

M A Y 2 0 1 9  
BEALTAINE 2019  
NUAICHTLITIR



Neon hMeánóg

FOR NEWS, VIDEOS AND FIXTURES [www.gaa.ie](http://www.gaa.ie)



## FIXTURES REVIEW COMMITTEE TO BE ESTABLISHED

**Uachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Gael John Horan has confirmed that a Fixtures Review Committee will be established to come up with three proposals to be debated at Congress next year.**

Eddie Sullivan has been appointed Chairman of the Committee with an emphasis being placed on providing a 'meaningful programme' for club players.

"When I took over as President I promised that in the summer of 2019 I would put a group together to look at the overall schedule and fixture programme that we offer in the organisation," Horan stated following this morning's All Ireland SFC Round One Qualifiers draw on RTE's Morning Ireland.

"Key to that is to give clubs an opportunity, that they would have a meaningful programme on the ground. Eddie Sullivan, a former Secretary General within the public service, is being appointed as Chairman of this committee. He is a former Chairman of his club, St Sylvesters in Malahide."

Horan is adamant that the group put together three proposals which can be debated at length by GAA members at the end of the year.

"The CPA and the GPA will each have a representative, the other members of the committee will be from other sectors -second

level will have a representative, third level and then from within the organisation itself," Horan explains.

"People who have an understanding of the actual fixtures programme. Somebody said it on the radio at the weekend, there is no silver bullet for this. If it was easily solved it would have been a solved a long time ago. I would be hoping that this group will come back with proposals that will be beneficial to the clubs on the ground.

"Key to it all I think is that I would like them to come back with three proposals. To come back with one proposal and were it to fall would not serve any great purpose from the work of the committee.

"The indication I will be giving to them when they do come together is to come in with three proposals because there is a debate out there whether provincial championships should survive or not survive.

"That will be a decision taken by the membership of the organisation at Congress 2020, but in the meantime that offer has to be put on the table."

It was also confirmed that a Tier 2 Football Championship, which could potentially commence next summer, will be discussed by Central Council next month with a Special Congress a possibility in the autumn.



"When you look at the Championships in the last few weeks you see great local derbies and great matches," Horan remarked.

"Then you see some games a little bit with too big a gap in the result. With a big gap in the result if you look at the draw we have made this morning you can see a large number of Division Three and Four teams already in the qualifiers.

"So our hope would be that at the next Central Council meeting in June to bring forward a proposal to look at the introduction of a Tier 2 Championship for those teams in Division Three and Four.

"There is an appetite out there within the organisation for us to go ahead with a Tier 2 Championship. Now, I feel, is the time to grab that when the appetite is out there.

"I think we will possibly get it through at Central Council and if we do we will call a Special Congress in September or October time to have a look at putting this forward to have it introduced next year."

The GAA President believes the committee will be afforded a significant opportunity to put together proposals on a new fixtures structure for the future. "There are lots of people out there with opinions on the problem, but when they take the whole complex nature of it into account they don't necessarily have the simple solutions," Horan added.

"So this committee are going to be given the opportunity to come in with whatever proposals, I'm not tying anybody's hands behind their back. The ultimate decision will be made by the democratic process we have which is Congress."

# NAOMH MEARNÓG'S GROUNDFORCE INSPIRATION



Meet GROUNDFORCE – the hard-working and inspiring volunteers from Naomh Mearnóg who, for the last 10 years, have saved their club a small fortune by organising retirees in the club into a dedicated group who look after their running repairs.

We are all familiar with the phenomenon that has been the Men's Sheds movement in society which has grown in popularity all over the country and is an invaluable social outlet for retired men.

In many ways GROUNDFORCE is a GAA version of a Men's Shed group. And as GAA President John Horan found out recently on a visit to them in Dublin's Portmarnock, they have made a massive contribution to the upkeep of their club and also maintained the connection and enjoyment and participation of their members.

The driving force behind the group is Pat Monaghan – a former Westmeath dual star, who settled with Naomh Mearnóg where he had a lengthy teaching career.

"We started 10 years ago and on average we have 32 club volunteers involved – all retirees – as well as three special needs men.

"There is eight per team on a monthly rota who are on for a given week. The work is allocated on the Monday of each week and we generally work from 10am to 1pm.

"The advantages are that it is a great social outlet, there are health benefits and it is good to stay active while there have been huge financial savings for the Club."

There was a GAA presence in this beautiful part of north county Dublin back in the 1930s. But it was on the back of Dublin's landmark All-Ireland football triumph of 1974 and the surge in popularity for the GAA in the capital, that inspired a resurrection and led to the foundation of the club.

Club stalwart and founder member Jackie Hughes recalls hosting a fundraiser in a hotel in town for the fledgling club, and it being swamped as the heroes of the '74 team arrived with the Sam Maguire.

More than 40 years later, Naomh Mearnóg is firmly established on the Dublin GAA landscape. It has produced the GAA all-star

Shane Ryan and Dublin Ladies football stars such as Denise Masterson, Cliona O'Connor, Karen Kennedy and Orla Colreavy.

To the envy of many, they have eight pitches including an all-weather and some training areas. But in owning these pitches, it means that they are responsible for making sure they are maintained.

That is where GROUNDFORCE have come into their own.

They have virtually every county in Ireland covered in the maintenance and repair group and crucially almost every area of expertise too, from plumbers to painters and electricians to engineers.

They have cut grass, hung nets and lined pitches and painted rooms, fixed toilets and electrical problems, and maintained the club's grounds and gardens immaculately in that time.

But they have also installed a diesel tank and pump, sourced a well and installed a pump and pressure tank for separate water supply, rebuilt a damaged boundary wall and erected lights for the hurling wall – to name just a few of the bigger jobs to get done.

To have outside contractors pay for that work would have been a major financial burden. GROUNDFORCE do it because they are GAA members and GAA volunteers. It is a fantastic

resource for the club to benefit from this volunteer ethos.

In return, the social element is clearly massive. Each group is responsible for their own tea break and many of the men produce the fruits of their baking skills when they get to take a well-earned break.

The men have golf outings and a Christmas party but also the satisfaction of knowing that this busy club looks the part and is helped in no small way by the contribution of their precious time.

Well done to all in GROUNDFORCE and in Naomh Mearnóg.

If your club has a similar story in operation, we'd love to hear from you. Drop a line to [clubnewsletter@gaa.ie](mailto:clubnewsletter@gaa.ie)



*Uachtarán John Horan meets Pat Monaghan (second right) and some of the GROUNDFORCE team in Naomh Mearnóg*

# 94 GAA CLUBS RECEIVE €476,785 THROUGH THE INTEL MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM

**GAA clubs were among the big winners when Intel recently celebrated the success of its 2018 Matching Grant initiative, rewarding 249 community organisations and schools from across Ireland with €912,684.**

The Intel Involved Matching Grant Program encourages Intel employees to engage in outreach and volunteerism in their communities by supporting employees' giving their time and talent to qualified non-profits organisations and schools. For every hour that is volunteered by an Intel employee at a school or qualified non-profit organisation, a donation or "match" of \$10 is paid from the Intel Foundation directly to that organisation.

In 2018 Intel employees volunteered just over 102,000 hours that were eligible to be matched through this initiative resulting in a payout of €912,684 for 249 recipient organisations who are spread across 21 different counties in Ireland.

The 249 organisations which were part of the Matching Grant initiative included charities such as The Alzheimer Society of Ireland, Inner City Helping Homeless and the Society of the Vincent De Paul, a

variety of sporting clubs ranging from GAA to cycling, and various other organisations such as animal sanctuaries, scouting groups and schools.

[Click Here](#) to see a full list of the recipient organisations.

This is the eleventh year that Intel has implemented the current grant scheme, and in that time, more than €5.5 million has been donated to charities, schools, sports clubs, social initiatives and community schemes across Ireland. The total number of hours volunteered by employees during this time is the equivalent of having 25 people working full time in the community for the full eleven years.

Eamonn Sinnott, Intel Vice President, Technology and Manufacturing Group and General Manager of Intel in Ireland spoke proudly of the thousands of hours of volunteering completed by Intel employees in 2018 which resulted in the grants: "I am proud to celebrate our employees who selflessly give their time across a wide variety of volunteering activities in 21 counties in Ireland. The Matching Grant Program is a unique way for us to celebrate and reward this volunteerism – heartfelt congratulations to all involved".

Ard Stiúrthóir Tom Ryan said: "I am delighted to be able to represent the GAA for the latest installment of the phenomenal support that our Association receives through this initiative in Intel.

"I know at first hand through my own club in Faughs and the support given to our

clubmate Paul Donoghue just what sort of a significant contribution is being made here and we are hugely appreciative.

"Intel has a great track record of investing in its People and I'd like to think that it is common ground shared with ourselves in the GAA."



*Ard Stiúrthóir Tom Ryan pictured along with Minister Heather Humphries and Intel Ireland General Manager Eamonn Sinnott at the Intel Matching Grant celebration where they were joined by some of the kids who have benefitted*

# ARE YOUR GOALPOSTS SAFE AND SECURE?



**The GAA has signed up to a multi-sport campaign seeking to highlight the importance of goalpost safety in our clubs.**

Tragic accidents which happened in the past can be avoided and clubs are urged to follow the below checklist whenever they are using goalposts – particularly portable goalposts used at juvenile level.

### **Check It–**

Check all club Goalposts including equipment

for securing posts when in use to ensure they are in good condition. Goalposts should be certified to NSAI standard IS 356 & IS 358. All nets must be secured behind the goal post and behind the goal to minimise trip hazards and the risk of fingers or hands being caught in the net.

Homemade goals should not be used as they do not contain the built-in safety features of certified goals and may be particularly hazardous when used at underage activities. Damaged goals should immediately be

removed from the club property to prevent further use.

### **Secure It –**

Goalposts must be anchored securely as per manufacturers guidelines. Portable goals for indoor use should only be used indoors. Portable goals for outdoor use should only be used outdoors. All portable goals must be secured when in use. Portable goals when not in use should be removed and safely stored.

### **Test It –**

Test all goals to ensure they are secure before all training or matches. All coaches must be able to safely assemble, and secure temporary goals used in underage training.

### **Respect It –**

Goals are not toys and should only be used for training or fixtures. No person should be allowed to climb or swing on goals.

# USE OF GAA PROPERTY – AN IMPORTANT REMINDER

**A**ll affiliated units are reminded of Chapter 5 of the GAA Official Guide which relates to the Control and Use of GAA Property.

All property including Grounds, Club Houses, Halls, Dressing Rooms and Handball Alleys owned or controlled by units of the Association (“Association Property”) shall be used only for the purpose of or in connection with the playing of the Games controlled by the Association, and for such other purposes, which accord with the Aims of the Association, that may be sanctioned from time to time by Central Council.

