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GAA UACHTARÁN JOHN HORAN SPEAKS OUT ON DISCIPLINE

GAA Uachtarán John Horan has called for an end to the spate of disciplinary flash points which have flared up at club level around the country in recent weeks.

In an address for the October edition of the GAA Club Newsletter, the Uachtarán says there must be “collective responsibility” between players, mentors, officials and supporters to behave in an appropriate manner and that the reputation of Gaelic games is compromised by the actions of an ill-disciplined minority.

The President said: “This time of year is synonymous with a hectic programme of club championship activity and where another pulsating season of county club action draws to a close.

“For all the triumph and glory that we have witnessed, our attention, regrettably, has been drawn to the reports and imagery of flash points of indiscipline that have flared up in a small number of games around the country.

“Although these brawls and acts of indiscipline have been few – let us be clear, they have still been a few too many and have no place in our Games.

“We cannot allow people to believe that they can behave differently than they would on the street just because they are wearing a jersey or a team tracksuit top or are attending a game.

“An act of violence is an act of violence

regardless of where it takes place. The perpetrators of these incidents are not above the law.

“All of us involved in playing, supporting and administrating our games have a duty of care to protect the reputation of the games that we are involved in. Indiscipline compromises that reputation.

“Players need to show restraint. Referees need to be respected and allowed to do their job and officials need to follow the rules that are in place for dealing with issues that arise. Supporters need to also behave responsibly.

“We should be cognisant at all of our games that players, managers and parents are role models for children in the GAA, and we must all live up to the principles of the Give Respect – Get Respect initiative.

“Where action needs to be taken, action should be taken. Punishments and suspensions need to be meaningful and should have an impact.

“For the purpose of clarity, incidents that arise at local level are a matter for the organising committee in charge within that county to deal with. But there is still a collective responsibility on us all to take appropriate action where necessary and show leadership when it is required.

“Some of the images that we have seen have

been disturbing and the indiscipline has been dangerous.

“A lot of work has taken place at inter-county level to improve discipline - but clearly there is work that needs to be done at club level.

“The issue of crowded sidelines needs to be taken into account as a contributory factor in some of these incidents.

“If it is decided that our rules and procedures are not adequate in clamping down on bad behaviour or, if there are obstacles to the pursuit of investigations, then we will address it.

“These issues are small when set against the backdrop of the thousands of games that are played nationwide in the proper manner and spirit. But while small in number their negative impact is significant and we simply cannot tolerate that behavior.

“We have a collective responsibility to send out a signal as to the type of games we want.

“We have seen examples of commendable sporting behaviour at club level such as the juveniles of Rathoath offering a game to Magheraclone because of the sinkhole that has destroyed their pitch.

“Last week we saw the sportsmanship of the beaten Gort na Mona players and officials lining up and applauding off the victorious

St Enda’s team after they won the Antrim intermediate football final.

“Our vibrant clubs proudly represent the communities which they serve and these noteworthy examples are not the exception.

“They are sadly however, dwarfed by the negative publicity which follows outbreaks of violence.

“It is not reflective of the Association which we know we have and that is why we should not and will not tolerate its existence.”



GAA Uachtarán, John Horan, says brawls and acts of indiscipline have no place in our games.

VICTORY OF WICKLOW CLUB IN HIGH COURT INSURANCE CLAIM IS A LESSON FOR US ALL



All-weather facilities similar to that shown here are a great addition to facilities offered by clubs. But they require constant care and attention just like a natural playing surface.

The success of a Wicklow GAA club at defending themselves in a court case over an alleged serious injury suffered on their all-weather pitch have been hailed for their exemplary record.

A 37 year-old man had sued Arklow Geraldines Ballymoney GAA in Wicklow for alleged negligence over a knee injury he alleged was suffered in a fall while using the club's all-weather facility back in 2010. The case claimed the club was at fault for lack of maintenance of the pitch.

However, the claim was withdrawn with the club strenuously denying any claims that they had allowed the astro turf facility to become dangerous due to neglect.

All-weather facilities are increasingly seen as a key component of the make-up of the modern day GAA club facilities.

However, legal cases such as this again show the potential risk caused to clubs who do not maintain these facilities. For example, there have been other incidences highlighted in the GAA Club Newsletter of previous claims involving people who lost fingers because they were caught up in inadequate and dangerous ball stop netting using these facilities.

Arklow Geraldines Ballymoney GAA in Wicklow are an example of a club being able to stand over its record when it comes to best practice in the maintenance of their facility – especially when this facility is available for rent to members of the public.

There is a lesson for us all in their attention to detail.

Ciara Clarke of the GAA's Insurance Department in Croke Park has praised the club over their approach to this matter.

She said: "Ever since the club first received the legal correspondence on this matter and passed it over to the Insurance Department in Croke Park, there was full co-operation given by all the officers involved and the club were able to demonstrate how they had a full maintenance program for their astro turf facility in place.

"This meant our legal team were able to make the arguments that there was nothing wrong with the pitch in that the pitch was fully maintained, it was swept once a week and there was a constant presence of club members around it when it was in use.

"The installers of the pitch also carried out annual maintenance inspections of the facilities and the club were able to demonstrate this and provide records accordingly. No previous complaints had been received in relation to the pitch and in indeed the person making the claim had been a regular user of the facility before he sustained his injury and had no complaints in relation to the facility.

"In the words of the legal team who represented the club, they were excellent in

how they have all dealt with this matter and it was a tribute to James Dunne, Ray Menton, George Byrne, Victor O'Shaughnessy, Patrick Hickey, Tony Cashman, Michael Murphy and Jimmy Byrne that they all turned up in the High Court to act as witnesses for the club and represented all that is good about officers in our clubs. Indeed, it is a testament to the club that a letter of thanks has been issued on its behalf to the Legal team and the GAA Risk and Insurance Committee for the support given since this case began. Nobody joins a GAA club to end up in court in such cases, everyone joins it for the love of the games and not to be dealing with solicitor's correspondence."

This case is important to highlight because the GAA has faced significant challenges in continuing to secure cover under the GAA Liability Insurance program. Annual claims costs have increased from €1.5m to €3m over the past 5 years whilst personal injury claims been taken against the Association have also doubled.

Ireland has a very active claims culture as highlighted by ongoing media reports and we are a party to that. However, many lessons can be taken from this case in that where claims are taken against affiliated units, they will be fully defended but all of us have a role to play reducing the exposures by having a documented maintenance program in place for our facilities as Arklow Geraldines Ballymoney GAA had.



ASTRO PITCHES GUIDELINES & INFORMATION FOR CLUBS

Do not undertake any action that has not previously been authorized by the installing company. Warranties are normally linked to the maintenance of the surface. Lack of maintenance will invalidate the warranty as will incorrect maintenance. If in doubt, ask the experts – the installing company.

Do not apply any chemicals onto the surface without prior consent. Many chemical substances can act to the detriment of the surface, particularly petroleum-based products. Care must be taken to avoid all petroleum-based spillages, including fuel for tractor units. Always re-fuel off the playing surface.

Is there an annual maintenance contract in place with the installing company?

Club members should be around the facility particularly when it is in use by non-members \ groups.

The surface should as far as possible be non-slip, durable and maintained in a good state of repair with regular cleaning and maintenance checks must be in place. Document the maintenance in place and have a full record of use – many installing companies provide logbooks to record such detail and should be in use.

The club should have a booking form when taking bookings for the facility noting the date of the booking, the contact person \ contact number, the name of the group using the facility and the numbers using it.

If users are part of an organised group, that

group needs to provide the club with proof of their own insurance. All such groups must provide proof of their own valid insurance showing a specific indemnity to the club and showing the GAA Minimum requirements of €6.5Million Public Liability, €13Million Employers Liability and €2.6Million Professional Indemnity.

All users of the pitch should sign a waiver and the club should keep a record of such waivers. All users must be advised that there is no cover in place for injuries sustained and the club must document that this was confirmed to the users. All users participate at their own risk and need to ensure they have cover in place themselves in the event that they sustain an injury.

Only the playing of Gaelic Games is permitted as per rule and groups wishing to play other sports should not be permitted.

Dogs are not to be permitted on the facility.

Clubs should get into the habit of recording in their monthly minutes that no incidents occurred during the use of the facility. Therefore, if a personal injury claim is taken against the club, this will be used as proof that nothing was reported.

Any incidents that do occur that may give rise to a personal injury claim must be recorded and documented. Any witnesses to an incident should be spoken to and a report of the incident taken from them. Please forward the notification of the incident to the Insurance Department in Croke Park without delay and full assistance and guidance will be given. The sooner we can investigate such incidents, the

easier it is when a solicitor's letter lands at the door of the club after the incident. If the club receives any solicitor's letters, please forward all correspondence immediately without delay to the Insurance Department, Croke Park, Dublin 3.

Maintenance Tips

Inspect the fixtures and fittings on a daily basis and remove any hazards e.g. if netting around the pitch has sagged, it needs to be fixed as a matter of priority – several fingers have been lost by users from catching their fingers on poorly maintained netting.

Is the pitch secured by a boundary fence which is maintained and locked \ access controlled when not in use? Keys of the facility should only be maintained by a competent person.

The surface should normally be brushed regularly in accordance with the number of hours of use. The brushing frequency will be related to the intensity of use; the more often it is used, the more often will be the need for brushing.

A general guideline is one hour of maintenance to every 10-15 hours usage.

The main effect of brushing is to level the infill (where present) to ensure the uniformity of the surface. A second important reason for brushing a synthetic pitch is to prevent pile lean and pile flattening. Many synthetic fibres have a tendency to lean in a particular direction or flatten with use. To help overcome this, regular brushing in all directions will tend to keep the fibres upright and nondirectional.

Always brush in different directions, as brushing in one direction will tend to cause the fibres to lean

in that direction. This will result in different ball roll characteristics in different directions. The high wear areas will require additional attention as these zones will obviously have the most disrupted infill and pile flattening due to the intensity of play.

It is usually most effective to brush the surface when it is dry

Watering the surface may seem unnecessary but in warm weather particularly, it should be done to lubricate and cool the surface. It also stabilizes the infill and consequently reduce migration

After extreme weather frost / snow or rain, certain surfaces may deteriorate and present as a hazard, so all infill levels need to be checked as they may have become disrupted. Close the pitch during adverse weather conditions

The penalty spots are prone to disruption of the infill and need top up on a more regular basis than is necessary for routine brushing

Remove any contaminants \ debris \ rubbish as soon as possible from the facility

All organic matter such as leaves, soil, seeds etc. if left will result in algal moss or weed growth, remove it as soon as possible

All signage should be appropriate and free from sharp edges and not protruding onto the field of play

Regularly check the lighting around the facility and any repairs that are required should be completed by an appropriate contractor

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF REFEREES A PRIORITY FOR THE GAA

The number one goal listed in the GAA's recently published Referee Development Plan 2018-2021 is increased recruitment and retention of referees.

Retention is just as important as recruitment because the effort required to enlist new referees is somewhat in vain if they're not in it for the long haul.

The reality of refereeing is that it can be a steep learning curve so unfortunately the drop-out rates can be high in the first year.

The GAA's National Match Officials Manager, Patrick Doherty, hopes the introduction of a new mentoring programme as well as an even greater emphasis on referee training and education will give new referees the support they need to stay the course.

"One thing that we have to develop on and you'll see it in the plan, is a structured pathway," said Doherty

"We're probably not structured enough in terms of getting people through from club to provincial to county. Again, it needs to be a strategy.

"One of the things we've talked about is the retention of referees. The biggest difficulty that young referees or new referees face is the first year. How do we get them through the first year?



In attendance at the Referee Development Plan Launch in Croke Park were Uachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Gael John Horan, with, from left, Sean Martin, Vice-Chairman of Coiste Forbartha na Réiteoirí, Conor Lane, referee, James Owens, referee, and Patrick Doherty, National Match Officials Manager.

"Are we saying, 'You're a referee, off you go and referee games...' and do we leave them basically on their own for six months, eight months, 12 months? And if we do that, we're going to lose them.

"That's part of the strategy we have to come in, how are we going to retain them and we have to put plans in place to retain them.

"Part of that plan will be a structured pathway that we need so that they can see, 'Yes, there is progress here. How do we do it?' That's

going to be us to us to put that in play."

2018 All-Ireland Senior Hurling Final referee, James Owens, recalls his first time to referee a match as a difficult experience to the extent he wonders how he kept going.

But he stuck at it and eventually became one of the very best referees in the country.

He believes the introduction of a mentoring programme for younger referees will encourage them to stay the course and rise

through the ranks like he eventually did.

"The mentoring aspect of it will probably be one of the bigger things going forward," said Owens.

"It's always nice when you have somebody from your side, the referees side, that's going to make contact with you or you can make contact with yourself, whichever way its set up, that will be a nice feature going forward.

"I've seen loads of referees doing the training



James Owens greets Galway captain David Burke before the 2018 All-Ireland SHC Final.

courses and that sort of stuff. They might only referee for the first year or whatever and in that, they might only get three or four games and they would have had major interest in it.

“If something like that was there, that lads walk out at half time and say, ‘Look, you’re going well’ or ‘maybe you should do this...’ I think that would be a way forward.

“It might be a way of encouraging the younger referees. Certainly, even at 20, I think you need to be that age to start refereeing.

“If you want to get to the level of being in an All-Ireland final, you have to be starting 18-20 years of age. That could be a way of bringing it forward.”

2018 All-Ireland Senior Football Final referee, Conor Lane, believes that at the highest level referees are afforded total respect by inter-county players.

But he knows its more challenging for less experienced referees on the club circuit where that culture of respect isn’t as engrained yet as it should be.

“It needs to start down at grassroots,” said Lane. “I’m from Cork and I love rugby as well, I’m a big Munster fan. You see the referees, there’s no chat back.

“That goes down to babies, they just grew up with it and that’s it. It’s what they’re used to. If we’re going to start that, you need to get into the schools and juvenile clubs. At juvenile level, it’s getting better, more positive.

“It’s a cultural thing. You don’t have it at inter-county because referees won’t tolerate it.

“You’ve linesmen wired up and fourth officials, the umpires. There’s no point risking the ball being moved 13 metres. They’re very good and very positive.”

The GAA’s Respect Initiative has done very good work to promote positive behaviour and to ensure that an enriching environment is provided for the promotion and development of Gaelic Games.

But Patrick Doherty admits there is still progress to be made in terms of creating a culture of total respect for referees in Gaelic Games at all levels.

“Yeah, it is part of it, there’s no doubt about that, that absolutely is a part of it,” said Doherty. “I suppose one of the things we’ll be looking at in this as well is how do we get that respect in general.

“That’s something that we’ll be working on with the National Children’s Officer Gearoid Ó Maoilmhichíl on and putting some sort of programme together that perhaps we can be rolling out to clubs rather than necessarily concentrating on referees.

“Yeah, it is something that needs to be tackled. But, at the same time, I wouldn’t want to be overstating the difficulties of that. It is

difficult, but it’s not horrendous.”

If a referee can stay the course and serve his apprenticeship, Conor Lane believes he’ll reap significant rewards in the long-term from a life in refereeing.

“It’s the friends I’ve made since I’ve come on board - I’ve friends all over Ireland,” said Lane.

“It’s a good life, you know. You’ve got the four lads with you in the morning and you see a bit of the world.

“There’s a responsibility when you’re in charge of 30 players there on a given day. It’s a challenge but you enjoy it.

