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# GETTING OUR HEADS RIGHT ABOUT CONCUSSION

By Cian Murphy, gaa.ie

**D**ick Clerkin says the GAA's Medical and Scientific Committee is determined to demystify people's approach and attitude to concussion.

The former Monaghan inter-county star is the head of the GAA's committee with responsibility for GAA policy and planning on medical and scientific matters.

And he believes changing the approach to how concussion is viewed is the key.

Concussion protocols have been a major priority for the GAA for several years, with significant work done on the issue since the mid-2000s.

"Concussion is an injury and needs to be treated like any other injury. Like any injury it can be recovered from and there is no reason why a person can't go back to full health. We need to learn to recognise it," says Dick.

"There are massive grounds that we can improve on in terms of after match care. Players know if they are not feeling right and if they do not feel right after a game, at that point they need to talk to their medical people, to their manager and have it investigated further.

"We know that if concussion is not treated that research shows you are more susceptible



*Dick Clerkin, former Monaghan football star and chair of the GAA Medical and Scientific Committee*

to a repeat injury because you are not at full capacity.

"We need to demystify the injury. There is a massive amount of information out there on concussion and we need to make sure that people are aware."

Education, as always, is the key.

The old school theory that concussion was something that happened when a person was knocked unconscious has been debunked as being actually one of only several forms of concussion.

"There has been a lot of research and development," explains Clerkin.



*Ulster SFC 2016, Donegal team doctor Kevin Moran carries out an on field assessment of Frank McGlynn during their semi-final with Monaghan*

"There are actually six different types of concussion and it is only when a person has been properly diagnosed with what type of concussion they have that they can get the right treatment. For example, some types of concussion need rest, but some need activity."

There is an onus on players, coaches and parents to be aware of what is involved.

Most clubs will be familiar with the poster campaign encouraging concussion awareness and there are plenty of resources on the GAA Learning portal via [learning.gaa.ie](http://learning.gaa.ie) where there is a lot of up to date information.

The GAA has a partnership with University of Pittsburgh Medical Centre, considered

international experts on concussion.

The Association and UPMC hosted National Concussion Symposia attended by experts in the medical profession as well as team doctors and physiotherapists in both 2016 and 2017 and in 2018 held a major training event for GAA Medics in Croke Park. It focused on diagnosis and evaluation tools for concussion, identifying types of concussions, and treatment and rehabilitation methods.

In addition to this, Clerkin and his committee are engaged in an inter-county pilot programme where a number of inter-county teams have sent their players for on line cognitive tests which can be used as a baseline guide to detect possible future concussion incidents.

The committee are also planning to roll out on-line educational resources before the end of the summer.

According to the GAA's injury figures, roughly 2 per cent of all injuries are recorded as concussion, which is a lower risk compared to rugby, but it remains a risk if not properly diagnosed and not properly treated - potentially leading to serious consequences.

“We have a partnership with UPMC who are world leaders and with them we are seeing what's appropriate because every sport is different,” added Dick.

“We will always need an education process. We will never be done with advising people about concussion. We need to take the fear and concern out of it. It's an injury and it can be treated.

“It should not deter people from playing Gaelic games.”

Information on concussion management guidelines can be found here...

<https://learning.gaa.ie/search/node/concussion>

# CONCUSSION



## NOT ALWAYS A KNOCK-OUT!

### ACTION PLAN

- R**ecognise *the signs and symptoms*
- R**eport *if suspicious, don't hide it*
- R**ehab *with rest and medical guidance*
- R**eturn *after following Return To Play Protocol and getting medical clearance*

### SYMPTOMS

- Headache
- Confusion
- Nausea
- Dizziness
- Double/Blurry Vision
- Sensitivity to Light
- Feeling Hazy or Groggy
- Just not 'feeling right'
- Memory Problems
- Pressure in Head

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

# MOTHER WARNS OF DANGERS OF UNSECURED GOALPOSTS

By Cian Murphy, gaa.ie

**T**he mother of a young boy who escaped serious injury when portable goalposts fell on him has urged clubs and coaches to be aware of the dangers of portable goalposts that are not properly secured and weighted to the ground.

Una McCourt was watching her 10 year-old son Lochlann playing in goal in a GAA Go Games match for Maynooth last October when a gust of wind toppled over the set of portable posts he was standing in and her son was struck on the neck and was floored.

“Two of the dads put pipes in the goals to make uprights and about 10 seconds later I was staring over at Lochlann and the goal toppled and just fell down on top of him and the crossbar hit his head and neck.

“The goals posts were not tied down – I didn’t know that they should have been.

“I got a real fright when it happened. Lochlann was crying, he was trying to push the posts up off him and we were all in shock.”

After an initial check-up by doctors it was decided as a precaution to carry out more tests, scans and x-rays in hospital to ensure there was no permanent damage to his neck. Thankfully, Lochlann was eventually given the all clear and has put the day behind him.

For his mother however, the trauma was added



to by a trawl of the internet which left her feeling how lucky they were that the injury could have been a lot more serious or even fatal.

A 10 year-old boy was killed at a soccer camp in Limerick in 2005 after being struck by an unsecured portable goal and there have been similar tragic accidents in other countries.

“I’d be sick if this happened to somebody else,” Una told the GAA Club Newsletter.

“I want there to be an awareness out there so that no one else goes through it.

“I don’t think enough awareness is there and it needs constant communication that these type of goalposts need to be secured to the ground properly.

“It shouldn’t happen. A lot of the coaches are parents of the kids playing and all parents, not

just the coaches, need to take more responsibility. These portable goalposts need to always be secured properly.”

Una was appreciative of the response of the Maynooth club who since the incident have taken steps to ensure that proper weights are in place to pin down these goals when in use, but has seen other clubs lag behind in their approach.

“While Maynooth have responded and are great



now, we have played some away games where this is still the practice, looks like they are waiting for an accident to happen,” she added.

With so many clubs operating juvenile academies and Go Games matches every weekend the portable posts are in constant use.

But for the sake of the time it takes to ensure that these posts are properly secured and can't topple over – when compared to the potential danger, it is time well spent.

“These things shouldn't happen,” added Una. “We were lucky and I just couldn't sit back and do nothing. I want to make sure people know and are aware.”



## **Are your Goal posts Safe & Secure?**

### **Check It–**

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

Homemade goals should not be used as they do not contain the built-in safety features of certified goals and may be particularly hazardous when used at underage activities. Damaged goals should immediately be removed from the club property to prevent further use.

### **Secure It –**

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

### **Test It –**

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

### **Respect It –**

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

# GAA FIXTURES CALENDAR REVIEW TASK FORCE

**The GAA has announced the membership and also the terms of reference for the new Fixtures Calendar Review Task Force.**

The committee, which has been established by Uachtarán John Horan, has been tasked with having a report with recommendations ready for next November, and which will drive a discussion ahead of the potential for rule changes to be voted on at Congress 2020.

The GAA Fixtures Calendar Review Task Force is:

Eddie O’Sullivan (Chair) Member of An Coiste Bainistíochta, former club chair St Sylvester’s GAA, Dublin

Michael Martin (Wexford) Chair GAA National Fixtures Analysts Committee

Kevin O’Donovan (Cork), CEO Cork GAA

Stephen Barker (Derry), Ulster GAA CCC

John Costello (Dublin), CEO Dublin GAA

John Prenty (Mayo), Secretary Connacht Council GAA

Michael Higgins (Galway) CPA Representative

Ronan Sheehan (Down) GPA Representative

Michael Hyland (Galway) Chair GAA Higher Education Committee

Seamus Woods (Tyrone) Chair GAA Post Primary Schools’ Committee

Conor O’Donoghue (Meath) County Minor team manager



In addition to the formation of the Task Force, the following terms of reference have been drawn up to assist the new committee in their deliberations.

- To consider current significant issues affecting the GAA Fixtures Calendar, including the current positioning and footprint of inter-county competitions and the time available for clubs.

- To examine current national competition structures and their timing in the context of the time available for the inter-county game.

- To make recommendations, by November

2019, on options for change for consideration by Ard Chomhairle and Congress, outlining the likely implications of each for the Association.

The Task Force has been asked to give particular consideration to:

- The timing and structure of the main senior inter-county competitions (pre-season, league and championship) including the need for a closed season
- The rules governing the monitoring and governance of fixtures at club level as well as the structure of championships
- The practicalities of delivering a ‘Calendar Year’ with Club Finals being played before year end

- The timing of and eligibility for 3rd Level competitions
- The timing of and eligibility for U20 inter-county competitions in the context of the Talent Academy Review recommendations
- The present Minor (U17) competition

The Task Force, in its deliberations, should review the various fixture-related reports in recent times and recommendations and proposals therein. In addition, it should elicit a range of views from specialist interested parties including, but not restricted to, the Central Competitions Control Committee and the National Fixtures Analysis Committee, and more widely from other interested individuals.

# CARTY READY TO LEAD IRISH WHEELCHAIR HURLERS WITH PRIDE

By John Harrington

**T**he Irish Wheelchair hurling team flew out from Dublin airport on a Ryanair flight bound for The Netherlands where they'll compete in the 2019 European Para Games Floorball International event.

The team is captained by Sligo native, Pat Carty, who was given that honour after a vote among his own team-mates.

"When I was told first I thought they were making a mistake, that it must have been (Ireland vice-captain) James McCarthy they meant was captain," says Carty modestly.

"It's taken a while to sink in. It's a serious honour, in fairness."

Speak to Carty for a while, and you quickly understand why his team-mates look up to him.

He's a warm and friendly guy, but the steely determination that has helped him overcome considerable adversity is apparent too.

A talented underage footballer and hurler in his youth, his life was changed forever when he broke his back in a car accident at the age of 20.

At the time he was combining work on the family farm with night-shifts at a local bakery, and, exhausted, he fell asleep at the wheel half a mile from home.



Sponsor Martin Donnelly with members of the Irish Wheelchair Hurling team from left Patrick Tobin, Sean Bennett and Lorcan Madden all from Laois, Peadar Heffron from Antrim, captain Pat Carty from Sligo and Gary O'Halloran from Co Limerick before the team's departure from Dublin Airport in advance of the ParaGamesBreda 2019 in Breda, Netherlands.

But he's never let his disability define him as a person and lives a full and happy life.

He's busier at farming than ever, has a day job as a sales rep, is happily married to Edel for the past six years, and one of the best players on the highly competitive Irish wheelchair hurling circuit.

