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## NATIONAL CLUB FORUM TO BE STAGED AGAIN LATER THIS YEAR

**F**ollowing on from the success of its inaugural staging late last year, the GAA's National Club Committee can confirm that the National Club Forum will again take place in 2019.

It will again represent an opportunity for club members to gather and interact with members of several national GAA committees and to discuss and debate and exchange views on the issues that are of the utmost importance to them.

The Forum was held at Croke Park last December. However, to facilitate ease of access, it has been decided to operate the Forum on a provincial basis.

The venues are still currently being decided, but provisional dates for the National Club Forums are:

**Leinster – Saturday, 5th October**

**Ulster – Saturday, 26th October**

**Connacht – Saturday, 9th November**

**Munster – Saturday, 16th November**

All clubs will be contacted in the coming weeks regarding the agenda and format for the Forums.

Clubs are urged to ensure that they make their voice heard and grasp the opportunity that these Forums represent.



GAA Ard Stiúrthóir Tom Ryan listens to attendees during a workshop on Fixtures during the National GAA Club Forum at Croke Park in Dublin last December. Photo by Brendan Moran/Sportsfile

# MARTY MORRISSEY AND ANTHONY DALY BACK RNLI 'RESPECT THE WATER' CAMPAIGN

**G**AA presenter and commentator Marty Morrissey and hurling legend Anthony Daly joined RNLI lifeboat crew and young players from county Clare to raise awareness of the risks of drowning and encourage people to enjoy the water safely. The 'Respect the Water' campaign is part of a joint-partnership between the RNLI and the GAA.

The RNLI's work with the GAA to prevent drowning involves RNLI volunteer ambassadors visiting GAA clubs around the country to give water safety advice to young people and to raise awareness of the risks of drowning. Thirty-seven RNLI volunteers have delivered over a hundred talks as part of the partnership with more due to take place during the summer months.

To promote this year's campaign, GAA personalities Marty Morrissey and Anthony Daly joined young players from Killimer GAA, Kilrush Shamrocks, Kilrush Ladies Football Club, Kilkee Football Club, Kilkee Bealaha GAA, West Clare Gaels and O'Currys GAA. Both men had very personal reasons for backing the partnership and becoming Ambassadors for it.

Marty Morrissey's home place is in the picturesque fishing village of Quilty in West Clare on the Wild Atlantic Way where the Sea has always been part of everybody's life. As a result Marty loves the water but is also aware of its dangers and although he attempted to learn how to swim as a child, he never quite got



*Marty Morrissey and Anthony Daly pictured with Kilrush RNLI lifeboat crew.*

over his fear. This was re-enforced in recent months when he was filming a survival sequence in the recent TV hit 'Marty and Bernard's Big Adventure' when they had to enter a lake and that old fear returned. He has promised himself to learn how to swim when this season's GAA Championship is over.

Speaking at the launch he said, "When I was young boy growing up in Quilty, my bedroom literally looked out onto the Atlantic Ocean. I remember that every 13 seconds the light from the lighthouse on the Aran Islands shone in my

window. I would paddle in the water and some of my friends would jump into the water back at the pier in Seafield, but I wouldn't, I had the fear. I want to get over that and I've set myself the challenge to learn properly.' It is so important because after all, we all live on the island of Ireland and water plays such an important part of our lives. I am from a fishing village so well aware of the dangers of the Sea."

Speaking on the importance of the partnership, Marty continued, "I think the RNLI and the GAA are interlinked in many ways. They are both

about community. I love the water and I respect it. If we can get more people enjoying it safely and raising awareness so that no family have to go through the pain of losing a loved one, then I see that as a win. We've had too many tragedies in this country. I'm looking forward to the day that I can go for swim and enjoy the water."

Anthony Daly has a very personal reason for wanting to promote the partnership. He lost a good friend, Michael Scanlan (affectionately known by all as 'Fondi'), to drowning many years ago. Fondi was a long-standing kit man at his



Marty Morrissey and Anthony Daly pictured with Kilrush RNLI lifeboat crew and young players from Killimer GAA, Kilrush Shamrocks, Kilrush Ladies Football Club, Killee Football Club, Killee Bealaha GAA, West Clare Gaels and O'Curry's GAA.

beloved Clarecastle GAA club and drowned while out fishing. Speaking about the tragedy Anthony said, "Everyone knew and loved Fondi. He was from a big family where I grew up. He was a great GAA man and came from a strong fishing background. When word came to the village that Fondi was lost, there was a rush to the quay to help. We spent the week walking the banks and we wouldn't go to training while the search was ongoing. He was found the following Sunday at the River Fergus and while it was a blessing for the family, his loss has been deeply felt by everyone who knew him."