Please refer to page 66 of the 2019 Official Guide which can be accessed at the following link...

<https://www.gaa.ie/api/pdfs/image/upload/zcyuuyi0qdzjgwsufww.pdf>

It is important to note that cover under the GAA Insurance program is provided on the basis that all units are affiliated to Cumann Luthchléas Gael and in compliance with Association rules as set out in the Official Guide.

This condition of cover is noted on page 31 of the Liability Insurance policy document issued to all affiliated units on December 20 2018.

If further copies of this document are required by affiliated units, please email [sinead.leavy@gaa.ie](mailto:sinead.leavy@gaa.ie) or [ciara.clarke@gaa.ie](mailto:ciara.clarke@gaa.ie) to request a copy.

Affiliated units are reminded that should a personal injury claim arise as a result of a breach of the rules of the Association as set out in the Official Guide or the terms and conditions of cover as set out in the policy document, Insurers will decline cover of the claim to the unit.

As a result, the affiliated unit will be solely responsible for meeting the entire claims cost – investigation, defence and the cost of any successful award, from the unit’s own funds.

There is no central fund to provide financial assistance to units who encounter financial difficulty as a result of an uninsured loss. Ongoing media reports continue to highlight the high level of awards made in personal injury cases and affiliated units should be aware of this potentially significant financial exposure.



# LÁ NA gCLUBANNA 2019 – GET ACTIVE, GET INVOLVED



A booklet advising clubs on communicating the day, budget and fundraising, volunteer recruitment and activities, can be downloaded from

[www.gaa.ie/my-gaa/getting-involved/la-na-gclubanna](http://www.gaa.ie/my-gaa/getting-involved/la-na-gclubanna)

**“The vision of the GAA is that everybody has the opportunity to be welcomed to take part in our games and culture, to participate fully, to grow and develop and to be inspired to keep a lifelong engagement with our Association.”**

Lá na gClubanna is a day when clubs will have the opportunity to showcase all that is

positive about Cumann Lúthchleas Gael in communities the length and breadth of the country and of course internationally too.

This activity has been a feature of our club network for many years and in many instances our club units organise these events on an annual basis. Last August we also had the Gaelic Sunday Centenary celebration which was

another chance for Club's to show their pride in their place and role in their community.

This is an opportunity for the GAA to highlight the important role of members, players, supporters' and families in our Association and for the local community to have fun. It will also provide clubs with an opportunity to engage with potential new members.

Bainigí sult as an ócáid agus go néirí go geall leis cibe áit in a bhfuil sibh ag caomhnú agus ag spreagadh ár gcluichí agus ár gcultúr.

Le gach dea ghuí,

**Micheál Mac Concharraige, Cathaoirleach Coiste Náisiúnta na gClubanna**



## Send us your pictures of your club embracing the spirit of Lá na gClub.

After the success of Lá na gClub in recent years – coupled with the successful commemoration of the Gaelic Sunday centenary last August, we want to showcase you and your club celebrating your place and your importance in your community.

Please Send your pics as jpegs to [clubnewsletter@gaa.ie](mailto:clubnewsletter@gaa.ie) with a short report on the activities and events of the day and we will be happy to use the best ones.

# THE TWINNING CLUBS INITIATIVE AT THE 2019 RENAULT GAA WORLD GAMES

By Eoghan Tuohey

**T**he 2019 Renault GAA World Games will have an added social and cultural dimension, as we celebrate worldwide Gaelic Games coming to Waterford for the first time this July.

The Renault GAA World Games begins at the WIT Sports Campus in Carraiganore on July 28 with almost 90 teams travelling from every corner of the globe.

The sporting aspect of these games is, of course, of primary concern, and every club from each of the 10 regional units from around the globe is coming to Waterford with the chief goal of qualifying for a final and take to the field at Croke Park on Friday, August 2nd.

But this event is also a glorious opportunity to highlight the growth of Gaelic games internationally, celebrate our shared values, build friendships and learn from one other.

We all share a love and passion for Gaelic Games, despite coming from diverse backgrounds.

The GAA is rapidly increasing its footprint around the globe, no longer confined to Irish-born players. Over 60% of players this year are expected to be native-born, or not Irish born, for the first time ever.

Our games are Irish in their heritage, but many have bought into their ideologies and care just as much about them, want to facilitate their growth and nurture their development in their region. Gaelic Games are now a global phenomenon, and the purpose of this social and cultural event is to celebrate that growth.

It is envisaged that all, or as many as possible, Waterford GAA, LGFA & Camogie clubs will play their part and host a visiting native born team, or teams for an evening of socialising, learning, entertainment and celebration.

With visiting team numbers almost fully confirmed, it is looking like there will be approximately 60 teams to be accommodated on Tuesday evening, July 30th, from 7.30 - 9.30pm during the week-long event. A key aspect of this is that every Waterford club will have the opportunity, and is actively encouraged, to put their own unique stamp on this event, and welcome the visitors in whatever way they feel best represents their area and their community.

The objectives of this initiative are to add a social and cultural layer to a well-established sporting festival as well as to align native born teams with Waterford clubs, and in so doing create an opportunity for people from different backgrounds to form friendships through the lens of Gaelic Games.

It's also a fantastic opportunity for clubs to showcase their best selves, to encourage all members of the community to get actively involved and show real pride in their local area. Everyone is invited, everyone is welcome. It's an occasion where we can all contribute, listen, learn and celebrate together.

It's sure to be a positive experience for the visiting clubs too - to see the infrastructure of how an Irish club works, to share in their hospitality and to network for mutually beneficial relationships going forward.

For more info contact [eoghan.tuohey@gaa.ie](mailto:eoghan.tuohey@gaa.ie)



# 2019 RENAULT GAA WORLD GAMES - CLUB FOCUS: SOUTH AFRICA GAELS

By Eoghan Tuohy

**W**e here at Renault GAA World Games HQ take a closer look at the SA Gaels - From early beginnings, to 2016 World Games Plate Finalists, to the energy, passion and colour they will bring to the 2019 Games in Waterford!

It still may come as a surprise to a lot of GAA people here in Ireland, that not only is there a thriving Gaelic Games community in Johannesburg, South Africa, but that it is now in existence for over 9 years. On top of this, most of its members are local people, largely hailing from townships on the outskirts of the sprawling city. Often, we here in Ireland simply aren't aware of the impact our native games are having abroad, the extent to which they are played and the significant roles they occupy in communities around the world. It's worthwhile learning about their growth, and how they have successfully brought communities together, provided a sporting and social outlet to local people, and helped to increase exposure to Irish culture, often in some of the most unlikely of geographical locations.

Founded by Paul Carpenter and Hannah Oguz, two players with a love for Gaelic Football, the club was initially formed with the goals of establishing the game in the country, nurturing and facilitating its growth, as well as to introduce people in the region to a



South Africa Gaels Men's Team Talk - GAA World Games 2016

previously unseen aspect of Irish culture, and to share it with as many locals as possible.

There's in and around 50 players involved in both the senior men's and women's teams, and while there is involvement from expats, it is mostly local people who make up the numbers. The club's primary focus is on developing their native-born sides, with development officers working with some 100 primary-school children every week to foster in them a love for Gaelic Games and an outlet for socialising and playing in a safe and secure environment.

From this initial founding, came the South African Gaelic Sports Foundation, whose chief aim is to create opportunities and to make Gaelic Games accessible to kids living



South Africa Gaels Ladies' Team Celebrate during the 2016 GAA World Games

in underprivileged townships in Joburg. From humble beginnings, three development centres have now been established in Tembisa, Alexandra and Midrand, with 3 full-time development officers employed. Plans are afoot and already underway to continue this growth, particularly in the Kwa-Zulu and Eastern Cape regions of South Africa.

Long term, the South African Gaelic Sports Foundation targets the GAA World Games in particular, where they hope to build on the success that they had in UCD in 2016, where their men's team were runners-up in the plate final. The Games are the focal point of their season, and the squads lit up the 2016 tournament with their energy, enthusiasm, passion and positivity, and it is expected that their contribution to the 2019 event in the

WIT Arena in Carriganore, Waterford will be no different. The club sees the World Games as an ideal opportunity to connect with fellow clubs, form friendships and build relationships that will hopefully lead to the creation of an All-African GAA Tournament in the future, as well as advance relationships with their GAA friends in neighbouring regions, such as the Middle-East, where they competed at the Dubai Gaelic Games Tournament in 2014.

The SA Gaels are extremely excited ahead of this year's tournament, having gone on two more successful tours in the meantime, to Oman in 2017 and the Asian Gaelic Games in 2018. Both excursions have whetted their appetites to represent their country on the world stage once again, and we can't wait to welcome them to Waterford this July!



**Name:** Charles Harrison

**Job title:** National Cúl Camps coordinator

**GAA Club:** St Johns, Sligo

**Honours won:** 2017/2000 Intermediate county titles, 2010 Vodafone GAA All Star, 2010 GPA team of the year, 2008 Sigerson Cup (UUJ), 2007 Connacht Senior Football title, 2004 Trench cup (St Marys University London).

**No of Years working for the GAA:** 5 years

**Favourite Club Memory:**

Winning the intermediate county title in 2000. St Johns was founded in 1987, it was a great achievement considering the clubs brief history. There is also a particular Féile bus trip to Killala that will live long in the memory!!

**Favourite Inter-County GAA Memory:**

Winning a Connacht title in 2007 was stuff dreams are made of, Sligo have only one three titles in history and to be part of that is something I will never forget. The pour out of emotion in the county was phenomenal and really highlighted to me what the GAA means to people.

**What does your club mean to you?**

It's home, it's familiarity, it's going training with the people you've known since you were a child. It's also fun and an escape from the adult world and real life stress factors.

**What do you like most about working in Croke Park?**

The Games Development department is the heartbeat of the Association, daily interaction with volunteers remind me of that. Working with people with a shared interest and common goal from different departments is a great experience.



**Name:** Cian Murphy

**Job title:** Communications Executive

**GAA Club:** Templeogue Synge Street, Dublin

**Honours won:** Intermediate Football Championship winners 2008 with TSS, Senior B Hurling C'ship finalists 1999, Intermediate hurling champions 2002 with Cumann Baire Caoimhin

**No of Years working for the GAA:** 4

**Favourite Club Memory:** The Intermediate run of 2007/08 was special. We won the Division 1 league in '07 by drawing our first match and then going 14 games unbeaten. We also won the Loving

Cup for Inter as well. In '08 we added the Intermediate Championship. I had only started out as a senior footballer at 18 in 1992 when Synger were relegated. So, to be able to be there and play a part when we got the club back up was very important to me. I'll always remember the relief and satisfaction to get that done on our watch.

