

AUGUST 2020
NUACHTLITIR
LÚNASA 2020



FOR NEWS, VIDEOS AND FIXTURES www.gaa.ie



COACH ED SURVEY



COACH SURVEY REVEALS GREAT BREADTH OF EXPERIENCE, HUGE COMMITMENT AND MAJOR INTEREST IN FUTURE LEARNING AND COACHING EDUCATION

THE INITIAL SERIES OF RESULTS FROM THE GAELIC GAMES COACH SURVEY HAS REVEALED INTERESTING AND POSITIVE RESULTS THAT WILL HELP FRAME THE DIRECTION OF COACH EDUCATION IN THE YEARS TO COME.

The survey drew more than 11,500 responses from across the GAA, LGFA and the Camogie Association and makes it one of the most far reaching trawls of grassroots coaching opinions ever conducted on this scale – in Irish sport and beyond.

The full report is expected by the end of the year but the initial examination of data has produced some notable headlines as shown in the infograph, with a detailed picture of the role and function of coaches across the full Gaelic games family emerging.

The first phase of the study involved an online questionnaire, which was completed by 11, 680 participants.

Following analysis, 111 responses were found to be duplicates, resulting in a valid sample of 11, 569.

Within this total, responses were received from every County and from overseas. Of the respondents, almost 80% were from male coaches, with 85% aged 25 – 54, with over 72% having achieved a third level qualification. Respondents were also from across the full range of coaching spheres with:

- 90% of respondents having coached at Club level
- 25% at Primary School level
- 14% at Post Primary School level

- 20% at Regional/County Development Squad/Academy level
- 11% at Underage Intercounty (U. 17 – 21)
- 6% at 3rd level
- 5% having coached at Inter County adult level

A coach's playing experience can contribute to their understanding of their sport, but it is reflective of the changing face of Gaelic games coaching that over 26% of respondents had no or very little playing experience of Gaelic games. Equally interesting, over 21% of respondents are currently both coaching and playing Gaelic games competitively. Gaelic football or Ladies Gaelic football were the predominant codes that coaches played (over 84% of coaches), with Hurling/Camogie at 55%, Handball at 6%, and Rounders at 2%.

As coaches, respondents have coached Gaelic football (63%), Hurling (38%), LGFA (27%), Camogie (23%), Handball (2%), or Rounders (1%). Interestingly, almost 40% of respondents coach more than one code. When asked about the number of years that they have been coaching, over 35% of respondents indicated that they have been coaching for less than 5 years, 29% between 6 and 10 years, with 24% between 11 and 20 years, and almost 12% have been coaching for over 20 years. This information tells us that there is a good spread of experience across our games.

Over three quarters of respondents coach on multiple days each week (78%), with 2 – 3 times per week most common. When considering the time spent on various coaching activities, coaches spend up to one hour per week planning sessions (55%), 2 – 5 hours per week delivering sessions (61%), and up to one hour per week reviewing their sessions (63%). Equally, in terms of games, over 68% of coaches spend 2 – 5 hours per week attending their own teams' games, 1 hour

GAA Gaelic Games Coach Survey

The overall number of respondents was:

11,569

Coach Experiences as Players

26% had little or no playing experience

Which codes have our coaches taken part in as players? %

Gaelic Football/LGFA	84.1
Hurling/Camogie	55.5
Handball	6.2
Rounders	2.2

Coaching Experiences

Years Coaching	%
Less than 2 Years	10.2
More than 2 but less than 5 Years	25.2
More than 5 but less than 10 Years	38.5
More than 10 but less than 20 Years	24
More than 20 Years	11.5
Not Declared	0.6

Gaelic Games Codes Coached (2019/2020)	%
Gaelic Football/LGFA	62.6
Hurling/Camogie	38.2
LGFA	26.8
Camogie	22.7
Handball	1.8
Rounders	1

Coaching Practices

Frequency of Coaching	%
About once or twice per month	1.6
About once per week	19.4
2 – 3 times per Week	57.7
4 – 6 times per Week	19.2
Every Day	1.4
Not Declared	0.5

How long do you intend to continue coaching? %

Less than 12 months	3.7
At least another 12 months	15.2
At least another 2 years	14.2
For more than 2 years	63.1
Not Declared	3.8

Coach Education

Qualifications Attained	%
Foundation Award (GAA)/Fundamentals	40.2
Award 1 (GAA)/Level 1 (Camogie/LGFA)	39.5
Award 2 (GAA)/Level 2 (Camogie/LGFA)	11.6
No Qualification	8
Not Declared	0.7

94.6%

of respondents consider future learning as "Somewhat" or "Extremely" important

per week analysing games (53%), and another 1 hour per week planning games (49%). Over 93% of coaches intend to continue coaching for at least another 12 months.

From a coach education perspective, over 91% of respondents have gained a coaching qualification from the GAA, LGFA, or Camogie Associations, with over 60% having taken a coach education qualification in the last 3 years. Coaching courses and workshops have been very popular learning opportunities for coaches in 2019/2020, while the results have indicated the impact of COVID-19 on coach development, with over 52% of respondents indicating that they have attended a Coaching webinar organised by one of the Gaelic games associations in the last 12 months. Working with and observing other coaches has also been

a very valuable learning opportunity for coaches.

Encouragingly from a coach development perspective, almost 95% of respondents consider their future learning either 'somewhat important' or 'extremely important', with 71% of respondents 'quite likely' or 'extremely likely' to undertake some form of coach education in the next 12 months.

The work of the Gaelic Games Coach study advisory group continues, with further analysis of the data to be completed over the coming weeks. In addition, over 6,000 coaches have agreed to take part in focus groups to explore their coaching and coach development further. It is intended to have the complete report of the Gaelic Games Coach study available towards the end of 2020.

The advisory group is chaired by the GAA's Education Manager, Dr Peter Horgan, who is joined by

- Dr Aine McNamara, Dublin City University
- Prof. Bryan McCullick, University of Georgia
- Hayley Harrison, Sport Ireland Coaching
- Dr John Considine, University College Cork
- Niall Williams, Camogie Association
- Dr Paul Donnelly, Antrim GAA
- Pdraig McGourty, Sligo Institute of Technology
- Dr Richard Bowles, Mary Immaculate College of Education
- Dr Seamus Kelly, University College Dublin
- William Harmon, LGFA



GAA MUSEUM ANNOUNCES PLANS TO REMEMBER BLOODY SUNDAY 100 YEARS ON



CENTENARY EVENTS SERIES LAUNCHED TO MARK 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF BLOODY SUNDAY ATROCITY AT CROKE PARK

The GAA Museum at Croke Park has launched a poignant commemorative events series to mark the centenary of Bloody Sunday, the darkest day in the history of the GAA and a pivotal day in the Irish War of Independence.