Anthony swims in the sea every week and has made sure his daughters can swim. Commenting on the campaign he said, "The RNLI is a great

organisation for the GAA to be involved with in local communities. I think there is an awareness of water safety, but we can never stop banging the drum. I love the water and I want my daughters to love the water too and not fear it. Anything we can do to raise awareness of the risks of drowning and to share water safety advice, can only be a good thing.'

The key message of the RNLI's 'Respect the Water' campaign is to Float To Live if you find yourself in trouble in cold water. This involves: Fight your instinct to swim hard or thrash about – this can lead to breathing in water and drowning

Instead, relax and FLOAT on your back, until you have regained control of your breathing.

The recommended floating position is to lean back in the water and keep your nose and mouth clear and extend your arms and legs.

\*If you find it difficult to float then make gentle motions such as sculling with your hands and feet and concentrate on bringing your breathing under control.

For more advice on how to float and other water safety advice visit [RespectTheWater.com](http://RespectTheWater.com)

The RNLI will be present at Croke Park on Sunday 28 July to promote the Respect the Water campaign during the All-Ireland hurling semi-final and to share water safety advice with the thousands of fans travelling to see the match. Volunteers from RNLI lifeboat stations around Ireland will be on the pitch at half time to share the Float To Live message. The campaign is running throughout the summer with advertising across cinema, outdoor posters, radio, online, and catch-up TV channels.

### **RNLI media contacts**

For more information please telephone Niamh Stephenson, RNLI Ireland Media Manager on 087 1254 124 or [NiamhStephenson@rnli.org.uk](mailto:NiamhStephenson@rnli.org.uk) or Nuala McAloon, RNLI Ireland Media Officer on 087 648 3547 or email [NualaMcAloon@rnli.org.uk](mailto:NualaMcAloon@rnli.org.uk) or Phoebe Igoe RNLI Media Placement Tel: 087 397 9970 email: [Phoebe\\_igoe@rnli.org.uk](mailto:Phoebe_igoe@rnli.org.uk)

### **RNLI online**

For more information on the RNLI please visit [rnli.org](http://rnli.org). News releases and other media resources, including RSS feeds, downloadable photos and video, are available at the RNLI News Centre [rnli.org/news-and-media](http://rnli.org/news-and-media).

### **Key facts about the RNLI**

The RNLI is a proud partner of the GAA in Ireland. The two organisations are working together to improve the health and well-being of local communities with the aim to reduce drowning and to share life-saving advice. To learn more about this work click here

The RNLI charity saves lives at sea. Its volunteers provide a 24-hour search and rescue service around Ireland and the UK. The RNLI operates 46 lifeboat stations in Ireland. The RNLI is independent of government and depends on voluntary donations and legacies to maintain its rescue service. Since the RNLI was founded in 1824, the charity has saved over 142,200 lives.

# POC FADA HOPEFULS FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF LEGENDS

**The All-Ireland Poc Fada finals in Hurling and Camogie will be held on the Cooley Mountains on Saturday August 3rd. The competition was first held in 1960 and following a short hiatus from 1970-1980, it returned in 1981 and has been ever-present on the national calendar since.**

The unique Gaelic Games contest promises to be a great day of sport. Defending senior hurling champion Cillian Kiely (Uíbh Fhailí) puts his crown on the line against a high calibre field that includes his brother Cathal and the prolific Cork sharp shooter, Patrick Horgan and Poc Fada veteran and five time all-star goalkeeper from Tipperary, Brendan Cummins. The Kielys had dominated the under 16 competition in recent times and will be hoping that the trend continues in the senior competition for years to come.

Susan Earner (Gaillimh) also returns to defend the Senior titles she captured in 2017 and 2018. The under 16 hurling competition will have a new name on the trophy after Kyle Shelly won the trophy in 2018. Oisín Marley returns to the mountain having competed in last year's All-Ireland Final.

