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PUTTING THE CLUB FIRST – GAA CONGRESS 2020

DID YOU KNOW THAT 84 CENT OUT OF EVERY EURO WHICH WAS RECEIVED BY THE GAA AT NATIONAL LEVEL IN 2019 WAS REINVESTED BACK OUT TO THE PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF GAELIC GAMES AT SCHOOL, CLUB AND COUNTY LEVEL?

That figure is a crucial part of the commitment that the GAA makes to sustaining our games.

And GAA Clubs will be at the heart of the business which occupies the annual GAA Congress which takes place at Croke Park on the weekend of February 28-29. Aside from electing who the next GAA President will be from 2021-2024, the gathering of representatives will deliberate and discuss motions on a wide variety of topics seeking to improve how the GAA runs its affairs at local and national level.

There are 63 motions up for debate on Saturday. As well as featuring proposed rule changes coming from national committees, provincial councils and county boards, there are 20 which come directly from GAA clubs.

This club group is as far flung as Montreal GAA Club in Canada to clubs across the four provinces such as St Rynagh's in Offaly, the Burren in Down, Tourmakeady in Mayo and Burgess in Tipperary.

It's GAA democracy at work where clubs are able to submit motions on topics of interest to national level.

The motions are diverse too, and items



for discussion range from playing rules such as a possible black card infraction in hurling to age grades, transfers, having a specific sub for a head injury similar to a blood sub, to possibly designating only certain people on a team be allowed to speak to a referee to the possible abolishment of the inter-county junior football championship, and giving a county board the right to appoint two independent GAA members to their executive.

Establishing an oversight unit to help ensure club fixtures plans are followed by counties is another area up for debate and discussion.

It is part of the wider list of 32 recommendations from the Fixtures Calendar Review Task Force. This group looks to ensure that club and county games can properly co-exist. The bulk of these motions will require a Special Congress which takes place next September.

In advance of that there will be an opportunity for every club to come together via several regional forums to discuss and have their voice heard and if needs be amend the final list of motions.

The importance of having good governance in place and have it followed will be prominent throughout the weekend.

After a strong financial year in 2019, the GAA was in a position to invest heavily in the promotion of games development.

Clubs were also able to benefit through an increase in the funding available for club pitches and facilities upgrades which now stands at €3m.

There are now 365 GAA coaches working in the area of games promotion at club and school level with €13.5m spent on coaching and games initiatives in 2019.

There were 6,000 mostly club players who availed of a player injury fund that paid out almost €8m last year.

These are just some of the examples of where the club was pushed front and centre.

Other important initiatives such as the Talent Academy Report are looking to reposition the club as the most important anchor in the development of young players rather than allowing elitism take hold through county development squads at underage level.

On Friday night the GAA will also vote on who the next GAA President will be when Dublin and Na Fianna's John Horan steps down in 12 months' time.

The five man field of candidates to be Uachtarán-Tofa draws from a wealth of

GAA experience and are Armagh's Jarlath Burns, Carlow's Jim Bolger, Cork's Jerry O'Sullivan, New York's Larry McCarthy and Roscommon's Mick Rock.

You can follow all of the news from GAA Congress via gaa.ie where there will be a live blog of events and all of the motions will be covered, as well as getting updates from our social media platforms.



By John Harrington

NAVAN O'MAHONYS ARE REAPING REWARDS OF MOBILE PHONE BAN

NAVAN O'MAHONYS' DECISION LAST YEAR TO BAN PARENTS FROM USING THEIR MOBILE PHONES ON THE SIDELINES WHILE THEIR CHILDREN PLAY HAS ALREADY HAD A HUGE POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE CLUB.

So much so, that the rule which was initially just brought in for their nursery coaching sessions now applies for all teams up to U-10 level and includes matches as well as coaching sessions where possible.

"It all came about last year from parents who had kids in the nursery and were helping out with the training," Navan O'Mahonys' PRO, Jackie Murray, told GAA.ie

"They just happened to look up one morning when kids were kicking the ball for the first time.

"One child in particular looked up to see if mammy was watching but mammy had her head stuck in her phone.

"The parents brought the idea to the executive with the suggestion that we put up a sign asking people to not look at their phone for the hour that they're there with their child.

"We put it up the following week and it took off unbelievably well.

"It's had a hugely positive impact. Since we started it, the number of mentors involved in the nursery has nearly doubled because now parents are getting involved and taking part rather than just standing on



the sideline and looking at it.

"We've had no issue with it. We've never had to ask anyone to put away the phone because the phones just don't come out with them anymore.

"The whole thing has really blossomed.

On Saturday morning from nursery up to U-10 level we had 350 kids on the playing pitches in Navan O'Mahonys."

Quite often many parents are reluctant to help out with coaching at underage level because of a fear factor.

They might not have played the games themselves to a high level or even at all, so they therefore think they couldn't possibly be able to coach them.

Nothing, of course, could be further from the truth, which anyone who has taken the leap has quickly discovered after even one

session coaching children.

Navan O'Mahonys' decision to ban phones has persuaded many parents to try their hand at coaching, to the mutual benefit of both them and their children.

"Our nursery is mostly fun games but for someone who has never done it and probably never played Gaelic it's a bit daunting because they don't know what's expected of them or what they have to do," says Murray.

"But now when they look up and see what the kids are doing and realise they only

have to run alongside the kids and give encouragement, you're not expected to show them how to score the winning goal in an All-Ireland, you're just showing them how to get into it at the beginning and enjoy themselves with the kids and have fun.

"That's why so many more parents then got involved, when they saw that.

"It has had a hugely positive impact on the kids. The confidence in the kids of that age has come up immensely. They're not hanging on to mammy's or daddy's legs.

"They're running out onto the middle of the pitch because they know mammy and daddy are coming out with them.

"It augurs well for the rest of their life in football, camogie or hurling or whatever it is, that they have parents who support them and are there to watch them and not look at their phone."

Navan O'Mahonys have found that getting more parents involved coaching underage teams has had a hugely positive ripple effect throughout the club.

"Parents are now even getting more involved in other areas of the club," says Murray. "They're now coming up and helping out with fund-raising and other things.

"One of the underage groups are trying to fundraise for Féile and on Sunday morning we had Meath and Donegal here in Pairc Tailteann so they opened up a tuck-shop at the side of the club-house and were selling teas and coffees and a few buns and sweets.

"It was the underage team who were doing it, but nearly all of the parents were in with them helping.

"All along we've been trying to launch the One Club initiative in the club, to bring the ladies football, camogie, and underage all in under the one group.

"It has actually helped with that because it has brought that family feeling back to the club. That's what we're really trying to continue pushing this year.

"We're doing an Oscars night in the club in March to help fundraise for our Games Promotion Officer and games development for underage in the club.

"The people who have come forward to take part in it are parents who have never done anything in the club before. I've just been bowled over by the amount of initiatives for fund-raising they have brought forward for this. I just can't believe it, it's fantastic to see."

Having witnessed first-hand the positive impact that banning phones from sidelines has had in her own club, Murray is strongly advocating other clubs bring in the same policy.

"At the time when news of this broke first last year I got phonecalls from clubs from Donegal, Kerry, Offaly, all over really, asking could they copy the sign and could they use it," she says.

"As I said to them, we haven't trademarked it, it's just something we came up with, if you want to use it go ahead and use it if you think it could be anyway helpful to your club.

"We would say that to anyone. I personally would recommend and so would our club executive recommend that every club should do it.

"We've also been doing the 'silent sidelines' for a long time which is something I'd also recommend strongly to other clubs.

"Since we brought in the 'silent sidelines' initiative, it has had an amazing impact.

"It gives the kids more confidence because there's nobody shouting at them. The only voice they have to listen to is when their manager speaks to them."

NAVAN O'MAHONYS' DECISION TO BAN PHONES FROM THE SIDELINES AT JUVENILE LEVEL HAS ENCOURAGED MORE PARENTS TO GET INVOLVED COACHING TEAMS.



By John Harrington

CARRICKEDMOND'S CALVES TO CASH FUNDRAISER ABOUT TO BEAR FRUIT

FUND-RAISING IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE FACED BY EVERY GAA CLUB IN THE COUNTRY, ESPECIALLY RURAL CLUBS, AND IT PAYS TO BE INNOVATIVE.

Carrickedmond in Longford are a good example of a club who will soon reap the benefits of some original thinking.

Back in 2018 they hit upon the idea of purchasing 15 calves with the plan of selling them for beef two years down the line, and now it's nearly time to make good on their investment.

"We had a meeting last week and we'll have another one in the next week with the owners of the calves because they're now ready to go," Carrickedmond GAA club treasurer, Mairéad McDonnell told GAA.ie

"We just have to nail down the date that will be done and when the club will get the money, more importantly!

"A local dairy farmer sourced the calves then each of the 15 club-members who got involved in the scheme paid him for their calf.

"The people who bought the calves were all people heavily involved in the club like players, former players, and even the parish priest took one. The man who sourced the calves is rearing the one for the parish priest.

"The plan was that when the deal was done that if they wanted their initial outlay of €200 or whatever it was for the calf then we would give them back their money for the calf. Most of them have said, no, they

were happy to buy a calf for the club, rear him, sell him, and have all the proceeds go to the club.

"I'm not sure how much it will make for the club because I'm not a farmer, we'll just have to wait and see.

"It's something different. It wasn't instant money, but the way we looked at it, it was something that was cooking in the background and we didn't have to worry about it."

McDonnell is the sort of hard-working club officer who always has something cooking in the background.

This is her second stint as Carrickedmond club treasurer having also served as club secretary for ten years, and in that time she and her fellow club-officers have always been hugely active on the fund-raising front.

The money they will raise from the calves to cash scheme has already been earmarked for some essential work at the club's grounds.

"We did huge work draining the pitch a few years ago and we got a loan to do that work," says McDonnell.

"We've done a lot of fund-raising to pay that off, including a lip-sync fundraiser last year which we put huge work into and which raised €30,000.

"The amount we have still to pay off is down to something very manageable now, and we'd also hope the money we get from

the calves could go to refurbishing the club's squash court. It needs a new floor and the wall needs plastering again.

"I'd say we're the only squash court in Longford. We had two of them originally but we turned one of them into a gym for the team.

"There's always work to be done and money to be raised before you even put out a team, and we're very rural so there

wouldn't be many local businesses we could rely on apart from our excellent sponsors the Rustic Inn.

"There's nothing in Carrickedmond only the pitch and the church. If you didn't have football you'd have nothing.

"We're doing well off the pitch at the moment, but, more importantly, hopefully down the line we'll be successful on it too."

COLIN ANDERSON AND JOHN KELLY OF J GRENNAN AND SONS ANIMAL FEEDS, BIRR, SPONSORS OF CALF MILK REPLACER FOR CARRICKEDMOND GAA CLUB'S UNIQUE FUNDRAISER, PICTURED WITH CLUB OFFICIALS AND SUPPORTERS.



By Damian Lawlor

HISTORY ON THE TREBLE AS KILKENNY TURNED CROKE PARK BLACK AND AMBER AGAIN

HISTORY IS NO FOREIGNER TO KILKENNY HURLING, BUT ONCE AGAIN THE COUNTY PUT ITS NAME IN LIGHTS WHEN IT STORMED INTO THE RECORD BOOKS IN JANUARY AS THREE LOCAL CLUBS CLAIMED ALL-IRELAND TITLES.