There's a lot to admire about Carty, so you can see why his peers would look up to him.

"I suppose I do see with the younger lads on our Connacht hurling team it might be helpful for them to see someone older who has lived a bit, gotten married, drives their own car, and happy at work and all the rest," says Carty.

"It's good to help lads. Young people are great but they be so cruel as well as caring sometimes. The whole thing is to just keep mixing and talking, mixing and talking.

"When I was in hospital I remember praying, praying, praying that I'd walk again or that I'd be well.



Pat Carty of Connacht in celebrates his side's fifth goal against Munster during the 2017 M. Donnelly GAA Wheelchair Hurling All-Ireland Finals at Knocknaree Arena, I.T Sligo in Sligo.

"I'm not walking, but I have to say I'm genuinely okay about it now.

"I love work, I love farming. There are times it would be nice to get up and be able to do an even more, but I can do everything really. I'd be a bit slow but I can do everything on the farm.

"I suppose I could have gone back to college and gotten a different job, but you have to be happy. It's not all about money, you have to be happy in what you're at too."

Carty is often asked to visit someone who has just suffered a serious spinal injury and pass on a few words of wisdom.

But he freely admits that when he broke his own back the last thing he would have wanted was someone who had been in a wheelchair for 30 years visiting him in hospital and telling him

everything would be alright.

He's in a very good place now, but it took him some time to come to terms with the life-changing reality of the injuries he suffered.

"I remember coming home from hospital and I went up to the cattle," said Carty.

"Things had been building up on the farm, I had been to agricultural college and I was building up cattle numbers and all of that.

"My father died when I was two and my Uncle Tom was kind of like a father to us. I remember crying when I came home and telling him to sell the cattle.

"But he kept them there, he was a great help, and we were lucky too with neighbours and other family.

"We'd be back up now with around 100 cattle and I'd be doing it myself with help from my wife Edel so we're back where we were.

"One thing that used to annoy me was that people used to say I'm glad to see you spending your money from your accident (on the farm).

"But I didn't get anything and I'm glad in a way I didn't because I just would have sat down instead of working away as hard as I could. And we do work very hard at it, in fairness."

Despite all he has achieved with the farm and in every other area of his life, Carty has found out that some people hold tightly to certain prejudices.

"It's funny, I go to the Mart to sell and buy cattle," he said.

"I was there a couple of months at the ring and a fella came up to me and said, 'Can you walk?' I says, 'No, I can't.

"Then, after a few minutes, he says, 'Are you farming'. I said, 'Arragh, a bit, nothing too serious'.

"Then he says, 'Well, sure, if you can't stand or walk then you're not a farmer.' It's funny how people look at you and judge you.

"Now, I genuinely didn't mind. I was kind of laughing. But I was telling a few of the other lads and they were going mad!"

Carty's natural farmer's strength is one of the reasons why he's such formidable wheelchair hurler.

His background in gaelic games no doubt helped too, because from the very start he took to it like a natural.

"I think it was Denis O'Boyle who contacted me six or seven years ago," said Carty.

"It was above in Athlone the first match I played and I just thought it was class. It was my first time to go back hurling again and it just went from that.

"It's nice to have something again that you have to be committed to. When you're playing sport you have to train, you have to be at the matches."

"25 years had gone by without me playing any sport at all so it was great to be able to do it again."

The Irish hurlers will be very much the underdogs at this week's Para Games Floorball International event because adjusting to a sport that differs somewhat to wheelchair hurling will be a challenge.

The sticks and balls used are different to their hurleys and slotars, and, unlike in wheelchair hurling when you can contest for the ball in the air and palm it down with your hand, in Floorball you can't bring the stick above the height of the wheel.

Training has gone well, though, and Carty and his team-mates are very determined to do the green jersey proud.

"Of course we are," he said. "Some people were saying to me it'll be a nice break. I was saying, 'I'll have it harder out there! If I was at home I'd be driving around on the quad!

"We're taking it very seriously. Training has gone well and there's a really good bunch of good, fit lads there.

"We'll be giving it everything we have.

In fairness, Pat Carty doesn't know any other way.



# BE A COMMUNITY HERO WITH A €5,000 CASH PRIZE FOR YOUR GAA CLUB

**S**ure Ireland is offering a €5,000 prize to local GAA communities, take the challenge and be a hero for your club

This summer, Sure is offering GAA communities the opportunity to showcase their skills and represent their clubs with the #SureShotChallenge.

One lucky club will take home a €5000 cash prize, tour Croke Park and meet some of Ireland's top GAA players.\*

Sure are entering into their 4th year partnering with the GAA as Official Statistics Partner of GAA, bringing key stats and technology to fuel both locker room and spectator analysis. This relationship empowers GAA fans and a community with a deeper understanding of Ireland's favourite sports.

## The Challenge for Players

In this role as official Statistics Partner, Sure has highlighted a unique challenge for Irish players of all skill levels: Hurlers and footballers alike can show their aim and accuracy by hitting the crossbar from the 13 meter sideline.

To enter, simply visit one of the participating\*\* SuperValu stores to pick up your target, shoot a video of yourself hitting the target, then upload your successful submission to Instagram using the hashtag "#SureShotChallenge".

Entries will be highlighted on the official @ SureShotChallenge Instagram account.

For terms and conditions, visit [sureshotchallenge.ie](https://sureshotchallenge.ie)

\*\*For full list of participating stores, visit [sureshotchallenge.ie/locations](https://sureshotchallenge.ie/locations)

## Meet Heroes on the Road

Starting in July, athletes and participants will have the opportunity to show up to one of the three Sure Shot Challenge Events this summer, where anyone can meet and have their kit signed by local GAA heroes and take the challenge themselves.

SuperValu Dunboyne - 6th July	11am-3pm
SuperValu Knocklyon - 13th July	11am-3pm
SuperValu Glanmire - 20th July	11am-3pm

## Sure's Mission

Sure is on a mission to inspire people to move more. From the highest level athletes to grassroots sports and clubs, Sure Ireland believes the more you move, the more you live.

\* T&C's apply, please see [sureshotchallenge.ie](https://sureshotchallenge.ie) for details.

**1 PICK UP TARGET**  
in selected SuperValu stores nationwide. To find your nearest participating SuperValu please visit [sureshotchallenge.ie/locations](https://sureshotchallenge.ie/locations)

**2 STICK TARGET**  
on a GAA goal crossbar and shoot a video hitting target from the 13 meter line.

**3 SHARE IT ON INSTAGRAM**  
using the #SureShotChallenge to enter into the draw.

**Sure SHOT CHALLENGE**

# FÉILE TRADITION AND SUCCESS CONTINUES

By Peter Horgan



**T**he John West Féile hurling and camogie competitions were a huge success in Cork and Kerry over the weekend of June 7th – 9th. More than 600 games were played, involving 256 teams over the course of the tournament. In all there were 32 finals across 16 divisions of both Hurling and Camogie action.

The tournament was an overwhelming success, with the host clubs in Cork and Kerry providing a fantastic weekend for each of their visiting teams. Off the field, lifelong links were formed between clubs, and families. Crowds thronged to games the length and breadth of Cork and Kerry, with hotels and B & B's booked out weeks in advance.

On the pitch, Galway's Turloughmore completed a two-in-a-row defeating Na Piarasaigh (Cork) in the Christy Ring Cup final (Division 1 Hurling),

while Éire Óg (Cork) made history by edging out Sarsfields of Cork, who had been going for three in a row in the top tier of the Camogie competition.

In the John West Division 2 final Kilcormac/Killoughey from Offaly had a three-point win over Valley Rovers (Cork), after beating Ballincollig (Cork) in the semi-final.

The Division 3 honours went to Dublin side Castleknock, who were comprehensive winners over Glen Rovers. Amazingly, Castleknock had been hosted by the Glen over the weekend.

A second title made its way to Offaly, with Tullamore defeating Clontarf in Division 4.

It took extra-time to separate Bandon and Four Roads (Roscommon) in Division 5, with the Cork side eventually winning by 4-8 to 3-5. After 15 minutes Bandon were 3-1 to 0-1 in front, but Four Roads came back and led with time almost up. Bandon equalised in the last minute to take it to extra-time, where they powered ahead to take the trophy.

There was a special resonance for Cork County Board chair Tracey Kennedy as her club, Killeagh/Ita's lifted the Division 6 title, in their 3-8 to 0-4 win, the first Féile title won by the club.

Ruairí Óg, Cushendall from the Glens of Antrim had one of the furthest distances to travel but the return trip was shortened by their victory over Cork's Grenagh in the Division 7 final.

In Division 8, Kilkenny's Bennettsbridge were 0-6 to 0-4 victors over Bishopstown, in a tightly contested game.

The Slashers headed home to Longford as Division 9 title holders after beating St Mark's (Cork), which again was their second title in a row. In Division 10, Michael Breathnach's (Galway) warmed up for hosting the John West Féile na nÓg later this month, defeating Southern Gaels (Westmeath) in the final.

In the Shield, for teams who finished third and fourth in their groups, Cork teams were especially successful. Extra-time saw Erin's Own (Cork) past Naas (Kildare) in Division 1, while there was an all-Cork Division 2 showdown where Inniscarra beat Bride Rovers. Division 3 was won by Watergrasshill (overcoming St James, of Wexford), with Whitechurch keeping the Cork run going in Division 4 with victory over St Brendan's, Ardferit.

O'Rahillys (Down) brought Cork's roll of success to an end in defeating Ibane Gaels, a combination of Barryroe and Argideen Rangers, however, Division 6 saw Cork again successful as Ballygiblin outscored Pdraig Pearse's.

Division 7 saw a remarkable success by Durlas Óg, who had two teams representing Tipperary at the tournament. With their Division 1 team having reached the Cup ¼ final, a total of 38 players represented the club over the weekend.

Castleblaney were defeated in the All Ireland Club junior final earlier this year, and their U. 14's continued the proud representation of

Monaghan by winning the Division 8 shield, defeating Cork's Ahan Gaels.

In Division 9, Carndonagh defeated teams from Cork (Castlelyons), Carlow (Naomh Eoin) and Kildare (St Laurences) to take the Shield, while in Division 10, St Dominic's (Roscommon) defeated Meath's Kilmessan (having already beaten their namesakes, St Dominic's Cork in the semi-final)!

On the camogie front, Éire Óg from Cork stopped Sarsfields three in a row attempt in tight game (final score, 0-5 to 0-3). Clonakilty (Cork), lifted the Division 2 title, defeating Na Seamróga.