“I was never good enough to play inter-county football or hurling. It was junior club level at home for me so the next best thing was refereeing.

“It’s the friends, the travelling, the camaraderie, the training - it keeps you healthy, it keeps you fit. There’s loads of positive stuff.”



Referees Conor Lane (left) and James Owens pictured at the launch of the Referee Development Plan 2018-2021.

EXPERIMENTAL RULE CHANGES PROPOSED FOR FOOTBALL

The GAA's Standing Committee on the Playing Rules has issued a list of proposed experimental rule changes for Gaelic Football.

The SCPR now plans to engage in a consultation process in relation to these rules during the month of October and will hold detailed discussions with players, coaches, referees and officials.

If approved by Coiste Bainistíochta, the proposed rule changes would be implemented as a trial during the 2019 Allianz Football Leagues. Any trial rules would not feature in the 2019 Championship but, based on their success in the trial phase, could be approved by Congress 2020 for implementation in the 2020 Championship.

There are five rule changes proposed. They are:

Proposal (1)

Handpass - To introduce a restriction of three consecutive passes of the ball with the fist or open hand by players of the team in possession.

Proposal (2)

Sideline Kick

That the ball shall be played in a forward direction from the kick.

Exception:

In the case of a side-line kick being taken by an attacking player on or inside the opponents'



13m line, the ball may be kicked in any direction.



Proposal (3)

The Mark – To extend the application of the Mark to the clean catching of the ball on or inside the 20m line from a kick delivered on or beyond the 45m line without it touching the ground.

In the case of a Mark being awarded to an attacking player on or inside the 20m line, the free, if availed of, shall be taken from the point on the 20m line directly in line where the Mark is awarded.

In the case of a Mark being awarded to a defending player on or inside the 20m line, the free kick, if availed of, shall be taken from the point where the Mark is awarded.

The application of the Mark in the two areas

of it arising (i.e. as in current Rule and in new Proposal) shall be standardised as follows:

- Up to 15 seconds shall be allowed for a free to be taken from a Mark.
- If the Referee determines that the player who makes the Mark has been injured in the process and unable to take the kick, the Referee shall direct the player's nearest team mate to take the kick.
- A score may be made from a free awarded for a Mark.
- The normal Rules governing free-kicks shall apply (e.g. players being 13m from the ball before it is kicked).

Exception:

A free-kick from a Mark shall be taken from the hand(s) only.

If a player opts to 'play on' when awarded a Mark, he may be challenged i.e. provisions (b) (i) and (ii) of the current Mark Rule shall not apply during the experimentation.

Proposal (4)

Sin-Bin – The Penalty on the day for a Black Card Infraction or two Yellow Card Infractions – an ordering off for ten minutes in a Sin Bin.

A subsequent Black Card Infraction shall be penalised by the showing of a Black Card followed by a Red Card.

A subsequent Yellow Card Infraction shall be penalised by the showing of a Yellow Card followed by a Red Card.

In either case there shall be no substitution allowed.

The maximum number of substitutions in normal time to return to five.

The Duties of a Referee and Sideline Official to be amended in accordance with this Proposal.



Proposal (5)

Kick-Out/Zoning

For a kick-out, two players only from each team shall be positioned between the two 45m lines.

The goalkeeper and a maximum of six players from each team shall be behind the respective 45m lines, until the ball is kicked.

The ball from the kick-out shall travel beyond the 45m line before being played by a player of the defending team.

Other Rules relating to the kick-out to remain unchanged.

Penalties:

(1) For another player on the team taking a kick-out to play the ball before it has travelled outside the 45m line or has been played by an opposing player.

Penalty:

- (i) Cancel kick-out
- (ii) Throw in the ball on defenders' 20m line in front of the scoring space.
- (2) For a player to cross a 45m line before the ball is kicked for the kick-out.
- (3) For a player(s) to, in the opinion of the referee, deliberately seek to delay the kick-out by not retreating behind the 45m lines in a timely manner.

Penalty for the above Fouls:

A 45m free off the ground and in front of the scoring space shall be awarded to the opposing team.

(4) For a player(s) of each team to simultaneously cross the 45m line(s) before the ball is kicked from the kick-out:

Penalty:

A throw-in ball shall be awarded on the centre of the 45m line involved or at the centre of the field (if infringements are made on both 45m lines).



The SCPR is chaired by David Hassan. He said: "In advance of this document there was extensive research carried out including detailed consideration of video footage, data provided on inter-county games from 2011 to the current season, and discussion on the part of the Committee's members during the course of the year.

"Proposed changes are designed to enhance the core skills of Gaelic Football. The Committee will now embark on a period of consultation with all of the key stakeholders involved in the playing of our games. This feedback is important, and we also know that the ultimate test of any proposals is when we see them implemented on the field of play."

Communication was also sought from all 32 GAA county boards as well as overseas units seeking feedback on the existing playing rules of Gaelic Football, as well as holding a meeting between the SCPR and the Chair of the Referees' Development Committee.

It should be stressed that these proposals are on an experimental basis only and will be subject to a review.

During 2018 much of the Committee's focus has been on Gaelic football. It has also reviewed the playing rules of Hurling as well as a number of other areas that span both codes and will consider these in much more detail during the second and third years of its three-year term.

Under GAA rule, changes to the playing rules of Gaelic Games are only possible in years divisible by 5, making 2020 a year that permits changes to the playing rules.

The Standing Committee on Playing Rules is comprised of:

David Hassan (Chair), Tracy Bunyan (Sec), Pat Daly, Seamus Kenny, Brian Cuthbert, Michael Delaney, David Collins, Alex McQuillen, Frank Murphy.

TALENT ACADEMY AND PLAYER DEVELOPMENT WORK GROUP ESTABLISHED TO IMPROVE PLAYER PATHWAY

The GAA has begun a process of reviewing the GAA youth /player development pathway at inter-county level and its relationship with clubs, post-primary schools and third level institutions.

Uachtarán CLG John Horan has set up an expert panel containing extensive inter-county playing and coaching experience, and chaired by Michael Dempsey, former Laois footballer and multi All-Ireland winning coach with the Kilkenny senior hurling team.

The focus of this group is to ensure that best practice is being followed in developing talented young players from the age of Under 13 upwards to Under 20 football and hurling.

It is expected to make recommendations that ensure that there is a holistic player pathway in place in the development of young players in every county; that there is a club centered approach that does not create an elitist mindset from a young age and also makes player welfare a priority.

The group have held a number of preparatory meetings and will now spend the next few weeks meeting various stakeholders at county level with the responsibility of developing talented players via four provincial meetings.

A survey conducted with parents of players in underage squads will also be conducted to gauge the effect their involvement is having on their lives off the field.

It is hoped to have a draft report ready before the end of this year and propose recommendations to the GAA's Games Development Committee with regard to updating policy in line with the review recommendations.

Uachtarán CLG John Horan said: "It gives me great pleasure to see this Work Group commence what will be a hugely beneficial and very timely project for the Association.

"As part of my inaugural address last February I expressed concerns that I had about the current state of our underage development squads and academies.

"As someone who has had a lifelong involvement at club, school and county level in working with underage teams and young players, I have seen the danger posed when these squads and young players are fixated on elitism, when players are kept away from their clubs, and also the negative impact on players who were part of a squad for a time but were released and left feeling like failures before they had begun their adult playing careers.

"The proper development of young players is an investment in the future well-being of our Games. This is a high caliber Work Group and I look forward to seeing the fruits of their endeavours."

Talent Academy & Player Development Work Group Members

Michael Dempsey (Chairman, Laois)
Jenny Duffy (Secretary, Cork)
Jeffrey Lynskey (Galway)
Jason Sherlock (Dublin)

Shane Flanagan (Leinster GAA, Kildare)
Dr. Eugene Young (Ulster GAA, Derry)
Ray O'Brien (Third Level, Kerry)
Garrett Coyle (Ulster Post-Primary Schools, Monaghan)
Brian Cuthbert (Cork)
Fergal O'Donnell (Roscommon)
Jamesie O'Connor (Clare)

Terms of Reference

(a) To conduct a review of the GAA player development pathway at inter-county level and its relationship with clubs, post-primary schools and third level institutions. This review is inclusive of U13 schools of excellence, talent academies (u14-u16), minor (u17) and u20 age-groups and applies to hurling and football.

(b) To consult with key stakeholders as required including but not limited to Players, Coaches, Parents, Clubs, Games Development Personnel, Coaching Officers, County Executives, Provincial Councils, Post Primary Schools, Post Primary School Committee, Higher Education Committee and County Coistí na nÓg.

(c) To report to GDC on the findings of the review.

(d) To propose recommendations to GDC with regard updating policy in line with our review recommendations.

The review will include, but is not limited, to the following:

* Establish purpose and vision for inter-county player development programme from Under 13-20.

* Coherence between club, county, post-primary and third level activity including games programmes.

* Resources committed by counties i.e. financial, gear, equipment etc.

* Governance, Leadership and ability to embrace and to comply with our own best practice models.

* Coach recruitment, development and retention practices.

* Player selection and development practices.

* Management of player lifestyle and welfare.

* Competitions, games and coaching programme.

* Examine competitions, games and coaching programmes to check for compliance with our own best practice models.

These terms of reference are proposed under the premise that the player pathway includes clubs, post primary schools, talent academies, 3rd level and inter-county age grades.



Kilkenny hurling coach Michael Dempsey is the chairman of the Talent Academy and Player Development Work Group.

MORE THAN 260 SCHOOLS SIGN UP TO GAA/PDST FUTURE LEADERS TY PROGRAMME

The cross-curricular programme comprising of eight Modules in subjects as diverse as Coaching, Sports Journalism and Event Management, is designed to provide a learning experience based on the practical application of the skills from each module, by empowering every student to play an active role in the organisation of a Gaelic Games opportunity in their school or community. As such it aims to bring the GAA value of 'Inclusion' to life in every Post Primary School undertaking the programme.

We want these students to have a lifelong involvement in the Association as coaches, referees, administrators and players. The programme will develop life skills in the students, supporting them to be more physically active, to be more focused and aware, to be better communicators and team workers and to have a sense of belonging in their community and their place. There are benefits to the pupil, the school, to local clubs and communities, and to the country as a whole.

Through our partnership with the PDST, the country's largest single Continuing Professional Development Service for primary and post-primary schools, the programme is supporting school leaders and teachers in meaningfully embedding the use of digital technologies into teaching, learning and assessment practices. The involvement of the PDST has been invaluable and indispensable to the development and rollout of the programme. Through the PDST Associate

model our GAA Future Leaders PDST associates provide CPD training to Teachers across the Country, supported by a digital repository of multimedia resources.

The GAA Learning Platform is also allowing the GAA to support the development of our young people by providing them with a safe online environment to produce and share records and reflections of their learning experience while encouraging them to be active in Gaelic Games. We hope to be able to use this platform to work with the Dept of Education and Skills and the PDST to support the rollout of the new Junior Cert Well-being Curriculum as well as the Leaving Cert PE Pilot Programme.

The GAA Learning Platform is already engaging over 1000 Post Primary Teachers and over 15,000 students in over 260 Post Primary Schools across the country and as such is proven to be able to engage the Post Primary School system in the evolution of education in Ireland.

The GAA is delighted that through this partnership with the PDST we are able to align this programme with the Digital Literacy strategy as well as the broader aims of the evolving Junior and Senior Cycle curricula.

Yvonne McKenna, CEO Gaisce stated that: "The President's Award is a personal development programme for young people. Participants set and achieve their own goals across four challenge areas: physical activity, personal skill, community involvement and a team/adventure journey. Gaisce is a direct challenge from the President to



Cork Camogie player Julia White, Uachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Gael John Horan, and former Clare hurler Colin Ryan pictured at the launch of the GAA/PDST Future Leaders TY Programme at Croke Park.

all young people in Ireland to dream big and fulfil their potential.

"Young people participating in the Future Leaders Programme can use their involvement towards their Gaisce award. There's an obvious fit between Gaisce and the Future Leaders Programme because in many respects, the objectives are similar. Gaisce exists to provide young people with an opportunity to explore their passions, test their limits and unlock their potential.

"In addition to confidence and wellbeing, participation in Gaisce is proven to develop the 'soft skills' that are central to young people making positive life choices and taking their rightful place in the world: from self-management to leadership.

"It's wonderful that, right from the get-go of this

partnership, Gaisce will be part of the e-portfolio of the Future Leaders Programme through the 'reflective journal' element. The opportunity to reflect on the experience of the Future Leaders Programme and their Gaisce journey will enhance not only the sense of achievement, but the reality of what has been achieved.

"There will be a permanent record from which participants will be able to draw on long after their award has been achieved – hopefully taking it on to their Silver and Gold Gaisce Awards!"

Programme Overview

The "Future Leaders Transition Year Programme" is a joint initiative from the GAA and the Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST). It is a cross-curricular programme comprising of eight modules, each designed to

encourage maturity, initiative, responsibility and leadership skills in pupils. The Programme gives pupils the knowledge and skills to support all roles required in the effective staging of Gaelic Games. As part of the Programme pupils are challenged to organise and run a GAA Super Games Centre for younger students.

The PDST have been involved in the preparation of the Future Leaders programme providing advice on curriculum links, ensuring alignment with the TY programme, embedding the core concept of Physical Literacy, developing educational resources and delivering training to the participating schools.

Ciara O' Donnell, National Director of the PDST stated: "The PDST team are delighted to be part of this wonderfully innovative project which provides rich opportunities for students to develop in the most holistic sense in line with the principles of the TY programme. I believe that this initiative provides a unique and creative learning pathway for young people to acquire skills which are both sports related and transferable not only across the curriculum, but beyond TY itself. It is a privilege to work with the schools involved and our colleagues in the GAA."

Course Structure:

The Programme is comprised of 8 modules. All modules are between 6 – 10hrs long, stand alone and individually certifiable. Pupils will receive a certificate for each completed module. A school can choose to deliver one or more modules. Delivering five modules plus the organisation of a GAA Super Games Centre through the pupils, results in them being awarded the "GAA/PDST Future Leaders Award". When registered, each pupil gets an online e-Portfolio to store and share documentation and to submit tasks. Pupils receive certification for each module when all the tasks are completed and submitted to their e-Portfolio.

Modules:

Future Leaders FMS & Coaching of hurling / Gaelic football Module
 Future Leaders Refereeing Module
 Future Leaders Administration Module
 Future Leaders Sports Journalism Module
 Future Leaders Performance Analysis Module
 Future Leaders Event Management Module
 Future Leaders Wellbeing Module
 Future Leaders Nutrition Module

Competition:

There is a competition element to the "Future Leaders Programme" also. For example, the best "Sports Journalist" will shadow a sports journalist in Croke Park on a big match day.

These will be national competitions and the winners will be picked from the work submitted to the pupils' e-portfolio.

Role for Everyone:

There are many jobs that need to be filled by Transition Year pupils to ensure the successful running of the Super Games Centre. This is the practical application of the skills pupils acquired in the various modules.

Future Leaders Committee – This is comprised of a group of pupils who oversee the overall day to day running of the Super Games Centre. The Committee is made up of a chairperson, a secretary, a PRO etc, and oversees everything and organises the weekly roster for the various other jobs.

Team Managers – Responsible for ensuring team knows when and where games are on and for the team during games.

Referees / Umpires / Linesmen – These are appointed to the various games by the Fixtures Committee.



Uachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Gael John Horan speaking at the GAA/PDST Future Leaders TY Programme Launch at Croke Park.

Journalists – The PRO is responsible for appointing a journalist to each game. The journalist then writes a match report which is emailed to the PRO for the Social Media Committee to post on the Super Games Centre Facebook and Twitter account and for the school's website.

Photographers – The PRO is again responsible for appointing a photographer to each game. The photos are then emailed to the PRO for the Social Media Committee to post on the Super Games Centre Facebook and Twitter account and for the school's website.

Performance Analysts – There will be a performance analyst working with each team collecting various data.

Nutritionists – These will meet the 1st and 2nd year pupils and discuss healthy eating with them and prepare healthy eating plans for them.

Benefits of Programme:

- The Super Games Centre allows players to take ownership of the Games and feel a sense of belonging and enjoyment in a fun, safe environment. As the TY pupils themselves are responsible for organising and running all aspects of the 1st and 2nd Year Super Games Centre, this course encourages and empowers the Transition Year pupils to take ownership and responsibility for everything linked to the games, which make the match day experience what it is.
- By completing the various modules and running a Super Games Centre, pupils really do develop, mature and benefit in so many ways, which can only be achieved by putting their newly acquired skills and knowledge to use in a practical, real life setting.
- The programme is officially linked to Gaisce the President's Award, and pupils can do their Bronze Award through the Future Leaders Programme once they are registered for both.

AIB GAA CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS LAUNCHED AS THE ROAD TO CROKE PARK BEGINS



In attendance at the launch of the AIB Camogie and Club Championship are, from left, Scotstown and Monaghan goalkeeper, Rory Beggan, Uachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Gael John Horan, Midleton and Cork Senior Hurler, Conor Lehane, Camogie Association President Kathleen Woods, Naomh Jude and Dublin Senior Camogie goalkeeper, Faye McCarthy, Denis O'Callaghan, Head of AIB Retail Banking, and Ballintubber and Mayo footballer, Diarmuid O'Connor.

AIB today proudly launched the 28th season of their sponsorship of the GAA and Camogie Club Championships alongside **Conor Lehane, Midleton and Cork hurler; Rory Beggan, Scotstown and Monaghan goalkeeper; Faye Mc Carthy, Saint Judes and Dublin Camogie goalkeeper; Diarmuid O'Connor, Ballintubber and Mayo footballer. The four athletes officially marked the 2018/19 AIB Club GAA and Camogie Championship season. They now step back onto the pitch with their clubs and prepare for Provincial and All-Ireland glory as the battle of #TheToughest continues.**

Recently extending their sponsorship of both Club and County for another five years, AIB is especially pleased to continue its sponsorship of the GAA Club Championships for a 28th consecutive year.

Scotstown, St. Martin's, Ballintubber, Midleton and Saint Judes are all preparing for AIB Provincial fixtures over the coming weeks. Lehane's Midleton face Waterford's Ballygunner in the AIB Munster SHC Club Quarter-Final next Sunday, while the winners will progress and face Ballyea of Clare on November 4th in the Semi-Final.

Beggan's Scotstown secured a win last Sunday in the AIB Ulster SFC Club Championship after they saw off Fermanagh's Derrygonnelly Harps in the Preliminary Round. They now face Down's Burren on November 4th.

Faye McCarthy's won the Dublin Senior County Final and they will play Kilkenny's Thomastown in the AIB Leinster Senior Camogie Club Championship Semi-Final this Sunday.

Diarmuid O'Connor secured a late Mayo Senior title

for Ballintubber in Saturday night's County Final. They now look ahead to an AIB Connacht Senior Football Club Championship Quarter-Final against Sligo's Tourlestrane on November 4th.

Denis O'Callaghan, Head of AIB Retail Banking, emphasised the importance of AIB's partnerships with the GAA, "AIB is delighted to be involved with the Club Championships at Senior, Intermediate and Junior level for a 28th consecutive year, as well as now entering our 6th year sponsoring the Camogie Club Championships.

"The Club Championships are one of the most unique, competitive and toughest competitions to win in sport. The GAA clubs dotted around the country lie at the heart of the communities in which they are based. We are inspired by every club involved in the Club Championships, and we are proud to be backing all of the involved athletes in their big moments in life."

Uachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Gael, John Horan said, "This is the time of the year when our clubs and the players who secure county titles get the opportunity to represent their counties with distinction. This is a time of the year that communities get the chance to travel together across provinces and have the opportunity to represent their clubs outside of their counties.

"The goal of securing provincial honours and ultimately getting to contest the Club titles in Croke Park on St Patrick's Day is the end goal for all of those involved. We wish all competing clubs the very best of luck. I would also like to acknowledge AIB's support who through their sponsorship of

both the Club and County Championships are one of the GAA's biggest and longest supporters as we continue to look to grow and develop GAA at grassroots right around the country."

Uachtarán an Cumann Camógaíochta, Kathleen Woods, spoke about the extensions of AIB's sponsorship, "We are delighted to have entered our sixth year with AIB as sponsors of the Provincial and All-Ireland Camogie Club Championships.

In the past, AIB have been very supportive of our Club Championships through the annual Provincial Player Awards, shining spotlights on our players by creating human interest videos, while they also livestreamed Camogie Finals which may not have been televised.

Our AIB Provincial Championships are already well underway with the AIB Ulster Junior, Intermediate and Senior Finals having just taken place last weekend. We would like to wish all Clubs involved the very best for the remainder of the season as they battle for All-Ireland glory."

Playing club represents the community and hometown support that is unique to the AIB Club and Camogie Championships, and with some of #TheToughest fixtures just around the corner, the players, fans, and community are gearing up to prove themselves in the 2018/19 season.

For exclusive content and behind the scenes action from the AIB Camogie and Club Championships follow AIB GAA on Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat and facebook.com/AIBGAA and www.aib.ie/gaa.

HURLING DELEGATION IN PARIS FOR UNESCO BID

A delegation from the GAA recently travelled to Paris hoping to secure UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage status for hurling.

Uachtaran Cumann Luthchleas Gael, John Horan, Director of Games, Pat Daly, Acting Camogie Association CEO Louise Conlon, historian Daniel McCarthy, Director of UCD's World Heritage Management and Conservation programme, Claire Cave, UCD Professor of Archaeology, Aidan O'Sullivan, and former Cork hurler John Fenton are travelling to France alongside Minister for Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht, Josepha Madigan.

"The Intangible Cultural Heritage status is something that is provided by UNESCO," Daly explains "You have a World Heritage site like Newgrange, that would be recognised by UNESCO. That is a site, it exists, you can see it and it is a permanent reality. What we are talking about here is intangible cultural heritage. It is stuff that gets passed down through the medium of hurling.

"Things like identity, the generation of social capital, things like cultural diversity, the propagation of holistic lifestyle and decent value systems. That is the kind of world you are in to here."

Daly stresses the value and role hurling plays in Irish society. "I suppose the case we are making is that hurling has been around a long time, it is pretty much unique to Ireland," Daly adds.

"It is a distinctive game and if you mention hurling in this country it is pretty much tied up with Irish identity and everything that goes with that.

"Based on the history of the game and the societal

impact it has and its contribution to identity and social capital and the identity to communities, we believe it merits recognition by UNESCO in an intangible cultural heritage context.

"It is a big reputational thing, but you'd still have to go out to promote the game. The fact that uileann piping got UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage status last year.

"Basically it is recognition of the uniqueness of uileann piping. Where it has come from and its contribution to the world of music. What we are talking about here is something comparable, it is recognition of the contribution hurling has made to society."

The GAA has worked closely with the government ahead of the presentation according to Daly. "This cannot be put forward by the GAA, it has to be put

forward by the government," Daly states.

"Josepha Madigan, The Minister for Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht, has put hurling forward for what is now as inscription, that hurling would get inscribed on to this list.

"John Fenton will be contributing, Aidan O'Sullivan is an archaeologist in UCD, he will be contributing. Louise Conlon, the acting Camogie CEO, and Claire Cave, she is an academic from UCD as well, they will all be contributing."

Fenton, who scored one of the most iconic goals in hurling history in 1987, continues to promote the game. "John Fenton was involved in a Hurling Development Committee that started this process a couple of years ago, he is wearing that hat because he was very keen for this to be progressed," Daly remarks.

Waterford goalkeeper Ned Power rises high to catch the ball above Cork's Christy Ring in the 1962 Munster SHC semi-final.



"He scored a phenomenal goal and is very much involved with his club all the time down in Midleton. He is basically representing the grassroots, if you like, of hurling outlining what is going on at that level.

"Louise Conlon is doing something comparable from Camogie with a slightly different perspective. Aidan O'Sullivan is looking at the archeology of hurling and where it has come from and how long it has been around for.

"Claire Cave she basically deals with UNESCO saying why hurling is unique and why it is unique to Irish identity and why it merits inscription. Daniel McCarthy is also part of the delegation. Dr Padraic Quinn and Daniel McCarthy were the initial movers behind this."

DATE SET FOR NATIONAL GAA CLUB FORUM

GAA Clubs are set to debate their place and their future in the Association at a major event happening later this year.

More than 300 club delegates from across all 32 counties will be in attendance at the GAA's National Club Forum at Croke Park on Saturday, December 8.

The Forum is the work of the National Club Committee chaired by Mick Rock and which was set up by GAA Uachtaran John Horan last Spring.

As identified in the GAA Strategic Plan, the one-day event will bring together a broad representation of GAA club members from around the country to share their stories, ideas and ambitions for their clubs and the GAA nationally.

The agenda for the event will be heavily influenced by the response to a GAA Club Survey held last summer which resulted in a phenomenal response with 853 clubs registering and taking part.

Clubs who took part were asked for an expression of interest in attending a National Club Forum to debate issues further. From those who indicated they would like to be involved there will be 10 per county in attendance.

This will be the largest gathering of club officials at Croke Park in years and will be an invaluable opportunity to meet face to face with senior leaders within the GAA. Mick Rock, Chairman of the National Club Committee said: "The National Club Forum is a marvellous opportunity to bridge the disconnect, perceived or otherwise, that is often spoken about between grassroots GAA and headquarters.

"Following on from the excellent feedback received through the club survey recently, this Forum provides an opportunity for clubs

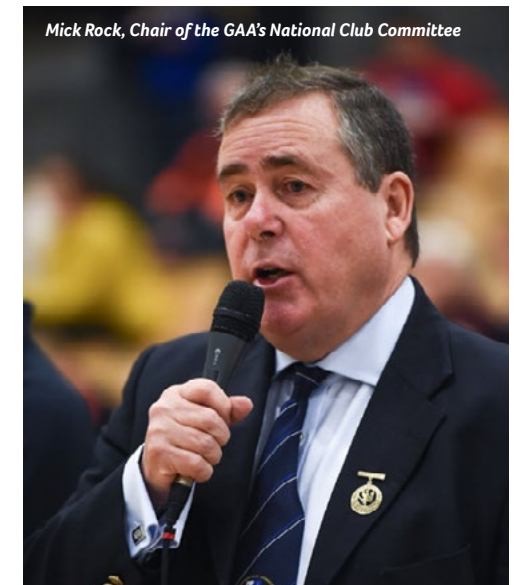
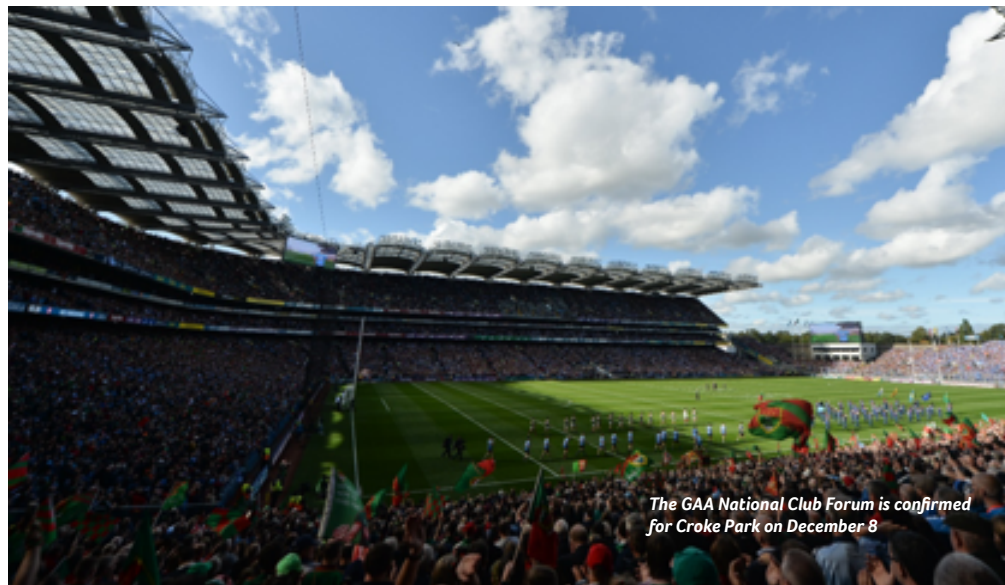
to tease out the issues raised there. It is a platform for club representatives to have their concerns aired and responded to at the highest level, and a rare chance to interact with fellow club personnel from around the country.

"I see it as a first step in the process of re-empowering and re-energising clubs, which is fundamental to the continued growth and relevance of the GAA."

here are a limited number of places available for clubs interested in taking part

in the National Club Forum. Clubs who are interested in being present on the day are asked to go to the below link and complete the attached form before November 9.

National Club Forum Registration



THE WILD GEESE TROPHY



The Wild Geese Trophy which will be fought for by the Kilkenny and Galway hurlers is a phenomenal work of art and has the potential to become recognised as one of the finest trophies anywhere in Gaelic Games.

The stunning piece is the work of Chares Smith and Joan Walsh Smith at the Aisling Studios (Western Australia) and features a pair of wings which have a silver sliotar enfolded within them.

The design was inspired by the Catalpa Wild Geese Memorial which is set on the beach in Rockingham in Western Australia, and is from where six Irish Fenian political prisoners were rescued in 1876 by the American whaler, the

Catalpa, and followed their leader John Boyle O'Reilly to Massachusetts in the US.

Galway and Kilkenny qualified to travel to Australia as winners of the last two Allianz hurling league crowns. They meet on Sunday, November 11 in the Sydney Showground in what is the feature event of the Magners Sydney Irish Festival.

Tribes and Cats bosses Micheal Donoghue and Brian Cody have committed to bringing seriously strong squads for the trip Down Under.

While the Galway club championship is not completed yet because of their All-Ireland final appearance, it is known that players of the calibre of Joe Canning, Padraic Mannion and Cathal Mannion will be available. Likewise Kilkenny will be featuring stars like TJ Reid, Eoin Murphy, Cillian Buckley and Walter Walsh in their travelling party.

The three-day festival has a business networking event on the Friday and then a family day featuring the best of Irish culture and food and drink on the Saturday and culminating in a stunning line up of Irish musical acts that is headlined by Mary Black and Damien Dempsey.

The hurling match is on Sunday at 3.30pm local time and will be shown live internationally via Fox Sports. RTE Sport will also show deferred coverage of the match back in Ireland.

The sculptors said of the inspiration behind the trophy design: "The symbolism of the "Wild

Geese" is fundamental to Irish Emigration, since The Flight of the Earls in 1607, and in particular to the Great Diaspora, or the 'Scattering' of millions of people out of Ireland in the wake of the Great Irish Famine of the 1840's.

