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# GAA LAUNCHES NEW STRATEGIC PLAN – FÍS SHOILÉIR 2021

**T**he GAA recently unveiled an ambitious set of goals for the next three years. Fís Shoiléir 2021 positions the GAA to:

- Achieve a better balance between club and county fixtures
- Address inter-county team preparation and administration challenges
- Counter challenges and capitalise on opportunities presented by population shifts
- Enhance integration across the Gaelic games family
- Revamp specialised and personal development opportunities for volunteers and administrators
- Streamline administration at club and county levels
- Strengthen communication of organisational messages
- Sustain its amateur status value

Uachtarán CLG, John Horan said: “The GAA launched an extensive effort last year to determine our organisation-wide goals for the next three years. This Strategic Plan is the culmination of six month’s work and consultation by a Steering Group which employed various methods with many stakeholders such as our members and volunteers, as well as external parties. Fís Shoiléir 2021 sets out a clear vision for our future and sets the agenda for strategic actions that will have a positive impact at all levels of the Association. It is a timely commitment to our longer-term strategy for sustaining and growing the GAA.”

The plan has five goals – to improve participation, to transform the development of volunteers, to advance governance, revamp communication, and grow the Association. The achievement of these goals will help the GAA achieve its



mission, as a community-based volunteer organisation to promote Gaelic games, culture and lifelong participation.

Ard-Stiúrthóir CLG, Tom Ryan said: “Achievement of the goals and objectives in the Strategic Plan will be one of my top priorities between now and 2021, and implementation is already underway. Robust structures have been established to assist implementation, such as the establishment of a Strategic Implementation Committee which will meet regularly to monitor the creation and implementation of operational plans set by those with lead responsibility for delivering the various objectives.”

He stressed that achieving results will include a team effort from various sectors of its membership at club, county, provincial and central levels. He also emphasised that the Association will continue to address other priorities in an operational manner and respond to emerging ones as required.

View the GAA Strategic Plan 2018-2021 [here](#).

## **DOWNLOAD**

For more information, visit: [www.gaa.ie/the-gaa/administration/strategic-plan](http://www.gaa.ie/the-gaa/administration/strategic-plan)

# NEW GAA SURVEY TO HELP ADDRESS CLUB CONCERNS

**G**AA President John Horan has made a commitment to hold a National Club Forum at Croke Park where every Club will be invited to attend and to discuss matters that are of concern and interest to them.

This has been followed up by the establishment of a National Club Committee chaired by Mick Rock.

As part of this initiative a new survey aimed exclusively at clubs has been compiled and recently sent out to all of our club secretaries which will hopefully help set the agenda for the gathering later this year.

We want to know about the challenges facing clubs like recruiting volunteers, demographics, games programmes, and upgrading facilities.

Access to county players and views on underage development squads will also be prioritised.

Among a wide list of criteria clubs will be canvassed for suggestions regarding the assistance offered via the National Club Draw, Player Injury Scheme and Club Development Grants.

Make sure your club is making its voice heard. Only one response per club is required so make sure your club are involved.

**All clubs who complete and return the survey by the due date of July 16 will be entered into a draw for two complimentary All-Ireland Final tickets of your choice. Five Pairs in total are available.**



## NATIONAL CLUB DRAW 2018/2019

It is that time of year again where the National Club Draw preparation begins. The draw has proved huge success over the last number of years.

It gives a chance for your club to raise up to €20,000 and all money raised remains in club. Participants of the draw are also in with the chance to win some brilliant prizes provided by the Ard Chomhairle.

If you have any questions please contact [nationalclubdraw@gaa.ie](mailto:nationalclubdraw@gaa.ie)



*Click Play to watch last year's draw*



# GROUNDSMAN EDUCATION EVENING

**THURSDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2018**  
 GERALDINES GFC, MARLBG ROAD,  
 HAGGARDSTOWN, CO. LOUTH

5:00pm	Registration & Light Refreshments
5:15pm	<b>Welcome Address &amp; Introduction to Geraldines GAA Club</b> Kieran McGann, NPMW Chairman & Stuart Wilson - Croke Park/GAA NGDC Pitch Manager
5:45pm	<b>Why Renovate Pitches?</b> Brian O'Shaughnessy, Campey Turfcare
6:05pm	<b>Seed and Nutrition/Fertiliser for Renovation and Aftercare Maintenance of Pitches</b> Turfcare
6:25pm	<b>Sands, Rootzones &amp; Why Top Dress?</b> Ian McClements, STRI
6:45pm	Dinner
7:15-9pm	<b>Demonstration of Renovation Works on the Geraldines Pitch with Q&amp;As</b>

Register for this event by contacting Mr. Kieran McGann,  
 GAA National Pitch Maintenance Workgroup  
 Email: [ktmcoare@gmail.com](mailto:ktmcoare@gmail.com) or Call: +35386 7773100

## THE GAA IS ON SPOTIFY

# *Think You Know The Sound of the GAA?*

The GAA is on Spotify! So now you can listen to the tracks that mean the most to the players and supporters - you can even add your own to your county's playlist.

