

FEBRUARY 2019  
FEBRUARY 2019  
**NUACHTLITIR**  
FEBRUARY 2019



FOR NEWS, VIDEOS AND FIXTURES [www.gaa.ie](http://www.gaa.ie)



# GAA PLAYER INJURY FUND PAYS OUT €45M SINCE 2013

**New figures released by Croke Park show that the Association has paid out a staggering €45m to assist the recovery of more than 30,000 players through the Player Injury Fund over the last five years.**

In 2018 alone there were 6,233 injured players who were assisted – the majority of them club players – at a total cost of almost €9m.

As spring arrives and club activity throws in all over the country in 2019, these figures serve as a reminder for all clubs and players to ensure they are paid up and registered – unregistered players are not covered by the fund.

Clubs should have teams registered and paid by March 1, 2019.

**The Player Injury Fund is unique to the GAA and aids injured players in their recovery and assists in loss of earnings.**

**However, it is important to stress that the fund is not intended to take the place of a person's personal cover but to provide assistance in a time of need. Players are still advised to have their own independent medical cover in place.**

The cover offered by the GAA Player Injury Fund is a maximum of €4,500 of a benefit

towards medical or dental costs with an excess of €100 per claim. There is also loss of earnings cover of €300 per week with an excess of one week.

The money in the Player Injury Fund comes from registration fees paid by clubs all over the country and raises €6m every year. However, this amount alone is not enough to cover the number of claims that are lodged and requires an annual top up fee of €3m to be paid by Central Council.

The terms of the Fund were amended in 2010 to bring structure to the benefits offered and to ensure the long-term future of the Fund.

Following a review in 2017, it was decided to update these terms and only allow treatments carried out on the Island of Ireland to be covered.

Travel expenses and accommodation costs have never been covered under the Fund. In response to pressure being put on Clubs and Counties to cover these costs for overseas treatments, it was decided to limit cover to treatment taking place on the Island of Ireland.

In addition to this, there is the Preferred Medical Provider Initiative where hospitals involved offer special rates to injured GAA players. As the Initiative came into effect

on October 1st 2017, it was agreed to remove cover for any treatment outside the Island of Ireland.

The following table sets out the list of injuries recorded for players seeking assistance in 2018.

On the following pages there is the

GAA 15 - a guide to warm up and injury prevention provided by the GAA Games Development Department which can be an invaluable resource and can be located via [learning.gaa.ie](http://learning.gaa.ie)

For more information on the Player Injury Fund, you can contact [ciara.clarke@gaa.ie](mailto:ciara.clarke@gaa.ie)



## CUMULATIVE INJURY SUMMARY REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2018 YTD

INJURY	ADULT FOOTBALL	YOUTH FOOTBALL	ADULT HURLING	YOUTH HURLING	TOTAL
ABDOMINAL	40	7	14	1	62
ANKLE	357	45	123	13	538
ARM	46	24	16	7	93
BACK	129	19	48	6	202
BLEEDING	1	0	3	0	4
CHEST	12	2	6	1	21
COLLAR BONE	82	31	49	24	186
EAR	9	4	11	5	29
ELBOW	25	7	21	9	62
EYE	15	0	13	2	30
FACIAL	54	9	15	3	81
FINGER	97	35	133	15	280
FOOT	99	11	44	1	155
GROIN	74	3	17	2	96
HAND	73	28	122	14	237
HEAD	76	25	47	8	156
HEART/ANGINA/RESPIRATORY	3	2	0	2	7
HIP	157	16	138	3	314
INTERNAL ORGAN	0	0	1	0	1
JAW	26	5	9	1	41
KNEE	1270	162	443	55	1930
LEG	221	26	165	15	427
NECK	15	1	4	1	21
NOSE	40	13	11	1	65
RIB	26	2	15	2	45
SHOULDER	327	41	142	21	531
TEETH	98	37	55	11	201
TESTICLES	5	3	8	1	17
THIGH	125	5	39	3	172
THUMB	28	14	35	11	88
TOE	5	0	4	0	9
WRIST	64	32	30	6	132
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3599</b>	<b>609</b>	<b>1781</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>6233</b>

# GAA 15 WARM UP AND INJURY PREVENTION



**F**or all of those lucky enough to be able to pull the boots on and run onto the field there is nothing more frustrating than an injury.

Whether it's a niggle, strain, knock or something more serious – players want to play and anything that gets in the way of that is a nuisance and a hindrance.

Thankfully, the GAA 's learning resource [learning.gaa.ie](http://learning.gaa.ie) can offer some help.

All players and coaches should be aware of the resources that are being made regularly available by the Games Development and Player Welfare Departments via this site. A key resource everyone should know about is the GAA 15 programme.

The GAA Medical, Scientific and Welfare Committee in conjunction with a working group comprising of Dr. Pat O'Neill, Prof. Niall Moyna, Dr. Pat Duggan, Dr. Kieran Moran, John C. Murphy, Dr. Catherine Blake,

and Edwenia O'Malley have developed the GAA 15, a standardised warm-up programme aimed at reducing the number of injuries sustained by GAA players.

The selected injury prevention intervention is based on programmes incorporated internationally by FIFA (the 11+) (FMARC) and by the Santa Monica Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine Research Foundation (PEP) in soccer, the findings from the National Injury database since 2007 and a pilot of the programme in UCD.

The GAA 15 can be undertaken as a standardised warm-up before training and games.

With step by step guides and videos this is a great resource for coaches and players alike. It only takes 15 minutes but can go a long way towards helping cut down on injuries in training and games.

[www.learning.gaa.ie/Gaelic15](http://www.learning.gaa.ie/Gaelic15)

# GAA CLUB MEMBERSHIP AND REGISTRATION

## SUMMARY

- *Clubs must register their players and members for the 2019 season*
- *An Annual Club Update is required*
- *New Club Registrars must receive access privileges*
- *Step-by-steps guides to logging-in, resetting passwords and registering players and members are available*
- *Live online training sessions are available for Clubs*
- *A dedicated support desk (e-mail and phone) is available for Clubs Registration*

Clubs are reminded that they must register their players and members for the 2019 season on the GAA Management System (GMS) which can be accessed by visiting [people.gaa.ie](http://people.gaa.ie).

## ANNUAL CLUB UPDATE

Club administrators are now required to complete a six-step process known as the annual club update when they log in to the GAA Management System ([people.gaa.ie](http://people.gaa.ie))

This process has been broken down into six simple steps across three broad categories. When these steps have been completed, the club administrator will be able to proceed to the system as normal. To access further information, click [here](#).



## THE GAA LAUNCHES NEW DIGITAL ARCHIVE



*Former Kerry footballer and selector Mikey Sheehy, Professor Pauric Travers, Chairperson of the BAI, and former Dublin goalkeeper Paddy Cullen pictured at the launch of the GAA Digital Archive at Croke Park*

**The GAA, in conjunction with the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland, launched the GAA Digital Archive at Croke Park providing free access to past GAA matches to internet users around the world.**

113 All-Ireland finals since 1961 are included in the archive and provincial finals from 1961 also feature. The new archive also includes All-Ireland club finals since 1989.

In all, over 500 football and hurling matches were retrieved from broadcasters and information such as date, result, venue, referee, scorers and teams and substitutions was added.

The establishment of the archive, which received financial backing of the BAI, means that for the first time the GAA has a central repository of the majority of finals that were recorded and broadcast over the last six decades.

As well as being available to access edited highlights of games via [gaa.ie](http://gaa.ie), visitors to the GAA Museum at Croke Park will be able to access the games through an interactive touch screen and there will also be an access point in the GAA Museum Reading Room where entire games can be viewed.

GAA President John Horan said: "This is a fantastic initiative and one that safeguards so much of our history, not just for those who might have been fortunate to see the games the first time around, but for future generations too."

"These games were taken from vaults, where they were kept on video tape, and their digitisation ensures that they can be enjoyed here at the GAA Museum and around the world through the internet.

"I would like to acknowledge the support of the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland whose help was instrumental in making the project happen and I am confident GAA members and supporters everywhere will enjoy countless hours going back through what is a treasure trove of games spanning more than half a century."