As the national custodian of the archives and artefacts of the Gaelic Athletic Association, the GAA Museum has unveiled a diverse and sensitively curated series of events entitled 'Remembering Bloody Sunday', 100 years on from the day 14 civilians were killed by the RIC and 60 more were injured during 90 seconds of gun fire during a football challenge match between Dublin and Tipperary at Croke Park.

The programme will include talks, tours, a new exhibition and a community programme running from August until November 2020.

The focal point for the centenary commemorations will be a new Remembering Bloody Sunday exhibition at the GAA Museum, opening in September, which will explore the tragic events of the fateful day and their impact on Irish history through artefacts, newspaper reports, official documents, photographs, and victim stories.

Part of this exhibition will include a specially commissioned Bloody Sunday centenary painting by artist David Sweeney, who is a former Dublin GAA senior hurling captain and the GAA's eLearning Manager at Croke Park. The painting is titled 'Transilience', which means an abrupt change or leap from one state to another.

Entry to the GAA Museum and the new exhibition is complimentary with all tours at Croke Park.

The GAA Museum is also running special weekly commemorative Bloody Sunday guided tours of Croke Park starting 15 August, which will take visitors through the sequence of events on the fateful day and discuss the impact Bloody Sunday had on both the GAA and Ireland itself.

In addition, a weekly evening 'Mondays at the Museum' lecture series with leading historians will examine Bloody Sunday from every angle, bringing thought provoking discussion on a diverse range of topics. This runs on Mondays from 14 September.

A special edition of RTÉ Radio One's Sunday Miscellany will also take place from the GAA Museum on Saturday 14 November, focusing on Croke Park,

the GAA and the events around Bloody Sunday.

The GAA Museum has also teamed up with History Ireland to host one of their Hedge Schools, titled 'History, Memory & Bloody Sunday'. Taking place in the museum on November 18, it promises to be a lively and unfettered round-table discussion with historians and well-known personalities.

As part of the commemorations, community based creative writing project Fighting Words will run a series of workshops for local older residents that will involve having conversations to uncover a more personal history of the area and its people over the last 100 years. Participants will discuss general history and accounts of Bloody Sunday that may have been passed down through generations. The process will culminate in the creation of a book capturing the stories, co-written by those who take part.





A PICTURE PAINTS 1,000 WORDS: ARTIST DAVID SWEENEY, WHO IS A FORMER DUBLIN SENIOR HURLING CAPTAIN AND EARNING MANAGER AT CROKE PARK, SHOWS HIS SPECIALLY COMMISSIONED BLOODY SUNDAY COMMEMORATION ARTWORK AT THE LAUNCH OF THE GAA MUSEUM'S BLOODY SUNDAY CENTENARY EVENTS SERIES.

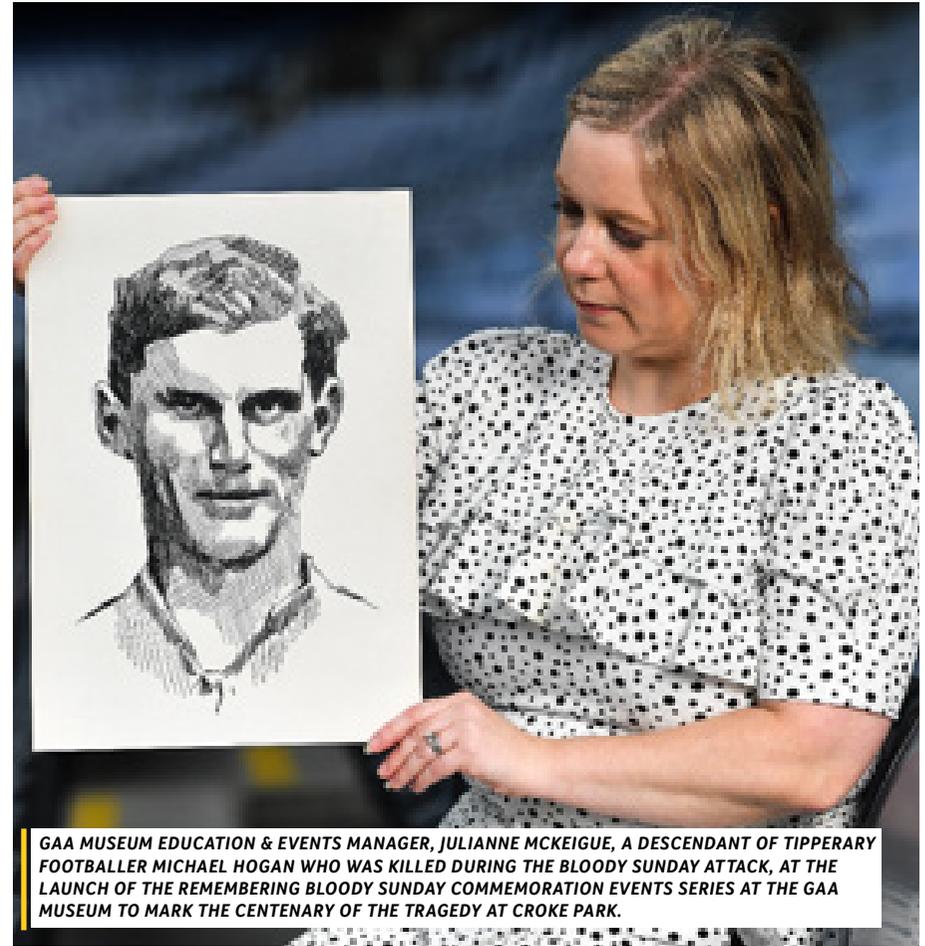
Commenting on the Remembering Bloody Sunday commemoration events, GAA Museum Director Niamh McCoy said, "Celebrating Ireland's national games and how the GAA has contributed to our cultural, social and sporting heritage is at the heart of everything we do at the GAA Museum. Remembering Bloody Sunday is therefore of utmost importance, as it is one of the most tragic and significant events in GAA and Irish history. The events have been sensitively curated to honour the victims of the day and safeguard their memory for generations to come".

Julianne McKeigue, Education & Events Manager at the GAA Museum and grand-niece of one of the victims of Bloody Sunday, Tipperary footballer Michael Hogan, said, "The GAA Museum Bloody Sunday centenary programme will remember the loved ones that were lost and remind people of who they were. This is their story, and we aim to tell it in a respectful and thought-provoking way."

At the launch event John Horan, President of the GAA, said, "November marks a significant anniversary in GAA and Irish history, and the GAA Museum has curated a fantastic programme to mark the centenary. The GAA will announce further events in the coming weeks and we look forward to working together to mark this historic occasion and respectfully honour the victims."