Division 3 saw St Ibar's (Wexford) defeat Kilmaley (Clare), while there was a Cork/Tipperary thriller in Division 4, as Moycarkey Borris overcame Mallow by a single point.

The Ballyhea/Milford combination saw a third title remaining in the host county, as they beat fellow host side, Causeway (Kerry) in Division 5. Four Roads Camogie went one better than their boys' side in winning the Division 6 title against a valiant Nemo Rangers side.

In the Shield tournaments, Dicksboro (Kilkenny) defeated Limerick's Newcastle West to claim the Division 1 shield. Naas joined their Hurling side in their Shield final (Division 2), though this time they were successful against Carlow's St Mullins.

Ardrahan (Galway) were successful in Division 3, overcoming Na Fianna, while De La Salle (Waterford) defeated Bishopstown (Cork) in Division 4.

Grenagh and Bray Emmets from Wicklow could not be separated in the Division 5 Shield final after extra time, and they shared the shield – Féile finals that are still level after extra time are shared.

Aughrim from Wicklow and Edendork (Tyrone) fought out a close battle before the Wicklow side came out in top in Division 6.

See full results on <https://www.gaa.ie/feile-na-ngael/results>



Div 1 John West Féile champs Turloughmore from Galway



Éire Óg with their camogie cup from their John West Féile success

### HURLING:

#### Cup results:

- Div 1: Turloughmore (Galway) 3-6, Na Piarasigh 1-1.
- Div 2: Kilcormac/Killoughey (Offaly) 1-6, Valley Rovers 0-6.
- Div 3: Castleknock (Dublin) 1-12, Glen Rovers 0-3.
- Div 4: Tullamore (Offaly) 1-9, Clontarf (Dublin) 0-2.
- Div 5: Bandon 4-8, Four Roads (Roscommon) 3-5 AET.
- Div 6: Killeagh/Ita's (Cork) 3-8, Mullinavat (Kilkenny) 0-4.
- Div 7: Ruairí Óg (Antrim) 2-7, Grenagh 0-4.
- Div 8: Bennettsbridge (Kilkenny) 0-6, Bishopstown 0-4.
- Div 9: Longford Slashers (Longford) 3-3, St Mark's 1-1.
- Div 10: Micheal Breathnach (Galway) 2-6, Southern Gaels (Westmeath) 0-4.

#### Shield results:

- Div 1: Erins Own 1-6, Naas (Kildare) 0-7 aet.
- Div 2: Inniscarra 2-5, Bride Rovers 0-1.
- Div 3: Watergrasshill 1-4, St James (Wexford) 1-3.
- Div 4: Whitechurch 2-8, Ardferf/St Brendan's (Kerry) 0-0.
- Div 5: O'Rahillys (Down) 4-4, Ibane Gaels 1-3.
- Div 6: Ballygiblin 2-3, Pdraig Pearses (Roscommons) 0-4.
- Div 7: Durlas Og (Tipperary) 2-3, Carraig na bhFear 2-2.
- Div 8: Castleblaney (Monaghan) 2-3, Ahan Gaels 0-1.
- Div 9: Carndonagh (Donegal) 3-2, St Laurences (Kildare) 0-3.
- Div 10: St Dominics (Roscommon) 3-3, Kilmessan (Meath) 1-5.

### CAMOGIE:

#### Cup results:

- Div 1: Éire Óg 0-5, Sarsfields 0-2.
- Div 2: Clonakilty 2-5, Loughgiel (Antrim) 1-3.
- Div 3: Ardrahan (Galway) 1-3, Na Fianna (Meath) 1-2.
- Div 4: Moycarkey (Tipperary) 2-2, Mallow 1-4 AET.
- Div 5: Ballyhea/Milford 1-8, Causeway (Kerry) 0-4.
- Div 6: Four Roads (Roscommon) 3-1, Nemo Rangers 1-2.

#### Shield results:

- Div 1: Dicksboro (Kilkenny) 1-3, Newcastlewest (Limerick) 0-3.
- Div 2: Nass (Kildare) 3-5, St Mullins (Carlow) 2-5.
- Div 3: St Ibar's (Wexford) 2-3, Kilmaley (Clare) 0-6.
- Div 4: De La Salle (Waterford) 1-3, Bishopstown 0-1.
- Div 5: Bray Emmets (Wicklow) 2-1, Grenagh 1-4, shield shared AET.
- Div 6: Aughrim (Wicklow) 1-5, Edendork (Tyrone) 1-1.

## UNIQUE OFFER FOR GAA CLUB MEMBERS FROM RENAULT

At Renault, everything we do is driven by our very simple motto – Passion for Life. So, to complement our passion for innovation on the road, we're committed to supporting the things closest to the heart of Irish communities. That's why Renault takes great pride in being the official car partner of the GAA.

From sponsoring homegrown teams including Wicklow and Westmeath GAA, to bringing players from around the globe together as title sponsor of the Renault GAA World Games 2019, our mission is to continue empowering lovers of the game from every corner of the country.

To celebrate this partnership, we're inviting all GAA club members to take advantage of our unique offer that includes €250 off the Renault range\*, money off servicing and more! So now you can show your passion on the road as well as on the pitch.

To avail of this amazing offer simply submit your contact details here [www.renault.ie/gaa](http://www.renault.ie/gaa). You will then receive a unique code to avail of the offer at your local participating Renault dealer.

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# CRAGGAGH NS REWARDING 5 STAR CENTRE EXPERIENCE

By Anita Moore, Teacher, Craggagh National School

**T**he GAA 5 Star Centre initiative has been a massive success in the 2018/2019 school year, providing tens of thousands of children with physical activity and an introduction to Gaelic Games.

Some 50,000 children across 300 schools have logged 1.5 million hours as they have been involved in the programme which provides every child with 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous activity for 26 weeks. As new programmes are being put in place for 2019/2020 and schools are encouraged to sign up.

Craggagh National School is a three teacher school, set in the steep slopes of Sliabh Cairn in Balla, County Mayo. Our GAA 5 Star Centre journey began in early 2018 when I submitted an Expression of Interest form online to take part in the initiative.

After this, our Games Development Manager, Bily McNicholas, set up a meeting with me to aid with registration process and give the school an insight into the initiative and what it entailed. Every class had to do six weeks of activities for an hour a week. On top of this, one or more classes/groups had to make up 26 hours of activities over 26 weeks. The activities are far more than just hurling/camogie and Gaelic Football; they include the develop of Fundamental Movement Skills (FMS) and yard games like Strike-It and Catch & Kick.

The initiative began in September 2018 with a six week programme of GAA skills based on teaching points from the GAA 5 Star Centre Learning Resource, taught by both class teachers and local coach Eugene Lavin. During these sessions, the



*Boys and girls from Craggagh National School playing in the steep slopes of Sliabh Cairn in Balla, County Mayo*



teachers also started to implement the Have a Ball activities to further promote and develop FMS into their physical education lessons. This helped develop pupils' overall physical fitness. It also contributed to their ability to play the games and to participate in a team sport while having fun.

Our teachers met to discuss what activities would be suited to their classes - Have a Ball, Fun and Run, Catch and Kick, Skill Challenges and Go Games. The Fun and Run activities were implemented on a small scale, as the school had not received a Fun and Run kit at that stage in the initiative. Most pupils in the school had previous knowledge of the game of rounders, therefore the teacher's improvised with the resources available to them to engage with the initiative work.

The Catch and Kick activities taught, mirrored the work being carried out through physical education lessons when teaching the skills of Gaelic football. The pupils were given footballs if they wished to further develop these skills at break-times.

The pupils were interested to explore for themselves how a particular skill takes practice to develop and deliver. It was clear that seeing their GAA idols demonstrating skills challenges on the GAA 5 Star Centre videos inspired the pupils. It encouraged and fostered a love for being part of something bigger than themselves.

The planned activity hours that we entered on the registration form were far exceeded due to the hard work and commitment by pupils and teachers. Teachers established that children under supervision

were partaking in Gaelic skills challenges, which developed over a period of weeks into lunchtime league matches. Another initiative taken on by the school took place on May 3, 2019. The children took part in a series of blitzes wearing their loyal Green and Red as part of Mayo Day. The pupils enjoyed this immensely and they displayed skills they had being learning from the initiative in their games.

Craggagh N.S got involved with the 5 Star Centre initiative as it supplemented the work being done in the school as regards, the fundamental

movement skills and Gaelic Games coaching. The children responded very well to the initiative, as it was already adding to their previous skills taught by teachers during PE lessons and in Cumann na mBunscol games.

There are only positives to an initiative like this. A GAA 5 Star Centre makes a significant contribution to their health and wellbeing. It is about the inclusion of every pupil in your school, whether they are four years old or 13 years old and them being physically active. It is about fostering values and beliefs that their work effort on the pitch, on the

school yard or in the school hall are recognised and respected by teachers and by each other.

The Fun and Run non-contact game, in particular, is a fantastic for teaching children about teamwork and team participation. Each child, regardless of ability, has a very important role to play throughout. The learning resource for the 5 Star Centre are very user-friendly and well laid out. Teachers can include very clear teaching points for the children to remember in their lessons. The online videos add a pictorial aspect for those children who are visual learners.

Craggagh N.S will be so proud to raise the GAA 5 Star Centre flag in our school yard in June. The children will be reminded of the effort they have made and the skills and fitness they have developed throughout the year. We will definitely be continuing the initiative next year, and look forward to the next stage, while also contributing to the holistic development of the pupils in our school.



## Primary Teachers & Principals

[Click here](#) to express interest in becoming a GAA 5 Star Centre in 2019-2020

# BROTHERS IN ARMS - GREENCASTLE TRIO BACK ON IRISH SOIL FOR WORLD GAMES

By Eoghan Tuohy



**W**hen former All-Ireland Minor champions, Sean Warnock and John McCullagh, of the Greencastle club arrived in Waterloo, Sydney, in early 2017, there was only ever going to be one GAA club to whom they would pledge their allegiance.

Now integral parts of the Cormac McAnallen club in the city, along with fellow club-mate, Christopher Gillen, it's fair to say that the former members of the Tyrone club, which is nestled in the foothills of the Sperrin mountains, have made a real impact here. Warnock, who claimed triple honours with his county at minor level in 2008 (Ulster League, Championship & All-Ireland Championship) will assume

the mantle of midfield play-maker for the Australasian Irish Born side at this year's Renault GAA World Games.

