

OCTOBER 2022  
**NUACHTLITIR**  
DEIREADH FÓMHAIR 2022



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Comment

## TIME FOR COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY



### **IF NOT US, THEN WHO? IF NOT NOW, WHEN?**

The plethora of great games that are cramming the club calendar are being overshadowed by the reputational damage caused by a mindless minority engaged in behaviour that tarnishes the Association.

In the past it has been acts of on field indiscipline amongst players that has dragged us through the mud.

But 2022 has taken a turn for the worse with this behaviour extending to allegations of attacks on match officials.

Do we really need to wait for a draconian set of laws and penalties to be issued by the GAA at national and local level to bring about an urgent stop?

Surely, we already know as individuals what needs to happen?

There is a collective responsibility to establish what we consider an acceptable norm in relation to respect on the field and respect in dealing with match officials.

The very fact that we put up signs on club pitches reminding parents 'This isn't an All-Ireland final' and seeking good behaviour – and the very fact that we have an initiative like the 'silent sideline' at juvenile matches should be taken as a less than positive indication of where we are.

We can't expect signs and silent sidelines to be a cure when there is a cultural issue that needs to be tackled.

For too long we have tolerated an approach to discipline in the GAA to look for the grey area interpretation of rules and suspensions to see if they can be got around.

We erode and undermine our values every time we go into a committee room and look to pull a stroke to get a player off or a suspension reduced, or a charge challenged.

And even if these successful appeals are a 'legitimate' use of the system and sometimes succeed having highlighted procedural or technical errors – is there not a moral authority and obligation to do what is right, to hold your hands up when you are in the wrong and accept your punishment?

At matches we can encourage a forward who misses an open goal to think about the next ball or support a defender or goalie who makes a howler and costs a score. But at the same time, we have an insistence on referee infallibility and are outraged when it fails to materialise. This does not stand up to scrutiny.

Likewise, there is nothing brave about hiding behind the anonymity of a keyboard to vent.

The abdication of this moral code has brought us to the point where we are now – in the public domain because of an apparent lawlessness.

We know this isn't us.

This is not what we stand for or want to be about.

So, what are we prepared to do about it?

Because if it is something we need to have enforced on us by officialdom then it won't work.

If it is forced on us by a referee strike it won't work.

Later this month the GAA will unveil a major referee recruitment and retention initiative led by Uachtarán Larry McCarthy.

It will among other things champion a revival of the Give Respect, Get Respect initiative and is part of the Association's strategic commitment to raising the status of refereeing within Gaelic games.

Refereeing will always be a special calling, not for everyone but something that is hugely rewarding for those who answer a call that the games cannot function without.

Recent allegations of attacks on match officials have already provoked a debate around the current strength of the penalties that exist in our rulebook and the need for perhaps greater deterrents.

But arguably the biggest change that is required is one of mindset not rules.

We can start by seeing referees not as some necessary evil but as GAA members like the rest of us, making the invaluable contribution to our games that they are.

Clubs should highlight and promote and celebrate the people from their own ranks who are putting their hands up and are acting as match officials.

We need to better educate coaches, parents and players about our rules and also about our attitude to discipline – and when those lines are crossed the response should be swift and decisive and make victims of indiscipline, be they players or referees, feel protected, supported and vindicated.

An inconvenient truth is we need to call out our own for their bad behaviour

directed at match officials whether on or off the field.

We should not turn a blind eye to our own people when they set a bad example through their behaviour.

We can insist that people reported for verbal abuse of match officials are made complete referee courses as part of their rehabilitation.

There is a rule in place for a referee to move a ball forward in response to back chat from a player. But perhaps we should set the tone at underage level and respond to back chat to a referee by awarding a 20 metre free against the offending team instead.

And when we find ourselves facing accusations of poor discipline we need more people to have the courage to take the John Mullane line that "if you do the crime, you do the time."

New rules can be made, existing rules can be tightened but the business world will tell you that culture eats strategy for breakfast.

Society is angrier now and social media can be a place where anger is easily stoked and rarely moderated.

But there is still a choice.

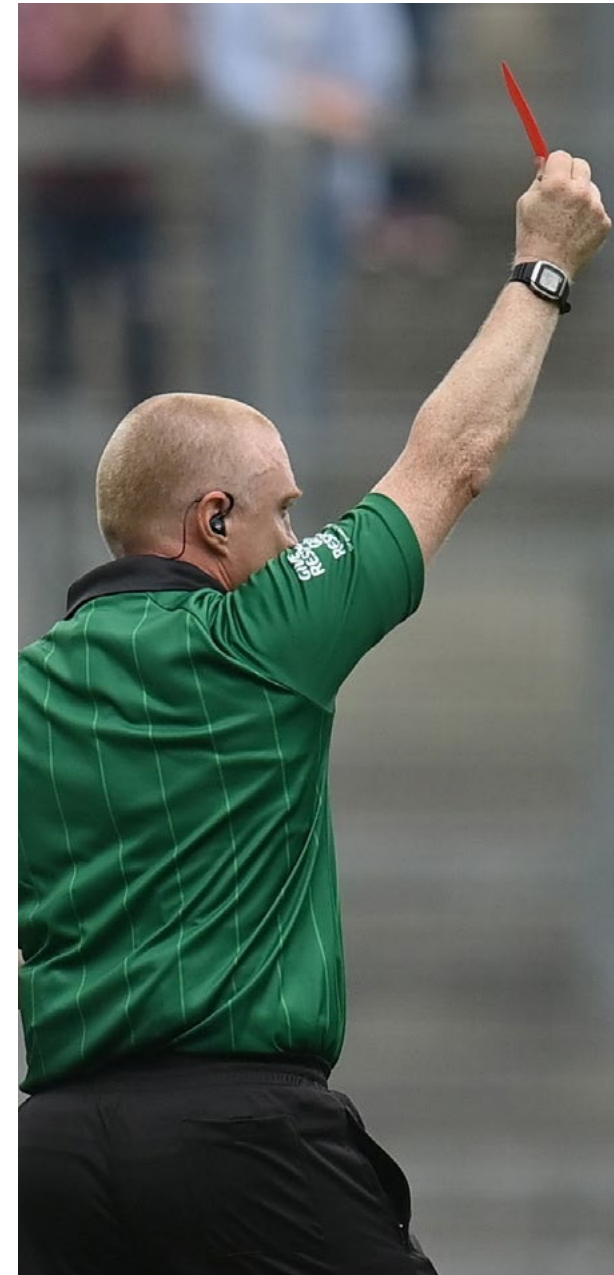
What sort of GAA culture do we want to exist?

It starts with individuals. It starts with us as GAA members.

If not us, who?

If not now, when?

**Cian Murphy**  
**Ball de chuid (CLG)**  
**Theach Mealóg-Sraid Síngé**





by Cian Murphy

## GOOD NEWS CASH BOOST FOR CLUBS



CLUBS DEVELOPING THEIR FACILITIES WILL WARMLY WELCOME NEWS OF THIS FINANCIAL BOOST FROM CROKE PARK

**A COMBINED FUNDING PACKAGE WORTH €12.5M HAS BEEN CONFIRMED FOR 2022 BY CROKE PARK TO ASSIST CLUBS ACROSS THE COUNTRY.**

GAA Director of Finance, Ger Mulryan, has confirmed that a series of Club financial supports that include €3m in club infrastructure grants, €4.5m in new club development loans and a further round of €5m in club insurance rebates will all

be allocated from incomes generated during the 2022 season. The above suite of supports will hopefully further assist clubs to get back on a normal footing as society continues with the rebound from the Covid pandemic.

In addition to the €12.5m in club supports, a county infrastructure support fund of €2.5m has also been allocated to allow counties undertake health and safety and

ground improvements works at their county grounds. This means a total sum of €15m has been allocated from GAA Funding to directly support club and county initiatives.

He said: "This is an important good news story for our clubs. Making this commitment will hopefully make a big difference to clubs as they embark on ground and facilities improvements for their members."

The breakdown of the funding is as follows: €5m using Sport Ireland Covid support funding to give an insurance rebate to clubs

€3m in grants for clubs engaged in pitch and grounds improvements

€4.5m in club development loans

€2.5m in county infrastructure grants

Total = €15m

This is the second year of the insurance rebate thanks to specific funding made available by Sport Ireland to assist clubs dealing with the challenges caused by Covid.

The club grounds grant assists clubs redeveloping their facilities and has been increased to €3m and the goal is to eventually raise this to €5m annually by 2026 as part of the Strategic Plan.

The reopening of the development loans will be a welcome boost for clubs engaged in long-term large-scale development projects. It allows clubs to borrow up to €100,000 at a very favourable rate of low interest repaid over 10 years.

Ger Mulryan added: "As the Association continues its recovery from the difficulties caused by Covid we know that finance remains a huge issue and a concern for all our units at club and county level. "Being able to redirect funding for specific areas that will assist clubs will hopefully ease some of that burden."