Simply follow us and add a track, or just listen and enjoy! Search Spotify for GAA or head over to the profile [here](#)



Listen On  
**Spotify**<sup>®</sup>

# JOHN WEST FÉILE SKILL STAR CHALLENGE 2018

By Taidh Geoghegan

**The 2018 John West Féile Skill Star Challenge took place in the GAA Games Development Centre in Abbotstown on Saturday, 23rd June. There were over 130 participants for the Under 14 competition, representing their county across Hurling, Camogie, Boys and Girls Gaelic Football.**

Participants and their parents began to arrive in Abbotstown at 9am where they were directed to the registration tables and presented with a specially designed Féile jersey, a John West 'goody bag' and lunch pack. Sarah Kehoe (John West Nutritionist) hosted two Nutrition talks during the competition which aimed to provide helpful tips and facts regarding nutrition, diet and training for both the players and their parents.

The Competition began shortly after 10am and was spread across four of the five top class pitches in Abbotstown with each code having its own pitch. It was a perfect day for the competition with temperatures hitting 23 degrees.

For Hurling and Camogie, skills included: Ground Striking; Free Taking; Jab Lift & Strike; Ground Cut; Ball Control and Long Puck.

For Gaelic Football and Ladies Gaelic Football, the competition challenged the

players ability in Kicking; Hand-Passing; Soloing and Shooting, all having to be carried out using both feet and against the clock.

The competition itself lasted for just over two hours and was full of quality skill and talent. Once the score sheets had been collected, the winners were calculated. All participants and parents gathered in the stand for the trophy presentation and the winners from each code were presented their trophy by Chair of the National Féile Committee, Brendy Brien and John West Marketing Manager, Anne-Claire Monde. All players also had the opportunity to get their photo taken with Roscommon footballer Amanda McLoone and Dublin camogie star Eve O'Brien who were the ambassadors on the day.

A feature of the 2018 competition was the closeness of the competitors, indeed there was a first for the Féile Skill Star Challenge in the Boys Football where first place was shared among the top four participants, who all scored exactly the same amount of points (90). It proved impossible to separate Cork's Michael McSweeney, Sean Doyle from Wicklow, Paddy Kennedy representing Limerick and Eoin Loughran from Down. The top performers could not be separated in Girls Football either, as Kiana Donnelly from Armagh and Ciara Smyth from Meath were joint-winners on

a score of 90. Sophie Ngai, representing Kildare was in third place on a score of 85.

The Hurling winner was Luke Roche, from Shelmaliers in Co Wexford who improved on his third place finish in 2017 to take home the prestigious Peadar Ahearn trophy. The trophy was presented by Shane and Conor Ahern, sons of Peadar and Aaron Ahern, grandson of Peadar. The Ahern family have been great supporters of the Féile Skills Star Challenge over the years, with former Waterford star Shane having won the competition himself as an U. 14 player. In joint second place was Down's Declan Mallon and Gearoid Dunne from Kilkenny. The Camogie winners were Faye Mulrooney from Offaly in first place, second place went to Aine Leenane from Tipperary, while Orlagh Convery from Antrim finished in third position.

Overall, the Skills Challenge was a great success and reflected in the number of participants and spectators present. All feedback received on the day was very positive and highlighted the want for a competition of this kind. The players who were representing their counties all showed tremendous levels of skill and ability. The Skill Star Challenge follows on from the Hurling/Camogie tournament which took place in Connacht, Westmeath and Longford, the Féile Handball tournament which took place in Galway and the Féile Rounders tournament which took place in the Connacht GAA Centre. Next weekend sees the Féile na nÓg tournament which is hosted jointly by Down, Louth and Meath. The finals of the Féile na nÓg tournament will represent the culmination of a significant month's activity, whereby over 17,000 players will have played over 1,400 games at Féile.



Sophie Ngai, representing Kildare, taking part in the competition

*The presentation of the Peadar Ahern trophy to Luke Scanlon, Wexford by Shane, Conor and Aaron Ahern (Waterford)*



# BORD GÁIS ENERGY GAA LEGENDS TOURS

**E**very summer the GAA Museum hosts these unique tours which see some of the biggest names in GAA history relive their memories and give fans a unique chance to experience the stadium from a player's perspective. This year we'll be inviting some of our most popular legends back together with a sprinkling of 'first time' legends.

All Bord Gáis Energy GAA Legends Tours include a trip to the GAA Museum, which is home to many exclusive exhibits, including the official GAA Hall of Fame. Booking is essential as the tours sell out quickly. Find out more at [crokepark.ie/legends](http://crokepark.ie/legends)

Here's just some of the Legends who will be touring Croke Park this summer;



**AIDAN O'MAHONY (KERRY)**  
Saturday 14th July

The 2018 Bord Gáis Energy Legends Tour Series continues when Kerry legend Aidan O'Mahony joins staff of the GAA Museum on a very unique behind-the-scenes tour of Croke Park.

A five-time All-Ireland winner with the Kingdom, Aidan enjoyed a 12-year senior inter-county career from 2004 to 2016. The Rathmore clubman featured in 70 championship games and 83 league games during that time and was twice an All Star.

**JOE DEANE (CORK)**  
Saturday 28th July

The 2018 Bord Gáis Energy Legends Tour Series at Croke Park continues with Cork hurling legend Joe Deane. Joe's tour will take place before the first All-Ireland hurling semi-final of the 2018 GAA Hurling Championship.

The three-time All-Ireland winner's senior inter-county career started in November 1995 in the National League. As well as the three All-Ireland titles, Joe won five Munster Championships and three All Star Awards.