Speaking at the launch, Chairperson of the BAI, Prof Pauric Travers said: "I would like to congratulate the GAA on the launch of the GAA Digital Archive today. In digitising television recordings of key GAA games

and making them available through [gaa.ie](http://gaa.ie) and the GAA museum, audiences will get to relive the excitement of key matches from football and hurling championships spanning almost six decades.

"The BAI's Archiving Scheme is designed to support the development of an archiving culture in the Irish broadcasting sector and this initiative will ensure that a key element of Ireland's sports broadcasting heritage will be preserved for future generations."

The GAA plans to add further recordings to the archive in time.



# STAGE SET FOR EPIC AIB ALL-IRELAND CLUB FINAL DAY



**T**he 2019 AIB All-Ireland club senior hurling and football finals take place at Croke Park on St Patrick's Day, Sunday March 17.

The confirmed fixtures will see Ballyhale Shamrocks represent Kilkenny in the hurling final against St Thomas' of Galway at 2pm with extra time played if necessary.

It has been a thrilling debut season as manager for 10 time All-Ireland winning legend Henry Shefflin at the helm of his native club – who last won in 2015 and are seeking their seventh All-Ireland crown. They've a great mix of the experience of TJ Reid, with Colin and Michael Fennelly blended with young stars like Adrian

Mullen. In the semi-final Ballyhale saw off Waterford's Ballygunner 1-15 to 0-13.

St Thomas' of Galway emerged from their always arduous county campaign to return to a stage where they triumphed in the 2013 final – but not before they were made sweat in the semi-final against Ruairí Óg of Cushendall in Antrim winning 0-18 to 2-11.

Their 2017 All-Ireland county winners Conor Cooney and David Burke are key men in what will be a gripping battle.

In the football decider, holders Corofin of Galway will meet Dr Crokes of Kerry at 3.45pm with extra time if necessary.

These are heady times for Corofin who have been the standard bearers in Galway and Connacht for some time. Famously triumphant in the 1998 final, the modern day crew have emulated those heroes in winning in 2015 and 2018 with their 2-19 to 0-10 win over Nemo Rangers last year one of the most complete performances of all time.

Daithí Burke, Liam Silke, Ian Burke and Michael and Martin Farragher bring crucial class and experience to the bid as they showed in seeing off a gallant Gaoth Daobhair in the semi-final.

Dr Crokes won't be intimidated by the occasion either though. Colm Cooper heads

up a star studded cast who have been here before – as a club and as a current squad. The Killarney men were champions in 1992 when 'the Gooch' was team mascot. He got there to win again after a number of near misses in the 2017 final – and having beaten Corofin in the semi-final that year. They soaked up a lot of pressure to see of Mullinalaghta in the recent semi-final to win 0-18 to 2-7.

The dismissal of Johnny Buckley in the 20th minute didn't derail them and the inside forward line of David Shaw, Kieran O'Leary and Tony Brosnan scored 0-11 from play between them.

Another meeting of two great sides.

# JANUARY DATE PROPOSED FOR ALL-IRELAND CLUB FINALS

By John Harrington

**G**AA President, John Horan, has recommended that the All-Ireland Club Finals take place in January rather than on St. Patrick's Day.

He believes the current club calendar does not have “a good balance”, and that tightening the schedule in this way makes sense.

“In talking about club fixtures, we have tried in the past to look at fitting the club championship season into the calendar year and it hasn't happened,” said Horan at Congress 2019.

“Perhaps we were overly ambitious in our approach.

“However, the problem hasn't gone away and I feel asking teams who remain in the All-Ireland series to play two matches in an 18 week period is not a good balance.

“I would endorse the suggestion already raised at this Congress by Micheál Martin and back considerations that we could play our AIB All-Ireland club semi-finals before Christmas, and then play the finals in January and before the start of the Allianz Leagues.

“This would reduce expenses on clubs involved, leave players available to play

for their county in the league - which is particularly relevant for smaller counties - and also reduce clashes with Third Level competitions.

“St Patrick's Day could be used for Allianz Hurling League fixtures such as the staging of a semi-final double bill to celebrate our unique game.”

On the wider issue of the scheduling of club championships nation-wide, Horan believes some counties are still not making good enough use of the added space in the calendar that has been made available by the condensing of the inter-county season.

“The significant changes of 2018 were just a start and it was never envisaged that they would cure things for club fixtures overnight,” said Horan.

“We need more counties to face up to this opportunity and to grasp it. In particular we need fixture co-ordinators in every county to look at how they can better maximise the April closed month.

“April is not necessarily a time to run off championships, but it is a time that should be used for club activity before the inter-county championship summer.

“At national level the GAA has made things very clear and for the vast majority,



the inter-county season is now only five months long – the leagues have effectively been put into the months of February and March and the Championships into May, June and July.

“There may be tweaks required but we do not see a time when we will reverse significantly away from this structure. It has been designed to facilitate club activity properly and counties need to embrace it for the benefit of our club players who are a much larger constituency of members than

their inter-county equivalent.

“The emergence of the CPA is in response to difficulties and frustrations that have existed around club fixtures.

“I do not question their intentions. But I would put it to them that we need to see them submit a more detailed sample of how they would propose to fill the blank canvass on fixtures which they talk about to further enhance debate on the challenge around fixtures. We want solutions.”

# RESPECT FOR MEMBERS OF LGBT+ COMMUNITY A PRIORITY FOR GAA

By John Harrington

**G**AA President, John Horan, said in his address to Congress 2019 that protection and respect for members of the LGBT+ community involved in Gaelic Games should be a priority for the Association.

“We have a huge presence in Irish life which impacts very positively on people and long may this be the case,” said Horan.

“Another area on our horizon will be the protection and respect which we show to members of the LGBT+ community who are involved in our Games.”

An important step in making the GAA a more inclusive organisation was taken at Congress when a motion was passed that the Camogie Association and Ladies Football be recognised and represented on the Management Committee and Central Council of the GAA.

“This Congress represents another important milestone in the closer relations that continue to develop between the GAA, the LGFA and An Cumann Camógaíochta - or the wider Gaelic games family if I can use that term,” said Horan.

“The motion proposing to invite both organisations to take a seat at our Ard Chomhairle and Coiste Bainistíochta tables is more than symbolic.

“It is a further indication of the tangible developments that have followed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding to bring all three organisations closer together and to strengthen a network that overlaps in so many ways.

“The GAA is also an official partner to the 20 x 20 project being run by The Federation of Irish Sport, which aims to increase participation in, coverage of and attendances at women’s sport before 2020.

“Sport is for all of the family and the benefits of family engagement with sport – sometimes and quite often together – are obvious.

“All of these initiatives and efforts combined have the potential to make a difference and underline our message that we want everyone to play our games or get involved in our activities.

“And nothing promotes that better than seeing girls and women playing in growing numbers.

“The potential here is undeniable and attendances at recent camogie and ladies football finals shows what’s possible. We have a role to play and we are more than happy to take it on.”





# GAA/TILDA ORGANISE 'HOW TO AGE WELL' SEMINARS

**In an era where we are all expected to live longer, the GAA, Trinity College Dublin and Irish Life have come together to highlight the secrets to successful ageing through a series of regional seminars.**

For example, did you know that people living by the sea are less likely to be depressed? That optimists live longer? That friendship and good social life is as important as low cholesterol for heart disease? That quality of life continues to get better after 50 for almost another 30 years? These nuggets of knowledge, and much more, will be explored by Professor Rose Anne Kenny, a world expert in healthy ageing, as part of this series of public talks entitled 'How to Age Well: Evidence from TILDA'.

Irish Life is one of the founding supporters of TILDA which is the Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing, led by Trinity College Dublin. Over 8,500 people aged 50 and older were randomly selected and continue to be repeatedly interviewed and examined regarding many aspects of their lives including happiness, physical and mental health, financial circumstances, quality of life, and perceptions of ageing.

Free talks open to the general public, organised by the GAA's County Health & Wellbeing Committees, will take place in

Longford (March 11), Limerick (March 20), Donegal (March 22), and Mayo and Cork later in 2019 (dates to be confirmed). The content will highlight themes including the importance of exercise, diet, social connectedness, purpose, and location.