The under 16 Camogie competition will be contested by competitors from Antrim, Cork, Dublin and Galway and will also see a new champion crowned.

The M. Donnelly GAA All-Ireland Final Proceedings will get under way at 11am on Annaverna Mountain, Ravensdale, Co. Louth on Saturday, August 3rd and open to all spectators.



*Cillian Kiely in the Cooley Mountains on his way to victory last year.*

## Senior Hurling - Playing Order

i. Darren Geoghegan - Louth
ii. Gareth Johnson - Down
iii. Cathal Kiely - Offaly
iv. Patrick Horgan - Cork
v. Paddy Mc Killian - Tyrone
vi. Sean Nugent - Galway
vii. Colin Ryan - Limerick
viii. Brendan Cummins - Tipperary
ix. Tadhg Haran - Galway
x. Callum Quirke - Wexford
xi. Ronan Taafe - Clare
xii. Cillian Kiely - Offaly (2018 Champion)

## Senior Camogie - Playing Order

i. Amy Lee - Cork
ii. Louise Dougan - Derry
iii. Abbye Donnelly - Meath
iv. Andrea O Keefe - Clare
v. Caitriona Daly - Galway
vi. Susan Earner - Galway (2018 Champion)

## Under 16 Hurling - Playing Order

i. Michael Kirwan - Kilkenny
ii. Oisín Marley - Donegal
iii. Patrick Burke - Galway
iv. Pat Ryan - Tipperary

## Under 16 Camogie - Playing Order

i. Maedhbh Ring - Cork
ii. Katie Gilchrist - Galway
iii. Hannah Bourke - Dublin
iv. Orla Laverty - Antrim



# OFFALY BROTHERS SET FOR POC FADA SHOWDOWN

By Michael Devlin

**B**ig brothers are often looked up to by their younger siblings, to be idolised and copied, and to be challenged and bettered.

Cathal Kiely watched his elder brother Cillian win back-to-back All-Ireland Poc Fada U16 titles in 2011 and 2012, setting the course record of 22 pucks on the second instance.

It set the bar for young Cathal, six years younger than Cillian, and when the time then came to see if he could the match up, he was not to be outdone. Just like his big brother, the Offaly youngster captured successive titles in 2016 and 2017, shooting 22 on both occasions. 'Anything you can do, I can do better', so the song goes.

The Kilcormac-Killoughey siblings will now go toe-to-toe for the first time in the senior All-Ireland Poc Fada, which takes place again this weekend up on Annaverna in Louth's Cooley Mountains. Cathal qualifies as the 2019 Leinster champion, while Cillian is back to retain the All-Ireland title he won last year.

"There'll be a lot of tension I suppose, a lot of build-up," said the younger Kiely. "It's great that the two of us are in it for once competing in the same competition.

"It was kind of special that we have the two things. I suppose there was a lot of talk that the two of us would be in the senior Poc Fada someday, and now it's here, I suppose there will be a lot of people looking out for us and see what way we come in.

"When he did it, I got my chance, and I went along and luckily enough, I did it twice as well, so there's not bragging rights over each other. He was delighted for me at the same time, but still, he probably wanted to be one up."

"Pucking against Cathal won't be easy either, the two of us would be fairly similar puck-wise," says Cillian, who as reigning senior champion pucks off last on the day in a competitive field that includes record winner Brendan Cummins and Cork sharp-shooter Patrick Horgan. He will be keeping a close eye on his kid brother however.

"There's six years between us, so it's kind of only now that he's turned 18 that he's grown up, we are hurling together now with the club. Before this I was looking out for him, and now he's right up there with me. It'll be enjoyable to strike a few balls during the week in practice."

"He's not giving up any time soon, he's pushing all the time. It's great for him, and the mother and father really enjoy it. It's great that you can give something back from your parents.

"The father played a bit of hurling for Offaly and played for the club, and our house would be mad GAA. I don't know how many more years he can go around that mountain, it is hard going!" laughs Cillian.

"The mother will go halfway, she doesn't do the whole course but she'll be watching us go across the top of the mountain. Then everyone disappears, you're that high up!"



Current M Donnelly Poc Fada All Ireland champion Cillian Kiely, left, with his brother and 2019 Leinster champion, Cathal Kiely, and their parents Mary and Seamus Kiely.

