

SEPTEMBER 2020
NUACHTLITIR
MEÁN FOMHAIR 2020



FOR NEWS, VIDEOS AND FIXTURES www.gaa.ie



CLUBS HAILED FOR THEIR KELLOGG'S CÚL CAMP SUCCESS

Some said it couldn't be done. But thanks to the work of thousands of GAA club volunteers nationwide, the 2020 Kellogg's GAA Cúl Camps were successfully staged during July and August.

Numbers were, understandably, down and yet no less impressive when put in the context of the times in which we live. The fact that more than 70,000 children aged 6-13 were able to enjoy cúl camp fun across 800 camps in GAA locations across 26 counties in Ireland was a magnificent achievement.

Despite the pandemic, there was only one recorded case of a camp having to temporarily close due to a positive Covid-19 case – and this having been due to an infection picked up outside the club and not at the camp.

For some of us in clubs, the 2020 Kellogg's GAA Cúl Camp was an act of sporting defiance – an insistence that a way would be found to do the things that made life in these unprecedented times seem normal. A huge effort managed by Charles Harrison from Croke Park and brought to life on the ground by 3,000 coaches and 541 camp coordinators deserve massive credit.

Meanwhile, in their own way, the success of these camps showed that it would indeed be possible to get children back into school from late August onwards. Not everywhere was able to stage a camp, but training has returned everywhere with clubs a hive of activity and as vital a community asset as they ever were.



Dublin footballer Sinéad Goldrick at the Kellogg's GAA Cúl Camp in St Brendan's GAA Club, Dublin in July. The camp was attended by Siún Brophy, the 1 millionth child to register for the Kellogg's GAA Cúl Camps since the beginning of the Kellogg's sponsorship in 2012.



Dublin footballer Ciarán Kilkenny with Thomas Keville at the Kellogg's GAA Cúl Camp.

The GAA's return to play health questionnaire records more than 90,000 responses daily and more than 7m since it was first rolled out by the Association. At peak times at weekends, the responses are logged at the rate of eight every second as players, mentors and parents of children take the time to stop and check and reconfirm their health status – keeping an awareness of the Covid-19 symptoms prominent as they do so.

There have been instances of positive cases which have impacted clubs – but when set against the backdrop of an active GAA membership of 600,000 people across 1,600 clubs then those numbers have been very small.

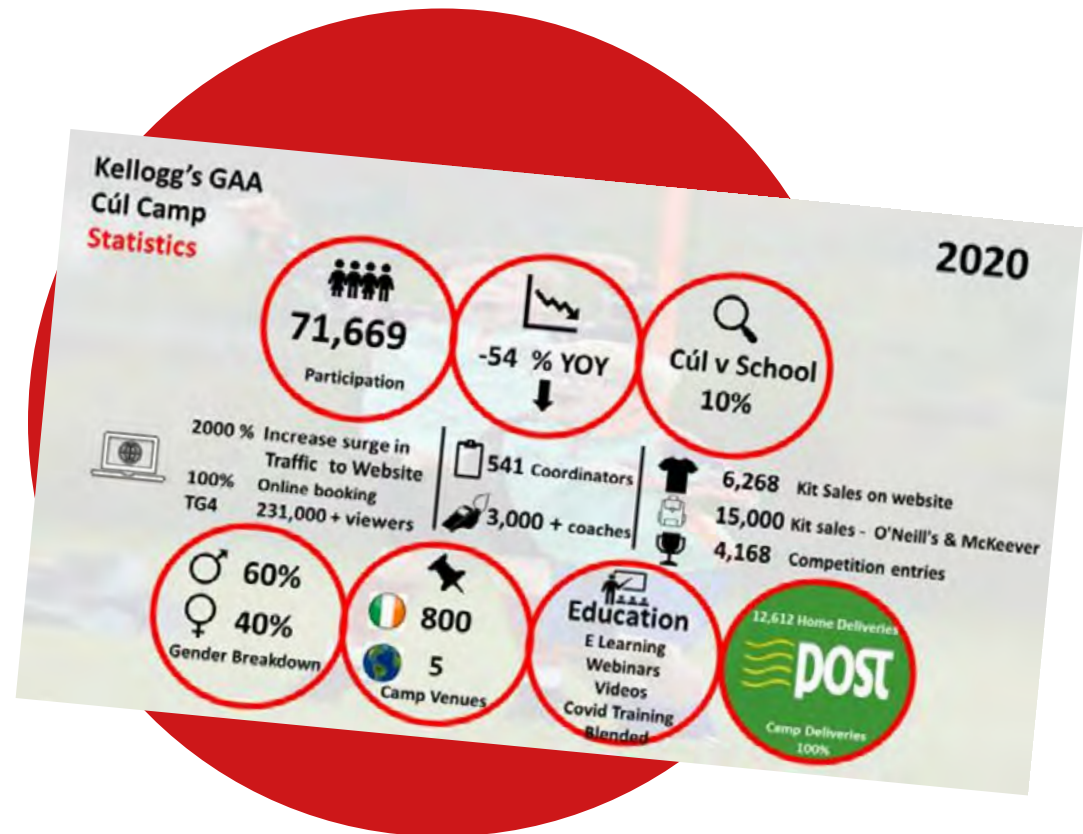
The success of the 2020 Kellogg's GAA Cúl Camps show what can be achieved as counties across the country prepare to finish off their unforgettable club championship campaigns.

Charles Harrison is the GAA's National Cúl Camp coordinator and says the Association's Games Development Department were well aware of what a flagship project they were during the summer.

"The Association felt it was important that we did everything that we could to ensure that the camps did happen," he told the GAA Club Newsletter.

"The support that we got from Tom Ryan (Ard Stiúrthóir), John Horan (Uachtarán) and Shane Flanagan (Director of Games Dev) was second to none.

"There are 160,000 who attend a Cúl camp every year, that's a quarter of that age group, and we knew there was a mental and physical health benefit to being able to have camps and it was important that they were run and a lot of work went into planning them and making sure that they



could be run safely and in accordance to the guidelines.

"I know the Department of Education were looking closely at the camps to see how they were run and we had a lot of teachers in contact with us to see how they were run and they took a lot of solace from the fact that they were held so successfully and with only one case, which was not from within a club."

The work on the Kellogg's Cúl Camps doesn't stop. A survey completed by 9,000 parents and guardians will feed back into the planning for 2021 which has started already. While everyone hopes and prays

that there will be a vaccine next year – the GAA has shown that, regardless, it will be possible to have summer camps.

For Charlie Harrison, the key to the success of the camps remains the same – fun.

"I definitely think the fun element is the key to their success. It is about participation and not about competition. The response to the survey of parents bears that out and in fact for some children they nearly prefer the cúl camp to regular training because it is not as competitive. They get to be with their friends and have fun," he added.

By Cian O'Connell

CALENDAR REVIEW TASKFORCE WORKING ON SPLIT SEASON RECOMMENDATION

GAA Director of Player, Club, and Games Administration, Feargal McGill has confirmed that The Calendar Review Taskforce will issue updated recommendations for Central Council to discuss in December.

Significant debate has surrounded the split club and inter-county season model that has been implemented in 2020.