For an entire weekend, Croke Park was turned into a black and amber fortress as the natives of the Marble county left home, travelled to Dublin, and saw three of their teams win three AIB GAA All-Ireland Club Championship titles – in doing so they became the first county to manage that.

Ballyhale Shamrocks added to their glorious success in the All-Ireland senior club hurling championship when they beat Johnny Kelly's hardworking Borris-Ileigh from Tipperary. That was Shamrocks eight success in the nine finals – an incredible innings.

Just 24 hours earlier, however, Tullaroan and Conahy Shamrocks had beaten the pride of Cork in highly dramatic All-Ireland intermediate and junior club deciders respectively. Tullaroan, once kings of the Kilkenny senior hurling championship with 20 titles, came out top in a shoot-out that produced 39 scores.

Meanwhile, Conahy Shamrocks carved out their own delicious slice of history by becoming the first hurling team to land an All-Ireland title – despite losing their county championship final en-route.

Having previously won the All-Ireland title in 2008, Conahy were beaten in the final by the O'Loughlin Gaels second team in this year's Kilkenny decider. As it was O'Loughlin's second team, they were not allowed to progress and play in the Leinster championship. "I think it happened that Castleisland Desmonds along the way a few years ago where they won nationally but they didn't actually win in Kerry," says Conahy Shamrocks clubman and former GAA President Nickey Brennan. "But as far as I am aware, we became the first club to achieve that in hurling – winning nationally despite not winning at home – and it's another unusual twist," he says. "After losing the Kilkenny junior final, emotions were down in the club and the thoughts of going on in a club campaign were probably not too appealing," Brennan recalls. "Still, after a week, a new campaign started, and they all went from there. As the competition grew so did the team and they were in control of most of the games they played. On All-Ireland final day they really turned up, put in a great shift and managed to win."

With 12 teams at senior, 12 teams at intermediate level and 13 teams gunning for the junior championship, Kilkenny club hurling is tightly streamlined. That's a huge help. There are few or no dead rubber games. It's ran off on time. And everyone knows where they stand in terms of fixtures.

"Yes, it flows well and there was quiet satisfaction here at what the clubs achieved nationally," Brennan adds.



BALLYHALE SHAMROCKS' MICHAEL FENNELLY LIFTS THE SENIOR TITLE IN THE AIB ALL-IRELAND CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL V BORRIS-ILEIGH



CONAHY SHAMROCKS PLAYERS, FROM LEFT, SIMON CALLINAN, PADRAIC DELANEY, AND BILL MURPHY CELEBRATE WITH THE CUP AFTER THE AIB GAA HURLING ALL-IRELAND JUNIOR CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL BETWEEN RUSSELL ROVERS AND CONAHY SHAMROCKS AT CROKE PARK IN DUBLIN.

“It’s taken very seriously. Crowds are good. Guys come home for the UK to train and play matches, it starts with a league and works into a championship so there is always lots to play for. And junior club players can force their way into a Kilkenny jersey. Walter Walsh hurls for a junior club but he will be one of the players Brian Cody turns to again this year.

“The structure of it makes it so appealing,” Brennan continues. “At junior level there is also a ‘B’ competition where teams will play off separately and then come into the championship proper at semi-final stage.

“I can tell you that the junior campaign of 2020 will be as competitive as any other as we will have the likes of Mooncoin in with us and we will also have the city team’s second squads to play against. Nothing is

easy. And that makes everyone better.”

But they don’t rest on their laurels and admire their achievements either – that’s another hallmark of their success.

“No, what all the clubs managed to achieve was a main topic of conversation for a few days but within a week the show had moved on,” Brennan states.

“The night after Ballyhale’s win saw the 2020 draw for the Kilkenny championships made.

“Immediately, the focus then was, ‘who are ye up against this year?’

“There was not much time to look back because everyone – players and managers alike – were back planning for the year ahead.



TULLAROAN MENTOR MICKEY WALSH, CENTRE, WITH HIS SONS, FROM LEFT, TOMMY, PÁDRAIG, MARTIN, AND SHANE AS THEY CELEBRATE WITH THE CUP AFTER THE AIB GAA HURLING ALL-IRELAND INTERMEDIATE CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL BETWEEN FR. O’NEILL’S AND TULLAROAN AT CROKE PARK IN DUBLIN.

“The gas thing is that players from Conahy Shamrocks and Tullaroan already have at least three rounds of the Kilkenny senior football league played. That is fair going too.”

Kilkenny defender Cillian Buckley also feels the triple All-Ireland Club successes will bring a “buzz” to the county team. “Once Ballyhale found a rhythm, they just kicked into gear and once they got ahead then, they really seemed to be in control,” said Buckley.

“They have leaders right up the spine of the field and caught the game by the scruff of the neck and drove it home.

“There was fierce excitement that weekend and a fierce buzz around Kilkenny with everyone behind the three teams.”

There were other grand landmarks along the way – brothers, Michael and Colin Fennelly, plus TJ and Eoin Reid, plus Mark Aylward, all claimed a fifth winners medal.

Tullaroan, meanwhile, had the Walsh brothers, Tommy, Padraig and Shane, to the front of their charge.

And those 2020 club draws that former President, Brennan, spoke of threw up an interesting pairing when the county senior league immediately threw the two All-Ireland champions – Shamrocks and Tullaroan – together.

Another extraordinary knock-on effect in an extraordinary hurling county where the game has always been treated like gold.

By Martin Fogarty

CAISEAL GAELS BUILD A NEW FORTRESS FOR MAYO HURLING

THE CAISEAL GAELS HURLING CLUB BASED IN CARRACASTLE COMMENCED A NEW CHAPTER IN THEIR DEVELOPMENT RECENTLY, WITH THE FORMATION OF AN ADULT HURLING ENTITY IN THE CLUB TO CATER FOR THE HURLING ENTHUSIASTS OF THE AREA.

The club commenced underage coaching in 2006 and have dedicated the past 13 years to juvenile coaching and games within the club.

Now they are in the process of expanding to cater for all the players who have come through this underage system. The club held its first formal Junior Hurling training session recently which drew 17 adult players to the newly opened Carracastle Astropark and Hurling Wall.

The facility is proving very popular for the youth of the area and will be a central point for the development of hurlers in the locality.



Anyone in the Carracastle, Ballaghaderreen, Charlestown, Kilmovee or surrounding areas who wish to play Junior Hurling in 2020 is asked to email

secretary.caisealgaelshurling.mayo@gaa.ie

for further information on plans for the year ahead.

MEMBERSHIP, COMMUNICATIONS AND DATA PROTECTION

AS YOU MAY BE AWARE, THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE FOCUS ON THE GAA'S SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY AND SOME OF ITS IMPLICATIONS, FROM A DATA PROTECTION PERSPECTIVE, OVER THE LAST FEW DAYS. SOME OF WHAT HAS BEEN SAID IS TRUE, SOME IS INACCURATE AND SOME IS COMPLETELY MISLEADING. IT IS WORTH REITERATING SOME OF THE KEY POINTS TO TRY TO BRING SOME CLARITY.

WHAT'S ALL THE FUSS ABOUT?

There has been a lot of traction in the National Media and the general public regarding the GAA's Social Media policy, which was published in 2018 and circulated to all clubs previously, and in particular the GAA's policy regarding Social Media Direct Messaging tools, including Whatsapp (but not just Whatsapp – all messaging applications of this type). The GAA's policy is that these tools should not be used for official club communications.

WHY ARE THE GAA SAYING NOT TO USE MESSAGING APPS?

In certain instances, some of those tools may not support a club in adhering to Data Protection legislation. Specifically, if contact details are shared or if information is distributed in cloud storage outside of the EU (EEA) or if appropriate controls to protect personal data are not in place, breaches of GDPR may occur. It is for this reason that the GAA Social Media policy does not advocate their use by clubs.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

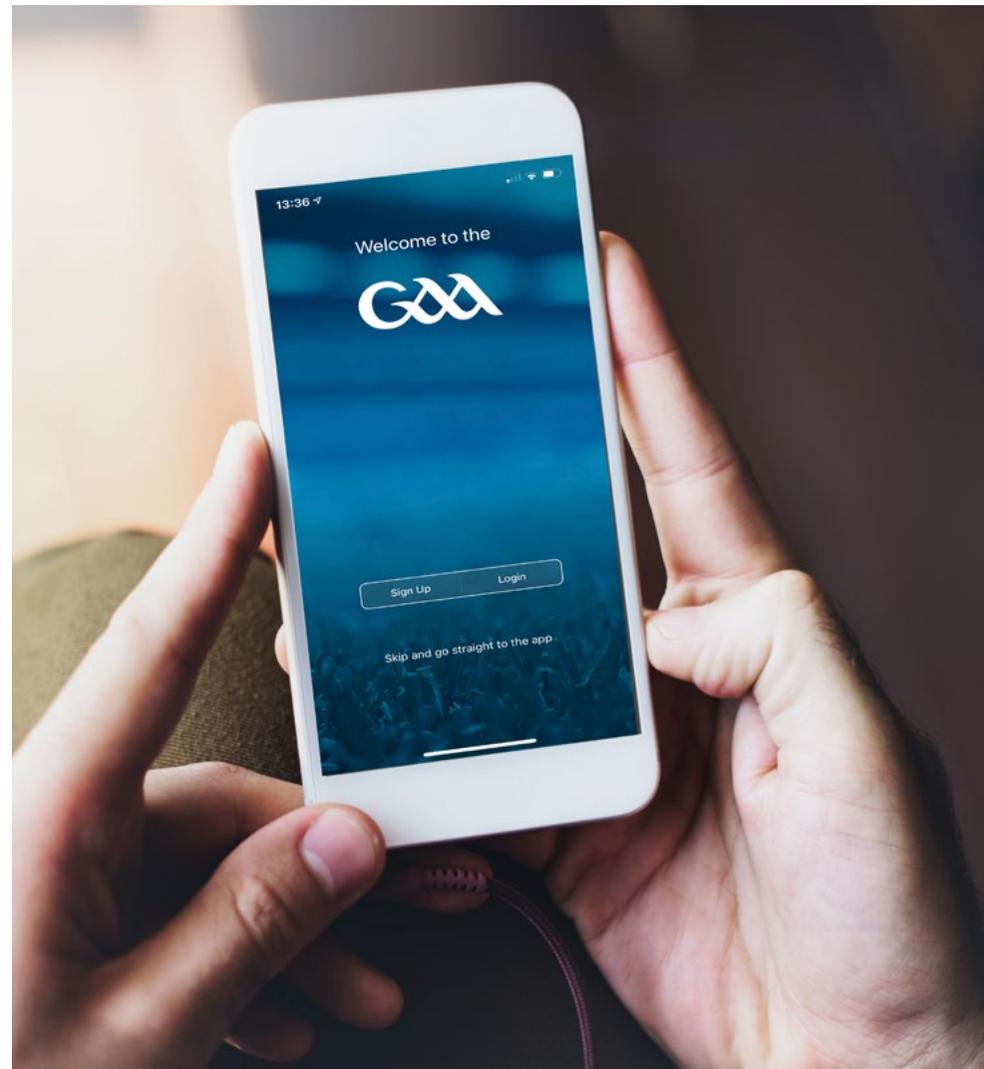
Most people have heard of the GDPR, the updated Data Protection legislation

that came into effect in 2018. This is good legislation for everyone as it protects our right to privacy and gives people the ability to control how their personal information is used. It gives this control by placing much greater onus on organisations or companies that hold our data (Data Controllers). In a legal context, GAA clubs are Data Controllers, as they hold personal data relating to club members, and as a result are obliged by law to manage that data appropriately.