**JOHNNY DOOLEY (OFFALY)**  
Sunday 29th July

The 2018 Bord Gáis Energy Legends Tour Series at Croke Park continues with Offaly hurling legend Johnny Dooley. The tour will take place before the stiles open to match day patrons on the day of the second All-Ireland hurling semi-final of the GAA Hurling Championship 2018.

The wing forward played for the Faithful County won two All-Ireland titles and two All-Star awards during a Senior inter-county career that spanned 11 years.

**JOHN DIVILLY (GALWAY)**  
Saturday 11th August

The 2018 Bord Gáis Energy Legends Tour Series continues when Galway's John Divilly joins staff of the GAA Museum on a very unique behind-the-scenes tour of Croke Park just hours before throw-in the first semi-final of this year's football championship.

John has experienced success as both player and manager – he was centre-back on the Galway team that lifted the Sam Maguire Cup in 1998. More recently, he managed UCD to Sigerson Cup success in 2018.

# JAMES BURKE'S INSPIRATIONAL COMEBACK STORY

By John Harrington

**Less than four months after his life hung in the balance while in an induced coma, James Burke is ready to play a key role for Kildare in the Christy Ring Cup Final against London on Saturday.**

The 19-year-old has made a remarkable recovery since being struck down suddenly by bacterial meningitis last Easter just a week after he'd helped the DCU hurlers win the All-Ireland Fresher's Hurling title.

His symptoms started innocuously enough, but quickly turned into a nightmare scenario for both him and his family.

"I had a week off college and I was working in a camp," Burke told GAA.ie. "I came home on the Tuesday and I was feeling sick.

"I was just very tired which wouldn't be like me. Went into work the next day and came home with a headache and a temperature.

"They were flu like symptoms so I thought that's all it was. Then during the night I vomited four or five times and on Thursday morning it was the same again, headaches and temperature.

"It was Thursday evening I started getting a sharp pain in my side and difficulty breathing.

"So I went to the GP and he straight away sent me to the hospital, he felt something was wrong."

Burke's condition went downhill rapidly when he reached A&E. He was vomiting, hallucinating, and had pains all over his body.

When he then developed a rash on his arms and feet, the doctors suspected meningitis. A CT scan showing severe swelling on Burke's brain confirmed their fears.

"At that point they put me in an induced coma and transferred me to an isolation unit in Tallaght," said Burke.

"It was tough for my family, they were going through it all and I obviously didn't know what was going on.

"It was scary times for them. They were sleeping in the hospital, they didn't even go home. They were up all night worrying I suppose.

"On the Saturday the doctors were letting them know hour by hour how I was doing. It was touch and go, nearly."

Eventually his doctors were able to confirm he had a case of Type B Bacterial Meningitis, which allowed them to treat him with a specific antibiotic which Burke responded well to.



He was woken from his induced coma after three days, but still had a long road to recovery ahead of him.

“I was in hospital for 12 days and when I was in hospital I wasn’t great at all,” he said. “I had no energy. I was only slowly getting back to my feet and walking.

“Once I got home the process started to speed up. I was going for longer walks around the house or going down by the canal.

“They said the recovery would be a minimum of eight weeks, so I didn’t do anything that was kind of risky for those eight weeks, no type of running or exercise really.

“In the meantime as well I was just doing everything the doctor said. Eating well and sleeping well and all of that.”

When the eight weeks were up, Burke slowly started to ramp up the intensity of his rehab and targeted a return to the Kildare team.

He’d lost a lot of weight and muscle-mass, but bit by bit built himself back until he was ready to make his comeback as a second-half substitute in the Christy Ring Cup victory over Wicklow on June 2, just three months after he’d been in a coma.

He scored a point that day, and then landed four in the Christy Ring Cup semi-final victory over Derry after coming on at half-time.

Kildare are glad to have him back, he was their top-scorer in the League with a total of 28 points scored from just four matches played. Not bad going for a young player in his debut season.

“When I understood what had happened I thought I wouldn’t even be able to play in the club championship in October,” said Burke. “I thought it was going to be a long spell on the sidelines.

“I couldn’t have even dreamed of playing in a Christy Ring Cup Final. But now I am where I am. I’ve played a few matches so I’m just delighted to have the opportunity to play in the Final on Saturday.

“It’s been a dream of a first season, apart from getting sick. The League was good to me. I was playing good hurling and was getting lucky as well. Coming back into the Christy Ring I was a bit nervous and didn’t know how things were going to go.

“I’m just happy that I didn’t fall too far backwards. I’m doing alright again. I’ve fitted back into the team okay.

“Everyone involved with the team has been great to me. I got a lot of texts of support and they were always keeping tabs on me to see how I was doing.

“Even when I came back training, they made the return to training very easy, both management and players.”

They’ve supported him and, according to Kildare team coach, Shane O’Brien, he has inspired them in turn.



“James’ journey to this Christy Ring Final is truly extraordinary,” said O’Brien. “He fought as big a battle as anyone could imagine, he was at death’s door.

“He has showed incredible courage and strength, which has inspired all those around him in Kildare.

“James is an exceptionally talented hurler, in my view, he has the potential to be as good as some of the top hurlers in the country.”

Whatever else he does in his career, it’s a serious achievement for Burke to be able to play a part in this Christy Ring Cup Final considering what he’s come through.

You can be sure that his family will savour the occasion too. A few short months ago they were sitting by his side in hospital praying he’d make it through the fight of his young life.

