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CASH WINDFALL FOR CLUBS VIA GAA INJURY FUND

Clubs who are fully registered and comply with the GAA Injury Fund are in line to receive a bonus cash payment of up to €800 this month.

The good news comes as the GAA announces that the GAA Injury Fund will distribute €680,000 by way of a rebate to qualifying clubs in qualifying counties. It's the third year there has been a rebate paid out with €600,000 distributed in both 2015 & 2014.

In all, there are clubs in 18 counties across all four provinces who will benefit from cash payments ranging between €600 and €800.

To qualify, the County first had to be a net contributor to the Injury Fund.

After that, 75 per cent of the Clubs in the County had to be registered and paid in full on or before March 31, 2016 and only Clubs fully paid up before the March 31 deadline are eligible to receive the payment.

The full list of 18 Counties who have clubs sharing the €680,000 fund is:

Cavan, Donegal, Clare, Cork, Kerry, Waterford, Carlow, Kildare, Kilkenny, Laois, Offaly, Wexford, Wicklow, Galway, Leitrim, Mayo, Roscommon and Sligo.

In the case of Mayo, Meath, Kilkenny, Donegal and Cavan they had 100 per cent of their clubs registered and paid in full by March 31.

Cover under the Injury Fund is provided on a calendar year basis from 1 January to 31 December annually. All clubs must complete annual registration and have until March 31 to pay their team subscriptions of €1000 per Adult team, €450 per U21 and €200 per juvenile team to a max of €1200.Qualifying clubs will be notified via their county board in advance of their payment.



CALTRA'S INSPIRATIONAL PLAN TURNS DEVELOPMENT DREAM INTO REALITY

There's a saying that warns "A vision without a plan is just a dream."

Many a Club has dreamt big about success on and off the field, but dreaming and delivering are two very different things. Recently we saw the Gaels of Caltra in Galway show just how it can be done.

They delivered on the field when, in their second stint as a senior football entity, they won the Galway title in 2003 and then went on to win AIB Connacht and All-Ireland club championship titles at the very first attempt.

A tight knit rural club, the 2004 club final was billed as the Meehan's of Caltra versus the O Se's of An Ghaeltacht with the Galway club champs doing what the county side were unable to do against Kerry and carried off the spoils on a famous day.

On the back of that great success the Club decided to plan for the future off the field as well as on it and a couple of years later took the plunge with the purchase of a 19 acre site on the edge of the village.

Despite the downturn they continued to make plans and were given planning permission in 2010 with a dream of delivering a project that would cater for the social as well as sporting needs of their community in one central location.

"Due to the scale of the development and the substantial funding required to bring it to fruition we decided at the outset that it could only be delivered on a phased basis.

"A copy of the overall site plan shows a main playing pitch, training pitch, dressing rooms, community centre, play school, playground, handball alley and walking track. At first glance this appears a very ambitious and daunting plan but through meticulous planning and substantial work on behalf of our development and finance committees the plan is rapidly becoming a reality," says Club Chairman Aidan Murray.

A fantastic sand based pitch with ball stop nets, perimeter fencing, dug outs and scoreboard was completed and while they spent €145,000 on this work, they also saved significantly through a massive amount of volunteer labour and manufacture.

The new dressing rooms have recently been completed consisting of 3 changing rooms, a gym, two shower areas, kitchen / meeting room, male and female external toilets, disabled toilets and referees changing room.



These are finished to a very high standard and have cost in the region of €180,000. While a main contractor was employed for the build, Caltra completed a number of aspects through voluntary labour such as footpaths, external plastering, electrical wiring, painting, installation of bench seating, etc. and all of these contributed significantly in the cost management of the project.

Like so many of our Clubs, Caltra is the focal point of the local community and from the outset in 2010 it was decided that the community needed a dedicated centre.

The club leased out a portion of the new ground to its local community group as a site to build the new centre.

The centre was officially opened in 2014 and has proved to be an excellent amenity for all organisations in the parish. A new playschool has since been built onto the centre by the local playschool group which is another welcome addition to the overall development.

"A development of this scale obviously requires significant funding with the main sources being grant aid and local fundraising initiatives. Our community centre group (CCCDA) were successful with a very significant grant from Leader funding administered under Galway Rural Development program for the building of the centre," added the Club Chairman.

"They provided matching funding through local donations, a large scale scrap metal collection and a joint development draw held in conjunction with the GAA club.

"The playschool received full grant aid from the Department of Youth and Community Development.

"With respect to the pitch and dressing rooms the GAA club received a grant to the value of €140,000 from the Sports Capital Program for the dressing rooms. We also received grant aid from the Connacht Council for the pitch installation.

"In the current climate it is very important to be innovative when fundraising and we used many different initiatives including the aforementioned joint development draw, a sponsored cycle from Croke Park to Caltra, machinery auction, tea party, golf classic, various sponsorship options, etc."

To start a project such as this in 2010 when the country was in a grip of economic depression took leadership and courage. They are not finished yet and still plan a training pitch but to get the project to this stage is a testament to the spirit of all of those who played a part and they are rightly proud.

"To achieve it during an economic recession further highlights the vision, commitment and work ethic applied by all those involved," praised the Club Chairman.

"Society and lifestyles in Ireland are ever changing and this is especially true in rural Ireland where we have the additional challenges of emigration, smaller families and the constant drive to centralise both employment and populations to towns and cities.

"Amalgamation of clubs are becoming more common each year, particularly at under age, and in order to improve our chances of remaining independent and self-sustaining, the provision of high end facilities is critical for clubs like ours in this ever changing environment."

On May 22nd, Uachtarán CLG Aogán Ó Fearghail performed the official opening of the new pitch and dressing rooms as part of a festival of activity that weekend that was a victory for the Club and its ability to pull the community together off the pitch as well as on it.





FEAR LÁN LE BUANNA - SEOSAMH MAC DONNCHADHA

Le Mártan Ó Ciardha

Ní bua ach buanna a bhí ag Seosamh Mac Donnchadha – bua ceannaireachta, intleachta, bua an eagair, na cumarsáide, na hóráidíochta, na lúthchleasaíochta an cheoil, na haisteoireachta agus mórán eile nach iad.



Ach, mar a dheimhneoidh siad siúd a raibh aithne acu air ó saolaíodh é, chomh maith leo siúd nár nár chas dó ach aon uair amháin, ba é pearsantacht fuinniúil, lách, laethúil, spóirtiúil Sheosamh a fhanfaidh ina gcuimhne na laetheanta gruama, dobrónacha, dorcha seo tar éis a bháis.

Ghealaigh Joe aon chuideachta inar sheas sé riamh ann agus le himeacht na hoíche (agus glac uaimse é nárbh é ba thúisce a thug aghaidh ar an leaba), d'éirigh sé níos deacra cúl a thabhairt dá chomhluadar suáilceach. Níorbh ionadh go raibh sé ar dhuine de na daoine ar m'eolas ba mhó a raibh cion air agus cairde aige.

Nuair a toghadh é ina Uachtarán ar Chumann Lúthchleas Gael i 1997, bhí sé ar ar dhuine den dream ab óige a bhí i mbun an chúraim sin riamh. Bhain a thréimhse uachtaránachta le ré ina raibh athruithe móra ar leic an dorais ag na heagraíochta spóirt agus d'fhág cumas reachtaíochta agus samhlaíocht Joe go raibh a eagraíocht féin in ann leas iomlán a bhaint astu siúd.

Is gnó mór é an spórt sa lá atá inniu ann agus ba é fadbhreathnaitheacht Joe McDonagh agus na daoine cumasacha a tháinig ina dhiaidh a chinntigh gur é an Cumann Lúthchleas Gael an eagraíocht aimitéireach spóirt is foirfe ar dhroim na cruinne.

I dTuaisceart na Gaillimhe, i gCortún, dúiche dúchais a mháthar, Chrissie a chaith Joe na blianta ba thúisce dá shaol, ach i ndeireadh na gcaogadaí bhog an teighleach go Baile an Doirín nuair a fuair a athair Maitias post múinteoireachta ansiúd.

