

# JULY NUACHTLITIR IÚIL 2021



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# GAA COVID UPDATES

A chara,

The past week has seen some important updates for GAA clubs in both the 26 and 6 Counties

## GAA COVID-19 UPDATE FOR CLUBS IN THE 26 COUNTIES

**Attendances;** As you are aware, the Irish Government on Wednesday confirmed an increase in spectator numbers at sporting events with 200 spectators allowed at Gaelic games events in the 26 Counties from this Saturday, July 3rd. This number is in addition to the official panel/backroom team allowance of 40 per team, stewards or media attendees.

Where a ground has a minimum accredited capacity of 5,000, a maximum of 500 spectators can attend.

It is essential that all of those hosting and attending our games remain conscious of Government and GAA guidelines and follow the advice and instructions of stewards at our games.

### OTHER RESTRICTIONS

There are no other significant changes for Gaelic Games in the latest relaxations in the South. Below is a summary of the restrictions that remain in place for Gaelic Games

**Dressing Rooms** - For club games, dressing rooms must remain closed. This is to ensure the risk of players or backroom personnel being classified as Close

contacts is minimised. As in the Summer of 2020, Players should arrive ready to warm-up, play and leave the ground once the relevant game is over.

**Indoor meetings** - All club and county meetings should continue to be held remotely or outdoors (maximum of 15 people) until further notice – indoor meetings are not permitted. The Government however have indicated that this may change later in the month pending the implementation of a system to verify vaccination or immunity. We will advise further in this context once any new information is available.

**Use of Gyms** - In broader society, the use of Gyms for individual training has been permitted since June 7th. However, we are continuing to advise that club or county owned Gyms should remain closed until further notice, unless being used on an individual basis by players on a county panel. Again, this is being advised on the basis of ensuring the risk of an outbreak in a club among players and members is minimized.

**Club Bars** - Club bars are permitted to serve food and alcohol outdoors and in line with general guidance for the sector. Further information is available here.

Indoor services in Bars and Restaurants are not currently permitted.

**Drive in events** - Drive-in cinema and drive-in bingo events are permitted.

### Family fun days and other fundraising

**events** - From July 5th, it is permitted to hold family fun days or other fundraising events provided the numbers involved do

not exceed 200 persons (this is an increase from the 100-limit allowed in June), subject to adhering to the Association's guidance on insurance for such events.





## INFORMATION FOR CLUBS IN THE 6 COUNTIES

The NI Executive at their meeting yesterday confirmed a further easing of restrictions which will take effect from 5pm today, Friday 2nd July.

From then, the 500 limit on spectators at games has been removed and is replaced by a risk assessment/event plan to be developed by the event organiser (competition control committee).

For this weekend, the Ulster GAA has responded by increasing maximum attendances modestly for its events. Further details are available [here](#).

Guidance is expected from the Executive in relation to the social distance and mitigation measures that will be required for larger events and this will be shared with all units when available.

***In accordance with the GAA's 'Return to Play' protocols, dressing rooms should remain closed for all club fixtures and training sessions. In addition, it is not permitted to hold meetings indoors.***

There are no further changes to the guidance previously provided by Ulster GAA on 21 May 2021.



Labhrás Mac Carthaigh  
Uachtarán

## TRAVEL QUARANTINE (BOTH JURISDICTIONS)

Anyone returning to Ireland from abroad is likely to be subject to a period of quarantine. General information from the Irish Government in this context is available [here](#) while the requirements for arrival from specific Countries are [here](#). Rules for returning to the North from abroad can be accessed [here](#).

It is important to note that quarantine after travel is a Government requirement to help combat the spread of Covid-19 – as such, if a player, coach or member of the Association participates in a training session or game in contravention of quarantine rules in the relevant jurisdiction, they may be dealt with under Rule 7.2 (e) “Misconduct considered to have discredited the Association” (minimum 8 week suspension).

We again thank you for your support and continued co-operation with the regulations in place and remind you again that in both jurisdictions, it is essential we continue to proceed with caution and that the Return to Play Protocols linked [here](#) continue to be followed.

Is muide, le meas,



Tomás Ó Riain  
Ard Stiúrthóir



By Cian Murphy

## NEARLY €1.5M RAISED BY CLUBS IN NATIONAL DRAW

**A PHENOMENAL TOTAL OF €1,464,670 HAS BEEN RAISED BY CLUBS THROUGH THE GAA NATIONAL CLUB DRAW.**

Uachtarán Cumann Lúthchleas Gael, Larry McCarthy, presided over the eighth annual GAA National Club draw which took place in Páirc an Chrócaigh.

All of the money raised by clubs through the selling of tickets is retained by the clubs, with the list of prizes provided by Ard Chomhairle. The draw was independently observed by Brian Cormack, Audit & Assurance Director, Mazars.

Uachtarán CLG McCarthy said: "I'm delighted to tell you that in this harrowing year for us all, clubs across Cumann Lúthchleas Gael, the Camogie Association and the LGFA raised a total of €1.46m through our draw.

"That's a tremendous achievement under any circumstances and since 2014 when the draw started, a total of €13.2m has been raised by our clubs.

"The beauty of the draw is the money is kept by the clubs because all the risk is taken by Central Council. Central Council provides the prizes, prints the tickets, prints the promotional material and administers the draw so, there is no risk to a club, they simply go out and sell the tickets and a club can raise up to €25,000 every year.

"Do the math on that; if a club sold the maximum number of tickets since the draw started a club would now have €200,000 - and that'll buy a lot of sliotars.

"I thank all the clubs who participated this year, all the ticket sellers and of course the Central Council staff who administered the draw."



### SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CLUB

Opportunity for your GAA Club to raise up to €25,000



## National Club Draw Prize Winners

1. All-New Renault Clio – Christy Anita Mya and Grace Phillips, Claremorris GAA, Co. Mayo
2. €2,000 Cash Prize – Stevie Lee, Kilkerrin Clonberne GAA, Co. Galway
3. All-Ireland Hurling & Football Final Package – Cormac Flynn, Lucan Sarsfields GAA, Co. Dublin
4. All-Ireland Hurling & Football Final Package – Christy Fay, Dunderry GAA, Co. Meath
5. All-Ireland Hurling & Football Final Package – Bronagh Mullen, Mountnugent GAA, Co. Cavan
6. €1000 Cash Prize- Neil A O'Donnell, Naomh Muire Lower Rosses GAA, Co. Donegal
7. All-Ireland Hurling Final Package – Amanda Deaton, Na Fianna GAA, Co. Dublin
8. All-Ireland Football Final Package – Michael O'Connor, Crusheen GAA, Co. Clare
9. All-Ireland Hurling Final Package – Kevin Colman, O'Dwyers GAA, Co. Dublin
10. All Ireland Football Final Package – Noel Pepper, Naomh Barrog GAA, Co. Dublin
11. €500 Cash Prize- Martin Ryan, Drumcullen GAA, Co. Offaly
12. 500 Blue Book Voucher- Jamie Connolly, Tooreen GAA, Co. Mayo
13. €500 Cash Prize- Denis O'Brien, Shannon Gaels GAA, Co. Roscommon
14. €500 Shopping Voucher- George McGrath, Portobello GAA, Co. Dublin
15. €300 Cash Prize- Ciaran Porter, Naomh Mhuire Convoy GAA, Co. Donegal

## Club Specific Draw

Clubs who won €5,000 in the National Club Draw for clubs who sold a minimum of 200 tickets

- 1) Coolboy GAA, Co. Wicklow
- 2) Shankill GAA, Co. Dublin
- 3) St. Patricks Donabate, Co. Dublin

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

Galway- Menlo Emmetts GAA  
 Leitrim- Drumkeerin GAA  
 Mayo- Tooreen GAA  
 Roscommon- Shannon Gaels GAA  
 Sligo- Shamrock Gaels GAA  
 Carlow- Muinebheag GAA  
 Dublin- Good Counsel GAA  
 Kildare- Raheens GAA  
 Kilkenny- Tullogher Rosbercon GAA  
 Laois- Camross GAA  
 Longford- Legan Sarsfields GAA  
 Louth- Sean O'Mahonys GAA  
 Meath- Wolfe Tones GAA  
 Offaly- Belmont GAA  
 Westmeath- Ballinagore GAA  
 Wexford- Faythe Harriers GAA  
 Wicklow- Glenealy GAA  
 Clare- Whitegate GAA  
 Cork- St. Nicholas GAA  
 Kerry- Abbeydorney GAA  
 Limerick- Ballysteen GAA  
 Tipperary- Killenaule GAA  
 Waterford- Abbesside Ballinacourty GAA  
 Cavan- Mountnugent GAA  
 Donegal- Naomh Brid GAA  
 Monaghan- Aghnamullen GAA

## The clubs who had the highest ticket sales in each province- €1000 each

### Leinster

Fingallians, Co. Dublin (Sold: 2500)

Lucan Sarsfields, Co. Dublin (Sold: 2500)

Na Fianna, Co. Dublin (Sold: 2500)

### Ulster

Aodh Ruadh Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal (Sold: 1422)

### Connacht

Micheal Breathnach, Co. Galway (Sold: 2430)

### Munster

Tralee Parnells, Co. Kerry (Sold: 827)

To watch a video of the draw announcement, see the below link  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uq1cY52g\\_oQ&t=3s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uq1cY52g_oQ&t=3s)

## SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CLUB

Opportunity for your GAA Club to raise up to €25,000





By Cian Murphy

## 'IF EVERYONE IN THE VILLAGE GAVE THE PRICE OF A COFFEE, WE'D HAVE THE MONEY FOR A NEW DEFIBRILLATOR'

**THE DISTRESSING SCENES INVOLVING DANISH SOCCER INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN ERIKSEN, WHO SUFFERED CARDIAC FAILURE ON THE PITCH AT EURO 2020, HAS BROUGHT HOME THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING ACCESS TO DEFIBRILLATORS AND PEOPLE TRAINED IN HOW TO USE THEM.**

In Dromahair in North Leitrim, the efforts to revive and successfully save the Danish star made members of the club thankful that they have recently joined the ranks of those who have fundraised for a new AED through the GAA Community Heart Programme.

