



The Committee of Steelstown Brian Ógs would like to put on record their pride in, and gratitude to, our Senior Ladies football team for their exemplary efforts this season, where they remained undefeated on the field in both County and Provincial Championship competition. They continue to support and inspire the participation, development and enjoyment of Ladies Football at our club and beyond.

The Club is extremely frustrated and disappointed that the team has not been allowed to represent their county in the latter stages of the Ulster Championship and also at the questionable statement from Ulster LGFA which was issued today. The statement contains a number of omissions, errors and misleading information. After the first quarter-final was postponed, at no stage did we endorse the scenario of cramming the remaining fixtures in, to keep the Ulster Final on November 6th. We proposed in writing, moving the Semi-Final and Final back to consecutive Sundays. This option was never afforded a vote at the fixtures meeting on October 25th.

Had Ulster LGFA issued clear and definitive information to the clubs like their statement claimed, many of the issues that arose could have been avoided.

We feel the Ulster LGFA have let down the players in their response to reasonable and valid concerns highlighted over the last two weeks, in terms of player welfare and the integrity of the games and competition. Some of the LGFA's own guidance was not followed and this was compounded by a failure to communicate openly and effectively to clubs.

We are saddened at the devastating impact that all this has had on our players, who have shown outstanding dedication, commitment and skill all year. As gael, we are also disappointed at the effect these events have had on the visibility and promotion of the game, at time of increasing participation in ladies football.

The Club would like to express our thanks to Derry LGFA and everyone interested in sport and fair play from across Ireland, and beyond, for their support in the last number of days.

Our sincere hope is that lessons can be learned from events this week that lead to improved communication, governance and player welfare which would benefit all Ladies players and enhance the promotion of Gaelic Games across the Province.

Steelstown Brian Ógs Abú