Clubs seeking more information can email [finance@gaa.ie](mailto:finance@gaa.ie)

by Cian O'Connell

## NATIONAL CLUB DRAW PROVIDES SIGNIFICANT BENEFITS



CLONTARF GAA MEMBER AIDAN CONLON WON FIRST PRIZE IN THE NATIONAL CLUB DRAW WHO WON A BRAND NEW DACIA DUSTER CAR.

### **TICKETS FOR THE 2023 NATIONAL CLUB DRAW ARE NOW AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE.**

During the past decade €14.5m has been raised for clubs throughout the country, illustrating its importance to the GAA.

In the capital Clontarf GAA club continues to use the draw to generate funds. "It is one of the primary fundraisers certainly for our club, and I suspect that is the case for many other clubs," acknowledges Clontarf GAA coach Aidan Conlon, who won first prize in the 2022 draw. "We would be huge supporters of it and keen to see it continue."

Connecting with the local community is critical, and the draw offers an opportunity to do so, according to Conlon. "That is the nature of our club," he says. "If you look at other events - we have created a community event. The club is quite close knit even though it has nearly 2,500 members now."

"It is a great opportunity for us to raise money and that the money is ploughed back into the club. It is a great opportunity from our perspective just interacting with members and parents."

Obviously parents, particularly of the juvenile membership, are buying most of the tickets.

"The club executive has taken the opportunity to promote things like the nursery by posting videos on YouTube and Instagram.

"It is very visible to the parents, whether they are new parents or parents with kids in the juvenile section for a number of years. We know with the size of the club growing so much the cost of running multiple teams, raising funds is essential in that."

Conlon, who claimed top prize in the draw earlier this year, is adamant that clubs can benefit significantly too. "I was extremely fortunate and absolutely delighted," he says about the win.

"I have been buying tickets in the club draw for a long time. I'm a mentor for 10 years, buying tickets and selling tickets, indeed with the club draw for all of that time. So it was fortunate.

"We had two winners in the club, we were very fortunate to get two in the top 10 prizes. I was delighted getting first prize, it was unexpected, but very enjoyable."



# NEXT STEPS FOR GAA CLUBS APPLYING FOR 'SPORT FOR ALL' FUNDING

## **A PHENOMENAL RESPONSE NATIONWIDE TO THE SPORT FOR ALL DISABILITY SUPPORTS CLUB FUND FOR 2022 SAW OVER 450 CLUBS SEND IN APPLICATIONS TO THE GAA FOR SUBMISSION TO SPORT IRELAND.**

As part of 2022 NGB Dormant Accounts Fund, Sport Ireland will provide a €2,000,000 'Sport for All' Disability Supports Club Fund with a minimum application amount of €1,000 and maximum application amount of €5,000 per club on this funding scheme.

The next step in the applications process is:-

- Sport Ireland will revert to each NGB with an amount allocation once a review of all the applications and that all clubs are found compliant with the Funding requirements.

- The club must ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place for the overall governance and management (including financial management) of the Club receiving the support. It is hugely important for your club to retain all receipts and documentation in relation to grant investment expenditure for inspection by Sport Ireland.

- Given the nature of the scheme, any clubs in

receipt of funding must have a robust system in place in relation to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable people.

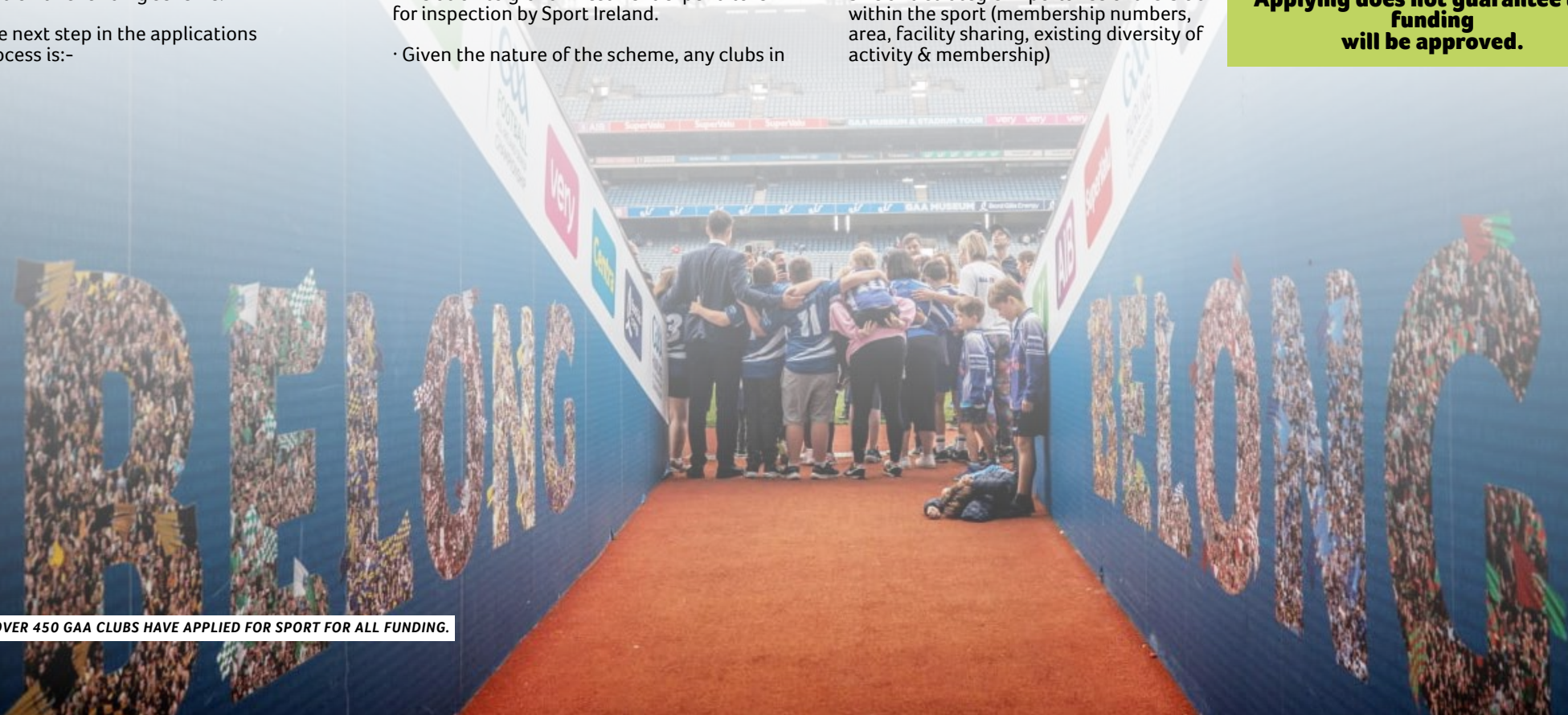
- The GAA will then review each club application for funding allocation. When considering the provision of funding to Clubs, the GAA will consider the following:

- Technical merits of the Clubs application (quality, detail, sustainability etc.)
- Size and strategic importance of the Club within the sport (membership numbers, area, facility sharing, existing diversity of activity & membership)

- Existing Club engagement with the NGB
- Level, scope, and track record of programme delivery by the Club
- Existing Governance, Financial and Safeguarding model within the Club

**It is anticipated that an announcement of funding allocations will be made by December 2022.**

**Applying does not guarantee that funding will be approved.**



by Jimmy Darcy

## ENERGY SAVINGS WITH THE GAA GREEN CLUB PROGRAMME

**THIS WINTER WILL BE A CHALLENGING ONE FOR GAA CLUBS. AS ENERGY COSTS CONTINUE TO RISE, MANY CLUBS WILL STRUGGLE TO MEET THE COST OF KEEPING THEIR SPORTS AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES RUNNING AS THE DAYS GROW COLDER AND THE EVENINGS DARKER. OVER THE PAST NUMBER OF YEARS, GAA GREEN CLUBS ACROSS THE COUNTRY HAVE BEEN TAKING ACTION TO CUT DOWN ON THEIR CLUBS' ENERGY BILLS AND TO REDUCE THE CARBON FOOTPRINT FROM THEIR ACTIVITIES.**

After a full clubhouse and floodlight upgrade, Clan na Gael in Louth have reduced their energy usage and bills by over 55% and their carbon footprint by almost 30 tonnes of CO2. Financing their energy project with 50% funding support from an SEAI Community Energy Grant, the club benefitted not only from immediate energy and cost savings but also from better light quality on the pitch and from increased community and rental activity in the clubhouse, with the insulation and retrofitting making their meeting spaces and function room warmer, more comfortable and more attractive for club users, community groups and private hire.

Tipperary club Killenaule saved on their energy costs by engaging with their energy supplier on bill charges. When unexpectedly high bills prompted the club to examine their electricity bill in detail, the club executive realised that the Maximum Import Capacity (MIC) charge set for the club after the installation of

their new floodlights didn't reflect the club's actual electricity usage. The club engaged with their energy provider on setting the MIC for the club at a more appropriate level, resulting in significant ongoing savings.

Tyrone Green Club Strabane Sigersons recently received grant funding from Sport NI's 'Build Back Better' programme to insulate their clubhouse, upgrade interior lighting to LED, install interior and exterior lighting sensors and regulate heating use through thermostatic valves.