"Founded in 1884, the GAA was almost single-handedly responsible for the rescue and revival of our ancient Irish Identity and Culture, through

sport and associated Irish Cultural activities, in which Hurling played a major part.

"Hurling pre-dates recorded history in Ireland and references to the game appear in oral histories dating back to 1200 BC.

"For the design of the Trophy, as Irish-Australian sculptors, we have combined allegory and materials to forge a unique symbol. This is composed of wings, symbolising the Catalpa Wild Geese Memorial, enfolding the ancient 'Sliothar': the ball with which this great game was played, cast in fine silver. The polished Australian bronze wings themselves also epitomise speed and flight - and ultimately in this context: migration.

The Goose also represents the concept of the eventual 'return home' - which is deep in every Irish person's heart. Adorning the Jarrah wooden base is a polished brass frieze composed of Celtic bird iconography, based on a Zoomorphic from The Book of Kells."

The trophy base is fabricated from the unique West Australian Jarrah timber and is combined with silver and bronze metal work to create a stunning piece that is unlike anything else played for in senior inter county hurling and is worthy of the two great teams that have travelled more than 10,000 miles for the right to call it their own.



'The Wild Geese Trophy'

AER LINGUS LAUNCH JERSEYS FOR THE FENWAY HURLING CLASSIC

Representatives from Clare, Cork, Limerick and Wexford were at the Aer Lingus Hangar 6 at Dublin Airport this morning where Aer Lingus, in partnership with the GAA and GPA, unveiled a one-of-a-kind customised playing kit for the Fenway Hurling Classic which takes place at Fenway Park in Boston on November 18th. Aer Lingus is the Official Airline of the event.

The specially commissioned O'Neill's jerseys have several unique design features which make them stand-out from the four counties' regular playing kit. These are:

Aer Lingus logo featuring on the jersey sleeve
GAA/GPA crest on front of jersey at opposite side to county crest
'Fenway Hurling Classic 2018' embroidered text under county crest
Clare's Podge Collins, Cork's Daniel Kearney, Limerick's Tom Morrissey and Wexford's Conor McDonald were the first players from their respective counties to have the opportunity to road test the jerseys at today's launch which was also attended by Aer Lingus Director of Communications Ruth Ranson and GPA CEO Paul Flynn who was back in familiar surroundings having previously worked with Aer Lingus.

The Fenway Hurling Classic will see All-Ireland hurling champions Limerick compete against reigning holders Clare, Cork and Wexford in the Super 11s format. It will involve two semi-finals lasting 40 minutes with the winners proceeding to the final on the same day, Sunday November 18th.

Aer Lingus will once again be the Official Airline of the event and will be responsible for flying the four teams to Boston. Aer Lingus is Ireland's only 4-Star airline and has been involved in the two previous occasions that hurling has been played at Fenway Park in 2015 and 2017.

Speaking at the jersey launch Ruth Ranson said: "It was great to get a first look at the jerseys today and we're delighted to see the Aer Lingus logo featured on the sleeve. _

"Aer Lingus' mission as the leading value carrier across the Atlantic is rooted on continuing to grow our longhaul network, having recently announced two new route announcements, Dublin Montreal and Dublin Minneapolis-St Paul beginning summer 2019. Now serving 15 North American destinations creating a strong brand presence on that market is a key focus for the airline. Our support of the Fenway Hurling Classic gives Aer Lingus the unique opportunity to stand out in one of our most prominent US cities. Boston is a hugely popular destination for us on both sides of the pond and we look forward to welcoming the four squads on board in November."

Paul Flynn added: "Super 11s Hurling has been an opportunity for trying new innovations on and off the pitch since 2013. By its nature Super 11s is innovative but there have also been a series of other experiments and changes. These unique jerseys are another sign of the willingness of both the GAA and GPA to work together to advance our games.

"We'd like to thank Aer Lingus, who we are delighted to have as the Official Airline of the event, for all their support and for enabling us showcase the art of hurling to a wider audience as well as providing a conduit to strengthen our business, sporting and cultural ties with the city of Boston and Ireland-US relations in general. A final mention to our players, who continue to be great ambassadors for our games both here and internationally and who are no doubt relishing the opportunity to display their skills in one of the most iconic sports stadiums in the world."

Uachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Gael, John Horan said: "The Fenway Hurling Classic will come into sharp focus in the coming weeks as the preparation ramps up in the four competing counties.

"I'd like to acknowledge the support of Aer Lingus, highlighted here today and on the bespoke playing gear the players will wear for the games in Boston.

Best of luck to all involved, not least the players who I have no doubt will embrace the experience fully."

The Fenway Hurling Classic will begin at 12.30 p.m. ET on November 18th and it will feature a lively Irish festival complete with food, music and dancing. Over 30,000 attended the event in 2017 and tickets are now on sale at www.redsox.com/hurling. All three games will be broadcast on TG4 and GAAGO.



Ruth Ranson, Director of Communications Aer Lingus and Paul Flynn, GPA CEO, along with hurlers Daniel Kearney, Cork, Podge Collins, Clare, Tom Morrissey, Limerick, and Conor McDonald, Wexford, at Dublin Airport where Aer Lingus, in partnership with the GAA and GPA, unveiled the one-of-a-kind customised playing kit for the Fenway Hurling Classic which takes place at Fenway Park in Boston on November 18.

WINNERS OF THE EIRGRID DIGITAL CLOCK AND SCOREBOARD COMPETITION REVEALED

Ferns St. Aidan's in Co. Wexford, Tramore GAA in Co. Waterford, Éire Óg GAA in Co. Roscommon and St. Brigid's GAC from Co. Antrim, have been announced as the winners of the 2018 EirGrid Digital Clock and Scoreboard competition. The winners were drawn at Croke Park by EirGrid External Communications Manager, Valerie Hedin and Uachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Gael, John Horan.

This fantastic prize comprises the delivery and installation of a top-of-the-range, LED, digital clock and scoreboard with a radio-controlled handset to manage the score from anywhere in the ground. This will be an invaluable asset for all clubs.

This competition marks EirGrid's continuing commitment to its GAA sponsorship portfolio. As well as being the GAA's first ever official timing sponsor, it has also sponsored the EirGrid GAA Football U20 All-Ireland Championship since 2015, the EirGrid International Rules Series in 2015 and the Irish International Rules team in 2017.

There were a total of 220 entries for this year's digital clock and scoreboard competition. 80 entries came from Leinster, 64 from Munster, 48 from Connacht and 28 from Ulster.

Speaking at the digital clock and scoreboard draw, Uachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Gael John Horan said;

"Today's draw brings to a close the fantastic competition that EirGrid has made available to our club network nationwide. EirGrid have provided our GAA clubs with a brilliant opportunity that has been reflected in the

huge level of interest shown.

"This competition further underlines the great commitment we continue to receive from EirGrid which has been hugely supportive of the association through its sponsorship of the GAA Football U20 Championship, their involvement in International Rules and as our official GAA

Timing sponsor."

Valerie Hedin commented; "We were delighted by the huge number of entries to the competition and I'd like to thank all who entered. We hope these scoreboards will be of great benefit to GAA clubs around the country and further strengthen our ties with these communities."

Ferns St. Aidan's in Co. Wexford, Tramore GAA in Co. Waterford, Éire Óg GAA in Co. Roscommon and St. Brigid's GAC from Co. Antrim, have been announced as the winners of the 2018 EirGrid Digital Clock and Scoreboard competition.



DOWNLOAD THE PWC ALL-STARS APP TODAY

The PwC All-Stars App is the only app you will need for official PwC All-Stars news, updates and trivia on all previous All-Stars winners. The 2018 all-stars of football and hurling will be awarded on Friday, November 2 at Dublin's Convention Centre.

The PwC All-Stars App will allow GAA fans to keep up to date with all the latest All-Stars related news while also providing a comprehensive archive of all All-Stars teams from the awards' inception in 1971.

GAA fans will also be able to choose their PwC All-Stars teams of the year in both

hurling and football and compare their teams with their friends' selections and the official PwC All-Stars teams.

Fans can also test their PwC All-Stars knowledge with our PwC All-Stars quiz to be in with a chance of winning some great prizes.

Download here:

<https://www.pwc.ie/media-centre/download-pwc-all-stars-app.html>



THE GAA - WE'VE GOT AN APP FOR THAT!

Membership Renewals

As the new season approaches it is time to start the process of renewing membership subscriptions within your club. Accurately recording Club Membership is important to ensure that

- your players are registered correctly and eligible to play
- your players are eligible to benefit from the Player Injury Fund
- your members are eligible to partake in Club activities such as voting at the AGM.
- Membership subscriptions are also an important source of income for your club.

Membership registrations can be completed using the GAA Games Management System (Servasport) by logging onto the website <https://people.gaa.ie>

The GAA App

To assist clubs with the Membership renewal process, the GAA App has been redeveloped to provide functionality that allows members to complete the initial steps of the renewal process on-line, to pay their membership subscription and to receive messages from the club on their mobile phone or smart device. The App also facilitates clubs to comply with recent Data Protection legislation (GDPR) which came into effect in May 2018.

What is the GAA App?

The official app for those involved in GAA at all levels; club officials, coaches, players,

members and supporters.

- It provides GAA News, articles and videos from the GAA.ie website
- It also provides access to National Level Fixtures and Results
- In addition, it allows Club members to login, using a unique Activation Code, to a Club specific section where they can:
 - Update personal information (Address, Phone Number etc) if relevant
 - Pay the relevant membership fee to their club using a Debit or Credit Card
 - Receive free messages from the club activities – training, games, meetings etc
 - View fixtures and results for their club
 - Receive notifications of results to their phone involving their club's teams
 - Maintain/edit personal Contact Preferences, a key requirement of Data Protection legislation

What are the key benefits for my Club?

- Opportunity for members to register conveniently and easily through a simple process within the App
- Ability to onboard additional members who may struggle to register in person e.g. members who travel for work or live abroad etc
- Significant time savings and less processing of paperwork for club administrators
- Maintains the existing GAA Club governance of membership applications, as per GAA rules



- Allows clubs to receive club memberships subscriptions, made by members using debit or credit card, with funds automatically paid into the club's account on a weekly basis
- The App and enhanced Games Management System helps clubs to be GDPR compliant, reducing the risk of breaches of legislation and potential fines
- Enables cost savings – for clubs that use SMS or text messages, communications can now be undertaken through the App
- Provides news feeds, videos and fixtures & results to members through the App
- A safe and secure way of communicating with members of all ages, with a clear audit trail
- Clubs that use the Communications Functionality will have a single interface to send club communications (via SMS, Email or in-App) to their members in a manner that is compliant with Data Protection and Children First legislation

How does it work?

The App is designed to be intuitive and easy to use, with GAA news, videos, fixtures and results available to anyone who downloads it.



In order to use the club specific functionality, there are some straightforward, once-off steps that need to be completed to configure the App to your club's requirements.

1. Configuration: This configuration can be done through the GAA Games Management System (Servasport) and includes things like including your club crest (if available), setting your Membership Fees, setting up an online Bank Account (to receive payments) and setting up communications groups (if it is intended to utilise the free messaging functionality). Further information on these steps can be found here <https://servasport.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/115015794728-Annual-Club-Update>
2. Invitation: Once the initial setup is completed, an invitation can be issued to all existing Club Members (who have an email address or phone number recorded on the GAA Games Management System), containing their unique Activation Code, inviting them to download the App and register.
3. Registration: Members who download and login to the App will have the option to pay their relevant fees online using their Debit or Credit card. They can also update information, such as changes to address, phone number or email address.
4. Review and approval: Your club can review all new membership payments received through the App by logging onto the GAA Games Management System and, once

verified and accepted by the club, can approve the membership application. The member is then automatically registered with the GAA without any further intervention or administrative effort by the club.

5. Communications: Members who are appropriately setup on Communications groups can receive messages from the Club about Club activities, such as games, training, meetings etc.

Frequently Asked Questions

There are loads of Apps available, what's different about this one?

This is the Official GAA App. It has been developed specifically for GAA Clubs, based on GAA requirements and is integrated with the GAA Registration System (Servasport). It ensures that club's data is held in one place and helps to reduce administration overheads (time and financial). It is free to use and the transaction charges for on-line payments are the lowest rate available. The communications functionality removes the need to send costly texts and maintains governance over the content that can be sent, and to whom, from the club. The App has been developed in line with Data Protection requirements and the GAA centrally has a contract in place with Servasport governing the App to ensure the personal data on the App is processed securely.

My club is not interested in using this App, is that OK?

Yes, that's fine. Clubs can choose not to use any of the functionality in the App. Members of that club can still download the App,

view GAA news etc and can still logon and update their contact information. They will not be able to pay their fees or receive club communications through the App.

My club already has a process for managing membership, do I need to change it?

No. If your club has an existing process that works then it's fine to continue using that process. You should, however, check that the process will allow your club to comply with data protection legislation and that appropriate controls are in place for club communications, particularly with juveniles.

My club already has an App or On-line registration provider, do I need to change?

No. If your club has an existing provider for on-line payments, you can continue to use that provider. Your process for renewing membership will remain exactly as it is. You must, however, ensure that the relevant Data Protection requirements are met, particularly those relating to Privacy Notices and Consent.

My club is not interested in receiving on-line payments but would consider the free messaging functionality, is that possible?

Yes. You can continue to manage membership subscriptions using cash or other methods outside of the App. Messaging functionality is not linked to payments and you can easily use this functionality irrespective of how members pay their fees.

What are the costs?

The App is free to download. There is no subscription or annual cost for using the functionality for either the Club or the member. Payments received online do incur

a charge from the payment provider, as is the case for any online payment using a Debit or Credit Card. This charge is calculated as a percentage of the overall payment with a small fixed cost. The existing registration fees paid via your County Board remain as is.

What is the Online Payment Charge?

Each transaction incurs an online payment charge of 1.35% plus a fixed charge of €0.25 / £0.20. This means that if a membership fee of €50 is paid by the member, the club will receive €49.07 and the transaction charge is €0.93 (€50*1.35% = €0.675 + €0.25)

How does the Payment Process work?

Stripe is the online payment provider for the App. In order to use the payments functionality, you must setup a Stripe account for your club. When processing the payment, Stripe verifies that there are sufficient funds in the payee account to meet the payment and then transfer that money to your Club's online Stripe account. Any funds that are paid into your online account are automatically transferred in full to your regular bank account on a weekly basis.

We have a lot of members who may not be comfortable using Apps, how can we process their Membership Applications?

All of the existing functionality within the GAA Games Management System will remain unchanged. Members who do not wish to use the App can renew their membership and receive communications in the same way that they have done previously.

THE NATIONAL CLUB DRAW IS GIVING YOUR CLUB THE CHANCE TO RAISE UP TO €20,000 RISK FREE!



The National Club Draw 2019 is in full swing with initial tickets gone out to County Liaison Officers around the country. All Gaelic Football, Hurling, Camogie, Handball and Rounders Clubs are welcome to take part in this fantastic opportunity provided for Clubs. Tickets cost €10 each and Clubs can sell up to 2000 tickets, retaining all proceeds made in the process.

Ticket Purchasers will be entered into the Draw, taking place on March 6th, with the chance of winning a spectacular array of prizes, from a new Renault Clio, to a Premium All Ireland Hurling and Football Final Package for two. Prizes are provided by Ard Chomhairle and the Presentation of Prizes will take place in Croke Park Stadium on March 17th, The Club Winners will be invited to Croke Park to collect their prize.