There are lots of aspects to managing data 'appropriately' but some of the main requirements are to keep data safe, secure and to use it only for specified purposes. In addition, data controllers have to guarantee certain 'privacy rights' to individuals including providing a copy of all information held or deleting information if so requested. The full explanation of Data Controllers responsibilities and the rights of individuals is available on the gaa website (www.gaa.ie/dataprotection).

The GAA, and GAA clubs, use Personal Data primarily for the purpose of membership registration and participation in games, but also for the purpose of communications regarding GAA activities. These purposes must be notified to all members and the Official GAA Membership form contains the correct wording to do so.

Direct Messaging Apps have functionality that allows Personal Data (phone numbers, photos etc) to be shared and, in a GAA context, consent to do this is not included in the templates provided.



If an individual requests a copy of their personal data, which they are entitled to receive, it is possible for GAA clubs to provide this from GAA systems. It is not always possible to retrieve data from third party systems and can be especially challenging if the individual requests that their data be deleted. Failure to provide a copy of data or to delete it is deemed to infringe a person's Privacy Rights and a breach of the GDPR.

DOES THIS APPLY TO ME PERSONALLY?

Personal use of Social Media or any App is not relevant to the GAA. Individuals can use whatever Apps they wish in a personal capacity.

CAN I NOT JUST GET CONSENT FROM MEMBERS?

Theoretically, yes you can get consent from individuals to use their data for any purpose whatsoever. It would be feasible to consent to use an App that shares contact details with all other members, for example. However, the wording required in doing so needs to be very specific and needs to cover exactly how data will be used. There is such a range of options that covering all potential processes is not feasible. The GAA has provided specific wording and guidance on how to obtain consent for the processes that we stand over.

BUT IF I DO GET CONSENT, THAT'S IT SORTED?

Unfortunately not. Individuals can choose to withdraw consent at any time and,

depending on how they choose to exercise their rights, may request a copy of all of their data or request that it is deleted. Depending on the App or Messaging tool used, this may not be possible. There is also a concern regarding messages of an inappropriate nature that may be posted, either deliberately or inadvertently, and the ramifications of this happening.

OK, THERE ARE OTHER OPTIONS, CAN I USE THOSE?

There seem to be lots of other options that claim to be GDPR compliant, and many may well be, but the important thing is to ensure that the process that your club is using for membership and communications is compliant. This must be compliant from the moment that the member gives their data to you (the club) through to completion of registration on the GAA Games Management System. This may constitute a paper form, with the relevant consent and Privacy Notice information, which is transcribed onto the Games Management System by your club registrar or it may be an electronic process through the GAA App or other equivalent process.

DOES THE GAA APP PROVIDE ON-LINE PAYMENT & COMMUNICATIONS?

Yes. The GAA app provides clubs with the ability to receive membership payments online and it also provides clubs with the ability to issue communications to members or groups of members in a GDPR compliant manner.

OTHER OPTIONS ARE BETTER THOUGH, RIGHT?

There are lots of 'club management systems' available, all with their relative merits and disadvantages. The important thing to remember is that your club's members must be registered with the GAA, on the GAA Games Management System, on an annual basis to be GAA members. Without valid membership players are not eligible to play and not covered by the injury fund. Non-playing members are not eligible to vote in Club AGMs or to seek elected office in the club or County Board. Using the GAA systems ensures that registration happens in one integrated process.

For communications, the GAA Games Management System provides one interface to issue Communications through email, text (SMS) or in-App. These messages are broadcast in a GDPR compliant way. It is only fair to highlight that in-app messages are currently broadcast only and recipients do not have the ability to reply. This functionality was designed, based on feedback from clubs, to avoid multiple people responding and creating long threads. It is intended to expand this to provide the ability to reply in a controlled manner so that, for example, recipients can confirm attendance at training and this functionality will be available later in 2020.

IS THE GAA TRYING TO MAKE MONEY THROUGH ITS APP?

No. The systems provided by the GAA are completely free for clubs to use. There is no licence fee for use of the system or surcharges on transactions. In fact, the GAA subsidises clubs who choose to receive payments through the App. The only charges are normal online charges (approximately 1.3% depending on card and value of transaction) for online payments and standard SMS charges for text messages sent.

I'M JUST TRYING TO RUN MY CLUB, WHY IS THE GAA MAKING IT SO HARD?

The GAA, like all organisations, is obliged to comply with Data Protection and Child Welfare legislation and, unfortunately, some of the steps required to comply with these laws are onerous. The GAA has designed processes and systems that comply with the relevant legislation and has made these available to clubs. There may be other processes that can be constructed in a compliant manner but the GAA has not verified these, our process is the process that we stand over.

**For the GAA App Communications
How To Guide please go to:**

**[www.gaa.ie/api/pdfs/image/upload/
pooiqmpnpue498fjevo.pdf](http://www.gaa.ie/api/pdfs/image/upload/pooiqmpnpue498fjevo.pdf)**

Social Media Policy & Guidelines

GO TO GUIDE

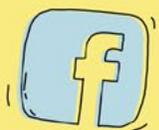
This is a guide to some of the most frequently asked questions to how GAA Units should behave online.



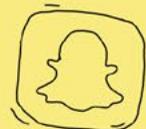
KEEPING IN TOUCH

Direct Messaging

The use of social media platforms and stand-alone apps such as Whatsapp and Messenger should not be used for official GAA Unit related communications (training, events, etc). These channels are not GDPR compliant when used for such communications. Text and email are still perfectly safe to use for updates (for adult members).



The GAA App includes a messaging functionality enabling Units to communicate with their members through the App which is a GDPR compliant messaging service. This messaging functionality allows Clubs to have auditing ability over the information processed within it.



In general, the following should apply when communicating with underage players:

- Use mobile phones, if deemed appropriate, only via an email system or the GAA app for communicating with the parents/guardians of players. Any exception to this form of group texting can only be preceded with following express permission from parents/guardians.
- Do not communicate individually by text/email sites with underage players.
- Do not communicate with underage players via social network sites.

POSTING CONTENT ONLINE

Remember this!

Top tips for web and social posts

- Keep the info on your team sheets to a minimum – just a name will do! Never include membership numbers or date of birth. In addition, for underage players, never use a photo or indicate a child's school (unless it's a school fixture).
- Keep the details of your Executive to a minimum; Name, GAA email address (when possible) and photo number will suffice. Don't include postal address or other personal details.



Communicating with underage players and teams

Coaches, mentors and other officials should never place themselves in a compromising position by texting or communicating via social media sites with underage players. All such communications regarding GAA activities should be sent via the parents or guardians of the underage player, unless otherwise agreed with the parents/guardians.



- Don't tag individuals in posts on any channel.
- Don't share any posts that are not GAA-related.
- Only post photos you own/have permission to use that relate to GAA activity; never copy or share images from personal pages.
- Ensure comments on your posts are frequently moderated. If in doubt, remove any content you deem inappropriate.

THINK BEFORE YOU POST

Before you post images (still or video) or personal information relating to underage members, ensure you are taking the GAA's guidelines into consideration. GAA Units should determine which, if any, social media accounts will be used to communicate personal information relating to underage members.

- Ask for the player's parent's permission to use their image. This consent could be included in the annual registration form or the GAA App.
- All children/young people featured in recordings posted online must be appropriately dressed.
- The photograph or recording posted online should focus on the activity rather than a particular young person.
- In general, no personal details relating to the young person should be revealed as accompanying materials to the photograph or recorded image, with the exception being where they are being publicly acknowledged (e.g. an award or personal achievement), for which consent has been given.
- Group and team photographs may be taken but it is not necessary to match a player's name with the position in which they may be standing or seated in the team photograph.



Social Media Policy & Guidelines

GO TO GUIDE

This is a guide to some of the most frequently asked questions to how GAA Units should behave online.

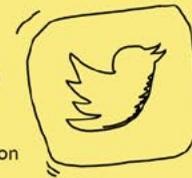


PLAYING BY THE RULES

All GAA members are subject to the GAA Code of Conduct when online, even when they are not acting on behalf of the GAA. You are responsible for your actions but remember that those actions may have consequences for the GAA.

The GAA expects the following standards to be adhered to by its members when posting material online:

- Do not post or share material which is violent, sexually explicit, obscene, hateful, or defamatory.
- Do not post or share inappropriate behaviour relating to underage players.
- Do not suggest or encourage illegal activity.
- Do not engage in trolling, bullying, or abusive activity.
- Do not falsely claim the GAA endorses or is associated with any product or promotion.
- Do not disclose confidential information in respect of the GAA.
- Do not engage in the disparagement of any race, ethnicity or religion.
- Always respect the GAA's values.
- Always use your common sense.



HOW TO REPORT INAPPROPRIATE ACTIVITY

If you become aware of any member or official breaching any of the above social media guidelines, please contact your Club or County PRO. Alternatively concerns can be reported to communications@gaa.ie.

The inappropriate use of social media by either an official or a member will be treated with the utmost gravity by the GAA and may result in disciplinary actions.



- Any instances of the use of inappropriate images should be reported to the GAA Unit's Children's Officer and/or appropriate person within the GAA Unit and also to the relevant statutory authorities if deemed necessary.
- Where underage members are invited to engage with a GAA Unit's social media accounts, parental knowledge and permission prior to the young person engaging in such communication must be sought.
- Ask parents not to post pictures of other children on their own social media accounts.

Please refer to the full version of GAA's Social Media Policy & Guidelines for further information.

- Such interaction with GAA Unit websites or accounts should also be carefully monitored to ensure underage members are not abused or trolled on line and that they themselves do not intentionally or otherwise post inappropriate comments or materials. The GAA has an Anti-Bullying Policy which should be adhered to at all times.
- The GAA has set out in detail its policies and standards for officials engaging with underage members in the "Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport when working with underage players" and the "Guide to Maintaining appropriate levels of behaviour in our work with children and young people". Please refer to them for further detail on any of the above.

By Colin Regan

GAA CALLING TIME ON ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

PLAYING UNDERAGE SPORT IN IRELAND IN THE 1980S OCCASIONALLY INVOLVED ATTENDING SOME CLUB FUNCTION OR OTHER IN THE LOCAL PUB.

A lack of appropriate community facilities meant that the lounge or the backroom of a village bar was often the most convenient place to hold medal presentations (if you were lucky enough to win something) or occasionally be treated to some post-match carb-loading and rehydration (which, in that era, meant crisps and red lemonade).

