GAA CELEBRATING 125 years OF THE GAA
Club Newsletter
Nuachtlitir Chlubanna

Mean Fómhair 2009

'Your' Club Nuachtlitir

Our Communications Department at Croke Park has issued a Club Nuachtlitir for every month of 2009 and we are seeking feedback on what you would like to see included in the bulletin. If you have opinions or suggestions please send them to queries@gaa.ie.

Also, we would encourage clubs to distribute the newsletter to their members either by email or by posting it in a prominent place somewhere in your club facilities.

This initiative is aimed at keeping clubs informed of initiatives relating to clubs that are taking place at the central level of the Association and is one of our key tools as we look to improve communications between Croke Park and all of our units around the country and overseas.

We hope you find it useful and look forward to your assistance in getting it out to our members.

Críostoir Ó Cuana
Uachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Gael

History of the GAA

In this our 125th year it is important to reflect on the history of our Association, where we have come from, who has been a part of it, and how the Association has grown to be one of the most successful sporting associations in the world.

In recognising this, the GAA has commissioned the GAA Oral History Project which aims to record the rich, diverse and complex history of the Association through the words of people in every parish of the country and amongst Irish people overseas. It is the largest sports history project of its kind and we are encouraging everyone to contribute. For more information visit www.gaahistory.com.

As part of this project the GAA has commissioned a book "**The GAA, A People's History"** which will be officially launched at four locations around the country over the next seven weeks to mark our 125 Celebrations. The book will be available nationwide in the coming weeks and will retail at €29.99. It is a social history of the Association containing many rare, high quality photographs and images and is sure to be a keenly sought after publication. The book illustrates the story of how the GAA has carved for itself a unique place at the heart of Irish life and how Gaelic Games and the social world which revolves around the Association, has shaped the lives of generations of Irish people.

Lisa Clancy
Director of Communications

Club Focus

Seán O'Heslins, Ballinamore, Leitrim / CLG Seán Uí Eislin, Béal an Átha Móir, Liatroim.

2009 will be fondly remembered by clubs around the country for a variety of reasons, including the Association's 125 Celebrations but for Seán O'Heslins it will go down as the year when they completed and unveiled an impressive redevelopment of their facilities.

Five years work at a cost of €1.8m, has seen the Ballinamore club's home ground morph into a state of the art facility to aid them in their work. A complete resurface and re-draining job on their main pitch and the acquisition of land, which allowed them to develop a second pitch for training, was complemented by the construction of a stand facility and dressingroom pavilion with provision for four teams in addition to a gym and meeting room.

While the idea of installing lights on the training field may arise, attracting high profile fixtures such as county league games or this year's county intermediate football final will help shine a light on the excellent revamp overseen by the club.

Expanding Video Coverage on gaa.ie

The video content on www.gaa.ie continues to grow with clips of our 125 year events, player interviews and Lá nag Club activities all accessible to internet users. It is hoped to add more content in the weeks and months ahead.

To go directly to the video platform on gaa.ie, please visit the following link
http://www.gaa.ie/page/gaa_videos.html

Ag Éisteacht

Visits by Christy Cooney and Páraic Duffy to clubs around the country as part of the ongoing Ag Éisteacht Programme continue and are now approaching the 20 mark.

The aim of the visits is to illicit information about the host clubs and the challenges they face and this is achieved through a two hour questions and answers session involving 20 club members selected from across the various sections of the chosen club.

If you would like to nominate your club for a possible visit please contact the GAA's Communications Manager at alan.milton@gaa.ie

November 125 Celebrations

Many of our clubs have gone to great lengths to celebrate the Association's 125th Anniversary with Lá nag Club, which was hosted on a fixtures-free weekend back in May, one of the stand out events.

On **November 1** the GAA will officially celebrate its 125th birthday exactly a quarter and a century after the foundation of the Association in Thurles. On this day a special ceremony will be held in the Tipperary town and clubs the length and breadth of the country are encouraged to organise their own events to mark the occasion.

Vodafone

The GAA has confirmed details of a new Affinity Arrangement with GAA Football Championship Sponsors Vodafone that will see clubs that register their members recoup 5% of those members' Pay Monthly Bills or Top Up transactions.

For for more information about this new arrangement with one of the GAA's Official Give Back Partners and for details on how your club can sign up, please visit http://www.supportyourgaaclub.ie

Swine Flu

The rapid spread of Swine Flu continues to be a prime concern of the GAA, and given the role the Association plays in the Irish social scene, 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 straightaway
- 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 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 is sufficient for the majority of cases.

Informative posters detailing simple precautions are available from the HSE and it is recommended that clubs display such 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

Museum Update

Club 125 Offer - 25% off visit to the GAA Museum and Croke Park
Join the GAA Museum in celebrating 125 years of the GAA . Trace the history of Ireland's unique games of Hurling and Gaelic Football, relive past matches, gaze upon trophies and medals of iconic players and of course, test your own skills! Explore the journey of a player on All-Ireland Final day on a behind-the-scenes guided tour of Croke Park Stadium taking in the lucky dressing room, the presidents seat and much more! By prior arrangement, clubs can be accommodated for medal presentations at Croke Park on the day of the visit. Call us on 01 8192323 and quote 'Clubs 125 Offer' to avail of the discount.

Congratulations to The All-Ireland 125 GAA Quiz Champion, Peter Guing!

Offaly man, Peter Guing's GAA expertise wowed even the Memory man himself, Jimmy Magee at the quiz final on September 18 last. The Edenderry native claimed top place in the qualifier night by answering correctly 54 out of 55 questions and on the final night, Guing delivered in style by answering every single question. Close in second was one of the greatest full forwards of our time, Wexford hurling legend, Tony Doran.

The GAA Museum would like to extend a huge thank you to all who made the first All-Ireland GAA Quiz a success including host Jimmy Magee and all eight finalists, John Nagle (Kerry), John Tarrant (Cork), Brian Doyle (Cavan), Willie Kinsella, John Redmond, Aidan Kinsella and Tony Doran (Wexford), and champion, Peter Guing (Offaly). A donation was made to CARI following the event.

The All-Ireland 125 Quiz Champion, Peter Guing, was presented with The All-Ireland GAA Quiz trophy by Críostoir Ó Cuana, Uachtarán CLG, along with tickets to the GAA Football All-Ireland Senior Championship Final, dinner and a night in the four star Croke Park Hotel. The champion made a guest appearance on a special live show of RTÉ's The Sunday Game on the night of the GAA Football All-Ireland Senior Championship Final.

Post Match Arrangements

The Association will in the coming months conduct a review of all aspects of our All-Ireland final days and part of this process will include an examination of the trophy presentations that followed all four finals. The decision to organise the post match presentation at the end of the GAA Hurling Final on the playing field was taken to ensure the safety of our players, spectators, stewards and officials. The traditions associated with post match invasions are known to us all but the dangers associated with them mean a thorough review of the practice is required in the coming weeks and months.

Texaco Bursary

The Texaco Sportstar Bursary is now receiving applications for 2009. A bursary can make a real difference to the future of your club, new equipment, playing surface or clubhouse facilities. The bursary has been designed to support, nurture, and fuel the dreams the next generation of sporting heroes. There are 20 bursaries of €5000 each and it is open to every club to apply. The closing date is Friday 2nd October so if your club is considering

applying please do so as quickly as possible. For more information and details on how to apply contact *queries@gaa.ie*

Airport Shop

The Official GAA Merchandise Store has opened at Dublin Airport. You will find all your Official County Merchandise here from scarves to County shoes and kids pyjamas. By purchasing officially licensed product you are helping fund the preparation of your County team.