

GAA International

Report 2016



Gaelic Athletic Association
April 2017



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Foreword by Aogán Ó Fearghail, Uachtarán CLG

The international growth of the GAA over the past number of years has been nothing short of phenomenal as reflected in the fact that there are now 421 GAA Clubs globally. Wherever the Irish travel, they carry the GAA with them - both figuratively in their hearts, as well as literally by bundling a Hurley or Gaelic football into their luggage. For the Diaspora, Gaelic games offer an opportunity to maintain a link with Ireland but also provide an outlet to forge new links with kindred spirits in their new home as they form friendships and create networks.

2016 - a year of such special significance in Irish history - provided the Association with a chance to honour the fact that our national games are now played in almost every corner of the world by hosting the Etihad Airways GAA World Games in Ireland. The staging of the Games in Dublin, gave the GAA a chance to acknowledge the great work being done in spreading the GAA gospel overseas and the high standard to which our games are being played worldwide. It was also an opportunity for many Irish people to see at first-hand how so many non-native Irish are discovering and embracing our games and the sense of community and friendship they inspire.

The Association would not have made such strides internationally without the constant and steadfast support of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The pioneering work of key figures within the GAA and DFA - Ray Bassett, Séamus Howlin and the late Dermot Gallagher to name a few - has been pivotal in achieving the levels of growth and development to date. This partnership continues to go from strength to strength as a result of a number of co-funded initiatives including the Global Games Development Fund, which provided support for 47 projects worldwide in 2016. This partnership has played no small part in maximising participation and growing the GAA community globally.

Year on year, the number of International Clubs is growing, the number of members outside of Ireland continues to increase and the standard of Gaelic games played overseas continues to rise. It is a credit to the enthusiastic work of so many volunteers that the future of the GAA internationally is so bright. The Association will continue to support this growth through continued collaboration with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Furthermore, the GAA is committed to showcasing the on-going work of all International Units and Clubs by undertaking to organise the GAA World Games on a tri-annual basis in Ireland.

Rath Dé ar an obair,

Aogán Ó Fearghail

Uachtarán Cumann Lúthchleas Gael

Foreword by Joe McHugh T.D.

It is my pleasure as Minister for the Diaspora and International Development to acknowledge the role of the GAA as our largest diaspora organisation abroad. Strengthening connections with Irish communities abroad and promoting links with Irish people and people of Irish ancestry is a key objective of the Irish Government Emigrant Support Programme. This report documents the collaboration between the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the GAA and the impact this is having in Irish communities across the globe.

GAA clubs are part of the fabric of the community all around Ireland, and it is amazing to see that the same relationship is true of GAA clubs and Irish communities not based in “hurling strongholds”, but in far flung locations all around the world. In fact this relationship continues to grow with new GAA clubs being established by Irish communities around the world every year. These clubs provide a community, a sense of home and an invaluable additional support network in times of crisis for Irish people around the world.

It is heartening to see so many clubs abroad building relationships by working to involve local communities in our uniquely Irish games. In addition to the support they give to Irish communities they are important ambassadors of Ireland’s heritage, culture and values to local communities in the countries in which they are based.

The support provided to the GAA by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade by the Emigrant Support Programme through the Global Games Development Fund aims to foster these key roles provided by GAA clubs around the world. Since 2013 the Global Games Development Fund has provided funding to clubs in 36 countries around the world and this number continues to grow. The ever increasing level of GAA activity abroad is testament to the work being done by the GAA locally with the support of our Embassy network.

Ba mhaith liom mo chomhghairdeas a gabháil chuig an C.L.G. agus a fhoireann uilig timpeall an domhain, agus fosta aitheantas a gabháil i dtreo an ceangail nádúrtha idir muintir na h-Éireann sa bhaile agus thar lear.

Joe McHugh T.D.

Minister for the Diaspora and International Development

Foreword by Pat Daly, GAA Director of Games Development

In a sporting context 'success' can very often be synonymous with winning trophies or amassing medals. However, within the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA), the parameters for measuring 'success' are very different and are very much predicated on the core values of the Association - Community Identity; Amateur Status; Inclusiveness; Respect; Player Welfare and Teamwork. Nowhere are these values as evident and as vibrant as within the International Clubs and Units of the Association.

In 2016, the importance and unique identify of the GAA's Global Community was manifest at the Etihad Airway's GAA World Games, which were held in Dublin from the 7th to the 14th August. With over 400 Clubs worldwide outside of Ireland, the World Games was a unique opportunity for International Units to represent their Country, Region or Club on a global stage.

The concept of a GAA World Games was first mooted in 2009 and the opportunity to progress this concept presented itself as part of the Aer Lingus/ Etihad Airways Hurling Tournament, which was held in 2013 in conjunction with The Gathering. On the back of the original proposal, it was decided to bring 16 hurling teams to Galway to participate in a once-off event including five non-Irish teams: Buenos Aires; Milwaukee; Denver/Indianapolis; Barley House Wolves/ Allentown; and Europe. This decision proved to be a most enlightened one and provided a platform for the inaugural GAA World Games, which took place from 5th-7th March 2015 in Abu Dhabi and featured 26 teams from Canada, the USA, Asia, the Middle East, South Africa, Australasia, South America and Europe competing in Gaelic Football and Ladies Gaelic Football.

The 2016 Etihad Airway's GAA World Games built on the inaugural World Games, increasing the number of teams involved from 26 to 56 teams with 27 of the teams featuring exclusively comprised of players of non-Irish descent. Furthermore, it involved all four codes - Hurling, Camogie, Gaelic Football and Ladies Football - and there was an Irish-born and non-Irish dimension to each code. With over 670 players involved, the World Games proved to be a momentous week of competitions and events aimed at introducing Irish Culture and Heritage to player's, team officials, supporters and spectators alike. The events also provided the opportunity to highlight the growth of the GAA Internationally to people at home and abroad as well as to give an insight into the inclusive nature of the International GAA Community, which encompasses both Irish-born and non-Irish players. Commencing with an opening ceremony in Croke Park during half-time of the All Ireland Senior Hurling Semi-Final, the World Games also included a Cultural Heritage Concert in the Helix, DCU as well

as a Global Games Development Forum in UCD. Over the course of three days, a total of 254 games took place on six pitches in UCD. The Etihad Airway's GAA World Games concluded with 8 Grand Finals, which took place in Croke Park on Friday 12th August with approximately 2,000 spectators in attendance.

Inclusiveness and Respect are also key features of the GAA internationally. The story of Ahmed and Amjad Alsamarie is a testament to this. The two brothers, who are from Iraq, arrived in Berlin as refugees and were living in a holding centre near Tempelhof airport when they first saw the local Club - Berlin GAA - training. Intrigued, they approached the group and were immediately encouraged to join training and take up the game of Hurling. In a very short time the brothers have mastered the skills and in October 2016 they lined out for Berlin GAA at the European Hurling & Camogie Finals in Dresden. Ahmed and Amjad have now found a new community in Berlin:

"Berlin GAA are really important because I'm a refugee and don't have too many friends. I think these are new friends and we enjoy every training. My family are in Iraq - I have just my brother - so I'm happy with Berlin GAA... I think the Irish are friendly people. All the players smile, say hello and teach me. It's amazing." - Ahmed Alsamarie

The inherent benefits of teamwork and collaboration are palpable in GAA Clubs worldwide. In Ireland, since 2011, the GAA and its sister organisations - the Camogie Association and the Ladies Gaelic Football Association (LGFA) - have been pursuing the development of a One Club Model to oversee the organisation and promotion of all Gaelic games under single administrative units at Club level. However, even prior to 2011, the One Club Model was accepted practice internationally in recognition of the fact that a united approach will inevitably work to the benefit of all. Globally, all codes are promoted with equal passion and fervour. In this regard, the cooperation of all members to the benefit of all sets a clear example for the Club model in Ireland.

The ultimate challenge - both in Ireland and Internationally - involves getting all International Units to commit to the principle of 'Play to Stay WeLL' (Wellbeing and Lifelong Learning), thereby ensuring that people's bio-psycho-social-spiritual needs are met and that they, in turn, can give tangible expression the value-laden ideals that underpin the ultimate level of Wellbeing i.e. 'I-MOULD-TEAM'.

The GAA Community internationally embodies the values of the Gaelic Athletic Association. The time given by individuals and their voluntary efforts are astounding and serve to demonstrate the key role that Gaelic Games play in terms of generating social capital, forging personal relationships and networks as well as promoting Irish heritage and identity worldwide. The Association is committed to supporting these endeavours internationally and - in close partnership with the Department of Foreign Affairs - looks forward to the continued growth and expansion of the GAA at National, Regional and Global level.

AT A
GLANCE

9
INTERNATIONAL
UNITS

421
GAA CLUBS
WORLDWIDE

45
COUNTRIES

GLOBAL
GAMES
DEVELOPMENT
FUND

47 PROJECTS
24 COUNTRIES
€180,000
IN FUNDING

CONTINENTAL
YOUTH
CHAMPIONSHIPS
(CYC)
ESTABLISHED
2004
2,500 PLAYERS
200 TEAMS

ALL-BRITAIN
COMPETITION
(ABC)
ESTABLISHED
2011
1,947 PLAYERS
150 TEAMS

INTERNATIONAL
YOUTH
TOURNAMENTS

254
GAMES

124
VOLUNTEERS

56
TEAMS

27
NATIVE-BORN
TEAMS

ETIHAD
GAA
WORLD GAMES
2016

8
GRAND
FINALS

672
PLAYERS

12
INTERNATIONAL
TEAMS AT FÉILE
2016

ASIAN
YOUTH GAMES
(AYG)
ESTABLISHED
2016
160 PLAYERS
10 TEAMS





GO

Fáilte



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Atha Cliath
Dublin City Council

O'NEILLS



O'NEILLS

O'NEILLS



lte Irela
Tourism Developm

Introduction

Introduction

In 2016, the number of registered International GAA Clubs increased from 411 to 421 Clubs. This means that one fifth of all GAA Clubs are now based outside of the island of Ireland – a truly phenomenal achievement and a testament to the tireless efforts of volunteers to grow and promote Gaelic games worldwide.

The growth of these GAA clubs and the activities undertaken by them could not however, be sustained without the on-going cooperation between the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) through the Emigrant Support Programme (ESP).

The Emigrant Support Programme focuses on supporting cultural, community and heritage projects that foster a vibrant sense of community and identity. In this regard, the partnership with the GAA is a perfect fit, which allows both organisations to combine and optimise resources in order to achieve the shared objective of promoting a strong sense of community and heritage for generations of Irish and non-Irish people abroad.

This report provides an insight into the projects that received direct funding from the GAA and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade under the auspices of the ESP in 2016. The report features activities from across the globe and each Section focuses on the projects undertaken in one of the specific International Units. While it is important to note that there is significant activity occurring beyond the projects outlined here, the report does serve to provide a flavour of the effort, drive and commitment displayed by GAA communities spread across six continents.







1. Argentina

ARGGAA
AFFILIATION IN 2015

1 Project - Global Games Development Fund 2016

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Gaelic Sports League Development
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2016 witnessed the further growth of Gaelic games in Argentina with the introduction of Gaelic games to two schools in Cordoba – Mark Twain and St. Patrick’s – and another school in Buenos Aires – St. Brendan’s. All the schools participated in internal leagues with over 40 pupils enjoying the opportunity to play Gaelic football and to learn about the historical connection between Argentina and Ireland.

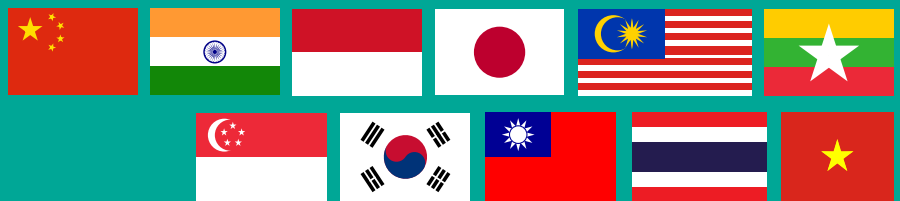
At the Global Games Development Forum, which was held in conjunction with the Etihad Airway’s GAA World Games, attendees had the opportunity to hear about the history and evolution of GAA in Argentina. After a period of significant growth in the 1920s, when four Clubs united to create the ‘Argentine Federation of Hurling’, interest began to decline in the 1940s – primarily due to the difficulties posed in importing hurleys during World War II. Many of the players began to play Hockey instead, however, Hurling was always played as part of the annual anniversary celebrations of the Hurling Club Buenos Aires. The visit of the GAA Hurling All Stars in 2002 and 2010 re-ignited an interest but it was the efforts of a dedicated core of committed volunteers who have kindled the spark into a flame.

For 2017 the Hurling Club of Buenos Aires has plans to increase the number of schools to 6 including an additional school in Cordoba as well as a school in Concordia Entre Rios – San Antonio and a school in Rosario – St. Patrick’s. The ambition for 2017 is to hold a tournament with representatives from all schools, which will be the first such tournament in over 70 years.

As developments in Argentina have outgrown the structures currently in place, it is now necessary to establish a South American Unit, which will oversee the promotion and development of Gaelic games in this region.







2. Asia

ASIAN COUNTY BOARD
ESTABLISHED 2006
22 CLUBS IN 11 COUNTRIES

- | | | |
|------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| CHINA | MALAYSIA | TAIWAN |
| INDIA | MYANMAR | THAILAND |
| INDONESIA | SINGAPORE | VIETNAM |
| JAPAN | SOUTH KOREA | |

13 Projects – Global Games Development Fund 2016

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Asian County Board – Development of Ladies Gaelic Football/
Asian County Board – Asian Youth Games (AYG)/**Beijing GAA**
 – Rise of the Gaelic Dragon/**Laochra Busan GAA** – Growth and
 Development of Laochra Busan/**Daegu Fianna** – Bettering
 Standards and Sustaining Growth in a Vibrant Expatriate
 Community/**South China Youth Board** – South China Youth Gaelic
 Football Development Plan/**Orang Éire** – Introducing Gaelic
 Football to Second and Third Level; Adopting hurling as part of
 the underage training programme/**Seoul Gaels** – Underage Gaelic
 Football Programme in Seoul/**Shanghai GAA** **Singapore Gaelic**
Lions – Underage Development Programme/**Suzhou Éire Óg** –
 Development Programme/**Thailand GAA** – Child/Youth Games
 Development Programme; Establishment of a Hurling team in
 Thailand/**Viet Celts** – Youth and Senior Development Programme

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Asian County Board – Development of Ladies Gaelic Football

This project spanned a number of Clubs from Thailand to Japan over the course of a 40 day period and was delivered to over 200 female players in Asia. With the support of the Connacht Council, Lorraine Muckian, a coach with the Ladies Gaelic Football Association (LGFA) travelled to a number of clubs to deliver practical training sessions. In addition to this, Lorraine put significant effort into up-skilling the coaches in order to ensure the sessions were simultaneously better planned, of a higher standard and ultimately more fun for participants. The project team felt that the organisational structure and skills imparted by Lorraine was the primary benefit of the project as better coaching attracts increased membership and enhances the sustainability of the Clubs.

The project had a very positive impact in increasing the number of female members within all the clubs participating in the project. As a direct outcome of the project in 2017, the Asian County Board will organise the inaugural South Asian Ladies Gaelic Football league that will include teams from Saigon, Hanoi, Bangkok, Singapore, and Kuala Lumpur. Furthermore, as a result of the project, the Asian County Board are now in a position to send a Japanese Ladies team to Croke Park in 2017 to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Ireland-Japan diplomatic relations where they will play against several Irish teams.

The Asian County Board remain committed to the development of Ladies teams for 2017 and beyond - the overall ambition is that the male to female player ratio will soon be 50:50.

Asian County Board – Asian Youth Games (AYG)

The 2016 Asian Youth Games (AYG) took place in November 2016 in Hanoi, Vietnam. Over the course of the Games the Asian County Board had over 160 kids playing games at U.12, U.15 and Minor age-grades.

In total, the event had teams from Vietnam (6+), Korea (3), and China (1) and it took a significant amount of organisation and cooperation between the Asian County Board (ACB), the Viet Celts (host Club) and other sporting organisations in Hanoi including the Viet Swans – a juvenile AFL Club.

Over the course of eight months, the key stakeholders worked closely to ensure that this inaugural stand-alone Youth event was a great success. The recruitment of visiting teams was crucial and the fact that Clubs and Schools from Korea as well as a Club from China travelled to the event was significant.

The players, coaches and families involved thoroughly enjoyed the Games. They experienced the opportunity to learn more about Gaelic games, to practice their skills and to play against other teams that they would not normally meet. Additionally, the coaches were able to talk with each other and discuss how to improve their teams and the best ways to recruit new players. It was a perfect opportunity for those involved to network and improve themselves.

The event provided invaluable experience for the host Club but also for the ACB as it begins to focus increasingly on activities at Child and Youth level – both in Clubs and in International Schools. Organisationally, the ACB hopes to establish a dedicated sub-committee to assist all Clubs to put structures in place to grow participation at Child and Youth level as well as to take responsibility for the organisation of all future events. The creation of a Community of Practice between coaches of Youth teams is an additional objective that will enhance lesson learning and networking between Clubs. Finally, for 2017, it is intended to grow upon the success of the first year. The AYGs will take place in Kuala Lumpur in September 2017 and it is intended to have teams from Hong Kong, Malaysia and Singapore participating in conjunction with teams from Korea, Vietnam and China.

Beijing GAA – Rise of the Gaelic Dragon

In 2015, Beijing GAA began to expand their activities to introduce Chinese University Students to Gaelic games. In this regard, members of the Club used the existing relationship between University College Dublin (UCD) and Beijing University of Technology (BJUT) to form a connection with the students of Beijing Dublin International College (BDIC).

The purpose of the project was to introduce native Chinese students to Gaelic games in order to maximise membership of the Club but also to allow for language and cultural exchange opportunities for the mutual benefit of the Irish expat community and the local Beijing community.

As a direct result of the project, membership of the Club grew by 20%, which gave the Club the required manpower to host the All-China Games in June. The BDIC male student team was the first ever native-born Chinese football team to



compete in the All-China Games and subsequently, represented Beijing at the Asian Gaelic Games in October 2015 and the GAA World Games in Ireland. In recognition of their efforts, Beijing GAA received the 'Asian Club of the Year' for the first time - an achievement that would not have been possible without the grant funding.

Laochra Busan GAA – Growth and Development of Laochra Busan

The project undertaken by Laochra Busan GAA aimed to increase the reach of Gaelic football in the Gyeongnam Province of South Korea as well as to optimise the quality of the training session within the Club.

The season commenced with a recruitment campaign, which included an Open Day in March, a piece by two members on the local radio station and training sessions in the nearby town of Geogje, which led to six new members joining. Further to the campaign the Club often had up to 50 players attending training sessions. Their enthusiasm was evident and they gave their full support when the Club hosted the North Asian Gaelic Games for the first time.

Bad weather was a contributory factor to a decrease in activity in the latter half of the year, however, the Club still managed to send two representatives to the Asian Gaelic Games in Shanghai. One of the key learnings for the project team was the need to run more than one recruitment drive per year as momentum can often be broken when members take summer holidays. Aside from this, the Club has plans to continue expanding in 2017 and hopes to increase the number of representatives attending the Asian Gaelic Games in the coming season.

Daegu Fianna – Bettering Standards and Sustaining Growth in a Vibrant Expatriate Community

Daegu Fianna was established in South Korea in 2011 and has been growing incrementally ever since. In 2016, the Club received grant funding for the first time in order to support the facility hire required to deliver activity all year-round. The access to quality venues with astro surfaces had a very positive impact on the level of activity undertaken and also contributed to the spread of Gaelic games to new members in the city.

