

APRIL 2023  
AIBREÁN 2023  
NUACHTLITIR



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## CASH BOOST FOR CLUB PITCHES

**THE GAA IS TO COMMIT AN EXTRA €500,000 TO THE REDEVELOPMENT OF CLUB FACILITIES AND SPEND €3.5M ON CLUB PITCHES AND CLUBHOUSES IN 2023.**

After a recent increase in funding for club development projects from €2m to €3m, the GAA Director of Finance Ger Mulryan has confirmed that further increases are planned.

“There will be an extra half million for that funding this year,” he said. “The Strategic Plan has a goal of increasing this funding to €5m over the coming years so this is in line with that plan.”

Breffni Park in Cavan celebrates its centenary in 2023. It was, according to GAA historians, the first ground in Ulster to be fully vested in the GAA when opened in 1923.

The construction of a new stand at Croke Park opened in 1924 for the Tailteann Games and was named in honour of Tipperary footballer Michael Hogan shot dead on Bloody Sunday. These projects headlined a surge in the land development in the 1920s and 1930s.

At club and county level the establishment of this network of outstanding facilities allows clubs to be the focal point of their communities and are a source of immense pride for club members – many clubs using the labour supplied by their own members to build them and all of them relying heavily on the financial support of their members and local communities to assist construction.

Funding available from national and provincial development projects is of invaluable assistance – so too the GAA Development Fund which allows clubs to take out a loan of up to €100,000 at a favourable rate paid back over 10 years.

As the GAA heads towards its 140th anniversary in 2024 the development of impressive club and county facilities continues to demonstrate the burning ambition of units and is work that will be assisted by central funds.



## CLUB NOTES

### GAA OFFICIAL GUIDES

The GAA Official Guide for 2023 has been updated after Congress in February.

It is available via the link below

### About the GAA

### NAOMH PÁDRAIG CLUB CONNECTING WITH LOCAL COMMUNITY



Croí the west of Ireland Heart and Stroke Charity is delighted to benefit from a jersey sponsorship of Naomh Pádraig GAA, thanks to a sponsorship gift from a local Mayo businessman.

Naomh Pádraig GAA Club is an amalgamation of Lacken, Ballycastle, Kilfian, and Killala and provide underage football with teams at all levels from U7's up to U21's. Local businessman Pádraig Mitchell owner of Healy's Bar in Ballycastle, received a triple bypass eight years ago, his friend Barry Cox of Ballycastle, a long serving member of CLG Naomh Pádraig, suffered a stroke seven years ago. Both men are grateful beneficiaries of the services provided by Croí following their experiences. Sadly, Pádraig's brother Martin suffered a heart attack four years ago and

passed away. As a result of this, Pádraig is a passionate advocate of heart health and supports Croí in many fundraising and health awareness efforts within the community.

Having hosted and joined in many Croí campaigns, Pádraig has also been integral in bringing lifesaving equipment to the local communities, overseeing the installation of three defibrillators - one at the athletics track in Belleek, Ballina, one at Ballycastle GAA Club and one in his own pub, Healy's, in Ballycastle.

This year Pádraig has kindly sponsored a set of jerseys for Naomh Pádraig with help from Barry Cox. In recognition of the work that Croí do throughout Mayo communities through their Third Age Mayo Project, the Croí Heart & Stroke logo will appear on the front of the club's jersey.

Paul Cunnane, Project Coordinator, Croí Third Age Mayo Project, said: "Croí is delighted to accept this generous branding opportunity from Pádraig and Barry, and this will ensure that Croí will continue to be a well-recognised support service for people in the west. Croí's mission is to prevent disease, save lives and promote recovery and well-being, and linking in with a local sporting organisation like Naomh Pádraig GAA Club will greatly help us to share our message throughout communities. We would like to thank Pádraig and Barry for their generosity."

### INAUGURAL MIDDLE EAST GAA JUVENILE TOURNAMENT

History was made last month when the first-ever official juvenile tournament was staged by Middle East GAA.

More than 200 children ranging from 4-15 and from across the Middle East gathered at Sharjah Wanderers sports club to participate in Gaelic football, hurling and camogie games of the highest quality. Teams from Dubai Eire Óg, Abu Dhabi Na Fianna, RAK Ropairí, Arabian Celts, Naomh Alee Riyadh, and Qatar GAA featured.

According to their website report: "Once the games were finished, the players and coaches enjoyed some well-earned food and ice-cream treats, followed by a presentation of medals and trophies on the main stage. As the sun started to set upon Sharjah, everyone enjoyed the live Irish music and had the chance to take a breath and reminisce on what was a truly spectacular day of juvenile Gaelic Games.

"Middle East GAA wish to thank the members of the County Board (particularly the Juvenile Development Officer Robbie Corcoran), the clubs across the region, the children and their families for their support and participation on a day that will be remembered for many years to come. We are excited to see the children's skills and passion for Gaelic games continue to grow."



### RUAIRÍ ÓG CUSHENDALL WIN ULSTER GAA COMMUNITY SUPPORT AWARD



Antrim club, Ruairí Óg CLG Cushendall, have collected the Bank of Ireland Ulster GAA Community Support Award in recognition of their work during the past year.

The Award has been created to recognise the outstanding contribution of GAA clubs in their communities, where many go over and above their normal day-to-day activities to promote outreach, equality, diversity and inclusivity.

One winner was selected from each county in Ulster to win £250 of O'Neill's Sports equipment vouchers, with Ruairí Óg CLG, being chosen as the overall winner, receiving an additional £1,000 of O'Neill's Sports vouchers.

William Thompson, Head of Branch Banking, Bank of Ireland UK, said: "We are proud to sponsor the Ulster GAA Community Support Award which recognises the important role that clubs play in their communities that goes beyond operational activities to enrich family and community life.

Clódagh Níc Alastair, Ruairí Óg Cushendall club secretary, said: Ruairí Óg Cushendall are delighted to receive this award from Bank of Ireland and Ulster GAA. This recognition is testament to the community ethos within Cushendall and is just reward for our hard-working volunteers who continually give up their time to provide for the wider community. We are very proud of the collective effort by all involved and this recognition is very much welcome by all

members of our club.”

**The full list of county winners in the Bank of Ireland Ulster GAA Community Support Award:**

Antrim – Ruairí Óg Cushendall  
 Armagh – Clan na Gael, Lurgan  
 Cavan – East Cavan Gaels  
 Derry – Ballerin Sarsfields  
 Donegal – Naomh Conaill, Glenties  
 Down – John Mitchel’s, Ballygalget  
 Fermanagh – St Patrick’s Donagh  
 Monaghan – Oram Sarsfields  
 Tyrone – Dungannon Thomas Clarkes

**‘ÁR GCLUICHÍ, ÁR LAOCHRA’ –  
 AMBASADÓIR GAELGE CLG PAUL  
 FLANAGAN**

Ceapadh Paul Flanagan duine de laochra móra iomána an Chláir, ina Ambasadóir Gaelge do Chumann Lúthchleas Gael an tseachtain seo. Mar chuid de na jabanna móra a thug muid dó ar a chéad lá, d’iarr muid air páirt a ghlacadh sa tsraith ‘Ár gCluichí, Ár Laochra’!

Bhí an-bhliain ag Paul le hiománaithe an Chláir anuraidh agus tugadh aihteantas dá chuid gaiscí ar an bpáirc imeartha nuair a ainmníodh é ar an ngearrliosta do Ghradam All-Star. Bhí sé ina chaptaen ar fhoireann f21 an Chláir nuair a bhuaigh siad Craobh na hÉireann sa bhliain 2013. Tá neart buaite aige lena chlub Baile Uí Aodha thar na blianta, freisin, ina n-áirítear Craobh Shinsir na Mumhan sa bhliain 2016.

‘Ta mo shaol lán le Gaelge agus tá an t-ádh liom go bhfuil mé i bpost a bhaineann leis an nGaeilge. Mar Ambasadóir na Gaelge tá mé ag súil le b’fhéidir léargas a thabhairt do dhaoine air sin agus ar mo shaol imeartha agus, dar ndóigh, agus an ceangal atá idir an dá rud.

‘Is as contae an Chláir mé agus bainim taitneamh as a bheith ag maireachtáil

ansan agus tá sé iontach go bhfuil an Ghaeilge chomh láidir sin i mo shaolsa.’

Paul Flanagan, 6 Márta, 2023

Seo thíos mar a d’fhreagair sé ár gcuid ceisteanna.



Ainm: Paul Flanagan

Aois: 30

Club: Baile Aodha

Scannán is fearr leat: Cool Runnings

Leabhar is fearr leat: A Monk Who Sold His Ferrari

Banna ceoil is fearr leat: Coldplay

An áit is fearr leat: Contae an Chláir

An bia is fearr leat: Lasagne

Clár teilifíse is fearr leat: Grand Designs

An t-imreoir ab fhearr leat nuair a bhí tú óg: Seánie McMahon

Do chéad chuimhne CLG: Ag freastal ar chluichí le mo thuismitheoirí

An chéad uair ag imirt le do chontae: 2014

An t-imreoir is fearr le himirt leat: Tony Kelly

An t-imreoir is fearr le himirt i d’aghaidh: TJ Reid

An cluiche is fearr a d’imir tú: Cluiche Ceannais na Mumhan an bhliain seo caite

Buaicphointe do shaoil imeartha leis an gcontae go dtí seo: Ag tosú leis an gClár cúpla bliain ó shin

Buaicphointe do shaoil imeartha leis an gclub go dtí seo: Craobh na hÉireann i 2017

An duine a raibh an tionchar is mó aige nó aici ar do shaol imeartha go dtí seo: Mo phríomhoide sa bhunscoil, Eddie Liddy

Aon chomhairle agat d’imreoirí óga: Gabh amach agus bain taitneamh as. Bain taitneamh as a bheith le do chairde agus le do chlub.

Aon chaitheamh aimsire eile: Is aoibhinn liom a bheith ag imirt gaif agus is aoibhinn liom a bheith ag snámh sa bhfarraige.