Speaking at a press briefing on Friday afternoon, McGill stressed that The Calendar Review Taskforce have reconvened in recent weeks.

“First and foremost over the course of the last six weeks now at this stage, The Calendar Review Taskforce have got back together at the request of the Uachtarán,” McGill remarked.

“We had planned to anyway, after Congress we were to regroup, to prepare for at the time what would have been a Special Congress.

“So the Uachtarán asked us to specifically look at the practicalities of a split season again, to revisit it. What I can say about it is we are satisfied that all of our inter-county competitions can be played successfully in that kind of a model, and that sufficient club weekends can be generated.

“Probably some tweaks required to maybe what people think a split season might look like. That will come out in due course.”

The committee will provide an updated report for Central Council according to

McGill. “That will give an update on the status of all of the recommendations that The Calendar Review Taskforce made initially,” McGill added.

“It will form the basis for a consultation process with the counties over the coming months, between now and the start of December essentially.

“The split season will be part of that as well as all of the other recommendations from the report. Once that consultation process is completed we will go to Central

Council in December to finalise our recommendations.

“They will decide which of those recommendations should go to Congress in February as motions. Obviously that will include whether a split season motion should go on the Congress agenda or not.

“It will also include whether we should proceed with the two new Football Championship proposals or one of them or whatever or if there is a favoured option.

“I will stress that the report is about a lot more than just a new Football Championship or the split season, 22 other recommendations are still hanging out there, that need to be dealt with.

“That is everything from the optimum number of teams that should be in a Club Championship to when second or third level competitions should be played or how is best to accommodate a closed season at inter-county.”



Feargal McGill, GAA Director of Player, Club and Games Administration

RETURN TO PLAY

Thank you to each and every GAA member, volunteer, player, parent, coach, CoVID Supervisor administrator, officer or, indeed, anyone else who has made the effort to make it possible to play our games over the last three months. We are all aware of the challenges that exist as a result of living with a pandemic and it should be a major source of pride to us all that we have adapted to the circumstances that have been thrust upon us all.

The necessary restrictions imposed by

Government and the controls required by NPHEt have been more than a minor inconvenience to those involved in the GAA. The manner in which we have collectively risen to the challenge and carried on regardless, within the parameters allowed, should be acknowledged. It is greatly appreciated. Since it became possible to recommence activities in GAA Clubs in late June, we have had to cope with restrictions on the use of GAA facilities such as changing rooms, reduced or non-existent attendances at matches, enhanced

social distancing measures and have had to complete Health Questionnaires in advance of participating.

Since June over eight million Health Questionnaires have been submitted. This equates to an average of over ninety thousand each day. That's ninety thousand people participating in GAA training or matches every single day since June. It is a testament to the incredibly hard work conducted in each and every club that participation at this level can be achieved even in the toughest of circumstances.

An average of 90,718 Health Questionnaires have been submitted through the ReturnToPlay application each day since June. That's over 8,000,000 in total.

CLUB AGMS

It is likely that the current restrictions regarding indoor events and meetings will persist for quite some time and this will pose challenges for GAA Clubs when it comes to holding Annual General Meetings. It is anticipated that detailed guidance on how to do this safely will be issued shortly.

MEMBERSHIP

GAA Clubs typically start to collect membership subscriptions in parallel with their AGM and, given its importance to clubs as a source of funds to keep the club going, it is important that this is done as effectively as possible.

From November, the GAA will be providing an improved system to Clubs to facilitate the collection of Membership on-line. This system will also include enhanced functionality to communicate with members for free, in a GDPR Complaint manner, and improved Club Administration functionality in general. This system will replace the existing Servasport / Games Management system and further details will be communicated to clubs in the coming weeks.

SAVING CLUBS MONEY

It should be noted that the online payments functionality in the system will be available to every club for Free. There is no licence charge associated with it and there is no margin or additional charges added to the transaction. The only charge is an online banking charge of approximately 1.35% (depending on the card used and overall transaction value). If you would like more information on how your club can set up online payments please email gmssupport@gaa.ie

SEÁN BENNETT TESTIFIES TO THE POWER OF INCLUSIVITY IN SPORT

On Wednesday, September 23, GAA clubs around the country made a special effort to open their doors to the wider community for the inaugural GAA National Inclusive Fitness Day.

Inclusivity is already at the heart of the GAA's ethos, but it's not something that should ever be taken for granted.

Only good things can come from extending the hand of friendship and gently encouraging people to get involved who might otherwise have been reluctant or not realised there was a place for them in the GAA too.

Seán Bennett is a good example of the positive impact an inclusive approach can have.

The Laois native can't speak positively enough about how his life has changed for the better since he took up wheelchair hurling.

"Being involved in sport is just unbelievable," Bennett told GAA.ie. "The amount of people that I've met since I took up wheelchair hurling from the four provinces has been incredible, and we've become great friends.

"Last year I had the honour of representing my country in Breda in Holland. To get three caps for my country at 60 years of age just beggars belief and means an awful lot to me.

"Wheelchair hurling has just had a hugely positive impact in my life. To feel like you're included is something special.

"Inclusivity is very powerful. You don't realise how powerful it is. It's basically about being recognised as a person, that's why it means so much."

The tournament in Holland that Bennett refers to was the 2019 European Para Games Floorball International event that took place last June.

Floorball is a game that is being considered for addition to the list of sports in the Paralympics and differs chiefly from wheelchair hurling in that players cannot rise the ball.

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

This required a steep learning curve for the Irish team but they more than held their own against nations far more experienced in the sport and upset the odds by beating the USA team in a play-off.

"I was just absolutely chuffed," says Bennett of the experience. "I got an All-Star for 2018 so that's why I was picked to go.

"To be in a goals in a wheelchair representing your country and get three caps and a medal at the end of it was just unbelievable.

"Ten years ago I would never have dreamt anything like that would be possible. I've

said it to several people, 'Me, in Holland, representing my country?!' It's more than I ever imagined."

Wheelchair hurling has gone from strength to strength in recent years and the four provincial teams are always competitive.

"Wheelchair hurling for me has been life-changing without a shadow of a doubt.

"I would say to anyone who is thinking about maybe trying to get involved in the GAA to do it. Get involved at some level if at all possible no matter what your disability is."