In Connaught, Mayo Gaels GAA club are running a five-minute shower challenge to save energy and water in their club. Catch up on their efforts on RTÉ's 'What Planet are You On?' broadcast on 12 October at 7pm on RTÉ One. A GAA Green Club Toolkit will be launched in December as well as a Phase 2 of the Programme.

**For more advice on how to save energy in your club visit:**

**<https://www.gaa.ie/news/energy-saving-tips-for-gaa-clubs/>**



**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS**

- ENERGY • WATER • WASTE
- BIODIVERSITY • TRANSPORT





### **ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGER INSTALLATION OPPORTUNITIES BEING REVIEWED**

In 2019, Ireland's Climate Action Plan (CAP) targeted 100% electric vehicle (EV) sales with approx. 1 million EVs planned to be on the road by 2030.

The GAA Green Club Steering Group recently made a submission to the Government's Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy 2022 – 2025 recommending that Sports Clubs be included in the definition of sports or community centres for a proposed 'Destination charge point scheme'.

A government led new grant scheme is now in development regarding electric vehicle infrastructure at sports clubs.

The new scheme is a joint venture between Zero Emission Vehicles Ireland in the Dept of Transport and the Shared Island Fund in the Dept of the Taoiseach.

€15m is being made available to support this initiative with the fund being distributed on an all-island basis.

The full value of the grant for clubs and its details have yet to be clarified. What is known is that only clubs that have parking facilities accessible to the public will be assessed for funding and that the grant may be limited to providing assistance towards the cost of civil and electrical works associated with installation of EV charge points.

It is then proposed that individual NGBs would engage a charge point operator to install and maintain the charge point(s).

Further information and advice on the potential benefit of installing EV charge points at clubs and grounds will be provided as soon as they are finalised.



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### FORMER PRESIDENT MCALEESE APPOINTED AS INDEPENDENT INTEGRATION CHAIRPERSON

The Gaelic Games Associations are pleased to announce that former President of Ireland, Mary McAleese, has agreed to be independent Chairperson of the integration process between the Camogie Association, the GAA, and the Ladies Gaelic Football Association.

Over the course of this year, all three Gaelic Games Associations separately discussed integration towards a One Association model.

Mark Dorman has been confirmed as Project Manager for the integration process. A timeline on discussions between Chairperson McAleese and the three Associations will be agreed in the coming weeks to advance the project



UACHTARÁN CHUMANN LÚTHCHLEAS GAEL LARRY MCCARTHY, SECOND FROM RIGHT, IN THE COMPANY OF FROM LEFT, MONSIGNOR EOIN THYNNE, ARD STIÚRTHÓIR OF THE GAA TOM RYAN AND MANAGER OF THE MICHAEL CUSACK CENTRE TIM MADDEN, AFTER PLACING A WREATH ON THE GRAVE OF MICHAEL CUSACK AT GLASNEVIN CEMETERY IN DUBLIN, IN A CEREMONY MARKING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF THE CLARE SCHOOL TEACHER WHO PLAYED A PIVOTAL ROLE IN THE FORMATION OF THE GAA IN 1884.

### AG CEILIÚRADH MÍCHEAL Ó CÍÓSÓIG

Uachtarán CLG Larry McCarthy led a delegation to Glasnevin cemetery on September 20 to mark the 175th anniversary of the birth of Michael Cusack, the teacher from Clare who was a driving force behind the creation of the GAA.

Together with Maurice Davin, Cusack's passion and energy for a new approach to the promotion and development of sport in Ireland and his interest in reviving hurling paved the way for the formation of the GAA in 1884, with Cusack appointed joint secretary at the pivotal meeting in Hayes's Hotel.

Uachtarán McCarthy and Ard Stiúrthóir Tom Ryan were joined by representatives from Clare and Dublin GAA as well as the provincial councils, and members of the GAA history committee. Monsignor Fr Eoin Tynne performed a blessing on the Cusack grave in Glasnevin followed by a wreath laying ceremony.

Speaking at the graveside on the calendar anniversary of his birth in 1847, Uachtarán McCarthy said: "Cusack's passion and energy put sport and the GAA in the midst of the great revival that gripped Ireland in the last decades of the nineteenth century.

"And even though he did not stay long at the helm of the Association he invested so much energy into creating, it remains a lasting legacy to Cusack and his vision.

"Were he alive today Cusack would gaze upon a GAA that has 250,000 children under 17 registered and playing hurling and Gaelic football.

"Gaelic games are present in every community thanks to the deep roots planted by clubs. The GAA is in every corner of the island through 1,600 clubs and present in more than 450 GAA clubs dotted all over the globe.

"The vision that illuminated the small billiards room of Hayes's Hotel in 1884

continues to inspire all of those who follow in the footsteps of Cusack and Davin.

"We honour their legacy wherever we gather to play Gaelic games.

"Their work gifted future generations the great games we have today.

"With that gift comes a responsibility to ensure that our games are never again in the perilous state that they were in prior to the actions of Cusack and his contemporaries to revive them.

"To ensure children in our schools and communities through our clubs can take part in these great games, and that the GAA is relevant and supportive of our members and society is the baton passed on to us.

"Michael Cusack's name lives on not just in statues and sports stadia but in the games that are an intrinsic part of who we are, and we remain proud and grateful for his dedication to that cause."

## ARD CHOMHAIRLE BULLETIN

A meeting of Ard Chomhairle took place in Croke Park on Saturday, Sept 24. Ard Chomhairle favoured the following:

- The return to collective training for Senior Inter-County teams: 24th November
- Congress 2023 take place on 18th February
- That the Allianz League finals be retained
- That the U20 Development Leagues be retained
- That Joe McDonagh Cup Final be played with the All-Ireland U20 Hurling Final as a double header
- That All-Ireland Football Final be played on July 30th, 2023

Permission granted to the Rules Advisory Committee to continue its work of re-formatting the Official Guide (Part 1)



## ULSTER GAA IS ENCOURAGING CLUBS ACROSS THE PROVINCE TO ENGAGE IN THE BANK OF IRELAND CLUB MAITH ACCREDITATION SCHEME.

The scheme allows for clubs to review how they currently operate through a process of benchmarking against best practice.

In doing so, it encourages them to aim for excellence in the core areas of GAA club activity: Governance; Community Engagement; Coaching & Games; Health

& Wellbeing and Safeguarding Our Members.

The launch of the partnership between Ulster GAA and Bank of Ireland was recently held at Stewartstown Harps GAC, Co Tyrone, who currently hold a Club Maith Gold standard accreditation.

As a long-standing corporate partner of Ulster GAA, the Bank are also sponsors of the Dr McKenna Cup competition and Club Together volunteer development conference held earlier this year.

Ulster GAA President, Ciaran McLaughlin commented: "The real value of Club Maith is the journey that it takes a participating club on. This is something accredited clubs can testify to, with improvements being seen in many aspects of club life."

If your club is currently not Club Maith accredited, but you are interested in applying and want to register your interest or just have a general question, please contact [fionntan.odowd.ulster@gaa.ie](mailto:fionntan.odowd.ulster@gaa.ie)

The Bank of Ireland Club Maith Portal and support material can be found at [ulster.gaa.ie/club-maith](http://ulster.gaa.ie/club-maith)

**FRONT; NIALL DEVLIN, HEAD OF BUSINESS BANKING NI, BANK OF IRELAND, AND CIARAN MCLAUGHLIN, ULSTER GAA PRESIDENT, WITH STEWARTSTOWN HARPS GAC COMMITTEE MEMBERS; PADDY PARK, CATHAL COYLE, SEAN GALLAGHER AND MARTIN CAMPBELL.**

## NEW SURVEY TO EXAMINE EXPERIENCE OF PLAYERS AGED 13-19

The three Gaelic games Associations are conducting a survey of young players in Gaelic Games designed to better understand the experiences of players in the 13-19 age cohort across all codes.



The survey will cover topics such as the teams they play for, how often they take part, the coaching environment they experience, and their future in Gaelic Games.

This is the first time that all the Gaelic Games Associations have collaborated on such a project for players.

According to the GAA's Strategy, Insights, and Innovation Manager, Dr. Peter Horgan, the survey will capture both the positives and challenges experienced by young people who play Gaelic Games.

"The GAA, LGFA, and Camogie Associations are aware of the benefits of sporting participation, where participation in sport, particularly in team settings, confers many benefits including enhanced self-esteem, positive social development, fewer depressive symptoms, and increased likelihood of meeting physical activity guidelines," said Horgan.

"At the same time, not all young people experience sport positively and attrition from sport can be high across adolescence. So, we're keen that young people tell us what they like or dislike about their involvement.

"Young people are also very engaged in sport and can be involved in multiple sports at the same time. So, we're interested in learning about how much sport they play, both in Gaelic games and any other sporting interests that they might have.

"Coaches play a key role in the youth sport setting particularly in the experience of

young people in sport. Again, not all young people have a positive coaching experience and coaches are often a key factor in drop out.