Laoch spóirt taobh amuigh de CLG: Rory Mclloy

**NEW PODCAST SHINES LIGHT ON WORK  
 DONE BY CLUB AND COUNTY OFFICERS**



The GAA and LGFA has launched a new video podcast series which shares case studies of excellent work being done by Club and County Officers. This series will explore stories of how Club and County Officers successfully undertook initiatives to improve their units and local communities.

Episode one features Aidan Murray (Chairperson of Caltra GAA) and Mattie Kilroy (Central Council Delegate for Galway and member of the Club) discussing how a small rural Club, who have previously achieved All-Ireland Senior Football Club success, have strategically developed their playing and community facilities over the past 10 years through innovative community-based fundraising initiatives.

This video podcast series will aim to provide Club and County Officers with inspiration and ideas that will hopefully benefit their units and the community for years to come. Aidan and Mattie discuss how this project embeds both elements of history in the Club but also how it looks to the future.

To access episode one: The Caltra Wall visit [learning.gaa.ie/videopodcastseries](https://learning.gaa.ie/videopodcastseries)

This initiative has been developed by the GAA’s Officer Development Committee and led by Alan Mongey (Planning and Training Officer, Galway), Michelle Healy (PRO, Galway), Gerard Bradley (IT Officer, Tyrone) and Jack McCarney (Planning and Training Officer, GAA).

There are more episodes in the pipeline, and these will be released in the coming weeks. Stay tuned to the GAA Learning Twitter page for further episodes and resources.

**NEW DISCIPLINARY MEASURES TO BE IMPLEMENTED**



A total of 16 disciplinary motions were carried at GAA Congress on Saturday.

The penalties for team officials, who interfere with a match official will now be eligible for a 12 week suspension as Motion 38 was passed by 97.4% of delegates.

During suspensions team officials will not be allowed manage, direct, assist or communicate with their team in any way before or during a game as 84% voted in favour of Motion 41.

Team officials from juvenile games (U17 or younger competitions) will have suspensions doubled following infractions at underage fixtures.

Two of the 19 disciplinary motions were defeated with one withdrawn. Ultimately 78.7% voted against Motion 46. The rulebook currently sets out penalties for team officials and a player who plays while suspended. This proposal would have included club/county officers being suspended too.

The other defeated motion in the disciplinary batch was Motion 48 which would have enabled a Hearings Committee to double the originally proposed penalty, if unsuccessful and considered to have been frivolous or vexatious and not solely based on procedural or technical arguments.

### COUNTDOWN TO GAA WORLD GAMES

The countdown is on to the FRS GAA World Games which this year will be held in Derry in July.

More than 1,500 players across 100 teams will descend on Owenbeg from July 24-28 with competitions for all abilities and for native Irish players and separately for those who have discovered Gaelic games abroad.

The GAA is currently seeking volunteers to help with the staging of the FRS GAA World Games. Details are at <https://www.gaa.ie/news/volunteers-needed-for-gaa-world-games/>

With up to 5,000 travelling supporters from overseas expected it will create a carnival atmosphere in Derry over the course of the week of hurling, football and camogie action.



### 2023 GAA NATIONAL CLUB DRAW WINNERS

The 10th GAA National Club draw took place in Páirc an Chrócaigh today, 15th March 2023.

This year's draw raised €1.32 million for GAA Clubs nationally. The draw was independently observed by Brian Cormack, Partner, Mazars.

GAA National Club Draw 2023 Winners

1. All New Dacia Duster Car – Tom Brady, Monaghan Harps GAA, Monaghan
2. €2,000 Cash – Joe Finnegan, Lamh Dhearg GAA, Antrim
3. All-Ireland Hurling & Football Final Package 2023 – Shane Kenny, Milltown GAA, Westmeath
4. All-Ireland Hurling & Football Final Package 2023 – Noah Massey, Westport

GAA, Mayo

5. All-Ireland Football Final Package 2023 – Tom Cullanan, Castletown Liam Mellows GAA, Wexford

6. All-Ireland Hurling Final Package 2023 – Ben Harte, Dromahair GAA, Leitrim

7. All-Ireland Football Final Package 2023 – Stephen Cunningham, Kilmurry Ibrickane GAA, Clare

8. All-Ireland Hurling Final Package 2023 – Patrick Morning, Fanad Gaels GAA, Donegal

9. All-Ireland Football Final Package 2023 – Kevin Quigley, Aghabog GAA, Monaghan

10. All-Ireland Hurling Final Package 2023 - Tomas O'Midheach, Bray Emmets, Wicklow

### Club Specific Draw

#### Clubs who won €5,000 in the National Club Draw

1. Roscommon Gaels GAA, Roscommon
2. Ballinameela GAA, Waterford
3. Clonguish GAA, Longford

#### Clubs who won €1,000 in the National Club Draw

1. Galway – Moycullen Handball GAA
2. Leitrim – Melvin Gaels GAA
3. Mayo – Ballina Stephenites GAA
4. Roscommon – Oran Football GAA
5. Sligo – Shamrock Gaels GAA
6. Cavan – Erne Eagle Rounders GAA
7. Donegal – Naomh Muire Lower Rosses GAA
8. Monaghan – Monaghan Harps GAA
9. Antrim – Éire Óg GAA
10. Armagh – Clan na Gael GAA



PICTURED ABOVE ARE LARRY MCCARTHY, UACHTARÁN CLG, BRIAN CORMACK, PARTNER, MAZARS, ANN JAROCKI, GAA INTERNAL AUDITOR AND AISLING GREENAN, GAA NATIONAL CLUB & INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE EXECUTIVE WHO WERE PRESENT ON THE DAY OF THE DRAW

11. Derry – Slaughtneil Robert Emmetts GAA
12. Fermanagh – Devenish St Mary's GAA
13. Tyrone – Gortin St. Patrick GAA
14. Clare – Banner GAA
15. Cork – Milford GAA
16. Kerry – Glenbeigh Glencar GAA
17. Limerick – Galtee Gaels GAA
18. Tipperary – Portroe GAA
19. Waterford – The Nire GAA
20. Carlow – Fighting Cocks GAA
21. Dublin – Innisfails GAA
22. Kildare – Ardclough GAA
23. Kilkenny – Fenians GAA
24. Longford – Fr. Manning Gaels GAA
25. Louth – Naomh Fionnbarra GAA
26. Meath – Clann na nGael GAA
27. Laois – The Heath GAA
28. Offaly – Tubber GAA
29. Westmeath – Clonkill GAA
30. Wexford – Castletown Liam Mellows GAA

31. Wicklow – Newtown GAA

### Highest Ticket Sales in each Province - €1,000 each

Connacht – Salthill Knocknacarra GAA, Galway

Leinster – Fingallians GAA, Dublin

Munster – St. Josephs Miltown Malbay GAA, Clare

Ulster – Castleblayney GAA, Monaghan

# SHANE CUNNINGHAM AND JOEY HOLDEN NAMED AS #THE TOUGHEST CLUB PLAYERS OF 2022/23

Shane Cunningham of Kilmacud Crokes (Dublin) and Joey Holden of Ballyhale Shamrocks (Kilkenny) have been named as the AIB GAA Club Footballer of the Year and the AIB GAA Club Hurler of the Year respectively at a special AIB GAA Club Player Awards ceremony at Croke Park 2022/23. The players were recognised following their superb displays for their clubs throughout last season's AIB GAA All-Ireland Football and Hurling Senior Club Championships.

The Players of the Year received their awards alongside this season's AIB GAA Club Football and Hurling Teams of the Year, with 30 players recognised for their impressive displays throughout the AIB GAA All-Ireland Football and Hurling Senior Club Championships. The Football Team of the Year had seven representatives from All-Ireland Club champions, Kilmacud Crokes, with six

players from finalists, Watty Grahams Glen, and one player apiece from Connacht champions Moycullen and Munster victors, Kerins O'Rahillys. The Hurling Team of the Year was dominated by Ballyhale Shamrocks with nine players selected, with three players from beaten finalists Dunloy also included as well as three representatives from Munster champions Ballygunner.

AIB GAA Club Footballer of the Year Shane Cunningham of Kilmacud Crokes led his side to their second consecutive AIB GAA All-Ireland Football Senior Club final this year, and brought the coveted Andy Merrigan cup home to Stillorgan after a pulsating final. Notching two vital points for his club in the final, as well as winning the crucial first half penalty on the day, Cunningham has been on-song for Crokes throughout the season. The hard-working forward's

leadership on and off the field showed throughout the Leinster and All-Ireland campaigns, while his versatility in the forward line and powerful presence on the ball played a crucial part in his ascent of the Hogan Stand in January.

The AIB GAA Club Hurler of the Year meanwhile was named as Joey Holden of Ballyhale Shamrocks following a series of tremendous performances throughout the 2022/23 season. The surefooted full-back collected his fifth AIB GAA All-Ireland Hurling Senior Club medal this year, adding to an already stellar career with Ballyhale Shamrocks. A physical and incredibly consistent player, Holden has been a standout for the Kilkenny outfit from the full-back line this season. The Shamrocks overcame last year's AIB GAA All-Ireland Hurling Club champions, Ballygunner, in the semi-final and Dunloy of Antrim in

the final on their road to glory. Holden's consistently dominant performances, and his influential leadership both on and off the pitch, have been central to the Kilkenny club's sixth All-Ireland title and Tommy Moore cup in seven years.

The AIB GAA Club Player Awards returned once more this year to celebrate the unrivalled achievements of club Gaelic football and hurling players across the country. The event, held on Friday, March 10th at Croke Park, welcomed the country's top club players to GAA HQ to acknowledge their outstanding achievements throughout the 2022/23 AIB GAA Club Championship season. This year's FOTY and HOTY recipients demonstrated exceptional leadership and skill throughout #TheToughest of battles this season, significantly contributing to their team's success.