Their Healthy Club Officer Tracey Kelly says the incident has made people stop and think.

She told gaa.ie: "Seeing what happened in the soccer really does bring home how important these things are and the benefit that they can be for your club and the community.

"People in the club have said it to me since that it makes them realise how valuable it is to have access to a defibrillator - although hopefully, we never need it.

"Our pitch is a community pitch. It is in a community area that has a playground and recently also a full-size Astro pitch and a community walkway. The defib will be based there. It's of benefit to the GAA club and Naomh Pádraig LGFA and to the whole community.

"What happened with Christian Eriksen makes you realise how important they are.

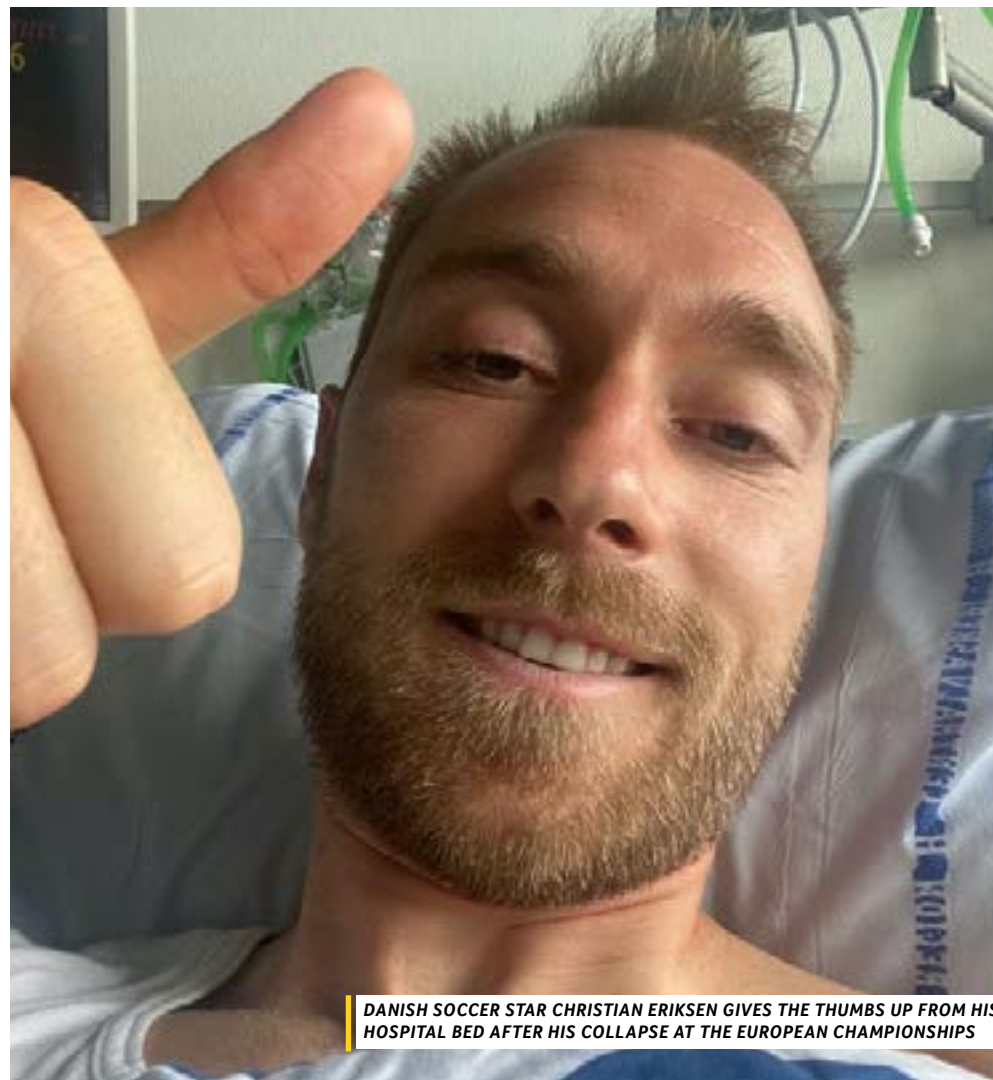
"My advice to other clubs thinking about it is to go for it - 100 per cent. The community will come together behind it.

"We had a local businessman who kindly offered to make up the difference but we were able to get the target (€2,150) because we said if everyone in the village gave the price of a coffee we'd be able to afford the unit and get over the line and these units can make all the difference in saving a life.

"The training is important too. You saw with the soccer players that there was a player who knew what to do in the recovery position and to make sure Eriksen didn't swallow his tongue.

"We've a fabulous GP in our area and involved with the club, Gerry Ballantine, but he is only one person, so this is a great peace of mind to have in the area.

"If we save one person's life as a result of having it in the community then it has been worth it."



DANISH SOCCER STAR CHRISTIAN ERIKSEN GIVES THE THUMBS UP FROM HIS HOSPITAL BED AFTER HIS COLLAPSE AT THE EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Clubs in all four provinces are currently fundraising for one of the new units which have been discounted for clubs, but also the Stryker manufactured model involved is connected to the internet to stay in contact with club representatives to alert them of any issues to ensure it stays operational.

Tracey added: "It can be hard on clubs especially during Covid to be out checking the unit to make sure it was working but, this way, with the new unit, it is great to know that it has been set up and linked to the secretary's email and I have it too on my laptop and we know if anything needs to be checked we will be alerted.

"We will still carry out checks, but if for some reason it fell between the cracks and wasn't checked, at the back of your mind you know it is working.

"We mainly used social media to push fundraising and it took about a month. With Covid it was difficult because there have been a lot of worthy charities looking for people to support, which is great, but we had a meeting and said if we can get behind this we will get it done and the whole community got behind it, even non-GAA people, because they could see that the whole community is going to benefit from it being there, although please God we never need to use it.

"There is a defib group in Dromahair and we hope with their help to organise outdoor training shortly. Our aim is to have at least one person per every age group who is trained up on the unit and anyone else then who wants to be involved. Knowing what to do can make all the difference."

Clubs who do not have access to a defibrillator are strongly encouraged to do so. Clubs who have a unit that is more than 10 years old are also advised to consider a replacement and upgrade and for all units to always be Accessible, Checked and Charged and with people Trained in their use.

Where can a Club find out more about the Community Heart Programme?  
Communication and a registration link to the Community Heart Programme has already been sent to all GAA Club secretaries. Club members can find out more information and look up their club to place a donation at:

**[https://savealife.  
communityheartprogram.com/gaa](https://savealife.communityheartprogram.com/gaa)**

***Alternatively, you can use  
the QR Code***



**ANTRIM HURLER NEIL MCMANUS OF CUSHENDALL GAA CLUB IN ANTRIM. NEIL IS AN AMBASSADOR FOR THE GAA COMMUNITY HEART PROGRAMME WHICH SEEKS TO RAISE AWARENESS OF THE BENEFITS OF DEFIBRILLATORS TO CLUBS AND MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO FUNDRAISE TO ACQUIRE THEM. NEIL'S WORK IS INSPIRED BY HIS FAMILY EXPERIENCE FIVE YEARS AGO WHEN HIS FATHER WAS SAVED BY THE PRESENCE OF A DEFIBRILLATOR IN THE COMMUNITY DURING AN EMERGENCY. GAA CLUB-BASED DEFIBRILLATORS HAVE BEEN USED TO SAVE 42 LIVES.**





Le Jamie Ó Tuama

# CROÍ PHOBAL CHUMANN CAIDE NA GAELTACHTA AG PREABADH GO LÁIDIR

**TÁ AN CLÁR 'COMMUNITY HEART' NÓ 'CROÍ AN PHOBAIL' DE CHUID CHUMANN LÚTHCHLEAS GAEL, I GCOMHAR LE HEART SAFETY SOLUTIONS, FAOI LÁNSEOL UM AN DTACA SEÓ. COINNÍODH 42 DUINE BEO LE BLIANTA BEAGA ANUAS DE BHARR DÍFHIBRILEOIRÍ A BHEITH LONNAITHE I GCLUBANNA DE CHUID AN CHUMAINN. MOLTAR GO LÁIDIR DO CHLUBANNA AR FUD AN OILEÁIN AGUS NÍOS FAIDE I GCÉIN DÍFHIBRILEOIRÍ A FHÁIL DÁ GCUID CLUBANNA AGUS DÁ GCUID POBAL. NÍL A FHIOS CÉN UAIR A MBEADH SIAD AG TEASTÁIL.**

Mar chuid den chlár faigheann gach club lacáiste de €995 ar gach dífhibrileoir, má éiríonn leo €2,150 eile a bhailiú trí thiomsaitheoirí éagsúla airgid a eagrú. Cuireann Heart Safety Solutions an dífhibrileoir ar fáil ina dhiaidh sin agus déanann siad cinnte go bhfuil siad ag feidhmiú mar is ceart agus go bhfuil siad ceangailte le seoltaí áirithe ríomhphoist de chuid an chlub.

Labhair mé le Conall Ó Cíobháin ó Chumann Caide na Gaeltachta i gCorca Dhuibhne an tseachtain seo. Tá an-iarracht á déanamh ag an gclub airgead a bhailiú le dífhibrileoirí a cheannach agus tuigean siad go rímhaith an tábhacht a bhaineann lena leithéid. Tá a ndóthain airgid bailithe ag an gclub le trí cinn d'fhibrileoirí a fháil mar chuid den fheachtas seo. Labhair Conall faoi na rudaí a bhí idir lámha acu leis an airgead a bhailiú.

