsors Bank of Ireland getting heavily involved in promoting and covering the event.

Over 30,000 boys and girls took part in Post Primary Schools competitions this year.

Bank of Ireland FAI Schools National Cup Final Girls Winners 2016/17
Senior Cup
Coláiste na Trocaire, Rathkeale, Limerick

Senior ‘B’ Cup
Mulroy College, Milford, Donegal
THE PRIMARY SCHOOLS FUTSAL PROGRAMME WAS A FANTASTIC SUCCESS AGAIN THIS YEAR AND THERE WERE A RECORD NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

Junior Cup
St. Laurence College, Loughlinstown, Dublin

Minor Cup
Presentation Secondary School, Kilkenny

Minor ‘B’ Cup
St. Mary’s Secondary School, Newport, Tipperary

First Year Cup
Presentation Secondary School, Kilkenny

First Year ‘B’ Cup
St. Mary’s Secondary School, Newport

Bank of Ireland FAI Schools National Cup Final Boys Winners 2016/17

Dr. Tony O’Neill Senior Cup
St. Francis College, Rochestown, Cork

John Murphy Senior ‘B’ Cup
Pobalscoil Ghaoth Dobhair, Gweedore, Donegal

Tom Ticher Junior Cup
St. Francis College, Rochestown, Cork

Minor Cup
St. Brendan’s College, Killarney, Kerry

Minor ‘B’ Cup Pobalscoil Ghaoth Dobhair, Gweedore, Donegal

First Year Cup
St. Joseph’s College, Galway

First Year ‘B’ Cup
Dublin Oak Academy, Bray, Wicklow

POST PRIMARY SCHOOLS FUTSAL

The Post Primary Schools Futsal programme also saw a massive growth in participation this year with 279 schools and 5,940 children taking part. This represented a 35% growth in participation and a massive 43% of the participation was female players. The National Finals were held in Waterford IT in December and proved to be a big success with Summerhill College, Sligo winning the boys competition and Presentation SS, Kilkenny winning the girls competition.

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

UCD won their fifth CUFL Premier Division title in eleven years as they defeated UCC 4-1 in an entertaining final in Home Farm FC in March. NUI Galway were promoted to the Premier Division after overcoming IT Tallaght in the Division One final. DIT ‘B’, Maynooth University ‘C’ and Carlow College of Further Education secured the Division Two, Three and Four titles respectively. Waterford IT won their third consecutive CUFL Futsal title defeating IT Blanchardstown 1-0 in the Final in the WIT Arena.

The IUFU Collingwood Cup was hosted for the first time by Maynooth University and UCC defeated UCD 2-1 in extra time to win the competition. The IUFU Harding Cup was won for the first time in their history by DCU after they defeated UCC in the Final in College Park, Trinity College. Ulster University Coleraine retained their IUFU Crowley Cup crown by overcoming rivals

IT Carlow made it a remarkable six-in-a-row in the CFAI UMBRO Cup with a narrow 1-0 victory over Letterkenny IT in Markets Field. Limerick IT hosted the remaining CFAI Cup Finals and IT Tallaght overcame Waterford IT in the CFAI UMBRO Plate. Cork IT defeated the hosts Limerick IT in penalties in the CFAI B Team Cup. Dublin Business School and Dún Laoghaire IADT captured the CFAI Bob Eustace Cup and Shield respectively.

The Women’s Soccer Colleges Premier Final was won by Maynooth University with an impressive 4-1 win over IT Sligo in Athlone. DCU were Division One champions and IT Blanchardstown won the Division Two title. NUI Galway were WSCAI Premier Cup winners and the Division One and Two Cups were won by DIT and Garda College respectively.

In the League Cup competitions the finals were played in UL and NUI Galway defeated the hosts UL 4-1 to secure the Premier Cup. DIT overcame Athlone IT and Garda College got the better of Mary Immaculate College to win the Plate and Shield competitions respectively.

Maynooth University secured an impressive double by winning the WSCAI Intervarsities Cup for the first time in their history. Maynooth defeated NUI Galway in the Marydyke Arena, UCC in an exciting final. The hosts UCC claimed the Intervarsities Plate competition and Ulster University secured the Intervarsities Shield.
Records were broken by the SportsDirect.com FAI Summer Soccer Schools last year with more participants involved than ever before. And this summer promises to be just as popular.

Summer Soccer Schools is the FAI’s largest grassroots programme and one of the most important as it encourages children’s involvement in sport, in a fun and friendly environment. Now in its 21st year, the summer camps had over 31,000 children from all around the country taking part last year - which was a new record, an increase of almost 5,000 children on the previous year.

We saw an increase of 19% in female participation from 2,875 up to 3,423 and also a 19% increase in Goalkeepers from 1,115 to 1,331. Of the 350 camps held nationwide, 163 of these were completely sold out.

Trevor Scanlon took over from Ger McDermott as FAI Camps National Coordinator in January 2017 and will continue to grow the programme. In 2017, 27 new clubs have teamed up with the FAI, increasing the number of camps to 372 with over 1,000 coaches applying to work on the camps.

Republic of Ireland manager Martin O’Neill remains the SportsDirect.com FAI Summer Schools ambassador and was on hand at the Aviva Stadium on May 5th to officially launch this year’s programme. Since partnering with SportsDirect three years ago, it has been no secret that the camps have gone from strength to strength.

Also in this period, the FAI & SportsDirect have partnered as part of the sponsorship to fundraise for Temple Street Children’s hospital as their charity partner. Thousands have been raised for the charity which will continue throughout 2018.

The fun-filled camps are a fantastic way to introduce children to football and help them develop their skills. Camps are priced at €65, with discounts available for siblings and multiple camp bookings, and aimed at children aged between six and 14 to play football.

The week-long camps come with the highest standard of coaching and care delivered by Garda vetted FAI qualified coaches which is what sets them apart from other sports summer camps.

Camps began on July 3rd and will run right through to August 25th (Monday-Friday 10:30am to 3pm). All camp participants receive a new fully branded SportsDirect.com FAI Summer Soccer Schools kit, football, backpack and certificate. All attendees will also receive 20% off all SportsDirect clothing, footwear & accessories in store.

For more information go to www.summersoccerschools.ie
SUMMER SOCCER SCHOOLS IS THE FAI’S LARGEST GRASSROOTS PROGRAMME AND ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT AS IT ENCOURAGES CHILDREN’S INVOLVEMENT IN SPORT, IN A FUN AND FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT
This summer and autumn, the FIFA Live Your Goals Festivals of football took place in all corners of the country. Limerick, Mayo, West Cork, Donegal, Tipperary and Waterford to name just a few. Over 1,400 girls took part in the various events.

More girls in Ireland are playing football than ever before. And a huge part of that is the impact of the Aviva Soccer Sisters camps.

Participation numbers continue to climb each year as the popular camps - which take place over the Easter period - cater for girls aged between 7 and 12 years of age in a fun, friendly and safe environment. As a first introduction to football, it is a fantastic way for girls to enjoy the game, hone their skills and make new friends.

The FAI has put a lot of emphasis on growing participation numbers amongst girls in football and the Aviva Soccer Sisters is a brilliant way of achieving that. A nursery scheme, which was piloted last year, also helped in that regard as it was designed specifically for girls between five and eight years of age. In June, eight lucky clubs got to experience the thrill of playing at the Aviva Stadium as part of the Aviva Soccer Sisters National Festival of Football. The girls were coached by a number of Republic of Ireland Women’s International players and enjoyed a once-in-a-lifetime day at the home of Irish football.

A key element of these events is the introduction of the young girls to their role models.

Players from our Women’s National Teams and the Continental Tyres Women’s National League took over our coaching zone at each event. This ensures that every child leaves with lasting memories and an enthusiasm to continue playing football.

The FIFA Live Your Goals festivals of football have widened their scope to spread all around the country and that is good news for girls of all ages.

Over 1,400 girls took part in various events held as north as Donegal and as south as Waterford, where fun was the major theme. Designed to get more girls playing football, these events are set up to ensure that the girls enjoy each session and make new friends.

Ambassadors from the Republic of Ireland Women’s Senior Team helped out on some coaching at various events and their presence was a massive boost to the young girls as they were able to learn from their role models.

FIFA are doing a lot of work to grow women’s football and the Live Your Goals event will continue to be rolled out across the country in an attempt to connect with as many girls as possible.
August 2016 saw the commencement of the first full season implementation of Phase 1 of the plan relating to recommendations 1 and 2, which address the playing format.

There has been ongoing engagement with all of the key stakeholders and, since August, the PDP Steering Group has delivered no fewer than 39 workshops to referees, coaches and parents with in excess of 2,200 participants.

This year also saw the development of a PDP Workshop for referees which was delivered as part of the Grassroots Module during the Referee Seminars.

We have received very beneficial feedback from referees as to the PDP implementation from their point of view and the PDP Workshop will feature annually at the Referees Seminars going forward.

In terms of resource materials, a second edition of the PDP Implementation Booklet has also been produced with a print run of 10,000 copies and this is available to all club coaches through our team of local Development Officers or by emailing pdp@fai.ie.

(To date 15,000 booklets have been distributed to coaches).

We have also made available an A3 laminated poster on “Effective Coaching” which clubs can display within their clubhouse and full roll-out of the Coach / Parent Education Workshop will commence in Q3 of 2017.

Phase 2 of the plan has also commenced and sees the utilisation of the FAI National Training Centre for Elite Player Development and Coach Education as well as significant changes to the Coach Education pathway.

This Page will also incorporate the new SSE Airtricity Under 15 National League, which will begin in August 2017 for a truncated season - followed by a full season in 2018.

The U15 National League follows on the success of the U17 and U19 National Leagues, which are extending the reach of the elite player pathway around the country.

This pathway is hugely important to the development of Irish football and is already proving to have an impact with more home-based players involved in international teams and breaking into the SSE Airtricity League senior teams.

A full PDP implementation audit presentation was made to the FAI Board in June. Planning for the roll-out of Phase 3 is underway.
THIS YEAR ALSO SAW THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PDP WORKSHOP FOR REFEREES WHICH WAS DELIVERED AS PART OF THE GRASSROOTS MODULE DURING THE REFEREE SEMINARS.
EMERGING TALENT PROGRAMME

The FAI Emerging Talent Programme continues to evolve in line with its connection to the Player Development Plan.

In the past 12 months the following activity has taken place in this programme:

- 120 training sessions were delivered at 10 Regional Centres for players at under 12, 13 and 14 during July and August 2016
- 60 training sessions were delivered at 10 Regional Centres for players at under 12, 13 and 14 during October 2016
- League ETP centres have been in operation since September
- A League ETP Coaching Clinic was held at Tulla United in Clare during July 2016
- 12 Centres of Excellence are currently in operation on a weekly basis with a training and games programme for players at Under 15-16 level
- Two Centre of Excellence and Regional ETP Coaching Clinics were completed in August and November
- The Under 14 National Training and Development group became operational in July 2016, meeting twice in July, August and December and once in October with 75 players attending the programme
- The Under 13 National Elite Goalkeeper Training and Development was operational in October, November and December with 14 players in attendance currently.
- The Under 15 National Extended squad training and assessment was held during September (four dates) and December (two dates)
- The Under 15 National group participated in the Hibernia Trophy at St Joseph’s Boys FC in August 2016
- The Under 16 National group participated in the Galway Cup Elite Section during August 2016
- The Under 16 National Future Developer group participated in the Galway Cup Club Section during August 2016.
The FAI has partnered with a prominent Welsh Social Enterprise, Vi-Ability to prepare a funding application for a project designed to develop social enterprises around SSE Airtricity and Welsh Premier football clubs.

The pilot programme which, if funded, will target two prominent professional clubs in Ireland and Wales, aims to develop and deliver a number of key social programmes which will demonstrate a commitment from the football clubs to social responsibility.

The project will fund the employment of enterprise coordinators and operational staff in each club chosen to participate in the pilot project over a period of eighteen months. The project staff will strive to develop partnerships with key statutory agencies with a view to delivering a sustainable programme of initiatives centred on health, education and social inclusion.

Although the proposed enterprises will operate in the name of the local professional club, they will operate on a completely independent basis to ensure transparency, accountability and sustainability.

The funding application is in its final stages and a decision on funding is due in 2017.
The Leagues have been a huge success, especially with the backing of local Gardai, and it helps to foster a strong community spirit. But there is also a competitiveness to the games with each team wanting to make it through to the finals.

Players and teams could “win” league points by attending civic and social workshops pertaining to positive lifestyle choices. Teams could also win extra league points by delivering two communal ‘social actions’ within their own localities e.g. tidying up their estate and visiting local OAPs at home and playing board games etc.

Similarly they would lose points for poor sportsmanship with a red card costing five league points and a yellow card costing two points. To break down local ‘tribalism’, home teams had to provide pizzas and both teams had to sit down and eat together post-match.

The “carrot” to incentivise buy-in was tickets to the Ireland-Wales World Cup Qualifier.

Despite one or two indiscretions, the concept worked very well. The challenge of leveraging competitive youths efforts into positive off-the-field activities is a compelling initiative and something the FAI would look to activate again.

In existence for the past five years, the Noel O’Reilly League was set up to engage with inner city youths to keep them active and away from anti-social behaviour.

This diversionary programme is aimed at offering youths in disadvantaged areas a chance to participate in a fun, safe and healthy activity during traditional anti-social behaviour times - generally on Friday nights.
WALKING FOOTBALL

Walking Football is aimed at offering the active retirement cohort a chance to remain or sample ‘The Beautiful Game’ in a slower less-taxing manner.

The FAI have partnered with ‘Age and Opportunities Ireland’ in formulating a fun, safe addition for older adults’ recreational options.

Currently IT Blanchardstown are measuring and evaluating a ‘control group’ based on a men’s group who meet every Wednesday in the National Indoor Arena – attempting to ascertain both the fitness and social positivity gleaned from Walking Football involvement.

For Quarters One and Two the FAI have delivered Walking Football in 22 ‘centres’ with 380 participants.

LATE NIGHT LEAGUES

The FAI, Garda and Local Authorities supported initiative ‘Late Night Leagues’ is now into its eighth year of delivery.

This diversionary programme is aimed at offering youths in disadvantaged areas a chance to participate in a fun, safe and healthy activity during traditional ‘anti-social behaviour’ activity hours (generally Friday nights). This programme offers Garda an informal ‘soft’ communication channel into an often “difficult to reach” target group.

For Q2 2017, the FAI operated 23 ‘centres’ that saw an increase in numbers from Quarter 4’s 1960 participants to 2241 (14.34%).
The hub programme targets unemployed men and women from disadvantaged areas and is designed to assist them to gain employment, encourage them to further their education and promote volunteerism in local communities.

The academic programme on the hubs is similar to the Football Development courses but instead of a focus on developing players, the hubs promote volunteerism in local communities by placing students in local schools and clubs to deliver coaching sessions as part of the course programme.

Students have assisted in the delivery of key social inclusion programmes such as Football for All, Late Night Leagues and after school drop-in centres.

In excess of 8,000 volunteer hours have been delivered every year by project students in local communities with children in local schools and clubs and disadvantaged youth benefiting from the football coaching qualifications and experience gained by students from the course.

Progressions from Project FUTSAL hubs are significant and recent research has shown that over 50% of graduates have progressed to employment with another 15% choosing to progress their education.
In 2016-17 the core participation initiatives under the FAI’s Intercultural Football programme designed to signpost more children into participation in club football and/or FAI community-based programmes continued via the ‘MyClub’ after-school club link programme. This is organised by FAI development officers throughout Ireland targeting both girls and boys.

Participation programmes to encourage involvement in Futsal for adults also continued, with 6-8 week participation programmes/leagues in urban locations (Wexford, Enniscorthy, Dublin City, Tallaght and Galway).

Under our educational remit, through local workshops and campaigns including the ‘Show Racism the Red Card’ campaign and the UEFA backed ‘Football against Racism in Europe (FARE) Campaign we continue to work with FAI affiliates and schools to raise awareness of racism and promote the value of respect. In the area of supporting good governance and working in collaboration with FAI disciplinary and control unit, the Intercultural programme remains focused on monitoring the number of cases related to racism/discrimination managed directly by the Association’s disciplinary processes, while also providing advice to our affiliates.

Further actions by the Intercultural Football Programme to encourage participation in football continued in late 2016 through the involvement in a pan European EU Commission co-funded Erasmus+Sport project which focused on the volunteering of people from diverse backgrounds. This saw the Intercultural programme work with pan-European partners in eight countries to develop a handbook on migrants volunteering in sport, the handbook at the outset was specifically designed to assist both people interested in volunteering in football and in clubs.