Times have changed. There is now a greater understanding of the importance of appropriate settings for any gatherings involving young people, and the potential negative impact of early exposure to alcohol in any context. The GAA's long-standing ASAP programme (Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention) – a partnership with the HSE that commenced in 2006 – has played a major part in better informing our clubs of the positive role they can play regarding members' lifestyle choices.

By 2013 over 700 GAA clubs had substance use policies in place – work that was driven by ASAP officers at both club and county level. In 2014, these roles changed to Healthy Club Officers, while counties put in place Health & Wellbeing Committees, reflecting the GAA's expansion into other areas of health promotion including mental health, healthy eating, physical activity for non-playing members, and diversity and inclusion. The importance of taking a 'healthy setting' approach to where we



TIPPERARY ALL STAR AND MEMBER OF THE GAA NATIONAL HEALTH & WELLBEING COMMITTEE; PROF DONAL O'SHEA, HSE CLINICAL LEAD FOR OBESITY & CONSULTANT ENDOCRINOLOGIST AT ST VINCENT'S UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL; MARION RACKARD, PROJECT MANAGER WITH THE HSE ALCOHOL PROGRAMME; STACEY CAHILL, GAA COMMUNITY & HEALTH DEPARTMENT; DR STEPHANIE O'KEEFE, NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF HEALTH AND WELLBEING; JIM BOLGER, LEINSTER GAA CHAIRPERSON; SHARON COURTNEY, MONAGHAN LADIES FOOTBALL CAPTAIN.

live, work, and in the GAA context, play, is also evident in the large number of our clubs opting to become smoke-free venues.

While this work continues apace, with another 150 entering the Healthy Club Project on February 1st (bringing the total number of clubs engaged to 300), there is a renewed conversation taking place in Irish society on the topic of substance use.

To ensure our clubs are kept abreast of best practice in the area, the Community & Health Department in Croke Park has been working with the appropriate statutory bodies, such as the HSE, the Alcohol Forum, and the Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Forces (DATF) in the 26 counties and the Drug & Alcohol Community Teams (DACTs) in the 6 counties.

The result of this work is now being made available to all GAA units in the form of:

- an updated version of the GAA's substance use policy for use by clubs and counties
- a step by step guide advising units on how best to respond proactively in the area of drug and alcohol education
- strengthened links with suitably accredited agencies, ensuring all GAA units can access expert advice and support in their local community

While cocaine and other 'club or recreational drugs' have dominated public discourse recently, the experts we spoke with were at pains to emphasise that the most harmful drug in Ireland remains, by some degree, alcohol. Paula Leonard, Lead, National Community Action on Alcohol Programme with the Alcohol Forum, explains:

"Alcohol remains the main problem drug in Ireland, causing twice the number of deaths attributed to all other drugs combined. It also remains the main drug for which people enter treatment in

Ireland.

"Although the total amount of alcohol consumed by young people has declined in the last 20 years, it is still a significant public health concern. According to the most recently published research, 74% of 15-16 year-olds in Ireland have tried alcohol and 28% have engaged in binge drinking. Due to their young age, stage of brain development and lack of life experience, adolescents are at significant risk of both short-term and long-term alcohol related harms. Starting to drink before the age of 15 years of age means that a young person's likelihood of developing alcohol dependency is increased four-fold."

The dynamic between athletes and alcohol is complex, with team-sport players tending to drink less than their peers over the course of a year but when they do consume alcohol, they tend to binge-drink more particularly during off season. Binge drinking is defined by health experts, such as the World Health Organisation (WHO), as six or more standard drinks in one session, which is the equivalent of three or more pints of beer or six or more pub measures of spirits. That comes as quite a shock to most Irish people.

To help address this, the GAA in 2018 partnered with the HSE to highlight at a full-house All-Ireland semi-final in Croke Park their new #DrinkLessGainMore awareness campaign and website www.askaboutalcohol.ie

While the percentage of the 1,600 GAA clubs in Ireland with a licensed premises is very small, a number of clubs in that category in north Dublin are working on achieving the Safer Alcohol Mark (SAM) thanks to training for their bar staff delivered by the North Dublin Regional DATF. This is based on the Australian 'Good Sports' programme which has recorded significant positive impacts for

participating clubs.

In the current societal climate, clubs are also seeking advice on how they can best safeguard their members against the harms associated with substance use. The starting point is to recognise and celebrate the fact that research suggests involvement in a community-based sports club acts as a protective factor against substance use.

When it comes to education and awareness, acting on evidence and fact is essential. The latest prevalence data from www.drugs.ie/ shows that 4.4% of 15-34-year-olds in Ireland had used the club drug MDMA in the past year. Lifetime cocaine use (having used it at any time in one's life) has increased when compared to 2010/11 data with the proportion of young adults (15-34) reporting the use of cocaine in their lifetime increasing from 9% to 11%. While such figures are significant, they contradict the narrative that 'all young people are doing drugs'. Such a narrative is disparaging to the young people who chose not to use substances – the majority. It can also suggest to an audience that discourse regarding illegal drugs is sensationalised, causing them to potentially disregard factual information about the dangers of substance use.

Research also shows that once-off talks on the topic of substance use has little or no impact on behaviour change. Instead, the first step should be to ensure that your club has an up-to-date substance use policy in place and that members are made aware of its content. A detailed draft policy is available for all club/county executives to review and adopt (download a copy [HERE](#)).

Once this is in place, it is worthwhile launching the policy in collaboration with representatives from your regional DATF or DACT and community liaison

officers from An Garda Síochána or the PSNI. Such experts can provide age-appropriate, evidence-based information and advice. Foroige, the national youth development organisation, is well placed to provide age-appropriate education for younger members. Parents remain the primary educators and despite the influence of peer pressure, social media and marketing, continue to be the single biggest influence on their children and teenagers. Many clubs seek to support parents' by facilitating workshops, again delivered by appropriately qualified bodies such as those listed above.

A coach is often well placed to help inform a squad of a club's policy in the area of drugs and alcohol. We have found that when speaking to players on health-related topics it is worthwhile to use their language. An athlete is involved with a club or team because they love sport. If the information provided to them – be it pertaining to diet, the importance of sleep, or substance use – is framed in the context of sporting performance they may be more likely to take that advice onboard. After all, they are committing significant time to becoming the best player they can be. They may not be aware of the negative impact substance use will have on performance.

While a policy is important in making clear to all members a club's position regarding substance use, it is important to remember the old business maxim that 'culture eats strategy for breakfast'. In other words, you can have the best policy in the world but if it isn't lived through the values and culture of your club, it isn't worth the paper it is written on.

You can also access and download all relevant information and resources, including the ASAP manual, draft club policy, and some useful presentations at www.gaa.ie/community

REGIONAL DRUG AND ALCOHOL TASKFORCES

Local and Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Forces (LDATFs and RDATFs) play a key role in assessing the extent and nature of the drug problem in their areas and coordinating action at local level so that there is a targeted response to the drug problem in local communities.

Region	Office	Contact
East Coast	HSE Offices, Block B Civic Centre, Bray, Co. Wicklow, A98 W9X2	01 274 4132 www.ecrdtf.ie
Midlands	Health Centre, Coosan Road, Athlone, Co. Westmeath, N27 W275	09 064 83195 www.mrdatf.ie
Mid-Western	PO Box 486, Corporate House, Mungret Street, Limerick	061 607 242 www.mwrdatf.ie
North Dublin	North Dublin Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force, 32/33 Main Street, Malahide, Co. Dublin	01 2233 493 www.ndublinrdtf.ie
North East	Unit 2, First Floor, Kennedy Road, Navan, Co. Meath, C15 RCW1	046 924 8630 www.nedrugtaskforce.ie
North West	Sligo Development Centre, Cleveragh Road, Sligo	071 915 1520 www.nwdrugtaskforce.ie
South East	St. Otteran's Hospital, John's Hill, Co. Waterford	051-848864 www.serdatf.ie
Southern	First Floor, Kinvara House, Dublin Hill, Cork	021-4930100 www.corkdrugandalcohol.ie / enquires@corkdrugandalcohol.ie
South Western	Block A Maudlin's Hall, Naas, Co. Kildare	045-875111 www.swrdtf.ie
Western	Unit 6 Galway Technology Park, Parkmore, Galway	091-480044 www.wrdtf.ie

NORTHERN IRELAND DACTS (DRUGS AND ALCOHOL CO-ORDINATION TEAMS-CONNECTION SERVICES)

Region	Office	Contact
Connections North	Kathleen Grego Start360	connections@ndact.info
Connections South	Kathleen Grego Start360	connections@sdact.info
Connections Belfast	Emma Dinsmore Extern	connections@bdact.info
Connections West	John Hunsdale ASCERT	connections@wdact.info
Connections SouthEast	John Hunsdale ASCERT	connections@sedact.info

6 STEP ADVICE FOR GAA CLUBS

If your club wishes to adopt a Substance Use Policy and/or run an education/training event in this topic area, please see below the recommended Six Step Process clubs are advised to follow:

1. Form a Working Group

Establish a Working Group to adopt and implement the GAA's draft Substance Use Policy, this can be found at www.GAA.ie/community. Consider including the following representatives:

- Club Executive
- Mentors
- Parents/Guardians
- Young people

2. Review the GAA's draft Substance Use Policy

- As a Working Group spend time discussing the Draft Substance Use Policy
- Engage local agencies and partners (e.g. Drugs and Alcohol Taskforces (DATFs), Drugs and Alcohol Co-ordination Teams (DACTS), Garda Síochána and PSNI) to assist in this step

3. Present a draft to the Club Executive

- Centre the policy around your Club to ensure it is relevant to the membership and its environs e.g. Does your club have a bar?

4. Circulate the draft

Circulate the draft policy as widely as possible for the views of young people, parents/guardians, club members and Club Executive.

- Involve those parents and young people who might not normally be reached
- Revise the policy based on the feedback received

5. Finalise, launch & implement

Officially launch the policy:

- Signify its start date
- Make sure EVERYONE in the club gets a copy
- Display it in the club and/or on club website
- Get some positive media coverage

Note: It is strongly advised that if a club wishes to run an education/training event, the Club Substance Use Policy should be launched at this event in partnership with Statutory agencies (e.g. Drugs and Alcohol Taskforces, Drugs and Alcohol Co-ordination Teams-Connection Services, Garda Síochána and PSNI). This helps to ensure the sustainability of this Policy within the Club.

6. Monitor, review and evaluate

A review of the policy should be carried out at least once each year by the club. This will help make the policy a 'living document' and give the club a chance to build on the work that has been done to date and plan for what needs to happen in the future.

- Review after Substance Use related incident to judge its effectiveness
- Be aware of changes to legislation with regards Substance Use
- Evaluate the policy within the club planning and development framework

NORTH DUBLIN CLUBS AIMING TO WIN SAM!

CLUBS ACROSS NORTH COUNTY DUBLIN HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH THE NORTH DUBLIN REGIONAL DRUG & ALCOHOL TASK FORCE (NDRDATF) AS PART OF THEIR NEW 'SAM' (SAFER ALCOHOL MARK) ACCREDITATION.

This new programme aims to improve the health and wellbeing of members whilst reducing their exposure to alcohol related harms.

Clubs taking part in the initiative implement the below measures in order to be awarded 'SAM'.