The number of players in the Club reached an all-time high of 57 in 2016 and members had a constant calendar of activities including: hosting a friendly pre-season tournament with the neighbouring Club, Laochra Busan; entering 'B' teams for men's and ladies Gaelic football in the Korean

Gaelic League; sending 7 player to the All-China Games in June 2016; sending 3 players to the Asian Gaelic Games in November 2016.

The Club view 2016 as the first step to success. With increased playing numbers, it is now easier to prepare quality training sessions and it also means that more volunteers are available to coach teams. The Club's aim in 2017 is to focus on forging links with local institutions and International Schools in order to expand the Daegu Fianna network and increase sustainability and self-sufficiency through attracting new members.

South China Youth Board – South China Youth Gaelic Football Development Plan

The aim of the South China Youth Board (SCYB) is to develop Gaelic Football at grassroots level in Hong Kong and the wider region. In order to achieve this, the SCYB have developed a programme that focuses on the introduction of Gaelic games to Primary Schools and Post-Primary Schools via the medium of PE and after-school activities.

The programme is implemented by sending an experienced coach to the schools to assist the PE and generalist teachers to plan and run the class or after-school activity. The main focus is on ensuring that the teachers are up-skilled so that in time they can deliver the classes and activities on their own. The culmination of the programme is an Inter-School Blitz, which takes place during the last term of the school year.

In 2016, the Board undertook a new venture by convening sessions on Friday evenings to cater for children that did not attend the participating International Schools. The rationale behind this was twofold: build critical mass; provide opportunities for children of Irish descent who do not attend a participating International School. The Board also organised the first ever Cúl Camp in summer 2016 and while numbers were small it is anticipated that this will grow in 2017.

Activity for 2017 will focus upon recruiting PE students from the Chinese University of Hong Kong to become



involved as coaches in the Programme. This will add to the sustainability of the Programme and will also allow the Board to cater for additional schools.

Orang Éire – Introducing Gaelic Football to Second and Third Level Institutions in Kuala Lumpur; Adopting Hurling as part of the Underage Training Programme

The Irish community in Kuala Lumpur is relatively small by international standards, however, it is a very close-knit network and the Orang Éire GAA Club provides a focal point for the Irish Diaspora.

In 2016, Orang Éire coordinated a very successful schools programme delivering coaching sessions and games opportunities in 6 schools in the Klang Valley from February to November. Shauna Tay, a Malaysian who developed a love of Gaelic football through the Club, conducted over 100 training sessions totalling 140 hours in the 6 International Schools. In May 2016, the Club ran a very successful youth tournament with three of the participating schools. A total of 80 Child and Youth players attended the event and games were organised at U.7, U.10 and U.15 age-grades.

Aside from activities within the Schools, the Club also hosted Sunday morning training sessions every weekend. These proved to be an invaluable outlet for the Irish Community in Kuala Lumpur and oftentimes there were as many parents present as children. Hurling was also introduced to Child and Youth players for the first time at these Sunday morning sessions and proved very popular.

The Club aims to build upon the success of 2016 by participating in the Asian Youth Games in 2017.

Seoul Gaels – Underage Gaelic Football Programme

In 2016, Seoul Gaels rolled out an Underage Gaelic Football Programme with the aim of further strengthening and promoting Gaelic football in schools throughout Seoul and Korea. The Club built upon a previous Schools' Programme by expanding to a number of new schools as well as providing practical support and encouragement to independent Schools and other Clubs to take up Gaelic games.

Throughout the year the Club assisted the establishment of a new Club in South Korea – Ríthe Óga and also expanding the Schools' Programme to include KIS Pangyo. Furthermore, the Club hosted three very successful tournaments over the course of the year, the largest of which involved 85 players. Two of these tournaments took place in conjunction with the

Adult Korean League, which enhanced links between the Juvenile and Adult sections of the Club. The Club also organised a Family Fun Day on the local American Army base in order to involve more children and their families in the Club's activities.

The programme of activity was a real success with an increase in the number of children playing and an overall estimate of 500 people benefitting from the project. One of the highlights of the year was the establishment of the Club's first ever girls-only team while another highlight was the game between Seoul Gaels and Shanghai, which was played at half-time during the Galway v Tipperary Hurling Semi-Final. The exhibition game put a smile on the faces of all present and made history as it was the first time that two Asian juvenile teams had the honour of competing at Croke Park. They also had the chance to meet An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, who was delighted to see children from the far east playing our national sport.

Overall the Club achieved the aim of introducing more Irish and non-Irish expat children to the sport as well as recruiting local Korean children, which will greatly contribute towards promoting Ireland and fostering good relations between all communities involved.

Shanghai GAA Outreach Programme

The Outreach Programme delivered by Shanghai GAA had a number of ambitious objectives including: the establishment of a GAA team within a Third Level Institute in Shanghai; the expansion of Shanghai GAA's School's Programme to additional partners; and the organisation of a tour to Ireland for the Club's youth teams.

The Club organised weekly visits to the Shanghai University of Sport where 120 students attended coaching sessions over a ten-week period. Furthermore, significant progress was made through a partnership with the East China University of Technology (ECUT) in Nanchang, where a university team was set up and subsequently went on to compete in the Asian Gaelic Games - narrowly losing in the Semi-Final of the Junior Plate to Suzhou GAA.

A total of 325 pupils received coaching and games opportunities in three International Schools in Shanghai



during 2016. This input led to an increase in the number of members of the juvenile section with 55 children regularly training with the Club. The trip to Ireland was also a resounding success – the highlight of which was an exhibition game in Croke Park against Seoul Gaels.

The Club is optimistic about further growth at Third Level in 2017 and also has plans to expand the Club's juvenile activities to include younger age-grades (U.6/U.7). This measure will ensure that parents who are bringing their older children training do not have to make alternative arrangements for their younger children.

Singapore Gaelic Lions – Underage Development Programme

The Singapore Gaelic Lions celebrated its 20th Anniversary as a Club in 2016. In that time, it has established itself as an active and indeed the largest club in Asia with over 300 members, including a vibrant Juvenile section (U.4 – U.13). The Club is a strong social outlet and - with a diversity of 15 nationalities amongst its members - has been and will continue to be a face of Ireland to non-Irish communities while also being a recognisable entity for Irish people abroad.

In 2016, the Club introduced a new School's Programme with the aim of recruiting Post-Primary pupils to the Club. Ten Post-Primary Schools were approached to run a 3-week Coaching and Games Programme within the School. All schools agreed to participate and in total over 200 pupils received coaching and participated in games. The Club also ran a parallel Coach Education Programme for PE teachers within these schools, which was also delivered to interested volunteers in the Club. While acquiring equipment proved problematic, overall the School's Programme was a great success with more youth players joining the Club.

For the coming year, the Club aims to expand the number of schools participating in the Programme and also to select a team to represent the Gaelic Lions at the South-East Asia Juvenile Tournament.

Suzhou Éire Óg – Development Programme

Suzhou Éire Óg is a relatively small Club compared to some of the neighbouring Clubs in China, however, it has a dedicated Committee that act as the first point of contact for Irish arriving to the city. Suzhou Éire Óg set about an ambitious Development Programme in 2016 and while it suffered some set-backs due to insufficient funds (e.g. they had to reduce training sessions from twice a week to once a week) they still achieved a

number of milestones during the year including competing at the All China Games where they came runners-up in the Plate competition and entering the Asian Gaelic Games where they came runners-up in their category.

Suzhou Éire Óg also joined with a number of other Clubs to send four of their female members to participate in the Asian Gaelic Games in October. This reflected a lot of proactive work by the Club as the Committee reached out to neighbouring Clubs to make this opportunity happen. Furthermore, the Club succeeded in increasing the number of new Chinese players and for the first time now have a Chinese woman training and playing regularly with the women's team.

For 2017 the Committee are focusing on improving standards across the board but - in particular - the Club is focusing on increasing numbers on the women's team. The Club now have a member of the women's team on the Committee and this will hopefully help to ensure that training sessions and tournaments are more appealing for new female members.

Thailand GAA – Child/Youth Games Development Programme & Establishment of a Hurling team in Thailand

The aims of the project were twofold i.e. to introduce Gaelic games to Schools; and to establish a competitive Hurling team at Adult level.

During 2016 the Club successfully organised and provided equipment for a series of demonstration days and introductory programmes at several international and bilingual schools in Bangkok. As a follow-on to this, the Club hosted a juvenile competition involving teams from Bangkok, Singapore and Kuala Lumpur during the South-East Asia Gaelic Games in Bangkok. The Club believes there is further opportunity for growth in the schools and are liaising with the Viet Celts and Seoul Gaels to determine how best to progress and grow the School's Programme.

Thailand GAA proved very successful in the establishment of a ThaiGAA Hurling team and also had a number of



Camogie players involved throughout the season. The Club hosted the inaugural Asian Hurling Tournament in Bangkok in September 2016, which involved teams from Bangkok, Singapore and Hong Kong. ThaiGAA won this tournament and then won the Hurling tournament at the Asian Gaelic Games in Shanghai in November. The Club was also successful in introducing a number of non-Irish to the game.

For 2017 the Club will further develop both aspects of the project. ThaiGAA intends to organise a St. Patrick's Day International Schools Tournament and to establish Gaelic games as an Extra-Curricular Activity (ECA) in at least one school. Additionally, it is hoped to travel to a number of regional Hurling Tournaments and to have two Hurling teams participate at the Asian Gaelic Games.

Viet Celts – Youth and Adult Development Project

There were two key strands to the 2016 project undertaken by the Viet Celts i.e. Youth Development and Adult Participation. In terms of the first strand, the Club successfully staged the inaugural Asian Youth Games (AYG) in Hanoi in November 2016. With four teams travelling from Korea and Shanghai as well as eight local teams, playing in three age categories – U.12, U.15, U1.8 – the Club hosted a competition that provides the blueprint for the future of Youth Gaelic football in Asia. For the children involved, the tournament provided a clear indication of the player pathway available, particularly in Hanoi, where some of the older U.18's will be making their Senior debut in February 2017 against Thailand. In addition to the AYG, the Viet Celts also hosted the All-Vietnam Schools Cup and the Hanoi Youth Cup. The Viet Celts also continued its link with the Blue Dragon Children's Foundation – a local orphanage – by delivering 50 sessions throughout the year and involving the children in the three annual competitions.

For the Adults, the Club maintained regular training sessions and local challenge matches, adapting to the lack of Gaelic teams by continuing their International Rules Series against the Australian Rules team in Hanoi as well as travelling to Danang for the All Vietnam Championships against Saigon Gaels. The Ladies team won the South Asian Plate for the first time, demonstrating exactly how maximising participation levels over the past couple of years has led to improved performance levels.

Apart from the competitive aspect of the tournaments, the Viet Celts have seen more people attracted to the club by the community spirit and enjoyment of travelling together. Unfortunately, the Club were not able to send any teams to Shanghai for the Asian Gaelic Games (AGG). The

proximity of the AGG to the AYG meant that the Club had to concentrate efforts on hosting the AYG as it didn't have the resources to do both. Whilst disappointed not to be able to send teams to the AGG, the Club decided that it was more beneficial to Gaelic Games in Asia to make the AYG as successful as possible.

An estimated 290 individuals benefitted from the project and the Club will continue to grow and flourish into 2017 with the introduction of the inaugural Indochina Games, which will involve teams from Saigon and Thailand.







3. Australia and New Zealand

GAELIC FOOTBALL AND HURLING ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALASIA
ESTABLISHED 1974
63 CLUBS IN 2 COUNTRIES (9 REGIONS)

AUSTRALIA	SOUTH AUSTRALIA	NEW ZEALAND
CANBERRA	QUEENSLAND	WELLINGTON
NEW SOUTH WALES	VICTORIA	HUTT VALLEY
NORTHERN TERRITORY	TASMANIA	CANTERBURY
WESTERN AUSTRALIA		

4 Projects – Global Games Development Fund 2016

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Flinders O’Neill’s Pathway Development Programme/**NSW GAA** – Grassroots Go Games Programme/**Queensland GAA** Gaelic Football Youth Development/**GFHWA** – Gaelic Games Promotional Strategic Proposal for Youth and Adult Generations
.....

Flinder's O'Neill's – Pathway Development Programme

The project aimed to provide a Player Pathway for Youth players to play Adult Gaelic football and to expand the participation rate of the sport by providing a seven's competition and several State League Games in Adelaide. Integral to achieving this was the requirement to obtain a suitable ground and purchase goalposts to enable the sport to be played at the venue on a regular basis.

After identifying a suitable venue in the eastern suburbs of Adelaide, the Club was able to put a comprehensive calendar of activity in place. Over the course of 2016, a total of five State League Games were played at the grounds. In addition to this, Flinders O'Neill's was able to enter a Minor team into the seven's competition.

Having a home venue led to better organisation of the Club's activities and - as a direct result - a number of new players were recruited to join the Club. Furthermore, the number of spectators attending games also increased.

Now that the grounds have been secured the next aim for the Club is to establish a Junior Academy for Child and Youth players as well as to host a second seven's competition in 2017.

NSW GAA – Grassroots Go Games Programme

For 2016 NSW was able to develop further on their 2015 Grassroots Programme. With the on-going rise of Irish emigrants arriving in Sydney, the Programme provides a great opportunity for parents to have their children involved in Gaelic games and to maintain a connection with Ireland.

Over the course of the year, the NSW organised a series of activities for children and youths aged 3 to 15 years old. Coaching sessions and small-sided games in both Gaelic football and Hurling were organised on a regular basis and these were actively promoted by the Club's PRO through a variety of online platforms. The result of these efforts was that participation levels grew from 25 children in 2015 to 50 children in 2016.

For 2017, the Club aims to run a Cúl Camp as well as to establish an underage league for their juvenile players.

Queensland GAA Gaelic Football Youth Development

The long-term aim of the Queensland GAA project is to ensure that the Club becomes self-sufficient and can provide a sustainable level of participation in years to come through the establishment of a Youth Development Board, which will recruit and provide activities for Child and Youth players.

In 2016, subsequent to the establishment of a Youth Development Board, significant progress was made. Over the course of 12 months the Board managed to coordinate the following activities:

- Conducting Gaelic football Skills Workshops at Gaelic Park;
- Building portable Goalposts, which can be transported to schools for Gaelic football demos;
- Providing coaching and games opportunities to four schools;
- Providing equipment including Gaelic footballs and training resources to four schools;
- Entering a State Minor Team in the Australasian Championships for the first time in five years;
- Hosting an Inter-school's Tournament for U.17 boys in August 2016.

A total of 337 Youth players benefitted from these activities. Furthermore, the Youth Development Board was able to include four new Irish families in activities.

While the Board was very satisfied with the progress made in 2016, one of the key challenges for 2017 is to involve more female Youth players. In order to facilitate this, Queensland GAA intends to organise an Inter-school's Tournament for approximately 80 U.17 girls from 6 Post-Primary schools in March 2017 and has already liaised with other State Associations in the GFHAA with a view to organising an Inter-State competition for girls in the future. Furthermore, with 38 children participating in Go Games at Child level, the long-term goal will be to ensure that these children transition to Youth level and continue playing Gaelic games right up to Adult level.



GFHWA – Gaelic Games Promotional Strategic Proposal for Youth and Adult Generations

On March 26th 2016, the Gaelic Football and Hurling Association of Western Australia organised a 7-a-side Gaelic football tournament, which was linked in with St. Patrick's Day celebrations that were held in Perth.

Teams from within the Western Australia State Association as well as the North Territory were invited to participate. An invitation was also extended to a number of Clubs in South-East Asia and the Singapore Gaelic Lions made the trip to participate in the event.

On the day, a number of competitions were held for all codes – Gaelic football, Ladies football, Hurling and Camogie – and all age-grades participated. In total, 250 players took part in a series of games across the day with an additional 100 spectators attending the celebrations to cheer on their respective teams.







4. Provincial Council of Britain

PROVINCIAL COUNCIL OF BRITAIN
ESTABLISHED 1927

83 CLUBS IN 3 COUNTRIES WITH 7 COUNTY BOARDS

GLOUCESTERSHIRE
HERTFORDSHIRE
LANCASHIRE
LONDON

SCOTLAND
WARWICKSHIRE
YORKSHIRE

Games Development Project Britain 2016

Games Development Britain 2016

The matched funding provided by the GAA/DFAT is used for the deployment of Games Development personnel known as Community Development Administrators (CDAs). The CDAs are deployed in each of the 7 County Boards of the Provincial Council of Britain and are tasked with the delivery of the various components of the Grassroots to National Programme (GNP) including:

- Games Opportunities (Club; School; Community)
- Skill Development (Club; School; Community)
- Camps - Easter; Summer (Cúl Camps); Halloween
- Talent Academies
- Coach Education
- Referee Education

During 2016, a total of 8 individuals were employed as CDAs in Britain:

UNIT	EMPLOYEE/ROLE	PERIOD OF EMPLOYMENT
Gloucestershire Co. Board	Liam Britton-Jeal - CDA	01.01 – 31.12.2016
Hertfordshire Co. Board	Stephen Lavery - CDA	01.01 – 31.12.2016
Lancashire Co. Board	Andrew Kane - CDA	01.01 – 31.12.2016
London Co. Board	Mark Gottsche - Senior Games Development & Logistics Manager	01.01 – 31.12.2016
London Co. Board	Lloyd Colfer - CDA	01.01 – 31.12.2016
Scotland Co. Board	Niall Considine - CDA & National Universities Coordinator	01.01 – 31.12.2016
Warwickshire Co. Board	Christy McDermott - CDA	01.04 – 31.12.2016
Yorkshire Co. Board	Jason Rooney - CDA	01.01 – 31.12.2016



Gloucestershire Games Development

IN FOCUS:
Development of Club Structures
STAGE(S) OF THE PLAYER PATHWAY:
Child 4-12
AREA(S) OF THE GRASSROOTS TO NATIONAL PROGRAMME:
Games Opportunities
CODE(S):
Gaelic Football
BACKGROUND TO THE ACTIVITY:
This project was implemented in recognition of the need to improve and develop existing juvenile structures in Gloucestershire with a specific focus upon the provision of games. To date, there had not been a county-wide Go Games season, which made it challenging to manage engagement between the Clubs.
OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTIVITY:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To support the development of effective juvenile structures in Clubs; 2. To provide games opportunities; 3. To assist with the development of players' fundamental movement skills, decision-making and team-play skills through the medium of Gaelic games.
DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY:
<p>In 2016, the County planned and implemented an U.12 games programme, which was comprised of series of Go Games blitzes organised by Clubs during the period May to July. The internal Club blitzes were supplemented by Inter-Club blitz days. The first Inter-Club blitz day was held in Cardiff and had teams from Swansea St. Joseph's (2 teams) and St. Colmcille's Cardiff (1 team) as well as St. Patrick's Gloucester (1 team). The second Inter-Club blitz day was held in Swansea and St. Patrick's brought one team to play against two Swansea St. Joseph's teams. The blitz programme culminated in participation by the Clubs in the All Britain Competition (ABCs).</p> <p>Year 1 of the project was very successful and it is intended to add new age-grades on a phased basis. For 2017, it is intended to introduce a similar structure at U.14 age-grade, which will bolster recruitment for the County's U.14 Development Squads.</p> <p>This has since been recognised as a success within the County. Moving forward, it is hoped to add an additional age group every year, in 2017, the hope is to add U.14 age group and have all three underage clubs operating at U.12 and U.14 level. These players can then feed into our U14 development squad.</p>

OUTCOMES/RESULTS OF THE ACTIVITY:

1. Fun games opportunities were provided to all Clubs;
2. The project led to the establishment of an active Minor Board in Gloucester;
3. The Clubs have developed stronger relationships - full credit due to St. Patrick's for travelling a total of 356 miles to provide their players with games.
4. Very positive feedback from the children, parents, Clubs and County Board.

NEXT STEPS:

- To replicated the Programme at U.14 through introducing a Schools' Coaching Programme.
- To increase the number of players participating in the U.14 Development Squad.