**Favourite Inter-County GAA Memory:** If you are lucky enough to be from a contender county then every All-Ireland is golden. But nothing will ever top Dublin v Kerry 2011. There was 16 years of frustration and disappointment since 1995, then the drama of the finish, but also great being able to see two friends and clubmates in Denis Bastick and Eoghan O'Gara get to be part of it all. I'll always remember the emotional phone call home from Croke Park to my parents soon after the final whistle to celebrate.

**What does your club mean to you?** The most important people in my life after my family are the small group of friends I made when I started out on this epic GAA journey when I was eight. We have wives and kids and jobs and cars and houses and grey hair now, but otherwise we are all still the same. Playing for my school and club introduced me to them and many more decent people besides. We didn't win a lot but that didn't stop us enjoying what we did. Building a sense of community can be difficult in Dublin GAA but being a Past Pupils club was our community. That sense of belonging, the importance of honouring what went before was special. Now I coach my son on the Under 9s and there is a great sense of a circle of GAA life. We recently buried the legend that was Anton O'Toole and to see all of the generations of Synger come back together to honour him brought it home what a GAA Club is in terms of anchoring you to something special. Likewise, the amount of former team mates who turned out when my mam passed away made me feel very humble and lucky to be part of this thing that can bring out the best in us.

**What do you like most about working in Croke Park?** We always say the GAA is many things, but it is always ultimately about people and people working together. It is an inspiration and privilege to come in the doors of Croke Park every single day. That is matched by the calibre of the people I get to work with - most of whom have a GAA backstory like me, and all of whom have a passion for doing our best for this phenomenally precious Association. I started out here as a steward in the Cusack Stand when I was 13. I spent two decades here as a journalist and now it is where I have an office and get to be part of a small but skilled and dedicated Comms team. Everyone here knows how lucky we are to be doing this, and also mindful of the responsibility we have to 2,000 clubs and their volunteers and the 135 years of heritage we have to secure and protect for the future.



**Name:** Eoghan Tuohey

**Job title:** GAA World Games Communications Officer

**GAA Club:** Murroe Boher, Limerick

**Honours won:** All Ireland Freshers League & Championship with UL, Limerick U21 A East & County Title, County Senior Cup, East Senior Championship, Junior County Championship

**No of Years working for the GAA:** 1

**Favourite Club Memory:** After a few barren years, winning two titles at U21 level, including the East Limerick title by 0-7 to 0-6 in a rain-soaked bog was a tense and gripping affair for the hardy souls who turned out!

**Favourite Inter-County GAA Memory:** Not too difficult! August 19, 2018. A day many of us genuinely thought we might never see! Incredible scenes. Serious luck to have started working in Croke Park season!

**What does your club mean to you?**

The club is the cornerstone, without them I wouldn't have the passion for GAA that I have today. Developing and resourcing clubs is critical, without them the Association would cease to exist. I get back most weekends and couldn't imagine not being involved in some way!

**What do you like most about working in Croke Park?**

The novelty of looking out onto the field hasn't worn off yet! It's amazing to be working at HQ and being able to walk through a location with so much history and heritage attached every day. Some of the best things would be the lunchtime pucks down in the warm up areas, having lunch while looking out of a suite and being in an environment with so many like-minded and passionate individuals!

# OUR TEAM – YOUR TEAM

Meet some of the Croke Park staff putting their GAA passion and knowledge to good use

# CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES FOR GAELIC GAMES



**CONCUSSION**

**NOT ALWAYS A KNOCK-OUT!**

ACTION PLAN	SYMPTOMS
<b>R</b> ecognise <i>the signs and symptoms</i>	◦ Headache
<b>R</b> eport <i>if suspicious, don't hide it</i>	◦ Confusion
<b>R</b> ehab <i>with rest and medical guidance</i>	◦ Nausea
<b>R</b> eturn <i>after following Return To Play Protocol and getting medical clearance</i>	◦ Dizziness
	◦ Double/Blurry Vision
	◦ Sensitivity to Light
	◦ Feeling Hazy or 'Groggy'
	◦ Just not 'feeling right'
	◦ Memory Problems
	◦ Pressure in Head

For the Return to Play Protocol and further information on Concussion see [learning.gaa.ie/Concussion](https://learning.gaa.ie/Concussion)

**IF IN DOUBT, SIT THEM OUT!!!**

**P** find here the updated Concussion Management Guidelines for Gaelic Games for your reference. This is the first time there is a common guidelines document between the three Associations which will help with awareness and promotion of the key messages and recommendations in relation to concussion identification, treatment and return to play protocols.

The guidelines, including other complimentary resources are available on

<https://learning.gaa.ie/Concussion>

An awareness and education campaign will be rolled out by all three Associations in 2019.

In the mean-time please circulate to relevant staff and officers as required.



# GAA TO TAKE PART IN DUBLIN LGBTQ+ PRIDE FESTIVAL



**T**he GAA can confirm that the Association will be officially represented at this year's Dublin Pride Festival and Parade.

It is the first time that there will be an official GAA involvement at Pride and the representation will be led by one of our top inter-county referees, Meath's David Gough, when it takes place on June 29.

GAA President John Horan said: "Last February I used my address to GAA Congress to highlight the need for us to show solidarity and respect for members of the LGBTQ+ community who make a contribution to our Association.

"The opportunity to take part in the Dublin Pride Festival and Parade is a follow on from that and I am delighted that we will do so.

"We recently launched a manifesto hailing the GAA as Where We All Belong. This is one way of living up to that assertion, of actions speaking louder than words.

"The challenge for our Association at all times is to be relevant and to try our best to positively reflect society.

"The GAA is the first national sports body in Ireland to establish a Gender Diversity Committee whose remit is to publish a draft policy document and a discussion paper by the end of this year. This committee met again this week and is progressing its work very well.

"The GAA has a huge presence in Irish life and I am delighted that the Association is committed to making such a positive difference by ensuring that inclusion is prominent in how we operate."

# BALLYMONEY CÚCHULAINNS AND ULSTER GAA PROMOTING INCLUSIVITY

By John Harrington

**B**reaking down barriers between the Catholic and Protestant communities in the north of Ireland is a difficult challenge, but it's one that Ulster GAA has been committed to for a long time.

Former Armagh footballer, Diarmaid Marsden, in particular, is working hard in that space as Ulster GAA's Head of Community Development Department.

He's convinced that age-old prejudices and misunderstandings can be softened and eventually broken down if there is dialogue and members from both communities are prepared to embrace inclusivity rather than segregation.

He knows this because he has seen it work at first-hand.

One of Ulster GAA's most long-running and successful cross-community initiatives is the annual Cúchulainn Cup which brings together schools and families from both communities with little or no previous interaction with the GAA.

Each school in a designated town selects pupils who then come together to form an U-16 team that competes in the Cúchulainn Cup.

In this way cross-community friendships are forged between players who would otherwise have not had an opportunity to meet and

share such a sporting experience together.

Each year a Cúchulainn team is also chosen to compete in the All Britain Championships, and this year it will be the turn of a boys team from Antrim town and a girls team from Ballymoney in North Antrim to travel to London in July.

If the experience of previous teams is anything to go by, the trip will break down barriers in a way that would not otherwise be possible in a society that is often strictly segregated.

"Two years ago one of the teams was from Banbridge in County Down and we travelled on the 12th of July and the night before a lot of the boys would have been at their local bonfires as part of their cultural celebrations," says Ulster GAA's Diarmaid Marsden.

"And the next day they're away putting GAA gear on and playing in a Gaelic Football tournament in London.

"Once you see things like that it's great because everyone just gets on with things and accepts it. And you'd see them mixing together more the more time they spend in one another's company.

"It's hard to get a measure on what the impact will be eight years down the line. Will they still be mixing together? But at least they've had an introduction to our games and also to each



*The Ballymoney Cú Chullainns who played in the 2018 All Britain Championship*

other. I suppose we're using sport to bring them together.

"Last year we had a boys team from Ballymoney which would be classed as a Unionist town. We had representation from Our Lady of Lourdes (Catholic Maintained school) and Dalriada (Controlled school). From Dalriada two of the boys who took part actually then went and tried out for clubs in Derry in the last year.

"Before being part of that Cúchulainn team they had never even tried Gaelic Football or picked up a hurl."

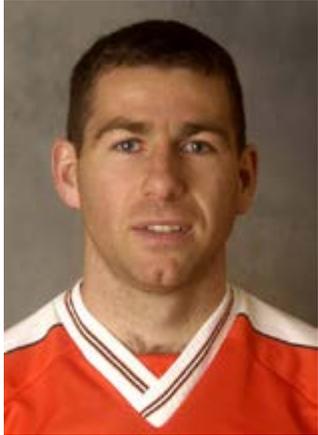
The Cúchulainn Cup is just one of a number of positive initiatives that Ulster GAA has undertaken to encourage greater inclusivity

and cross-community co-operation.

They have also signed up to the 'Sport Uniting Communities' initiative, which is a 4-year EU PEACE IV funded programme that sees them work with the Irish Football Association and Ulster Rugby.

It brings together volunteers from the three sports organisations with the mission statement of reaching "17,000 people of differing backgrounds, particularly across the political divide, with the aim of changing perceptions and building sustained relationships."

Another initiative is the 'Game of Three Halves' which offers young people from both communities the opportunity to play Gaelic



Diarmuid Marsden

Games, Rugby, and soccer together in sports camps.

Marsden is also enthused by the manner in which the phenomenal success of the GAA's Healthy Clubs initiative is helping to break down barriers and bring people into the GAA who would previously had no affiliation to it.

"Through a lot of the Healthy clubs initiatives such as a "couch to 5k" or aerobics classes, whatever is going on in the club setting, we're finding that they're enticing people from both sides of the community to come to GAA clubs who would never have come previously," said Marsden.

"Putting GAA clubs at the centre of the community in the whole area of health has definitely helped bring people from a different tradition to at least attend events in GAA clubs.

"All of those things add up. There are loads of small steps we are taking in terms of putting the GAA out there and the more we can do the better.

"We have good, strong engagements with a range of groups now such as the PSNI and local councils. We have met Council staff and locally elected councillors and outlined what the GAA is all about.

"Once we put forward our case of what we deliver you can see hearts and minds change a bit or someone might say, 'I didn't realise you did this or that'. The more work we can do in terms of public relations like that the better."

Progress is being made, but there is still considerable resistance to change and suspicion of the GAA's motives by many.

"There will always be people too who will remain entrenched in their views," admits Marsden.