Additionally, as part of this project, support was also given to the European Week of Sport now in its second year- four grassroots football events were organised nationwide during the European Week of Sport and held in conjunction with clubs, local sports partnerships and council sports units, NGO’s working refugees and asylum seekers. These took place in Dublin at the Tallaght stadium, Mayo, Sligo and Galway.

Between June 2016 and 2017, 68 afterschool club link programmes, with children’s ages ranging from 7-12 years and some 1275 children playing football directly after-school (41 percent females) took place. 15 follow-on club open days or open training sessions took place in 2016/2017 with 491 participants.

Five Adult Futsal programmes were delivered with over 700 adult participants, approx. 14% female participation involved. ‘FAI/Show Racism the Red Card’ Schools and Clubs

Education actions took place across the country during the FARE Weeks period. 44 grassroots clubs answered the call to run actions in support of the campaign messages. Four national league clubs (Cork City, Galway United, Kilkenny United WFC and Sligo Rovers) and one supporters’ club (Shels 1895 Trust) supported the campaign.

Classroom-based DVD presentations and Football PE sessions were delivered by Development Officers in over 116 schools, with 4,245 participants. Clubs and Schools that took part in the campaign had their activities supported with materials, from the ‘Intercultural programme/Show Racism the Red Card’ (SRTRC).

Over 10,000 children, young people and adults took part in various programmes delivered nationwide in 2016-17 with over 30 percent of participants on all programmes having diverse ethnic, cultural or national backgrounds and heritages, underpinning the strong role that football can play in promoting integration and inclusion.
The FAI has implemented a new e-vetting system that allows all Garda Vetting applications to be processed online on receipt of a ‘Vetting Invitation Form’ from the applicant. This new procedure came into effect from September 5, 2016.

Turnaround times for applications have proven to be much quicker, with most applications processed in 2-4 weeks. In order to facilitate a smooth transition for clubs/leagues and other affiliated members, the FAI have been accepting and uploading the older paper version of forms. From 23 December 2016, the FAI is only accepting forms completed via the new ‘Vetting Invitation Form’ to ensure all applications are processed in a timely manner.

Garda vetting has been an FAI Rule for all those working with children and or vulnerable persons (in a paid or voluntary capacity) for a number of years now, with the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016 placing existing FAI practices on a statutory footing. Almost 25,000 Garda vetting applications have been submitted to the National Vetting Bureau and we continue to work closely with them weekly.

The delivery of Child Welfare courses has continued throughout the year with over 14,000 participants completing a Safeguarding 1 course over the past five years. A small number of pilot Safeguarding 2 courses have been offered to clubs and the feedback thus far has been positive. This course provides additional support and training for the Designated Child Welfare Liaison Officer of each affiliated member. Planning is now in place to ensure that this course is available for all clubs/leagues and other affiliated members throughout the next year.

Each FAI Department continues to place child welfare at the centre of its preparation when delivering programmes to children in line with the principles outlined in the FAI Child Welfare Policy. Donal Conway (Chairman) and the FAI Child Welfare Committee continue to meet regularly to review progress. Key aspects include policy development and reviewing Garda vetting applications to ensure children and young people can participate in all football activities in a safe environment.

The FAI continue to inform its members of their roles and responsibilities in relation to Child Welfare and Safeguarding through Social Media, press releases and direct communication with the National Bodies and Provincial Associations. All affiliated members are obliged to ensure that everyone working with children and or vulnerable persons must be (a) Garda vetted and (b) have completed a Safeguarding course.

Clubs can organise a Safeguarding Course and Garda vetting by contacting childwelfare@fai.ie.
The Annual Seminar programme provided an opportunity for the Player Development Plan (PDP) committee to deliver a workshop to our Grassroots Referee. The workshops delivered by Ger McDermott and Gerry Reardon were very well received and provided a lot of positive feedback for the PDP committee.

In addition to the Annual Seminar grassroots referees also attended two development modules throughout season 2016-2017. The modules provided further updates and clarifications on the changes to the Laws of the game that came into effect on July 1st, 2016.

The curriculum for FAI Referee beginner’s course underwent significant changes to include the many amendments to the Laws of the game and our course co-ordinator Mr John Feighery did an excellent job in ensuring that the courses delivered in Cork, Donegal, Dublin (six), Kilkenny, Limerick, Offaly, Roscommon and Waterford reflected the changes.

Our Regional Referee committee members in Connacht/Ulster, Dublin, Leinster and Munster continue to work tirelessly on behalf of our Grassroots Referee in the delivery of our Development Module, Beginners course and Annual Seminar.

ELITE REFEREES

Once again in another exciting season for the SSE Airtricity League our Elite Referee performed to the highest standard both at home and abroad. Rob Rogers was the man in the middle as the first trophy of the season was decided and led the team of six officials to a very good performance in the EA Sports Cup Final.

In a first for the FAI, Additional Assistant Referees (AAR’s) were appointed to the Irish Daily Mail FAI Senior Cup Semi-Finals and Final and Rob Rogers capped an outstanding season at the Elite level when he was appointed to Referee the final, a game in which he and his team were widely praised for their performance over the course of the 120 minutes.

Season 2016-2017 saw the retirement of FIFA Referees Rhona Daly, Padraigh Sutton and FIFA Assistant Kenneth Hennessy after many years of distinguished service at home and abroad. Referees Darren Coombes, Conor Fitzgerald, Brendan Kelly, Kevin O’Regan and Simon Rogers also retired as members of the Elite Referee panel and we thank all of them for their outstanding contribution to the League over many years.

Robert Hennessy was promoted to the 2017 FIFA International Referee list where he joins Paula Brady, Neil Doyle, Robert Harvey and Paul McLaughlin and Assistant Referees Darren Carey and Darragh Keegan have been added to the 2017 FIFA Assistant Referee list.

After an outstanding career as a FIFA Assistant Referee, Damien MacGraith made the decision to swap his flag for a whistle and has quickly established himself as a regular in the SSE Airtricity League First Division while our most successful female Assistant Referee, Michelle O’Neill, continues to set the standard with appointments to the FIFA Women’s Under 20 World Cup and the UEFA Women’s EURO 2017 Final tournament in the Netherlands.

A very successful Elite Referee and Observer seminar took place in Dublin in February with guest speakers from Italy, Sweden and Northern Ireland.

The three-day event provided our established officials, and those graduates from SOE 7 that were attending their first seminar, excellent workshops on a range of topics in preparation for the 2017 SSE Airtricity League season.
The FAI’s new Coach Education Pathway was launched in January and it has implemented some key changes.

Here are some of the changes:

1: Alignment with the Player Development Plan
2: Introduction of Age Specific Courses
3: Introduction of multiple entry routes based on ‘reality based learning’ in which coaches now enter the pathway at the age of player they are coaching
4: Introduction of a Goalkeeper specific pathway with New Courses at D and C Licence Level, and the Goalkeeper Pathway finishing with the UEFA A GK Diploma
5: The introduction of a FUTSAL Pathway
6: The introduction of the Elite Youth A Licence as an Academy Director or Head of Youth Development Licence
7: The introduction of the Elite Grassroots Licence
8: The removal of Final Assessments and a move to Continuous Development and Evaluation based upon the Competency Model
9: The introduction of New Performance Analysis Software
10: The underpinning of theory and practical and the design of a Coach Education Curriculum

As of March 1st 2017, the FAI has 64 Pro Licenced Coaches, 370 UEFA A Licenced coaches, 1,110 UEFA B Licenced Coaches, and 600 National C Licence Coaches. The department delivered over 4000 courses in 2016 with over 10,000 coaches engaging in coach education in 2016.

Currently the department is conducting a UEFA Pro Licence Course with 16 participants including former Republic of Ireland International Keith Andrews and a number of managers from the SSE Airtricity League such as Stephen Bradley (Shamrock Rovers) and Colin O Neill (UCD).

Additionally, the FAI commenced the first of the Elite Youth A Licence Courses, which will be finished in December 2017, where we have 21 coaches currently completing the first ever course within the FAI. The second Elite Youth A Licence started in May 2017.

The introduction of the UEFA Elite Youth A Licence was a significant addition to the Coach Education Department.

The course was designed through best practice in other associations through analysis, and Jason Donohue attended the delivery of the course in another association. Along with the guidance from UEFA the course was designed and delivered as of the 5th December 2016.

The design team also attended a UEFA Study visit to Germany to review the Elite Youth A Licence Course from five different governing bodies’ perspectives and this really informed the programme as being of the highest standard.
The introduction of the UEFA Elite Youth A Licence was a significant addition to the Coach Education Department.

The course will be delivered to provide for the need of Academy Managers and Head of Youth Development in the SSE Airtricity League for clubs with U19, U17, U15 and in time U13. The course will also be utilised for the Underage International Teams and for grassroots clubs that have academy structures.

The introduction of the National C and D License has ensured that the pathway has now a logical sequence of transition as in the past the jump from the old Youth Certificate to the UEFA B was too large.

This was creating a culture of coaches struggling to reach the required level at UEFA B License and many coaches became disengaged or discouraged to complete the course due to these high failure rates. The introduction of the two National Licenses will now see a more transparent and systematic transition through the programme and will see the coach be prepared through a more sequential process.

The change of the methodology to that of continuous personal development and learning, rather than final assessment has been a huge step in the right direction for the department.

This will see the coach engaged in a more holistic programme, which will be based on personal development and reaching specific competencies throughout the course. In a situation where a coach does not reach the competency they are given mentorship and support through the referral to reach the required competency level.

The introduction of coaches completing the courses through Age Specific relevance will see coaches no longer having to work through a linear process but actually now being able to pick and choose the relevancy of a course through the age of the players they are working with.

Additionally with the introduction of the Elite Grassroots License for coaches working within the grassroots game this gives a huge impetus for coaches at this level to work and continue to develop themselves within the cost effective pathway rather than having to work towards UEFA Licenses which were not relevant to their specific players or themselves. This shows the significant shift towards the importance of the grassroots coaches.

Currently the Coach Education department has the following staff involved within International Teams:

Tom O’Connor
Senior WNT Assistant Coach
Colin O’Brien
U17 Men’s Manager
Jason Donohue
U15’s Men’s Manager

In addition to this we have International Managers working within the Coach Education team with Noel King as a tutor on the Pro Licence, and Tom Mohan tutoring on Pro Licence, UEFA A Elite Youth, and UEFA A Licence. We also utilise David Bell Women’s U17’s Manager and Niall Harrison Emerging Talent Coordinator as tutors on our higher licence courses.

Over the past few months we have had a number of additional staff upskilled to deliver at Licence Level which has seen Stuart Ashton and Mick Conroy in Cork and Gerard Glynn and Tommy Carberry in Dublin added to the team.
FACILITIES

A Government decision regarding funding for phase two of the National Indoor Arena which is to house a full size indoor football pitch and associated facilities is expected to be made in the future and will then provide clarity re: timeline for potential construction.

Kubota Group – a global manufacturing company, specialising in agriculture/horticultural machinery – have come on board as the official supplier of machinery to the National Sports Campus for the FAI.

This will see the provision of maintenance equipment for the HQ is now in place. The equipment has been delivered to site and now operational.

The ambitious vision is ongoing for the Centre of Excellence in Glanmire, Co Cork with more detailing being added to the individual areas of the project.

Pitch development and layouts are currently being looked over with the view of finding the best possible layout for player development, which is key for the overall improvement of young players operating within the FAI’s regional squad structures and support the growth and expansion of football within the province along with Cork City FC’s various teams.

FAI NATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE AND NATIONAL SPORTS CAMPUS

Regular activities continue at the National Training Centre including International Team training sessions, DDSL matches, Coach Education courses and limited external use by SSE Airtricity League clubs during pre-season.

The National Indoor Arena is now completed and in full use. It contains a Sports Hall, Indoor Athletics Track and Gymnastics Training Centre with notable Futsal events being held in the Sports Hall in January and February.
THE NATIONAL INDOOR ARENA IS NOW COMPLETED AND IN FULL USE

FINN HARPS FC
The hope for 2017 is to help with the progression of Finn Harps currently unfinished stadium in Ballybofey, Co Donegal.

Football interest in the North West is continually growing and is key to the infrastructure within Donegal, supporting this growth with adequate playing surfaces and facilities.

SPORTS CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The application process was redesigned by the Department to help minimise the failure rate of applications.

The Department, outlining changes and best practices for success, held several workshop groups throughout the country.

During the course of making an application many affiliates benefiting from the assistance provided by the FAI’s Facility Department. Various feedback from Clubs and Regions is the need to upgrade their playing facilities.

Areas such as natural grass/artificial turf pitches, club house facilities or flood lighting.
PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

Performance analysis now plays a key role with our International Teams, with all teams having their own analyst.

The analyst role has evolved into more of a tactical role, while each analyst has access to elite software and hardware which allows them to complete their tasks more efficiently.

The introduction of the HUDL platform now allows coaches and players access to more information on themselves and opposition than ever before. A new camera system has been installed on the pitches in the National Training Centre which is on a par with National Associations and clubs across Europe.

This system will allow our teams to record footage from different angles both on site and remotely, recorded and stored on a server based at the centre.

Coach Education and Referee’s departments are also using the HUDL platform to analyse footage.

All our International games are now databased on Dropbox.

IT CARLOW

Following a big promotional push, IT Carlow has been successful in attracting high calibre prospective students for two of their most popular courses.

Supported by the FAI since 2009, the Sports Coaching and Business Management course and the Sports Management and Coaching course have been incredibly beneficial in helping graduates break into the world of sport through various mediums.

From performance analysts to expert coaches and media executives, the course has been able to cater for students interested in different areas and help to hone their skills in a bid to pursue specific roles.

“A number of our graduates have gone on to work in the game at a full-time basis, whether it is with the FAI or clubs including Manchester United, Reading and Leeds United,” said Luke Hardy, course coordinator.

“The course has also been beneficial to players in both the SSE Airtricity League and Continental Tyres Women’s National League with many graduates going on to feature in those top leagues.”

‘IT Carlow will again be open to new applicants ahead of the next CAO deadline as the college seeks to recruit the best students for their sports courses.”
SAFETY & SECURITY

As we build on the strong foundations we’ve developed over the past decade, it’s important we encourage girls to get involved from a younger age.

The Safety and Security/Match Operations Department were responsible for a total of 48 fixtures during 2016. Within this amount of fixtures there were three UEFA Tournaments. Joanne Martin was appointed Tournament Director for each of these events and also for Under 21’s UEFA Fixtures and for Women’s Seniors UEFA Fixtures she is appointed Match Manager.

A lot of planning and preparation goes into all fixtures, whether they are UEFA or Friendly fixtures.

Working closely with fixture venues, a lot of which are non-SSE Airtricity League clubs can produce problems in terms of the variability of facilities available, but the Association always ensures that we work with what is made available to us to ensure teams have an excellent and seamless experience. It is also always a great honour for grounds to host International fixtures – club volunteers and locals take great pride in their clubs and it is important to the FAI that the clubs and spectators have an enjoyable experience also.

UEFA always has representation present in the form of a delegate at all Qualifying fixtures. During 2016 the FAI received excellent feedback from all delegates in relation to our match management, always commenting on the fact that our pre-planning was evident, ensuring a successful and well-run event.

During 2016 we had six senior internationals at Aviva Stadium. Joe McGlue is Home Match Manager and Joanne Martin is Deputy Match Manager for these fixtures. Planning and preparation for these fixtures commences up to four months in advance including meeting regularly with local authorities, stadium, Gardai and visiting teams to name but a few, these fixtures are noticeably very well run by Joe and all FAI Staff.

The FAI Safety & Security / Match Operations Department were also responsible for match operations assistance for the International Champions Cup games in Aviva Stadium and Thomond Park, Dundalk’s UEFA Champions League game at Aviva Stadium and UEFA Europa League fixtures at Tallaght Stadium, President’s Cup in Turner’s Cross, Continental Tyres FAI Women’s Cup Final and Irish Daily Mail FAI Senior Cup Final at Aviva Stadium, and the FAI Junior Cup and FAI Umbro Intermediate Cup Finals at Aviva Stadium.

In addition to International work this department also work on the following:

- SSE Airtricity League match delegate appointments
- Workshops for match delegates, club event controllers, club security personnel and others
- Security for FAI HQ and Senior Training when team are training in HQ.
Dundalk claimed the SSE Airtricity League title for the third season in-a-row after yet another battle for honours with perennial rivals Cork City.