IN FOCUS:

School Blitzes

STAGE(S) OF THE PLAYER PATHWAY:

Child 4-12

AREA(S) OF THE GRASSROOTS TO NATIONAL PROGRAMME:

Games opportunities

CODE(S):

Gaelic Football

BACKGROUND TO THE ACTIVITY:

The provision of Gaelic games in schools enables the County to introduce the games to more children than through the Club structure alone. It is also an important vehicle for recruiting players to play in local Clubs.

While coaching the fundamental skills of Gaelic football in an integral part of the Schools' Programme, the real highlight is the provision of games.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTIVITY:

1. To introduce more children to Gaelic games through Schools;
2. To recruit more players for the Clubs and to assist with the development of juvenile structures in the Clubs;
3. To increase participation in the All Britain Competition (ABCs).

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY:

Schools' coaching and blitzes were run in five Primary Schools in Gloucester in 2016. The blitzes were played in accordance with Go Games, which meant that every child got a go. Participation levels were high with over 180 children at U.12 age-grade getting an opportunity to play Gaelic football.

Subsequently, the schools were invited to send a team to the All Britain Competitions (ABCs). Three of the schools availed of the opportunity and – in total – five teams representing schools in Gloucestershire took part. Four of the teams participated in the Primary School competition where one of the St Joseph's Swansea teams reached the Semi-Final and the other reached the Final which was a huge achievement. Similarly, Christ the King Cardiff travelled up with two teams and were crowned Shield winners, which was a huge success for the school as it was the first time they had competed in the ABC. Finally, St. Peter's Gloucester competed in the Post-Primary competition.

As not all of the Primary Schools were able to travel to the ABCs, inter-school blitzes were organised instead, which was greatly appreciated by the schools and the pupils too.

OUTCOMES/RESULTS OF THE ACTIVITY:

- Positive feedback from children and parents who had never played before;
- Increased numbers recruited to play in Clubs;
- Introduction to Gaelic games in a fun and friendly environment.

NEXT STEPS:

For 2017, it is intended to launch an Annual Primary Schools' Tournament within Gloucestershire with games being delivered at central locations for participating schools.

The participation in the 2016 ABCs was a testament to the willingness and desire of schools to travel to play Gaelic games and it is hoped to maintain numbers at the 2017 competition.

It is intended to develop Regional School Blitz structures whereby, schools in Gloucester and Bristol will form a North Gloucestershire Region and schools from Swansea and Cardiff will form a South Gloucestershire Region.

IN FOCUS:

Coach Education

STAGE(S) OF THE PLAYER PATHWAY:

Adult 19+

AREA(S) OF THE GRASSROOTS TO NATIONAL PROGRAMME:
Learning & Development
CODE(S):
Gaelic Football
BACKGROUND TO THE ACTIVITY:
Crucial to the success of the newly established juvenile structures in Clubs and Schools is the provision of high quality coaching. The need to up-skill coaches was identified and a Foundation Level Course was scheduled.
OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTIVITY:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To increase the number of qualified GAA coaches in the region; 2. To ensure that children are provided with quality coaching inputs; 3. To emphasise the importance of meaningful games opportunities to the coaches; 4. To encourage more volunteer coaches to become involved.
DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY:
A Foundation Level Course was held in Swansea in October 2016.
The course was well attended by representatives from all Clubs with 18 people attending and qualifying as certified GAA coaches.
OUTCOMES/RESULTS OF THE ACTIVITY:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 18 certified Foundation Level Coaches; ■ Demand for further Foundation Level courses was identified with preliminary plans for future courses in Bournemouth and Cardiff.
FEEDBACK FROM PARTICIPANTS:
<p><i>"Fantastically delivered course, well explained linking theory to practice"</i> - Participant</p> <p><i>"Thank you for such a great opportunity, we are looking forward to helping assist coaching sessions in the future"</i> - Participant</p> <p><i>"The Course was fun, informative and interactive"</i> - Participant</p> <p><i>"Brilliant 'Gaelic Football Foundation Course' put on at the School today. A great turn out & well organised. Big thanks to Liam Britton-Jeal & Stephen Lavery".</i> - Participant</p>
NEXT STEPS:
The feedback from the coaches was very positive and it is intended to hold Courses in Cardiff and Bournemouth in 2017.

Hertfordshire Games Development

IN FOCUS:
Establishment of a new juvenile Club - Éire Óg Oxford
STAGE(S) OF THE PLAYER PATHWAY:
Child 4 - 12
AREA(S) OF THE GRASSROOTS TO NATIONAL PROGRAMME:
Games Opportunities; School Initiatives; Camps; Learning & Development
CODE(S):
Gaelic Football
BACKGROUND TO THE ACTIVITY:
<p>Éire Óg, Oxford has a long and illustrious history - having been established in Oxford in 1959. The Club boasts both Men's and Ladies Adult teams. However, the Club have never managed to sustain the underage section of their club with a cessation of juvenile activity almost 10 years ago.</p> <p>After several meetings in late 2015, it was agreed that the CDA would work with the Club to re-launch their underage in the area in time for 2016.</p>
OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTIVITY:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To qualify coaches through Foundation Coaching Courses, Safeguarding Course and completed Disclosure and Barring Service checks (DBS Checks); 2. To identify interested Primary Schools and to begin the process of setting up a Club/School link; 3. To deliver a Schools Coaching Programme and to invite schools to a County Schools' Tournament; 4. To run a Summer Cúl Camp at the Clubs in order to gauge interest and meet prospective new parents; 5. To provide weekly coaching sessions for players; 6. To ensure Éire Óg, Oxford could participate in the 2016 juvenile season; 7. To provide Games Opportunities for new players; 8. To launch Éire Óg Oxford's juvenile section by hosting an invitational Tournament/Club Day.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY:

Éire Óg Oxford's juvenile section was launched in conjunction with an invitational Tournament and Club Day, which was held at Horspath Sports' Grounds in Oxford on the 2nd of May 2016. With the support of Martin Keown - past Club player, local legend and former Arsenal soccer player - dozens of spectators came along to show their support for the development of Gaelic games in the area.

Teams travelled from Hertfordshire and neighbouring counties Warwickshire and London to participate. 19 Teams and 180 children participated at U.8, U.10 and U.12 age-grades through the Go Games Blitz format.

The County CDA and the Minor Board Chairman supported the event on the day along with several members and coaches of the Éire Óg club, including the Hertfordshire County Secretary who was actively involved in the re-development of the juvenile structures at the club. The support for this new initiative was palpable with coaches, players and parents travelling as far as from Cambridge (Hertfordshire), which is a 164 mile round-trip, to participate.

OUTCOMES/RESULTS OF THE ACTIVITY:

- Launch of the juvenile section and networking with neighbouring Clubs;
- Increased promotional awareness of the Club in the locality due to the Club Day and the presence of a well-known sports personality;
- The provision of games opportunities for players.

NEXT STEPS:

The next steps will be to build upon progress made in 2016 with a view to expanding the Club/School link to additional Primary schools as well as ensuring the Club participates in the County's juvenile fixtures for 2017 including the All-Britain Competition (ABCs).

IN FOCUS:

Primary Schools' Competition - Year 4 and 5 Pupils

STAGE(S) OF THE PLAYER PATHWAY:

Child 4 - 12

AREA(S) OF THE GRASSROOTS TO NATIONAL PROGRAMME:

Games Opportunities; School Initiatives; Camps; Learning & Development

CODE(S):

Gaelic Football

BACKGROUND TO THE ACTIVITY:

In 2015, Hertfordshire organised a Primary Schools' Go Games Tournament that involved 10 teams with 156 participants.

In 2016, the County expanded the Primary Schools' Coaching Programme and it was agreed to facilitate this growth through the organisation of a larger Tournament as well as to invite schools to send teams to the ABC's in London.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTIVITY:

1. To make participation in the Schools' Tournament an integral part of the overall Programme;
2. To ensure Clubs and Club coaches have an opportunity to meet prospective new players at the Tournament;
3. To develop and enhance Club/School Links;
4. To create increased awareness of the Tournament and of Gaelic games through a social media campaign;
5. To provide a stepping stone to the Post-Primary Schools' Tournament.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY:

Hertfordshire's Schools Tournament took place at the St. Colmcille's GAA club in St. Albans on the 27th of May 2016. The CDA coordinated the event and was assisted by a number of volunteers in relation to set-up and refereeing of the event. In total, 16 school teams with 288 participants took part on the day.

OUTCOMES/RESULTS OF THE ACTIVITY:

- Clubs met prospective new players and gave out information on their Club activities;
- 5 schools progressed to participate in the ABCs in London;
- There was excellent promotion of the activities across social media platforms;
- The Tournament provided a platform to encourage more schools to participate in the Programme in 2017.

NEXT STEPS:

It is intended to continue the growth achieved so far by expanding the Primary Schools' Coaching Programme in 2017. In addition to this, it is planned to provide Coach Education opportunities to the Primary School teachers in order to ensure sustainability and self-sufficiency within the schools.



O'NEILLS
13

ETIHAD
AIRWAYS



GAELIC FOOTBALL

O'NEILLS

IN FOCUS:
Dermot Earley U.16's Competition
STAGE(S) OF THE PLAYER PATHWAY:
Youth 13 - 18
AREA(S) OF THE GRASSROOTS TO NATIONAL PROGRAMME:
Games Opportunities; School Initiatives; Talent Academies.
CODE(S):
Gaelic Football
BACKGROUND TO THE ACTIVITY:
This trip to Ireland was designed to provide additional games opportunities for the U.16 Development Squad. This age group were completing their GCSE's and the timing of the trip, which was on the weekend prior to the schools starting back in England, meant that none of the squad had to take any time away from their studies. The trip gave the squad an extra focus for the year and a target to work towards.
OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTIVITY:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To provide an opportunity for players to represent their County against other counties in Ireland; 2. To provide additional games opportunities for the U.16 Squad; 3. To encourage team bonding within the squad; 4. To play at a top-quality facility against top-quality opposition; 5. To use the experience to encourage players to remain involved and to transition to the County's U.18 Development Squad.
DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY:
The Hertfordshire U.16 Development Squad travelled to Ballyhaunis in Co. Mayo to take part in the U.15 Dermot Earley Competition at the Connacht GAA Centre of Excellence on the 2nd of September 2016. The squad played games against Leitrim and Roscommon. The CDA, Minor Board Treasurer and the Minor Board Development Officer attended the trip alongside the squad of 20 players.
OUTCOMES/RESULTS OF THE ACTIVITY:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sponsorship was received for the trip and a commitment for sponsorship in 2017 was provided; ■ Players had an opportunity to play games and increase in confidence; ■ Parents were extremely positive about the experience.
NEXT STEPS:
It is hoped to participate in the same competition in 2017 as well as to organise a similar trip for the U.14 Development Squad.

Lancashire

IN FOCUS:
Establishment of a Girl's Development Squad
STAGE(S) OF THE PLAYER PATHWAY:
Youth 13 - 18
AREA(S) OF THE GRASSROOTS TO NATIONAL PROGRAMME:
Games Opportunities and Skill Development
CODE(S):
Ladies Gaelic Football
BACKGROUND TO THE ACTIVITY:
<p>All the juvenile Clubs in Lancashire have always had a number of girls who continually attend their training and are very interested in playing Gaelic football. However, once the girls move into the U.14 age-grade they can no longer play in the same games as the boys.</p> <p>Each Club did not have enough girls to form a team individually, so - in order to provide games opportunities for the girls - a Lancashire Girls U.14 team was established. The team trained together and played games against other Counties in Britain, such as Scotland. They also attended the Féile Competition in Ireland in 2016.</p>
OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTIVITY:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To ensure games opportunities for girls, once they have moved into the Youth Player Pathway. 2. To provide an opportunity for the girls to continue playing Gaelic football and to prevent them from giving up Gaelic games. 3. To give the girls the chance to develop their skills by playing Gaelic football more often and at an appropriate level.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY:

In the latter stages of 2015, the various Clubs agreed that the girls needed more opportunities to play Gaelic football. As a start to this, the girls from each club came together and played their first match in October 2015. It was then agreed that, at the start of the following season, the girls would meet up at regular intervals to train and play matches.

The team was made up of girls from Manchester and Liverpool, so in order to ensure that all the travel undertaken was fair and reasonable, the venue of training alternated between Manchester and Liverpool. The coaches of the team were made up of parents and Ladies Gaelic footballers from both areas.

The team started training in March and played games in the build up to their Féile trip, including a trip to play Scotland in May 2016. They had a great time in Ireland for the Féile weekend, where they travelled to Kerry to play 4 games in total. The trip created a great bond between everyone in the team. As a result they continued to train collectively up until October 2016, when they finished the year playing a challenge game against Scotland in Manchester.

OUTCOMES/RESULTS OF THE ACTIVITY:

- The girls who were part of this team were given the opportunity to continue to play Gaelic Football;
- Player drop-off among the girls was reduced as they were given more games opportunities;
- Friendships were formed between girls and families from different cities, who would normally not get a chance to mix with each other;
- The girls' Gaelic football skills were advanced and developed through the training sessions and the appropriate level of games;
- The formation of the team has attracted new players to the sport and so participation levels have increased.

NEXT STEPS:

It is hoped to attract more girls to play Gaelic football through Schools' Coaching and the Gaelic 4 Girls Programme. In time, it is hoped each Club could field their own team so that there could be Club games within Lancashire.

In 2017, it is intended to have an All Britain Féile for girls from each County so that plenty of regular games will be provided.

IN FOCUS:
Coaching Workshops
STAGE(S) OF THE PLAYER PATHWAY:
Child 4 – 12 and Youth 13 – 18
AREA(S) OF THE GRASSROOTS TO NATIONAL PROGRAMME:
Learning & Development
CODE(S):
Gaelic Football
BACKGROUND TO THE ACTIVITY:
<p>Within Lancashire, there are a large number of coaches who are qualified to Foundation level. However, many of the coaches are unable to undertake the Level 1 Course due to time constraints. Despite this, there is a real demand among the coaches for additional information and training. Further to consultation, it was agreed that the coaches did not want to sit in a room and look at powerpoint presentations and that any learning should be practical.</p> <p>Therefore, Lancashire held two Coaching workshops whereby the coaches attended a local pitch and were shown different games and drills to develop specific skills of Gaelic football.</p>
OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTIVITY:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To provide coaches with an opportunity to learn and develop in a practical games-based setting; 2. To ensure coaches would leave the Workshops with the ability to undertake games and drills themselves; 3. To up-skill coaches with the hope that Club training sessions more enjoyable and thereby prevent player drop-off and attracting more players to our sport.
DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY:
<p>Two Workshops were held - one in Manchester and one in Liverpool. Each workshop was based on different skills of Gaelic Football. The workshop in Manchester was held in February 2016 and it was focused on: Coaching the Fundamental Movements of Gaelic games; and Coaching the Skills of Kicking. The workshop in Liverpool was held in April 2016 and was based on Coaching Tackling and Games to Improve Decision-Making.</p> <p>Both workshops were pitch-based and allowed the coaches to see how the games and drills could work in practice. Youth players were also invited along to the afternoon session of one of the workshops so that the coaches could see how the players responded to the different games. The total attendance at both workshops was 40 coaches.</p>

<p>OUTCOMES/RESULTS OF THE ACTIVITY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Coaches felt more confident in their abilities to plan and deliver coaching sessions; ■ Coaches had an opportunity to network and to plan challenge games as appropriate; ■ Coaches have reported a very positive response from players to the games and drills.
<p>NEXT STEPS:</p> <p>Further workshops will be held in 2017 based on areas of skill development that were not covered last year. It is intended to ensure that there are Youth players present at all of these workshops to ensure that they are very practical and hands-on.</p>
<p>IN FOCUS:</p> <p>University and Club 7-a-side Competitions</p>
<p>STAGE(S) OF THE PLAYER PATHWAY:</p> <p>Adult 19+</p>
<p>AREA(S) OF THE GRASSROOTS TO NATIONAL PROGRAMME:</p> <p>Games Opportunities</p>
<p>CODE(S):</p> <p>Gaelic football and Ladies Gaelic football</p>
<p>BACKGROUND TO THE ACTIVITY:</p> <p>In the Lancashire area there are a large number of Universities. In order to encourage them to take part in the British University Competitions, it was decided to hold 7-a-side football competition for men and women in October, at the start of the academic year. The rationale was that a competition would encourage teams and Universities to continue to play throughout the year in the University Competitions.</p> <p>Local Clubs had also found it hard to forge a link with the Universities. It was hoped that the 7's Competitions would help the Clubs and Universities forge links so that the players could continue to play Gaelic games, if they decided to remain in Lancashire after their studies.</p>
<p>OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTIVITY:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To encourage Universities to set up Gaelic football Clubs and take part in the British University Competitions; 2. To provide more games opportunities for University and Club teams in the local area for both male and female players; 3. To help the Clubs to forge links with University teams so that students are aware of the local Clubs in the area. This then means if they decide to stay in Lancashire they can continue to play Gaelic games.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY:

On 15th October 2016, a Ladies 7's Football Competition was held alongside a Men's 7's Football Competition. These competitions were held at a venue in Manchester. Both Competitions featured University and Club teams.

On the day, over 150 people played Gaelic football. The Ladies Competition had six teams in total with 10 teams taking part in the Men's Competition. The event was organised primarily by the Lancashire CDA with help from the local Clubs and referees. Both finals were competitive and they both featured University and Club teams. The atmosphere on the day was fantastic and led to better networking and communication between the Clubs and the Universities for the remainder of the year.

OUTCOMES/RESULTS OF THE ACTIVITY:

- Over 150 people played Gaelic football at the event;
- Communication lines between University and Club teams improved significantly after the event;
- The event provided more games opportunities for both University and Club teams;
- Teams that did not previously enter the British University Competitions took part in 2016/2017.

NEXT STEPS:

The event will run again in 2017 and potentially the winners of the competition will then progress to an All-Britain 7's event to compete against teams from other regions.

It is also hoped to have a 7-a-side competition at the end of the academic year to provide more games opportunities before students depart for the summer.

London

IN FOCUS:

All-Britain Competition (ABC)

STAGE(S) OF THE PLAYER PATHWAY:

Child 4 - 12 and Youth 13 - 18

AREA(S) OF THE GRASSROOTS TO NATIONAL PROGRAMME:

Games Opportunities; School Initiatives

CODE(S):

Hurling/Camogie and Gaelic/Ladies Football

BACKGROUND TO THE ACTIVITY:			
The All-Britain Competition was introduced to provide an opportunity for Britain GAA to showcase the hard work that is going on at grassroots level and to display the fantastic talent that exists across the entire Province.			
OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTIVITY:			
1. To provide as many meaningful games opportunities as possible to every Child/Youth playing Gaelic Games across Britain.			
DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY:			
In July, London GAA hosted the 5th Annual ABC which took place over 4 days in Tir Chonaill Gaels Grounds, Greenford with 1,947 young people from 150 teams (72 teams from London) playing 385 matches of Hurling, Camogie, Gaelic football and Ladies Gaelic football			
U.18 Football:	23 matches	Thursday	325 (Primary Schools)
U.16 Football:	33 matches	Friday	612 (157 Secondary Schools and 455 U.8/U.10's)
U.14 Football:	41 matches	Saturday	700 (225 Ladies Football and 475 U.12/U.16s)
U.12 Football:	47 matches	Sunday	310 (58 Camogie/Hurling and 182 U.14/U.18s)
U.10 Football:	40 matches		
U.8 Football:	42 matches		
Ladies Football:	40 matches		
Hurling/	20 matches		
Camogie:			
Schools:	99 matches		
OUTCOMES/RESULTS OF THE ACTIVITY:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The ABC allows nearly 2,000 young people from all across Britain the opportunity to play meaningful games at an appropriate level; ■ The ABC has become a celebration of Irish culture for all of the Irish diaspora living in Britain; ■ The ABC shows what can be achieved by the GAA outside of Ireland. 			