For more information on wheelchair hurling and national inclusion day, contact the GAA's Diversity and Inclusion officer, Ger McTavish – Geraldine.mctavish@gaa.ie

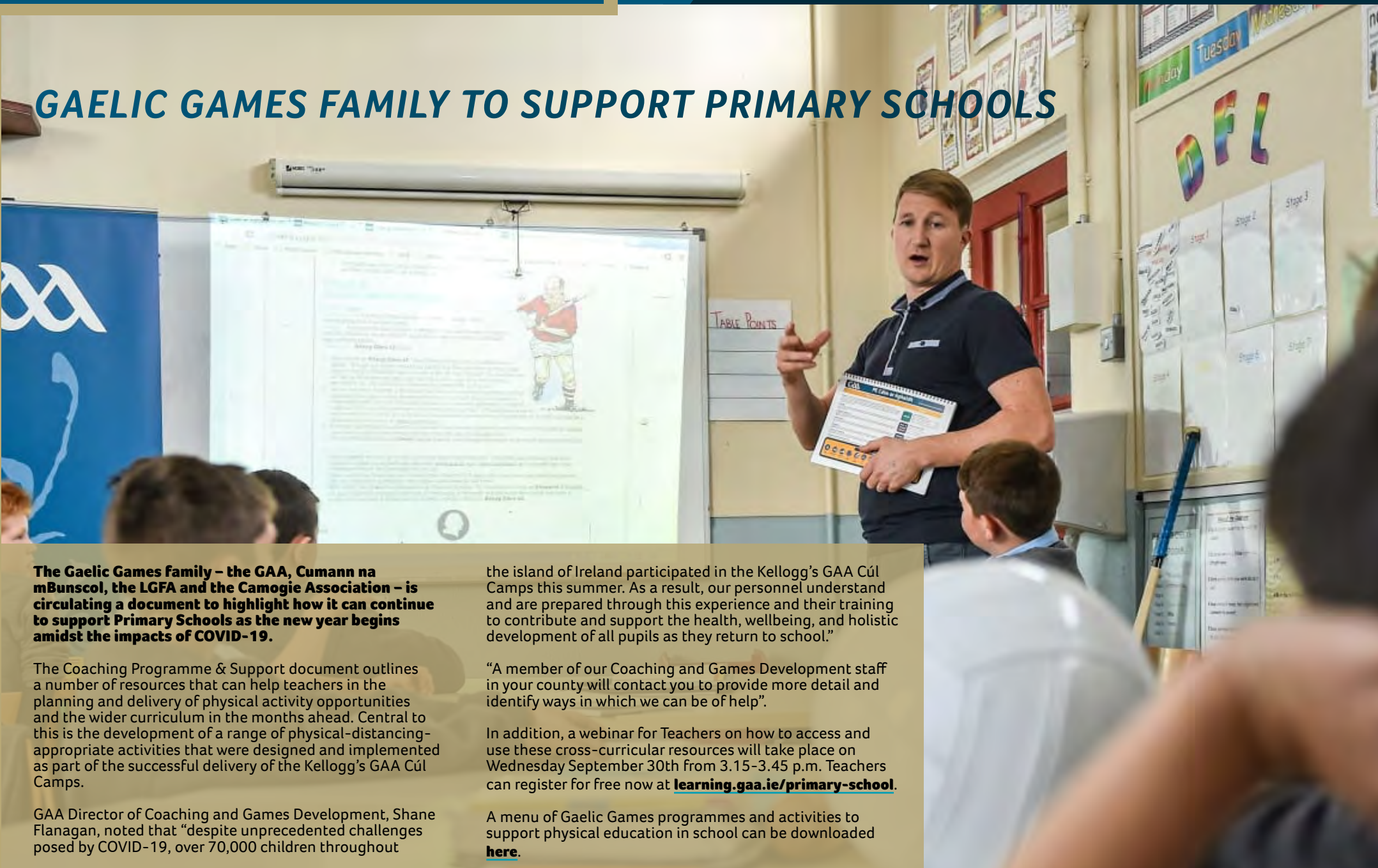


Uachtarán Cumann Lúthchleas Gael John Horan presents Leinster captain Seán Bennett with the 2018 Inter Provincial tournament trophy



In attendance at the announcement of the GAA's first National Inclusive Fitness Day at Croke Park in Dublin are, clockwise from left, Aoife Reilly, GAA Healthy Club Administrator, MEP Maria Walsh, Brian Armitage, Chairman, GAA For All National Committee, Anne Rabbitte T.D., Minister of State, Department of Children, Disability, Equality and Integration with responsibility for Disability, GAA Ambassador and Westmeath footballer Boidu Sayeh, GAA Ambassador and Leitrim hurler Zak Moradi, Karen Coventry of Special Olympics, Niall Muldoon, Ombudsman for Children, Caroline Flynn, BeLonG To Youth Services, GAA Community and Health Manager Colin Regan, Leinster wheelchair hurler Seán Bennett, and GAA Diversity and Inclusion officer Geraldine McTavish.

Gaelic Games Family to Support Primary Schools



The Gaelic Games family – the GAA, Cumann na mBunscol, the LGFA and the Camogie Association – is circulating a document to highlight how it can continue to support Primary Schools as the new year begins amidst the impacts of COVID-19.

The Coaching Programme & Support document outlines a number of resources that can help teachers in the planning and delivery of physical activity opportunities and the wider curriculum in the months ahead. Central to this is the development of a range of physical-distancing-appropriate activities that were designed and implemented as part of the successful delivery of the Kellogg’s GAA Cúl Camps.

GAA Director of Coaching and Games Development, Shane Flanagan, noted that “despite unprecedented challenges posed by COVID-19, over 70,000 children throughout

the island of Ireland participated in the Kellogg’s GAA Cúl Camps this summer. As a result, our personnel understand and are prepared through this experience and their training to contribute and support the health, wellbeing, and holistic development of all pupils as they return to school.”

“A member of our Coaching and Games Development staff in your county will contact you to provide more detail and identify ways in which we can be of help”.

In addition, a webinar for Teachers on how to access and use these cross-curricular resources will take place on Wednesday September 30th from 3.15-3.45 p.m. Teachers can register for free now at learning.gaa.ie/primary-school.

A menu of Gaelic Games programmes and activities to support physical education in school can be downloaded [here](#).

2020/2021 GAA CLUB DRAW

The Club Draw has proved hugely successful over the last number years. All funds raised are retained by the GAA Clubs. Clubs can use this money to help with the upkeep of the club, capital development projects and the general running of the Club.

GAA clubs can sell up to 2,500 tickets giving them the chance of raising €25,000 for their Club.

Tickets are available from your County Liaison Officer. If your Club require additional tickets or would like to get involved, please contact nationalclubdraw@gaa.ie

Every person who buys a National Club Draw ticket are in with the chance of winning prizes such as a brand-new Renault Clio, All-Ireland Ticket Packages and a variety of cash prizes.

Unfortunately, the draw will not be available to the Clubs in the Six Counties this year due to legalities. We are working with Comhairle Uladh to see if amendments can be brought forward to the Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (NI) Order 1985, so that restrictions can be eased to facilitate a National Draw in future years.

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CLUB

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



NATIONAL LOTTERY GOOD CAUSES AWARDS



National Lottery Good Causes Awards

The National Lottery has announced details of the National Lottery Good Causes Awards, with a total prize fund of €95,000, which honours the inspiring work and achievements of thousands of projects, clubs and individuals all over Ireland, who, with the help of National Lottery Good Causes funding, have had an extraordinary impact on their local communities.

The awards ceremony will take place on Saturday 20th February 2021 in the Mansion House in Dublin City Centre. The finale will be presented by broadcaster and journalist, Gráinne Seoige and the

competition's judging process will be chaired by Lotto presenter and RTÉ weather broadcaster, Nuala Carey. Both launched the National Lottery Good Causes Awards, which is now in its third year.