'Is dócha gurbh é an feachtas 'Croí an Phobail' a thosnaigh an rud seo amach', a mhíníonn Conall. 'Nuair a bhíomar ag



GORT GHALLARAIS, BAILE CHUMANN CAIDE NA GAELTACHTA



caint le linn cruinniú ghlac an Coiste leis, agus bhrúmar chun cinn leis. Thosnaíomar ag roinnt an leathanaigh Go Fund Me ar ár leathanaigh ar na meáin shóisialta, ar Instagram, ar FB agus ar Twitter.

‘Bhí iontas orainn cé chomh flaithiúlach a bhí muintir na háite agus is dócha go luíonn sé sin isteach leis an tábhacht a bhaineann le CLG sa gceantar so, go mbeadh a leithéid de sheirbhís ar fáil agus dífhibrileoir ar fáil, ní hamháin do CLG nó do Chumann Caide na Gaeltachta ach don bpobal ar fad.

‘Tuigimid go bhfuilimid buailte leis an dtráigh. Bíonn an tráigh so gnóthach gach aon lá. Bíonn ualach daoine a thig timpeall anso le linn bhiaiste an tsamhraidh agus táimid breá sásta go mbeadh dífhibrileoir ar fáil dóibh. Níor mhaith linn go mbeadh sé in úsáid riamh ach b’fhéidir go mbeadh lá éigint.’

Chuir sé iontas ar Chonall agus ar lucht an chlub cé chomh flaithiúil is a bhí a gcuid ball agus cairde eile de chuid an chlub. ‘Is dócha gurbh é an feachtas bailiúcháin airgid a bhí againn ná ‘Croí an Phobail’ agus fé mar a dúrt, bhí an pobal fíorflaithiúlach linn’, a deir Conall. ‘Rud a chuir iontas orainn is dócha níos mó ná aon ní eile ná baill den gCumann atá lonnaithe timpeall na tíre, cuid acu nach raibh ina mbaill ar feadh cúpla bliain.

‘Chonacadar an feachtas ar líne agus bhíodar ar an bhfón chugainn agus bhí cúpla sintiús fíorluachmhar ann don gCumann. Ba mhaith liom buíochas a dhéanamh leis na daoine san agus leis na daoine ar fad a chabhraigh linn go dtí so.’ Tá trí dhífhibrileoir cinntithe ag Cumann Caide na Gaeltachta go dtí seo agus cuireann Conall síos ar a bhfuil i gceist ag an gclub a dhéanamh leo.

‘Tá muid fíorbhuíoch don scéim san ‘Croí an Phobail, a chabhraigh go mór linn. Tá súil againn dífhibrileoir amháin a bheith

againn i bPáirc Caide Ghallaraí, ceann eile a bheith againn sa pháirc nua agus beidh an triú ceann á iompar linn má bhíonn foireann shinsir ag imirt as baile nó na foirne mionúir is mar sin.’

Tuigeanann Conall agus a chlub, Cumann Caide na Gaeltachta, an tábhacht mhór a bhaineann leis an gclár seo agus molann sé do chlubanna a bheith ar airdeall maidir leis an gceist áirithe seo.

‘Is é an chomhairle is mó a bheadh agam d’aon chlub nach bhfuil defib acu’, a deir Conall, ‘ná, téir amach maidin amárach agus ceannaigh ceann. Bíodh feachtas bailiúcháin airgid agaibh.

‘Tuig go dtuigfidh daoine laistigh den gceantar féin an tábhacht a bhaineann le dífhibrileoir a bheith ar fáil agus nach don gcumann caide nó don gcumann iomána amháin é, ach don bpobal ar fad. Tá a fhios againn ar fad gurb é an difríocht atá ann, ná, b’fhéidir go bhfaigheadh duine éigint bás nó go mbeidís ina mbeathaigh. Ní dócha go bhféadfadh leat aon luach a chur air sin.’

D’fhéadfadh sé tarlú go bhfuil dífhibrileoirí i gclubanna atá níos nó mó ná deich mbliana d’aois. Tá seans maith ann nach n-oibríonn na dífhibrileoirí sin a thuilleadh agus moladh mór a bheadh ag Conall do chlubanna ná gur cheart tástáil a dhéanamh ar shean-dífhibrileoirí le cinntiú go bhfuil siad ag obair. Ní fiú dífhibrileoir a bheith ag club muna n-oibríonn sé.

‘Gan dabht, tá a lán cumann leis agus b’fhéidir go mbeadh dífhibrileoir acu le deich mbliana anuas, nó, b’fhéidir níos mó. Is é an moladh a bheadh ansan, muna bhfuil sé úsáidte agat nó má thá sé chomh sean san, bí siúráilte go bhfuil sé ag obair. Bí siúráilte go bhfuil sé ag obair mar ní bheadh faic ní ba mheasa ná daoine ag lorg do dhífhibrileora agus gan é a bheith ag obair.

‘Mar sin, tá sé ríthábhachtach go mbíonn duine éigint á seiceáil i gcónaí, go bhfuil na dífhibrileoirí ullamh agus le cúnamh Dé,

mar a dúrt, nach mbeadh ar aoinne riamh iad a úsáid ach gan dabht is áis iontach iad a bheith ann.’

## Is féidir tuilleadh eolais a fháil faoin gClár ‘Croí an Phobail’ nó ‘Community Heart’ ag an nasc [seo](#):



**Community Heart Program**

**Providing life-saving Automated External Defibrillators (AED) to the GAA Community**

Every Donation makes a difference. Find your Club below to make your contribution today!

Your Club Secretary has been sent a link in order to register your Club for the Community Heart Program. If you cannot find your Club in order to donate, please contact [GAA@hearts.ie](mailto:GAA@hearts.ie)

[DONATE TO A CLUB](#)

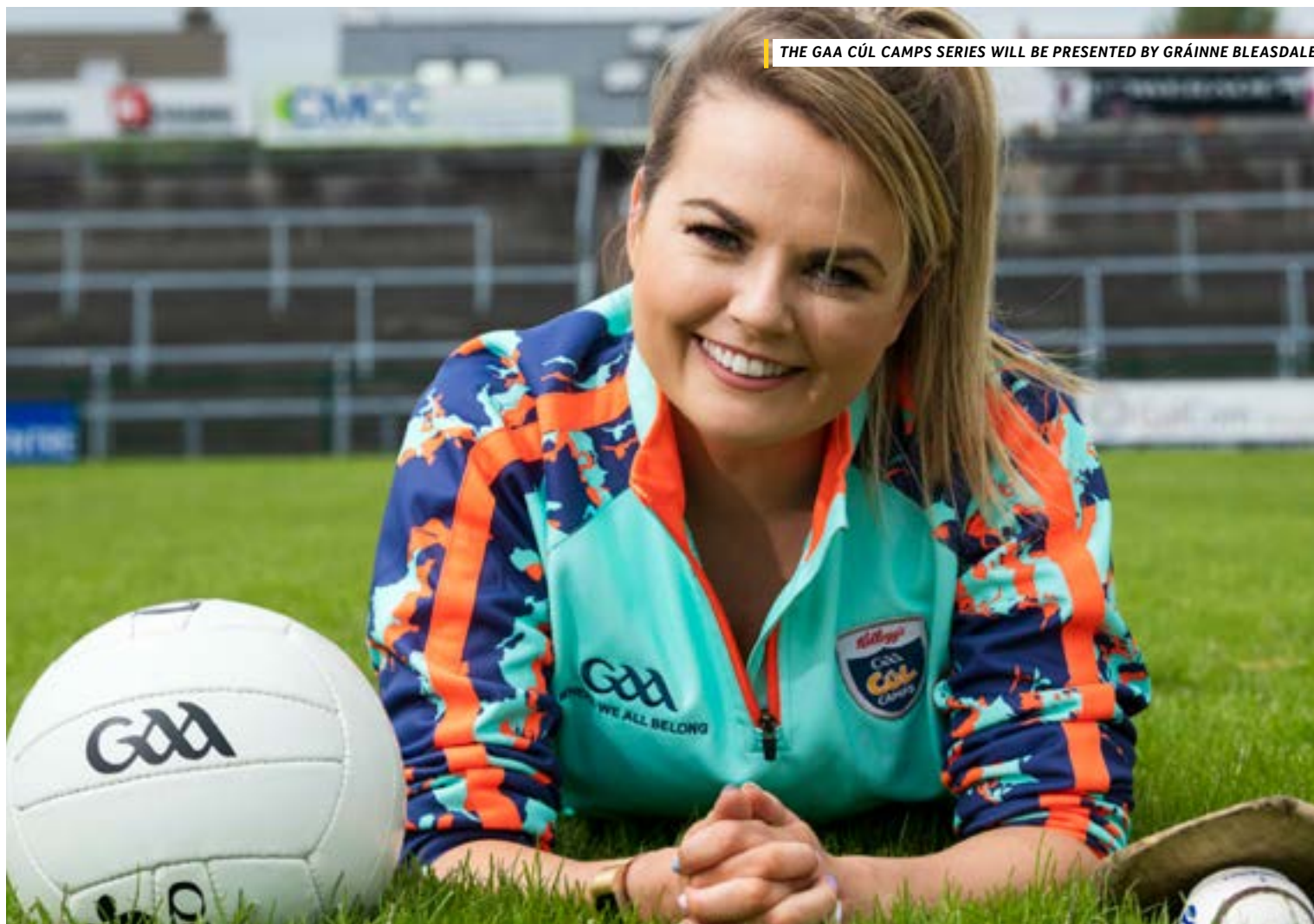
## KELLOGG'S GAA CÚL CAMPS ARE BACK FOR A SECOND SEASON ON TG4

THE GAA CÚL CAMPS SERIES WILL BE PRESENTED BY GRÁINNE BLEASDALE.