Bloody Sunday was one of the most significant events in the Irish War of Independence, marking a decisive turning point in the military struggle between the British forces and the IRA. On Sunday 21 November 1920, sixteen British intelligence agents were shot dead and five were wounded in Dublin City by Michael Collins' IRA squad. Later that evening thousands gathered at Croke Park to watch a great challenge match between rivals Dublin and Tipperary, when combined forces of RIC and British Military surrounded the grounds and opened fire on the crowd in retaliation. Tipperary footballer Michael Hogan, along with 13 spectators, lost their lives, and more than 60 were injured. Later that evening, the killing of two high ranking Dublin IRA Officers, Dick McKee and Peadar Clancy, as well as Irish language enthusiast Conor Clune in Dublin Castle brought the tragic day to an end. Bloody Sunday marked a decisive turning-point in the military struggle between the British forces and the IRA.

The events will adhere to the Government Road Map for reopening society and the easing of public health restrictions. The team at the GAA Museum will continue to monitor the evolving Covid-19 situation. The GAA Museum is operating to Government's guidelines with hand sanitising stations, queuing systems and contactless payment. The museum has also reduced the entry numbers on tours to make social distancing easy at all times.



GAA MUSEUM EDUCATION & EVENTS MANAGER, JULIANNE MCKEIGUE, A DESCENDANT OF TIPPERARY FOOTBALLER MICHAEL HOGAN WHO WAS KILLED DURING THE BLOODY SUNDAY ATTACK, AT THE LAUNCH OF THE REMEMBERING BLOODY SUNDAY COMMEMORATION EVENTS SERIES AT THE GAA MUSEUM TO MARK THE CENTENARY OF THE TRAGEDY AT CROKE PARK.

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CLUB

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



THE GAA NATIONAL CLUB DRAW PREPARATION IS IN FULL SWING. TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN YOUR LOCAL GAA CLUB IN SEPTEMBER. BE IN WITH THE CHANCE OF WINNING PRIZES SUCH AS A BRAND-NEW RENAULT CAR, ALL-IRELAND FOOTBALL AND HURLING FINAL TICKETS AND VARIOUS CASH PRIZES.

REMEMBER, ALL MONEY RAISED FOR THE DRAW REMAINS IN YOUR CLUB. CLUBS CAN USE THIS MONEY TO HELP WITH CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT, THE UPKEEP OF THE CLUB ALONG WITH THE GENERAL RUNNING OF THE GAA CLUB. PLEASE SEE A LINK TO LAST YEAR'S DRAW ATTACHED:

[HTTPS://WWW.GAA.IE/NEWS/2020-NATIONAL-CLUB-DRAW-WINNERS/](https://www.gaa.ie/news/2020-national-club-draw-winners/)

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT [NATIONALCLUBDRAW@GAA.IE](mailto:nationalclubdraw@gaa.ie)



RENAULT
Passion for life

GET YOUR CLUB INVOLVED...

FOG CLEARING



**Through the crowned fog,
that preferred they'd smothered,
onto the green, county coloured they run.
Not one on one or as a team,
but in small formation, after the horrid dream.
More like runners they run,
lengthening stride between the goals,
neither ball in play nor whistle blows.
Not a panel here, but in our streets were seen,
for nine weeks and three -
serving those alone, from you and me.
More like runners they run and run,
training begun; one other and I admire
the forgotten sight, since our town was under mire.
They run and run, fog clearing;
with sweat and smiles, thanks lads it's been awhile!**

Copyright, Caroline Lamb, June 2020

Kildare-based poet Caroline Lamb was inspired to write the above after seeing players and training return to GAA pitches in Naas after the initial national lockdown was announced. You can access more of her work via

<https://www.instagram.com/skyward.poetry/>

<https://www.pinterest.ie/SkywardPoetry/>

As the pandemic continues and with Kildare clubs still in regional lockdown, we dedicate the publication of this poem to our GAA club members nationally as the Association continues to lead from the front as our communities battle against the virus. We urge everyone to keep adhering to HSE, government and GAA guidelines and dream of better days to come.

IN ÓMÓS DETECTIVE GARDA COLM HORKAN

THE TRAGIC DEATH OF DETECTIVE GARDA COLM HORKAN WHILE ON DUTY IN CASTLEREA LAST JUNE LEFT A VOID IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND ALSO IN HIS NATIVE CHARLESTOWN IN MAYO WHERE HE WAS SO ACTIVE AND WHERE HIS GAA PASSION WAS SO EVIDENT. THROUGH THE MAYO COUNTY COMMITTEE, THE GAA WAS ASKED TO RELAY THE BELOW MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION TO THE WIDER GAA CLUB COMMUNITY.

I am writing on behalf of the Charlestown Sarsfields G.A.A club and the Horkan family to express our deep gratitude to the G.A.A. Community as a whole for their support and compassion over the last weeks.

The tragic events that occurred in the early hours of Thursday, June 18th have left a void in our club and community that will never be replaced as it robbed us of a giant and a champion in the true sense of the word.

Colm was the epitome of courage, inspiration and fearlessness on the fields of play as he married determination with a fierce will to win.

Off the field, he carried himself with dignity and humility and was a terrific ambassador for our club in his actions and every deed.

For those of us who were honoured to accompany him on his final journey home, we were humbled by the respect and dignity afforded to him by our neighbouring clubs in East Mayo and South Sligo and these memories we will cherish forever as it captured in essence the true meaning and spirit of the GAA family.

Mise Le Meas,
Liam Mac an Bhreitheamh
Cathaoirleach



Image: Mayo News

POC FADA DEFERRED UNTIL LATER THIS YEAR



COISTE POC FADA NA HEIREANN MET ON AUGUST 26TH TO CONSIDER THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEASURES TO LIMIT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19, RELEASED ON AUGUST 18TH 2020.

Arising from the meeting it was decided that the M. Donnelly GAA All-Ireland Poc Fada Finals will not take place on September 5th as scheduled.

Coiste Poc Fada will endeavour to complete the 2020 competition at the earliest suitable date, subject to Government guidelines and health and safety measures, and will revert with an updated position by September 20th.

While disappointing, this decision was taken in adherence to the measures to limit the spread of Covid 19 and with the health of all involved being of paramount importance.



TADHG HARAN OF GALWAY, COLIN RYAN OF LIMERICK AND DARREN GEOGHEGAN OF LOUTH DURING THE LAUNCH OF THE M. DONNELLY POC FADA ALL-IRELAND FINALS AT THE ANNAVERNA MOUNTAIN IN LOUTH.

CLUB LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



**CLUB LEADERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

**THE GREAT TEAMS
AREN'T JUST ON THE FIELD**

The GAA Club Leadership Development Programmes are aimed directly at the key people in Clubs and Counties. These programmes are designed to give YOU, our leaders, the skills to successfully manage your roles as well as adding to your skillset for work and life.