The Kielys' love affair with the long puck game began when Cillian won a community games Poc Fada at U12 level. A few years later, he was entered into the juvenile competition by his club, not knowing where it would lead to.

"I was told, 'Up in the Curragh, seven o'clock'," said Cillian. "So I done the puck, and it went fierce well, I won it.

"We were on the mountain before we knew it. We went up the night before, and we definitely thought we were lost. We couldn't find the course, but we were actually standing on it. The next day we went up and did the competition, and I won that. It just got going from there, and it's grown on us."

The brothers, both free-takers, honed their striking ability from a young age. "We always found we could strike it a lot further than other people," says Cathal.

But the competition isn't all about who can belt the sliotar the farthest distance. There is a nuanced approach to navigating the Poc Fada course that Cillian says he has observed from watching the masters at work.

"You're striking your distance all the time, but you are placing your ball as well. You're definitely trying to pick patches that you are trying to get a run at.

"I learned a good bit from Cummins in the way he approached it. My first time doing the senior course and watching him, I was kind of gobsmacked the way things worked, I learnt as I went along.

"Ninety per cent of the competition will be able to strike the ball over 100 yards every time, but it's your consistency and the routes you take is what wins it at the end of the day."

## UNIQUE OFFER FOR GAA CLUB MEMBERS FROM RENAULT

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

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

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

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

Renault. Passion for what drives you.

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Passion for life

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Official car partner of the GAA

GAA GPAI  
Supporting Players

Model shown: New KADJAR GT Line TCe 140 GPF, RRP €34,145 (excluding metallic paint €575).

Driving your passion.



Football

Hurling

Club

General



OFFICIAL GAA

# PITCH PERFECT



Last year the GAA spent €2.5m assisting more than 400 clubs throughout Ireland to develop pitches, clubhouses and facilities. The GAA has committed to increasing this funding for club redevelopments to €4m by 2020.

It's your support of our Games which makes this possible. In 2018, 83 cent out of every euro received was reinvested in clubs and counties.



**WHERE WE  
ALL BELONG**

## MÍLE BUÍOCHAS



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

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

This summer, Sure is offering GAA communities the opportunity to showcase their skills and represent their clubs with the #SureShotChallenge. One lucky club will take home a €5000 cash prize, tour Croke Park and meet some of Ireland's top GAA players.\*

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

## The Challenge for Players

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

To enter, simply visit one of the participating\*\*

SuperValu stores to pick up your target, shoot a video of yourself hitting the target, then upload your successful submission to Instagram using the hashtag "#SureShotChallenge". Entries will be highlighted on the official @SureShotChallenge Instagram account.

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

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

## Sure's Mission

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

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

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

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

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

**✓ Sure SHOT CHALLENGE**

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

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

# CONCUSSION



## NOT ALWAYS A KNOCK-OUT!

### ACTION PLAN

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

### SYMPTOMS

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

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

# MOTHER WARNS OF DANGERS OF UNSECURED GOALPOSTS

By Cian Murphy, gaa.ie

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

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

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

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

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

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

For his mother however, the trauma was added



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“While Maynooth have responded and are great



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

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

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

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



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

### **Check It–**

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

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

### **Secure It –**

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

### **Test It –**

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

### **Respect It –**

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

# MARSH IRELAND APPOINTED GAA INSURANCE BROKERS

**T**he GAA is delighted to announce the appointment of Marsh Ireland as the Association's Insurance Brokers.

Sinéad Leavy, GAA Risk and Insurance Manager on behalf of the GAA Risk and Insurance Committee commented: "The Association is very much looking forward to working with the team in Marsh Ireland so that we can continue to provide extensive Insurance coverage for our affiliated units particularly in light of the challenges facing the insurance market in Ireland which have been well documented.

"It is fully appreciated that the many volunteers within our organisation are put under increased pressure owing to the threat of litigation. It is envisaged that by working with the team in Marsh Ireland, greater risk management assistance will be available to our units."

John Kavanagh, Senior Vice President, Marsh Ireland added: "Marsh Ireland are delighted to be the appointed insurance brokers and risk advisors to the GAA. Our

passionate team are excited at the prospect of working with counties and clubs on areas of insurance and risk management over the coming years. We are committed to delivering excellent service, technical expertise and innovative risk solutions in all our exchanges, whilst maintaining focus on enabling the GAA's continued development of our treasured games."