GAA President John Horan said: "The GAA is proud to represent every age demographic in Ireland. These talks are not just for GAA members, they are for anyone in the community that is interested in ageing well. Irish Life is a long-standing CSR partner of the GAA Healthy Club Project and we're delighted to broaden that relationship through this collaboration with TILDA."

Prof. Rose Anne Kenny said: "TILDA is one of the most important research studies in Ireland which helps to better understand why bodies and brains age and how we can best ensure long and prosperous lives, for today's adults and for future generations. This unique partnership with the GAA will ensure that new research from TILDA and other international studies is quickly communicated to all age groups. As a research institution we are very excited about taking this new knowledge out to the Irish people."

Speaking about the 'How to Age Well' initiative said, David Harney, CEO Irish Life, said: "Our commitment at Irish Life is to make every community in Ireland healthier,



and that commitment extends across all life-stages. With life expectancy in Ireland at 81 years, we want to ensure that people fully enjoy the years approaching and beyond retirement."

"We have been a long-term supporter of TILDA and their vision of making Ireland the best place in the world to grow old. I believe that the GAA's support of the 'How to Age Well' seminar series will bring valuable healthcare information to the wider community and help people of all ages, but particularly those over 50, to embrace change in their physical, emotional and social lives."

GAA ambassadors from participating counties are supporting the seminar series. They visited TILDA's research hub in Trinity College to experience some of the

tests that participants in the research undergo, including cognitive tests, gait analysis, grip strength, bone density, and aural and visual testing.

GAA legend Míchéal Ó Muirheartaigh attended the partnership launch and encouraged everyone to attend their local seminar.

He said: "It didn't surprise me to discover the contribution of social and community connections to positive ageing. The GAA provided me and many of my generation with a social network that allowed us to stay connected and be part of something bigger than ourselves. It still does. I'm sure the seminars will offer everyone who attends new information that will help them age well."

**County seminar schedule:**

- *Longford:* Monday 11th March 7-9pm, Longford Arms Hotel
- *Limerick:* Wednesday 20th March 7-9pm, Woodlands House Hotel Adare
- *Donegal:* Friday 22nd March 2-4pm, Letterkenny Institute of Technology
- *Cork* (Date TBC)
- *Mayo* (Date TBC)

Additional details of the seminars are available on [www.gaa.ie/community](http://www.gaa.ie/community) and further information will also be made available through local media in the participating counties in coming weeks.

To register for the seminars please go to:

[· Longford](#)

[· Limerick](#)

[· Donegal](#)

For assistance in registering, people can ring TILDA on 01-8964120 and a member of the team will assist.

For more information contact:

Fiona O'Connor, Drury | Porter Novelli,  
[fiona.oconnor@drurypn.ie](mailto:fiona.oconnor@drurypn.ie)  
 087 694 9601

Claire Rowley, Drury | Porter Novelli,  
[claire.rowley@drurypn.ie](mailto:claire.rowley@drurypn.ie)  
 087 269 5014

The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA) is a large-scale, nationally representative, longitudinal study on ageing in Ireland, the overarching aim of which is to make Ireland the best place in the world to grow old. TILDA collects information on all aspects of health, economic and social circumstances from people aged 50 and over in a series of data collection waves once every two years.

The GAA Community & Health Department aims to ensure that the health and

wellbeing of members, clubs, and communities is at the core of all GAA activity. Its mission is to empower the Association to enrich the lives of our members' and the communities the GAA serves. This is achieved by providing all units and members of the Association with access to appropriate support and information.

Irish Life is a founding supporter of TILDA since 2006 as part of the company's Corporate Social Responsibility

Programme. The other funders of TILDA are Atlantic Philanthropies and Dept. of Health.

Established in 1939, Irish Life is Ireland's leading life and pension company. Irish Life is committed to delivering innovative products backed by the highest standards of customer service and, as part of the Great-West Lifeco group of companies, one of the world's leading life assurance organisations, Irish Life has access to experience and expertise on a global scale, allowing the company to continuously enhance its leading range of products and services.



*Professor Rose Anne Kenny, TILDA, far left, and TILDA Ambassadors, from left, Claire Egan, former Mayo footballer, Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh, GAA commentator, Denis Coughlan, former Cork dual player, Anthony Molloy, former Donegal footballer, Maria Devenney, former Donegal footballer, and Eamonn Rea, former Limerick Hurler, during the How to Age Well: GAA and TILDA Partnership launch at Croke Park in Dublin*

# THE COUNTDOWN TO FÉILE 2019 IS ON

## **What is Féile?**

The John West Féile na nGael and Féile Peile na nÓg tournaments are club festivals for Hurling, Football, Camogie, Rounders and Handball at Under 14 years of age level. Teams from every county in Ireland as well as overseas are invited to take part. The national Féile committee, appointed by Uachtarán CLG, has the responsibility for the organisation of the tournaments. A local organising committee is appointed to manage much of the day to day activities.

In 2019 Féile Peile na nÓg is being hosted by Connacht, while Féile na nGael is being hosted by Corcaigh.

## **When will Féile 2019 take place?**

Féile na nGael will take place on Friday, June 7th

– **Sunday, June 9th**

Féile na nÓg will take place on Friday, June 28th

– **Sunday June 30th**

## **Who takes part?**

Participating teams are either host clubs or visiting clubs. The host clubs come from the organising counties. Host Clubs in Féile na nGael are from Cork and Kerry, while the host Clubs for Féile na nÓg are from Connacht (Galway, Leitrim, Mayo, Roscommon, and Sligo). Visiting clubs are clubs nominated by their respective counties. Generally, these teams are nominated by their county having won the local Féile competition. Invitations also are extended to the various overseas units of the GAA to send teams.

The number of visiting teams is decided by the number of hosts available. These are currently being finalized.

## **Are all teams 15-a-side?**

All Football, Hurling and Camogie games shall be played on a 15-a-side basis, unless the national Féile committee has decided that particular divisions can be played at 13/11/9-a-side. This is agreed based on the requirements of the local organising committee.

## **Do we play on a full-size pitch?**

15-a-side and 13-a-side games are played on a full-sized pitch

## **How old can players be to take part?**

The age grades for Féile are the same as for Under 14 football and Hurling county competitions. Players who are over 10 and under 14 years of age on 1st January in the year of Féile are eligible; this means that any player that turns 11, 12, 13 or 14 in 2019 is eligible to take part.

Any player that is eligible to play Under 10 Hurling or football in 2019 is too young.

## **We have both boys and girls teams, can we take part in both competitions?**

Yes, any club with both boys and girls teams can take part in both competitions. Please note that you will have to host both a boys and girls team.



*Ballyboden under 13 boys' football team were selected as winners of the John West competition as part of their sponsorship of the Féile. John West has sponsored the Féile since 2016 and throughout the sponsorship, John West has focused on encouraging children to participate in Gaelic Games while emphasising the importance natural protein plays in fuelling a young athlete. Pictured is Paul Mannion with Leon Murphy, age 13, with Luke Fitzpatrick, age 13, both from Knocklyon and Ryan Culleton age 13, from Rathfarnham, during the John West Training Session with Paul Mannion at Ballyboden St Endas GAA in Ballyboden.*



*Leah Cummins from Turloughmore GAA Club in Co. Galway in action during the John West Skills Day in the National Sports Campus on Saturday 23rd June. The Skills Day is an opportunity for Ireland's rising football, hurling & camogie stars to show their skills as part of the John West Féile na nÓg and John West Féile na nGael competitions*

**We have two Under 14 teams – A and B – and we take part in our county competitions, can both take part?**

Yes, both teams may be entered in to the Féile.

**We are combined with another club at Under 14, can we take part?**

Yes, Independent Teams are permitted once they participate in the local county Under 14 competitions that year as an Independent Team.

It is not permitted for two or more clubs to try to form a specific Independent Team in order to take part in Féile.

**HOSTING**

Hosting is a key part of the ethos of Féile. Host clubs are paired with a visiting team. The players and mentors from the visiting teams stay with members of the host club, and games take place on the host club's pitch. Host families should be well known to club officials and are required to comply with vetting procedures.

**How many players and mentors stay?**

For the 15-a-side competitions, panels are a maximum of 24 players. Where a division is 13-a-side, the panel limit is 20 players. There is also a limit of four mentors.

