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## ULSTER CLUBS HIT THE NCD JACKPOT



**Clubs in the six counties are celebrating after new legislation was passed by the Assembly which allows them to take part in the GAA National Club Draw again.**

GAA clubs in Tyrone, Down, Antrim, Armagh, Derry and Fermanagh will shortly receive tickets for the 2022 NCD which will take place in June and see them rejoin clubs in the 26 counties who will share in a prize fund that has been sponsored by Croke Park and includes a car as well as exclusive All-Ireland final packages among its list of prizes.

All prizes are supplied by GAA Central Council, with clubs retaining all of the ticket money that they sell with every club able to sell a maximum of 2,000 tickets at €10/£10 each.

Legal interpretation had previously cast doubt over whether clubs in the Six Counties were eligible to take part – prompting work to address the matter and driven by Ulster GAA led by their CEO Brian McAvoy in partnership with the GAA's National Finance Committee.

Brian McAvoy told the Club Newsletter: "We are very pleased to see this legislation pass the Assembly, and which will allow clubs in the north to be involved in the National Club Draw again.

"Every club in Ireland has a need to fundraise every year and the National Club Draw has been a great boost for clubs by virtue of the prizes being sponsored by Central Council and the clubs being able to retain all of the proceeds from their ticket sales.

"I want to thank our clubs in the Six Counties for the patience they have shown while this matter was addressed and I've no doubt that the funds raised by being part of the NCD will be put to good use in the promotion and development of our games."

# 2022 GAA NATIONAL CLUB DRAW

**GET YOUR CLUB INVOLVED AND BE IN WITH THE CHANCE OF RAISING €25,000!**

Tickets have now been distributed for the 2022 National Club Draw. If your club require additional tickets or were not included in the initial allocation, please contact [stephen.lohan@gaa.ie](mailto:stephen.lohan@gaa.ie) or [nationalclubdraw@gaa.ie](mailto:nationalclubdraw@gaa.ie)

**Remember:**

ALL money raised by your club through ticket sales is retained by **YOUR** club

**Important Dates:**

- Additional tickets can be requested up until Friday 15th April 2022.
- Tickets (sold/unsold) should be entered onto the Online Ticketing System and returned to your County Liaison Officer by Saturday 30th April 2022.
- The GAA National Club Draw will take place on Thursday 2nd June 2022.
- (Tickets should not be sent directly to Croke Park by any club)



2021 NATIONAL CLUB DRAW WINNER  
CHRISTY PHILLIPS RECEIVING HIS PRIZE

**SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CLUB**

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





By John Harrington

## NEW GAA FUNDING MODEL THAT PRIORITISES CLUBS PROPOSED

**GAA DIRECTOR GENERAL, TOM RYAN, BELIEVES THE GAA MUST MOVE TO A DIFFERENT FUNDING MODEL THAT PRIORITISES DIRECTING REVENUE TOWARDS CLUBS IN ORDER TO INCREASE PARTICIPATION IN OUR NATIONAL GAMES.**

Writing in his Annual Report for 2022 which was published and can be downloaded at the bottom of this article, Ryan said:

“We repeatedly cite participation as the cornerstone of our ambitions. If we conclude that Clubs are the means by which we can achieve this, then we need to resource accordingly. That means increasing substantially the proportion of our gross revenue that we apply directly to Clubs.

“I think this is a worthy target. It will have to come at a cost to some other area of expenditure, but if we believe it’s valid then those hard choices have to be made.

“On a similar theme, the sheer cost of building our playing and spectating infrastructure means that our traditional way of investing in these facilities is becoming obsolete. Our money simply won’t be enough to match our ambition.

“We need to look at alternative means of financing such projects and alternative models of ownership or facility sharing. And we also need to consider different types of facilities. The Dome in Began, where we sit today, is evidence that innovative thinking in this sphere yields spectacular results.

“The project is a credit to those who originated the idea and delivered on the concept, and it is an example for the future. Finance in the coming years in the GAA will have to mean not just accumulating and investing, but most importantly innovating.”

GROUNDSMAN JOHN HAMILL OPENS THE GATES PRIOR TO THE 2020 DOWN GAA ACFL DIVISION 4B MATCH BETWEEN ST MICHAEL’S AND EAST BELFAST AT ST MICHAEL’S GAA GROUND IN MAGHERALIN, DOWN.



# THE GAA DEVELOPMENT FUND IS OPEN!!!

**THE PURPOSE OF THE GAA DEVELOPMENT FUND IS TO PROVIDE FINANCE AT A REASONABLE COST FOR UNITS OF THE ASSOCIATION THAT ARE DEVELOPING FACILITIES FOR THE PROMOTION OF OUR GAMES.**

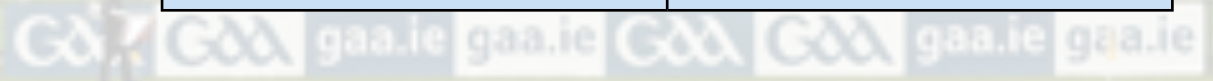
**THE GAA DEVELOPMENT FUND IS NOW OPEN FOR BOTH DEPOSITS AND LOANS TO ALL GAA CLUBS.**

The GAA Development Fund Criteria and Application forms can be found below - please return completed forms along with the required documentation, approval, and recommendation, by email to [stephen.lohan@gaa.ie](mailto:stephen.lohan@gaa.ie)

Note Closing date for Loan applications is the 31st of May 2022. Applications will be reviewed by the National Finance Management Committee during the Month of June and clubs will be notified of the outcome of their Loan application by the end of June 2022.

For more information please see <https://www.gaa.ie/my-gaa/administrators/development-fund>

LOANS	DEPOSITS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A club may make an application for a loan from the Development Fund for purchasing property or the development of club property.</li> <li>Bar Facilities or renting out facilities are <b>not</b> covered by the fund.</li> <li>The interest rate applicable is a variable interest rate, currently 1.9%.</li> <li>Funding is only applicable to <b>vested</b> GAA properties.</li> <li>Loan term is a maximum of 10 years.</li> <li>The cumulative maximum amount available to any one Club is €100,000/£100,000 stg.</li> <li>Repayments are monthly via Direct debit/ Standing Order.</li> <li>All loans <b>must</b> be guaranteed by the County Board and a recommendation received from the Provincial Council.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clubs who are depositors in the Fund will be given priority consideration where demand exceeds supply.</li> <li>The variable interest rate is also currently at 1.9%.</li> <li>The minimum deposit to open an account in the Scheme is €1,000.</li> <li>Initial confirmation on the length of time the deposit is to be held in the fund is required. Annual updates on same will need to be provided by the club.</li> <li>Details of the Unit investing in the Fund must be provided.</li> </ul>







# JUST A MINUTE

At GAA Congress 2022, An tUachtarán CLG, Larry McCarthy, used the most significant day of the non-games GAA calendar to reflect on the murder of Ashling Murphy.

An tUachtarán remarked on the grace with which the Murphy family have borne such a horrifying experience while also praising the resilience and support demonstrated by Ashling's camogie club Kilcormac Killoughey in the aftermath of her death. Since the tragedy, many members have reached out asking that the Association lend its voice to the conversations that were happening across Ireland.

One email struck a particular chord with the President. It highlighted the gratitude a mother felt when her son's coach took a minute after training to speak to the 37 young men on his U17 development squad about the importance of always demonstrating respect for women and girls. When she picked him up after the session, her son relayed the message to his mother, thereby continuing the important conversation and demonstrating the impact the talk had on the young man. It was suggested by this GAA member to An Uachtarán that were all GAA coaches to take 'Just a Minute' and have a similar conversation with their players the impact could be considerable.

An tUachtarán is therefore encouraging all coaches across the Association, on the week of International Woman's Day (Tuesday March 8th), to take 'Just a Minute' at your training session to ask your squad of players to demonstrate respect towards women, and to be leaders amongst their peers by calling out any disrespectful behaviour or language towards women or girls that they come across.

Any such conversation will reinforce the values of the GAA's long-standing 'Give Respect, Get Respect' campaign which aims to promote positive behaviour and ensure that Gaelic Games is an enriching environment for all involved. It encourages and promotes respect both on and off field by coaches, parents, spectators, players, referees, match officials, and anyone else who is involved in the Gaelic Games family.



By John Harrington

## BYRNE TWINS THE PERFECT ROLE-MODELS FOR FEMALE COACHES



LOUISE BYRNE, LEFT, DCU EDUCATION AND GAELIC GAMES DEVELOPMENT OFFICER IN DCU, WITH HER TWIN SISTER EMMA, GAMES PROMOTION OFFICER FOR DUBLIN CLUB ST. VINCENT'S.

**ONE OF THE MOST ARRESTING STATISTICS THAT EMERGED FROM A SURVEY PUBLISHED BY THE GAA, LGFA, AND CAMOGIE ASSOCIATION IN JANUARY WAS THAT JUST 21 PER CENT OF THE 10,400 COACHES WHO TOOK PART WERE FEMALE.**

Since that report was published the three Gaelic games organisations have commissioned a study to better understand the experiences of female coaches with a view to finding out how to encourage more to become involved.

Those best qualified to answer that

question are the female coaches already active in Gaelic games, and there are few as highly respected as twin sisters Louise and Emma Byrne from Corduff in Monaghan.

Louise is the Education and Gaelic Games Development Officer in DCU, while Emma is Games Promotion Officer for Dublin club St. Vincent's.

The dynamic duo were also performance analysts with Brian Cody's Kilkenny hurlers from 2014 to 2020 and now carry out the same role with the Monaghan senior footballers. Together they're 'Byrne

Performance', and provide fitness testing, performance analysis, video analysis, S&C, coaching, GPS analysis, and sports consultancy for teams and individuals.

Their own coaching pathway offers one obvious hint for what would encourage more females to become coaches – they benefited from having a very positive female role-model in Corduff coach Sandra McEaney who managed many teams in the club to underage titles.

And when Louise was sidelined as a teenager by a shoulder injury, it was McEaney who encouraged her to enrol in a foundation level coaching course which was the first important step in her coaching journey.

With that qualification under her belt, Louise began coaching the U-6, U-8, and U-10 teams in Corduff and quickly enlisted Emma to help her.

"We supported each other and it was us taking the initiative really to be honest and seeing that there was a need to do it," says Louise.

"It's rewarding now that some of the girls we were coaching then are playing alongside us now on the senior team. That's success for us.

"There mightn't be too many trophies won across the years but it's great to feel like you made a difference to people who are playing senior now.

"There was only a four or five year age difference at the time we were coaching

them and I think it developed us as coaches as well as them as players."

They enjoyed the coaching experience so much that they both decided to enrol in a Sports Management and Coaching degree in Carlow IT after their Leaving Cert.

Out of the 90 students who enrolled, they were among just six females. When they followed up that degree with a Masters in Strength and Conditioning the ratio was a little bit better, as they were among four females in a class of 16.

"We were always outnumbered but it never felt like a barrier," says Emma. "We just wanted to keep expanding our knowledge.

"While we were in Carlow we were given the opportunity to coach the men's intermediate team and won an All-Ireland title which was a huge opportunity for us and a lesson in why female coaches shouldn't be afraid to step outside their comfort zone."



THE BYRNE TWINS, EMMA (LEFT) AND LOUISE, ARE TALENTED FOOTBALLERS FOR CORDUFF GAELS IN MONAGHAN.

While in College they also studied a module in sports performance analysis and quickly showed such a natural aptitude for it that they caught the eye of Carlow IT's GAA programme director, Mick Dempsey, who at the time was also Kilkenny hurling team trainer.