Planning can help Clubs to:

- Child Safeguarding Statement to be inclusive of alcohol related risks
- Substance use policy (including alcohol) in place
- Offer SAOR Brief Intervention training to interested club members
- Display & Promote SAM health promotion resources
- Promotion of alcohol free events
- Club transport policy to include planning around alcohol
- Club policy in relation to alcohol sponsorship

Clubs who operate a bar will also have to implement an additional three measures relating to alcohol retailing:

- Responsible Server of Alcohol training for bar managers
- Shortened 'e-learning' Responsible Server of Alcohol training for bar staff



GAAELIC FOR MOTHERS & OTHERS IS ONE OF THE HEALTHY CLUB INITIATIVES OFFERED BY ROUND TOWERS OF LUSK IN NORTH DUBLIN

- Promotion of alcohol free alternatives in club bar

Several clubs in the region have begun implementing the above measures and are well on their way to being awarded SAM. Lusk Round Towers are one of these clubs. Joan Ward, Healthy Club Officer, has been driving the initiative.

“Initially we thought the Safer Alcohol Mark would be a hard sell, the perception might be that we were anti-alcohol. But once explained,

our members were very open to the concept of basically, being sensible around alcohol and being aware of what our younger players see as normal behaviour. We don't always realise that children watch our every move and we can normalise unhealthy habits unwittingly.

“We have also introduced several zero alcohol beers at cost price to encourage moderation and the designated driver has a healthier wallet at the end of the night. There is lots more to do, but we are getting there. There is plenty support

from the North Dublin Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force, training and information are available and accessible. So, overall, people are happy to have a club that views fun and enjoyment as a healthy part of life that does not always include alcohol.”

If your club would like to sign up to SAM or get more information, email brid@ndublinrdtf.ie or call (01) 22 33 493

150 NEW CLUBS JOIN THE HEALTHY CLUB PROJECT!

150 CLUBS COMMENCED THEIR JOURNEY IN THE GAA HEALTHY CLUB PROJECT AT THE WELL-ATTENDED NATIONAL ORIENTATION DAY FOR PHASE 4 ENTRANTS IN CROKE PARK ON FEBRUARY 1ST.

Delegates representing clubs from the 32 counties were present, while, for the first time ever, three international clubs are also taking part in the Healthy Club Project – Den Haag GAA Netherlands, Montreal Shamrocks GAA Canada and Al Ain GAA United Arab Emirates. A total of 206 clubs applied to participate in Phase 4, with 150 selected following a rigorous process.

Members of the Community & Health Department in Croke Park brought the delegates through the 'Seven Step' process involved in gaining recognition as an official Healthy Club. Perhaps more important were the inspirational testimonies and case studies offered by some of the 148 clubs that successfully completed Phase 1-3 of Project and can now proudly identify as official 'Healthy Clubs'.

Phase 4 will run for 18-months with expressions of interest opening to new clubs that want to get involved in October 2021. There is lots interested clubs can do in the meantime, but the first step is to ensure that their Healthy Club Officer receives the training provided by their respective County Health & Wellbeing Committee. This provides all the guidance necessary.

The Healthy Club Project is kindly supported by Irish Life, Healthy Ireland, the National Office of Suicide Prevention, the Public Health Agency, and the Tomar Trust.

IRISH LIFE HEALTHY CLUBS STEPS CHALLENGE

As partners of the Healthy Club Project, Irish Life is offering the chance for four GAA clubs to win a €2,500 O'Neill's voucher.

The club in each province that records the highest total average number of steps during the challenge period will win. Winning clubs must have a minimum of 15 walkers participate in the challenge and challenge participants must be aged 18 and over. The Steps Challenge is open to all GAA clubs.

The Challenge starts on March 16th and ends on 12th April 2020.



DELEGATES REPRESENTING THE 18 CLUBS THAT PARTICIPATED IN PHASE 1 OF THE HEALTHY CLUB PROJECT IN 2014. REFLECTING THE ENORMOUS GROWTH IN INTEREST IN THE PROJECT, 300 DELEGATES REPRESENTING 150 CLUBS ATTENDED THE 2020 NATIONAL ORIENTATION DAY IN CROKE PARK ON FEBRUARY 1ST THAT MARKED THE START OF PHASE 4.

What do I need to do to take part?

Register your club's participation below by Friday 13th March on the following link:

mylife.irishlife.ie/Gaa-Healthy-Clubs-2020

How do club members join the challenge?

1. Download the MyLife app from the App store or Google Play store
 - Apple App Store - apps.apple.com/ie/app/mylife-by-irish-life/id1459620652
 - Google Playstore - play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.irishlife.mylife
2. Tap on the social tab on the MyLife app
3. Select challenges
4. Select the challenge for your province
5. Tap on join & select your club!

(For Mylife support and help:

Email support@mylife.irishlife.ie or call 01 704 1943)



DO YOU WANT TO JOIN THE KELLOGG'S CÚL CAMPS TEAM?

- **ARE YOU LOOKING FOR OPPORTUNITIES OR EXPERIENCE IN TEACHING, COACHING AND SIMILAR PROFESSIONS**
- **ARE YOU AVAILABLE FOR WORK IN JULY AND AUGUST**

Kellogg's GAA Cúl Camps provide boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 13 with an action-packed and fun-filled week of activity during the summer holidays. Children of all levels learn and play Gaelic games with qualified coaches at local clubs. Activities are player-centred with a games-based approach and an emphasis on personal development and well-being.

Camps around the country are looking for coaches and supervisors of all skill levels who have an interest in Gaelic games and are available during the months of July and August. Those interested in Coaching must be qualified but opportunities also exist for Supervisors and Camp Assistants. Check out all the details below and register now to join the team!

COACHES (18 Years +)

Qualified camp coach.

Requirements

- Holds minimum coaching qualifications
- Vetted by one of the Gaelic Games Associations
- Attendance at Gaelic Games Associations Child Safeguarding Training

SUPERVISORS (18 Years +)

Part of camp organising team, Supervisors do not coach but must be a club member and ideally have a role in the club e.g. parent, committee member, mentor.

Requirements

- Vetted by one of the Gaelic Games Associations
- Attendance at camp training prior to commencing

CAMP ASSISTANTS (16-18 Years +)*

Ideal for club members identified as future leaders with coaching potential. Camp Assistants are involved in setting up camp facilities and showing skills to children under the direction of a qualified Coach.

Requirements

- Must be vetted (16 +)
- Attendance at Camp Assistant Training Programme
- Work under the direction of qualified Coaches



Register your interest now at kelloggsculcamps.gaa.ie/cul-coaches

ULSTER CLUBS LEAD THE WAY WITH 4 TITLES AT BABHTAÍ CEANNAIS SCÓR NA NÓG

BHÍ FÉASTA MÓR CEOIL, DRÁMAÍOCHTA, AMHRÁNAÍOCHTA AGUS DAMHSA AG AN 1,700 A BHÍ LÁTHAIR LE BREATHNÚ AR BHABHTAÍ CEANNAIS SCÓR NA NÓG DÉ SATHAIRN, 1 FEABHRA, SAN INEC, CILL AIRNE.

The 1,700 crowd at the Scor na nÓg All-Ireland Finals were treated to a feast of song, drama, dance and music in the INEC, Killarney, on February 1st.

There was very little between the clubs in the Rince Foirne competition but it was the CLG An Caisleán Nua club from Tipperary who were victorious and declared champions. In the Rince Seit competition the CLG Mainistir Chnoc Maigh club from Galway were declared champions.

CLG Naomh Adhamhnán from Donegal took the Aithriseoireacht/Scéalaíocht title and CLG Béal Átha Móir from Longford came out on top in the Amhránaíocht Aonair competition.

In the Bailéad-Ghrúpa competition Westmeath Champions, Móta Uile-Bána, did their club and county proud by lifting the cup.

The three clubs from Ulster, CLG Naomh Columba, Dún na nGall, CLG Chill Shléibhe, Ard Mhacha agus CLG Chorr na Féinne, An Cabhán managed to make the stage round of the quiz but it was the Cavan champions that came out on top in the end. All in the crowd agreed that it was fantastic to see the final parts of the quiz on stage and Máistir na gCeisteanna, Éamonn Ó Braonáin conducted the quiz fantastically.

The newly renamed 'Nuachleas' competition was a huge success but after a great entertainment from all clubs it was the Gaeil Leitir Ceanainn club from Donegal who were declared All-Ireland Champions for 2020.

The 'Ceol Uirlise' competition gave a platform for some of the greatest young musicians in the country to entertain the crowd and in a tight competition it was CLG Fionnúig from Munster who came out on top.

A hugely deserved comhghairdeas was paid to Fear agus Bean an Tí Conor Ó Gallachóir and Muireann Ní Bhocháin for their great presentations during the day and there is no doubt that both have great careers ahead in whatever fields of work life takes them.



Na Buaiteoirí

Rince Foirne

An Mhumhain: CLG, An Caisleán Nua, Tiobraid Árann

Amhránaíocht Aonair

Laighin: CLG, Béal Átha Móir, An Longfort

Aithriseoireacht / Scéalaíocht

Ulaídh: CLG Naomh Adhamhnán, Dún na nGall

Bailéad-Ghrúpa

Laighin: CLG, Uile-Bhánta an Mhóta, An Iarmhí

Nuachleas

Ulaídh: CLG, Gaeil Leitir Ceanainn, Dún na nGall

Ceol Uirlise

An Mhumhain: CLG, Fionnúig, Ciarraí

Rince Seit

Connachta: CLG, Mainistir Chnoc Muaidhe, Gaillimh

Tráth na gCeist

Ulaídh: CLG Chorr na Féinne, An Cabhán

TAISPEÁINIMIS DON DOMHAN MÓR CLG GO BHFUIL GAEILGE AGAINN - CAITHIMIS AN FÁINNE!

BÍONN NA MÍLTE DAOINE A BHFUIL GAEILGE ACU, Ó LUCHT AN CHÚPLA FOCAL GO LUCHT NA GAEILGE BRISTE GO CAINTEOIRÍ RIALTA GAEILGE – AG FREASTAL AR ÁR GCUID CLUICHÍ SEACHTAIN I NDIAIDH SEACHTAINE FUD FAD NA TÍRE. DAR NDÓIGH, IS MINIC A BHÍONN CAINTEOIRÍ GAEILGE AG SUÍ IN AICE A CHÉILE AG CLUICHÍ AGUS GAN A FHIOS ACU GO BHFUIL GAEILGE AG AN DUINE EILE. NÁR DHEAS GO MBEADH BEALACH LE TABHAIRT LE FIOS DO DHAOINE EILE GO BHFUIL GAEILGE AGAT?

Tá bliain imithe ó seoladh feachtas Chumann Lúthchleas Gael don fháinne agus tá sé i gceist an feachtas a threisiú d'fhonn tuilleadh Gaeilge a spreagadh ag cluichí de chuid an Chumainn. Taispeáinimis don domhan mór CLG go bhfuil Gaeilge againn. Caithimis an fáinne.