Players are hosted in pairs by members of the host club. There is no obligation to host more than 24 players.

**We are entering both boys and girls teams, what does this mean for hosting?**

As you are entering a boys and girls team, you would host both boys and girls teams. Where players are hosted by a local family it must be based on either two boys or two girls, rather than mixed – i.e. one boy and one girl.

**Is it mandatory to host a visiting team?**

To take part as a host club, yes, it is a requirement that you host a visiting team.

**How do you decide who we host?**

Each host team is graded into the appropriate division by the local organising committee. At the same time, the national committee grade the visiting counties. A draw is then completed matching each host team with their visiting counties. As each county competition is concluded and teams are nominated as visiting teams, clubs are put in touch with each other.

**We already have a relationship with a club from another county that is travelling to Féile. Can we be paired with them?**

Unfortunately, this cannot be guaranteed. The timing of the local competition in the visiting counties varies. In some cases, the Féile tournament is the first tournament of the year, taking place in February/ March, however many visiting counties complete their competitions in April. To be as fair as possible to the visiting teams – especially those travelling from overseas, the draw is made in early in the New Year. This is to allow the parents and supporters of any visiting team book accommodation.

**FÉILE COMPETITION STRUCTURE****What is the format of the competition?**

Generally, there are 16 teams per division. Each division is divided into four groups of four teams – A, B, C and D, composed of two host clubs and their visiting teams. The initial stages of the National Féile will be played on a league basis, with each team playing three games. Within the round robin stage, two points are awarded for a win and one for a draw.

The top two teams in each group shall qualify for the Cup quarter finals with the 3rd and 4th placed teams qualifying for the Shield quarter finals. The Cup and Shield tournaments are then played off on a knock out basis.

**Who decides what division we play in?**

Grading is the process of ranking all the host and visiting teams into the appropriate divisions. The local organising committee will grade the host clubs. This is based on the local grading for U14 that year, and also on previous year's activities at U12 and U13 as appropriate.

The visiting counties are graded by the national Féile committee.

**How many games are played, and when?**

The final fixtures schedule is agreed with the local organising committee. Usually, there are two games played on the Friday evening, with the final group game played on Saturday morning. Generally the Friday evening games are played at one of the two host clubs, usually where there are two or more pitches. The Saturday morning game is played between the host and their

visiting team, and takes place at the host club venue.

Upon completion of the group games the teams are ranked.

The quarter finals are played on Saturday afternoon/evening, with the semi-finals and finals played on Sunday morning/ afternoon.

All teams are guaranteed three games and all teams will play up to the quarter final stages.

**How long is each game?**

All games are played at 15 minutes per half.

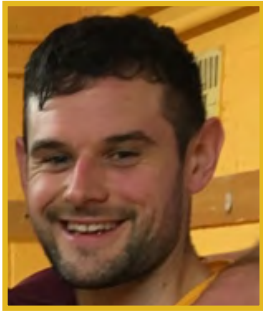
**We only have one pitch, is that ok?**

Absolutely. The specific details of all the fixtures will be agreed with the local organising committee and will be adapted to suit clubs regardless of the number of pitches that they have. The Friday games as well as the knock out games generally take place in multi pitch venues, but again this will be decided closer to the tournament weekend.

**TAKING PART IN FÉILE****How do we enter?**

To enter Féile as a visiting team, you must firstly compete in your local County Féile tournament. To enter as a host teams must complete and return the application form before the agreed deadline as previously circulated to potential host teams.

## I KNOW AT SOME STAGE; THE BOOTS AND THE HURL WILL HAVE TO BE HUNG UP – BUT THE BEST PART OF ANY GAA CLUB IS THAT IT DOESN'T STOP THERE



**NAME: KEVIN SEXTON**

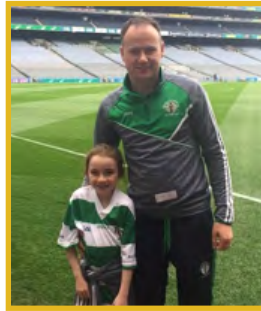
**Job title:** GAA Ticketing and Training Executive  
**GAA Club:** St. Oliver Plunkett Eoghan Ruadh GAA Club, Dublin  
**Honours won:** 2 U21 B Dublin Hurling Championship Final wins, 2015 Dublin Senior Hurling B Championship Final win.  
**No of Years working for the GAA:** Seven  
**Favourite Club Memory:** 2012 was a solid year for the Senior Hurlers and we managed to make it into the Leinster Intermediate Hurling Semi Final eventually losing to Clara from Kilkenny. Winning the 2015 B

Championship Final was a fantastic feeling too.

**Favourite GAA Memory:** Witnessing the Dubs running riot in the 2013 Leinster campaign and winning their first Leinster Senior Hurling title since 1961! I was at the game with my family and clubmates that day, and we had a great night that is still brought up at get togethers to this day! Another favourite memory was being at the 2002 All-Ireland Hurling Final with my folks to see Kilkenny beat Clare. My mother is from Kilkenny, so I've always secretly rooted for them! As a 15 or 16-year-old I was in awe of that team.

**What does your club mean to you?** It genuinely fills me with a huge sense of pride to line out week in and week out with my mates. The craic in the dressing room; the tough training sessions in the winter; the hard ground and the summer buzz – I wouldn't trade it for anything! We pay our membership every year, and its money well spent. I know at some stage; the boots and the hurl will have to be hung up – but the best part of any GAA club is that it doesn't stop there! For example, I love the fact that in Plunketts we have a cycling club that a lot of parents of players or even ex-players avail of. It's a community, a base, and a home. From a social aspect, I don't think a GAA club can be matched! My GAA Club plays a big part in my life.

**What do you like most about working in Croke Park?** It's quite simply a dream come true for me. I have a very keen interest in Irish history and there is a real tangible connection to the past as you drive through the gates and walk through the corridors each morning. I love the buzz in the GAA Ticket Office. I am part of a great team that I am also lucky enough to call friends. The buzz of creating an event; managing the build-up; seeing it through on the day; and closing it off afterwards is something that I will never get tired of. The team I am on in work all play GAA at club level too, so there is never a lack of passion when it comes to special GAA projects such as the 1916 commemoration 'Laochra' event or the Club Finals. Another aspect of my job sees me out and about on the road visiting County Boards and Provincial Councils in relation to training/upskilling. I love meeting the various officials across the country and there are some great characters out there. Lastly, working at provincial grounds on match day is always very exciting as you get to meet new people and work and learn from others.



**NAME: ALAN MILTON**

**Job title:** Director of Communications  
**GAA Club:** Round Tower GAA Club, Clondalkin (Dublin)  
**Honours won:** Adult Leagues and Cups (Football)  
**No of Years working for the GAA:** Nine  
**Favourite Club Memory:** Winning AFL5/ Opening up of new club facilities at Monastery Road  
**Favourite GAA Memory:** Playing at Croke Park as a nine year old in 1987 in a Cumann na mBunscol final for Scoil

Talbóid. The whole experience made a lasting impression on me and resonates with me to this day. My mother still has the VHS tape of the game and the medal we won.

### **What does your club mean to you?**

It's hard to imagine life without my club. It was a welcoming club from day one as a youngster and one where I have a strong network of life-long friends. GAA Clubs in urban settings have the ability to provide a community ethos that might otherwise be missing and that goes hand in hand in rural areas, and ours certainly fulfills that role. I live very close to our clubhouse so I spend a lot of time there and my children have really latched onto the games and the club in recent years which underlines the cross-generational appeal of what the GAA offers. I played with my brother and my sister won honours too and seeing my daughters make friends while learning the skills of the game means the club continues to have a central role in our family life. Our club and its colours are identifiers for me personally and for the area as a whole. It has helped keep me fit and healthy and moving into coaching now means we are learning all the time. Seeing the baton pass from the older members to the following generations underlines the deep roots of the club with the people of the area.

### **What do you like most about working in Croke Park?**

Where do I start? Getting to connect with clubs all over the country and in every part of the world is incredible. The build up to big match days is always special and the insights we get on those big days – sometimes behind the scenes – accentuates the privilege it is to work in the headquarters of the Association.