Clubs have received login details to The Online Ticket Recording System from their County Liaison Officer. If Clubs are

unsure of their login details, they can email nationalclubdraw@gaa.ie. Once logged in, details of Ticket Purchasers can be filled in online as well as on the tickets themselves. Clubs must ensure that they have accounted for and entered details online, or the tickets will not be entered into the Draw.

If Clubs sell, account for and record a minimum of 200 tickets, along with adhering to the terms of the Draw (found on the back of every ticket) they will also be automatically entered into the Club Specific Draw. This allows Clubs the chance to win even more, adding to the proceeds which they have already raised from ticket sales. In the Club Specific Draw, all clubs will be entered into a Draw, with 3 clubs winning a prize of €5000. A separate draw for each county will be done in which 1 club will win a prize of €1,000. And finally, the club with the highest ticket sales in each province will receive a prize of €1,000.

This year we have a new prize, one lucky club will get the chance to play a game in Croke Park. They choose their opposition and let the battle commence. This is a great opportunity for players to say they played a match on Croke Park soil.

If your Club wishes to request a further allocation of tickets, they can contact their corresponding County Liaison Officer or email nationalclubdraw@gaa.ie. Tickets can be requested up until February 1st. All tickets must be returned to County Liaison Officers by February 11th and should not be sent directly to Croke Park. Requests for

additional tickets before Christmas must be in before December 14th, as requests after this date cannot be guaranteed to be sent out before the Christmas break.

Contact Details

If you have any general enquiries or requests relating to the National Club Draw (tickets, flyers, posters, login details etc.), please contact your NCD County Liaison Officer or email nationalclubdraw@gaa.ie / aisling.greenan@gaa.ie For any technical issues, please contact the support team at ncdsupport@gaa.ie



WHEN IS YOUR CLUB AGM?

Did you know that your club AGM should take place on a date before the end of November each year?

This requirement stems from Rule 8.3 of the Club Constitution (See Appendix 5 of the 2106 Official Guide) and is aimed at ensuring the Club AGM takes place before County Convention. As it is the most important meeting of the year for a Club, every effort should be made to ensure that it is organised in accordance with the rules as laid out in the Club constitution. The purpose of the AGM is to:

- Review the work of the previous year.
- Review Financial statements and auditor's reports.
- Elect officers and executive committee members.
- Get members views on Club and Association policy.
- Consider Club policy and revise or endorse.
- Make submissions through motions to the County Committee on the framing of policy and dealing with the rules of the Association.

There are three phases to holding a Club AGM: Setting the date...

This is the responsibility of the Executive Committee however it should take place before the end of November each year i.e. before the County Convention (Rule 8.3 of the Club Constitution).

Notice of AGM to Members...

Rules 8.5 to 8.5.3 of the Club constitution govern the calling on the AGM and detail how members are notified. It is important that all Full Members of the Club are notified in writing of the AGM and are forwarded all relevant documentation.

The AGM Agenda

The business of the Club AGM and the Agenda is set out in rule 8.4 of the Club constitution, outlined as follows:

- Adoption of Standing Orders.
- Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting.
- Consideration of the Annual Report submitted by the Secretary.
- Consideration of the Financial Statements including the Report of the Accountant(s) or Auditor(s).
- The Chairperson's Address.
- Election of Officers and Members of the Executive Committee.
- Notices of Motion.
- Other Business.

The Club AGM Module of the Club Leadership Development Programme is being delivered nationwide throughout October and November 2018. This module is designed for Club Chairpersons and Secretaries and offers the opportunity to develop knowledge and understanding of how best to prepare for, run and follow-up on a Club AGM.



MAJOR GAA SEMINAR ON CONCUSSION OPEN FOR REGISTRATION



CONCUSSION

NOT ALWAYS A KNOCK-OUT!

ACTION PLAN	SYMPTOMS
R ecognise <i>the signs and symptoms</i>	◦ Headache
R eport <i>if suspicious, don't hide it</i>	◦ Confusion
R ehab <i>with rest and medical guidance</i>	◦ Nausea
R eturn <i>after following Return To Play Protocol and getting medical clearance</i>	◦ Dizziness
	◦ Double/Blurry Vision
	◦ Sensitivity to Light
	◦ Feeling Hazy or 'Groggy'
	◦ Just not 'feeling right'
	◦ Memory Problems
	◦ Pressure in Head

For the Return to Play Protocol and further information on Concussion see learning.gaa.ie/Concussion

IF IN DOUBT, SIT THEM OUT!!!

Building on the national concussion symposia of the last two years, the recently launched [UPMC Concussion Network](#) and the GAA have created a training programme that will focus on diagnosis and evaluation tools for concussion, identifying types of concussions, and treatment and rehabilitation methods.

The event, which will take place on Saturday, November 10, 2018 in Croke Park will adopt the “train-the-trainer” model in which GAA team doctors support the [UPMC Sports Medicine Concussion](#) experts in delivering presentations, workshops and case study reviews.

This training event is specifically designed for inter-county team doctors and physiotherapists from Senior, U20/U21 and Minor Gaelic Football and Hurling squads, as well as those involved with Senior Inter-County Ladies Football and Camogie panels. Now open to all medical professionals involved in Gaelic Games to apply to attend.

LIMITED AVAILABILITY - REGISTRATION DEADLINE FRIDAY NOVEMBER 2ND

This event has been approved for 5 CPD Points by the RCSI Faculty of Sports Medicine.

To apply to attend this event please complete [this registration form](#). You will receive confirmation of your attendance within 7 days of your application.

Spaces are limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

Trainers attending include:

- Dr. Michael “Micky” Collins – UPMC clinical director
- Dr. Anthony Kontos – UPMC director of research
- Dr. Anne Mucha – UPMC clinical director
- Dr. Niamh Lynch – consultant paediatrician, UPMC clinical lead
- Dr. Enda Devitt – Galway GAA team doctor, UPMC clinical lead
- Dr. Tadhg Crowley – Kilkenny GAA team doctor, UPMC clinical lead
- Dr. Sean Moffatt – Mayo GAA team doctor, UPMC clinical lead
- Aoife McMahon -- Bon Secours Cork, UPMC Concussion Network lead physiotherapist
- Derek O’Neill – UPMC Whitfield, UPMC Concussion Network lead physiotherapist
- Liam Moffatt – Mayo Sports Clinic, UPMC Concussion Network lead physiotherapist

<https://learning.gaa.ie/Concussion>

DATA PROTECTION CLUB SEMINARS

Following on from Data Protection seminars with Clubs prior to GDPR-implementation, we are now running refresher Club seminars in the area of Data Protection.

These Data Protection seminars for Clubs are running on a provincial basis on the following dates:

- **Connacht – Connacht Centre of Excellence – 7pm November 8th**
- **Munster – Mallow GAA Club – 7pm November 15th**
- **Ulster – Garvaghey Centre – 7pm November 28th**
- **Leinster – Portlaoise (venue TBC) – 7pm November 29th**

Please feel free to attend the session most convenient for you.

These Club seminars are intended for Club Officials actively involved in the process of collecting, storing and processing personal data as part of their role within the Club. This may be the Registrar, Secretary or another number of volunteers within the Club. Please bring this notice to the attention of the relevant person(s) in your Club.

The seminars are free of charge, however

if you are planning to attend, please use the link below to register your interest to ensure appropriate facilities on the evening. When registering your interest, please also indicate whether you have attended the Data Protection seminars for Clubs in March. This is to ensure the content is tailored appropriately. [Register your interest here](#)

In the meantime, guidance has been provided in relation to GDPR and Data Protection in Clubs on the GAA website at www.gaa.ie/dataprotection and in a 'GDPR Repository for GAA Clubs' on OneDrive. The 'GDPR Repository' can be accessed by logging on to Microsoft 365 with your '@gaa.ie' email address and choosing the following menu options: OneDrive>Shared>Shared With Me>GDPR Repository.

Within the GDPR Repository is a booklet entitled 'GDPR for GAA Clubs' which outlines the Club's responsibilities in the area of Data Protection and assistance and guidance specifically for GAA Clubs in relation to the legislation.

If you have any questions in relation to any of the above, or you have any queries in relation to Data Protection within your Club, please email dataprotection@gaa.ie.



HEALTHY CLUB HEROES

The losing ceremony at the Healthy Club Conference in Croke Park last weekend saw a special group of people honoured for their exceptional efforts in promoting the GAA's Healthy Club Project.

The Healthy Club Project started in 2014 with just 16 clubs, four from each province, involved. It currently engages 150 clubs, multiples in each county. The project aims to broaden the traditional boundaries of a GAA club, turning clubs into hubs for health in the communities. It involves a partnership with Healthy Ireland, the National Office for Suicide Prevention, the HSE, and is proudly supported by Irish Life.

Clubs focus on a range of health topics, including healthy eating; mental fitness and emotion wellbeing; physical activity for non-playing members; gambling drug, and alcohol awareness (including becoming smoke-free clubs); engaging older community members; and the provision of games for persons with special needs and those from minority groups, amongst other things.

Participating clubs were asked to nominate their Healthy Club Heroes: someone who has gone above and beyond the call of duty in serving the health and wellbeing needs of their clubs' members and the communities they serve. Dublin All Ireland winner, All Star, and Player of the Year nominee, Brian Fenton, was



Dublin footballer Brian Fenton pictured with some of the 'Hero Award' winners at Croke Park.

on-hand to present the recipients with their awards in Croke Park on Saturday.

Maria O'Neill (Dunderry, Co. Meath)

As the Healthy Club Officer in her local club, Maria has brought great levels of enthusiasm and passion to the role. This is extended to beyond those involved in the GAA club, and has been directly involved this year in implementing winter cards nights, starting a book club for the community, and was a leading figure in leading the way for the Gaelic for Mothers & Others initiative in the club. She has been a central figure in getting older people and those not affiliated with the GAA involved.

Terence McCreesh (Culloville Blues, Co. Armagh)

Terence is a central club figure, holding down the roles of Club Secretary, Healthy Club Co-Ordinator, and membership on the Club Committee. Terence spearheaded Healthy Club projects in the local area such as Operation Transformation, Walk & Talk, Annual Fun Day, Mental Health Awareness Week, the Rest-a-Heart Campaign and the AED Awareness Campaign. Fully immersed in the club, Terence is the coach of the U-18 team, is in charge of child protection guidelines, as well as codes of conduct for players, coaches and parents.

James McGoldrick (Emmet Óg Killoe, Co. Longford)

The chairman of the local club, James set up the Men's Shed in the locality, providing a much-needed social outlet to men in the area. He has

launched several initiatives aimed at making the games more inclusive, more fun and less pressurised, with ideas such as "silent sidelines", cyber-education programmes and skills academies, focused on teaching all children the basic skills of the game. James is heavily engaged with members of the communities, and launched a survey to include all members of the GAA family, including fans, players, parents and referees, to better understand where improvements could be made.

Mairead Beausang (Midleton, Co. Cork)

Mairead is the Healthy Club Officer in her local club. She has been directly involved in the co-ordination and organisation of the annual Darkness into Light Walk for all members of the community, as well as launching and



Brian Fenton speaking at the GAA Healthy Clubs Conference.

implementing healthy eating initiatives. She is also an active member of the executive of the club.

Mary Maloney (Ballinderreen, Co. Galway)

Mary is the lead member of the Healthy Club and a member of the club executive. Her vision led to her club being the first Galway club to set up the initiative. Mary is a very active member, heavily involved in all fundraising efforts, and encourages people across all demographics to get involved in the GAA club. She organises a monthly lunch and bingo game for older members of the locality, as well as a weekly card game and an annual choir concert.

Tom Miller (Castleblayney Faughs, Co. Monaghan)

Tom is an active coach and member of the Healthy Club committee. He and his colleagues have led the way in encouraging the GAA club to reach out and include more members of the community, in activities such as Operation Transformation, the Spring Challenge, and strength and conditioning classes. Tom cares deeply about the health and wellness of each member, and has had a major impact on those involved.

Christina Weldon (Latton O'Rahilly, Co. Monaghan)

Christina is the leader of the Healthy Club drive locally, as well as being Secretary of the club. The local Operation Transformation campaign was kick-started by Christina, getting a large proportion of the community involved. She uses her position as secretary to not only look after the day to day running and administration of the club, but also to encourage the promotion and implementation of Healthy Club policies across the board. She was involved in establishing a daily walk for local people, and also led a survey across the parish to determine what people wanted to get out of Healthy Club. She targeted members of the demographic who perhaps were not as involved, and organised for a Rounders Coach to be brought in to establish the sport in the locality.

Katherine Williams (Melvin Gaels, Co. Leitrim)

Kathleen operates in a dual role capacity in her club – that of Healthy Club Co-Ordinator and Club Treasurer. She also plays a key role in the organising and coaching of Ladies' Football in the club. She helped the club become the first in Leitrim to achieve Healthy Club Status. She is the fulcrum behind the "Million Minutes" initiative, which has encouraged locals to

exercise for a million minutes in total over eight weeks. This was a community-based project, and resulted in various groups and ages getting involved and meeting every Friday to log their minutes for the week. The idea showed how it is possible to exercise in many ways.

Cecilia Moloney (Killeedy, Co. Limerick)

Cecilia is the Healthy Club Officer of her club. She is the club Social Media Co-Ordinator, and is active in promoting Mental Health Awareness initiatives and information. She has introduced a variety of physical activities into the community, such as tag rugby, "Couch to 5k", hill walking, fitness classes, Nordic Pole Walking, has organised cookery demonstrations, and is passionate about developing an inclusive community spirit.

Caroline Clifford (Clara, Co. Kilkenny)

Caroline was the Healthy Club Officer of the club, and has since moved on to become the Club Treasurer and County Children's Officer. She initiated a weight-loss group in the club, sourcing a nutritionist to give talks and also starting a weekly pilates class. She was the backbone of securing non-smoking rule on the club grounds. Caroline initiated a healthy eating policy by giving homemade snacks and fruit after blitzes, organising opportunities for children to try new fruits and vegetables and secures fruit and veg for the club shop. She ensures that Healthy Club initiatives and information is visible to all in the club. She helped develop the Healthy Club Statement, Anti-Bullying policy and also created the Critical Incident Policy. She has played an active role in implementing policies for older people as well as non-sporting activities such as set-dancing.

Joan McElwee (Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny)

Joan is the chairperson of the Healthy Club Committee within her club. She has encouraged innovative ideas, one of which is the Healthy Clubs Recipe for Success. This involved young local people receiving tuition on how to prepare healthy meals, then designing their own which become available in local cafes, restaurants and delicatessens. In so doing, young people, business owners and customers have all become aware of the initiative, which has helped put a local stamp on the campaign.

Kelly Marie McRory (Errigal Ciaran, Co. Tyrone)

Kelly assumes the role of Secretary of her local Healthy Club Committee. She has been instrumental in organising the local Operation Transformation programme, couch to 5k, yoga classes, pilates, Zumba, circuits, netball, and jiving. This opened up the club and the community to people who may not have been involved before. Her enthusiasm and passion have been central to the successful implementation of such a wide range of activities. She initiated the setting up of online groups/messaging groups to keep people informed and to keep track of numbers attending. She also organised a very helpful evening of health checks in the clubhouse, where cholesterol, weight, blood pressure were checked, has ran talks on mental wellbeing and gambling awareness, and obtained a "no smoking" status for the club grounds.