"Myself and John (McCullagh) moved to Sydney in February 2017, and with Cormac McAnallen being a Tyrone man it was the only club we considered going to. We also knew a few people who were involved with the club at the time. Christopher arrived a year later so he didn't have much of a choice of who to play for!

My reading of the play would be my main strength. I'm looking forward to getting back on the field at home and hopefully

pick up some silverware while we're at it!"

The civil engineer, who was a member of the Tyrone senior panel as recently as 2013, is a huge advocate of the GAA World Games as a concept, and can't wait for the action proper to get underway.

"It's a great opportunity to showcase the growth of Gaelic Games globally. It's something incredible to be a part of, it's not somewhere I ever imagined myself ending up to be honest."

Versatile attacker McCullagh can also lay claim to an impressive array of honours from



Sean Warnock in action for Greencastle.

his underage days - claiming an Ulster and All-Ireland Minor title in 2010, while all three players were part of the 2014 Tyrone Intermediate League winning squad with Greencastle. Given the nine-a-side format that underpins the Renault GAA World Games, his pace will undoubtedly be an invaluable attribute for the team's attacking prospects.

"I normally slot into full-forward, my pace would be my main asset. I fully expect the GAA World Games to be an incredible experience on and off the pitch, it'll be a serious challenge and one I'm looking forward to."

All three have earned titles during their relatively short stints Down Under thus far, with a plethora of New South Wales and Australian Championships between them.

The trio are well settled into their new lifestyles in Oz, but while the climate and professional scene may differ somewhat to back home, the social scene hasn't altered a huge amount, it would appear, as outlined by McCullagh.

"We all live approximately within 100 yards of each other in Sydney and are best of friends so as you could imagine we do quite a lot together and our three girlfriends are all from Antrim and play for 'Mac's camogie team!'"

There are plenty of negative aspects to emigration as well of course, and John is relishing coming home for an extended

holiday, so that he can meet nieces and nephews for the first time this summer.

Gillen, meanwhile, has found that what generates the flurry of homesickness for him is often more culinary-related.

"Friends and family would be the most common answer here in terms of what I miss the most, but, to be honest, it's my Mum's dinners that I'm struggling without a lot of the time!"

All three have hopes in the future to return home and don the green and white of Greencastle before they have to hang up their boots, a collective highlight being earning promotion to Division 1 football for the first time in club's history in 2009.

McCullagh and Warnock, in particular, are well travelled footballers, garnering experience in the States prior to joining the McAnallen set up in Sydney.

"With Sean being one year older and Christopher one year younger growing up, I was always playing along with the two of them. Myself (McCullagh) and Sean played underage county football and school football together and also went to play for the Ulster club in San Francisco during the summer of 2015.

"I definitely do plan to return to Greencastle and play before I retire from football, but a lot of Greencastle people would tell you I was finished before I left!"



John McCullagh in action for the Tyrone minors against Armagh during their Ulster MFC clash in Clones, 2009.



Christopher Gillen pictured in the NSW colours.

**RENAULT GAA WORLD GAMES –  
July 28 – August 1 WIT Arena, Waterford / Finals August 2 in Croke Park**



# SHOVLIN SET TO SHINE AT RENAULT GAA WORLD GAMES

By Eoghan Tuohy



*Sarah Shovlin captained Naomh Naille to the 2017 Donegal Intermediate County Championship title.*

**F DNA is anything to go by, Donegal native Sarah Shovlin is primed to shine at this year's Renault GAA World Games in Waterford. Her own credentials, both GAA focused and on the athletics track in her youth, also make for impressive viewing.**

The daughter of 1992 All-Ireland Championship winner, Martin Shovlin, Sarah's club Naomh Naille won two club championships in a row, claiming the Junior crown in 2016 and the Intermediate in 2017, a victory made all the sweeter as she captained the side to an historic victory. Though only a month old when her father was a member of that heralded All-Ireland winning squad, it's a piece of family history she's only too happy to

have been involved in!

"Gaelic Football has always been a real 'family affair' in our house. My father, Martin Shovlin played for Naomh Ultan at a very young age. He also played for Donegal and was a member of the 1992 All Ireland Winning Team. With the Sam Maguire in Donegal at the time, I guess I was one of the lucky ones who got to sit in the cup at just one-month old."

The talented half back/midfield operator was also a gifted cross country runner in her day, securing two All-Ireland medals at her peak.

Having initially started her footballing career playing with a mixed team in the rural club of

Naomh Ultan, she then joined Naomh Naille at a later stage.

"I have been playing Gaelic Football since I was about 8 years old and got to play at both club and county level. I started playing underage with my local Club, CLG Naomh Ultan, a small Club in South West Donegal which was a mixed team. I was lucky enough through the years to get to play alongside my brother and two sisters for Naomh Ultan.

I then joined a ladies team - CLG Naomh Naille in Mountcharles where I played ladies football along with my two sisters and we have been there since."

The 26 year old, who is based in South Perth, and now plays her club football with Southern Districts, was first selected to represent the state team, before earning a spot on the

Australian side who will compete at this year's World Games.

"I was delighted to be picked to play for the Western Australia state team, but then to go further and to get to play in the World Games is something else. It is very exciting, and I am looking forward to it. It will be an experience of a lifetime and to play alongside people you have never met before and to meet new people playing for different countries along the way will be great. For the GAA World Games to be held in Ireland is also an extra bonus.

"Growing up, every person that plays Gaelic football dream of getting to play in Croke Park. We will never remember every single football field that we have ever played on but I know for a fact whichever teams make it to the finals in Croke Park, it will be a football field you will never forget that you played on."



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# TUNING IN – FROM WIRELESS TO WIFI EXHIBITION OPENS AT THE GAA MUSEUM

**T**he GAA Museum's new exhibition looks at the history of Gaelic games and broadcasting.

Tuning In – From Wireless to WiFi is a new exhibition at the GAA Museum, charting the history of Gaelic games being broadcast on the national airwaves – radio and television – and the notable individuals who commentated and brought the excitement of the games into homes throughout the country.

The first live commentary on a field sport in Europe was relayed from Croke Park on 29th August 1926. Ireland's first radio station, 2RN, broadcast the All-Ireland hurling semi-final between Galway and Kilkenny with commentary by Paddy Mehigan.

In the pre-television era, radio coverage of hurling and football on Sunday afternoons became the focal point for communities across the country as the iconic voice of Michael O'Hehir filled homes and brought to life the action and excitement on the pitch in a colourful and unique way.

The advent of television coverage in 1962 brought the spectacle of Gaelic games directly into homes with the new Radio Teilifís Éireann (RTE). On March 17th 1962 the first live television coverage of GAA matches by RTE were the Railway Cup hurling and football Finals.

The exhibition captures these and other key milestones and developments in how the coverage of Gaelic games has evolved since that first broadcast in August 1926.



*Uachtarán Chumann Lúthcleas Gael John Horan speaking with former RTÉ Gaelic Games commentator Michéal O Muircheartaigh at the opening of the new exhibition in the GAA Museum 'Tuning In – From Wireless to WiFi' at Croke Park.*

Historical artefacts from the early days of radio are on display and include wireless radio sets and broadcasting equipment from the 1920s – 1950s, courtesy of collector and radio enthusiast Pat Herbert of the Museum of Vintage Radio in Howth. The displays are complemented with selected footage and imagery from the RTÉ Archive. Highlights include footage and Micheál O'Hehir's commentary on the 1947 All-Ireland Football Final, broadcast from the Polo Grounds in New York, between Cavan and Kerry. The medal

collection of Cavan's winning captain, John Joe O'Reilly, are on display alongside jerseys worn by his team mate, Mick Higgins, and Kerry's Bill Casey.

GAA President John Horan said: "Communicating the GAA message has always been of utmost importance to us and is one of the reasons why the popularity of the games spread the way it did.

"From 1926 broadcasts of our games have illuminated afternoons and fired imaginations

with legendary household names being commented upon and commentating.

"The technology may have changed but the principles remain the same and I look forward to the focus that this GAA Museum exhibition will bring to an important part of our history."

Tuning in – From Wireless to WiFi is housed on the ground floor of the GAA Museum in Croke Park and will run until June 2020.



**Name: SINEAD LEAVY**

**Job title:** GAA Risk and Insurance Manager

**GAA Club:** Current club Portarlinton GAA / Home club Mullingar Shamrocks

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

**Favourite Club Memory:**

Mullingar Shamrocks county final 2018 after a long gap and being considered underdogs the win was very sweet. Port Minor win in 2017 which hopefully the club can build on in the coming years and use to bring home Senior Honours in the near future.

**Favourite Inter-County GAA Memory:**

Westmeath 1995 All Ireland Minor win. My first All-Ireland final that I watched from the Hill with a homemade banner. Didn't bring the homemade sandwiches though in an attempt to blend in with the locals.

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

It's like a best friend, you don't have to talk everyday but in a time of need you can always count on your club and the people to be there for you. I've a 14 month old at home and we're looking forward to bringing him into the nursery in Port and watching him learn to kick a ball and swing a hurl (in a safe and controlled manner of course!)

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

The people - my work colleagues and the many, many honest and hardworking people involved across all the clubs and counties. Insurance by its nature doesn't leave room for grey areas and it is a worry for clubs who want to ensure they are doing their best to keep their members safe and clubs protected. It's a pleasure to try and provide advice to them on a daily basis. The claims culture in Ireland gets a lot of negative commentary and it is unfortunately a significant challenge for the Association however talking to club people on a daily basis reassures you that all is not lost and the majority of people are decent people out to give and not to take. And that is what the GAA is all about.



**Name: MARGARET MURPHY**

**Job title:** Revenue Accountant - Stadium Finance

**GAA Club:** Newtown Blues, Co. Louth

**Honours won:** Junior Championship 2004, Intermediate League 2005, Junior Championship 2010, Division 4 League 2013

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

**Favourite Club Memory:** I have been very fortunate to watch my club win the Men's Senior Championship several times but my favourite club memory would be the ladies team winning their

first Senior Championship in 2014. My brother & I took over the ladies team in 2008 & the team was at the bottom of Junior. The team went on to win Junior, Intermediate & then finally the Senior Championship in 2014. Some of the girls had played since the club began in 1999 so it was really a dream come true to watch them lift the cup that day.

**Favourite Inter-County GAA Memory:** Probably the first 70 minutes of the Leinster Final in 2010 until Joe Sheridan broke all our hearts! The less said about it the better.