Stephen Kenny’s side sealed the title with two games remaining thanks to a 2-1 win over Bohemians at Oriel Park in October. Defenders Brian Gartland and Andy Boyle found the net on a memorable night for the Lilywhites.

Cork City had shown Dundalk in the President’s Cup that they could push Kenny’s men all the way but a key game in the title run-in saw the Lilywhites beat John Caulfield’s side at Oriel Park thanks to a brilliant Daryl Horgan double.

The year will go down as one of the greatest in Irish club football history as the Co. Louth outfit also made a significant breakthrough in Europe. Dundalk had a testing start in the UEFA Champions League 2nd Qualifying Round when they met Icelandic outfit Hafnarfjördur. A 1-1 draw at Oriel Park left the tie poised precariously for Kenny’s side but a 2-2 draw in the second leg saw Dundalk through on away goals.

That set up a 3rd Qualifying Round meeting with Bulgarian champions BATE Borisov who had eliminated Dundalk the previous year. A 1-0 loss in the first leg gave Dundalk a major hurdle to climb in the second leg in Tallaght but a David McMillan double and a Robbie Benson goal secured a fantastic 3-0 win. Unfortunately, they fell short in the first leg.

Dundalk then faced Legia Warsaw in the play-off round seeking to become the first Irish club to reach the group stages of the UEFA Champions League. Unfortunately a brave display at Aviva Stadium saw them lose 2-0 to the Polish side. The second leg in Warsaw came close to producing a remarkable Dundalk win as Benson’s early goal was only cancelled out by a 92nd minute equaliser. Legia won 3-1 on aggregate.

That run had already ensured Dundalk would appear in the group stages of the UEFA Europa League and again Kenny’s side made history as an Irish club at that level. Ciaran Kilduff’s header against AZ Alkmaar claiming the first point at the group stages of a UEFA tournament for an SSE Airtricity League club.

Unfortunately the brilliant start was not maintained as fortune did not favour Dundalk in spite of excellent performances as they went down 2-1 to Russian giants Zenit St Petersburg home and away.
“THE YEAR WILL GO DOWN AS ONE OF THE GREATEST IN IRISH CLUB FOOTBALL HISTORY AS THE CO. LOUTH OUTFIT ALSO MADE A SIGNIFICANT BREAKTHROUGH IN EUROPE.”

With the league crown now secured Dundalk found the final two fixtures in the group ultimately the most disappointing as they lost 1-0 to AZ in Tallaght and went down 2-1 in Tel Aviv in their final game on December 8 after an incredible year.

Goalkeeper Gary Rogers, Horgan and Boyle’s performances for Dundalk caught the eye of national team manager Martin O’Neill and earned them call-ups to the senior squad in the autumn.

Cork City also had a fantastic year in Europe. They beat Linfield 2-1 on aggregate with a 1-0 win at Windsor Park and a 1-1 draw at Turner’s Cross then eliminated Swedish side BK Hacken also 2-1 on aggregate with a 1-0 home win and 1-1 draw in Gothenburg.

That set up a testing 3rd qualifying round encounter with Belgian side Genk. The first leg was a 1-0 win for the Belgians in Genk but a 2-1 defeat in the second leg in Cork was an unfortunate end for a great run from Caulfield’s side.

St Patrick’s Athletic eliminated Luxembourg’s Jeunesse Esch 2-2 on away goals in the First Qualifying Round then were unlucky to go out 2-1 on aggregate to Dinamo Minsk in the 2nd Qualifying Round. Shamrock Rovers went out at the first stage 3-1 on aggregate to Finland’s RoPS.

Elsewhere in the league there was disappointment for Longford Town and Wexford Youths as they were relegated from the Premier Division. Wexford suffered a play-off loss to Drogheda United losing the second leg 3-0 after winning 2-0 in the first leg. Shamrock Rovers and Derry City claimed the UEFA Europa League spots.

Cork got some silverware of their own when they beat Dundalk in the Irish Daily Mail FAI Senior Cup Final at Aviva Stadium in November. Sean Maguire crowned his brilliant year with the 120th-minute winner in a tense 1-0 win for The Leesiders.

St Patrick’s Athletic retained the EA SPORTS Cup with an impressive 4-1 win over Limerick in front of a packed house at Markets Field in September. Lee Jay Lynch scored for the home side but Christy Fagan, Conan Byrne, Jamie McGrath and Graham Kelly scored for the Saints to claim the win.

The First Division title race was led from the off by Martin Russell’s Limerick and they secured their return to the top flight at the first attempt with just one loss in 28 games. They sealed the title with a 3-2 win over UCD in August.

The play-offs provided real drama with Drogheda winning 2-0 in Cobh then found themselves down 2-0 at home in the second leg before Gareth McCaffrey’s second half winner sealed a 3-2 aggregate win and sent Pete Mahon’s side through to meet Wexford from the Premier Division.
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SSE Airtricity U19 League
UCD lifted the SSE Airtricity League U19 trophy with a dominant display over Galway United at the UCD Bowl in October.

A brace from Simon Power and goals from Robert Manley and Conor Crowley sealed a 4-1 victory for the Students, after Galway’s Robert Spelman converted a second-half penalty.

UCD beat Finn Harps in the semi-final with Galway overcoming Dundalk in their last four encounter.

In the SSE Airtricity U19 Shield Final, Limerick beat Bohemians 3-1. Sean McSweeney, Alan Murphy and Ger Barry hit the target for Limerick while Jamie Hollywood replied for Bohemians. The Enda McGuill Cup Final was won by Cork City in September to claim the trophy for the third time since the Under 19 grade was founded in 2011.

City broke the deadlock when they found the net in the 66th minute. Man-of-the-match Garan Manley found the head of Conor McCarthy, and Aaron Drinan wrapped it up with a late penalty for a 2-0 win.

SSE Airtricity U17 League
St Patrick’s Athletic secured the SSE Airtricity U17 League title following a 2-1 win against UCD in November. Neil Farrugia put the Students ahead before late goals from John Martin and Mark Kelly gave the Saints the victory in an entertaining game at the UCD Bowl.

Farrugia scored twice to send UCD into the final at Sligo Rovers’ expense while St Pat’s overcame Waterford United 3-2 in their semi-final.

In the Shield Final Cobh Ramblers beat Bray Wanderers 1-0 with James McSweeney grabbing the only goal.

Bohemians claimed the SSE Airtricity League U17 Mark Farren Memorial Cup with an impressive 2-0 win over St Patrick’s Athletic at Richmond Park with James McClean presenting the trophy. Robbie Dunne and Steven Nolan scored in either half to hand the Gypsies the cup.

UEFA Youth League
Cork City became the first Irish club to play in the UEFA Youth League and produced a series of impressive performances on their debut at that level.

Stephen Bermingham’s side drew 0-0 with HJK in their opener in Helsinki then won 1-0 through an Aaron Drinan goal in the second leg at Turner’s Cross.

The Rebel Army then met AS Roma in the Second Round and the first leg in Cork was attended by more than 3,000 spectators. Unfortunately, they were unable to overcome their Italian opponents but they did themselves, and the club, proud overall.
FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND

CONTINENTAL TYRES WOMEN’S NATIONAL LEAGUE

It was a year to remember for Shelbourne Ladies as they completed the domestic double - and they did so in style.

After merging with Raheny United to form a new club it was always going to take time for them to settle. But nobody told the group of players assembled by the Dublin outfit as they reached the Continental Tyres FAI Women’s Senior Cup Final in 2015.

It wasn’t to be that time for the Red Pandas. But they got their revenge against Wexford Youths WFC in November 2016 as they romped to a 5-0 triumph at Aviva Stadium. Under the guidance of Mark Leavy and Shaun Maher, Shels were unstoppable and dazzled on Irish football’s biggest stage.

Leanne Kiernan, Noelle Murray and Gloria Douglas were exceptional as they pulled the Wexford defence apart and scored almost at will. It was Kiernan, however, who really caught the eye as the teenager fired in a superb hat-trick.

It was all Shels in the Continental Tyres Women’s National League too. They eventually won their first ever title by eight points, but their goal difference of 43 goals scored and only eight conceded said it all about their dominance over the course of the season.

UCD Waves pushed Shels all the way, while Peamount United finished in third place thanks to a youthful team made up of Republic of Ireland Women’s Under 19 and U17 stars. In fact, each of the clubs had international representation at some stage which highlighted the quality across the League.

Kilkenny United WFC and Cork City WFC made big improvements on their previous campaigns, while Galway WFC and Wexford will feel that they could have delivered more in the title race. Still, the strength of each club made the League, as a whole, a lot stronger.

The impact of the Emerging Talent Programme, better coaching at underage level, and being involved with international set-ups has certainly elevated the overall standard of the League.

Now in its seventh season - which kicked off in March and runs parallel to the SSE Airtricity League - it is going from strength to strength each year.
Liffey Wanderers emerged victorious in the FAI Umbro Intermediate Cup Final after a hard-fought victory against Cobh Wanderers which was decided after a penalty shootout following a 2-2 draw.

The Leinster Senior League side took the lead through Clayton Maher with 20 minutes left but Conor Meade levelled to force extra-time and although Aidan Roche restored Liffey’s lead Meade equalised in the dying seconds of the game. A penalty shoot-out was required and the Dubliners emerged victorious to add the Intermediate crown to the FAI Junior Cup success of two years ago.

Sheriff YC lifted their fourth FAI Junior Cup in six years as a goal in each half earned them victory against Evergreen in an absorbing final at the Aviva Stadium.

The holders went ahead through Stephen Murphy’s first-half free-kick and despite the Kilkenny side mounting a comeback after the break, another of the four Murphy brothers, Paul, sealed the triumph with a second goal.

Leeside AFC strolled to their first FAI Umbro Youth Cup success after a 6-0 win over Aisling Annacotty in a one-sided final at Jackman Park. An inspired performance from Nathan Manson-Browne saw the Cork outfit lead five-nil at half time.
WATERFORD ENDED A 22-YEAR DROUGHT IN THE FAI YOUTH INTERLEAGUE CUP WHEN THEY RAN OUT 3-1 WINNERS AGAINST LIMERICK & DISTRICT LEAGUE IN JACKMAN PARK.

Goals from Eoin Horgan, three from Manson-Browne and two from Eoin Murphy sealed the win.

Tramore AFC lifted the FAI Umbro Under 17 Challenge Cup as they narrowly defeated Carrigaline United in the final at Turner’s Cross. The only goal of the game came in the 28th minute scored by Luke O’Neill.

Waterford ended a 22-year drought in the FAI Youth Interleague Cup when they ran out 3-1 winners against Limerick & District League in Jackman Park.

Tommy McGrath opened the scoring early in the second half before Darragh Wall added a second. Limerick reduced the deficit with Conor Coughlan’s penalty before Niall O’Keeffe sealed the Waterford victory a late third.

The FAI Inter Provincial Youth Tournament took place in Dublin with the AUL Complex hosting the three-day series of matches. The winners were the hosts, The Leinster Football Association, after a remarkable final day which seemed to have seen Munster claim the cup with a 7-1 win over Connacht on the final day but Leinster won on the head-to-head with holders Munster.

The Munster Senior League claimed the Michael Ward Trophy in the FAI Intermediate Inter-provincial tournament in October.
The Tom Hand Memorial Cup provided an entertaining meeting between AUL side Sheriff YC and Leinster Senior League outfit Crumlin United. The hosts beat Ulster 2-0 on the final day at Castletreasure to claim the title on the head-to-head as both teams finished level on six points. Mark Horgan picked up the player of the tournament award.

The FAI Futsal Cup Final took place at the National Indoor Arena for the first time in April and Transylvania FC claimed the trophy for the first time after a comprehensive 16-3 win over Puskas Hagi.

One of the highlights of this year’s competition was the inclusion of Third Level institutions. The winners of the FAI Futsal Cup represent Ireland in the UEFA Futsal Cup Preliminary Round in August.

The FAI Continental Tyres Women’s Senior Cup saw Shelbourne Ladies produce a devastating display to claim a 5-0 win over Wexford Youths at Aviva Stadium. Shels dominated the game with goals coming from Noelle Murray, Gloria Douglas and a hat-trick by Leanne Kiernan.

Shels were denied the double when their younger side was beaten 2-1 by Boyne Rovers Ladies in the FAI Women’s Intermediate Cup Final at Whitehall in September. In the FAI Women’s Intermediate Shield Manulla FA ran out 3-1 winners over Terenure. Shelbourne did pick up further silverware in the FAI Women’s U16 Cup with a 3-0 win over Enniskerry FC.

The FAI Angela Hearst Inter League Cup was captured by Combined Counties in a 3-0 victory over Carlow League in April.

Peamount United ran out 6-2 winners over Cregmore Claregalway to claim the FAI Women’s U18 Cup at Eamonn Deacy Park in March. Cregmore’s Sinead Donovan and Emma Connolly found the net while Peamount’s Aisling Spillane, Doireann Fahey, Shauna Martin, Carla McManus, Niky Plunkett and Louise Masterson found the net.

The FAI Women’s U18 Inter League Cup was also a thriller with Cork Women’s & Schoolgirls Soccer League winning 4-3 against the Metropolitan Girls League in April.

Galway and District League won the FAI U16 Gaynor Cup 2016. They became champions after a dramatic penalty shoot-out victory over Metropolitan Girls League at the University of Limerick. Both sides could not be separated after 50 minutes of action as it finished 1-1 in a pulsating encounter.

The Metropolitan Girl’s League made it consecutive FAI U14 Gaynor Cup successes with victory over Cork Women’s & Schoolgirls Soccer League.

After falling behind early on, the Dublin girls dug deep to break down their opponents and come away with a 3-1 victory.

For the first time in their history Cregmore/Claregalway were crowned national champions as they annexed the FAI Women’s U14 Cup in Eamonn Deacy Park.

Goals in the first half from Saoirse Healy and Allannah Griffin put the hosts 2-0 up before half time and Aoibheann Costello added a third. Kilmore battled back to provide a thrilling finish, Keisha Hutton and Rugile Auskalnyte scoring the goals.

In the FAI Women’s U12 National Blitz the Cup winners were Kilmore Celtic and the Shield winners were Westport United.
Domestically there were several Football for All initiatives and programmes which made a significant impact over the past 12 months.

Summer Soccer Schools Support coach programme
15 children with disabilities were supported by an additional coach to ensure they received the very same experience that every other participant got on our Summer Soccer Schools over the eight weeks of the summer.

FFA Club Regional Squads
For the first time in the FFA club programme, the very best youth players from our clubs in Leinster and Munster came together for trials establishing our very first regional squads for both regions providing the next step in the player development pathway for these players. Training sessions took place and the inaugural match took place in Evergreen FC club facilities in Kilkenny on Saturday, December 3rd.

Paralympics
The Irish CP squad competed in the Rio Paralympics during September with the squad giving a good account of themselves before unfortunately finishing in 8th place having been drawn in an extremely difficult group. The FAI also put in motion the structures to take over the governance of the Irish CP squad moving forward from January 1st, 2017.

Homeless World Cup
The Irish squad competed in last year’s World Cup held in Glasgow City, Scotland in July 2016. The team gave an excellent account of themselves in the Scottish capital with a 9th place finish.

Deaflympics
Ireland’s Deaf Squad qualified for the Deaflympics taking place in Turkey in July 2017. They did so by beating Hungary in October 2016.

CARA Centre Inclusive Awards
The FAI won the award for Best inclusive Sports NGB and Carrigaline United also won the Best Inclusive Sports Club award. Both these awards have highlighted the great work the FAI has done and continue to do in the area of inclusion. On the back of this award the FAI have also signed up to a new pilot initiative being run by CARA Centre and Sport Ireland assisting NGB’s to become fully inclusive over four steps. This initiative will begin in 2017.

FFA Strategy
In July 2016 the new FFA Strategy working group sat for the first time and have done so five more times since working towards launching the new FAI Football For All strategy in January 2017 to run through to 2020.
Dublin joins other major European cities such as London (England), Munich (Germany), Amsterdam (Netherlands), Glasgow (Scotland) and Brussels (Belgium) as one of the 13 hosts.

Also featured on each nation’s logo is the Henri Delaunay Trophy on top of a bridge, surrounded by celebrating supporters.

The UEFA EURO 2020 finals will mark 60 years of the quadrennial competition, the first of which took place in France in 1960 and was won by the Soviet Union.

