

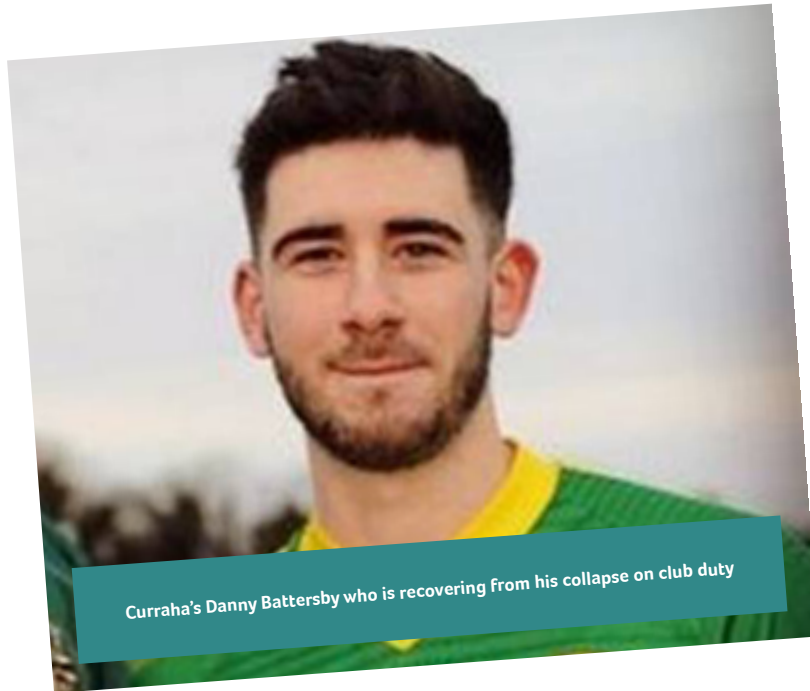
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QUICK THINKING AND CPR TRAINING SAVES MEATH CLUB PLAYER



Curraha's Danny Battersby who is recovering from his collapse on club duty

The issue of CPR and defibrillator training among GAA Clubs remains a burning issue after the events earlier this month that saw a Meath club footballer collapse during a match.

Danny Battersby (22) from the Curraha club collapsed during an IFC game against Drumbarragh in a match held in the Wolfe Tones club in Kilberry.

It's understood that a spectator had a defibrillator in their car – something which proved crucial in getting instant aid to Danny – as well as the fact that two others present were trained in CPR and available to administer aid until paramedics arrived.

The combination of the right equipment and the right training is being hailed as having been the difference in preventing this incident from having a tragic outcome.

Meath GAA PRO Martin O'Halloran says that as a result of

these events they are urging all their clubs to be aware of protocols around cardiac awareness and defib training.

He said: "What we have been saying to our Clubs is that having the defibrillator at the side of the pitch is vital. The three or four minutes in getting a defibrillator from the dressing room to the pitch could be crucial."

Speaking at a recent county board meeting, Wolfe Tones delegate Philip O'Brien said: "A young player collapsed and we were lucky to have a defibrillator that was ready to use and that there was someone able to provide assistance for about 45 minutes.

"If the defibrillator wasn't there I dread to think what might have happened."

His team mates Neil Shorthall and Liam Hogan have been hailed for their reactions and ability to put their First aid training into action.



GAA Cardiac Screening Questionnaire

The GAA advise that the most effective way to identify risk of cardiac issues is for players over the age of 14 to undergo cardiac screening on one occasion. It is also advised that this process be repeated before the age of 25. Players should consult their team or family doctor if they wish to get screened and screening should consist of completion of the GAA's Cardiac Screening Questionnaire, a Physical Examination and an ECG.

For further information, including the Cardiac Screening Questionnaire see: www.learning.gaa.ie/node/110300

Is your GAA club ready to ACT?

www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZATrKDxPRU4

Further information on the GAA Defibrillator Scheme: www.learning.gaa.ie/Defibrillator%20Scheme

For further information on Player Welfare issues including Concussion Management and Anti-Doping see www.learning.gaa.ie/player

EAST LEINSTER PROJECT PLEDGES €1.5M AND MORE COACHING STAFF



A major new games development initiative in Leinster will lead to more coaching staff being hired by the GAA and €1.5m invested.

The East Leinster Project is a coaching and games development initiative designed to specifically target large urban areas of population in Louth, Meath, Kildare and Wicklow.

Funded centrally by Croke Park, there will be €500,000 a year spent on the programme over a three year period with participation numbers, club-school links, games programmes and club coaching standards key areas of the project.