**What does your club mean to you?** The Blues is a part of my identity for as long as I can remember. My grandfather helped to rebuild the club after it disbanded in the 40's & my family has been involved in different aspects of the club since then so you could say I was born into it! My team mates are like a second family to me. A lot of us have played together since the team started. We spent our lives together from 21st parties to weddings, christenings & even doing guard of honour at loved ones funerals. Even though some of us have retired or moved away we always share that special bond.

**What do you like most about working in Croke Park?** I don't think I will lose the awe of walking up Jones Road into the stadium every day. It's such a special place made greater by the friendly enthusiastic people who work there. My favourite days are match days. It's amazing to see all the hard work that goes on behind the scenes to get the place ready before the supporters arrive. It really is a privilege to play a role in that.



**Name: Stacey Cahill**

**Job title:** GAA Learning and Development Officer

**GAA Club:** Na Fianna Ladies, Kildare

**Honours won:** All-Ireland medal in 2004, along with a few Leinster and club titles.

**No of Years working for the GAA:** 6 and half years

**Favourite Club Memory:** Winning the league final by a point in 2016 (we lost 3 in a row before this). We were 9 points down

6 minutes to go. Just remember kicking the winning point, falling to the ground as the final whistle was blown. The feeling of leaving everything on the pitch and surrounded by teammates and family afterwards was a sweet moment.

**Favourite Inter-County GAA Memory:** Even though I played Senior for a long time for Kildare Ladies my favourite Inter-County memories go back to minor level. It was probably the most enjoyable football I ever played in the Lillywhite jersey, narrowly losing to Galway in extra time in the 2005 All-Ireland Final.

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

It means so much. This is my first year in 20 years I'm not playing for Na Fianna Ladies and it's now I realise how much it meant to me. It's home and it gives you that sense of belonging. I miss going to training and catching up on the local gossip with the girls.

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

The nature of our work in the Community & Health Department is very varied and rewarding. Through my role the opportunities given to me have been endless and the support provided along the way has been second to none. Working in Croke Park particularly on match days is magic. The buzz you get is hard to beat.

# OUR TEAM – YOUR TEAM

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

# STRAITÉIS CLG DON GHAeilGE SEOLTA AG COMÓRTAS PEILE NA GAELTACHTA

**S**heol Uachtarán CLG, Sean Ó hÓráin, straitéis an Chumainn don Ghaeilge ag fáiltiú Chomórtas Peile na Gaeltachta ar an Luan, 3 Meitheamh, in Óstán Cheann Sibéal, Baile an Fheirtéaraigh, i nGaeltacht Chorca Dhuibhne. Tá aidhmeanna agus dúshláin shoiléire leagtha síos sa straitéis seo maidir ról CLG i gcur chun cinn na Gaeilge agus tá tiomantas an Chumainn don teanga daingnithe inti.

I measc na nithe is suntasaí atá luaite sa straitéis, tá an sprioc a bhaineann leis na struchtúir don Ghaeilge a neartú ó Choiste Náisiúnta na Gaeilge síos go dtí na cúigí, go dtí na contaetha agus uaidh sin chuig na clubanna. Tá comhoibriú le heagraíochtaí Gaeilge luaite inti freisin, chomh maith le húsáid éifeachtach a bhaint as ardáin chumarsáide an Chumainn chun an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn.

Ag labhairt dó faoin straitéis mhaígh Uachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Gael, Seán Ó hÓráin: 'Tá an Ghaeilge ag croílár Chumann Lúthchleas Gael agus aithníonn muid an tábhacht a bhaineann léi sa Chumann. Tá spriocanna soiléire inlámhsithe luaite sa straitéis seo agus tá ríméad orm go bhfuil tiomantas an Chumainn do chur chun cinn na Gaeilge le feiceáil go soiléir inti.'

Dúirt Seosamh Mac Donncha, Cathaoirleach Choiste Náisiúnta Gaeilge Chumann Lúthchleas Gael: 'Tá an-áthas orm go bhfuil an straitéis seo don Ghaeilge seolta againn. Leagann sí síos fíis shoiléir do ról na Gaeilge i gCumann Lúthchleas Gael. Cinnteoidh sí go dtaispeánfaidh an Cumann cinnireacht maidir le cur chun cinn na Gaeilge agus go ndéanfar freastal ar bhaill an Chumainn a bhfuil Gaeilge acu.'

Is féidir cóip den straitéis seo a fháil trí ríomhphost a chur chuig [jamie.otuama@gaa.ie](mailto:jamie.otuama@gaa.ie)



# ÁR GCLUICHÍ, ÁR LAOCHRA – NIALL Ó MUINEACHÁIN

San eagrán is deireanaí seo de Ár gCluichí, Ár Laochra, cuireann muid 20 ceist ar Niall Ó Muineachán, laoch mór iomána de chuid CLG Chill Droichid agus Chill Dara. Tá os cionn deich mbliana caite aige ag imirt lena chontae agus é mar cheannaire mór i measc na gcúlaithe ar an bhfoireann. Dar ndóigh, ba é Niall a bhí mar chaptaen ar Chill Dara nuair a bhuaigh siad Corn Christóir Uí Rinn thiar sa bhliain 2014.

Bhí an Gaeilge lárnach i mo shaol ó aois an-óg. Úsáidim Gaeilge go rialta nuair a bhím ag labhairt le mo chlann agus le mo chairde. Caithim an fáinne le bród.

Niall Ó Muineachán, Bealtaine 2019

Cuir aithne níos fearr ar Niall anseo thíos!

## Ainm:

Niall Ó Muineachán

## Aois:

29

## Club:

Cill Droichid

## Contae:

Cill Dara

## An scannán is fearr leat?

The Goodfellas

## An banna ceoil is fearr leat?

Damien Dempsey

## An áit is fearr leat?

Cathair na Gaillimhe

## An bia is fearr leat?

Stéig

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

Eoin Kelly as Tiobraid Árann

## An chéad chuimhne CLG atá agat:

Cluiche faoi 8 i gcoinne Ard Cloch

## An chéad uair ar imir tú le do chontae:

2008

## An t-imreoir is fearr le himirt leat:

Gerry Keagan

## An t-imreoir is fearr le himirt i do aghaidh:

Andy O' Brien as Cill Mhantáin

## An cluiche is fearr a d'imir tú riamh:

Craobh Chontae Chill Dara i 2018

## Buaicphointe do shaoil imeartha le do chontae go dtí seo:

Bhí mé i mo chaptaen ar fhoireann Chill Dara nuair a bhuaigh muid Craobh Christy Ring i 2014

## Buaicphointe do shaoil imeartha le do chlub go dtí seo:

Roghnaith do fhoireann na hÉireann i gcoinne na hAlban i 2015

## Gluais / Glossary

eagrán is deireanaí – latest edition

/ laoch – hero / ceannaire – leader

/ cúlaithe – back

/ Corn Christóir Uí Rinn – Christy Ring Cup /

lárnach – central / go rialta – regularly

/ Roghnaithe – selected / bréaga – lies

## An duine is mó a raibh tionchar aige/aici ar do shaol imeartha go dtí seo:

Mo dheartháir Fíachra

## Aon chomhairle agat do imreoirí óga?

Bain taitheamh as an turas agus úsáid an balla gach lá. Ní insíonn an balla bréagal!

## Aon chaitheamh aimsire eile?

Galf nuair a bíonn an t-am agam



Niall Ó Muineachán agus muintir Chill Droichid tar éis dóibh Craobh Christóir Uí Rinn a bhuaich i 2014

# ROUNDERS CHAMPS CROWNED AT FÉILE

**M**ore than 300 players from across 10 different counties took part in this month's U13 boys and girls Rounders John West Féile in County Laois.

On June 3rd, 27 teams from Dublin, Meath, Sligo, Laois, Galway, Carlow, Longford, Mayo and Limerick, traveled to The Heath GAA in Laois where after 60 hectic games we crowned our first set of 2019 All Ireland Champions.

Emo of Laois battled Fenagh, Breaffy, Easkey and Skryne in their preliminary games, and paired against Breaffy, again in the Semi-Finals. Emo would eventually go on to become Under 13 Boys All Ireland Champions, after beating The Harps, 10-6 in the final.

The Harps Girls from Laois, had an impressive debut, not losing a single game all day.

They saw off tough competition from The Heath, Easkey, Cuchulainn, Ballybrown, Clonbroney, and Skryne, to earn their spot in the Final, which they would go on to narrowly win 9-7 against local club, The Heath.



*All-Ireland boys champions at John West Féile  
– Emo of Laois*



*All-Ireland girls' champions  
– The Harps of Laois*

# HANDBALL HEROES OF FÉILE

By Austin McKenna

**T**he John West sponsored National Féile Handball competition has once again proved to be an exceptional day of Handball as the county's top young Under 14 players displayed great skills for everyone to enjoy.

Played out on Saturday 15th June, Loughmacrory, Lahorna, Clough Ballacolla and Oughterard clubs were the Div. 1 winners at the event played in Cork and Limerick.

It was one of the largest Handball Féile events of all time with 78 teams taking part, almost 400 Boys and Girls involved with 350 games played in the 4-Wall and 1-Wall grades with team numbers up again on the last few years. Whilst the main aim of this weekend is enjoyment and participation, Saturday's evening finals provided a fitting climax to the day.

GAA Handball would like to thank all the Cork and Limerick clubs for their hospitality and especially all the volunteers at each venue that ran everything so smoothly.

We also want to thank all the mentors, parents, the National and Local Féile organising committee's, but most important of all we would like to congratulate all the players for contributing to such a brilliant day of Handball that will live long in their memories.

