

DECEMBER 2020
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GAA CLUBS ENCOURAGED TO REGISTER FOR 'IRELAND LIGHTS UP' 2021

'IRELAND LIGHTS UP', THE POPULAR WALKING INITIATIVE, IS RETURNING IN JANUARY 2021 IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE GAA, OPERATION TRANSFORMATION, AND GET IRELAND WALKING.

For a fourth year, clubs across the 32 counties are being encouraged to turn on their floodlights to provide for community members a safe walking environment during the dark winter evenings. As ever, Operation Transformation (which returns to our screens each Wednesday from January 6th to February 24th) will shine a light on Ireland Lights Up by showcasing participating clubs each week of the hit RTÉ show.

'Ireland Lights Up' will take on an additional significance in 2021 as people have increasingly turned to walking to support their health and wellbeing since the onset of the pandemic. While we can't predict

the level of Covid-19 restrictions we will face in the new year, the organisers of 'Ireland Lights Up' and the clubs involved will take every due diligence to ensure those who want to enjoy a walk at their local GAA grounds can do so safely and within recommended public health guidelines. Measures include:

- **Registration process with Get Ireland Walking to track all club and participant involvement**
- **A new club 'MyLife Steps Challenge' with Irish Life, CSR partners of the GAA Healthy Club Project, to ensure 'Every Step Counts'**
- **Once-off grant for clubs to support the cost of delivering Ireland Lights Up (provided by Healthy Ireland through Sport Ireland, T&Cs apply)**

Uachtarán CLG, John Horan, said: "GAA volunteers have gone above and beyond when supporting their communities during this pandemic and I have no doubt our clubs will once again support this great walking initiative come the new year.

"Club walking tracks remained open during the second lockdown period and thousands of community members have benefitted from accessing them. Ireland Lights Up isn't about maximising numbers this time around, it's about providing community members, particularly those most vulnerable to Covid-19, with a safe place to enjoy some outdoor exercise while adhering to the public health guidelines."

Speaking about the initiative Frank Feighan T.D. Minister of State for Public Health and Wellbeing said: "This is a wonderful initiative that helps everyone up and down the country to get out safely, be active and to reach their recommended

30 mins of physical activity each day during the dark winter months. At Healthy Ireland we are encouraging everyone to make a plan for themselves to keep well this winter and one of the easiest ways to do that is by getting out and getting active in the fresh air as often as you can. I congratulate the GAA and Get Ireland walking for their work on making this initiative possible this winter within the Covid guidance."

Clubs that complete the registration process for 'Ireland Lights Up' and adhere to the necessary criteria will be covered by Get Ireland Walking's insurance for all walk leaders and participants. However, irrespective of GAA membership status, leaders and participants are not covered by the GAA Injury Benefit Fund for this initiative. All clubs that register will be issued details of how to apply for the once-off Healthy Ireland / Sport Ireland grant (max €1,000 per club) to support the costs of delivering the initiative.

To register your club and review the full Terms & Conditions of participation, go to: <https://www.getirelandwalking.ie/irelandlightsup/>

In addition to 'Ireland Lights Up', the GAA's Community & Health department will deliver with Irish Life a club 'Steps Challenge' hosted on the Irish Life MyLife App. During the initial lockdown in June, 12,000 walkers representing almost 450 clubs recorded 2.2 billion steps over the four weeks on the MyLife App. Regardless of participation in 'Ireland Lights Up', all GAA clubs can get involved in the Steps Challenge and a separate communication will be issued this week to clubs outlining how to get involved. Some great prizes will apply.

Please direct any club queries to blanaid.carney@gaa.ie

45 CLUBS TO TAKE PART IN PHASE 1 OF GAA GREEN CLUB PROGRAMME

THE GAA GREEN CLUB PROGRAMME WILL SEE 45 CLUBS AND TWO REGIONAL VENUES EXPLORE A RANGE OF SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS DESIGNED TO ENRICH THEIR PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL ENVIRONMENTS.

The GAA Green Club Programme, supported by the County & City Management Association and the local authority Climate Action Regional Offices, is delivered in partnership with the LGFA and Camogie Association, with additional support from expert agencies across the five thematic focus areas of

the programme, namely: Energy, Waste, Biodiversity, Water, Travel & Transport.

The all-Ireland nature of the initiative was reflected in the contribution to the online launch event by Eamon Ryan, Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications in the Republic and representatives of Northern Ireland Executive's Department of Agriculture, Environment, and Rural Affairs.

The Green Club Phase One participants were selected from 220 clubs that

responded earlier this year to a questionnaire designed to gauge interest in developing a Green Club initiative. The responses highlighted a wealth of sustainability work already being undertaken by GAA units and a desire to further contribute to the green agenda while future-proofing their communities and facilities.

Phase One will run for twelve months from December 2020 with the intention of amassing as much practical learnings from the participating clubs and venues as possible. This will inform the creation of a GAA Green Clubs toolkit that will be made available to all GAA units in Ireland (1,600 clubs, plus county and provincial venues), replete with useful case studies, established partnership models, and funding avenues.

GAA President, John Horan, said: "The Green Clubs Project further demonstrates that at its core the GAA is a community-based organisation grounded in place. The project seeks to support our hard-working volunteers in future-proofing their club facilities while contributing to the sustainability of their community from an environmental and cultural perspective. It also demonstrates the GAA's commitment as an official SDG Champion of the Irish government."

Minister Eamon Ryan, TD, said: "I am delighted to support the GAA Green Clubs initiative which will see practical sustainable solutions to tackle climate change implemented by clubs all over Ireland. The GAA has been a valuable partner in championing the Sustainable

Development Goals. This initiative plays to the GAA's strengths; by acting locally to tackle a global issue it will contribute to a reduction in CO2 emissions and build awareness of the challenges we face in dealing with climate change."

Minister Edwin Poots, MLA, also commented on the launch and said: "When it comes to the environment it is only by working together that we can create the behavioural change that is necessary to manage our climate change and environmental risks. The GAA's five thematic areas of energy, waste, water, biodiversity and transport, align well with my Department's Green Growth objectives. The challenge I am setting is for Northern Ireland to use Green Growth to change behaviours and to turn climate change from an economic threat into an economic and environmental opportunity.

"I believe the Green Clubs initiative has the potential to be a real catalyst for change, harnessing the energy and enthusiasm of not just the young players on the pitch. It draws in the club officials, their supporters their families and their communities. I hope my Department will be able to continue to explore with the GAA those areas where we can guide and support their activities."

Attendees of the online launch on Wednesday evening heard Padraig Fallon of the Clan na Gael club in Dundalk outline a recent energy saving project the club undertook with significant outcomes. The project involved major insulation, ventilation, and maintenance works, including switching to LED bulbs



Pictured at Croke Park, on the occasion earlier this year when the GAA and local authorities pledged to work together as SDG champions of the Irish government, are: LGFA CEO Helen O'Rourke, Chairman of CCMA Michael Walsh, Uachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Gael John Horan, Chairman of Local Authority Climate Change Steering Group Ciarán Hayes, Camogie Operations Manager Alan Malone, DCCAE Katie Aherne, and former Wexford hurler Diarmuid Lyng.

throughout their campus, and has resulted in annual energy and maintenance savings of €10,000, vastly improved lighting on their playing pitches while achieving an annual reduction in CO2 emissions of 30 tonnes.

The club submitted an SEAI grant application through Louth Co. Co./Louth Energy Sustainable Energy Community, receiving 50% funding for the project. The club contributed the remaining balance through a seven-year loan paid by savings on their reduced energy spend.

Clan na Gael is one of three mentoring clubs selected, due to their significant existing work and plans in the field of sustainability, to participate in Phase One of the Green Club Programme, along with Mullingar Shamrocks, Westmeath, and Culloville Blues, Armagh. A Green Club Working Group, involving representation from all stakeholders, is overseeing the implementation of Phase One of the project.