It is estimated that the number of coaches working in counties will double or even treble as part of the work being done.

After the initial three years, the project will then be subjected to a review with the hope that it can in time be replicated successfully in other urban areas.

Leinster GAA Chairman, John Horan, believes the new initiative will serve the province well.

He told the Irish Independent: "This is an attempt by Leinster Council and the GAA at central level to deal with the urban sprawl outside of Dublin and to try and close that gap that everyone



Leinster GAA Chairman John Horan

obviously sees at the moment between Dublin and the rest.

Former GAA President Liam O'Neill will oversee the project on behalf of Leinster GAA.

AMAZING AMY IS AN INSPIRATION IN FULFILLING HER POTENTIAL

Year on year column inches in our national newspapers' sports pages are dedicated to tales of top GAA stars making amazing journeys back from injuries.

Amy was born with Fibular hemimelia, a rare condition that left her without a fibular bone in her right leg.

To date she has endured seven operations, the first at just nine-months of age – an amputation just below her right knee.

Subsequent limb-lengthening operations (at aged four and 12) required the breaking and lengthening of her femur bone. The mental and physical strength required to endure such procedures goes well beyond what most sports star will muster over an entire career.

Yet despite all this, and months, even years, of rehabilitation, Amy remains an active member of St. Kevin's, where, she is honing her considerable camogie skills, having first tried her hand at football. Her three younger sisters, Lucy (10), Sally (8) and Kelly (4) all play Camogie and football with St. Kevin's too, and her mum, Caitriona trains the u10 camogie team. Her proud dad, Shay, explains how her condition and her prosthetic leg "has shaped the person she is and the person she is going to be".

Resilience is another quality that sport psychologists try to embed and instil in their athletes. Well Amy has that in buckets too. Despite breaking her leg at the age of ten, which has impacted on her ability to fully extend her right knee, she is now back playing camogie with the club and her determination on the field is an inspiration to us all. You can see for yourself on the RTE player, as Nationwide visited St. Kevin's to see Amy in action. Go to: (www.rte.ie/player/ie/show/nationwide-21/10597703/).

St. Kevin's GAA Club is an official participant in Phase 2 of the Healthy Club project, involving 60 clubs, at least one in each county. The project aims to put health and wellbeing at the heart of participating clubs' activities and ethos, and involves a partnership with the HSE and is supported by a CSR investment by Irish Life. Social inclusion is a core value at the St. Kevin's club and children with physical and intellectual disabilities are supported and encouraged to integrate with various teams ranging from juvenile football, camogie and hurling. Coaches and mentors are provided with extra training to support this, ensuring that the club truly is at the heart of the community and the central hub for all in the Philipstown area.

Amy, who is interested in exploring the creative inspiration required to make



prosthetics, advises anyone else out there with Fibular hemimelia to "do what you want, and don't let anyone else tell you what you can and can't do."

We would like to wish Amy all the best with her operation.

For further information on the GAA's Healthy Club project visit www.gaa.ie/community

Inspirational Amy Sheridan

DUCKSY WALSH RIP

It is with deep regret and sadness that GAA Handball wish to advise of the passing of Handball legend Michael “Ducksy” Walsh who passed away following a short battle with illness.

Ducksy was a tremendous competitor, a sportsman par excellence and an iconic figure whose loss has left the entire handball community numb with grief. A winner of an incredible 38 Senior All-Ireland titles including a record 16 Senior Softball titles, his name will forever be synonymous with the sport.

GAA Handball would like to extend its deepest sympathies to Ducksy’s family, friends and his

wide circle of Handball friends at this sad time.

Uachtarán Ó Fearghail said:

“For a generation of Gaels he was the face of Handball – it’s biggest name and it’s brightest star on the back of the incredible success that he achieved throughout a career that will stand the test of time in the annals of the GAA as being one of the most prolific enjoyed by any individual.

“He wasn’t just an outstanding athlete – he was also a gentleman.

“I’ve no doubt that he helped inspire the talented young

generation who are thriving in Handball today and that will be his legacy.

“But that he has been taken from us at such a young age and when he was still so active and successful in his beloved sport is a deep shock and we extend our condolences to all involved in Handball and to his many friends and in particular to his wife Sheena, son Dylan, daughters Megan and Niamh, his brothers John, Billy and Jimmy, his sisters Vera and Regina and wider family.

“Ní bheidh a leithéid arís ann. Go dtuga Dia solas na bhFlaitheas dá anam uasal.”



