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INAUGURAL AIB GAA CLUB PLAYERS' AWARDS MAKES A TRIUMPHANT DEBUT



Footballer of the Year award in recognition of his massive contribution to the Galway champions in their march to AIB GAA club championship glory.

Cuala's Seán Moran had been picked at centre back on the hurling team and was honoured with the overall award in recognition of his immense leadership role in Cuala's impressive defence of the AIB GAA All-Ireland club title.

The awards, first proposed by the Killybegs club in Donegal and formally approved in 2017, was a special night for the inspirational Slaughtneil club in Derry. The back to back Ulster champs in both codes had four footballers honoured as well as a player on the hurling team with Karl and Chrissy McKaigue, Antóin McMullan and Chris Bradley on the football 15 and Brendan Rogers named on the hurling team.

Uachtarán Cumann Luthchleas Gael John Horan said: "It's a great honour for all of those players who have been selected – especially with this being the inaugural year of these awards – and I congratulate them all.

"The AIB GAA Club Championships continue to grow from strength to strength and these awards are a reflection of that.

The inaugural staging of the AIB GAA Club Players' Awards was hailed as a major success by Uachtarán John Horan when it was held in Croke Park on April 21.

The new awards scheme honoured a team of 15 in football and hurling based on outstanding performances in the provincial and All-Ireland stages of the AIB GAA Club Championships.

In addition to this, there was an overall Club Footballer of the Year presented to Corofin defender Liam Silke while Cuala's Seán Moran won the Club Hurler of the Year award, selected by a panel of national GAA media.

Corofin's Liam Silke was selected at corner back on the football team and claimed the



Liam Silke from Corofin, the AIB GAA Club Footballer of the Year



Cuala's Seán Moran, the AIB GAA Club Hurler of the Year

"Every year the club campaign is responsible for some of the high points in the GAA season and it is fitting that we salute the star performers who go to such lengths for the pride of their club jersey. In recognising these outstanding performers we also pay tribute to the clubs who produced them."

Denis O'Callaghan, Head of Retail Banking with AIB said: "As backers of club and county,

AIB are extremely proud to also support the introduction of these Club Players' Awards.

"For the last 27 years AIB have been backing the club championship and everyone in Ireland knows about what the #toughest club championship is all about. Rewarding the exceptionally gifted players who take part in that #toughest campaign is due recognition for their commitment and excellence."

The teams are:

AIB GAA CLUB PLAYERS' AWARDS – FOOTBALL 2018

1. Antóin McMullan (Slaightneil)
2. Liam Silke (Corofin)
3. Kieran Fitzgerald (Corofin)
4. Karl McKaigue (Slaughtneil)
5. James Murray (Moorefield)
6. Chrissy McKaigue (Slaughtneil)
7. Dylan Wall (Corofin)
8. Alan O'Donovan (Nemo Rangers)
9. Michael Farragher (Corofin)
10. Eanna O'Connor (Moorefield)
11. Christopher Bradley (Slaughtneil)
12. Ian Burke (Corofin)
13. Patrick McBrearty (Kilcar)
14. Luke Connolly (Nemo Rangers)
15. Martin Farragher (Corofin)



The AIB GAA Club Footballers of the Year with Denis o'Callaghan AIB and Uachtarán John Horan

FOOTBALLER OF THE YEAR

Liam Silke (Corofin)

AIB GAA CLUB PLAYER AWARDS – HURLING 2018

1. Sean Brennan (Cuala)
2. Michael Casey (Na Piarasaigh)
3. Cian O'Callaghan (Cuala)
4. Alan Dempsey (Na Piarasaigh)
5. Cathall King (Na Piarasaigh)
6. Sean Moran (Cuala)
7. Philip Mahony (Ballygunner)
8. Darragh O'Connell (Cuala)
9. Ronan Lynch (Na Piarasaigh)
10. David Treacy (Cuala)
11. Brendan Rogers (Slaughtneil)
12. Adrian Morrissey (Liam Mellows)
13. Adrian Breen (Na Piarasaigh)
14. Kevin Downes (Na Piarasaigh)
15. Con O'Callaghan (Cuala)



Uachtarán John Horan and AIB's Denis O'Callaghan centre of front row with the AIB GAA Club Hurling team

AIB GAA CLUB HURLER OF THE YEAR

Seán Moran (Cuala)

GAA ÁRD STIÚRTHÓIR TOM RYAN SETS HIS TARGETS

If you've just watched the 15-minute interview with the GAA's new Director General, Tom Ryan, that sits above this article, then you should have a good flavour of the man by now.

His previous experience and track-record as the GAA's Director of Finance for 11 years obviously played a big role in his promotion, but his immersion in the GAA away from his day-job has shaped his personality and relationship with Gaelic Games more than anything else.

His passion for his native Carlow means the journey from his adopted home in Dublin down the M9 to Netwatch Cullen Park is regular pilgrimage for the Ryan family.

His three children have also inherited a fondness for Limerick hurling thanks to their mother Mairead, and family weekends tend to revolve around Faughs GAA club in Terenure where the boys play on the minor and U-15 teams and Ryan himself is club Treasurer.

So even though Ryan has now reached the top of the GAA's administration tree, he remains very much embedded with the grass-roots which is probably why he views himself as much a guardian of the Association as a director of it.

"If I was to have a picture of what I would like the GAA to be in 10, 20 or 30 years, you



would like it to still be a by-word in Ireland for community and volunteerism. You would like it to be something people would associate with participation," says Ryan.

"You would like it to still have the pre-eminent

place in people's minds that it has had up to now.

"To be honest, the thing has been minded, protected, and regarded and developed very carefully by all of the people, not just in this

specific job, but all around the country for the last 130-odd years and you'd like it to be safe and protected and still recognisable as the GAA that we all know and love in 30 years' time."



New Ard Stiúrthóir of the GAA, Tom Ryan, pictured in Croke Park, Dublin.

Ryan believes this ethos of community is what makes the GAA great, which is why the perception of a disconnect between the Association's administrators and the grassroots is something he's keen to address.

"Yeah, I would worry a little bit about the gap in perception and even the language that we use," he told GAA.ie.

"Even the use of 'Croke Park' when referring to GAA administration. Croke Park is just a building.

"It creates this idea that there's this faceless politburo there that's pulling the strings when it's actually the opposite.

"We're at the beck and call of everybody else around the country. When they say 'Jump', we say 'How high?' That's really the way that it works in my experience.

"If someone from a club executive rang up to ask could you meet them for half an hour in an hour's time, you'd do it if you could at all."

Perhaps because of his background as the GAA's former Director of Finance, Ryan is particularly allergic to the perception that at the highest level the GAA is excessively motivated by money.

"A good year for the GAA is not one where they make profit," he said. "Nobody cares, nor should they, about that.

"If we happen to have a great couple of championships and a swathe of new people joining clubs and the biggest number of kids ever at Cúl Camps and two new counties emerging at Liam MacCarthy level but we lose a pile of money, that's still a good year.

"As long as the finances are pretty much

intact, they don't really matter. It's just a question of making sure you get a decent and fair return. Not everything is for sale, so you're not hawking everything.

"But you get in a decent amount for the things that are capable of generating a return. So much of what we do will never earn anything, so you have a responsibility to earn something from the bits of it that do.

"There's nearly 400 games a year under the auspices of the Central Council and you'll make money out of around 40 of them.

"It would be lovely if there was free admission to all the matches and everyone saw everything free to air and we didn't have any sponsors. That would be lovely, but it's just not possible.

"It's not a question of the GAA sitting down and saying: 'How are we going to make as much as we can?' It's a question of the GAA sitting down and saying: 'How are we going to make enough to fund what we have to do?'"

"And how are we going to survive in a world where everyone else is competing for all of those sponsors and things out there?"

"If we decide that we're too pure, we don't want any of it, they will go elsewhere. And we'll wither.

"You have to do a certain amount of those things to keep your head above water, and that's genuinely what we're doing. We're not pursuing any of those things for their own sake."

The GAA doesn't have financial shareholders, but it does have emotional ones.

People feel so strongly about the games because they are so personally invested in them, and that means debate and disagreements are always going to be part of the GAA's culture.

Ryan is well aware that will make him a regular target for criticism from some quarters in his new role.

"If you want to do something and you want to do well at it, then you have to deal with that," he said.

"It's still a great opportunity and I'm delighted to get the chance to do it so I'm not going to shy away from that.

"You kind of know yourself what is the right thing, I hope anyway, and what is the wrong thing. There's plenty of people around to give me a bit of advice or a steer or a nudge in the right direction.

"And if it's the case that you drop the ball somewhere or you make a mistake then you have to expect people to call you out on it.

"If you ever got to the stage where people didn't care, then we'd be in trouble. So, I don't mind."