"So one of the areas that we would like our players to focus their feedback on is how they have experienced being coached in Gaelic games."

The survey can be completed online through any phone, laptop, or tablet and only takes 10 minutes to complete. Players who complete the survey can win one of 4 prizes of coaching visits and equipment for their club. One club from each Province will win a coaching visit from one of our coaching ambassadors and playing equipment worth €250.

If you're a youth member aged from 18 to 19 or you're a parent/guardian of a child aged from 13 to 19 you can complete the survey at this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GaelicGamesYouthStudy>.

Important Information: The following Privacy Information is being provided to you as outlined in the General Data Protection Regulation. Read the Participation Research Project Privacy Notice - [HERE](#)

This project is part funded by Sport Ireland and Healthy Ireland and the advisory group overseeing the development of the study contains the following representatives of the various GAA codes as well as partners in 3rd level institutions from across Ireland.



### GAA COMMUNITY & HEALTH DATES

The GAA's Community & Health department have the following big dates on their horizon and all happening in November.

The Healthy Club conference is the biggest event in their calendar and happens at Croke Park on November 12.

The Association will again be encouraging clubs to be part of Ireland Lights Up next January and the planning for signing up to take part in this initiative linked to Operation Transformation will also begin in November.

The support offered by the Community and Health Department in the area of clubs delivering Critical Incident Response in their community will be addressed in new training supports being made available this November.

Further information on all the above can be found via [www.gaa.ie/community](http://www.gaa.ie/community)

### DERRY TO HOST GAA WORLD GAMES NEXT SUMMER

Derry has been confirmed as the host city for the 2023 GAA World Games.

The five-day event will feature matches over four days in the Derry Centre of Excellence in Owenbeg from July 24–27 next summer, with a day of finals taking place at GAA HQ in Croke Park on July 28.

Planning has commenced for the event which will be the fourth staging of the GAA World Games since 2015 and it is anticipated that upwards of 2,000 players will travel as part of 100 football, hurling, camogie and ladies football teams participating, and it will represent an influx of up to 4,500 people into Derry next summer.

The growth and development of World GAA continues to make strides with 460 clubs in existence outside of Ireland and promoting Gaelic games all over the globe.

Competitions in the GAA World Games are provided for native-born Irish players as well as non-native Irish who have taken up the games in their locality.

The GAA World Council made the decision on the host city on Friday, after a high calibre shortlist of submissions were reviewed from Derry, Waterford, and Cavan.

Uachtarán McCarthy said: "I am delighted to see the return of the GAA World Games confirmed for the 2023 calendar and look forward to what will be a fantastic event in Derry next July and a setting that I am certain all of those traveling to take part will enjoy.

"These games play an important role in the ongoing growth and development

of Gaelic games worldwide and are of great significance to the clubs and the communities that make up World GAA and are an acknowledgement and support for their promotion of the GAA. I'm sure that confirmation of the host city will sharpen the preparations for GAA clubs in every corner of the globe to be ready to be at their best in 2023."

Niall Erskine, GAA World Council chairperson, added: "I am pleased to announce Derry, with its storied history and vibrant cultural scene, has been chosen to host the 2023 GAA World Games. The ever-impressive playing facilities at Owenbeg, comprising of a 48-acre site, will be a hub of activity come Monday July 24 and will certainly cater for the needs of all of GAA clubs coming home to participate.

"Plans are about to be set in train to ensure the games are as successful as the games of 2019."

### GAA MEMBERSHIP DATE CHANGE

A reminder to all club executives that the commencement date of annual GAA club membership is January 1, 2023. The March 31 date relates to eligibility to vote at an AGM only.

Club info on AGMs will feature in the November newsletter.

### ULSTER GAA'S CÚCHULAINN INITIATIVE COMPLETE SUCCESSFUL TRIP TO LONDON

Boys and girls from Limavady and Lisburn created lifetime memories together last weekend when they travelled to London to represent their schools and towns in the All-Britain Competition, as part of their involvement in Ulster GAA's Cúchulainn Initiative.

The Lisburn Cúchulainns were comprised of girls from Forthill Integrated College and St Patrick's Academy whilst the boys' team from Limavady involved Limavady Grammar School, Limavady High School and St Mary's High School.

Despite being a team made up of players who had little or no experience playing Gaelic games, the Lisburn and Limavady Cúchulainns represented themselves with distinction, showing some incredible skills, passion and teamwork as they came up against club teams who had several years of experience playing together.

The girls' team grew throughout the tournament before bowing out at the quarter final stage, meanwhile the boys' team created history becoming the first side from Ulster to lift an ABC trophy.

Speaking at the competition in London, Ulster GAA President Ciaran McLaughlin said:



DERRY GAA'S CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN OWENBEG.

“The Cúchulainn Initiative continues to demonstrate the power of sport in bringing the youth in our communities together, with the very positive outcomes of creating lifetime friendships. I also want to praise the schools for their participation and the teachers who gave their time to accompany the pupils, making it possible for these young people to have such an experience.”

The Cúchulainn Initiative involves schools from different community backgrounds within the same town coming together to form a ‘Cúchulainn’ team. As well as engaging in their weekly coaching sessions the participants have attended a teambuilding day, a good relations workshop as well as playing a blitz against local clubs in their area. This initiative has been funded by The Executive Office through their Good Relations Funding Programme.



BOYS AND GIRLS FROM LIMAVADY AND LISBURN WITH COACHES PICTURED AT ABC WITH IRELAND'S AMBASSADOR TO BRITAIN MARTIN FRASER, FRONT CENTRE

### **GAA DELEGATION TO EUROPEAN TRADITIONAL SPORTS AND GAMES FESTIVAL SPREADS GAELIC GAMES GOSPEL**

The GAA sent a delegation to the European Traditional Sports and Games Festival in Perugia over the weekend to give a presentation on Gaelic games and demonstrate how hurling and Gaelic football are played.

The festival also incorporated the second TAFISA European Sport for All Games.

TAFISA is an acronym for The Association for International Sport for All, and has over 383 member organisations in more than 170 countries on all continents.

The GAA is not yet a member of TAFISA, but may apply to be after the visit to Perugia. Membership would give the Association a greater voice and recognition on a European and worldwide level.

An eight-person delegation was headed



THE GAA DELEGATION TO THE EUROPEAN TRADITIONAL SPORTS AND GAMES FESTIVAL IN PERUGIA THAT INCLUDED MEMBERS OF MILAN AND LAZIO GAA CLUB.

up by the GAA's International Manager, Charlie Harrison, who gave a presentation to the TAFISA committee on the worldwide presence of Gaelic games in terms of the rapidly growing numbers of clubs and players outside of Ireland.

The TAFISA committee was also briefed on hurling and camogie's Unesco Cultural Heritage status, as well as the rules of both hurling and Gaelic football.

The sports themselves were also demonstrated on a rugby field in Perugia with the help of some players from Milan and Lazio GAA clubs.

One of the greatest challenges for GAA clubs outside of Ireland is securing sporting facilities.

The hope would be that by networking with other sports associations in Perugia and potentially joining TAFISA in time, that international GAA clubs might have a greater access to facilities and potentially even funding.



by John Harrington

# LIAM MOGGAN TO HEAD UP INNOVATE GAELIC GAMES COACHING WORK GROUP

LIAM MOGGAN, COACH AND COACH EDUCATOR, SPEAKING AT THE 2019 GAA GAMES DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE.



**COMMONLY KNOWN IN IRISH SPORT AS 'THE COACHES COACH', LIAM MOGGAN'S HUGE CONTRIBUTION TO SPORT NATIONALLY WAS RECOGNISED LAST WEEK WHEN HE WAS CONFERRED WITH AN HONORARY DOCTORATE BY HIS ALMA MATER, THE UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK.**

By his own admission, Moggan likes to live his life in the shadows, but for once he was happy to be front and centre.

"I was actually delighted because it was a

great honour," he told GAA.ie. "I wouldn't want to think I got it by myself. It's emotional in the sense that all the people who believed in me, who took risks with me, who helped me, who encouraged me, who stood by me, you wouldn't want to forget those and my mind naturally goes back to them anyway.

"My family were there which was great to see. The day was just brilliant, and it was 44 years to the day nearly that I graduated from UL. My wife was in the same class so I've a lot to be thankful to UL for!"

He might have an honorary doctorate now, but every day is still a learning day for the former Coaching Ireland Coach Educator.

To that end, he will act as Group Facilitator for 18 of the brightest minds in Gaelic games who have been tasked with developing a three-hour coaching work-shop that can be delivered for adult players.

Over the course of two weekends in

September, they'll pool their combined knowledge of how to deliver effective training sessions to devise the blueprint of what will hopefully be a very practical coaching aid for GAA, LGFA, and Camogie coaches.