The late Ducksy Walsh in action

38 All-Ireland Senior Titles

16 All-Ireland 60x30 Senior Singles Titles

1st in 1985, his last in 2001. Included an incredible 13 consecutive titles from 1985 – 1997

10 All-Ireland 60x30 Senior Doubles Titles

1st in 1985, his last in 1997. Included 5 consecutive titles from 1987 – 1991

7 All-Ireland 40x20 Senior Singles Titles

1st in 1986, his last in 1998. Included 5 consecutive titles from 1986 – 1991

5 All-Ireland 40x20 Senior Doubles Titles

1st in 1989, his last in 1998

WHETHER IN FOOTBALL, OR LIFE, IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS THAT COUNT



Launching #littletthings event at Croke Park was Alan O'Mara (Cavan), Aishling Thompson (Cork) and Gary Sice (Kildare).

In football or hurling, it's the inches that count.

Little things can have a huge impact on the outcome of a game. Al Pacino's oft-quoted speech from the classic American Football movie 'Any Given Sunday' really brings this home.

"The inches we need are everywhere around us," Pacino reminds his team before they enter the fray. The inches and the little things that we all need to give us an edge in the game of life are also all around us.

That is the message that the GAA wants its members to take from the Association's partnership with the HSE's #littletthings positive mental health and wellbeing campaign. The three take-away messages from the campaign, which is part of 'Connecting for Life', Ireland's new National Strategy for Suicide Prevention in Ireland 2015-2020, are:

- We all experience life's storms – the day-to-day difficulties that are an ordinary, everyday part of life. Things like stress, grief, and feeling down, worried or anxious.
- There are things that you can do

for yourself and others that will have a positive impact on how you feel and how you cope.

- You can find out more about the #littletthings and about mental wellbeing on www.yourmentalhealth.ie

These little things include easy to remember mantras such as:

- 'Boost your mood with healthy food'
- 'The more you move the better your mood'
- 'Do things with others, there's strength in numbers', or in our native tongue 'Ní neart go cur le chéile'.

They seem so simple....but so does our games when you're sitting in the stand. When you're in the midst of a championship battle, or one of life's storms, the necessary skills come readily to hand only if you have practised them as part of your routine. So what little thing are you going to practise to support your wellbeing today?

Find out more at www.gaa.ie/community and www.yourmentalhealth.ie

Watch out for the special #littletthings themed All Ireland semi-final in Croke Park on August 28th.

STARS AND THEIR SKILLS

Stephen Bennett Waterford hurler

“I enjoy doing first-touch drills. At training with Waterford, Dan Shanahan would have us all together in a big square doing a basic first-touch drill. So it could be hand-passing, one-touch striking off the hurley, or whatever, but it’s done very fast and you have to be 100 per cent focused. What you’re looking for is that everyone is tuned in to trying to do things at the pace they’ll need to during a game.”



SEAMUS O'SHEA Mayo footballer

“Backs and forwards is my favourite drill at training. It is nice as a midfielder when you can stand outside and just kick the ball in and join the play.”



HEALTH & WELLBEING CONFERENCE SET FOR OCTOBER

The GAA's third annual National Health and Wellbeing Conference will take place in Croke Park on Saturday, October 22nd. The theme will be: **Healthy Clubs make healthy members**

Organised by the Community & Health team in Croke Park, in consultation with the National Health & Wellbeing Committee, this free event will bring together some of the country's leading

health and wellness experts, as well as high profile GAA players from across all codes, including Niall Moyna who will deliver the keynote address.

A special invitation is extended to all new Club Health and Wellbeing Officers as elements of the conference will support the recent delivery of Club Officer Health & Wellbeing training. Other aspects will look at the on-going practical work of the GAA's Healthy Clubs and the County Health & Wellbeing Committees.

However, the day will be of interest to any GAA member interested in learning more about what health and wellbeing actually means and how participation in an organisation like the GAA can help support yours.

Tickets are free but limited and will be made available on a first-come first-served basis through an online registration process that will be opened in early September when the full details of times and speakers are released on GAA.ie and

the association's social media platforms. So watch this space and for now save the date of October 22, 2016. Your health and wellbeing will thank you. For more details or to register your interest email stacey.cannon@gaa.ie



M.DONNELLY ALL-IRELAND POC FADA FINAL GOES THE DISTANCE

CLARE'S James McInerney is the M Donnelly All-Ireland Poc Fada champion for 2016 – becoming the first Banner County native since Davy Fitzgerald 14 years ago to win the event. Newmarket-on-Fergus clubman McInerney edged out Westmeath's Brian Connaughton by just 20 metres in a thrilling finish on the Annaverna Mountain in Ravensdale, Co. Louth. McInerney, who celebrated his 29th birthday last week, won the coveted silverware at the very first attempt, as weather conditions held up generally good.