This is also a timely reminder that all units should read the policy document and be fully aware of the terms of cover to which the unit is covered under.

Should an affiliated unit have a liability insurance query, need to request a specific indemnity letter, extension of cover as per the conditions of cover on pages 5 – 8 of the policy document, please email [generalgaaqueries@marsh.com](mailto:generalgaaqueries@marsh.com) or contact Susan O'Donnell 01 604 8114 or Alan Kenny 01 604 8220

Should an affiliated unit need to report a property claim, please email [propertyclaimsgaa@marsh.com](mailto:propertyclaimsgaa@marsh.com)



*Ard Stiúirthóir Tom Ryan with members of the GAA's Risk and Insurance Committee alongside representatives of Marsh Ireland at the announcement.*



# MARSH

# HURLING HEROES OF THE TÁIN ÓG LEAGUE 2019

By Martin Fogarty

**T**he Tain Óg leagues are now in their second year and fast becoming recognised as an essential component of player development in the 15 participating counties.

There were 29 teams who competed in last year's inaugural competition at U-13 level.

Clubs were very quick to realise its value and requested that it be extended to U-15 which happened this year with 34 teams participating in each age group. A total of 46 Clubs were represented with 200 games played as players got to play more hurling than ever before. The two biggest challenges facing the competitions are distance separating teams and grading. If more clubs would enter the competitions, then both these challenges could be solved or at least, greatly improved upon as the competition develops.

After a hectic programme of activity, 24 teams representing 13 Counties made it to the finals which were played recently in the splendidly-appointed Kingspan Breffini Park in Cavan. The following clubs were the winners. Under 13 - Four Roads (Roscommon), Tooreen and Claremorris (Mayo), Longford Slashers (Longford), Cluainín Manorhamilton (Leitrim) and Knockbridge (Louth) Under 15- Four Roads (Roscommon), Keady (Armagh), Carrick (Leitrim), Westport and Castlebar (Mayo) and Warrenpoint (Down)

The teams that made it to the finals had a

tremendous day. What an honour for the boys of these far-spread out counties to race out on to the "hallowed turf of Breffini".

The venue was in pristine condition with the grass manicured to perfection. The ambience of the venue was just magic, and the occasion will be a memory carried forever in the minds of the young players present.

The setting for each final was structured to give the young players a unique experience and a taste of what it is like to experience a "big day" similar to when all their idols run out onto Croke Park.

The players were lined up in the tunnels and then, to heart beating fanfare music, raced out on the pitch and got their photos taken with the MacCarthy, Rackard and Meagher cups.

The teams then had a parade and finished with the customary handshakes. At the end of the games both teams climbed the steps of the famous stand to receive their medals to rapturous applause from the large gathering of supporters.

Special guest for the U-13 finals was Kilkenny Legend Aidan Fogarty while Leitrim Legend Zach Moradi did the honours for the U-15 finals. A special "Stand Out Player" award was made to a member of each team and signed hurls were presented to players that had lined out for the opposition when they were short during



*Micheál McDonagh of Easkey chased by Ryan Holland from Knockbridge in the U-13 final which went to extra time.*



*Zach Moradi Leitrim Legend and guest of honour with the Lory Meagher and Nicky Rackard cups at the U-15 finals*

the league part of the competition. This was a particularly sporting initiative introduced this year to ensure that games went ahead even if teams were short a few players. Clubs bought into the idea and twenty-eight players were rewarded for their sportsmanship by receiving a hurl signed by their favourite intercounty player.

All participating 65 teams and mentors were



*"Eyes on the Ball" Niall Hawes Longford Slashers*



*Aaron McGuinness Smith from Naomh Moninne rises above Ciarán McMorrow of Carrick to gain possession in the U-15 final*

guests of honour of the GAA in Croke Park for the All-Ireland Semi-finals which turned out again to be two exhilarating games. This is part of continued hurling development for the participating counties.

Team mentors were full of praise for the competitions and all look forward to participating again next year.