He'll bring his own personality and vision to the job, but he believes that it's also a huge asset that he got to work with his predecessor Páraic Duffy and see how he carried out the role.

“I would have seen him at close quarters,” said Ryan. “If I can bring the same bit of decency and fairness to the thing, then I won’t go too far wrong.”

“I learned an awful lot, just from seeing how he worked. He didn’t need to explain or say a lot. I could see. And he wasn’t a man for words anyway, it was in what he did that you could glean the merit of the man. He was a great person to work for.”

“I’ll try to behave and carry myself in the way that Páraic did. And if I manage that, then I won’t go too far wrong.”

“If you’re fair, decent, and honest, then hopefully you’re on the right track.”

Free time will probably be a precious commodity for Ryan in his new role, but he hopes to continue helping out in any capacity he can with his club Faughs simply because he loves doing so.

He’s keenly aware of the challenges faced by clubs up and down the country, and is determined to put their needs at the heart of his stewardship of the GAA.

“The pressures that are on clubs, finances are only one of them,” said Ryan.

“There’s any manner of other ones from keeping lads involved once they leave the minor grade, to making sure that all the kids starting out know what it is that they’re playing and why they’re playing it and that it’s not just another activity that you’re dropping kids off to.”

“Clubs should be front and centre of our thinking because there will always be a senior

All-Ireland Final here at the end of August, start of September.

“It’s the more fragile things that need to be looked after and minded and those fragile things are in clubs for the most part.”

“It’s the club structure that’s the unique part of the GAA. It’s the people giving up their own time, night in, night out, that’s what makes the GAA so special and what it really is.”

“I wouldn’t denigrate any sport because all sport is great, but what they maybe all don’t have is the sheer network of hard work and good will that voluntary people are putting in all over Ireland every night of the week to keep the thing going.”

“We need to make sure that we still have that in 10, 20, or 50 years time.”

Ryan accepts the GAA is far from perfect and has room for improvement in many respects.

But he also believes there’s nothing wrong with occasionally taking stock and appreciating the good the Association does all over the country in so many different ways.

“The conversation all the time seems to be about challenges and difficulties, but we should also appreciate just how fantastic an institution the GAA actually is,” he said.

“It’s 134 years old and when you look at what it has achieved in that time and the reach that it has the place that it has in people’s minds and thinking, it’s just synonymous with Ireland.”

“There’s never been more people playing the games. There’s never been more people going to games. There’s never been more people



Tom Ryan pictured with his predecessor as GAA Ard Stiúrthóir, Páraic Duffy.



Recently appointed Ard Stiúrthóir of the GAA, Tom Ryan, looks on before Laois captain Stephen Attridge lifts the cup after the Allianz Football League Division 4 Final match between Carlow and Laois at Croke Park in Dublin.

watching them on television. It’s reaching out into parts of Ireland and overseas where it never had much of a grip before.

“The trajectory is positive and upward on so many fronts, and it’s no harm now and again to take a step back and say, ‘we are actually doing plenty of things right.’”

“Now, that’s not to be complacent for a second. There’s any number of things you can

always do better at.

“But sometimes we’re our own harshest critic and you’d often see that in the dialogue that goes on within the Association itself in terms of commentary from counties and clubs.”

“In some ways that’s probably what stands us in good stead, because you’re always striving to do your best and be your best, and I think that’s a good thing.”

NEW 5 STAR CENTRE INITIATIVE FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS LAUNCHED

A new GAA initiative wants primary school children to develop the Five F's of Fun, Friendship, Fairness, Freedom and Fitness.

This newly developed national initiative for Primary Schools, the 5 Star Centre, was unveiled by GAA Director of Games Development and Research, Pat Daly, who highlighted that: "the initiative aims to ensure that every child gets 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous activity per week throughout the 26 weeks of the school year.

"In doing so, it will enhance the development of children's movement abilities and wellbeing, so that children will experience fun, friendship, fairness, freedom and, ultimately, develop their fitness." To become a GAA 5 Star Centre, primary school teachers would organise a range of activities for all children to participate

in, with GAA personnel acting in a support capacity.

The diverse range activities include Have a Ball, Fun & Run, Hurl It, Catch & Kick, Skill Challenges and Go Games. A new game called Fun & Run, involving a team of batters/kickers and fielders, is suitable for all age and ability levels. It is particularly suited to meet the needs of people with disabilities, people from socially deprived and ethnic minority groups who often perceive themselves to be excluded from mainstream GAA activities.

The GAA piloted the 5 Star Centre initiative in Killinure N.S., Limerick last year. Speaking at the launch, Principal Carmel Power pointed out that: "research conducted by a team from Dublin City University reported that, after a six-week intervention, there was overall increase of 7.3% in pupils'



Iar Uachtarán Aogán Ó Fearghail at a launch of a Five star Centre earlier this year

fundamental movement skill ability. We will be proud to have a GAA 5 Star Centre flag flying above our school."

Also attending the launch was I.N.T.O. President, John Boyle, who noted that: "there has been an intrinsic link between Primary School Teachers and the GAA for well over a hundred years now. The I.N.T.O. are delighted to support the GAA 5 Star Centre initiative. The flag will be testimony to the work that the teachers and the children are doing to promote and develop our national games."

The GAA 5 Star Centre will be rolled out across primary schools on a phased basis from September 2018.

Should schools like to participate, Primary School Teachers/Principals can submit an Expression of Interest until the end of July at learning.gaa.ie/5Star or contact to a member of their Co. GAA Games Development staff via learning.gaa.ie/staffcontacts.



150 CLUBS COMMENCE NEXT PHASE OF THE GAA'S HEALTHY CLUB PROJECT

Gaa clubs in every county are this month embarking on a journey to explore how they can best support the health and wellbeing of their members and communities as the latest phase of the Healthy Club project gets underway.

Supported by Healthy Ireland, the HSE, the National Office for Suicide Prevention and Irish Life, the award-winning project aims to transform clubs into hubs for health in their communities. Over 300 volunteers from the 150 participating clubs will gather provincially this month to receive Healthy Club Officer training as they start their 18-month journey.

Almost 220 clubs applied to participate in the project, which first launched in 2013 with just 18 clubs participating. Asked about their motivation, many saw their club as best placed to tackle some of the challenges facing their communities. Primary issues noted include sedentary lifestyles amongst young and old, mental health and suicide, social isolation, engaging new Irish populations, and a desire to better support healthy eating. They are determined to be part of the solution.

The GAA already makes a significant contribution to the health of the population through the promotion and provision of Gaelic Games. Over the coming 18 months, the Healthy Clubs will seek to expand their positive influence beyond the playing field,

and will implement policies, partnerships, and programmes designed to support the physical, emotional, and social wellbeing of their communities.

Uachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Gael, John Horan, commended all the clubs that applied for the Healthy Club Project and wished those selected every success on their journey. He said: "The GAA Healthy Club project has been a huge success to date and I'm delighted that it is moving onto its next phase, expanding and enhancing our positive reach in communities across the island.

"We believe we make a contribution to society through the medium of our games helping to keep people fit and healthy and all of this activity adds to that providing people with a healthy outlet that has benefits far removed from the playing fields. I wish all concerned every success."

The GAA aims to make the Healthy Club project available to all interested clubs in 2020. To support this national scale-up, the coming two years will see considerable focus placed on increasing the capacity of the voluntary Health & Wellbeing Committees that operate at county level of the Association.

Waterford IT's independent evaluation revealed that the Healthy Club project is showing significant and lasting improvements to the health of communities across Ireland.

Through the HCP over 12,000 people have benefited from physical activity programmes and 50% of Healthy Clubs are now smoke-free zones. One thousand people have engaged with mental health and emotional wellbeing programmes and over half (55%) of Healthy Clubs delivered healthy eating programmes engaging hundreds of teenage boys and girls.

Kate O Flaherty, Head of the Health and

Wellbeing Programme in the Department of Health says: "The enthusiasm of so many clubs seeking to get involved in the Healthy Club Project demonstrates the success to date and the willingness of clubs to play their part in promoting health and wellbeing. The GAA Club, as the hub in many communities across Ireland is well placed to support the Healthy Ireland agenda in delivering positive health messages at local level."



Healthy Club ambassadors: Philly McMahon, Michael Fennelly, Anna Geary and Mickey Harte.

Speaking on the partnership, Irish Life CEO, David Harney says: "I am absolutely delighted that Irish Life are partnering the Healthy Clubs project for a further four years. We are all aware of the importance of a healthy nation, with the GAA being in the heart of every community in the land, they are well positioned to help deliver this goal. Irish Life is very much aligned with the aims of the Healthy Club project providing opportunities to develop physical, social, emotional and psychological health."