Speaking on launching the awards, Nuala Carey said it is fitting that the profound impact of various Good Causes in villages, towns and cities all over Ireland, is recognised.

She said: "The National Lottery is used to celebrate winners. However we have thousands of winners, unsung heroes,

who work quietly under the radar to make positive change in their communities and these Awards reflect that dedication and commitment. I was lucky enough to witness this having been on the judging panel for the national finals of the Good Causes Awards for the past two years so this year I am thrilled to be chairing the panel of judges."

"Through the National Lottery Good Causes Awards we want to show how ordinary, everyday people, organisations, projects and sports clubs are doing extraordinary things in their communities. This is work that often goes unrecognised

and we are encouraging Good Cause beneficiaries to enter these awards to give them the opportunity to have their hard work honoured", she added.

Gráinne Seoige, who will host the awards for the second consecutive year, said: "Presenting last year's awards was a truly humbling experience. The one thing that really shone through for every finalist was a strong sense of community, whether it was amongst their local towns, fellow colleagues in their community project and even users of the vital services each beneficiary provided. Community is something that is always strong throughout Ireland so I am delighted to be presenting these awards again."

Jennifer Crowe, CSR and Good Causes Relationship Manager of the National Lottery said: "Without question, 2020 has been a really challenging year for the thousands of voluntary community organisations, sports clubs, NGOs and charities who rely so heavily on fundraising. The Good Causes Awards have always aimed to shine a light on beneficiaries of National Lottery funding and this year is no different. In addition, National Lottery funding would not be possible if it were not for our players all over the country so I thank them for their continued support."

Individuals, community projects and organisations who received Good Causes funding between the years 2014 to 2019 (inclusive) are eligible to apply. Applications for the Awards are now open and people can enter and check eligibility at www.lottery.ie/goodcausesawards.

The Awards will have seven categories which will culminate to an awards luncheon on Saturday 20th February 2021 in the Round Room in the Mansion House in strict adherence to Government health guidelines with regard to COVID-19.

The seven categories are:

- **Sport**
- **Health and Well Being**
- **Arts/Culture**
- **Heritage**
- **Community**
- **Youth Affairs**
- **Special category: Irish Language**

Each of the seven category winners receiving €10,000 and the overall Good Cause of the Year winning an additional €25,000.

Nearly 30 cent in every €1 spent on all National Lottery games goes back to Good Causes in the areas of sport, youth, health, welfare, education, arts, heritage and the Irish Language. In total more than €5.6 Billion has been raised for Good Causes since the National Lottery was established 32 years ago. In 2019 alone, €250 million was raised for local Good Causes in communities across Ireland.

NOTES:

WHO CAN ENTER?

An individual or member of a community or youth project, charity, sports club,

arts or heritage organisation which has received National Lottery Good Causes funding between the years 2014-2019. Beneficiaries will be judged on how their funds were used to have the most impact on their local community, members or service users.

- **Sports – Sports Capital Programme or any funding issued through the Department of Sport or Sport Ireland**
- **Arts and Culture – Any funding provided through the Arts Council of Ireland**
- **Heritage – Any funding provided through the Heritage Council of Ireland**
- **Youth – Funding issued by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs**
- **Health – Funding from the Department of Health or the Health Service Executive**
- **Community – Any National Lottery part-funded scheme administered by the Department of Planning, Housing and Local Government (formerly the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government) or the Department of Rural and Community Development**
- **Irish Language – (funding from Department of Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht)**

HOW TO ENTER

Entries are made online. More information and full competition rules at www.lottery.ie/goodcausesawards.



SAMARITANS IRELAND AND GAA WORK TOGETHER TO PREVENT SUICIDE



Dublin camogie star Eve O'Brien and Tipperary hurling hero Patrick 'Bonner' Maher at Samaritans awareness initiative in Croke Park

On World Suicide Prevention Day, Samaritans Ireland and the GAA urged players and members who are struggling with mental health to seek help.

World Suicide Prevention Day was on Thursday, September 10th and this year's theme is 'working together to prevent suicide'.

Samaritans Ireland and the GAA are continuing their winning partnership to reach men and women across Ireland, highlighting the importance of good mental and physical health and of asking for help. Samaritans Ireland became the GAA's official mental health partner six years ago with the aim of tackling the

stigma associated with mental health and encouraging players, members, their families and the sporting community to seek help when needed.

Over the last five years, the GAA distributed almost 12,000 Samaritans posters to every club in the country, with tens of thousands of wristbands, pens and cards handed out at Provisional Football Finals and county matches. Ulster GAA, in conjunction with the Public Health Agency (PHA), has also produced pitch side signs including Samaritans helpline as a source of support for those in distress.

Niall Mulligan, Executive Director for Samaritans Ireland, said: "Every 90 minutes, someone in Ireland or the UK

takes their own life. Every single one of these deaths is a tragedy and everything we do at Samaritans is working towards our vision that fewer lives are lost to suicide. Samaritans partnership with the GAA is one of the most important projects we have. With the support of the entire organisation, we have been able to reach men and women across the island of Ireland to spread the message that help is there if needed. The relationships between GAA clubs and our branches ensure the message of 'Talk to Us' is highlighted in the community and encourages people to talk about what affects them. Samaritans Ireland's key message is that if you're struggling, if life is difficult and you're feeling anxious, stressed, or unable to cope, don't struggle through it alone. Don't bottle it up. We're here to listen whatever you're going through."

John Horan, GAA President, said: "The GAA is determined to be proactive when it comes to our members' mental health and linking up with the Samaritans for the past six years has greatly helped. The GAA reflects Irish society and the challenges that impact our communities also impact our clubs. Each year the GAA responds to multiple critical incidents that impact our clubs or counties with many of those relating to mental health, and, unfortunately, a tragic death by suicide. Our partnership with Samaritans offers every GAA member with access to their 24-hour, 365 days-a-year emotional support structures. Please avail of them."

Each Samaritans branch has appointed a GAA liaison representative to engage with local GAA clubs through the GAA's 32 county health and wellbeing structures. Samaritans offer training workshops to GAA coaches and volunteers on request and offer mental health awareness talks at club level.

We encourage anyone in need of support to contact Samaritans **FREE 24 hour freephone helpline on 116 123, text 087 260 9090** (RoI only) or email jo@samaritans.ie in the Republic of Ireland or jo@samaritans.org from Northern Ireland.

- Anyone can contact Samaritans FREE any time from any phone on 116 123, even a mobile without credit. This number won't show up on your phone bill. Or you can email jo@samaritans.ie or visit www.samaritans.ie to find details of your nearest branch.
- Samaritans has 21 branches across Ireland and each branch in Ireland is run as an independent charity and given administrative support from Samaritans Ireland, Usher's Quay, Dublin, and Samaritans Central Charity in Ewell, UK.

OFFICER DEVELOPMENT – 2020/2021 ROLLOUT PLANS



All aspects of Gaelic Games' life has been altered, to varying degrees, by the global pandemic, and the annual rollout of training and educational initiatives for both club and county officers is no different in this regard.

However, the vast numbers of club volunteers who attended online educational sessions during the lockdown provided a heartening reinforcement of the value placed on the availability of training. This has fuelled the determination of everyone involved to proceed with revised vigour and determination to reach as many officers as possible in the forthcoming rollout.