McInerney covered the 5km course in 50 pocs and 78 metres, with Connaughton second on 50 pocs and 58 metres. Defending champion Brendan Cummins from Tipperary, who was aiming for a sixth successive title and a tenth in all, finished in third place on 50 pocs and 34 metres.

Cummins led at the first turning point and halfway through the event but McInerney made up serious ground and by stage 3, An Gabhlán, had edged almost 25 metres in front. Cummins cleared the famous ravine on the home straight with a massive drive but McInerney, who displayed excellent course management on his debut, followed suit.

Connaughton was a shot behind the leading pair at An Gabhlán but came with a storming finish to claim the runners-up spot. Meanwhile, Cork's Aoife Murray claimed the senior ladies title, finishing with 27 pocs and 68 metres.

That was good enough to fend off the challenge of fellow Corkonian Lyndsey Connell, who was 33 metres further back. Dublin's Faye McCarthy finished in third place on 27 pocs and 19 metres.

In the U16 events, Offaly's Cathal Kiely and Galway's Sarah Healy were crowned champions. Kiely followed in the footsteps of his brother Cillian, a two-time winner, with a score of 22 pocs and 76 metres, as Healy posted 28 pocs and 30 metres to retain her title.



Senior Poc Fada Final Results

James McInerney	Newmarket on Fergus	Clare	50 pocs 79m
Brian Connaughton	Raharney	Westmeath	50 pocs 58m
Brendan Cummins	Ballybacon/Grange	Tipperary	50 pocs 34m
Aaron Murphy	Hospital/Herbertstown	Limerick	51 pocs 5m
Karol Keating	Portaferry	Down	53 pocs 82m
Colm Callanan	Kinvara	Galway	54 pocs 33m
Jerry Fallon	Oran	Roscommon	56 pocs 64m
Mark Fahy	Turloughmore	Galway	56 pocs 57m
Fintan O'Brien	Cuala	Dublin	59 pocs 75m
Ruairi Convery	Swatragh	Derry	59 pocs 0m
Darren Renehan	Setanta	Dublin	60 pocs 10m
Gerard Smith	Pearse Og	Louth	61 pocs 56m

U 16 Boys Poc Fada Final Results

Cathal Keily	Kilcormac/Killoughey	Offaly	22 Pocs 76m
Cormac Philips	Ballyhanus	Mayo	23 Pocs 49m
Gearoid O'Connor	Moyne Templetuohy	Tipperary	25 Pocs 16m
Dominic McEnhill	O'Donnovan Rossa	Antrim	26 Pocs 50m

Senior Camogie Poc Fada Final Results

Aoife Murray	Cloughduv	Cork	27 Pocs 68m
Lyndsay Condell	Ballygarvan	Cork	27 Pocs 35m
Faye McCarthy	Naomh Jude	Dublin	27 Pocs 19m
Susan Earner	Eyrecourt	Galway	29 Pocs 50m
Ciara Donnelly	Eglishe	Tyrone	31 Pocs 1m
Sinead Skehill	St Thomas	Galway	33 Pocs 33m

U 16 Camogie Poc Fada Final Results

Sarah Healy	St Thomas	Galway	28 Pocs 30m
Mairead O'Sullivan	Banteer	Cork	30 Pocs 34m
Donnagh Mortimer	Camross	Laois	31 Pocs 47m
Anne Marie Smith	Ballygalget	Down	36 Pocs 10m



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- You get first refusal on tickets for all concerts announced at Croke Park (subject to booking deadlines).
- Enjoy your covered seats on Level Five, with exclusive access to the Premium level bars and restaurants within a few metres of your seat – before, during and after the game.
- Extra match tickets can be yours via the Ticket Exchange. For those fixtures you can't attend, simply post your tickets for sale on the Ticket Exchange and gain credit for your enjoyment at our exclusive Premium level facilities.
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BLOODY SUNDAY VICTIM REMEMBERED

Uachtarán CLG Aogán Ó Fearghail attended a special ceremony in Glasnevin Cemetery in Dublin this month to officially unveil a headstone on the grave of James Matthews, one of the 14 people killed at Croke Park on Bloody Sunday in 1920.

James Matthews was 38 when he and 13 others were shot and killed by British Forces while attending a Dublin-Tipperary football match at Croke Park on November 21, 1920.