Expert Partners

Expert Partners for the five thematic areas of Phase One of the Green Club programme are:

- **Energy – Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)**
- **Water – Irish Water and the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPro)**
- **Waste – Regional Waste Management Offices**
- **Biodiversity – National Biodiversity Data Centre**
- **Travel & Transport – the National Transport Authority (NTA) and the Road Safety Authority**

An All-Island Approach

The Green Clubs Programme is an all-island programme. In addition to the local authorities in the 26 counties, the Green Club Working Group is collaborating with Derry City & Strabane District Council, Sustainable NI, Ulster GAA and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency in the planning and administration of the Green Club pilot in the six-counties, to include a cross-border project that will be consistent with the objectives and approach of the multi-agency North West Climate Action Plan, currently under development.

List of participating clubs:

The following clubs and grounds are participating in Phase One of the GAA's new Green Clubs Programme:

Phase One Green Clubs and regional venues:

ULSTER

*Culloville Blues, Armagh
Lámh Dhearg, Antrim
St. Mary's Rasharkin, Antrim
Crossmaglen Rangers, Armagh
St Joseph's Craighbane, Derry
Four Masters, Donegal
Naomh Muire Iochtar na Rosann, Donegal
Buncrana, Donegal
Belcoo O'Rahilly's, Fermanagh
Strabane Sigersons, Tyrone*

LEINSTER

*Clan na Gael, Louth
Mullingar Shamrocks, Westmeath
Ballycumber, Offaly
Kildavin Clonagal, Carlow
Na Fianna, Dublin
Kilmacud Crokes, Dublin
St. Finian's, Dublin
Lucan Sarsfields, Dublin
St. Brigid's, Dublin*

*Cappagh, Kildare
James Stephens, Kilkenny
Park/Ratheniska, Laois
* MW Hire O'Moore Park. Portlaoise (regional venue)*

CONNACHT

*Ballina Stephenites, Mayo
Shannon Gaels, Roscommon
Clarinbridge, Galway
St Colman's Camogie Club, Galway
* Connacht GAA Centre of Excellence, Bekan (regional venue)*

MUNSTER

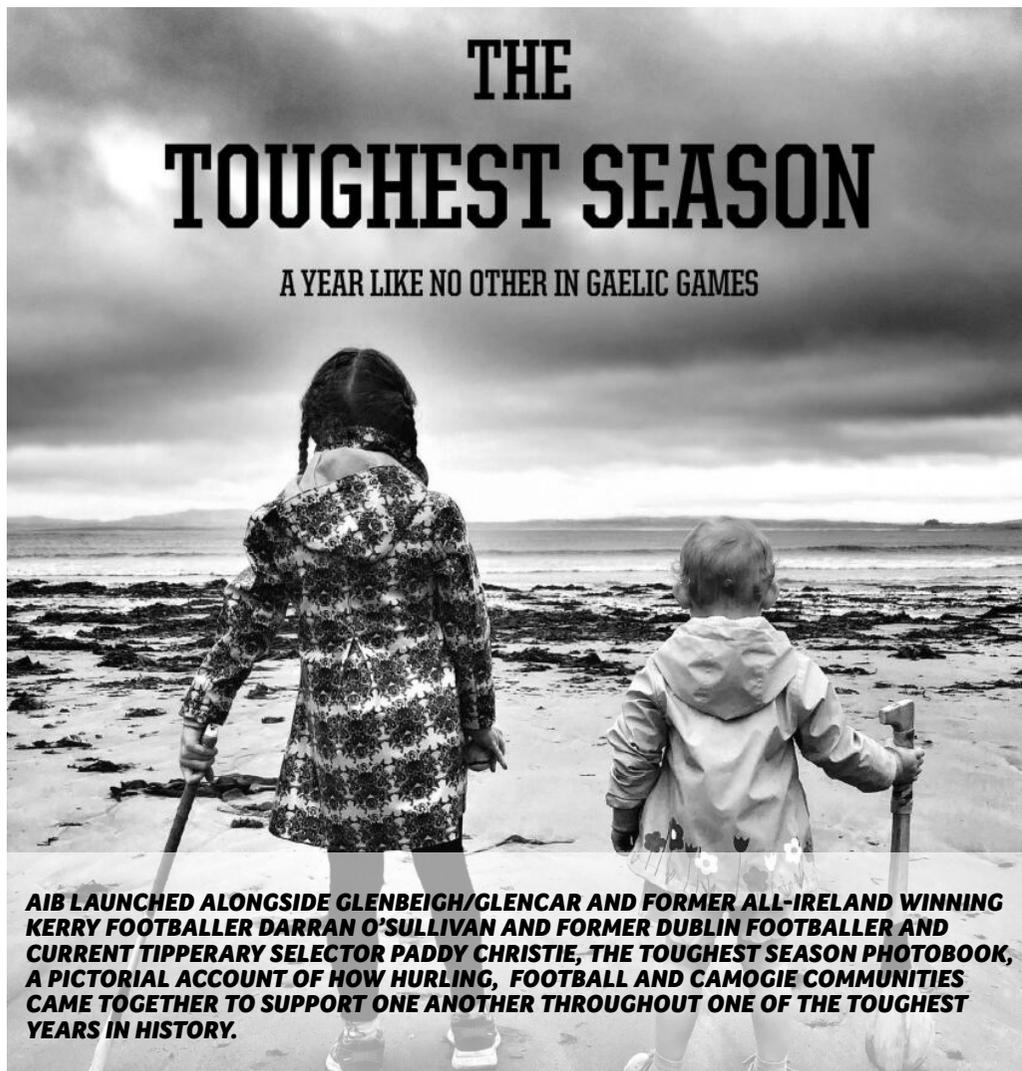
*St Patrick's, Limerick
Kilmeen & Kilbree Cork
Clonakilty, Cork
Tralee Parnells, Kerry
Cappoquin, Waterford
Tipperary Energy Hub
Rockvale Rovers, Tipperary
Boherlahan Dualla, Tipperary*

*Carrick Swan, Tipperary
Drom & Inch, Tipperary
Toomevara, Tipperary
Killenaule, Tipperary
Golden Kilfeacle, Tipperary
Moyné Templetoohy, Tipperary
Ballina, Tipperary
Newcastle, Tipperary
Burgess, Tipperary
Loughmore Castleiney, Tipperary
Carrick Davins, Tipperary
Holycross Ballycahill, Tipperary
(Due to existing work involving local clubs and an exceptionally large response rate from the county it was decided by the Green Club Working Group to establish a county-based energy hub in Tipperary.)*

For further information or media interviews, please contact: greenclubs@gaa.ie

You can also visit www.gaa.ie/community for more information

AIB LAUNCHES THE TOUGHEST SEASON



AIB LAUNCHED ALONGSIDE GLENBEIGH/GLENCAR AND FORMER ALL-IRELAND WINNING KERRY FOOTBALLER DARRAN O'SULLIVAN AND FORMER DUBLIN FOOTBALLER AND CURRENT TIPPERARY SELECTOR PADDY CHRISTIE, THE TOUGHEST SEASON PHOTOBOOK, A PICTORIAL ACCOUNT OF HOW HURLING, FOOTBALL AND CAMOGIE COMMUNITIES CAME TOGETHER TO SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER THROUGHOUT ONE OF THE TOUGHEST YEARS IN HISTORY.

Inspired by the strength of spirit within Gaelic Games communities, AIB has partnered with Sportsfile, the GAA and the Camogie Association, to publish *The Toughest Season*, which captures in 120 images the resilience of clubs, fans, and communities before, during and after the COVID 19 lockdown. All proceeds from the sale of the book will be donated to the AIB Together Fund supporting Age NI, Alone, FoodCloud, Soar and Pieta House.