"My role with this group is to make things challenging," Moggan told GAA.ie. "While I have a fair idea of how we'll go about things in the next few days, I don't know yet what they will come up with. I do have



**THE NEW GAELIC GAMES PLAYER PATHWAY ENCOMPASSING CORE ELEMENTS OF THE PLAYER, THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE GAME WILL BE KEY REFERENCE POINTS FOR THE GROUPS DISCUSSION AND HOW COACH DEVELOPMENT CONNECTS IN. THE GROUPS TASK FACILITATED BY LIAM WILL BE TO ENSURE THESE NEW LEARNING OFFERINGS ARE FULLY CONNECTED TO THE PLAYER PATHWAY AND THE ETHOS BEHIND IT.**

intended outcomes that these people will plan, design, and deliver three-hour coaching work-shops suitable for adult players. That's the end-goal.

“There will be a few building blocks there that will be fundamentally geared around outcomes for coaches. We'll be looking at verbs like plan, lay out, demonstrate, adapt, progress, that kind of thing.

“It will be practical, about what happens on the pitch, and something you can do with as many players as possible.

“The reason this idea fomented in my own head, with the experience I have as a PE teacher and a coach and as someone who worked with teams, if I was asked to train a team in the morning I feel I could up to inter-county senior.

“But I'd be found out as soon as the first game started. I don't understand the game enough and full-game pitch scenarios and tactics would throw me.

“So I want this to be biteful-size, start, middle, and end evenings where coaches can go back the following week to do something appropriate to their team's kick-out, the opposition kick-out, transitions from the middle of the field, how to retain the ball, that type of thing.

“It's a development built on the good work that has gone before. It's not an add-on to it, it's not a substitute for it. It's just an evolution of things. There's excellent coaching going on at many levels and this is to assist that in a game-based scenario.”

The work-shop participants will also include two referees, Maggie Farrelly and Sean Stack, who Moggan believes will bring a very valuable perspective to the group.



Gaelic Games Referee,  
Maggie Farrelly.

“We have referees involved in the group and the rules of the game will be integrated into whatever we come up with. Everything that will be done will be done rules-based.

“One of the things I have seen is that the inclusion of intensity in a lot of training sessions also includes breaking of the rules. Steps, contact, tackles, all these kind of things. So referees will be part of these work-shops so the referees will get a better understanding of what players and coaches are doing.

“And the coaches and players will, in some cases, learn the rules for the first time. Sometimes the connection in training to what the rules are is vague. I would have

an aim that coaching is done within the rules rather than outside them.”

The 18-strong group includes renowned coaches such as former Waterford manager, Derek McGrath, LGFA coach developer Bronagh McGrane, former Westmeath manager Jack Cooney, and Camogie tutor and former Dublin Camogie player, Aine Fanning, to name but a few.

Moggan has always strongly felt that great things can happen if coaches share their ideas, so he's excited about what the group will come up with.

“I'm excited and petrified!”, he says. “I'm a planner and in work-shops I let people take photographs of my planner. I will have a planner for this, but not as detailed.

“I'm going to be handing over quite a bit to these people and releasing them and encouraging them to take a jump to get out of their comfort zones, to test the waters, to work hard, to create something three hours long that they can deliver before Christmas.

“The people who are taking part in the work-shops are vastly experienced, very passionate, they come with name recognition and real status to them.

“We're not going back and repeating coach development training or any of that kind of thing. The big test for them will be the knowledge of the game. And it will test them in that way.

“The outcomes will be fairly driven, but the content is what I really want them to come up with.”

For more information on the Gaelic Games Player Pathway, go here -

<https://learning.gaa.ie/playerpathway>



## SUSPECTED HEAD INJURY

- Concussion is a brain injury that can be caused by an impact to a player's head or body
- Over 90% of concussions occur without a loss of consciousness, therefore recognition of other signs and symptoms is crucial

**"IT'S NOT ALWAYS A KNOCK-OUT"**

## OBSERVATION

### INITIAL SIGNS:

#### *The nature of the impact:*

- The speed of the impact / collision
- Was the player braced for impact? (Did they see the impact coming)
- Was there any rotational (twisting) motion of the head / neck caused by the impact?

### INDICATORS:

#### *Player's reaction:*

- Did they lie motionless for any period of time?
- Were they unsteady on their feet?
- Did they clutch their head?

### RED FLAGS:

#### *Urgent medical attention:*

- Possible neck or spinal injury –player should not be moved
- Prolonged Loss of consciousness
- Deteriorating conscious state
- Convulsions / Seizures
- Vomiting
- Double Vision
- Disorientation/Confusion
- Severe or increasing headache
- Abnormalities of balance or coordination
- Slurred or incoherent speech
- Weakness or tingling/burning in arms or legs

## A SIMPLE **TWO-STEP** PROCESS SHOULD BE APPLIED:

### 1. RECOGNISE -

the signs and symptoms

### 2. REMOVE -

the **player** from the **field** of play

**Remember,**

**if there is any suspicion of concussion, the player should be removed from the field of play:**

**"IF IN DOUBT,  
SIT THEM OUT"**

by John Harrington

## MAGHERACLOONE ARE BACK FROM THE BRINK

**ON THE NIGHT OF SEPTEMBER 23, 2018, A MINE COLLAPSED BELOW MAGHERACLOONE'S CLUB-GROUNDS WHICH RESULTED IN A SINK-HOLE THAT LEFT THE PITCH LOOKING LIKE IT HAD BEEN TORN OPEN BY AN EARTHQUAKE.**

By the following day further subsidence split the wall of the clubhouse itself and the local school and five nearby houses had to be evacuated.

Such was the scale of the devastation it was immediately apparent the Monaghan club would never be able to use their club grounds again.

It's a testament to both the tenacity of the club's members and the generosity of neighbouring clubs that they managed to survive what was nothing short of a natural disaster.

For almost four years they played their home games on a variety of pitches in four different counties – Monaghan, Cavan, Meath and Louth – to prevent the club effectively going out of existence.

That extraordinary logistical challenge is now finally over, because on Saturday evening the Magheraclone Intermediate footballers played their first match in the club's new pitch which is located just half a mile away from their old grounds.

They lost to Doohamlet by a point, but the result in no way tempered the mixture of relief and pride every member



MAGHERACLOONE'S NEWLY OPENED PRUNTY PITCH.

in the club felt at finally having a home to call their own again.

"Thrilled is not the word," says club Chairperson, Francis Jones, who was one of the first people on the scene when news

broke of the sink-hole that destroyed their old club-grounds.

"Just thrilled and relieved to have a pitch up and running. We're open for business again, we have a base we can go to again

for our home matches.

"We were travelling here, there and everywhere borrowing pitches all over the place in Monaghan, Cavan, Meath, and Louth. You were looking at the fixture list





AN AERIAL VIEW OF THE DAMAGE CAUSED WHEN A MINE COLLAPSED UNDER MAGHERACLOONE MITCHELLS GAA CLUB'S GROUNDS.

when it was coming to plan where you might be able to play each match.

“At least now we have a home pitch and we can organise the match ourselves and we’re no longer having to rely on the good will of other clubs to sort us out.

“It’s just a half of a mile further down the same road. It’s in close proximity to the old pitch but this is on safe ground.

“There was a great energy about the place on Saturday evening.

The previous Monday night we opened up the pitch to all our members to come in and have a look around and kick a bit of ball on the field. There was a great spirit and a pep in everyone’s step to get back in and get the field open. It put a really good feeling into the community.”

During the four years they went without the pitch, Magheraclone got by thanks to

a mixture of the generosity of others and their own initiative.

Two fields were leased off local farmers and transformed into a training ground complete with dressing-rooms and lights which took a lot of organisation.

And they were fortunate too that their neighbouring clubs in Monaghan, Cavan, Louth, and Meath were generous enough to donate their own pitches when the schedule allowed.

“Only for those training pitches we definitely wouldn’t have survived,” says Jones. “They were a God-send to us. We’re still using them and will continue to use them. We can use them for training and also play up to U-13 matches there.

“We’re no different than any other club in the country in so far as we have our rivalries when the games are on. But when we lost our ground and were in need of

help, the clubs all around us all gave us all the help they could and we’ll always be indebted to them for that.

“We border Cavan, Meath, and Louth and clubs from all of those counties helped us out as much as the clubs in our own county which we’re hugely thankful for.”

The state of the art pitch Magheraclone have just opened is only the beginning of what will eventually be a superb new club-grounds. In the face of adversity, they’ve responded with ambition.

“We have a proposal for a fully complete facility but we’ve split it into Phase One and Phase Two with the idea of just getting a pitch up and running as quickly as we could,” says Jones. “So we now have a full size Prunty pitch, home and away and referee’s dressing-rooms, a shop, and toilet facilities.

“In Phase Two we’ll hopefully install two more pitches and an astro-turf pitch as well with a stand and a function room and a sports hall. It’ll be a fantastic facility when it’s completed and Phase 2 will probably take three years, but at the minute we’re just grateful to have what we have.

“It’s four years ago next month since the subsidence happened, but really the construction took 18 months from when we got planning which isn’t too bad considering it’s a Prunty pitch.

“We’ve a good executive and a good development committee in the club who have worked hard to pull the whole thing together.

“Just because we’ll be building good facilities doesn’t mean we can take our eye off the most important thing, working with the juveniles. That can’t stop because if you take your eye off the ball there it’ll be a long time before you recover.