There are numerous benefits to clubs that take part in the GAA HCP including exclusive access to Healthy Club resources,

the potential to increase membership and broaden the volunteer base, better community engagement with club activities, improvements in health promoting activities, increased goodwill, and accessing new funding avenues.

For more information, visit: www.gaa.ie/community

Follow: @officialgaa or Like: www.facebook.com/officialgaa/ #gaahealth

For more information please contact: Aoife O'Brien, GAA National Healthy Club Coordinator on 00353-1-8192954 or email: aoife.obrien@gaa.ie



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| All Saints GAC | Antrim | Ulster |
| Lámh Dhearg | Antrim | Ulster |
| Ruairí Óg CLG Cushendall | Antrim | Ulster |
| St Ergnat's GAC | Antrim | Ulster |
| St Joseph's Glenavy | Antrim | Ulster |
| St. Mary's Rasharkin | Antrim | Ulster |
| Carrickcruppen GFC | Armagh | Ulster |
| Clann Éireann | Armagh | Ulster |
| Naomh Mochua Derrynoose | Armagh | Ulster |
| Culloville Blues | Armagh | Ulster |
| Crosserlough GFC | Cavan | Ulster |
| Kingscourt Stars | Cavan | Ulster |
| Lacken Celtic | Cavan | Ulster |
| Killygarry | Cavan | Ulster |
| Cavan Gaels | Cavan | Ulster |
| Robert Emmets | Derry | Ulster |
| St. Martin's GAC | Derry | Ulster |
| Michael Davitt | Derry | Ulster |
| Baile na Galloglach | Donegal | Ulster |
| Buncranncha | Donegal | Ulster |
| Four Masters | Donegal | Ulster |
| St Eunan's | Donegal | Ulster |
| St Mary's, Convoy | Donegal | Ulster |
| Naomh Muire, Kincasslagh | Donegal | Ulster |
| Ardglass GAC | Down | Ulster |
| Ballycran GAC | Down | Ulster |
| Bredagh GAC | Down | Ulster |
| Clonduff | Down | Ulster |
| St. Peters, Warrenpoint | Down | Ulster |



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| St. Johns Drumnaquoile | Down | Ulster |
| Kinawley Brian Boru/St Mary's Killesher | Fermanagh | Ulster |
| Newtownbutler First Fermanaghs | Fermanagh | Ulster |
| Derrygonnelly Harps | Fermanagh | Ulster |
| Erne Gaels | Fermanagh | Ulster |
| Gaeil Triucha CLG | Monaghan | Ulster |
| Latton O'Rahilly | Monaghan | Ulster |
| Castleblayney Faughs | Monaghan | Ulster |
| Errigal Ciaran GAC | Tyrone | Ulster |
| Gortin St Patrick's | Tyrone | Ulster |
| Naomh Mhic Artáin Ladies GFC | Tyrone | Ulster |
| Greencastles | Tyrone | Ulster |
| Omagh, St. Endas | Tyrone | Ulster |
| C.L.G Cuar an Chlair | Clare | Munster |
| Clarecastle GAA & Camogie Club | Clare | Munster |
| Doonbeg | Clare | Munster |
| St Joseph's Doorra Barefield | Clare | Munster |
| Parteen | Clare | Munster |
| Clonakilty | Cork | Munster |
| Macroom | Cork | Munster |
| Newtownshandrum | Cork | Munster |
| Cobh | Cork | Munster |
| Killeagh | Cork | Munster |
| Castlehaven | Cork | Munster |
| St. Finbarr's Hurling & Football Club | Cork | Munster |
| Midleton | Cork | Munster |
| Ballydonoghue | Kerry | Munster |
| Dr Crokes | Kerry | Munster |
| Tralee Parnell's Hurling Club | Kerry | Munster |
| Beaufort | Kerry | Munster |

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| Claughan | Limerick | Munster |
| Galbally | Limerick | Munster |
| Killeedy | Limerick | Munster |
| Na Piarasigh | Limerick | Munster |
| Mungret's St. Pauls | Limerick | Munster |
| Lorrha & Dorrha | Tipperary | Munster |
| Tulach Sheasta | Tipperary | Munster |
| JK Brackens | Tipperary | Munster |
| Fr. Sheehys | Tipperary | Munster |
| Nenagh Éire Óg | Tipperary | Munster |
| An Rinn | Waterford | Munster |
| Dún na Mainistreach/Baile na Cúirte | Waterford | Munster |
| Brickey Rangers | Waterford | Munster |
| Palatine | Carlow | Leinster |
| Mount Leinster Rangers | Carlow | Leinster |
| Ballyboden St. Enda's | Dublin | Leinster |
| Ballyboughal GFC | Dublin | Leinster |
| Beann Eadair | Dublin | Leinster |
| Lucan Sarsfields | Dublin | Leinster |
| Naomh Olaf CLG | Dublin | Leinster |
| O'Dwyers | Dublin | Leinster |
| Ranelagh Gaels | Dublin | Leinster |
| Scoil Uí Chonaill | Dublin | Leinster |
| Skerries Harps | Dublin | Leinster |
| St Oliver Plunketts/Eoghan Rudagh | Dublin | Leinster |
| St. Sylvester's | Dublin | Leinster |
| Kilmacud Crokes | Dublin | Leinster |
| Raheny | Dublin | Leinster |
| Good Counsel | Dublin | Leinster |
| Craobh Chiarain | Dublin | Leinster |



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| Thomas Davis | Dublin | Leinster |
| Robertstown GFC | Kildare | Leinster |
| St Mary's | Kildare | Leinster |
| St. Laurence's | Kildare | Leinster |
| Castlemitchell | Kildare | Leinster |
| Conahy Shamrocks | Kilkenny | Leinster |
| Thomastown | Kilkenny | Leinster |
| Clara | Kilkenny | Leinster |
| Annanough | Laois | Leinster |
| Clonad | Laois | Leinster |
| Emmet Óg Killoe | Longford | Leinster |
| Dromard | Longford | Leinster |
| Clan Na Gael GFC | Louth | Leinster |
| John Mitchels | Louth | Leinster |
| Naomh Mairtin CPG | Louth | Leinster |
| St. Kevin's | Louth | Leinster |
| CLG Rath Tó | Meath | Leinster |
| Dunderry | Meath | Leinster |
| Na Fianna | Meath | Leinster |
| Navan O'Mahony's | Meath | Leinster |
| Syddan | Meath | Leinster |
| Kiltale | Meath | Leinster |
| St. Colmcille's | Meath | Leinster |
| Coolderry | Offaly | Leinster |
| Tubber | Offaly | Leinster |
| Crookedwood | Westmeath | Leinster |
| Lough Lene Gaels | Westmeath | Leinster |
| Mullingar Shamrocks GAA Club | Westmeath | Leinster |
| St. Loman's Mullingar | Westmeath | Leinster |
| Ballynacgary | Westmeath | Leinster |

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| Oulart The Ballagh | Wexford | Leinster |
| St. Martin's | Wexford | Leinster |
| Castletown Liam Mellows | Wexford | Leinster |
| St. John's Volunteers | Wexford | Leinster |
| Enniskerry | Wicklow | Leinster |
| Bray Emmets | Wicklow | Leinster |
| Annacurra | Wicklow | Leinster |
| Caherlistrane | Galway | Connacht |
| Castlegar | Galway | Connacht |
| Claregalway | Galway | Connacht |
| Clarinbridge | Galway | Connacht |
| Cumann Naomh Mhuire CLG Ard Rathan | Galway | Connacht |
| Ballindeereen | Galway | Connacht |
| Annaduff | Leitrim | Connacht |
| Glencar/Manorhamilton | Leitrim | Connacht |
| Melvin Gaels | Leitrim | Connacht |
| Breaffy | Mayo | Connacht |
| Castlebar Mitchels | Mayo | Connacht |
| Clg Thuar Mhic Eadaigh | Mayo | Connacht |
| Davitts | Mayo | Connacht |
| Aghamore | Mayo | Connacht |
| Achill | Mayo | Connacht |
| Clann Na nGael | Roscommon | Connacht |
| St. Brigid's (Craobh Cumann Naomh Bríd) | Roscommon | Connacht |
| St. Croan's | Roscommon | Connacht |
| St. Aidans | Roscommon | Connacht |
| Oran GAA | Roscommon | Connacht |
| St John's | Sligo | Connacht |
| St Molaise Gaels | Sligo | Connacht |
| St. Michaels | Sligo | Connacht |
| Eastern Harps | Sligo | Connacht |

THE CLUB LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



The GAA Club Leadership Development Programme is delivered by the National Officer Development Committee (NODC) and its team of Associates. It is designed to give the principal officers in GAA Clubs an opportunity to acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to fulfil their roles in a confident and competent manner. The Programme is open to all current Club Officers or anyone interested in taking up a role of Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer or PRO. For more information or contact your County Development Officer.