Courses are currently available for:

CHAIRPERSON TREASURER PRO SECRETARY

learning.gaa.ie/administrator



THE RETURN TO CLUB GAELIC GAMES ACTIVITY ON THE PITCH HAS OFFERED A WELCOME REPRIEVE TO EVERYONE INVOLVED AT EVERY LEVEL OF GAELIC GAMES. THIS RETURN COULD NOT HAVE BEEN MADE POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE HEROIC EFFORTS OF THOUSANDS OF CLUB OFFICERS AND VOLUNTEERS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND ABROAD WHO HAVE GIVEN SO MUCH OF THEIR TIME TO ENSURE A SAFE RETURN FOR EVERYONE. WE SALUTE OUR GRASS ROOTS VOLUNTEERS, AND HOPEFULLY THE GAMES WILL CONTINUE WITHOUT TOO MUCH INTERRUPTION.

The lack of competitive action in the earlier part of the year provided a unique opportunity for Club Officers and Volunteers to upskill even more than they would normally across a variety of topics. The Club Leadership Development Programme remains devoted to providing a high level of training to officers and volunteers, and it was truly uplifting to witness the desire for learning and the numbers of volunteers who attended online webinar sessions during the lockdown, such as the desire for continued educational development even when on-pitch activity was interrupted.

Club Officer Foundation Award Pilot

2020 is the year of the pilot Club Officer Foundation Award (https://learning.gaa.ie/club_leadership), and despite the pandemic, this will be run to completion in the four counties who are taking part – Mayo, Kerry, Cork and Offaly. New Club Officers who attended their counties' face to face workshop earlier in the year are eligible and will be contacted with further details in the coming weeks. It is hoped that this programme will be rolled out en masse for new officers from next year and aims to provide a structured learning programme for officers, with accredited certification upon completion.

Online Officer Training During Covid-19

Over 10 online webinars were held during the lockdown, specifically targeted at Club Officers. Topics covered included Microsoft 365, Governance, Finance & Governance for Club Treasurers, Personal Health & Wellbeing, Club Strategic Planning, among others. Over 600 Officers attended these webinar sessions.

The crisis has forced everyone involved in Officer training out of their comfort zone in terms of accessing content remotely. It has advanced the skills of many in a very short time frame due to necessity. The

continued co-operation from Development Officers, Secretaries and Associates cannot be understated, who have been instrumental in broadening the reach of these workshops.

Collaboration with the LGFA and Camogie Association, as well as with other departments and committees within the GAA, has allowed the CLDP to reach a wide and diverse audience base, and produce quality online content, adaptable to specific requirements at short notice.

A very real opportunity now exists to expedite the range of remote learning opportunities moving forward into the future. Initial first steps were launched in 2020, prior to the outbreak, to increase the volume of remote and online learning. If there is any silver lining to this dreadful virus from an Officer Training perspective, it is that reaching Officers with vital information can be done as effectively online.

County Officer Training

The Organisational Development team within the GAA are working to adapt and develop the offering for County Officers in terms of Learning and Educational opportunities moving forward. Online induction modules, an online information hub and a suite of resources to help officers in their day to day responsibilities are currently in the works and will be revealed in the coming months.



INVESTING IN LEADERS, INVESTING IN YOU.

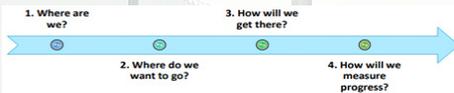


**THE GREAT TEAMS
AREN'T JUST ON THE FIELD**

CLUB PLANNING

INTRODUCTION

THE CLUB PLANNING PROGRAMME AIMS TO PROVIDE GAA CLUBS WITH A STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH TO DEVELOPING A 3-5 YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN. EACH CLUB THAT ENGAGES IN THE PROGRAMME WILL ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:



BACKGROUND TO THE PROGRAMME

Since 2008 the Official GAA Club Planning Programme has helped approximately 1,000 Clubs. Planning can help Clubs to:

- Reflect on why it exists, what it aspires to be and what it believes in;
- Decide on the areas of activity that it wants to, or needs to focus on;
- Agree on the key projects it will pursue;
- Devise a practical Club Development Plan for carrying out these projects.

ONGOING WORK SINCE THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK

As with any other association, the Covid-19 pandemic has had a big impact on the GAA and the Club Planning Programme itself. Over the winter of 2019 and into the beginning of season 2020, good progress was achieved by Clubs in developing strategic plans. Meetings, workshops and launches were scheduled into the Spring but unfortunately had

**CLUB
PLANNING
PROGRAMME**

**LEADING YOUR CLUB
TO THE NEXT LEVEL**

to be postponed due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

In recent months, both Clubs and facilitators were encouraged to progress with their plans remotely where possible. Some Clubs began conducting their online surveys to send out to the community while others were busy drafting what their final product will look like.

When the news came that there plans in place to return to the field it was greeted with both excitement and relief. When it was revealed what was expected of Clubs and its members in order to return to action as safely as possible, the Club and County Planning Committee thought it was best to pause all planning progress to allow Clubs and volunteers to put their time and resources into getting back to games as safely and efficiently as possible. The plan for now is to resume all planning activity towards the end of September / beginning of October once the Club championship scene is over. The Club and County Planning Committee will assist clubs to focus back onto putting the necessary time and effort into developing their strategic plan, with the aim of assisting as many Clubs as possible to have their plans published over the winter season.



INFORMATION

For all Club Planning information including resources, and previously launched plans please visit learning.gaa.ie/clubplanning

AN CHÉAD BHABHTA EILE MIONDEONTAS D'FHONDÚIREACHT SHEOSAIMH MHIC DHONNCHA OSCAILTE

TÁ AN CHÉAD BHABHTA EILE MIONDEONTAS D'FHONDÚIREACHT SHEOSAIMH MHIC DHONNCHA OSCAILTE ANOIS AGUS GLACFAR LE HIARRATAS SUAS GO DTÍ 5.00IN AR AN AOINE, 18 MEÁN FÓMHAIR, 2020. SCÉIM DEONTAIS Í SEO DO CHLUBANNA (ATÁ CLÁRAITHE LEIS AN BHFONDÚIREACHT) AR MIAN LEO AN GHAeilGE A CHUR CHUN CINN SA CHLUB.

TÁ UASMHÉID DE €500 LE FÁIL ÓN SCÉIM SEO AGUS CUIREANN AN FHONDÚIREACHT MAINIÚ MEAITSEÁLA ÓN GCISTE AR FÁIL D'IMEACHTAÍ INCHÁILITHE AR BHONN €2 DO GACH €1 A CHUIREANN AN CLUB FÉIN AR FÁIL.