Nuair a sheoil Paul Conroy agus Declan Hannon feachtas an fháinne i mí Márta na bliana seo caite dúirt siad:

‘Tá an Ghaeilge le feiceáil gach áit i gCumann Lúthchleas Gael. Bíonn sí le feiceáil ar na geansaithe, ar na comharthaí timpeall na staide agus, ar ndóigh, bíonn sí le cloisteáil nuair a chastar Amhrán na bhFiann. Is rud annamh é sin agus tá freagracht orainn ár dteanga a spreagadh agus a chur chun cinn. Is minic a thagann daoine suas chugam ag inseacht dom faoin ngrá atá acu don Ghaeilge agus deireann siad liom go bhfuil siad ag iarraidh í a fhoghlaim arís.’

Paul Conroy

‘Ba cheart dúinn uilig a bheith fíorbhródúil as ár dteanga náisiúnta agus as ár dteanga dúchais. Is cuid dár n-oidhreacht agus dár gcultúr í. Úsáidig an ‘cúpla focal’ chomh minic agus is féidir. Beatha Teanga í a labhairt!’

Declan Hannon, Luimneach

Ag fógairt oifigiúil an phlean dúirt Uachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Gael, Seán Ó hÓráin;

‘Tá ról lárnach ag na nGaeilge i gCumann Lúthchleas Gael agus tá seifteanna dearfacha den chineál seo iontach le daoine a spreagadh chun Gaeilge a labhairt. Gach seachtain, bíonn Gaeilgeoirí ag freastal ar chluichí de chuid an Chumainn agus níl aon amhras faoi ach go mbeadh níos mó Gaeilge á labhairt ag na cluichí dá gcaithfí an Fáinne agus dá mbeadh bealach ag daoine Gaeilgeoirí eile a aithint.’

Is féidir an fáinne a fháil ó Gael Linn ag siopa.gael-linn.ie/ga/an-fainne agus ó Chonradh na Gaeilge ag www.cnag.ie/ga/scoileanna/acmhainní-scoile/fainne.html



GAA CLUB MEMBERSHIP AND REGISTRATION – IMPORTANT INFORMATION

SUMMARY

- **CLUBS MUST REGISTER THEIR PLAYERS AND MEMBERS FOR THE 2020 SEASON**
- **A REVIEW OF KEY CLUB INFORMATION CALLED AN ANNUAL CLUB UPDATE IS REQUIRED**
- **A REVIEW OF SYSTEM ACCESS PRIVILEGES IS REQUIRED**
- **STEP-BY-STEP GUIDES TO LOGGING-IN, RESETTING PASSWORDS AND REGISTERING PLAYERS AND MEMBERS ARE AVAILABLE**
- **A DEDICATED SUPPORT DESK (E-MAIL AND PHONE) IS AVAILABLE FOR CLUBS**

Registration

Clubs are reminded that they must register their players and members for the 2020 season on the GAA Management System (GMS) which can be accessed by visiting people.gaa.ie

Annual Club Update

Club administrators are requested update key Club information, a process known as the annual club update, when they log in to the GAA Management System (people.gaa.ie)

This process has been broken down into six simple steps across three broad categories. When these steps have been completed, the club administrator will be able to proceed to the system as normal. To access further information, click here gmssupport.zendesk.com/hc/en-gb/categories/360001544240-GAA-Management-System

Accessing the GAA Management System

If you are a new Registrar that will be doing registrations for your Club, your Club Secretary, through their official GAA e-mail account must contact gmssupport@gaa.ie to update the Registrar details on the GAA Management System. This will ensure that you can access the system.

When logged on, the designated Club Administrator (Secretary or Registrar)

should go to the 'Register Members' page and complete the necessary steps.

This page will contain the details of all those people who have been registered with the Club in previous years. To add new members to the Club, go to 'Add and View Members', click on the 'Add' button, select 'Member' and complete the necessary steps.

Please note that anyone whose name is in red on either the 'register' page or the 'add and view member page', is unregistered for the current year.

Only a Full Member who has paid his annual Club subscription by the due date set by the Executive Committee of the Club (which shall be prior to March 31st) shall be eligible to vote at, nominate for, or seek election to the Executive Committee at any following General Meeting of the Club in the membership year.

GAA Management System Support

The GMS Support contains a GAA Membership Training User Guides and FAQ explaining the system. To access this information, click here –

gmssupport.zendesk.com/hc/en-gb/categories/360001544240-GAA-Management-System

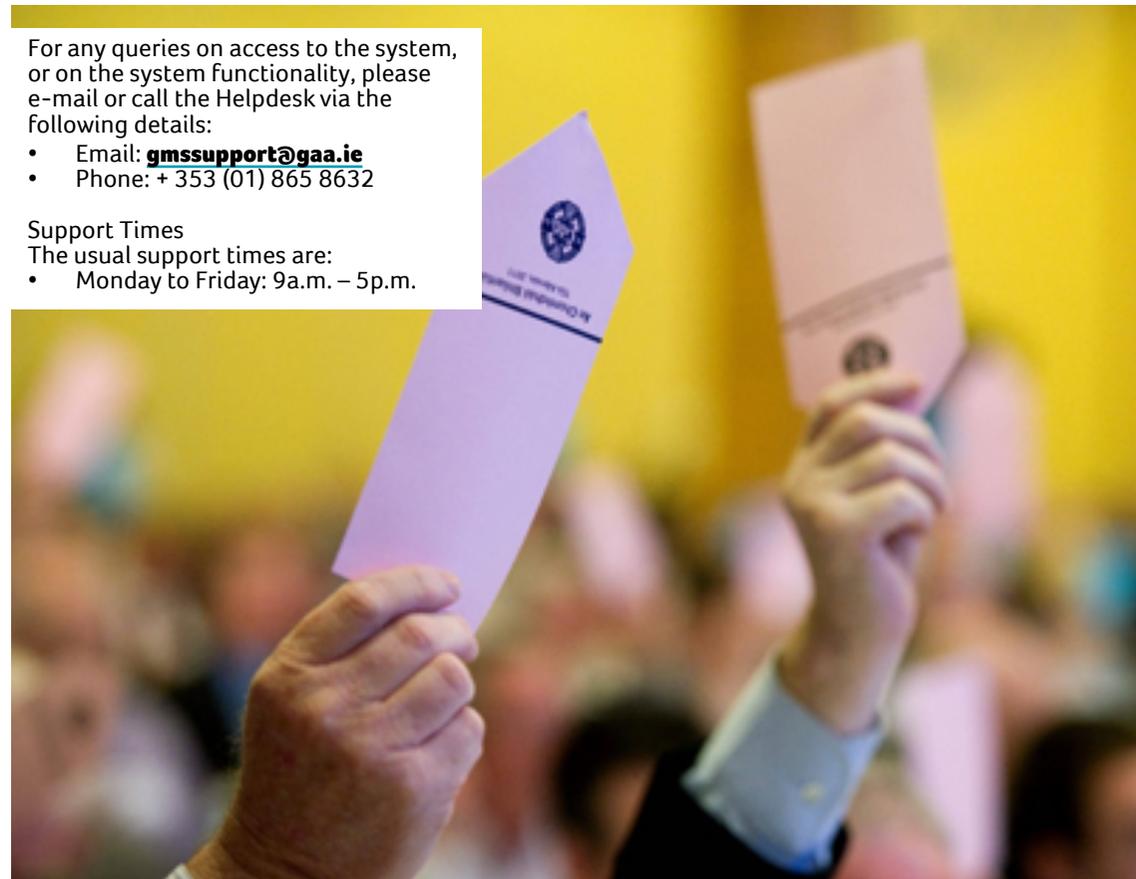
For any queries on access to the system, or on the system functionality, please e-mail or call the Helpdesk via the following details:

- Email: gmssupport@gaa.ie
- Phone: + 353 (01) 865 8632

Support Times

The usual support times are:

- Monday to Friday: 9a.m. – 5p.m.



CLUB LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

AT THE TIME OF WRITING, OVER 1100 CLUB OFFICERS HAVE RECEIVED TRAINING ACROSS THE COUNTRY. TRADITIONAL MODULES THAT TARGET NEW CHAIRPERSONS, SECRETARIES, TREASURERS AND PROS REMAIN POPULAR AND CRITICAL TO AN EFFICIENTLY FUNCTIONING CLUB, BUT THE LAUNCH OF THE NEW CLDP 2020 FRAMEWORK HAS SEEN A SURGE IN POPULARITY FOR OTHER TOPICAL MODULES.

Creating a Safe Club, Upholding Disciplinary Rules and Procedures and Getting Work Done in Office 365 have established themselves as the frontrunners in terms of Club Officer training content so far this year. As always, a full list of modules that County Development Officers can request is accessible here - learning.gaa.ie/OfficerTrainingModules

February and March see a whole new schedule which is constantly being updated to include workshops and events in counties nationwide. The calendar of events can be accessed here - learning.gaa.ie/OfficerTrainingCalendar, and participants can register in advance by creating an account on the GAA's Learning Portal, then clicking on their event of choice on the calendar, scrolling to the bottom and clicking on the registration link.

Online modules and further information on the programme can be accessed at any time here learning.gaa.ie/club_leadership.

February also saw the official launch of the 2020 Rollout of the CLDP. Paddy Flood, Chair of the National Officer Development Committee, John Horan, Uachtarán, Cumann Luthchleas Gael, Kathleen Woods, Uachtarán, The Camogie Association and CEO of the LGFA, Helen O'Rourke were

all present at the launch. The CLDP is open to all Officers throughout the three Associations.

County Development Officers are encouraged to express their interest in hosting modules via the Training Request Form that would have been provided via email, and the Officer Development Coordinator will strive to meet the requests wherever possible.

The Club Officer Foundation Award will be piloted in four counties this year – all new club officers who have attended or are going to attend events in their county are encouraged to create an account on the Learning Portal, register for their modules via the Portal, and complete 8 hours of activity in total throughout the year, comprising of a combination of online and face to face workshops. Further information can be attained by the Officer Development Coordinator, Eoghan Tuohey, eoghan.tuohey@gaa.ie. The award will provide a coordinated approach to learning, with certification upon completion, and a day out at the AIB GAA Club finals' day in Croke Park next year.

Clubs who wish to get involved should contact their County Development Officer - www.gaa.ie/the-gaa/provinces-counties-clubs/



#GAAYOUTH AUGUR WELL FOR OUR FUTURE

THE GAA CONTINUES TO LEAD THE WAY IN ENSURING THAT YOUNG PEOPLE ARE ACTIVELY CONSULTED AND ENGAGED WITH ON IMPORTANT ISSUES THROUGH THE ANNUAL #GAAYOUTH FORUM. THE 2019 #GAAYOUTH FORUM TOOK PLACE ON SATURDAY 26TH OCTOBER IN CROKE PARK WITH MORE THAN 400 YOUNG PLAYERS FROM ALL 32 COUNTIES IN IRELAND PARTICIPATING IN THE EVENT, WHICH WAS HELD IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SKY SPORTS.

2018 witnessed the successful introduction of a Youth Congress for the 16+ age-group and the feedback provided via the Youth Congress had a direct impact upon GAA Congress 2019. The Youth Congress was held again at the 2019 #GAAyouth Forum with John Horan (Uachtarán, CLG), Marie Hickey (Uachtarán, Cumann Peil na mBan) and Kathleen Woods (Uachtarán, An Cumann Camógaíochta) in attendance.