Now, sooner than they could ever have hoped, they’ll get to watch him do what he loves most, back in the full of his health. Regardless of the result, that’s something to celebrate.

“Yeah, I think they’ll enjoy the occasion,” said Burke. “I’d say they weren’t expecting I’d be in this position. They wouldn’t have been expecting to see me out there this year.

“Ah, it’s great. It’s good for them to get a day out as well and I’m sure they’re as delighted and excited as I am.”

*This article first appeared on gaa.ie previewing the Christy Ring Cup final.*

*James and Kildare enjoyed a famous win in the decider with James scoring a remarkable 0-8.*

## DJ CAREY - ALWAYS PURE CLASS

By Christy O'Connor

**T**welve days ago, DJ Carey was interviewed by Micheál Ó Domhnaill live on TG4 shortly after Galway had defeated Kilkenny in the Leinster U21 semi-final. Carey's side had lost by two points and Ó Domhnaill brought up two controversial incidents in the game involving Bill Sheehan and Tommy Walsh where Kilkenny could have made up that deficit. "That could have been a two-point swing," said Ó Domhnaill. "So how disappointing is it to hear those decisions going against you?"

Carey just shrugged his shoulders before giving his answer: "Decisions are disappointing if they go against you, unfortunately, but we can't have any complaints. The game is over. We battled really hard. We gave it everything. I'd be very proud of everyone in that dressing room. All we can do is wish the team that beat us the very best of luck in the rest of the championship."

Few managers would have been as gracious or magnanimous in the circumstances but Carey displayed everything as a manager that he was as a player; a study in grace and dignity and elegance. Pure class.

When the record books are analysed now, and in the future, there are numerous modern Kilkenny hurlers who have two,

three and four All-Ireland medals more than Carey. Yet Carey will still always occupy that special place in the hearts and minds of Kilkenny, and hurling people, neatly placed in the pantheon beside Kilkenny's modern greats - Henry Shefflin, JJ Delaney and Tommy Walsh.

Carey's standing is so bound up with goals and points and magical tricks he routinely performed that his longevity and endurance is often forgotten. He played in three different decades and there was never a time when he was just another player. His surname was almost irrelevant because DJ was the GAA's first real superstar.

Everyone on the ground had long been aware of Carey's talent from a young age. He was a star player on the 1988 All-Ireland winning Kilkenny minor team but he really announced himself to the wider hurling public the following season. In the 1989 All-Ireland Colleges final against St Flannan's in Nenagh, Carey scored 3-3 out of 3-5 for St Kieran's, even though he was strapped up like a mummy to protect damaged ribs.

He made his senior championship debut for Kilkenny later that summer and had a glorious career. Carey's grand uncle, Paddy Phelan, was picked on the Team of the Century in 1984. Carey missed out on the





updated version in 2000 but that omission never threatened his greatness or cherished status in the game.

DJ sent records tumbling everywhere. He accumulated 62-435 during 138 games for Kilkenny, 33-188 of which was scored over 57 championship matches. For 48 long years Sim Walton held the record for the most championship appearances for Kilkenny with 49 before Eddie Keher surpassed that record in 1977. Carey overtook Keher in 2004, playing for one more season before retiring after the 2005 championship.

A line of Kilkenny players have surpassed his championship appearances since but numbers and statistics could never do full justice to DJ's legacy. He was the greatest goalscorer of the last 30 years but his goals were about more than just green flags. There was a buzz of electricity and excitement when Carey bore down on goal because the crowd knew what was likely to happen next. So did the opposition. His goals invariably represented more than just their three-point value. After he scored Kilkenny's opening goal in the 2000 All-Ireland final, Offaly manager Pat Fleury said afterwards that it felt like Kilkenny had scored "two" goals.

Carey exploded that day, scoring 2-4. For years, his scoring record in All-Ireland finals had threatened his place in the pantheon. Before that 2000 final only one of his championship goals had come in an All-Ireland final, and that came from a penalty. In the 1998 and 1999 finals, which Kilkenny lost, Carey failed to score from play. In 1993 his only point from play came in injury time. Yet the stats were blind to many things, especially his work-rate, and laser free-taking under pressure. In any case, Carey buried any doubts on that front with a combined 3-10 in the 2000 and 2002 finals. A year later, Carey captained Kilkenny to an All-Ireland title.

After that game, Brian Cody spoke about how fortunate the players were to be in a dressing room with Carey. The players also acknowledged as much at the time. "DJ is a great man to have walk up those steps," said Henry Shefflin. "And it was a great honour for me to walk up behind him."

Shefflin won more All-Irelands than anyone else but part of DJ Carey's great legacy is how much he led the way for Shefflin and so many more Kilkenny players on the path to modern domination. Carey was a genius. A trendsetter. A phenomenon.

And always pure class.

*DJ Carey is being inducted into the Leinster GAA Hall of Fame on Leinster hurling final Sunday, July 1 at Croke Park*

# JIMMY KEAVENEY - A REWARDING AND SUCCESSFUL CAREER

By Seán McGoldrick

**A**s tales of the unexpected go, the Jimmy Keaveney story is straight out of the pages of a Roy of the Rovers annual. Physically he was at his peak when the Dublin football team was in the doldrums.

He won a Leinster Championship medal in 1965 when Dublin beat Longford in the final, but they lost by eight points to Kerry in the All-Ireland semi-final. Though he continued to excel personally, Dublin went into decline, reaching a nadir in 1973 when they lost in a second-round Leinster Championship replay to Louth.