Ba as an Áill Bhán, cúpla míle taobh thiar de shráidbhaile Charna do Mhaitias agus spreag sé dhá rud go háirithe i gcroíthe a mhic agus a iníne, Eilish – grá dá dteanga dhúchais agus do chluichí na Gael.

Bhí baint mhór ag Maitias le bunú an Choiste Iomána i nGaillimh, rud a thug faoi ndeara aiséirí an chluiche sa gcontae agus bhí Seosamh ar pháirc na himeartha sna heachtraí a d'fhógair sin – cluiche ceannais mionúir na hÉireann 1970, nuair a bhuaigh Corcaigh orthu, an chéad bhua riamh ag Gaillimh sa gcraobh Faoi 21 dhá bhliain dar gcionn agus bua an tSraithchomórtais Náisiúnta 1975.

San óráid a thug sé beagán os cionn scór bliain ina dhiaidh sin arús sa Royal Lancaster Hotel i Londain áit ar toghadh é mar uachtarán ar CLG i 1997, luaigh Seosamh Mac Donnchadha tús an aistir a thug



Seosamh Mac Donnchadha agus Aogán Ó Fearghail 2014.

chomh fada leis siúd é. "Ag iománaíocht in aghaidh na binne sa teach i mBaile an Doirín", mar a dúirt sé féin.

Bhí Joe ar an bpáirc nuair a bhuaigh Cill Chainnigh ar Ghaillimh i gCluichí Ceannais Sinsireacha na hÉireann i 1975 agus mar chaptaen i 1979. Idir eatarthu bhuaigh sé gradam All Star i 1976. Faraor d'fhág víreas go mba ar bhinse na h-ionadaithe a bhí sé nuair a chroch a chara mór Joe Connolly Corn Liam Mhic Cárthaigh ar chéimeanna Ardáin an Ógánaigh i 1980, ach fágann a leagan den "West's Awake" díreach ina dhiaidh sin a áit féin ag Mac Donnchadha san ócáid stairiúil úd ag iománaithe na Gaillimhe.
Ina shaol lasmuigh den Chumann Lúthchleas Gael ba in iomaire an oideachais a shaothraigh Seosamh tar éis dó Máistreacht sa Léann Cheilteach a bhaint amach in Ollscoileanna na Gaillimhe agus Aberystwyth.

Bhí sé i mbun teagaisc i gColáiste Éinde i gCathair na Gaillimhe, ar a ndearna sé féin freastal mar ógánach, ag obair mar Thimire Gaeilge le Coiste Gairmoideachais na Gaillimhe sula bhfuair sé post mar Phríomhfheidhmeannach ar Choiste Gairmoideachais an Chontae sin agus ina dhiaidh i mbun an dhualgais chéanna le Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Mhaigh Eo/ Shlighigh/Liatroma, nó gur éirigh sé as i ndeireadh an tsamhraidh seo caite .

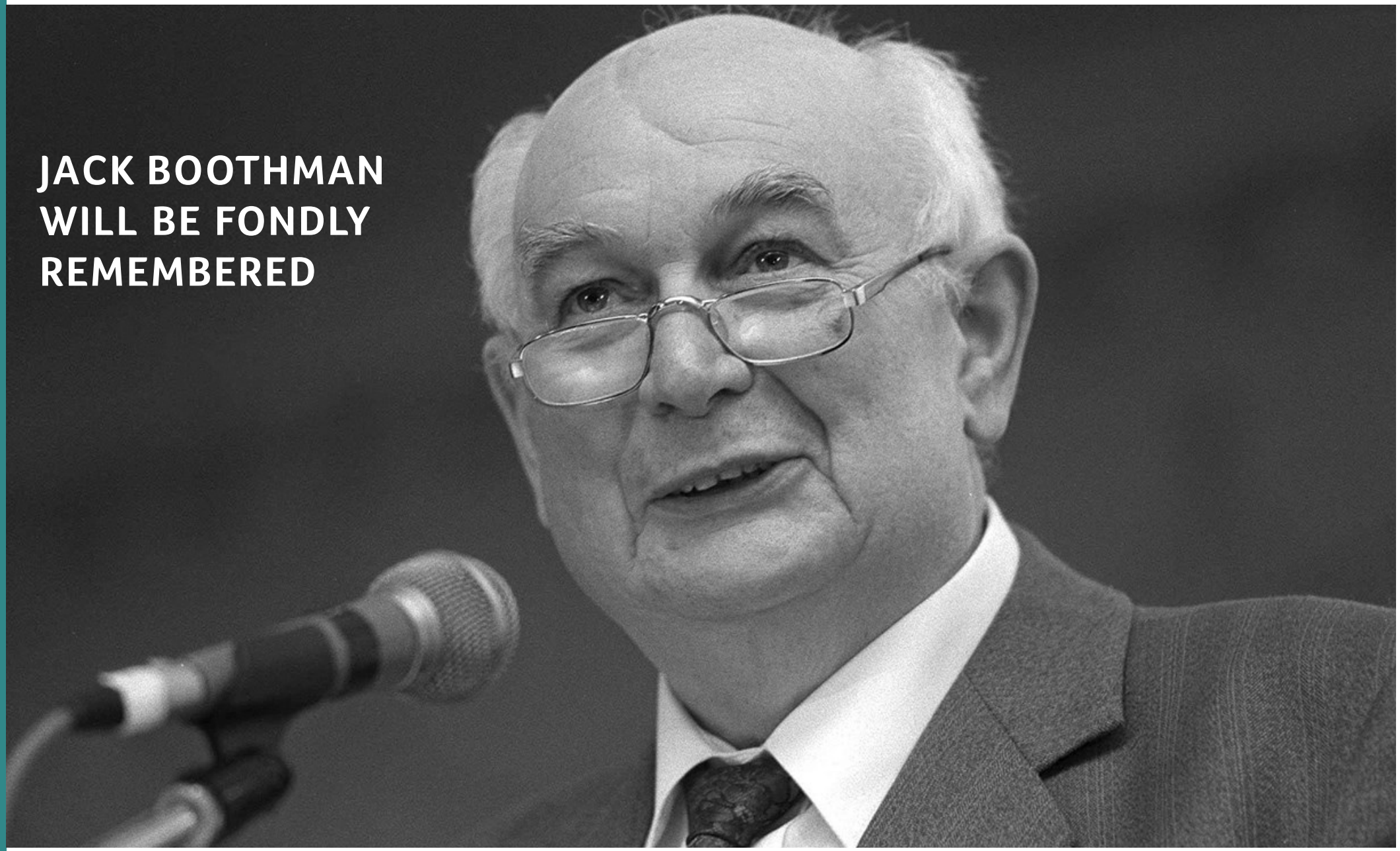
Chaith sé tamall freisin ina Phríomhfheidhmeannach ar Fhoras na Gaeilge.

Ba iad na Cluichí Gaelacha, ár dteaga dhúchais, an ceol agus an deachomhluadar na rudaí ab ansa le Seosamh Mac Donnchadha, ach ba iad a bheanchéile Peig, a chlann, Muireann Eilís agus Eoin, a chlann siúd, Caoileann, Léana agus Cian, maraon lena dheirifiúr Eilish, aoibhneas a chroí.

Ár gcomhbhrón leo siúd go háirithe agus freisin le clann leitheadach Chumann Lúthchleas Gael.

Ba mhór an onóir dom go raibh sé le rá agam go mba tú mo chara. Amhail gach duine eile, fágann d'imeacht ualach ar mo chroí agus easpa i mo shaol, ach ba bhoichte agus ga dharóile an croí agus an saol sin go d'uireasa.

Leaba i measc na naomh, na n-iománaithe agus na n-amhránaithe agat a sheanchomrádaí.



JACK BOOTHMAN WILL BE FONDLY REMEMBERED

Former Wicklow PRO Jackie Napier praised the significant work carried out bythe late GAA President during his lifetime involvement with the Gaelic Athletic Association.