Additional activities included a Consultation about how the three Associations can reduce drop-off; a workshop on the importance of Respect in Gaelic Games led by David Gough (GAA Inter-County referee); a keynote session by Keith Higgins (Mayo dual star) and Ciara Trant (Dublin LGFA goalkeeper) about the importance of resilience in young people's lives; and a behind the scenes workshop with Sky Sports Ambassadors Jamesie O'Connor (Sky Sports analyst), Damian Lawlor (Sky Sports journalist) and Ruaidhrí O'Connor (Sky Sports producer). The Forum concluded with a Q&A Panel – hosted by Damian Lawlor - with Sky Sports Ambassador Podge Collins who joined



THE GAA YOUTH FORUM IS NOW WELL ESTABLISHED AND GIVES THE NEXT GENERATION OF OUR PLAYERS A VOICE IN THE ASSOCIATION

Ciara Trant, Martina McMahon and Caitríona Cormican to answer questions on a range of issues of interest to young players

The Forum was hosted by the National Youth Committee in partnership with An Cumann Camógaíochta, the Ladies Gaelic Football Association (LGFA) and

GAA Handball. However, the format, structure and organisation of the Forum was led by the GAA YouthReps, which is a representative body of 30 young people from across Ireland who are committed to 'acting for, speaking with and listening to' young players in order to represent their views to the highest levels of the GAA, Camogie Association & LGFA.

Click below to read the report on the findings of the #GAAyouth Forum 2019!
www.gaa.ie/api/pdfs/image/upload/gv2x1rgwkewcxydzi40y.pdf
games and our culture."

GAA PRESIDENT'S AWARDS 2020



THE GAA HOSTED THE RECIPIENTS FOR GRADAIM AN UACHTARÁIN 2020, AT A SPECIAL BANQUET IN CROKE PARK ON FEBRUARY 14.

The prestigious annual awards, organised with the support of AIB and broadcast by TG4, affords Uachtarán CLG with an opportunity to acknowledge outstanding commitment and long service across the club and county network.

The 11 awards are a cross-section of people who have shared the common theme of making an inspirational impact on their code and also their club and community.

Uachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Gael Seán Ó hOráin said: "The GAA exists because of the volunteer effort of inspirational people.

"The impact and infectious enthusiasm of these people is the beating heart of what our great Association has grown to be for more than 130 years.

"These awards present us with an all too rare opportunity to stop and reflect and say thank you to a group of people who have made and who continue to make a life-long contribution to the GAA and who are such magnificent role models.

"There are 11 awards presented here across all codes and all walks of the GAA life. In their own way they are ambassadors and shining examples of the countless other volunteers at home and abroad who give so much of themselves for the betterment of the GAA and who we are proud to be able to call our own.

"Ba mhaith liom tréaslú le gach duine a bheidh ag fáil gradam anocht. Tá na gradaim seo á mbronnadh oraibh mar aitheantas ar an obair mhór atá déanta agaibh i gcur chun cinn gnéithe éagsúla de chuid Chumann Lúthchleas Gael. Comhghairdeas libh go léir agus go maire sibh bhur ngradam.

"I would like to acknowledge AIB and Maol Mhuire Tynan, Head of Public Affairs, for their ongoing support of these awards and of their wider commitment to Gaelic games.

"Míle buíochas also to TG4 for their assistance in helping us to bring these awards to the widest audience possible and for the work they do each year in showcasing Gaelic games."

The 11 awards are made on a provincial and code basis. As well as Gaeilge, Education and International Awards, the presentation of the annual Dermot Earley Family Award will also be made.

Buaiteoirí Gradaim *an Uachtaráin* 2020

LEINSTER AWARD:

**NICK FITZGERALD -
Kildalkey GAA, Meath**

Originally from the St Molleran's club in Waterford where he played football and hurling for club and county, Nick also spent more than a decade immersed in the GAA in London prior to returning to Ireland and settling with the Kildalkey Hurling and Camogie Club in Meath where he has made a monumental impact.

On the field he was a player and selector on their three in a row Championship winning team of 2009-2011. During the same period, he was a driving force on a club development committee which over saw new pitches and important upgrades in club facilities to capitalise on their senior success.

The current club chairperson and also a respected referee, his talents came to county recognition and in 2017 he guided Meath to an All-Ireland Minor B Hurling Championship crown – a win made sweeter by the presence of his son, Evan, in its ranks. That same year he was appointed Meath senior manager and in 2019 he assisted the Royals as they were crowned Christy Ring Cup champions – with Evan again a playing member and another son Conor, in the backroom team.

That selflessness and drive have been real hallmarks and his contribution to Meath hurling makes him a worthy recipient.

ULSTER AWARD:

**JAMES MCELHATTON –
Nh Colmcille, An Charraig Mhór, Tír Eoghain**

Jimmy McElhatton has been a cornerstone of the Charraig Mhór club in Tyrone for five decades and has served with distinction as a player, referee, coach, administrator and volunteer over that half century.

His involvement with the historic three in a row winning Senior Championship team of 1977-79 remains one of his proudest moments – but by no means is the extent of his contribution to this club.

For 30 years he has been the groundsman at Páirc Colmcille, he has served on numerous committees and also had a career as a respected referee within the county.

His involvement and passion for the GAA has also seen him play an important role at promoting Irish culture and he has travelled far and wide representing the club with distinction through Scór at various levels.

He was elected Club President in 2015 and his willingness to answer the call for the club has endeared him to its members. Together with his wife Rose, he has passed on his love of the GAA to their children and grandchildren who are proudly following his example.

MUNSTER AWARD:

**BREDA FITZGIBBON,
Skeheenarinky Hurling Club, Tipperary**

An ever present in her club, Breda Fitzgibbon has given an exceptional life-long contribution to the GAA in her community and with her local hurling club of Skeheenarinky in South Tipperary across a wide range of roles and responsibilities.

An active committee member and officer for more than 30 years, she began following her families fortunes on the hurling field and has been involved in different committees since the late 80s.

A former club secretary for 17 years, it was while serving as a club chairperson between 2013 and 2017 that Skeheenarinky landed one of their most significant victories when they claimed the County Junior A Hurling crown in 2014.

She is the embodiment of volunteerism and her contribution to the club and the wider community has been truly immense. In her own way she has been a pioneer by being the first female club secretary and subsequently first female club chairperson and she has set an example for others to follow. It has been her passion and leadership and commitment that have guided her throughout.

CONNACHT AWARD:

**JOHN MCANDREW,
St Michael's GAA Club, Sligo**

Every GAA club needs a reliable person to ensure that they have the necessary funds to allow them to function – off the field and on. It's often a thankless job, but vitally important to enable clubs to survive and one such inspirational figure in this field is John McAndrew of St Michael's in Sligo.

John started out his involvement with his club in the late 70s as a player before proving himself to be invaluable with his fundraising efforts and in helping to organise the weekly card game. When the card game evolved over time into a club lotto, it was again John who proved instrumental in its organisation

and success.

To this day the club benefits from the vital support of the locality which is secured through the lotto drive by John, his wife Ann and by Harry and Jacinta Clarke.

It's not only the club that benefits from his fundraising skills, as he is also the treasurer of the Markievicz Park committee and is a regular volunteer steward on match days.

It is John's enthusiasm and drive which shines through at all times and being always on hand, sometimes at short notice, to travel the length and breadth of Sligo and indeed Connacht to assist at stewarding at GAA matches contributes to him being such a popular figure.

CAMOGIE AWARD:
MARIAN MCCARTHY,
St Finbarr's, Cork

Marian McCarthy's family have a long and distinguished connection with St Finbarr's and she is adding to that tradition in her current role as President of the camogie section within the club.

Her early exploits were as a player where she tasted a junior championship success with the Barrs in 1981 and then victory at intermediate level the following year to send the club up to senior level for the first time in its history.

When her playing career ended, Marian turned her attention to becoming a vital administrator within the club while also passing on her skill, knowledge and love of the sport onto the next generation of players as a mentor with teams.

Her ability brought her to the attention of the county board, and she was elected chairperson of the Cork board in 2002 and held the post for 14 years. Her key trait in that time was an ability to bring people together to work for a common cause and this unifying presence was a key to laying the foundation for a great period of success.

For many, her greatest achievement is arguably the develop-

ment of Cork's Camogie Grounds and clubhouse at Castle Road and bringing this impressive development through to fruition. It stands as a fitting legacy to her and her colleagues and something which camogie shall be indebted to them for over many years to come.

HANDBALL AWARD:
PETER DENNEHY,
Liscarroll Handball Club, Cork

Peter's handball career began with Cosset's Handball Club in the Sugar Factory in Mallow where he worked for many years and is now a member of the Liscarroll Handball Club.

As a player and now as an administrator, Peter has been someone who has always looked to raise standards and is a tireless champion for the sport in his roles as treasurer and PRO of Cork GAA Handball where he leaves no stone unturned in his promotion of the game.

No Sunday evening would be the same without his handball results slot of Cork's 103FM and his voice will be well known to thousands through his volunteer work as stadium announcer at both Páirc Uí Chaoimh and Páirc Uí Rinn.

Sport survives on heroes and in Cork Handball, there is one such Laochra Gael in Peter Dennehy who has made an immense contribution over so many years and who also has a long association with the Inter Firm Boards.

This is an exciting time for handball with numbers growing and an impressive new national HQ soon to be unveiled at Croke Park in the coming weeks.

The sport can consider itself lucky that the efforts of volunteers like Peter Dennehy have protected its tradition through to these days.

LADIES FOOTBALL AWARD:
MAGGIE SKELTON,
Achadh Uí Arain, Tír Eoghain

Maggie Skelton has lived and breathed Tyrone Ladies Gaelic Football for more than 15 years. Her passion and drive for the



MAGGIE SKELTON OF ACHADH UÍ ARAIN, TÍR EOGHAIN, IS PRESENTED WITH THE LADIES FOOTBALL AWARD BY MAOLMHUIRE TYNAN, HEAD OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AIB, AND UACHTARÁN CHUMANN LÚTHCHLEAS GAEL JOHN HORAN DURING THE GAA PRESIDENT'S AWARDS AT CROKE PARK IN DUBLIN.

game is evident in everything that she does and has enabled her to carry the heavy workload of county secretary with consummate ease.

That willingness to go above and beyond is truly inspirational and she never seems happier than when she is at training and games and looking at teams of all age levels enjoying their sport.

She has had a huge impact on the county senior team in the last number of years as the team liaison officer and has been a key figure in the planning and organising of match days. It is hugely appreciated by the players that no stone is left unturned in arranging everything the players need to perform to their best.

Her tireless capacity for work means that she is an active delegate at Ulster council as well as being effective in other capacities such as stewarding at matches, assisting with gates and selling programmes – making a positive impression in everything that she does.

Her infectious enthusiasm is a credit to her.

EDUCATION AWARD – Hugh Rudden, Ballyhaunis GAA, Mayo

Hugh originally hails from Bawnboy in West Cavan where he was one of eight children and played for the local Templeport club where they were reared on iconic All-Ireland winning Cavan teams of 1947, '48 and '52.