## AIB GAA CLUB HURLING TEAM OF THE YEAR

Stephen O'Keeffe (Ballygunner)  
Killian Corcoran (Ballyhale Shamrocks)  
Joey Holden (Ballyhale Shamrocks)  
Ryan McGarry (Dunloy)  
Kevin Molloy (Dunloy)  
Richie Reid (Ballyhale Shamrocks)  
Darragh Corcoran (Ballyhale Shamrocks)  
Conor Sheehan (Ballygunner)  
Adrian Mullen (Ballyhale Shamrocks)  
Eoin Cody (Ballyhale Shamrocks)  
TJ Reid (Ballyhale Shamrocks)  
Pauric Mahony (Ballygunner)  
Conal Cunnig (Dunloy)  
Colin Fennelly (Ballyhale Shamrocks)  
Patrick Fitzgerald (Ballygunner)



## AIB GAA CLUB FOOTBALL TEAM OF THE YEAR

Conor Ferris (Kilmacud Crokes)  
Michael Warnock (Watty Graham's Glen)  
Ryan Dougan (Watty Graham's Glen)  
Dan O'Brien (Kilmacud Crokes)  
Andrew McGowan (Kilmacud Crokes)  
Rory O'Carroll (Kilmacud Crokes)  
Ethan Doherty (Watty Graham's Glen)  
David Moran (Kerins O'Rahilly's)  
Emmett Bradley (Watty Graham's Glen)  
Jack Doherty (Watty Graham's Glen)  
Shane Cunningham (Kilmacud Crokes)  
Seán Kelly (Moycullen)  
Dara Mullin (Kilmacud Crokes)  
Danny Tallon (Watty Graham's Glen)  
Shane Walsh (Kilmacud Crokes)



**WINNING BALLYHALE SHAMROCKS PLAYERS WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY AT THE AIB GAA CLUB PLAYERS AWARDS PRESENTATION AT CROKE PARK ON MARCH 10.**



**KILMACUD CROKES PLAYERS AND REPRESENTATIVES AT THE AIB CLUB PLAYERS AWARDS AT CROKE PARK IN DUBLIN**



**DAVID MORAN OF KERINS O'RAHILLY'S IS PRESENTED WITH HIS AIB GAA FOOTBALL CLUB TEAM OF THE YEAR AWARD BY GAA VICE PRESIDENT JOHN MURPHY, RIGHT, AND AIB CMO MARK DOYLE, AT THE AIB CLUB PLAYERS AWARDS AT CROKE PARK IN DUBLIN.**



**BALLYGUNNER PLAYERS WHO WON AWARDS ON THE 2022 AND 2023 AIB GAA CLUB HURLING TEAMS OF THE YEAR**



**MICHAEL WARNOCK OF DERRY AND ULSTER CHAMPIONS GLEN AT THE CLUB PLAYER AWARDS**



**DUNLOY CÚCHULLAIN'S PLAYERS, FROM LEFT, CONAL CUNNING, RYAN MCGARRY, AND KEVIN MOLLOY WITH THEIR AIB GAA HURLING CLUB TEAM OF THE YEAR AWARD AT THE AIB CLUB PLAYERS AWARDS AT CROKE PARK IN DUBLIN.**

# GAA ANNOUNCES CHARITY PARTNERS FOR 2023

**THE GAA HAS ANNOUNCED ITS LIST OF CHARITY PARTNERS FOR 2023. FOLLOWING A FORMAL APPLICATION PROCESS, FIVE CHARITIES DELIVERING WORK ACROSS A BROAD RANGE OF CAUSES AND IMPORTANT SOCIAL ISSUES WERE SELECTED BY THE ASSOCIATION.**

In place since 2008, the GAA charity partner process has now delivered almost €1.5m to over 50 charities. The charities were unveiled at a special photo call at Croke Park.

The GAA charity partners for 2023 are:

- **Women's Aid**
- **ALONE**
- **Young Lives v Cancer**
- **Movember**
- **Trócaire**

Each of the five charities will receive a donation from the GAA of €20,000 in addition to some opportunities to raise awareness about the important work they undertake.

Larry McCarthy, Uachtarán CLG, said: "Supporting charities is engrained in the GAA, its clubs and members. For example, during the pandemic lockdowns of 2020, when many charity fundraising opportunities were shut down, a survey responded to by 834 GAA clubs in Ireland revealed they had raised a collective €5,301,895 for charitable causes during that year. Considering there are 1,616 clubs on the island, this likely only represents a percentage of the overall amount raised.

"I am delighted that we are in a position to make donations to charity again and look forward to working with the nominated

charities of 2023 and working with them in forging a successful partnership that raises awareness about their initiatives and impact."

About the GAA's charity partners 2023:

### **Women's Aid**

Women's Aid is a national organisation working to prevent and address the impact of domestic violence and abuse including coercive control, in Ireland since 1974. They do this by advocating, influencing, training, and campaigning for effective responses to reduce the scale and impacts of domestic abuse on women and children in Ireland and providing high quality, specialised, integrated, support services. The vision of Women's Aid is an equal Ireland, with zero tolerance of domestic abuse and all other forms of violence against women. For more details visit: [www.womensaid.ie](http://www.womensaid.ie).

### **Young Lives vs Cancer**

Young Lives vs Cancer are the charity that helps children and young people (0- 25) and their families find the strength to face whatever cancer throws at them. They know everyone's different, so they work hard to make sure each family has what they need to get through cancer. Children and young people with cancer deserve the same opportunities as anyone else. We'll always have their back, because we've been there before. For more details visit [www.younglivesvscancer.org.uk](http://www.younglivesvscancer.org.uk).

### **ALONE**

ALONE is a national organisation that enables older people to age at home. Our work is for all older people and aims to improve physical, emotional and mental wellbeing. They use individualised support plans, to address health, financial benefits



IN ATTENDANCE DURING A GAA CHARITY PARTNERS 2023 EVENT ARE, FROM LEFT, GLOBAL DIRECTOR MENS HEALTH PROMOTION PROGRAMMES AT THE MOVEMBER FOUNDATION SARAH COGLAN, YOUNG LIVES VS CANCER SENIOR FUNDRAISING MANAGER FIONA MCCANN, UACHTARÁN CHUMANN LÚTHCHLEAS GAEL LARRY MCCARTHY, WOMEN'S AID TOO INTO YOU PROJECT LEAD MARY HAYES, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF TRÓCAIRE CAOIMHE DE BARRA AND ALONE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER SEAN MOYNIHAN AT CROKE PARK IN DUBLIN.

and supports, social care, housing, transport and other arising needs using technology and through harnessing other services. We work to empower community support for older people through our Community Impact Network that provides training, IT support and resources to other organisations. For more details visit [www.ALONE.ie](http://www.ALONE.ie).

### **Movember**

Movember is the leading global charity changing the face of men's health. It exists to stop men dying too young by tackling some of the most complex health issues facing men today – mental health, suicide, prostate cancer and testicular cancer. With global support from its Mo Bros, Mo Sisters and Mo community, Movember funds and delivers biomedical research, cancer survivorship programmes, innovative community mental health programmes and digital health products

that work for men. For more details visit [ie.movember.com](http://ie.movember.com)

### **Trócaire**

2023 is a special year for Trócaire as it marks 50 years in operation made possible through the generosity and unwavering support of the Irish public. Working in over 20 countries worldwide, Trócaire supports communities living in extreme poverty by tackling the root causes of poverty, injustice and violence to bring about long-term lasting change. **The GAA's financial donation will directly support Trócaire's response to the devastating earthquakes in Turkey and Syria.** As an intrinsically Irish organisation, they feel a collaboration with the GAA for the occasion of Trócaire's 50th anniversary is a wonderful fit for both organisations and are delighted to be chosen as one of the GAA's charity partners for 2023. For more details visit [www.trocaire.org](http://www.trocaire.org)



by John Harrington

## 'CREEPING COMPETITIVENESS' IS HAVING A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON DEVELOPING YOUNG PLAYERS



### ONE OF THE SIX KEY PRINCIPLES OF THE GAELIC GAMES PLAYER PATHWAY IS 'AS MANY AS POSSIBLE FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE'.

Just how well do we do this? Not as well as we could or should is the uncomfortable truth.

A 2013 ESRI report on participation levels in sport discovered that the likelihood of an adult dropping out of Gaelic football, hurling or camogie between the ages of 18 and 22 was "greater than one-half".

It also revealed an almost 75% drop

off rate between the ages of 21 and 26 in Gaelic football and 60% in hurling/camogie.

In 2017 the LGFA commissioned a survey that revealed, by the age of 13, one in two girls will have dropped out of sport and are three times more likely to drop out of sport than boys.

There is always going to be a natural drop-off in participation rates as you go up through the age grades and people develop different interests from adolescence through their teenage years and into adulthood.

What should be much more worrying for clubs though is if there's a big drop-off rate in their younger cohort year on year. If there is, the explanation is a simple one – a lack of fun.

Fun and the opportunity to share it with their friends is the main motivation for young children to play team sport, which is why the Go Games model has been such a huge success since its inception in the early noughties.

GAA Go Games are Hurling/Camogie and Gaelic Football for children up to and including 11 years of age, where every child gets to play (a Go) in every game, for the full game.

The games are small-sided and no scores are recorded so the emphasis is on fun, participation, skill development, and parental encouragement.

The Go Games were devised to prevent the often corrosive damage caused by coaches and parents who put too much of an emphasis on competitive outcomes, and the increased child participation numbers since they were introduced are a testament to their success.

But as GAA Director General, Tom Ryan, acknowledged in his Annual Report even the Go Games are now under threat from what he described as the "creeping competitiveness" that's such a danger to juvenile player retention.

"Too much 'meaning' is being assigned to games for the 7-11 age cohort," said Ryan.

"Where blitzes and fun predominated, we now see the emergence of leagues for such age groups.

"We also have the growing emergence of unofficial tournaments which are being treated like All-Irelands for children as young as 10 years of age or younger.

"We hear of the 'best' children playing while others are left on the sideline. The damage that this does to children, families, clubs and the Association is profound."

Another example of the 'creeping competitiveness' at juvenile level that is unfortunately becoming quite common in some of our bigger clubs is 'streaming', the practice of dividing a panel of players into groups based on perceived competency, and having an 'A' team a 'B' team, and potentially even a 'C' team in bigger clubs.