Liz Gardiner (Castletown Liam Mellow, Co. Wexford)

Liz is the Chairperson of the Liam Mellows Healthy Club project team. She is an encouraging and supportive leader, with a particular focus on continuing to provide services for older people, and aid their



integration into the community. She has been instrumental in setting up yoga and pilates classes for a variety of age groups and abilities, and hosting a well-attended gambling awareness and healthy eating workshops.

Éamon Cashin (Abbeyside Ballinacourty, Co. Waterford)

Éamon is the chairman of his club's Healthy Club Initiative. The club covers a large catchment area, and Éamon has worked tirelessly to include as wide a demographic as he can, to ensure there is an activity to encourage the involvement of everyone in the community. He has shown visionary leadership, and would love for the club to become the hub of Healthy Club activity in Waterford. Activities run include – Club on the Move, Couch to 5K, SAOR Course, Healthy Eating, GAA.RNLI Respect the Water Campaign.

Seamus Kearney (Michael Davitt's Swatragh, Co. Derry)

Seamus is the Health and Wellbeing Officer for his local club. He has incorporated the entire community and not just the GAA club in the initiatives launched. Young mothers, senior citizens, and ex-players have all been specifically targeted for inclusion. The club won the Irish News' "Best Well-Being Initiative" in 2018. He led the launch of "Mission Slimpossible" (resulting in a collective weight loss of 54 stone) and "Action Cancer Big Bus", to encourage physical wellbeing and regular check-ups, which resulted in a number of referrals and one woman receiving an early detection diagnosis.

Janas & Claire Harrington (St. Finbarr's, Co. Cork)

Janas and Claire are the founding members of the Healthy Club team at their club. They

approached the club with their vision in 2011, and have set the scene for the health and wellbeing aspect of the club and the community ever since. They undertook an audit to discover what could be done to effectively create a healthy and inclusive environment for those in the community. Their club served as a mentor club to others in the county as a model of best practice. They run low-cost weekly exercise groups, health awareness campaigns, alcohol and drug information evenings, stress management information classes as well as mental wellbeing talks and information sources. Claire is now a member of the Cork Health & Wellbeing committee while Janas is serving her second term on the national Health & Wellbeing committee in Croke Park.

Stephen Harney (St. Aidan's, Co. Roscommon)

Stephen is the Healthy Club Leader at his local GAA Club. He has been running Fit4Life for the past 7 years through the club. This has brought members of local neighbourhoods together for a weekly social and activity-based event. He has been organiser in chief in arranging for speakers to come to the local community to inform and advise on areas such as gambling and addiction, as well as spearheading the decision to make the club a non-smoking campus. Promoting healthy eating is a passion of his, with many plans in place to promote this in the future.

Maria Curtis (Raheny, Co. Dublin)

Maria started the "Raheny All Stars" programme, which caters for children with special needs in the club, to afford every child the opportunity to participate. Over 15 children now participate in the programme every week. She has also organised and help run "Disability Inclusion in Sports" training for

coaches, including Autism awareness training Lamh sign language training. She organised yoga for children, fruit at games, and helped with the smoking ban around the club.

Sinead Crowley (Clonakilty, Co. Cork)

Sinead is the active Children's Officer in her local club. She is also the head of the local health and wellbeing committee. The committee produce a monthly newsletter containing information health and wellbeing issues, and upcoming events. They have held nutritional information evenings, organised a summer camp for children with autism, organise a weekly walking group, charity cycle, darkness into light walk, and Sinead is responsible for the overall text/messaging service, informing locals of upcoming events. She has worked tirelessly to turn Clonakilty GAA into an autism-friendly GAA club, with her efforts contributing to Clonakilty becoming recognised as Ireland's first autism-friendly town.

Colman Motherway (Killeagh, Co. Cork)

Colman holds the positions of club PRO and Well-Being Officer for the Juvenile club. He initiated the notion that the GAA club should be actively involved in promoting and informing the extended local community regarding health and wellbeing. He has united all codes of sport under one banner with the aim of promoting and improving health and wellness. He has helped organise walking groups, weekly fitness sessions for all levels, club nursery, healthy eating workshops, and has got everyone working together through his philosophy of inclusion.

Seamus Casey Snr. (St. Johns, Co. Sligo)

Seamus is the Chairman of his local GAA club. He is described as someone who

shows initiative, is creative and passionate. He led the committee to research, write and publish a book celebrating 30 years of the club's existence. He organised a successful Operation Transformation campaign, including nutritionists, trainers, and medical advisors. He also sought for the inclusion of activities such as Pilates, a life coach to speak to younger people, and made the club the first non-smoking in Sligo.

Michael Geaney (Nenagh Éire Óg, Co. Tipperary)

Michael is the Chairman of his club's Healthy Club Project. He has pushed through numerous health and wellness programmes, including those for mental wellness as well as physical. They also hosted gambling and alcohol awareness evenings. He has organised for numerous speakers to the locality to speak and inform on a plethora of issues. A proud clubman, Michael is involved in all aspects of the club, none more so than seeking to get everyone involved and to improve the lives of those in the community in whatever way he can.

Gwen Lanigan (St. Colmcilles, Co. Meath)

Gwen is the Health Officer and Irish Language Officer at her club. She won the Seosamh MacDonncha award for her promotion of the Irish language in Meath. She delivers a "Café agus Caint" every week in the locality to encourage the use of the "cúpla focail". She was also instrumental in setting up the "Special Needs" programme, where there are up to eighteen members taking part in activities on a weekly basis. The group were invited to meet Prince Harry and Meghan Markle this year during their trip to Croke Park. Despite never having owned a pair of football boots, she is at the heart of the Colmcille's club and the epitome of a Healthy Club Hero.

A HEALTHY CLUB IS A HAPPY CLUB

Colin Regan, GAA Community and Health Manager

Living in student squalor in 1994 in the upstairs of a Georgian building on Richmond Street, Dublin 2, we band of seven brothers decided something was required to fire up our maternal side.

We certainly weren't mothering ourselves. At times our two-bedroom hovel resembled the decrepit flat called home by Withnail and I in Bruce Robinson's eponymous cult movie classic. While we never resorted to smothering ourselves with deep heat to fend off the cold, we did at times run the risk of creating new life in the kitchen sink as aging food particles and strange organisms intermingled. The thoughts.

Goldfish were decided upon to give our lives meaning and purpose. The pet shop next door, long since gone, was reminiscent of the establishment in which mogwai was bought; he of Gremlins notoriety. Two fine specimens were selected after very little deliberation. The words of the old shop owner as we departed his store have stayed with me ever since. 'A hungry fish is a happy fish, and a happy fish is a healthy fish,' he sagely offered.

Neptune died within days. Not from over-feeding I can assure you. But Lucile lived happily (hungrily anyway) for many years.

The phrase returned to me last Thursday



The St Colmcilles GAA club in Meath continue to deliver Healthy Club initiatives.

night as I laughed loudly as James Patrice stole the show at the St. Sylvester's GAA Healthy Club launch. I'm often asked to describe in a sentence what the Healthy Club project is all about. I usually try to draw on my previous life as a journalist to come up with a fancy definition that ticks all the boxes about sport, and health, and life, and community, and wellbeing. Then it came to me. A healthy club is a happy club and a

happy club is a healthy club. The hungry bit is superfluous. Nobody likes a hangry club.

The night had already featured fascinating contributions from Carmel Logan (partner in KPMG, wife and mother of two youngsters, and coach in the club's nursery section) and Nicole Owens, All Ireland winner with Dublin senior ladies and mental health advocate. They touched on everything from work life

balance and the pressures of performance on and off the field to inner happiness as opposed to perceived external success and all its trappings.

The audience was riveted. Where, I wondered, was James going to take things. I hadn't heard of James before (he would say the same of me, no doubt) I don't do Snapchat (he was being promoted as a

St Oliver Plunketts/Eoghan Ruadh 'Mind Matters' mental health talk was a huge success.



Snapchat star on the night's promotional material). I've since been informed that James is an 'influencer'. He certainly had a positive influence on me.

From the bat, he just spoke from the heart and stole everyone else's. He admitted sport wasn't his thing, and that the extent of his engagement with the club in his youth was attending bingo in the hall with his mother.

Despite this, he noted, the club offered great support for the local boy during his appearance on Operation Transformation which resulted in significant and sustained weight loss.

The place was in stitches as he walked us through his life and times, telling tales of highs and lows, familiar to any GAA club and member, but in a very non-traditional GAA

way, if you know what I mean. I've heard many inspirational speeches in a GAA clubs and changing rooms but this was the first time I'd ever heard Dolly Parton evoked. 'You can't have a rainbow without a bit of rain,' James observed as he channelled his inner Dolly, recalling how some ill-health finally provided sufficient time for reflection to set him on a career path that he loves. Ahem to that.

He was a breath of fresh air and his message to follow one's passions rung true to the diverse audience. His fashion tips also went down a storm. Top tip for time management: always prepare your outfit the night before. My wife whole-heartedly concurred when I was later filling her in on the night. 'Now that sounds like the sort of GAA event I would attend,' she noted.

And that was the point. St. Sylvester's Healthy Club project – and the Healthy Club project in general – seeks to engage anyone and everyone. It aspires to broaden the traditional boundaries of a GAA club and open it to the community. Being born in your club or county jersey is not a pre-requisite.

Wanting to contribute and be part of a community that looks out for one another, is. The Healthy Club project also seeks to reimagine health in a sports club setting. Health is a participatory sport that should be fun and rewarding. It is not a competition.

It offers ordinary people with great things to offer their community the opportunity to do just that. Barbara Conlon is the Healthy Club project leader in St. Sylvester's. She had no prior involvement in the club until a work colleague, Jackie Blanchfield, who leads up the Thomas Davis Healthy Club, told her about the project. Armed with a friend, Sarahann Potts, Barbara proposed to the St. Sylvester's club executive that they sign up for Phase 3 back in January.

As is often that case in GAA clubs, they were trying to persuade a committee of men or a certain age that the club try something a little bit different; something beyond just

playing Gaelic football and hurling. To their credit, the executive saw the potential and their enthusiasm and backed their proposal.

The rest, as they say, is history. With a dynamic Healthy Club project team driving their work, St. Sylvester's has many exciting plans for the winter including a four-week stress control programme open to the community.

This quiet revolution isn't happening just in Malahide. 150 clubs, supported by their County Health & Wellbeing Committees, are participating in the Healthy Club project, multiples in each of the 32 counties. Yesterday was World Mental Health Day. Good mental health doesn't happen in a vacuum. It occurs when people are supported and empowered in striving towards balance across all elements of their wellbeing – be it emotional, physical, social, or spiritual. Perfect balance doesn't exist, not on this sphere anyway.

Stand with your feet shoulder width apart and close your eyes. Feel your body make countless micro adjustments just to remain in one place. That reflects what is required to achieve balance in everyday life too. It's a constant juggle. But with solid foundations and support we can get there. And when, on occasions, we inevitably fall over, a helping hand and a shoulder to lean on can help us get back on our feet.

Here's a flavour of what some other Healthy Clubs have been doing to support this on World Mental Health Week 2018.

On the same night that Dolly Parton was being channelled in Malahide, a few hundred

people were crammed into the club house of St. Oliver Plunkett's Eoghan Ruadh club as their Healthy Club team presented their second annual 'Mind Matters' event featuring contributions on mental wellbeing from Kenneth Egan, Hannah Tyrrell and Prof Jim Lucey.

Last weekend, Mullingar Shamrocks Healthy Club launched with an astounding array of community groups backing their initiative. The local town band got things in the swing as 150 youngsters participated in a fun training session on field. In the clubhouse, local pharmacists and audiologist offered health checks. Westmeath LSP, and all other local sports clubs including cycling, Tri Club, golf, boxing, Park Runs and Athletics Club, swimming, tennis, badminton, were all on hand to showcase what else people in the community can do to stay active.

Mental Health Ireland, It's Good to Talk, Aware, and the HSE's #Little Things Campaign promoted emotional wellbeing, the local Drugs and Alcohol Task Force and HSE Smoking Cessation teams were also on hand, as were too many other entities to name individually. Sarah McCormack, Healthy Ireland National Programme Lead, officially launched Mullingar Shamrock's Healthy Club journey, but they are evidently already well down that road. Congratulations to Joan Crawford and her Healthy Club project team on a great event.

The Clarinbridge Healthy Club launch in Galway, supported by all elements of the community, was a colourful affair filled with healthy treats for the eight teams that travelled from all over Ireland to participate in an U12 hurling blitz to mark the



occasion. The sun shone also on their Mayo neighbours, Breaffy, as they launched their Healthy Club with a community walk and healthy breakfast.

Down in Killeedy Healthy Club they are helping locals shake off the All Ireland hangover with a boot-camp. Clonakilty Healthy Club has assisted Clonakilty in becoming Ireland's first autism friendly town by providing an autism-friendly sports camp during the summer, providing training in partnership with CARA for club coaches and volunteers, and making small changes to the club's cultural and physical environment to make it more autism-friendly. Go Team Sinead!

Newtownshandrum GAA are launching their smoke-free club tomorrow (Saturday), joining the 27 Healthy Clubs that became smoke-free venues in 2017. Limerick senior hurling strength and conditioning coach Joe O'Connor will be on hand to deliver a nutrition talk. A further 57 clubs are currently working towards becoming smoke-free venues as part of their Healthy Club journey.

Wellness Week organised by Navan O'Mahoney's Healthy Club is going down a storm as are the Pilates and circuit classes in Gael Triúcha, Monaghan (€30 for six weeks – where else would you get such value??). Meanwhile it's a Digital Detox in Buncrana Healthy Club that is bringing the community



The Clarinbridge Healthy Club launch in Galway, supported by all elements of the community, was a colourful affair filled with healthy treats for the eight teams that travelled from all over Ireland to participate in an U12 hurling blitz to mark the occasion



Killeedy GAA club started up a Bootcamp open to males and females.

together. (They even provided a calendar of alternative activities for the month of October for those who are ditching the screen!)

GAA County Health & Wellbeing Committees are also in on the act – the Laois committee and Laois Local Sports Partnership had a brilliant event on World Mental Health Day, promoting the HSE’s #littletings campaign (see www.yourmentalhealth.ie for more details) and gambling awareness. Donegal Health & Wellbeing Committee is hosting a ‘Youth Matters’ Forum in Ballybofey on Saturday with hundreds of young people workshopping topics including mental health, nutrition and diet, balancing the demands of sport and study, and alcohol and drug awareness.

I know, it’s exhausting just reading it all and this is just the tip of the iceberg. If you are interested in finding out more why not register for the Healthy Club Conference which will take place in Croke Park on Saturday, October 20th. Over 400 people have already done so and we have a small number of tickets still available (see link below). Who knows, perhaps you’ll be inspired to get your club involved, become a Healthy Club and join the revolution.

Inspired by James, I’ll finish on another Dolly quote: “If you don’t like the road you’re walking, start paving another one.”

The GAA Healthy Club project commenced in 2013 with just 16 clubs participating, four from each province. It is run in partnership with Healthy Ireland, the HSE, and the National Office for Suicide Prevention, and is proudly supported by Irish Life. Phase 3 currently engages 150 clubs and will run until November 2019. Phase 4 will open to new interested clubs in January 2020 but training is currently available to any clubs interested in getting involved. Contact your local Health & Wellbeing Committee for details at chair.hwc.COUNTY@gaa.ie (e.g. in Leitrim it would be chair.hwc.leitrim@gaa.ie) or visit www.gaa.ie/community for more information on the Healthy Club project.