Having acted in various roles Boothman served as GAA President between 1994 and 1997. It was an important spell for the GAA according to Napier. "At the time Jack went to nearly every GAA field in the country," Napier told GAA.ie.

"He was respected not only in Wicklow, but all over the country for his work. The development of Croke Park had a lot to do with Liam Mulvihill and Jack, who were both very forward thinking.

"Most of the planning for Croke Park was done during his term, and it was a very important time for the GAA.

"He was elected President in the Burlington, and he was then installed in the Slieve Russell in Cavan. I was lucky enough to attend when the two Wicklow men, Hugh Byrne and Jack, were installed as President."

Napier recalls how Boothman, who was always active with his club Blessington, got involved as an official. "He started out with the West Wicklow Board, him and the late Peter Keogh served together in office.

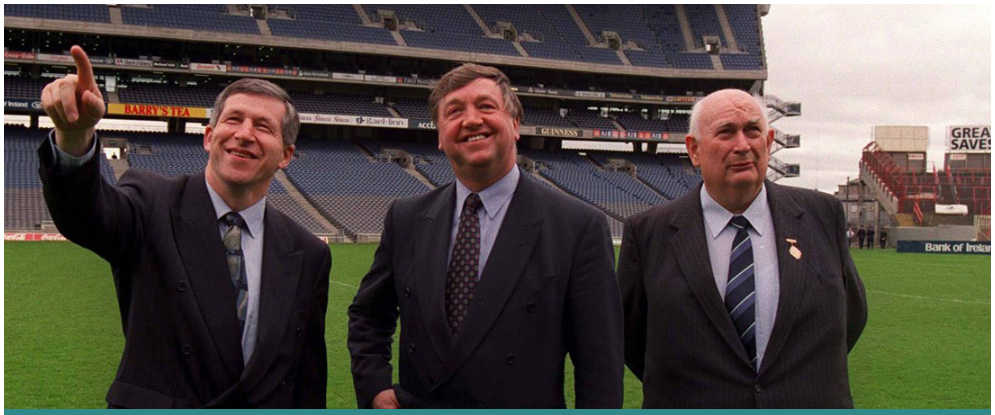
"Jack is a former Chairman of the West Wicklow Board, Vice Chairman of the County Board, Vice Chairman and Chairman of the Leinster Council, and President of the Association.

"During his time with the Leinster Council he produced the Oganach report about juvenile games which led to approaches such as Go Games. No matter where I go people would always ask about him because of all he did."

Jack passed on May 10 and our condolences to his wife Nuala, his family and wide circle of friends. *Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.*



Jack Boothman before the 1996 All-Ireland Hurling final.



Liam Mulvihill, Bernard Allen, and Jack Boothman pictured at Croke Park in 1996.



Jack Boothman pictured beside Clare captain Anthony Daly in 1995.

STARS AND THEIR DRILLS - COLIN FENNELLY (BALLYHALE SHAMROCKS AND KILKENNY)

"I enjoy the block-down drill.

"You have two lads in the middle and two lads either side of them pucking in the ball. When your man gets the ball, you have to just block down the ball as much as possible.

"They're the kind of points you get in games that you shouldn't get - when you block someone down like that (and turn over the ball).

"It's been big for Kilkenny. Brian Cody absolutely loves that drill.

"I enjoy it myself because I use a 37" hurl so I have a good reach with it."



Colin Fennelly – himself a hard man to try and block down!

STARS AND THEIR DRILLS - CONOR MCMANUS (CLONTIBRET AND MONAGHAN)



Kicking King – Conor McManus

"As a forward you are always going to want shooting drills.

"Normally the question is what drill do you not like and for a forward that is tackling! But the one the forward will always prefer is shooting, the one on ones and that sort of stuff – any of the shooting drills.

"Any player will tell you that their favourite skill is kicking and it is something that has gone out of the game to a certain extent and every player loves just to go out on the field and kick about so shooting and testing yourself from different angles is the most enjoyable, I find.

"It's a cliché but it's all practice and finding whatever technique is comfortable for you and just really routine it so it's repetition and you make sure you are doing the same thing over and over again.

"When you are younger the range of your kicking is not as long as it would be when you develop but particularly when you are younger it is important to develop your technique and keep doing it.

"I remember myself when I was younger watching tele and watching fellas curl the ball over the bar and wonder 'how do they do that?' but as you get older your ability to do that and to kick the ball further and higher develops as you develop physically and it will all come. If you have the right technique from a young age it will fall into place that bit easier.

"Kicking off the laces is one of the more difficult skills because it can go anywhere – whereas when you are kicking off the inside of the boot there is generally more consistency and when you are shooting that is what you are after – that consistency.

"You'd always go out and do extra kicking yourself, especially if you are the free taker, you have to keep on top of that whether it is after training or on a Saturday morning - not long just 15 or 20 minutes - just to touch up on the skills."

REAP THE REWARDS BY BEING AWARE OF FARM SAFETY

Embrace FARM
Farm Accident Support Network

Adam Mangan, a young footballer from Co. Offaly, had a promising sports career ahead of him. No one could have predicted that by the young age of 19, his career would have ended in the most tragic way.

It was an early October evening when Adam was using a trailer in his local area and subsequently suffered fatal head injuries that led him to be sadly pronounced dead at the scene. Adam was a member of the Offaly minor football panels in 2013 and 2014 and was also a key player for his club St. Vincent's in the u21 football championship final in 2014. His talent showed no bounds as he also lined out for the Leinster rugby team representing his club Tullamore.

In the aftermath of the tragic accident, Adam's club in Kilclonfert expressed that words could not describe the sadness in their community and club from such an untimely death. Because of this accident, the community is left without a son, a brother, a neighbour, a teammate and a friend.

Embrace FARM is a bereavement support group for families who have lost a loved one or have suffered serious injury in a farming accident. It was founded in 2014 by Brian & Norma Rohan, following the death of Brian's father Liam in 2012 on the family farm in Shanahoe, Co Laois. This year alone, there have already been 5 deaths relating to farming accidents. Sadly, these are not just statistics, there's a story like Adam's behind each one of these victims where a family, farm and a community have all been impacted and are forced to pick up the pieces.

Embrace provide support to bereaved families in varying aspects regarding guidance, knowledge and help with the running of the farm, as well as emotional support from those with similar backgrounds.

As well as coming to terms with the loved ones' death, they must deal with all of the legalities and formalities to do with the aftermath of the accident and these are the practical things that Embrace FARM wants to help and support families with.

The GAA and Embrace are similar in the fact that one of their main aims is to help and support families.

The death of Adam Mangan, as well as many others, highlights the important role a club can play in supporting a family and a community in the aftermath of such a tragedy. However, it is also important for clubs and their members to be aware of the many support services that are available in local communities to offer additional guidance in the aftermath of critical incidents.

The GAA offers support on critical incidence with its Critical Incidence Response Plan which is available on GAA.ie. **(community.gaa.ie/critical-incident-response-plan/3328-2/)**

There is an Ecumenical Remembrance service held on the last Sunday of June each year to remember those lost or seriously injured on the farms of Ireland.
Our 3rd annual service will be on the 26th June this year in Abbeyleix, Co Laois.

If you would like the name of your loved one remembered at this years' service, please get in touch with Brian & Norma on 085-7709966 or embrace.farm@gmail.com or through our facebook page **www.facebook.com/embracefarmaccidents**



The late Adam Mangan in action for the Offaly minors in 2013

GAA OVERSEAS SANCTIONS – PLAYING IN NORTH AMERICA / NEW YORK / CANADA

Mandatory Travel Insurance

All players that will be seeking an Official GAA Sanction from Central Council to play in North America, New York or Canada for the summer are reminded that travel insurance must be arranged in Ireland before they commence their journeys.

Evidence of travel insurance which covers players to play Gaelic Games competitively as part of a team (i.e. on a non-incidental basis) must accompany the Sanction or Weekend Authorisation Application.

Further details on the mandatory travel insurance requirement is available on www.gaa.ie/the-gaa/rules-regulations/overseas-sanctions

Authorisations

A Weekend Authorisation is required by any player intending to assist a Club in a game under the jurisdiction of the New York Board.