[Click here](#) to watch a video about The Club Leadership Development programme.

DEVELOPMENT FUND OPEN FOR DEPOSITS FROM CLUBS

The Development Fund is a Deposit and Loan Scheme which was set up to help provide finance for Clubs when purchasing and developing grounds and facilities.

Clubs should be aware that the Development Fund is open for deposits.

- **Interest is 1.9% on Deposits and Loans**
- **No DIRT (Deposit Interest Retention Tax)**
- **Lotto Jackpots would be a good place for clubs to start when depositing into the Fund**

The fund is not currently open for loans but efforts are underway to reopen it with the help of deposits from Clubs. A separate sterling Development Fund will also be set up in the near future, to help combat exchange rates. Clubs which have deposited money into the scheme will have priority when it comes to obtaining loans from the fund.

Deposit Forms are available from GAA National Finance in Croke Park, to request one, please email kathy.slattery@gaa.ie / rebekah.evans@gaa.ie



GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION – ONE MONTH TO GO/THE FINAL COUNTDOWN!



Over the last number of months we have been highlighting the significant changes to Data Protection legislation coming into effect on May 25th and the impact that those changes will have on every GAA Club. It is important that Clubs are aware of how these changes in the law will affect the ways in which members' personal information can be collected and used for GAA purposes.

The key points relating to Data Protection have been outlined in previous editions of the Club Newsletter (available on GAA.ie) and the articles also describe what is changing in the law and the implications for GAA Clubs. A good summary of the main points can be found [here](#):

Information regarding Data Protection can be found on the [GAA website](#)

Key Changes

The key changes within the legislation include the paramount importance to ensure Accountability, which requires Clubs to be compliant with the legislation and to be able to demonstrate compliance with it, and Transparency, which requires Clubs to safeguard individuals right to be made fully aware of the processing taking place involving their personal data.

What To Do Now

The key actions for Clubs to ensure compliance with the legislation are:

- * completing a 'Processing Activities Log' which is a record of all personal data held by Clubs,
 - * ensuring the use of official Membership Forms,
 - * following an appropriate Subject Access Request Process and Data Breach Process,
 - * ensuring consent is obtained properly and for the intended purpose,
 - * ensuring all people involved in processing personal data within the Club are aware of the privacy rights of individuals
 - * ensuring that privacy notices are provided to individuals for each new data collection activity.
- It is important to note that this is an ongoing process and May 25th is not the finish line. There is an obligation on us to continually review and maintain the above documents and procedures.

Supports Available

Examples of the above documentation and processes along with further assistance for Clubs in the area of data protection can be accessed at www.gaa.ie/dataprotection under the 'Data Protection' and 'Support for Clubs' tab. The GAA has a Data Protection Officer available for all queries Clubs may have in the area of data protection and can be contacted at dataprotection@gaa.ie. If in doubt when dealing with personal data within your Club, please ask and we will be happy to assist.

2017 MACNAMEE AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The winners of the 2017 MacNamee Awards have been confirmed by the GAA.

The GAA National Communication and Media Awards are named after the late Pádraig MacNamee, former President of the GAA, Chairman of the GAA Commission (1969-1971) and member of the RTÉ authority.

Best Website – St. Peter’s GAA Club, Warrenpoint, Co Down – <http://www.warrenpointgaa.com/>

The St. Peter’s GAA Club website is truly best in class. It has been built with a strong focus on user journey, but most importantly the club must be commended on their attention to detail and their site content upkeep. The addition of Warrenpoint GAA TV is testament to this Club’s understanding of online content.

Provincial Media Award – The Donegal Democrat – “Donegal ’92 History Makers”

The Donegal Democrat celebrated the 1992 All Ireland winning champions with an in-depth magazine recalling a famous and silverware laden campaign under Brian McEniff’s stewardship. Packed with interesting interviews, player profiles and photographs the



Vincent Hogan, winner of the national journalism GAA MacNamee Award, presented by Uachtarán John Horan

Donegal Democrat’s supplement is a classy and comprehensive account of Donegal history. on Saturday, August 5th last year, was everything a great interview should be.

2017 National Media Award – Vincent Hogan, Irish Independent (article on Joe Canning, Galway hurler)

Vincent Hogan’s interview with Galway hurler, Joe Canning, published in the Irish Independent

Canning has been in the public eye for a long time and spoken to the media on countless occasions, but we learned more from this superbly written piece about the nuances of his personality and what really makes him tick than from any other interview heretofore.

His revelation that his main motivation for playing hurling is to make his parents feel proud and see a smile on their faces after a game surely struck a chord with every reader.

We read about the very human side of Joe Canning in the Irish Independent that Saturday, the following day we witnessed the superhuman when he inspired Galway to victory over Tipperary in the All-Ireland semi-final with one of the greatest match-winning points of all time.

2017 Best Programme – Louth GAA Football Final

This County Final match programme was beautifully styled, containing a trove of statistical details as well as excellently written editorial. The use of old and current imagery embellished the publication. There was a fastidious adherence to an intelligently structured design and the full-colour publication was creativity produced.

2017 Best GAA Related Radio Programme – LMFM – “When Sam Crossed the Boyne”

The programme “When Sam crossed the Boyne” is a documentary looking back at Louth’s victory in the All Ireland Football Final of 1957 and broadcast 60 years later on October 30th 2017.

This programme gives the listener a chance to re-live the glories of the distant past, this documentary gives a great insight into the ability of athletes and supporters to remember vividly things that happened on the field of sport two generations ago.

2017 Gradam Gaeilge (Irish Language Award) – Focás Films “Poc na nGael”

Scoth an chlár teilifíse inar fiosraíodh an nasc idir an iománaíocht agus an cluiche hacaí-oighir.

Bheadh sé furasta a rá nach bhfuil ann ach gur cluichí le bataí iad an péire acu, ach i bPoc na nGael fuair Ger Loughnane amach i bhfad níos mó ná sin nuair a chuaigh sé go Ceanada leis an scéal a fhiosrú.

Chuirfeadh an méid a fuair sé amach ionadh ort - go háirithe nárbh iad na Gaeil na himircigh a bhí saite sa chluiche, ach Protastúnaigh agus lucht Ultaise a chuir futhu thall. Éamonn Ó Cualáin a stiúraigh do Focas Films.

A superb television programme that explores the link between hurling and the game of ice-hockey. It would be easy to say that the two are tied through their shared use of the stick but in Poc na nGael Ger Loughnane went to Canada to find out that they share a whole lot more in common.

What he found out was a cause for surprise – not least that it was not Catholic emigrants who were the drivers behind the growth of the game, but Ulster Protestants who helped it put roots down over there. Éamonn Ó Cualáin directed for Focas Films.

2017 Best Photograph – Piaras Ó Mídheach, Sportsfile

“The Joe Show” with Joe Canning captures on of the most iconic moments of last year’s hurling Championship as Canning celebrates scoring the winning point during the GAA Hurling All-Ireland semi-final between Galway and old rivals Tipperary.

2017 Best GAA Club Publication – Thurles Sarsfields GAA Story, Volume 1

This book charts the first 75 years of the Thurles Sarsfields club. Using a variety of sources including internal club records,

external local and national archives, newspaper reports and the oral folk memory of the town, the author, Liam Ó Donnchú, has successfully charted the history of the club and its place within both the wider GAA organisation and Ireland itself. The book is meticulously researched, well-structured and illustrated throughout with fascinating photographs.

2017 Best New Digital Initiative – Austin Stacks GAA Club, Tralee

This website was commissioned especially to mark the centenary of the Austin Stacks hurling and football Club. Stacks100.ie is a wonderful tribute to the club’s rich history and the people who have played their part in the Club’s development. The platform allows the user to dig deep and explore the evolution of one of Kerry’s greatest clubs through the use of mixed media. This digital platform is a priceless resource.

2017 Hall of Fame Award – Tommy Callaghan

Tommy began his career with the Leinster Leader as a printwork apprentice in October 1967. As the technology changed, so did his role with the paper and he always took up the challenge and moved with the times. Tommy is the current Sports Editor of the newspaper.

He has been an ever-ready commentator on all sports, especially Gaelic games, and he has no hesitation in giving his very forthright and critical opinion on a variety of topics whenever the opportunity arises.

When praise is deserved, or when criticism is required, no player, no official from club to national level, and no one at a top table escapes his critical eye, notebook and keyboard.



2017 MacNamee Award winners, back row, from left, Piaras Ó Mídheach, former Clare hurling manager Ger Loughnane, Colm Corrigan, Bob Doherty, and Liam Ó Donnchú. Front row, from left, Éamonn Ó Cualáin, Elma Nix, Tommy Callaghan, Uachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Gael John Horan, Vincent Hogan, Anne McCormack and Peter Campbell during the GAA MacNamee Awards at Croke Park in Dublin.

FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT FOR MAYO HURLING & CAMOGIE

The Connacht GAA Centre was the venue as 10 Mayo schools took part in the mini7s hurling/camogie finals day. In total over 40 National Schools in Mayo entered the hurling/camogie competitions this year due the growth of the game at this level.

In the Boys Mini7s competition, Claremorris BNS took the title for the first time in their history – overcoming a gallant Ballyvary NS side in the final by a point.

In the camogie final, another newcomer to the crown – Aghamore NS – overcame Brackloon NS (Westport) by a goal.

In the Development Mini7s final, Straide NS again became a first time winner – overcoming Tavrane NS in the final. The full list of results are as follows.

Boys Mini7s:

Semi1: Claremorris BNS 5-3 Tooreen NS 2-3
Semi2: Ballyvary NS 3-5 Gaelscoil Westport 0-2
B Final: Tooreen NS 3-8 Gaelscoil Westport 0-4

Development Mini7s:

Semi1: Tavrane NS 3-2 Robeen NS 1-1
Semi2: Straide NS 7-3 Snugboro NS 2-3
B Final: Snugboro NS 2-4 Robeen NS 1-2
A Final: Straide NS 2-3 Tavrane NS 0-2

Camogie Mini7s:

Final: Aghamore NS 2-1 Brackloon NS 1-1



Jimmy Connor (Mayo GAA Hurling Chairman) presents the Development Mini7s Shield to the Straide co-captains.



Aghamore NS camogie captain Niamh Mooney receives the Mini7s camogie title from Maria Coyne (Mayo Cuman na mBunscoil Camogie Officer) and Jimmy Connor (Mayo Hurling Chairman).

OVERSEAS SANCTIONS – IMPORTANT INFORMATION

For the 2018 season, all sanction applications must be made online via the Player Transfer System (PTS). This will see clubs in North America initiate the sanction process in a similar process as to how online transfer operate.

This process must be initiated by the club in USGAA/Canada/New York that the player wishes to play with.

Players who are intending to play in these jurisdictions in Summer 2018 should:

1. Contact the club secretary of the club they intend to play with in USGAA/Canada/New York.
2. If the club in USGAA/Canada/New York would like to initiate a sanction application for the player, the player should purchase suitable travel insurance.

The only currently acceptable insurances are those provided by Chubb (available via the link below on gaa.ie) and USIT(MAPFRE - which must include confirmation of an upgrade from the standard cover of "Hazardous Activities Grade 1": to include "Hazardous Activities: Grade 5").

Please note Travel insurance must be purchased before the player leaves Ireland - Further details below.

3. The player should supply their e-mail address to the club secretary of the club they wish to play in USGAA/Canada/

New York.

4. Complete the application form online via a link which will be received by the player via e-mail from the PTS once an application has been initiated by the club secretary in USGAA/Canada/New York via the Sanctions tab. Players must upload proof of their travel insurance information when completing the application form or the application will not be processed. In addition, players applying for a J1 Sanction must also provide proof of their J1 Visa (a copy of the J1 Visa will suffice)
5. Once the form has been completed, the club secretary of the club they wish to play in USGAA/Canada/New York will review the details and if appropriate submit the application to Croke Park for processing.
6. Croke Park will then process the application if all information has been provided. The club and county in Ireland will then receive an e-mail notification that the application requires their approval and will be invited to approve or reject the application.
7. Once all parties have approved the application, the sanction will be granted by Croke Park. An e-mail notification will advise all parties, including the player, that the sanction has now been granted.

The USGAA/Canada/New York may have additional requirements with regard to

registration in advance of a player being eligible to play in a fixture. Players are advised to confirm they have been registered with the club secretary in USGAA/Canada/New York prior to participating in a fixture.

Mandatory Travel Insurance

All players that will be seeking an Official GAA Sanction from Central Council to play in North America (USGAA), New York or Canada for the summer are reminded that travel insurance must be arranged in Ireland **before** they commence their journeys. Proof of this insurance is required as part of the application process

Players should note the following:

Like the vast majority of travel insurance policies, the option offered by the GAA can only be purchased by individuals before they leave Ireland. Important points for players to note include:

- The only currently acceptable insurances are those provided by Chubb (available via the link below) and USIT (which must include Grade 5 hazardous activities cover).
- The cost of insurance will depend on the duration of a player's stay in a particular country.
- Players wishing to play in North America must purchase cover for a minimum of 90 days. It is the player's own responsibility to ensure they are covered for all dates of potential fixtures.
- Travel insurance is not a private health

insurance. It only covers players if there is a sudden and unexpected accident or if a player becomes ill during his trip.

- Generally where doctors appointed by Insurers deem treatment in Ireland// Britain more appropriate, players will be repatriated home for treatment.
- Players playing overseas are not covered under the GAA Injury Benefit Fund.

The following are the steps which player's need to take to purchase the required insurance:

1. Go to the following link - [ew](#)
2. Choose Backpacker cover for a minimum of 90 days. It is the player's own responsibility to ensure they are covered for all dates of potential fixtures. If you do not have cover for a fixture you will not be eligible to play or covered in the event of a sudden or unexpected accident.
3. **Please Note: ensure you select 'Worldwide Cover inc. US/Canada/Caribbean'**
4. Choose the most accurate number of days that you will be staying in North America / New York / Canada - Minimum for North America is 90 days
5. Please read and accept the terms and conditions of the policy and apply for the cover
6. Fill in all the required fields in order to obtain your documentation
7. Once purchased, the confirmation letter

should be submitted when applying via the GAA Player Transfer System.

8. Once approved, all Sanctions will appear on the relevant lists on the Official GAA website

Note - A player who has been included on an Inter-County Senior Championship list submitted to the Referee, in accordance with Rules of Specification 2.5 (ii)(a) for a game in the current year's Championship shall not be eligible to be accepted for Registration as a member of any Club in the North American County Board Jurisdiction.

Exception - A player who has been included on an Inter-County Senior Championship list submitted to the Referee, in accordance with Rules of Specification 2.5 (ii)(a), for a game in the current year's Championship, who holds a valid current J1 Visa **or who is eligible for a J1 Visa** and who obtains an Official J1 Sanction may be accepted for registration. Such a player may only have his J1 Sanction approved once his team has been eliminated from the Senior Inter-County Championship (including All-Ireland qualifier games). The J1 Visa concerned with this Exception

is the J1 Work and Travel Programme Visa only – i.e. the four month Visa for 3rd Level Students.

General Rules

- A Sanction entitles a player to play with a Club from March 1 until the end of October
- Sanctions to USGAA (North America), New York or Canada, will not be granted after July 1
- A player who has received a Sanction will not be able to play again with his Club in Ireland for 30 days after the date of approval of his Sanction in Croke Park
- Sanctions are only available to current members of Clubs in Ireland or members of clubs in Britain, whose First Club is their current club.
- For more information, go to Rule 6.12 of the Official Guide.

For further information see - <http://www.gaa.ie/the-gaa/rules-regulations/overseas-sanctions>



HANDBALL HEROES GEAR UP FOR WORLDS

A dramatic weekend of incredible Juvenile Handball has climaxed with the confirmed of GAA Handball's Juvenile Team Members for this summers World Championships.

New Team Members:

- Mairead Fox, Tyrone (G15&U)
- Niamh Heffernan, Galway (G17&U)
- Megan McCann, Armagh (G19&U)
- Josh Kavanagh, Wexford (B15&U)
- Eoghan McGinnity, Monaghan (B17&U)
- Shane Dunne, Kilkenny (B19&U)

Tyrone's top seed Mairead Fox was the player to beat going into the weekend in the Girls 15&U grade having sealed the U16 All-Ireland Final a few weeks back. With that expectation however came additional pressure, but the talented Loughmacrory club woman held her nerve to see off Kilkenny's Amy Brennan in the SF, and fellow county woman, current U14 All-Ireland champion Clodagh Munroe 15-7, 15-6 in the Final.

The Boys 15&U Final was an all Wexford affair as Doubles partners Josh Kavanagh & Mark Doyle done battle. Top seeded Kavanagh had seen off U14 All-Ireland Mikey Kelly in the SF, whilst Doyle pulled off a fantastic victory against #2 seed Billy Drennan. In the Final however it was Kavanagh who prevailed in a 15-12, 15-5 win.

The Girls 17&U Final was a truly high quality

affair between top two seeds Leah Doyle (Kildare) & Niamh Heffernan (Galway). Doyle is the recent All-Ireland U16 champ and favourite, but Heffernan was full of confidence having seen off Mollie Dagg in a cracking SF tiebreak on Saturday night. She followed through with her form on Sunday, ousting Doyle in a gutsy 15-12, 15-10w in, exploding with joy upon sealing the final point.