It's not meant to be part of the Go Games model, but some clubs still do it with their youngest age-groups and in other clubs it can be the source of a lot of tension among coaches/parents who disagree on whether it should be done or not.

Unfortunately, some underage coaches are still more motivated than they should be about winning, rather than focusing on fun and participation.

And in their desire to win, they often put too much emphasis nurturing who they believe are their best players at the expense of the rest.

Those who believe this elitist approach is the best path to success would do well to take note of the philosophy of Cork club, Nemo Rangers. Winning isn't their priority at underage level. Instead, enjoyment and participation is the 'Nemo Way'.

According to Kevin Barrett who stepped down as club secretary in December and was previously underage chairperson, they're totally against streaming or any form of elitism at underage level.

"We've all seen the statistics as to why kids play sport, and it's so they can have fun and play with their friends," he says.

"They want to enjoy themselves so you have to make it enjoyable for them as much as you can and that's why we don't stream them.

"There's work to be done as well, but we can do that and enjoy ourselves as well.

"As a club we're not going to let anyone get away with doing things that are against the ethos of how we want to develop our players. You have to be vigilant.

"The biggest thing is watching who is involved with the teams, that's critical. You don't want people involved with underage teams who are purely in it for the winning. Because that can do a lot of damage.

"We actively weed them out and we've been lucky so far. From the age of 14 on then, winning can become more of a thing."

Nemo Rangers have won 23 county senior football championships, including 13 in the last 23 years, which is far more than any other club in the county.

Clearly their approach to player development works, though Barrett admits it also requires a lot of patience.

They're less successful at underage level than other clubs who stream their teams and put a big emphasis on winning, but have found that playing the long game eventually pays off.

"In my son's age-group we won nothing until we got to U-16," says Barrett. "And then we started beating teams who had been beating us all the way up and got to a county final that year.

"Our players don't win that much underage, but we're not worried about that, it's not our priority. We just want to be competitive at underage and bring through as many players as possible to the senior ranks.

"We would always maintain too that hunger can come from dealing with a bit of adversity at a young age. If you put a focus on developing an elite team that wins a lot at a young age and win everything coming up, when they hit that bit of adversity for the first time they can struggle to deal with it.

"One of the guys I'm involved with said the first thing we'll teach these lads is how to deal with losing and build up their desire to win.

"When we were U-12 we played Carrigaline, I'll never forget it, the score was 4-18 to no score. They were apologising to us afterwards and everything. But then by U-16 we went down there and beat them. And you could see our lads were about a foot taller going off the pitch.

"Their time had come, we just had to suffer all those defeats along the way. There were other clubs we could never beat either for years, but we eventually got the better of them too when the lads got older.

"It was proof that what we were doing was right. You just have to go through a lot of



NEMO RANGERS CAPTAIN LUKE CONNOLLY LIFTING THE CUP AFTER THE 2022 CORK COUNTY SENIOR CLUB FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL MATCH BETWEEN NEMO RANGERS AND ST FINBARR'S AT PÁIRC UÍ CHAOIMH IN CORK.

pain and suffering before you come out at the other end."

The pitfall that Barrett sees with trying to identify and cultivate the best players at a young age and not put as much time and effort into the rest is that every player develops along a different timeline.

A player who excels at the age of 10 because they are physically more mature than their peers might have come back to the pack when everyone else catches up in their teens.

And the obvious danger with taking an elitist approach with a young group of players is that you'll alienate those perceived as being less competent, which will drive them away from the sport. Perhaps they would have blossomed in their teens rather than their adolescence, but instead they were lost to the game.

It should be obvious to every club, but the more players you keep involved for as long as possible, the greater chance you'll have of success the older they become.

"We had a player who at the age of 7 was already really talented," says Barrett. "He was head and shoulders above the rest. Brilliant at U-7, U-8, U-9, U-10, U-11. Played soccer as well, and slowly but surely the soccer started pulling him.

"By the time we got to U-16, the other boys got physically stronger than him, and skill-wise got as good as him. It's an amazing thing to watch how kids develop physically as the years go by. You could come back after Christmas and some guys are after growing nearly a foot.

"By U-16 that young lad was only an ordinary player like the rest of them. So if we had picked our best 11 guys at U-11 I guarantee you we wouldn't have been as



**NEMO RANGERS HAVE FOUND THAT WINNING EVENTUALLY COMES NATURALLY IF YOU FIRST PUT AN EMPHASIS ON FUN, PARTICIPATION, AND PLAYER DEVELOPMENT RATHER THAN PUTTING TOO MUCH EMPHASIS ON COMPETITIVE OUTCOMES FROM TOO YOUNG AN AGE.**

strong by the time we got to U-16.

“You have to be very careful when it comes to identifying who you think are your most talented players, because it keeps changing. They change a lot both physically and mentally as they get older and a lot of them too will be drawn away from other sports so the priority should be to continue developing as many players as possible as equally as possible.

“I don’t believe in streaming at all for young kids. They’re only kids, it should be about having fun with your friends.”

Nemo Rangers only separate their players into ‘A’ and ‘B’ teams by the time they reach U-14 level, and continue to train the group as a whole rather than separate them based on ability.

“Kids aren’t stupid,” says Barrett. “Some of them will realise they’re not as good as others and might want to play for a second team, but you’ve got to treat them with respect and treat them all as equals. So even if we have an ‘A’ team and a ‘B’ team, they all train together.

“And if you’re not on the ‘A’ team you’re playing with the ‘B’ team and you’re getting plenty of matches and staying on the pitch and everybody is happy.

“What you don’t want is kids standing on a sideline not getting the opportunity to play. Imagine you’re a parent and you’re watching your kid in that position.

“I’ve been there myself. My daughter played basketball and she had a match all the way over in Kanturk that I got off work early to bring her.

“They were winning the game and she came on in the fourth quarter and I watched the clock and she got just two minutes. That’s all she got. That’s not treating a kid with respect, it’s just not acceptable.”

Last year Barrett helped coach Nemo’s U-16 LGFA team and had a policy that all girls who were in their final year in the grade played a full playing part throughout their championship campaign regardless of ability.

“The girls who are 16 will never be 16 again and they deserve the opportunity to play as much as possible,” he says.

“The really talented 14-year-olds will have another couple of years in the grade.

“We got to a final and the other team won it and brought on two girls for the last five minutes who were clearly 16 year-olds. Five minutes was all they got, while some younger players played the whole match.

“Now, that other team won the cup and were very satisfied with the achievement and that’s fair enough. We lost the final, but I’m satisfied that our 16-year-old girls got to play a full part in it.

“I’m not pontificating to anybody else about what you should be doing, but that’s my take on it.”

The GAA’s Manifesto, ‘Where We All Belong’, prioritises active lifelong participation for all our members.

How can we ensure as many as possible want to have Gaelic games in their lives for as long as possible? Barrett believes the answer is to treat everyone with the same

respect, regardless of ability.

“If you join a club you deserve to be treated with respect, and that’s what we always endeavour to do in Nemo Rangers,” he says.

“Some players will become senior club players and some will play for Cork, but only a very small number.

“You have to do your best for the many, not the few, and we have over 1,000 kids in our club who are all entitled to be treated with respect.

“Some of them will be very good and some of them won’t be, but they’re still turning up and you have to give them the time they deserve for the effort they’re making.

“And you have to make that clear to your team coaches and mentors. If they want to be in charge of an elite team, then tell them to try to get involved with a county team.

“But we don’t want to know about it in Nemo and we don’t put up with it.”



**A HAPPY GROUP OF NEMO RANGERS PLAYERS.**

by John Harrington

# THOSE WHO CAN'T RESPECT MATCH OFFICIALS URGED TO 'STAY AWAY' FROM GAELIC GAMES



IN ATTENDANCE DURING THE GAA REFEREES RESPECT DAY AT CROKE PARK IN DUBLIN IN OCTOBER, 2022, WERE REFEREES, FROM LEFT, COLM LYONS, DAVID COLDRIK, SEAN HURSON AND THOMAS GLEESON.

**GAA DIRECTOR GENERAL, TOM RYAN, HAS WARNED THERE IS NO PLACE IN THE ASSOCIATION FOR THOSE WHO BELIEVE IT IS ACCEPTABLE TO ABUSE MATCH OFFICIALS.**

Writing in his Annual Report he admitted that 2022 was a challenging year for match officials and has made it a priority to actively promote a culture of greater respect.

He believes every member of the Association has a part to play in this, and anyone not willing to make the effort should find different sports to follow.

"The broader challenges we face around match officials are those concerning culture, attitudes and behaviours," said Ryan.

"These are the responsibility of all units of the Association, and dare I say all of us individual members.

"Abusive behaviour - whether in person or online - is unacceptable and it needs to be called out by all members of the Association.

"Any player, supporter, official or member

who still believes that the interest of their team is best served by abusive behaviour towards a referee, or indeed anybody, is sadly mistaken.

"If that's the way you think, and if we can't convince you otherwise, then please just stay away."

A review of how serious infractions against match officials are processed has been completed and the fruit of this work will be seen in a number of motions that will go forward to Congress.

Ryan hopes that if those motions are passed they will have a positive impact, but also made the point strongly that individuals and teams must also show more responsibility if the prevailing culture around field discipline is to become a healthier one.

"We still struggle at all levels to accept responsibility for on-field actions, and a culture of challenging proposed penalties around disciplinary matters, often based on technicalities, prevails," said Ryan.

"While we all accept that referees, like players or managers, make mistakes, and that the Disciplinary system should allow for this, it is much harder to accept proposed suspensions being overturned on procedural technicalities, as is so often the case.

"Our rules provide that 'A Referee's Report, including any Clarification thereto, shall be presumed to be correct in all factual matters and may only be rebutted where unedited video or other compelling

evidence contradicts it'.

"Case law as established through the DRA concurs: 'The player must provide compelling evidence which contradicts the referee's report, not just provide an 'alternative' or 'reasonable' explanation of what has occurred, but rather must be so convincing as to 'compel' the conclusion that the Referee's Report is factually wrong.'

"I am not convinced this bar is being met in some of the cases I am aware of in recent years. Indeed, the number of Hearing requests at all levels has increased in recent years and the pressure that is being put on the Disciplinary system will become unsustainable unless this changes. We must therefore try to change the culture within the Association."