Ireland’s record goal-scorer, Robbie Keane, will also have a large role to play throughout, as he will spearhead the Street and Community Football Legacy Programme.

The goal of this initiative is to build on street football, with the hope of getting more young boys and girls playing football in their local communities.

The final of the championships will take place at Wembley Stadium, in England. Each of the 13 nations chosen to host will not automatically enter the tournament and will still be required to qualify for their place in the group stages.

In November 2016, the FAI, Dublin City Council, Government and UEFA launched the Dublin host city logo, marking the capital as a host venue, for UEFA EURO 2020.

Dublin will be the venue for three group matches and one Round of 16 game for one of the most prestigious tournaments in international football.

The logo itself features the city’s majestic Samuel Beckett Bridge as part of UEFA’s theme of city bridges.
UEFA announced in December that the Republic of Ireland is to host the UEFA European Under 17 Championship Finals in 2019.

This will be the first time a major UEFA underage international finals has been held in this country since 1994 when the UEFA U16 Championships were held in Ireland.

Ireland successfully hosted the UEFA Regions’ Cup Finals tournament in 2015 and the 2011 UEFA Europa League Final.

The UEFA U17 Championships will see 16 nations participate in one of the most prestigious tournaments in the international calendar.

With four UEFA EURO 2020 games also being hosted at Aviva Stadium the following year it promises to be a busy time for Irish football.

The FAI is pleased to thank the key stakeholders who partnered the Association during its bidding process.

In particular, all of the Dublin regional council authorities, Dublin City Council, South Dublin County Council, Fingal County Council and Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, who were tremendous supporters throughout this process.
MEN’S NATIONAL TEAM

Momentum has been crucial for the Republic of Ireland men’s senior team as they picked up from where they left off at UEFA EURO 2016 with a number of spirited performances.

The season began with a friendly victory over Oman in Dublin with Robbie Keane bidding farewell to the Irish fans in his final appearance in the green jersey.

Not surprisingly our record goal-scorer found the net in a 4-0 win. Jon Walters scored two and Robbie Brady also found the net in a decent display.

That set Martin O’Neill’s team up for their opening 2018 FIFA World Cup qualifier away to Serbia. On a very heavy pitch, Ireland showed character to secure a 2-2 draw in Belgrade.

Jeff Hendrick put Ireland ahead in the third minute but Filip Kostic and Dusan Tadic put the Serbs in control before Daryl Murphy headed a vital equaliser in the 81st minute.

Next up was Georgia at Aviva Stadium in October. As always the Georgians proved a difficult opponent but Seamus Coleman showed a captain’s role by grabbing a fine individual goal in the 56th minute to secure a 1-0 win. Ireland then travelled to Chisinau for a meeting with Moldova. It began well with an early Shane Long goal but Igor Bugaev levelled matters just before half-time.

James McClean then stepped up to the plate for Ireland and produced two strong finishes to seal a 3-1 win to maintain our solid start to the campaign.

McClean was to the fore again in November as Ireland met Austria in a vitally important fixture. The West Brom wideman led a lethal counter-attack before firing past keeper Ramazan Özcan to grab a superb away victory.

Wales visited Aviva Stadium in March for the next important challenge in the qualifying campaign and a scoreless draw was blighted by a dreadful injury to Irish captain Coleman which sadly meant the Everton defender would be set for a lengthy spell out of the game.

Ireland’s first defeat since June 2016 occurred in a friendly against Iceland four days later. Hordur Bjorgvin Magnusson’s first-half free-kick deciding the game.

In the build-up to the next qualifier against Austria, Martin O’Neill’s squad headed to New Jersey to face Uruguay then visited Aviva Stadium
McCLean was to the fore again in November as Ireland met Austria in a vitally important fixture.

for an entertaining friendly which saw Walters, Cyrus Christie and McClean all find the net in a 3-1 win.

The visit of Austria for the next FIFA World Cup qualifier proved to be a tense affair as Martin Hinteregger put the visitors ahead in the 31st minute before Walters ensured a share of the points in the 84th minute.

Shane Duffy had a potential winner ruled out for a foul but the draw leaves Ireland joint top of Group D with four games to come in the second half of 2017.
Stephanie Roche found the net. Former UEFA Women’s Champions League winning coach Colin Bell took over as WNT Head Coach in February and took charge of the Irish side for the Cyprus Cup in March where his reign began with a 2-0 win over the Czech Republic with Roche and Aine O’Gorman scoring.

Next up was a 0-0 draw with Hungary then Bell’s side topped their group thanks to a 1-0 win over Wales with McCabe clinching the three points. In the fourth placed play-off against Korea DPR the Irish succumbed to a 2-0 loss.

Ireland’s preparations for the first home game under the new head coach against Slovakia in April was affected by a highly publicised dispute which was thankfully resolved following mediation. The game was a positive performance with a 1-0 win sealed by a Roche penalty.

In the FIFA Women’s World Cup draw Bell’s Ireland were grouped with Netherlands, Northern Ireland, Norway and Slovakia with the campaign set to start with a trip to Northern Ireland on Tuesday, September 19th.

The build-up to the qualifiers continued with a 0-0 draw against Iceland on a rain-soaked day at Tallaght Stadium in June then Bell brought his squad to Scotland for another friendly in July.

Sue Ronan’s side began the season with a pair of training games in Wales, when a youthful Irish side drew 0-0 with the hosts before winning 2-1 thanks to a Katie McCabe double the following day.

The qualifying campaign came to a disappointing end with a 1-0 loss to Portugal in Tallaght in September and Ronan opted to step down as Head Coach in order to put her entire focus into her role as Head of Women’s Football for the Association.

Ronan’s final game with the WNT was against Basque Country in Tallaght in November where Leanne Kiernan and...
Under 21

After a solid start to their UEFA U21 Championships qualifying campaign the Republic of Ireland U21 team will look back on the group with some frustration.

Although their hopes of qualifying for the next phase of the UEFA U21 Championships ended early last year, Noel King’s youngsters showed their quality with an excellent display against Slovenia at the RSC in September.

Harry Charsley and Sean Maguire both found the net in a 2-0 win before the Irish were beaten home and away by World U20 Champions Serbia - who later also qualified for the finals via the play-offs.

Ireland lost 3-2 in Vojvodina in September with Sean Maguire and Callum O’Dowda finding the net then despite an impressive Irish display in the return with Courtney Duffus scoring, the Serbs secured a 3-1 win at the RSC.

A number of players impressed over the course of the campaign with Callum O’Dowda breaking through at senior international level while others including Jack Byrne, Ian Lawlor, Danny Rogers and Brian Lenihan also experienced some exposure to the senior squad over the course of the campaign. Others who produced impressive performances for the U21s over the past year include Tommy Hoban, Darragh Lenihan, Olamide Shodipo, Courtney Duffus, Kevin O’Connor, Alan Browne and Josh Cullen. A lot of the players blooded throughout the year are eligible for the next campaign and that’s where the focus now lies.

King took a squad to La Manga for a training camp in November and began the 2019 UEFA U21 Championships qualifying round with a hard earned 1-0 victory over Kosovo at Tallaght Stadium in March. Shodipo got the only goal.

The forthcoming season will see Ireland travelling to Azerbaijan in September then hosting Norway and Israel in October before travelling to Norway in November. March will see the Azeris visit Ireland then the group will be finalised in the second half of 2018. Germany will meet the Irish home and away during that period.

Under 19

Ireland’s U19 international side had an excellent campaign and can count themselves very unlucky not to have reached the UEFA Finals in Tom Mohan’s first campaign with this age-group.

The Irish beat Austria 1-0 thanks to a Michael O’Connor goal in their first friendly game in September at Tallaght Stadium then beat the same opponents 3-1 at the same venue two days later.
NOEL KING’S YOUNGSTERS SHOWED THEIR QUALITY WITH AN EXCELLENT DISPLAY AGAINST SLOVENIA AT THE RSC IN SEPTEMBER.

Thomas Byrne, Zachary Elbouzedi and Jayson Molumbly all hitting the target.

Mohan’s side travelled to Albania for the UEFA Qualifying Round in October and began with a 1-0 win in Tirana thanks to a Connor Ronan penalty. They then beat Gibraltar 5-0 with Darragh Leahy scoring twice while Ronan Hale, Steven Kinsella and Josh Barrett also found the net.

Although they finished the group with a 4-0 loss to Germany, Mohan’s side had already done enough to progress to the Elite Phase.

The Irish then travelled to La Manga for a preparation tournament where Mohan got to look at a number of players. They lost 2-1 to Norway in their opening game with Kinsella scoring a nice goal for Mohan’s side.

Next up was an impressive 1-0 win over Portugal with Ronan Hale scoring a stunning winner. A 3-1 loss to Slovakia ended the tournament and once again defender Leahy found the net.

In the Elite Phase Ireland showed real class to secure a 2-0 win over Italy in the Belgian town of Hamme. Conor Levingston and a Hale penalty gave them a brilliant win.

Although an impressive Swedish side beat Ireland 3-0 in game two, the Irish came within a whisker of reaching the finals when they beat hosts Belgium 1-0 in their final game thanks to a first half own goal to miss out to Sweden on goal difference.

Ireland’s U18 side played a number of fixtures in the season just finished. First up for Jim Crawford’s side was a pair of testing encounters in Spain in November. Ireland drew 0-0 with the Netherlands in their first game then suffered a 3-2 loss to Germany in their second game having led 2-0 through Rian O’Sullivan and Thomas Byrne.

In February, Crawford took the home-based U18 side to Wales for the annual John Coughlan Cup fixtures against the Welsh Academy select. Daniel Grant, Eoin Hunter, Jordan O’Reilly and Matthew Barrett scored in a 4-0 win at Bala Town then Jordan Muldoon got the only goal in a 1-0 win at Newtown in the second game.

Crawford then brought the overall Irish U18s to the Slovakia Cup in April but a combination of injuries and club commitments restricted his options.

A 3-1 loss to Czech Republic was frustrating particularly after Warren O’Hora had equalised but the Irish responded by drawing 0-0 with Russia then beating Turkey 2-1 through James McSweeney and Shola Ayoola to progress to the third-placed play-off. A tired Irish side went down to a 2-0 defeat by the host nation in the 3rd-placed play-off in Jaslovske Bohunice.
**Under 17**

The Republic of Ireland U17 side had a memorable season under the guidance of Colin O’Brien, who was appointed as successor to Tom Mohan last year following his elevation to the U19 post.

O’Brien’s reign began with a 3-1 friendly win over Slovenia in Brdo with Adam Idah scoring twice and Lee O’Connor also finding the net.

The sides met again at the same venue two days later and played out a 1-1 draw with Gavin Kilkenny finding the net. Ireland then met Turkey in two friendly games in September. They beat the Turks 2-0 in Turner’s Cross thanks to an Idah double then won 2-0 in Middleton with Lee O’Connor and Aaron Connolly scoring.

Connolly then hit a scoring streak that ran to four consecutive games. He found the net in a 5-0 win over Andorra in Ireland’s first game in the qualifying stage of the 2017 UEFA U17 Championships with Idah, Dominic Peppard and a Rowan Roache double completing the scoring.

Next up was Kazakhstan with Idah scoring twice and Connolly the other in a 3-0 Ireland victory and finally Connolly got the only goal in a 1-0 win over Greece to end the year on a high note.

Next up was a pair of friendly games in Oliva, Spain, in February and O’Brien’s side beat Hungary 2-0 through goals by Idah and Luke Nolan then they beat Romania by the same score two days later with Jordan Doherty scoring both goals.

In the Elite Qualifying Phase of the UEFA U17 Championships in March, Ireland traveled to Paphos in confident mood and beat Faroe Islands 4-0 in their opener. Connolly scored twice with Idah and Doherty also finding the net.

Next up was Slovakia and Glen McAuley’s winner sealed a 1-0 win to ensure their qualification for the finals. The Irish finished off the group with a 2-0 win over hosts Cyprus thanks to another double from Connolly.

Ireland travelled to the finals in Croatia knowing that they were in a tough group and injuries were a concern going into the tournament. Their opening game ended in a narrow 1-0 loss to Serbia due to a late goal.

The Irish got back on track in their second fixture when Idah and Rowan Roache scored in a 2-1 win over Bosnia & Herzegovina. The odds seemed stacked against Ireland reaching the quarter-finals when they faced Germany in their final group game.
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THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND U17 SIDE HAD A MEMORABLE SEASON UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF COLIN O’BRIEN

Proof that football sometimes does not stick to expected lines occurred in that fixture as Ireland suffered the disappointment of a 7-0 loss to the Germans but then progressed to the next phase as the Bosnians beat Serbia 1-0 and the Irish progressed on the head-to-head.

The Irish met England in the last eight in Zagreb and went down to a 1-0 loss to exit the tournament. Although there was a degree of disappointment at how the season finished up, the fact was that Ireland had not reached the knockout stages of this competition since winning the UEFA U16 Championships in 1998 so the achievement of reaching the last eight shouldn’t be underestimated.

**Under 16**

It was a successful season for the Republic of Ireland U16s as Paul Osam’s side captured the Victory Shield for the first time at Oriam, Edinburgh, in November.

The Irish began the tournament with an impressive 4-0 over Wales with Adam Idah scoring twice while Nathan Collins and Ciaran Brennan also found the net. Next up was Northern Ireland and Osam’s side won 2-1 thanks to goals in either half from Kameron Ledwidge and Barry Coffey.

That set up a clash with hosts Scotland on the final day and the Irish recorded an impressive 3-0 win.

An Adam Idah goal was followed up by a Callum Thompson double to seal the win and with it an historic tournament success.

In February, Osam’s side played Hungary in two fixtures in Galway. Ireland Under 16’s clinched a 2-1 victory at Ballinasloe AFC thanks to goals from Coffey and Jordan McEneff. When the sides met in a second friendly at Mervue two days later Hungary ran out 3-0 winners.

The next challenge was the UEFA Development Tournament in May as Osam’s charges got off to a solid start with a 4-2 win over Northern Ireland in Westport with Kerry’s Sean Kennedy bagging a hat-trick with Troy Parrott also finding the net.

Ireland beat Kosovo 2-1 in their next fixture in Castlebar with Parrott scoring a penalty to equalise before Kennedy bagged a winner with seven minutes left. The campaign ended with a remarkable game against Denmark. The Irish led 3-0 at the break through Parrott, Ross Tierney and Sean Mahon but a second half Danish fight back saw the visitors turn the game around to win 4-3.

**Under 15**

It was a successful season for the Republic of Ireland U16s as Paul Osam’s side captured the Victory Shield for the first time at Oriam, Edinburgh, in November.

The Irish began the tournament with an impressive 4-0 over Wales with Adam Idah scoring twice while Nathan Collins and Ciaran Brennan also found the net. Next up was Northern Ireland and Osam’s side won 2-1 thanks to goals in either half from Kameron Ledwidge and Barry Coffey.

That set up a clash with hosts Scotland on the final day and the Irish recorded an impressive 3-0 win.

An Adam Idah goal was followed up by a Callum Thompson double to seal the win and with it an historic tournament success.

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In January, the U15s had a testing encounter away to the Netherlands when they went down to a 5-1 loss in Ermelo. Troy Parrott had pulled the game back to 2-1 but poor defending made for an unflattering scoreline. Jason Donohue’s side responded to that defeat by drawing 1-1 when the sides met again two days later. Ayodeji Sotona put the Irish ahead.

In April, Donohue’s side travelled to Prague for a mini-tournament and produced an impressive display to beat Norway 4-0 with Sean Kennedy scoring twice, Ronan McKinley and Matthew Everitt finding the net. The final game of the season saw the Irish lose 4-2 to the Czechs in an exciting game with Cian Kelly and Parrott scoring.

**Women’s U19**

The Republic of Ireland women’s U19 side began their campaign in September with a friendly game against Belgium, where they fell to a 2-1 defeat. Alex Kavanagh was on the score-sheet that day and it was an encouraging performance from Dave Connell’s team. It was then on to the first of three UEFA WU19 Championship qualifying games, where Ireland got off to the perfect start against FYR Macedonia, recording an emphatic 10-0 victory. Leanne Kiernan bagged four goals, with Niamh Prior and Alex Kavanagh recording a brace each. Jamie Finn and Eleanor...
Ryan-Doyle scored one each in the impressive victory in Skopje.