At the age of 28, Keaveney – who was also an accomplished hurler – decided to pack in his Dublin career. “We were an old team, all in our late twenties and no one would have rated us at all. People thought we were over the hill,” he later recalled.

In the wake of the Louth debacle, the Dublin County Board acted. They axed the unwieldy committee who used to pick and run the team. The appointment of a Dublin GAA icon, Kevin Heffernan as team manager for the 1974 season promised a fresh start.

But it was a measure of the team’s then lowly status that their first-round Leinster Championship clash against Wexford on May 26, 1974 in Croke Park was the curtain

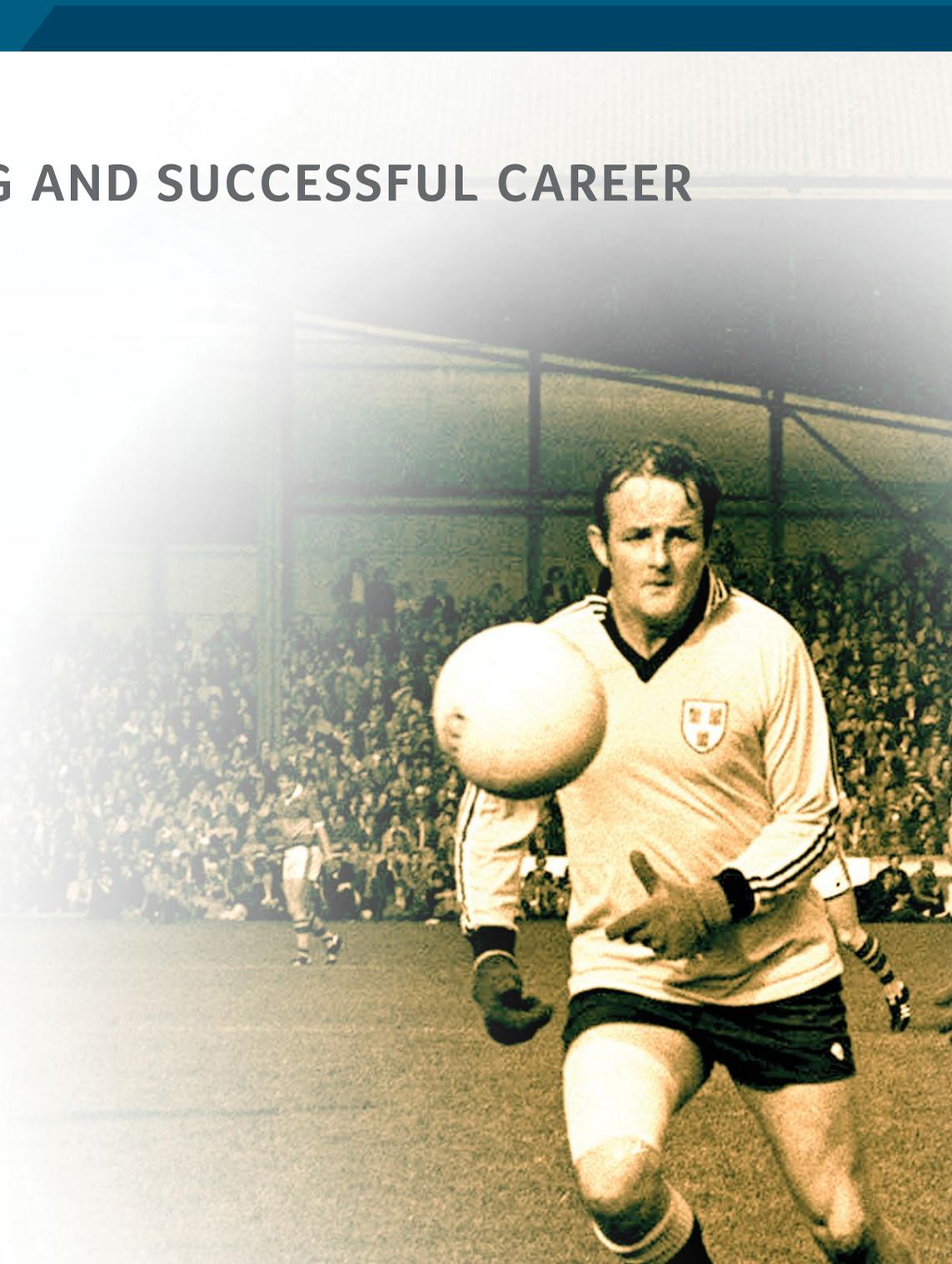
raiser to the National Football League final replay between Kerry and Roscommon. Keaveney watched the game from Hill 16 as Dublin won by nine points and Kerry won their fourth league title on the spin. Needless, to say there was more interest in the exploits of the visitors from the Kingdom than Dublin’s workmanlike performance under their new manager.

Heffernan wasn’t happy either. Driving home to Raheny afterwards he was bemoaning his side’s inability to convert more of their chances, when one of his back-seat passengers piped up and suggested that he have a word with his St Vincent’s clubmate Jimmy Keaveney.

A week later when Dublin travelled to Navan to face Louth in the second round, Jimmy wasn’t just on the team bus, he started the game and ended up as the leading scorer with a 0-6 return. He might have been a tad unfit but he still knew where the posts were.