Click here to find out more about the Healthy Club Conference in Croke Park and to secure your free tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/gaa-national-healthy-club-conference-2018-tickets-49597227643>

CURIARRAUGHT DHOMHANDA CHOLÁISTE EOIN AGUS CHOLÁISTE ÍOSAGÁIN Á DEIMHNIÚ

le Jamie Ó Tuama

Thug scoláirí Choláiste Eoin agus Choláiste Íosagáin faoi churiarracht dhomhanda a bhaint amach Dé Máirt, 16 Deireadh Fómhair, 2018.

Bhí sé de dhúshlán acu an cluiche iomána, leis an líon is mó imreoirí páirteach ann riamh, a eagrú ar pháirc imeartha na scoileanna i mBaile an Bhóthair, Co. Bhaile Átha Cliath.

De réir a gcuid figiúirí féin ghlac 924 páirt sa chluiche seo a thosaigh ar a naoi ar maidin agus a chríochnaigh ar a ceathair tráthnóna. Ceiliúradh mór ar an iománaíocht is ar an gcamógaíocht a bhí anseo don dá scoil.

Bhí ar gach imreoir ar a laghad 10 nóiméad a chaitheamh ar an bpáirc leis an gcuriarracht dhomhanda seo a bhaint amach. Chomh maith leis sin, bhí ar na scoláirí taifead a dhéanamh den chluiche ó thús deireadh le rialacha diana Guinness World Records a chomhlíonadh. Ba iad Jamie Ó Tuama, Oifigeach Forbartha Gaeilge Chumann Lúthchleas Gael, Cormac Devlin, Comhairle Contae de chuid Fhianna Fáil, agus Billy Brick, iaríománaí le Ciarraí, a bhí i láthair mar fhinnéithe neamhpleácha.

Beidh páirc nua uile-aimsire á forbairt ag an dá scoil sna míonna amach romhainn agus bhí baint aige sin leis an dúshlán mór seo, mar a mhínigh Ruairí Ó Séanáin,

Captaen Scoile Choláiste Eoin agus eagraí an imeachta seo: 'Bhí lá iontach againn. Bhíomar ag iarraidh an dá scoil a thabhairt le chéile chun ceiliúradh a dhéanamh ar ár gcultúr agus le slán a rá lenár seanpháirc scoile ag an am céanna. Beidh cuimhne againn ar an lá seo go deo!'

Is ag muintir na Maoilinne, sráidbhaile i gcontae Chorcaí, atá an churiarracht dhomhanda faoi láthair. Ghlac 916 páirt sa gcluiche áirithe sin a d'eagraigh muintir an tsráidbhaile i gcomhar leis an gclub áitiúil, CLG na Maoilinne, ar 26 Lúnasa, 2013.

Tá an iarracht ollmhór seo le deimhniú ag lucht Guinness World Records sna laethanta amach romhainn ach tá gach cosúlacht ar an scéal go bhfuil na coinníollacha uilig comhlíonta ag na scoláirí meánscoile.

Tagann an gaisce seo sna sála ar churiarracht dhomhanda eile a bhain lucht Mhúsaem Chumann Lúthchleas Gael amach an mhí seo caite nuair a ghlac 1,772 iománaí óg, ó 40 club éagsúla, páirt sa seisiún traenála iomána is mó riamh ar an Domhnach, 30 Meán Fómhair, 2018 i bPáirc an Chrócaigh. Eagraíodh an ócáid sin mar chuid de chomóradh 20 bliain an Mhúsaeim.

Ní neart go cur le chéile.



APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR GLOBAL GAMES DEVELOPMENT FUND 2019

Applications are now being accepted for the Global Games Development Fund 2019.

What is the Global Games Development Fund?

The Global Games Development Fund is co-funded by the GAA and the Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade through the Emigrant Support Programme. The Fund provides financial support specifically for projects and initiatives that increase or improve opportunities for the Irish Diaspora and other communities abroad to play Gaelic Games. Through the provision of financial assistance, it is the aim of the Fund to support the Irish Diaspora and strengthen Irish networks and Irish identity internationally.

Who can apply for the Global Games Development Fund?

Since 2013, through the Fund, the GAA and the Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade have provided financial support for developmental projects and initiatives in GAA Clubs and Units across Asia, Australasia, Canada, Europe, the Middle East, Africa and South America. In 2018 the Fund was also expanded to support projects in the 6 Divisions of the USGAA: Heartland, Mid-Atlantic, Mid-West, Northwest, Southwest and Southeast.

What type of projects are supported through the Global Games Development Fund?

Over the past four years, almost 200 projects have received funding through the Global Games Development Fund. The projects are varied and reflect the needs of the Irish Diaspora and GAA in a particular area or region. Some projects are one-off events, others have activities lasting the course of the year. All have been truly inspirational and beneficial.

How to apply?

In September every year, the GAA issue an Open Call seeking applications for funding from Clubs and Units that intend to run a developmental project or initiative during the following calendar year. The Application Form is available to download here.

If your Club is interested in applying or requires further information please contact the Board of the relevant International Unit in the first instance.



Prince Edward Island Celts in Canada have gone from strength to strength with some help from the GAA's Global Games Development Fund.



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

GLOBAL GAMES DEVELOPMENT FUND
OPEN CALL FOR APPLICATIONS – SEPTEMBER 2018

Guidelines for Applicants

1. Introduction

Applications are sought from Clubs, Regional/Divisional Boards and Governing Board for funding under the Global Games Development Fund. This call for proposals is being issued by the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) in conjunction with the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade.

In recognition of the fact that tremendous growth has occurred in recent years in the GAA's International Units it has been agreed to distribute funding to Games Development projects

2018 AUSTRALASIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS IN MELBOURNE

A bumper crop of 21 teams in 6 divisions contested this year's Australasian Championships in Melbourne and featured 450 players in senior intermediate and minor football competition, as well as battles for hurling, camogie and women's football silverware.

"We're very pleased, it was an excellent turnout and a great tournament," said Australasian President Mr Ned Sheehy. "The women's football in particular with 5 teams was very hotly contested and this reflects the rise in participation generally by women in active sports."

Contingents came from as far away as Western Australia and Wellington. To put that into perspective, those cities are further from each other than Dublin is from Teheran.

"Teams make a lot of effort to get here, so it's important that we provide them with a quality experience on and off the field during the Championships," continued Sheehy.

Played over five days in the first week of October, the Championships were hosted at Gaelic Park in the southern state of Victoria. It is thought to be the only privately-owned Gaelic sports complex in the southern hemisphere.

Set in a green wedge in suburban

Keysborough, the local Victorian GAA is developing plans for a major upgrade of the complex. Although in its early stages, the plan looks to secure the future of the Association by building a range of facilities that can be shared with and hired to other sporting and community groups.

In the games themselves the Victorians had some success too, carrying off the hurling and minor football trophies as well as the intermediate football with their Regional Victoria selection.

New South Wales, historically perhaps the strongest of the states, triumphed in senior football, women's football and camogie.

South Australia, Queensland and Western Australia were all very competitive in various divisions and will seek to learn their lessons and challenge again next year.

The New Zealanders were not quite out of the picture with a brave Canterbury fighting all the way in the intermediate final; John Daly of Wellington GAA picked up the best player award in this division. An enthusiastic audience in the NZ capital cheered their team on in the intermediate plate final by watching the live-streamed video but they were narrowly beaten by a South Australian team that boasted mainly native Australian players.

Under the twinning arrangement between Australasia and Leinster GAA, Brendan Cawley (men's football), Paud O'Dwyer (hurling) were brought in to support local referees. For the first time at the Championships, Keith Delahunty, courtesy of the LGFA in Ireland also officiated.

The success of the Australasian Games and the high standard on view means that as many as six teams will be sent to represent Australasia in the GAA Worlds Games being staged in Waterford next July.



Hurling action from Melbourne with New South Wales battling Victoria



Action from the minor football championship in the Australasian Games

MAESTRO MCCARTHY RETAINS HIS SENIOR CROWN, MCMAHON COMES THROUGH IN 21-20 THIRD-GAME EPIC



Mullingar's Robbie McCarthy storms to 7th Softball All-Ireland title sponsored by MyClubShop.ie

Westmeath's Robbie McCarthy retained his MyClubShop.ie All-Ireland 60x30 Senior Singles title at Croke Park this evening when he overcame Dublin's Eoin Kennedy on a 21-19, 21- scoreline.

Early on, the Mullingar maestro looked stronger, despite some notably aggressive play from Kennedy, nine years his senior. With a succession of trademark dump shots, McCarthy built up a useful lead six-point lead which he managed to maintain, eventually stretching it out to 20-12.

And then came an extraordinary Kennedy comeback. The Dubliner held off four game-balls and edged his way back to 19 with some shots straight out of a highlight reel, including a couple of flat roll-outs.

If the champion was rattled, though, he didn't show it. He got back into the service

box with a courageous flat kill from the backwall.

The most dramatic rally of the first game was the last one. Kennedy had a couple of chances but some awesome retrievals from McCarthy kept the rally alive and he eventually finished it, with the St Brigid's man visibly annoyed with himself for not taking his opportunity.

McCarthy's younger legs were expected to be a major factor in game two and while Kennedy was in touch at 7-8, the defending champion soon took charge and surged into a 16-7 lead with some deft front court play.

After patient play, he buried another for 18 and was soon serving for the match before Kennedy again turned it on getting back to 14 before McCarthy closed it out with a 21-14 win with a sweetly-struck kill in the left corner.



Limerick's Martina McMahon wins sensational 21-20 tiebreak to seal Ladies Softball Title

For the first time in handball history, two seniors have played out 21-20 third-game All-Ireland finals after Martina McMahon defeated Catriona Casey in an epic at HQ this afternoon.

The Broadford woman lost the first but came back to win 21-20, 21-20 in a magnificent advertisement for the game.

Casey won a cagey first game on a 21-14 scoreline.

Early on, the Ballydesmond star - who admitted during the week that she "still hasn't got over" her loss to McMahon in the final of the Worlds - raced into an 8-1 lead, which she soon extended to 10-1 with two right-corner kills.

McMahon began to come into the contest slowly as the players exchanged service numerous times but the Limerick player eventually found her range with a couple of flat kills from deep.

Some uncharacteristic Casey hand errors also contributed as the former Treaty county camóg caught her Munster rival at 12-12.

McMahon edged in front at 13-12 but a couple of crafty rekills in the front court helped Casey get her confidence back and two rollouts helped her lead 17-13.

It was now McMahon's turn to make some errors and Casey took full advantage, reaching game ball and closing it out with a gusty 35-foot left-handed kill.

McMahon started the second game aggressively and led 4-0 but Casey wasn't rattled and soon drew level. By 10-10, they were on level terms once more and Casey was humming, edging 13-10 in front with some smart front court play.

Again, though, they were even at 14, 15 and 17 but McMahon put three balls into the roof as the Cork lady pulled 20-17 ahead. She had three serves for the match but McMahon dug deep and eventually finished it with a pass shot to force a third game.

In the third, the duo were level an astonishing nine times, with both playing aggressively.

McMahon went 20-17 up with an unreturned serve but 2017 champ Casey wasn't going away and drew level at 20-all.

She had two chances to win it but eventually McMahon closed it out with a right-corner kill. Both players were awarded a standing ovation after one of the best finals of recent years.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS WRITING COMPETITION

The GAA Museum is inviting entries for a Secondary Schools Writing competition.

Students can select an essay, short story or poem using the theme 'The GAA is at the heart of who we are.' Fiona Looney and Paul Howard are included in the judging panel for the two different categories.

The junior cycle is open to first, second, and third year students, while the senior cycle is open to Transition Year, fifth year, and sixth year students.

Entries will be accepted in both the Irish and English languages. There will be a prize for both the best English and Irish entry in each category.

A special awards ceremony will be held at Croke Park with parents, teachers, and the judging panel attending. A day will also be spent with the GAA Communications Department.

Competition Prizes: Junior Cycle Category

There will be one overall prize winner in English and one overall prize winner in Irish selected. Prize pack will include:

- Invitation for student, parents and teacher to winner's lunch with the judging panel in Croke Park in December 2018, where the winning student will be presented with a certificate for their achievement.
- The chance to spend a day working with the GAA Communications team in Croke Park.
- €100 One4All gift card.
- Custom GAA Museum O'Neills jersey.
- GAA Museum prize pack, including a Family

- Pass for the Ericsson Skyline Tour.
- Winning entry displayed on the Croke Park website (www.crokepark.ie/gaamuseum).

There will be two runner-up prizes. Runners-up will be in either English or Irish language. Runner-up prizes include:

- Invitation for student, parents and teacher to winner's lunch with the judging panel in Croke Park in December 2018, where the students will be presented with a certificate for their achievement.
- GAA Museum prize pack, including a Family Pass for the Ericsson Skyline Tour.
- Winning entry displayed on the Croke Park website (www.crokepark.ie/gaamuseum).

Senior Cycle Category

There will be one overall prize winner in English and one overall prize winner in Irish selected. Prize pack will include:

- Invitation for student, parents and teacher to winner's lunch with the judging panel in Croke Park in December 2018, where the winning students will be presented with a certificate for their achievement.
- The chance to spend a day working with the GAA Communications team in Croke Park.
- €100 One4All gift card.
- Custom GAA Museum O'Neills jersey.
- GAA Museum prize pack including a Family Pass for the Ericsson Skyline Tour.
- Winning entry displayed on GAA Museum website (www.crokepark.ie/gaamuseum).

There will be two runner-up prizes. Runners-up will be in either English or Irish language. Runner-up prizes include:

- Invitation for student, parents and teacher

to winner's lunch with the judging panel in Croke Park in December 2018, where the students will be presented with certificate for their achievement.

- GAA Museum prize pack, including a Family Pass for the Ericsson Skyline Tour.
- Winning entry displayed on the Croke Park website (www.crokepark.ie/gaamuseum).

Competition Entry

All entries must be emailed to Ailís in the GAA Museum at acorey@crokepark.ie with the email subject line Essay Competition Entry.

Entries must be submitted as a Word Document attached to the email.

The top of the Word document should include the following information:

- Student name, age and school year
- Name and address of student's school
- Name and contact details of supervising teacher

- Title of entry

Entries must be submitted before 5pm on Friday November 23rd, 2018.

Competition Rules

All entries should specifically address the competition theme 'The GAA is at the heart of who we are.'

- Entries can be in the following forms: Essay, short story, poem.
- Maximum word count for entries is 1500.
- Students must only submit their own original work.
- Students must submit their entries before the deadline of 5pm, November 23rd, 2018.
- One student can submit up to a maximum of three entries.

Entries must not contain any profane or derogatory language.

The decision of the judges is final.



‘ROLLIN 2 NOWLAN’ CROKE PARK STAFF CHARITY CYCLE A HUGE SUCCESS

What was the ‘Rollin 2 Nowlan’ 2018 Croke Park staff charity cycle event?

- A staff led long distance cycle.
- To raise funds/awareness for the five official GAA charities.
- To encourage staff camaraderie and well-being through interdepartmental engagement, physical exercise, teamwork and communication.