He asked them to do analysis for Brian Cody's team in 2014, and they've been there ever since.

As in all walks of life some people can't immediately look past gender to recognise obvious talent in the way Dempsey did, and along their coaching journey both sisters have unfortunately had to overcome some prejudices.

"You'll sometimes get comments but you don't let them get to you at all," says Louise. "There's misconceptions there and it can be nice to prove them wrong. You could be at a coaching course and you're trying to get a buy-in at the start and they could be looking at you like, 'Jesus, what

am I going to learn here?'

"They mightn't say it out loud, but that's the vibe you would be getting from them. So it's nice then when they're nearly shocked by what they get from it.

"That can be situations too with the performance analysis side of things as well. The hardest thing sometimes is getting past stewards at matches, small things like that. Almost an attitude of, 'Why would you be involved with a senior team?'"

"It's important to call out behaviour that maybe turns people away from coaching. Someone might have a bad experience that could be dealt with in a better way."

Are there any barriers that currently prevent more females from becoming actively involved in their clubs as coaches? None that can't be dismantled easily as far as Emma Byrne is concerned.

She thinks the biggest issue sometimes is

a lack of confidence among women who feel because they didn't play the game themselves to a high level they couldn't possibly coach the next generation.

"It's important to build up the confidence of your mentors, male and female, so they feel well-supported and that they can really enhance the coaching environment," she says.

"I think it can be a confidence issue sometimes. Maybe females think, 'oh, I haven't played the game or competed at a high level', but just because you haven't played the game, be you male or female, doesn't mean you can't be a good coach.

"A lot of it is about having empathy and you might even be able to relate a little bit more to a child learning a new skill than someone who played for the club's senior hurling team.

"There's a wide range of skills that coaching requires. It's not just about the skills of the game, it's how you can communicate with players, how you can build a player's confidence, and build that support structure around them.

"I think it's important that clubs support both females and males in terms of getting them involved in coaching roles.

"Maybe there's a misconception out there that females can only get involved with the nursery groups because as you go along the ranks there aren't as many females taking the U-13s, the U-14s, and U-15s, the higher levels.

"I recently did an Award 1 in the club and nearly 50 per cent of those taking part were male and 50 per cent were female so I think it's changing slowly, but we need to support the coaches in their roles and provide upskilling opportunities and workshops and create that community of practice with coaches from other teams

helping each other and mentoring each other.

"It would be good if there was support from male mentors saying we want more female mentors involved in our teams, both boys and girls, because that provides the best environment for children to get involved in a really fun and safe environment that will hopefully raise standards across the board and keep kids involved in sport for life."

Many clubs already make a great effort to recruit female coaches and support them in their roles. The Byrne sisters believe that those who do should shout about it from the roof-tops because it can lead to a positive domino effect.

"They should showcase the achievement on social media," says Louise. "If you have testimonials from female coaches it might inspire someone else who is unsure about getting involved.

"If they can see that a path has been created for those ahead of them then I think it might help encourage more people to get involved.

"Maybe there hasn't been enough role-models in the past, but I think that's slowly changing in all aspects of the GAA across the board.

"I think it's important for both boys and girls to see female coaches. I think there's a culture change happening because it's being showcased now a lot more than it once was.

"There are so many role-models now being involved a higher level now too like Mags Darcy and Cliodhna O'Connor even in other sports.

"The exposure they get lets other people see there are females involved in sports coaching in powerful positions in terms



'BYRNE PERFORMANCE' PROVIDES FITNESS TESTING, PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS, VIDEO ANALYSIS, S&C, COACHING, GPS ANALYSIS, AND SPORTS CONSULTANCY FOR TEAMS AND INDIVIDUALS.



of organising sport and hopefully that will inspire the next generation if they can see that ahead of them are females in prominent positions who are making a difference.”

The Byrne sisters are very much role-models themselves and both are making a big effort to encourage more and more females to explore the coaching pathway.

In St. Vincent's, Emma adopts a two-pronged approach. Mothers of children in the nursery are encouraged to be just as active on the coaching front as fathers are, and she also mentors TY students from the local school, most of them female, who also help with the Saturday morning nursery.

Not only are these teenagers gaining a lot of confidence from developing as coaches, it's also great for the younger boys and girls themselves to see other boys and girls coaching them.

A big part of Louise's role as DCU's Education and Gaelic Games Development Officer is to support the many coaches who are involved with the University's 33 Gaelic games teams.

One really positive initiative saw seven female Physical Education and Biology students take charge of the University's Lagan Cup Ladies Football team as part of an enhanced student learning experience.

“They've gained so much confidence from coaching their peers,” says Louise. “In terms of evening just dealing with players. I went to a lot of their matches and to see how they interacted with players on the pitch, and it was very specific.

“They were taking girls aside one to one and giving them a small bit of feedback and even the way they phrased that was very interesting and a little bit in contrast to what the male coach would be

saying.

“I think they have that different aspect in terms of their analytical skills in terms of watching a game and seeing how it's going. They tended to have their roles really well delegated in terms of someone dealing with the goalkeeper, someone dealing with the full-back line.

“There's seven of them there so the numbers helped as well in terms of giving individual feedback. Everything was organised and arranged so well and they learned lots of new skills from the experience.

“Then the players themselves, I think they gained hugely from it too. And you'd hope that having seen female role models not much older than them involved in coaching they might decide to follow that path themselves. That's the sort of circle you want to see go on and on hopefully.”

The participation of female players in Gaelic games has exploded in recent years and you'd have to hope that many of those players of the present will become coaches of the future.

It would be complacent though just to just rely on an organic shift in a positive direction, especially when the benefit of a greater gender balance in coaching is so obvious.

“Everyone has a responsibility, males and females,” says Louise. “We need to encourage each other and build one another up. Everyone has a role to play in this going forward to have more women coaches.

“But whether you're a male or female coach, once you have the player at the centre of it all and there's great support for everyone involved, then the numbers should keep growing hopefully.”





By Martin Kennedy

# GOOD COACHES COACH SPORT, GREAT COACHES COACH PEOPLE

## **GOOD COACHES COACH SPORT, GREAT COACHES COACH PEOPLE. THE WISDOM OF LIAM MOGGAN THE CHAIR OF THE GAA'S NATIONAL COACH ADVISORY COMMITTEE PERFECTLY SUMMED UP THE ATMOSPHERE AT THE SUCCESSFUL COACHING CONFERENCE IN BEKAN LAST MONTH.**

The fabulous new NUIG Connacht GAA Dome in Mayo helped bring the practical element of the coaching conference to life for the hundreds of participants. The focus on developing and nurturing young players is in line with the Gaelic Games Player Pathway which focuses on lifelong participation for all – that could be for those destined to play at junior or senior level for their clubs as well as those who will serve as volunteer coaches or administrators supporting the development of the next generation of players.

What matters is that every individual is valued and feels like they truly belong in the Gaelic games environments. You can get an overview of the conference by watching the video in this link: <https://youtu.be/6cmXm6FMSWk>

One of the keynote contributions, delivered by Áine McNamara, Associate Professor of Elite Performance in DCU, greatly resonated.

Áine's piece centred around Coaching being a decision-making process. She proposed that Principles should always come before Methods – why you as coach do, what you do, and why understanding this helps you to provide an optimal

learning experience for the youth players in your care.

Traditionally a lot of coach education has focused on the What of coaching – what are the skills, techniques, drills and games that are important. And of course, those ingredients are important. However, more important is what a youth coach does with those ingredients.

Delegates were asked to consider the difference between a Cook and a Chef. The Cook follows the recipe, sticking to it as faithfully as possible. If they do it accurately: get the ingredients right, the right temperature in the oven completely right they MIGHT just produce a consistent outcome. Throw in one variable, however, and not only do things go wrong but the cook is faced with no alternative but to throw it in the bin and start again. Contrast this with the Chef who tastes the food frequently, making adjustments as she or he goes to optimise the dish. Their understanding of the whole process is detailed, meaning they can adjust the taste to suit a particular player or context and are certainly able to resurrect the dish if things go wrong or timings change.

Like a good chef, expert (youth) coaches have a rich knowledge and will taste test and change as they progress – tweaking to meet the needs of their players. In fact, you might even get others to test your coaching, ask you questions about your coaching, to help you continually question the decisions that you make.

Of course, coaching young people means

you will be faced with a range of different decisions compared to coaching adults. With this in mind, coaching youth players can be seen as defining a future level of performance potential and never seen as a watering down of the coaching of adults.

### **Practical Demonstrations**

- A special mention to those who did an excellent job delivering the practical demonstrations on the day:
- Football F2 practical led by Ger O'Connor, Dublin GAA Director of Coaching and his team Owen Mooney, Laura Scuffil & Aoife Lowth,
- Hurling/Camogie F2 practical led by Kevin Kelly, Ulster GAA Hurling Development Manager with CD support from Niall Williams,
- Hurling/Camogie F3 Youth practical led by Damien Coleman, Connacht GAA Hurling Development Manager with CD support from Darragh Cox and
- Football F3/Youth practical led by Dublin ladies senior manager Mick Bohan with CD support from Clíodhna O'Connor

It was clear that a lot of thought and care went into the planning of each of these sessions to ensure successful delivery on the day. Delegates engaged enthusiastically with the practicals and took advantage of the opportunities to ask questions of the respective lead coaches and coach developers. Thank you also to members of our panel discussion Clíodhna O'Connor, Jamsie O'Connor and Eddie Friel for their honest and thoughtful insights around what good should look like for our youth players.

A sincere thanks to John Prenty and his wife Mary, Kurt Reinhardt, Cathal Cregg and the whole team at Connacht GAA for hosting the event so well. Kurt Reinhardt in particular did an outstanding job preparing for and coordinating the logistics of the event. Thank you to the each of Connacht GAA County Games Managers Liam Óg Gormley, Billy McNicholas, Willie Hegarty, Dennis Carr and Thomas Keenan all supported the organisation and delivery of the day.

Thank you also to each of the keynote presenters and those who addressed delegates including John Murphy (Chair, Connacht GAA; Vice-President, GAA), John Tobin (Chair, NGDC), Liam Moggan (Chair, NCAC), Áine MacNamara, Ronan Conway and Shane Flanagan (GAA Director of Coaching & Games). All had inspiring and thought-provoking contributions on the day.

Thank you to all members of the national coach development team in particular Colm Clear and Noel Hartigan for their roles in organising the conference. Finally, thank you to the national coaching and games department who provided much needed hands-on support on the day and in particular, Peter Horgan for his guidance and advice through the planning of this event.

Finally, videos and resources from each of the keynotes and practical demonstrations will be available for the gaelic games coaching community via the GAA Learning YouTube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/c/GAALearningChannel>) before the end of March.

# 28,000 GAA MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN IRISH LIFE GAA HEALTHY CLUB STEPS CHALLENGE



EACH PARTICIPANT IN THE IRISH LIFE GAA HEALTHY CLUB STEPS CHALLENGE WALKED AN AVERAGE OF ALMOST 190 KILOMETRES IN THE FIVE WEEKS.

**THE 'EVERY STEP COUNTS' IRISH LIFE GAA HEALTHY CLUB STEPS CHALLENGE SAW 28,600 GAA MEMBERS FROM 690 CLUBS WALK A COMBINED TOTAL OF FIVE MILLION KILOMETRES BETWEEN JANUARY 19TH AND FEBRUARY 23RD.**

With every step once again tracked through Irish Life's MyLife App, the distance covered is the equivalent of walking all the way to the moon and back five times; a combined step count of seven billion. Each participant walked an average of almost 190 kilometres in the five weeks.