Until now he has been buried in an unmarked grave.

However an initiative between the GAA, the Glasnevin Trust and the families of Bloody Sunday victims has led to a number of those who died and are lying in unmarked graves being identified and plans put in place to formally recognise their final resting places.

Three months after his death, James Matthews' daughter Nancy was born and now aged 95 she was guest of honour at a ceremony attended by 60 surviving members of the wider Matthews family.

Uachtarán Ó Fearghail told the relatives in a graveside address: "We always have remembered; we always regret what happened. It was a very defining period not only for Irish history, but it was a defining period for the GAA."

"Behind the words 'iconic' and 'historic' lay a simple human tragedy of people like your blood relative who went to a match to cheer on their team and didn't come home. That should never have happened."

There are now six victims of Bloody Sunday who are still in unmarked graves.

It is planned that at least one more of these victims will have a headstone finally erected on their burial site before the end of this year with the hope that all 14 will be suitably remembered in advance of the centenary of Bloody Sunday in 2020.

Anyone with information on surviving Bloody Sunday relatives should contact cian.murphy@gaa.ie



Above: Uachtarán Ó Fearghail with Nancy Dillon, daughter of James Matthews



Below: Members of the extended Matthews family

CLUB LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Are you a Club Officer? Are you considering taking on a new role at your Club's AGM this year?

If so, then the GAA's Club Leadership Development Programme (CLDP) offers you the perfect opportunity to learn more about what your role involves! The CLDP aims to provide the principal officers in each Club - namely the Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and PRO - with an opportunity to gain the key knowledge and skills to carry out their roles effectively. It consists of two mandatory modules for each participating officer and then a number of optional ones. All modules are workshop-based so there will be lots of group discussions, fun activities and practical case studies. They are delivered in local venues by highly experienced Training Associates from across the island who have completed extensive training in preparation for the role.

Officers who complete the programme will:

- Gain a better understanding of what their role involves
- Develop basic leadership, management and communication skills
- Experience increased role satisfaction
- Have an awareness of where to access resources and supports
- Be able to share ideas and solve problems with fellow officers
- Be better prepared for future roles in the Association
- Receive a Certificate of Achievement

Over 1,000 Club Officers have already benefited from the programme in 2016. Here is what a few participants have said: "It was great to gain knowledge on my role and learn from officers with greater experience."

"I enjoyed learning about the available resources and the huge amount of information that is available when you know where to go."

"Our tutor engaged everyone very well in a relaxed manner while delivering key information clearly. It was very helpful to hear from an experienced officer who was able to back up points with personal stories."

"The programme opened my mind to other people's views and ways of dealing with problems."

The programme is currently available to all 32 counties and training will commence again in October. To get involved, each Club Secretary is asked to complete the Expression of Interest form - available on learning.gaa.ie/clubleadership - and send it to his/her County Development Officer. He/she will then organise the programme and notify you of the dates, times and venues.

For more information on what the programme involves, visit learning.gaa.ie/clubleadership

Learning Resources for Clubs

The GAA Club Manual is a resource for all Club officers. It contains information on all aspects of Club activity, Club administration and on officer roles in the Club. The manual is divided into specific chapters, each in PDF form. Chapters such as:

- Mission, Vision and Values of the GAA
- Introduction to the Club Manual
- Club Activity Checklist
- Club Committee Structure
- Role of the Club Chairman
- Role of the Club Secretary
- Role of the Club Treasurer
- Role of the Public Relations Officer
- Other Club Officer Roles

- Property Ownership – Vesting of Property and the Appointment of Trustees
- Effective Club Meetings
- The Club Annual General Meeting – AGM
- Coaching and Games Development in the Club
- Communication in the Club
- Membership and Registration
- Financial Matters in the Club
- Insurance and the GAA Injury Benefit Fund
- Culture and Heritage in the GAA Club
- The Inclusive GAA Club
- Volunteer Recruitment Toolkit
- GAA Fundraising Toolkit

To access it, visit -

www.learning.gaa.ie/clubmanagement



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

ONLINE PLAYER TRANSFER SYSTEM

An application for an Inter-County transfer may be made online as part of a pilot scheme by Central Council. If a player wishes to apply online, he should contact the Secretary of the Club he wishes to join and refer him/her to the transfers section of the official GAA website for information on the process. Benefits of using the new system include:

- Quicker processing of applications.
- Less chance of incorrect information being submitted.
- Ability to check status of applications.
- Easy access to transfer history.
- Less administration work.