## OUR TEAM – YOUR TEAM



**NAME: NIAMH GATELY**

**Job title:** CRM Executive & Graphic Designer  
**GAA Club:** Ahascragh-Fohenagh & Caltra  
**Honours won:** 2 Connacht Intermediate Camogie Championships, 2 Galway Intermediate Camogie Championships, 1 Galway Senior B Ladies Football Championship, 2 Galway Junior Ladies Football Championship, 2 AIB 'Star of the Future' Awards.  
**No of Years working for the GAA:** Two  
**Favourite Club Memory:** As a player,

beating our neighbouring club in the Intermediate Camogie Final to go up senior will always live long in the memory, and winning our first ever Ladies Football title was special because it was the first year we could field a team. The ladies football club has since gone from strength to strength. As a supporter, watching Caltra win the All-Ireland Club Football Final back in 2004 was truly momentous and more recently, watching Ahascragh-Fohenagh reach the Intermediate Hurling Final in 2017 was brilliant. It didn't end well for us on that occasion but just seeing our hurlers play in Croke Park was so special to everyone in the club, reminiscent of our footballers' journey years before. For a small parish, we're so fortunate to have had both our hurling and football clubs play in Croke Park in the last 20 years.

**Favourite GAA Memory:** It has to be 1998 when Galway lifted Sam Maguire and 2017 when Galway lifted Liam MacCarthy. It's not all about winning (and I've witnessed plenty of losses in the years in between those!), but those wins were special because our club members were involved in both, with the Meehans involved in 1998 and the Mannions in 2017.

What does your club mean to you? It's hard to put into words how much the club means to me. It's a community to support each other in the good times and the bad, and it's impossible to imagine what life would be like without it.  
**What do you like most about working in Croke Park?** Working in Croke Park is literally a dream come true. There are so many days walking up Jones Road to work that I have to pinch myself, because I'm one of the lucky few who gets to do what I love for a living.

Meet some of the Croke Park staff putting their GAA passion and knowledge to good use

## GAA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM WEBINARS

Through the ongoing partnership between the GAA National Officer Development Committee and National IT Committee, a series of webinars, providing Club Officers with an opportunity to improve their understanding of the GAA Management System, will be delivered in February and March 2019.

Each webinar, provided by Servasport and aimed at the person responsible for registration in any GAA Club, will look at the following areas:

*Annual club update* - The process for club administrators to ensure all club information is accurate and complies with GDPR.

*Registrations via the Official GAA app* - Members can now register and pay for their membership via the Official GAA app.

*Registrations via the GAA Management System* - Club representatives updating and registering members on their behalf.

*Player Injury Benefit Fund (Insurance)* - Club representatives insuring their teams for the season ahead.

*Support* - Guidance on how to complete any tasks using the official GAA Management System and app.

Registration is now open for the four dates shown below. Each session is capped to 25 participants however additional support will be available if required.

The logo for Servasport, featuring the word "SERVASPORT" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. A blue swoosh underline is positioned above the letters "SPORT".

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

## VETTING IN THE GAA

**T**he GAA has a long established principle of vetting any person who, on our behalf, works with children or vulnerable adults in our Association. This principle is enshrined in rule through our Code of Behaviour (Underage) and has become part of the overall recruitment and selection process for those who wish to work with us in the GAA, in a voluntary or paid role.

Vetting services for the Association are currently overseen by the National Childrens Office in Croke Park while Comhairle Uladh acts on our behalf in coordinating AccessNI services.

Our international units are obliged to adhere to the legislative vetting and police background checks that are required in the jurisdiction in which they operate.



### Who needs to be vetted?

In the GAA any person who carries out a role of responsibility such as coaching, managing or training underage teams or indeed adult teams that contain any player under 18 yrs. of age must be vetted. It also applies to organising underage activities or refereeing underage games. Thereafter, each club shall decide if other roles merit a person being vetted.

### Legislation

The National Vetting Bureau (Children & Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 - 2016 commenced on 29th April 2016 and from that date a statutory obligation was placed upon the GAA to ensure that all persons who on our behalf undertook 'relevant work' with children has been vetted prior to taking up that role in Ireland.

The term 'relevant work' in the GAA includes any role of responsibility such as coaching, managing or training underage teams or indeed adult teams that contain any player under 18 yrs. of age. It also applies to organising underage activities or refereeing underage games.

The Act also established the National Vetting Bureau (NVB) to oversee the e-vetting services previously administered by the Garda Central Vetting Unit. Is it an offence if you are not vetted? It is a criminal offence, for a person acting

on behalf of the GAA, or for the GAA as an Association to permit any person to commence working with children on behalf of the Association without that person first obtaining a vetting disclosure from the National Vetting Bureau in respect of the role for which they have been recruited. It is also a breach of GAA rule if you are working with children or vulnerable adults on behalf of the Association and have not been vetted.

### What if the vetting applicant is under 18 years of age?

GAA vetting services are available to any person over 16 yrs. of age fulfilling a role of responsibility with children or vulnerable adults. A parental consent form ([NVB Parent/Guardian Consent Form](#)) must be completed, this is available here, for applicants between 16 and 18 yrs. of age

### E-Vetting in the GAA

Please read the information and guidance below before commencing this process. The online vetting form can be found here.

### E-Vetting

When the Vetting Act came into being on 29 April 2016 the GAA became one of the first organisations to replace 'paper vetting' with a new on line or E-Vetting system. E-Vetting replaces all previous paper vetting systems which also brings us in line with similar e-vetting services as coordinated by Ulster GAA for AccessNI.

### How can you be vetted through the GAA?

Vetting for a member of the GAA involves 3 easy to follow steps as follows:

#### Step 1

The initial application vetting process at Club level. You must in the first instance complete the [GAA E-Vetting ID Form](#). This form compels you to provide proof of your identity to the Club Children's Officer, who must verify that they have received the ID verification as required. The ID verification may be retained by the Club Children's Officer for the duration of the e-vetting process or it may be attached by you at Step 2 to the On Line Vetting application Form.

The primary purpose of this form is for you to provide your name, address, club, role for which you applied, and to present your ID (e.g. copy of your passport plus a utility bill showing your current address) plus a valid email address for future reference. The full list of documents which are accepted for verification can be found [here](#)

[Click here for the GAA E-Vetting ID Form](#)

#### Step 2

Completing the Vetting Application Form. The GAA on-line E-Vetting Application Form is available to download. Once you complete the GAA on-line E-Vetting Application Form the information provided is forwarded to the NVB by the GAA and you will receive an on-line NVB Vetting Form to complete.

The details entered will be emailed back to you, for your own records. Your Club Secretary will also receive an email



informing him/her that you have applied as a member of the club, to be issued with the NVB Vetting Application Form.

[Click here for GAA on-line E-Vetting application form](#)

#### Step 3

NVB Vetting Application form The NVB will issue you with the NVB Vetting Application form. This will be issued to the email address you provided in Step 2. Completing this form is a confidential

matter between you and the NVB. All sections of the form including current and previous addresses, email address and contact telephone numbers, information on convictions and prosecutions (if any), plus other information will be required when completing the form.

Once all sections of the form have been answered this then completes your application process for E Vetting in the GAA and within a short period of time you shall be contacted by the GAA to informing

you as to the outcome of the vetting application.

You and your Club Secretary will be notified when the vetting process has been completed.

All Vetting queries should be forwarded to [evetting@gaa.ie](mailto:evetting@gaa.ie)

INFO VIA - [www.gaa.ie/the-gaa/child-welfare-and-protection/vetting](http://www.gaa.ie/the-gaa/child-welfare-and-protection/vetting)



## YELLOW SLIOTAR READY FOR 2020

**F**rom January 1 2020 the GAA expects to have new standardised yellow sliotars available and in use for hurling.

The development of the yellow sliotar is part of the on-going research and development into sliotar production being undertaken by the GAA in Croke Park under the direction of Pat Daly.

The new hurling ball will also address the issue of white sliotars being a problem when used under floodlights for training and matches.

This move matches the development which took place several years ago in professional tennis where the sport moved from white to yellow coloured balls for visibility purposes. In 1972 the ITF introduced the yellow tennis ball but it wasn't until 1986 that Wimbledon adopted it as standard.

The finished sliotar design aside from the yellow leather will have deep black ridges and then use red stitching all of which is designed to make the ball stand out more when in flight.