UACHTARÁN CHUMANN LÚTHCHLEAS GAEL LARRY MCCARTHY SHAKES HANDS WITH REFEREE JOHNNY MURPHY BEFORE THE 2023 AIB GAA HURLING ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL MATCH BETWEEN SHAMROCKS BALLYHALE OF KILKENNY AND DUNLOY CÚCHULLAIN'S OF ANTRIM AT CROKE PARK IN DUBLIN.

## 2023 ALL-IRELAND SFC FORMAT EXPLAINED

### WITH A NEW ALL-IRELAND SFC FORMAT BEING ADOPTED IN 2023 THE UPCOMING ALLIANZ FOOTBALL LEAGUE CARRIES ADDED SIGNIFICANCE.

Ultimately the 16 counties that will compete in Round One of the All-Ireland series are to be seeded in the following way:

First seeds: The four provincial champions

Second seeds: The four provincial runners-up

Third seeds: The next four highest ranked teams at the conclusion of the league

Fourth seeds: The next four highest ranked teams at the conclusion of the league

There is one exception - the previous year's Tailteann Cup winner (Westmeath, 2022) if not already qualified as one of the teams will be eligible instead of the lowest ranked fourth seeded team following the conclusion of the Allianz Football League.

It must be noted that a league final winner will be considered a higher seed than the team they defeated in the final.

The remaining 16 teams, who don't advance to the All-Ireland SFC, will compete in the Tailteann Cup. New York will enter the Tailteann Cup at the

preliminary quarter-final stage.

### All-Ireland SFC

During the Round One group phase the schedule of matches is predetermined with each team playing one home and one away game in the opening two rounds. Round Three fixtures will be played at neutral venues.

Game 1: Seed 1 v Seed 3, Seed 2 v Seed 4

Game 2: Seed 3 v Seed 2, Seed 4 v Seed 1

Game 3: Seed 1 v Seed 2, Seed 3 v Seed 4

Where two teams are involved in a tie breaker, the outcome of the meeting of those counties will be used.

In the event of teams finishing on equal points in the groups, the tie shall be decided by

the following means and in the order specified below:

- Where two teams only are involved – the outcome of the meeting

of the two teams in the group

- Score difference – subtracting the total scores against from the total scores for

- highest total score for

- highest total goals for

- A play-off



THE SAM MAGUIRE CUP.

Twelve counties will advance to the All-Ireland SFC knockout stages.

The four preliminary quarter-finals will consist of the second placed teams being at home to third place teams, subject to avoiding of repeat provincial final pairings and where possible repeat pairings from Round One.

At the quarter-final stage the four group winners will meet the preliminary quarter-final victors, subject to the avoidance of repeat provincial final pairings and where possible repeat pairings from Round One.

The quarter-finals, and semi-finals will be winner on the day with venues for those rounds to be determined by the CCC.

# JOHN WEST EXTENDS FÉILE SPONSORSHIP AND LAUNCHES YOUTH NUTRITION CAMPAIGN

**JOHN WEST, SPONSORS OF THE ANNUAL UNDER-15 ANNUAL FÉILE PEILE NA NÓG (FOOTBALL), FÉILE NA NGAEL (CAMOGIE AND HURLING) AND FÉILE HANDBALL COMPETITIONS HAS ANNOUNCED DETAILS OF ITS INNOVATIVE NUTRITION CAMPAIGN FOR YOUNG GAA ATHLETES.**

The company has also revealed the extension of its Féile sponsorship until 2025 and a partnership with SuperValu to promote John West Féile in stores.

John West Féile has grown to become one of the biggest underage sporting events in Europe and this year's John West Féile na nGael and Féile Peile na nÓg national finals will both take place at the Connacht GAA Centre of Excellence at Bekan, Co Mayo.

The John West Féile na nGael finals will be played on Saturday, June 24, with the Féile Peile na nÓg finals taking place on Saturday, July 1.

Regional finals in all four codes for counties outside of division one will also take place on the last Saturday in June (Féile na nGael) and the first Saturday of July (Féile Peile na nÓg), at venues nationwide.

John West Féile Peile na nÓg county competitions will be played over the weekend of April 15-16 with Féile na nGael county competitions taking place over May 6-7.

To coincide with the launch of John West Féile 2023 at Croke Park, the company said its 'Eat Strong Go Strong' strength and resilience through natural nutrition message is part of a campaign to build awareness among young athletes of how

and when to refuel, particularly before and after matches and training.

Developed in partnership with expert dieticians who are key opinion leaders in the nutrition field, John West said its high-quality natural protein products help optimise the physical growth and development of young players.

Throughout its sponsorship of Féile, John West has focused on the importance of natural nutrition in fuelling young

athletes, whilst encouraging children to participate in Gaelic games.

The importance of how and when young athletes refuel was stressed as John West Féile 2023 was launched at Croke Park by Féile Ambassadors and inter-county stars – Hurler of the Year Diarmaid Byrnes (Limerick), Galway's Paul Conory (Gaelic football), Meath All-Ireland winning captain Shauna Ennis (ladies' football) and Kilkenny's Grace Walsh (camogie).

This is the eighth year of John West's sponsorship of Féile, which brings together thousands of young hurlers, camogie players and Gaelic footballers in a celebration of the GAA's community ethos through underage competition.

Féile na nGael has been in existence since 1971, while Féile Peile na nÓg will mark 41 years this year. Last year, 170 club sides, comprising 4,000 players, participated in the John West national finals in Dublin and Meath.



**JOHN WEST FÉILE 2023 AMBASSADOR AND HURLER OF THE YEAR DIARMAID BYRNES OF LIMERICK AT CROKE PARK. JOHN WEST, SPONSORS OF THE GAA'S UNDER-15 ANNUAL FÉILE PEILE NA NÓG (FOOTBALL) AND FÉILE NA NGAEL (CAMOGIE AND HURLING) ANNOUNCED DETAILS OF ITS INNOVATIVE NUTRITION PROGRAMME FOR YOUNG ATHLETES. THE COMPANY ALSO REVEALED THE EXTENSION OF ITS FÉILE SPONSORSHIP UNTIL 2025 AND A PARTNERSHIP WITH SUPERVALU TO PROMOTE JOHN WEST FÉILE IN STORES ACROSS THE COUNTRY.**



**GRACE TOLSTER OF SIMONSTOWN GAELS GFC WITH JOHN WEST FÉILE 2023 AMBASSADOR SHAUNA ENNIS OF MEATH AT CROKE PARK TODAY TUESDAY. JOHN WEST, SPONSORS OF THE GAA'S UNDER-15 ANNUAL FÉILE PEILE NA NÓG (FOOTBALL) AND FÉILE NA NGAEL (CAMOGIE AND HURLING) ANNOUNCED DETAILS OF ITS INNOVATIVE NUTRITION PROGRAMME FOR YOUNG ATHLETES.**

# SUBMISSIONS SOUGHT FOR GAA GENERATIONS ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

## **GAA GENERATIONS IS A MAJOR NEW ORAL HISTORY PROJECT BUILT ON CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN YOUNG AND OLD SECTIONS OF OUR MEMBERSHIP.**

It offers the chance for people to be a part of the largest inter-generational study in the GAA in its near 140-year history.

Ireland boasts a rich tradition of passing our stories from one generation to the next. To honour that, and to capture a better understanding of what the GAA means to its members, the Association has launched a 'GAA Generations' oral research project.

The idea is simple: we are inviting young GAA, LGFA and Camogie Association members aged 12-21 to record on their mobile phone a conversation with someone who they look up to and admire in the 55+ age bracket. It could be, for example, a parent/grandparent, a coach, or a teacher, past or present, that saw and nurtured your potential. Older participants will also be given the opportunity to quiz their young interviewees on their GAA experiences and how it may have impacted their understanding of who they are.

Young people who sign up will receive online training in conducting an interview (based on the 'Youth as Researcher' training developed by the UNESCO Centre in the University of Galway). The recorded conversations, along with a photo of the participants, will be stored on the GAA's eLearning platform and published as part of a GAA archive. Participants will



**GAA GENERATIONS IS A MAJOR NEW ORAL HISTORY PROJECT BUILT ON CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN YOUNG AND OLD SECTIONS OF OUR MEMBERSHIP.**

also receive a UNESCO Chairs/GAA Youth Researcher Certificate of Participation.

GAA members aged 12-21 years (inclusive) who would like to participate in this research project should complete the expression of interest form found at: [www.gaa.ie/generations](http://www.gaa.ie/generations). This project is kindly supported by the National Office for Suicide Prevention. Under 18s are required to have parental/guardian consent to participate.

All those who participate will be given a free interviewer pack while those who submit recordings will be entered into a draw for GAA leisure wear and attendance at an event in Croke Park later this year with special guests that will discuss the findings of this unique inter-generational conversation on the GAA. A video voiced by Irish actor Cillian Murphy will accompany the final research.

Clubs and schools are encouraged to get involved in this major research.

Click here to see a video for more information.

For further information contact

[gaagenerations@gaa.ie](mailto:gaagenerations@gaa.ie) or

Stephen Quinn at +353 (0) 1 819 2387

# KELLOGG'S GAA CÚL CAMPS RETURN TO MAKE SUMMER 2023 UNFORGETTABLE

**KELLOGG AND THE GAA HAVE TODAY ANNOUNCED THE RETURN OF IRELAND'S CÚL-EST SUMMER CAMPS, KELLOGG'S GAA CÚL CAMPS, FOR 2023. THE CAMPS WILL KICK OFF LATE JUNE AND WILL RUN UP TO THE END OF AUGUST, OFFERING CHILDREN AGED 6-13 THE UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE AN ACTION-PACKED AND FUN-FILLED WEEK OF ACTIVITY DURING THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS WHICH REVOLVES AROUND SUSTAINING PARTICIPANT INVOLVEMENT IN GAELIC GAMES. KELLOGG AND THE GAA ARE URGING PARENTS AND GUARDIANS TO ACT QUICKLY TO SECURE THEIR SPOTS AND GUARANTEE AN UNFORGETTABLE SUMMER.**

This year, Kellogg's GAA Cúl Camps is recognising the important role that the camps play in creating unforgettable memories from a young age. At the heart of every meaningful experience is the creation of memories that last a lifetime. Kellogg's GAA Cúl Camps have long played a vital role in helping young people to explore new interests, stay active as well as creating new and meaningful life-long friendships. Every summer, Kellogg's GAA Cúl Camps are at the heart of the community, bringing people together and celebrating diversity.