2020 saw club gates close and games cease yet club chairpersons, players and volunteers were never busier. The tougher the year was, the stronger we became. In the first few weeks of the first lockdown, 9,000 GAA club members provided support for almost 35,000 people. It is this spirit that AIB has been proud to champion through three decades of sponsoring the AIB GAA Club Championships across football, hurling and camogie.

Earlier this Autumn, AIB called on those across the country to take part by submitting their own images that depict their experience of 'The Toughest Season'. Along with Sportsfile imagery, the book is comprised of photographs from individuals across Ireland who have visually shared their own stories.

AIB CEO, Colin Hunt, said: "The Toughest Season is a vivid celebration of all that is great about Gaelic Games and the communities in which they live and thrive. This book captures not just remarkable athletic skills in adverse conditions but also how GAA clubs reacted during the pandemic to support those in need in their communities."

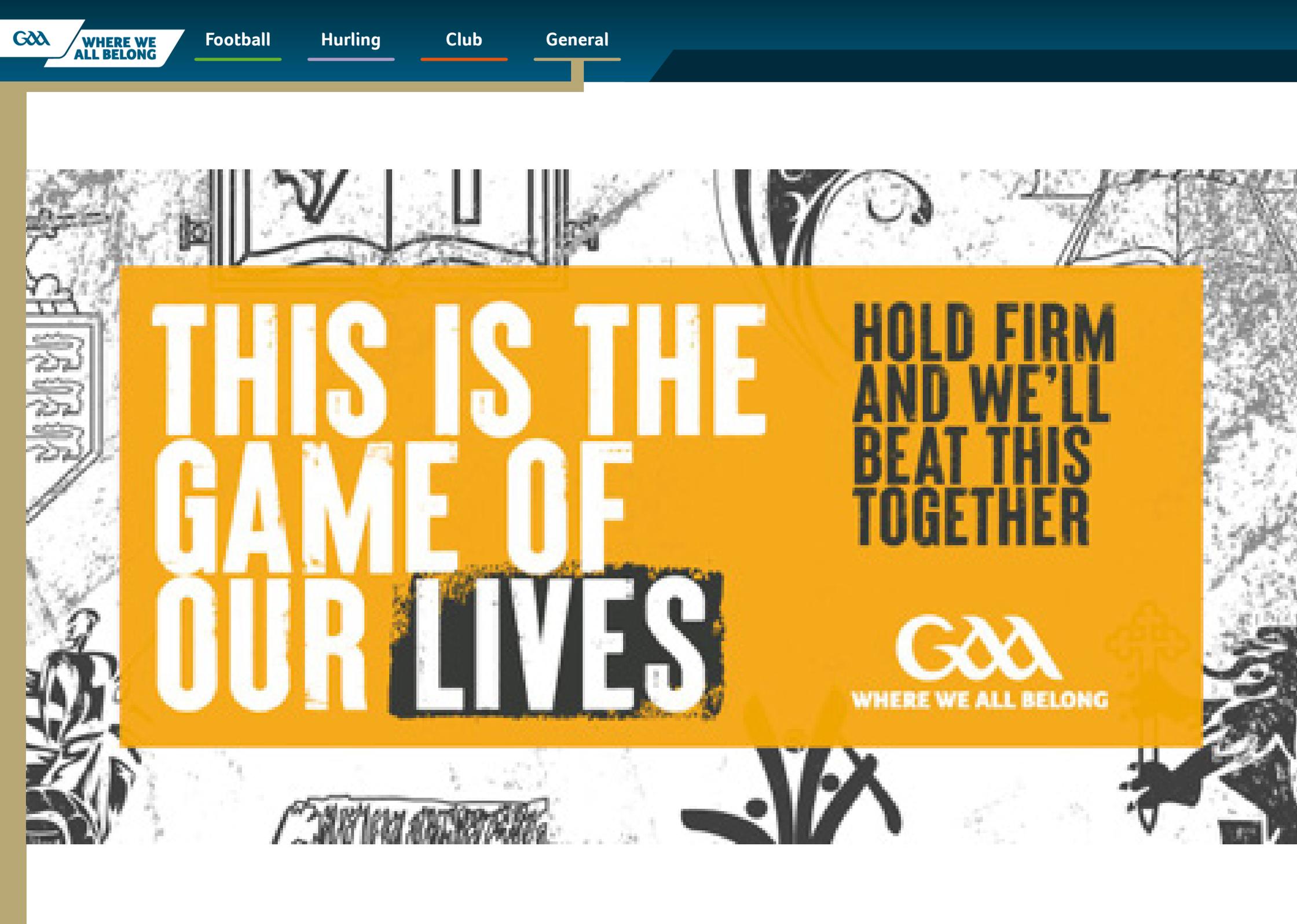
"You will see in this book the emotion generated within communities by on-field victory and defeat. But, off the pitch, you will also see club members getting together to ensure meals were delivered to homes during lockdown. This community spirit and resilience is the embodiment of the GAA and what makes it such an immense organisation by any standards", he added.

AIB is delighted to partner with the GAA, the Camogie Association, Sportsfile and communities nationwide to tell this story of a season unlike any other, and when we needed each other more than ever, as a Gaelic Games community we rallied like never before."

The powerful Irish proverb, Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine - people live in the shelter of others - expresses the spirit of this collective response to the pandemic and the foundation that Gaelic Games provides in community sustainability across the island of Ireland.

In addition to supporting hurling, football and camogie at club level, AIB is one of the main sponsors of the Senior Football Championship.

**A YEAR LIKE
NO OTHER IN
GAELIC GAMES**



THIS IS THE GAME OF OUR LIVES

HOLD FIRM AND WE'LL BEAT THIS TOGETHER


WHERE WE ALL BELONG

GAA MUSEUM LAUNCHES FREE SECONDARY SCHOOL HISTORY RESOURCES TO REMEMBER BLOODY SUNDAY



1920 **BLOODY SUNDAY** 2020



THE GAA MUSEUM AT CROKE PARK HAS LAUNCHED A FREE NEW SUITE OF INTERACTIVE LEARNING RESOURCES FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS, TO ENHANCE STUDENTS' KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE EVENTS AROUND BLOODY SUNDAY 100 YEARS ON.

The history resources, offering three ways to learn, are available free of charge to all secondary schools. They include an education pack; a series of online video and podcast lectures from leading Irish historians; and an interactive virtual classroom session with a GAA Museum Tour Guide on the topic of Bloody Sunday.

The secondary school history resources are being launched as part of the GAA

Museum's Bloody Sunday centenary programme commemorating the 100th anniversary of the tragic events that unfolded on November 21st, 1920 and their impact on Irish history.

The education pack, which contains biographies of significant figures in the history of the GAA, can be posted to teachers in hard copy or sent digitally via email, and can be used to accompany existing curriculum textbooks. While the educationally rich online resources include a video and podcast lecture series with leading Irish historians speaking about the events of Bloody Sunday, the War of Independence and other key moments in Irish history and sport. These informative and thought-provoking talks were recorded as part of the GAA Summer

School and Lecture Series and will be of particular interest to teachers with Leaving Certificate history classes and may inspire further research or study as part of the students' special topic.

Presentation topics include 'Atrocity and Atonement: The Civil War and the Rise of Kerry's Greatest Team' (video) with Dr Richard McElligott (DKIT); 'Setting the scene: Overview of the War of Independence in Ireland, 1920' (podcast) with Prof Diarmaid Ferriter (UCD); 'Killing and Bloody Sunday Morning' (video) with Dr Anne Dolan (Trinity College); and 'Sport and Revolution: The Irish Case,' with Dr Will Murphy (DCU).