Monaghan's Eoghan McGinnty was the hunted in the Boys 17&U, and he was very nearly felled at the SF stage by Clare's Mark Rodgers, prevailing in a tiebreak. And he showed great nerve again in the final that same day when coming from 14-10 down in the first to Kerry's Daire Keane before winning 15-14. He then took control of the second game, winning 15-11 to seal the title.

The Girls 19&U Final was another thriller between Armagh's Megan McCann & Clare's Caitriona Millane. This was a repeat of the 2015 Team Ireland Qualifier that Millane won in an 11-10 tiebreak, and this one looked to be going the same way when Millane led 5-4 in the tiebreak. But, against the momentum, a timely timeout from Megan provided the inspiration she needed as she came back on court and swiftly sealed the win 11-5.

In the Boys 19&U, surprise packet Shane Dunne was in inspired form all weekend and eventually took down the #1 & #2 seeds in route to his maiden Junior Nationals title. A

blistering start against Tyrone's Sean Kerr saw him storm to a 15-2 opening game win. This continued into the second as he held an 11-4 lead. But then Kerr sprung into life and went on a 7-0 lead to tie the scores at 11-11. But a huge kill in the next rally from Dunne helped stem the tide, and from there he proceeded to win the next 4 points and take the title.

In the non-Team Ireland grades, Galway's Emma Kinane & Kilkenny's Kyle Jordan took the respective 13&U crowns.

GAA Handball would like to express their gratitude to Kingscourt HC & the surrounding Cavan/Monaghan Clubs for hosting the Nationals, and to the volunteers who made the vent so enjoyable for the young players. It was great seeing such high quality, and young players showing such great raw emotion upon sealing their spots on Team Ireland.



AMBASSADOR ROLE FOR AIMEE

Armagh star Aimee Mackin has been announced as the Ladies Gaelic Football Association's official 2018 Gaelic4Girls ambassador.

The two-time TG4 All Star kick-started her glittering career with the Gaelic4Girls programme at club level with Shane O'Neills, and she's a huge advocate of the scheme.

Aimee will release videos sharing some of the tips that have helped her to develop into one of the most feared forwards in the game.

Aimee and the LGFA are now inviting participating clubs to share their journeys on the Ladies Gaelic Football Association's various social media platforms.

Gaelic4Girls, celebrating its ten-year anniversary, is underway and this year, 43 clubs across Ireland and Britain will benefit from the hugely-successful initiative.

For 2018, 33 clubs across Ireland have been selected from 21 different counties while in Britain, 10 clubs from three counties will participate.

Leinster will be represented by ten clubs from seven counties, while nine clubs from six counties in Ulster will participate. In Munster, six clubs from four counties will take part, with Connacht providing eight clubs

from four counties.

Participating clubs can share their video stories on the LGFA's social media channels:

Use the hashtag #Gaelic4Girls

Facebook: @LadiesGaelicFootball

Twitter: @ladiesfootball

Instagram: @ladiesgaelicfootball

Snapchat: ladiesgaelic

The full list of participating clubs reads as follows:

Leinster: Craobh Chiarain and Man O'War (Dublin), Ballykelly and Monasterevin (Kildare), Erins Own (Kilkenny), Clonguish (Longford), Wolfe Tones and Stabannon Parnells (Louth), Boardsmill (Meath), Bannow/Ballinamitty (Wexford).

Ulster: Crossmaglen and Carrickcruppen (Armagh), Tullylish (Down), Bellnaleck, Kinawley and Tempo (Fermanagh), Emyvale (Monaghan), Killeeshil (Tyrone), Glenswilly (Donegal).

Munster: Éire Óg and Corofin (Clare), Ballinahassig and Inch Rovers (Cork), Spa, Killarney (Kerry), Gaultier (Waterford).

Connacht: Leitrim Gaels and St Mary's, Carrick-on-Shannon (Leitrim), Claregalway LGFA, Dunmore McHales, Menlough Skehana and Monivea (Galway), Claremorris (Mayo), Ballinameen Ladies (Roscommon).

Britain: Tara, Parnells, Tir Conaill Gaels and St Kiernans (London), Sean McDermotts, St Brendans and John Mitchels (Warwickshire), Glasgow Gaels, Dunedin Og and Coatbridge Davitts (Scotland).

Gaelic4Girls: Celebrating 10 years of increasing participation and growth in clubs across Ireland and Britain.

G4G is a 12 week programme incorporating coaching sessions with fun non-competitive blitzes aimed at increasing participation in Ladies Gaelic Football. The programme targets girls aged between 8-12 years who are not currently registered with a Ladies Gaelic Football club.

For further information please contact Aisling Doonan, aisling.doonan@lgfa.ie or 01 8363156



Gaelic for Teens Programme

THE Ladies Gaelic Football Association has confirmed the 16 clubs who have been selected to take part in the 2018 Gaelic4Teens programme.

Following a hugely-successful pilot in 2017, Gaelic4Teens is now rolling out across all four provinces, almost doubling in size.

The programme will help clubs to retain their current playing bases while also recruiting players in the 15-17 age bracket, which has been identified as a group with a high drop-out rate.

The 16 clubs taking part this year are as follows:

Leinster: Clonard/Volunteers (Wexford), Naomh Mearnóg (Dublin), Erin go Bragh (Dublin), Ballymore (Longford).

Connacht: Elphin (Roscommon), St Molaise (Sligo), Kilmeeena (Mayo), Four Roads LGFA (Roscommon).

Munster: Cappawhite (Tipperary), Burren Gaels (Clare), Naomh Abán (Cork), Dromin/Athlacca/Banogue (Limerick)

Ulster: Dromintee (Armagh), Killygarry (Cavan), Tattyreagh (Tyrone), Latton (Monaghan)

The programme is working closely with coaches, influencing the content of their coaching sessions as well as establishing the best ways for coaches to communicate with their players.

The programme will be monitored and evaluated to ensure that it achieves the aim of having a direct impact on the retention of players.

As well as tailoring training sessions, there

will be a focus on education that will see star inter-county players Sharon Courtney (Monaghan), Cliodhna O'Connor (ex-Dublin), and Orlagh Farmer (Cork) provide expertise and advice to participants throughout the duration of the programme.

The research that prompted the development of the Gaelic4Teens programme revealed that players play for enjoyment, to keep fit and healthy, to relieve stress and because their friends also play.

The reasons highlighted for giving up the sport are that they don't get enough playing time, there is no fun at training, that it is too competitive and that they are treated differently.

The programme began on Saturday, February 24.

For further information please contact William Harmon: william.harmon@lgfa.ie or 01 8363156.



DEVELOPMENT NEWS: CAMÁN TO CROKER PROVES MASSIVE SUCCESS AND MORE!

Over 1,000 children from all over the country descended on Croke Park for the annual Camán to Croker blitz on Sunday April 8th. This was the 7th year of the fantastic initiative, with 64 clubs from all four provinces represented on the day.



The event provides the players with an opportunity to experience the skills and fun of the game and leaves them with fantastic memories of playing in Croke Park, a place where all young players aspire to play. Congratulations to every club and player that took to the field and congratulations to the staff who helped the event run so smooth.

Tara Camogie 7s

Tara Camogie club London hosted their annual 7s tournament on Saturday 7th April in Greenford. Due to recent heavy rain the junior competition was postponed

to a later date meaning only the Senior competition took place on Saturday. The teams involved were Cappataggle from Galway, Ballybrown and Patrickswell both from Limerick, a European combination team, Croydon and Tara both from London. There was some fantastic hard-fought camogie on the day. Cappataggle beat Patrickswell in the final to win the Senior Cup sponsored by Getjar and Europe beat Croydon after extra time to win The Senior Shield sponsored by The Parish Bar Wembley. Michelle Skehill of Cappataggle won Senior Player of the Tournament.



In Memory and Appreciation of ETTY, Maria Mooney of Madrid Harps/Eoghan Rua Derry became the first recipient of the Annual Shield which will be awarded at our Camogie 7s. On behalf of Tara Camogie Club London we would like to thank Tír Chonaill Gaels for use of the grounds, all our sponsors, everyone who helped out on the day and all the teams who travelled from Ireland and Europe to take part.

Annie Moores NY – New Camogie Club in the Bronx

Saturday 10th March saw Annie Moore's have not only their first training session of the year - but their first training session ever. The new club was formed a few weeks ago, and with a lot of ladies only taking up the sport for the first time, Aisling Daly decided to take everyone through their paces. Well done to everyone who has just started, looking forward to seeing Camogie in New York grow. A special word of thanks to Martin Hurls from County Antrim who supplied many of the girls with their first hurl too.