Prof. Niall Moyna, BA, MSc, PhD, FACSM, FFPHMI, Full Professor: Clinical Exercise Physiology, School of Health and Human Performance, Faculty of Science and Health, Dublin City University, who is also well known for his GAA credentials, said:

"The fact that we have had 28,600 people engaging from almost 700 clubs is phenomenal. The impact this will have on public health is incalculable. It's not just the acute effect [participants] get from engaging in that bout of activity –

but the long-term effects are absolutely astronomical. It will reduce their risk for cardiovascular disease, diabetes, from many forms of cancer and will reduce their likelihood that they will become obese or will assist them in losing weight as well."

The challenge was the third delivered during the pandemic through the award-winning Irish Life GAA Healthy Club Project and has proven itself as a popular way to motivate the community to get active while also connecting the participants in a fun and healthy way.

The first challenge in June 2020 attracted 12,000 participants from over 400 clubs, with the MyLife App tracking all 2.2 billion steps taken. Last year Every Step Counts Challenge in January saw 28,100 participants from over 600 clubs track an average of 4km per day. This year's 28,600 participants have increased their average distance to an impressive 5.2 kilometres daily.

"There isn't a single organ system in the body that is not positively affected by regular physical activity, even if it's only a two-minute, three-minute or four-minute piece of activity" Prof. Moyna added.

The stakes were raised this year with the same club target of 4,000km set for the 'Every Step Counts' challenge – the equivalent of a circuit of the coast of Ireland – but with just 5 weeks to reach it. More than 450 clubs achieved this goal and were entered into randomised draws in their province for gear vouchers worth €2,500, €1,500, and €1,000, generously provided by Irish Life as part of their on-going partnership of GAA Healthy Clubs (see editors notes for full list of prize winners).

While the winning clubs welcomed the prize monies, the benefits of the challenge far exceeded the financial rewards.

Healthy Club Officer with the Curry Healthy Club in Sligo, explains:

"It was fantastic to see so many people out on bleak winter evenings talking and having fun. People you wouldn't



normally see from one end of the year to the next. Programmes like this highlight the exceptional work of the Healthy Clubs involvement in clubs and communities. Would you believe we had an 82-year-old doing 5km to 8km most days.”

GAA President Larry McCarthy said: “The Irish Life GAA Healthy Clubs Steps Challenge provides clubs with a healthy and fun way to keep physically active and connected during the dark winter months. It has also helped motivate thousands of participants to achieve their recommended weekly physical activity levels. It is one of our most popular community initiatives and its enabling of physical, mental, and social health couldn’t be more timely.”

Head of Health & Wellbeing at Irish Life, Stacey Machesney said: “Research has shown the importance having a sense of belonging to a community and making a contribution to society. That sense of inclusion is as important to one’s wellbeing as physical and mental health. Over the course of the pandemic MyLife has been successful in providing this with the GAA community and our customers. We look forward to continuing this as we move through the next phase of coming out of lockdown.”

The Irish Life GAA Healthy Clubs will grow to 475 participating clubs on March 12th when 172 new clubs commence their journey with a national orientation day in Croke Park. For more details go to: [www.gaa.ie/community](http://www.gaa.ie/community)

MyLife is a health & wellbeing app that motivates and rewards users to embrace a healthier lifestyle through a personalised AI coach, goal setting and challenge activities. For more details on the MyLife app go to: <https://mylife.irishlife.ie/home>

Winners of random provincial draw amongst all clubs that reached 4,500km

target:

### LEINSTER

Kilmessan GAA (Meath) -  
€2,500 O’Neills gear voucher

Skerries Harps (Dublin) -  
€1,500 O’Neills gear voucher

Shillelagh Coolboy (Wicklow) -  
€1,000 O’Neills gear voucher

### CONNACHT

St. Mary’s GAA club (Sligo) -  
€2,500 O’Neills gear voucher

Kiltubrid GAA (Leitrim) -  
€1,500 O’Neills gear voucher

Ballinrobe GAA (Mayo) -  
€1,000 O’Neills gear voucher

### MUNSTER

Glin GAA and GlinEmmets  
LGFA club (Limerick) - €2,500  
O’Neills gear voucher

Ballina (Tipperary) - €1,500  
O’Neills gear voucher

Inagh Kilnamona (Clare) -  
€1,000 O’Neill’s gear voucher

### ULSTER

Na Dúnaibh (Donegal) - €2,500  
O’Neills gear voucher

St. Malachy’s, Castledawson  
(Derry) - €1,500 O’Neills gear  
voucher

Butlersbridge (Cavan) - €1,000  
O’Neill’s gear voucher

# MINISTER BROPHY ANNOUNCES STRENGTHENED SUPPORT FOR GAA OVERSEAS

**THE MINISTER FOR OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT AID AND DIASPORA, MR. COLM BROPHY, T.D. HAS REAFFIRMED THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO THE OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT OF THE GAA AND ANNOUNCED STRENGTHENED SUPPORT TO THE GAA'S GLOBAL GAMES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME. THE MINISTER'S ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE AT A MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE GAA, MR. LARRY MCCARTHY, IN CROKE PARK TODAY.**

From supporting just 14 projects in 2013, the Global Games Development Programme has grown and developed to support around 100 different projects annually in over 30 countries in every region of the world. Some projects are one-off events, others have activities lasting the course of a year. All have been invaluable in supporting and nurturing a sense of Irish community and many have created important links between the global Irish and their local communities.

Minister Brophy paid tribute to and thanked GAA clubs and communities across the globe for the important role they played throughout the Covid pandemic. He highlighted the partnership developed with local GAA organisations on the ground to implement the Government's Covid Response Fund, in support of the Irish abroad for protection of the most vulnerable, as well as maintaining the vital links between the Irish abroad and at home.

Speaking after the meeting, the Minister for Overseas Development Aid and Diaspora, Colm Brophy, T.D., said:

"Through the Government's new Diaspora Strategy and the Emigrant Support Programme, my Department remains committed to supporting Irish communities abroad. I am therefore delighted to announce strengthened support for the GAA for the coming twelve months. This funding will be matched by the GAA, and brings the total amount for the development of the Global Game to nearly €8.5 million over the last 10 years.

The GAA is at the heart of many of our Diaspora communities. GAA clubs create a sense of belonging and connection with our heritage in locations as diverse as Manila or Vancouver, and they are invaluable in keeping connections to Ireland alive.

Many of the 450 GAA clubs around the world only exist due to the commitment and engagement of volunteers, who tirelessly give their time and enthusiasm to ensure that Gaelic Games continue to grow and flourish and remain at the heart of our community abroad. I would like to thank them all for their tireless work, in particular, over the past two years of the Covid pandemic.

In my role as Minister for Diaspora, I look forward to continuing to work in partnership with the GAA, to maintaining



IN ATTENDANCE DURING THE GAA / DFA GLOBAL GAMES DEVELOPMENT FUND ANNOUNCEMENT ARE ARD STIÚRTHÓIR OF THE GAA TOM RYAN, CENTRE LEFT, AND MINISTER OF STATE AT THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS COLM BROPHY TD, CENTRE RIGHT, WITH MEMBERS OF ST JUDE'S GAA CLUB, FROM LEFT, MARY NERNEY, TOM MORAN, LUCY DUFFY, ADAM DUFFY, JANE MORAN, GRACE CASHIN, JACK FALLON AND SARAH MCDAID, AT CROKE PARK IN DUBLIN.

our close and collaborative relationship, and to developing our sporting heritage networks and contributing to the vitality of our communities worldwide for the good of our emigrants."

**President of the GAA, Mr. Larry McCarthy added:**

"The GAA continues to play a key role in the social and cultural life of Irish communities abroad. It goes without saying, the global pandemic presented an

inevitable challenge for the GAA in terms of developing our Gaelic games overseas. However, the Association remains more committed than ever to promote Irish heritage and identity across the globe through the promotion of our games. The support from the Government is much welcomed and will allow the GAA to strengthen and develop links with Irish communities abroad".

## LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR PAUDIE BUTLER

**THE IMPACT PAUDIE BUTLER HAS HAD ON HURLING AND CAMOGIE COACHING WAS FITTINGLY RECOGNISED LAST SATURDAY WHEN HE WAS HONOURED WITH A LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD AT THE 2022 GAA COACHING CONFERENCE.**

As a teacher and then headmaster in his local primary school in Inch, Tipperary, Paudie quickly earned a reputation for being a very innovative and successful coach with both the school and his club, Drom-Inch.

Paudie became the National Hurling Director in 2005 and continued in this role until 2010 where he travelled the length and breadth of the country delivering hurling workshops/coaching courses/seminars to hurling coaches at all age levels.

It was in this role that Paudie excelled and he certainly had a huge influence on any hurling coach that he engaged with during this time. Paudie brought a huge enthusiasm to every session that he attended.

Whether it was a delivering a module of a coaching course in Armagh, a fundamental movement practical session in Offaly, or a session with development coaches in Cork, Paudie was always able to relate to the group he had in front of him. He spoke about their players, their club and their county. This gave the coaches that attended a great sense of how important a role they were playing in the development of the games in their own community.

His ability to get his message across in a clear and concise manner helped coaches to understand their own role as coaches. Paudie also challenged the coaches to think about how they coached the game, but more importantly how to see the players as people and how to relate to them. I do remember Paudie asking coaches to set a task for themselves, to try and say one sentence to each player every night at training (it sounded easier that it was but it certainly made us more personal as coaches).

When the GAA commenced training its own Tutors to deliver their Coach Education programme Paudie was one of the first to be up-skilled into the Master Tutor or Tutor Trainer role. Paudie delivered many a course to new tutors and was now influencing coaching in a different way in that the tutors he was up-skilling would pass on some of the traits, skills and knowledge to the coaches that they would meet on the courses. Paudie continuously expressed to tutors the importance of building a relationship with the course participants rather than just imparting knowledge, identifying that course attendants were people who came from different backgrounds, from parents to past players to volunteers who wanted to help their local club.

Paudie continues to have a huge influence on how we coach our games. His willingness to continue to learn himself has shown to coaches and tutors the importance of seeking knowledge and applying it to your coaching session and courses.



PAUDIE BUTLER PICTURED AT THE 2017 GAA GAMES DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE.

Paudie is always willing to help deliver coach education and when contacted he will make space in his diary for you. Following a brief phone call last week we have a few dates provisionally lined up for courses over the next few weeks.

His diary is filling up again with workshops and courses now commencing over the next few weeks and it looks like his garden will be taking a little back seat for a while.

“I’m thrilled, I’m really delighted about it,” said Butler of his Lifetime Achievement Award. “Especially for my wife Miriam and my family who gave me the freedom. And the GAA who had the faith in me to put me around every county in Ireland and abroad.

“We were there in the beginning when coaching was only beginning to get its own life and its own respect. And I think the way hurling is being played now is just so beautiful and camogie rising all the time.

“I’m chuffed, I’m really honoured.”





## LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR THE LATE EAMONN RYAN



**THE IMPACT THE LATE, GREAT EAMONN RYAN HAD ON GAELIC GAMES COACHING WAS FITTINGLY RECOGNISED LAST SATURDAY WHEN HE WAS POSTHUMOUSLY HONOURED WITH A LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD AT THE 2022 GAA COACHING CONFERENCE.**

Best known for his achievements with the Ladies Senior Football team that saw him manage them to 10 All-Ireland titles, Ryan also had great success in many other levels of the game.

Prior to Eamonn's involvement, the Cork Ladies had won no major honours at National or provincial level.

In 2014 the Cork Ladies won the RTE team of the year after a public vote that recognised the achievements of Eamonn and all the Cork players.