"It can be quite difficult because people are set in their ways and have their mind made up that the GAA is a certain thing and that's all they are and they don't want to associate with the GAA or promote the Association in any way, shape, or form.

"Unfortunately, their views are not going to change. Through young people is the way to go.

"They want to try Gaelic Games and are curious about it but they're never going to get coached in their schools unless Ulster GAA or the county boards go in there.

"Once they try the games they enjoy them and that's what we're all about, promoting the games. Of course, we are proud to foster and nurture traditional Irish pastimes, but you don't need to dilute your own cultural identity or background to play our games.

"Inclusivity must be a two-way street, and Ulster GAA are keen that clubs are seen as open and welcoming. It can only be of benefit to have a diverse membership, playing and non-playing, from all sections of the community.

"Thankfully a lot of clubs have attended 'Inclusivity workshops' as part of the Sport Uniting Communities Peace funded programme and we are seeing clubs "reach out" to people from different religious and ethnic backgrounds and also to those with physical and learning disabilities.

"At local Government level there can be small pots of funding available to support inclusive programmes and these are further opportunities where clubs at local level can demonstrate all that is good within the GAA, create partnerships and develop.

"We would have meetings I'm sure a lot of our members wouldn't be comfortable with, with PSNI or Government officials or political parties to try to push things forward.

"The late Danny Murphy and now Brian McAvoy as Chief Executive of Ulster GAA have been very proactive in terms of these issues for a number of years and we would hope that our clubs will also follow that lead.

"We link in with the police to deliver jointly, key messages on Road Safety, One Punch Campaign, Domestic Violence Awareness, Mental Health etc...The PSNI recognise the reach the GAA has to so many young people in the community, and we are happy that these key messages are delivered to our members.

"The PSNI have a Gaelic football team and regularly play the Gardai and every two years they play competitively against London Metropolitan Police and NYPD, but they struggle to get meaningful challenge games against clubs. Last year some Ulster GAA staff played them a match and going forward it would be great if other clubs would play. But like most things this will take time."

The political vacuum that currently exists in the six counties is another barrier to Ulster GAA's cross-community efforts.

The number of coaches working in primary schools has had to be cut because there was no minister to sign off on an extension to a coaching programme last year. Thankfully there has been a slight reprieve and we are in the process of recruiting coaches for a similar programme, albeit a reduction in the number of coaches. These new coaches can potentially be used in shared education programmes and help showcase the GAA to children who have had no experience of Gaelic Games.

In a broader sense, Marsden believes it would be easier to break down barriers if politicians in the north of all hues had the same enthusiasm about cross-community initiatives that Ulster GAA does.

"You might get very little return in terms of playing numbers. But if we can publicise better what the GAA is about then I think you will change opinions and perceptions of the GAA. We just have to keep trying!"

\* Go to <http://ulster.gaa.ie/community/> for further information on Ulster GAA's outreach programmes.

# GAA MUSEUM LEGENDS TOUR RETURNS

**Bord Gáis Energy Legends Tour of Croke Park with Martin O'Connell**  
**Saturday 8th June**  
**14.30**

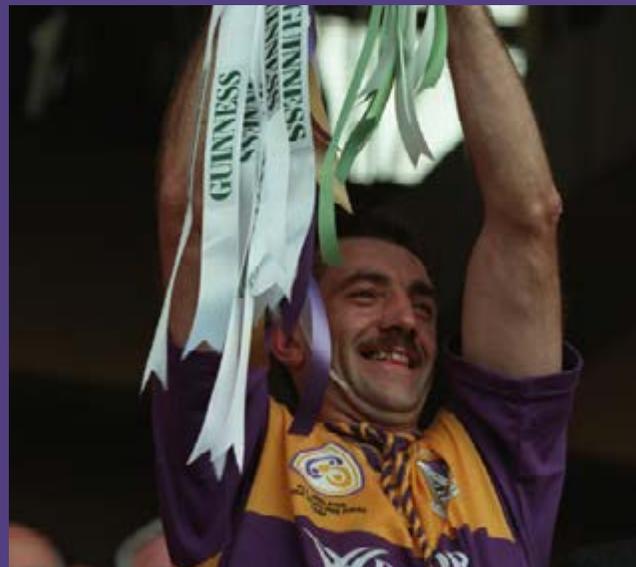
The 2019 Bord Gáis Energy Legends Tour Series at Croke Park gets underway when Meath legend Martin O'Connell will join staff of the GAA Museum on a very unique behind-the-scenes tour of Croke Park on Saturday 8th June.

Martin O'Connell was a key figure in Meath's successes from the mid-1980's to 1996. He was on the All-Ireland winning teams of 1987, 1988 and 1996. His three All-Ireland and six Leinster senior medals have not been equalled among his county men. O'Connell received four All-Star awards and in 1996 was named Footballer of the Year. In 1999, he was named on the GAA Football Team of the Millennium. In 2013, along with his team mates on the Team of the Millennium, he was inducted into the GAA Museum Hall of Fame.

This tour is part of the Bord Gáis Energy Legends Tour Series. These special tours, first introduced in 2008, provide fans with an unforgettable opportunity to hear memories and anecdotes at first hand from their GAA heroes as they go behind-the-scenes at Croke Park.

Tickets  
 Adult - €15.00  
 Concession - €12.00  
 Child - €10.00

Book Now link  
<https://www.ticketweb.ie/event/bord-gis-energy-legends-tour-gaa-museum-tickets/9485855?pl=GAAMuseumP>



**Bord Gáis Energy Legends Tour of Croke Park with Martin Storey**  
**Saturday 29th June**  
**14.00**

The 2019 Bord Gáis Energy Legends Tour Series at Croke Park continues when Wexford hurling legend Martin Storey joins staff of the GAA Museum on a very unique behind-the-scenes tour of Croke Park on Saturday 29th June.

Martin Storey captained Wexford to All-Ireland victory in 1996 and is regarded as one of the county's greatest-ever hurlers. Martin played senior inter-county hurling with Wexford from 1986 until 2001. In addition to the All-Ireland title, he won two Leinster championships and three All Star awards. With his club, Oulart-the-Ballagh, he won five county championships.

This tour is part of the Bord Gáis Energy Legends Tour Series. These special tours, first introduced in 2008, provide fans with an unforgettable opportunity to hear memories and anecdotes at first hand from their GAA heroes as they go behind-the-scenes at Croke Park.

Tickets  
 Adult - €15.00  
 Concession - €12.00  
 Child - €10.00

Book Now link  
<https://www.ticketweb.ie/event/bord-gis-energy-legends-tour-gaa-museum-tickets/9485875?pl=GAAMuseumP>



Football

Hurling

Club

General

# YOUR SEAT IS JUST THE BEGINNING...

Your walk down Jones' Road, when the butterflies kick in.

Your own entrance, bringing you straight to the heart of the action.

Your pre-game traditions – your carvery, your drink at the bar, your banter with the 'neighbours'.

Your heart beating out of your chest as the game throws in.

Your perfect view, every single time.

Your nerves, your encouragement, your head in your hands.

Your friends, your family, your colleagues, your chosen partners in crime.

Your celebration. Or commiseration.

Your experience. Your memories, be they tragic or magic.

This is your day. Your way. Every single time.

This is your premium seat.

And this is just the beginning.

## It's Your Turn to Live the Dream

A limited number of Premium Seats are now available. Talk to our Premium Team today to find out more about this incredible opportunity.

Email [premium@crokepark.ie](mailto:premium@crokepark.ie), call 01 8192300 or fill in an enquiry form.



## GAA 5 STAR CENTRE INITIATIVE FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS

**T**hree primary schools in Carlow became the first three ever to become official GAA 5 Star Centres. Last week, the occasion was marked by the raising of the GAA 5 Star Centre flags in each of the schools – Bishop Foley Memorial BNS, Pádraig Naofa Tullow BNS and Tinryland NS. All pupils cheered with excitement as Carlow GAA Chairman, Seán Campion, and Leinster GAA Chairman, Jim Bolger, set the flags aloft outside each of the schools for all to see. There was traditional music, poetry, signing and games on display, making this a very special occasion.

The three primary schools were the first to roll out the GAA 5 Star Centre initiative as part of Phase 1 of GAA's national pilot during the 2017-2018 school year and continuing as part of the 300 schools to roll it out across the 32 counties this year. Indeed, they are the first three school in, not just Ireland, but the world to do so, as three schools in New York also participated this year.

GAA Director of Games Development and Research, Pat Daly, highlighted that “the initiative aims to ensure that every child gets 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous activity per week throughout 26 weeks of the school year. In doing so, it will enhance the development of children’s movement abilities and well-being so that children experience fun, friendship, fairness, freedom and, ultimately, develop their fitness.”

To become a GAA 5 Star Centre, primary school teachers organise a range of activities for all

children to participate in, with GAA personnel acting in a support capacity. The diverse range activities include Have a Ball, Fun & Run, Strike It, Catch & Kick, Skill Challenges and Go Games. A new game called Fun & Run, involving a team of batters/kickers and fielders, is suitable for all age and ability levels. It is particularly suited to meet the needs of people with disabilities, people from socially deprived and ethnic minority groups who often perceive themselves to be excluded from mainstream GAA activities. GAA personnel also provide training to Teachers to enable them to organise the activities, including a 90-minute practical workshop.

Principal of Tinryland NS, Orlaith Hennessey, said that “we are thrilled to become a GAA 5 Star Centre. The online sign-up process is quick and easy. We had a planning meeting with Carlow GAA Lead Games Development Administrator (GDA), Sean Gannon, who explained what the programme entailed and how he could contribute. Sean and the other GDAs also provided training for Teachers after school, which we used as some of our Croke Park hours.

The range on online and print learning resources are relevant to the curriculum and are user-friendly. It is good have some supplementary coaching input from the GDAs and from volunteers from the local clubs. But we see this programme a teacher-led initiative. We believe that the 5 Star Centre is way of facilitating self-sufficiency and sustainability in our promotion and development of Gaelic games and wider physical activity in the school.”



Three primary schools in Carlow became the first three ever to become official GAA 5 Star Centres.

“The children love the wide range of activities the programme offers. It not only includes the full spectrum of Gaelic games, but fundamental movement skills development and the non-contact game of Fun & Run. The 5 Star Centre is a great way encouraging Teachers and pupils to be more physically active, thereby contributing to their health and well-being.

Every class does a at least 6 hours of any activity they wish over six weeks. In addition, one or more of the classes does 26 or more hours across the school years. 74 hours of activity was our target. What we have found is that the we have doubled this. We include lunch-time yard games where 5th and 6th pupils, under teacher supervision, organise activities – Strike It and Catch & Catch & Kick – for the younger pupils. We also play lots of Go Games after school.”