To ensure the learning resources are fully interactive and engaging, the

GAA Museum has created a virtual live classroom session with a GAA Museum tour guide. These sessions which will complete the learning experience, include an overview of the events of Bloody Sunday, a short film about the GAA Museum's new 'Remembering Bloody Sunday' exhibition and a Q&A session. The virtual classroom sessions will be conducted via Microsoft Teams, must be booked in advance and are subject to availability. They will also require good internet connection but can be tailored to teachers' class times.

For more information on the schools programme, visit crokepark.ie/bloodydayschools

COACHING PROGRAMME & SUPPORT RETURNING TO SCHOOLS

THE GAELIC GAMES FAMILY – GAA, CUMANN NA MBUNSCOL, LGFA AND CAMOGIE ASSOCIATION - ANNUALLY HAS A PRESENCE IN ALMOST 4,000 PRIMARY SCHOOLS ON THE ISLAND OF IRELAND AND ARE KEEN TO MAINTAIN THESE RELATIONSHIPS IN THE CHALLENGING TIMES CAUSED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

As a family of organisations, through our coaching and games development operation, we want your school and teachers to know of our commitment to provide physical activity opportunities and assist Teachers in the delivery of the PE curriculum in line with all public health advice, policy and procedures as apply across the island.

We fully understand and appreciate the changed environment that will exist within schools from September, and respect that the needs of individual schools may vary. We have successfully managed the return to play and, through our coaching workforce, have successfully organised the Cúl Camps with over 70,000 children taking part. As a result, our personnel understand and are prepared through their training to contribute and support the health, wellbeing, and holistic development of all pupils as they return to school. All of our staff and coaches are required to present a completed Covid Health Questionnaire each day they would arrive at a school.

We are delighted, too, to outline a number of programmes and activities that will support physical activity in your school.

The menu outlined is aligned to the PE and wider curriculum and can be delivered in different settings, from classroom to outdoor and with or without the support of our personnel. We would ask that you review the programmes and related resources.

We will be hosting an educational webinar soon to give more information on the programmes. In addition, a member of our Coaching and Games Development staff in your county will contact you to provide more detail and identify ways in which we can be of help.

CLICK ON PAGES TO OPEN

GAA GAMES DEVELOPMENT NEWS



AWARD WINNING ULSTER GAA PARTNERSHIP WITH IRISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION IN SPORTS PROGRAMME BOOSTING EMOTIONAL RESILIENCE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Ulster GAA have been working with the IFA and Department for Education on getting children active for over 14 years. This programme continues to gather momentum having received the UK Sports Coach Award for most innovative programme in Britain across the category. The Education Minister Peter Weir has praised the school 'sports programme' aimed at encouraging a love of sport and increasing emotional resilience for young pupils.

The current Sports Programme now focus on pupils aged 7 to 11. It promotes the benefits of participating in sport and physical activity and encourages pupils to develop a lifelong interest in maintaining an active and healthy lifestyle. It also helps students increase their emotional resilience and has a particular focus on boosting sporting participation among girls. Research in this area is ongoing and will go to support the continuation of the programme.

The Minister recently visited St Comgall's Primary School in Bangor to see at first hand pupils taking part in the sports initiative, which is delivered by KS2 Coaches. Ulster GAA coach Oisín McManus (Down Senior Hurler) delivered along with IFA coaches with a huge emphasis placed on value, encouraging respect and implementing cross curricular themes within the physical activity session.

Minister Weir said: "The link between physical health and the wellbeing of young people is well-known. It is pleasing to see at first-hand how this initiative helps pupils learn about mental health and wellbeing, including resilience and self-



esteem.

"I recognise the contribution sport makes, not only in terms of its physical benefits, but also in raising the confidence of young people. That is why my Department has invested significantly in sports coaching provided by the IFA and Ulster GAA to support PE in primary schools."

During the visit, coaches also showcased how physical activity could be delivered in the current climate. Contact with equipment is minimised and equipment thoroughly cleaned with coaches dedicated to one school per day for the current period. The Minister concluded: "This programme helps to strengthen and deepen the delivery of the PE curriculum and introduces children to new sports and skills as they approach the transition to post-primary school."

Ulster GAA also presented to the NI Education Committee in Stormont on the use of sport to build physical and mental wellness. The Committee were very supportive of the implication of Sport in the Curriculum and the work being done and with Ulster GAA continuing to deliver in the schools across the Province and make the school club link we want to take the opportunity to thank teachers, club coaches and our staff for their support in the times that we are in.

<https://ulster.gaa.ie/2020/11/education-minister-praises-ulster-gaa-and-ifa-sports-programme/>

DUBLIN GAA COACH WEBINAR SERIES PROVES A HIT

Dublin GAA Coaching & Games Development staff are supporting coaches worldwide thanks to their latest Coach Webinar Series by bringing together five world-renowned Researchers/Coaches/Coach Developers.

The first two sessions with Dr Sergio Lara-Bercial of Leeds Beckett University and iCoachKids and Nick Winkelman, PhD of Irish Rugby, attracted attendees from 23 different countries across four Continents. Sign up for the next webinar with Nicholas Walsh "Player & Group Well-Being" can be accessed by clicking here - www.dublingaa.ie/coachwebinarseries

If you missed any of the webinars you can catch up via DGAA Coaching & Games YouTube Channel where you can access all their coaching videos and webinars for FREE. Don't forget to SUBSCRIBE to the channel.

Dublin GAA Coaching & Games Development have a huge number of books and eBooks to support teachers, coaches, parents and players to help them enhance their knowledge and understanding across Gaelic Games. The main aim for the development of all the resources was to help everyone sustain and improve the quality of our games and practices and to continue the ongoing process of learning for practitioners.

You can access all resources by clicking here - www.dublingaa.ie/coachingresources

DUBLIN GAA COACH WEBINAR SERIES II 2020-2021



For more information check out dublingaa.ie/coaching
Sessions will run at 8.00pm (Irish time)



UPCOMING WEBINAR SESSIONS

DATE	TUTOR	TITLE	
11th November 2020	Sergio Lara-Bercial	Serial Winning Coaches	
30th November 2020	Nick Winkelman	Language of Coaching - The Impact of Coaching Cues on Skill Learning	
14th December 2020	Nicholas Walsh	Player & Group Well-being	
11th January 2021	Nicholas Walsh	AFL & GAA Performance Analysis - A Comparative Study	
25th January 2021	Kris Van Der Haegen	Coaching Switch - Player First Ego Second	
15th February 2021	Kevin Ball	Kicking Performance - The Development of the Non-Preferred Kicking Leg in Youth Players	

WORLD GAA NEWS

BERMUDA GAA NOW ON THE GAA WORLD MAP

Bermuda GAA was officially established in May 2020. We played our first game of the year on St. Patrick's Day weekend. This was attended by about forty people and featured two men's teams in a tightly contested friendly game.

A second challenge game was organised in the National Stadium in early October. This was well attended with around 70 people playing and spectating. The October event also saw the first game for the Bermuda GAA ladies team. The teams featured men and women from a number of different countries including Australia, Bermuda, South Africa, Canada, England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Bermuda international and former Sligo Rovers defender Dante Leverock has also joined the Executive Committee to help in establishing the club among the local Bermudian population. We will be commencing our first championship in December. It will take a best of three format with the final game coinciding with the St. Patrick's Day celebrations on the island. We have seen considerable interest from the expat community and the local Bermudians and hopefully will continue to grow and develop over the coming years.



CHARITABLE WORK DONE BY THE GAA IN VIETNAM

by Charlotte O'Neill (Saigon Gaels)



A sense of community in these times of uncertainty is imperative to those who are vulnerable. The GAA community at home and abroad have worked tirelessly to survive the predicament COVID-19 has inflicted. The public health crisis that affects the planet has been compounded by the humanitarian crisis that has struck the central region of Vietnam in recent months.