He qualified as a primary School Teacher out of St. Patricks in Drumcondra and taught in the Local School in Watergrasshill and became principal of

the school in later years.

As a teacher he taught everything to his pupils, from Shakespeare, to classical music to coaching hurling and football, to both boys and girls during and after school who affectionally referred to him as 'The Master'.

Eamonn loved getting people involved in his activities and had a great ability in making everyone feel part of the group and could get the very best out of everyone in the group. This is very evident from his coaching CV in that he was involved in many a 'breakthrough' season with so many teams.

Eamonn had this great ability in that when he was speaking to a group you could sense that he was speaking directly to you and you always wanted to do your very best for him. His ability to tell stories about life and relate them to the games was one of his great traits. For Eamonn, you were a person first and a player second.

Eamonn was also involved in training tutors to deliver the GAA's Coach Education programme. His approach was the same as when he was coaching - he was talking to you as a person first and not as a tutor.

He certainly made you think about how you approach delivering a course so that you could get the best out of the room. Eamonn always maintained that if you worked the room and got to know the course attendants as people that the knowledge and information would flow



effortlessly on that course.

When giving feedback on the course Eamonn always asked, "what you would do", not, "this is what I would have done". A brilliant skill which he passed to so many tutors.

Eamonn loved coaching and was always willing to help when he could if he could and he was a sounding board for many a person/player/coach during his life time.

"He leaves a huge legacy," said GAA President, Larry McCarthy.

"The most well-known part of it was obviously his involvement with Cork ladies, but I think his legacy is much bigger than that. It's not just those All-Irelands, it's the fact that he brought humanity and humility to his coaching role.

"And, as a coach educator, he was able to impart that to others. He never, ever had an ego about it. He was so intuitive and so in tune with the athletes that he had. He was absolutely magnificent."

# DÉANAIMIS CEILIÚRADH AR SHEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE 2022 LE CHÉILE

**GACH BLIAIN, BÍONN IMEACHTAÍ AGUS GNÍOMHAÍOCHTAÍ GAEILGE Á N-EAGRÚ AG BAILL, CLUBANNA, CONTAETHA AGUS AG CÚIGÍ DE CHUID CHUMANN LÚTHCHLEAS GAEL. BÍONN AONAIÐ DE CHUID AN CHUMAINN SAITE SAN FHÉILE MHÓR GHAELACH BHLIANTÚIL SEO GACH BLIAIN. IARRANN MUID AR ÁR GCUID BALL AGUS AR ÁR GCUID LUCHT LEANÚNA CEILIÚRADH NÍOS MÓ NÁ RIAMH A DHÉANAMH AR AN NGAEILGE LE LINN NA FÉILE I MBLIANA!**

Beidh an Cumann ag eagrú comórtas ar líne do lucht bunscoile, iar-bhunscoile agus do dhaoine fásta arís i mbliana. Beidh ceiliúradh á dhéanamh ar Lá Idirnáisiúnta na mBan agus beidh leabhrán gníomhaíochtaí bunscoile á scaipeadh ar scoileanna agus ar chlubanna fud fad an domhain. Tá súil againn go mbeidh Ambasadóir na Gaeilge, CLG, 2022 á cheapadh againn le linn na Féile. Beidh go leor gníomhaíochtaí Gaeilge le feiceáil ar líne agus beidh an t-eagrán is déanaí de Cuaille á éisiúint againn.

Gach bliain eagraíonn contaetha agus clubanna imeachtaí mar chuid de Sheachtain na Gaeilge agus tá muid ag iarraidh cloisteáil ó na contaetha agus na clubanna sin faoi na himeachtaí a bheidh á n-eagrú acu. Más mian leat go mbeadh d'imeacht nó do ghníomhaíocht Ghaeilge luaite ar fheilire #GAAGaeilge Sheachtain na Gaeilge do 2022, agus go ndéanfaí poiblíocht ar d'imeacht nó ar do ghníomhaíocht, is féidir an fhoirm a líonadh isteach ag an nasc seo a leanas:

**[ANSEO](#)**

Bí mar chuid den fhéile agus inis dúinn faoi

na himeachtaí agus na gníomhaíochtaí a bheidh á n-eagrú agat. I measc na rudaí a d'fhéadfá a dhéanamh ná líon mór giolcanna agus postálacha a chur amach ar mheáin shóisialta an chlub faoi na haischlibeanna #GAAGaeilge / SnaG22. D'fhéadfá tráth na gceist a eagrú sa

chlubtheach. D'fhéadfá Pop Up Gaeltacht a eagrú sa chlub. D'fhéadfá seisiún traenála a eagrú trí Ghaeilge nó lá Gaeilge a eagrú sa chlub. D'fhéadfá agallamh a dhéanamh le laoch mór de chuid an chlub agus é a phostáil ar líne. D'fhéadfá an club a chlárú le Fondúireacht Sheosaimh Mhic

Dhonncha. Tá an iliomad rudaí a d'fhéadfá a dhéanamh agus ba bhreá linn cloisteáil faoi na rudaí atá beartaithe agat.

Labhair í agus mairfidh sí. Déanaimis ceiliúradh ar an nGaeilge agus ar Sheachtain na Gaeilge le chéile.



**UACHTARÁN CLG LABHRÁS MAC CARTAIGH LE CATHAOIRLEACH CHOISTE NÁISIÁNTA GAEILGE CLG, GRÁINNE MCELWAINÉ**



By Cian O'Connell

## GAA CONGRESS 2022: WHAT CLUBS NEED TO KNOW



UACHTARÁN CLG LARRY MCCARTHY AGUS  
ARD STIÚRTHÓIR TOM RYAN AT CONGRESS

**THE GAA'S ANNUAL CONGRESS AT THE SPLENDID NUI GALWAY CONNACHT GAA AIR DOME IN BEKAN ON FEBRUARY 26 FEATURED A NUMBER OF MOTIONS THAT WERE CARRIED WITH SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT.**

Inevitably much debate surrounded the passing of a new All-Ireland Senior Football Championship format from 2023, but there were plenty of other important motions that will impact on our clubs.

GAA President Larry McCarthy was pleased with how that vote went with 95% backing the structure. "It means there is huge consensus with it," he said in the media briefing following Congress.

"After Special Congress, that is what they looked for and we came back and the committee was able to put something together that was acceptable to the general

membership, which is great.

"Looking forward then as a consequence to that, post this year's Tailteann Cup which will be excellent, and then going forward into the new system next year."

Motion 33 from the GPA calling on the GAA to prioritise integration with the LGFA and the Camogie Association was passed by 90% of delegates.

One of the functions of Congress is to direct the Association with regard to fundamental policy matters.

McCarthy acknowledged that it could potentially take several years before implementation. "It's massive," McCarthy says about the potential timeframe.

"Corporate entities can come together relatively quickly, but you have three different

cultural associations coming together.

"It's going to take time and it's not going to happen as quick as people will want it to happen. It's going to be a slower process and I don't think they anticipate or know the complexity of it."

Motion 2 calling for the introduction of an U19 inter-county Championship received 56% support, but needed 60% to be carried.

Motion 39 proposed removing a clause so that counties could have absolute discretion to run their own age grades internally in whatever way they want. However, it failed with only 40% voted in favour.

Motions 40, 41, 42, and 43 focusing on age grades and the definition of minor were all withdrawn with the issues to be discussed by relevant committees shortly.

A Special Congress later in the year was mooted, but delegates agreed that further discussions should take place as it is critically important for clubs.

Rathdowney-Erill's motion that a player who wishes to participate in an adult Championship game must have completed courses approved by Central Council on alcohol, gambling, and substance abuse and anti-doping education in that Championship year or the preceding year was referred to the National Health and Wellbeing committee, likewise a motion looking to increase the severity of suspensions for players guilty of racist or sectarian abuse on the field.

A motion proposing that a coaching officer role would be created on the club executive was passed by 98% of delegates.

Other motions carried included allowing counties to vary the dimensions of a pitch in the case of juvenile games according to their own local requirements.

Strasbourg Gaels motion that all inter-county transfers be completed online was passed by 86% of delegates.

Motion 14 was passed which refines time-based suspensions to also include a specified number of games in specified competitions. This allows for the orderly imposition of more severe penalties in disciplinary cases.

Motion 24 was passed which proposes that bye-laws should not prevent a transfer being granted where the relevant Competitions Control Committee is satisfied that it is necessary to do so to protect a child from harm and to comply with the child safeguarding commitments of the Association.

In playing rules Motion 27 was passed. This motion makes permanent in the rule-book the previously trialled penalty/black-card rule for a foul that denies a goal-scoring opportunity.

This motion also proposes a refinement to what constitutes a goal-scoring opportunity. A goal-scoring opportunity will require the player in possession to be inside the 20-metre line and not within 25 metres of each sideline or within the semi-circular arc.

The majority of the motions passed come into being four weeks after Congress and the updated GAA Official Guide is currently being worked on and club secretaries will be alerted when this is ready.



## SURPRISING STORIES AT A REVAMPED GAA MUSEUM

**AN OLD CUSACK STAND SEAT, A NEW YORK CAPTAIN'S JERSEY FROM 1927 AND A HURLEY FROM THE 1888 INVASION TOUR ARE AMONG THE VARIED AND FASCINATING OBJECTS SHOWCASED IN THE REVAMPED EXHIBITION SPACE AT THE GAA MUSEUM.**

Nestled under the Cusack Stand in Croke Park, the GAA Museum recently received a major makeover, and the result is an exciting space telling some of the GAA's most interesting stories and highlighting the museum's most prized items.

The renovation was completed thanks to funding through Fáilte Ireland's Dublin's Surprising Stories scheme. This initiative has given visitor attractions and tourist sites across Dublin the opportunity to tell unexpected stories of local people and places in a fresh and exciting way.

The funding has allowed the GAA Museum to tell the story of Gaelic games and the unique place the sports hold in Irish society and culture. It's also the perfect opportunity to feature the ancient and unique sports of hurling and camogie and their links to Irish myth and legend. "The new ground floor welcome area of the GAA Museum has been transformed thanks to this important scheme. We're proud to reveal the work that has been done and it's exciting to see such significant items from our collection on show for our visitors. We hope all who come to see us enjoy hearing our surprising stories," said GAA Museum Director Niamh McCoy.

Uachtarán CLG, Larry McCarthy was on hand to officially launch the new exhibition space. "The GAA Museum holds a unique place within our Association, and we are grateful for the work the team do in telling our stories, remembering our heroes and building on our legacy. This new exhibition has some amazing items and it's important that GAA supporters, history lovers and the general public have a place to discover our evolution and learn more about us," he said.

Liz Halpin from Fáilte Ireland said: "Creating new ways for visitors to enjoy the history, heritage and culture of Dublin will ensure our capital city's attractions remain on the must-visit list for domestic and international visitors.

We know that the modern tourist expects an interactive and accessible experience and the renovation of the GAA Museum, completed through our Dublin's Surprising Stories scheme, will allow visitors to engage with the story of Dublin in a new, innovative way."

The GAA Museum is open daily from 09.30 to 17.00 (may be closed for match days and other event days). Croke Park stadium tours and Skyline tours also leave from the GAA Museum and a visit to the exhibition is included with all tour tickets. For further information and to book a tour,

visit

[www.crokepark.ie/gaamuseum](http://www.crokepark.ie/gaamuseum)



## SUSPECTED HEAD INJURY

- Concussion is a brain injury that can be caused by an impact to a player's head or body
- Over 90% of concussions occur without a loss of consciousness, therefore recognition of other signs and symptoms is crucial

**“IT'S NOT ALWAYS A KNOCK-OUT”**

## OBSERVATION

### INITIAL SIGNS:

#### *The nature of the impact:*

- The speed of the impact / collision
- Was the player braced for impact? (Did they see the impact coming)
- Was there any rotational (twisting) motion of the head / neck caused by the impact?