Kiernan then continued her excellent form, scoring both goals in a 2-0 victory over Wales. The Shelbourne Ladies sharpshooter made it six goals in two games in a victory that secured qualification to the Elite Round. The Irish topped their group with three wins after a 2-0 win over Italy. Saoirse Noonan and Chloe Moloney scored the goals. With no goals conceded and 14 goals scored, it was the perfect start to qualifying for Dave Connell’s women.

Two friendlies followed in January, a 4-0 victory against Portugal and a 0-0 draw against the Netherlands. It was two more clean sheets to continue their excellent defensive record. A double header against Czech Republic in Spain was next up. Another impressive performance saw them win the first tie 3-0, but recorded their first defeat of the campaign in the second fixture with a 3-2 loss.

They faced Scotland, Finland and Ukraine in their Elite Round Qualifying Group, all to be played on home soil. Unfortunately, the group began with a 2-1 loss at Market’s Field to Scotland. A 95th minute penalty would be their demise, with Niamh Farrelly scoring from close range for the hosts.

Ireland responded to the defeat in an ideal fashion two days later against Ukraine, again at Markets Field. Ireland dominated the tie, with 27 attempts on goal resulting in a 2-0 win. Lucy McCartan and Saoirse Noonan finding the net.

Unfortunately, a defeat in the final game against Finland saw the Irish eliminated in third position in Group 4. Despite a spirited performance, Finland won the game 3-1 with Niamh Prior’s free-kick goal proving too little too late for the Irish.

Women’s U17

The women’s U17 began their campaign in September with a trip to Helsinki to play the Finland U18 team and suffered an unfortunate 5-1 loss in a game which provided much needed game-time for their qualification aspirations.

Dave Bell’s side began their qualifying games with a 6-0 win over the Faroe Islands. Carla McManus grabbed a second-half hat-trick to compliment an Alannah McEvoy brace and an Orla Casey goal.

Bell’s side then made it two from two a couple of days later against Belarus, again at Turner’s Cross. McManus continued her good form, as did Casey as they scored a goal apiece in the 2-0 victory, which sealed qualification to the Elite Round for the Girls in Green.

Three days later Ireland beat Iceland 4-1 and they had gone a goal down before McManus scored her fifth goal of this qualification round, with Megan Mackey scoring a brace adding to an Iceland own goal. It was a confidence boosting qualification campaign so far for Dave Bell and his team.

A 2-2 friendly draw against Switzerland would precede the Elite Round qualifying, which took place in Serbia. Ireland began with a victory over the hosts Serbia, a hard fought 1-0 triumph through Alannah McEvoy’s winner.

Next up was Scotland, and although Ireland dominated the game with 17 attempts on goal, they could not break the deadlock and the game finished in a stalemate. The final game in the group was a 1-0 victory against Hungary as Heather Payne’s goal sealed qualification for the European Finals.

The final tournament took place in the Czech Republic. Unfortunately for the Irish, they were on the wrong end
Dave Bell’s side began their qualifying games with a 6-0 win over the Faroe Islands of a 5-0 loss to England in their first fixture.

They then went down to an unlucky 1-0 defeat against Norway which unfortunately saw them exit in the group stages.

Ireland went in to their last game against Netherlands determined to get a result and showed real character to end the campaign with a 0-0 draw against the team who topped their group.

Women’s U16
The Republic of Ireland U16 Women’s team began their campaign this year in May when they competed in the UEFA Development Tournament in Mayo. The tournament is set up to prepare the sides taking part for the U17’s European Championship Qualifying Rounds taking place next year.

Sharon Boyle’s team started on a high, putting six goals past Northern Ireland in their opening fixture and keeping a clean sheet in the process.

There were six different scorers on the day in Nadine Clare, Aoife Slattery, Louise Masterson, Amy Boyle Carr, Lucia Lobato and substitute Emily Whelan.

Next up for the Girls in Green was Lithuania in Castlebar. Boyle’s team impressed again, scoring five and again conceding none. Mia Dodd scored the opener, and Slattery, Whelan, a Sinead Donovan penalty and substitute Boyle Carr finished the scoring.

Ireland ended the UEFA Development Tournament on the wrong end of a 4-3 penalty shoot-out loss against Denmark following a 1-1 draw. It was a week of many positives with 12 goals scored and just one conceded.

UEFA Regions’ Cup
The Republic of Ireland’s UEFA Regions’ Cup representatives had a fantastic campaign in the European amateur competition which ended in Istanbul.

The Irish side, Region 2, was made up of players from Connacht-Munster.

Their campaign included seven competitive games, four wins, eight goals scored, and two goals conceded and ended with them coming so close to bringing the trophy back to Ireland for the second time having claimed the spoils in 2015.

Davis’s players showed their quality by heading to Italy and topping a tough group in the qualifying phase. They beat the hosts from Lombardia FA 1-0 in their opening fixture in Gorgonzola in September thanks to a first-half penalty from Eoin Hayes.

They then secured their place in the finals with a game to spare after a 2-0 win over North East Macedonia in the Italian town of Inveruno with Shane Daly-Butz and David Hoban finding the net. A scoreless draw with Slovenia representatives Maribor in Carvaggio finished the qualifying stage without a goal conceded.

At the finals, Hayes netted the only goal of the game as Region 2 overcame their Russian opponents South Region 1-0 in Istanbul. A scoreless draw with Spanish side Castilla y León in a tightly fought Group B encounter at Maltepe in Istanbul kept Davis’s side in the hunt for a place in the final.

In the final group game, a 4-1 win over Czech side Olomouc thanks to a Hayes double and goals from Stephen Kelly and Jimmy Carr, was matched when a surprise turnaround by the Russian side South Region against the Spanish in the other group, gave the Irish top spot and a place in the final.

While Davis’s charges ultimately fell at the final hurdle by the slimmest of margins they had ensured that Irish amateur football once more made its mark on the European stage.
The Defence Forces had a very busy period from July 2016 - July 2017. The main focus was the preparation for and participation in the CISM Military World Games in Oman in January.

Domestically the Defence Forces team were involved in both the Oscar Traynor Cup and the annual game against the Colleges and Universities National Team - a fixture always well-anticipated.

The Defence Forces finished third in its group in the Oscar Traynor Cup after a victory against the UCL and two losses against very strong Wexford League and AUL but the positive was the number of junior players who showed they could progress towards the senior team and represent the Defence Forces on an international stage.

For the CISM, World Cup preparations began in November at the FAI National Training Centre in Abbotstown. With the support from the FAI, the Defence Forces ran a six-week training camp before departing for Oman.

Friendly games against SSE Airtricity League and Leinster Senior League opposition proved invaluable in aiding the Irish side’s preparation. The Defence Forces team that travelled to the CISM World Cup was made up of SSE Airtricity League, intermediate and junior players from across the country.

The Irish team performed well in the testing conditions of Oman. In the group stages they drew 1-1 with Mali, were defeated 3-0 by an impressive Qatar side then recorded an impressive 6-1 win over the USA with a stunning goal by Pte Derek Walsh going viral on social media. Unfortunately a scoreless draw between eventual finalists Qatar and Oman denied Ireland a place in the next phase.

Although disappointed the Irish went home with heads held high, especially considering they drew their squad from the smallest pool of players to pick from of all the nations in the tournament.

The Defence Forces football community has numerous officials officiating at all levels of the game from junior up to SSE Airtricity League and they are much appreciated for their contribution to the Defence Forces game. Two Irish match officials also travelled to Oman for the CISM World Cup and represented themselves and the country to the highest levels receiving praise from the tournament organisers.

Defence Forces player Mark Horgan had a year to remember as the Avondale United centre-back was named Irish amateur player of the year in 2017.

Davis’s squad faced Zagreb in the final, where they lost 1-0 despite an impressive display. It was a cruel way to end the season but they could hold their heads up high.
U16 Schools Girls
The FAI Schools development squad welcomed Northern Ireland to the AUL Complex on March 2 for their first competitive friendly of the season.

The Republic of Ireland put in a solid performance to win 7-1. This was followed up a fortnight later when the Irish took on England in the annual John Read Cup. The Republic of Ireland continued winning ways by defeating the visitors 2-1 to claim the title.

FAI Schools hosted the Bob Doherty Cup this year and the annual four-day event took place in the AUL Complex from April 9 to 12. The Irish drew 0-0 with Wales in the opening game but lost out 3-1 on penalties for the bonus point.

The Republic of Ireland went on to defeat Scotland 4-3 in their next group game, which set up a third versus fourth place play-off game with club representative side Shelbourne Ladies FC. Lorraine Counihan’s side won 6-1 to ensure a third-place finish.

Wales went on to win the tournament defeating Northern Ireland 2-0 in the final to claim the honours for the first time since the inception of the Cup back in 2002.

U15 Schools Girls
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U17 Schools Boys
The Republic of Ireland hosted Australia in a friendly in late January with the visitors winning out 2-0.

There was mixed results in this year’s Centenary Shield competition: the Republic of Ireland had a great start to their campaign with a 2-1 victory over Wales in mid-February at home to kick-start the campaign. This was followed up with another 2-1 win against Northern Ireland in Bangor.

The penultimate fixture saw the squad travel to take on Scotland where they were narrowly defeated 1-0 by the hosts. The Republic of Ireland welcomed England in the final game in their series as Home Farm FC played host.

The Irish went down 2-5 to England who went on to claim the Shield with joint winners Northern Ireland who were equal on points.

Colleges and Universities International Teams
The progress at Third Level continued this year as the joint CFAI and IUFU team completed its second year of games, providing a pathway for Third Level students to international football.

Paul Rooney was crowned the first ever Colleges & Universities International Player of the Year at the Three International Awards in March and on the pitch the team defeated the Irish Defence Forces by 2-0 in Home Farm FC that same month. The team followed up its success with a superb 6-1 victory over Scotland in Edinburgh in April and they were narrowly defeated 3-2 by France in May.

Greg Yelverton’s team are currently preparing for the World University Games which will take place in Taipei in August and they are drawn in a group with France, Mexico and Taipei in the prestigious 16-team tournament. They will be joined in Taipei by Colin Bell’s Women’s team who are also preparing for the tournament where they will face Mexico and Canada in the group stages.

Both teams will depart for Taipei on August 11th and will be hoping to be the first Irish teams to win a medal at the games, which has over 15,000 athletes taking part.

SCHOOLS & COLLEGES
INTERNATIONAL

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FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND

THREE FAI INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL AWARDS

Senior International Player of the Year
Robbie Brady

Senior Women’s International Player of the Year
Karen Duggan

Young International Player of the Year
Robbie Brady

‘Three’ International Goal of the Year
Robbie Brady v Italy

Under 21 International Player of the Year
Callum O’Dowda

Under 19 International Player of the Year
George Poynton

Under 19 Women’s International Player of the Year
Roma McLaughlin

Under 17 International Player of the Year
Declan Rice

Under 17 Women’s International Player of the Year
Saoirse Noonan

Under 16 International Player of the Year
Jordan Doherty

Under 16 Women’s International Player of the Year
Tyler Toland

Under 15 International Player of the Year
Callum Thompson

Junior International Player of the Year
Stephen Kelly (Newmarket Celtic)

Intermediate Player of the Year
Mark Horgan (Avondale United)

Football For All International Player of the Year
Paul McMahon (Football For All Under 19 Squad)

FAI School’s International Player of the Year
Conor McCarthy (Scoil Mhuire agus Smál, Blarney)

FAI Colleges & Universities Player of the Year
Paul Rooney (Maynooth University)

SSE Airtricity League Player of the Year
Daryl Horgan (Dundalk)

Hall of Fame: Robbie Keane
Special Merit: Dundalk FC
International Personality: John Hartson
The FAI Commercial Department was extremely active in the past 12 months with numerous contracts renewed with some of our most valued partners and new partnerships formed with leading companies across a variety of backgrounds.

Commercial Director Karl Heffernan heads up a team including Conor Cullen (Sponsorship & Events Manager), Elma Beirne (Events Team Leader), Nicola Brannigan (Sponsorship & Events Assistant) and Aidan O’Brien (Sponsorship & Events Assistant).

We are very grateful to our primary Partner Three, for their continued support of the Association. We would also like to thank Aviva, SSE Airtricity, SportsDirect.com, Celtic Pure, Carlsberg, Ford, DHL, CityJet, Irish Daily Mail, Bank of Ireland, Tetrarch Hospitality, SPAR, D.I.D. Electrical, Ladbrokes, Continental Tyres and Bus Éireann, who have all been brilliant partners to the FAI in recent years.

Amongst the milestones since last summer are the following:

New Balance was announced as the new Official Kit Sponsor of the Association.

iPro was introduced as Official Sports Drink of the Association, providing product to all international teams as well as SSE Airtricity League and Continental Tyres Women’s National League clubs.

The Association launched its partnership with Rustlers, who are the new Primary Partner of Irish Third Level Football - the first time we have had a sponsor at this level.

DHL renewed its sponsorship as Official International Express and Logistics Partner of the FAI.

Ford renewed its partnership with the FAI as Official Vehicle Sponsor of the FAI. After a successful partnership in 2016, Cityjet renewed its association with the FAI, as Official Airline Partner.

Fulfil came on board as Official Healthy Snack of the FAI.

Benetti became the Official Tailor of the FAI.

EA SPORTS renewed their sponsorship of the EA SPORTS Cup.

Fota Island Resort became the Title Partner of the Gaynor Tournament.
Throughout the last year the Communications Department has led a number of key initiatives and helped to promote more aspects of the Association than ever before.

Under the stewardship of Ian Mallon, the five-member team has been able to make huge strides over the past 12 months.

Following on from the success at UEFA EURO 2016, where the overall audience engaged figure for the tournament from our digital and social media channels was in excess of five million, this growth has continued to rise under the guidance of Darragh McGinley.

The results of an increased growing audience is that we now have a truly global following which we interact with directly. Our major broadcasters are now using footage from FAI TV, and various publications (print & digital) use FAI channels as their first source of breaking news.

Social Media was fully utilised at the 2016 Festival of Football in Tipperary with a total reach of 2.6 million - broken down into a total engaged audience of 82,098 and 307,691 video views.

This was unprecedented coverage and helped to shine a light on the Festival of Football ahead of the Annual General Meeting. This year we have been in steady contact with all Clubs on the Kilkenny route, in the lead up to the Festival of Football, working with the clubs and supporting their digital and social media plans.

Long-term planning on the promotion of the SSE Airtricity League led to the launch of a new website www.sseairtricityleague.ie ahead of the 2017 season kicking off. Built in conjunction with DFB Medien and Monsoon Consulting, the mobile-first website is powered by FAInet and designed to enhance the engagement with League supporters through live updates for every domestic game.

Led by Kieran Crowley, and assisted by the editing skills of Gary Seery, the website has also increased the number of features on all facets of the domestic game. The figures show that the new website has been a success with over 1.5 million page views for the first half of the season, which equates to an increase of 620% on the total website page views for 2016.

Women’s football has also benefitted from incisive coverage with the Continental Tyres Women’s National League having each of its games covered by reporters for the first time. The integration of coverage of the domestic game with the international set-up has proved to be an excellent way to promote women’s football.

There was also increased Grassroots coverage with focus on the likes of the Fota Island Resort Gaynor Tournament, SFAI Umbro Kennedy Cup, SPAR Primary 5s, Aviva Soccer Sisters, SportsDirect.com Summer Soccer Schools, Player Development Plan, Club of the Year, FAI ETB Player Development Course, Late Nite Leagues, Football For All, Intercultural and various Club events.
HUMAN RESOURCES

Human Resources have had a number of developments over the last 12 months across the various elements of staff attraction, retention, engagement and development.

Our People
As of June 30, 2017 staff headcount was at 184. This is a combination of 133 permanent and 51 contract staff. Diversity split is at 83% male and 17% female of the total workforce.

The Association receives the continuous support of over 290 auxiliary coaches assisting Football Development Officers, the Emerging Talent Programme and Coach Education. Additional contractors make up our backroom team members, medical contractors and professional services.

Our Recruitment
In 2016, we managed over 30 recruitment campaigns receiving in excess of 900 applications. In the first half of 2017, the trend has continued with over 20 recruitment campaigns thus far, receiving almost 300 applications. There is no shortage of talent wanting to come and join the Football Family.