**THE GAA, IN CONJUNCTION WITH KELLOGG AND TG4, ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE GAA CÚL CAMPS SHOW WILL AIR FOR A SECOND SEASON ON TG4 FOR SIX WEEKS THIS SUMMER. THE SERIES BEGINS ON MONDAY 28TH JUNE AT 7:30PM WITH THE CAMPS THEMSELVES ALSO STARTING UP AROUND THE COUNTRY ON THE SAME DAY. THE SERIES WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE TG4 PLAYER [TG4.IE](#), MAKING THE RETURN TO CAMP ACTIVITY, BOTH LIVE AND ON DEMAND, AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE AT HOME AND ABROAD.**

The GAA Cúl Camps series will be produced by Waterford based Nemeton TV, and presented by Gráinne Bleasdale. This year's series will include skills, drills and segments from GAA experts that will appeal to all the family from All-Ireland winning Dublin Ladies Football star Sinéad Aherne, Cork Camogie champion Linda Collins, Waterford Hurler Tadhg de Búrca, and Tipperary's Séamus Kennedy along with Galway Footballer Paul Conroy and Donegal's Ryan McHugh. Each programme will feature two families who will try their new skills. The GAA is committed to providing children with the opportunity to play Gaelic games this summer and looks forward to a new season of both broadcast and live Kellogg's GAA Cúl Camps.

Since 2006, 1,460,829 children have participated in the GAA's Cúl camps. In 2020, the Kellogg's GAA Cúl Camps proved a great success and provided a welcome diversion for over 70,000 children across the country from the Covid-19 restrictions. 2021 marks the 10th year of Kellogg's sponsorship and the return of the







THE GAA CÚL CAMPS SERIES WILL INCLUDE SKILLS, DRILLS AND SEGMENTS FROM GAA EXPERT, WATERFORD HURLER TADHG DE BÚRCA.

eagerly anticipated on-pack competition, offering clubs the chance to win prizes worth €25,000, €10,000 or €5,000.

GAA President Larry McCarthy welcomed the new series saying, "Best wishes to everyone involved in the Kellogg's GAA Cúl Camps in the weeks and months ahead. A special word of acknowledgement to Kellogg and TG4 for the creativity they

showed last year in helping us to connect with so many young people through the television programme. I hope it's every bit as successful this year."

Sarah Ferguson, Kellogg Market Head Ireland said: "We are delighted to see the Kellogg's GAA Cúl Camps return to TG4 after last year's successful show and it's a great way to celebrate our 10

years of sponsorship. The Kellogg's GAA Cúl Camps have become a staple of Irish summers and it's great that the GAA Cúl Camps show is adding to this each year. We look forward to watching the show and seeing thousands of children across the country take part in the camps, getting the chance to meet up with their friends and enjoy themselves in a healthy outdoor environment."

TG4's Head of Sport, Ronán Ó Coisdealbha said: "We look forward to another new series of GAA Cúl Camps on TG4 which will give our audience the opportunity to see some of our Gaelic Games stars and the

next generation of youngsters practising their skills."

The Kellogg's GAA Cúl Camps provide boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 13 with an action-packed and fun-filled week of activity focused on having fun playing Gaelic games. The camps are run by qualified coaches and open to all children with and without Gaelic games experience. Over 100,000 children are already booked but there is still availability in many areas.

Check out your local camp on [www.gaa.ie/kelloggsculcamps](http://www.gaa.ie/kelloggsculcamps)



THE GAA CÚL CAMPS SERIES WILL INCLUDE SKILLS, DRILLS AND SEGMENTS FROM GAA EXPERTS INCLUDING ALL-IRELAND WINNING DUBLIN LADIES FOOTBALL STAR SINÉAD AHERNE.

# JOHN WEST FÉILE TO MARK 50 YEARS OF THE ICONIC COMPETITION THIS SUMMER

**FEW COMPETITIONS IN THE HISTORY OF THE GAA HAVE THE SAME ICONIC STATUS AS FÉILE. IN 2021 WE CELEBRATE 50 YEARS OF FÉILE.**

To mark this anniversary and to address the challenges of Covid 19, two National John West Féile events will be held this year.

- **21st August 2021** • John West Féile na nGael (Hurling & Camogie)
- **28th August 2021** • John West Féile Peil na nÓg (Football & Ladies Football)

In 2021 each county is requested to run a County Féile competition with the finals taking place on 21st and 28th August 2021 as set out above. To celebrate the 50th anniversary of Féile, it is hoped that every county will participate and that every club will be encouraged to take part.

To help mark the occasion, the National Committee is working on a number of different initiatives including

- A Commemorative medal
- Draw for competing clubs for 'Croke Park Experience'.
- Draw for sets of jerseys / merchandise and more

Tournament is an Under 15 Competition - Under 15 years and Over 11 years, i.e., born 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009.

Each county is asked to organise their tournaments with a sufficient number of divisions graded accordingly to allow the tournaments to be run off ideally as a one-day event. While each county will be

responsible for the running of its own Féile tournament clubs are asked to refer to the attached guidelines which are the specific playing rules of the John West Féile na nGael and Féile na nÓg tournaments and are recommended for use.

**For more information see**

**Charter:**

<https://www.gaa.ie/api/pdfs/image/upload/a7flkrd1mzwf5vbx4n34.pdf>

**Guidelines:**

<https://www.gaa.ie/api/pdfs/image/upload/adtev3hsecdfedzsfpp.pdf>



CLONGUIGH CELEBRATE AFTER WINNING THE GIRLS DIVISION 4 CUP FINAL AT THE JOHN WEST FÉILE PEILE NA NÓG 2019 FINALS.



DICKSBORO CELEBRATE RECEIVING THE 2017 JOHN WEST FÉILE NA NGAEL DIVISION 1 HURLING TITLE OFF THEN UACHTARÁN AOGÁN Ó FEARGHAIL



## 'GAA FOR DADS & LADS' PROGRAMME LAUNCHED

**'GAA FOR DADS & LADS' IS A SOCIAL HURLING AND FOOTBALL PROGRAMME FOR THOSE KEEN TO ENJOY GAELIC GAMES OUTSIDE THE TRADITIONAL COMPETITIVE STRUCTURES OF THE GAA.**

The survey, conducted by the GAA's The programme hopes to inspire other clubs or groups to join the social hurling and football teams that have started up across the Association in recent years.

A blitz event organised by the GAA's Community & Health department in November 2019 in the National Games Development Centre in Abbotstown hosted 15 social hurling and 5 social football teams from across Ireland.

The 160 players had an average age of 44 years. In a survey they listed their top three reasons for participating in social Gaelic Games as:

1. Keeping fit and remaining active
2. The social aspect of meeting old and new friends
3. The fun and enjoyment of playing sport

The philosophy of GAA for Dads & Lads is all about participation and the camaraderie that only team sports can offer. The small-sided adapted games allow for incidental contact only (to minimise any risk of injury) so skills are to the fore over physicality. The games are self-governed – no referees.

Uachtarán CLG Larry McCarthy said: "GAA clubs are focused on creating an opportunity for life-long participation in Gaelic games and cultivating a sense of belonging in the communities they represent.

"This GAA for Dads & Lads initiative will



PAULINUS CURRAN IN ACTION AGAINST CIARAN MCMAHON AT THE GAA FOR DADS & LADS LAUNCH AT ST. PATRICKS GFC IN DONAGH, FERMANAGH.

allow clubs to achieve this. It will help clubs to retain active members and also encourage new people to get involved and for everyone to enjoy playing. I look forward to seeing it go from strength to strength."

Participants include recently retired or lapsed adult players, and, to a lesser degree, new entrants to Gaelic Games looking to try hurling or football for the first time.

Clubs can host their own teams if numbers are sufficient while some social and hurling groups see participants come from a variety of clubs to play collectively on a weekly basis.

Based on interest and demand, the GAA Community & Health department hopes to schedule regional and national blitzes events in 2021.

Access the resources available here and get started [www.gaa.ie/dadsandlads](http://www.gaa.ie/dadsandlads) or <https://learning.gaa.ie/dadsandlads>

For further information contact: Aoife Reilly, Healthy Club co-ordinator on [aoife.reilly@gaa.ie](mailto:aoife.reilly@gaa.ie)

# SLÁN LE SINGLE USE - GAA GREEN CLUBS PHASING OUT SINGLE USE PLASTICS



SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS

• ENERGY • WATER • WASTE  
• BIODIVERSITY • TRANSPORT

**THIS SUMMER, GAA CLUBS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY ARE TAKING STEPS TO REDUCE THE USE OF SINGLE-USE PLASTICS IN THEIR GROUNDS. NEARLY 50% OF ALL PLASTIC PRODUCED WORLD-WIDE IS SINGLE-USE AND IRELAND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE HIGHEST RATE OF PLASTIC PRODUCTION PER PERSON IN THE EU. WITH LESS THAN 10% OF ALL PLASTIC GETTING RECYCLED, THE ELLEN MACARTHUR FOUNDATION HAS ESTIMATED THAT BY 2050 THERE WILL BE MORE PLASTIC THAN FISH IN THE SEA.**

GAA clubs participating in the Association's new Green Clubs programme have stepped up to the challenge by nominating teams to take a Plastic Promise to eliminate single-use plastic bottles from matches and training.

Green clubs Lucan Sarsfields (Dublin), St Patrick's GAA Club (Limerick), Park Ratheniska (Laois), Clarinbridge (Galway) and St Colmcille's Hurling Academy,



ST MARY'S RASHARKIN – TACKLING PLASTICS



PARK RATHENISKA GAA COMMUNITY CLEAN UP





Piltown (Meath) have adopted a Green Clubs guidance toolkit developed by the Regional Waste Management Planning Offices, designed to help GAA clubs implement and monitor simple plastic-reduction initiatives in their clubs, starting with the elimination of single-use plastic bottles from the activities of their Green Champion teams.

To support the clubs in their initiative, Green Club partners Irish Water are supplying the participating clubs with reusable water bottles.

Local environmental charity Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful is supporting Green Clubs Strabane Sigersons (Tyrone) and St Mary's Rasharkin (Antrim) in tackling pointless plastic in their clubs and grounds. The clubs have signed up to the 'Tackling Plastic Organisation Toolkit' a five-step guide that helps organisations reduce their use of plastic (more information: [enquiries@keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org](mailto:enquiries@keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org))

Green Club partners NI Water have supplied Green Clubs including St Mary's Rasharkin, Crossmaglen Rangers (Armagh), Belcoo O'Rahilly's (Fermanagh), Lámh Dhearg (Antrim) and Culloville Blues (Armagh) with reusable water bottles to help club Green Teams promote and manage their plastic reduction effort in their clubs.