For more development news from New York please follow this link to the New York GAA [Development Newsletter March 2018](#)



Rockland Parents Workshop

Rockland GAA had the pleasure of having New York GAA Hurling Development Officer Micky Quigg come to them on March 9th to facilitate a workshop for new parents. This workshop was an introduction to the main Hurling/Camogie skills to encourage parents and volunteers to get involved in coaching with Rockland GAA or simply to be better prepared in the skills of the game. It was great to see some of our experienced coaches helping out and assisting.

Huge thanks to Micky and for everyone for coming. Thanks to the success of this workshop we plan on running another one in April. For more development news from Rockland GAA, please follow this link to the Rockland GAA [Development Newsletter March 2018](#)





Meath and Kildare raising coaching education levels

Meath and Kildare both held Foundation level coaching courses over the recent weekends. 40 coaches from 17 different clubs completed the courses that were superbly led out by tutors Ted Walsh and Ger Gribben at Navan O'Mahonys GAA club and Clane GAA club.

On last Monday evening, expert tutor Peter Casey led the player retention workshop "Communication and Building Rapport with players" at Moorefield GAA, Newbridge. The workshop was attended by a group of enthusiastic coaches and was



very interactive in its content, with Peter drawing on many different experiences of his own as a coach to reinforce the main core themes of the workshop.

Meath and Kildare now continue their 'Coaching the coaches' programme with the Spring Coaching Series organised by Camogie Coach Education and Development Co-ordinator, Niall Williams, which commences in Trim, Co. Meath on Monday 23rd April with the "Camán and Play" workshop for coaches of 15-17 year-old players. The series will continue throughout May and June with further workshops aimed at the coaches of the



younger players in both counties. For further information on coach education in Meath/Kildare, please contact brendan.kenny@camogie.ie

Foundation Coaching held in Laois

Saturday 7th April brought 20 coaches from 3 clubs in Laois to complete the Foundation Coaching Course. With an earlier course previously ran in February, this course looked to include the area of Laois for Camross, Naomh Eamann and St.Lazarians. It is encouraging to see Laois deliver these courses in a strategic way,



aiming to provide for the clubs in clusters. They will wrap up their coaching course calendar this coming weekend with a third and final Foundation course in Ballacolla, Co.Laois.

Many thanks to Camross Community Hall for the use of the facilities and to the tutors and coaches who attended. It is also great to see so many younger coaches taking to the courses and looking to get involved in their club's development.



EXPLAINER: THE 2018 GAA FOOTBALL ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

THIS year, for only the second time in the 127-year history of the GAA Football All-Ireland Senior Championship, the format and structure of the competition will be significantly different from that of the previous year.

From 1888 to 2000, the traditional knockout format – whereby four provincial championships took place, with the four winners advancing to the All-Ireland semi-finals – went unchanged. The All-Ireland quarter-final system was introduced from the 2001 season on, giving teams based in their provincial championships a chance to reach the newly created All-Ireland quarter-final stage, via a knock-out qualifying format.

At the 2017 GAA Congress, a new structure for the football championship was approved and 2018 will be the first season that the new structure comes into being. Here, we explain how the new format will work as well as other significant changes that will make the 2018 GAA Football All-Ireland Senior Championship different.

SO WHAT IS DIFFERENT THIS YEAR?

There are many big changes in this year's championship. Probably the most significant is the introduction of the All-Ireland Quarter-Final Group Stage. In previous years, the last eight teams left in the All-Ireland football championship played knock-out quarter-final matches to advance to the semi-finals but this year, the eight teams will divide into two groups of four, which will be played out in round-robin style. Each team in each group will play against each other once, with the top two teams in each group

advancing to the All-Ireland semi-finals, which will be played after previous years except with one difference – they will take place on the same weekend.

Another major difference is that the 2018 GAA Football All-Ireland Senior Championship will finish earlier in the year than in previous years. Changes to the calendar date of semi-finals, as well as some time-honoured play-offs for all-rounders last year, will lead All-Ireland final quarter-final matches, which points will be shared for draws, means this year's All-Ireland final will take place on September 2, 2018, three weeks earlier than it would have done in the previous format.

Major new trials on the Day format of games in the quarter-finals, if necessary, have two separate periods of extra time and if still level, there will be a free-taking competition from 20 minutes out. See Fixtures on the Day explained in full on page 44. Another change in this year's championship format will see the "A-B" system, which was used in the All-Ireland qualifiers from 2014-2017, abolished. The previous qualifier system, which placed no distinction on the side of the draw, instead being played as its provincial championships, will be retained.

WHY ALL THE CHANGES?

Reforming the structure of the GAA Football All-Ireland Senior Championship has been a subject of considerable debate in recent years. In 2015, the GAA invited submissions for championship reforms with various proposals submitted and considered. In 2016, GAA Central Council proposed the format being explained here, and that format was approved by delegates at GAA Congress 2017. The main reason for reform was to

create excitement in the annual calendar for club fixtures, something which will be achieved now that the months of April through to June of All-Ireland Leagues fixtures and September to June of inter-county games.

In fact, by the middle of the year, there will be only eight teams left in the Race for Sam Maguire and all other counties will be free to play club games. Consider this with 2016 when by the same point there would have been 24 counties still in the hunt for those coveted jerseys in All-Ireland semi-finals. The month of August will also have significantly fewer inter-county matches than previously experienced and therefore more club activity.

"If you're a club player you've not had your inter-county play as long as the county fixtures. The earlier that inter-county season finishes the better for clubs. You have to condense the season," said former All-Ireland Féilte Ballydooley champion.

The rationale for the new All-Ireland Quarter-Final Group Stage is to create eight more high-quality, competitive matches in the later stages of summer, several of which will be played at provincial grounds around the country.

HOW EXACTLY WILL THE ALL-IRELAND QUARTER-FINALS WORK IN 2018?

The final eight teams in Championship 2018 will be divided as in previous years, into provincial winners, plus the five teams left after the conclusion of the All-Ireland qualifiers. These eight will then be placed into two separate groups of four.

In 2018, Group 1 will consist of the Connacht and Munster champions and two qualifiers (Leinster runner-up OR Round 2 winner and Ulster runner-up OR Round 2 winner). Group 2 will consist of the Leinster and Ulster champions and two qualifiers (Connacht runner-up OR Round 2 winner and Munster runner-up OR Round 2 winner). The two groups will be played off in a round-robin format, with all eight teams playing three rounds of July 14/15, July 21/22 and the Bank Holiday weekend of August 4/5. Two points are awarded for a win and one point for a draw. The final round of games in both groups will take place in Croke Park, with the two provincial champions in each group meeting in the final round. In the preceding two rounds, each team will have one home fixture and one away fixture. Once all three rounds have been played, the top two ranked teams in each group will advance to the All-Ireland semi-finals.

The draw for the Quarter-Final Groups can be found [here](http://www.gaa.ie).

- A) Ulster runner-up and Connacht runner-up OR Connacht runner-up OR Round 2 winner and Ulster runner-up OR Round 2 winner
- B) Ulster champion and Leinster runner-up OR Leinster runner-up OR Round 2 winner and Connacht runner-up OR Round 2 winner
- C) Ulster champion and Leinster champion
- D) Ulster runner-up and Connacht runner-up OR Connacht runner-up OR Round 2 winner and Ulster runner-up OR Round 2 winner

The draw for the Quarter-Final Groups can be found [here](http://www.gaa.ie).

GROUP A

Place 1 – Munster Provincial Winner / Connacht Provincial Winner / Ulster Runner-Up / Leinster Runner-Up

Place 2 – Ulster Provincial Winner / Connacht Provincial Winner / Leinster Runner-Up / Ulster Runner-Up

Place 3 – Leinster Provincial Winner / Connacht Provincial Winner / Ulster Runner-Up / Ulster Runner-Up

GROUP B

Place 1 – Ulster Provincial Winner / Leinster Provincial Winner / Connacht Provincial Winner / Ulster Runner-Up

Place 2 – Leinster Provincial Winner / Connacht Provincial Winner / Ulster Runner-Up / Ulster Runner-Up

Place 3 – Ulster Provincial Winner / Leinster Provincial Winner / Connacht Provincial Winner / Ulster Runner-Up

SO THERE WILL BE EIGHT MORE CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES IN 2018, YET THE COMPETITION WILL FINISH THREE WEEKS EARLIER THAN USUAL?

Yes. The 2018 championship will be finished more condensed for several reasons. Extra time will now be obligatory for all drawn championship games except in the case of drawn points tied or All-Ireland final or drawn knock-out games. The

win of the new format will have all provincial football champions completed by June 24, or (if necessary) in the event of provincial final replays, the weekend of June 30/July 1.

HOW LONG WILL THIS FORMAT BE IN PLACE?

The changes will be trialed for three years – the championships of 2018, 2019 and 2020 – and will be subject to GAA approval after the centenary of the 2020 GAA Football All-Ireland Senior Championship.