## HURLING ON THE GREEN BLOSSOMS IN CASTLEBAR

Since the summer of 2001, Castlebar Mitchels Hurling & Camogie Club has run a thriving summer project titled 'Hurling on the Green' - the object of which is to provide the children of the Mayo town with an opportunity to play Hurling and Camogie, while having lots of fun and at little or no cost.

Lots of clubs and different bodies are providing summer camps for children at various prices. Sadly, not all families can afford the cost of these camps and some children may feel left out. Castlebar endeavour to have their project sponsored so that cost would not be a problem for any children. They feel that it is important to try and bring the project in to the heart of the community for the benefit of the children, their parents and the community. This year, Hurling on the Green supplied hurls and helmets for those who needed them and the cost was just €3 per day, running from July 1 to July 26 and sessions organised for the Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday of each week.

The original project was that the coaches would arrive with all the equipment needed to coach Hurling and Camogie on a given day at the Green areas designated within the Town where all the

children from that area would come along and be coached for three hours on that day.

Due to the success of Hurling on the Green the designated green areas within the Town became too small for the amount of kids arriving, so now for the last number of years coaching takes place on the Mall in the centre of Castlebar and at this stage it has become both an Institution and a Tourist attraction.

Coaches come from the ranks of the clubs current Camogie and Hurling Teams, they are encouraged during their TY year to take the foundation level course in Coaching which leads them to be becoming coaches at Hurling on the Green and it is wonderful to see the progression from having been coached themselves to now passing on all they have learned to the next generation of Hurling on the Green Children.

To sum up, the project is about making sure that everybody is included irrespective of their gender, race, disability or their economic background.

The Hurling on the Green motto is nobody is ever left out and it has been that way from the first day and continue to strive to those ideals to this day.



*Young hurling heroes in Castlebar*



*The future of hurling and camogie in Castlebar having fun on the green*

# SUSTAINABILITY DAY AT CROKE PARK

By Cian O'Connell



*Kilkenny hurler Richie Hogan, who also works as GAA/GPA Commercial & Business Development Manager pictured with young fans promoting Sustainability Day at Croke Park.*

**T**he Sustainability Day is a chance to highlight the work that is going on all year round," Míde Ní Shúilleabháin, Croke Park Sustainability Officer, explains. "It also gives us a chance to trial new things like our reusable cup scheme, it serves a dual purpose that way."

It was at the All Ireland SHC Semi-Final clash between Limerick and Kilkenny Croke Park is running its first-ever trial of reusable cups when the bars in the Lower Hogan Stand will host a pilot deposit-return scheme to cut down on the amount of plastic waste produced on match-day.

Míde Ní Shúilleabháin accepts that so many avenues can be explored by working with different groups. "It isn't something we can do on our own," she admits. "For example we put in swift boxes recently around

the stadium. That was supported by our wildlife management consultant, wildlife management services and Birdwatch Ireland. They gave us the information, the same with Sustainability Day.

"It is about getting feedback from what GAA supporters want and some GAA supporters are experts in their field. They will come back to us with suggestions, they will see some things we don't see. It is about reaching out to the wider GAA community, looking at how we can get better in an area."

So how does that work out? "We have our own sustainability programme in Croke Park," Ní Shúilleabháin replies.

"We try to mainstream it with everything we do, but at the same time because we have put ourselves out there in the last 10 years people are more likely to

get in touch. Things that we haven't noticed or things they suggest we try to act on.

"The reusable cups would have been on our radar. People will say things to us about having water fountains around the stadium, people have been asking for that. It is about us setting the agenda in a way, but in Croke Park we are in a privileged position because we have this fantastic stadium with the staff and resources that smaller clubs don't have.

"It is about pushing it out to the wider GAA community, but it is also about hearing what the GAA community are saying to us from their own observations, expertise, and expectations of what the GAA should be in terms of an example."

With so much happening no two days are the same as a Sustainability. There is always some issue to try to assist with.

"That is what keeps it interesting," Ní Shúilleabháin admits. "It is important to highlight our sustainability committee and our stadium green team. The aim is that everybody is involved in the sustainability effort and that sustainability isn't a department or one person at a desk or one activity.

"It is about all the decisions we take when we are taking them. Building, buying something or staff training that we are thinking what would the sustainable impacts be and how can we ensure we aren't having a negative impact and how can we do something that is extremely positive. For example the swift boxes we have put them up behind Hill 16 and also in the new GAA Handball Centre. It was a new build so we thought about it before it was built.