Answers to frequently asked questions in addition to step-by-step user guides for players, Club Secretaries and County Secretaries can be accessed by visiting –

www.gaa.ie/news/transfers-and-sanctions/

Please note the new online transfer system can only be used at present for transfer in which are cross-provincial (i.e. approved by Central Council). Accessing the Player Transfer System (Club and County Secretaries only)

A Club or County Secretary can access the Player Transfer System by visiting pts.gaa.ie and entering his/her 7 digit Membership Number and Password. For more information, please refer to the user guides on the GAA website.

Queries can be e-mailed to gearoid.devitt@gaa.ie



ÁRDAÍONN IOMÁINT ÁR gCROÍTHE

Le Cian O'Connell



Léim Michael Ryan go hard sa spéir. Bhí an beart déanta ag Tiobraid Árann. Tar éis coimhlint den scoth, bhí an gorm agus ór fòs sa rás. Sin a bhí uathu. Anuraidh, d'fhág siad Páirc an Chrócaigh ag smaoineamh faoi neart rudaí a chinntigh go mbeadh fanacht bliain eile ar a laghad orthu.

Bhí an draíodóir de thraenalaí Eamon O'Shea ag fagáil slán leo, ach caithfear a admháil go bhfuil taithí agus chur chuige iontach ag Ryan. Nuair a d'imir sé féin agus uimhir a ceathar ar a dhroim, ní bhfuair mórán an ceann is fear air.

Anois agus é mar bhainisteoir, tá Tiobraid Arainn ar ais s'an áit is aoibhinn leo a bheith: an chéad Domhnach i mí Meán

Fómhair sa Cheann Áras. Nuair atá na comharsain ann freisin, cruthóidh sé sin atmaisféar agus teannas freisin. Cill Chainnigh in aghaidh Thiobraid Árann, tá rud éigin speisialta faoin gcath sin i gcónaí.

An lá roimhe, uair a chloig tar éis an chluiche, bhí slua fós bailithe timpeall taobh amuigh d'Ardán Ó Coinneáin. Ní raibh aon dabht go raibh eipic eile críochnaithe.

Bhí carranna ag fagáil Durlas Éile agus neart le plé acu. Cill Chainnigh, chomh hocrach agus brodúil i gcónaí, réimse cumasach, scileanna Port Láirge agus an sár bainisteoir atá acu, Derek McGrath.

Cé gur chaill fhoireann Derek McGrath, tá siad i lár aistear iontach. An-sheans go mbeidh siad ar ais ag an bpointe seo arís. Le leithidí Jamie Barron, Austin Gleeson, agus Pauric Mahony, tá neart déanta acu, ach tá siad fós ar an mbóthar. Tá aisling mór acu.

D'oibrigh muintir Port Láirge go crua sna grádanna faoi aois agus dara leibhéal. Sin an príomh fáth go bhfuil roghanna ag an gcondae anois. Le McGrath, Dan Shanahan agus Fintan O'Connor ar an taobhlíne, is cinnte go bhfuil siad dochasach arís.

Maidir le Gaillimh, cé gur chaill siad in aghaidh na Tiobradaigh, bhain siad rud éigin amach. Thaispeáin Gaillimh go bhfuil siad in ann dul

san iomaíocht sa tséasúr tar éis a bheith sa gcluiche ceannais. Bhí deacrachtaí ag Gaillimh deighleáil leis seo ó 1988 agus b'shin ceann de na húdair misnigh tar éis an chluiche.

Tá dul chun cinn déanta ag Daithí Burke, John Hanbury, Adrian Tuohy, Conor Cooney agus Joseph Cooney. Caithfidh Gaillimh cúpla céim breise a thógail ach tá maitheas déanta ag Micheál Donoghue. Tá a fhios aige céard atá le déanamh idir seo agus an samhradh seo chugainn.

I ndeireadh na dála tá Tiobraid Árann agus Cill Chainnigh ag seasamh. Tá 70 noiméad fágtha sa Chraobh. Beidh siad suimiúil.



CELEBRATE RIO 2016 WITH A VISIT TO 'IRELAND'S OLYMPIANS' AT THE GAA MUSEUM

With the Rio 2016 Olympic Games in happening this month, there's no better time to visit our latest exhibition 'Ireland's Olympians' at the GAA Museum which celebrates the nation's Olympic medalists, with a special emphasis on medal winners from 1924 when Ireland first competed as an independent nation.