Tionscadail ar leith a chuirfear i gcrích roimh dheireadh na bliana amháin a bheas incháilithe sa bhabhta seo. Glacfar le hiarratais le háiseanna teanga a cheannach, comharthaíocht bhuan Ghaeilge a chur in airde sa chlub, suíomh idirlín a aistriú, leabhair/dlúthdhioscaí a fhoilisiú, imeachtaí sóisialta Ghaeilge a eagrú, srl...

Le haghaidh tuilleadh eolais faoin mbabhta miondeontas seo is féidir teagmháil a dhéanamh le hoifigigh Ghlór na nGael ag clg@glornangael.ie

Mar chuid den scéim seo bronntar 'Bonn Sheosaimh Mhic Dhonncha' ar na clubanna atá cláraithe tar éis dóibh méid áirithe gníomhaíochtaí, a chuireann an Ghaeilge chun cinn, a chur i gcrích sa chlub.

Is comhartha aitheantais é an bonn ar an dea-obair atá á déanamh sna clubanna thar thréimhse ama. De réir mar a chuireann club gníomhaíochtaí ó liosta molta i gcrích, bronntar bonn cré-umha, bonn airgid nó bonn óir orthu de réir mar is cuí. Tá spriocanna cinnte le baint amach ag clubanna.

xTá ardstádas agus ardghradam ag baint, ach go háirithe, leis an mbonn óir a bhaint amach.



Scéim tacaíochta de chuid Chumann Lúthchleas Gael agus Ghlór na nGael, le tacaíocht ón Roinn Cultúir, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta, agus ó Fhoras na Gaeilge í Fondúireacht Sheosaimh Mhic Dhonncha atá dírithe ar chlubanna CLG ar mian leo an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn. Is féidir tuilleadh eolais a fháil faoin bhFondúireacht ag an nasc seo www.glornangael.ie/clg/

GREAT NEWS FOR HURLING & CAMOGIE IN WEST CORK



CLUB MEMBERS GATHER ON THE SITE OF WHERE THEIR PLANNED NEW HOME GROUND WILL BE

LAOCHRA ÓG HURLING AND CAMOGIE CLUB ARE DELIGHTED TO ANNOUNCE THEY HAVE SECURED A NEW 8.3 ACRE PLANNED DEVELOPMENT SITE WHERE WORK WILL COMMENCE SHORTLY AT BALLYMACCORCORAN OFF THE MACROOM/ MILLSTREET ROAD.

This 8.3-acre Development will be Laochra Óg's new home grounds and in time consist of a large car park, dressing rooms, full size Hurling pitch, Training pitch, wall ball area and viewing bank.

The club extends a huge thanks to local landowner Pat Buckley and his family for leasing this beautiful and very scenic plot of land to the club. Thanks are also extended to local Councillor Ted Lucey for all his help and

advice throughout the planning process.

Since 2014 Laochra Óg has existed to promote Hurling and Camogie in the area and has put a massive amount of work into the development of Hurling and Camogie in the local parishes and schools of West Muskerry. This could only happen thanks to Volunteer Committee Members, Trainers, Mentors, Players, Team Sponsors and Businesses. Everything achieved has been done with no outside funding and with the setting up of teams backed by local businesses.

Laochra Óg said: "This Development site is another step forward for Laochra Óg in terms of our progress. Our catchment area is huge but an area where no Hurling and

Camogie was played at the start of 2014. We have created history by playing the game in schools and areas of West Muskerry that the game had never been played in before. We have fielded our first Hurling and Camogie teams reaching underage regional and county finals. Having our own separate committee and stand-alone club has helped us greatly to solely focus on promoting Hurling and Camogie to this part of the countryside.

Challenges yes, we have plenty of them, no different to any Club run by volunteers such as promoting and encouraging children and adult players to play our ancient game in this area of West Muskerry. Other challenges such as volunteers to coach and mentor teams, volunteers to work at fundraising, volunteers to work on our committee and helping to bring forward our club in a certain direction, fielding adult men and ladies teams. These are all the challenges that remain before us."

The new Development site is a major boost and a great lift to the club as they continue their promotional work across the local communities they serve in Macroom, Kilnamartyra, Reenaniree, Coolea, Ballyvourney, Carriganima and Clondrohid. "We hope this new Hurling and Camogie facility in time when fully complete will not only bring people together but will represent inclusiveness, friendship and hope as we play as one, our traditional games of Hurling and Camogie under the banner of Laochra Óg. We would like to thank everyone that has helped us out, past and present, to make us the club we are now today," added the club. Due to Covid the club's Development Draw was postponed.

Laochra Óg are now re-launching 50/50 Development draws online www.laochraog.com and at local outlets. Options of yearly tickets are also online.



CLUB FOUNDERS JOHN NASH (LEFT) AND LIAM SLATTERY (RIGHT) WITH CORK COUNTY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER PAT HORGAN AT THE HISTORICAL SIGNING OF A LEASE FOR THEIR NEW GROUNDS.

NAOMH AODHAN REVIVING HURLING IN SOUTH FERMANAGH

THE SOUND OF THE SLIOTAR AND THE CLASH OF THE ASH ARE BACK RINGING IN THE AIR OF AN AREA OF COUNTY FERMANAGH WHERE THE GAME HAD GONE INTO DECLINE. THE CLUB PROUDLY SENT US THE REPORT BELOW.

Naomh Aodhan GAC was established by our secretary Vanessa Mulholland in 2017 to encourage children from the local Derrylin and Teemore areas to experience hurling in what is largely a football dominated part of South Fermanagh. Hurling was previously played in the area up to the mid 1990's.

The team has been competing in local blitz

competitions and for the past three years in the Fermanagh Championship largely with a group of young dedicated boys and girls who generally were two years too young for the age group. Registration this year has reached over 100 members for the first time, which is testament to the fun atmosphere and excellent bond between all the players and all the parents.

After losing in a Final in Brewster Park in 2019, the team were determined to go one step further in 2020. Training commenced in late January, largely indoors due to weather conditions. The squad were preparing for our first game when COVID-19 stopped all

games being played. During the lockdown, the squad were practicing at home and uploading skills challenges to the group for entertainment and also to keep the competitive edge going.

When the season restarted on the June 29, we began training each week to work on our skills for the recommencement of the U11.5 county Championship. There are currently 8 teams competing in underage hurling in the County, which is a 100% increase from only four years ago.

On July 10 we played a very skillful Ederney St Joseph's team in the Bronx Cup final.

Nerves got the better of the team in the first half and we trailed by four points at half time, however we scored eight points in the second half to win by a single point 0-11 to 0-10.

