



THE GAA and THE BAN

ONLINE WEBINARS hosted by Queen's University GAA.

50 years since the abolition of the most controversial rule in Irish sport.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

The most controversial rule in Irish sporting history was removed by the GAA 50 years ago at a momentous Congress in Belfast. The abolition of the infamous Ban on participating in and attending rival games was a significant decision for the GAA and sport in Ireland, and now Queen's University Belfast (the host venue for the 1971 Congress) will host two online webinars to reflect on Rule 27, its impact and legacy.

You can register for one or both events by logging onto this link <https://forms.office.com/r/BzE0wKS1gN>

The 1971 GAA Congress took place at the university's Whitla Hall on 10th and 11th April that year. It was the first time that GAA Congress had been held in Ulster, and the abolition of the Ban was a decision that was set against the backdrop of a changing Ireland and a troubled north.

The online webinars, which will be hosted by Queen's GAA Past Members Union, will explore the history of the Ban, some personal recollections, the move towards its removal, and how the GAA changed.

Monday, 12 April 2021 at 7.30pm

- **The Steadfast Rule: The GAA's ban on rival games 1920s-1960s**
- Talk will be delivered by **Cormac Moore**, historian and author of *'The GAA v Douglas Hyde: The Removal of Ireland's First President as GAA Patron'* and *'The Birth of the Border'*.
- Opening remarks from the special guest **Larry McCarthy**, the new President of the GAA.

Thursday, 15 April 2021 at 7.30pm

- **How the Ban was broken: The road to abolition at Queen's in 1971**
- The talk will be delivered by the historian and author **Dónal McAnallen**, whose works include *'The Pursuit of Perfection: The Life, Death and Legacy of Cormac McAnallen'* and *'The Cups That Cheered: A History of the Sigerson, Fitzgibbon and Higher Education Gaelic Games'*.
- We will also have a discussion with former international player and manager **Martin O'Neill**. An honorary graduate of Queen's University Belfast, he won two European Cups with Nottingham Forest and captained Northern Ireland at the 1982 World Cup, before turning to management with Leicester, Celtic, Aston Villa and the Republic of Ireland. The discussion will focus on his experience of The Ban and the controversy surrounding the MacRory Cup schools semi-final in 1971.

Contact:

Gavan Duffy (QUB GAA Development Officer) - gavan.duffy@qub.ac.uk

John Devaney - jackdevaney@yahoo.co.uk

Visit our website at www.queengaa.com