The Official Authorisation must be submitted by the relevant County Secretary to Croke Park on the Wednesday before the game.

An Authorisation is valid for one weekend only other than where there is a replay of the game for which the Authorisation was granted .

Official Sanctions

A player intending to play on a longer term basis in the area governed by one of the following Boards - the New York Board, the Canadian Board must obtain an Official Sanction from Central Council.

A player intending to play on a longer term basis in the area governed by the North American County Board must obtain an Official Sanction or an Official J1 Sanction from Central Council.

General Rules

- A Sanction entitles a player to play with a Club from March 1 until the end of October
- Sanctions to Canada will not be granted after July 1
- Sanctions to North America or New York will not be granted after July 20
- A player who has received a Sanction will not be able to play again with his Club in Ireland for 30 days after the date of approval of his Sanction in Croke Park
- Sanctions are only available to current members of Clubs in Ireland
- Further restrictions and requirements are included in Rule 6.11 of the Official Guide.

For further information including application forms visit

www.gaa.ie/the-gaa/rules-regulations/overseas-sanctions



HURLING HELMETS

The GAA would like to remind all players at all levels in all Hurling Games and Hurling Practice Sessions it is mandatory for, and the responsibility of each individual player to wear a helmet with a facial guard that meets the standards set out in IS:355 or other replacement standard as determined by the National Safety Authority of Ireland (NSAI).

All players are advised that in the event of a head injury occurring, if the helmet being worn does not meet the standard or is modified or altered from the original manufactured state, they are not covered under the terms of the GAA Player Injury Fund.
For further information see:
http://learning.gaa.ie/Injuryprevention



HURLING HELMETS

INFORMATION SHEET FOR PLAYERS & PARENTS/GUARDIANS

THE RULE

The GAA reminds all players at all levels in all Hurling Games and Hurling Practice Sessions it is mandatory, and the responsibility of each individual player to wear a helmet with a facial guard that meets the standards set out in IS:355 or other replacement standard as determined by the National Safety Authority of Ireland (NSAI).

All players are advised that in the event of a head injury occurring, if the helmet being worn does not meet the standard or is modified or altered from the original manufactured state, they are not covered under the terms of the GAA Injury Benefit Fund.

Following the introduction of the rule at underage level it was proven that mandatory helmet use reduced the number of serious facial and eye injuries by 40%. The rule was introduced across all levels in 2010.

CONSEQUENCES OF WEARING AN UNAPPROVED OR ALTERED HELMET

- Players are not covered under the terms of the GAA Injury Benefit Fund for facial/eye/head injuries suffered.
- Significantly increased risk of facial, dental, oral, nasal, orbital and eye injuries.
- Potential injuries suffered as a result of wearing an unapproved or altered helmet can be extremely serious including long term sight complications such as impaired vision, increased risk of cataracts, glaucoma and complete loss of sight.

ALTERED HELMET

An altered helmet is one which has been modified in any way from the original manufactured state. Once an approved faceguard has been

Changed / Replaced
OR
Modified

(bars on the faceguard removed, shortened or manipulated in any way)

the player is no longer covered under the GAA Injury Beneft Fund and also at an increased risk of injury.

When changing a faceguard, the new guard *may not be compatible with the helmet design* and can result in a serious facial or dental injury to the owner during a collision.

ADVICE

It is recommended that players

1. Only purchase a helmet with a facial guard that meets the standards set out in IS:355
2. Do not replace the faceguard or remove or manipulate the bars on the faceguard in any way.
3. Always wear their helmet when warming-up as well as during training/practice sessions and matches. A number of players have suffered injuries while warming-up without wearing a helmet and have not been able to participate in matches as a result.

A list of helmet providers who supply helmets which meet IS:355 is available on learning.gaa.ie/injuryprevention

REMEMBER: It is the player's responsibility to wear a helmet with a facial guard that meets the standard!

http://learning.gaa.ie/Injuryprevention

MOUTHGUARDS

The introduction of the rule whereby mouthguards are mandatory for players in Gaelic Football practice sessions and matches has led to a drop of 37% in the number of dental injury claims made via the GAA Injury benefit fund, resulting from incidents in Gaelic football training sessions and matches in grades up to Minor in 2013. At adult level a similar drop of 39% occurred in 2014 proving the benefits of wearing a mouthguard in reducing the risk of dental injuries.

The rule has been mandatory for players in grades up to Minor since 2013 and applies to all age grades since January 1st 2014. For further information see: www.gaa.ie/medical-and-player-welfare/mouthguards/



CLUB OFFICER TRAINING UPDATE

With the help of a team of 40 Associates, the Club Leadership Development Programme (CLDP) has been successfully put to over 1,000 Club Officers since the start of the year.

The programme has been a major project for the Association and it aims to develop the leaders in our Clubs to carry out their roles effectively while developing their own leadership capabilities. During a busy period;

- 5 Provinces (inc. Britain) and 17 Counties have organised the programme
- 32 training events were delivered
- 95 two-hour modules have been run by a team of 40 Associates
- 1,040 different officers were trained with over 2,100 participants taking part in the various modules

We are listening – Feedback from Clubs
The three year plan that the Association has to offer continuous support for Club Officers is an evolving one. There is recognition amongst the drivers of the CLDP initiative - the National Officer Development Committee (NODC) - that there are areas in which it can improve.

However, through a process of constantly reviewing feedback and evaluating alternatives, weekly improvements are being made to the programme. Here is what a few officers had to say after taking part in a module:

"It was great to gain knowledge on my role and learn from officers with greater experience."

"I enjoyed learning about the available resources and the huge amount of information that is available when you know where to go."

"Our tutor engaged everyone very well in a relaxed manner while delivering key information clearly. It was very helpful to hear from an experienced officer who was able to back up points with personal stories"

"The programme opened my mind to other people's views and ways of dealing with problems."

"Participation from attendees made it interactive and enjoyable."

If you have taken part in any module and would like to give us feedback, please do so by completing this one minute survey **https://goo.gl/CfeLYy**



INVESTING IN LEADERS, INVESTING IN YOU.

Your feedback will allow us to develop more knowledge and skilful volunteers, even better run Clubs and an even stronger Association.

Certification
It is always nice to be recognised for a major achievement, and the Association considers that completion of the Leadership Development Programme is a significant one for club officers due to the time and effort involved.

The programme involves 4 core modules for Chairpersons and Secretaries and 2 for Treasurers and PROs. All County Development Officers have been given instructions on how to get these Certificates of Achievement and they will be communicating these details to the relevant officers.

E-Learning
E-learning has shown that whether members are in Ballyhaunis, Barcelona or Buenos Aries, they can access training to help them carry out their roles effectively.

Through the Association's Learning & Development Portal (learning.gaa.ie), many online resources such as the Club Manual, Club Planning Programme & IT resources are already available for Clubs; however, work is ongoing to build an online module on Effective Meetings & Communication.

This module will cover:

- Running Effective Meetings
- The Club AGM
- Communication in the Club
- Communication Skills
- Use of Gaeilge
- Club Toolkit

This exciting new development will be available before the autumn for officers to take at their own pace.

Planning Ahead
Clubs need to constantly consider their futures and have a plan in place if Officers leave their roles. The Leadership Development Programme can encourage officers to take up roles because they know that training will be available and empower them to stay in them because they will have skills.

The next steps are explained through the following questions and answers:

Q: When will the programme start again?

A. Several counties have registered an interest in organising the programme again in October and November so that is when training will resume.