The win was a huge boost for the team and the club, and we now are playing at U13 level for the first time with the roadmap to keep the progression going and establish an U15 team in 24 months.

The U11.5 team was coached by Geraldine O'Reilly and Paul Bolger and the club are hugely thankful for their dedication.



HURLING HEROES OF NAOMH AODHAN, CO FERMANAGH



By Cian O'Connell

OOLA 'GAELIC FOR MOTHERS & OTHERS' INITIATIVE ASSISTING COMMUNITY



IN OOLA A FAMILIAR AND REASSURING GATHERING TAKES PLACE EVERY WEDNESDAY WHEN THE GAELIC FOR MOTHERS & OTHERS GET TOGETHER.

Fun and football on the agenda, but in recent weeks the Oola contingent contributed handsomely to assist a gentleman who had taken ill in the community.

As a session was winding down anguished cries were heard forcing the Oola Gaelic For Mothers & Others to react briskly.

That is precisely what occurred. "We just go one night a week, we couldn't wait to get back, we were waiting and waiting because of the Covid, Wednesday night suits everyone best," Oola's Healthy Club Officer Treasa Ryan explains.

"This particular night was different. It is very important to us that it is literally an hour, that we don't spend any longer because time is precious to an awful lot of mothers and an awful lot of other people. We start at eight and we finish at nine, then you are gone again.

"This night, for some reason, and it was a really bad night, we were still there at quarter past nine. We would always be gone by then. It was lashing rain, we were just cooling down when we could unfortunately hear the pleas of despair for help from someone.

"We are very lucky that there is a defibrillator in the GAA grounds. There was already an Oola defibrillator group set up a few years ago, we were lucky that they had



one placed there and in the church."

Four players and coach Derek Ryan from the Oola group, though, were quickly on the scene, providing valuable and careful assistance.

"This particular man was visiting a house not too far from the GAA grounds," Ryan explains. "He was exceptionally lucky that we were still in the pitch, that the defibrillator was there, and that the girls

didn't even think twice about it. They just took off themselves with Derek.

"I set up the Gaelic For Mothers & Others and I roped him in. Derek is always joking that he has no choice, but to come. He said that on the night the man's life hung in the balance, but because of the girls heroics they swayed it one way. He said there is no doubt about it only for them the man could unfortunately be dead.

"They basically got the defibrillator, they went down four of them and they were 45 minutes until the ambulance crew arrived.

"We were all so touched because it was so emotional. It was desperate to see someone crying for help, it was awful."

Roughly 100 metres from the Oola pitch the man was eventually saved. "It was quick thinking and we all said it afterwards that they were like superheroes, they



TREASA RYAN AND TOM BOURKE FROM OOLA HEALTHY CLUBS COMMITTEE PICTURED WITH MARY PURCELL, WHO REPRESENTED GROW FOLLOWING A FUNDRAISER ORGANISED BY THE CLUB.

didn't even think twice," Ryan adds.

"They took off running, they grabbed the defibrillator, and they were gone. It was their quick thinking and bravery, they didn't think for a second about it, they just went.

"We have a very special group for some reason. We have all been in different groups throughout our lives, but this group of women is lovely. This even made another bond amongst us."

Several involved in the Gaelic For Mothers & Others initiative were also eager to skill up too following the incident. "We touched base with the Oola defibrillator group, we asked could we do the training as a group," Ryan states.

"We didn't waste any time, we did it practically within two weeks, as we had it arranged. I already had the training done,

but a couple did refreshers, and a couple did full training. It was a happy ending."

The manner in which the Gaelic For Mothers & Others has caught the imagination in Oola is a source of pride.

"It all stemmed from the fact that we were taking part in the Healthy Club Project," Ryan replies. "Last year we trialled the Gaelic For Mothers & Others just for a few weeks. Then this year we officially went about setting it up.

"We had a massive response even though we are a very small club in east Limerick. It is a football club, there is no hurling. The LGFA side of it has really taken off in the last few years. We have 179 members this year which would be massive for us. We've had more than 40 at the Gaelic For Mothers & Others. That has just taken off massively."

Few involved have any significant previous Gaelic Football experience which simply adds to the sense of satisfaction according to Ryan. Her husband Derek, also part of the Oola senior mens management team, supplies the drills and training expertise.

"A lot of them would never have played," Ryan remarks. "One girl played international rugby for Ireland, but the majority wouldn't have played. A few of us played when we were young, but unfortunately just hadn't the confidence to go on, and had given up.

"We'd have a few that played and who were brilliant at it. The way I'd describe it is there is a massive group of women coming from different backgrounds and circumstances, but we all have the one goal: an hour of therapy.

"We are very lucky in the sense that Derek our coach, he is brilliant, he trains the Oola senior mens team. I think the fact that we have such banter and a laugh, but yet we get a proper training session.

"Number one the social side of things brings us to the pitch, the fact we get to meet other people for an hour. Number two the fitness side and I'd say the football is far down at number three.

"It is absolutely brilliant, Derek often says to us that he gets such a satisfaction out of seeing people who couldn't hand pass the ball and now they are hand passing brilliantly. He jokes that he gets more satisfaction out of the training than with the Oola mens team."

Ultimately, Ryan is thrilled by how the Gaelic For Mothers & Others initiative has been greeted with such enthusiasm throughout Oola.

"There is so much more to a club and I think that is why this group has been successful," she comments. "You would have an awful lot of these women, who never had anything to do with the GAA or LGFA. They never probably felt there was a place for them, they mightn't have felt comfortable enough or good enough or whatever.

"Now they feel part of something and very much welcomed in the club. They are as much part of the club as anyone. We are allowed full use, the women are viewed as just as important as the men, we are very lucky in our club that it is about everyone."

That the local community is also being assisted is a further cause for cheer.



OOLA HAVE INVESTED SIGNIFICANTLY IN THEIR UNDERAGE STRUCTURES IN RECENT YEARS.

By John Harrington

MONTREAL SHAMROCKS WELCOME LGBTQI+ COMMUNITY WITH OPEN ARMS

ON AUGUST 22, MONTREAL SHAMROCKS GAA CLUB IN CANADA HOSTED A VERY SUCCESSFUL PRIDE GAMES DAY TOURNAMENT AS PART OF THEIR HEALTHY CLUB PROJECT.

When they were planning the event the hope was to have three football teams and two hurling/camogie teams competing in a co-ed tournament.

But when an idea is a good one it tends to grow wings, and the Pride Games Day Tournament ended up being even bigger and better than they hoped.

“The registrations came in and we had 75 players registered for football and 44 players registered for hurling/camogie,” says Montreal Shamrocks Healthy Club Officer, Julie Morrice.