“Thankfully we have good members and good coaches and we’re all working hard for the club.”

The fact that Magheraclone have already won county U-19 and U-13 titles this year suggests they certainly haven’t taken their eye off the ball as far as nurturing the talent of their younger players is concerned.

As a club they’re rebuilding impressively on the ruins of disaster, and you get the feeling Magheraclone are only getting started.



THE MAGHERACLOONE U-19 COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP WINNING TEAM.

by Tye Adamson

# NEW REGISTER WILL INSIST ON NEW STANDARDS FOR UPKEEP OF GAA SYNTHETIC TURF

**THE GAA LAUNCHED ITS NEW REGISTER OF SYNTHETIC TURF FIELDS IN ABBOTTSTOWN AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER. FOR A SYNTHETIC PITCH TO APPEAR ON THE REGISTER IT MUST BE TESTED AND SHOWN TO SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE GAA PERFORMANCE AND CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS FOR SYNTHETIC TURF FIELDS AND TRAINING AREAS, APPLICABLE AT THE TIME THE FIELD WAS BUILT.**

An initial field test should be undertaken following construction of a new field, ideally before it is brought into use. Thereafter, the field should be retested every three years throughout its life to verify it is still providing acceptable levels of performance and adequate protection to players.

Clubs with existing Synthetic Pitches will have 12 months to pass the field test so their pitch can appear on the register. In saying that, clubs should be aware of the importance of maintaining their synthetic surfaces.

Ian McClements, Senior Consultant with iTurf Management and Secretary of the GAA Pitch Maintenance Work Group, said: "A GAA club is going to invest a significant amount of money in building and installing a synthetic pitch. If a synthetic pitch is not maintained properly then you will not be able to achieve the longevity you would expect from that facility and it could in fact become dangerous for players to play on."

McClements continued that: "Synthetic pitches, like natural turf, require regular maintenance, something that is often overlooked by clubs, they are definitely not

maintenance free. The action of players displaces the infill material which can lead to inconsistencies in ball bounce or surface firmness. Regular brushing is important to help maintain an even infill depth which should also be checked and topped up if necessary. Infill will also become compacted in time which can make the surface firm.

Inconsistent firm infill can become a problem in so far that it can affect player welfare. Regular and specialist maintenance is not only important for player safety but also to help ensure the longevity of the club's investment in the facility."

Stuart Wilson, Pitch Manager of Croke Park Stadium, the NGDC, and Croke Park Turf Farm, believes the Register will be of great benefit to GAA clubs and their members.

"The usage of synthetic pitches is absolutely crucial to clubs because it takes away the pressure from natural pitches," Wilson explained.

Stuart revealed that: "The one synthetic pitch at the GAA's National Games Development Centre in Abbotstown is a brilliant example of how useful they are.

We record usage hours on every single pitch and on an annual basis that synthetic pitch has more usage than the four natural pitches do because it can take the pressure away in the winter."

"The new standards for synthetic pitches, the correct maintenance of them, and having them tested every three years is

going to be a big positive because it will improve the quality of synthetic pitches," concluded Wilson.

Experience has shown that the quality of even the best quality synthetic turf fields can deteriorate and result in a poorly performing or even unsafe playing environment that exposes athletes to unacceptable risks.

Clubs are really encouraged to review the comprehensive new guide covering every

aspect of a GAA synthetic turf field from design to construction and maintenance has been compiled by the GAA PMWG, with industry experts also included.

[\(https://www.gaa.ie/news/gaa-synthetic-pitch-guide/\)](https://www.gaa.ie/news/gaa-synthetic-pitch-guide/)

Once the register is established clubs will not have insurance cover for matches or training sessions which take place on a synthetic turf that is not passed fit for use.





Le Jamie Ó Tuama

# OIDHREACTH MHCIL CÍOSÓG FÓS LE BRATH 175 BLIAIN TAR ÉIS A BHREITHE

**CEANNRÓDAÍ A BHÍ I MICHEÁL CÍOSÓG A BHFUIL A OIDHREACTH AGUS A FHÍS FÓS LE BRATH 175 BLIAIN TAR ÉIS A BHREITHE. CAINTEOIR DÚCHAIS GAELIGE AB EA É A RUGADH AGUS A TÓGADH I BPOLL AN PHÚCA, AN CARN, I GCONTAE AN CHLÁIR. BA AR 20 MEÁN FÓMHAIR, 1847, A THÁINIG SÉ AR AN SAOL. IS IOMAÍ RUD A BHAIN SÉ AMACH LE LINN A 59 BLIAIN AR AN BHFÓD – AGUS A RIAN LE FEICEÁIL GO SOILÉIR I GCÓNAÍ I SAOL SPÓIRT NA HÉIREANN.**

Múinteoir bunscoile a bhí ann ina laethanta tosaigh oibre a mhúin i go leor áiteana difriúla ar fud na tíre. Bhí an-suim aige san oideachas agus san fhoghlaim agus in 1874 ceapadh é ina ollamh sa Choláiste Francise nó i gColáiste na Carraige Duibhe mar a thugtar air sa lá atá inniu ann. Ina dhiaidh sin, chuir sé 'Acadamh an Chíosogaigh' nó 'Cuack's Academy' ar bun, áit ar réitigh sé daoine le haghaidh scrúduithe státseirbhíse. Bhí an-cháil air mar theagascóir.

Cuimhnítear ar an gCíosógach de bharr a chuid teagaisc ach is mó an chuimhne atá air de bharr na hoibre a rinne sé ar son ghluaiseacht na Gaeilge agus le cúrsaí spóirt agus caithimh aimsire a chur chun cinn in Éirinn.

Bhí Micheál sáite in obair na Gaeilge agus bhí se ina bhall de Chumann Buanchoimeáda na Gaeilge a bunaíodh sa bhliain 1876. Bhí sé ina bhall gníomhach de chuid Chonradh na Gaeilge níos faide anonn nuair a bunaíodh an t-eagras Gaeilge sa bhliain 1893.

Bhí an-suim ag an gCíosógach i gcúrsaí

spóirt agus i gcúrsaí lúthchleasaíochta i gcónaí agus ghoill sé go mór air gur do dhaoine den uasalaicme a eagraítí cruinnithe spóirt agus lúthchleasaíochta den chuid ba mhó. Ní eagraítí cruinnithe lúthchleasaíochta Dé Domhnaigh mar shampla – an t-aon lá a bhíodh feirmeoirí agus lucht oibre saor le páirt a ghlacadh ina leithéid. Bhí Micheál ag iarraidh go mbeadh deis ag gach duine páirt a ghlacadh i gcúrsaí spóirt.

An-imreoir rugbaí a bhí ann agus bhíodh sé ag imirt cruicéid, iomána agus ag caitheamh meáchain. Bhí suim aige sna cluichí Gaelacha agus bhí sé imníoch faoi thodhchaí na hiomána ach go háirithe. Bhíodh an iomáint agus an pheil á himirt mar chaitheamh aimsire ach toisc nach raibh aon eagras nó cumann ann leis na cluichí a riar bhí rialacha éagsúla á gcur i bhfeidhm ó pharóiste go paróiste. Thuig Micheál go raibh gá le rud éicint a dhéanamh faoi sin.

Chas Cíosóg le Pádraig Mac an Fhailí sa bhliain 1879 agus bhí an bheirt acu ar aon intinn faoi na rudaí ár gha a dhéanamh le lúthchleasaíocht agus leis na cluichí Gaelacha a chur chun cinn i measc ghnáthmhuintir na hÉireann. Bhíodh siad ag plé na ceiste seo agus iad amuigh ag siúl i bPáirc an Fhionnuisce, i mBaile Átha Cliath.

Ag eascairt as na smaointe sin a bhí aige féin agus Mac an Fhailí bunaíodh Cumann Lúthchleas Gael ar 1 Samhain, 1884. Ceapadh an Cíosógach mar Rúnaí ar an gCumann nua agus ceapadh Muiris Ó Daimhín ina Uachtarán air. Ina dhiaidh sin, ceapadh an tArdeaspag Tomás Cróc,

Micheál Daibhéid agus Charles Stewart Parnell ina bpátrúin air.

Briseadh Micheál as a ról mar Rúnaí Chumann Lúthchleas Gael de bharr aighnis idir é féin agus agus an tArdeaspag Cróc agus de bharr an gaol achrannach a bhí aige le baill eile de chuid an Chumainn.

Bhunaigh sé an nuachtán The Celtic Times ina dhiaidh sin sa bhliain 1887 le go bhféadfadh sé a chuid tuairimí a thabhairt ar chúrsaí an Chumainn agus ar na cluichí. Bhí i bhfad níos mó ná sin ag baint leis an nuachtán, mar sin féin, agus bhíodh an Ghaeilge, an ceol agus cultúr na nGael á chur chun cinn aige ann.

Cailleadh Micheál ar 28 Samhain, 1906, agus gan é ach 59.