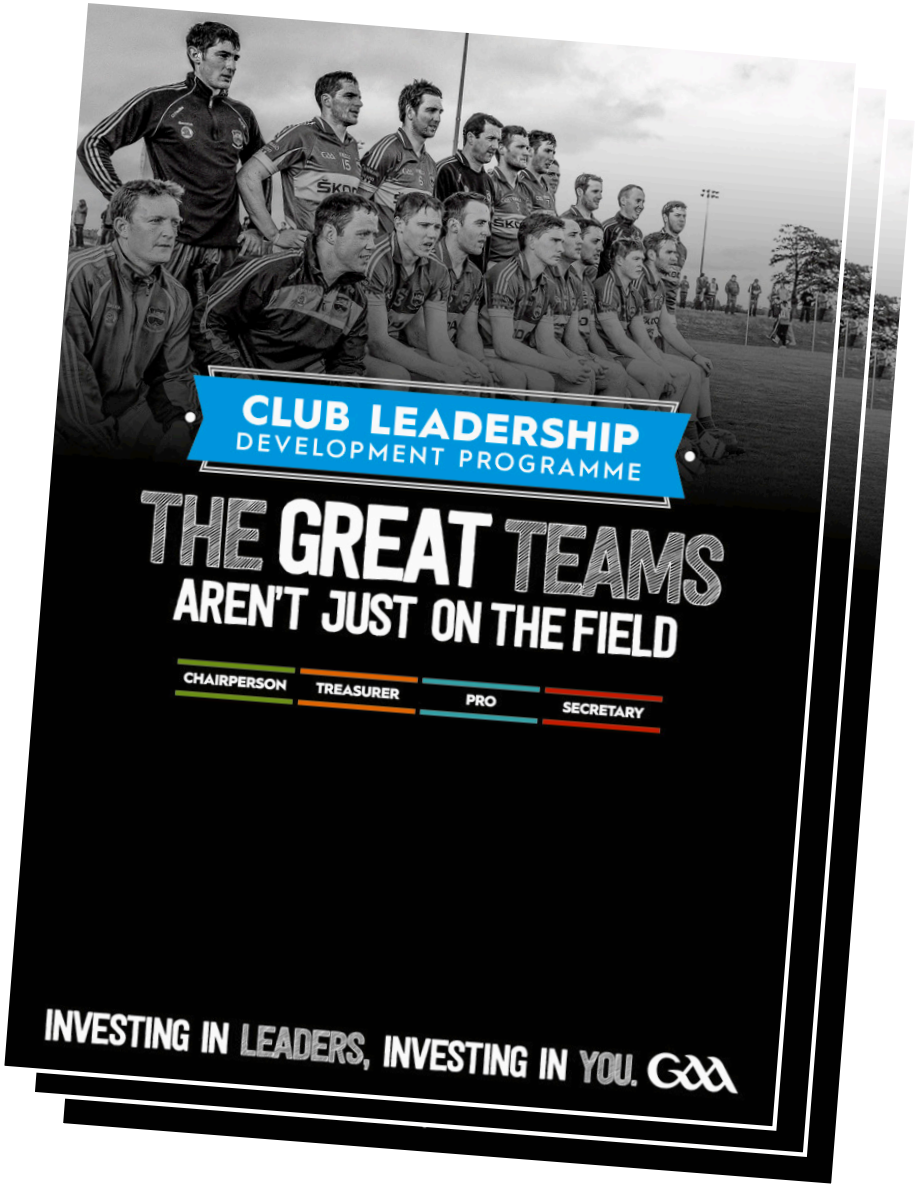
Q: Will further training modules be made available?

A: Yes. We are currently working on several modules; including: using Office 365, Games Development and Player Welfare, & Governance Guidelines.

Q: What is planned next?

A. All of the modules are being reviewed and improved by the NODC, additional training is being planned for Associates and a further training day is being organised for Development Officers in the autumn time where they will be updated on the next steps.

More information
Keep up-to-date with the latest news, features and resources by visiting learning.
gaa.ie/administrator



DEFIBRILLATOR GUIDELINES

The GAA advise that the most effective way to identify risk of cardiac issues is for players over the age of 14 to undergo cardiac screening on one occasion.

It is also advised that this process be repeated before the age of 25. Players should consult their team or family doctor if they wish to get screened and screening should consist of completion of the GAA's Cardiac Screening Questionnaire, a Physical Examination and an ECG.

For further information,
http://www.gaa.ie/content/documents/publications/player_welfare/GAA-Defibrillator-Guidelines.pdf



Defibrillators are a vital piece of equipment for every GAA club

GAA'S HEALTHY CLUB LAUNCHES NATIONWIDE

Sixty clubs across Ireland (at least one from each county) launched their involvement in the innovative GAA's Healthy Club project on the 8th of May during Lá na gClubanna celebrations.

This was the perfect opportunity for participating clubs to showcase all the positive health enhancing work being carried out at club level.

A range of health and wellbeing initiatives were explored across the nation including Gaelic 4 Mothers, Dads and Lads, Go Games, Recreational Rounders, 5km family runs/walks, indoor bowling, zumba in the sun, céilís, healthy eating, alcohol awareness campaigns, health checks, CPR training, positive mental health, mindfulness and much more.

The Craobh Chiarain club, Dublin, located in Donnycarney, brought the city to the countryside to launch their involvement in the project. A fleet of double decker buses set out early morning to County Wicklow to climb the Great Sugar Loaf Mountains.

Some neighbouring "Healthy Clubs", such as Cavan Gaels and Killygarry joined forces and held an innovative joint launch with an Uachtaráin, Aogán Ó Fearghail in attendance.

Recreational Rounders

Recreational (or non-competitive) Rounders was a huge success on the day and participants gained maximum enjoyment and benefit from their involvement.

Teams were made up of men, women and children of all ages and abilities, making it inclusive to everyone in the community. Good Counsel GAA Club, Dublin, had eleven teams with over 100 members from the club and wider community participate on the day. To promote inclusion across generations in the community, Melvin Gaels GAA club, Leitrim, encouraged family teams which included cousins, siblings, parents, children, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and even grandparents.

The aim of Recreational Rounders is to promote a fun, non-competitive and inclusive environment within the club to strengthen links further between the GAA and the community. The underlying philosophy of Recreational Rounders is that Gaelic Games should be fun, enjoyable and accessible.

The Healthy Club project involves a partnership with the HSE and Irish Life and is supported by Healthy Ireland, Sport Ireland, and the Public Health Agency in



Colin Regan is the head of the GAA's Community Health and Wellbeing section, based at Croke Park

Northern Ireland. The project aims to help GAA clubs explore how they support the holistic health of their members and the communities they serve.

Clubs are encouraged to identify what they are already doing well, identify areas where they can or would like to improve, and empower them to ensure that everyone who engages with their club benefits from the experience in a health-enhancing way, be they players, officers, coaches, parents, supporters, or members of their local community.

A list of participating clubs can be found at http://community.gaa.ie/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/List-of-Phase-2-clubs-by-province-4.3.16.pdf

CHARLIE HARRISON

By John Harrington



Even if Charlie Harrison were the type to get nervous about a match, he wouldn't have the time this week to stress too much about Sligo's Connacht Semi-Final against Roscommon.

That's because Kellogg's GAA Cúl Camps season is upon us, and as the GAA's National Cúl Camp Coordinator, Harrison is a man in demand. Online bookings for the Cúl Camps are up nearly 50 per cent on this time last year, and the sheer logistics of the operation are mind-boggling.

Over 100,000 children aged between 6 and 13 will take part in the camps at around 1,100 different venues over the course of an eight-week period and will be looked after by more than 4,000 coaches and around 700 Cúl Camp Co-ordinators.

The success of the Kellogg's Cúl Camps is a phenomenon that just keeps growing. In 2014, 89,022 children took part. Last year that figure was up to 102,384. And if the explosion of on-line bookings this year is any barometer, then this year's enrolment will comfortably beat all previous records.

"It's huge," Harrison told GAA.ie. "We're by far the biggest summer camp in the country and the least expensive too. They're €55 for the first child, €45 for the second child, and €40 for the third child. For what they get, it's great value. They get a jersey, a zipped-top and a backpack that can be used as a schoolbag.

"Parents do see the Cúl Camp crest and they know that it's going to be run properly. That's what we're constantly trying to get out there.

"It's not how many kids we have at camps, we'd obviously love if that was growing and growing, it's just to make sure that the quality and the standard of the camp is number one really."