He still had no inkling of what was about to unfold. “We were nothing special at the time, we weren’t bad footballers or anything but we would have been about 50 or 60-to-one to win an All-Ireland with the bookies at that stage,” he recalled.

But Dublin kept on winning, they subsequently beat Offaly, Kildare and





Meath to capture their first Leinster title in nearly a decade; sensationally dethroned defending title-holders Cork in the All-Ireland semi-final before comfortably overcoming Galway – who were appearing in their third All-Ireland final in four seasons – in the September final helped by an 0-8 contribution from the ‘Marino Maestro’ and Paddy Cullen’s penalty save.

The man who had watched his team’s first game in the championship in his street clothes ended the season as the championship’s leading scorer with a 1-36 return – but more importantly an All-Ireland medal as Dublin secured the Sam Maguire Cup for the first time since 1963.

For the next six seasons Keaveney was virtually ever present in the Dublin number 14 shirt as he terrorized defences and became one of the game’s most accomplished free-takers as Dublin captured Sam again in 1976 – when they beat Kerry for the first time in an All-Ireland final since 1923 – and 1977.

Arguably he became the first icon for a new generation of Dublin football fans as suddenly it became fashionable to follow the team, which in turn led to the establishment of dozens of new GAA clubs in Dublin which laid the foundation for the county’s present unrivalled status as the leading football power in the land.

Jimmy Keaveney won every honour in the game and is one of a handful of GAA players to be named Footballer of the Year in successive seasons (1976 and 1977). He scored a then record tally of 2-6 in the 1977 All-Ireland final against Armagh – it was later equalled by Mike Sheehy.

The legacy of that team is underlined by the fact that their 22 game match-winning run in the provincial series when they won six titles on the spin was only bettered by the current side when they beat Longford in this year’s semi-final.

The forthcoming Papal visit to Croke Park will bring back memories of the last

Papal visit in 1979 which had serious consequences for Jimmy. He received an eight-week ban after he was sent off in the Leinster final against Offaly. It was due to expire on the week of the All-Ireland which would have left him eligible to play.

However, in order to avoid a clash with the visit of Pope John Paul II the GAA decided to bring forward the date of the final by a week which meant that he couldn’t play in the 1979 decider against Kerry.

But it was one of the few disappointments Jimmy Keaveney experienced in a wonderfully rewarding and successful career.

*Jimmy was inducted into the Leinster GAA Hall of Fame on Leinster football final Sunday*

# CLUBS URGED TO COME OUT AND CELEBRATE GAELIC SUNDAY CENTENARY



execution of the leaders of the Easter Rising only two years earlier.

There was great frustration on behalf of the British authorities at this opposition and, sensing a growth in hostility and a rise in nationalist fervor, they looked at what might be helping to cause it.

The GAA and its followers were identified as being among the causes of their difficulties. As a result, efforts were made to frustrate the GAA at every turn. Excursion trains to big matches were prevented from happening and the GAA was forced to apply for a license for every match they held.

**T**he GAA is planning a major festival of club activity to mark the Centenary of Gaelic Sunday on the weekend of August 4/5.

Details will be sent out in the coming weeks with a call to action for clubs in every county to get involved in this most special GAA anniversary.

Gaelic Sunday as it became known, took place on August 4, 1918 and was possibly the most successful peaceful protest ever held anywhere in the first half of the 20th century.

In 1918, the British authorities in Ireland had tried to impose conscription to supplement the war effort as hostilities in Europe were coming to a crescendo. There was massive opposition to this in Ireland, particularly following the

This, the GAA frankly refused to do. The issue came to a head on July 9th when an Ulster championship match was prevented from taking place in Cootehill by a huge RIC presence, who surrounded the field, preventing entry. It was agreed by the GAA after this and other provocative encounters between players and the authorities to hold a GAA club match in every parish in Ireland at precisely the same time- 3 pm on Sunday August 4.

The protest was far more successful than could ever have been imagined and an estimated 54,000 players played a match with over 100,000 watching across the entire island. Every parish was involved and matches were, in many cases, held at venues never before nor since used for the purpose.



It all ran entirely without major incident and forced the abandonment of the requirement to seek a license to play a GAA match. This event, more than any other, galvanised the GAA as a major cultural and social force and is one of the key foundation stones of what is the most successful amateur sports organisation in the world today. It became known as Gaelic Sunday.

This year, August 4 is on Saturday, on a weekend when there will be major GAA activities as All Ireland Quarter Finals involving the four provincial football winners will take place.

The GAA will call on clubs in every county to organise and take part in an activity that celebrates the GAA and celebrates their place

in their community – just as Gaelic Sunday did 100 years ago.

For every club, this can be a 'Lá na gClub', when internal club games can be played, people can play or support in clothing reminiscent of the period. Clubs who played against each other 100 years ago, or clubs from the areas where defunct clubs once existed can play each other in challenge games.

A 'Museum Day' can be held in clubs, where people can bring along old medals, trophies, match programmes, newspaper cuttings, photos or playing equipment for others to see. A club 'fun day' could be organised, even as a fundraiser.

More details to follow in the weeks ahead.

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON GDPR FOR GAA CLUBS



**T**he General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Irish Data Protection Act 2018 have been in effect since May 25th 2018 and it is important that every GAA Club is aware of how these changes in the law will affect the ways in which members' personal information can be collected and used for GAA Purposes.