Feedback from the participating clubs will contribute to the development of a national Green Club Toolkit that will be made available on [www.gaa.ie/greenclub](http://www.gaa.ie/greenclub)

Breís eolais: [greenclubs@gaa.ie](mailto:greenclubs@gaa.ie)

# 'LET'S GET VISIBLE' AWARENESS CAMPAIGN MARKS PRIDE MONTH

**THE FIRST LINE OF THE GAA OFFICIAL GUIDE SPELLS OUT HOW THE GAA REACHES INTO EVERY CORNER OF IRELAND AND MANY COMMUNITIES AROUND THE GLOBE. IN DOING THIS, THE GAA, THE CAMOGIE ASSOCIATION AND THE LADIES GAELIC FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION IS FULLY COMMITTED TO THE PRINCIPLES OF INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY AT ALL LEVELS.**

On June 20, the GAA, the Camogie association and LGFA invited all clubs to become allies with the LGBT+ community and support Sport Ireland's 'Let's Get Visible' Campaign.

GAA Diversity and Inclusion officer Ger McTavish explains: "Inclusion is about making a difference. Inclusivity is a movement, a move to include. Being truly inclusive is living our GAA motto, 'Where we all Belong'.

"This work takes many forms. It ranges from ensuring that our policies and

practices support the cultural integration and social inclusion of people from across Ireland's diverse population, to promoting sport and physical activity to everyone regardless of age, sexual orientation, ability, ethnicity, nationality, or fitness level."

Joanne O Riordan sports columnist with the Irish Times, Hannah Tyrrell, Dublin senior ladies' football team, Aideen Howlin, the Camogie Association, Emma Loo, member of Na Gaeil Aeracha, Dublin and Gary Coney, senior club player in Clonoe O'Rahillys GAA club in Clonoe, County Tyrone, were amongst the speakers at the Camogie finals in Croke Park on Sunday June 20th.

For more information, please contact [geraldine.mctavish@gaa.ie](mailto:geraldine.mctavish@gaa.ie)



DUBLIN LGFA STAR HANNAH TYRRELL WITH THE LIDL DIV 1 LGFA TROPHY AFTER THE RECENT VICTORY OVER CORK. HANNAH HAS SPOKEN OF THE POSITIVE RESPONSE SHE RECEIVED AFTER COMING OUT TO HER TEAM MATES

"It was such a confidence boost knowing that I could be myself and be open and honest with my teammates and get such a positive response and get them to support me. It allowed me to be who I was and not be afraid." – **Dublin LGFA star Hannah Tyrrell. Watch full clip at [Hannah Tyrrell speaks about the power of inclusion in sport. - YouTube](#)**

Aideen Howlin of the Camogie Association speaks about the power of inclusion in sport: **Watch: [Aideen Howlin speaks about the power of inclusion in sport. - YouTube](#)**

Club player Emma Loo talks about the importance of people feeling protected in who they are. **Watch: [Emma Loo speaks about the power of inclusion in sport. - YouTube](#)**

Irish Times sports writer Joanne O'Riordan talks about highlighting the heroes who are out and proud. **Watch: [Joanne O' Riordan speaks about the power of inclusion in sport. - YouTube](#)**

Club player Gary Coney encourages people to be who they are. **Watch: [Gary Coney speaks about the power of inclusion in sport. - YouTube](#)**

GAA Diversity & Inclusion officer, Ger McTavish outlines the work taking place across the Association. **Watch: [Geraldine McTavish speaks about the power of inclusion in sport. - YouTube](#)**



## JARLATH CONNAUGHTON RIP



**UACHTARÁN CLG LARRY MCCARTHY HAS LED TRIBUTES TO THE LATE JARLATH CONNAUGHTON OF OTTAWA GAELS IN CANADA, WHOSE PASSING WAS GREETED WITH SHOCK AND SADNESS BY HIS MANY FRIENDS IN WORLD GAA.**

A member of the club since 1999, Jarlath, or JC to his friends, was immersed in the club at every level and in the development of Gaelic games across Canada.

As well as giving time as a player, coach, referee and committee member, his enthusiasm for the GAA and for youth programmes saw him play a key role in the Continental Youth Championships – the largest event of its kind held outside of Ireland and a lasting legacy to his tireless work for the Association.

Uachtarán CLG Larry McCarthy said: “The GAA is indebted to people like Jarlath Connaughton, those people who look to get involved, make a contribution and who unselfishly make a difference. Our Association is all the better for the passion and commitment these people have for Gaelic games.

“In the case of Jarlath Connaughton, his impact on Ottawa Gaels and Canada GAA over many years, on and off the field, and his significant contribution to the CYC and in bringing Canada into this successful competition leaves a lasting legacy. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dilis.”

A tribute posted by Ottawa Gaels GAA read:

“JC’s love and commitment to the “love of his life”, Margaret and children Debbie, Kathleen, Anna, Peter and Lisa as well as 14 grandchildren and one great grandchild, was awe-inspiring as was his loyalty and devotion to his friends and community. His talent as a musician and ability to make others laugh within a minute of greeting you was extraordinary. Jarlath was an adopted father to many of the Ottawa Gaels not only on the field but off as well. His advice, compassion and love for all GAA was addictive.

“Since 1999, JC was a treasured Ottawa Gaels member and dedicated volunteer for the following 20+ years. Jarlath contributed as an executive committee member, coach and referee to his Club and the GAA in Canada and North America. He was past Club Chairperson and notably was Ottawa Gaels Club Person of the Year three years running from 2001 to 2003 and was Vice Chairperson of Canada GAA for five years from 2008 to 2013. Jarlath had a passion and interest in youth Gaelic Games demonstrated by being one of four founding members of the Continental Youth Championship.

“Jarlath was long-time coach of Ottawa Gaels youth teams, coach of the Ladies Gaelic Football team and Coach of the Canadian Ladies Gaelic Football team that participated in the International Senior tournament in Dublin (2002, 2005). Jarlath was always there as a friend and a mentor for the players he coached, the members of the club and many many friends who were blessed to have him in their lives.

“He was a devoted member of the Ottawa Irish Society volunteering often with his musical talent to entertain the Irish seniors in Ottawa especially during the pandemic. In fact, the last time that a group of the Gaels gathered was during lockdown when Jarlath led the Ottawa Gaels with his guitar and beautiful voice at the St. Patrick’s Home Christmas singing Christmas carols in December 2020.

The Ottawa Gaels will be planning a Celebration of Life in memory of JC as soon as restrictions are lifted and provincial guidelines will permit a large gathering. This celebration will bring together his family and friends to reflect JC’s love of the “craic” and music in order to recognize all that he cherished in his life.”

# EXCITING COMPETITION LAUNCHED – FLY HOME TO IRELAND AND GO TO THE ALL-IRELAND FINAL

**FRS RECRUITMENT IS DELIGHTED TO ANNOUNCE AN EXCITING NEW COMPETITION TO MARK OUR SPONSORSHIP OF GAAGO FOR THE 2021 CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON.**

Win a free flight home for you or your friend and two tickets to the 2022 All-Ireland Hurling or Football Final.

To enter all you have to do is:

- Post a short video of your best Irish summer memory/moment in the comments section of the competition Facebook post
- Tag who you would bring home or let us know if it's you and tag who you'd take to the match!

The competition will run from now until the end of August, with the lucky winner announced after this year's All-Ireland Football final. [Click here](#) to read the full details on how to enter and the terms and conditions.

FRS Recruitment is proud to once again be partnering with the GAA in supporting GAAGO this year. This is the second year we have run our successful #70MinsofHome campaign, which aims to provide Irish people living away from Ireland with a little slice of home.

Using engaging videos, we have been showcasing different aspects of Irish life and culture in a way which connects with the Irish diaspora scattered around the world. We hope that no matter where they are based – be it the UK, Australia or New Zealand, the US or the Middle East – any Irish person will feel a little closer to home.



Our first video this year is entitled 70 Minutes of an Irish Summer and it shows some of the many moments that would be associated with a typical summer in Ireland – from the melting ice cream, the blustery shores, the BBQ in all sorts of weather and of course plenty of GAA action locally and nationally.

All videos and further details about our #70MinsofHome campaign are available on FRS Recruitment's social channels and at

[www.70minsofhome.ie](http://www.70minsofhome.ie)





# GAA HANDBALL RELEASE SUMMER SERIES 2021 INITIATIVE



**GAA HANDBALL ARE DELIGHTED TO TODAY LAUNCH OUR "SUMMER SERIES 2021", A PROMOTIONAL AND DEVELOPMENT CAMPAIGN TO HELP INCREASE THE VISIBILITY OF HANDBALL BACK IN THE PUBLIC'S EYE, AND FOR HANDBALLERS TO HAVE SOME FUN AND ENJOY THE GAME WE HAVE BEEN DEPRIVED OF FOR SO LONG THIS PAST YEAR.**

As a primarily indoor sport, Handball can often go unseen to the general public, and

unfortunately this has been even further emphasised during the pandemic. But now we are calling on all Handball Clubs and the entire Handballing community to come together and showcase our brilliant sport through a series of local and national led outdoor events.

We understand that certain Covid-19 restrictions are still in play, but there is still lots we can do as our sport recovers from its enforced closure. GAA Handball's full time staff will be on hand to provide

help and advice as best they can, but we also need buy in and support from you, our members and lifeblood....so let's get to it together!

The Summer Series has 5 Key Strands:

1) Summer Shootout Tour (Dates TBC)

- A series of unique pop-up 1-day events at a number of outdoor locations to showcase Handball to new parts of the country and the wider public.