The exhibition, which is supported by the Olympic Council of Ireland, features medals and memorabilia from many of Ireland's 28 Olympic medalists, including the first medal won by Ireland post-independence. This was won by Jack B. Yeats at the 1924 Paris Games and was awarded in the Arts & Literature Category for his painting "The Liffey Swim". The silver medal is on loan for the duration of exhibition from the National Gallery of Ireland.

Given Ireland's boxing success at the Olympics, it is no surprise that items from the various boxers dominate the exhibition, including the first boxing medal won by John McNally in Helsinki in 1952 to Michael Carruth's boxing gold medal won in 1992. The most recent boxing medals from London 2012 are included, most notably the gold medal won by Katie Taylor.

The exhibition also includes Ronnie Delany's tracksuit top from 1956, John Treacy's silver medal for the marathon in 1984 and the

silver medal won by Cobh's Sonia O'Sullivan at Sydney 2000.

Speaking at the official launch of the exhibition on Monday 16th May 2016 Uachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Gael Aogán Ó Fearghail said: "We are delighted, in conjunction with the Olympic Council of Ireland, to unveil this very special exhibition in the GAA Museum."

"The links between the GAA and Athletics – evident in our name – go back a long way and the overlap in those who have competed in our games and a host of Olympic sports, is significant."

Ireland's Olympians is now open at the GAA Museum, Croke Park and runs until Spring 2017.

The GAA Museum is open daily throughout the year, including match days when match patrons can enjoy free admission to the museum.



The exhibition features imagery, footage and memorabilia from Ireland's Olympic medalists.

Uachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Gael Aogán Ó Fearghail, centre, with Olympic medallists, from left, Kenneth Egan, John Treacy, Michael Carruth and Ronnie Delaney at the launch of the 'Ireland's Olympians' exhibition in the GAA Museum.



CLUB BOOKING DETAILS FOR USE OF NATIONAL GAMES DEVELOPMENT CENTRE IN ABBOTSTOWN

Clubs are now able to access the magnificent new facilities in the GAA's National Games Development Centre based in Abbotstown in West Dublin.

Located in Blanchardstown, this state of the art facility is already a hive of activity at adult and juvenile level and is open to all.

We have set up an email booking address for clubs and counties to use the facilities here in the NGDC. The address is ngdcbooking@gaa.ie.

Clubs will be required to provide an official club email address, mobile number and a club officials name when making a booking.

Facilities available include 4 full size pitches (including a 3G pitch) plus a training pitch, a ball wall area and meeting rooms. All 4 of the pitches have floodlights and players can be accommodated across 10 dressing rooms with ample parking and there is also space for catering.



NATIONAL HURL WITH ME DAY 2016

24 clubs participated in the National Hurl with Me Day on June 26th in the GAA National Games Development Centre in Sports HQ. The day in association with the National Dairy Council is a large blitz day for daughters and parents that took part in a 6 week programme in their clubs. Parents played the first half of the game while daughters played the second half of game against other participating clubs on the day. 400 parents and 450 daughters participated on the day.

The Hurl with Me Programme is part of the Camogie Association's National plan to support parents' involvement in the game through physical activity and volunteering opportunities such as coaching and administration.

The six week programme encourages parents/guardians to learn the basic skills of Camogie while also increasing their own physical activity levels. A tutor was provided to the club to teach the parents the basic skills of the game of Camogie. The 6 week programme culminated in a gathering of all 24 clubs involved in the programme for a National 'Hurl with Me' participation day.

See video of National Day in GAA Games Development Centre:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Ha2sSmRu4o

Wolfe Tones Shannon feature in this special video from the day:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=I17U9R_ID8Y

THE FULL LIST OF CLUBS WHO TOOK PART WERE:

Leinster (9):

Craobh Chiaráin (Dublin), Athy (Kildare), Buffers Alley (Wexford), Muinebheag (Carlow), St.Lazarians (Laois), Ratoath (Meath), Kilmacow (Kilkenny), Tullamore (Offaly), Crookedwood (Westmeath).

Munster (7):

Castlelyons (Cork), Ballinora (Cork), Cahir (Tipperary), Kildangan (Tipperary), Knockaderry (Limerick), Smith O Briens (Clare), Wolfe Tones (Clare).

Ulster (5):

Creggan (Antrim), Culloville (Armagh), Naomh Brid (Tyrone), Glenillin (Derry), Clonduff (Down).

Connacht (3):

Mountbellew-Moylough (Galway), Liam Mellows (Galway), Athleague (Roscommon).



Above: Muinebheag team and mentors

Below: Tullamore team and mentors



GAA HANDBALL RECRUITING NEW REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

GAA Handball are delighted to announce that they are recruiting a **Regional Development Officer** to join the full time team in Croke Park.