On hand to launch this year's camps were Kellogg's GAA Cúl Camps ambassadors and sport superstars, Galway Hurler David Burke, Kerry LGFA player Louise Ni Mhuircheartaigh, Wexford Camogie player Ciara Storey and Cavan Footballer Raymond Galligan. Each one of these county players attended Kellogg's GAA Cúl Camps as a child and credit the camps as



IN ATTENDANCE AT THE LAUNCH OF THE 2023 KELLOGG'S GAA CÚL CAMPS ARE, FROM LEFT, PATRICIA GRACE POP, AGED 7, KERRY FOOTBALLER LOUISE NI MHUIRCHEARTAIGH, KARSON BUTLER, AGED 12, GALWAY HURLER DAVID BURKE AND FORTUNE BETA, AGED 12. STARTING AT THE BEGINNING OF JUNE AND RUNNING UP TO THE END OF AUGUST, KELLOGG'S GAA CÚL CAMPS HAVE LONG PLAYED A VITAL ROLE IN HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE TO EXPLORE NEW INTERESTS, STAY ACTIVE AS WELL AS CREATING NEW AND MEANINGFUL LIFE-LONG FRIENDSHIPS.

a source of some of their most cherished memories. The sporting superstars were joined by future stars, Karson Butler aged 11, Fortune Beta aged 10, Kacie Cromwell aged 10 and Patricia Grace Pop aged 7, who will be taking part in this year's camps and listened in as the county players recalled their favourite memories.

Sarah Ferguson, Kellogg Ireland General Manager said: "At Kellogg, we are so proud to be involved in this partnership, which has health and exercise at its core, and that plays such a key role in young people's lives each summer. Kellogg's GAA Cúl Camps are all about making memories; memories give us a sense of identity,

provide us with joy, and shape the way we see the world around us.

Our goal is to provide young people with the opportunity to make life-long friends and unforgettable memories that they will treasure forever."

GAA Uachtarán CLG Larry McCarthy said: "It's that time of the year when the evenings become brighter, the weather improves, midweek games begin, and it's time for the launch of the Kellogg's GAA Cúl Camps. We are very grateful to Kellogg's for their ongoing commitment, now in its 12th year, to our Cúl Camps and, we are extremely proud of the work that

goes on at the Kellogg's GAA Cúl Camps. I'd acknowledge and thank the clubs, coaches and volunteers who make it all possible and create an action packed and fun-filled week of activity when children make long lasting memories."

As with previous years, the Assisted Needs Kellogg's GAA Cúl Camps are back this summer, providing a calmer environment for those who need it with the same level of fun\*.

For more information on Kellogg's GAA Cúl Camps or to book in, visit [www.gaa.ie/kelloggsulcamps](http://www.gaa.ie/kelloggsulcamps).





# JOIN THE CROKE PARK STEWARDING TEAM

Recruitment  
now open for  
Croke Park  
Voluntary  
Stewards

To be part of the match day action, the following are required:



Active and  
Enthusiastic



Available at  
weekends



Customer  
Focused



An interest in GAA  
would be beneficial

Interviews will be held in Croke Park:

Thursday 20th & 27th April 2023, 5:30 - 7pm

Stewards will be trained & accredited by  
the GAA National Facilities, Health &  
Safety Committee

To apply please contact Elaine O'Rourke  
at [eorourke@crokepark.ie](mailto:eorourke@crokepark.ie)



**CROKE PARK**

## AUGHER ST. MACARTANS PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

OUR  
VISION  
OUR  
CLUB  
PLAN



AN EOCHAIR NAOMH MHC ARTAIN  
CLUB PLAN 2023-2028



**IN SOUTH TYRONE, GAELIC GAMES HAVE A PROUD TRADITION, AND AUGHER ST. MACARTAN'S IS AS PROUD AS ANY CLUB. "AS A CLUB WE HAVE ALWAYS PRODUCED PEOPLE AS GOOD AS ANY IN THE COUNTY, FOOTBALLERS, MALE AND FEMALE, MUSICIANS, OFFICIALS, ADMINISTRATORS AND IN OTHER FIELDS. FOR A CLUB OF OUR SIZE, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SCALE HEIGHTS WE CAN BE EXTREMELY PROUD OF" SAYS CLUB CHAIRPERSON, JARLATH DALY.**

Success came to Augher in the 1960's,70's,80's, 2000's and 2010's and they got involved in the Gaelic Games Club Planning Programme to ensure that solid foundations are being laid so that success may come to Augher on and off the field again. Having been launched at the beginning of February, with great enthusiasm, now the hard work begins.

"I suppose we had talked about a club plan for a number of years, and when I began as chairperson, I wanted to make it a priority. We discussed it as a committee and entrusted the process to a 3-person coordinator group of Club Secretary, Conor McElroy, Damian McElroy and Niall Mulrine" adds, Jarlath.

Niall Mulrine takes up the story from here "you always want to do the right thing, by your players, your members, your supporters and your community, but what you think might be best and what someone else thinks might be best might not always be the same thing, so we felt we need buy in from our own members and the wider community.

We were very lucky to be able to call upon Raymond McHugh, a Gaelic Games Club planning Facilitator, for his expertise and advice, we met with him initially and he explained the process, the timelines and the potential pitfalls and we agreed on next steps, the first of these was to form a steering committee.

We wanted to represent all areas of the club on our steering committee, so we had young and old, player and coach, volunteers and clubs officers, as well as one or two who may not have had an active role in the club. We felt this was important as we wanted as many different and new opinions and ideas as possible"

Community buy-in was something Damian McElroy really focused on, "Club is community and to move forward you have to move forward together. To this end we created a club survey, sent it out, and we got over 130 responses, that's around 70% of our total adults membership, so we were really happy with that. It also gave those members who are based around the world to share their views. We also held a club planning workshop which was attended by 75 people and it really was such a positive and open meeting. People were willing to share their views, which they mightn't have if it was a regular club committee meeting"

It wasn't all plain sailing though he confesses "our teams were out on the pitch and there was a wedding or two, life just took over for a while, we held the club planning workshop in March 2022, it was probably September before we really got into it again, if we were to do it again, we

would probably focus on trying to get it all completed in the off season.

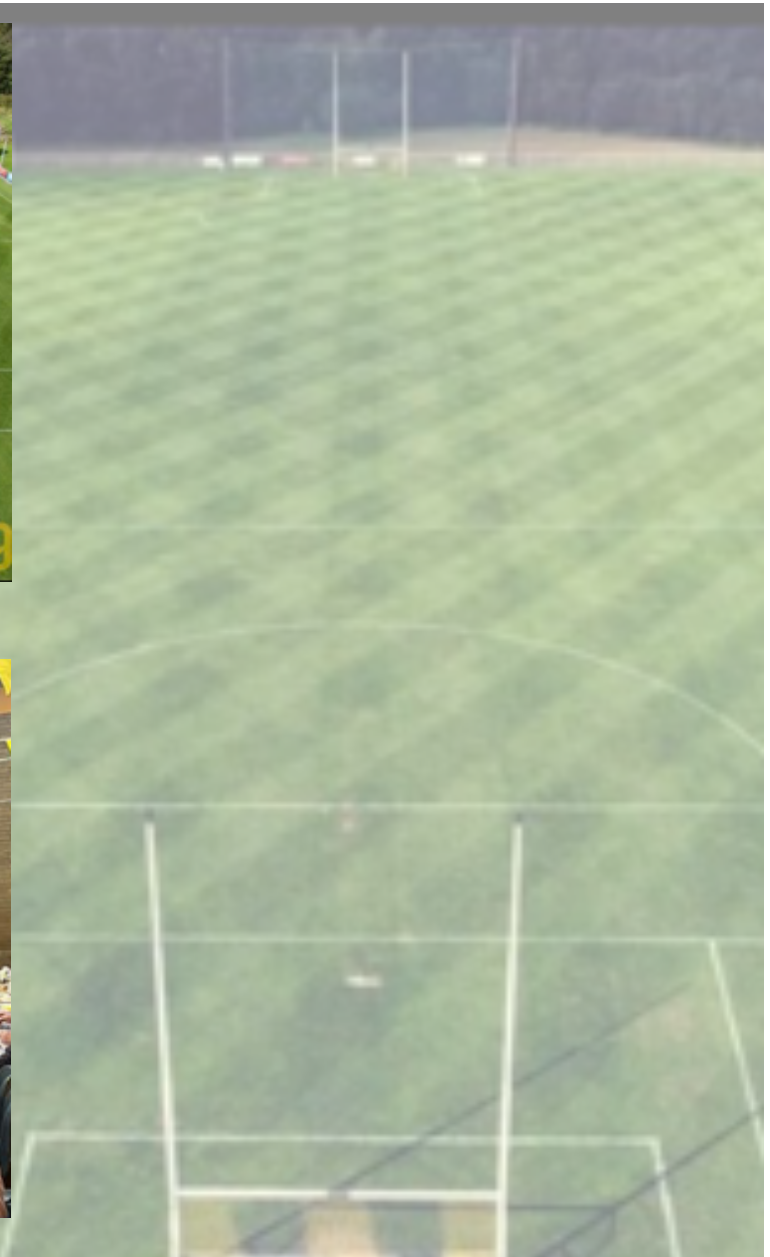
Nevertheless, we held a number of focus groups, with club members who expressed an interest in different areas of the plan, be it coaching and games, club management, facilities, finance or community, culture and communication in September and October and we spent the rest of 2022 working out the finer points of what would be our club planning document.”