- The shootouts will be positive, fun events, showcasing not just the skill levels but also the benefits of Handball for both young and old and how easy it is to take up as a sport.
- These tournaments will also incorporate a Have a Go / Coaching element where the top players will impart their skills and tips on any kids who wish to try handball, or who already play the game in the locality.
- We are on the lookout for suitable, quirky venue ideas so feel free to get in touch with your suggestions.



## 2) Summer Series Club Tournaments

- Do your part and run an outdoor event of your choice at local level. Grades, code, format all of your choice.
- The aim here is to encourage as many clubs as possible to run club tournaments outdoors in 1-Wall, 3-Wall or Softball and get our clubs up and running again.
- The grades/format/code will be entirely up to the club and new innovative formats will be encouraged.
- National Office will supply a support pack to the club to assist them in running the tournament.
- The applications to host club tournaments will be handled by the National Office and any club hosting a tournament will be provided with a risk assessment form to fill in to ensure compliance with Covid regulations and insurance cover.
- Register your proposed event below

## 3) Open Days / Summer Camps / Training

- Has your Club ever thought about hosting an Open Day to attract new members? Or even a Summer Camp for juveniles over the holidays?
- We would be delighted to help you plan, and send out support packs.
- Contact [development.handball@gaa.ie](mailto:development.handball@gaa.ie) for details

## 4) Coaching Courses

- Register at the below link to host an official Coaching Course of any level and up skill Club members old and new.
- We are happy to run courses at Club, County or Provincial level & will be running reduced rates all summer. (£10/€15 for Foundation, £20/€30 for Level 1)
- Courses will delivered by our National Coach Developers, and will be hosted in outdoor venues (unless restrictions allow indoor delivery).
- Participants will receive certification upon completion of course.
- Contact [development.handball@gaa.ie](mailto:development.handball@gaa.ie) for further queries.

## 5) "Any Ball Any Wall" County Challenge

- Challenging all County Handball Boards to increase visibility of our sport again.
- See how many new 1-Wall Courts you can get lined out/constructed in GAA Clubs, Skills Walls, Community Halls, Schools by the end of September. Prizes for top ranked County.
- This will be a "friendly" competition between County Handball Boards to identify outdoor spaces for one wall courts within their county to increase opportunities for people to play

handball and also increase visibility of our sport.

- There will be a league table published with weighted points on offer for each court lined out/constructed/renovated.
- 20pts (GAA Club), 15pts (Old Outdoor Alley Renovated), 10pts (School), 5pts (GAA Handball Club / Community Hall / Other)
- There will be prizes on offer to the Counties/Clubs who have made the biggest effort at the end of the summer.



GAA Handball President Dessie Keegan spoke highly of the Summer Series:

"Hot on the heels of the enormously successful Youth Expo, GAA Handball have now developed a cool and innovative Summer Series. The challenge is simple, for all to go and have some fun! I look forward to seeing some familiar faces back on the courts and I am particularly excited about seeing new Handballers grace the courts for the first time."

GAA Handball National Manager John Kelly also commented:

"I am delighted to welcome this exciting new Summer Series initiative that aims to get people out and playing handball again and make Handball more visible over the summer months. We have the perfect outdoor game and this series aims to maximise the enormous potential of Handball as a recreational sport, to attract new members and to showcase the benefits of Handball to a wider audience. I am confident that despite the unpredictability of the Irish weather, this can be an incredibly positive venture for GAA Handball and one that will inject some much-needed positivity and fun back into our sport following what has been a difficult period for all involved in Handball. I urge all our members to support this initiative to ensure it is a success and to get Handball moving in a positive direction again."

National Development Officer Darragh Daly will be Project Lead on the Summer Series and is excited about the potential it offers.

"I see so much potential growth for our game through both outdoor and recreational play. Handball is such a simple game to play, yet hugely impressive when played by the elite. I have seen first hand how addictive and enjoyable new players to the game find it, often hooked from the first strike of the ball. I can't wait to see the Handball community roll behind this project, have some fun, and do their part to bringing our game back to the public's eye."



# “ANY BALL ANY WALL” - COUNTY CHALLENGE

## TIME FOR SOME FRIENDLY COMPETITION BETWEEN ALL OUR HANDBALL COUNTY BOARDS!

As part of our ongoing “Summer Series 2021”, GAA Handball will be running a competition between all counties to increase the visibility of Handball nationwide. The challenge is simple....

**“See how many new 1-Wall Courts you can get lined out/constructed in GAA Clubs, on Ball Walls, in Community Halls, in Schools, etc., by the end of September.”**

A weighted scoring system will be in place (as detailed below), and a League Table will be updated and released regularly across GAA Handball Social Media platforms to add to the competition and pride!

### Prizes:

- Prizes of Equipment Grants & Elite Coaching Sessions (+ much more) will be on offer to the Counties/Clubs who have made the biggest effort at the end of the summer.

### Details:

- GAA Handball strongly encourage all Counties to throw their weight behind this challenge for the benefit of our sport as a whole.
- GAA Handball will provide complimentary branded wall stickers and a starter pack for any Club/School who develops new Handball Walls as part of this initiative.
- Submit entries of new courts via email to National Development Officer Darragh Daly (development.handball@gaa.ie) alongside picture proof.

### Tips:

- “Developing a Court” can be as simple as marking out a court on an existing flat wall/floor space.
- Potential targets could be Ball Walls in GAA Clubs.
- In many cases, GAA Clubs & Schools are simply not aware of how easy and cost effective it is to develop Handball Walls, so by simply reaching out you increase the likelihood of development considerably.



## Weighted Scoring

20pts	GAA Club
15pts	Old Outdoor Alley Renovated
10pts	School
5pts	Community Hall / Other
5pts	GAA Handball Club

“Any Wall Any Ball” is a challenge for County Handball Boards to help increase the visibility of GAA Handball via the development of 1-Wall Courts between June & September 2021. See [www.gaahandball.ie](http://www.gaahandball.ie) for full details.

By Jamie Dowling

# CARRICKMACROSS, BREAFFY, AND ERNE EAGLES WIN ROUNDERS FINALS

**A DAY THAT HAD ABSOLUTELY EVERYTHING – IT WAS AN ALL-IRELAND SENIOR ROUNDERS FINALS DAY TO SAVOUR AND IT LIVED UP TO ALL EXPECTATIONS. EIGHT MONTHS ON SINCE THE SEMI-FINALS IT WAS WELL WORTH THE WAIT.**

Glynn/Barntown of Wexford went in search of securing rounders history, but their challenge ended in despair as they were unfortunate enough to lose all three Finals.

Carrickmacross of Monaghan overcame the Wexford side in a thriller in the men's final, in the women's final Mayo side Breaffy toppled the four-in-a-row champions, and in the last match of the day Erne Eagles of Cavan edged out the Wexford side in a closely fought contest.

From the very first ball of the first game the talent was really on show in front of the cameras as it was the first time the Rounders finals were live streamed.

The first game of the day pitted Carrickmacross men against Glynn/Barntown with both teams looking to win their first All-Ireland men's title.

The theme of the day was some great fielding throughout the three games and this game was no different, especially three one-hand catches from Oran Kiernan who led his side to victory.

Carrickmacross just had too much in the tank and overcame Glynn/Barntown and sealed their first title on a score-line of 11-8.

Next up was the ladies match which was contested by Glynn/Barntown and Breaffy of Mayo. It lived up to expectations as the game swung back and forwards, with Glynn/Barntown looking good in the early exchanges.



SHEENA KING OF GLYNN BARNTOWN BATS DURING THE LADIES SENIOR ROUNDERS FINAL 2020 MATCH BETWEEN BREAFFY AND GLYNN BARNTOWN AT GAA CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE, NATIONAL SPORTS CAMPUS IN ABBOTSTOWN, DUBLIN.



But the Mayo side didn't panic and reeled them in with great fielding from Katie Kenny and bowler Michelle Hopkins.

The play of the day happened on 2nd base in the bottom of the 6th inning with Avril Coyne getting the batter out with a great catch and then firing a throw to home base to get another one out to leave Breaffy with one hand on the trophy.

The game came down to the wire as the game entered the last innings with the Wexford side needing two to draw and three to win in their last innings.

Breaffy closed out the game with a catch from Olivia Tolster and sealed their first ever ladies title.

The last game of the day was Glynn/Barntown against Erne Eagles. Glynn/Barntown reacted well to their two losses before this game and flew out of the traps and racked up 7 scores.

Erne Eagles didn't panic much like Breaffy in the ladies and eventually turned the game around with brilliant batting by Darryl Dolan and Ollie Fitzsimons.

It came down to the 7th with Erne Eagles leading 14-12 as they edged closer to the trophy once again.

Dolan came to the fore with two great catches and another catch from Ollie Fitzsimons sealed the win and the Dymphna Reilly Cup.

The win led to emotional celebrations as Erne Eagles' captain Maggie Brady paid tribute to their late club-mate Dymphna Reilly in her winning speech. It was a fitting end to a brilliant day of which Dymphna would have been proud.



ADAM DOYLE OF GLYNN BARTOWN RUNS OUT JUSTIN BURNS OF CARRICKMACROSS DURING THE 2020 MEN'S SENIOR ROUNDERS FINAL MATCH BETWEEN CARRICKMACROSS AND GLYNN BARTOWN AT THE GAA CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN ABBOTSTOWN, DUBLIN.



ERNE EAGLES PLAYERS CELEBRATE WITH THE TROPHY AFTER THE MIXED SENIOR ROUNDERS FINAL 2020 MATCH BETWEEN ERNE EAGLES AND GLYNN BARTOWN AT GAA CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE, NATIONAL SPORTS CAMPUS IN ABBOTSTOWN, DUBLIN.

By Martin Fogarty, GAA National Hurling Development Manager

## MARTIN FOGARTY: SYSTEMATIC FOULING IS RUINING HURLING

CONOR DELANEY OF KILKENNY IS SURROUNDED BY DESSIE HUTCHINSON, LEFT, AND AUSTIN GLEESON OF WATERFORD DURING THE 2021 GAA HURLING ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP SEMI-FINAL MATCH BETWEEN KILKENNY AND WATERFORD AT CROKE PARK IN DUBLIN.