“The GAA 5 Star Centre is the complete

package for any school beginning the journey of developing physical literacy, as well as for those trying to enhance their established sport and physical activity programmes. Most importantly, it gives every single child in the school, including those with disabilities, an opportunity to have a positive experience Gaelic games. We will be proud to have a GAA 5 Star Centre flag flying above our school and will definitely be continuing the programme next year.”

Phase 2 of the GAA 5 Star Centre national pilot will be rolled out across primary schools on a phased basis from September 2019.

Should schools like to participate, Primary School Teachers/Principals can submit an expression of interest until the end of July at <https://learning.gaa.ie/5star> or contact to a member of their Co. GAA Games Development staff via [learning.gaa.ie/staff](mailto:learning.gaa.ie/staff) contacts for more info.

# DEYLI GRADUATE DOYLE LEARNING TO BE A LEADER

By John Harrington

**T**hroughout his early and mid-teens, Keith Doyle defined himself by his success as a Gaelic Footballer.

One of the most talented young players in Roscommon, he represented his county at U-14, U-15, and U-16 level.

But just when it looked like his performance graph would keep soaring upwards, his body betrayed him.

It was as if he couldn't physically adapt to a growth spurt that saw him go from 5' 11" to 6' 3" in a couple of years because he kept breaking down with one chronic injury after another.

A torn hip-flexor kept him out for six months but that was only the start of his woes.

He then tore muscle fibres off his hip bone,

suffered a stress fracture in his back, and broke his wrist. All told, the catalogue of injuries sidelined him for two and a half years.

Gaelic Football was his passion, so to have it taken away from him for so long was very hard for the teenager to take.

"Oh, yeah, so frustrating," Doyle told GAA. ie. "I was just kicking myself ever single day because I could do absolutely nothing. It was

just so boring and I didn't know what to do with myself, I was just moping around the place."

Doyle badly needed a new outlet for his energies, preferably in the sphere of Gaelic Games, and he counts himself very fortunate he found just that when he signed up to the Dermot Earley Youth Leadership Initiative

Since 2014, the Dermot Earley Youth Leadership Initiative has seen over 500 young GAA members both male and female aged 15 to 18 years complete the year-long programme, gaining a level 6 third level qualification in Youth Leadership and Community Action for their efforts.

Those who take part in the programme are given the opportunity to build their leadership skills, communication skills, self-awareness, and community skills and values.

It was a transformative experience for Doyle who went from being frustrated by his inability to play football to being energised by moving out of his comfort zone and testing himself in ways he would never previously have had before.

"It was great to be able to do the Dermot Earley Youth Leadership initiative and get back into GAA even if I wasn't able to play on the pitch," said Doyle.

"It was a very positive experience for me, I enjoyed it hugely.



Keith Doyle receives his certificate from Uachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Gael John Horan at the Dermot Earley Youth Leadership Recognition Day, hosted by the GAA in partnership with Foróige and NUIG. Croke Park in Dublin.

“It was good to get to talk to everyone else who took part and learn from their opinions.

“They were complete strangers I wouldn’t have met before and we were learning about effective communication which I would have gained a lot of confidence from.

“You’re learning how to speak publicly and you have to give presentations every now and again.

“So I had to talk in front of a group of strangers that I wouldn’t really have known and which was tough at the beginning, but as the course went on it was something that helped me a lot.

“If you’re a captain of a team you would occasionally talk in a dressing-room, but it was good to have a different setting to do it in.

“Before I did the Dermot Earley Youth Leadership I wouldn’t have been as confident as I am now anyway. I would have been more inclined to hold back.”

Doyle’s unfortunate run of injuries are now thankfully behind him and he got the perfect opportunity to display his newly minted public-speaking skills when he helped Roscommon CBS win the All-Ireland Colleges ‘B’ Football Final in Croke Park last April.

Crowned Man of the Match after scoring two points from midfield, being interviewed in front of the tv cameras by the side of the pitch didn’t faze him in the slightest.

“Yeah, I had a good chance to practice the public speaking alright on live television,” laughs Doyle.

“I didn’t really have a clue what to say, though, I still can’t put it into words, it was an absolutely amazing moment.

“It definitely made the experience of winning the All-Ireland all the more special because I’d had those two years with all of those injuries.

“You could nearly say it was meant to be. It was well worth it anyway to through all of those rehabilitations to experience that moment.”

The All-Ireland Colleges Final was his first time to play on the Croke Park pitch but Doyle experienced another memorable day in the stadium last May when he received his Dermot Earley Leadership Initiative certificate from GAA President John Horan, a moment he describes as “a dream come through”.

Applications for the 2019-2020 Dermot Earley Youth Leadership Initiative are now open, and Doyle believes any teenager (aged between 15 and 18) who signs up will be find it to be a hugely positive experience.

“I’d recommend it, 100 per cent, definitely, it was a great experience in my opinion,” said Doyle.

“For me personally it was great to have a different outlet in the GAA apart from just playing football.

“I’m studying for my Leaving Cert now and I do think it has helped me prepare because while I was doing the Dermot Earley Youth Leadership Initiative I became a good bit more mature.

“I realise now that study is more important than I would have thought before.

“So it’s helped in other aspects of my life as well, especially at the moment because I’m studying for the Leaving Cert.”

The 2019/2020 Dermot Earley Youth Leadership application forms can be accessed [here](#).

The 2019/2020 Dermot Earley Youth Leadership nomination forms can be accessed [here](#).

**For more information on the Dermot Earley Youth Leadership Initiative, [go here](#).**



*The Roscommon CBS footballers celebrate after their All-Ireland Colleges Senior ‘B’ Football success in Croke Park.*

# CAVAN GAA ADOPT TOBACCO CONTROL POLICY FOR KINGSPAN BREFFNI PARK

**C**avan County Board earlier this year began a number of initiatives to create a healthier and more inclusive environment in and around the county grounds, Kingspan Breffni Park.

In January 2019, in conjunction with our Health & Wellbeing committee, PROJECT HEALTHY U was born. A committee was put in place to organise a number of events focused on promoting healthy mind and body, creating community spirit, therefore creating a healthier environment around the stadium.

Events included weekly fun run, walk, jog followed by refreshments each week, building up to 5K at the end of each programme. There were seminars on various health topics at our health day in January. Healthy food options are now on sale in the shops at all games in Kingspan Breffni. To promote road safety, the RSA car simulator was available to us on the weekend of the Christopher Sheils tournament.

## Tobacco Control Policy

Cavan GAA is committed as part of our overall philosophy to discourage the use of tobacco as such activity is incompatible with a healthy approach to sporting activity. They are committed to reducing the use of tobacco and its harmful health effects by adopting an effective tobacco control policy.

The project leaders on behalf of Cavan GAA said: "We aim to protect the health of individuals in our clubs, wider communities

and visitors to the stadium by keeping them safe from all tobacco related harm.

"We realise that tobacco use and exposure to second hand smoke is severely harmful to health, in particular that of children. There is no safe level of exposure. We aim to change social norms and encourage people to consider quitting and to reduce the initiation of smoking among young people."

From Saturday 18th May 2019, beginning at the Ulster Championship Cavan v Monaghan and Lory Meagher Cup Cavan v Fermanagh games, Cavan GAA are implementing a tobacco free policy, which includes the non-use of e-cigarettes on all pitch viewing areas of Kingspan Breffni to include the covered and uncovered stands and all terraced areas. Signage is being provided to reinforce this message.

This policy applies to all members, officials, stewards, coaches, players, parents, spectators, visitors and volunteers. We believe that we are setting a positive example for the community with genuine concern for everyone's health. A number of smoking areas will be available around the grounds.

They are very grateful for the assistance of the HSE QUIT team, Cavan County Council, Healthy Cavan and our main sponsors Kingspan with this very important initiative.

Ms. Paula Campbell (Department of Health Promotion & Improvement, HSE) said: "The HSE welcomes the new smoke free areas in

Kingspan Breffni. Smoke free areas provide a healthy environment and support those who want to quit smoking. Anyone who is thinking about quitting can get free support in Cavan General Hospital (049 437 6527) or from the HSE Quit Team at 1800 201 203."

County Board Chairman, Gerry Brady said 'Cavan GAA fully support the excellent work of our Health & Wellbeing and Project Healthy U committees and are fully behind the anti-smoking policy in our county grounds. We want to have a healthy and safe environment for our supporters when they visit Kingspan Breffni'.

Kingspan Breffni is Committed to Following an Effective Tobacco Control Policy

<https://cavangaa.ie/2019/05/cavan-gaa-adopt-anti-smoking-policy-kingspan-breffni/>

For more information:  
Contact Kieran Callaghan +353 (86) 260 8971  
visit: [www.gaa.ie/community](http://www.gaa.ie/community)

Follow: @officialgaa  
or Like: [www.facebook.com/officialgaa/#gaahealth](https://www.facebook.com/officialgaa/#gaahealth)  
HSE Quit Team at 1800 201 203



Project Healthy U team in Cavan



# COMÓRTAS PEILE NA GAELTACHTA 2019 SEOLTA I BPÁIRC AN CHRÓCAIGH

**S**heol Cathaoirleach Choiste Naisiúnta Gaeilge CLG, Seosamh Mac Donncha, an 50ú Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta i bPáirc an Chrócaigh ar an gCéadaoin, 22 Bealtaine, 2019.

18 club ar fad a ghlacfaidh páirt i gcomórtas na bliana seo a bheidh ar siúl an deireadh seachtaine seo chugainn idir 31 Bealtaine agus 3 Meitheamh – An Ghaeltacht, An Daingean, Liospóil, Béal Átha an Ghaorthaidh, Cill na Marta, An Rinn, An Seanphobal, CLG Bhulf Tón, Na Gaeil Óga,

Clann na nGael, An Fháirche, Oileáin Árainn, Cill Chomáin, Cill tSéadhna, Gaoth Dobhair, Na Dúnaibh, Cill Chártha agus Laochra Loch Laoi.

Maidir le comórtas na bliana seo dúirt Seosamh Mac Donncha, Cathaoirleach Choiste Naisiúnta Gaeilge CLG, ‘Cuireann sé ríméad orm an ócáid seo a sheoladh agus tá mé ag súil go mór le féile mhór peile agus Gaeilge le linn dheireadh seachtaine na Cincise. Tá an Ghaeilge ag croílár Chumann Lúthchleas Gael agus níl bealach níos fearr le cainteoirí Gaeilge a thabhairt le chéile ná

é a dhéanamh trí spórt agus trí Chomórtas Peile na Gaeltachta ach go háirithe. Cúis bróid do lucht eagraithe an chomórtais go bhfuil leathchéad bliain bainte amach ag an bhféile seo.