## Team Results

### 4-Wall Boys Finals

- Div. 1: Loughmacrory (Tyrone) dft Kingscourt (Cavan) 27-25
- Div. 1 (Plate): Kells (Kilkenny) dft Abbeyknockmoy (Galway) 32-29
- Div. 2: Windgap (Kilkenny) dft Clogh (Kilkenny) 34-18
- Div. 2 (Plate): Boherbue (Cork) dft Breacach (Tyrone) 31-25
- Div. 3: Moycullen 1 (Galway) dft Friary/Abbeyside/Ballinacourty 1 (Waterford) 34-14
- Div. 3 (Plate): Galmoy (Kilkenny) dft Conna (Cork) 34-28
- Div. 4: Annaghdown (Galway) dft Carrick on Suir (Tipperary) 34-20
- Div. 4 (Plate): St. Joseph's (Wexford) dft Castlebridge (Wexford) 29-20
- Div. 5: Newmarket on Fergus (Clare) dft Moycullen 2 (Galway) 28-26
- Div. 5 (Plate): Cullohill 1 (Laois) dft Friary/Abbeyside/Ballinacourty 2 (Waterford) 38-29
- Div. 6: O'Loughlin's (Kilkenny) dft Cullohill 2 (Laois) 42-11
- Div. 6 (Plate): Mullinavat (Kilkenny) dft Templeaudigan (Wexford) 37-29

### 4-Wall Girls Finals

- Div. 1: Lahorna (Tipperary) dft Killishen (Clare) 37-23
- Div. 1 (Plate): Garryhill (Carlow) dft Cullohill (Laois) 42-8
- Div. 2: Galmoy (Kilkenny) dft Kilfane (Kilkenny) 42-13
- Div. 2 (Plate): Windgap (Kilkenny) dft Friary/Abbeyside/Ballinacourty (Waterford) 28-27
- Div. 3: Lahornal (Tipperary) dft Glenmore (Kilkenny) 42-18
- Div. 3 (Plate): Annaghdown (Galway) dft Cullohill (Laois) 37-29

### 1-Wall Boys Finals

- Div. 1: Clough Ballacolla (Laois) dft Oughterard (Galway) 36-11
- Div. 2: Killmallock 3 (Limerick) dft Laochra Láimhe 3 (Limerick) 29-28

### 1-Wall Girls Finals

- Div. 1: Oughterard (Galway) dft Mayobridge (Down) 37-23

## Skills Results

### 4-Wall Boys Div. 1

- 1st – Niall Magee (Kingscourt)
- 2nd – John Hayes (Kells)
- 3rd – Mici Sheedy (Tuamgraney)

Loughmacrory from Tyrone are the Div 1 Féile 4 Wall champs



1 Wall Bopys Div 1 winners – Clough Ballacolla from Laois



Lahorna girls from Tipp celebrate after their 4 Wall success



Lahorna girls from Tipp celebrate after their 4 Wall success





# 1-WALL HANDBALL....PERFECT FOR YOUR GAA CLUB!

- **Is your Club looking for new ways to get members of the community involved in the Club?**
- **Is your Club looking at running any health initiatives for its members?**
- **Is your Club interested in an activity that can clearly develop new crossover skills to compliment the current GAA Codes played?**
- **Could your Club benefit from the addition of a non-contact GAA sport that can be played from U8 through to 70+?**

Well it's a no brainer really then isn't it? GAA Handball has been actively promoting the 1-Wall code of our game to Schools & GAA Clubs over the past few years and have seen a surge of numbers taking up the game.

In fact we have seen over 400 new purpose built facilities erected in School Halls, GAA Clubs & Youth Clubs in five years.

But don't let that frighten you because all you need is a flat wall, a flat floor, a handball and your good to go! And if you do want to go the extra yard and build a wall, it should only cost between €500-€1000. See samples below. National and Local Féile organising committee's, but most important of all we would like to congratulate all the players for contributing to such a brilliant day of Handball that will live long in their memories.

### Key Benefits:

- The game is fast paced and highly skilled at the elite level.
- But it is also very straight-forward and fun for

- beginners to take up, no matter your age or sex.
- Improve your speed, agility, hand eye coordination, reaction time and speed of thought.

Particularly beneficial for Hurlers & Camogs

Don't want to take our word for it? What about the word of Clare All-Star Peter Duggan, Kilkenny's multiple All-Ireland & All-Star winner Richie Hogan, and Kilkenny great DJ Carey.

All three, among others, have went on record to state their days playing Handball have without doubt enhanced their skills on the Hurling field. Believe it or not, Carey (23&U) & Hogan (15&U) are actually former World Handball Champions!

### Did you know?

- 1-Wall Handball (or Wallball), is played all over the world....and is growing fast!
- New York is known as the 1-Wall Mecca as such, with 2000 public courts all over the city in parks
- There is a European 1-Wall Tour with stops in London, Valencia, Belgium, Holland, Italy and France.
- In South America, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Colombia and the Dominican Republic consistently produce top quality players

Get in touch for more details

National Development Officer Darragh Daly –  
[development.handball@gaa.ie](mailto:development.handball@gaa.ie)  
 – [www.gaahandball.ie](http://www.gaahandball.ie)



## NORTH MEATH HURLING FIRMLY ON THE MAP

**T**he North Meath Hurling initiative began in September 2017 when four neighbouring clubs - St. Michaels, Moynalty, Kilmainhamwood and Nobber met with the County Board Games Development team Peter Durnin and Jamie Queeny with the aim of trialing hurling in the area.

Thanks to the backing and support from Brogan's Centra, Carlanstown, a Centra Hurling day was held at St. Michaels on the 30th September, 2017 to launch North Meath Hurling.

Both All-Ireland Trophies were available for photos, there were "give it a go" sessions facilitated by County Board Coaches and Wexford dual star Lee Chin was in attendance to meet and greet.

Schools in the area were then visited by County Board Coach Páraic Burke throughout late September through to early November 2017.

Coaching sessions were then kicked off on Friday evenings in Cormeen Sports Complex in mid-October 2017. Three County Board Coaches conducted the sessions which were attended by up to 70 children and this carried on every Friday night over the winter, finishing in late February 2018.

As a result, 16 volunteer parents were trained

up as mentors over the same period including a session provided by the National Hurling Director Martin Fogarty in Cormeen. North Meath U-8's and U-10's entered teams into the 2018 Go Games, impressing in all games and the season culminated in St Michaels at a Hurling Cúl Camp in August 2018.

A highlight of the year was for North Meath U-8's who had a huge day out in Croke Park on the April 4, 2018, where they played two games against the Kilkenny Club Barrow Rangers.

In 2019, Friday night training resumed in Cormeen Sports Complex in early January with coaching carried out by in-house North Meath Coaches with 84 to 96 kids taking part each week.

Schools in the area are also being visited by Meath Coaching and Games Coach Chloe Mahon throughout February. Martin Fogarty, National GAA Hurling Director, made another visit to Cormeen Sports Complex in February and carried out a practical coaching session which was enjoyed by everyone, kids, parents and coaches alike. His enthusiasm, passion and practical approach has been very much appreciated.

North Meath look forward to the U12 league, U8 and U10 go games starting in March and will also be entering an U15 team into the Táin Óg Hurling League beginning in April 2019. St



Michaels are hosting another Cul Camp later in the year. North Meath Hurling coaches wish to express thanks to all of the parents for their ongoing support and to neighbouring clubs for taking part on Saturday making it a special and historic day for all concerned on the new pitch in Deerpark.

The support from Meath Coaching and Games, Local Schools, Brogans Centra and the National GAA Director is also very much appreciated by all concerned.

# ERIN'S ISLE GOING THE EXTRA MILE

By John Harrington

**S**ometimes it's easy to take for granted just how positive an impact your GAA club has on the local community.

Every now and then though there are reminders you just can't help but notice, and that was the experience for everyone who took part in Erin's Isle GAA club's recent family BBQ and sports day.

The day's festivities included a sponsored walk – 'Miles for Isles' – that took them through the heart of Finglas, and it was about as vivid a demonstration as you can get of the GAA's manifesto, 'Where We All Belong'.

Like many other GAA clubs, Erin's Isle have

come to realise in recent years that you can't simply expect that sort of ethos to blossom organically, you have to make the effort to welcome people through the gates.

One of Dublin's most successful clubs in the 1990s, their fortunes dipped somewhat thereafter but are on the rise again thanks to a lot of hard work on the ground and an open arms approach to prospective members.

There has long been a talent-drain out of the community of Finglas, so the club knows it has no other option other than to work hard to constantly bring new people in.

"If you get a good paying job then most likely

situation is that you'll move location out of Dublin 11," explained Erin's Isle club chairman Paul Campbell.

"And if you move away from Dublin 11 it means that every generation of your family after that point has also gone from the club unless you're very committed to the club.

"Sometimes there's a branding problem. People have pre-conceived ideas when they come over to Finglas and we would have socio-economic issues that a lot of clubs wouldn't have to consider.

"But there are an awful lot of good people living here and those numbers are growing.

"Our intention is to keep pushing to increase our participation rates as we really feel by doing so that we're making a difference in our community and most importantly to the individual's lives.

"We want our kids to achieve on the field, but we also want to facilitate them to help them on their journey to becoming positive contributors to society.

"We like to think we're making a real difference. There's a lot of energy around our club and that was very evident on the recent walk."

The old Irish proverb Mol an Óige agus tiocfaidh sí (praise the young and they will

flourish) seems like an apt one as far as Erin's Isle GAA club is concerned.

Doing all they can to encourage local children to join the club and then stick with it is top of their priority list.

"One of the biggest things that we try to do is to leave the club gates open all summer and we'd encourage the kids to go down and hang around," said Campbell.

"If you were to go down now, there would be 30, 40, 50, 60 kids hanging around.

"We leave the ball wall open so that they can go down and work on their skills and hang out. You'd have boys and girls mingling respectfully.

"Within those walls is a sanctuary and it has been a sanctuary for kids of this area for many years.

"When you get a buy-in from parents and they know that the kids are within those walls, then they know it's a safe place.

"There's plenty of anti-social stuff happening around them, but within those walls they are protected. We just ask that they bring a hurley or a ball down with them."

The club isn't just focused giving the youth of Finglas an opportunity to play Gaelic Games.



Erin's Isle GAA club members march towards their club grounds after completing their 'Miles for Isles' sponsored walk.



*Erin's Isle juveniles pictured before taking part in the 2018 'Mini Muckers' run at Punchestown.*

Well-rounded people tend to make well-rounded players and club volunteers, which is why Erin's Isle have taken a very holistic approach to how they engage with their younger members.

One of the club's mission statements is to assist their younger members to reach their potential through a personal development programme focusing on education and a healthy lifestyle.

"One of the most innovative projects that the club has initiated is our education program where we provide tutorials and grinds to fifth and sixth year students and arrange talks with club-members that have been successful in their profession," said Campbell.

"Then when the kids get into college we give them a financial bursary, something towards an electronic device such as a computer, tablet or indeed a payment towards annual tuition fees.

"We also have a mentorship programme in place so if some of our participants are doing accountancy or computer science, we pair them up with qualified members within the club who are working in the industrial sector such as the financial or computer science industry. We're getting a lot of success through initiatives like that.