Club Secretary Conor McElroy said of the Launch “ The club plan is more that just a well-polished document with colourful pictures. The journey to complete the document bonded our small community together with forums and meetings of minds on how to improve the club for everyone. The process of talking to each other and debating those finer details was the most enjoyable part.

To launch the plan, we held a ‘big breakfast’, something we do every year where the senior players make (although most of the cooking is done by mothers, fathers and partners!) and serve breakfast to our members. We thought it was fitting as it was a time when most of our club comes to together, we invited Tyrone Senior Manager Fergal Logan and County Chairperson Martin Sludden along to share with them our vision for the club for the next five years. It was extremely well received and hopefully now we can build on that and lay the foundations for the years ahead.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON CLUB PLANNING IN THE GAA VISIT -  
**Club Planning | GAA DOES**

TO TELL US YOUR CLUB PLANNING SUCCESS STORY –  
EMAIL [clubnewsletter@gaa.ie](mailto:clubnewsletter@gaa.ie)



by Tye Adamson

## SHAMROCKED' A MULLINGAR FOOTBALL SUCCESS STORY



MULLINGAR SHAMROCKS JUVENILES WELCOME THE TAILTEANN CUP IN 2022

**70 YEARS AGO ON 16TH JANUARY 1953, THE MULLINGAR SHAMROCKS GAA CLUB WAS FOUNDED IN ST MARY'S HALL. AT THE TIME, THERE WAS NO ADULT FOOTBALL CLUB IN MULLINGAR AND FOOTBALLERS FROM THE TOWN PLAYED WITH THE SURROUNDING RURAL CLUBS OR DRIFTED AWAY TO PLAY OTHER SPORTS. THE PADRAIG PEARSE'S WAS FOUNDED IN NOVEMBER 1951 AND ENJOYED EARLY SUCCESS. THE SUCCESS OF THE PEARSE'S HURLING CLUB AND THE WESTMEATH MINOR FOOTBALL TEAM THAT WON THE 1952 LEINSTER CHAMPIONSHIP DREW ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT THERE WAS NO FOOTBALL CLUB IN MULLINGAR TO CATER FOR PROMISING FOOTBALLERS.**

A decision was made to form a separate football club at Pearse's January meeting

held on 16 January 1953. The members were determined that the footballers of Mullingar would have the chance to realise the full potential of the talented young players in the area and get a chance to take their own rightful place among the ranks of the GAA clubs in Westmeath. The decision that separate football and hurling clubs was in the best interest of promoting both sports was unanimous and the Mullingar Shamrocks GAA Club was established.

Shamrocks embarked on their maiden voyage in the Westmeath Senior Championship in 1954 and beat Kinnegad in their first Senior championship game. Since then, Shamrocks have captured the Westmeath Championship 12 times, with the first coming in 1964 and latest in 2018.

The Club played their first football match

in their home of Springfield in 1962 and christened the venue with a win, with club legend Terry O'Dowd involved in the action, as well as Frankie Connaughton, the first Shamrocks player to captain a Westmeath Leinster title winning team as Westmeath minor footballers won their third provincial minor title in 1963.

In 1966, Shamrocks completed their first minor-senior double and for Tony Keegan, Barry McKeogh, Kevin Craig and Noel Daly the achievement was especially significant as these players played in both finals. In 1968, Kevin Higgins became the club's first interprovincial player when he was selected in goal for Leinster in the Railway Cup.

In the '70's, underage success was significant, a certain Ned Moore and

Michael 'Spike' Fagan emerged, with 'Spike' becoming the first Westmeath footballer to be selected for Ireland in the 'compromise rules' international series against Australia in 1986. Shamrocks added to their senior honours in 1986, retained the title in '87 and won again in 1990.

1991 was a disappointing year with defeats in the senior, intermediate and under-21 county finals. Early in the year, the club appointed its first lady officer when Diddy Cornally was elected President of the club (Diddy continues in the role today), Diddy, along with Noreen Garry, Marie Burke and Ann Melody were the driving forces behind the development of the club's ladies' section.

Lifelong friends Diddy and the late



TOM HUNT, DIDDY CORNALLY AND TERRY O'DOWD WITH SHAMROCK'S REPRESENTATIVES ON WESTMEATH LADIES ALL-IRELAND INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONSHIP WINNING TEAM. L/R: TOM HUNT, NIAMH SPELLMAN, DIDDY CORNALLY, TERRY O'DOWD, KAREN HEGARTY, TARA FAGAN AND CAROLE FINCH



Noreen (whose son Ciarán was a member of one of the underage teams that won every championship from underage as far as senior, and her grandson Tye Adamson was a member of the 2018 winning team) represented the club as delegates to the county board, blazing a trail for the involvement of women in the club which continues to this day, with Vice-Chairperson Debbie Newman, Joan Ormsby, Maria Carroll, Ciara Keegan, Lisa Burke and sisters Karen and Sophie Hegarty, sitting on the club executive.

The club's most successful and dominant spell came with the famous 'four in a row' team of 1992-95, managed by Ritchie O' Donoghue for the first three and by Gerry Nohilly for the fourth (whose son David now occupies the position of club Chairman). Ten players, Dermot Ryan, Ned Moore (captain 1993-95), John Conlon, Bill Sex, Michael Fagan, Tom Ormsby, Kieran

Ryan, Denis Corroon, Michael O'Reilly and Bernard Flynn played in all four finals. The feat has not been eclipsed since.

In 1998 and Davey Walls as a panellist became the first Shamrocks footballer to win an All-Ireland minor football medal followed by the All-Ireland under-21 football title when Westmeath defeated Kerry in the final, with Micheál Burke and Brian Lambden also involved. Burke added a second Leinster under-21 medal to his collection in 2000 while there was a strong club presence on the famous Leinster title winning team of 2004, led by the late great Páidí O'Sé, with Donal O'Donoghue, Shane Colleary and Brian Morley playing key roles in The Lake County's success.

Mullingar Shamrocks Ladies Football players have also tasted All-Ireland success with Carole Finch, Karen Hegarty, Emma Morris and Gemma Leahy featuring

win of the new millennium with a victory over Tyrrellspass in 2000. Shamrocks had to wait until 2012 for their next championship win, followed by the club's sweetest moment in 2018, with a famous win over local rivals St. Lomans, in the first 'all-Mullingar' Final.

Shamrocks have also been known for success off the pitch, in Scór circles especially winning four All-Ireland titles in various disciplines and with various fundraising initiatives. The club is a mentor club in the GAA's Green Club initiative and is also included in the GAA's Healthy Club Programme.

The underage section has seen a new lease of life with the introduction of the 'Na SeamrÓigí' concept and the establishment of the schools link, which thanks to the input of Gerry Nohilly and 1995 All-Ireland winner, Robbie Boyle, has been a huge success for the club.

The club's social media presence is noteworthy as anything from past stories to match reports to the latest news and events are regularly presented by Tom Hunt, whose encyclopedic knowledge of all things GAA (and everything else!) is to be nothing but admired.

on the Westmeath team that won the 2011 All-Ireland intermediate title and in 2021, Niamh Spellman, Tara Fagan, Lauren McCormack, Anna Jones and Karen Hegarty featured on the team that defeated Wexford in the intermediate final.

Shamrocks claimed the first senior title



# GAA ANTI-DOPING POLICY – KNOW THE SCORE

**SINCE 2001 THE GAA HAS BEEN DRUG TESTING PLAYERS AS PART OF AN AGREEMENT WITH SPORT IRELAND AND THEIR POLICY TO COOPERATE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL ANTI-DOPING CAMPAIGN ADMINISTERED BY THE WORLD ANTI-DOPING ASSOCIATION (WADA). THE GAA BELIEVES THAT DOPING IS CONTRARY TO THE SPIRIT OF SPORT AND EVERY MEMBER HAS A DUTY TO ENSURE THAT GAELIC GAMES ARE FREE OF DOPING.**

All GAA members are subject to the Anti-Doping Rules as adopted by Sport Ireland (Rule 1.16 GAA Official Guide 2022). While any player may be selected for testing, there is a particular focus on testing regarding Inter-County players.

The GAA advises all members to read and understand the Anti-Doping Rules and to understand their responsibilities under the rules. The consequences of not adhering to Anti-Doping Rules can be severe for players and their support personnel such as coaches and parents; therefore, it is critical that any questions/concerns be clarified with either the GAA or Sport Ireland.

The prohibited list is updated by WADA annually and is available at - <https://www.wada-ama.org/en/resources/world-anti-doping-program/2023-prohibited-list>

Sport Ireland's new medicine checker website is now live and can be accessed via the below link. This resource is where athletes can now check the status of all medication purchased in the 26

counties. A reminder that all athletes should check the status of all medicines before consumption - <https://medcheck.sportireland.ie/>

## **Gaelic Games Senior Inter County Player Anti-Doping Course**

All members of the Association, particularly those involved with a Senior Inter-County panel, are advised to complete the GAA's Anti-Doping E-Learning Course so they are aware of their rights and responsibilities in relation to anti-doping.

The GAA's Senior Inter-County Player E-Learning Course (2023) can be accessed by following the below link: <https://learning.gaa.ie/lms/course/index.php?categoryid=302>

All GAA Anti-Doping resources can be accessed here - <https://learning.gaa.ie/antidoping>

For additional information, please contact GAA Player Welfare Manager Eoghan Tuohey at [eoghan.tuohey@gaa.ie](mailto:eoghan.tuohey@gaa.ie)

**GAA**

## YOUR BODY YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**STRICT LIABILITY**  
Players are solely responsible for any prohibited substance found in their system despite whether there was an intention to cheat or not.

**CONSEQUENCES**  
A positive test can result in a suspension of a minimum of 4 years from all sports.

**SUPPLEMENTS**  
Know the risks associated with supplements and how you can reduce your risk.

**MEDICATIONS**  
Players should consult with the new Sport Ireland Medicine Checker Website ([medcheck.sportireland.ie](http://medcheck.sportireland.ie)) and their Team Doctor before taking any medication. The status of all medications purchased in the 26 counties can be checked here. Information can also be accessed on [eirpharm.com](http://eirpharm.com) and [globaldro.com](http://globaldro.com).