Is é ag labhairt faoi 50 bliain ar an bhfód de Chomórtas Peile na Gaeltachta le gairid dúirt Cathaoirleach Chomórtas Peile na Gaeltachta, Micheál Mac Donncha ‘Is mór an ócáid do eagraíocht ar bith leathchéad bliain ar an bhfód a cheiliúradh. Ag breathnú siar dúinn ar stair an chomórtais ní mór beirt faoi leith a lua – Antóin

Bairéad as Ciarraí agus Antóin Ó Cearbhaill as Gaoth Dobhair. Thiar sa mbliain 1969 a shocraigh an bheirt acu cluiche peile a eagrú idir dhá chlub Ghaeltachta. Ba uaidh sin a tháinig Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta ar an bhfód an chéad lá. Ó Bunaíodh an fhéile mhór peile seo tá 19 cumann théis an comórtas sinsearach a bhachan agus tá 22 cumann théis an comórtas sóisearach a bhachan.’

Ní neart go cur le chéile!



# ÁR GCLUICHÍ, ÁR LAOCHRA – ÉAMON ÓG Ó DONNCHADHA

**C**uireann muid 20 ceist anseo ar Éamon Óg Ó Donnchadha, iománaí óg de chuid na Mí.

‘Tá an Ghaeilge fíorthábhachtach i mo shaol mar is cuid lárnach de mo theaghlach, mo phearsantacht agus mo chultúr í agus cuireann sé ríméad orm go bhfuil sí agam agus go bhfuil mé in ann í a labhairt le daoine eile.’

Cuir aithne níos fearr ar fhear Ghaeltacht Ráth Chairn anseo thíos!

**Ainm:** Éamon Óg Ó Donnchadha

**Aois:** 22

**Club:** Clann na nGael

**Contae:** An Mhí

**An scannán is fearr leat?** Aon cheann ó shraith Harry Potter

**An banna ceoil is fearr leat?** Lúnasa

**An áit is fearr leat?** An Fhrainc

**An bia is fearr leat?** Bradán

**An t-imreoir ab fhearr leat nuair a bhí tú óg:** Eoin Kelly (Tiobraid Árann)

**An chéad chuimhne CLG atá agat:** Ag traenáil faoi 10 sa pháirc i Ráth Chairn

**An chéad uair ar imir tú le do chontae:** Anuraidh

**An t-imreoir is fearr le himirt leat:** Damien Healy

**An t-imreoir is fearr le himirt i do aghaidh:** Tommy ‘Jogger’ Doyle

**An cluiche is fearr a d’imir tú riamh:** Cluiche ceannais Chraobh na Mionúr leis an gclub

**Buaicphointe do shaoil imeartha le do chontae go dtí seo:** Mo chéad chluiche craoibhe ag imirt leis an gcontae anuraidh i gcoinne Aontroma

**Buaicphointe do shaoil imeartha le do club go dtí seo:** Corn Idirmheánach na Mí a bhuaichint, corn faoi 21 agus corn na mionúr a bhuaichint sa bhlaoin chéanna

**An duine is mó a raibh tionchar aige/aici ar do shaol imeartha go dtí seo:** Mo athair agus Ciarán Mac Donncha

**Aon chomhairle agat do imreoirí óga?** Taitneamh a bhaint as chuile chluiche agus is fearrde obair chrua ná tallann i gcónaí.

**Aon chaitheamh aimsire eile?** Is breá liom a bheith ag casadh ceoil. Casaim na píobaí uilleann agus an fheadóg mhór.

Gluais – Glossary  
aghaidh a thabhairt – to face  
dúshlám éagsúla – different challenges

pearsantacht – personality  
ríméad – glad  
sraith – series  
Bradán – Salmon  
Cluiche Craoibhe – Championship Match  
tallann – talent  
Píobaí Uilleann – Uilleann Pipes  
Feadóg Mhór – Flute



Éamon Óg Ó Donnchadha ag casadh do Chlann Ríoga na Sualainne

# JUNIOR STARS SHINE AT NATIONALS

JUNIOR 4-WALL  
NATIONALS 2019



**T**he curtain came down on the 2019 4-Wall season in some style at the weekend with the top juvenile players in the country producing an exhibition of Handball in venues in Tyrone, Monaghan and Armagh.

Action kicked off on Saturday morning with over 60 Boys & Girls in the 11 & Under grade displaying outstanding skill that belied their young years. They set the scene for what was to follow across the next 36 hours as the skill level was extremely high for such young players.

Saturday saw grades whittled down to the semi final stages with plates completed on Saturday evening meaning Sunday's action took place in Loughmacrory, Carrickmore and Beragh with semi finals and finals the order of the day. On Sunday Beragh's impressive new double court facility saw the major semi finals and finals take place there and a packed gallery were treated to some outstanding Handball throughout the day.

The 13 & under girls saw Wexford's Jodie Keeling and Tipperary's Hannah Grace progress to the final following tight semi final victories. Jodie Keeling needed a tie break to see off Tyrone's Dearbhail Fox 15-13, 3-15, 11-6 while Hannah Grace defeated Galway's Cliona Ni Chonghaile on a tight 15-14, 15-12 scoreline on Saturday evening. In Sunday's Final it was Wexford's Keeling who came out on top taking the title on a 15-9, 15-9 scoreline.



The Boys 13 & Under saw the title head down the road to Monaghan as Sean Callan defeated Cavan's Oliver McCrystal 15-7, 15-14 in a



close final. In the semi finals Cavan's McCrystal had a fine win over Kilkenny's Niall Drennan 15-6, 15-4 while Callan accounted for Cavan's Niall Magee in a three-game thriller eventually winning out 15-9, 6-15, 11-5.

The 15 & Under grade saw impressive performances from Clare's Chloe Philpott and Wexford's mark Doyle to take home the titles. Philpott staged a fantastic comeback from losing the first game to number 1 seed Amy Brennan from Kilkenny to take the second game and went on to claim the third and her maiden Nationals title on a 8-15, 11-15, 11-2 scoreline. In the semi-finals Philpott who was in fantastic form all weekend caused a shock defeating number 2 seed Clodagh Munroe 15-9, 15-12 while Brennan was victorious against Galway's Emma Kinane 15-7, 15-5.



Wexford's Mark Doyle was a man on form at the weekend, keeping all his opponents to single figures en route to winning his maiden Irish Junior 4-Wall Nationals 15&U title. In the semi final Doyle defeated Tyrone's Jack Darcy 15-7, 15-5 while on the other side of the draw

Galway's Mikey Kelly defeated Kilkenny's Kyle Jordan 15-12, 15-13. In the final Doyle was in imperious form and took the title on a 15-7, 15-4 scoreline.



The 17&Under Girls grade saw Kildare's Mollie Dagg and Galway's Niamh Heffernan qualify for the final following semi final victories over Kilkenny's Noelle Dowling and Tyrone's Elizabeth McGarvey. The final was a high quality affair with Dagg edging the first 15-14. The second game was equally as tight early on with Dagg eventually pulling away to take the title on a 15-14, 15-11 scoreline.



The Boys semi finals saw Monaghan's Eoghan McGinnity defeat Galway's Jason O Toole 15-5, 15-13 with the second game in particular a close run affair that saw McGinnity pushed to the pin of his collar to secure victory. Mayo's Lorcan Conlon defeated Tyrone's Cormac Munroe in a three game epic in the other semi final eventually sealing his place in the final on a 14-15, 15-10, 11-10 scoreline. The final saw McGinnity's experience come to the fore as he had too much for the Mayo man winning on a 15-5, 15-0 scoreline to cap a fine 4-Wall season for the Monaghan Harps man.



Meanwhile the 19&Under girls grade saw Megan McCann defeat Wexford's Cora Doyle 15-7, 15-12 to set up a battle against Kildare's Leah Doyle in the final with Doyle defeating local girl Michaela McCartan 15-2, 15-5 in the other semi final. The final was a rip roaring contest with Doyle taking the first 15-13 before McCann took the second 15-8 and went on to claim the title on an 11-7 scoreline in the tiebreak.



The Boys 19&Under final also needed a tiebreak to separate the pairing of Wexford's Adam Walsh and Cork's Conor Walsh with the Wexford man coming back from 9-4 down in the third to capture the title on a 15-13, 12-15, 11-9 scoreline. Walsh had earlier accounted for Cavan's Diego Di Folco in the Semi Final while Cork's Walsh had accounted for another Cavan man in Adam Crosbie.



So as the sun set in the Red Hand County the large contingent that had descended on the northern venues made their way back to the four corners of Ireland after an epic weekend of action with new friends and great memories made.

GAA Handball would like to thank the ten venues of Breacach, Carrickmore, Loughmacrory, Pomeroy, Killyclogher, Greencastle, Eugene Quinn's, Monaghan Harps, Tydavnet and St Mellans for having their facilities in such fine order and for the welcome they afforded to each and every player, spectator and visitor over the weekend.

The facilities on offer were hugely impressive and the hospitality in the venues was second to none and showcased the great work been done by volunteers throughout the country.

Great credit and thanks also to the organising committee led by Tyrone's Paula Clarke for running such a fantastic tournament.

To all the referees, venue officials we say a huge thank you for their time and commitment.

To the parents and coaches for committing to entering and bringing the players to the tournament thank you for your support and finally to the players who made the weekend so fantastic with their displays of skill, athleticism, sportsmanship and commitment we say congratulations and well done to each and every one of you.

### Full finals results below:

#### 2019 Irish Junior Nationals Finals Results

G13&U – Jodie Keeling (Wex) dft Hannah Grace (Tip) 15-9, 15-9

G15&U – Chloe Philpott (Clare) dft Amy Brennan (Kilk) 8-15, 11-15, 11-2

G17&U – Mollie Dagg (Gal) dft Niamh Hefferan (Gal) 15-14, 15-11

G19&U – Megan McCann (Arm) dft Leah Doyle (Kild) 13-15, 15-8, 11-7

B13&U – Sean Callan (Mon) dft Oliver McCrystal (Cav) 15-7, 15-14

B15&U – Mark Doyle (Wex) dft Mikey Kelly (Gal) 15-7, 15-4

B17&U – Eoghan McGinnity (Mon) dft Lorcan Conlon (Mayo) 15-5, 15-0

B19&U – Adam Walsh (Wex) dft Conor Walsh (Cor) 15-13, 12-15, 11-9

G13&UB – Bronagh Farley (Tyr) dft Emily McGinnity (Mon) 15-1, 8-15, 11-3

G15&UB – Niamh Burke (Gal) dft Saoirse Kelly (Wat) 15-10, 15-2

G17&UB – Katie Barrett (Car) dft Nicole Sweeney (Gal) 15-5, 15-0

B13&UB – Alan Gilmartin (Mayo) dft Thomas Duff (Tyr) 15-8, 15-9

B15&UB – Fiachra ÓDuill (Arm) dft Shane Whyte (West) 11-15, 15-1, 11-9

B17&UB – Caolán McCartan (Tyr) dft Niall McMahan (Cav) 9-15, 15-8, 11-0

# EAST CAVAN GAELS – A REGIONAL HURLING CLUB STARTS TO REAP REWARD ON A DECADE OF WORK

**The East Cavan Gaels Hurling club celebrates 10 years of activity this summer and the arrival of a Senior side has put the icing on the cake on a decade of local hurling development.**

Chairman Willie Gaughan explains; “I was on the old hurling board in the mid 2000s and we were wracking our heads in trying to find a new way to get boys into hurling. We always knew boys loved to play the game but the existing model of Gaelic football club was not one that suited hurling.