A decision has been taken by the National Officer Development Committee to proceed with training (until further guidance is issued) through online-only means. While a challenge at first, the speed at which officers have adapted to communicating through online methods has been exceptional and contributed in no small way to the successful reintegration of players onto the field of play.

Modules – Club Officers

It is expected that a schedule of live webinar events will be published at the beginning of October, and interested participants will be able to register in advance. Events will likely be run in clusters, and not on a county by county basis as before, given the remote nature of the learning. County Development Officers will be briefed in advance to conduct a thorough training needs analysis, which will determine the range of modules which

will become available.

Topical modules, focused on helping clubs and volunteers through these uncertain times will be made available, while it is hoped that the more traditional role-based modules (Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, PRO etc) will also be rolled out in due course, adapted for the changing environment volunteers now find themselves in.

Key-note speakers will feature on certain modules, so stay tuned for further details on that!

Correspondence will be issued to all counties, and then onto clubs, when finalised details regarding module scheduling and registration information become available.

Online Modules – Available to all

We continue to encourage all club volunteers to access and complete the two online-exclusive educational modules we have available.

Please note the creation of a profile on the GAA's Learning Portal is essential to access. Click the links here to open.

Club Officer Foundations

Leading Effective Meetings

County Officers

An Induction Module for new County Officers is currently in the works, as well as a Welcome Pack which will be made available for all new County Officers, to aid

in their assimilation to their new role. A suite of online training webinars will also be made available to all County Officers, new and existing, to help provide guidance in specific areas. The details of these webinars, as well as registration details, will be announced in the coming weeks.

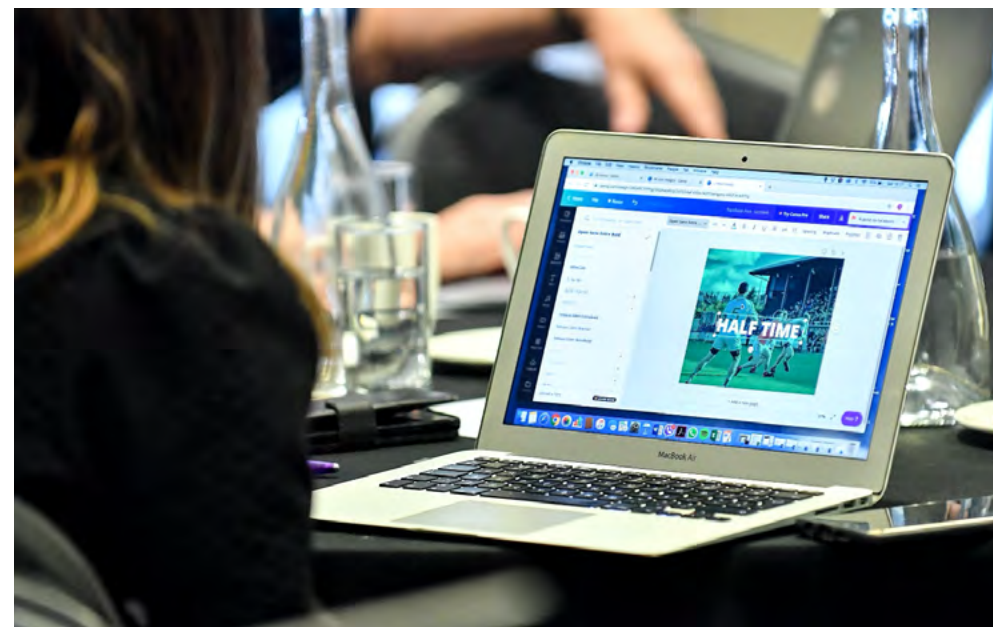
Covid-19 Latest Information/Resources

Volunteers in Ireland and abroad have shown once again how vital they are within our Associations in recent times. Covid Supervisors, people stepping up to ensure facilities are as safe as possible for returning players, club executives and members of the community have risen

to the challenge. There is no doubt that without the commitment and selflessness that has appeared in clubs worldwide, the return of Gaelic Games to its current state would not have been possible.

The main source of Gaelic Games – related information on Covid-19 can be accessed on the GAA's Learning Portal – <https://learning.gaa.ie/covid19>

Here you can also access FAQs related to Covid and Gaelic Games, as well as educational resources such as the Covid-19 Club Education Module – <https://courses.gaa.ie/Covid19ClubEd/#/>



BE A TEAM PLAYER ON AND OFF THE FIELD



1. BRING YOUR OWN WATER BOTTLE

2. DON'T SHAKE HANDS 



3. FOLLOW THE LATEST HSE ADVICE



COVID MESSAGES

IT'S UP TO YOU

IF YOU OR YOUR CHILD HAVE SYMPTOMS...



TAKE RESPONSIBILITY



AVOID GAELIC GAMES ACTIVITIES 

CONTACT YOUR GP



GUIDELINES ON RETURN OF SPECTATORS



1. SPECTATORS MUST NOT ATTEND GAMES IF THEY DISPLAY ANY COVID-19 SYMPTOMS



2. THE USE OF FACE COVERINGS IS STRONGLY ADVISED FOR EVERYONE OVER THE AGE OF 13



3. SPECTATORS MUST NOT ENTER THE FIELD BEFORE, DURING OR AFTER THE GAME



4. SPECTATORS SHOULD KEEP THEIR OWN RECORD OF CONTACTS AT A MATCH FOR POTENTIAL TRACING PURPOSES

For more information on the return of spectators, visit <https://bit.ly/3esPE7u>



HEALTH QUESTIONNAIRE AND DECLARATION



1. COMPLETE THE HEALTH QUESTIONNAIRE AT [RETURNTOPLAY.GAA.IE](https://returntoplay.gaa.ie)

2. BEFORE EACH ACTIVITY, HEALTH STATUS MUST BE RECONFIRMED VIA THE HEALTH DECLARATION - [RETURNTOPLAY.GAA.IE](https://returntoplay.gaa.ie) 



3. A USER GUIDE AND TUTORIAL VIDEO ARE AVAILABLE AT [LEARNING.GAA.IE/COVID19RESOURCES](https://learning.gaa.ie/covid19resources)

FOR ANY ISSUES EXPERIENCED WHEN COMPLETING THE QUESTIONNAIRE/DECLARATION, PLEASE CONTACT GMSUPPORT@GAA.IE



ASA REFEREE



1. COMPLETE THE EDUCATION MODULE

2. FILL IN THE HEALTH QUESTIONNAIRE 



3. UNDERSTAND AND FOLLOW THE SAFE RETURN TO GAELIC GAMES GUIDELINES



GAA DEVELOPMENT FUND

DEPOSITS

- Clubs are encouraged to deposit money into the GAA Development Fund eg. Club Lotto
- The variable interest rate a Club can earn on their deposit is currently 1.9%.
- Minimum deposits are €1,000/£1,000.
- Deposits can be sent via bank transfer or by cheque.
- Clubs who support the fund are given priority when applying for a loan.
- Forms for depositing funds can be obtained from a member of the National Finance team in Croke Park.