"The ecological building design was also put in the swift boxes. When you start a new project you should be thinking about what can we do that is positive and how it will have a legacy effect, anything that will make things better for future generations."

Significant strides have been taken during the past decade which is a source of optimism for Ní Shúilleabháin, who is encouraged by the response of GAA members.

"I think you can definitely see the change," she acknowledges. "In the stadium long before my time set up a sustainability programme around 10 years ago. In my time in the last year we have seen a huge change in how people are engaging.

"People are expecting more and they are more interested in what we are doing. It isn't only looking towards Croke Park, also wondering what they can do. It is becoming easier too with things like the reusable cups we are trialling.

"A few years ago there wouldn't have been a company in Ireland that could have facilitated that for us. Sometimes in Ireland we can be at a disadvantage because we are an island nation.

"We don't have the advantages in terms of material and services that they have on mainland Europe. That is changing more and more in terms of energy supply and the options with waste management, waste reduction, waste recycling.

"All those areas are becoming easier and easier to make a positive change because there is a whole shift in mindset occurring at all levels of GAA membership."



# ÁR GCLUICHÍ, ÁR LAOCHRA – GARY BRENNAN

**Is é laoch mór Bhaile Aodha, Chluain Dá Ghad agus an Chláir, Gary Brennan an duine is deireanaí le gabháil faoin spotsholas mar chuid den tsraith ‘Ár gCluichí, Ár Laocha’.**

Tá Gary ag tús cadhnaíochta do pheileadóirí an Chláir le tamall de bhlianta anuas agus d'éirigh leis Cluiche Ceannais Iomána na hÉireann a bhaint amach lena chlub, Baile Aodha, sa bhliain 2017. Ainmníodh é ar phainéal na hÉireann do na cluichí idirnáisiúnta in aghaidh na hAstrála i 2015 agus i 2017 mar aitheantas ar a chuid éachtaí peile.

'Is aoibhinn liom an Ghaeilge. Nuair a bhí mé i mo leaid óg sa bhunscoil, spreagadh grá ionam don teanga agus tá sé sin liom fós. Sílim gur cuid de m'fhéiniúlacht í, is cuid de m'anam í agus táim an-bhródúil aisti.'

Gary Brennan, Meitheamh 2019

Cuirmis aithne níos fearr ar Gary anseo thíos!

## Ainm:

Gary Ó Braonáin

## Aois:

30

## Club:

Baile Aodha (iomáint) & Cluain Dá Ghad (peil)

## Contae:

An Clár

## An scannán is fearr leat?

Toy Story

## An banna ceoil is fearr leat?

Hermitage Green nó Imagine Dragons

## An áit is fearr leat?

Baile nó áit éigin cois trá

## An bia is fearr leat?

Arán mo mháthar

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

Martin Daly

## An chéad chuimhne CLG atá agat:

Ag dul ag traenáil le m'athair nuair a bhí sé ina bhainisteoir ar fhoireann áitiúil

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

2005 don fhoireann mionúr i gCiarraí, 2007 do fhoireann na sinsear sa chéad bhabhta den tsraith i gCeatharlach

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

David Tubridy

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

An-deacair duine amháin a phiocadh amach astu seo... Conor McManus, Michael Murphy, Aidan O' Shea, Seán Cavanagh, Kevin Feely – bagairtí difriúla acu go léir

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

Cluiche ceannais bunscoile!

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

Ag dul ó Roinn 4 go Roinn 2 sa tsraith, cluiche ¼ ceannais na hÉireann i 2016, deiseanna a fuair mé imirt d'Éirinn

## Gluais / Glossary

laoch – hero / spotsholas – spotlight / ag tús cadhnaíochta – to the fore / idirnáisiúnta – international / aitheantas – recognition / éachtaí – achievements / aoibhinn – love / spreagadh – encouragement / féiniúlacht – identity / anam – soul / bródúil – proud / cois trá – by the sea / áitiúil – local / sraith – league / bagairtí – threats / deiseanna – opportunities / teaghlach – family / go háirithe – especially / bunscoileanna – basic skills / go rialta – regular / taithí – experience / muinín – confidence