### INDICATORS:

#### *Player's reaction:*

- Did they lie motionless for any period of time?
- Were they unsteady on their feet?
- Did they clutch their head?

### RED FLAGS:

#### *Urgent medical attention:*

- Possible neck or spinal injury –player should not be moved
- Prolonged Loss of consciousness
- Deteriorating conscious state
- Convulsions / Seizures
- Vomiting
- Double Vision
- Disorientation/Confusion
- Severe or increasing headache
- Abnormalities of balance or coordination
- Slurred or incoherent speech
- Weakness or tingling/burning in arms or legs

## A SIMPLE **TWO-STEP** PROCESS SHOULD BE APPLIED:

### 1. **RECOGNISE** -

the signs and symptoms

### 2. **REMOVE** -

the **player** from the **field** of play

**Remember,**  
**if there is any suspicion of concussion, the player should be removed from the field of play:**

**“IF IN DOUBT,  
SIT THEM OUT”**



# GAMBLING – ‘STOP BEFORE YOU JUST CAN’T STOP’

**STOP BEFORE YOU  
JUST CAN’T STOP**

VISIT [PROBLEMGAMBLING.IE](http://PROBLEMGAMBLING.IE)



IT'S JUST A BITTA CRAIC

IT'S JUST A FEW QUID

IT'S JUST A BIT MORE THAN LAST TIME

IT'S JUST A LAST CHANCE TO WIN BACK WHAT YOU LOST

IT'S JUST THIS WEEK'S WAGES

IT'S JUST NEXT MONTH'S RENT

IT'S JUST NOT GOING TO STOP UNTIL YOU'VE GOT NOTHING LEFT

WHEN GAMBLING GETS THE BETTER OF YOU IT JUST KEEPS GETTING WORSE

TO STOP BEFORE YOU JUST CAN'T STOP VISIT [PROBLEMGAMBLING.IE](http://PROBLEMGAMBLING.IE)



**THE GAA'S NEW GAMBLING AWARENESS CAMPAIGN, 'STOP BEFORE YOU JUST CAN'T STOP', IS DESIGNED TO HELP PEOPLE RECOGNISE SOME OF THE BEHAVIOURS ASSOCIATED WITH PROBLEM GAMBLING AND TO ACCESS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THE SUPPORT SERVICES AVAILABLE TO THEM.**

The campaign is funded by Gambling Awareness Trust and supported by Problem Gambling Ireland. The GAA's work in the field of gambling awareness recognises the research that highlights athletes as an at-risk group when it comes to problem gambling. The timing of the campaign launch – during the reopening of society in Q1 2022 – also acknowledges reports of a significant increase in online gambling during the pandemic.

The campaign message is clear: if you feel you are exhibiting any of the warning signs or behaviours associated with problem gambling and want to 'stop before you can't stop', avail of the services provided by [ProblemGambling.ie](http://ProblemGambling.ie). Their professional support can make all the difference.

**Uachtarán CLG, Larry McCarthy**, said: "The GAA has taken unrivalled steps in an Irish sporting context to decouple Gaelic Games from gambling. However, problem gambling remains a societal issue of concern; one that has negatively impacted the lives of numerous GAA players and their loved ones. Through this campaign we encourage any GAA member who may

be concerned about their gambling to access as early as possible the supports that are proven to help one deal with problem gambling."

The 'Stop Before You Can't Stop' campaign reinforces the ground-breaking decision by GAA Congress 2018 to prohibit the sponsorship by a betting firm of any GAA competition, team, playing gear, or facility.

GAA rules governing the area of gambling include the successful 2017 motion to Congress prohibiting any player, team, member of a management team, or match official, from betting on any element of a game in which they are involved. The monitoring of this rule has been strengthened by the development of memorandums of understanding (MOU) between the GAA and the Irish Bookmakers Association and Betfair / Paddy Power.

The MOUs allow for the sharing of sensitive information should either party suspect that their rules or terms and conditions have been broken. Sanctions include suspension and possible disbarment from the Association.

For more information on the campaign contact [blanaid.carney@gaa.ie](mailto:blanaid.carney@gaa.ie)

For further information on problem gambling visit <https://www.problemgambling.ie/>

## FINAL 4 CONFIRMED FOR HANDBALL FINALS THIS SATURDAY

### AFTER TWO DAYS OF MATCHES, ONLY 4 ARE LEFT STANDING IN THE 2022 O'NEILLS ALL-IRELAND 4-WALL SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

Diarmaid Nash stole the show on Sunday, dominating Irish #1 Martin Mulkerrins with a 21-5, 21-14 SF, having also defeated Peter Funchion in Saturday's QF. Next Saturday's Final will be Nash's third attempt at taking All-Ireland glory, ironically having fallen to his Final opponent this year Robbie McCarthy in 2019 & 2014.

McCarthy himself showcased what a class act he is, seeing off Colin Crehan & Charly Shanks over the weekend, both in straight games. McCarthy will start as favourite given his remarkable record of reaching 9 of the last 10 Senior 4-Wall Singles Finals.



In the Ladies, Catriona Casey ruthlessly saw off Pauline Gallagher & Eilise McCrory to reach her 8th consecutive final. There she will play her huge rival of recent years Martina McMahon. McMahon, making her comeback from a serious back injury also proved to be a class apart all weekend, comfortably seeing off Fiona Tully & Megan McCann.

The Senior Finals will take place next Saturday in Kingscourt HC, Cavan from 2pm. They will be part of a huge three day Finals Festival Weekend that sees all Adult, Masters and Juvenile Finals played at the same venue. Full details of the Finals Festival Weekend will be released by GAA Handball this week.

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### Men's Results

#### Quarter Finals

QF1: Galway (Martin Mulkerrins) dft Kerry (Dominick Lynch) 21-13, 21-8  
 QF2: Clare (Diarmuid Nash) dft Kilkenny (Peter Funchion) 21-16, 21-3  
 QF3: Armagh (Charly Shanks) dft Mayo (Joe McCann) 21-19, 21-5  
 QF4: Westmeath (Robbie McCarthy) dft Clare (Colin Crehan) 21-16, 21-6  
 Semi-Finals

SF1: Clare (Diarmuid Nash) dft Galway (Martin Mulkerrins) 21-5, 21-14  
 SF2: Westmeath (Robbie McCarthy) dft Armagh (Charly Shanks) 21-10, 21-10  
 --

### Ladies Results

#### Quarter Finals

QF1: Cork (Catriona Casey) dft Kildare (Pauline Gallagher) 21-3, 21-2  
 QF2: Tyrone (Eilise McCrory) dft Kildare (Mollie Dagg) 21-3, 21-18  
 QF3: Armagh (Megan McCann) dft Cork (Aishling O'Keefe) 21-6, 21-12  
 QF4: Limerick (Martina McMahon) dft Roscommon (Fiona Tully) 21-16, 21-4  
 Semi-Finals

SF1: Cork (Catriona Casey) dft Tyrone (Eilise McCrory) 21-1, 21-7  
 SF2: Limerick (Martina McMahon) dft Armagh (Megan McCann) 21-6, 21-3



# 1ST IRISH NATIONALS FOR CREHAN; 4TH FOR CASEY



**A COMING OF AGE WIN FOR COLIN CREHAN SAW HIM DEFEAT FELLOW CLARE MAN DIARMAID NASH 15-11, 2-15, 11-6 IN LAST NIGHTS DALATA GROUP IRISH 4-WALL NATIONALS FINAL IN THE GORT NA MONA HC, BELFAST. IT WAS CREHAN'S FIRST MAJOR ELITE SINGLES TITLE OF HIS CAREER, A WIN THAT HAS BEEN SHOWING POTENTIAL FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS.**

Both men prevailed in dramatic SF tiebreak wins over Peter Funchion (KK) and Charly Shanks (Armagh) respectively on Sunday morning. Nash's win in particular being eye catching given he trailed 10-2 before fighting back to win 11-10.

The final pairing was novel given both men are the reigning two time All-Ireland Senior Doubles Champions and know each others game so well. Kilkishen's Crehan took the first with some outrageous kill shots, but the astute Nash very effectively changed his game plan in the second, opting for a slower lob serve to nullify Crehan's attack. It worked as he ran out an easy 15-2 winner in the second.

But momentum swung again in the tiebreak when Crehan broke first and took a 6-2 lead that he never surrendered.



In the Elite Ladies grade, a very familiar winner rose to the top yet again as Catriona Casey (Cork) showed her class in defeating first time finalist Megan McCann (Armagh) 15-2, 15-0. Casey defeated local, and old rival Aisling Reilly in the SF, before McCann had her own mini break though win in her SF, defeating Fiona Tully 15-14, 15-14.

The Armagh lady couldn't get to grips with Casey's game in the Final however, the Ballydesmond native controlling the mid court and very efficiently picking off kills with both hands.

A host of other Adult & Masters Finals also took place across Belfast venues. Finals Scores and Full Results are available below.



Contact [development.handball@gaa.ie](mailto:development.handball@gaa.ie) for further media enquiries.

GAA Handball would like to express their thanks to our tournament sponsor the Dalata Group, and to our hosts Antrim Handball who contributed greatly to the overall success of this years Nationals. Full selection of photos available at [www.inpho.ie](http://www.inpho.ie), and match footage available on our Facebook page.

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## Final Scorelines

### Elite Mens:

Colin Crehan (Clare) dft  
Diarmaid Nash (Clare) 15-11, 2-15, 11-6

### Elite Ladies:

Catriona Casey (Cork) dft  
Megan McCann (Arm) 15-2, 15-0

### Men's A:

Mark Doyle (Wex) dft  
Kevin Diggins (Kild) 15-14, 4-15, 11-3

### Men's B:

Chris Doyle (Wick) dft  
Cahir Munroe (Tyr) 15-5, 15-5

### Ladies B:

Holly Hynes (Wex) dft  
Elizabeth McGarvey (Tyr) 15-7, 15-1

### Men's C:

Wayne Kinsella (Wick) dft  
Shane Birney (Wex)

Men's 35+: Jack O'Shea (Ker) dft Shane O'Neill (Tyr) 10-15, 15-14, 11-1

Masters B: Fergal McWilliams (Wex) dft David Stanners (Wex) 15-14, 6-15, 11-6

Silver Masters A: Niall Kerr (Tyr) W/O Paul Graham (Ant) inj.

Golden Masters B: John Roche (Wex) dft Sean McGurn (Ant) 7-15, 15-5, 11-8

Emerald Masters A: John Herilhy (Cork) dft Thomas Maguire (Ant) 15-8, 14-15, 11-10

## CONOR MCDONNELL ELECTED UACHTARÁIN TOFA



**AT THE GAA HANDBALL NATIONAL AGM, MONAGHAN MAN CONOR MCDONNELL WAS ELECTED AS THE ASSOCIATION'S NEXT PRESIDENT.**

The current Ulster GAA Handball Chairman won a narrow contest, defeating Kilkenny's Martin Lalor with 56% of the delegate vote.

Conor becomes only the 4th Ulster President in the Association's 98 year history, and the first since Sean McEntee in 1996.

"I am delighted and honoured to be elected in as Uachtaráin Tofa GAA Handball. Firstly, I would like to thank Martin Lalor, a very worthy candidate, and dedicated official. I look forward to

continue working with Martin into the future. There are a number of individuals I want to thank personally, you know who you all are, and I will be in touch over the next day or so."