Data Protection legislation is intended to protect the right to privacy of individuals and seeks to ensure that Personal Information is used appropriately by organisations that may have it (Data Controllers/Data Processors). Data Protection relates to any information that can be used to identify a living person such as Name, address, phone number, Date of Birth etc. The onus is on the person or entity that uses a person's information - Data Controller/Data Processor - to comply with the legislation and to demonstrate compliance. This means that GAA clubs

must be compliant and must be able to demonstrate compliance.

### **What do clubs need to do?**

It is imperative that every GAA club understands what Data Protection legislation means and how the changes in legislation affect them. A significant amount of guidance has been provided on what clubs need to do and this has been published in previous Club Newsletters, on the GAA website ([www.gaa.ie/dataprotection](http://www.gaa.ie/dataprotection)) and shared with GAA Club Officers through Microsoft OneDrive. (This content can be viewed by Club Officers who Logon to Microsoft Office365 with their @gaa.ie email address and selecting the following menu option: OneDrive> Shared> Shared With Me > GDPR Repository).

A useful summary of the content (GDPR For GAA Clubs.pdf) is available and can be downloaded here: [www.gaa.ie/my-gaa/administrators/gdpr-support](http://www.gaa.ie/my-gaa/administrators/gdpr-support)

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **1. Do Clubs require consent to publish photographs of members (including children) online?**

Yes. Prior to photographs of any member being published on the Club's website or social media, the Club must be sure it has the appropriate consent captured for the member. Appropriate consent mechanisms are included in the Official Membership Forms. Clubs should now use the Official Membership Forms going forward which will ensure consent is captured in a GDPR compliant manner. In relation to photographs of children, the Child Membership Form requires parental consent as is GAA procedure. Official Membership Forms can be access in the Official Guide, on the GDPR Repository for Clubs or at [www.gaa.ie/dataprotection](http://www.gaa.ie/dataprotection). At Club events, such as medal presentations etc., if photographs are being taken of the crowd, the Club should inform attendees prior to the photo(s) being taken to allow attendees to choose whether they wish to be in such photograph(s) or not.

### **2. How long is consent valid for?**

If consent is being used by a Club as the legal basis for processing an individual's information (e.g. consent for photographs, for reminders about the lotto etc.), the Club must ensure it provides the individuals with

the opportunity to refresh such consent on a regular basis. Consent cannot be deemed to be indefinite. Each time consent is captured, the Club should allow members an opportunity every 2 years to refresh such consent.

### **3. Is the GAA App an alternative communication method to Whatsapp?**

Yes. The newly updated GAA App which is available for download on both iOS and Android encapsulates a messaging functionality within the App whereby the Club can communicate with its members via free in-app messages in a GDPR compliant manner. The GAA centrally has a contract in place with Servasport in relation to the App to ensure GDPR compliance. Clubs can set up groups within the App (e.g. lotto, senior hurlers etc.) and send communications based on the groups. In development at the moment is also the functionality for coaches to utilise the GAA App as a messaging system and Clubs will be updated once this functionality is enabled.

### **4. Do Clubs require a Data Protection Officer?**

No. Clubs should identify a person/ group designated with responsibility for compliance with data protection. The role, requirements and responsibility of a Data Protection Officer are specifically referred

to in legislation. Individual GAA Clubs do not require a Data Protection Officer. The GAA centrally has provided access to a Data Protection Officer for Clubs and the GAA's DPO can be contacted at [dataprotection@gaa.ie](mailto:dataprotection@gaa.ie) for any questions, queries, issues or concerns Clubs may have in relation to data protection.

**5. Should Clubs collect medical information on membership forms?**

Medical information should not be included on membership forms. A key principle of the GDPR is the principle of data minimisation, whereby only the personal data required for the purpose it is being collected for should be collected. For example, if buying a pair of shoes online, the order form should not request your occupation. Medical information is not required to register a member with the Club. The membership information collected by Clubs in relation to their members is jointly controlled by the GAA centrally and the GAA centrally should not have access to members' health information. If Clubs wish to collect medical information of members, due to medical information being classed as a 'special category' of personal data, the Club should be aware it requires a more stringent level of protection and should be stored securely and accessed only by those with a genuine requirement to access it.

**6. Does GDPR prevent Clubs from publishing a list of paid members on notice board in the Club?**

It is included within GAA Rule in the Official Guide that Clubs are required to publish a

list of paid members on the notice board within the Club. As it is included within GAA Rule, Clubs must comply with this. This is referred to within the Official Membership Forms when the member signs the form agreeing that their personal data will be used in the following way: "I understand that my Personal Data will also be used for administrative purposes to maintain my Membership including club and team administration". The publication of names of paid members is an element of Club administration.

**7. Does the GAA have updated advice on Social Media?**

There is a new Social Media Policy incorporating GDPR requirements currently being finalised which will be sent to Clubs. Clubs should ensure this Policy is adhered to in order to ensure compliance with the GDPR, and also with various other responsibilities such as child protection.

**8. How long should ID documentation for Garda vetting be stored?**

ID documentation collected in relation to the process of Garda Vetting members, for example photocopies of passports, utility bills etc. should be stored for the maximum period of one year. The Office of the Data Protection Commissioner has advised that this should be the retention period for all ID documentation related to Vetting procedures. In order to streamline the process, once a Club is satisfied that the Vetting has been completed, the ID documentation associated with the application should be deleted. / her should be returned to the Club or deleted.