FEEDBACK FROM PARTICIPANTS

"I just wanted to say a massive well done and thank you for the experience our young lads had at the weekend. For an organisation that on occasion is battered and belittled by disorganisation, I can honestly say it was the best run tournament I have been involved in during the last 15 years of GAA in the UK"

- Seán Davies, James Connolly's (Warwickshire)

"The whole day went to plan with all games starting on time, with referees ready and no confusion at any stage. All the games were generally on the same pitch and the gap in between games was sufficient for the boys to rest and watch the other teams as well. Overall an excellent day and I would like to congratulate the organizers, referees and all clubs for a great day of football"

- Brenda Harte (Tara GFC)

NEXT STEPS:

To increase the participation numbers in Primary/Post-Primary Schools as well as in Hurling and Camogie. It is also hoped to have more teams participating in the U.18 Gaelic Football (Boys) competition for 2017.

IN FOCUS:

U.12 Exhibition Game in Croke Park

STAGE(S) OF THE PLAYER PATHWAY:

Child 4 - 12

AREA(S) OF THE GRASSROOTS TO NATIONAL PROGRAMME:

Games Opportunities

CODE(S):

Gaelic Football

BACKGROUND TO THE ACTIVITY:

The young players in London/Britain are often unaware of the magic and tradition of the GAA in Ireland. Growing up in a different country it is often difficult for the GAA to paint the 'bigger picture' for them. Young people in Britain often talk about Twickenham or Wembley as the special places for Sport in the UK, so London GAA requested to participate in an Exhibition Match in Croke Park during half-time in one of the Championship games. The aim was to share the unique GAA experience with as many young boys and girls from London as possible in the hope that they will spread the message to all of their friends and family too.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTIVITY:

1. To provide London GAA's young boys and girls with the experience of playing in Croke Park;
2. To get the players to "Play to Stay with the GAA";
3. To help promote Gaelic Games in London.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY:

On August 6th, London GAA provided 30 young boys and girls with the opportunity to play an Exhibition Match in Croke Park for 11 minutes at half-time in the All Ireland Senior Football Quarter-Final between Dublin and Donegal in front of a huge crowd.

OUTCOMES/RESULTS OF THE ACTIVITY:

- To whet the appetite of these young people for what can be achieved in the GAA;
- To create enormous goodwill among the parents/supporters of London GAA;
- To raise the profile of the GAA in London.

FEEDBACK FROM PARTICIPANTS

"Wonderful day, fabulous experience, brilliant memories - thanks to everyone. Definitely should try to make this an annual occasion for our young players"

- Brendan Gallagher, Tara GFC.

"Go raibh míle míle maith agaibh to all involved. A big thank you especially to Colleen Lynott who had everyone sorted and everything went so well. This was easily the best game of the day and the kids showed the adults how to kick the ball! Great day"

- Marc Ó Dálaigh, Thomas McCurtains

NEXT STEPS:

It is hoped to make this an annual event for the young Gaels playing GAA in London and also to find a similar opportunity for our older players (U.17s) in order to create a target for our young players to aspire to and achieve.



IN FOCUS:
London Senior Gaelic Football Championship Final
STAGE(S) OF THE PLAYER PATHWAY:
Adult 19+
AREA(S) OF THE GRASSROOTS TO NATIONAL PROGRAMME:
Games Opportunities; Skill Development; Talent Academies
CODE(S):
Gaelic Football
BACKGROUND TO THE ACTIVITY:
The London GAA Development Academy was established in 2013 to bridge the gap between Youth and Adult Gaelic games for all the young players in London GAA. It was envisaged that - with the proper coaching and expertise as well as a more meaningful programme of games - London GAA could produce a conveyor belt of young talent through the ranks of London GAA.
OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTIVITY:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To compete in Development Squad Tournaments in Britain and Ireland; 2. To compete in the Minor All-Ireland Gaelic Football Championship; 3. To produce a conveyor belt of players for our London Senior Football Clubs and the London Senior Footballers.
DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY:
<p>In October 2016, the London Senior Football Championship Final took place in Greenford between St. Kiernan's and Tir Chonaill Gaels. On the day, there were 11 home-grown players playing between the two teams (5 for St. Kiernan's and 6 for Tir Chonaill Gaels), which is evidence of the hard work that has gone on at juvenile level in London GAA in recent years.</p> <p>Furthermore, both captains on the day (Adrian Moyles, St. Kiernan's and Liam Gavaghan, Tir Chonaill Gaels) were home-grown players, which made it an even more special occasion for everyone connected with underage development in London GAA.</p>
OUTCOMES/RESULTS OF THE ACTIVITY:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Increased awareness and promotion of the hard work that has been done at juvenile level in London; ■ It showcased that home-grown players can compete at the highest level in London; ■ It encouraged other Clubs to put greater emphasis on underage development.

FEEDBACK FROM PARTICIPANTS

“It is an absolutely amazing feat for London GAA to have a combined total of 11 home-grown players from both Clubs participating in the County Senior Football Final. There has been a tremendous amount of work put in to the underage structures of the Clubs around the County over a sustained period of time and for this to be bearing fruit in such a fashion is testament to all of the volunteers, coaches, administrators etc. that have worked tirelessly to bring these young players through to adult football. When you combine this with the fact that 9 home-grown players also played for the London Senior Footballers this year, there can be no question about the talent and quality of footballers that are being produced in London at the present moment. Hopefully we can build on this and will continue to produce more players of this calibre in the future”

- Mark Gottsche, County Secretary for London GAA

NEXT STEPS:

London GAA will continue to work to improve the juvenile structures within the Clubs and to improve the standard of coaching the young players receive. This will ensure that more Clubs take a proactive approach to the development of home-grown players.

Scotland**IN FOCUS:**

Scotland GAA Academy

STAGE(S) OF THE PLAYER PATHWAY:

Youth 13 - 18

AREA(S) OF THE GRASSROOTS TO NATIONAL PROGRAMME:

Talent Academies

CODE(S):

Gaelic Football

BACKGROUND TO THE ACTIVITY:

All of Scotland's juvenile clubs currently have relatively small numbers at each age-grade. Therefore, a club U.14 training session would usually include U.12's and U.15's as well as being mixed gender. U.14 is a critical age group where drop-off occurs so running gender and age-specific training sessions can act as a tool for retention.

In addition to this, Clubs find it difficult to provide age-appropriate training sessions for players due to the wide age and ability spectrum for which they must cater in each session they run. This, in turn, effects the development of 13 - 15 year olds.

The establishment of an Academy was designed to address these issues and to develop players further until the Clubs progress to the point where they can cater for the needs of players in a self-sufficient manner.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTIVITY:

1. To provide U.14 boys, U.15 girls and U.16 boys with training designed to help them reach their potential;
2. To act as a mechanism for retaining players who are old enough to compare GAA to other sports and may becoming disillusioned with training with younger players in their clubs;
3. To provide the players with the best environment to develop their skills. Currently the clubs have limited ability to do this so an academy can help bridge that gap.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY:

A Post-Primary school in Bathgate with a floodlight all-weather soccer pitch and indoor hall was hired. Conditioning and biomechanical movement development was delivered indoors and Gaelic football skill development was provided outdoors with guest coaches.

The Academy was held for five weeks. There were nearly 30 players there each evening - with over 40 players attending at least 2 of the 5 sessions. The response was very positive and a large number of players had a 100% attendance record, which was a good reflection on the initiative. One of the observing club coaches told the CDA that his players were 'buzzing on the way home' and many parents contacted the CDA to say how much the players enjoyed it.

OUTCOMES/RESULTS OF THE ACTIVITY:

- 40 players participated in the Academy;
- Clubs and parents were very receptive to the initiative;
- A potential sponsor has expressed interest in becoming involved with the initiative going forward.

NEXT STEPS:

It is planned to run the Scotland GAA Academy again for an 8-week period in advance of Féile in May and June 2017. If sponsorship is secured, there is the potential to develop a Winter Academy toward the end of 2017 which may culminate in a Tournament in Ireland.

IN FOCUS:

U.16 Championship

STAGE(S) OF THE PLAYER PATHWAY:

Youth 13 - 18

AREA(S) OF THE GRASSROOTS TO NATIONAL PROGRAMME:

Games Opportunities

CODE(S):

Gaelic Football

BACKGROUND TO THE ACTIVITY:

As there are only a small number of players at U.14 and U.16 age-grades in Scotland – approximately 20 players – there is a real need to provide them with more games. In light of this, Scotland GAA established an U.16 Championship to provide them with regular games over a 7-week period.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTIVITY:

1. To retain the oldest age-grades into the future by providing them with regular, competitive games.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY:

The games programme was structured on the basis of a League and Championship, which was played on a home and away basis culminating in a Grand Final at the end.

3 teams entered the Championship – representing two individual Clubs and two other Clubs that amalgamated for the games. Each team played each other both at home and away and - after the gradings - the top two teams played in the Final with Tir Chonail Harps beating Coatbridge. The Championship ran from August to the start of November providing them with consistent activity during this period.

OUTCOMES/RESULTS OF THE ACTIVITY:

- Additional games for the U.16 age-grade;
- Increased retention of Youth players.

NEXT STEPS:

In 2017, Scotland GAA will introduce an U.17 Championship and will also look to establish a 7-a-side tournament.

IN FOCUS:
Beginner's Tournament
STAGE(S) OF THE PLAYER PATHWAY:
Child 4 - 12
AREA(S) OF THE GRASSROOTS TO NATIONAL PROGRAMME:
Games Opportunities; School Initiatives
CODE(S):
Gaelic Football
BACKGROUND TO THE ACTIVITY:
<p>Over the past 3 years, Scotland GAA have developed a range of Club competitions at Youth level. In 2013, there were no formal club competitions, but now Scotland GAA have Championships at U.12, U.14 and U.16 level, along with a range of tournaments and trips outside Scotland.</p> <p>However, in focusing on developing game opportunities for the Club players there was a reduction in the amount of after-school activities, which impacted upon the number of new players joining Clubs. It was agreed to re-focus efforts on the after-school activities in 2016 including the establishment of a Beginner's Tournament.</p>
OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTIVITY:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To develop strong Club/School links; 2. To increase the games opportunities for children participating in Schools' Coaching; 3. To provide age and ability-appropriate games opportunities across a full school year to further develop a structure to Scotland's juvenile games programme.
DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY:
<p>Scotland GAA hired Toryglen indoor regional sports facilities in December for an afternoon and invited P6 and P7 children from Glasgow and Edinburgh schools to participate in the one-day Beginners Tournament.</p> <p>A total of 74 children played on the day - over 50 of whom had never played before. Both boys and girls played on the basis of the Go Games model and teams were mixed between schools to ensure ability levels were even.</p>
OUTCOMES/RESULTS OF THE ACTIVITY:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Over 70 children played on the day with 50 newcomers to the sport; ■ The event provided a valuable blueprint for future initiatives.
NEXT STEPS:
Scotland GAA will run this initiative again in March 2017 with similar outdoor events planned for May and June as well.

Warwickshire

IN FOCUS:
U.18 All Britain Champions
STAGE(S) OF THE PLAYER PATHWAY:
Youth 13 - 18
AREA(S) OF THE GRASSROOTS TO NATIONAL PROGRAMME:
Games Opportunities; Talent Academies
CODE(S):
Gaelic Football
BACKGROUND TO THE ACTIVITY:
<p>The Development Squads provide a real opportunity for players to develop in a holistic manner. The squads also provide players with a chance to play against quality opposition in order to enhance their skills.</p> <p>Within Warwickshire the Club U.18 competitions are limited to a maximum of five games per year. Therefore, the opportunity to represent the County on a Development Squad and to play further games provides a great outlet for the development of home-grown players.</p>
OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTIVITY:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To develop players and coaches by playing against new and varied opposition; 2. To bring more home-grown players through the system to play at Adult level for Warwickshire.
DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY:
<p>The All Britain U.18 Final took place in Páirc na hÉireann on the 16th of July 2016 with London and Warwickshire competing for the top spot.</p> <p>London had won the Championship many times, whereas Warwickshire have had relatively limited success in the past. In advance of the game, Warwickshire had trained consistently for a month and had also played against the Mayo U.17 Development Squad in McHale Park, Castlebar in a challenge game. The efforts of the Warwickshire team paid off and they won the 2016 U.18 Championship.</p>
OUTCOMES/RESULTS OF THE ACTIVITY:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Opportunity to compete against top-quality opposition; ■ Increased chance of retaining more players through to Adult level.
NEXT STEPS:
<p>The major challenge at this age-grade is the lack of games. In 2017 it is intended to engage in cross-county cooperation in order to increase the number of games on offer through the establishment of an U.17 Inter-County competition.</p>

IN FOCUS:
Warwickshire Adult Games Programme
STAGE(S) OF THE PLAYER PATHWAY:
Adult 19+
AREA(S) OF THE GRASSROOTS TO NATIONAL PROGRAMME:
Games Opportunities
CODE(S):
Gaelic Football
BACKGROUND TO THE ACTIVITY:
<p>In 2015, in Warwickshire there were 6 senior reserve teams but only 3 of these teams consistently fielded for games. In general, there was a frustration amongst the players that they only played six games per season.</p> <p>In order to counteract this issue, a new League Cup format was established for 2016, in this manner the teams were able to participate in up to five extra games per season.</p>
OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTIVITY:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To increase the number of games opportunities for Club players at reserve level; 2. To ensure so-called weaker Clubs still have an opportunity to participate in competition; 3. To develop junior and reserve players to a higher standard so that - in time - they can possibly play with their Senior team.
DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY:
<p>The County Board, the players of the top 3 reserve teams and their team coaches all agreed that these three clubs should be playing at a higher standard and playing as regularly as any senior team.</p> <p>The County Fixtures Committee introduce a League to cater for these teams and opened it to all teams that were not playing at Senior level. As a direct result, the number of games increased to 11 per team per season.</p>
OUTCOMES/RESULTS OF THE ACTIVITY:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Increased chance of retaining more players at Adult level.
NEXT STEPS:
<p>Significant efforts will be made to strengthen the juvenile sections of these Clubs to ensure that there is sustainability of players into the future.</p>

Yorkshire

IN FOCUS:
Leeds Active Schools – G4P Programme and Schools Sports Festival
STAGE(S) OF THE PLAYER PATHWAY:
Child 4 - 12
AREA(S) OF THE GRASSROOTS TO NATIONAL PROGRAMME:
Games Opportunities; School Initiatives
CODE(S):
Gaelic Football
BACKGROUND TO THE ACTIVITY:
Leeds Active Schools is a Leeds City Council Department that has a leading role in developing a sustainable network to support schools and their pupils in Leeds to increase sport and physical activity. The majority of schools in Leeds subscribe to this organisation and they promote sporting associations that meet their criteria. Before being included in their operation, the GAA found it challenging to access schools but since working in partnership with Leeds Active Schools the GAA are now on the same footing as the other contemporary sports.
OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTIVITY:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To engage more schools in the G4P (Gaelic for Primary) Programme; 2. To promote Gaelic games in more schools through adopting a city-wide approach.
DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY:
<p>As a direct result of the partnership, 6 new Primary Schools were included in the G4P programme and each school received a 6-week Coaching Programme. 260 children who had never played Gaelic football were introduced to the game through this initiative.</p> <p>In addition to this, in partnership with Leeds Active Schools, Yorkshire GAA delivered 3 Gaelic Football Festivals on 3 separate days during 2016 at John Charles Centre for Sport. 300 children from a variety of Primary Schools attended these days.</p>
OUTCOMES/RESULTS OF THE ACTIVITY:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Increased awareness of the Gaelic games in schools; ■ Some school teams began to play against Club teams as part of weekend blitzes; ■ There was an increase in the number of young children joining Clubs.
NEXT STEPS:
It is hoped to further develop the concept of school teams playing at the weekends against Club teams.

IN FOCUS:
Up-skilling the CDA
STAGE(S) OF THE PLAYER PATHWAY:
Adult 19+
AREA(S) OF THE GRASSROOTS TO NATIONAL PROGRAMME:
Learning & Development
CODE(S):
Hurling and Gaelic Football
BACKGROUND TO THE ACTIVITY:
The organisation of Coaching courses as well as Child Protection courses can be hindered by the lack of suitably qualified instructors. In light of this, it was arranged to up-skill the CDA within Yorkshire to deliver these courses.
OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTIVITY:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To minimise expense and to accommodate demand for courses; 2. To create self-sufficiency within the County; 3. To ensure best practice is promoted in terms of Coaching and Child Protection.
DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY:
<p>The CDA undertook the following training during 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Foundation Level Tutor Training ■ Sports Coach UK Safeguarding & Protecting Children Tutor Training ■ Level 1 Tutor Training ■ Children's Officer Tutor Training <p>As a direct result of this training, the CDA was able to deliver a range of courses for volunteers in Yorkshire during 2016.</p>
OUTCOMES/RESULTS OF THE ACTIVITY:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Delivered a 'Teach Gaelic Football' Workshop for ten Post-Primary teachers in June 2016; ■ Delivered a Safeguarding & Protecting Children Course to 12 GAA members in Huddersfield in July 2016; ■ Delivered a 'Teach Gaelic Football' Workshop for teachers from 6 Primary Schools in November 2016.
NEXT STEPS:
The CDA will continue to deliver a comprehensive programme of training inputs during the course of 2017.

IN FOCUS:
Millfield Primary School Team
STAGE(S) OF THE PLAYER PATHWAY:
Child 4 - 12
AREA(S) OF THE GRASSROOTS TO NATIONAL PROGRAMME:
Games Opportunities; School Initiatives
CODE(S):
Gaelic Football
BACKGROUND TO THE ACTIVITY:
In early 2016, the County identified a deficit in terms of the lack of games opportunities for Club teams in Yorkshire and the rigid county/club structure did not allow for meaningful growth. In addition to this, there were challenges in arranging internal school blitzes due to a very busy Leeds Active Schools events schedule.
OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTIVITY:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To create more games opportunities for Club teams; 2. To involve schools in games opportunities outside of school hours; 3. To promote and develop Club/School links.
DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY:
Two Club/School Blitzes were held in Leeds during 2016.
The first blitz was held in Leeds Irish Centre in April and the second blitz took place in Sacred Heart Primary School in June. 2 Clubs brought two teams each while 2 Primary Schools also participated. Children from other schools were also invited to participate and joined with some of the teams. Overall, there were six teams at each Blitz and a full day of activities were delivered.
Furthermore, a blitz was held at Boston Spa High School in Leeds, for players at Youth level. 2 Clubs and Boston Spa pupils played on the day in a Super Games Centre format with 28 young players engaging in a series of small-sided games.
OUTCOMES/RESULTS OF THE ACTIVITY:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Increased communication and engagement between Schools, Club and the CDA; ■ Establishment of clear Club/School links; ■ Recruitment of additional players.
NEXT STEPS:
It is planned to involve at least one more school in the initiative in 2017.





5. CANADA

CANADIAN COUNTY BOARD
ESTABLISHED 1959
20 CLUBS IN 3 DIVISIONS

EASTERN CANADA
WESTERN CANADA
TORONTO DIVISION

13 Projects – Global Games Development Fund 2016

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Calgary Fianna – The sustainable development of Gaelic Games in Western Canada/**Éire Óg** – Development of Hurling and Youth Camogie in Ottawa/**Fraser Valley Gaels** – Gaelic Football Adult Summer Recreation Programme/**JP Ryan's** – Hurling Academy 2016/**Montreal Shamrocks** – Weekly Gaelic Football League/**Ottawa Gaels** – Youth to the Max: Sustainable Youth Development Initiatives/**Prince Edward Island Celts** – A Piece of History/**Toronto Camogie Club** – Toronto Camogie Gear/**Toronto GAA** – Use of Centennial Park Facilities/**Toronto Gaels** – Development of a new Hurling Team/**Toronto Gaels** – Off-season Indoor Gaelic Football Development Sessions/**Toronto Hurling Club** – A Continuation of Hurling Development in Toronto/**Western Canada Divisional Board** – The Sustainable Development of Gaelic Games in Western Canada

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Calgary Fianna – The sustainable development of Gaelic games in Western Canada

Gaelic games are relatively new sports in Calgary - especially when compared with more established GAA units in cities such as Toronto or Ottawa. As such, Calgary Fianna undertook a project to raise awareness about Gaelic games within Calgary and to provide a consistent level of activity to its members.