**PROHIBITED LIST**  
In addition to performance enhancing substances, recreational drugs are also included on the prohibited list.

**FIND OUT MORE**  
For information and resources on Anti-Doping including the E-Learning Course for Senior Inter-County Player's visit [learning.gaa.ie/Antidoping](https://learning.gaa.ie/Antidoping)

**GPA** **SPORT IRELAND**

# GAA INJURY BENEFIT FUND – IMPORTANT UPDATE ON INCREASED EXPENSES

## INCREASED MEDICAL AND DENTAL EXPENSES LIMIT TO €5,200 WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT

Given increased inflationary costs, it has been agreed to increase the medical and dental expenses limit available under the Fund to €5,200. Details of the updated GAA Injury Benefit Fund summary document confirming the new limits is available at [GAA Injury Benefit Fund](#). This is the second increase in cover since June 2022 following the increase at that time to €4800. Where a claim has been reported with an Injury date from June 1, 2022 and the €4800 has already been paid out, DWF Claims will be reviewing those claims and will make additional payments up to €5200 in line with the terms and benefits of the Fund.

## CREDIT TO BE GIVEN AGAINST 2023 GAA INJURY BENEFIT FUND FEES

Following a review of the Injury Fund finances, it has been agreed to give a credit towards the 2023 fees. Details of the credits applicable to units will issue in May 2023. In order for a unit to avail of the credit, payment of the 2023 fees must be made via Stripe. For units that do not have a Stripe account set up, please see details on the following link: [Setting up a Foireann-linked Stripe account – Gaelic Athletic Association \(zendesk.com\)](#). We would advise units to start the set up process now so that the unit will be able to avail of the credit.

Important reminders on the GAA Injury Benefit Fund

- All Claims must be notified within 60 days of the injury date, the injury date is



- day 1
- No appeals will be considered for any unit which has failed to notify the claim within the required 60-day notification time frame.
- The claims portal is built in accordance with the terms of the Fund – If a unit goes to log a claim for an injury that occurred more than 60 days from the injury date, an error message will come up advising that the claim is outside the terms of the Fund.
- As part of the logging of the claim, a unit is asked to confirm that the information in relation to the injury is all true and correct
- If it is established that a unit logged a false date of injury to bypass the 60-day notification requirement, the claim will be declined, and no appeals considered
- If the injured player is not on Foireann as a registered playing member at the time of the injury, there is no cover available under the Fund
- GAA Injury Benefit Fund cover year is from June 1, 2022 – May 31, 2023, the 2023 GAA membership year is separate and commenced on January 1, 2023, all playing members must be registered for 2023 on Foireann to ensure cover is in place in the event of an injury in 2023.
- The March 31st date in rule has nothing to do with eligibility for cover under the GAA Injury Benefit Fund. The March 31 date relates to eligibility to vote at an AGM only.
- All queries in relation to accessing the claims portal need to be directed to DWF Claims [InjuryFundGAA@DWFCclaims.com](mailto:InjuryFundGAA@DWFCclaims.com) or telephone 01 790 9455
- The GAA Injury Benefit Fund is not an insurance product – it is a benefit fund in place to support registered playing members as per the terms and benefits of the Fund. It is each player's personal responsibility to ensure that they have adequate covers in place.

# CHILD SAFEGUARDING RISK ASSESSMENT & SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT 2023



**THE GAELIC GAMES ASSOCIATIONS OPERATE A JOINT CODE OF BEHAVIOUR (UNDERAGE), WHICH IS ENSHRINED IN OUR RULES AND THE CONTENT OF WHICH REFLECTS HOW WE ADDRESS OUR ASSOCIATION, LEGAL AND STATUTORY SAFEGUARDING OBLIGATIONS.**

One specific aspect of this joint Code of Behaviour and of our legal obligations is that as a provider of a 'relevant service for children', all Units (i.e. Club,

County, & National) must undertake a Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment to consider and examine all aspects of our services, e.g. coaching, training, games, social activities, Scór etc. from a safeguarding perspective, and to establish whether there are practices or features in place that have the potential to put children at risk of harm.

Once a Risk Assessment has been discussed and adopted by the relevant Executive Committee, the unit must

complete a Child Safeguarding Statement. The Statement is a written statement that specifies the safeguarding service being provided by our Associations and our units, and the principles and procedures that ensure, as far as practicable, that a child availing of our service is safe from harm. It should set out any potential risk of harm to a child that the unit may have identified in their risk assessment, and the procedures that are in place to reduce the identified risks. The Club Child Safeguarding Statement pictured below outlines in template format what a statement should contain. Once completed & signed by the Club/County Children's Officer, the statement should be put on public display e.g., Clubhouse wall, Club website, social media etc.

The Risk Assessment and Safeguarding Statement templates are now available for all clubs and Counties to complete on Foireann. The Risk Assessment & Child Safeguarding Statement must be commenced and completed by 5.00pm on 1st May 2023. From 2nd May, non-compliant clubs will be in breach of legislation and Policy, and closure of clubs may be considered by the Child Safeguarding Committee.

Queries in relation to the 2023 Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment & Safeguarding Statement may be sent to [safeguardingriskassessment@gaa.ie](mailto:safeguardingriskassessment@gaa.ie) or [Kayleen.iwasaki@gaa.ie](mailto:Kayleen.iwasaki@gaa.ie)

**Child Safeguarding Statement**  
Abbotstown GAA (not a registered club), Sughborough Road, Abbotstown, Dublin 15, D15K4PP

The basic aims of the Gaelic Athletic Associations include fostering and developing our Gaelic Games and Irish cultural activities among young people and children. These games and related activities are organized and promoted by dedicated volunteers at Club, County, Provincial and National levels with the cooperation and support of an equally dedicated cohort of staff all of whom are committed to the safeguarding of children and young people in our Association as we seek to create a safe environment for young people to grow and develop.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was approved by the **Abbotstown GAA** Club Executive Committee on **10<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

**PRINCIPLES TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN FROM HARM**  
This statement recognizes that in accordance with legislative requirements, and our commitments in our Gaelic Games Code of Behaviour (Underage), from QR Code 1), to safeguard all children regardless of race, ability, ethnicity or sexual orientation from harm, that the welfare and interests of children are paramount in all circumstances. The Code of Behaviour aims to ensure that children and young people have a positive, developmental and enjoyable experience of Gaelic Games and other activities and that they do so, as far as is practicable, in a safe and enjoyable environment in accordance with the Children's Act (2015) and the Children (Big Order) 1998.

RISK ASSESSMENT	RISK IDENTIFIED	PROCEDURES IN PLACE TO ADDRESS RISKS	QR CODE
In preparing this statement we have completed a risk assessment, available on request from our Children's Officer, which addresses the potential for harm to children when they are participating in our games and attending our activities under the following headings: • Identify Areas of Risk of Harm: • Club/County and Coaching Practices; • Complaints & Discipline; • Reporting Procedures; • Club Facilities; • Recruitment; • Communications and General Risk of Harm. • Harm means or relates to a child: Assault, ill treatment or neglect of a child in a manner that seriously affects or likely to seriously affect the child's health, development or welfare or sexual abuse of a child.	• Safeguarding training for coaches, Children's Officers and Designated Liaison Persons and others who work with children which address Association safeguarding procedures and the risk of harm to children • Risk of harm when hosting and activity or away trips • Risk of harm through online abuse and social media • Inappropriate use of photography • Bullying of a child • Risk of harm to a child by an adult or another child including definitions of abuse	Gaelic Games Safeguarding Training programmes and policy  Code of Behaviour (Underage) to include directives on Recruitment, Safety and Safeguarding Training Guidance for Coaches, Parents & Supporters on Harassing Conduct Practices & Behaviour, Hosting events, Away Trips & Transport, Social Media Guidance Photography  Anti-Bullying Training & Statement  Guidance for Dealing with and Reporting Allegations or Concerns of Abuse	
<b>PROCEDURES</b> Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been prepared in accordance with the legislative requirements contained in the Children First Act 2015, Children's First National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2015), the Children (Big Order) 1998, the Child Safeguarding & Code of Policy, Procedure and Practice and as required by our Association rules and Code of Behaviour (Underage).	<b>PROCEDURES IDENTIFIED</b> The following procedures, addressed in our Guidance for Dealing with & Reporting Allegations or Concerns of Abuse (QR Code 2) and Code of Behaviour (QR Code 1) to support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our services and activities: • Procedure in respect of the management of allegations against any member, non-member or staff/involvement availing of our services (QR Code 2) • Procedure for the safe recruitment and vetting of volunteers & staff to work with children and young people (QR Code 1) • Procedure for provision of and access to Gaelic Games Child Safeguarding Training and information including the identification of the recurrence of harm (QR Code 1)	• Procedure for the reporting allegations of abuse, protection or welfare concerns of a child to the Association, Tota or Gateway Team, availing an applicable (QR Code 2) • Procedure for appointing a relevant person i.e. the Club/Children's Officer who is the relevant person appointed for the purpose of this statement (QR Code 1) • Our Club shall maintain a list of membership who, if known, and in accordance with the Children First Act 2015, are specified as mandated persons, regardless of what role if any, they hold in the Club.	

**MANDATED PERSONS AND SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS**

Abbotstown GAA Children's Officer	Reporting Procedures
<b>Abbotstown GAA</b> Designated Liaison Person	<b>Abbotstown GAA</b>
GAA/Boarders	Michelle Harris mandah@perm@gaa.ie
Campaign	Roberta Farrell mandah@perm@gaa.ie
Hurlball	David Britton mandah@perm.hurlball@gaa.ie
LEPA	Paula Purdy mandah@perm@gaa.ie

All policies and procedures listed above are available at [www.gaa.ie/gaa-child-safeguarding-and-protection](http://www.gaa.ie/gaa-child-safeguarding-and-protection)

**IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW**  
The Gaelic Athletic Associations and Counties are committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the accompanying child safeguarding policies and young people call on their own while availing of our services. This Statement, adopted and endorsed by **Abbotstown GAA** Club Executive Committee, shall be reviewed by **10<sup>th</sup> March 2024** or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.





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)**.

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