A lot of effort goes into ensuring that it is. Not only has every coach who takes part completed as a minimum a foundation level coaching course, they have also undergone a special Cúl Camp course run by their county board. It's necessary they're well-drilled, because looking after a group of children from 10am in the morning until half-two is a more complex and demanding job that organising a regular coaching session.

"The most important thing for Cúl Camps from my point of view is that fun is there for the children," says Harrison. "But in the background you need that safety element and parents have to know that when their kids go to a Cúl Camp that they're in a safe environment.

"Last year the National Games Development Committee implemented a mentor programme to act as a support for the Cúl Camp coordinators. We hired 30 Cúl Camp mentors and they went out and visited Cúl Camps and did an operational risk assessment with the coordinators to help them.

It was a mentoring kind of system to make sure that everything was okay in the background and that during the Cúl Camp day everything is done to make sure it's safe for the children.

"That goals are firmly secured to the ground, that the toilets and dressing-rooms are okay for the kids, and that the environment around the pitches is closed off and is safe for the children. Last year when I came in first I had a three-year plan that we'd look at the risk-assessment first and then we'd look more at the coaching standards.

"I'd like to think we have our operational box ticked so working on the standard of coaching will be next.

The way the camps are being run is excellent. If there's one thing I want to get across is that it's the club who run the camps and it's the volunteers who take charge of the camps who are the real heartbeat of this.

"Some of the club coordinators would take the week off work to help run the camp. A lot of the success is down to the actual volunteers. The full-time guys are great – they act as a support to the volunteers, sort out the logistics, get the gear and equipment there and train up the coaches and all that and it wouldn't happen without them. But it's the clubs that make their personnel available, run the camps and promote the camps within their own area."

Increasing the numbers taking part in the Cúl Camps may not be at the very top of Harrison's priority list, but it is a goal nevertheless. Before becoming National Coordinator for the Cúl Camps he was a Games Development Administrator in his native Sligo for four and a half years, so he is keenly aware of what's required to maintain and increase the popularity



Over 100,000 children took part in the Kellog's GAA Cúl Camps in 2015.

and reach of Gaelic Games. He believes the Cúl Camps can provide a gateway into the GAA for children and families with no prior engagement at club or school level.

"We have to keep evolving," he says. "With other sports of a competitive nature coming in like rugby, soccer, and others we have to keep our sport number one.

"As regards ticking boxes in the future, I suppose we want to continuously develop the coaching standards and the standards that are there.

"And just keeping the fun element to the camps. If you've ever visited a Cúl Camp, it really is a fun place to be. I explain to the mentors if you look down on a Cúl Camp pitch and you see it split up into different sections and you see the kids playing and the organisation, you'll know if a camp is running well.

"I think that's the main thing. Just for kids to be enjoying it in a safe environment. It's our flagship project in Games development because it's the one project that hits all 32 counties. Not only that, this year alone we've had the first Cúl Camps in Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong, Perth, New York, Riyadh, all different parts of Europe. It's the Cúl Camp brand that everyone wants to be a part of. It's unique and we're really proud of it as an organisation.

"For kids or families that wouldn't be involved in club, it's a very reasonably priced camp. You'll have non-GAA families going and parents love the fact they get their school-bag so they don't have to buy their school-bag in September.

"So we would like for that kid to go home and say, 'I really, really enjoyed the week at the Cúl Camp.' And then come back with the parents and get involved in their local GAA club. That's the ultimate aim, to get that link between the club and camp. That's what we're trying to do."

Harrison has long-term goals for the continued expansion of the Kellogg's Cúl Camps, but as far as his own playing career goes he is thinking short-term.



Online bookings for the 2016 Cúl Camps are up 50 per cent this year.

This could well be the 34-year-old's final Championship campaign for Sligo and he wants to go out on a high.

It's a testament to his resilience that he has gotten himself into a position to play a part this year considering he ruptured the cruciate ligament in his right knee last year and also underwent surgery on his right shoulder. Many presumed that would spell the end of his career there and then considering he was already 33, but Harrison was determined to go out on his own terms.

"Yeah, people were saying that when I did it," he says. "That nearly gave me an extra motivation to give it one more big effort. I just wanted to get my knee right and if I wasn't going back playing I don't think I would have the rehab properly to the letter of the law. At least the knee is perfect, the shoulder is perfect.

"It's been fantastic coming back. I didn't mind the year out so much. People keep going on about this torture of coming back from an injury like that. I actually found it interesting because I set myself goals.

The thing is with a cruciate you can see the progression. And every month and especially towards the end you can see yourself getting stronger, stronger and stronger.

"I really enjoyed the challenge and I've put myself in contention to be playing against Roscommon which is great. Listen, it was tough, but I'm feeling healthy and fit now and the year out has just given me an extra bit of bite to get back. It really has, at the age of 34."

Harrison won a Connacht title with Sligo in 2007 and the reason he has pushed himself so hard to recover full fitness is because he believes they can challenge for honours again. They are underdogs going in against Roscommon on Sunday and ranked as 25-1 outsiders in the betting for the Connacht Championship, but Harrison is convinced they can surprise everyone this year.

"That's why I'm back," he says. "You get the taste of it and you want to try to win as much as you can. We wouldn't fear any team. Mayo are obviously a top-four team, but on a Final day anything can happen. We definitely wouldn't fear Galway or Roscommon or Leitrim. We'd always feel that on a good day for us we could take any of those teams.

"Against Mayo, you probably have to play extremely well to beat them. But, listen, we were the last team to beat Mayo in the Connacht Championship in 2010 so we feel that if we could get ourselves in that position...I know last year was really disappointing but it was just one of those freak things that happened.

"There just seemed to be a big gap that day, but we've hopefully done something to close that gap. We'll see. But we have to get by Roscommon first."

Charlie and Sligo lost out to Roscommon in a high scoring semi-final. He will put that disappointment behind him as he is immersed in hopefully another record breaking Cúl Camp summer.



Harrison has battled back from cruciate and shoulder surgery in 2015 to put himself in the frame for Sligo again this year.

RECIPES FOR SUCCESS – YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT…

The Community & Health Section in Croke Park along with the Home Economics Department at St. Angela's College, Sligo and leading sports performance nutritionist Dr. Críonna Tobin have developed Recipes for Success toolkit – which is filled with tasty, performance enhancing recipes that are easy to make and aims to support GAA players and members in making the right food choices.

This unique collaboration is about bringing together expertise from an array of sectors and is designed to respond to an identified need in GAA clubs for both educational and practical programmes supporting healthy eating for sport and the game called life.

To respond to this need Recipes for Success toolkit was recently developed and is now available for download at http://community.gaa.ie/diet-nutrition/recipes-for-success/

During phase 2 of the GAA's flagship programme, the Healthy Clubs project (which aims to respond to the health and wellbeing needs of our members and the wider community), Recipes for Success was brought to life by exclusively offering "hands on" cookery classes to the 60 participating clubs.

During the pilot stage of the practical element of Recipes for Success, selected minors or U21 squads from the Healthy Clubs experienced a nutritional workshop and prepared both a nutritional meal and healthy snack from start to finish. The prefect training for any young adult potentially progressing into third level education and their first time to fend for themselves in the kitchen.

To date the feedback has been extremely positive from both players and coaches… 'A very clever approach from the GAA and the lads were delighted to get a break from training' – U21 coach from St. Comcilles Club

'Recipes for Success Toolkit is very educational and simple' – Participant from Thomas Davis Club .

'The dish we choose was so practical and easy to cook. I can't wait to try it at home – Mam will be delighted' – Participant from Clonard Club

The session was sponsored by Healthy Ireland and delivered in the Home Economics Department of their local secondary schools. It's intended to grow the reach through this model in subsequent phases. To see Recipes for Success in action click video link here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mm3FpaEEan4

For more information on Recipes for Success you can contact the GAA's Health & Wellbeing Coordinator Stacey.cannon@gaa.ie .





VETTING FOR UNDERAGE COACHES NOW COMPULSORY

The Dept of Justice and Equality has announced that the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts will commence on April 29, 2016.