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

Craobh Idirmheánach le Cluain Dá Ghad, Craobh na Mumhan & Cluiche Ceannais na hÉireann le Baile Aodha

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

Mo theaghlach uilig, ach m'athair go háirithe

## Aon chomhairle agat do imreoirí óga?

Déan cleachtadh ar na bunscoileanna go rialta – taithí orthu siúd a dhéanfaidh máistreacht, agus bíodh muinín agat asat féin

## Aon chaitheamh aimsire eile?

Galf ó am go chéile, léitheoireacht, féachaint ar aon spórt a bhíonn ar siúl



Ar Laoch – Gary Brennan, An Clár

# DOUBLE DELIGHT FOR GALWAY AT WALLBALL NATIONALS

**T**here was double delight for Galway tonight at the 2019 Irish Wallball Nationals as Ciana Ni Churraoin & Martin Mulkerrins sealed the Elite Men's & Open titles at Breaffy House Arena, Castlebar.

Having survived by one point in the QF, and forced to a tiebreak in the SF, Ciana was again pushed to the limit in the opening game of the final against Armagh youngster Megan McCann. Megan herself had a sensational 31-17 SF win over reigning three time champion Martina McMahon earlier today, and was full of confidence.

With scores tied at 11-11, it was Ciana who made the crucial push to take the first game 15-12. From there she never looked back and was in command throughout the second, winning 15-7.

It was a first Wallball Nationals title for the 22 year old Micheal Breathnach woman.

In the Men's Final, it was a clash of the top two seeds, Martin Mulkerrins and Sean Kerr (Tyrone). Both players wowed the crowd with their pace and athleticism as the lead changed regularly during the opening game. But it was Mulkerrins who made the first move and closed out a 15-11 opening game win. Kerr never fully recovered in the second as Mulkerrins raced into an early lead that he never looked back from, winning out 15-6.



## Other Key Final Results:

Mens Open:	Martin Mulkerrins (Gal) dft Sean Kerr (Tyr) 15-11, 15-6
Mens B:	Conor O'Gorman (Mon) dft Evan Murphy (Lim) 24-11
Mens 40+:	James Doyle (Arm) dft Dominick Lynch (Ker) 23-11
Ladies Open:	Ciana Ní Churraoin (Gal) dft Megan McCann (Arm) 15-12, 15-5
Ladies B:	Laura Finn (Sli) dft Aisling Mullan (Gal) 20-11
Ladies 40+:	Annie Havern (Dow) dft Maighead Ni Dhuill (Arm) 22-13
G13&U:	Ava Sweeney (Gal) dft Farragh Ryan (Car) 26-6
G15&U:	Clodagh Munroe (Tyr) dft Sadhbh Ni Fhlaithearta (Gal) 17-13
G17&U:	Claire Reynolds (Mayo) dft Noelle Dowling (Kilk) 24-12
B13&U:	Matthew Smith (Cav) dft Gavin Kelly (Gal) 31-13
B15&U:	Kyle Jordan (Kilk) dft Mikey Kelly (Gal) ret. inj. 11-3
B17&U:	Mark Doyle (Wex) dft Jason O'Toole (Gal) 17-7
B19&U:	Peter Donohue (Gal) dft Adam Walsh (Wex) 21-7

# RENAULT GAA WORLD GAMES TRIUMPH

**A** the time of publication the Renault GAA World Games were in full flow.

After a thrilling series of group games held at the stunning WIT Sports arena at Carriganore in Waterford, the focus shifted to the home of the GAA at Croke Park for the prestigious cup finals.

The festival has already lived up to its billing as the biggest and best yet. Bringing more than 5,000 visitors home to Ireland, there have been 86 teams of 1,300 players from across 10 international regions here to play in a celebration of football, hurling, campogie and ladies football action.

The games show that there are not only more than 400 GAA clubs operating outside of Ireland, but these clubs are thriving.

The biggest success has been the fact that, for the first time, more than 60 per cent of the teams playing World Games are native born in these international countries – and have become introduced to and have fallen for the games that the Irish Diaspora brought with them.

We look forward to bringing you more on the success of the Renault GAA World Games and in the meantime you can follow all the action on [gaa.ie](http://gaa.ie) and also by searching for @GAAworldgames across facebook, twitter and instagram.





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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