Recruitment Highlights
- **Colin Bell** a UEFA Women’s Champions League Winner appointed as the Women’s Senior International Team Head Coach. Following a playing career with FSV Mainz 05. Colin moved into coaching where he has worked in both the men’s and women’s game over the last three decades enjoying a lot of success.
- **Rea Walshe** promoted to Head of Legal & Club Licensing, taking on additional responsibility in the Club Licensing area, restructure following Richard Fahey’s departure.
- **Gerry Reardon’s** title changed to Grassroots Development Manager, an enhanced role focusing on the delivery of the core participation objectives outlined in the Strategic Plan and UEFA’s GROW2020 initiative.
- **Paul Whelan, Barry Ferguson, David Lenane, Michael Looby and Nigel Kead** - the 5 new Regional Team Leaders. This is a role in addition to their full-time Football Development Officer positions following the change with Gerry Reardon.
- **Ger McDermott** promoted to Club & League Development Manager, also responsible for the project management of the AGM replacing Barry Gleeson who moved internally.
- **Gareth Maher** promoted to Communications Manager as part of the team restructure.
- **Barry Gleeson** appointed as International Football Operations Manager replacing Mary O’Brien.
- **Walter Holleran** appointed as Facilities Development Manager.
- **Bracey Daniels** appointed as Club Licensing Manager replacing Regina Coppinger who departed in September 2016.
- **Conor Cullen** promoted to Sponsorship & Events Manager and **Elma Beirne** appointed as Events Team Leader replacing the departure of Siobhan Keane in December 2016.
- **Yvonne Tsang** promoted to Financial Controller replacing Karen Campion’s internal promotional move.
- **Trevor Scanlon** as FAI Camps National Coordinator replacing Ger McDermott’s internal promotional move.
- **John McGuinness** as SSE Airtricity League Marketing Executive, a new role for 2017

Appreciation and thanks to those who have changed roles over the last 12 months:
- **Sue Ronan** during her time as Women’s Senior International Team Head Coach, stepped down earlier in 2017 to put her entire focus on her full time role of Head of Women’s Football for the Association, driving the Women’s Strategy forward.
- **Miriam Malone**, Business Partnerships Director, who was appointed CEO of Paralympics Ireland in May 2017.
- **Richard Fahey**, Director of Club Licensing & Facility Development, who was appointed CEO of Tennis Ireland in January 2017.
Our Training & Development Investment
As outlined in the Association’s Strategic Plan, Pillar 9 - Organisational Development - we are committed to strategically providing a framework to support staff development through educational, training and developmental opportunities. We continue to grow our numbers in this area.

Through strong partnerships with UEFA, FIFA, Sport Ireland, Irish Management Institute (IMI) and the various in-house training available to all levels of staff, our training appetite & uptake for learning opportunities continues to rise.

The Training and Development programmes cover a wide range of disciplines such as People Management and Leadership, Business, Governance, Human Resources, Personal Development & Self Awareness, Child Safeguarding among others.

By December 31, 2016 in excess of 40 various learning and development opportunities were provided to over half of the workforce, which was relevant to their role.

Since January 1, 2017 the Association recorded training numbers which continue to exceed training figures year-on-year with over 150 places in excess of 26 different types of learning and development opportunities delivered to over half the workforce. The Association aims to continue this trend throughout the remainder of 2017 and beyond.

In addition, staff went through the rigorous selection process to participate on the 2017/18 UEFA Certificate in Football Management and the UEFA’s Women in Football Leadership Programme.

Staff were nominated by management to represent the Association. These training programmes continue to provide prestigious and unique opportunities to our talent which we aim to continue.

We were also delighted to introduce training in ‘Inclusive Sport’, an initiative in conjunction with the CARA Centre and Sport Ireland that the Association committed to pilot. Almost 50% of staff have completed this training programme which now forms part of the Association’s Corporate Induction Programme and has become a staff training module which we will continue to roll out throughout the remainder of 2017 and beyond as our commitment to inclusivity in Sport.

Our Wellbeing Initiatives
A number of Wellness Programmes for staff were held throughout the last 12 months on September 27, 2016 and March 31, 2017, and in conjunction with the National Wellness Day.

Exhibitors and services available to staff included Opticians, Health Insurers, Bank of Ireland Insurance and Investments Unit, National Aquatic Centre, Tax Free Bicycles, and the Road Safety Authority among many others.

Staff attended a number of talks on mental health as part of our partnership with See Change for 2017 (the National Stigma Reduction Partnership) and their Green Ribbon Campaign.

In 2017, Chris McElligott, our Football For All Community Coach, successfully took on the role of one of the five leaders in RTE’s Operation Transformation programme.

This initiative brought staff from the Association and from other Sporting Bodies based in the National Sports Campus together in support of Chris.

Our Key Values:
RESPECT
INTEGRITY
PASSION
TEAMWORK
EXCELLENCE
FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND

TICKETING

The FAI Ticketing Department was extremely busy in the past year and is currently staffed by Cria Warren (Ticketing Operations Manager), Aidan McCarthy (Ticketing Coordinator - Commercial) and Shane Thompson (Administrative Assistant – Ticketing and Customer Service).

Deborah Doherty left the Association in October 2016 and Cormac Glynn changed departments in April 2017.

The FAI Umbro Intermediate and Junior Cup double-header was also hosted at Aviva Stadium in May.

FAI season tickets for the 2017-18 season were at 12,038 as of the beginning of July this year but this figure does not include Supporters Clubs figures.

The Ticketing Department also processes club and schools Initiative for every Senior Men’s International Fixture.

The games which drew the largest attendances at Aviva Stadium in the past 12 months were as follows:

- Republic of Ireland v Wales
- Republic of Ireland v Austria
- Barcelona v Celtic
- Republic of Ireland v Georgia
- Republic of Ireland v Iceland
- Dundalk v Legia Warsaw
- Republic of Ireland v Uruguay
- Republic of Ireland v Oman
- Irish Daily Mail FAI Senior Cup Final

The annual staff Wellbeing Day took place in September with numerous activities taking place.

Staff could avail of a flu vaccine and/or ECG with netDRnow, Zest at work, Little Things Mental Health Presentation was conducted by Roisin Lowry from the HSE and a Mindfulness Presentation was carried out by Josephine Lynch from the Mindfulness Centre.

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- Republic of Ireland v Uruguay
- Republic of Ireland v Oman
- Irish Daily Mail FAI Senior Cup Final

FAI Staff Social Club

The FAI Staff Social Club conducts a number of activities to assist with employee engagement and well-being.

Three FAI staff teams were represented at the Grant Thornton 5K Team Challenge Docklands Dublin event in September.

Much of the organisational work on this event was conducted by Regina Coppinger, who has since left the organisation, with John Ward and Cormac Glynn now taking on this role in future.

The FAI annual Christmas Party for Staff children at FAI headquarters at the National Sports Campus in Abbotstown was attended by in excess of 40 kids who enjoyed a great party and received gifts from Santa Claus.

FAI Football For All coach Chris McElligott was a successful participant on the RTE TV show Operation Transformation in February and March and as part of his health improvement regime he led a group of staff members on regular lunch-time walks for a number of weeks.

With the opening of the National Indoor Arena on the campus, a number of fitness initiatives are now conducted on a regular basis led by NIAfit Class with many FAI staff members attending.

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2016 OVERVIEW

In 2016 we generated an Operating Surplus of €9.4m, with a Retained Surplus of €2.3m. This strong operating performance is in line with our long term business plan.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Turnover for the year was €50.4m (€2015: €46m) reflecting an increase of 10% in 2016 largely attributable to planned increase in grants and subventions combined with strengthening commercial income streams. Successful participation in Euro 2016 resulted in turnover in both 2015 & 2016. This as a result of the apportionment of the Euro 2016 Prize Fund between qualification, in 2015, and participation, in 2016.

The Irish Sports Council/Sport Ireland continued to provide strong support to the Association by allocation €2.7m in grants (2015: €2.7m) to the FAI’s football programmes.

The Association continued to develop strong sponsorship income, amounting to €8.2m in 2016. These partnerships include strong blue chip companies like 3Mobile, Toplion (Umbro), Diageo, SportsDirect, Lucozade, Ford, Airtricity, Continental Tyres, Spar, BOI, Irish Daily Mail, Celtic Pure, Trackchamp BWIN, DID Electrical, Ladbrokes & Tetrarch. The Association continued to work at reducing non-match related operational costs throughout 2016. Cost control will continue to be a key priority for the Association together with a strong focus on revenue generation to ensure the Association is positioned to meet its financial commitments and invest in the future of the game.

2016 was our sixth full year in the Aviva stadium where the amortisation costs for 2016 were €1.4m (2015: €1.4m). In addition to amortisation, bank and other charges relating principally to borrowings to support the construction of the stadium amounted to €4.7m (2015: €5.2m). Following the successful refinance of bank loans with Bank of Ireland during 2016, the Association will benefit significantly from a lower interest rate applied going forward. Annual interest savings compared to the loan agreement with Corporate Capital Trust will be approximately €2.7m.

Our development and operating grants were €2.3m (2015: €2.0m) which shows our commitment to providing funding at all levels of the game.

The underlying retained surplus was €2.3m after taking all income, expenditure, investment income, interest costs, amortisation, grants into account.

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 December 2016, the Association had net assets of €19.6m, an increase of €2.3m from 2015. The Association has assets of just approximately €96m and net borrowings of €38m. Once these borrowings are repaid, the Association will realise the full benefit of owning its own stadium, which will allow for significant funding to be invested in to the game in Ireland.

FUNDING AND FUTURE CHALLENGES

The Association faces many challenges in common with all businesses in Ireland. However, the Association has significant committed revenue streams including 2014-2018, 2018-2022 UEFA TV contracts, UEFA Hattrick Programme funding, and long term commercial contracts. These revenues, allied to potential income from the resale of Stadium naming rights and premium seats, as well as our strong day-to-day revenues, provides a strong foundation for the Association.

We continue to challenge our costs to ensure we meet our financial obligations while focussing on growing revenue and generating funds to strengthen our game for future generations.
# DIRECTORS AND OTHER INFORMATION

## BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T. Fitzgerald</td>
<td>President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Conway</td>
<td>Vice President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. Cody</td>
<td>Honorary Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Delaney</td>
<td>Chief Executive Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Murray</td>
<td>Honorary Treasurer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Naughton</td>
<td>Chairman – League of Ireland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P. Treanor</td>
<td>Chairman – Legal and Corporate Affairs Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. McConnell</td>
<td>Chairman – Domestic Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. Hanley</td>
<td>Chairman – International Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Earley</td>
<td>Chairman – Underage Committee</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D. Bradley</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P. Carney</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. Cody</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Coen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. Conlon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Conway</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Cruise</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Delaney</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P. Dempsey</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Donleavy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Earley</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. Farrell</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Finnegan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T. Fitzgerald</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N. Fitzroy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. Gorman</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. Gorman</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Hackett</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. Hanley</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Harkin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P. Harrington</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Hayden</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. Heraghy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K. Judge</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T. Kearney</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Kelly</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. Kiernan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. Lambert</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T. Leyden</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. Lynch</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. MacArdle</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T. Martin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. McAnaney</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T. McAuley</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. McConnell</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Moran</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Morley</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N. Morton</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Murphy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Murray</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Naughton</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P. O’Brien</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. O’Connor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N. O’Donoghue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T. O’Dowd</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. O’Regan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. Perry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Rodgers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P. Ryan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R. Shakespeare</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. Smith</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P. Treanor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. Tully</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. Wallace</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. Weaver</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R. Winn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Young</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## AUDITORS

Deloitte
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm
Deloitte & Touche House
Earlsfort Terrace
Dublin 2

## BANKERS

Bank of Ireland
College Green
Dublin 2

## SOLICITORS

A. & L. Goodbody
IFSC
North Wall Quay
Dublin 1

## REGISTERED OFFICE

National Sports Campus
Abbotstown
Dublin 15
The directors present their annual report and the audited financial statements of the Association for the financial year ended 31 December 2016.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY

The principal activity of the Association is the management and direction of Association Football throughout the Republic of Ireland.

RESULTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR AND STATE OF AFFAIRS AT THE FINANCIAL YEAR END AND REVIEW OF THE BUSINESS

The results for the year and state of affairs at the financial year end are set out in the Statement of Comprehensive Income and Balance Sheet respectively.

The following is a summary of the results for the current financial year: 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Surplus on ordinary activities before grants</td>
<td>€4,656,352</td>
<td>€5,844,087</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development and operating grants to affiliates</td>
<td>(€2,312,061)</td>
<td>(€2,024,220)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retained surplus for financial year</td>
<td>€2,344,291</td>
<td>€3,819,867</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Income and Expenditure

Overall our turnover was €50.4m (2015: €46m). The revenue in 2016 included a significant increase in grants and subventions combined with strengthening commercial income streams.

The Irish Sports Council/Sport Ireland continued to provide strong support to the Association and the running of the technical department by allocating €2.7m in grants (2015: €2.7m) to the FAI’s football programmes.

The Association continued to have strong sponsorship income which was €8.2m in 2016 (2015: €7.6m). These partnerships include strong blue chip companies like 3Mobile, Toplion (Umbro), Diageo, Sports Direct, Lucozade, Ford, Airtricity, Continental Tyres, Spar, BOI, Irish Daily Mail, Celtic Pure, Trackchamp Bwin, DID Electrical, Ladbrokes and Tetrach.

The Association continued to work at reducing costs and implemented a number of cost saving measures in 2016. Cost control will continue to be a key priority for the Association together with a strong focus on revenue generation to ensure the Association is positioned to meet its financial commitments and invest in the future of the game.

The Association continues to invest in the underage international squads with over €2.6m spent supporting our underage and Women’s international teams. The return on this investment can be seen by the success across the levels.

2016 was our sixth full year in the new Aviva stadium where the amortisation costs for 2016 were €1.4m (2015: €1.4m).

Following the successful refinance of bank loans with Bank of Ireland during 2016, the Association will benefit significantly from a lower interest rate applied going forward. Annual interest savings compared to the loan agreement with Corporate Capital Trust will be approximately €2.7m.
The underlying retained surplus was €2.3m (2015: €3.8m) after taking all income, expenditure, investment income, interest costs, amortisation, grants and exceptional items into account.

Statement of Financial Position

As at the 31 December 2016 we had net assets of €19.6m, an increase of €2.4m from 2015. The Association has assets of just over €95.7m (2015: €97.3m) and bank borrowings of €39m.

PRINCIPAL RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES FACING THE ASSOCIATION

The Association is dependent upon the income generated by the success of the Senior International team by way of ticket revenue, sponsorship and television revenue to continue to invest in all aspects of football throughout the country. Any variances in the revenue being generated from such activities may affect the level of such investment.

In contributing towards the development of Aviva Stadium, the Association has received funding through debt financing. The Association has a business plan in place which identifies it will generate sufficient cashflow to facilitate repayment of this financing in line with agreed repayment terms.

Funding and Future Challenges

The Association recognises that we are operating in very difficult economic times and faces many challenges in common with all businesses in Ireland. However, the Association has significant committed revenue streams including the UEFA TV contract which came in to effect in 2014 and currently extends to 2022, UEFA Hattrick Programme funding, and long term commercial contracts.

These revenues, allied to potential income from the resale of Stadium naming rights and premium seats, our strong day-to-day revenues and a good draw for the 2018 World Cup qualifiers provides a strong foundation for the Association. The restructuring of the European Championships to include 24 teams also enhances the Association’s potential to qualify for more major tournaments.

We continue to challenge our costs to ensure we meet our financial obligations and in tandem we focus on growing revenue and generating funds to continue to strengthen our game for future generations.

GOING CONCERN

The directors have a reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the annual financial statements.

Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in note 1 to the financial statements.

DIRECTORS

The present membership of the Board of Management is set out on page 2. In addition to the National Council Members set out on page 2, S. Barrett, J. O’Brien, B. Williams and P. McHale served as members of the National Council during the year ended 31 December 2016.

EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE

There have been no significant events affecting the financial statements since the financial year end.
ACCOUNTING RECORDS

The measures that the directors have taken to secure compliance with the requirements of sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014 with regard to the keeping of accounting records, are the employment of appropriately qualified accounting personnel and the maintenance of computerised accounting systems. The company’s accounting records are maintained at the company’s registered office at the National Sports Campus, Abbotstown, Dublin 15.

STATEMENT ON RELEVANT AUDIT INFORMATION

In the case of each of the persons who are directors at the time the Directors’ Report and Financial Statements are approved:

(a) so far as the director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company’s statutory auditors are unaware, and

(b) the director has taken all the steps that he or she ought to have taken as a director in order to make himself or herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company’s statutory auditors are aware of that information.