### NATIONAL HURLING DEVELOPMENT MANAGER CALLS FOR SWEEPING RULE CHANGES IN HURLING!

#### HOLDING OPPONENTS HURLS TO BE LEGALIZED! PULLING OPPONENTS ARMS WILL NOT BE A FREE!

- Allow players to hold their opponents' hurls!
- Allow players to pull and hold their opponents' arms!
- Allow players to tug at, pull at, and

hold their opponents' shoulders and hips!

- Allow players to slap their opponents' arms and hands as they are attempting to rise a ball!
- Allow players to pin their opponents' arms to their sides when attempting to release the ball!
- For good measure, allow players to shoulder their opponents into the chest, especially after releasing a ball and allow them to shoulder an opponent into the back or even into

the side of their head when they bend down to rise a ball!

- Allow slapping down on an opponent's hurl when he is attempting to rise a ball or when he is on a solo run!

Like everyone else, I hate to see games becoming shootouts between the opposing free-takers. I also do not like too many stoppages in a game, I like to see games flow. I have always said that if a player is not interfering with an opponent, do not blow the whistle. If there is a hand

on a back that is not a push or a little tug of a jersey that a player does not even feel, then let play proceed. A clash of hurls should not immediately result in a whistle unless it is a chop down or wild swipe.

In recent weeks, referees are taking a hammering for stopping the games too much and awarding too many frees. The solution to this problem is quite simple. Implement my recommendations above, then all the referees will have to do is to record the time and the scores and





everyone will be happy - or will they?

Where would that leave the game of hurling?

In a very, very bad place, I am sure you agree.

How would it leave top level games? I shudder to think. How would it leave underage games? Do we need different rules for intercounty, different rules for adult club and maybe different rules for underage?

Whether we like it or not there is an opinion out there at the moment that all (plus more) of the above infringements are ok. Well, are they ok? Is that what we want? Is this how we want our game played?

There is however a far better and simple solution to the problem of too many frees and games becoming sharpshooter shootouts. Stop fouling!

Players stop fouling, coaches and managers coach the players how "not to foul" instead of "how to foul" which is a practice that has crept into hurling in recent years and is abominable.

I for one am happy to see the referees, at last, blowing the above fouls. They are all not just fouls, they are blatant fouls and are ruining the game. The sad and worrying thing is that these practices are being coached into players. People speak about the 'old days' and the great manly battles that took place. They speak about physicality being watered down now. That is all nonsense. The rules were more or less the same twenty years ago. Holding was holding, chopping was chopping and shouldering a lad into the chest or head were all frees then as they are now. The big difference a few years ago was that fouling was not coached into players. They fouled or didn't foul of their own accord.



**RORY O'CONNOR OF WEXFORD IS FOULED BY LEE CLEERE OF LAOIS RESULTING IN A PENALTY FOR WEXFORD AND A YELLOW CARD AND SIN BINNING FOR CLEERE DURING THE ALLIANZ HURLING LEAGUE DIVISION 1 GROUP B ROUND 1 MATCH BETWEEN WEXFORD AND LAOIS AT CHADWICKS WEXFORD PARK IN WEXFORD.**

ARON SHANAGHER OF CLARE IS PULLED BACK BY PADDY SMYTH OF DUBLIN DURING THE ALLIANZ HURLING LEAGUE DIVISION 1 GROUP B ROUND 4 MATCH BETWEEN DUBLIN AND CLARE AT PARNELL PARK IN DUBLIN.



It amuses or irritates me, I am not sure which, to hear people complain about the frees and the stoppages but when their own teams and players are getting fouled, they are dancing and jumping, raising hands to heaven, and shouting all sorts to

the referee. It is like, it is ok for my team to pull and drag, hold and slap, but when these things are done to my players then it is not ok.

People need to stand up and be counted. Either it is ok to hold an opponent's hurl,

or it is not. If it is ok, then change the rule and see what happens! If it is not ok, then stop coaching players to do so, otherwise take the consequences if your players are caught fouling, which is a free and usually a point at top level and stop whingeing about the referee.

Is it ok to drag or hold an opponent's arm, shoulder or hip? If the majority think it is, then fine let's change the rules and watch our beautiful game disappear and become more like rugby where it is ok to do these things. Is that what the 'purists' want? Do we want a game where in order to be good at it you must be able to break away from one, two and often three players holding you and dragging out of you? Are we looking at prop-forward type hurlers being the future?

It sounds macho to speak about "taking the physicality" out of the game or playing "on the edge" but what do people who say these things really mean? When interviewed on side lines or in studio they should be challenged on this issue and asked to be specific. What do you mean exactly by "physicality"? Do you mean allowing some or all of the above? Should we allow hurls to be held or players to be held?

Yes or no because it is black or white. Certainly, for referees it is black or white. Interviewers should be very specific when asking the question about "physicality". Ask the question, "What do you want allowed in the game that is not allowed at the moment?"

Show some examples and ask specifically – should this action be allowed, Yes/No? I think if people were asked to be specific, with examples, we would very quickly get to the root of the problem and call out those who are hiding behind generalities. For the supporter at a game it is very difficult to spot many of these infringements while on television or close up they are as clear as day.

Hurling is a very physical and demanding game when played within the rules. Tussling an opponent for possession, trying to get a shot away while being hooked and blocked and chased demands savage levels of fitness.

Pulling and dragging, holding and slapping is not physicality. It is fouling! It is lazy and it is killing our game. It is a poor player's solution to not being able to cope with a





**CILLIAN BUCKLEY OF KILKENNY IS PULLED BACK BY JACK PRENDERGAST OF WATERFORD DURING THE 2020 GAA HURLING ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP SEMI-FINAL MATCH BETWEEN KILKENNY AND WATERFORD AT CROKE PARK IN DUBLIN.**



**JACK O'CONNOR OF CORK IS PULLED BACK BY BARRY NASH OF LIMERICK DURING THE ALLIANZ HURLING LEAGUE DIVISION 1 GROUP A ROUND 4 MATCH BETWEEN LIMERICK AND CORK AT LIT GAELIC GROUNDS IN LIMERICK.**

better opponent. Throwing a shoulder into an opponent's chest, especially when he is not expecting it, or slapping down on his hurl as he attempts to rise or strike a ball is not tough or playing on the edge. It is sneaky, nasty, dirty, and often cowardly.

I would love to see a Sunday Game programme take a different focus some night. Instead of rolling out the usual popular lines of "taking the physicality out of the game", "playing on the edge", "letting the game flow", "a game for warriors", etc, I would like to see a large panel actually highlight 20 or so of these stoppages or frees that are being blown, forensically examine them all and then go round the table to each pundit asking of each incident - "Well lads/ladies, was it a free or was it not a free", Yes or No.

If yes, should the referee have blown it? Yes or No? Should it be allowed in our game? Do the rules need to change? No sitting on the hedge saying, well, technically he was holding his opponent's hurl, but in the interest of a free-flowing game ignore it! Where will that attitude lead us?

What happens then is what has been happening for the last number of years - more players commit those fouls and so on and our game suffers. Young players see it as the norm, and they imitate the practice. How annoying it is for a player to constantly have their hurl held or get pulled and dragged every time they move with a ball. Is it any wonder some react in a manner that they should not, out of sheer frustration?

I'm not so sure that even some intercounty players actually know the rules of the game anymore. I watched an instance a couple of times over the weekend where a player clearly dragged his opponent back by the shoulder. When blown he was absolutely amazed and his reaction to the referee was "how could that be a free"? Now, he is either a very good actor

or he does not know that pulling back an opponent is a foul.

Either we allow certain things, or we don't. Maybe if the people analysing our games point out that players are actually fouling - blatantly and continually fouling - instead of trying to generate an atmosphere of panic and subterfuge about ruining our beautiful, manly game. If they do this then maybe they can influence an improvement in our games. They might influence for the better how players are being coached. Supporters might actually get educated more and realise that it is not the referee that is the problem, or indeed the player. The foul is the problem! The referee does not commit the fouls!

It is amazing, actually it is sad, the things I have been asked about over the past number of years. Basically, I have been asked how to "coach fouling", how to pull a player's arm when he is rising a ball, how to pin his arm to his body so that he cannot release the ball. I got an email recently from a coach who told me how he has been coaching his players to foul for years, using the spare hand, blocking runs etc. and how now all these things are being blown, what is he to do. My answer as always, was to teach his players how to hook and block and to learn the rules.

It is high time that coaches from the top-down start to do this - coach their players how to play, not how to stop others (illegally) from playing. Set the example because all this pulling and dragging and holding is like a cancer festering down to underage players.

One of my pet hates is watching a young player go down over a ball to rise it and his opponent coming in and tug, tug, tugging at his arm to prevent him gaining possession or when he has possession, slap, slap slapping his arm in an attempt to knock the ball from his hand.

This sort of practice leads to these awful 'rucks' that have crept in and are terrible. Sometimes the resultant throw-in just makes matters worse as referees are not throwing the ball in between two players only, with all other players at least 15M away. They are throwing it in among a baying pack of maybe ten players - I think it is called a scrum in another sport.

I have sympathy for referees here as they badly need the assistance of linesmen to keep the other players back and should penalise players that refuse to move back. If it can be got right for the commencement of a half then it can be got right for a throw-in during play, otherwise it is just mayhem.

I watched a couple of games recently and decided to note the number of times a player dragged his opponent by the shoulder. Before the first game was over, I had reached 20 instances. It was almost automatic - as soon as a player got passed by an opponent the first reaction was to drag his shoulder. Do I blame the players - no - they are getting away with it and their opponents similarly.

If current refereeing practices continue, I think we are going to witness many fewer frees in the games as players and coaches are going to cop on very quickly and stop fouling. Hopefully this will be the case and that we will NOT see motions to Congress in the near future seeking to implement those nonsense rules that I have recommended at the beginning of this article.