"Handball has lost a lot of ground over the covid period, including volunteers and players. Thankfully we did get playing the outstanding 2020 finals, Golden Gloves, Summer Series, She's Ace and Irish Nationals. However, I believe we have to return to basics, "Any ball, any Wall". We must re-enter primary schools, parish halls and community centres, and introduce children to handball at an early age, and support them, to develop their skills and techniques at the earliest opportunity, which in turn will allow them to play their preferred Codes at a later stage.

Parents of these children will become our new volunteers and members. We will encourage our non-playing members to bring their own skills and qualifications to local clubs, building from the ground upwards. We will build stronger Clubs first, better County structures, and the future lies there. We need change, and we will achieve this through contact and discussion at local level."

"Finally, I feel very proud today, having my son Mark present as Chairperson of the ICHA. Handball is in the genes, and we are all family in this brilliant sport of ours. I will work hard, and do my utmost, during my term of office to develop and grow the game of handball. Let's all work together for a vibrant future for handball."





## GAA GAMES FOR ALL – FIXTURES FOR 2022

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Venue</u>
<a href="#">02/03/2022</a>	Referee's/Coaches /Provincial Reps Development Meeting	<a href="#">Online</a>
<a href="#">08/03/2022</a>	WC Players Forum	<a href="#">Online</a>
<a href="#">12/03/2022</a>	WCHC League	<a href="#">Ulster/ Omagh Leisure Complex</a>
	WCGF Taster Blitz	<a href="#">Ulster/ Omagh Leisure Complex</a>
<a href="#">07/05/2022</a>	WCHC League	<a href="#">Leinster/IWA</a>
<a href="#">15/05/2022</a>	GAA ISSSC Football For ALL Finals	<a href="#">O'Connor Park, Offaly</a>
<a href="#">11/06/2022</a>	Reserve Day 1	<a href="#">TBC</a>
<a href="#">02/07/2022</a>	WCHC League	<a href="#">Munster/Limerick/UL</a>
<a href="#">30/07/2022</a>	Reserve Day 2	<a href="#">TBC</a>
<a href="#">27/08/2022</a>	WCHC League	<a href="#">Connacht/IT Sligo</a>
<a href="#">23/09/2022</a>	GAA National Inclusion Fitness Week	<a href="#">All Clubs</a>
<a href="#">22/10/2022</a>	WCHC All-Ireland WCHC	<a href="#">Dublin/GAA Handball Centre or NIA</a>



ACTION FROM 27 OCTOBER 2019; DERMOT BERRY OF LEINSTER PLAYING AGAINST MAURICE NOONAN OF MUNSTER DURING THE M.DONNELLY GAA WHEELCHAIR HURLING ALL-IRELAND FINALS AT NATIONAL INDOOR ARENA IN ABBOTSTOWN, DUBLIN.

## GAA PRESIDENT'S AWARDS FOR 2022 ANNOUNCED

**THE GAA IS PLEASED TO CONFIRM THE RECIPIENTS FOR GRADAIM AN UACHTARÁIN 2022. THESE PRESTIGIOUS ANNUAL AWARDS, ORGANISED WITH THE SUPPORT OF AIB AND BROADCAST BY TG4 ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH AT 10.20PM, AFFORDS UACHTARÁN CLG WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO ACKNOWLEDGE OUTSTANDING COMMITMENT AND LONG SERVICE ACROSS THE CLUB AND COUNTY NETWORK.**

The 11 awards are a cross-section of people who have shared the common theme of making an inspirational impact on their code and also their club and community.

Uachtarán CLG Larry McCarthy said: "The GAA is about Games, but it is people who make the GAA what it is. The GAA Presidents' Awards is an opportunity for the Association to acknowledge a group of inspirational people who have made an outstanding contribution towards the success of Gaelic games."

"They are, in many respects, ambassadors for the tens of thousands of volunteers who dedicate themselves to the promotion of Gaelic games at club, school and county levels and who we are so fortunate to call our own."

"Their work is not motivated by recognition – but that is why it is all the more important to appreciate the work that they do and celebrate the fact the GAA is the better for it.

I'd also like to thank AIB for their support

of these awards and their long-standing support of the GAA and also acknowledge TG4 who since their foundation have played a crucial role in the promotion of our games."

The 11 awards are made on a provincial and code basis. As well as Gaeilge, Education and International Awards, the presentation of the annual Dermot Earley Family Award will also be made.

The GAA Presidents' Awards (Gradaim an Uachtaráin 2020) were broadcast on TG4 on February 11th at 10.20pm.

Buaiteoirí Gradaim an Uachtaráin 2022

**LEINSTER AWARD: TOMMY MURPHY, Round Towers GAA Club and Kildare Kitman**



Tommy Murphy has been a constant presence within Kildare Football since the mid 1990's. He has been involved in

various guises from Kit man to Caretaker and everything in between. However, to confine him to just these labels is doing him a disservice. The contribution Tommy has made to every aspect of Kildare football is probably one that can never quite be quantified. He is very often the first person a player meets when they join the panel and the last they see when they finish up.

Former Kildare player and All-Star Johnny Doyle recalls just such an encounter 'I remember my first night going in with the seniors, we had just lost a County Final the week previous and Tommy was the first person I met in Hawkfield. He spoke to me about the Final and seemed to know all about me and my club, the way he handled the situation for a nervous young fella coming into the panel is something I will never forget and am forever grateful for.' This encapsulates all the unseen good that Tommy has done for Kildare down through the years.

Since he first came in as Kit man for the senior footballers under the famous Mick O'Dwyer, Tommy is the go-to person for everyone involved in Kildare. When called upon for anything Tommy's answer is invariably yes without fail. On top of all this he has always been an ultra-positive person around a panel, no matter the result Tommy always finds a reason to be optimistic.

Kildare Football is extremely lucky to have someone like Tommy who has been the heartbeat of it all.

**ULSTER AWARD: MALCOLM MACFARLANE, Bredagh GAA Club**

Celebrating their golden jubilee, Bredagh GAA Club in South Belfast has 30 teams and 1,200 members and Malcolm MacFarlane is their inspirational chairperson, with a phenomenal appetite for work.

Malcolm has a strong sense of community and the potential for our games and the local club to reach out beyond the more traditional boundaries and activity. He organised exchange visits for members of the Bredagh club and the local Ballynafeigh Unionist Forum and Cultural Society in 2018.

At the start of lockdown, Malcolm and Bredagh teamed up with Rosario Football Club and Youth Centre and the Ormeau Boxing Club to distribute food worth £70,000 to elderly and vulnerable people in the Ormeau area. Over three months, they delivered to around 130 houses per week.

Having led a club fundraising drive for St Vincent de Paul last winter, he recently took the lead in initiating (along with SVP, the Salvation Army and the Ormeau Business Association) a 'Fuel Bank' to help ease winter poverty. He is also encouraging other sports clubs and trade associations across the city and beyond to replicate the initiative. Malcolm has also served on the East Down Divisional Committee and was recently elected as the new Vice Chairperson. His drive and passion for the community are exemplary.

**MUNSTER AWARD: PAT ENGLISH, Galtee Gaels GAA Club**

Pat English has given over a half a century of dedicated service to the GAA at club and county levels and is devoted to Galtee Gaels, a club drawn from the Anglesboro-Kilbehenny area of Limerick. It is a club that nestles in the shadows of the Galtees and straddles both the Cork and Tipperary borders.

He gave many years of dedicated service as a player with the club's junior team which came to an end when he encountered serious illness in 1987. The ultimate prize of a Limerick Junior Football Championship medal which he richly deserved tantalisingly eluded him as following his retirement, the Gaels went on to be crowned champions in 1988. The last ten years of his playing career overlapped with him becoming more and more involved in the administration of the club, something which has continued to the present day.

Recently he attended his 43rd consecutive Limerick GAA Convention and South Limerick GAA Conventions. He has served as his club's South GAA delegate for 43 years, club secretary for 10 years, vice-chairman for three and chairman for 20 years, as well as being the club's county board delegate, and Irish Officer, you get a

sense of Pat English and his commitment to serving others.

**CONNACHT AWARD: JAMES HOLOHAN, Drumreilly GAA Club, Co Leitrim**

Every child in Leitrim knows Jimmy Holohan from his time as a GPO. He knows



every player in the county and has been a player, selector and manager of several Drumreilly teams and the county team. He was a highly skilled and respected coach at all levels and his work as a Games Promotion Officer - whether in schools, clubs, or Croke Park Play & Stay days was always of the highest quality.

Since retiring as a GPO Jimmy is to be regularly found as a reliable steward at Leitrim GAA games and all over the Province as a Connacht GAA Steward. His legacy from his GPO work is in passing on his love of our games to new generations of players, helping build their skills and their connection with their club. It is this commitment to others that has made him such a popular selection. He has planted many acorns at club, school and county level and Leitrim GAA will reap the rewards of that work for many years to come and be all the stronger for it.

**CAMOGIE AWARD: MARIE O'BRIEN, Four Roads GAA Club, Co Roscommon**

Marie has been involved with Four Roads Camogie Club since it was founded in 1971 and was part of the Club's junior team that won a very first Junior County title in 1973 and then won Senior titles in 1977, 1978 & 1979. Marie was full back on the team which won the Connacht Junior Final in 1975.

When Marie finished her playing career she got involved in administration and coaching at Club, County and Provincial levels and served in a variety of positions from Chairperson of Four Roads Camogie Club, Chairperson and Treasurer of Roscommon County Board, Chairperson of Connacht Council and has also served on Ard Chomhairle. Marie has also acted as County and Connacht Child Welfare Officer.

Dedicated to the promotion of Camogie, she has served for many years as chairperson including leading the club to the first county final as well as the All-Ireland success in 2010.

Marie was selector on the Roscommon Junior Camogie team which reached its first ever All-Ireland Junior Camogie Final in 1995. She has trained numerous underage Club teams down the years with

enormous success particularly at U.14 level.

**HANDBALL AWARD: BILLY LOVE, Clogh GAA Handball Club, Co Kilkenny**

Billy has been a steward in Clogh Handball Club for nigh on 35 years. He has been



involved in all aspects of club life, from serving as Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and currently PRO, to coaching young people to the highest of standards, giving them the opportunity to play at the highest level in all juvenile activity whilst helping players gain success at County, Provincial, National, and World level. Billy is also a great supporter of team events from U12/13, U14/15 and U16/17 teams in Feile na nGael, Community Games and School competitions.

Under Billy's excellent guidance and coaching, both boys and girls, have been successful across all age groups and have won numerous County, Provincial, National and World Titles.

He is the current Development Officer with Kilkenny Handball Board and also currently holds the role of Leinster Juvenile Officer and National Feile Rep for GAA Handball.

Billy is widely associated with juvenile Handball coaching and has been at the



forefront of a conveyor belt of National & International championship players from his own club and county. His favourite role in handball was and still is the development of young players in his club and he dedicates hours of his time every week training local children.

Billy's passion for handball and his club is to be extremely admired. He will always find a way to raise money for the club and make sure our juveniles are given the best possible opportunities.

Trips to the World Handball Championships would not have been possible without him and all of his hard work fundraising for these tournaments in Winnipeg, Chicago and Edmonton; trips that many still look back upon fondly to this day.

#### **LADIES FOOTBALL AWARD – FIONA CROTTY-LAFFAN, Ballyduff Lower LGFA**



Fiona Crotty is a native of the famous Ballymacarbry club and the list of honours she has won is endless from Club All-Ireland titles through to multiple senior All-Ireland wins with Waterford and personal accolades including a TG4 All Star in 1994. It is her work off the pitch however that would make her a deserved winner of this award as she has

become a role model for so many girls not only in her adopted club Ballyduff Lower but across the county and will bring this to a new level as county under 14 manager this year.