DIRECTORS’ COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

The Directors have drawn up a compliance policy statement (as defined in section 225(3)(a) of the Companies Act 2014) and arrangements and structures are in place that are, in the Directors’ opinion, designed to secure material compliance with the Association’s relevant obligations under the Companies Act 2014.

The Directors confirm that these arrangements and structures were reviewed during the financial year. As required by Section 225(2) of the Companies Act 2014, the Directors acknowledge that they are responsible for the Association’s compliance with the relevant obligations. In discharging their responsibilities under Section 225, the Directors relied on the advice both of persons employed by the Association and of persons retained by the Association under contract, who they believe have the requisite knowledge and experience to advise the Association on compliance with its relevant obligations.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Board is ultimately responsible for risk management within the Association. The Board has established an Audit Committee under Section 167 of the Companies Act 2014 with responsibility for monitoring the effectiveness of the Association’s risk management and internal control systems.

AUDITORS

The auditors, Deloitte, Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm, continue in office in accordance with Section 383(2) of the Companies Act 2014.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Management:

Tony Fitzgerald
President

Date: 22 May 2017

Eddie Murray
Honorary Treasurer
DIRECTORS’ RESPONSIBILITIES

The directors are responsible for preparing the directors’ report and the financial statements in accordance with the Companies Act 2014 and the applicable regulations.

Irish company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under the law, the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (“relevant financial reporting framework”). Under company law, the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at the financial year end date and of the profit or loss of the company for the financial year and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014.

In preparing those financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies for the company financial statements and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for ensuring that the company keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the company, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss of the company to be determined with reasonable accuracy, enable them to ensure that the financial statements and directors’ report comply with the Companies Act 2014 and enable the financial statements to be audited. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The directors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the company’s website.
INDEPENDENT AUDITORS’ REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND

We have audited the financial statements of The Football Association of Ireland for the financial year ended 31 December 2016 which comprise the Statement of Comprehensive Income, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Changes in Equity, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes 1 to 22. The relevant financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is the Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (“relevant financial reporting framework”).

This report is made solely to the company’s members, as a body, in accordance with Section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company’s members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors’ report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company’s members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

As explained more fully in the Directors’ Responsibilities Statement, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with the Companies Act 2014 and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board’s Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company’s circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the directors; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Reports and Financial Statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2016 to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion, the financial statements:

• give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at 31 December 2016 and of the surplus for the financial year then ended; and

• have been properly prepared in accordance with the relevant financial reporting framework and, in particular, with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

Continued on next page
Matters on which we are required to report by the Companies Act 2014

- We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit.
- In our opinion the accounting records of the company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited.
- The financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.
- In our opinion the information given in the directors’ report is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the provisions in the Companies Act 2014 which require us to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of directors’ remuneration and transactions specified by law are not made.

For and on behalf of ………………………………………………………………………… Date: 22 May 2017

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm
Dublin
## STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
### FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED
### 31 DECEMBER 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>€</td>
<td>€</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TURNOVER</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50,403,572</td>
<td>46,060,425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost of sales</td>
<td>(29,295,780)</td>
<td>(22,415,565)</td>
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<tr>
<td>OPERATING INCOME</td>
<td>21,107,792</td>
<td>23,644,860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration expenses</td>
<td>(11,703,980)</td>
<td>(12,609,893)</td>
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<tr>
<td>OPERATING SURPLUS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9,403,812</td>
<td>11,034,967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest payable and similar charges</td>
<td>(4,747,460)</td>
<td>(5,190,880)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SURPLUS ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE GRANTS</td>
<td>4,656,352</td>
<td>5,844,087</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development and operating grants to affiliates</td>
<td>(2,312,061)</td>
<td>(2,024,220)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SURPLUS RETAINED FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2,344,291</td>
<td>3,819,867</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# BALANCE SHEET
## FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED
### 31 DECEMBER 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>2016 €</th>
<th>2015 €</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fixed Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tangible assets</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3,035,654</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intangible assets</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>59,806,040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial assets</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>25,196,503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Fixed Assets</strong></td>
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<td>88,038,197</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Current Assets</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Debtors and prepayments</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6,713,475</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>937,447</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>7,650,922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>(27,336,576)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Current Liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>(19,685,654)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets less Current Liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>68,352,543</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>(48,757,720)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>19,594,823</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Represented by:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital reserve</td>
<td></td>
<td>29,775</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revenue reserves</td>
<td></td>
<td>19,565,048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL RESERVES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>19,594,823</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Management on date: 22 May 2017 and signed on its behalf by:

Tony Fitzgerald  
President

Eddie Murray  
Honorary Treasurer
### STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Capital</th>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>€</td>
<td>€</td>
<td>€</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 January 2015</td>
<td>29,775</td>
<td>13,400,890</td>
<td>13,430,665</td>
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<tr>
<td>Surplus for the financial year</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,819,867</td>
<td>3,819,867</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>At 31 December 2015</strong></td>
<td>29,775</td>
<td>17,220,757</td>
<td>17,250,532</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At 1 January 2016</td>
<td>29,775</td>
<td>17,220,757</td>
<td>17,250,532</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus for the financial year</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,344,291</td>
<td>2,344,291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>At 31 December 2016</strong></td>
<td>29,775</td>
<td>19,565,048</td>
<td>19,594,823</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Net cash flows from operating activities</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>€17,364,708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash flows from investing activities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acquisitions of intangible fixed assets</td>
<td></td>
<td>(€224,277)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acquisitions of tangible fixed assets</td>
<td></td>
<td>(€580,338)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payment of grants</td>
<td></td>
<td>(€2,414,306)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Income received</td>
<td></td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net cash flows from investing activities</td>
<td></td>
<td>(€3,218,827)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash flows from financing activities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repayments of borrowings</td>
<td></td>
<td>(€9,240,183)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest payable and similar charges</td>
<td></td>
<td>(€2,056,431)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net cash flows from financing activities</td>
<td></td>
<td>(€11,296,614)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</strong></td>
<td>15</td>
<td>€2,849,267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year</td>
<td></td>
<td>(€1,911,820)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year</td>
<td></td>
<td>937,447</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2016

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. They have all been applied consistently throughout the financial year and to the preceding year.

General Information and Basis of Accounting

The Football Association of Ireland is a company incorporated in Ireland. The address of the registered office is given on page 2. The nature of the company’s operations and its principal activities are set out in the directors’ report on pages 3 to 5.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value, and in accordance with the Companies Act 2014 and Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102) issued by the Financial Reporting Council.

The functional currency of The Football Association of Ireland is considered to be euro because that is the currency of the primary economic environment in which the company operates.

Going Concern

The company’s business activities, together with the factors likely to affect its future development, performance and position are set out in the directors’ report. The directors have a reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

The Association had a surplus retained for the financial year of €2,344,291 (2015: €3,819,867) and as at the balance sheet date had net assets of €19,594,823 (2015: €17,250,532) with net current liabilities of €19,685,654 (2015: €20,615,773). The net current liabilities excluding deferred income at the balance sheet date was €5,016,195 (2015: €8,948,652).

In order to fund the continuing operations of the Association, the Association continues to utilise existing sources of finance available to it. The Association will continue to efficiently manage its working capital on a day-to-day basis to ensure availability of cash. Based on approved management forecasts of trading performance, and finance facilities being made available to the Association, the Directors have forecasted that the Association will operate within current overdraft facilities for at least twelve months from the date of approval of the financial statements.

On the basis of management’s forecast of the Association’s operating performance and financing requirements, the Directors believe they have adequate resources to fund their operations for the foreseeable future. The Directors are therefore of the opinion that it is appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis.

Taxation

The Association has been granted sporting body status, and accordingly no charge to Corporation tax arises by virtue of Section 235 of the Taxes Consolidation Act, 1997.
1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Turnover

Turnover comprises the value of sales of goods and services in the normal course of business including gate receipts, sponsorship monies, subventions, marketing, commercial and miscellaneous income.

Turnover from marketing contracts is recognised rateably over the period of the contract or where a fair value can be attributed to an element of a contract when that element has been delivered. Subvention and grant income is recognised over the period when the related cost is recognised.

Tangible Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost, net of depreciation and any allowance for impairment. Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, other than land, at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset on a straight-line balance basis over its expected useful life, as follows:

- Office, machinery and equipment: 10% – 33% per annum
- Motor Vehicles: 25% per annum
- Training grounds: 10% per annum

Residual value represents the estimated amount which would currently be obtained from disposal of an asset, after deducting estimated costs of disposal, if the asset were already of the age and in the condition expected at the end of its useful life.

Assets held under finance leases, hire purchase contracts and other similar arrangements, which confer rights and obligations similar to those attached to owned assets, are capitalised as tangible fixed assets at the fair value of the leased asset (or, if lower, the present value of the minimum lease payments as determined at the inception of the lease) and are depreciated over the shorter of the lease terms and their useful lives.

In the opinion of the directors, any charge to depreciation on the grounds and related accumulated depreciation would not be material as the value of the assets relate primarily to land.

Intangible Fixed Assets

Intangible fixed assets are stated at cost net of depreciation and any allowance for impairment.

Intangible fixed assets comprise of contributions to New Stadium Limited in respect of the construction of Aviva Stadium and software licences.

Contributions to New Stadium Limited, relating to the construction of Aviva Stadium, are capitalised at cost and are amortised to the Statement of Comprehensive Income (S.O.C.I) on a straight line basis over the estimated useful life of Aviva Stadium. Amortisation commenced upon the Association’s use of Aviva Stadium. Professional, finance, legal and other costs directly attributable to the contributions towards Aviva Stadium are capitalised as part of the cost of this asset up to the date of completion. The capitalisation rate was the weighted average cost of finance obtained for the purpose of financing the contributions made.

The stadium asset is amortised on a straight line basis over a 50 year period in line with the estimated useful life. Software Licences are capitalised at their fair value and amortised to the S.O.C.I. on a straight line basis over the shorter of their estimated useful lives or licence duration.
1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Financial Assets

Financial assets consist of investments in joint venture undertakings together with other financial asset investments held at cost. Investments are carried at cost less provisions for any permanent diminution in carrying value below cost.

Financial Instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the Association becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Financial liabilities are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into.

Financial assets and liabilities

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), except for those financial assets classified at fair value through surplus or deficit, which are initially measured at fair value (which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. If an arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are only offset in the statement of financial position when, and only when there exists a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and the company intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Financial assets are derecognised when and only when a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are settled, b) the company transfers to another party substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset, or c) the company, despite having retained some, but not all, significant risks and rewards of ownership, has transferred control of the asset to another party.

Financial liabilities are derecognised only when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

(i) Investments

Investments are measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised through profit or loss. Where fair value cannot be measured reliably, investments are measured at cost less impairment.

Investments in joint ventures are measured at cost less impairment.

(ii) Fair value measurement

The best evidence of fair value is a quoted price for an identical asset in an active market. When quoted prices are unavailable, the price of a recent transaction for an identical asset provides evidence of fair value as long as there has not been a significant change in economic circumstances or a significant lapse of time since the transaction took place. If the market is not active and recent transactions of an identical asset on their own are not a good estimate of fair value, the fair value is estimated by using a valuation technique.
1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Finance Costs

Interest and similar costs are expensed to the Statement of Comprehensive Income over the period to which the loan financing relates. Where the financing related directly to the addition of a fixed asset, such costs were attributed to the related asset.

Finance costs associated with the raising of finance are netted against the related loan and amortised over the period of the loan. Where future contracted revenue cashflows are securitised, the resulting difference between the upfront proceeds and the gross value of the contract is recognised over the period of the related contract as a finance cost.

Pensions

Charges in respect of pension arrangements under a defined contribution pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Income in the year to which they relate.

Grants

Government grants are recognised based on the accrual model and are measured at the fair value of the asset received or receivable. Grants are classified as relating either to revenue or to assets.

Grants relating to fixed assets are treated as a deferred credit, which is credited to the Income Statement over the estimated useful lives of the related assets on a straight line basis. Grants relating to non-capital expenditure are credited to the S.O.C.I. in the same period as the related expenditure is incurred.

Foreign Currency

Transactions denominated in foreign currencies are recorded at actual exchange rates as at the date of the transaction. The monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the year-end are reported at the rates of exchange prevailing at the year-end. All exchange differences are dealt with in the S.O.C.I.

2. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS AND KEY SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

In the application of the Company’s accounting policies, which are described in note 1, the directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

Critical accounting judgements include;

- the assessment of expected useful lives for fixed assets, both tangible and intangible. Depreciation rates are set by reference to internal estimation of useful lives and benchmarking assets against externally available information,
- assessment of period over which revenue is recognised for contracts which span more than one accounting period and where multiple deliverables may form part of the contract,
- calculation of interest charge on financial instruments.
2. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS AND KEY SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY (CONTINUED)

The key source of estimation is the determination of bad debt provisions at year end where such provisions include an estimation of future cashflows and where they may not reflect the eventual cash receipts.

3. TURNOVER

An analysis of the company’s turnover is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>International match income</td>
<td>15,737,201</td>
<td>16,507,138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial income</td>
<td>16,617,763</td>
<td>16,288,890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants &amp; subvention income</td>
<td>9,694,192</td>
<td>5,806,023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income from technical department courses</td>
<td>5,411,455</td>
<td>5,287,524</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>2,942,961</td>
<td>2,170,849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50,403,572</td>
<td>46,060,425</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to this revenue, the FAI also received benefits from sponsors in the form of discounts and usage of sponsors’ equipment. The value of this sponsorship is not reflected in the turnover figure.

All income arose in the Republic of Ireland.

During the year the FAI received grant funding from the Young Peoples Facilities and Services Fund 2 (YPFSF 2) - Football in the Community Officers funding €344,550 (2015: €336,145), Department of Justice €Nil (2015: €20,000), €2,707,910 (2015: €2,707,910) from the Irish Sports Council / Sport Ireland, €55,000 (2015: €55,000) from Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Emigrant Support Programme, €Nil (2015: €Nil) from Department of Children & Youth Affairs - National Lottery 2014, Department of Children and Youth Affairs €40,750 and Dublin Waste to Energy Project Grant - Community Gain €2,000.

These grants have been expended for the purpose for which they were intended.
### 4. STAFF COSTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wages and Salaries</td>
<td>10,327,248</td>
<td>11,431,866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social welfare costs</td>
<td>843,843</td>
<td>781,211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pension costs</td>
<td>43,197</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redundancy costs</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>198,795</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11,214,288</td>
<td>12,411,872</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average number of persons employed (including directors) was:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Management</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration and operations</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>182</td>
<td>167</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 5. INTEREST PAYABLE AND SIMILAR CHARGES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interest payable on overdraft and loans payable within 5 years</td>
<td>4,247,460</td>
<td>4,581,789</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unwinding of discount (Note 12)</td>
<td>500,000</td>
<td>609,091</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4,747,460</td>
<td>5,190,880</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Following the successful refinance of interest-bearing bank loans during 2016, the Directors’ expect the interest payable and similar charges to reduce significantly from 2017. Annual interest savings compared to the loan agreement with Corporate Capital Trust will be approximately €2.7m.