The introduction of this legal requirement means that any person who fulfils a role of responsibility or as the Act states works in a regulated position with children must be vetted, prior to taking up this role. The requirements of the Act also apply to those who work with vulnerable adults.

This measure will bring us in line with current practices in the Six Counties and with other European Countries.

When the Acts are commenced by the Minister for Justice the National Vetting Bureau, formerly known as the Garda Central Vetting Bureau, will come into being. The immediate issues that require our attention in the GAA are:

1. **The immediate vetting of any person currently working with children and who has not been vetted by the GAA to date. This process is called 'retrospective vetting'**
2. **Commencement of E Vetting by the GAA on 1 May 2016 thus replacing the 'paper' vetting applications used since 2009**
3. **Vetting of any 'new applicants' i.e. people who were not previously vetted and are new to the role of working with children**



GAA policy is that we will only vet people over 16 yrs. of age.

While certain leeway has been agreed so as to enable us retrospectively vet those who, for whatever reason, are currently working with children in the GAA and have not been vetted to date, no such leeway exists for new entrants i.e. people who seek to work for the first time with children in the GAA after that date.

Almost 75,000 people have been vetted by the GAA since we first commenced Garda Vetting in late 2009 and as we embark on these three immediate tasks we will gradually engage in the re-vetting of those who were previously vetted by the GAA prior to the commencement of the Act. The provisions of the Act provide for all persons that have been vetted prior to the commencement of the Act to carry over their vetting status under the new Act and it shall be at the discretion of their own Association e.g. the GAA to decide when and how often they require to be re-vetted.

Given that vetting of those who work with children in the six counties is already a legal requirement what this effectively means is that the GAA practice of vetting personnel who work with children as part of our voluntary good practice procedures will now became a mandatory requirement on the island of Ireland both North and South.

Apart from those covered by 'retrospective vetting' any other person who has not been vetted seek on our behalf to work with children and or vulnerable adults after the Act commences they will be in breach of the law. Should we employ or recruit a person to do this work who has not been vetted we will also be in breach of the law.

What does the Act state in relation to vetting personnel e.g. coaches of underage teams

In accordance with the Act it is an offence if we fail to vet a GAA nominated person who subsequently works with children on our behalf. Section 12 of the Act prohibits the engagement of persons to do relevant work or activities relating to children or other vulnerable persons, unless that person has been subject to the vetting procedures under the Act.

Any person currently vetted by the GAA is covered under the Act as their vetting acceptance in essence transfers over under the new Act. For the purpose of clarification the National Vetting Bureau Act in GAA terms applies to any person who carries out a role of responsibility with an underage player i.e. a person who is under 18 yrs. of age. This also applies to any coach, manager, selector of a senior squad if that squad includes a person under 18 yrs. of age. The Act also covers those who work with vulnerable adults.

E-Vetting replacing paper vetting applications
On the commencement of the Act the National Vetting Bureau will introduce E-Vetting or a system of applying on line for vetting. The E-Vetting system will be limited to four organisations in the first instance, one of whom is the GAA. The GAA is pleased to have been one of the four chosen organisations along with the Teachers Council, Volunteering Ireland and the DAA. The piloting of E-Vetting by the National Vetting Bureau indicates that we can get turnaround times for the processing of vetting forms down to a few days rather than many weeks as experienced in the past. All interaction with the vetting applicant will, following completion of an initial identity verification form, be done via email.

What this means is that the GAA must make itself ready and be in a position to deliver on E-Vetting following the commencement of the Act on 29 April 2016. This will be a challenge but as we have proven in relation to player registration in the past working on-line is not an insurmountable task for our Association.

As we move towards E-Vetting we will utilise the services of both our Club and County Children's Officers to enable this happen. For example identification verification of a person applying for vetting will be required at local level before the applicant can access the vetting form and submit it on to Croke Park for processing with the National Vetting Bureau.

Ending paper vetting in the GAA
As 'paper vetting applications ' come to an end the GAA will be required to wind down that process in preparation for the introduction of E Vetting as quickly as possible after 29 April 2016. Once the Association commences E Vetting we will not be permitted to revert to 'paper applications' by the National Vetting Bureau.

To enable us prepare for commencement of this new service the following dates in relation to vetting shall apply in the GAA:

- **End of paper vetting: From 7 April 2016 the GAA ceased accepting any paper vetting applications from members and units of the Association.**
- **April 15 2016: The Garda Central Vetting Bureau shall cease accepting vetting forms from GAA in advance of the commencement of E Vetting on 15 April 2016. Any forms that have been accepted by the Garda Central Vetting Bureau up to and including that date shall be processed.**
- **May 1 2016: The GAA shall commence E-Vetting and shall as a matter of priority concentrate on retrospective vetting and on the e-vetting of new applicants.**

Re-vetting of current GAA personnel who have been previously vetted
To date the GAA has vetted almost 75,000 people through the Garda Central Vetting Bureau.

We will not commence the E-Vetting of persons previously vetted until later this year as it is not an immediate requirement of the Act. When the new E-Vetting structures have been fully tested and when necessary training at County level has taken place we will then announce the re-vetting of personnel in the GAA which will take place on a County by County basis. Each County will receive sufficient notice and an agreed timescale in which to complete the e-vetting of those who work with children in the GAA.

To facilitate each Club in identifying who has been issued with a GAA vetting acceptance letter to date we shall issue, via the County Secretary, a list of all personnel vetted on a Club by Club basis (as registered by them in their vetting application form) in early May. This will assist Clubs in each County to identify who amongst their membership may still require to be vetted due to their roles with underage teams or personnel.

Briefing on E-Vetting for County Childrens Officers
As part of our series of Child Welfare Information Seminars, organised by the National Child Welfare and Protection Committee, the next Information Seminar on 23 April in Croke Park, 10.30 am to 1.30 pm, will receive a detailed presentation on the new E-Vetting system and how it will operate in the GAA. Each County Children's Officer has been invited to this Information Seminar and should they be unable to attend please ensure that a substitute delegate attends in their place. County Children's Officers from LGFA and Camogie have also been invited to attend.

Further information on the new vetting procedures may be obtained by contacting the GAA National Childrens Office in Croke Park or by emailing nationalchildrensoffice@gaa.ie

GAA SUMMER SCHOOL

The GAA Museum is hosting a summer school in Croke Park, which will take place from Thursday 30th June until Saturday 2nd July 2016.

The theme of this summer school is based on the recent publication The GAA and Revolution in Ireland, 1913-1923.

Throughout these three days distinguished historians will deliver lectures looking at the GAA's role in the revolutionary period and the affect this period had on the GAA.

In addition to engaging in the morning lectures, there will be afternoon activities in Dublin relevant to the theme of school. The full schedule and ticketing details can be found below. For more information see crokepark.ie/summerschool



'IRELAND'S OLYMPIANS' OPENS AT THE GAA MUSEUM



The GAA Museum is delighted to introduce its latest exhibition, 'Ireland's Olympians' which celebrates the nation's Olympic medalists, with a special emphasis on medal winners from 1924 when Ireland first competed as an independent nation.

The exhibition, which is supported by the Olympic Council of Ireland, features medals and memorabilia from many of Ireland's 28 Olympic medalists, including the first medal won by Ireland post-independence. This was won by Jack B. Yeats at the 1924 Paris Games and was awarded in the Arts & Literature Category for his painting "The Liffey Swim". The silver medal is on loan for the duration of exhibition from the National Gallery of Ireland.

Given Ireland's boxing success at the Olympics, it is no surprise that items from the various boxers dominate the exhibition, including the first boxing medal won by John McNally in Helsinki in 1952 to Michael Carruth's boxing gold medal won in 1992. The most recent boxing medals from London 2012 are included, most notably the gold medal won by Katie Taylor.

The exhibition also includes Ronnie Delany's tracksuit top from 1956, John Treacy's silver medal for the marathon in 1984 and the silver medal won by Cobh's Sonia O'Sullivan at Sydney 2000.