Imbedded in the polyurethane core will be a microchip – a key feature of the GAA's research and development work aiming for a standardised approach to the manufacture and supply of sliotars and allow to govern size and weight to specifications and quality control.

All clubs will be aware of producers in far flung locations lobbying them via social media and offering to produce and supply sliotars.

However, there are serious concerns about the quality of their production, about the materials used and also the possibility of alleged child labour exploitation being an issue in their manufacture overseas.

The official sliotars with the imbedded chip means every sliotar will have its own unique ID number.

“We've consulted with optometrists as well as sports scientists and have accumulated evidenced based research in our approach to this,” says Pat Daly.

“The new sliotars with the microchip will give us proper regulation and proper quality control.”



# CLUB LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

## CLUB LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

**A**s the Associations initiative for supporting and developing Club Officers, the Club Leadership Development Programme (CLDP), has become a mainstay in the calendar of activity across all counties at this time of year. Now in its fourth year, through the National Officer Development Committee (NODC), the committee responsible for the development and management of the CLDP, it has continued to expand and evolve to ensure all Club Officers are afforded opportunities to develop leadership, management and communication skills, helping them to effectively fulfil their role.

### What does the CLDP offer?

The CLDP offers a range of role specific or topical modules to the four Principal Club Officers; Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, and PRO. The full list of modules can be seen below, and they have all been designed to be practical and engaging for participants and give due respect to the previous knowledge and experiences an Officer may have. Each module is delivered by one of 40, volunteer CLDP Leadership Associates, many of whom have held senior administrative positions within the Association and been trained in the delivery of one or more modules by the NODC. The modules offered through the CLDP are:

### 2019 – So far so good...

So far, throughout January and February 2019, the CLDP has...

- ...Been delivered in 14 Counties...
- ...Through 18 different CLDP events.
- Facilitated the delivery of 55 modules...
- ....to approximately 500 Club Officers.

Throughout the remaining weeks of the 2019 CLDP Delivery Period One (January 1st to April 14th, 2019) there are, at present, 12 more events planned, and five additional

counties facilitating modules of the CLDP, including one event in London, providing support to Club Officers in Britain.

One of the highlights so far for the Programme in 2019 has been the integration with Camogie and the LGFA. This process has been approached on a phased basis to ensure it is a success, so for the duration of 2019, the NODC will be working with Camogie and the LGFA in delivering the PRO module to Club Officers from across the family of games.

### Some dates worth noting for the remainder of the 2019 CLDP Rollout Period One are:

Module	For
The Role of the Club Chairperson	Chairperson
The Role of the Club Secretary	Secretary
The Role of the Club Treasurer	Treasurer
The Role of the Club PRO	PRO
Using Microsoft Office 365	Any Officer
Understanding the GAA Governance Guide	Chairperson, Secretary & Treasurer
Recruiting Volunteers	Chairperson & Secretary
Running a Club AGM	Chairperson & Secretary

Date	County	Module
02.03.19	Kildare	Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer & PRO
05.03.19	Fermanagh	Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer & PRO
09.03.19	Antrim	Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer & Club Governance
12.02.19	Fermanagh	Microsoft Office 365
13.03.19	Tyrone	Club Governance
19.03.19	Limerick	Treasurer & PRO
25.03.19	Carlow	Club Governance
30.03.19	London	Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer & PRO
11.04.19	Antrim	Microsoft Office 365

If any Club Officer would like to attend any of the event listed above, they should email their County Development Officer (contact information right), outlining:

- What module they would like to attend
- Their name Club
- Their Role within the Club
- GAA Membership ID (available from the Club Secretary and / or Club Registrar)
- Email address

If there is no event listed above for your County, please notify your County Development Officer of your interest to attend a CLDP event and they will be able to make the necessary arrangements.



<i>County</i>	<i>County Development Officer</i>	<i>County Development Officer Email</i>
<b>Antrim</b>	Paul Molloy	<a href="mailto:developmentofficer.antrim@gaa.ie">developmentofficer.antrim@gaa.ie</a>
<b>Armagh</b>	Padraig Haughey	<a href="mailto:developmentofficer.armagh@gaa.ie">developmentofficer.armagh@gaa.ie</a>
<b>Carlow</b>	Brian O'Neill	<a href="mailto:developmentofficer.carlow@gaa.ie">developmentofficer.carlow@gaa.ie</a>
<b>Cavan</b>	Michael Reynolds	<a href="mailto:developmentofficer.cavan@gaa.ie">developmentofficer.cavan@gaa.ie</a>
<b>Clare</b>	Rosaleen Monahan	<a href="mailto:developmentofficer.clare@gaa.ie">developmentofficer.clare@gaa.ie</a>
<b>Cork</b>	Pat Horgan	<a href="mailto:developmentofficer.cork@gaa.ie">developmentofficer.cork@gaa.ie</a>
<b>Derry</b>	Charlie Bonner	<a href="mailto:developmentofficer.derry@gaa.ie">developmentofficer.derry@gaa.ie</a>
<b>Donegal</b>	David McLoone	<a href="mailto:developmentofficer.donegal@gaa.ie">developmentofficer.donegal@gaa.ie</a>
<b>Down</b>	Willie Gribben	<a href="mailto:developmentofficer.down@gaa.ie">developmentofficer.down@gaa.ie</a>
<b>Dublin</b>	Ken O'Sullivan	<a href="mailto:developmentofficer.dublin@gaa.ie">developmentofficer.dublin@gaa.ie</a>
<b>Fermanagh</b>	Tiernach Mahon	<a href="mailto:developmentofficer.fermanagh@gaa.ie">developmentofficer.fermanagh@gaa.ie</a>
<b>Galway</b>	Tommy Kelly	<a href="mailto:developmentofficer.galway@gaa.ie">developmentofficer.galway@gaa.ie</a>
<b>Kerry</b>	Eamon Whelan	<a href="mailto:developmentofficer.kerry@gaa.ie">developmentofficer.kerry@gaa.ie</a>
<b>Kildare</b>	Petria Dobbins	<a href="mailto:developmentofficer.kildare@gaa.ie">developmentofficer.kildare@gaa.ie</a>
<b>Kilkenny</b>	Seamus Reade	<a href="mailto:developmentofficer.kilkenny@gaa.ie">developmentofficer.kilkenny@gaa.ie</a>
<b>Laois</b>	PJ Kelly	<a href="mailto:developmentofficer.laois@gaa.ie">developmentofficer.laois@gaa.ie</a>
<b>Leitrim</b>	Sean O'Sullivan	<a href="mailto:developmentofficer.leitrim@gaa.ie">developmentofficer.leitrim@gaa.ie</a>
<b>Limerick</b>	Seamus Twomey	<a href="mailto:developmentofficer.limerick@gaa.ie">developmentofficer.limerick@gaa.ie</a>
<b>Longford</b>	Colm Murray	<a href="mailto:developmentofficer.longford@gaa.ie">developmentofficer.longford@gaa.ie</a>
<b>Louth</b>	---	<a href="mailto:developmentofficer.louth@gaa.ie">developmentofficer.louth@gaa.ie</a>
<b>Mayo</b>	William Kelly	<a href="mailto:developmentofficer.mayo@gaa.ie">developmentofficer.mayo@gaa.ie</a>
<b>Meath</b>	Jason Plunket	<a href="mailto:developmentofficer.meath@gaa.ie">developmentofficer.meath@gaa.ie</a>
<b>Monaghan</b>	Michael Carroll	<a href="mailto:developmentofficer.monaghan@gaa.ie">developmentofficer.monaghan@gaa.ie</a>
<b>Offaly</b>	James Murphy	<a href="mailto:developmentofficer.offaly@gaa.ie">developmentofficer.offaly@gaa.ie</a>
<b>Roscommon</b>	Thomas Murray	<a href="mailto:developmentofficer.roscommon@gaa.ie">developmentofficer.roscommon@gaa.ie</a>
<b>Sligo</b>	Richard Brennan	<a href="mailto:developmentofficer.sligo@gaa.ie">developmentofficer.sligo@gaa.ie</a>
<b>Tipperary</b>	PJ Maher	<a href="mailto:developmentofficer.tipperary@gaa.ie">developmentofficer.tipperary@gaa.ie</a>
<b>Tyrone</b>	Aidan Maguire	<a href="mailto:developmentofficer.tyrone@gaa.ie">developmentofficer.tyrone@gaa.ie</a>
<b>Waterford</b>	Emer Barry	<a href="mailto:developmentofficer.waterford@gaa.ie">developmentofficer.waterford@gaa.ie</a>
<b>Westmeath</b>	William O'Boyle	<a href="mailto:developmentofficer.westmeath@gaa.ie">developmentofficer.westmeath@gaa.ie</a>
<b>Wexford</b>	Cathal Byrne	<a href="mailto:developmentofficer.wexford@gaa.ie">developmentofficer.wexford@gaa.ie</a>
<b>Wicklow</b>	Fintan Fanning	<a href="mailto:developmentofficer.wicklow@gaa.ie">developmentofficer.wicklow@gaa.ie</a>