Fiona wanted her daughter to have sporting opportunities like she did in Ballymacarbry at a young age and so got involved in establishing the ladies section in Ballyduff Lower. She wanted her daughter to experience what she had experienced in the past and she was aware that playing sport would improve her confidence and self-esteem, which was important for all the young girls in the area. Fiona has been core to everything good in the club and in 2021 they were involved in Lidl One Good Club and through their innovation and hard work they won a prize. Fiona recognised the pressure on the girls in her area through the pandemic and used this initiative to focus their attention elsewhere with resounding success encouraging open communication from all. Fiona may have had her success on the pitch but people are reaping the rewards from her involvement of it.

#### **EDUCATION AWARD – JOHN LENIHAN, UL Limerick**

John Lenihan hails from the small village of Kilrishen in the southeast of Clare and from an early age was involved in his local club, O'Callaghan's Mills as a hurler and footballer. Later he was involved in camogie management teams and served time as Chairperson. He is the heartbeat of the UL GAA Club and has been the one ever present role model of the University of Limerick's most successful sports club over the last five decades since he began working for what was originally known as INHE Limerick 41 years ago.

The fantastic vision of the Sports Officers Ann Moran, Jacinta O'Brien, and chaplain Fr. John O'Shea that realised entry into all the prestigious university GAA competitions Fitzgibbon, Ashbourne, Sigerson, and O'Connor cups was the way to go and by the end of the 1980's was delivered. John has

the unique pleasure of overseeing the first ever Campus victory in the Fitzgibbon Cup entering the competition as NIHE Limerick and winning it a few months later as the University of Limerick.

Another major personal achievement of John's was the successful merger of both Campus GAA clubs University of Limerick (NIHE) and Thomond College of Education, All-Ireland Club champions in 1978, into the vibrant club it is today. That also included Limerick County Football championship successes in the mid 1990's.

By its nature University Sports Clubs consistently turn over its membership with an average 4 year stay for its player. However, for a college club to succeed staff involvement is essential and John's role of recruiting the Campus Community to support the UL GAA Club is the secret of its success over the last forty plus years. Dedication and hard work is the foundation of success and John's modus operandi mirrors this statement and is the reason the UL GAA Club is the standard bearer of all Student Sports Clubs on the University of Limerick Campus.

#### **INTERNATIONAL AWARD – BRENDIE O'BRIEN**



Since arriving in London from Killimor, Co Galway in 1967, Brendie has been involved with St. Gabriel's Hurling Club. From his playing days he covered all the administrative positions in the club and was a county committee delegate. During the 1990's he worked with the underage hurlers

which he cites as one of his most enjoyable times in the GAA.

Brendie served as an officer and on many sub-committees as chairperson and member in London GAA and brought great clarity and knowledge to all situations. He was heavily involved in the redevelopment of Ruislip from inception to completion.

He served as central council delegate, chairperson, and secretary of the provincial council of Britain GAA. He was one of the main forces behind the setting up of the All-Britain Championships (ABC's), the greatest event to promote our games in Britain.

In addition to being vice-president of our Association, Brendie was also a member of a number of overseas committees and Chairperson of Féile na nGael. He is still involved in working and volunteering with St. Gabriel's, London and Provincial Council of Britain and will be willing to complete any task needed to assist and promote our games with the same commitment he always gave.

Tiomantas ar feadh an tail do chur chun cinn na gcluichí Gaelacha / a lifelong commitment to promoting Gaelic games.

#### **GRADAIM GAEILGE – SEÁN MACCANNNA, Wolfetones, Derrymacash CLG, Co Armagh**



Tá aithne fhorleathan ar Sheán Mac Cana

mar 'ghlór na gCluichí Gaelacha' in Ard Mhacha agus tá sé ina ról mar Fhear an Tí, nó mar Fhógróir Staide, le hos cionn trocha bliain anuas. Óna chéad lá os comhair an mhicreafóin shocraigh sé go mbeadh an Ghaeilge sa chur i láthair a bhí aige agus chuir sé an Ghaeilge ar comhchéim leis an mBéarla i gcónaí.

Bhí baint mhór ag Seán lena chlub, Wolfe Tone Dhoire Mhic Cais, agus aithnítear é go forleathan in Ard Mhacha de bharr an obair uilig atá déanta ag ar son Chumann Lúthchleas Gael agus na Gaeilge ina chontae dúchais.

Chaith sé cúig bliana mar Oifigeach Cultúir agus Gaeilge in Ard Mhacha, áit ar oibrigh sé go dian dúthachtach i gcónaí agus é ag cur chun cinn na Gaeilge, Scór agus an chultúir Ghaelaigh i gcoitinne. Is minic a iarradh air post Fhear an Tí a dhéanamh ag Scór in Ard Mhacha agus níos faide ó bhaile. Ní ról na Gaeilge amháin a ghlac sé air féin mar riarthóir i gCumann Lúthchleas Gael. Chaith sé tréimhse mar Oifigeach Leasa Leanaí ar Bhord Contae Ard Mhacha chomh maith.

Tá na blianta fada caite aige ag saothrú ar son ghluaiseacht na Gaeilge agus Chumann Lúthchleas Gael. Chaith sé a shaol oibre mar mhúinteoir iar-bhunscoile Gaeilge agus bhí an-mheas i gcónaí air ar fud Ard Mhacha mar theagascóir. Is iomaí bliain atá caite aige i gceannas ar choláistí samhraidh i gColaiste Árainn Mhór, freisin.

Chaith sé na blianta ag imirt agus i measc na rudaí a bhain sé amach ar an bpáirc imeartha, bhuaigh sé Corn Uí Ógáin sa bhliain 1967 le Coláiste Cholmáin, Iúr Cinn Trá, agus chaith sé seal ag imirt agus ina bhainisteoir ar Choláiste na hOllscoile, Baile Átha Cliath.

Tar éis dó éirí as mar mhúinteoir chuaigh sé ar ais mar chúntóir Gaeilge i gColaiste Chaitríona, Ard Mhacha.

Fear é Seán a bhfuil an Ghaeilge agus Cumann Lúthchleas Gael go smior ann.

Known as the voice of Gaelic Games in Armagh, Seán has been MC in the Athletic Grounds and in other grounds in Armagh for over 30 years. As part of this role Seán has always adopted a bilingual policy and both Gaeilge and Béarla are heard in equal measure when Seán is MC. Seán has always been involved with his club Wolfetones Derrymacash and he is a well-known personality in Armagh due to his association with the GAA and the Irish language.

Seán spent 5 years as Oifigeach Cultúrtha/ Gaeilge in Armagh in which he worked diligently to promote Irish in the county as well as Scór. He has often been asked to fulfil the role of fear an tí at Scór in Armagh and further afield. He also spent time as Oifigeach Leasa Leanaí on the Armagh County Board.

He has been central in the Irish language movement, due to his association with the GAA, for many years and he spent his entire working life as an Irish language secondary school teacher.

#### **DERMOT EARLY FAMILY AWARD – THE ROCK FAMILY, Dublin**

The GAA and Croke Park is so tightly woven into the fabric of the Rock family that you could argue that it is almost a part of their DNA.

Their association with the pitch on Jones's Road is one that can be traced back for more than 100 years and both on the field and off it, the Rocks have been involved in some of the most important moments in Irish and GAA history.

A member of the Crokes hurling club, William Rock's connection to Croke Park as a steward on match days began at a young age. He was present for the Bloody

Sunday attack on November 21, 1920 – an episode that he survived but would never talk about – not even in his later years. By the 1930s and the explosion in popularity for Gaelic games, and huge crowds at matches, William was synonymous with big occasions, easily identified by his trademark bowler hat and for the fact that he was the custodian of the all-important match day footballs and sliotars for All-Ireland finals.

Living in the shadow of the Cusack stand on Love Lane in Ballybough, it meant the ebb and flow of the Rock family's life was tied to the comings and goings of the matches – long before it could even be called a stadium.

In those days teams would not retreat to their dressing room at half time, but would gather in groups on the sidelines. When play was resumed it was Rock family members who had the job of making sure the discarded fruit butts and peelings were gathered up off the pitch before games recommenced.

William's children would go on to have their own bigger parts to play in the operation of Croke Park on match days.

William's sons, Will and Christy, looked after the stiles, welcoming patrons to the matches. Another son, John was in the crowd's nest that was the Canal End scoreboard, while Joe would be one of the stewards that looked after the teams and the dressing rooms – a post he dutifully kept for more than 80 years and gave him a front row seat as the venue changed from a humble pitch into a world class arena.

Named after his father, Joe Rock would also be a vital cog in the match day machine and is another life-long steward at Croke Park and remains one of the key holders who helps open and close the stadium on match days. In doing so

he is now the third generation of the Rock family with keys to the pitch and maintaining more than a century of service to the existence of Croke Park.

On the field, Will's son Barney would ensure that the Rock family were also famous for their playing ability. An All-Ireland minor medal winner in 1979, Barney Rock was the star forward on the All-Ireland winning Dublin team of 1983 and was one of the finest sharp shooters of the decade – winning All-Stars in 1983, 1984 and 1985 in a stellar career.

It is a baton that has been passed successfully to his son Dean who has not only maintained that Rock presence as a Hill 16 hero but added more GAA history to the collection. An All-Ireland U21 medal from 2010 and seven All-Ireland senior medals helped him cement a place in the all-time scoring charts as one of the most prolific finishers in football history. A three-time All-Star as well, they join a prestigious group of 10 families who hold father and son All-Stars.

This Dermot Earley Family Award is recognition to a family who over four generations and more than 100 years have made a solid contribution to the success of Croke Park and the GAA – Rock solid in fact.



## LGFA VOLUNTEER AWARDS

**THE LADIES GAELIC FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION HONOURED THE 2021 LGFA VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS, IN ASSOCIATION WITH CURRENTACCOUNT.IE, AT A SPECIAL CROKE PARK FUNCTION ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11.**

Administrators, coaches and media were among those honoured across ten categories, with the scheme in its fifth year.

Dáithí Ó Sé performed MC duties on the night, as winners and their guests were joined by LGFA President Mícheál Naughton, CEO Helen O'Rourke, and representatives from currentaccount.ie, including Mr. Seamus Newcombe (CEO).