“Players from Les Patriotes de Quebec travelled 3 hours to participate in the event. We ended up having a total of 5 football teams and 3 hurling/camogie teams. Each team was given a colour of the rainbow for the event. We had team Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Purple, Pink and white.

“The event was run as a fundraiser and all players made a minimum 5\$ donation towards Project 10 in Montreal. Project 10 works to promote the personal, social, sexual and mental wellbeing of gay, lesbian, transgender, transsexual, two-spirited, intersexed and questioning youth and adults in Montreal.

“For the event we had invited a local LGBTQI+ Cheer Aerobics team ‘À Pieds



THE GREAT WHITES TOOK HOME THE HURLING/CAMOGIE TROPHY AT THE MONTREAL SHAMROCKS PRIDE GAMES DAY TOURNAMENT.

Levés’ from the community to perform a half time show as well as do a demonstration for our GAA players. They put on a fantastic 20 min show and instructed our players in two dance routines. The day could not have gone better.”

Montreal Shamrocks have worked hard to be a truly inclusive GAA club and develop strong ties with the LGBTQI+ community in their city.

The Pride Games Day Tournament was just the latest example of the club welcoming everyone with open arms.

“As a club we felt that it was important

to build stronger ties with the LGBTQI+ community and with Équipe Montréal,” says Morrice.

“Équipe Montréal is an association in Montreal that recognizes LGBTQI+ leagues and promotes them to the LGBTQI+ community so that athletes know what leagues they can join while feeling at ease and accepted. In recent years, the Montreal Shamrocks gained recognition with Équipe Montréal as being an LGBTQI+ friendly league.

“The Shamrocks are only 1 of 2 teams in Montreal to receive this recognition while not being an LGBTQI+ league itself.

“Not only did we receive this recognition, but we were also awarded Event of the Year in 2019 by Équipe Montréal for hosting the largest inclusive event in Montreal that included teams nationwide.”

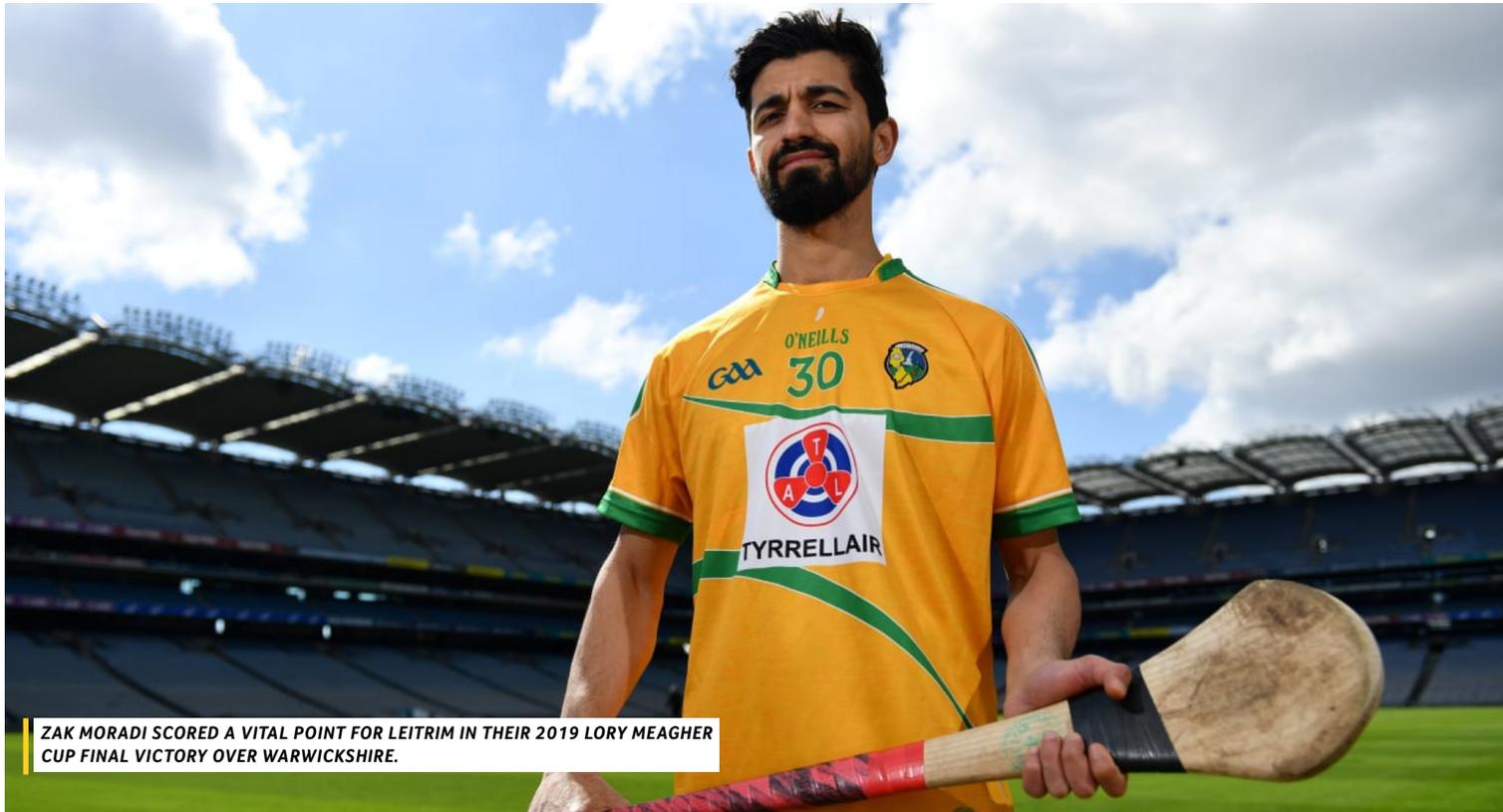
Last year the GAA launched a manifesto which was summed up by the statement ‘GAA – Where We All Belong’.

That manifesto wasn’t a self-serving pat on the back, it was a call to arms, and one the Association is determined to live up to.

Montreal Shamrocks are a shining example of a GAA club who are doing just that.

By John Harrington

MORADI'S TALE A TESTAMENT TO THE POWER OF INCLUSIVITY



ZAK MORADI SCORED A VITAL POINT FOR LEITRIM IN THEIR 2019 LORY MEAGHER CUP FINAL VICTORY OVER WARWICKSHIRE.

LEITRIM HURLER ZAK MORADI TELLS A GOOD YARN THAT SUMS UP JUST HOW MUCH HE AND HIS FAMILY WERE FISHES OUT OF WATER WHEN THEY FIRST LANDED IN CARRICK-ON-SHANNON AFTER LEAVING IRAQ IN 2002.

On one of their first strolls down the town, they visited Paddy's Supermarket where

Zak's father told him and his younger brother they could have whatever they wanted.