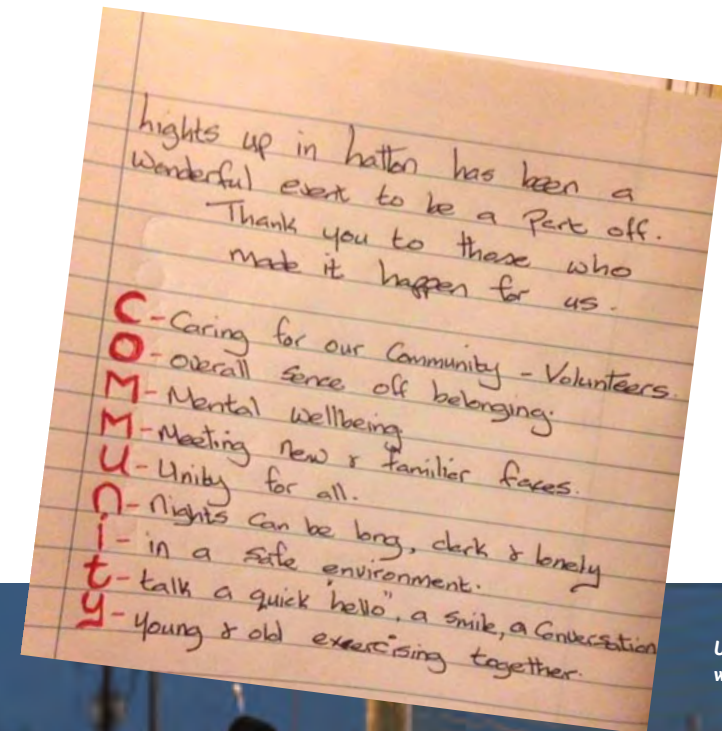
## OVER 300 CLUBS AND 20,000 WALKERS STEPPED OUT FOR THIS YEAR'S 'IRELAND LIGHTS UP'

**A** phenomenal 20,000 walkers from 300 GAA clubs across the 32 counties participated in this year's Ireland Lights Up Campaign. In partnership with RTÉ's Operation Transformation and Get Ireland Walking, the aim of Ireland Lights Up was to provide a positive and beneficial resource for communities throughout the entire country, promoting both the physical and mental benefits of walking and exercise, as well as the fantastic facilities that local GAA grounds have on offer to people in their locality.

After last year's hugely successful campaign, the GAA were delighted to make exercise more accessible on the dark winter nights. Every Thursday between 7pm-9pm for five weeks (January 17th – February 21st) Ireland Lights Up encouraged over 300 GAA clubs to switch on their floodlights, seeking to bring their communities together to enjoy healthy walks in the safe, bright, environs of their GAA club.

To sum up the positive impact Ireland Lights Up has had on GAA clubs across the country, Latton O' Rahilly GAA Club submitted this testimonial they received from one of their participants last week. This simply sums up the positive impact Ireland Lights Up has had on GAA clubs and wider communities.

Ireland Lights Up has certainly activated our mantra of Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds, Healthy Clubs. In the coming weeks the Community & Health Department in Croke Park, will be circulating a survey link to all participating clubs to capture their learnings and experiences, to build on from this year's success. Well done to all our Healthy Club Officers, volunteers and partners who drove Ireland Lights Up at local, county and national level. Ireland Lights Up has certainly empowered GAA clubs across the country, to become a hub for health and wellbeing within their communities.



Uachtarán John Horan out walking with club members



# MASSIVE ARRAY OF TALENT ON DISPLAY AT SCÓR NA NÓG ALL-IRELAND FINALS



Naomh Mhuire, Aontroim

**T**he TF Royal Hotel and Theatre in Castlebar hosted this year's Scór na nÓg All Ireland Finals on Saturday, 16th of February. With young talented teenagers from all over the country representing their clubs and their counties all of the 1,300 plus crowd were treated to a feast of music, song and dance.

The Ulster teams got the upper hand in this year's finals in terms of honours won and were victorious in 5 different competitions in total – Tráth na gCeisteanna Boird, Aithriseoireacht/ Scéalaíocht, Rince Foirne, Léiriú Stáitse agus Amhránaíocht Aonair.

The Bailéad-Ghrúpa and Rince Seit honours went to Connacht while the Ceol Uirlise went to Leinster.

The adjudicators had an extremely difficult job on their hands with the standard being so high and Coiste Náisiúnta Scór would like to thank them all, as well as all the young competitors who took part in the various different competitions.

## TORTHAÍ

**Rince Seit:** Mainistir Chnoc Muaidhe, Gaillimh  
**Ceol Uirlise:** Cill Chormaic-Cill Achaidh, Uíbh Fhailí

**Léiriú Stáitse:** Naomh Muire, Achadh Gallan, Aontroim

**Rince Foirne:** Naomh Muire, Achadh Gallan, Aontroim

**Bailéad-Ghrúpa:** Naomh Muire, Liatroim

**Aithriseoireacht:** Tír na nÓg, Baile Raghnaill, Aontroim

**Amhránaíocht Aonair:** Aoife Nic Thréinir, Cumann Chluain Daimh, An Dún

**Tráth na gCeist:** Cor na Féinne, An Cabhán

## SRAITH NUA PODCHRAOLTAÍ GAEILGE DE CHUID CLG SEOLTA

**T**á tús curtha ag Cumann Lúthchleas Gael le sraith nua podchraoltaí Gaeilge. Tá na céadta imreoirí agus iarimreoirí fud fad na tíre ann a imríonn, agus a d'imir, ár gcuid cluichí ag an leibhéal is airde agus a bhfuil Gaeilge acu. Le linn na sraithe podchraoltaí seo tabharfar deis do go leor de na himreoirí agus na hiarimreoirí sin na mórscéalta agus móreachtraí uilig a bhaineann leis na cluichí a phlé agus a chioradh de réir mar a thagann siad aníos.

Is iad Cárthach Breathnach agus Cian Ó Griallais a bheidh ag cur na podchraoltaí i láthair. Tá neart scile acu beirt ina leithéid agus iad i mbun an Spota Dubh le Raidió na Life – páirtneírí CLG sa togra seo – le cúpla bliain anuas.

### Clár 1

Sa chéad phodchraoladh sa tsraith seo, caitheann Cárthach agus Cian súil chun cinn ar Sraitheanna Iomána agus Peile Allianz agus ar an mblain CLG atá amach romhainn. Ina gcomhlúadar tá Paul Conroy, imreoir lár páirce le Gaillimh, Donie Breathnach, iarimreoir peile agus iomána le Port Láirge, Fiona Ní Chorcoráin, iarimreoir peile agus camógaíochta le hÁth Cliath agus Cian O'Connell, iriseoir de chuid Chumann Lúthchleas Gael.

Is féidir éisteacht leis an bpodchraoladh anseo:

[http://pod.raidionalife.ie/AnSpotaDubh\\_CLG.mp3](http://pod.raidionalife.ie/AnSpotaDubh_CLG.mp3)

'Tá na mílte Gaeilgeoirí fud fad na tíre ag leanacht ár gcuid cluichí agus tá an-áthas orainn i gCumann Lúthchleas Gael go bhfuil na podchraoltaí seo á gcur ar fáil le freastal orthu siúd. Guím gach rath ar lucht an Spota Dubh atá ag obair linn ar an togra seo.'