"We're bringing a minor team into Mountjoy on Saturday just to show them the reality of what it's like in there.

"We'll have a few people giving them talks, prison officers who are involved in the club. Just to keep them on the right path and in the right frame of mind.

"We're getting a lot of plaudits from local councillors and gardai because they know what we're doing and they're 100 per cent supportive of what we're trying to do.

"There's no doubting there's a little bit of madness around here, but there's nothing wrong with a little bit of controlled madness."

Erin's Isle were a powerhouse of Dublin football in the 1990s when they contested five county finals in a row, winning two of them.

They're not quite at that level now, but their graph is beginning to rise again thanks to a focus on improving the club's facilities, underage structures, and general presence in the community.

"Our goal is to increase the amount of kids that will eventually enter the adult ranks," said Campbell. "There has been an evident slide from where we were in the last century, we are where we are.

"But what we're seeing now is that all our teams are starting to move up the divisions through the hard work of some really special people working diligently over the last decade, coaches that have bought into the Erin's Isle family ethos which is having a positive impact

with our kids.

"Our boy's teams are starting to compete where we want them with our U-16 team playing in Division 1 and an U-13 team playing Division 1 in Hurling & football. Our U-14 team is playing Division 2 and hopefully Division 1 next year. Our biggest growth area is amongst our Girls/Ladies section with some fantastic numbers and indeed talent coming through.

"We know where we need to go and the energy is palpable down in the club at the moment. Yes, you get your upsets on the field, but you just have to dry your eyes and keep pushing forward.

"We have quite an aggressive plan before us to get our facilities to the highest achievable standard to match the best in Dublin.

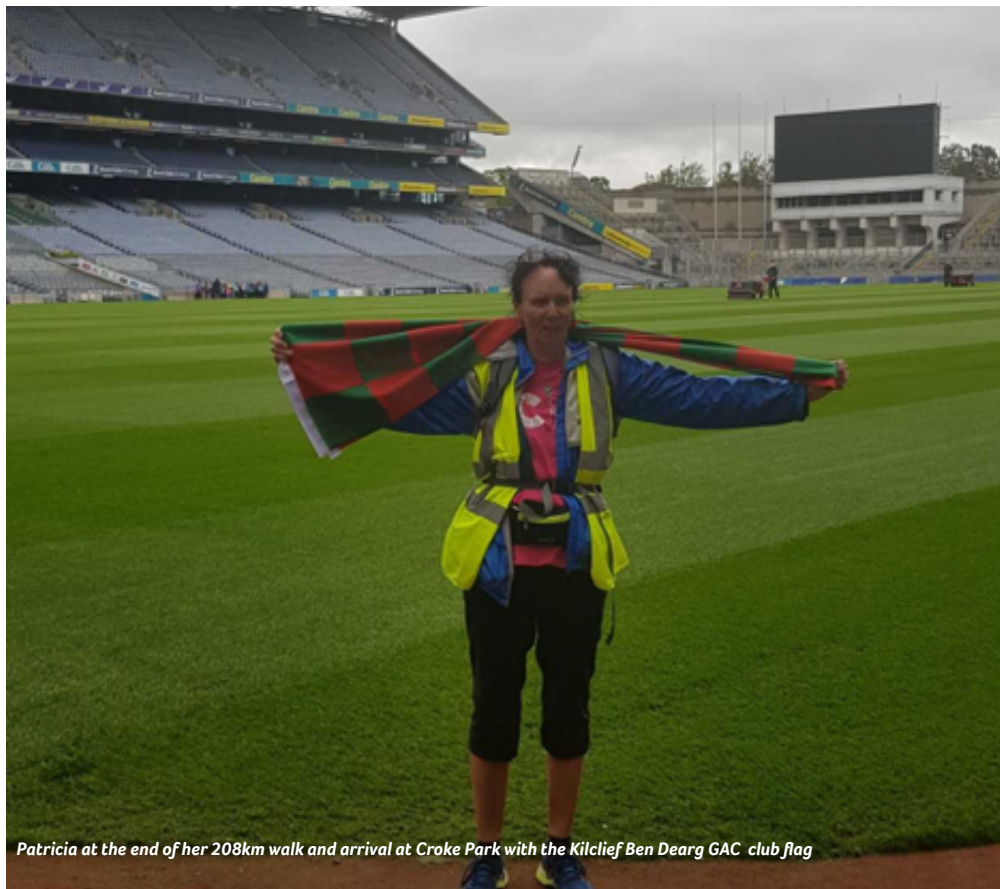
"If we increase the standard of the facilities, if we get the coaching standards to a higher level then hopefully we will see an increase in numbers, because ultimately it's a numbers game."



*The Erin's Isle team that won the Dublin 2019 Féile Peil na nÓg Division 2 title.*

# CLUB WOMAN'S 208KM WALK TO CROKE PARK IN HONOUR OF HER LATE HUSBAND RAISES MORE THAN €14,000 FOR CHARITY

By Michael Devlin, gaa.ie



Patricia at the end of her 208km walk and arrival at Croke Park with the Kilclief Ben Dearg GAC club flag

**S**unday, June 16, marked the one-year anniversary of the sad passing of Kilclief Ben Dearg GAC stalwart, Pat Watterson.

After battling first leukaemia and then bowel cancer, Pat passed away aged 79, but thanks to

clinical research funded by Cancer Research UK, he was able to enjoy six final good years of life on a trial drug - years he continued to live to the fullest.

In his memory, and with the aim of raising

€10,000 in aid of vital cancer research, his wife Patricia set out on the massive undertaking of walking 208 km from the grounds of Ben Dearg at Kilclief Park in Co. Down to Croke Park, two places close to Pat's heart.

Her trek from Down to Dublin began along with family friend Francie Morgan on Sunday 26th May, two days before what would have been Pat's 80th birthday. Her goal was to arrive at Croke Park just before the first anniversary date of June 16.

Patricia smashed her targets, reaching her destination on the 6th of June. On last count, the donation fund stood at a hefty €14,714. On that day, she and Francie powered through the final hundred yards to the stadium, where she was proudly greeted by her children. Draped around her was the green and red flag of Kilclief Ben Dearg GAC.

Patricia's achievement in memory of her late husband was fitting, and completing the arduous journey was never doubted by Patricia's friends in the Kilclief community. An avid walker for many years, she and Pat had walked the Camino de Santiago together in 2002. He was a loyal supporter of Patricia in her many charitable ventures, which saw them travel throughout Ireland as she walked to raise money for cancer charities.

"Everybody up here was chuffed, but we weren't surprised," says Ben Dearg club member and Pat's close friend, Phelim Sharvin. "Patricia has got a steely determination. It was a great tribute to Pat,

someone who is steeped in the GAA."

Pat was a Downpatrick man, and served the local GAA club there, the Russell Gaelic Union, as a player and committee member. In the late 1960's, he took up a headmaster post in St Malachy's Primary School in Kilclief, a village on the edge of Co. Down's eastern coast, in a small area that juts out over the Strangford Lough known as Lecale.

"When Pat did that, he basically just immersed himself in everything in Kilclief," says Phelim. "His family would have been from farming stock in the area, so he always had ties."

Not before long, Pat started lining out for the Ben Dearg senior football team, who were then Down Division One Champions. They were prominent participants in a competition known as the 'Top Four', a precursor to what is now the Ulster Club Championship.

The club was officially formed in 1901, but there had been Gaelic games played in the parish before that. Hearts of Down and the Red Hands clubs came together to form Ben Dearg, who took their name from the red cliffs of Killard that meet the Irish Sea.

In the earlier days, up through the 1920's and 30's, Kilclief established a strong hurling heritage. They held the long-standing record for the most Senior County Hurling Championships with 23 titles, until surpassed recently by Ballycran in 2015. Their last Championship triumph came in 1956.

“There would have been a very strong Gaelic culture here in the early years of the association, and that would have manifested itself in a very strong hurling team,” says Phelim. “They would have made up the bulk of the Down County hurling teams in those early decades.”

During the 1950s, the Ards hurling teams like Ballycran, Ballygalget and Portaferry came to the fore, at which point Kilclief’s fortunes transferred over to football. This coincided with an upsurge in Down football that heralded All-Ireland victories in 1960, 1961 and 1968.

The first team to take the Sam Maguire Cup across the border, they were the trailblazers, the Sean O’Neill’s, Paddy Doherty’s and James McCartan’s of the world. In his playing days, Pat himself would have lined out against those Down greats, both for Downpatrick and then for Ben Dearg.

Every club however, especially small rural clubs, go through cycles, and Kilclief are no different. Their football team dropped down the divisions after the ‘60s, climbed back up again in the late ‘80s and early ‘90s, competed strongly in Division Two for a period before dropping back down to Division Four in present times.

“It’s the common narrative of most GAA clubs, the peaks and troughs, but what would have been constant in our club would have been someone like Pat Watterson, who would have been constantly out on the coaching field with young kids, coaching them in the finer arts of football and hurling.”

Pat was a prime mover in Down GAA circles. He became a member of the county hurling board, the local Féile Committee, and the Cumann na mBunscol organisation, making many lifelong friends across the county. He was noted for

his fantastic ability to coach and inspire, but also his great patience, and his profession as a schoolteacher made him apt for coaching young people on the playing field.

“One thing that someone remarked to me recently actually, is that Pat Watterson would have transcended club rivalries,” says Phelim. “People from the neighbouring clubs would say that regularly. He was a unique personality in that regard, he was held in great esteem.”

His influence was felt through generations of Ben Dearg teams, especially when Kilclief won the Down Intermediate football and hurling titles in the same year in 2011, with just a small pool of players to choose from.

“Pat would have coached everybody throughout the club. The amount of kids that got measured up for their first hurling stick that was taken out of the boot of his car. Up until recent times when he was unwell, my own kids were getting their first sticks from Pat Watterson.”

In his role as director of the Ulster Community Investment Trust, who operate as Community Finance Ireland in the south, Phelim Sharvin sees first-hand how funding for development can transform a club. Not least his own club, where he and of course Pat Watterson were central to delivering a community walkway.

“We are a social finance provider, and we lend money to GAA clubs. Pat was on the committee with me, and he immediately understood the benefits a walkway would bring.”

Ben Dearg’s pitch sits just out of Kilclief Bay onto Strangford Lough. A stunning vista, on a good day you can see the Isle of Man way off in the distance. The thin wedge into the lough is known as ‘The



*The late Pat Watterson with his wife Patricia*

Narrows’, home to one of the fastest flowing currents in Europe.