From early October to late November, the central region was struck by three floods, nine typhoons, two tropical storm depressions, and a series of landslides that claimed 192 lives and left 57 still missing. The sequence of ferocious storms and the continued deforestation of the region induced the severe tragedy to occur, causing upwards of \$1.3 billion in damages.

The 3 GAA communities in Vietnam, the Saigon Gaels and Na Fianna in Ho Chi Minh city, the VietCelts in Hanoi, along with the ACB organised and coordinated events and collections to raise money for those affected by the typhoons and flooding in Central Vietnam.

In total, between the 3 communities, 40 million VND was raised through quiz nights, Halloween fancy dress, and a night at the races. The ACB, in conjunction with the postponed AGGs, organised a virtual run whereby the ACB would donate to the flood relief for every mile ran, resulting in an additional €500. The emergency supplies collection and delivery was led by Derry man, Colin Dixon. Without his and many others drive and generosity, essential supplies such as medication, rice, and protective rain gear would not have made it to those in need.

NEW YORK GAA KEEP BUSY DURING COVID-19



Fáilte Dutchess
County Griffins!

We had to adapt and alter different youth and adult competitions to ensure the maximum amount of participation and games opportunities for all our players, whilst prioritizing the safety of all our members. In a difficult year, it was important to make sure our games took place, we had to fundamentally restructure many of our existing competitions to adapt to GAA and NY State Guidelines regarding COVID-19. This involved restricting participation numbers, restructuring competitions and also creating new competitions for our new teams to participate in.

We have been fortunate enough to have new teams in different codes and age grades coming through despite a tough 2020, they include Dutchess County Griffins who took part in their first ever GAA tournament - the Sean Tallon U8 Memorial.

Due to Covid Regulations we organized a 'Fall League' this year in Ladies Football, game lengths and playing numbers were altered. To our delight a lot of clubs had done fantastic recruitment work and with excess panels we created a Junior B Championship with five teams in the competition, one new team was Shannon Gaels. Shannon Gaels gained traction with the Gaelic4Mother&Others blitz held last year, as well as numerous underage players making their way up through the ranks - and women who had never played before. November saw two teams with a Gaelic4Girls teams meeting in the final - Rockland v Shannon Gaels. Shannon Gaels ended up winning the competition by 1 point in the final, in a competitive, exciting match up. In a year with a lot of doubt it is great to see another club team in the Ladies Board for 2021.

In November we held a 1920 Bloody Sunday Remembrance event in Gaelic Park - we had prayers, music and a narration of the events that unfolded on the day 100 years ago. Well done the Aisling Irish Center band that featured on the Late Late Toy Show! Numerous players from St Brigids, Rangers and Sperrin Ogs are part of the band. Such a multi-talented bunch!

Congrats to all those underage and adult teams that had success in November. Liberty Gaels winning the Junior Camogie League, Rangers winning the U16 and U18 Boy's Football Championship and Rockland, Shannon Gaels and St Brigid's with their success in the final underage Camogie Blitz of the season in Gaelic Park.

RIO DE LA PLATA CUP – ARGENTINA



The long restrictions due to the pandemic ordered by the Argentine government during 2020, have been loosening with the arrival of summer in the southern hemisphere. The conditions in San Isidro, Province of Buenos Aires, are such that Cuenca del Plata Unit has been able to organize the 5th. edition of the Gaelic Football “Río de la Plata” Cup.

The triangular tournament was held on November 29 in the annex of the centenary “Club Atlético de San Isidro” in the riverside area, on the banks of the River Plate. It was a sunny day and a preliminary children’s match was played.

The following teams participated: “Club Atlético de San Isidro”, Parents and Alumni of the Labardén School and the “San Isidro Gaélico” club.

The tournament was decked out with the presence of the ambassador of the Republic of Ireland in Argentina Jacqueline O’Halloran and her family who, during the after match, handed over the Cup to Javier Cano, the captain of the team of Parents and Alumni of Colegio Labardén. The “School” legitimately won the tournament with a clean, solid and effective performance.

FIRST EVER RUSSIAN CUP IN GAELIC GAMES HELD



The beautiful and historic city of Ulyanovsk was once known for being the birthplace of Lenin. But it received a new, and arguably more world-changing, claim to fame as it became the host city for the first Russian Cup.

Despite a challenging year for the Moscow Shamrocks with restrictions galore in Moscow, the club has gone from strength to strength. One of our 2020 highlights must be our club trip to Ulyanovsk to test our skills against the newest Russian club - the Simbirsk Celts. It’s clear Gaelic Games has seen great development over the years and is becoming more well-known and popular in Russia with the formation of a yearly competition and links between the Moscow Shamrock and Simbirsk Celts strengthening.

On a cold yet bright Saturday morning both teams joined together for a group training session, under our expert coaches. This was an excellent chance to share ideas, warm up on a chilly morning and focus on our key skills. There was a clear buzz in the air as players from all over the world got stuck in with training drills and got to know each other.

The men were first up, with our experienced Moscow Shamrocks leading for the majority. However, the Simbirsk Celts were not to be underestimated and managed to bring the score up to a tie. In a nail-biting final quarter, the Shamrocks managed a win and came out on top. Next up, the girls played two 10-minute games in a match equally exciting, the Shamrocks brought it home again and managed another win against the impressive Celts.

As if two tension filled matches weren’t enough, both teams were treated to a Hurling demonstration given by three of our passionate members after the matches. They explained the rules, key skills to master and demonstrated this for the large crowd of intrigued watchers.

To end a tiring but worthwhile day, all the players were presented with a medal and both Shamrock teams were presented with the first (and definitely not the last) Russian Cup trophy. This amazing event would not have been possible without the support of both club committees, the enthusiasm of our players and a grant from Gaelic Games Europe. Thank you to everyone involved.

CLUB OFFICER TRAINING UPDATE

WITH ACTIVITY ON THE PITCH ENTERING ITS FINAL STAGES, THE PLANNING FOR THE 2021 ROLLOUT OF THE CLUB LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, THE GAA, LGFA & CAMOGIE ASSOCIATION'S OFFICIAL OFFICER TRAINING INITIATIVE IS NOW IN FULL SWING.

Club Leadership Development Programme Event Registration Opens

Registration is now open for events to be held in January and February 2021 for Club Officers and Volunteers across the GAA, Camogie Association and LGFA.

Pre-registration is essential for all events, and participants can register for as many events as they wish via the online Club Officer Training Calendar here - <https://learning.gaa.ie/officertrainingcalendar>

All events will be held online via Microsoft Teams. Downloading the MS Teams app will speed up the process for attendees. All Club Officers using their official Association email addresses will automatically have an account set up in their name on Teams already.

Simply identify the event(s) you wish to register for, click on it and scroll down to "registration link". This will bring the user to a form where they can fill in their details

and receive a link to the webinar(s) they have signed up to.

Participants are asked to only sign up to events they will be able to attend, as there will be maximum capacities for all events. Further information on the Club Leadership Development Programme can be accessed here - https://learning.gaa.ie/club_leadership. Access to the two online modules is available via this link also. These modules – "Club Officer Foundations" and "Leading Effective Meetings" are suitable for all Club Officers and may be completed at any time. Useful resources to assist Club Officers in their role are always available here - <https://learning.gaa.ie/clubresources>



ÁR GCLUICHÍ, ÁR LAOCHRA – JAKE FIRMAN

SAN EAGRÁN IS DEIREANÁI SEO DE ÁR GCLUICHÍ, ÁR LAOCHRA, CUIREANN MUID 20 CEIST SCIOBTHAÍ AR JAKE FIRMAN LAOCH MÓR PEILE AGUS IOMÁNA NAOMH MÁIRTÍN AGUS LOCH GARMAN.