Tá an pheil agus an iomáint á n-imirt i gclubanna de chuid Chumann Lúthchleas Gael ní hamháin ar fud na hÉireann ach ar fud na cruinne sa lá atá inniu ann. Tá an cultúr Gaelach á chur chun cinn ag na clubanna, freisin, trí Scór agus tríd an ról atá ag an nGaeilge sa chumann. Daoine a bhíonn ag feidhmiú go deonach a choinníonn na clubanna seo ag gabháil agus na cluichí á n-imirt iontu.

Bhí lán an tí i láthair ag Cluichí Ceannais Peile agus Iomána na hÉireann i mbliana. Bhí an Ghaeilge le cloisteáil agus le feiceáil ag na cluichí ceannais sin agus bhí spiorad an deonachais, an amaitéarchas agus an chairdis le feiceáil thimpeall ar Pháirc an Chrócaigh. Bhí an lucht leanta ón dá chontae ag meascadh le chéile agus ag leanúint a bhfoirne go bródúil. Tá oidhreacht agus fíis Mhíchil Cíosóg faoi bhláth 175 bliain tar éis a bhreithe.



UACHTARÁN CHUMANN LÚTHCHLEAS GAEL, LABHRÁS MAC CÁRTHAIGH, AGUS BLÁTHFHLEASC Á LEAGAN AIGE AG UAIGH MHCIL CÍOSÓG I GCOMHLUADAR AN MHOINSÍNEORA, EOIN THYNNE, I REILIG GHLAS NAÍON INNIU

By Tye Adamson

## FIELD OF DREAMS: DOUGLAS GAA, CORK

**A CLUB LOCATED IN THE CENTRE OF THE COMMUNITY FIGHTING ITS WAY BACK TO BEING THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY, THE DOUGLAS HURLING & FOOTBALL, CAMOGIE AND LADIES FOOTBALL CLUBS IN CORK ARE MAKING HUGE STRIDES IN REGAINING THEIR PLACE IN THE TOWN.**

Having launched their Club Development Plan in 2021, the club has: “demonstrated the undoubted talent which exists in our Club, but more importantly it records our ambition to reach our full potential to become one of the best GAA clubs in Ireland, both on and off the field of play,” according to Club Chairperson Brendan Murray.

The plan was led by a steering group that consisted of members from the GAA, Camogie and LGFA club members and was chaired by Brendan. “We agreed from the start that we would follow the GAA’s guidance on a development plan which is based on the 5 Pillars of a well-run club, namely Finance, Facilities, Coaching, Structure & Management, Communication & Community and given that family is the foundation for a strong club, we are committed to becoming One Club and One GAA Family.”

They conducted a survey of members about what their priorities were. Brendan revealed after the survey they “researched what other clubs had done, we contacted various experts, Tracey Kennedy, for example, from the Cork County Board, former Ard Stiúrthóir, Páraic Ó Dufaigh, came online with us to advise us and we also talked to various others including non-GAA businesspeople as well.



THE PLAN FOR A FULLY FINISHED AND FLOODLIT HOME FOR DOUGLAS GAA, LGFA & CAMOGIE



ASTRO AND BALL WALL IN PLACE IN DOUGLAS



After six months, we drew up a draft development plan which had a potential spend of €1.8 Million over three years.” The development plan was then put to and agreed to by the clubs three executives (GAA, Camogie and LGFA).

During Covid they conducted several Webinars with members to keep them up to date and hear their opinions on the direction the club was going. The three clubs passed the draft plan with a 99% majority.

Within the club’s plan, the One Club model was introduced, once again with a 99% majority. Brendan revealed that the One Club model “creates better cooperation between the three clubs and between the three clubs we have around 3,000 members so that would make us one of the biggest clubs outside Dublin. It was important we got better cooperation between the three clubs as we share the same facilities, same sponsors, same coaches and within the ladies’ clubs, share the same players. We have an executive made up of members of all three clubs, it had its difficulties, facilities for one, which we have come over.”

The first phase of the development plan was to refurbish the clubhouse, install an Astro-turf ball-wall area and to re-lay and re-line the car park, and also open a club shop, which were all completed in June. An Taoiseach, Micheál Martin, cut the ribbon on the completion of phase 1. The club funded phase one of the development plan through its ‘Win a Gaff’ fundraiser, where tickets were sold for €100 each. “We also introduced a membership levy of €70 per household, which was accepted at the club AGM. The levy is in place for five years and brings in close to €80,000 a year which goes towards the development of the club.”

The club are currently on phase two of the development plan, which includes

installing floodlights on one of the pitches which is due to be completed by the end of the year. “We have also set up a coaching committee to bring the best coaching minds of all three clubs at all levels together, we’ve also hired a full-time Games Promotion Officer, we are the first club in Cork to do so and he is also assisting the committee on setting up the coaching structure within our club, which has been extremely successful and is definitely heading in the right direction,” Brendan added.

The third phase of the club development plan due next year is the installation of a full-size Astro turf pitch with floodlights.

“We reached an agreement with a developer that lets us extend one of our smaller pitches into a full-size pitch. That will give us the option of training all year round and eliminates the need to rent out the Páirc Uí Chaoimh/Musgrave Park and other external pitches and with the successful implementation of that we will have completed our initial three-year plan and we will take a break and look at what direction we wish to go in next. The GAA recommends that we don’t just stop, we will take a break and use the benefit of the momentum to continue developing the club, which we will do with the support of our members and the local community.”

Brendan added that without the buy-in and support of the members of the clubs and the local community that the project would not be possible at all. “Without the support for ‘Win A Gaff’, Membership Levy and the Tax Donation Scheme, which is a Revenue Approved Scheme, (Under the Capital Donations Scheme a donation from a PAYE taxpayer is enhanced by an additional payment which the club receive directly from Revenue) the club would not be able to fund any projects.

All three clubs have come together to form a fundraising committee to find new



ways of raising funds and to add to the operational fundraising events such as the club lotto, golf classics etc.”

The Chairman applauded the Douglas Camogie and Ladies Gaelic Football clubs in their cooperation with the club’s development plan and the One Club initiative, he stated that “The GAA club can’t implement such a plan in isolation, they need to have the buy in from the ladies clubs because all three clubs are going to be using the facilities, if the ladies clubs make a contribution to the plan there’s then a sense of ownership for them too which drives it on. It also sends a message to the nay-sayers within any of the clubs that think it should all be done one way because the contribution of

all the clubs together means everything is done equally. He also added that communication and listening to the members of the clubs is a great benefit in implementing a club development plan because “if you build a plan around what the members are saying, it saves the back and forth and compromises that usually happen and means it will have a better chance at being passed quicker.”

Poignantly, Brendan pointed out that the club “is in the centre of the community but wasn’t the centre of the community, people didn’t see it as a place to go, one of our main objectives of this plan is to make the club a part of the community and to make it a place to go for everyone and that is working”.

If your club would like to feature in Our Field of Dreams, contact [clubnewsletter@gaa.ie](mailto:clubnewsletter@gaa.ie) with contact details

# APPLICATIONS FOR 2021 AND 2022 MACNAMEE AWARDS NOW BEING ACCEPTED

**THE GAA MACNAMEE AWARDS ARE HELD ANNUALLY TO HONOUR EXCELLENCE IN THE AREA OF COMMUNICATIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS AND JOURNALISM, SPECIFICALLY RELATED TO THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ASSOCIATION. THESE AWARDS ARE NAMED AFTER THE LATE PÁDRAIG MACNAMEE, FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE GAA, CHAIRMAN OF THE GAA COMMISSION (1969-1971) AND MEMBER OF RTÉ AUTHORITY.**

Applications for the 2021 and 2022 MacNamee Awards are now being accepted. It should be noted that only work published or completed in the 2021 and 2022 calendar years is eligible for consideration and entries will not be returned. The awards scheme will be judged under the following headings:

• **Best Digital Impact Award**

Award for a club or county's use of existing digital channels, own creative content or cutting-edge innovations (video, streaming,

podcasts, newsletter, archives, other) to present a story or activity online.

Entries should

- Illustrate the Who, What, Where, When and Why of entry
- Illustrate innovation or use of new technologies, where relevant
- Examples of content created for the campaign
- Examples of engagement with online community
- Illustration of results achieved and future development/use.

• **Best GAA Publication**

To cover general works focussing on the Association.

• **Best GAA Club Publication**

To cover GAA County Yearbooks and Club Histories.

• **Best Photograph**

Focussing on the best GAA-themed image.

• **Best Programme**

To cater for all match day programmes produced for any level of the GAA.

• **Best GAA related Radio Programme**

To cater for all GAA programming broadcast either nationally or locally.

• **Provincial Media Award**

To acknowledge high quality written journalism in a provincial publication.

• **National Media Award**

To acknowledge high quality written journalism in national daily or Sunday publication.

• **Best TV Documentary**

To acknowledge the high quality of TV documentaries currently produced on the GAA.

• **Irish Language Award / Gradam na Gaeilge**

To recognise excellence in the field of Irish language GAA journalism across all media/Aitheantas ar ardchaighdeán iriseoireachta Gaeilge bainteach le cúrsaí CLG, ina chuimsítear gach cineál meán cumarsáide.