**9. Is there a secure method of electronic storage available to Clubs?**

Yes. The GAA OneDrive is a secure method of storing electronic information within Clubs. Access to OneDrive is available to anyone with an @gaa.ie email address. The username and password is the same as that used to sign into your @gaa.ie email. GAA related files should be stored (and shared, if necessary) using the GAA Office 365 system. This allows the club to retain control of the data (and ownership if someone changes role within the club) whilst ensuring that data is secure, backed up and available irrespective of hard disk issues (as can happen on Laptops or PCs). The Office 365 OneDrive is governed by a contract that ensures the GAA (the relevant club) has the right to recover / delete any information held therein. It also mandates that GAA data does not leave the EU.

**10. Can Club volunteers use personal laptops/tablets/PC's to conduct Club related business?**

Many clubs rely on their officers to use their own PCs to conduct GAA business. All of the GAA's systems are web based and, as a result, are accessible from any internet connected device. The data belonging to the Club should be stored within those systems (i.e. within the registration system or within OneDrive). Any spreadsheets or word documents that reside on the local drive should be password protected by clicking File in the top left corner and 'protect document'. One of the key requirements of GDPR is that a record or log of the locations of any personal data held by a club is recorded. This should

include the fact that information is on the personal PC of the Secretary for example. If / when the Secretary changes role, the data that is held by him / her should be returned to the Club or deleted.

**11. Can Clubs publish contact details of volunteers on the Club website?**

Yes. Clubs can publish contact details of Club volunteers, for example, the groundsman on the Club website. However, the Club must ensure the individual in question has provided their consent for their information to be used in this manner. A sample consent form for this purpose is included within the GDPR Repository for Clubs.

**12. Should Clubs implement a process around teamsheets?**

Yes. An important element of games administration within the GAA is the provision of teamsheets to the referee and the opposing team prior to the match beginning. Clubs should ensure their teamsheets are stored in a secure manner together with the rest of the information Clubs hold, and that they are securely deleted on a regular basis. Teamsheets received from the opposition team should be treated with similar respect and deleted along with the Clubs own teamsheets once they are no longer required.

Please email any queries to [dataprotection@gaa.ie](mailto:dataprotection@gaa.ie)

## GAELIC4GIRLS ENJOYING HUGE SUCCESS

**T**he Ladies Gaelic Football Association's 2018 Gaelic4Girls programme has proven a huge success in 43 clubs across Ireland and Britain.

2018 saw the LGFA celebrate the 10th anniversary of the scheme, with Armagh star Aimee Mackin acting as Gaelic4Girls ambassador and featuring in a series of hugely-popular promotional videos.

In Ireland, 33 clubs representing 21 counties took part in the Gaelic4Girls programme while in Britain, 10 clubs from counties London, Warwickshire and Scotland participated.

Over 1600 girls aged between 8-12 years participated in Gaelic4Girls – a huge number of players who have been exposed to Ladies Gaelic Football and a club setting for the first time.

The selected clubs attended training evenings before the programme was rolled out.

The 12-week programme included provincial blitzes, where players had the opportunity to represent their clubs and showcase the skills they learned in that fun and non-competitive environment.

As Gaelic4Girls ambassador, two-time All Star Mackin was a fitting candidate for the role.

Ten years ago, Mackin began her football journey as a Gaelic4Girl when her club, Shane O'Neills, delivered the programme.

The Gaelic4Girls programme has been proven to increase numbers in club while coaches are provided with the training, resources and support required to set up and implement the programme.

The full list of participating clubs was as follows:

**LEINSTER:** Craobh Chiarain and Man O'War (Dublin), Ballykelly and Monasterevin (Kildare), Erins Own (Kilkenny), Clonguish (Longford), Wolfe Tones and Stabannon Parnells (Louth), Boardsmill (Meath), Bannow/Ballymitty (Wexford).

**ULSTER:** Crossmaglen and Carrickcruppen (Armagh), Tullylish (Down), Bellnaleck, Kinawley and Tempo (Fermanagh), Emyvale (Monaghan), Killeeshil (Tyrone), Glenswilly (Donegal).

**MUNSTER:** Éire Óg and Corofin (Clare), Ballinahassig and Inch Rovers (Cork), Spa, Killarney (Kerry), Gaultier (Waterford).

**CONNACHT:** Leitrim Gaels and St Mary's, Carrick-on-Shannon (Leitrim), Claregalway LGFA, Dunmore McHales, Menlough Skehana and Monivea (Galway), Claremorris (Mayo), Ballinameen Ladies (Roscommon).

**BRITAIN:** Tara, Parnells, Tir Conaill Gaels and St Kiernans (London), Sean McDermotts, St Brendans and John Mitchels (Warwickshire), Glasgow Gaels, Dunedin Óg and Coatbridge Davitts (Scotland).



**Gaelic4Girls:** Celebrating 10 years of increasing participation and growth in clubs across Ireland and Britain.

G4G is a 12 week programme incorporating coaching sessions with fun non-competitive blitzes aimed at increasing participation in Ladies Gaelic Football. The programme targets girls aged between 8-12 years who are not currently registered with a Ladies Gaelic Football club.

For further information please contact Aisling Doonan, [aisling.doonan@lgfa.ie](mailto:aisling.doonan@lgfa.ie) or 01 8363156



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.