Níl Jake ach 24 ach cheana féin tá an t-uafás bainte amach aige ar an bpáirc imeartha. Tá sé tar éis peil agus iomáint a imirt lena chontae. Bhuaigh sé Craobh Iomána Laighean faoi stiúir Davy Fitzgerald anuraidh agus tá craobhacha sinsir iomána buaite aige lena chlub, Naomh Máirtín, chomh maith le craobhacha iomána agus peile f21.

“Is as Éirinn mé, agus tá suim mhór agam a bheith ag foghlaim faoi chultúr na hÉireann, rudaí cosúil leis an dteanga, ceol, agus na traidisiúin chomh maith. Táim an-bhrodúil as an teanga agus go bhfuil mé in ann an teanga a labhairt agus ceapaim go bhfuil sé ‘Cool’ gan dabht ar bith. Is maith liom a bheith ag labhairt Gaeilge sa scoil agus i mo chlub áitiúil freisin. Is fearr liom Gaeilge bhriste ná Béarla cliste!”

Jake Firman 7 Nollaig, 2020
Seo a leanas mar a d’fhreagair Jake ár gcuid ceisteanna!

Ainm: Jake Firman

Aois: 24

Club: Naomh Máirtín

Contae: Loch Garman

An scannán is fearr leat? Cinderella Man

An banna ceoil is fearr leat? Hermitage Green

An áit is fearr leat? Ag iascaireacht in aice Cheann an Chairn, Loch Garman.

An bia is fearr leat? Bágún agus Cabáiste



Clár teilifíse is fearr leat? Peaky Blinders
An t-imreoir ab fhearr leat nuair a bhí tú óg: Ciarán Lyng

An chéad chuimhne CLG atá agat: Ag imirt iomána istigh i halla spóirt mo chlub áitiúil, Naomh Máirtín.

An chéad uair ar imir tú le do chontae: Faoi 14 – Corn ‘Tony Forrestal’

An t-imreoir is fearr le himirt leat: Rory O’Connor, imreoir an-chliste é.

An t-imreoir is fearr le himirt i do aghaidh: Michael Fennelly, Cluiche Leathcheannais Laighean, 2019, in aghaidh ‘Na Seamróga’.

An cluiche is fearr a d’imir tú riamh: Cluiche Ceannais Loch Garman, 2017 – an chéad chraobh shinsir a bhuaigh muid.

Buaicphointe (highlight) do shaoil imeartha le do chontae go dtí seo:

Nuair a rinne mé mo debut le peileadóirí Loch Garman sa bhliain 2017 in adhaidh Mhuineacháin faoi ‘Banty’ McEnaney.
Buaicphointe do shaoil imeartha le do chlub go dtí seo: Sa bhliain 2017, grád f21, bhuaigh muid an chraobh iomána agus peile chomh maith le Craobh Shinsir Loch Garman.

An duine is mó a raibh tionchar aige/aici ar do shaol imeartha go dtí seo: Imreoirí cosúil le Diarmuid Lyng, Barry Lambert agus m’athair freisin.

Aon chomhairle agat d’imreoirí óga? Déan cleachtadh ar na scileanna bunúsacha agus bain taitneamh as gach

cluiche agus gach noiméad a imríonn tú iomáint agus peil mar beidh sé críochnaithe i bpreabadh na súl!

Aon chaitheamh aimsire eile? Is aoibhinn liom bheith ag imirt gailf, spórt iontach é! Seinnim an giotár agus an ucailléile chomh maith.

Laoch spóirt agat taobh amuigh de CLG? Steven Gerrard

Gluais / Glossary

Na traidisiúin – the traditions **an-bhródúil** – very proud **Ceann an Chairn** – Carnsore Point

Ag iascaireacht – Fishing **scileanna bunúsacha** – basic skills **i bpreabadh na súl** – in a flash **Is aoibhinn liom** – I love to **Ucailléile** – ukulele

GAA CLUBS FUNDING SUPPORT PACKAGE

FOLLOWING THE RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT BY CENTRAL COUNCIL OF A COVID-19 CLUB FUNDING SUPPORT PACKAGE, PLEASE FIND BELOW A CLUB APPLICATION FORM TO BE COMPLETED BY YOUR CLUB TO QUALIFY FOR THE DESIGNATED FUNDING SUPPORT.

This application form should be completed by a member of your club executive.

To qualify fully for the Support Grant / Insurance credit note your club must demonstrate a financial need and provide details of the financial impact that Covid-19 has had on your club and secondly you must also provide details of your Clubs current Playing, Training, Dressing Room and Clubhouse Facilities.

On completion of the form below your application will be assessed by the Croke Park Finance team and if approved you will receive a proportionate credit note/grant support against your 2021 Insurance Premium Invoice.

The credit note/grant support confirmation will be issued directly from Croke Park while your Clubs 2021 Insurance Premium invoice will continue to be issued separately by your County Board.

On receipt of your grant support/insurance credit note, you can offset this credit note against your 2021 Insurance Invoice and the net amount will be payable to your County Board. If you are unsuccessful in your application and unfortunately not awarded a credit note / Insurance grant support your clubs' full Insurance premium will remain payable for 2021. Grants awarded to GAA Clubs' resident in the Republic of Ireland will be part supported by Sport Ireland, all other support grant awards will be funded from Central Council.



IS YOUR CLUB WINTER READY?

THE CLOCKS HAVE GONE BACK AND AS WINTER APPROACHES THE RISK OF DAMAGE AT CLUB PROPERTIES AS A RESULT OF SEVERE WEATHER INCREASES. PREPARATION IS KEY TO MINIMISING DISRUPTION DURING SUCH EVENTS.

All units should pay attention to weather warnings where the latest updates can be found on Met Eireann. Clubs should also pay attention via local radio to any local warnings which may be in effect for certain areas. In winter the expected main impacts will include high winds, heavy rainfall and an increased risk of flooding.

These warnings are in place for a reason - to protect lives and mitigate property damage. If clubs have any planned activities for example underage training sessions, scheduled to take place during the weather warning, the activities should be cancelled where appropriate. If you proceed with holding the activity, you are putting the lives of members, visitors such as parents coming to collect children and the club property in danger. A common sense approach should be taken.

Below are some of the most common claims which have arisen at GAA properties as a result of previous weather incidents / storms:

- **Ball Stop Nets:** It is a condition of Property Insurance cover that retractable nets are retracted when not in use. If your nets are retractable they need to be retracted & secured now.
- **Roof tiles & Roofs:** These are easily blown off in severe weather, and gutters and fascias can also sustain



some damage. Roofs in stands have also suffered damage in previous storms.

- **Fallen trees and building damage:** Trees are currently in full leaf with a large surface area, so even moderate strength winds can bring down weakened trees and/or tree limbs. Some trees may already be compromised due to saturated soils at the moment and during wind warning some disruption due to falling trees/branches is likely. Heavy rain, coupled with falling leaves may block drains and gullies, leading to surface flooding.
- **Flooding:** If your club property is located in an area where a flood warning is in effect it might be worth investing in some sandbags and/or flood barriers to protect your property, particularly if you live in a flood risk area.
- **Broken glass:** Glass in windows can be damaged by severe winds or flying objects. Take care if trying to remove the glass, wear protective gloves and eye goggles.
- **Boundary walls and fencing:** collapsing in storm weather

Preparation:

- The best thing you can do at any time of the year is to make sure your property is well looked after. Property Insurance is not a maintenance cover and damage to property where the underlying cause of loss is determined to have occurred due to a lack of regular maintenance and/or upkeep will not be covered by property insurance
- Retract Ball Stop Nets: It is a condition of Property Insurance cover that retractable nets are retracted when not in use. If your nets are retractable they need to be retracted & secured now
- Check your roof regularly: Roof tiles should be checked once a year, and again after a severe storm, to make sure no tiles have come loose. Loose tiles could cause damage to your property or neighbouring property. Look for loose or missing tiles, crumbling pointing or any other signs of damage. Also ensure any television

aerials and satellite dishes are securely attached. Professional contractors should only be engaged to carry out such works