APPLICATIONS FOR MACNAMEE AWARDS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED.



\* Please note: There is a limit of three photographs per entrant for the photographic award and one entry (jpeg format) for all other categories.

A Hall of Fame Award / Outstanding Service Award will also be made in recognition of a prolonged personal involvement in the coverage of GAA activities to the highest standards.

All entries should be marked "GAA MacNamee Awards 2021 or 2022" and addressed for the attention of Alan Milton,

Director of Communications, Croke Park, Dublin 3 or emailed to [awards@gaa.ie](mailto:awards@gaa.ie). Entrants should also clearly state what category they are submitting their entry under.

Award winners will be contacted in due course with further details in relation to the awards presentations.

Closing date for entries is Friday October 21, 2022. For further information please contact [communications@gaa.ie](mailto:communications@gaa.ie)



## CELEBRATE 10 YEARS OF THE KELLOGG'S SKYLINE

**TO MARK 10 YEARS OF THE KELLOGG'S SKYLINE TOURS, THE GAA MUSEUM IS PROUD TO PRESENT OUR 'TOURS ON THE HOUSE!' AND DISCOVER DUBLIN SERIES.**

### Discover Dublin Series

Over the autumn and winter months, our Friday evenings will be taken over by Dublin experts as they join our tour guides for these special tours with a different theme each week. These rooftop tours will cover a variety of topics from tenement Dublin to emigration, the Dublin music scene and much more. Tours must be booked online in advance and make sure to read the Kellogg's Skyline health and safety advice before booking. These tours are not suitable for younger children. Tours will depart from the GAA Museum at 3.15pm and last approx. 90 minutes.

Tickets can then be booked from the individual links below.

### [Historic Dublin](#)

### [Georgian Dublin and Beyond](#)

### [Musical Dublin](#)

### [Dublin and The Vikings](#)

### [Tenement Dublin from the Skyline](#)

### [Glasnevin from the Skyline](#)

### [Bloody Sunday at Croke Park](#)



# KNOW THE RULES – DON'T PUT YOUR CLUB INSURANCE COVER IN JEOPARDY



## CLUB FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

Units are reminded that liability insurance cover for non-GAA activities is not automatic. Non-GAA activities equals activities that are not Gaelic games or Gaelic games training. To extend cover to non-Games activities including all fundraising the organising units must submit a request for insurance extension to GAA Insurance department or Marsh Ireland.

At the pre-planning stage we encourage

clubs to seek advice with respect to the nature of proposed events and the availability of insurance extension. If existing cover can extend to the proposed activity, the GAA Insurance department and Marsh Ireland can provide best practice risk management guidance and templates to assist clubs in managing their events in a safe manner. GAA insurance and / or Marsh Ireland will also review the adequacy of third-party insurances (service providers or users of club property) to ensure the club is protected.

EXAMPLES OF PERMITTED*	EXAMPLE OF EXCLUDED
Strictly Come Dancing/ Night At Oscars / Lip Sync Battle	Inflatables / Hired Amusements
Bingo – Indoor / Outdoor	Boxing Kickboxing MMA events
Run / Walk / Cycle	Tree Felling / Scrap Metal Collecting
Ireland Lights Up Operation transformation	Activity Runs e.g. Mud Run/Hell & Back
Family Fun Day	Foam Parties / Aquatic activities
Table Quiz	Equestrian Events / Donkey Derbies
Bag Packing	Quad Bikes/Go Karts/Soap Box derbies
Children's Disco	Weddings

\* Subject to Advance notice & Underwriting requirements in place

## FACILITY DEVELOPMENT WORKS

As per the T&C of the GAA Insurance policy all facility development / construction activity must be notified and agreed in advance with GAA Insurance Department or GAA Insurance Brokers, Marsh Ireland. Failure to notify facility development / construction activity in advance may result in the development being uninsured when completed meaning GAA Property & Liability Insurance will not extend to development when completed.

The Liability policy held by the GAA does not extend to cover liability arising out of Building/Facility Development Works. This is an excluded activity. It is a requirement of The Association that contracts/works

of this nature are carried out by bone fide contractors who have the appropriate insurance cover in place with indemnities on the policy to the club.

Marsh Ireland and / or GAA Insurance department will assist units review contractors' insurance covers to ensure the club is protected.

For clubs with insurance queries, please contact

[sinead.levay@gaa.ie](mailto:sinead.levay@gaa.ie)  
OR

Marsh Ireland  
[generalgaaqueries@marsh.com](mailto:generalgaaqueries@marsh.com)

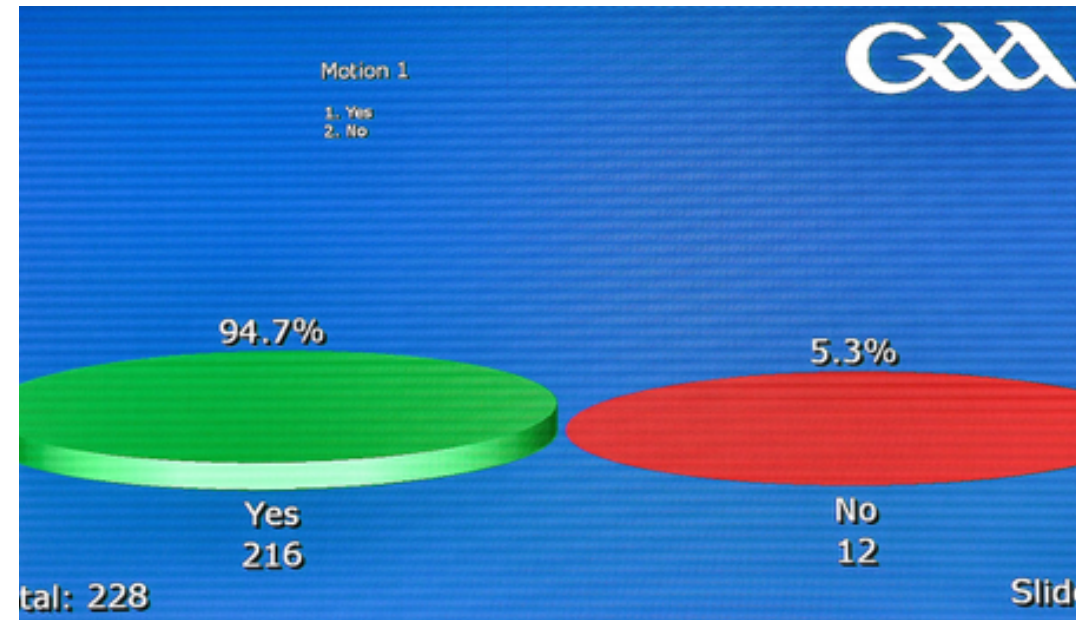


## VERDICT OF CENTRAL COUNCIL ON DECISIONS BY EMAIL

**THE INTERPRETATION TAKEN BY CENTRAL COUNCIL AT ITS MEETING ON 20Ú MEITHEAMH 2022 WAS THAT DECISIONS TAKEN BY EMAIL ARE VALID AND ARE NOT IN CONFLICT WITH THE OFFICIAL GUIDE. HOWEVER, THIS MECHANISM MUST BE USED SPARINGLY AND APPROPRIATELY. SPECIFICALLY, EMAIL DECISIONS ARE NOT TO BE EMPLOYED UNIVERSALLY BY DEFAULT. IT IS AT THE DISCRETION OF EACH COMMITTEE TO ADOPT THEIR USE, OR OTHERWISE, DEPENDING UPON SUITABILITY. FURTHERMORE, WHERE SUCH A DECISION-MAKING MECHANISM IS TO BE EMPLOYED IT MUST BE UNDERTAKEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH A POLICY TO BE SET DOWN BY CENTRAL COUNCIL.**

The proposed policy and parameters are as follows:

- Each unit/committee/sub-committee must have a policy determining what exceptional circumstances email decisions will be used.
- Decisions by emails must be reserved for administrative decisions and not used for decisions of adjudication or property transactions.
- Decisions by email must, in as far as is possible, be confined to voting "For" or "Against" a question not requiring further clarification or capable of being amended. Where a unit/committee pose a question for decision which attracts more than one opposing or varied view from members, the decision must be deferred to a convened meeting held either in person in accordance with Rule 4.3 Official Guide or virtually in accordance with Rule 4.7.
- In advance of any such decision the secretary of the unit/committee/sub-committee must explain why a physical meeting is not possible, establish the number of members entitled to vote; establish that current email addresses are available for each member so entitled; determine the necessary quorum; and advise the members accordingly.
- Where possible, the secretary must establish a system whereby confirmation of receipt of the email can be satisfied.
- A specific deadline for return of votes must be communicated and strictly adhered to.
- Only the members who vote, or communicate abstention, must be deemed to be present for the purposes of determining a quorum
- If there are insufficient votes cast, or abstentions communicated, by the specific deadline, to reach a quorum then a valid decision by email is not possible.
- Votes not cast are not deemed to be assenting to the proposal.





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)**.

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