ANYTHING ELSE WORTH KNOWING?

One other significant change is that the All-Ireland quarter-finals will revert to the format used before 2014, namely that teams based in a given province of their provincial championship will all enter this stage prior to the quarter-final draw being split into two A and B sections.

QUALIFIER FORMAT

- 1st – Ulster Provincial Winner / Connacht Provincial Winner / Leinster Runner-Up / Ulster Runner-Up
- 2nd – Ulster Provincial Winner / Connacht Provincial Winner / Leinster Runner-Up / Ulster Runner-Up
- 3rd – Ulster Provincial Winner / Connacht Provincial Winner / Leinster Runner-Up / Ulster Runner-Up
- 4th – Ulster Provincial Winner / Connacht Provincial Winner / Leinster Runner-Up / Ulster Runner-Up

When drawn, the two teams will play a 20-minute extra time period. If still drawn, the game will go to a free-taking competition from 20 minutes out.

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The All-Ireland semi-final replays will be

- Quarter-final replays (Leinster & Connacht / Ulster & Leinster)
- Quarter-final replays (Ulster & Leinster / Connacht & Ulster)



NEW FORMAT MEANS A SUMMER TO SAVOUR FOR HURLING FANS

By John Treacy, GAA.ie

HAREEF has an All-Ireland Hurling Championship team as Kerry returns to the 2017 summer

Not just because there are nine original provinces, but because the Hurling Championship has been a key part of the GAA's identity since the mid-1990s, but also because the championship structure itself was so fundamentally changed by last year's Social Congress.

No longer are the provincial championships knock-out competitions.

On a three-yearly basis, they will be run off on a round-robin basis with each of the five teams competing in Munster and Leinster playing two home matches and two away matches.

Tipperary, Cork, Waterford, Limerick, and Clare will contest the Munster Championship with Kilkenny, Wexford, Galway, Dublin, and Offaly contesting the Leinster Championship.

The top two teams at the end of the round-robin phase will then contest the provincial final, with the provincial winners advancing to the All-Ireland semi-final and the beaten finalists advancing to the All-Ireland quarter-finals.

The new provincial finals in each province will compete in the preliminary All-Ireland quarter-finals, where they'll play away from home against the finalists of the newly created Tier Two Championships, the Joe McDonagh Cup.

Made up of six teams – Carlow, Laois, Meath, Westmeath, Kerry, and Antrim – the Joe McDonagh Cup will also be played off on a round-robin basis.

If the winner of the Joe McDonagh Cup is a non-Munster team, they'll be promoted to the Leinster Championship and Liam MacCarthy Cup for 2019 where they'll replace the bottom team in this year's Leinster Championship.

If the winners a Munster team (Kerry) they must win a play-off with the bottom team in the Munster Championship in order to gain promotion to the Munster Championship and Liam MacCarthy Cup for the 2019 season.

The sixth-placed team after the round-robin phase of the Joe McDonagh Cup will be relegated to the Christy Ring Cup.

And in order to reduce the number of teams in the Joe McDonagh Cup to five for the 2019 campaign, the team that finishes 5th this year will play off against the Christy Ring Cup winners, with the winners of the play-off competing in the Joe McDonagh Cup in 2018, and the loser in the Christy Ring Cup in 2019.

Because both provincial hurling championships and the Joe McDonagh Cup are largely populated by teams that look evenly matched on paper, there's a good chance that after the round-robin phase ties or more teams will finish level on points.

Where only two teams finish on the same number of points they'll be separated by the winners of a coin-tossing.

If that match ended in a draw or if three or more teams finish level on points, then they'll be separated by the following means in this order: (1) scoring difference (2) highest total score for (3) highest total goals for (4) a play-off.

The knock-out element might no longer exist in the Munster and Leinster hurling championships, but because the stakes are so high and the teams so evenly matched, there needs to be a final showdown in every

division the intensity of the contests. Tipperary manager Michael Ryan certainly doesn't think so.

"There'll be no dull bits whatsoever," said Ryan. "These four matches in Munster for us and for every team that we play will be absolutely cracking games. They have to be."

"We play (Limerick, Cork, Waterford, and Clare) in that order. You might think it's tougher, and it's the very same for the other teams too. Every single game is tough."

"We are a very evenly matched province. It would be every vice man who could pick who will be the winners and losers out of the four rounds of matches in Munster."

"The big thing that's out there is that two of the teams will be finished having no games. That's a scary proposition for any Munster team where you have five good teams. There's a zero room for error."

The obvious challenge for every team competing in the provincial hurling championships and the Joe McDonagh Cup is that the matches will come so thick and fast.

The five round-robin rounds in Leinster will be played over the course of six weekends, the five round-robin rounds in Munster will be played over the course of five consecutive weekends while the five rounds of the McDonagh Cup will be played over the course of six weekends.

According to Ryan, team managers will have little option but to play their strongest hand from the start and hope the depth of talent in their panel proves sufficient thereafter.

"From our perspective it'll be a case of every match is a must-win match," he said. "I think we'll have a very simple strategy. Day one is huge, but it's only matched by days two, three, and four which are just as huge."

"There's no regroup here. It'll be a case of us putting out our strongest team every single

day we can, but that will not necessarily be the same team."

"I think we will get caught with injuries because if any player even needs a hamstring he'll be out for the mid day, and that'll just be that. And we've got to have ideas who can just step in."

"At the end of the league series for us we have expanded that panel. Or maybe we just opened up our middle today that you can take any player from the panel who is fit to go in and that'll be that, they just go on."

"Whereas before you might worry about a player not having enough big match experience and think he's not ready for it yet. That's out the window now. This will be a case of who's available and what's the strongest combination we can put out."

It feels like this year's All-Ireland Hurling Championship will test the mettle of the competing teams more than any hitherto in the history of the game.

Expect them to rise to the challenge and give us a terrific first summer to savour.

Tipperary manager Michael Ryan



CROKE PARK CHEERS ON SENIORS THIS BEALTAINÉ

Do you know that every Monday is 'Active Retirement Monday' at Croke Park, when the Stadium Tour is reduced from €11 to €8.50 for seniors?

Bealtaine Festival is Ireland's national celebration of the arts and creativity as we age and it takes place throughout the month of May. To celebrate Bealtaine we're making our special 'Active Retirement Monday' rate available to seniors each and every day throughout the month of May. The GAA Museum and Stadium Tour provide a wonderful insight into our rich history and sporting heritage and can be enjoyed at any age.

On the Stadium Tour, join your passionate tour guide on a behind-the-scenes journey as they recall the sporting highlights of years gone by and enjoy a sense of local pride as your guide relates victories from your county.

Walk in the footsteps of legends as you visit the team dressing rooms before going pitchside via the players' tunnel and taking a seat in the VIP area. Relive the moments of magic that have defined generations of Irish men and women.

Admission to the GAA Museum is included in your ticket price. The state-of-the-art interactive GAA Museum can take you on a journey that vividly illustrates the story of Gaelic games from ancient times to the present.

There is more to our national sporting heritage than meets the eye.

When all is said and done, there's nothing like a refreshing cup of tea and a freshly baked scone, or a sumptuous lunch, at the museum's Blackthorn Café.

There's free parking on-site and all our tours are wheelchair accessible. To avail of the offer, you'll need to present valid ID.



GAA ANNOUNCES LIST OF OFFICIAL CHARITIES FOR 2018

The GAA has announced its list of official charities for the year ahead.

Five charities from around the country and representing a range of different causes were selected by the Association to be charity partners for this year.

The charities were unveiled at a special photo call at Croke Park earlier today. The charities are:

- Mayo/Roscommon Hospice Foundation
- Cavan/Monaghan Palliative Care Fund
- Jack & Jill Children's Foundation
- Concern Worldwide
- Kerry Hospice Foundation

Each of the designated charities will receive a €20,000 donation from the GAA. This is part of an on-going GAA initiative stretching back to 2010 that has seen the GAA select a number of specific charitable organisations and foundations each year in a bid to

assist them in raising awareness about their work and also champion them in their fund-raising efforts throughout the coming year.

Seán Ó hÓráin, Uachtarán CLG, said: "We are pleased to confirm the GAA Official Charities for 2018 and look forward to working with them in the coming months to help promote the excellent work they do."

"Assisting organisations who undertake charitable work fits with the values of the GAA and I hope the relationship with us helps shine a light on the tireless work they do for the benefit of others."



(l to r) GAA President John Horan, Mary Shanahan (Kerry Hospice Foundation), Jimmy O'Donnell (Cavan Monaghan Palliative Care Fund), Sarah Martin (Concern), Jackie O'Connor (Jack & Jill Children's Foundation), Martina Jennings (Mayo/Roscommon Hospice).



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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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