The way to eradicate fouling is to penalise the frees. With the huge backroom teams now involved in the games I'm sure some analyst could be deployed to track how many scores are being given away by needless fouling and steps taken to counteract it.



CIAN BOLAND OF DUBLIN IS TACKLED BY GERARD WALSH OF ANTRIM DURING THE ALLIANZ HURLING LEAGUE DIVISION 1 ROUND 3 MATCH BETWEEN DUBLIN AND ANTRIM IN PARNELL PARK IN DUBLIN.



## CLUB NOTES

### *St Mary's Hit Texaco jackpot*

St Mary's in Louth were among the winners in the Texaco support for Sport awards recently, receiving €5,000. The club said the money will be used on LGFA teams; aiming to promote the uptake in Ladies Football and better facilities for players. "The money will be used to create billboards and signage promoting our games and girls, it will also be used to purchase more equipment that varies for different age groups and different teams. We aim to keep the interest in football among those who are progressing through life in college and work, this money will further benefit in team building for those players returning and new players joining us in the future," says Ciara Matthews.



ST MARY'S COMMITTEE MEMBERS SARAH HIGGINS & BERNIE CLINTON AT THE PRESENTATION OF THE CHEQUE

### *An Ríocht's the 'Well' to help runs deep*

The Healthy Club team in An Ríocht in Down have made a massive contribution to the health and wellbeing of their club and community through the establishment of a special building or 'well' hub.

Despite the challenges of Covid, the club sourced a portable building and had it transported 60 miles to Dunavil and where volunteers from An Ríocht, Kingdom Men's Shed and Kingdom Youth Club transformed the building and it is now making a difference helping local people and with the club involved in training people to help those in need.

The club said: "We as a club and community have created a safe place and has just been moved this past few months by the Healthy Club Project Teams for people to come in emergencies or a place to wind down and relax. We have trained mental health first aiders for members and community to avail of 24/7. The well - was designed for a place of comfort from the outside world to talk to people who will listen. The well was bought last year during Covid for the community to avail of for people with mental health issues during these difficult times."



PRESCRIPTIVE COMMUNITY RESPONSE

## CLUB NOTES

### *Ulster GAA volunteers play a key role in vaccination programme*

Volunteers from Ulster GAA, Volunteer Now and British Red Cross have been thanked by Health Minister Robin Swann MLA for their role in helping to deliver Northern Ireland's biggest ever mass vaccination programme over the past six months.

Vaccination support volunteers were commended for their tireless work since Christmas. Daily volunteer involvement has enabled mass vaccination centres to function smoothly, safely and with a high level of practical and emotional support for members of the public coming in to receive their Covid-19 vaccination. Health Minister Robin Swann said; "I cannot praise all those involved in the vaccination programme highly enough. It has been a massive logistical undertaking and has seen over one million of our citizens receive at least one dose of vaccine in just five months. Volunteers have played a key role within the vaccination teams and they should all be very proud of the contribution they have made. As Health Minister, I would like to put on record my sincere thanks to all of them."

Diarmaid Marsden, from Ulster GAA's Club and Community Development team said; "Ulster GAA are delighted to be involved in this unique volunteering partnership with Volunteer Now and British Red Cross. The response to our call for volunteers from our grassroots GAA club members has been fantastic, and from January they have all been instrumental in the safe roll out of the vaccination programme. GAA clubs have been to the forefront of localised community responses since the start of the pandemic, and it is no surprise that club members have put their hands up to volunteer as part of this collective effort."

Ulster GAA is currently recruiting new volunteers for their Vaccination Volunteer Team across all centres: Omagh, Enniskillen, Craigavon, Derry, Ballymena and Belfast. These positions are for 18years+ and full information is available at [www.ulster.gaa.ie/vaccinationvolunteer](http://www.ulster.gaa.ie/vaccinationvolunteer) or contact Sharon Haughey-Grimley by email [sharon.haughey.ulster@gaa.ie](mailto:sharon.haughey.ulster@gaa.ie).



KEN PATTERSON (RED CROSS), EILEEN CARLIN (VOLUNTEER NOW) AND IAN O'HAGAN (ULSTER GAA) HAVE BEEN HELPING TO DELIVER NORTHERN IRELAND'S BIGGEST EVER MASS VACCINATION PROGRAMME OVER THE PAST SIX MONTHS.

### *Donegal GAA looks to lead the way on Sustainability*

According to CLG Dhún na nGall chairperson Mick McGrath "we are uniquely positioned within the community to make a real difference when it comes to sustainability which is the most important issue of our time, so we felt that we had to do something". This is a long-term commitment by the county, and it includes a number of initiatives across the areas of environmental, social and economic sustainability. These will involve leveraging the club infrastructure that exists throughout the county and harnessing the goodwill of the communities that they represent to make a difference. At the centre of this programme is the creation of a sustainable Donegal GAA Centre in Convoys that will provide a focal point for the roll out of the broader sustainability plan. To make this happen, the Board will be seeking the support of local, national and international businesses who share their commitment to sustainability, inclusion and to the wellbeing of our community. "We are actively engaging with potential partners to be part of this journey to a more sustainable future driven by Donegal GAA and almost 22,000 members across ladies, men's and children's football and hurling". To find out more about how you can get involved and support this initiative, please contact Noreen Doherty at [administrator.donegal@gaa.ie](mailto:administrator.donegal@gaa.ie)



DONEGAL HAS PUT ITSELF FORWARD TO LEAD THE CHARGE WITHIN THE GAA ON SUSTAINABILITY.



## CLUB NOTES

### ***Ulster GAA joins sports to develop Mental Health Awareness e-learning***

Ulster GAA has been working with Sport NI, Irish Football Association, Irish Athletic Boxing Association, Netball NI, and Ulster Rugby to develop a Mental Health Awareness e-learning course.

The course, which is available to officers and volunteers at all sports clubs across NI, has been funded by the Department for Communities through its Warm, Well & Connected programme.

The e-learning course defines mental health, the difference between mental health and mental ill health, discusses the stigma of mental health and signs of mental health problems, where to access support and self-help strategies, including the five steps to wellbeing.

Communities Minister Deirdre Hargey said: “The past year of the Covid-19 pandemic has significantly impacted on many individuals in so many ways, including mental health and wellbeing. During this time, we have seen more than ever the importance of different groups coming together to deliver for their local communities and the development of this Mental Health E-learning Package by the sports sector is an example of the success of such collaborative work and I have no doubt that many people will ultimately benefit from it.”

Project Co-ordinator Gavin Nelson from the Irish FA explained: “This Mental Health Awareness e-learning course will provide officers, coaches and volunteers in all sports to recognise the signs of mental health, where they can access support and self-help strategies.

“This project is also a great example of collaboration across the sports sector between the sports involved and the external partners who have helped make this possible. We are thankful to the Department for Communities for funding this project and hope that it will make a real difference.”

The Mental Health Awareness – Level 1 online course is available here: <https://www.wellbeinginsport.com/> This Mental Health Awareness e-learning module (Level 1) is recognised as a prerequisite to the Sport NI Reaching Out Through Sport – Mental Health Awareness workshop for Adults (Level 2) course and Mental Health First Aid (Level 3).

- For more information contact Maura McMenamin, Ulster GAA Community & Health Manager – [maura.mcmenamin.ulster@gaa.ie](mailto:maura.mcmenamin.ulster@gaa.ie) or 07393296285



MINISTER DEIRDRE HARGEY AT THE LAUNCH OF THE E-LEARNING COURSE

# CLUB OFFICER ONLINE RESOURCE HUB

**THE GAA'S OFFICER DEVELOPMENT FUNCTION WITHIN THE PLAYER, CLUB & GAMES ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT IS KEEN TO CONTINUE TO PROMOTE THE SUITE OF ONLINE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO CLUB OFFICERS THROUGHOUT 2021.**

Administrator resources can be accessed via the GAA's Learning Portal here -

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

There are 6 broad sections of resources available for Club Officers and Volunteers to assist them in carrying out their roles effectively.

## Club Dashboard

This is a central hub for a large proportion of the administrative information available to clubs at national level. Up to date guidance and resources are available across areas such as Covid-19 Protocols, setting up GAA email addresses, Vetting, the Player Injury Fund, the Player Transfer System and much more. The Dashboard acts in a signpost capacity to direct volunteers to the section where they require further information/guidance.

## Club Folder Structure

The Club Folder Structure (CFS) is a One Drive structure in place for Club Officers filled with templates, user guides and documents to assist them in their role. Key features of the CFS are:

- Blank templates for Clubs to use
- Userguides on important procedures within the GAA
- Official policies and documents on various GAA affairs

## Club Officer Learning Files

This section contains drafts, templates and advice documents across a wide range of topics that Club Officers deal with on a daily basis. Examples of the Learning Files included here are – Child Safeguarding documentation, Club Committee Structures, Volunteer Recruitment advice and much more.

## Club Officer Role Profiles

Profiles, outlining the role and broad responsibilities attached to that role are also included in the online resource hub. This section is particularly useful for new officers or those embarking on a new role, to better understand the basic scope of the role to get them up and running.

## Club Support Manual

An updated manual has been uploaded in the recent past. This provides club administrators with detailed information in areas such as communication, the AGM and Club Planning.

## Pitch Maintenance Advice

A specific section on maintaining pitches to the highest standard has also been added recently. This section contains practical advice from experts in the field via recorded webinars to help clubs ensure their playing facilities are kept in pristine condition throughout the season.





**NEWLY UPDATED GAA OFFICIAL GUIDE NOW AVAILABLE VIA**

**[HTTPS://WWW.GAA.IE/DOWNLOADS/](https://www.gaa.ie/downloads/)**



**[HTTPS://WWW.GAA.IE/API/PDFS/IMAGE/UPLOAD/OMPAE1LS3SLDQHDQKOMI.PDF/](https://www.gaa.ie/api/pdfs/image/upload/ompae1ls3sldqhdqkomi.pdf/)**





## MÍLE BUÍOCHAS

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

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