The 2021 winners are as follows:

- Young Volunteer of the Year – Chloe Callaghan (Termon, Donegal)
- School Coach of the Year – Fidelma Quinn (Moate Community School, Westmeath)
- Club Coach of the Year – Bart Gilmartin (Old Leighlin, Carlow)
- Local Journalist of the Year – Derrick Lynch (Clare FM)
- PRO of the Year – Élena Byrne (Dunamaggin and Kilkenny LGFA)
- Club Committee Officer of the Year – Carolyn Mullane (Passage West, Cork)
- County/Provincial Officer of the Year – Cormac McNally (Roscommon LGFA)
- International Volunteer of the Year – Eva Scanlon (Tir Chonaill Gaels, London)
- Overall Volunteer of the Year (Lulu Carroll award) – Kathleen Colreavy (Naomh Mearnóg, Dublin)
- Volunteer Hall of Fame – Mary Hernon (Milltown, Galway)



**BACK ROW, FROM LEFT; FIDELMA QUINN FROM MOATE COMMUNITY SCHOOL, WESTMEATH, WINNER OF THE SCHOOL COACH OF THE YEAR AWARD; EVA SCANLON FROM TIR CHONAILL GAELS, LONDON, WINNER OF THE INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD; CAROLYN MULLANE FROM PASSAGE WEST, CORK, WINNER OF THE CLUB COMMITTEE OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARD; CORMAC MCNALLY FROM ROSCOMMON WINNER OF THE COUNTY/PROVINCIAL OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARD; CHLOE CALLAGHAN FROM TERMON, DONEGAL, WINNER OF THE YOUNG VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD; ÉLENA BYRNE FROM KILKENNY WINNER OF THE PRO OF THE YEAR AWARD; BART GILMARTIN FROM OLD LEIGHLIN, CARLOW, WINNER OF THE CLUB COACH OF THE YEAR AWARD; DERRICK LYNCH FROM CLARE FM, WINNER OF THE LOCAL JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR AWARD. FRONT ROW; FROM LEFT, MARY HERNON FROM MILLTOWN, GALWAY, WINNER OF THE VOLUNTEER HALL OF FAME AWARD; LADIES GAELIC FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT MÍCHEÁL NAUGHTON AND MR SEAMUS NEWCOMBE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF CURRENTACCOUNT.IE, AND KATHLEEN COLREAVY FROM NAOMH MEARNÓG, DUBLIN, AND WINNER OF THE OVERALL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR (LULU CARROLL) AWARD, DURING THE 2021 LGFA NATIONAL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARDS, IN ASSOCIATION WITH CURRENTACCOUNT.IE, AT CROKE PARK IN DUBLIN.**

The Overall Volunteer of the Year award winner, Kathleen Colreavy from Naomh Mearnóg in county Dublin, received the Lulu Carroll award, and Kathleen is also a former GAA President's award winner. This award is named after the late Lulu Carroll, a 2001 All-Ireland Senior Medallist with Laois who sadly passed away in 2007, following a battle with cancer.

During her glittering career, former All Star Lulu also won eight Leinster Senior titles with Laois, six county Senior titles with Timahoe, and a provincial crown with her club.

Kathleen is a worthy recipient of the Lulu Carroll award, due to her sterling work with her local club, Naomh Mearnóg, and with Dublin LGFA in assistant secretary and female liaison officer roles in recent times.

The LGFA's Volunteer Hall of Fame winner, Mary Hernon from Milltown in Galway, has given phenomenal service to the promotion and development of Ladies Football in her club, county and province. Mary is currently vice-chairperson of the Galway LGFA board, Connacht Council Secretary, Chairperson of the National Regrading committee, and she also serves on the National Disciplinary committee.



## ALMOST 1,200 CLUB OFFICERS ATTEND INDUCTION TRAINING

**“THE GREATEST REWARD YOU WILL EVER GET IN LIFE IS THE SATISFACTION OF DOING SOMETHING WELL AND DOING IT TO THE BEST OF YOUR ABILITY.”**

Dublin GAA legend, Jim Gavin, quoted this advice from the late Lieutenant-General Dermot Earley when he addressed the County Officer Development Conference in January 2020. To empower Club Officers to fulfil their roles to the best of their abilities, the GAA, LGFA and Camogie Association continue to join forces on the rollout of the Club Leadership Development programme (CLDP). Consequently, almost 1,200 volunteers attended induction training for Club Officers this January and February.

The training - organised by the Officer Development Committee - featured role-specific webinars which were coordinated by the Provincial Councils and a selection of general webinars covering hot topics. New topics for 2022 included the One Club model, digital communications, leading, managing & governing a Club, using IT to simplify Club administration, and fundraising and commercial opportunities.

All webinars were delivered by trained Associates with the assistance of staff members from the Central and Provincial Councils.

This is the seventh consecutive year the CLDP has been delivered to Club Officers across the GAA, the third year all modules have been tailored for LGFA and Camogie Officers, and second year all training has been online. While the partnership between the GAA and its sister organisations will continue to go from strength to strength, face-to-face sessions will be reintroduced in the near future to complement the online learning offerings.

The feedback from participants shows a clear desire for more in-person events; however, the vast majority of attendees were extremely pleased with the content and interactive nature of the presentations. One Club Secretary wrote: “Very hard to produce an online course for such an important role in a Club however it was very well presented. The presenter was excellent, his high level of experience shone through. I was completely motivated and invigorated after the course and very grateful to be afforded the opportunity to attend.”

To access webinar recordings, slides and related documents, go to:

<https://learning.gaa.ie/lms/course/view.php?id=11091>



# 365 HELP

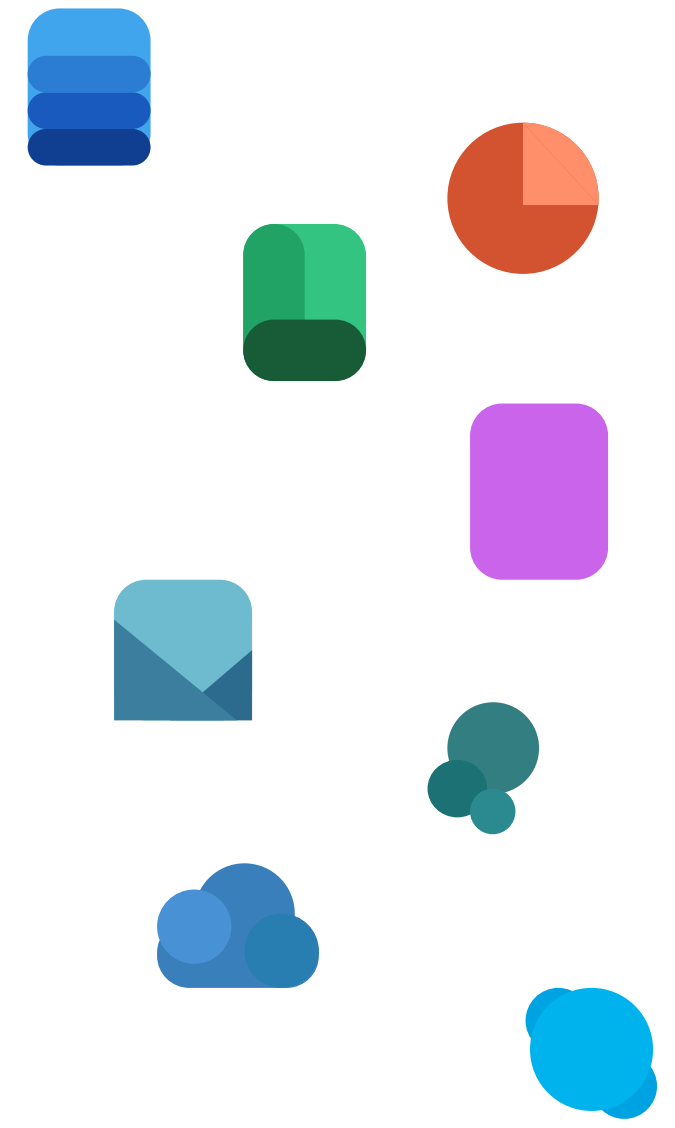
A Chairde,

Please note the following for accessing support for your Office 365 account:

1. **Mail.support@gaa.ie** is the only address to use to contact Office 365 Support (i.e. Password resets, Account Creations, How To Use Office365 Apps). Please **DO NOT** use **globalservicedesk@ergogroup.ie**.
2. **Requests will only be accepted from official @gaa.ie email addresses.** If you do not have access to an @gaa.ie address please contact one of your fellow Club Officers who have an official address or your County Board and they can make the request on your behalf.
3. **Mail Support is available from 8am-6pm Monday to Friday.** For example if you request a password reset late on a Friday it will not get reset until the following Monday.
4. Office 365 accounts are for official GAA/LGFA/Camogie Association use only.
5. **Chairperson, Children's Officer, Injury Fund Officer, PRO, Secretary and Treasurer are the only accounts that are currently provided to GAA clubs.** Accounts for other officers will not be created if requested.
6. Mail Support only provide support for Office 365. See below for some other commonly used support addresses:



<b>Foireann / Return to Play Support</b>	<b><a href="mailto:GMSSupport@gaa.ie">GMSSupport@gaa.ie</a></b>
<b>National Club Draw System Support</b>	<b><a href="mailto:NCDSupport@gaa.ie">NCDSupport@gaa.ie</a></b>
<b>Data Protection / GDPR</b>	<b><a href="mailto:DataProtection@gaa.ie">DataProtection@gaa.ie</a></b>
<b>Vetting Queries</b>	<b><a href="mailto:evetting@gaa.ie">evetting@gaa.ie</a></b>
<b>Vetting Queries eLearning Support</b>	<b><a href="mailto:Elearning.admin@gaa.ie">Elearning.admin@gaa.ie</a></b>



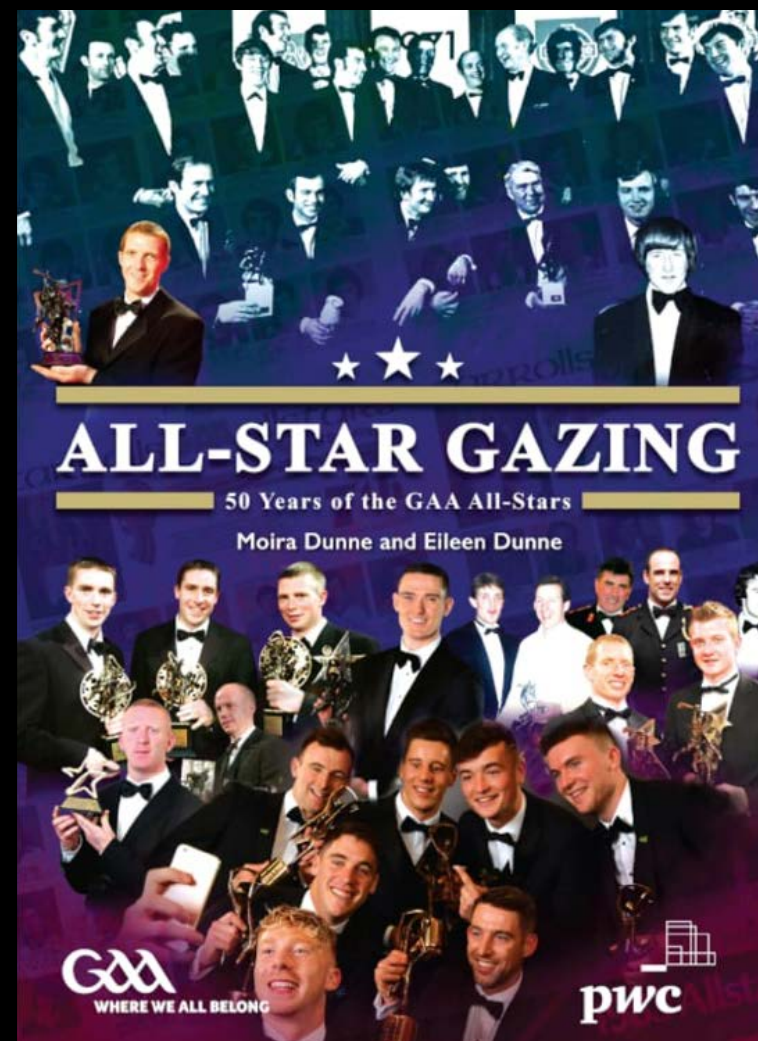
## ALL-STARS BOOK

Due to demand the ALL-STAR GAZING book which chronicles the history and records of the prestigious GAA scheme has gone into an additional print run and is back available again.

The meticulous work of Moira and Eileen Dunne, daughters of the late RTE journalist and one of the ALL-STAR founders Mick Dunne, is a fantastic record.

Details on purchasing the book are available from

<https://allstargazing.ie/product/all-star-gazing-book/>







Football

Hurling

Club

General

## MÍLE BUÍOCHAS

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

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