“There were never enough hurlers in any particular GFC club and players did not want to play for their local rivals on the hurling field either so something had to be done. We came up with the model of regional club encompassing 7-8 local GFCs in order to make a single hurling entity, not an amalgamation but a stand alone Club.

“And rather than try to get someone else to do it, I decided to do it myself along with others in the locality. We went into the local East Cavan communities, Bailieborough, Kingscourt, Shercock, Virginia and surrounding areas and looked for those adults who had an interest in the game and recruit them for this new model. “We started exclusively with Under 8/10s at the time and slowly built ourselves from there ever since.

“Today we have all grades from U7 up to our new adult Senior side for the first time. “ Secretary Kathryn O’Flynn continues: “We

kept adding a new U8 team each year and continued working with the older boys who had great success along the way particularly 2018 Feile division 7 title winners in Mayo amongst others. A third of our Senior team is made up of boys who started with us 10 years ago and the production line will deliver even more in the years ahead.

“Two of our players, Cian McEntee and Jack Barry, have made the Cavan Senior intercounty side with a lot more in Cavan underage sides and we look forward to them making it to our Senior side in the years to come. This model we’ve created seems to be the way forward. Players are buying into the “hurling” identity we’ve created. It is also great to see lads who are deadly rivals on the football field locally put that rivalry aside and join together for hurling.

“Our Senior side recently made the league final which was great progress. A few more lads have been looking in and watching from afar to see how we are getting on and are now willing to join with us so the future of the Senior side looks good as we await the next wave of boys to become men and join with them.

“We have to be particularly thankful to our partner GFCs, in particular, Kingscourt Stars, Bailieborough Shamrocks, Shercock, Knockbride and Killinkere who have readily provided both players and facilities for hurling and to Cavan County Boards Liam McCabe, Angela Hamilton and Brian Seagraves for all of their help with fixtures and support for hurling in general.

“We now have competitions for all our age grades at last which makes recruitment even easier. Without the support of these clubs and individuals our club would not be as successful as it has been, but we must give great thanks to our local communities who provide players and coaches and administrators and are very focused on delivering hurling for boys into the

future. This April, as we now have our Senior team, we have been ratified as a fully official GAA Club by Cavan GAA and, with our tenth birthday is upon us in July wouldn’t it be great to get to a Senior final to mark a remarkable birthday?!”

Watch this space. East Cavan Abú!!



*Groundbreaking East Cavan Gaels senior hurlers*

*Indoor hurling U11s*



*The 2018 ECG Feile Div 7 champions*



# PROVINCIAL HURLING & CAMOGIE COACHING WORKSHOPS 2019

## Venues & Dates

June 15th St. Kieran's College, Kilkenny

Registration: 10.30 a.m. Workshop: 11.00 – 1.20 p.m. Lunch 1.30 p.m.

July 20th Mallow GAA Centre, Co. Cork

Registration: 10.30 a.m. Workshop: 11.00 – 1.20 p.m. Lunch 1.30 p.m.

August 24th Monaghan Centre of Excellence, Cloghan, Co. Monaghan

Registration: 10.30 a.m. Workshop: 11.00 – 1.20 p.m. Lunch 1.30 p.m.

October 12th Connacht Centre of Excellence, Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo

Registration: 10.30 a.m. Workshop: 11.00 – 1.20 p.m. Lunch 1.30 p.m.

## Format:

Practical and station based with participants rotating through three stations. Guest coaches will discuss and demonstrate the aspects of Hurling & Camogie that they regard as being essential to player development.

Target audience – Youth – Adult Coaches

## Purpose:

Create an opportunity to listen to and question people that have played or coached at the highest level.

Discover what is important to achieve your potential as a player or coach.

Discover if you are covering the “essentials” in your coaching sessions.  
Coaches:

Lead coach at each station will be one or more of our guest coaches from the list below. More to be confirmed.

Jamsie O'Connor (Clare)  
John Mullane (Waterford)  
Derek McGrath (Waterford)  
Kate Kelly (Wexford)  
D.J. Carey (Kilkenny)  
Aidan Fogarty (Kilkenny)  
Michael Rice (Kilkenny)  
Jackie Tyrell (Kilkenny)  
J.J. Delaney (Kilkenny)  
Eamon O'Shea (Tipperary)  
Eoin Kelly (Tipperary)  
Joe Deane (Cork)  
Molly Dunne (Galway)  
Bookings:

Places can only be reserved on a first come first served basis. Early booking advisable as places are limited. To book your place, visit:

<https://www.eventgen.ie/2019-provincial-hurling-and-camogie-workshops>

Enquiries:

All enquiries to Martin Fogarty - Email: [martin.fogarty@gaa.ie](mailto:martin.fogarty@gaa.ie)

Registration:

€20 (includes lunch)



*Martin Fogarty - National Hurling Development Manager*

# GAA OVERSEAS PLAYING SANCTIONS FOR USGAA / NEW YORK / CANADA

**F**or the 2019 season, all sanction applications must be made online via the Player Transfer System (PTS). This will see clubs in North America initiate the sanction process in a similar process as to how online transfers operate.

This process must be initiated by the club in USGAA/Canada/New York that the player wishes to play with.

Players who are intending to play in these jurisdictions in Summer 2019 should:

1. Contact the club secretary of the club they intend to play with in USGAA/Canada/New York.
2. If the club in USGAA/Canada/New York would like to initiate a sanction application for the player, the player should purchase suitable travel insurance. The only currently acceptable insurances are those provided by Chubb (available via the link below on gaa.ie) and USIT (MAPFRE - which must include confirmation of an upgrade from the standard cover of "Hazardous Activities Grade 1": to include "Hazardous Activities: Grade 5"). Please note Travel insurance must be purchased before the player leaves Ireland - Further details below.
3. The player should supply their e-mail address to the club secretary of the club

they wish to play in USGAA/Canada/ New York.

4. Complete the application form online via a link which will be received by the player via e-mail from the PTS once an application has been initiated by the club secretary in USGAA/Canada/New York via the Sanctions tab. Players must upload proof of their travel insurance information when completing the application form or the application will not be processed. In addition, players applying for a J1 Sanction must also provide proof of their J1 Visa (a copy of the J1 Visa will suffice)
5. Once the form has been completed, the club secretary of the club they wish to play in USGAA/Canada/New York will review the details and if appropriate submit the application to Croke Park for processing.
5. Croke Park will then process the application if all information has been provided. The club and county in Ireland will then receive an e-mail notification that the application requires their approval and will be invited to approve or reject the application.
6. Once all parties have approved the application, the sanction will be granted by Croke Park. An e-mail notification will advise all parties, including the player, that the sanction has now been granted. The USGAA/Canada/New York

may have additional requirements with regard to registration in advance of a player being eligible to play in a fixture. Players are advised to confirm they have been registered with the club secretary in USGAA/Canada/New York prior to participating in a fixture.

## **Mandatory Travel Insurance**

All players that will be seeking an Official GAA Sanction from Central Council to play in North America (USGAA), New York or Canada for the summer are reminded that travel insurance must be arranged in Ireland before they commence their journeys. Proof of this insurance is required as part of the application process.





Accepted Insurances

- Chubb - worldwide cover, minimum 3 months
- USIT via Mapfre – Grade 5
- Blue Insurance – Grade 3

Players should note the following:

Like the vast majority of travel insurance policies, the option offered by the GAA can only be purchased by individuals before they leave Ireland. Important points for players to note include:

- The only currently acceptable insurances are those provided by Chubb (available via the link below) and USIT (which must include Grade 5 hazardous activities cover).
- The cost of insurance will depend on the duration of a player's stay in a particular country.
- Players wishing to play in North America must purchase cover for a minimum of 90 days. It is the player's own responsibility to ensure they are covered for all dates of potential fixtures.
- Travel insurance is not a private health insurance. It only covers players if there is a sudden and unexpected accident or if a player becomes ill during his trip.
- Generally, where doctors appointed by Insurers deem treatment in Ireland// Britain more appropriate, players will be repatriated home for treatment.
- Players playing overseas are not covered under the GAA Injury Benefit Fund.

The following are the steps which player's need to take to purchase the required insurance:

1. Go to the following link - <http://www.chubbinsure.ie/travel/?afi=5781>
2. Choose Backpacker cover for a minimum of 90 days. It is the player's own responsibility to ensure they are covered for all dates of potential fixtures. If you do not have cover for a fixture you will not be eligible to play or covered in the event of a sudden or unexpected accident.
3. Please Note: ensure you select 'Worldwide Cover inc. US/Canada/ Caribbean'
4. Choose the most accurate number of days that you will be staying in North America / New York / Canada - Minimum for North America is 90 days
5. Please read and accept the terms and conditions of the policy and apply for the cover
6. Fill in all the required fields in order to obtain your documentation
7. Once purchased, the confirmation letter should be submitted when applying via the GAA Player Transfer System.
8. Once approved, all Sanctions will appear on the relevant lists on the Official GAA website

Note - A player who has been included on an Inter-County Senior Championship list submitted to the Referee, in accordance with Rules of Specification 2.5 (ii)(a) for a game in the current year's Championship shall not be eligible to be accepted for Registration as a member of any Club in the North American County Board Jurisdiction.

Exception - A player who has been included on an Inter-County Senior Championship list submitted to the Referee, in accordance with Rules of Specification; 2.5 (ii)(a), for a game in the current year's Championship, who holds a valid current J1 Visa or who is eligible for a J1 Visa and who obtains an Official J1 Sanction may be accepted for registration. Such a player may only have his J1 Sanction approved once his team has been eliminated from the Senior Inter-County Championship (including All-Ireland qualifier games). The J1 Visa concerned with this Exception is the J1 Work and Travel Programme Visa only – i.e. the four-month Visa for 3rd Level Students.