They picked out what they presumed were Ireland's answer to canned soft-drinks and went on their way.

Local Garda Sergeant, Martin Cunniffe, did

a double-take a few minutes later when he saw 11-year-old Zak walking towards him slugging from a can of Guinness and his younger brother slaking his thirst with a can of Budweiser.

"Martin was like, 'what do you lads think you're doing!'", says Moradi with a chuckle.

"But, sure, we had no English at the time and neither did my parents really and they didn't know what alcohol was.

"Anyway, Martin came down to our house later with a load of pictures of different alcoholic drinks to tell my parents what we couldn't be drinking and my older brother was there who spoke English so he was able to translate.

"Martin has been my Leitrim hurling manager for most of my career and still likes to bring that story up 18 years later!"

Moradi's family are Kurdish-Iranians who had to flee to Iraq in the 1980s when the Iran-Iraq war broke out.

Zak was born in Iraq and lived there until the age of 11 until his family made the decision to relocate to Ireland when tensions between Iraq and the USA heightened in the aftermath of 9/11 and another war was inevitable.

Learning a new language and adapting to a very different culture at the age of 11 must have been a huge challenge for Moradi, but his integration into his new community was made a lot easier by his embrace of Gaelic Games.

Clement Cunniffe, son of Martin, introduced Zak to hurling when he visited his primary school to coach the children there.

It's a testament to the power of inclusivity that they would both play on the Leitrim team that won the Lory Meagher Cup in Croke Park in 2019.



LEITRIM MANAGER MARTIN CUNIFFE
PICTURED DURING THE 2019
LORY MEAGHER CUP FINAL MATCH
BETWEEN LEITRIM AND LANCASHIRE
AT CROKE PARK IN DUBLIN.

The Moradis moved to Dublin when Zak was 15. He joined the Thomas Davis GAA club in Tallaght but retained his links with Leitrim and has played senior inter-county hurling for the Ridge County since 2010.

When he reflects now on the impact Gaelic Games has had on his life since he moved to Ireland back in 2002, he is in no doubt that he wouldn't be the man he is without it.

"The GAA has played a big part in my life," says Moradi. "When I moved to Ireland and when I arrived in Leitrim I started

playing hurling and football and I just made friends a lot easier and since then I became part of the community.

"I've done very well in life because of the GAA. I've made a lot of friends over it and all the jobs I've got it's all through the GAA, so the GAA it's in my heart!"

When he was 12 years old Moradi helped St Mary's, Kiltoghert win the Leitrim U-14 Feile.

Interviewed by a local newspaper afterwards, Moradi said it was his ambition to play in Croke Park some day.

He fulfilled that dream in style last year when he came off the bench to score a spectacular point that helped Leitrim beat Lancashire after extra-time in the Lory Meagher Cup Final.

"It was very special," says Moradi.

"It meant a lot for me and the Leitrim hurlers. At the end of the day it's a panel of 34 and I've been playing with them for the past seven or eight years. We had a lot of bad days, there were times we were going out and getting beat by 20 or 30 points, but we'd always be trying to keep that scoreline down.

"Eventually all the hard work we put in, all the long-distance travelling to training down in Mullingar and Carrick-On-Shannon, coming home late at night at midnight or one in the morning and then having to get up for work at six or seven in the morning, all the hard work paid off.

"Sometimes in life you have to just put in the work and eventually it will pay off at some stage."



Moradi is an ambassador for the GAA's first National Inclusion Day which takes place on September 23.

GAA clubs around the country are being encouraged to open their doors to the wider community and promote sport and physical activity to everyone regardless of age, sexual orientation, ability, ethnicity, nationality, or fitness level.

Having experienced first hand the positive benefits of inclusivity in Gaelic Games, Moradi

is a passionate advocate for encouraging others to follow the same path.

"The GAA in this country plays a big part in everybody's lives and communities in this country," he says.

"It's very important that people who are not involved in the GAA should get involved.

"Bring their kids into their local clubs in the community and it'd be nice for them when they grow up then their dream is to be

playing obviously here and that was my dream when I was about 12 or 13 I wanted to play in Croke Park but it took about 16 years later I got a chance to play out there and I got a nice point so I'm still living that dream.

"It's the one thing about the GAA it doesn't matter where you're from everybody should take part. I've noticed in the last couple of years there is a lot of second generation from different nationalities. You know (it doesn't matter)

whether you're black or brown. You see it all over the country now.

"You mightn't see them playing in inter-county level (yet) but they will. You're going to see the different faces in the GAA and in every county you're going to have, you know, like if you look at the French soccer team or the English soccer team and even the Ireland soccer team and even in the GAA in every county you're always seeing someone different in there. It's great for the GAA."



ON THE 23RD SEPTEMBER, THE GAA INVITES ALL CLUBS TO OPEN THEIR DOORS TO THE WIDER COMMUNITY AND SUPPORT ITS FIRST GAA NATIONAL INCLUSIVE FITNESS DAY. THE EVENT FALLS DURING THE EUROPEAN WEEK OF SPORT AND AIMS TO PROMOTE SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY TO EVERYONE REGARDLESS OF AGE, ABILITY, ETHNICITY, NATIONALITY OR FITNESS LEVEL. IN ATTENDANCE AT THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE GAA'S FIRST NATIONAL INCLUSIVE FITNESS DAY AT CROKE PARK IN DUBLIN ARE GAA AMBASSADORS BOIDU SAYEH, LEFT, WESTMEATH FOOTBALLER AND LEITRIM HURLER ZAK MORADI.

CROSS SCOOP REGIONAL AWARD FOR COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO COVID

ARMAGH'S CROSSMAGLEN RANGERS GAA CLUB HAVE SCOOPED AN AWARD IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO COVID-19.

The award scheme was focused on community responses across the North and in Wales.

Roisín Murtagh of Crossmaglen Rangers had been in touch with the local Centra store and Post Office to mirror the community hub effort happening with Centra and Supervalu stores joining forces with GAA club volunteers elsewhere.

Roisín said: "This joint community effort saw groceries delivered, the most vulnerable were checked in on and reassured during the most challenging times. I'm delighted to say this good work has been recognised and the Post Office announced that Centra & Crossmaglen PO managed by Colm Devlin won the Community Engagement category at the Post Office's 'We're Stronger Together' regional awards. A fantastic achievement which saw entries from all over the North and Wales."



COLM DEVLIN OF CENTRA CROSSMAGLEN WITH RUAIRÍ AND ROISÍN MURTAGH OF CROSSMAGLEN RANGERS GAA WITH THE CERTIFICATE OF COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT





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.

Produced by the GAA Communications Department in Croke Park,
Edited by Cian Ó Murchadha
and designed by DBA Publications in Blackrock, Co Dublin.