CUAILLE AGUS RANNÓG #GAAGAEILGE GAA.IE

Tá an dara heagrán d'iris nua Ghaeilge Chumann Lúthchleas Gael, 'Cuaille', ar fáil anois. I measc na míreanna éagsúla atá san eagrán is déanaí seo tá ailt faoi fhoireann iomána na Gaillimhe 1980, David Clifford, Terence McNaughton agus faoi Richie Hogan i measc go leor eile.

Chomh maith leis sin, tá crosfhocal, 'Aimsigh an Focal', '10 gCeist CLG Ort' agus ailt eile atá feiliúnach do lucht an chúpla focal, d'fhoghlaimoír agus do chainteoirí líofa Gaeilge araon.

Is féidir Cuaille a léamh [anseo](#). Bainigí taitneamh as!

Is féidir leat coinneail suas chun dáta leis an nuacht is déanaí, le tuairiscí ó chluichí, leis na torthaí is déanaí, leis na cluichí uile atá amach romhat agus le go leor leor eile ó Chraobhchomórtais na gClubanna agus ó na Craobhchomórtais Idirchontae trí chuairt a thabhairt ar Rannóg #GAAGaeilge Shuíomh Idirlín Chumann Lúthchleas Gael [anseo](#).

Ní hamháin go mbíonn na torthaí uilig

agus liostaí cluichí le feiceáil gach seachtain ann ach bíonn gné-ailt leithéidí 'Ár gCluichí, Ár Laochra' agus 'Do Chlub, Do Chontae' le léamh ann go minic, freisin. Bíonn an nuacht is déanaí ó Chumann Lúthchleas Gael le fáil ann.

Dar ndóigh, ní clúdach ar na cluichí Gaelacha amháin atá le fáil sa Rannóg Ghaeilge seo. Más eolas ar Fhondúireacht Sheosaimh Mhic Dhonncha, Straitéis CLG don Ghaeilge, An Treoir Oifigiúil nó Forógra CLG atá uait ní gá ach cuairt a thabhairt ar an nasc thuas! Faigh amach cé hé/

hí Oifigeach Gaeilge agus Cultúrtha do chontae ann. Foghlaim faoi ról Choiste Náisiúnta Gaeilge Chumann Lúthchleas Gael ann.

Tá téarmaí Gaeilge do na cluichí, do chruinnithe agus Rialacha Thráth na gCeist ann. Tá na scileanna uilig le fáil ann. Tá eolas faoi Scór le fáil ann. Tá gníomhaíochtaí do pháistí óga le fáil ann. Tá an chéad eagrán de 'Cuaille' le fáil ann.

Ná bí i do strainséir – tabhairt cuairt orainn anois!!

SHE'S ACE ONLINE SERIES - DATES CONFIRMED

Our latest Women in Handball Initiative, the She's Ace Online Conference Series is something we are very excited to share with everyone, with the three release dates now confirmed.

A new episode will be released on Facebook Premiere each of the next three Wednesday's, with access then also available on **GAA Handball TV on YouTube** a few days later.

Episode 1:
Coaching / Admin - Wed Sept 23rd, 8pm

Episode 2:
Participation - Wed Sept 30th, 8pm

Episode 3:
High Performance - Wed Oct 7th, 8pm

The Series aims to inspire, educate and listen to our female members, and will be hosted by the excellent Gráinne McElwain, the recently confirmed new presenter for Sky Sports GAA. There is something for everyone in our 3 part series which will be focused on 3 areas; Coaching/Admin, Participation, High Performance. This Online Series is not only aimed at all our female Handballers, but we also hope it will inspire other females of all ages to get into our sport. We have a fantastic line up of guests both from within and outside the Handball community.

GAA
HANDBALL

She's ACE
WOMEN IN HANDBALL

2020
IF SHE CAN'T SEE IT, SHE CAN'T BE IT

**ONLINE CONFERENCE
SERIES**

INSPIRING EDUCATING LISTENING

HOSTED BY GRÁINNE MCELWAIN / WED SEPT 23RD, 8PM

EPISODE 1 - COACHING/ADMIN

FIONA SHANNON
ST PAUL'S HC, ANTRIM
• 3 x time World Singles Champion (2003, 2006, 2009)
• Current National Coach Developer.

MARGUERITE GORE
ST MARY'S HC, WEXFORD
• Multiple All-Ireland Senior Final Referee
• Current National Coach Developer

TRACEY KENNEDY
CORK GAA CHAIRPERSON
• First female County Chairperson in Cork GAA



By Paul Conlon

IN ÓMÓS MICHAEL HENRY – A HURLING HERO

Michael Henry was the reason a hurling club was founded in Tooreen in the late 1950s. In a football crazy county and in a small area where Seán Flanagan who had captained the 1950 and 51 All-Ireland football winning Mayo teams came from, the idea of a hurling only club, seemed like a mad idea. But against all odds, it succeeded and has grown stronger and stronger over the last 63 years.

Michael was just 17 years of age in 1957 when the club was founded and most of his comrades were of a similar age. Within two years he left home to work in London, England as most young people did in those years.

For the next 16 years up to 1975 he returned each and every year to play with Tooreen in the Mayo championship. He even chartered a small airplane to fly from London to Castlebar airport in 1972 to play in that year's final.

After he retired, he never missed a county final that Tooreen were involved in and even though he was in poor health, he still returned for the 2019 final. How proud he was to see his beloved Tooreen win two Connacht Intermediate titles in 2017 and 2019.

The eldest of the Henry family, Michael's brothers Tony, Joe and Vincent were also excellent hurlers and enjoyed great success with Tooreen and Mayo and in Joe's case Connacht in the Railway Cup. Joe also won two replacement All-Star awards in the 1980's.

For his entire life Michael was a larger than life character, who apart from operating a very successful construction company, was deeply involved in Music and the Arts in his Oxford base.

A talented singer, songwriter and musician, he was always at the centre of the Traditional & Folk music scene in Oxford including the successful Oxford

Folk Music festival. Mick also set up an annual Bloomsday celebration. For a period in the 1980's he fronted a successful traditional music group "Lissadell" who toured across the UK and Ireland.

A friend of Michael in Oxford, Music critic and writer Terry Eagleton wrote a song about the night the Devil appeared in Tooreen Dance Hall (The Dance Hall being the other thing that made Tooreen famous in the 50's and 60's). Michael made the song his own with wonderful renditions over the years. Of course, it was always rumoured locally that Michael and his friends were behind the hoax.

Sometimes the word 'Legend' is used loosely but in Michael Henry's case no other word can really describe him.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.



Laochra Gael - In ómós Martin Henry



The first ever Tooreen hurling team, Michael Henry - second from left in Second Row

Club Report

MORE HURLING HOTSPOTS FOR KILDARE - FROM ROUND TOWERS GFC TO ROUND TOWERS GAA



Over the past number of years, a number of people from traditional hurling counties moved to Kildare Town and surrounding areas. These people were enquiring if there was any hurling or camogie in the area. Football was already established in the town through Round Towers GFC who were formed in 1887.