Speaking at the official launch of the exhibition on Monday 16th May 2016 Uachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Gael Aogán Ó Fearghail said: "We are delighted, in conjunction with the Olympic Council of Ireland, to unveil this very special exhibition in the GAA Museum."

"The links between the GAA and Athletics – evident in our name – go back a long way and the overlap in those who have competed in our games and a host of Olympic sports, is significant."

OCI President Pat Hickey said: "The GAA's outstanding "Ireland's Olympians" exhibition is a fitting tribute to our shared sporting tradition. It is great to see so many of Ireland's medal-winners helping to promote the Olympic Movement in Ireland by loaning their memorabilia."

Ireland's Olympians is now open at the GAA Museum, Croke Park and runs until Spring 2017.

The GAA Museum is open daily throughout the year, including match days when match patrons can enjoy free admission to the museum.



Uachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Gael Aogán Ó Fearghail, centre, with Olympic medallists, from left, Kenneth Egan, John Treacy, Michael Carruth and Ronnie Delaney at the launch of the 'Ireland's Olympians' exhibition in the GAA Museum.

HURL SMART WEEK

Over 80 Camogie clubs took part recently in the 5th Annual 'Hurl Smart Week' in partnership with ChildFund and the Dream Bike Initiative.

Running from June 6th-12th, Hurl Smart Week aimed to increase activity levels of all ages, male and female by providing a programme of events in local camogie clubs. 82 clubs nationwide signed up to take part in the week.

Clubs ran a number of events with the aim of getting everyone active through Camogie/Hurling activities such as relay races, obstacle courses, wall ball challenges, target practice challenges, nutritional talks etc.

Catherine Neary, President of the Camogie Association said: "This is the 5th year of this initiative with an increase in clubs taking part year on year.

The Camogie Association is keen to support communities and families in being physically active through this initiative and are delighted to support the Dream Bike Campaign as part of the week."

Speaking about the initiative ChildFund CEO Michael Kiely said: "We are delighted and honored to be a part of the Camogie Association's 'Hurl Smart Week', a fantastic event showcasing the passion for Camogie in local communities across Ireland.

It is also a wonderful opportunity to support our Dream Bike initiative for vulnerable girls in Ethiopia, India, Mozambique, Sri Lanka & Uganda."



The 82 participating clubs are detailed below.

Leinster (32):

Carlow:	Mount Leinster Rangers, Burren Rangers, Setanta
Dublin:	Kilmacud Crokes, St.Kevin's
Kildare:	Maynooth, Celbridge, Rathcoffey, Moorefield, Naas, Clane, Nurney
Kilkenny:	St.Lachtain's, Mooncoin, St.Brigid's, Laois: Harps, Banrion Gaels, Clonad
Louth:	St.Anne's
Meath:	Kildalkey, Dunderry
Offaly	St.Cillian's, Lusmagh
Westmeath:	Clonkill, Castletown Geoghegan
Wexford:	Ballynestragh Gaels, St.Martin's, St.Anne's, Marshalstown, Buffers Alley, St. Mary's Rosslare, Blackwater

Munster (25):

Clare:	Smith o Brien's, Sixmilebridge, Whitegate, Crusheen
Cork:	St.Colum's, St. Catherines, St.Vincent's, Ballygarvan, Youghal, Enniskeane, Brian Dillions, Rockban Kerry: Causeway, Tralee Parnells
Limerick:	Murroe Boher, Bruff, Monaleen, Killeedy
Tipperary:	Portroe, Ballybacon Grange, Burgess Duharra, St.Mary's Clonmel, Holycross
Ballycahill,	St.Ritas Fethard Waterford: St.Anne's

Ulster (17):

Antrim:	Geraldines Portglenone, Tír na nÓg , St.Paul's
Armagh:	O'Connells Tullysaran, Killeavy, Meabh O Neills, St.Brenda's
Cavan:	Drumgoon
Derry:	Glenuillin, O Donovan Rossa
Donegal:	Burt
Down:	St.Joseph's Ballycran, Atticall, Clonduff, Ballygalget
Tyrone:	St.Brigids Brocagh, Caíliní an Chnoic Doiretreasc

Connacht (8):

Galway:	Ballinderreen, Mountbellew/Moylough, Athenry, Liam Mellows, Ardrahan, Portumna
Mayo:	Westport
Roscommon:	Tulsk

CHILDFUND DREAM BIKE CAMPAIGN

The Dream Bike Campaign is a partnership between The Camogie Association and ChildFund to empower girls in developing countries.

It takes just €100 to buy a bike and change a life. The gift of a bike can empower girls in developing countries to get to school safely and play a huge role in stabilising their future so they can achieve their dreams. If you would like to help make this dream a reality please visit: **www.childfund.ie/dream-bike**

Phone 01 6762128



PITCH PERFECT

The GAA's National Pitch Maintenance Work Group is about ensuring Pitches are maintained to the Highest Possible Standards

Provincial Education Days are coming up for all Clubs

1. Garvaghey Centre, Co. Tyrone on Saturday 2nd July, 2016.

2. O Connor Park, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on Saturday 9th July, 2016.

3. Connacht GAA Centre of Excellence, Knock, Co Mayo on Saturday 16th July, 2016

4. Dr Morris Park, Thurles, Co Tipperary on Saturday, 30th July, 2016.

These are highly informative days on Pitch Maintenance. Prior Registration vital: - catriona@gcsai.org or damian@gcsai.org (Mobile 0879316687)

Sign in 9 am to 10 am with refreshments.

Lectures with on site demonstrations commence at 10 am sharp on the following:

- **Aeration & Plant Nutrition.**
- **Weed Identification and Control.**
- **Mowing - Machinery Maintenance & Selection.**
- **Pitch Line Marking Techniques.**

Break for lunchtime and complete at 4 pm
Fee: - €80 per person.

- **This includes membership of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Ireland.**
- **Receipt GCSAI Magazine for 12 months.**
- **Access to GCSAI Website with Pitch Maintenance Guidelines & Information**
- **Avail of GCSAI Continuous Professional Development Programme (This CPD Programme will ensure a more efficient, confident and professional Groundsman).**

The GAA in association with the GCSAI Delivering better Standards for our Players, Supporters and our Games.

PRESTIGIOUS AWARD FOR CROKE PARK BOSS

The GAA is delighted to congratulate Peter McKenna after he was honoured with a prestigious international excellence award by his colleagues in the Sports Stadium Business from around the world.

Longford native Peter, who is GAA Commercial Director as well as Croke Park Stadium Director, has been given an Outstanding Achievement award by the 2016 Stadium Business Awards in what they say is a prize for "Recognising an individual that has shown exceptional commitment, service and leadership to the stadium industry over a sustained period of time."

Indeed Peter and Croke Park are no strangers to beating off stiff competition from other world class arenas to scoop prizes.

The Croke Park Stadium staff are also listed with the Environmental & Sustainability Management Group winning an Unsung Hero Award for what the judges called: "A team that delivers consistently outstanding service to a particular stadium, arena or major sports venue.

"This is the second time that Croke Park's "Avengers" have been recognised by TheStadiumBusiness Awards but the track record of this core team of 15 staff and stadium contractors to drive the stadium's sustainability programme is simply world-class."



Croke Park is known to be a trailblazer when it comes to aspiring and achieving the highest levels of sustainability excellence in Ireland so a positive legacy can be left for future generations.

In 2012, Croke Park became the first stadium in Ireland and Britian to secure both ISO14001 and ISO 20121 standards.

We're delighted to announce in recent weeks Croke Park has successfully been re-certified to the international standards for Sustainability Event Management and Health and Safety Management and become the very first stadium in the world to obtain certification to the newest international Environmental Standard ISO 14001:2015. An amazing achievement.

Croke Park was awarded the Excellence in Waste Management Award at the annual Green Awards, another great achievement! Croke Park generated over 500 tonnes of waste in 2015 but the stadium's commitment to sustainability and the involvement of all staff and visitors ensured that the stadium achieved its waste management goals of zero percent of waste going to landfill with a 76% recycling rate.

MÍLE BUÍOCHAS

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Feedback welcome to clubnewsletter@gaa.ie