Crucial to the success of any Club is the recruitment of new members, and the Club undertook a promotional campaign that included having a presence at a number of popular civic events within the city - including a Commemoration Ceremony for the Easter Rising.

In addition to this, the Club delivered a number of Coach Education inputs (training clinics) to ensure that the team of volunteers had a very structured approach to the organisation and delivery of coaching and games opportunities. The strategic approach of 'training the trainers' ensured that sessions were better organised and participants of all ages enjoyed their experiences fully.

Aside from developing an internal programme of coaching and games for juveniles, the Club also participated in the Red Deer Cup in Alberta as well as the Western Canadian Championships. In total, 40 children received the opportunity to play Gaelic games over the course of the year. The Club was very happy with the progress that was made however, challenges remain - particularly in the south of the City where it is proving difficult to recruit new members. However, Calgary Fianna will continue with the project in 2017 and hope to see even more players and volunteers join the Club in the months to come.

Éire Óg Ottawa – Development of Juvenile Hurling and Camogie

Éire Óg Ottawa organised a busy 12 months of activity during 2016 introducing a wide range of players to Hurling and Camogie.

The Club developed links with the University of Ottawa and by linking in with the Department of Celtic Studies, Éire Óg Ottawa introduced 45 students to Hurling and Camogie over the course of 2016. Further to this, the Club was able to secure Hurling and Camogie as part of the departmental curriculum.

Éire Óg also continued to grow its Schools' Programme and recruited a coach from Ireland to deliver coaching and games opportunities to over 2,400 pupils in the Ottawa School District. In addition to this, the Club ran

an Inter-School's Blitz at the Almonte CeltFest, at which two School teams and two Club teams participated in a great day of activity.

In addition to this, the "Hurl with Me Programme" was rolled out for young Camógs within the Club for the first time and proved to be a huge success. Through this Programme both parents and children were coached the skills of the games and encouraged to practice together at home. The reaction from Club members was so positive that the Programme was subsequently rolled out for the Ottawa Girl Guides over a three-month period with an average of 15 girls and their parents participating in the sessions.

Sustainability and self-sufficiency is a key goal for all International Clubs and in 2016 Éire Óg Ottawa ensured that three coaches were trained up to Tutor level with the assistance of the Ulster Council. These coaches were then able to deliver Foundation level courses to beginner coaches within the Club, thereby ensuring that all players received quality coaching inputs.

A huge number of individuals benefitted from the project and the role of the Club in supporting newly arrived Irish emigrants was evident as the Club assisted two new families with the organisation of accommodation and schools for their children.

Fraser Valley Gaels – Gaelic Football Adult Summer Recreation Programme

British Columbia has seen a significant increase in Irish emigrants arriving since 2008 and Fraser Valley Gaels was established in 2015 as the second GAA Club in the Vancouver area. In its first year, Fraser Valley Gaels had a total playing membership of 20 and it was decided that a recruitment drive was needed to increase awareness of the Club and to increase playing numbers.

The original intention was to hold an Adult Summer League, however, funding constraints meant that the project was reduced to a one-day Festival. The Fraser Valley Gaels Tournament was held on the 21st May at Bayside Rugby Club. All teams in the ISSC Vancouver were invited to participate with games organised in all codes – Hurling, Camogie, Gaelic football and Ladies football.



Approximately 80 players participated and a further 100 people attended the event. Through a partnership with the Irish Club of White Rock, the Club was able to organise a social gathering in conjunction with the Tournament, which proved invaluable in engaging members of the Irish Community in Vancouver.

In 2016, the Club increased its membership from 20 players to 60 players – a great achievement for such a new Club. It is hoped to make the Fraser Valley Gaels Tournament an annual event as well as to further grow membership in 2017 and beyond.

JP Ryan's Hurling Academy 2016

At the start of 2016, JP Ryan's Club had an active player base of 48 hurlers, who were all experienced hurlers. The aim of the project was to increase the number of players through the organisation of promotional events as well as the establishment of an Academy.

The purpose of the Academy was to provide a safe and encouraging environment for beginners to start playing hurling. Experience had taught the Club that many beginners felt uncomfortable training and playing alongside more seasoned hurlers. The Academy addressed this challenge and allowed novice hurlers the opportunity to develop and practice their skills in a non-intimidating environment. Coaching and games opportunities were delivered on a weekly basis over a number of months.

The introduction of the Academy was a real success with 40 individuals participating during the year – 20 men and 20 women. Eleven of these players were non-Irish and had no previous exposure to the game. While a minority of these decided to stay playing exclusively within the Academy, a significant number continued to progress to play with the Club's established teams. Overall, the number of players increased to 85 active hurlers and 40 active camogie players.

Montreal Shamrocks – Weekly Gaelic Football League

The aim of this project was to build upon the momentum created by previous DFA/GAA funded projects by establishing a Montreal Shamrock's Super League and to provide a sustainable footing on which to continue with the league to come for years to come.

The Super League was a phenomenal success. Two distinct seasons were identified – a Winter Indoor League and a Summer Midweek League. The Winter Indoor League was held from January to April on a weekly basis and

once a month additional Clubs from Ottawa and Quebec were invited to participate, which laid the groundwork for an Eastern Canada League. The Summer Midweek League was held from June to September and all fixtures were fulfilled.

In conjunction with the leagues, the Club dedicated 30 minutes before every fixture to skills coaching. To start with there was a skills introduction session in the first week of January, 2016. This was extremely successful with 52 people in attendance, divided into 3 groups of beginner, intermediate and advanced. The sessions continued on a weekly basis with an average of 20 players in attendance at each session.

The Super Leagues generated additional interest in Ladies Gaelic football and Hurling too. Due to demand, the Club was able to establish a weekly stand-alone women's Super League, while a mixed gender Hurling/Camogie Super League was also established in 2016 and will continue in 2017.

This project has been hugely successful for the Montreal GAA community and has exceeded all original objectives. It witnessed the biggest increase in membership in the Club's history - with playing numbers increasing from 50 in 2015 to 109 in 2016. The Club hopes to build on this progress in 2017 and aims to bring a dedicated sponsor on board to ensure sustainability for the coming years.

Ottawa Gaels: Youth to the Max – Sustainable Youth Development

The Youth to the Max Project entails training and deploying qualified Gaelic games coaches to foster a strong Club/School links between Ottawa area schools and Ottawa Gael's Regional Youth Training Hubs. One of the specific aims for 2016 was the production of a bespoke coaching resource guide that could be easily used by coaches and teachers alike.

Having increased the number of qualified GAA coaches, the Club was in a position to offer the Schools' Programme to further schools thereby increasing the number of children exposed to Gaelic games. Furthermore, the Club had great success in ensuring that the participants within schools



were later linked with one of the Regional Youth Hubs and invited to play GAA outside of school hours.

The Club also partnered with other Irish organisations in Ottawa to galvanise the Irish-Canadian community to take part in Gaelic games and to take part in other Irish cultural events and organisations in Ottawa. Overall, the Club estimates that a total of 10,000 individuals – players, coaches, teachers, parents – benefitted from the project in 2016.

Prince Edward Island – A Piece of History

The PEI Celts was officially formed in January 2016 with the main objective of promoting the sports of Gaelic football and Hurling. To achieve this, the Club established a Youth Development Programme with a view to introducing young people on Prince Edward Island to Gaelic games in an exciting, fun and enjoyable manner.

As a first step, the PEI Celts sent one of their experienced coaches to obtain his Tutor Coaching Qualification. This meant that the Club had a member who could officially up-skill and train other coaches to achieve a GAA Coach Education qualification.

Secondly, the PEI Celts created a Youth Club in conjunction with the Benevolent Irish Society (BIS) to introduce children and young people to Irish Culture and Heritage including Gaelic games. The Club ran an event – ‘Be Irish for a Day’ – through which they promoted GAA, Irish music, the Irish language, Irish history and story-telling.

A dedicated core of volunteer coaches agreed to deliver demo days in a number of schools on Prince Edward Island in 2016. As a result of this, games were played in a range of areas including Souris, Kensington, Montague and Charlottetown. The reaction from the pupils was very positive but equally the PE Teachers saw the merit and benefits of the games and were keen to establish more formal and consistent links. As of December 2016, a total of 14 schools on PEI expressed interest in putting Gaelic football on the curriculum and a further seven schools would like to add Hurling to the curriculum. In addition to this, the PEI Celts organised a number of summer camps for youth players in various locations on PEI with approximately 250 children participating in the camps and schools programme.

Finally, the Club’s Adult men’s team travelled and participated in their first Eastern Canadian Championship. The team was comprised of 6 Irish players and 17 locals from PEI.

The PEI Celts have achieved a significant amount in a very short space of time and hope to build on the positive reaction from the Irish Community and islanders alike in 2017.

Toronto Camogie Club

The availability of equipment - or indeed lack thereof - is a major obstacle to the development of Hurling and Camogie internationally. In 2016, Toronto Camogie Club received a grant to fund the purchase of equipment for new players - both Irish and Canadians - in order to increase playing numbers.

The grant was used to purchase and import hurleys, helmets and sliotars and meant that everybody who attended a training session had the opportunity to participate. Through the appointment of a dedicated Recruitment Officer and the availability of the equipment, the Club was able to encourage an additional 13 players to join the team in 2017.

Toronto Gaels – Off-Season Indoor Gaelic Football Development Programme

The aim of the project was to provide a programme of Gaelic football activities that would serve to keep current Club members engaged and active during the Winter months. An ancillary objective was to provide an easy way for new players to connect with and become involved in the GAA Community during a period when there is normally little or no activity i.e. November until April.

The Programme was held in an indoor dome in Toronto and consisted of a series of coaching sessions over 12 weeks, which culminated in Blitz tournament in the final week. In total, 35 people participated including 3 Canadians. The Club felt that the provision of continuous activity during the Winter months increased the level of social interaction for the Irish Community and ensured that newcomers to the City had an outlet for meeting new people.

Toronto Gaels – Development of a new Hurling team: Clann na nGael

The aim of this project was to develop a new Hurling team within Toronto to cater for a growing number of interested players. Although initially established under the remit of



the Toronto Gaels, within a few months it was agreed to establish Clann na nGael as the Hurling counterpart to the Toronto Gaels.

Through the grant funding, Clann na nGael was able to recruit 25 new members – Irish and Canadian – in order to participate in a series of coaching sessions. Further to the skill development inputs provided by the Club, two 9-a-side teams were established with one of the teams winning the Toronto Hurling Tournament.

Toronto Hurling Club – A Continuation of Hurling Development in Toronto

The Toronto Hurling Club has been in existence since 2010 and over that period of time has seen many players join and participate with the Club. The Toronto Hurling Club requested funding to continue the major strides made in establishing Hurling as a central part of the Irish Community with Toronto.

As part of the project, the Club aimed to run coaching sessions twice weekly from mid-April to mid-September. The Club was able to include new and existing members in a more structured training regime and critical to this was the allocation of equipment including hurleys and sliotars. Furthermore, the Club undertook to organise and facilitate a 9-a-side Toronto Hurling Tournament and inviting Clubs from Ontario and North America as well the newly established Clann na nGael Club to participate in the event. The one-day event in June 2016 involved teams from five Clubs and had over 50 players in attendance. Subsequently, over 60 players from the Toronto Hurling Club travelled to participate in a tournament in Montreal and one team travelled to the North American Championships where they successfully won their Division.

The Club was very satisfied with the progress made in 2016 and now aims to develop the juvenile section of the Club with plans to volunteer in Buffalo in July 2017 at the CYC.

Toronto GAA – Use of Centennial Park

Centennial Park is a recreational space in Toronto where a lot of GAA activity takes place – organised either by individual Clubs or hosted by the Divisional Board. The introduction of costs for the use of the changing room facilities had proved a barrier to activities in the recent past – particularly for female members. In 2016 the Board successfully sought funding on behalf of the 6 Clubs and 16 teams in the City to support the hire of facilities.

The decision to invest money in the rental of changing rooms proved very beneficial. On a practical level, it led to an increase in the number of events organised in the park. Another important outcome was that the use of changing rooms encouraged people to play their games but then to subsequently stay all day at the park to enjoy watching other Gaelic games on show as they did not have to return home to shower and change. This added to the community feel and vibrancy of events held at the grounds.

Western Canadian Board – The sustainable development of Gaelic games in Western Canada

The principal aim of the project was to strategically develop the existing GAA units in Western Canada, in a manner that would provide the growing Irish community in the region with a sustainable platform to maintain their Irish Identity, Heritage and sense of Community through the medium of Gaelic games.

The Western Canadian Division stretches 1,700 km, from Vancouver on the Pacific coast to Regina in the prairies of Saskatchewan, and in total the region encompasses an area of 2.25 million square kilometres. At the outset of 2016 the Division had a total of 7 affiliated Clubs including: 6 men's Gaelic football teams; 3 Ladies football teams; and 4 Hurling teams. In order to consolidate the work being done by individual Units, it was agreed to seek funding for the Western Canadian Championship in Regina and to supplement games with the provision of Coach and Referee Education Workshops.

The tournament was an outstanding success running over two days in July 2016 with some teams travelling almost 1,800km each way to participate. In Gaelic football, the tournament witnessed teams from British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan battle it out for Senior and Junior honours. The Calgary Chieftains, Edmonton Wolfe Tones, Regina Gaels and Vancouver ISSC all participated in the Hurling competition while the Ladies Gaelic football competition was a straight battle between Calgary Chieftains and Vancouver ISSC. The tournament concluded



with the presentation of honours and food was provided afterwards at a ceremony that included Man/Woman of Match awards across all codes.

In total, 300 individuals played or spectated at the event and proved that there is a real demand and desire to grow Gaelic games in Western Canada. Since the completion of the event the Western Canadian Board has been busy supporting the development of an eighth Club in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and it is hoped that they will be able to participate in the 2017 Championships.







6. EUROPE

GAELIC GAMES EUROPE

ESTABLISHED 1999

83 CLUBS IN 19 COUNTRIES + CHANNEL ISLANDS

- | | | |
|----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| AUSTRIA | GERMANY | RUSSIA |
| BELGIUM | HUNGARY | SLOVAKIA |
| CZECH REPUBLIC | ITALY | SPAIN |
| DENMARK | LUXEMBOURG | SWEDEN |
| ESTONIA | NETHERLANDS | SWITZERLAND |
| FINLAND | NORWAY | + THE |
| FRANCE | POLAND | CHANNEL ISLANDS |

Projects – Global Games Development Fund 2016

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Costa Gaels & Éire Óg Sevilla – Juvenile Gaelic Games Development Project/**Azur Gaels** – Bringing Gaelic Games to the Côte d’Azur/**Brittany** and **Channel Islands** – Promotion and Development of Gaelic Football as a Summer Game/**Den Haag GAA** – GAA Youth Expansion in Den Haag and Rotterdam/**Guernsey Gaels** – Guernsey Schools Gaelic Football Initiative/**Madrid Harps** – Development of Combined Recreational & Competitive Gaelic Football for Adults/**Paris Gaels** – Paris Gaels GAA Influence/**Stockholm GAA** – Youth Integration Programme 2016/**Zurich Inneoin** – Hurling and Camogie Development/**German GAA Clubs** – The Establishment of a German GAA Federation and the Development & Expansion of Gaelic Games in Germany

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Costa Gaels Marbella and Éire Óg Sevilla – Juvenile Gaelic Games Development Project

In 2016, Costa Gaels GAA Club (Marbella) and Éire Óg Sevilla (Seville) joined forces in an effort to promote and provide opportunities for juveniles to play Gaelic football in the Costa del Sol region, which covers the coast from Malaga to Estepona as well as Seville city and suburbs.

There are high numbers of Irish diaspora living in the area and working in a variety of jobs and industries, and the Universidad de Sevilla welcomes many Irish Erasmus students as well as other international students. The distance between Seville and Marbella (the home grounds of Costa Gaels) is just over two hours and the two clubs have a good relationship, having worked closely in the past to form the Andalucia Vandals Hurling team and to introduce Ladies football to Andalucia.

As part of the project, both Clubs purchased portable goalposts and agreed a programme of activities, which included weekly juvenile coaching sessions as well as delivering coaching and games in local schools on a voluntary basis. This programme of activity was supplemented by the organisation of a Foundation Level Coach Education course as well as a Referee Education workshop. The Foundation Level course was held in Marbella in October and as a result 20 volunteers qualified as GAA accredited coaches. The Referee Education Workshop was held in December and a total of 14 individuals participated in this.

Over the course of the year, the Costa Gaels had an average of 20 children attending weekly training sessions during the Spring and Autumn season. Éire Óg Sevilla had an average of 15 children (aged 6 - 14) attending their training sessions. Both Clubs made efforts to partner with local educational institutions. Costa Gaels provided introductory sessions at a local International College while Éire Óg delivered coaching to 50 children in one of Seville's Post-Primary schools fortnightly during the school year.

Promotion of the Clubs through Open Days, the St. Patrick's Day Festival in Marbella and other events and fundraisers (e.g. the Golf Classic in Marbella - March 2016) also helped to increase numbers and just as importantly to build stronger community ties with the wider area. The aim for 2017 is to strengthen the links between the two areas by organising a Juvenile League for the Andalusian region.

Azur Gaels – Bringing Gaelic Games to the Côte d’Azur

The aim of the 2016 project was to bring Gaelic games to the Côte d’Azur, by establishing a men’s, ladies and juvenile Gaelic football structure that would be complemented by a public event celebrating Gaelic games and Irish culture in the region - the Azur Gaelic Festival.

2016 was the Club’s first season but by the end they had registered 35 members and succeeded in entering a men’s team to participate in the French Championship. At juvenile level great strides were made. Azur Gaels established a sustainable partnership with a local centre aéré (holiday camp), allowing the Club to offer Gaelic football sessions to local children during school holidays. The Club also established relationships with a nearby school (Ecole Val Fleuri), a local soccer club (US Biot) and a local rugby club (Stade Laurentin Rugby), all of which led to practical demos and Gaelic football sessions for children.

Azur Gaels concluded their first season by holding a collaborative sporting and cultural event open to all - celebrating Gaelic Games and Irish culture in the region. Azur Gaelic Festival took place on the 29th October in the town of Biot and in the company of Jimmy Deenihan, 5-time All-Ireland Senior Football Champion and Government Minister. The day was a huge success as locals (both Irish and non-Irish) were treated to a Gaelic football tournament, a Hurling workshop, an Irish dance demonstration and a concert given by a young Irish artist.

Another focus of the Fund is sustainability, and thanks to the successes of the project and the season as a whole, the Club go into their second season better equipped, more experienced and with greater numbers both in the playing squad and on the committee.



Brittany and Channel Islands – Promotion and Development of Gaelic Football as a Summer Game

This collaborative project between seven clubs from Brittany and the Channel Islands GAA aimed to develop Gaelic football for youth players in the region, with a focus on ensuring long-term sustainability. The main objective was to provide structure to the Youth sections of each Club by providing resource materials, focused training and meaningful games through rotating tournaments between Clubs in the region. A second objective was to continue coaching Gaelic football and introducing Irish culture to pupils in local French schools.

The grant helped toward the organisation of a number of high-quality tournaments to which other European teams including Belgium GAA were invited. In total, 150 players participated in the various tournaments with over ten teams playing in the Liffé European Tournament.

