



Lúnasa 2009

Integration

Ireland has seen enormous demographic changes in recent years and people of many nationalities and ethnicities have been welcomed to our shores. Last year there were over 465,000 people of non-Irish national backgrounds living in Ireland. Many thousands have decided to make Ireland their permanent home.

Given these changes to Ireland's population, all GAA clubs are encouraged to start social initiatives to help integrate the new communities into the world of Gaelic Games. One such initiative took place on Saturday August 8 in Clanna Gael Fontenoy GAA Club, Irishtown, Dublin, where a "Have A Go Day" was organised. Children and parents from all nationalities participated in a day of fun and activity around the playing of Gaelic Games, with former football and hurling stars Brian Talty and George O'Connor among others, as part of the club's 125 celebrations.

Lisa Clancy
GAA Director of Communications

GAA McNamee Awards 2008

The 2008 McNamee Awards ceremony, recognising media excellence in the coverage of Gaelic Games, will take place on Sunday 16 August in Croke Park. 10 awards are being presented, for categories from Local Radio Programme and Best Match Programme to Irish Language Awards and Best Photograph. A Hall of Fame award will also be presented, to renowned photographer Ray McManus of Sportsfile.

Winners for this year include two clubs from Co. Down, Loughinisland GAC in the Best Club History category, and St Peter's, Warrenpoint for Best Modern Technology Innovation. Elsewhere, Belgium GFC, based in Brussels, will be presented with the prize for Best Website.

2009 National Awards to Volunteers in Sport

The Federation of Irish Sports has joined forces with the Department of Arts, Sport & Tourism to host the 2009 National Awards to Volunteers in Sport. The awards are being supported by the Community Foundation, Setanta Sport and the Irish Sports Council.

The awards for 2009 will be announced at a function in January 2010. 11 different awards in total will be presented, seeking to provide recognition of all the different areas in which people volunteer including, coaching, management, administration and officiating. In addition, awards will recognise young/junior volunteers and also volunteering in disability sport. A lifetime award will go to someone who has given in excess of 25 years voluntary service to Irish sport.

More details in relation to the awards can be found at www.volunteersinsport.ie, and all clubs are encouraged to submit nominations.



Influenza A (H1N1)

The spread of Swine Flu is a concern at this time, and given the role the Association plays in Irish society, it is vital that all members and volunteers take adequate steps to contain the spread of the virus among local clubs and communities.

There are some simple steps everyone can take to stop the spread of Swine Flu:

- Use a tissue to catch coughs or sneezes
- Bin the tissue straight away
- Wash your hands well and often.

Following these steps will help stop the flu and all respiratory illness from spreading to others.

If you or anyone in your club feels they have the flu:

- Check the symptoms on the HSE website at www.hse.ie or by calling the 24-hour Flu Information Line on 1800 941100.
- Contact your GP by telephone - **don't** go to the surgery or to A&E, as this places other people at risk of infection.
- Your GP will decide if you need testing or treatment.

The vast majority of people who get this flu are able to recover at home without needing anti-viral treatment - following simple home-care advice.

Informative posters detailing simple precautions are available from the HSE and it is recommended that clubs display these posters anywhere large groups are likely to assemble on your club's grounds.

For further information:

- www.swineflu.ie
- Freefone 24-hour HSE Flu helpdesk on 1800 941100

Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act (2005)

All clubs should have a Health and Safety Statement. This is useful to detail requirements for erecting temporary goalposts (NSAI 356/357 Standards), child welfare and protection arrangements. Depending on the size of the club, it can also include event safety requirements in the case of holding major games at the club grounds or where fund raising events are held.

As part of the Health and Safety Statement a risk assessment should be carried out.

What is a Risk Assessment?

Risk assessment is the process of evaluating risks to workers' health and safety from workplace hazards. It is a systematic examination of all aspects of work that considers:

- What could cause injury or harm
- Whether the hazards could be eliminated and, if not,
- What preventive or protective measures are, or should be, in place to control the risks



Employers have a general duty to ensure the safety and health of workers in every aspect related to work and to carry out a risk assessment.

How to assess the risks

The five-step approach to risk assessment:

1. Identifying hazards and those at risk
2. Evaluating and prioritising risks
3. Deciding on preventive action
4. Taking action
5. Monitoring and reviewing

The risk assessment must be recorded. Such a record can be used as a basis for:

- information to be passed to the persons concerned
- monitoring to assess whether necessary measures have been introduced
- evidence to be produced for supervisory authorities
- any revision if circumstances change

Full details in regard to completing a Safety Statement/Risk Assessment can be obtained on the web under Section 19 of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005.