### 6. SURPLUS ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE GRANTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Directors’ Remuneration:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Directors emoluments</td>
<td>360,000</td>
<td>360,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Officers’ emoluments</td>
<td>70,000</td>
<td>70,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Tangible fixed asset depreciation</td>
<td>474,849</td>
<td>317,695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Intangible fixed assets amortisation</td>
<td>1,533,262</td>
<td>1,504,073</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Operating lease charge - land &amp; building</td>
<td>250,000</td>
<td>300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auditors’ Remuneration (including VAT) is as follows:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Audit of company’s accounts</td>
<td>58,985</td>
<td>58,585</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Other assurance services</td>
<td>17,068</td>
<td>22,815</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Tax advisory services</td>
<td>18,087</td>
<td>25,527</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Other non-audit services</td>
<td>8,632</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>102,772</td>
<td>106,972</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## 7. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Football Grounds €</th>
<th>Office Machinery, Furniture and Equipment €</th>
<th>Motor Vehicles €</th>
<th>Training Grounds €</th>
<th>Total €</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cost or valuation</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At 1 January 2015</td>
<td>531,113</td>
<td>3,524,412</td>
<td>7,409</td>
<td>1,061,970</td>
<td>5,124,904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additions</td>
<td></td>
<td>197,805</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>970,580</td>
<td>1,168,385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>At 1 January 2016</strong></td>
<td>531,113</td>
<td>3,722,217</td>
<td>7,409</td>
<td>2,032,550</td>
<td>6,293,289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additions</td>
<td>194,391</td>
<td>178,294</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>207,653</td>
<td>580,338</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disposals</td>
<td></td>
<td>(98,231)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(279,342)</td>
<td>(377,573)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>As at 31 December 2016</strong></td>
<td>725,504</td>
<td>3,802,280</td>
<td>7,409</td>
<td>1,960,861</td>
<td>6,496,054</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Depreciation</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At 1 January 2015</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,762,805</td>
<td>3,282</td>
<td>279,342</td>
<td>3,045,429</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charge for the financial year</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>255,655</td>
<td>3,600</td>
<td>58,440</td>
<td>317,695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At 1 January 2016</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,018,460</td>
<td>6,882</td>
<td>337,782</td>
<td>3,363,124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charge for the financial year</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>278,797</td>
<td>527</td>
<td>195,525</td>
<td>474,849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disposals</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(98,231)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(279,342)</td>
<td>(377,573)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>At 31 December 2016</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,199,026</td>
<td>7,409</td>
<td>253,965</td>
<td>3,460,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Carrying value</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At 31 December 2016</td>
<td>725,504</td>
<td>603,254</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,706,896</td>
<td>3,035,654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At 31 December 2015</td>
<td>531,113</td>
<td>761,607</td>
<td>4,127</td>
<td>782,628</td>
<td>2,079,475</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grounds represent the Association’s interest in United Park in Drogheda, Ferrycarrig Wexford and St. Colman’s Park in Cobh. Training grounds represent the Association’s interest in National Sports Campus and AUL sports ground.

Included in Furniture and Equipment are assets held under finance leases with a net book value of €363,554 (2015: €474,717). The depreciation charge on these assets amounted to €111,729 (2015: €80,949).
### 8. INTANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Stadium Contributions €</th>
<th>Software Licences €</th>
<th>Total €</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cost or valuation</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At 1 January 2015</td>
<td>69,376,193</td>
<td>1,031,197</td>
<td>70,407,390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additions</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>264,925</td>
<td>264,925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At 1 January 2016</td>
<td>69,376,193</td>
<td>1,296,122</td>
<td>70,672,315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additions</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>224,277</td>
<td>224,277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>As at 31 December 2016</strong></td>
<td>69,376,193</td>
<td>1,520,399</td>
<td>70,896,592</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Depreciation</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At 1 January 2015</td>
<td>7,459,079</td>
<td>594,138</td>
<td>8,053,217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amortisation in financial year</td>
<td>1,387,524</td>
<td>116,549</td>
<td>1,504,073</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At 1 January 2016</td>
<td>8,846,603</td>
<td>710,687</td>
<td>9,557,290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amortisation in financial year</td>
<td>1,399,524</td>
<td>133,738</td>
<td>1,533,262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>At 31 December 2016</strong></td>
<td>10,246,127</td>
<td>844,425</td>
<td>11,090,552</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Book Value</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At 31 December 2016</td>
<td>59,130,066</td>
<td>675,974</td>
<td>59,806,040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At 31 December 2015</td>
<td>60,529,588</td>
<td>585,435</td>
<td>61,115,025</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2016 (CONTINUED)

9. FINANCIAL ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Investments:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prize bonds</td>
<td>1,270</td>
<td>1,270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unquoted investments</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments in joint ventures (Note 17)</td>
<td>25,195,232</td>
<td>25,195,232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>25,196,503</td>
<td>25,196,503</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amounts falling due within one year:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade debtors</td>
<td>2,464,425</td>
<td>3,253,337</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loans to clubs and leagues</td>
<td>508,893</td>
<td>449,172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepayments &amp; Other Debtors</td>
<td>2,192,552</td>
<td>2,593,193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued Income</td>
<td>1,547,605</td>
<td>1,778,912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6,713,475</td>
<td>8,074,614</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash at bank and in hand</td>
<td>937,447</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank overdraft</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(1,911,820)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>937,447</td>
<td>(1,911,820)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

12. CREDITORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amounts falling due within one year:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank and other loans (Note 16)</td>
<td>875,000</td>
<td>4,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank overdraft</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,911,820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred Income</td>
<td>14,669,459</td>
<td>11,667,171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade creditors and accruals</td>
<td>11,017,779</td>
<td>10,278,354</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other creditors grants</td>
<td>101,911</td>
<td>119,912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAYE/PRSI</td>
<td>553,496</td>
<td>595,244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance lease obligation</td>
<td>118,931</td>
<td>117,886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>27,336,576</td>
<td>28,690,387</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 12. CREDITORS (CONTINUED)

**Amounts due after more than one year:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bank and other loans (Note 16)</td>
<td>38,135,000</td>
<td>44,527,908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred Income</td>
<td>10,384,865</td>
<td>6,490,649</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance lease obligations</td>
<td>237,855</td>
<td>356,831</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>48,757,720</strong></td>
<td><strong>51,375,388</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Included in deferred income is €4,107,705 (2015: €5,041,033) of net revenue arising under a securitised sponsorship agreement where the net revenue was received upon commencement of the contract. Gross revenue from this contract is recognised rateably over the contract period with an implied interest chargeable to the income and expenditure account was €500,000 (2015: €609,091).

Included in Creditors are finance leases of €356,786 (2015: €474,717) which are broken down as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount due within one year</td>
<td>118,931</td>
<td>117,886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount due between two and five years</td>
<td>237,855</td>
<td>356,831</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>356,786</strong></td>
<td><strong>474,717</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 13. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The carrying value of the financial assets and liabilities are summarised by the categories below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Financial assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debt instruments measured at amortised cost</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loans receivable (see note 10)</td>
<td>508,893</td>
<td>449,172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measured at cost less impairment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other investments (see note 9)</td>
<td>25,196,503</td>
<td>25,196,503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measured at fair value through Profit &amp; Loss</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank (see note 11)</td>
<td>937,447</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measured at undiscounted amounts receivable</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debtors and prepayments (see note 10)</td>
<td>6,204,582</td>
<td>7,625,442</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>32,847,425</strong></td>
<td><strong>33,271,117</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2016 (CONTINUED)

13. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONTINUED)  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial Liabilities</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Measured at amortised cost</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank loans and other loans (see notes 12)</td>
<td>39,010,000</td>
<td>48,527,908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obligations under finance leases (see notes 12)</td>
<td>356,786</td>
<td>474,717</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measured at undiscounted amounts payable</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank overdraft (see note 11)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,911,820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade and other payables (see note 12)</td>
<td>11,017,779</td>
<td>10,278,354</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50,384,565</td>
<td>61,192,799</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

14. ANALYSIS OF NET DEBT/FUNDS  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1 January</th>
<th>31 December</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bank balance</td>
<td>(1,911,820)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(1,911,820)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debt due within one year (Note 12)</td>
<td>(4,000,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debt due after one year (Note 12)</td>
<td>(44,527,908)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(48,527,908)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Debt</td>
<td>(50,439,728)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

15. RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING SURPLUS TO NET CASH INFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Surplus on ordinary activities</td>
<td>9,403,812</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation of tangible fixed assets</td>
<td>474,849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amortisation of intangible fixed assets</td>
<td>1,533,262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decrease in debtors &amp; prepayments</td>
<td>2,813,039</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase / (decrease) in creditors &amp; accruals</td>
<td>3,139,746</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net cash inflow from operating activities</td>
<td>17,364,708</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
16. BANK AND OTHER LOANS

Bank and other loans are due as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount due within one year</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>875,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>4,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount due between one and two years</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2,625,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>4,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount due between two and five years</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>36,000,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>40,884,362</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Capitalised borrowing costs</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(490,000)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(356,454)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

17. INVESTMENT IN JOINT VENTURES

New Stadium Limited

(i) The Association holds 2 shares of €1 in New Stadium Limited (2015: 2 shares), representing a 50% interest in its issued share capital. New Stadium Limited was formed as a joint venture with the Irish Rugby Football Union to develop Aviva Stadium and has its registered address at Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2. The Association’s share of the joint venture loss was €1,766,500 (2015: €1,658,000).

During the financial year, payments in respect of deferred contributions and loans of €Nil. (2015: €492,416) were made by the Association to New Stadium Ltd in relation to construction of Aviva Stadium. During the financial year New Stadium Ltd charged the Association €537,582 (2015: €1,526,357) in relation to use of the stadium and ancillary usage costs. As at the financial year end, an amount of €437,123 (2015: €Nil) is payable by the Association to New Stadium Ltd which is included in trade creditors and accruals.
17. INVESTMENT IN JOINT VENTURES (CONTINUED)

AUL-FAI Limited

(iii) The Association hold 100,000 ordinary shares in AUL-FAI Limited, a company incorporated to manage and develop the AUL complex in Clonshaugh, Co Dublin. AUL-FAI Limited was formed as a joint venture with the Athletic Union Football League and has its registered address at Clonshaugh, Co Dublin. The Association’s share of the joint venture loss was €14,679 (2015: €30,980).

During the financial year, the Association paid rental fees for the use of the facilities at the AUL Complex of €162,000 (2015: €162,000). As at financial year end, an amount of €36,066 (2015: €23,000) is payable by the Association to AUL-FAI Limited which is included in trade creditors and accruals.

18. AFFILIATED BODIES

The activities of the Affiliated Bodies listed below are not incorporated in these financial statements;

Colleges Football Association of Ireland
Defence Forces Athletic Association
F.A.I. Junior Council
F.A.I. Schools
Irish Soccer Referees’ Society
Irish Universities Football Union
Schoolboys Football Association of Ireland
Football for All
19. THE IRISH SPORTS COUNCIL/SPORT IRELAND

Grant received of €2,707,910 (2015: €2,707,910) from the Irish Sports Council/Sport Ireland during the financial year has been expended for the purpose for which they were intended by the Irish Sports Council/Sport Ireland.

The Irish Sports Council/Sport Ireland grant of €2,707,910 is allocated across the following programmes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grassroots</td>
<td>740,000</td>
<td>740,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAI Education</td>
<td>305,000</td>
<td>305,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Player Development</td>
<td>400,410</td>
<td>400,410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central &amp; Regional Development Staff</td>
<td>1,120,000</td>
<td>1,120,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women in Sport</td>
<td>142,500</td>
<td>142,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>2,707,910</td>
<td>2,707,910</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

20. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The total remuneration for key management personnel for the period totalled €430,000 (2015: €430,000).

21. GUARANTEES AND COMMITMENTS

The Association has entered into bank guarantees. The maximum amounts guaranteed were €252,013 as at 31 December 2016 (2015: €260,959).

Under a shareholders’ agreement dated 5 April 2006 between the Association, the Irish Rugby Football Union and New Stadium Ltd the Association has committed to provide funding based on the budgeted cost of the New Aviva Stadium. Total funding paid in 2016 amounted to €Nil (2015: €492,416).

The Association has provided security and guarantees on loan balances encompassing charges over certain bank accounts, receivables, including future contracted receivables and first floating charge over the Association’s property, assets and undertakings.

Total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- within one year</td>
<td>250,000</td>
<td>250,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- between one and five years</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- after five years</td>
<td>4,000,000</td>
<td>4,250,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>5,250,000</td>
<td>5,500,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

22. EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE

There have been no significant events affecting the financial statements since the financial year end.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>OPPOSITION</th>
<th>STAT</th>
<th>VENUE</th>
<th>RESULT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 17</td>
<td>09.08.16</td>
<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>FR</td>
<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>1 - 3 W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 17</td>
<td>11.08.16</td>
<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>FR</td>
<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>1 - 1 D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Seniors</td>
<td>19.08.16</td>
<td>Wales</td>
<td>FR</td>
<td>Wales</td>
<td>0 - 0 D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Seniors</td>
<td>21.08.16</td>
<td>Wales</td>
<td>FR</td>
<td>Wales</td>
<td>1 - 2 W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seniors</td>
<td>31.08.16</td>
<td>Oman</td>
<td>FR</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>4 - 0 W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 21</td>
<td>02.09.16</td>
<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>EQ</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>2 - 0 W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 19</td>
<td>04.09.16</td>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>FR</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>1 - 0 W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seniors</td>
<td>05.09.16</td>
<td>Serbia</td>
<td>WCQ</td>
<td>Serbia</td>
<td>2 - 2 D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 19</td>
<td>06.09.16</td>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>FR</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>3 - 1 W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 21</td>
<td>06.09.16</td>
<td>Serbia</td>
<td>EQ</td>
<td>Serbia</td>
<td>3 - 2 L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 17</td>
<td>06.09.16</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>FR</td>
<td>Turner’s Cross</td>
<td>2 - 0 W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Under 17</td>
<td>07.09.16</td>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>FR</td>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>5 - 1 L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Under 17</td>
<td>09.09.16</td>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>FR</td>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>4 - 1 L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 17</td>
<td>08.09.16</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>FR</td>
<td>Middleton FC</td>
<td>3 - 2 W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amateurs</td>
<td>15.09.16</td>
<td>Northern Ireland</td>
<td>FR</td>
<td>Northern Ireland</td>
<td>0 - 0 D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Under 19</td>
<td>19.09.16</td>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>FR</td>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>2 - 1 L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Seniors</td>
<td>20.09.16</td>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>EQ</td>
<td>Tallaght Stadium</td>
<td>0 - 1 L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amateurs</td>
<td>28.09.16</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>URC</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>0 - 1 W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amateurs</td>
<td>30.09.16</td>
<td>Macedonia</td>
<td>URC</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>0 - 2 W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amateurs</td>
<td>02.10.16</td>
<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>URC</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>0 - 0 D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seniors</td>
<td>06.10.16</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>WCQ</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>1 - 0 W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 19</td>
<td>06.10.16</td>
<td>Albania</td>
<td>EQ1</td>
<td>Albania</td>
<td>0 - 1 W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 21</td>
<td>07.10.16</td>
<td>Serbia</td>
<td>EQ</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>1 - 3 L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 19</td>
<td>08.10.16</td>
<td>Gibraltar</td>
<td>EQ1</td>
<td>Albania</td>
<td>5 - 0 W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seniors</td>
<td>09.10.16</td>
<td>Moldova</td>
<td>WCQ</td>
<td>Moldova</td>
<td>1 - 3 W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 19</td>
<td>11.10.16</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>EQ1</td>
<td>Albamnia</td>
<td>0 - 4 L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 17</td>
<td>15.10.16</td>
<td>Andorra</td>
<td>EQ1</td>
<td>Andorra</td>
<td>1 - 5 W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 17</td>
<td>17.10.16</td>
<td>Kazakhstan</td>
<td>EQ1</td>
<td>Andorra</td>
<td>1 - 3 W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Under 19</td>
<td>18.10.16</td>
<td>Macedonia</td>
<td>EQ1</td>
<td>Macedonia</td>
<td>10 - 0 W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Under 19</td>
<td>20.10.16</td>
<td>Wales</td>
<td>EQ1</td>
<td>Macedonia</td>
<td>2 - 0 W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 17</td>
<td>20.10.16</td>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>EQ1</td>
<td>Andorra</td>
<td>0 - 1 W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Under 19</td>
<td>23.10.16</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>EQ1</td>
<td>Macedonia</td>
<td>0 - 2 W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Under 17</td>
<td>26.10.16</td>
<td>Faroe Islands</td>
<td>EQ1</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>6 - 0 W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Under 17</td>
<td>26.10.16</td>
<td>Northern Ireland U19</td>
<td>FR</td>
<td>Northern Ireland</td>
<td>2 - 2 D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Under 17</td>
<td>28.10.16</td>
<td>Belarus</td>
<td>EQ1</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>2 - 0 W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAI Schools (Boys)</td>
<td>30.10.16</td>
<td>Wales</td>
<td>OT</td>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>0 - 4 W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Under 17</td>
<td>31.10.16</td>
<td>Iceland</td>
<td>EQ1</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>4 - 1 W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAI Schools (Boys)</td>
<td>01.11.16</td>
<td>Northern Ireland</td>
<td>OT</td>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>1 - 2 W</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legend:
FR: Friendly
EQ: European Qualifier
WCO: World Cup Qualifier
WUG: World University Games
URC: UEFA Regions Cup
CS: Centenary Shield
UEC: UEFA European Championships
DO: Deaf Olympics
EQ1: UEFA 1st Phase
EQ2: UEFA Elite Phase
<table>
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<td>Croatia</td>
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### FAI SPONSORS

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