General Rules

- A Sanction entitles a player to play with a Club from March 1 until the end of October
- Sanctions to USGAA (North America), New York or Canada, will not be granted after July 1st
- 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 or members of clubs in Britain, whose First Club is their current club.
- For more information, go to Rule 6.12 of the Official Guide.

For further information see - <https://www.gaa.ie/the-gaa/rules-regulations/overseas-sanctions>

## THE WINNERS OF THE 2018 MACNAMEE AWARDS

**T**he GAA National Communication and Media Awards are named after the late Pádraig MacNamee, former President of the GAA, Chairman of the GAA Commission (1969-1971) and member of the RTÉ authority.

They are presented annually in recognition of outstanding contributions made by individuals and Association units in the area of media and communications.

The GAA President offered his congratulations to this year's winners. He said: "Congratulations to all of our award winners and to everyone involved in the background with these successful projects.

"The GAA is not just about winning on the field. It is about projecting a positive image of the organisation and adding to everything the games do for the GAA. These winning entries certainly do that.

"Media coverage of our games has always been important to the growth and profiling of our activities and similarly, the role of our own units in showcasing what they do is critical.

"I laud everyone who works hard to promote the GAA in the public arena, not least those people who we will honour at Croke Park tomorrow evening."

**The winners of the 2018 MacNamee Awards are as follows:**

**2018 Best Website – O'Dwyer's GAA, Balbriggan, Co Dublin**  
<http://odwyersgaa.com/>

O'Dwyer's GAA have provided an excellent website for all its club members. The Mobile UX is strong, showing evidence of high standard web design planning with its great visual and technical design. The website has clear navigation paths making it simple for members to intuitively find relevant information.

The O'Dwyer's GAA website responds quickly and is mobile-friendly. Website tools function well and are placed on the page in convenient areas for the user. Among its many impressive features are the Roll of Honour, 'Ready to get involved?' and Featured Videos sections, along with a well-functioning, up to date Fixtures & Results section. This website serves as a great way to inform O'Dwyer's members and it instils trust in the club online.

**2018 Provincial Media Award – 'Limerick Leader Souvenir Edition - 2018 All-Ireland Champions: This Means Everything'**

It was a memorable and magical campaign for Limerick, who had waited 45 years to hoist the Liam MacCarthy Cup. A dramatic All Ireland Final is recalled in the Limerick Leader's splendid supplement following the success.

From the iconic image of an embracing Nicky



*John Quirke receives his hall of fame award from Uachtarán John Horan*

Quaid and Cian Lynch on the front cover, to the scenes of the triumphant homecoming in the final pages, the supplement is packed with interviews, analysis, commentary, and plenty of passion.

The Limerick Leader has supplied excellent coverage in this 64-page edition of a famous green and white triumph.

**2018 National Media Award – The Herald – 'Decades of the Dubs'**

The Herald's superb three-part magazine series, 'Decades of the Dubs', wasn't just a real treat for Dublin football supporters, but for fans of sporting nostalgia in general. Covering the successes and failures of Dublin football teams from the 1950s to the 1990s,

'Decades of the Dubs' was a comprehensive, informative, and entertaining read.

Beautifully illustrated with evocative and rare photographs of great days from the past, the three-part series was also chock-full of revealing interviews with legendary

Dublin footballers, as well as the sort of statistics and trivia that are manna from heaven for GAA anoraks. Both in terms of style as well as substance, the Herald's 'Decades of the Dubs' series was a truly remarkable production. The magazines were produced by Joe Davitt and Kevin Nolan from the Herald.

**2018 Best Programme – Roscommon GAA – Roscommon Senior Football Championship Final Programme**



GAA MacNamee Award winners with Uachtarán John Horan

A publication that seamlessly matched both style and substance over 80 easy-to-read pages. The team layouts and player profiles scored highly for their clarity and production, while the editorial articles were a nice mix of both the historical and the contemporary.

All the bases were covered with referee profiles, well-designed statistical data, and two pages for the next generation of young supporters. Another notable mention is the prominence given to minor games that is sometimes lacking in other match programmes. A complete, good-value programme that is a worthy McNamee Award winner.

#### 2018 Best GAA Related Radio Programme – SouthEast Radio - ‘The Wexford Rising - They Set the Heathers Blazing’

The 1950’s were a golden period for Wexford Hurling, when boys became men and those men became heroes. This documentary, presented and produced by Alan Corcoran, charts the

journey of the Wexford Senior Hurling team who won back to back All-Irelands in 1955 and 1956, and the impact they had on the county, with names like Wheeler, Rackard, O’Donnell, Kehoe and Foley still revered to this day. Art Foley and Ned Wheeler, stalwart members of the team, share their memories of the games and the build-up, while former Leinster GAA Chairman, the late Sheamus Howlin, talks about his friendship with Billy Rackard, and the bond the players had with the people of Wexford. Legendary GAA broadcaster Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh also pays tribute to the famous Rackard Brothers.

Memories of the homecomings, the journeys to Croke Park, the joy of victory and the massive boost it gave to the county and the game of hurling, added to by a rousing rendition of ‘Cúchulainn’s Son’ (a tribute to Nicky Rackard) sung by George Lawlor, are all shared in this documentary, a tribute to a band of brothers who ‘set the heathers blazing’ and brought hurling to a new level in County Wexford.

#### 2018 Gradam Gaeilge (Irish Language Award) – Na Gaeil Óga 15/15

Físeán atá againn anseo ar chlub beag nua, a bhfuil croí mór aige, Na Gaeil Óga. Bhí 14 cluiche as 14 buaite acu i Roinn 6 de Shraith Shóisearach Peile Átha Ciath agus bhí siad ag iarraidh an bhliain a chríochnú le 15 bua as 15. Leanann Seán T. Ó Meallaigh agus a cheamara an fhoireann thart sa chluiche deireanach seo. Sampla iontach é seo den iriseoireacht nua-aimseartha, a thugann blaisín beag dúinn den teannas, den díocas, den uaillmhian, den thuas seal agus den thíos seal a bhaineann le foirne agus iad páirteach i gcluichí móra. Feiceann muid cumhacht ‘an chlub’ san fhíseán seo agus léirítear dúinn go mbíonn i bhfad níos mó i gceist le clubanna ná foirne spóirt. Is ‘clann’ iad Na Gaeil Óga agus tagann sé sin trasna san fhíseán iontach seo a dhéanann ceiliúradh ar éachtaí Na Gaeil Óga i 2018.

#### 2018 Best Photograph – Brendan Moran, Sportsfile

This winning picture by Brendan Moran of Sportsfile features Seán Finn of Limerick as he celebrates after the final whistle had blown in the GAA Hurling All-Ireland Senior Championship Final match between Galway and Limerick at Croke Park in Dublin.

The image captures the sheer delight and unforgettable moment of ultimate success and proves that hard work, training in wet weather and the weekends away from family are worth it for that memorable win.





**2018 Best GAA Club Publication – ‘October 2000: St. Anne’s GAA Club - A History of Rathangan Gaelic Games’ by Jim Berry**

A publication over 20 years in the making, October 2000 is a labour of love for Jim Berry, who played with St. Anne’s for the best part of 30 years from the mid-1950s onwards. Jim has been a mentor and official at all levels as well as attaining high office himself as a former Chairman of Wexford County Board and the Leinster Council, but it’s his pride for the St Anne’s club that exudes from every page of this book.

The title, ‘October 2000’, relates to the unique feat that year when the club won the senior football and hurling double, with 13 players playing both codes, and book documents Gaelic Games in the Rathangan parish, a reasonably small rural area of about 1,800 people, from 1884 to the present day.

As well as being an incredibly detailed and well put-together record of the club’s history over the decades, the book also recounts many amusing tales and stories of years gone by.

**2018 Best GAA Publication - ‘The Story of Interprovincial Football’ by Dermot Kavanagh**

‘The Story of Interprovincial Football’ traces the history of interprovincial football competitions from the beginning in 1905, following the rise to their heyday of the forties, fifties and sixties, and up to the modern era.

The book details each year’s competition from its various iterations as the Railway Shield, the Tailteann Games, The Railway Cup and finally the M Donnelly Cup, delving into match reports and press cuttings as well as providing a wealth of images across its 185 pages. Particularly striking are the rare photos gathered of the early years of the competitions, a terrific snapshot of Gaelic football in its first few decades.

Author Dermot Kavanagh, who penned this publication’s hurling counterpart several years previous, takes the utmost care in compiling a detail record of the history of the interprovincial football series in a compact and well-researched book, which was judged highly on content and accessibility.

**2018 Best New Digital Initiative – Derry GAA - ‘The Men Who Won Maguire’**

‘The Men Who Won Maguire’ was inspired by Derry’s first All-Ireland senior football title in 1993, the 25th anniversary of which was celebrated with a special gala evening in November of 2018.

The evening was multi-media driven and interactive in nature, with players from the winning panel invited to experience live the recollections and thoughts of former opponents, and to share their reactions and memories of the championship campaign.

Collected over a series of months with the co-operation of the players, new digital material was edited and broken down into bitesize chunks, before being strategically published. The story of each game along the campaign was told with humour, pride and poignancy with the memory of the late Eamon Coleman a constant theme throughout.

The campaign developed a reach beyond sport - becoming a celebration of the culture and tradition of county Derry - with the reading of Seamus Heaney’s poem, ‘Markings’, by the players of 1993.

‘The Men Who Won Maguire’ amassed almost half a million combined video views across social media and was a fitting tribute to an historic achievement, presented for a new and digital age twenty-five years on from Derry GAA’s greatest sporting achievement.

**Hall Of Fame – John Quirke**

John Quirke has been the official Leinster GAA Photographer for over 30 years. His excellent photographs have been appearing over those years in match programmes, publications of record and GAA websites. In fact, he has been a long-standing man behind the lens for the GAA at every level, and also for local and national media and other Gaelic games publications.

John is a sports photographer ‘par excellence’, highly respected by his peers. He is well recognised for his total professionalism, his dedication to quality photos delivered to deadline, his calmness in every situation, his willingness to cover Gaelic games action at every level, at any venue, at any time of day and in every kind of weather. He does all this in a most obliging manner, without fuss and always respecting the players and the occasion.

He is painstaking in his photography, has a great eye for the shot and has amassed a huge, and valuable, collection of club and county action over the years. A quiet and unassuming person, whose service and value to the GAA is great and greatly recognised, John is more comfortable behind the lens than being the subject of it.

Now he is rightly awarded for a lifetime dedication and service to our Association. We wish him well in his continuing work.



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](mailto:clubnewsletter@gaa.ie).

Produced by the GAA Communications Department in Croke Park, Edited by Cian Ó Murchadha and designed by DBA Publications in Blackrock, Co Dublin.