A Foundation Level Coaching Course was organised in Lorient, a dynamic GAA Club in an area that has potential for further development. 25 people participated, half of whom came from established GAA clubs while the remainder were school teachers from the region who support the on-going presence of Gaelic football in the school curriculum. Over the course of the weekend, the attendees benefited the methods and tutoring from Tutors supervised by Gerard O'Connor from Leinster GAA.

For 2017 the project team aim to finalise the purchase of two sets of portable goalposts as well as to continue growing the Spring Series of Tournaments with a view to hosting the first All-Europe Youth Tournament in the near future.

Den Haag GAA – GAA Youth Expansion in Den Haag and Rotterdam

The purpose of the 2016 project was to introduce Gaelic football and Hurling to children in the Hague/Rotterdam areas and to provide regular training and matches for them. It was felt that providing activities at Child and Youth level helps to sustain a sense of community among Irish families and friends with an interest in GAA living in the area, while also providing a positive image of Ireland and Irish people in general.

The activity was delivered at Club level but also in various Primary and Post-Primary schools in the Hague and Rotterdam. Approximately 30 children attended the weekly training sessions in Den Haag while 25 children attended a series of five training sessions delivered in Rotterdam during June 2016. Furthermore, a total of 1,000 children were introduced

to Gaelic games and had an opportunity to participate in demos delivered in a range of Primary and Post-Primary schools in the two areas.

One of the key learnings from the project was that games against different opposition is crucial for maintaining the interest of the children. On this basis, the Club has joined forces with Brussels, Luxembourg and Frankfurt to organise a Benelux League for 2017. It is anticipated that this type of cross-country engagement will lead to an increase in playing numbers and will also make the activities more appealing to Irish families in each region.

Guernsey Gaels – Guernsey Schools Gaelic Football Initiative

Following on from the visit of Carlow IT student, Jonathan Tallon, to Guernsey for a week of School's Gaelic football coaching in June 2015, a number of schools approached the Guernsey Gaels about adding Gaelic football to the PE curriculum. The Guernsey Gaels wanted to support this by being able to purchase goalposts, footballs and other training aids for the schools.

Bad weather and water-logged pitches presented serious challenges at the start of the year, however, the Club was able to roll-out a Gaelic football Coaching Programme in La Mare de Carteret Post-Primary school in the second half of 2016. In total, 250 boys and girls were introduced to the game over a six-week period as part of an after-school programme. The reaction was very positive and the school has now been in contact with a number of schools and Clubs in London with a view to travelling to a tournament in early 2017.

While, the Club did not manage to reach as many schools as hoped in 2016, the groundwork was laid for this coming year. So far two additional Post-Primary schools have agreed to participate in the Coaching Programme while it is intended to provide sessions in 12 Primary Schools in Guernsey that will culminate in an Inter-school Blitz in July 2017. The overall objective is to continue introducing as many children as possible to Gaelic games and to encourage them to join the Guernsey Gaels.



Madrid Harps – Development of Combined Recreational & Competitive Gaelic Football for Adults

Madrid is the third largest city in the EU with a population of 3.2 million people and a further 3 million people living in the Madrid metropolitan area. According to the Irish Embassy, the city has an Irish population of 6,000. Madrid Harps GAA was founded in 2004 by Irish emigrants and has, in recent years, counted on a membership of between 40 and 60 at Adult level.

The Club had previously received grant funding for a number of projects at Child level. In 2016 it was agreed to focus efforts on the Adult section with a view to providing a series of competitive games for the Club's Adult players and also encouraging members of the Irish community in Madrid to join by providing them with recreational activity in addition to a social outlet.

In order to achieve these objectives, the Club set up a recreational 7-a-side GAA League, which began in March 2016 and finished in November 2016, encompassing a varied mix of skilled and recreational GAA players as well as a large number of native Spaniards and other nationalities.

The League was actively promoted via social media and through the Irish Community network. Over the course of the League, playing numbers exceeded 80 Adults and 20 new players joined the Club as a direct result of the Leagues. The profile of the new members is noteworthy as it included a number of Spanish people with no previous experience of Gaelic games as well as a group of Irish ex-pats aged 35+, who were attracted by the recreational nature of the League.

The impact of the League was significant as the Club's playing numbers grew to 80 players. Furthermore, during the Iberian Championships 2016, the Madrid Harps achieved something no team has ever achieved to date - both men's and ladies teams were capable of travelling to each regional tournament with at least two full teams. The 7-a-side league created in Madrid during the year was a contributor to this, and the committee now has set their sights on sending three teams to the Iberian Championships in 2017.

Paris Gaels – Paris Gaels GAA Influence

As one of the major cities in Europe, it is crucial for the GAA to have a presence in Paris. In 2016, the Paris Gaels set out to increase the number of players and teams in the Club in order to raise the profile of Gaelic games and to provide a social and recreational outlet for the Irish Community in the city.

With the support of the Global Games Development Fund, the Club was able to purchase playing equipment. This allowed them to organise two training sessions weekly for their players and also enabled them to host a round of French Federal Championship, which teams from across the country travelled to. In addition to this, the Club actively sought to develop the game of Hurling in the Capital through the organisation of a 7-a-side Hurling tournament in October 2016.

Approximately 275 people – players and spectators – benefitted from the project and the Gaels are also now actively seeking to establish partnerships with Irish organisations in Paris with a view to attracting more players for 2017.

Stockholm GAA – Youth Integration Programme 2016

The project aim was to promote Gaelic football within the Stockholm region by delivering coaching and games opportunities to pupils in local Post-Primary schools. The overall strategy was to run a Schools’ Coaching Programme and to subsequently organise a Cúl Camp concluding in a Family Fun Day.

As part of the project, Club members delivered coaching and games to three local schools over a period of five weeks in each school. With an average of 25 pupils participating in each school, the Club was able to introduce Gaelic games to 75 young people and their families. The Cúl Camp had varying levels of participation with up to 20 attending on one of the days, however, the Club felt that the timing of the Camp could be changed for 2017.

Finally, the Family Fun Day was a resounding success. Over 80 people – adults and children – attended the day and participated in the various demos that were organised along with face-painting and plenty of socialising!

The Club was very happy with the feedback about the project – particularly from the participating Schools, which also indicated a desire to continue the initiative in 2017.



Zurich Inneoin – Hurling and Camogie Development

Zurich Inneoin acted as the lead organiser for this project, which involved a number of Clubs in the Alpine regions of Switzerland, Austria and Bavaria. The overall aim was to develop Hurling and Camogie in the Alpine region thereby increasing opportunities for the Irish Diaspora in the region to become involved.

One of the major initiatives contained in the project was the creation of an amalgamated Camogie team with players from a number of Alpine Clubs. At the outset of 2016 there were a number of interested Camogie players based in Zurich, however, the group was not in a position to field a team to participate in tournaments due to low numbers. In order to counter-act this, a number of training sessions were held with attendance by Camogie players from other Clubs including Basel and Munich. On foot of this, an amalgamated Camogie team attended the Hurling & Camogie Finals in Dresden for the first time ever. The team competed strongly and came second place on the day, creating strong bonds between Basel and Zurich GAA Clubs and forging lasting friendships and partnerships in the meantime. The other Camogie teams in Europe also benefitted from the attendance of a fifth team, making the tournament the most exciting and competitive of the season. In Hurling, the Zurich Hurling team amalgamated with Munich GAA for the Hurling finals in Dresden, allowing new and experienced players to play side-by-side. Neither team would have been able to field a team on their own account. In total, 60 men and women benefitted from this collaborative project.

The growing co-operation between Clubs in the Alpine region is the only feasible way to create sustainable Hurling and Camogie activity in the region. For 2017 it is intended to focus efforts on recruiting further players from Salzburg, Innsbruck, Lugano and Geneva too.

German GAA Clubs – The Establishment of a German GAA Federation and the Development & Expansion of Gaelic Games in Germany

The establishment of a German GAA Federation is part of a three-year programme for the growth of Gaelic games in Germany. The rationale for this project lies in the Irish saying ‘ní neart go cur le chéile’ – there is no strength without unity. The aim of the project is to ensure that all existing German Clubs collaborate closely to ensure that existing members and players are fully catered for and also to support the recruitment of new members as well as the establishment of additional Clubs.

The key initiatives contained in the project included: establishment of a German GAA Federation; introduction of structured National and Regional competitions; expansion of the GAA to new cities and regions.

In Year 1 the project was phenomenally successful. Firstly, the German GAA Federation was established and importantly it has been recognised as an official sports organisation in Germany, which gives the member Clubs access to facilities and resources that would otherwise not be available. The delivery of a programme of games both regionally and nationally was a crucial aspect of the project and over the course of the year the German GAA Federation organised a number of events including: the German Hurling and Camogie Cup in Hamburg; the German Gaelic and Ladies football Cup in Düsseldorf; the first ever representative German Ladies Gaelic football team played a challenge game against a team from Leicester in Berlin. In addition to this, the Federation sent a German Gaelic football and German Hurling team to participate in the World Games in Dublin. Furthermore, a German Camogie team competed at the European Championships with players representing a number of German Clubs.

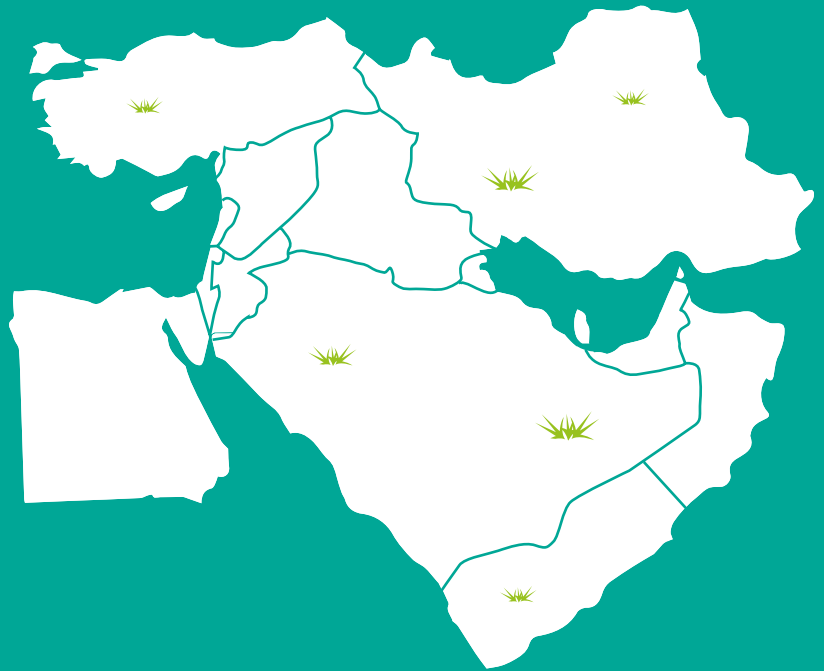
In addition to the promotion of Gaelic games through a concerted campaign that involved monthly newsletters and the development of a dedicated website, members of the Federation actively assisted the founding of a GAA Club in Stuttgart.

Finally, the constituent Clubs in the Federation worked together to up-skill players and coaches. A Ladies Gaelic football Coaching Course was held in Munich while a Foundation Level Hurling and Gaelic football Course was held in Dresden. Furthermore, Paudie O'Neill, Chairman of the GAA's National Hurling Development Committee (HDC) travelled to Darmstadt to hold a workshop with the Club's players.

In 2016, approximately 550 people benefitted from the efforts of the German GAA Federation and while maintaining the progress made is no mean feat, the Federation has an ambitious plan for the delivery of a comprehensive schedule of games in 2017.







7. MIDDLE EAST

MIDDLE EAST BOARD
ESTABLISHED 2013

11 CLUBS IN 6 COUNTRIES/4 EMIRATES

BAHRAIN
KUWAIT
OMAN
QATAR
SAUDI ARABIA

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
ABU DHABI
DUBAI
RAS AL KHAIMAH
SHARJAH

Projects Global Games Development Fund 2016

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Abu Dhabi na Fianna – Initiation and Expansion of Juvenile Gaelic Games among Irish and Non-Irish Nationals within Schools/**Al Ain GAA** – Al Ain Club Tournament for the Middle East League 2016/**Kuwait Harps** – Promotion of Gaelic Games to local Schools in the Area; Promotion of Gaelic Games to the local Community; The delivery of adequate training to both Irish and non-Irish players/**Naomh Alee GAA** – Expanding Gaelic Games Engagement with Women & Mothers over 30 and Boys & Girls Under 14/**Oryx na hÉireann** – Qatar Hurling and Camogie
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Abu Dhabi na Fianna – Initiation and Expansion of Juvenile Gaelic Games among Irish and Non-Irish Nationals within Schools

Abu Dhabi na Fianna is a well-established Club with approximately 300 Adult members and 70 Juvenile members. In 2016, the Club set out an ambitious project which entailed maximising the use of volunteer members to organise regular internal and external School's Leagues. 80% of the Club's Adult members have a role in education and the Club decided to use this access to local schools to their advantage.

The programme of coaching and games was rolled out to 6 schools in Abu Dhabi and while it was implemented as part of the PE curriculum in one school, in the remaining five schools it was delivered by Irish teachers predominantly as an after-school activity. The activity culminated in an Inter-School tournament at the end of the year.

Participants at school level were also encouraged to attend weekly Abu Dhabi na Fianna juvenile training sessions, which took place in Zayed Sport's City complex every Saturday afternoon. As a direct result of this the juvenile membership of the Club has increased, with 6 new Emirati members joining too.

Overall, 300 pupils had the opportunity to play Gaelic games in Abu Dhabi during 2016. The Club hope to review the project with the teachers and to continue with activities in 2017.

Al Ain GAA – Al Ain Club Tournament for the Middle East League 2016

Al Ain GAA sought and received funding to host two tournaments during 2016: Al Ain Annual Gaelic football tournament; and Al Ain Annual Hurling tournament. The tournaments were held in January and February 2016 respectively and proved to be great occasions for bringing together the Irish Community in Al Ain and across the Middle East.

The grant award was used to ensure that the tournaments were well-organised and the purchase of new Hurling nets and fabricated brackets and crossbars for rugby goalposts on five pitches added to the experience for players and spectators alike. In total, 516 people on 41 teams, representing 11 Clubs participated in the two tournaments.

The tournaments created a great focal point for the Club and brought new members to the ranks. In addition to regular training sessions throughout the year, the Club also organised a number of social events around the All Ireland Finals as well as an End of Year Gala. Finally, in September

2016, Club members travelled to Dublin to participate in the men's Junior All Ireland 7's Competition, which is held annually in St. Jude's GAA Club in Dublin. The team was the only International team to compete and they received a very warm reception from all their Irish counterparts.

Kuwait Harps – Promotion of Gaelic Games to local Schools in the Area; Promotion of Gaelic Games to the local Community; The delivery of adequate training to both Irish and non-Irish players

The primary objective of the Kuwait Harps Development Initiative was to provide meaningful, developmental games opportunities to support and enrich the Irish Community in Kuwait as well as to foster a connection to Irish culture for a variety of people in the region.

In September 2016 – at the start of the school year – the Club issued footballs and training equipment to seven teachers based in five International schools in the region in order to facilitate the incorporation of Gaelic games as part of their school PE programmes. In each of these schools an after-school Gaelic football programme was established with a total participation of 50 children. Apart from the after-school programme, Gaelic football was also integrated into the PE lessons as many of the teachers at the schools are also members of the Kuwait Harps. In total, 400 pupils were introduced to Gaelic games and at the end of the term the Kuwait Harps Club held a Youth Day to bring the students from the various schools together to play each other. The Youth Day combined practical coaching sessions with blitzes and 35 players participated.

The Club also actively sought to increase awareness of its existence and activities in the region. The establishment of a new website was invaluable in attracting new Irish members as well as local Kuwaitis. In addition to weekly coaching session for the more experienced male and female players, recreational games were held once a week for beginners so that they had an opportunity to try the games without feeling obliged to become a member of the Club. This provided a good pathway for recruiting players.



Furthermore, Kuwait Harps organised a bi-annual tournament to attract interested individuals. The tournament, held in December 2016, resulted in eight new players joining the Club. In total, the membership increased by 20% in 2016 from 36 to 43 members including 5 new Irish players.

Naomh Alee GAA – Expanding Gaelic Games Engagement

Naomh Alee hosts a range of GAA tournaments and events within Saudi Arabia in addition to participating in the Middle East League and Championship Competitions. These events - along with those of the Riyadh Irish Society - represent the only Irish based activities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The visits of Aogán Ó Fearghail, Uachtaran CLG, and Pat Spillane to Saudi Arabia in the last 2 years provided a fulcrum around which the expansion of the GAA club has been based and for 2016 the Club wanted to build on this momentum through the organisation of a number of initiatives including: a Parent & Child Programme; a Recreational League for players aged over 35.

The Parent & Child Programme took place at Ishbilila Park every fortnight. The parents and children were divided into two groups and parallel sessions were delivered to both cohorts. The Child level activities were based on a Cúl Camp format and - with the support of 12 volunteer coaches at each session - the children were coached the fundamental skills of the game and had opportunities to play small-sided games. Simultaneously, three coaches took the parents for a session that involved coaching physical and ball-in-hand activities as well as non-contact mixed gender games. Every month, blitz days were held where the children engaged in games and parents participated in 'Obsta-skill' activities i.e. obstacle course type challenges with GAA skill elements at staging posts.

70 children - aged between 4 and 13 years old - and 30 parents participated in the programme with a range of nationalities represented. In addition to the coaching and games activities, the Club arranged for Dónal McElwee, a sports scientist working in Saudi Arabia with the Saudi National Olympic Committee, to deliver a nutritional and welfare component as part of the programme.

Naomh Alee also organised a 'Back to Ball Games' recreational football initiative for Adults aged 35+. The participants comprised of a range of different abilities including beginners as well as former players. There was great interest in the initiative with 30 people regularly playing, and as a result, in May 2016, the Club was able to organise the 'Riyadh Railway Cup', whereby men and women played on teams based upon their Provincial

connections. Given the success of the initiative Dublin Airport Authority International have agreed to sponsor the event going forward.

Oryx na hÉireann – Qatar Hurling and Camogie

The primary purpose of this project was to secure funding to support the purchase of Hurling and Camogie equipment. Oftentimes, the cost of the equipment and transport of same can be a significant barrier to playing Hurling and Camogie internationally. Through the Global Games Development Fund, the Club was able to purchase equipment to facilitate six training sessions and to participate in a total of five competitions during 2016.

As a result of the Fund, specific Hurling and Camogie coaching sessions were held to raise awareness of the games within Qatar while also allowing players to enhance their skill-sets. From the start of 2016, the Qatar/Bahrain Hurlers saw notable improvement in performances, with success in the Sharja Tournament, where they won the Senior Division 1 Cup Final and losing narrowly to Dubai in the Premier Championship Cup Semi Final in Bahrain.

While interest and local participation in Camogie continued to grow in 2016, Qatar were not in a position to field an independent team for the Middle East Camogie competition. However, a number of the Club's players amalgamated with neighbouring Clubs to enter a fixture under the banner of 'Team Dubai'.







8. New York

NEW YORK BOARD
ESTABLISHED 1914

New York Games Development Project 2016

In New York, the matched funding provided by the GAA/DFAT is used for the deployment of Simon Gillespie, full-time Games Development Manager (GDM). He is supported in this role by a part-time Hurling Development Officer, Emmett Conlon and a number of part-time coaches who assist with various projects e.g. NY Cúl Camps. These individuals work toward the delivery of the various components of the Grassroots to National Programme (GNP).

Some of the highlights from 2016 are captured below.