Hurling and camogie was previously facilitated in the town by St. Brigid's who were successful in winning the Kildare Senior Hurling Championship in 1978. St. Brigid's however, sadly disbanded in the late 90's leaving the town without a hurling or camogie team.

The next step was to see if hurling and camogie could be included in the activities of the club where they were already up and running successfully in the local primary school. At the club committee meeting in April 2016, it was agreed to have hurling and camogie included in the club activities. As a result of this we entered several teams into the Kildare GAA Go Games hurling/camogie leagues. Also at this meeting, the name of the club was changed from Round Towers GFC Kildare Town to Round Towers GAA Kildare Town.

The date May 16th, 2016 proved to be a landmark day for Round Towers as it was the date of our first hurling training session which was attended by almost 100 children along with Clare hurler Tony Kelly and Kilkenny hurler Richie Hogan.

So far we have faced many challenges on our journey. In the beginning we only had five hurling coaches which obviously was

never going to be enough with the amount of children we had. As the numbers grew, we had to try and recruit people to help with the coaching.

South Kildare has traditionally been a hurling blackspot, so a lot of work was required just to keep hurling alive in this area. A lot of parents around here would not have a hurling background so it could prove difficult to get them interested enough to bring their children down training. We had to find a way to ensure the children kept coming back to training. We also had to ensure that we had enough funds to purchase equipment, pay competition fees etc.

We needed to do a number of things to overcome these challenges. There was a lot to be done. Just from asking parents to be involved, we now have over 40 coaches in the hurling/camogie section. Effective communication is key. During this time we have constantly promoted ourselves and what we are about through word of mouth, social media, flyers, local newspapers, local radio and most recently on the RTE Six One Sports News with our young u6 player Aaron Hill Harnett and his family. Our nursery section try to keep things interesting at training by concentrating on the 3 G's- Gear, Goodie Bags and Games.

With the ongoing threat of Covid 19, it will be even more of a challenge to keep hurling going in the club and schools. Let's hope in time we can overcome this obstacle just like we did the others.

The club is constantly supporting members by organising fundraisers, draws



etc and are always available to lend a hand and to give encouragement when required. The Kildare GAA Games Development Administrators have also been a great support to us from the very beginning. They have organised training sessions, organised coaching courses, provided coaching in the schools and supplying coaching material to our coaches. When we need sponsorship for things such as equipment, jerseys or a trip away, we have received and continue to receive a lot of support from parents, the local community and local businesses which is greatly appreciated. This shows that there are people out there who care and are willing to invest in us.

We have come a long way since we were established in May 2016. Currently we have more than 180 children participating in hurling and camogie in the club. We now have teams from u6 all the way up to u16 level. Due to the family environment that has been created, the number of coaches involved and the children playing continues to grow. This is helped in no small way by the passion and drive

displayed by our coaches which can only have a positive effect on the children. All of our teams continue training over the winter months in order for the children to keep developing their skills and to keep them active. We also have regularly held Hurling on the Green events which have proved to be popular. Last year we held our first ever Street League which was a big success and attracted a number of new children into the club. Round Towers recently hosted their hurling/camogie cúl camp with big numbers attending the camp. Plans are in place to build a hurling wall and hopefully they will come to fruition.

It has been an incredible journey so far and we feel we are on the cusp of achieving something special. A lot of success depends on what happens behind the scenes, that is where the real hard work is conducted. This is a long-term project and time is needed to build a solid foundation. If you stop building, then you will get left behind. It is really fascinating to see how the club and the children have developed overtime. Long may it continue. This is only the beginning. We are here to stay.

GAA LAUNCH SERIES OF TRIBUTES TO THE CROKE PARK BLOODY SUNDAY VICTIMS

The GAA has launched a major initiative to focus on the victims of the Bloody Sunday attack at Croke Park in 1920 with a series of projects dedicated to the lost lives in the run up to the centenary commemoration next November.

A companion to the programme of events planned for the GAA Museum at Croke Park, this B100dy Sunday – The GAA Remembers series will aim to tell the story in a new way and bring it to a broad and digital-native audience as the Association pays tribute to the memory of the 14 people who went to a match and never came home.

A collection of specially commissioned videos focusing on the victims killed 100 years ago at a Dublin v Tipperary football match begins online and will run over the next 10 weeks, starting with the profiling of Dubliner Jane Boyle, who died in the crowd at Croke Park a few days short of what should have been her wedding day.

The videos have been set to music entitled *More Than A Game*; a piece commissioned by the GAA from the renowned Irish musician Colm Mac Con Iomaire. A new section dedicated to Bloody Sunday has been launched on GAA.ie and will shortly also feature a free podcast for download produced in conjunction with Michael Foley, journalist, and best-selling author of the account of these tragic events, *The Bloodied Field*.

Uachtarán CLG John Horan said: “Behind the history and the headlines of the



Crown Forces attack on Croke Park in 1920 is a human story and a human tragedy.

“The appalling events of that Bloody Sunday changed the GAA and forever

altered our relationship with the pitch at Jones’s Road.

“How a place envisioned to be a home of unconfined joy was turned into a scene

of carnage and horror is a tragedy that will never be forgotten. To honour those who went to a match and never came home we need to remember them, to pay our respects, and that is what we intend to do.”



Ó chlé tá na haisteoirí Barry John Kinsella, a rinne ról Michael Hogan agus Jack Galvin, a rinne ról William Robinson, i ngearrfhíseáin CLG, agus iad i gcomhlúadar an iriseora Michael Foley, ar chlé, Uachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Gael John Horan agus an ceoltóir Colm Mac Con Iomaire ag seoladh gníomhaíochtaí ómóis Dhomhnach na Fola i bPáirc an Chrócaigh inné.

Here is the programme of content to come:

Film Series - Starting on September 2, the GAA will release the first in a series of 10 short films focusing on the victims of Bloody Sunday. These films, produced in collaboration with Dublin-based digital marketing agency Fifty-Three Six, focus on the humanity rather than the statistic of each life lost, and seek to draw attention, raise awareness and critically spark an interest for people to learn more about the tragedy of November 21, 1920. Beginning with Jane Boyle's vignette, the films will be released to eventually knit together into a single five-minute film which depicts the events of the day, 100 years ago.

GAA.ie/B100dySunday - to coincide with the release of the films comes the release of **GAA.ie/BloodySunday**. This new area on GAA.ie is dedicated to this centenary where not only the videos will live but also

a deeper background on each victim and a narrative of the time and event and its legacy.

The Bloodied Field Podcast - exclusive to GAA.ie, an eight-episode podcast series on Bloody Sunday at Croke Park has been commissioned from Michael Foley. Each episode narrates the tragic story on that Sunday afternoon in November 1920; the life and times of the victims, the political climate and the series of events that led to the Croke Park attack by Crown Forces. The series will be available on GAA.ie/BloodySunday and Spotify.

Additional online content - With the assistance of staff writers and the GAA's History Committee, a series of other key stories and tales from the event will be published on GAA.ie.; essays on key figures involved on the field at Croke Park, GAA leaders steering the Association through a war, as well as incredible survivor stories.