That passion for football and the GAA which was instilled in those early years has stayed with him - and wherever his working life took him, across Ireland or indeed later in London, the GAA was a constant companion.

After serving as secretary and helping to build new facilities in Templeport, it was upon his qualification as a secondary school teacher in 1972 that he was appointed to a post in Ballyhaunis Vocational School. Within days of his arrival, he was helping to train the local school and club teams.

The result of that work can be traced back over decades in the form of numerous players who have played club and county football with distinction.

Indeed, it was a particularly proud moment in 2006 when, as President of Mayo GAA, Hugh watched former part pupil Keith Higgins captain Mayo to the All-Ireland U21 title.

He has made a massive contribution to Post Primary Schools GAA at county, provincial and national level and his depth of knowledge leaves him in demand across a wide range of topics from National Grounds Maintenance to the Connacht Council Hearing's Committee.

The physical impact of his commitment to Ballyhaunis GAA is evident in the role he played in developing the clubhouse, grounds and facilities over a 10-year period which resulted in the impressive facilities being ready back in 2008.

A tireless volunteer, on his nights off Hugh can be found helping to sell 50/50 envelopes for the weekly club draw.

Remarkably he is the second Ballyhaunis GAA clubman to receive the prestigious Presidents' Award and follows in the footsteps of previous winner Johnny Bietsy.

INTERNATIONAL AWARD:

PAT GORHAM, Orang Éire GAA, Malaysia

The growth of the GAA overseas is one of the great modern-day success stories for the Association and is built on the efforts of people like Pat Gorham.

Originally from Belmullet in Mayo, he was the first chairman of the club back in 2007 and the passion and enthusiasm he brought to the role when the clubs was in its fledgling years has never waned.

In that time he has helped create a club that has not only been a home from home for many members of the Irish Diaspora, but has also succeeded in winning over new friends and admirers and players to Gaelic games from among locals and other non-native Irish.

His vision of a club was more than football – but about family and friendship and he has achieved that goal.

Pat was instrumental in bringing the GAA Football All-Stars to Kuala Lumpur in 2010 and hosting the Asian Gaelic Games from 2012 to 2014 and helped initiate a tie-in with a local Aussie Rules team to ensure there was no shortage of competitive action.

The Asian Gaelic Games now attracts more than 800 players to its staging and Pat has helped to create this exceptional showcase of World GAA in action through his role at Asian County Board level. Through all this, he also makes an important contribution on the field where he still lines out and his safe hands make him a natural goalkeeper.

GRADAIM GAEILGE:

**CON Ó DÓNAILL,
Bun an Phobail, Dun na nGall**

Tá Con Ó Dónaill ag croílár na gcluichí Gaelacha i bParóiste Bhun an Phobail ó bhog sé óna cheantar dúchais féin, Dún Lúiche, sa bhliain 1968. Nuair a tháinig sé go Bun an Phobail ní raibh aon chlub ann ach thug sé féin, Brendan Keaveney, Paddy McGroarty agus níos deireanaí, Joe McGeedy, fúthu sin a chur ina cheart. Faoin mbliain 1970 bhí foireann peile á cur chun

páirce acu i mBun an Phobail.

Rinneadh iarracht i 1976 club a chur ar bun idir mhuintir Bhun an Phobail agus mhuintir Charn Domhnach, ach le Con tofa mar Rúnaí níor mhair an smaoineamh sin i bhfad agus cuireadh CLG Bhun an Phobail ar bun do mhuintir Bhun an Phobail – an chéad uair a raibh club dá gcuid féin ag an bpobal.

Bhí imeachtaí cultúrtha i gcónaí lárnach i bhfís Chon don chlub agus bhí siad ar a laghad chomh tábhachtach céanna leis na himeachtaí spóirt. Bhí Con taobh thiar den fhorbairt a tháinig ar Scór sa chlub agus chuir an club isteach ar chomórtais Scór don chéad uair i 1978 agus gan iad ach bliain amháin ar an bhfód.

Bhí Con ina Rúnaí ar an gclub idir 1976–2005, ina Chathaoirleach idir 2006–2011 agus tá sé ina Oifigeach Gaeilge orthu ó shin i leith.

Ag leibhéal Bhord an Chontae tá na blianta caite aige ag cur chun cinn imeachtaí cultúrtha agus chluichí an Chumainn. Bhí ról an Oifigigh Ghaeilge–Chultúrtha aige i 2006 agus arís eile idir 2012–2015. Le linn an ama sin, d'oibrigh sé go dian díograiseach agus é ag iarraidh an Ghaeilge, an ceol, an damhsa, an drámaíocht agus an amhránaíocht thraidisiúnta a chur chun cinn ar fud an chontae.

Ba é an t-aitheantas is fearr a tugadh ar fhís Chon don chlub ná nuair a d'éirigh leo Bonn Airgid a fháil i scéim Fhondúireacht Sheosaimh Mhic Dhonncha anuraidh. D'oibrigh Con go díograiseach chun an gradam seo a bhaint amach don chlub agus tá bunchloch leagtha síos aige don chéad ghlúin eile sa chlub i gcur chun cinn na Gaeilge.

Tá oidhreacht Chon le feiceáil sa chlub gach maidin Dé Sathairn agus os cionn 100 páiste ag traenáil, tríd an líon mór imreoirí ón gclub atá tar éis imirt leis an gcontae agus tríd na rudaí atá bainte amach ag an gclub ag Scór.

Tá an club buíoch de Eileen, Conor, Caitriona agus de Mharia as é a roinnt leo!

DERMOT EARLY FAMILY AWARD:

**The McGovern Family,
Burren GAA, Down**

The McGovern family from Burren in Co. Down are steeped in the GAA tradition. The twelve siblings (nine boys and three girls) were born to their parents Eileen and Jimmy between 1942 and 1960. Previous to that, Eileen's brother, John McClorey, became the first Down footballer to play for Ulster in a Railway Cup final in 1941.

The nine boys all represented St. Mary's, Burren with distinction from underage through to senior level, with five of them going on to represent Down at senior level. Two of the other four brothers also represented Down at different levels.

Daughters Susan, Marie and Bríd were their supporters in chief, fiercely committed to the exploits of club and county and who have seen their own children and grandchildren make a massive contribution to the Burren and Down both on and off the field.

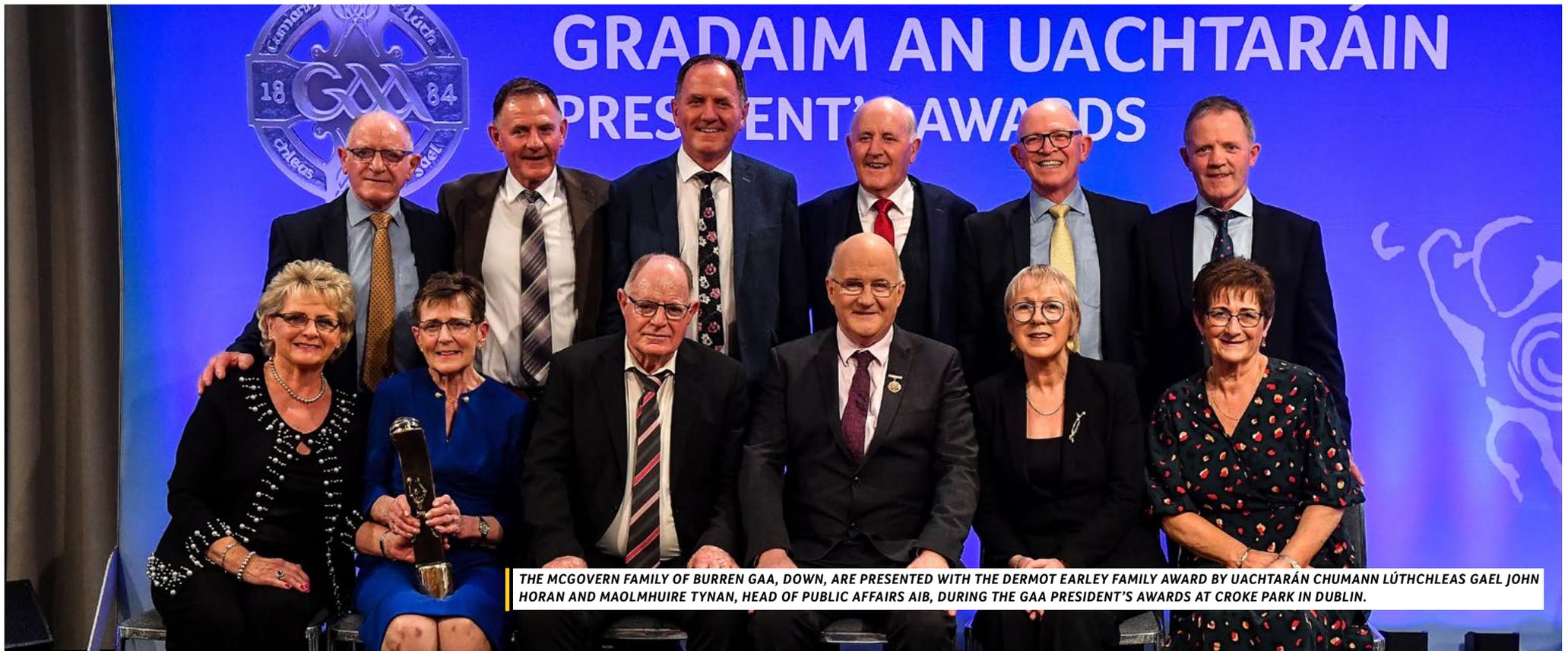
Tommy, a holder of three Railway Cup medals, along with Vincent won Ulster Senior Football Championship medals with Down in 1978 and 1981, with youngest brother Brendan joining them for the 1981 triumph, when Tommy captained the team. Tommy and Brendan also won National Football League medals in 1983.

Brendan won All-Ireland Minor and U-21 medals in 1977 and 1979 respectively, while Tommy (captain) and Vincent played in the 1977 All-Ireland U-21 final.

The oldest male siblings Johnny and Frank played on the first Burren team to win a Down Senior Football title, back in 1966, and Johnny was manager when the club next won it 25 years later. Six of the brothers (including Frank) played in that 1981 Championship with Eddie scoring the winning goal in extra-time of the replayed final.

It was two of the McGovern brothers who captained their beloved Burren to their All-Ireland Club title successes; Tommy in 1986 and Vincent in 1988.

The next generation also made and continue to make their mark at both club and county levels. Six children of the McGovern siblings have represented Down at senior level, most notably Micheal Magill, who won an All-Ireland medal in 1994, Sean Ward who captained Down in the 2003 Ulster Final and Gearard McGovern who won a Railway Cup medal in 2016. Two others have played Minor football for Down, another is Chair of The Young Ireland's GAA Club in Melbourne and another co-managed the Glasgow Gaels team which reached the British Junior Football final last year.



THE MCGOVERN FAMILY OF BURREN GAA, DOWN, ARE PRESENTED WITH THE DERMOT EARLEY FAMILY AWARD BY UACHTARÁN CHUMANN LÚTHCHLEAS GAEL JOHN HORAN AND MAOLMUIRE TYNAN, HEAD OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AIB, DURING THE GAA PRESIDENT'S AWARDS AT CROKE PARK IN DUBLIN.



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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