IN FOCUS:
New York Minor Board - Cúl Camp Programme 2016
STAGE(S) OF THE PLAYER PATHWAY:
Child 4 - 12
AREA(S) OF THE GRASSROOTS TO NATIONAL PROGRAMME:
Camps; Games Opportunities; Skill Development
CODE(S):
Gaelic Football and Ladies Football Hurling and Camogie GAA Rounders
BACKGROUND TO THE ACTIVITY:
The Cúl Camp programme has been in existence in New York since 2007 where it started with one camp in Gaelic Park. For 2016 it was agreed to expand the Programme to include 7 Camp Venues for the very first time. In addition to this, a Scór component was introduced to the Camps so that children could have an opportunity to learn about aspects of Irish Culture and to show the link with Gaelic games.
OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTIVITY:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To increase the number of participants in the Camps by expanding the number of venues; 2. To focus on the recruitment of beginner players and to provide them with a positive introduction to Gaelic games; 3. To incorporate Irish Cultural aspects into the Programme including information about the 1916 Rising and teaching every child Amhrán na bhFiann; 4. To promote Gaelic Games in a fun, friendly and safe environment.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY:

A total of 7 Cúl Camps took place in 2016 including a dedicated Hurling Cúl Camp. A total of 529 children took part in the Camps, which were organised in an age-appropriate manner with activities in addition to Gaelic games including introductory classes in Gaeilge and Irish History.

Emphasis was placed on maximising exposure to all codes and - in particular - Hurling/Camogie was promoted at all Camps, ensuring that almost 75% of the participants had the opportunity to play Hurling/Camogie for the first time.

At the end of the week some of the Cúl Camp Ambassadors made kit presentations, signed autographs and spoke to all players. Ambassadors included: Emlyn Mulligan (Leitrim); Johnny Glynn (Galway); Johnny Duane (Galway); Geraldine Mc Laughlin (Donegal); Michael Lundy (Galway).

OUTCOMES/RESULTS OF THE ACTIVITY:

- Largest ever participation figure - 529 participants;
- The introduction of Gaeilge, Irish Music and History for the first time ever in partnership with Scór na nÓg, Nua Eabhrac;
- The provision of part-time employment to over 58 coaches during the Cúl Camp programme;
- 30,000 views on Facebook for a group of Cúl Camp children singing Amhrán na bhFiann in Gaelic Park.

FEEDBACK:

"We really enjoyed the cultural element of this year camp, our new HDO ensures that all children can be exposed to both codes in an enjoyable and safe manner"

- Dennis Twomey (New York Minor Board Chairman)

"I've seen Johnny Glynn on the TV from Galway he gave me my kit and signed my Hurl"

- Frankie Romano (age 7, St. Raymond's GAA Club)

"Every child in Gaelic Park learned the origins of their surname at this year's camp, where the child was not Irish we researched their surname's origin online. This gives children an awareness of their identity and their ancestry"

- Frank Brady (Scór na nÓg Nua Eabhrac)

NEXT STEPS:

A review of the 2016 Camps will be conducted to ensure improvement and expansion for 2017 and beyond.

IN FOCUS:
New York Development Squad Programme
STAGE(S) OF THE PLAYER PATHWAY:
Youth 13 - 18
AREA(S) OF THE GRASSROOTS TO NATIONAL PROGRAMME:
Games Opportunities; Skill Development; Talent Academies
CODE(S):
Gaelic Football and Ladies Football Hurling and Camogie
BACKGROUND TO THE ACTIVITY:
The provision of a programme of games at Youth level is vital to retaining players through from Child to Adult level. In particular, it is important to cater for talented players who may also be playing other sports. In light of this, New York Games Development undertook to plan and deliver an ambitious programme for Development Squad Players from U.13 to U.18 as well as a New York Colleges Team.
OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTIVITY:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To provide meaningful games opportunities for Talent Academy players in 2016; 2. To ensure the provision of best practice coaching to players; 3. To maximise participation for players in terms of playing and coaching.
DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY:
<p>The following Squads were established in 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ U.13 Hurling/Camogie Academy (51 participants); ■ U.13 Gaelic Football Academy (60 participants); ■ U.14 Division 1 Ladies Football (20 participants); ■ U.14 Division 4 Ladies Football (24 participants); ■ U.14 Division 1 Boys Football (24 participants); ■ U.16 Hurling (18 participants); ■ U.16 Boys Football (24 participants); ■ U.16 Ladies Football (20 participants); ■ U.18 Boys Football (24 participants); ■ U.18 Hurling (20 participants); ■ New York Colleges' Team (22 participants). <p>The squads took part in a range of competitions including: Féile Peile na nÓg in Kerry/Cork; the Continental Youth Championships (CYC) in Chicago; and the British Universities Championship in Manchester.</p>

OUTCOMES/RESULTS OF THE ACTIVITY:

- 307 players participated in local, national and international competitions in Ireland and UK for 2016;
- Reached Semi-Final in all competitions of Féile;
- Won CYC U18 Hurling Premier and CYC U18 Ladies Premier;
- Had over 100 participants in U.13 Hurling, Camogie and Football Skill Development Academies in late 2016.

FEEDBACK:

"I have seen a number of CYC Premier Hurling games over the last few years and this was the most skillful one yet"

- Aogán Ó Feargháil, Uachtarán CLG

"The kids really enjoyed coming together from different clubs to represent New York, it was a great day"

- Caroline Martin NYMB Development Officer

"It was great to have the kids from all the clubs training together in the U.13 Hurling Academy and making new friends, it was a great success!"

- Aidan Mahoney, St. Brendan's GAA Monroe

"We gave 44 girls from New York the opportunity to play Ladies Football at a high standard in Ireland. This would not have been possible only for the Board's decision to put two squads into Féile this year"

- Tony Donnelly, Division 4 Girls Féile Manager

NEXT STEPS:

To continue to provide youth players with a comprehensive programme of games and to ensure that the coaches are qualified and adhere to best practice.

IN FOCUS:

GAA World Games

STAGE(S) OF THE PLAYER PATHWAY:

Adult 19+

AREA(S) OF THE GRASSROOTS TO NATIONAL PROGRAMME:

Games Opportunities

CODE(S):

Gaelic Football and Ladies Football
Hurling and Camogie

BACKGROUND TO THE ACTIVITY:

New York sent 6 teams and 72 players to the GAA World Games in UCD in August – the highest representation from any of the individual Units at the World Games.

- Teams included:
- Men’s Hurling (non-Irish)
- Camogie
- Ladies Football (Irish)
- Ladies Football (non-Irish)
- Men’s Football (Irish)
- Men’s Football (non-Irish)

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTIVITY:

1. To provide representative opportunities for New York players at the World Games;
2. To represent New York as part of the Centenary celebrations of the 1916 Rising;
3. To compete against other Units especially non-Irish to assess comparable playing standard against other non-Irish players.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY:

The GAA World Games took place from the 7th to the 14th August in UCD, Dublin. As part of the competition all International Units were represented and a total of 56 teams with 670 players.

The New York teams performed very well, winning the Cup competition in the non-Irish Ladies and Men’s Football competitions. The New York non-Irish Hurling team lost their Final, while New York won the Shield competition for both Camogie and Ladies Football.

OUTCOMES/RESULTS OF THE ACTIVITY:

- 72 players were afforded the opportunity to represent New York;
- 5 of the 6 teams reached a Final.

FEEDBACK:

“It felt very special to be able to play and win a tournament in Croke Park”

- Shane Hogan, Captain New York Native Men’s Team

“Overall a fantastic occasion for New York GAA”

- Joan Henchy, New York GAA Secretary

“This has been our first chance to represent New York Camogie in Ireland”

- Rosie O’Reilly, Chairperson New York Ladies GAA

NEXT STEPS:

To conduct a review in order to put a plan in place for the participation of New York GAA in future World Games.







9. South Africa

SOUTH AFRICA GAELS
AFFILIATION 2015

Project - Global Games Development Fund 2016

.....
South Africa Gaels - Accelerated Grassroots Growth
.....

South Africa Gaels – Accelerated Grassroots Growth

The SA Gaels Accelerated Grassroots Development Programme is aimed at expediting the development of sustainable participation of previously disadvantaged sportsmen/women in Gaelic football leagues across South Africa as well as to introducing the game of Hurling to South Africa.

The growth of the SA Gaels continued apace in 2016 with the establishment of new Development Centres in Pretoria and in East London. The introduction of two new Centres and the deployment of an additional Development Officer was a significant milestone and means that the SA Gaels now have Centres in Alexander, Tembisa, Midrand, Pretoria and East London. Through these Centres, a total of 17 Primary schools and 4 Post-Primary schools were provided with GAA activity in 2016 with an average of 50 pupils attending each session. The sessions are held in the afternoons from Monday to Friday. The children are not always the same because the children's attendance at school is dependent on the availability of the parents' funds in any given month. While this makes exact figures difficult to compile, it is estimated that over 1,000 children have benefited from the scheme to date. Alongside the coaching and games opportunities in schools, there has been a lot of focus on knowledge transfer and up-skilling future GAA coaches. Furthermore, the SA Gaels have made sure to up-skill their full-time Development Officers through the provision of training in Computers and First Aid.

In late 2016, the SA Gaels made presentations to the Irish community in Cape Town and in Durban with a view to establishing branches of the SA Gaels in these areas in 2017. The response from the Irish community was extremely positive and the SA Gaels have now identified members of the local Irish community in Cape Town and Durban, who have kindly volunteered to support the development of Gaelic football in these new regions.

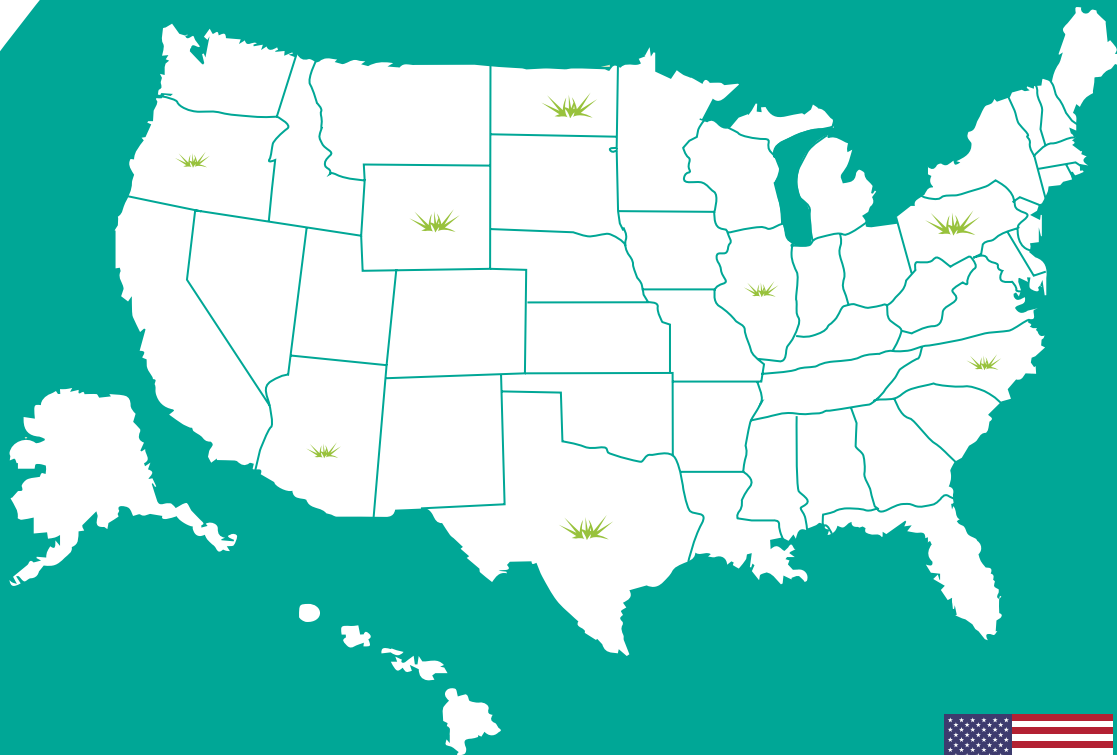
2016 also witnessed the largest gathering of Gaelic teams from around the world to participate in the Etihad Airway's GAA World Games, which were held in UCD. South Africa were extremely fortunate to bring 2 teams to represent their country at the tournament and travelled with 24 men and women (aged 18 - 34 years old), all of whom come from a disadvantaged background. The South African Gaels were also invited to be one of the many talented acts that performed at the opening concert at the Helix at DCU and also had the extreme honour of performing at the half-time interval of the All-Ireland Minor Hurling final between Dublin and Limerick. During the tour to Ireland the SA Gaels also had the opportunity to further build on excellent relationship between the Club and the South African Embassy and

the South African Ambassador to Ireland. The Ambassador was so impressed with the work being done back in South Africa that he committed to arranging an introduction for the SA Gaels to the South African Minister for Sport with a possibility of getting Gaelic football recognised as a sporting code in the future.

The main focus for the SA Gaels in 2017 is to finalise the number of schools participating in activities in Pretoria and East London as well as to establish new Centres in Cape Town and Durban.







10. USGAA

USGAA
ESTABLISHED 1959
97 CLUBS ACROSS 9 DIVISIONS

NORTHWEST	MID ATLANTIC
WESTERN	PHILADELPHIA
SOUTHWEST	NORTHEAST
CENTRAL	SOUTHEAST
MIDWEST	

Games Development Project NACB 2016

The matched funding provided by the GAA/DFAT is used for the deployment of Games Development personnel. The Games Development Administrators (GDAs) are deployed in 4 of the USGAA Divisions and are tasked with the delivery of the various components of the Grassroots to National Programme (GNP) including:

- Games Opportunities (Club; School; Community)
- Skill Development (Club; School; Community)
- Camps - Easter; Summer (Cúl Camps); Halloween
- Talent Academies
- Coach Education
- Referee Education

During 2016, 5 individuals were deployed as GDAs at various stages in the USGAA:

UNIT	EMPLOYEE/ROLE	PERIOD OF EMPLOYMENT
Boston/Northeast	Kieran Cox	01.01 - 31.12.2016
Chicago/Central	Colm Egan	01.01 - 31.12.2016
Philadelphia	Ciarán Porter	01.01 - 31.12.2016
San Francisco/Western	Kathlyn Quinn	01.01 - 31.03.2016
San Francisco/Western	Danielle Downey	01.03 - 31.12.2016

Boston/Northeast

IN FOCUS:
Girls Only Gaelic
STAGE(S) OF THE PLAYER PATHWAY:
Child 4 - 12 and Youth 13 - 18
AREA(S) OF THE GRASSROOTS TO NATIONAL PROGRAMME:
Games Opportunities; Skill Development; Learning & Development
CODE(S):
Ladies Gaelic Football
BACKGROUND TO THE ACTIVITY:
Having conducted a review with young female players it became evident that the girls did not always feel comfortable on mixed gender teams - particularly as they progressed to Youth level.
On foot of this, the Northeast Division decided to establish a girls-only Gaelic football League. It was felt that this would retain more players and ensure that they progressed along the pathway to the Adult Ladies teams.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTIVITY:

1. To address the concerns raised by some of the players;
2. To keep girls involved in Gaelic games particularly from U.11 to U.14 age-grades;
3. To upskill Adult Ladies football players as coaches.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY:

At the outset of the initiative, the GDA met with members of the Ladies Senior teams in the Northeast and discussed how the programme should be implemented. On foot of this, a small sub-committee was established by the ladies to coordinate the Programme.

It was agreed to deliver coaching and games sessions every Saturday for six weeks in autumn 2016 at the Irish Cultural Centre in Canton, Massachusetts. Sessions were delivered by current Ladies footballers who had been up-skilled by the GDA. Every week an average of 25 players participated.

OUTCOMES/RESULTS OF THE ACTIVITY:

- Increased confidence among the players;
- Improved skill levels;
- Senior role models were trained as coaches to deliver the programme.

NEXT STEPS:

The programme will be expanded in 2017 with two separate initiatives – one in springtime and one later in the year.

IN FOCUS:

Cúl Camp

STAGE(S) OF THE PLAYER PATHWAY:

Child 4 - 12 and Youth 13 - 18

AREA(S) OF THE GRASSROOTS TO NATIONAL PROGRAMME:

Camps; Games Opportunities; Skill Development; Learning & Development

CODE(S):

Gaelic Football/Ladies Gaelic Football
Hurling/Camogie

BACKGROUND TO THE ACTIVITY:

Over the past number of years Clubs in the Northeast have run their own summer camps. While the reaction to these camps was very positive it was felt that more could be gained by hosting one large camp in a central venue.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTIVITY:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To create a Community spirit by bring children from all Clubs together; 2. To maximise networking between Clubs; 3. To enhance the activities delivered at the Camps under the direct supervision of the CDA; 4. To raise the quality of games opportunities and skill development inputs provided by having a greater number of children and age-grades involved at one central location.
DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY:
<p>The Camp was held in the Irish Cultural Centre in Canton Massachusetts in July. It was a 4-day Camp with activities organised from 10am to 3pm daily.</p> <p>The GDA ran the camp and also arranged for 10 qualified J1 coaches to deliver a programme of activities. With the assistance of the Boston Minor Board, it was possible to ensure good logistical organisation at the Camp including proper field set-up, adequate equipment, the provision of water and food for the participants etc.</p> <p>In total, 98 children participated and each player received a Cúl Camp kit at the end of the week (zip-top, jersey and bag).</p>
OUTCOMES/RESULTS OF THE ACTIVITY:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Greater interaction between children from different Clubs and areas; ■ Fully supervised Camp with qualified GAA coaches; ■ Increased numbers led to better organisation and better games/skill development opportunities.
NEXT STEPS:
It is expected that the Cúl Camp will grow even bigger in 2017.

IN FOCUS:
All-American Boston/Northeast Gaelic football Team and Tournament
STAGE(S) OF THE PLAYER PATHWAY:
Adult 19+
AREA(S) OF THE GRASSROOTS TO NATIONAL PROGRAMME:
Games Opportunities; Talent Academies
CODE(S):
Gaelic Football



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BACKGROUND TO THE ACTIVITY:

The team was established for a few reasons. Firstly, it was designed to reward the players that had come through the juvenile system in Boston over the years, by treating them like a proper Inter-County team. Secondly, it was a good opportunity to really showcase how home-grown players are progressing from juvenile to Adult level. Finally, the Tournament provided an opportunity for the players to play against teams with a similar background i.e. home-grown.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTIVITY:

1. To ensure home-grown players would 'Play to Stay with the GAA';
2. To recognised the talent coming through the juvenile structures and to provide them with a high-quality experience.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY:

In conjunction with the Philadelphia Senior Board, a Tournament for all Divisions in the USGAA was organised. All Clubs were invited to send a home-grown team. In total four teams travelled to the Tournament: Boston; Philadelphia; New York; and Pittsburgh.

Over the course of the one-day Tournament, all teams received a minimum of three games. New York narrowly beat Boston in a thrilling Final while Pittsburgh pipped Philadelphia to claim third place.

OUTCOMES/RESULTS OF THE ACTIVITY:

- Increased games opportunities for non-Irish players;
- Second generation Irish were recognised at the event;
- Players had the opportunity to play against teams with similar backgrounds and experiences.

NEXT STEPS:

The Tournament will be held again and the aim is to have six teams participating with the possible inclusion of College teams.

Chicago/Central

IN FOCUS:

Chicago Gaelic Games – Living History Exhibit

BACKGROUND TO THE ACTIVITY:

The Chicago Gaelic Games Development Living History Exhibit was a cultural project hosted by Chicago Gaelic Park to highlight the connection between Gaelic games and the 1916 Rising.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTIVITY:

1. To use the platform of Gaelic games to commemorate the Centenary of the 1916 Rising;
2. To introduce young GAA players to Irish history in a fun and interactive manner.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY:

The first two classes were dedicated to the general history of the time while in the final three classes each child was assigned a historical figure to present on using a poster board presentation.