Regional Development Officer - GAA Handball

GAA Handball wishes to recruit a Regional Development Officer who will work with the current National Development Officer and National Manager to facilitate increased participation in playing Handball and to implement the Coaching and Development Plan for GAA Handball.

Duties and Responsibilities include:

- Work with National Development Officer to implement the Coaching and Development Plan throughout Ireland. Grow participation numbers and manage the One Wall Schools Initiative. Provide support to schools in respect of same. Target membership growth in clubs and schools.
- Assist with Media/Public Relations work for the Coaching and Development of GAA Handball.
- Work with Tutor Team, GAA Development Officers and Provincial Development Officers to ensure handball coaching and coach education is delivered in as many areas as possible.

- Identify areas of weakness in terms of playing membership and propose projects/programmes to rectify same.
- Run coaching courses and development squads, and provide assistance at organised tournaments. Assist with office duties where necessary.
- Complete any other duties that are deemed necessary by the National Manager.
- Experience of working with community and voluntary organisations.
- Knowledge of GAA Handball structures.

Please note the post is subject to Garda Vetting.

Candidates interested in the above role should apply by sending an up to date Cover Letter and Curriculum Vitae before 3pm on Monday, 29th August 2016.

GAA Handball is an equal opportunities employer.

Essential Criteria:

- A relevant third level qualification.
- Experience of coaching and course design and delivery.
- Ability to build and maintain strong, effective relationships.
- Strong administrative and IT skills.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Experience of people management and supervision.
- Strong teamwork and team-management skills.
- Excellent organisational and prioritisation skills.
- Own car with a full clean driving licence.

Desirable Criteria:

- Minimum 2 years' experience in a similar role.
- Experience of working in the GAA or similar sporting organisation (voluntary or professional capacity).



“ COME ON AHANE THE SPUDS ARE BOILIN’ ”

By Pat Culhane

It was 1987 when I played my first game of hurling in Mackey Park, Ahane; the day before I made my First Communion. The next day I bought my first helmet from the proceeds. Ahane GAA club is based in the beautiful parish of Ahane Castleconnell, nestled in the very northeast of Limerick by the river Shannon. Growing up there you'd be told about legendary hurlers from the Mackey, Herbert and Scanlon families (among others) winning county championships and All-Irelands with Limerick in the 1930's and 1940's; a team known as the 'Mackey Greyhounds' because of their ferocious athleticism.



I remember being told how Mick Mackey – the most notable hurler of his generation in Ireland – would swiftly hide the sliotar, by placing it under his arm and break free from the bunch of players still looking for it on the ground. Maybe this is true; I like to think it is. One piece of folklore that is true is that at every Ahane game played, to this day, the famous chant – “Come on Ahane the spuds are boilin’” – is shouted with pride by players and supporters alike.

Greg Mackey (son of Mick) told me that as children, the lads (brothers Mick, John Paddy and James/Todsie) would play hurling with the Scanlons and others on the village (Castleconnell) green, known as Bradshaw's field. Their mother, May (nee Carroll), would step outside of the family home across the road, while cooking the dinner, and shout come on Ahane the spuds are boilin' to let the boys know that their meal was ready. While researching this article, local GAA enthusiast, Billy Connolly, told me that in February 1941, Paddy Mackey passed away from pneumonia at the age of 22. Along with John and Mick (captain), he was a member the Limerick panel that won the 1940 All-Ireland senior hurling championship, beating Kilkenny in the final. As a mark of respect, his three brothers didn't play a game of hurling for the rest of the year, an uncommon move at the time.

Since its founding in 1926, Ahane club has had much success in all codes and Scór. It has produced many county, provincial and All-Ireland winners, all-stars and more. I was lucky to be part of the 1998 panel that won the first county senior hurling championship in 43 years. I'll never forget the sheer jubilation of young and old alike, as we made our way around the parish on an open-top bus; there must have been a dozen bonfires ablaze. For all the joy that comes with winning, it's not the pursuit of medals or trophies that define

the character of our club! It is the love and respect that people have for our games, our culture and each other.

I had a wonderful upbringing in Ahane, with most of my spare time spent with friends in the club. Like every club, Ahane has its challenges – relying on the volunteer efforts of a few – to keep the show on the road. Despite all of this, Ahane's spuds are still boilin', as is reflected on our club crest. I'm privileged to call myself an Ahane man.



Former GAA President Liam O'Neill unveils a statue to the great Mick Mackey in Ahane



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.