**Alan Milton, Stiúrthóir Cumarsáide CLG**

'Tá an-áthas orm go bhfuil Cárthach agus Cian ón Spota Dubh chomh maith le lucht bainistíochta Raidió na Life ar bord linn maidir leis an bpodchraoladh seo. Níl aon amhras ach go mbeidh neart spóirt agus spraoi ar na cláracha seo agus mórscéalta agus mórcluichí Chumann Lúthchleas Gael á bplé orthu. Tá muid ag súil, freisin, leis an bpodchraoladh a thabhairt timpeall na tíre sna míonna amach romhainn.'

'Is cúis bróid don Chumann go bhfuil an podchraoladh seo ar an bhfód anois agus tá muid ag súil go mór leis an togra seo a fhás agus a fhorbairt san am atá le teacht.'

**Jamie Ó Tuama, Oifigeach Gaeilge Chumann Lúthchleas Gael**



## GAA HANDBALL – 40X20 IRISH ADULT NATIONALS 2019

**W**hat a Super Sunday we had at the 2019 Irish 4-Wall Nationals!

In a magnificent new facility at Claregalway HC, a full house was witness to some thrilling Handball between our country's finest. In the Men's Open SF1, an all Clare encounter between reigning All-Ireland Doubles champions Diarmaid Nash & Colin Crehan produced an almighty battle, before top seed Nash came from 7-4 down in the tiebreak, and saved one match point before edging victory 13-15, 15-3, 11-10.

In the second SF, Martin Mulkerrins looked like he was going to finish Robbie McCarthy off in no time, and he did just that in the first game with a quick 15-1 demolition. But like a switch, the game changed and McCarthy responded to win the two pursuing games 15-6, 11-7.

So for the second ranking event in a row we saw a final between Nash & McCarthy. Last time round Nash was a dominant two game winner. This time however McCarthy gained his revenge in another tiebreak epic 11-9 as both players produced some astonishing handball, made all the more remarkable considering they were both involved in 1.5hr gruelling semi-finals a few hours previous. The win was Robbie's third Irish 4-Wall Nationals title.

In the Ladies section, the top two seeds advanced as expected by many. Catriona Casey was in cruise control in the opening game as she held a 13-6 lead. But from no where Martina McMahon out on a sensational display of serving and killing to win the first 15-13, and carry that momentum into the second winning 15-6. That was Martina's first Irish 4-Wall Nationals title.

There was a host of other Adult grades on show across the Mayo & Galway venues all weekend, with the full results of all grades now available below. Congrats to all winners, and a particular thank you to all the host Clubs for stepping up and hosting an excellent Irish Nationals!



*Pictured is President Joe Masterson with Men's winner Robbie McCarthy, Ladies winner Martina McMahon, and Ladies runner-up, Catriona Casey battling it out with Martina on the court!*

# DATA PROTECTION AND BREXIT

**D**ue to the current uncertainty surrounding all Brexit-related issues at time of writing, it is important for Clubs to be aware of the changes a no-deal Brexit will have on your Club regarding the processing of personal data within the Club.

Under EU data protection law, free movement of personal data is guaranteed between EU member states. Where transfers of personal data are made to a recipient outside the EU, these require additional safeguards to be put in place in order to ensure safe and secure transfers. In the event of a no-deal Brexit, the transfer of personal data to the UK will be no different to the transfer of personal data to India or Brazil, for example. This does not prevent GAA Clubs from using third parties based in the UK to process personal data, however, it does require additional safeguards.

For example, the Games Management System is hosted by an external service provider – Servasport who are based in Belfast. A no-deal Brexit does not require the GAA to move the Games Management System out of Belfast, but it does require the GAA to ensure the transfer of personal data to an

organisation outside the EU is as safe and secure as it would be if the transfer was occurring within the EU. This will be carried out by updating the current contract in place between the GAA and Servasport to include 'Standard Contractual Clauses' which will ensure the transfer of personal data is in line with all legislative requirements. These Clauses will ensure that the organisation based outside the EU adheres to the same level of data protection as it would be obliged to were it based inside the EU. The Data Protection Commission has provided guidance on a no-deal Brexit [here](#) and [here](#) which includes an explanatory note on Standard Contractual Clauses, and how to implement them. If you require any assistance in updating your contracts to include Standard Contractual Clauses, please feel free to email [dataprotection@gaa.ie](mailto:dataprotection@gaa.ie).

It is vitally important, if a Club is transferring personal data to an organisation in the UK, such as a messaging system provider, membership system provider, online booking system etc., the Club's contract with that organisation is also updated to include such Standard Contractual Clauses. Further advice and guidance in relation to Brexit will be sent to all Club Secretaries over the coming weeks, however, if you have any questions or concerns in the meantime, please feel free to email [dataprotection@gaa.ie](mailto:dataprotection@gaa.ie).





# SPRING INTO ACTION WITH CLUASÓG THE IRISH HARE AT THE GAA MUSEUM JUNIOR EXPLORER TOURS

**A**ttention mams, dads and junior GAA fans! Are you looking for a Saturday morning activity that's a bit more exciting than a trip to the playground? Are you searching for something to do with your kids that's both fun and interactive?

The GAA Museum at Croke Park has announced the return of its wildly popular Junior Explorer Tour for young families on Saturday mornings from February 23rd February until May 18th.

The family-friendly tour, created to bring the home of Gaelic games to life with all its magic for younger visitors, was a sell-out success last year with the country's littlest GAA fans taking over the iconic stadium every Saturday morning.

On arrival, your family will be greeted by the GAA Museum's mascot, Cluasóg the Irish hare, who can't wait to meet and have his photo taken with a whole new bunch of friends!

Next you go behind-the-scenes and learn

fun facts about the GAA and Croke Park. During the Stadium Tour, your intrepid little explorers will get to visit the team dressing rooms and warm-up area and run out pitch-side through the players' tunnel – a highlight for any GAA fan or aspiring young star!

Back at the GAA Museum, children will then receive a Junior Explorer Passport so they can follow clues throughout the Museum to ensure they fully engage in the tour with their guide. They'll discover some of the museum's most famous exhibits including the original Sam Maguire and Liam MacCarthy cups along the way. If the group find all the clues, all younger visitors will receive a special Junior Explorer badge and sticker pack!

Another highlight for many boys and girls (and mums and dads!) is the museum's Interactive Games Zone, where the future All-Stars can test their own hurling and football skills. Who's the fastest in the family? Find out by measuring the speed of your strike as you hit a sliotar down the hurling alley or test your goal scoring ability



with a family and friends football challenge!

Junior Explorer Tours are recommended for all family members but will be of particular interest for children of 8 years of age and under. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Tours will depart from the GAA Museum at 10.30am and will continue on Saturday mornings (subject to GAA fixtures) until May 18th.

Junior Explorer Tours lasts approx. 1.5 hours including time in the museum and a meet and greet with Cluasóg. The route is fully

wheelchair and buggy accessible.

Advance online booking is recommended. Free parking is available and the museum's Blackthorn Café will be open for a snack afterwards.

For more see [www.crokepark.ie/juniorexplorer](http://www.crokepark.ie/juniorexplorer)

## TOUR PRICES

**Adult:** €14

**Children (ages 3 – 12):** €9

**Under 3 years:** Free of charge

**Students / seniors:** €11

**Family (2 adults & 2 children):** €38

## GAA LAUNCHES NEW 5 STAR CENTRE INITIATIVE FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS



**L**ast year, the GAA launched its newly developed national initiative for Primary Schools, the 5 Star Centre. GAA Director of Games Development and Research, Pat Daly, notes 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.



Phase 2 of the national pilot of the GAA 5 Star Centre will be rolled out across primary schools from September 2019. 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](https://learning.gaa.ie/5Star) or contact a member of their Co. GAA Games Development staff via [learning.gaa.ie/staff contacts](https://learning.gaa.ie/staff-contacts).



Football

Hurling

Club

General

## MÍLE BUÍOCHAS

Thank you to all of those who have contributed to this month's edition of the GAA Club Newsletter. Your feedback is welcome and any comments, suggestions or queries should be directed to [clubnewsletter@gaa.ie](mailto:clubnewsletter@gaa.ie).

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