“It’s perfect for a community walkway, and Pat would have seen that straight away. That was one of his interests, nature and landscapes. We pushed hard to pull that together and we got there. It was opened recently in his honour, which was fantastic. Delivering the walking path in memory of Pat was important to me”

While developing physical infrastructure and facilities in any club is vital, arguably more so is the investment in youth, strengthening identity and culture, and providing a broad range of social services for the local community. These are things that Kilclief Ben Dearg have been working hard at in recent years.

“Like every other club we have our own challenges,” says Phelim. “We have a good cohort of coaches at the juvenile level across football, hurling and camogie, and that’s what we are focusing on at the minute, instilling that love for GAA in them that Pat would have done over the years.

“I’ve often said around the committee table,

development is not all about points and goals. It’s about the awareness of our culture, the sense of place and identity, and the belonging that a GAA club can give.

That’s why Phelim and his fellow club men and women are happy and energised to be out on the training sod coaching Ben Dearg’s juvenile section, inspiring them like Pat Watterson did. The reward when a senior team wins a championship is undeniably huge, but according to Phelim, it’s just as heart-warming to be out tutoring the under 8’s taking their first steps in the game.

“I think that’s what it’s all about. Our organisation is anchored by the club unit, the parish, and the volunteering within that. That volunteerism is no more evident than when you’re coaching. There were 30 under-8 footballers out on our pitch last night, including my young daughter, and it is great fun.

“Creating that traction, teaching the fundamentals to the kids, that’s what creates the lifelong members. That’s what it’s all about really. If we are half as good as Pat Watterson was, we’ll do a fine job.”

## KIERAN DONAGHY A FAN OF GAA SUPER GAMES CENTRES

**Three-time All-Star and four-time All-Ireland winner, Kieran Donaghy, is this year leading an important GAA initiative in partnership with Sky Sports. The Kerry man is on a journey to shine a light on the work of the Super Games Centres, an initiative which aims to keep young people between the ages of twelve and seventeen playing GAA. It's an initiative which is close to Kieran's heart after he himself stepped away from the game at the age of fifteen for almost two years.**

From this Wednesday (19th June), as part of the GAA Championship Review Show (Wednesdays at 9pm on Sky Sports Arena), Kieran will be exploring the various factors contributing to youth dropout in the sport and more importantly, discussing what can be done about it.

On this week's show, Kieran chats to underage coach and Clare legend, Jamesie O'Connor, before visiting his first ever Super Games Centre in Colaiste Eoin, Carlow on next week's programme.

Speaking about his involvement in the initiative, Kieran said: "The Super Games Centres encourage teenagers to stick with the sport through player empowerment and a focus on fun and participation over winning. It takes the stress and the competitive element away, which is why I think it's so important. Teenagers today face enough pressures without feeling stressed on the pitch too.

"A lot of teenagers today aren't having fun and

probably aren't getting a game. I was one of these kids. I fell out of love with GAA and almost didn't find my way back, but I'm living proof that you can re-focus your mindset. For me, I had to start enjoying it before I could really develop my skillset as a player."

The GAA Super Games Centres is one of three initiatives that Sky is supporting as part of its continued investment of €3m in Grassroots GAA over five years. As well as providing equipment and kits for the SGC centres, Sky also supports Super Games nationwide with ambassador visits. Previous ambassadors that have supported the Super Games include Conor McManus, TJ Reid, Con O'Callaghan, Jonny Cooper, Paul Geaney, Carla Roe and Joe Canning.

Over the course of five weeks Kieran will visit three Super Games Centres; Colaiste Eoin in Carlow alongside Carlow footballer Paul Broderick, St Mary's Grammar School in Belfast alongside Antrim hurling star Neil McManus and De La Salle College in Waterford under former Waterford manager Derek McGrath and alongside Waterford captain Noel Connors. Kieran will conclude his journey with a visit to Na Fianna in Dublin to see how, at club level, they are also trying to fight teen drop off and how the concept of the Super Games Centres and its values can be reflected at club level.

***Tune into the Championship Review this Wednesday at 9pm on Sky Sports Arena as Kieran begins his Super Games Centre journey.***



*Kieran Donaghy is on a journey to shine a light on the work of the Super Games Centres, an initiative which aims to keep young people between the ages of twelve and seventeen playing GAA.*

### About the GAA Super Games Centres

Super Games Centres were developed in 2013 to respond to a 58% drop out rate from Gaelic Games in youth players between the ages of 12-22 yrs. The dropout rate has now been reduced to 49% (2017). Research has indicated that this is in line with youth sports drop out trends worldwide which range from 30-55%.

In 2018, 32,276 youth players (12-17 yr olds) participated in Super Games Centres across GAA Clubs & Post Primary Schools.

The ambition is to increase this number to over 36,000 by 2020.

The National Games Development Department has initiated a number of best practice projects,

which have had a pioneering impact on the promotion of Gaelic Games. These include: the Go Games, Kellogg's GAA Cúl Camps, Bank of Ireland Celtic Challenge, the 5 Star Centre (Primary Schools), NRG Hub (Post-Primary Schools) and the Renault GAA World Games.

Super Games Centres are another ground-breaking initiative and these are structured to ensure that the biggest possible number of Youth players are provided with an informal series of playing opportunities of a developmental nature. The response from Youth players has been very positive and there is now a growing acceptance that Super Games Centres have a key role in ensuring that young people "Play to Stay with the GAA".

### Super Games Centres' focus on 6 'Play to Stay' Values which are promoted through involvement & participation:

1. Positive Feedback - All communications are positive and promote growth.
2. Effort - Effort and physical fitness are promoted.
3. Belonging - Every player feels connected to the GAA.
4. Enjoyment - Players have fun.
5. Empowerment - Players shape and own their own games experience.
6. Respect - Everyone has due regard for each other's feelings and rights.

### Reasons indicated to the GAA why youth players drop out of Gaelic Games are:

1. Focus is too competitive and too much emphasis is placed on winning/success.
2. Players get little or no game time.
3. Players don't get selected for teams.
4. Lack of a developmental ethos (culture is on keeping the best and ignoring the rest).
5. Lack of adequate games opportunities for youth players i.e. emphasis on competitive structures and absence of a regular meaningful games programme.
6. Players having negative experiences (which is a combination of the reasons above).

### Benefits of Super Games Centres:

1. Small sided games.
2. Everyone gets to play and gets game time.
3. Games are organised by young people for young people.
4. Emphasis is on playing games rather than drills or training.
5. Fun and social element to games (players/teams are mixed up, so players can end up playing with players they don't know/are from other clubs or counties/are of different ability levels).
6. Involvement in Super Games doesn't demand competition level commitments.

For more information on the GAA Super Games Centres in partnership with Sky Sports, visit [www.gaa.ie/supergamescentres](http://www.gaa.ie/supergamescentres)



Over the course of five weeks Kieran will visit three Super Games Centres - Colaiste Eoin in Carlow, St Mary's Grammar School in Belfast and De La Salle College in Waterford.



# USE OF GAA PROPERTY – AN IMPORTANT REMINDER

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY & GUIDELINES

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

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

## KEEPING IN TOUCH

### Direct Messaging

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

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

### Communicating with underage players and teams

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

unless otherwise agreed with the parents/guardians.

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

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

### POSTING CONTENT ONLINE

Remember this!

Top tips for web and social posts

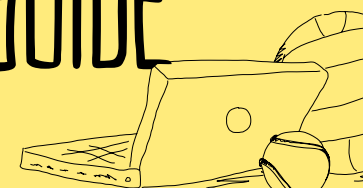
- Keep the info on your team sheets to a minimum – just a name will do! Never include membership numbers or date of birth. In addition, for underage players, never use a photo or indicate a child's school (unless it's a school fixture).
- Keep the details of your Executive to a minimum; Name, GAA email address

## Social Media Policy & Guidelines

## GO TO GUIDE

GAA

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



(when possible) and photo number will suffice. Don't include postal address or other personal details.

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

### THINK BEFORE YOU POST

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

- Ask for the player's parent's permission to use their image. This consent could be included in the annual registration

form or the GAA App.

- All children/young people featured in recordings posted online must be appropriately dressed.
- The photograph or recording posted online should focus on the activity rather than a particular young person.
- In general, no personal details relating to the young person should be revealed as accompanying materials to the photograph or recorded image, with the exception being where they are being publicly acknowledged (e.g. an award or personal achievement), for which consent has been given.
- Group and team photographs may be taken but it is not necessary to match a player's name with the position in which they may be standing or seated in the team photograph.
- Any instances of the use of inappropriate images should be reported to the GAA Unit's Children's Officer and/or appropriate person within the GAA Unit and also to the relevant statutory authorities if deemed necessary.
- Where underage members are invited to

- engage with a GAA Unit's social media accounts, parental knowledge and permission prior to the young person engaging in such communication must be sought.
- Ask parents not to post pictures of other children on their own social media accounts.
- Such interaction with GAA Unit websites or accounts should also be carefully monitored to ensure underage members are not abused or trolled on line and that they themselves do not intentionally or otherwise post inappropriate comments or materials. The GAA has an Anti-Bullying Policy which should be adhered to at all times.
- The GAA has set out in detail its policies and standards for officials engaging with underage members in the "Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport when working with underage players" and the "Guide to Maintaining appropriate levels of behaviour in our work with children and young people". Please refer to them for further detail on any of the above.

**PLAYING BY THE RULES**

All GAA members are subject to the GAA Code of Conduct when online, even when they are not acting on behalf of the GAA.

You are responsible for your actions but remember that those actions may have consequences for the GAA.

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

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

**HOW TO REPORT INAPPROPRIATE ACTIVITY**

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

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

# Social Media Policy & Guidelines

## GO TO GUIDE

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

**KEEPING IN TOUCH**

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

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

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

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

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

**POSTING CONTENT ONLINE**

**Remember this!**

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

**THINK BEFORE YOU POST**

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

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

**DO NOT TAG INDIVIDUALS**

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

**MONITORING**

- Such interaction with GAA Unit websites or accounts should also be carefully monitored to ensure underage members are not abused or trolled on line and that they themselves do not intentionally or otherwise post inappropriate comments or materials. The GAA has an Anti-Bullying Policy which should be adhered to at all times.
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**Please refer to the full version of GAA's Social Media Policy & Guidelines for further information.**



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.