The event took place on a wet and dirty morning on the 27th of April 2018. The weather didn’t dampen the 30 or so cyclist’s high spirits however, and through gritted teeth they got the job done! The sun eventually came out to reward their efforts at the halfway point, and everyone made it safe and sound to Kilkenny with a smile on their face.

The task was to cycle the 140KM from Croke Park to Nowlan Park in aid of charity, whilst the aim was to raise awareness and funds for the GAA’s five official charities of 2018. The outcome was very pleasing. Collectively they managed to raise a whopping total of €17,500 to be split evenly among the following five charities:

- Mayo/Roscommon Hospice Foundation**
- Cavan/Monaghan Palliative Care Fund**
- Jack & Jill Children’s Foundation**
- Concern Worldwide**
- Kerry Hospice Foundation**

Coupled with that, was a very effective online social media campaign which received huge



The ‘Rollin to Nowlan’ Croke Park Staff charity cycle raised €17,500 for the GAA’s five official charities for 2018.

attention in terms of content engagement. This got the word out and highlighted the charities on a very large nationwide scale. Also, worth highlighting was the craic everyone had along the way. There was a real sense of togetherness among the gang of cyclists and helpers, which is exactly what the organising group were aiming for. Funds/awareness raised, and staff interactions positively high. Mission accomplished!

In 2017 a group of GAA; Croke Park; Camogie; LGFA; and Handball staff (all based in or around Croke Park Stadium) managed to raise €25,000

on a similar event called the ‘Tour de Thurles’. So, in just two years they have raised a grand total of €42,500 that directly helps people in real need throughout the country. This is a phenomenal amount of money to raise, and everyone who took part in these events should take enormous pride in this achievement.

In order to run a successful event, an assembly of highly skilled and passionate people are required. Luckily for Kevin Sexton (Event Organiser), he had an abundance of these people to readily call upon from among the staff body. Each person gave

of their time and expertise unselfishly to ensure that every detail was covered, and for that they deserve a massive amount of recognition and praise.

Speaking on the event, Sexton said: “I can’t overemphasize how great it is to be part of a staff group that are so willing to help out and get involved in events like these, so thank you all again for making the experience easier to handle and a hell of a lot more enjoyable!”

The Staff Organising Group would also like to



Uachtarán Cumann Lúthchleas Gael John Horan was in attendance as the GAA staff cyclists set off from the Michael Cusack statue at the back of the Cusack stand in Croke Park to embark on the 'Rollin to Nowlan' charity cycle.

thank the following:

Kilkenny GAA for the fantastic and professional welcoming party that they put on for the group on arrival; The group of Gardaí from Ballymun who provided logistical and road safety support; City Cycles for the mechanical/marshalling support; Denis Gorey for providing the grub en-route; The GAA Museum and Aramark Catering for putting on a lovely breakfast spread that morning; Sportsfile for the photography; DBA Publications for their help with the launch and general support from start to finish, O'Neill's for providing top class cycling gear (which they all looked amazing in!); the GAA Finance Dept. for their help with the reconciliation; and finally

the GAA Uachtarán and Ard Stiúrthóir for their support and encouragement of the event from the get go.

The official cheque handover took place at the National Healthy Clubs Conference on the 20th of October 2018 in Croke Park, with each charity receiving a cheque for €3500. Speaking at the event, Denise Nolan (Fundraising Executive at the Jack & Jill Children's Foundation) said: "Without the support of donors such as you we would be unable to support the families of our very sick babies. This kind donation will provide 218 hours of home nursing respite care for our families and for this we are truly grateful".

Martina Jennings (Chief Executive Officer, Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation) spoke about the importance the funds will have in helping to support the "1000 Palliative Care Patients" they care for, along with building a "14 bed Hospice in Mayo". Jennings also acknowledged all the hard work that goes on behind the scenes within the GAA and the charities: "We couldn't survive without our volunteers and communities...our roots are imbedded in community spirit and support".

Carmel Doyle (Interim CEO, Jack & Jill Children's Foundation) spoke about how funds such as these help their service users. She said: "Jack & Jill's All Stars are the precious children who face

big challenges in walking, talking, sleeping and feeding every day and their prognosis can be very uncertain. However, what we do know for certain is that these children do better at home where they belong with their family, their friends and their community. And it is that sense of community that is at the heart of Jack & Jill. Just like the GAA, it is our identity".

Asked about a possible third staff cycle, Sexton said that "plans are already underway for the 2019 cycle which will most likely take place at the end of March with the destination currently unknown.....any suggestions are welcome....but the name of the event needs to be catchy and bike related if possible!!"

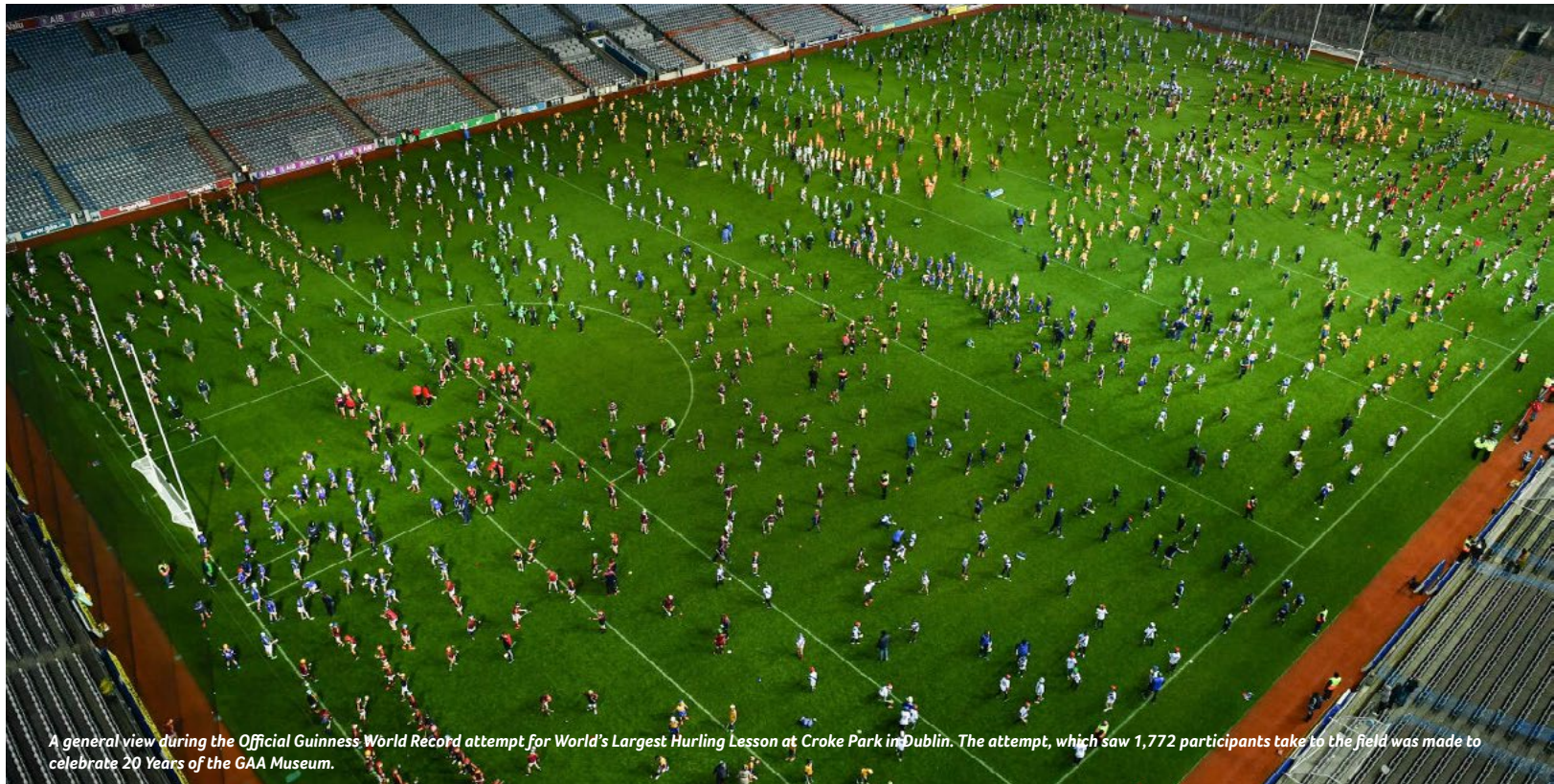
GAA MUSEUM SETS GUINNESS WORLD RECORD FOR 'LARGEST HURLING LESSON'

The was the 'Rollin 2 Nowlan' 2018 Croke Park staff charity cycle event?

1,772 children and their mentors from clubs across Ireland took part in a half hour training session on the hallowed pitch of Croke Park to ensure the record was achieved as part of the GAA Museum's 20th birthday celebrations. The hurling drills were called out to the children by the GAA's Hurling Development Officer, Martin Fogarty and proceedings took place under the eagle eye of Guinness World Record adjudicator Paulina Sapinska who travelled from London to adjudicate the event.

The 40 clubs who participated had to meet strict rules laid out by Guinness World Records. This included providing coaching certs for all mentors, taking part in the lesson non-stop for 30 minutes, accurately sticking to an approved lesson plan and having an independent steward observing every 50 participants.

GAA Museum Director Niamh McCoy said: "We are truly delighted to be Official Guinness World Record holders and our World Record Certificate will be proudly displayed here in the museum. A huge amount of work went into this magical event and we'd like to thank all our Croke Park colleagues including our Operations Team, Community & Health and Games Development Departments, pitch team, matchday stewards and our catering partners Aramark who all helped us smash the record.



"The most amazing part of the night was the sight of children wearing their club jerseys and representing all four provinces running onto the pitch under floodlights. We hope they all enjoyed the evening and made some special memories here at Croke Park. It was the perfect way to

complete our 20th birthday celebrations and we'd like to sincerely thank all the clubs for making the effort to join us and become record breakers."

The successful Guinness World Record event is the culmination of a summer of celebration at

the GAA Museum as it marks 20 years since opening under the Cusack Stand. A special exhibition 'GAA Museum 20' remains open to the public and looks back over the changes in Gaelic games since 1998. Croke Park Stadium Tours and Ericsson Skyline Tours operate daily and depart from the GAA Museum. See www.crokepark.ie/gaamuseum for further information.

20X20 - A NEW INITIATIVE FOR WOMEN IN SPORT

A new campaign presented by the Federation of Irish Sport and originated and developed by the creative agency Along Came A Spider and supported by Healthy Ireland is setting out to create a measurable cultural shift in our perception of women's sport so that it will be seen as something strong, valuable and worth celebrating.

The campaign, championed by Ireland's National Governing Bodies and Local Sports Partnerships, is calling on the people of Ireland and all those involved in Irish sport and physical activity to get behind female sport in a concerted effort to increase media coverage, boost attendances and ultimately, grow involvement in female sport and physical activity by 20% by the end of 2020.

National Governing Bodies, Local Sports Partnerships, clubs, universities, schools, leisure centres, community groups and the general public are being asked to pledge one action to show their support by doing anything that can accelerate progress for women's sport in Ireland and realise the key objectives. Individuals are being asked to share their pledge idea by visiting the 20x20 Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. People can also show their support by simply putting the two 20x20 stripes on both cheeks and posting using #20x20, #ShowYourStripes and #CantSeeCantBe online.

International strategies and research reports,

which aim to improve female participation, acknowledge that the shortage of female role models is a significant factor. 20x20 will showcase the range and breadth of Irish females involved in sport. As part of this Along Came A Spider are to create five short films on different themes that impact on women in sport. The first of these is now available to view on www.20x20.ie as well as on the campaign's social channels.

Irish female sporting heroes, Louise Quinn (Irish International & Arsenal Footballer and Three's Ambassador for 20x20), Sarah Rowe (Mayo Senior Ladies Footballer and Lidl's Ambassador for 20x20), Laura Twomey (Dublin Senior Camogie Player and AIG's Ambassador for 20x20) as well as Irish professional golfers Leona Maguire (KPMG's Ambassador for 20x20) and Stephanie Meadow (Investec's Ambassador for 20x20), joined forces with Head Coach of Manchester United Women and former England Women's National Football player, Casey Stoney MBE, to lend their support to the 20x20 campaign (Twenty by Twenty).

The sport stars were joined by the CEO of Swim Ireland Sarah Keane, 18 Time All-Ireland Cork Camogie and Ladies Football Champion Rena Buckley, Irish Women's Hockey Head Coach Graham Shaw, Olympian and leading Horse Trainer Jessica Harrington as well as Sport Ireland CEO, John Treacy to discuss the campaign which has the overarching objective of inspiring Ireland to culturally embrace women in sport, so that they can become part



Sarah Rowe, Mayo, and Deirdre Murphy, Dublin, in All Ireland Ladies Senior Championship action at Dr Hyde Park in July.

of who we are and what we follow.

The campaign has been made possible due to generous support from AIG, Investec, KPMG, Lidl and Three all of whom are already significant and committed supporters of women's sport through their sponsorships of Dublin GAA, Women's Professional Golf, the Ladies Gaelic Football Association, National Football League and the Ireland Senior Women's National Football Team.

Research commissioned by 20x20 and conducted by Nielsen as part of the campaign found that significantly less than 20% of all media coverage of sport relates to women's sport and mixed sport. RTÉ Sport, Off The Ball (Newstalk), SportsJOE and Her.ie are also early supporters of the campaign as Media Partners and significantly have each committed to increasing their own coverage of women in sport by 20% over the course of the initiative.

CEO of the Federation of Irish Sport, Mary O'Connor said; "It is true that women's sport in Ireland receives less recognition and acclaim and as a consequence is undervalued broadly in Irish society. The aim of the 20x20 movement is to give increased profiling to girls and women involved in sport at all levels. We want this campaign to stimulate behavioural change to ensure that subsequent generations have female role models to emulate as athletes, coaches and referees. We aim, through the 20x20 campaign, to showcase the importance and positive influence sport and physical activity has on girls by increasing media coverage and increasing attendances at competitions and events."

Casey Stoney, Head Coach of Manchester United Women and former England Women's



Julie Ann Malone of Kilkenny in action against Libby Coppinger, left, and Orla Cronin of Cork during the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship Final match between Cork and Kilkenny at Croke Park

National Football player; "Sport provides such incredible opportunities. As a young girl I was told that football was just for boys and yet, I went on to play 130 times for England including at World Cups, European Championships and even representing GB at the London 2012 Olympics. I now find myself as Head Coach of Manchester United's first women's team. I firmly believe our 21 players will be history makers and as the biggest football club in the world can truly transform women's football not just in England but

around the globe. It is so important that girls and women have role models to whom they can relate. It is for this reason that I was so excited and delighted to get the opportunity to come and lend my support for the launch of 20x20. I believe if supported by all involved in sport it really could be a landmark moment for sport in this country."

Sarah Colgan, CEO Along Came A Spider added: "By increasing the visibility of women's sport, whether through increased coverage,

attendances or participation, we make it a greater part of our culture. We're a proud nation of sport lovers and have a huge amount to gain by fully embracing the sport of 50% of our population. By clubs giving greater parity to female teams, schools creating new opportunities for girls in sport, sports fans attending women's events and parents encouraging their daughters, we're hoping everyone will pledge one action to grow women's sport in Ireland."



Football

Hurling

Club

General

MÍLE BUÍOCHAS

Thank you to all of those who have contributed to this month's edition of the GAA Club Newsletter. Your feedback is welcome and any comments, suggestions or queries should be directed to clubnewsletter@gaa.ie.

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