- Check and secure your fencing and check boundary walls: Secure all fences, gates or posts on your property and regularly inspect boundary walls. These can cause severe damage to club property and neighbouring properties if blown away in a storm
- Check any trees on the property and remove hazardous branches: Cut down loose or overhanging branches, particularly those close to windows or power lines. Professional contractors should only be engaged to carry out such works
- Keep gutters clear of moss and leaves: If your gutters overflow during a downpour, it's time to give them a good clean. Remember to make sure they're securely fixed in place once you've finished. Professional contractors should only be engaged to carry out such works

- Property Generally: Secure any loose objects such as portable goals or ground maintenance equipment which could be blown. Items must be locked away or safely secured at all times
- Windows and doors: Close and lock all windows and doors securely
- Services - ensure you know where water, gas and electricity mains are, should you need to turn them off or on at any stage. Have contact numbers available for professional contractors should services be required

Professionals perform many of the above jobs for a reason. If a task involves any hazardous activity such as working at heights, use of ladders, working near power lines, or use of power tools you must engage bone fide contractors to carry out such works.



After a Weather incident /Storm:

- If your property has been affected by a weather event / storm, it can be frightening, but do not panic; there are some steps you can follow.
- Be careful: The most important thing is that you look after your safety. Do not touch cables which may have been blown down or are hanging. If your property has suffered damage, proceed with caution do not walk too close to buildings or trees that may have been weakened. Check for damage from a safe distance
- Take photos: From a safe distance, take photos of any damage that occurred. Make a list also, as this will be useful for your insurer to process any claims more smoothly
- Report the damage: if your property suffers damage all claims can be reported to Marsh Ireland via email at propertyclaimsgaa@marsh.com or to sinead.leavy@gaa.ie or ciara.clarke@gaa.ie. Details on property insurance policy excesses are in the policy document
- Keep receipts: If you make any emergency repairs such as roof repair or glass replacement you must retain these receipts

Make decisions in the best interest of the club – do not reopen your club to normal club activities until it is safe to do so, be safe not sorry.

Weather Warnings

Yellow

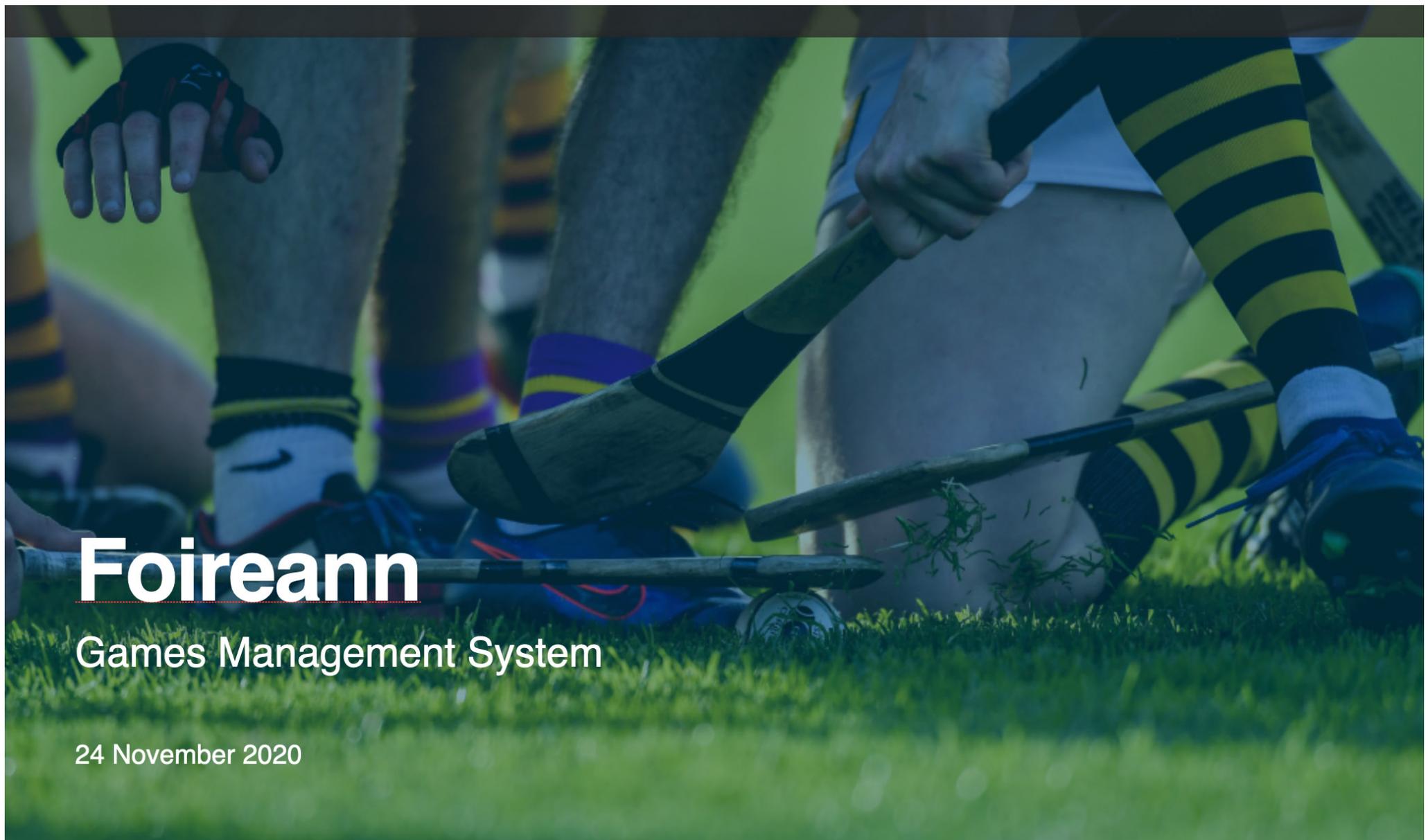
Not unusual weather. Localised danger.

Orange

Infrequent. Dangerous/disruptive.

Red

Rare. Extremely dangerous/destructive.



Foireann

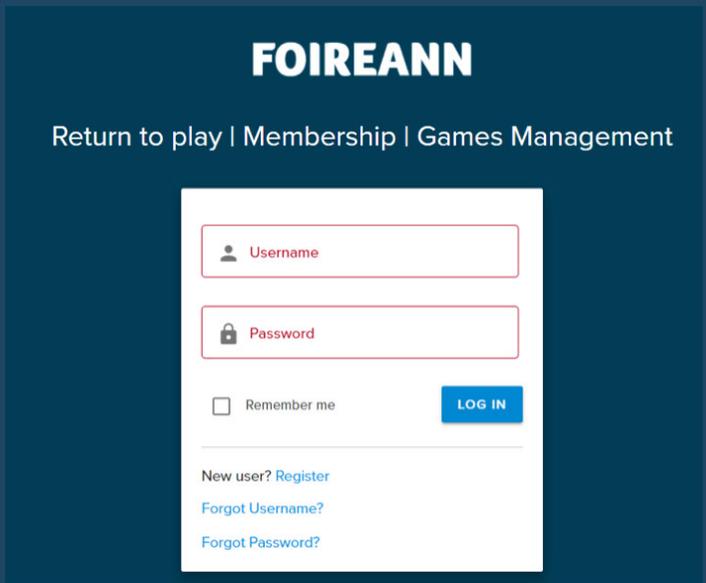
Games Management System

24 November 2020

What's Happening?

The new Foireann system is being made available to Clubs from December 1st. This system will replace the existing Membership & Registration System -Servasport Games Management System (GMS)- and the Returntoplay application.