TV Documentary - GAA Communications is working with the IFTA-nominated Twopair Films on a documentary that will be screened by RTÉ television next November and is based on the Sunday Times journalist and author Michael Foley's widely acclaimed book on Bloody Sunday entitled The Bloodied Field.

Abbey Theatre collaboration - The Directors of the Abbey are commissioning a series of special one-man performances focusing on each of the 14 Croke Park victims and which the GAA are helping them to stage in the local GAA club or school of that victim.

Commemoration ceremony - the centenary commemoration event at Croke Park is due to take place before the Leinster senior football final on the evening of Saturday, November 21. If permitted under restrictions, it will be preceded by a ceremonial 'finishing of the

match' involving 'Dublin' and 'Tipperary' teams featuring either available county or club players. The event will feature a special narration that focuses on the memory of each of the 14 lives lost at Croke Park 1920 with a torch lighting ceremony, a wreath laying and a musical performance by Colm Mac Con Iomaire.

Legacy memorial - The five-year Bloody Sunday Graves Project has been addressing a number of unmarked graves and erecting headstones to these Croke Park victims in conjunction with their surviving relatives. As plans are made to restore other graves in need of assistance, it is also intended to finish this project at a future date in a new memorial work on the front of Croke Park on Jones's Road.

For more information of B100dy Sunday - The GAA Remembers, please contact: communications@gaa.ie

THE IRISH TIMES GROUP ANNOUNCED AS OFFICIAL SPONSORS OF THE GAA MUSEUM AT CROKE PARK

The Irish Times Group was announced on the 5th of September 2020 as sponsor of the GAA Museum at Croke Park in an agreement which see the media group partner with the GAA in a three year deal. The announcement sees two iconic Irish organisations come together in a collaborative partnership to enhance the experience of readers and museum visitors.

The GAA Museum's collections and exhibits, which are open to the public, alongside their Stadium tours and Skyline Tour, illustrate the rich history of the games from ancient times to the present day. While not only providing an engaging and thorough celebration of Ireland's national games, the museum vividly brings to life how the GAA has contributed to our cultural, social and sporting heritage.

The Irish Times Group is Ireland's leading quality news media publisher comprising two national titles, The Irish Times and Irish Examiner, seven regional newspapers, two radio stations, MyHome.ie and a number of other digital assets, and the largest contract printer in Ireland.

Speaking at the launch in Croke Park, Managing Director of The Irish Times Group Liam Kavanagh commented, '2020 marks an important year in the history of the GAA as they commemorate the 100th anniversary of Bloody Sunday. We are looking forward to partnering with the team on projects and events which will appeal to our audience during this momentous year and into the future.'

John Horan, GAA President added, 'We are delighted to welcome The Irish Times Group as official sponsors of the GAA Museum here at Croke Park. As our Bloody Sunday commemorative events begin, it is a timely occasion to mark the beginning of an important partnership between our two organisations.'



GAA President John Horan and Managing Director of The Irish Times Group Liam Kavanagh pictured outside the GAA Museum.

GLOBAL GAMES DEVELOPMENT FUND HELPS 450 PROJECTS IN SIX YEARS

Since 2013 through the Global Games Development Fund, the GAA and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade have provided financial support for development projects and initiatives in GAA Clubs and units across Asia, Australasia, Canada, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and South America.

The fund provides financial support specifically for projects and initiatives that increase or improve opportunities for the Irish Diaspora and other communities abroad to play Gaelic Games. Through the provision of financial assistance, it is the aim of the Fund to support the Irish Diaspora and strengthen Irish networks and Irish identity internationally.

Over the past 6 years, more than 450 projects have received funding through the Global games Development Fund. The projects are varied and reflect the needs of the Irish Diaspora and GAA in particular areas or regions. Some projects have been one-off-events, others have activities lasting the course of a year. All applications have been inspirational and beneficial to the Clubs.

In 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the GAA and DFA having made their initial assessments in February revisited the application process which was due to the pandemic in each region. The awards for 112 International projects were collectively agreed upon by the GAA/DFA in mid-July and each International County Board/Club was notified of their success.

Uachtarán CLG John Horan said: “The global reach of the GAA and the popularity

of Gaelic games with more than 400 clubs worldwide is a source of great pride to us.

Having been fortunate to see some of them in action I have witnessed at first hand how these clubs, just like GAA clubs in Ireland, are about so much more than the great sports we play and are also about building a community and offering a support for people.

We are very appreciative of the support we receive from the Department of Foreign Affairs and the work of the Global Games Development Fund at enabling us to offer assistance to the ongoing success story that is World GAA.”

Colm Brophy, T.D., Minister of State for Overseas Development Aid & Diaspora said: “The Covid -19 global pandemic has had a profound impact on all our lives, whether we are based at home or abroad. Through the Emigrant Support Programme, my Department remains committed to supporting Irish communities abroad, and will continue to work in partnership with the GAA to maintain and develop our sporting networks and contribute to the viability of our communities worldwide.

The current crisis has demonstrated the deep sense of connection that characterises our diaspora. I have been

particularly impressed with GAA clubs from across the globe who I have met by Video Conference over the last number of months. Club after club throughout the world have inspired me with their selflessness and hard work, they have responded quickly to reach out to members of their communities in need of support and comfort at this time, from organising food drops to vulnerable people to coming up with creative solutions to keep people fit and healthy. I salute their compassion and generosity of spirit.”

Croke Park would also like to take this opportunity to thank the International Boards for their input and wish all the applicant's success with their projects.



Prince Edward Island Celts in Canada are just one of many GAA clubs to have been helped by the GAA's Global Games Development Fund.

By John Brady, PRO, Croatian Celts GAA

FÁILTE DO CROATIAN CELTS – THE GAA’S NEWEST CLUB!



With less than 100 Irish officially registered as living in Croatia, the Croatian Celts are off to a great start with over 50 members joining Croatia's first GAA club in the 9 months since they formed in 2019. As one of the newest clubs in Gaelic Games Europe, they are now fielding both a football and hurling team, as well as playing their first match against the local Australian rules team.

After a considerable amount of

groundwork by Seamus Hempenstall, the Club's first Chairperson, the Croatian Celts officially joined the GAA in December 2019, with strong support from the Irish Embassy and the local Irish community. Adrian Sheridan, the owner of the local Irish pub, Sheridan's, recently took over as Chairperson and has great plans for the future, "We really appreciate the great support from Tony Bass and the GGE and our aim now is to build on that foundation and continue to grow by reaching out to

the local Croatian community."

According to football coach, Neil McNulty: "The Croatians are genuinely interested in Gaelic games and bring a great combination of skills from basketball, volleyball, hockey and football. There is huge potential to grow here and there is already a great bond between the local Croatian and Irish players."

The team were also surprised to find out

that Gaelic games are not entirely new to Croatia after Hurling coach Simon O'Keefe was contacted by Louth county hurler Donall Connolly. "I was amazed to find out that in 2004, Naomh Monnín from Co. Louth came to Croatia to play several exhibition matches, including a Poc Fada which was organised in the hills of Knin near Split. Donall's father, Donal Connolly, was one of the original organisers and you never know, we might try to organise something similar to celebrate our 1st year anniversary!"

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.

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