On the final day, over 350 people attended Gaelic Park to view the students dressed as their characters and reciting a prepared piece on their historical characters as part of a two hour long event at the Gaelic Park Irish Festival in May 2016.

In total, 25 children and 15 adults participated in the five classes.

OUTCOMES/RESULTS OF THE ACTIVITY:

- 35 people participated in the classes;
- The connection between Gaelic games and Irish cultural heritage was strengthened;
- The project resulted in a twinning programme with Kiladangan National School in Tipperary, which gave the young Americans a real, tangible connection to their Irish peers.

FEEDBACK FROM PARTICIPANTS:

"I am writing this the day after our youth Living History Exhibit. I cannot tell you how impressed I was (gobsmacked!) with the young people involved and their portrayal of the Irish heroes from the 1916 era. Many thanks to them for their dedication and their passion in commemorating the 1916 rising."

Chicago Gaelic Park President

NEXT STEPS:

It is hoped to continue offering Irish history classes in Gaelic Park, Chicago.

IN FOCUS:

Hurling Development Programme

STAGE(S) OF THE PLAYER PATHWAY:

Adult 19+

AREA(S) OF THE GRASSROOTS TO NATIONAL PROGRAMME:

Games Opportunities

CODE(S):

Hurling/Camogie

BACKGROUND TO THE ACTIVITY:

From 2011 to 2015, the number of Hurling Clubs in the Chicago/Central Division has increased from 27 to 56 registered Adult Hurling Clubs.

A key objective for 2016 was the continued growth of Hurling and Camogie.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTIVITY:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To provide games opportunities to all interested players – experienced and novice players; 2. To establish a structured games programme with scheduled Tournaments and Championships; 3. To continue to provide Coach and Referee Education inputs.
DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY:
<p>As part of the Hurling Development Programme, Clubs and teams from the Chicago/Central Division participated in the following activities during 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ USGAA Tournaments: These were held nationwide at various stages across the year, including indoors. The USGAA Play-offs were the real highlight of the year and were held on Labour day. In total, 43 Hurling games were played as part of this single event. ■ Club Leagues: Clubs in the Division participated in Leagues with 200+ players participating. Some of the Leagues were mixed-gender to facilitate Camogie players. <p>In addition to this, a schedule of Coach and Referee Education inputs was organised in conjunction with the USGAA’s Twinning Partners, Munster Council. Workshops were convened included: Scoring and Defending Workshops; Overhead Hurling Workshops; Striking Workshops; Physical Fitness for Gaelic Games; and Camogie-only Workshops.</p>
OUTCOMES/RESULTS OF THE ACTIVITY:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The programme provided regular games for hurlers and camogie players in the Division; ■ Hundreds of people participated in the Coach Education Workshops with 101 coaches certified as Foundation Level coaches in 2016 alone.
NEXT STEPS:
<p>The Programme will continue to grow in 2017 with the establishment of new teams resulting in more games.</p>

IN FOCUS:
2016 Chicago GAA School Tours to Chicago Gaelic Park
STAGE(S) OF THE PLAYER PATHWAY:
Child 4 - 12 and Youth 13 - 18
AREA(S) OF THE GRASSROOTS TO NATIONAL PROGRAMME:
Games Opportunities; Skill Development; School Initiatives; Learning & Development

CODE(S):
All
BACKGROUND TO THE ACTIVITY:
The Chicago/Central Division had implemented a Schools' Programme over a number of years. It was felt that the provision of School Tours to Gaelic Park as part of this Programme would enhance the connection with the local schools, expose the children to Irish culture and also encourage more schools to participate in the Programme.
OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTIVITY:
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To increase the appeal of the Schools' Programme;2. To provide children with a greater understanding of Gaelic games and Irish cultural heritage.
DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY:
<p>Two School Tours to Gaelic Park were arranged in 2016. Schools that had completed a four week coaching and games programme received the opportunity to avail of the tour and in total, 70 children made the trip to Gaelic Park.</p> <p>As part of the tour, the children got to see the inner workings of the Stadium but in addition to this they played games and after lunch they participated in other activities including: Irish dancing; Irish music classes and Irish history classes.</p>
OUTCOMES/RESULTS OF THE ACTIVITY:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ 70 children participated in the tours in 2016;■ On foot of the Programme, two new schools have signed up for the Coaching Programme.
NEXT STEPS:
The target for 2017 is to conduct tours with five local schools.

Philadelphia

IN FOCUS:
All-American Men's Gaelic football Tournament
STAGE(S) OF THE PLAYER PATHWAY:
Adult 19+
AREA(S) OF THE GRASSROOTS TO NATIONAL PROGRAMME:
Games Opportunities; Talent Academies
CODE(S):
Gaelic Football
BACKGROUND TO THE ACTIVITY:
The purpose of the Tournament was to give American-born players the opportunity to play on a representative squad for their Division. It provided the best players with an opportunity to play against top-quality opposition and therefore improve their own skills.
OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTIVITY:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To provide very skilled players with the opportunity to represent their Division; 2. To showcase the talent of American-born players through the organisation of high quality games; 3. To provide an opportunity for Divisional Referees to officiate at a higher level than normal.
DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY:
<p>On April 30th 2016, four divisions (Philadelphia, New York, Boston & Mid-West/Pittsburgh) played in a one-day tournament held at the GAA fields in Limerick, Philadelphia. Select squads from all four divisions played in a round-robin league format (20 minutes per half).</p> <p>During the six games, there was fantastic football played by all four teams and the top two teams New York and Boston made it into the Final. New York came out victorious.</p>
OUTCOMES/RESULTS OF THE ACTIVITY:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7 high quality games; ■ 100 American-born players received more games opportunities; ■ Referees were able to improve their skills through exposure to games of higher standard.
NEXT STEPS:
The tournament is set for 22 nd April 2017 and the Southwest and Mid-Atlantic Divisions have indicated an interest in participating.

IN FOCUS:
Liberty Bell Tournament
STAGE(S) OF THE PLAYER PATHWAY:
Child 4 - 12 and Youth 13 - 18
AREA(S) OF THE GRASSROOTS TO NATIONAL PROGRAMME:
Games Opportunities
CODE(S):
Hurling/Camogie and Gaelic Football/Ladies Football
BACKGROUND TO THE ACTIVITY:
The Liberty Bell Tournament was established in 2016 with the purpose of providing competition for local Clubs against different teams and players from neighbouring Divisions.
OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTIVITY:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To provide additional games against new opposition rather than playing the same teams as usual; 2. To showcase Gaelic games in the Philadelphia area by creating a festival atmosphere.
DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY:
<p>The Liberty Bell one-day tournament for boys and girls in Gaelic football and Hurling took place in Malvern, PA on the 16th July 2016, and was hosted by the Philadelphia Youth Committee.</p> <p>The three local youth Clubs played a big role in organising the Tournament along with the Divisional Youth Committee. The Adult Clubs within the Division helped as well, with many members volunteering to act as field marshals and to officiate.</p> <p>In total, 88 games were played on the day with over 300 boys and girls participating.</p>
OUTCOMES/RESULTS OF THE ACTIVITY:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 300 players participated with many more families and Adult members spectating; ■ An opportunity for Clubs from different Divisions to network and develop relationships with one another.
NEXT STEPS:
The Tournament will take place again in 2017 and it is hoped to set up a website for promotional and operational purposes e.g .registration.

IN FOCUS:
Philly Play Summer Camps
STAGE(S) OF THE PLAYER PATHWAY:
Child 4 - 12
AREA(S) OF THE GRASSROOTS TO NATIONAL PROGRAMME:
Camps
CODE(S):
Gaelic Football/Ladies Football
BACKGROUND TO THE ACTIVITY:
With the assistance of authorities in the City of Philadelphia, the GAA had an opportunity to introduce Gaelic football to the city's Summer Camp Programme. This meant that the children enrolling in the Camps would have an opportunity to play Gaelic games - some for the very first time.
OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTIVITY:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To introduce new players to the game; 2. To increase awareness of Gaelic games; 3. To grow a relationship with the City of Philadelphia Parks & Recreations Department.
DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY:
Over the course of three weeks, the GAA, along with two volunteer coaches, attended 13 Philadelphia Parks & Recreation Summer Camps. They delivered a total of 3 hours coaching and games at each Camp during the period July 5th - 8th and August 2nd - 12th. Through the initiative over 900 children were introduced to Gaelic games.
OUTCOMES/RESULTS OF THE ACTIVITY:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 900 children introduced to Gaelic games and Irish culture; ■ 13 Recreational Centres witnessed the coaching being delivered and many have followed up to establish formal partnerships with the GAA.
NEXT STEPS:
It is hoped to build on the good relationships developed in 2016 and to deliver the programme in more than 13 camps in 2017. One ambition is to deliver follow-up workshops in the same venue at a later stage so that the children can learn more about Gaelic football.

San Francisco/Western

IN FOCUS:
Friday Night Leagues
STAGE(S) OF THE PLAYER PATHWAY:
Child 4 - 12
AREA(S) OF THE GRASSROOTS TO NATIONAL PROGRAMME:
Games Opportunities; Skill Development.
CODE(S):
All
BACKGROUND TO THE ACTIVITY:
<p>It was recognised that a series of activities needed to be provided at the start of the playing season in order to refresh the skills of the children as well as to ensure that they remained involved throughout the year.</p> <p>On foot of this, it was agreed to run a Friday Night League in April and May where children could practice their skills through drills and small-sided games in a fun and friendly environment. In addition to this, recognising the need to develop all codes, the leagues provided an opportunity to play Hurling/Camogie for the first hour and Gaelic/Ladies football for the second hour.</p>
OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTIVITY:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To introduce new players to the game; 2. To refresh the skills for returning players after the winter break; 3. To introduce the players to both codes.
DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY:
<p>The Friday Night Leagues took place every Friday through April and May on the West Sunset Fields in San Francisco.</p> <p>The children were broken into age-appropriate groups, including: U.6; U.8; U.12 and U.14. Up to U.14 the groups were mixed gender, but at U.14 there were separate boy's and girl's groups.</p> <p>A minimum of two coaches supervised each group and activities were organised on the basis of one hour of Hurling/Camogie followed by one hour of Gaelic/Ladies football. For thirty minutes, the coaches would focus on modified games that enabled the children to practice and develop their skills. For the remainder of each hour the children played small-sided games where every child got a go. The games were refereed by young referees (aged 14 - 18).</p>

OUTCOMES/RESULTS OF THE ACTIVITY:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Each child had the opportunity to learn and develop their skills while making new friends and having fun; ■ New coaches were able to practice their coaching under the tutelage of a more experienced coach; ■ Players aged 14 to 18 years old had the chance to become young referees and to practice at the Leagues; ■ Every child was encouraged to bring a friend to the Friday Night League, which resulted in an increase in numbers.
NEXT STEPS:
The League will continue in 2017 as a preparation for participation in the CYC.

IN FOCUS:
North American County Camp
STAGE(S) OF THE PLAYER PATHWAY:
Youth 13 - 18
AREA(S) OF THE GRASSROOTS TO NATIONAL PROGRAMME:
Games Opportunities; Skill Development; Talent Academies
CODE(S):
Hurling and Gaelic/Ladies Football
BACKGROUND TO THE ACTIVITY:
<p>The County Camp was established as a two-day preparation for the North American U.16 and U.18 teams before they played the New York teams in the Championship Final, which is played at the annual CYC.</p> <p>Each Division has an opportunity to hold trials and send selected players to the County Camp after which a panel was chosen to take on their New York rivals.</p>
OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTIVITY:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. To give U.16 and U.18 players the opportunity to represent their County i.e. USGAA; 5. To provide talented players with the chance to train and play with skilful players from other Divisions; 6. To give these young players the chance to showcase their development at the CYC; 7. To retain young players through teenage years on to Adult teams.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY:

The 2016 USGAA County Camp took place in Chicago Gaelic Park on the 26th and 27th July.

In total, 37 players came together to train over a two-day period. Activities on both days revolved around team bonding and practice matches. This provided the young players with a chance to make friends with players from different Divisions and also to improve their skills.

The games were played as part of the CYC, although the U.16 game was abandoned due to a lightning storm!

OUTCOMES/RESULTS OF THE ACTIVITY:

- 37 players benefitted directly from this programme.

IN FOCUS:

Referee Education Courses

STAGE(S) OF THE PLAYER PATHWAY:

Adult 19+

AREA(S) OF THE GRASSROOTS TO NATIONAL PROGRAMME:

Learning & Development

CODE(S):

All

BACKGROUND TO THE ACTIVITY:

It was requirement for CYC 2016 that coaches should have a minimum of a Foundation Course completed before going to CYC, therefore a few of the coaches needed to be trained in this area. Furthermore, a number of new coaches had joined the Adult teams and they had expressed an interest in Coach Education too.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTIVITY:

1. To give each coach the skill-set and confidence to coach teams in accordance with GAA best practice.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY:

On July 16th 2016, a total of 5 Child/Youth coaches and 5 Adult coaches attended a Foundation Level Course, which was held in Treasure Island GAA Grounds, San Francisco.

Danielle Downey and Colm Egan (GDAs) delivered the Course as part of a day-long session. Some of the participants were already qualified but availed of the opportunity to refresh their ideas. At the end of the day the coaches were certified and qualified as Foundation Level coaches meaning that they could happily attend CYC!

OUTCOMES/RESULTS OF THE ACTIVITY:

- 10 coaches qualified to Foundation Level;
- Full compliance with the requirements of CYC.

FEEDBACK FROM THE PARTICIPANTS:

“While there were relatively low numbers on the course, it gave the Tutors better opportunity to give more one-to-one feedback and each of the coaches. All the coaches also got the chance to engage in some practical coaching during the day”

Participant

NEXT STEPS:

All the participants from the day will be contacted to complete a Level 1 Coaching Course in 2017.





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Appendix:

ETIHAD AIRWAY'S GAA WORLD GAMES - DUBLIN 2016

Background

The concept of a GAA World Games was first mooted by Pat Daly, Director of Games Development & Research in 2009. The opportunity to progress this concept presented itself as part of the Aer Lingus/Etihad Airways Hurling Tournament, which was held in 2013 in conjunction with The Gathering. On the back of the original proposal, it was decided to bring 16 hurling teams to Galway to participate in a once-off event. On foot of consultation with Games Development, it was agreed to include five native-born teams (Buenos Aires, Milwaukee, Denver/Indianapolis, Barley House Wolves/Allentown & Europe). This decision proved to be a most enlightened one and met with very positive feedback.

The inaugural GAA World Games took place from the 5th-7th March 2015 in Abu Dhabi and featured 26 teams from Canada, the USA, Asia, the Middle East, South Africa, Australasia, South America and Continental Europe participating in Gaelic and Ladies football. The event also included four native-born teams from Argentina, South Africa, Galicia and the Middle East. The event provided a great platform for the staging of the 2016 Etihad Airway's GAA World Games in Dublin, Ireland from the 7th to the 14th August, which for the first time ever involved four codes - Hurling, Camogie, Gaelic football and Ladies football with a native-born and Irish-born dimension in each code.

Etihad Airway's GAA World Games – Programme of Events

56 teams from all over the world travelled to participate in the 2016 World Games. It proved to be a momentous week of Gaelic games, which were complemented by a series of events that celebrated Irish Culture and Heritage.

On Sunday 7th August, the Opening Ceremony took place during half-time in the All Ireland Senior Hurling Championship Semi-Final between Waterford and Kilkenny in Croke Park. Each of the 56 participating teams had the honour of nominating two players to represent their team as part of the ceremony. In total, 112 players paraded onto the hallowed turf of Croke Park carrying banners that displayed the names of the 56 teams. As a prelude to the parade, players from the South Africa Gaels entertained the crowd with a riveting display of traditional South African song and dance at half-time in the All Ireland Minor Hurling Semi-Final.

On the evening of the 7th August an immensely successful Cultural Heritage Concert was held in the Helix, Dublin City University. Hosted by the renowned RTÉ and GAA personality, Marty Morrissey, the concert featured a range of celebrated national and international artists including: Damien Dempsey; Red Hurley; Lisa Lambe; Black Bank Folk and the Artane Band. Artists from South Africa, China and Japan also featured alongside over 100 Irish musicians and dancers. The concert encapsulated the vibrancy and multiplicity of backgrounds that now have links to Gaelic games and to Ireland.

Registration for the games took place on Monday 8th August in UCD. In total, 672 players were registered and received playing kits. Meanwhile, the GAA hosted a Global Games Development Forum in the Fitzgerald Debating Chamber in UCD. Aogán Ó Fearghail, Uachtarán CLG and Joe McHugh, Minister for the Diaspora and International Development opened the Forum, which showcased some of the projects and initiatives that the International Units are currently undertaking, many of which are jointly supported by the GAA and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade through the Global Games Development Fund. 11 speakers from various International Units as well as Crosscare, took to the podium and delivered five minute presentations on a variety of Games Development initiatives being rolled-out in their Units. The Forum provided those in attendance with the opportunity to hear first-hand of practical experiences from various International Units relating to the development, delivery and sustainability of Games Development Initiatives and Projects. It also enabled participants to network with Units/Clubs from across the globe, share learnings and exchange knowledge and ideas for the expansion and development of the GAA internationally.

The Etihad Airway's GAA World Games commenced in earnest on Tuesday 9th August. Three days of competition featuring 56 Gaelic football, Ladies football, Hurling and Camogie teams took place on six pitches in UCD from Tuesday 9th to Thursday 11th August 2016.



Over the course of the three days a total of 27 native-born and 29 Irish-born teams gave a series of hugely passionate performances as they represented their Clubs, Regions and Countries on a global stage. In total, 246 games were held in UCD with over 120 volunteers acting as Match Officials, Pitch Coordinators and Stewards. The Games captured the imagination of the spectators and general Irish public and, while it was not possible to track the attendance at the three days, a total of 27,000 visited the World Games Facebook page and 88,000 visited the World Games website during the competition.

The Etihad Airway's GAA World Games culminated in 8 Grand Finals, which were held in Croke Park on Friday 12th August. Over 2,000 spectators attended on the day and the competing teams and results were as follows:

Camogie Native-Born Final:

- North America (1-4) v Britain Native (0-4)

Camogie Irish-Born Final:

- Australiasia (5-17) v Tara (1-8)

Hurling Native-Born Final:

- NACB Chicago Native (2-6) v New York Native (1-6)

Hurling Irish-Born Final:

- Middle East (2-12) v Australiasia (2-10)

Ladies football Native-Born Final:

- New York (2-4) v Canada Eastern (0-5)

Ladies football Irish-Born Final:

- Parnell's Team 1 (3-7) v Australiasia (0-8)

Gaelic football Native-Born Final:

- New York (4-5) v France (1-9)

Gaelic football Irish-Born Final:

- Abu Dhabi Na Fianna (1-11) v Middle East GAA 1 (1-12) [After Extra Time]

The atmosphere at the Finals was electric and the crowd enjoyed a particularly rousing rendition of La Marseillaise before the Native-Born Final between New York and France. After the games the teams - along with 700 players, team officials and guests attended the Closing Banquet that was held in Croke Park.

Overall, the World Games were a resounding success and showcased the incredible dedication, talent and passion of the International Units. On foot of this it has been decided to host the GAA World Games in Ireland every three years. Anticipation is already building for 2019!

Acknowledgments

The success of the Etihad Airway's GAA World Games 2016 venture was attributable to the co-operation and support provided by all the International Units, key partners and to the staff within the Games Development Department, who spared no effort in ensuring that it was a truly memorable event and experience for all those involved.

While the organisation and delivery of the event rested with the project team comprising of Ann Gibney, Jimmy O'Dwyer, Tracy Bunyan and Conor O'Shea led by Pat Daly in the Games Development Department, there were numerous partners and volunteers without whose involvement, commitment and expertise the Etihad Airway's GAA World Games 2016 would not have come to fruition in August.

Listed below are the partners, staff and people we would like to acknowledge for their contribution:

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