Foireann will provide all of the functionality that was previously available in GMS and much more in a simple, intuitive, mobile manner. It allows Club Members to view and manage their own information and relevant Club related communications in one integrated application. Everything from knowing when training is on to submitting Health Questionnaires, confirming availability for matches, paying their membership subscription or managing what communications they wish to receive from the club is available.



What's Happening?

Foireann allows Club Administrators to configure Membership Options and accept online payments (through Stripe), manage club communications in compliance with GDPR and Children First legislation, register their members with the GAA, LGFA or Camogie Association (also Handball and Rounders, if relevant) and to allocate Coaches to Teams for organising training or health questionnaire verification.

The new system will be accessible through the following website:

<https://Foireann.ie>

<https://returntoplay.gaa.ie>

The old GMS system will be still be accessible through the usual website:

<https://people.gaa.ie>

<https://people.ladiesgaelic.ie>

<https://people.camogie.ie>

However, it should only be used for reference purposes and should not be used to register any further members.

How does this affect my club?

The new functionality available within [Foireann](#) will be hugely beneficial to your club and should significantly reduce Administration effort. To make full use of the system from December 1st you should:

1. Ensure that you have access to the system
2. Verify that you have the correct privileges within the system (i.e. if you are a club administrator, you should have additional functionality)
3. Setup your Membership Options (Full / Social / Youth / Honorary / player / Non-Player / G4M&O etc) and decide if you wish to make these Options available to purchase on-line.
4. Setup a Stripe Account by using the step by step setup '[Wizzard](#)' – please note that on-line transactions incur a cost of 1.35%
5. Verify that your Club's Teams at each grade are in place
6. Assign a Coach or Coaches to each Team

Further information on how to complete each of the above tasks is available [here](#)

How does this affect my club?

Club Administrators

Club administrators will have access to additional functionality in [Foireann](#). Existing Administrators from the [Servasport System](#) have been migrated across to [Foireann](#). You can check that you have administrator privileges by looking at your profile and reviewing the Club(s) that you have added. Clubs where you are an Administrator will be flagged accordingly.

If you wish to add additional Administrators for your club, please use [this form](#).

Note: for Governance and Security purposes, additional Administrator requests will only be accepted from official club email addresses.

International Units

Please note that the System is designed to cater for our International Units also. Payments can currently be accepted in EUR, GBP or USD. Other currencies can be added assuming that the appropriate AML / KYC checks can be completed. For further information please contact gmssupport@gaa.ie

What about my club's existing data?

The first thing to note is that all existing member records previously held in the [Servasport Games Management](#) system will be available in the new system, [Foireann](#). There will be no requirement for data entry for existing members.

There are however some important changes in how membership data is managed and this will be important to understand so that you can maximise the benefits of the system.

The [Foireann](#) system is designed to provide access to Club members to information that is relevant to them (i.e. Membership subscriptions, communications relevant to their teams etc) and to do this, members create an online account or profile. This profile has up to now enabled them to submit Health Questionnaires on 'the return to play application'. This online 'profile' is not the same as a Club Membership record, although they do share much of the same information (i.e Name, contact details etc).

The [Servasport Games Management System](#) holds the membership and registration records for your club, this is generally only accessible to Club Administrators (with some exceptions).

[Foireann](#) will allow the online profiles of club members to be linked to their Membership Record so that they can re-register (if your club allows for this) and maintain the information held about them by the club (an important requirement under Data Protection legislation) and to manage their preferences about how they are communicated with.

What about my club's existing data?

The net effect is that two separate systems ([Servasport Games Management System](#) and the [Returntoplay system](#)) will merge to become one integrated system ([Foireann](#)). All of the records relevant to your club from both systems will remain in place.

This process (merging two systems) will result in three distinct scenarios:

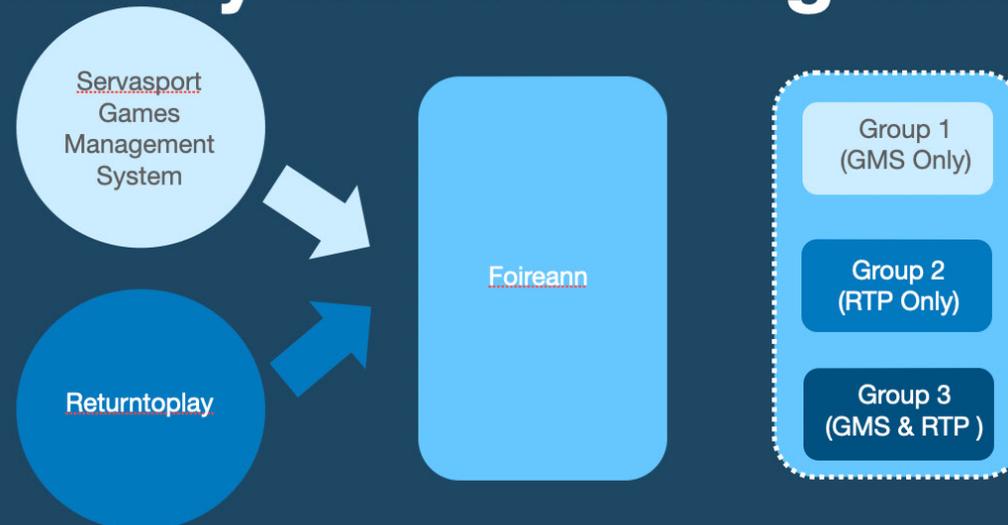
1. Members whose data was only held in the [Servasport](#) system i.e. they don't have an online profile.
2. Members whose data only exists in the [Returntoplay](#) system i.e. they don't have a membership record.
3. Members whose data exists in both systems i.e. they have an online profile and a membership record.

For those people in **Group 1** above, it is possible to issue them with a email with a link to register an online profile that merges their Membership Record and their online profile.

For those people in **Group 2** above, it is possible for them to register (and pay for membership if your club chooses to provide this option) and create a membership record.

For those people in **Group 3** above, a process has already been run to link their profile to their membership record based on Name, DOB, Phone Number, Email & Club.

What about my club's existing data?



Over time, it is intended to work with you to reduce the numbers of people in Groups 1 & 2 so that every member of your club who wishes to do so can manage their own data. It is also intended to delete old, duplicate or erroneous data over time so that only the records that are relevant to your club remain visible.

(Note: Data clean-up of this type will only occur with your involvement and within the bounds of GDPR and Official Rules. It is intended to commence this process after the 2021 registration period ends)

What are the key timelines?

Clubs will have the ability to setup the Membership Options (Full / Youth / Social member, Player / Non-player) that they provide to their members from Tuesday December 1st.

If it is intended to allow on-line Membership payment, a Stripe Account will need to be setup for your club. The application process for a Stripe Account, which is simple and easy to complete, will also be available from December 1st.

The ability for members to pay their membership subscription online will be available once the 2021 registration window opens on December 8th.

The ability for Clubs to register their members with the relevant Governing body (GAA / LGFA or Camogie Association) will be in place from December 15th.

It should be noted that, whilst the existing Servasport Games Management System will remain in place, no further Membership Registrations should be processed on this system and the ability to do so will be removed from December 1st.

Where can I get support

Please email the support desk with any queries that you have gmssupport@gaa.ie

For help documentation, FAQ, Help Videos etc please visit the [Support Website](#)

Online Webinars will be delivered on the following Dates:

- December 2nd
- December 3rd
- December 8th
- December 10th

If you wish to attend, please register on the following [link](#)

Further training will be scheduled over the coming weeks and month

MÍLE BUÍOCHAS

Thank you to all of those who have contributed to this month's edition of the GAA Club Newsletter. Your feedback is welcome and any comments, suggestions or queries should be directed to clubnewsletter@gaa.ie.

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