Club Focus - Kiltale Hurling & Camogie Club, Co. Meath, Leinster

Although Meath may not strike many as being a typical hurling heartland, as in most counties there exists a core group of dedicated volunteers striving to promote the small-ball game at all age levels.

Kiltale Hurling and Camogie Club, situated a few miles outside Trim, have just turned the sod on a second pitch, due for completion next month, at an expanding complex that includes a recently-opened hurling wall as well as a clubhouse and renovated primary pitch, which was opened in 2004.

The sustained development of the club is bearing fruit on all fronts, as the small club won the senior county championship in 2007 and reached the last four last year. At juvenile levels, teams have reached county finals at almost all grades over the last two years – testament to the tireless effort of the club's committee and volunteer community.

www.kiltalehurling.com

Lá na gClub Videos

2009 represents the 125th anniversary of the GAA and celebrations have taken place throughout the year at all levels to commemorate this milestone. May 10, "Lá na gClub" was set aside as the Day of the Club where over 2,000 GAA clubs around the country and worldwide celebrated the anniversary with games and commemorative events in their local communities.

To ensure that this day was properly recorded for future generations, the GAA commissioned video productions of six Lá na gClub celebrations across the country, namely Youghal GAA Club, Cork; Silverbridge GAA Club, Armagh; Round Tower GAA Club, Clondalkin, Dublin; St. Brigids GAA Club, Roscommon; Fr. Sheehys GAA Club, Tipperary and Athy GAA Club, Kildare.



To view these videos and see how six GAA Clubs celebrated the 125th anniversary, please visit www.gaa.ie and click on “**Watch the latest GAA Videos**”. (Please note: to view these videos, a minimum 1MB broadband internet connection is recommended.)

Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport

On Friday July 24, GAA President Cíostóir Ó Cuana was joined by Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Barry Andrews TD, to launch the Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport and the Code of Behaviour for Persons Working with Young People, in Croke Park. The launch demonstrates the GAA’s continued commitment to the safety of the hundreds of thousands of children nationwide who take part in Gaelic Games at all levels.

The launch was also attended by Dublin footballers Conal Keaney and Paddy Andrews, in recognition of Dublin being the first County Board to complete the distribution of Garda Vetting forms to all individuals working with young people in the county. To date almost 6,000 people nationwide have completed the procedure.

All counties should have a supply of the GAA Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport, and of the Code of Behaviour for all Persons Working with Young People. If you require copies of either booklet, contact Gearóid Ó Maoilmhichil, National Children’s Officer, at (01) 8658675 or at gearoid.omaoilmhichil@gaa.ie.

The All-Ireland 125 GAA Quiz with Jimmy Magee

This summer the GAA Museum in Croke Park, together with Jimmy Magee, are searching for the biggest GAA brainiac! A special 125th Anniversary GAA Quiz will run over two nights starting with a qualifying round on Friday August 28 at 8.30pm. Those who survive the qualifier night will advance to a ‘head to head’ battle in the All-Ireland GAA Quiz Grand Final which will take place on Friday September 18. Jimmy Magee, Ireland’s very own ‘Memory Man’, will act as quizmaster.

The winners will receive:

- All Ireland Quiz Champion Trophy
- All-Ireland Final Tickets
- Dinner & a night’s accommodation in the Croke Park Hotel
- Appear on RTÉ’s The Sunday Game

The quiz will be followed by finger food and music from ‘The Isotobes’. Bar available, Entry is €20 per person with all proceeds going to the GAA’s designated charity, CARI.

For more details or to book your place please contact Elaine Powell at (01) 8192375 or email gaamuseum@crokepark.ie.

GAA Museum Events – August 2009

Museum Match Madness

As the 2009 Championship heats up match madness hits the GAA Museum with a whole host of special match day events for all the family. If you are ‘up for the match’, why not get involved in county colours Face Painting, museum ‘Art Attacks’ and - especially for hurling match days – hurley-making demonstrations with John Torpey?



The Legends Tour with Anthony Daly

Friday 21st Aug, 7.00pm

In 1995 Anthony Daly captained the Clare Hurling team to their first All-Ireland Hurling title since 1914. In 1997 Anthony won a second All-Ireland title before retiring as a player in 2000. In 2008 Anthony took over the management of the Dublin Senior Hurling team. Booking is essential. Adult €12, Child €7, Concession €10, Family €30

Children's Summer School - So you want to be a tour guide?

Monday 17th - Friday 21st August, 10.30 – 12.30 daily

The GAA Museum is again calling for young experts on Croke Park and the GAA. If you think you have what it takes why not join Education Officer Selina O'Regan for a special summer school teaching you how to become a tour guide in the home of the GAA. Booking is essential as places are limited. €20 per child. Ages 7+.