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HOW CLEAN IS YOUR CLUBHOUSE?

Clubs urged to keep dressing rooms clean after a claim of more than €100,000 is made against the Association over injuries sustained in a fall.

TOP inter-county teams that battle in Croke Park for the Sam Maguire and Liam MacCarthy Cups have a lot in common. One key trait they share is the fact they leave the dressing rooms in immaculate condition after them.

It's a behaviour that is found in successful teams across a range of sports where by they take an issue of pride over the environment in which they operate and like to leave a dressing room just as they found it.

It's a point worth making after a GAA club coach involved in looking after an Under 14 team has been awarded damages of more than €108,000 over injuries sustained in a fall in a dressing room.

The coach suffered serious injuries to an arm and shoulder after the club member slipped and fell badly due to debris scattered on the dressing room floor.

For the sake of one minute at the end of a game taken to sweep up the floor, the club found itself in hot water over an insurance claim that was totally avoidable.

Now all our clubs are being urged to be extra vigilant and to avoid making a similar slip up.

The dressing room after a match involving a team at any age grade in any club can be a messy place. There's the muck off countless pairs of

boots, water from showers, empty or half-used drink bottles, fruit peels strewn on the floor and left behind items of gear. When the match is done, people want to get changed and get away.

But aside from that being an unwelcome surprise for the next team in to use that dressing room, all of those items represent a hazard for someone walking in to them – especially if they need to negotiate those hazards to get to a light switch.

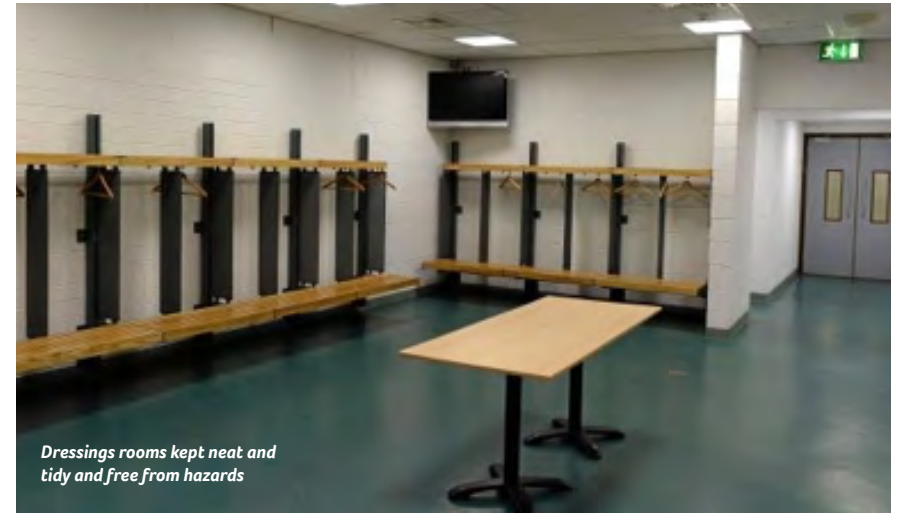
Sinead Leavy, GAA Risk and Insurance Manager, says:

"Clubs as property owners are legally responsible for ensuring that properties are kept free from hazards, maintained and checked and that they are fit for intended use."

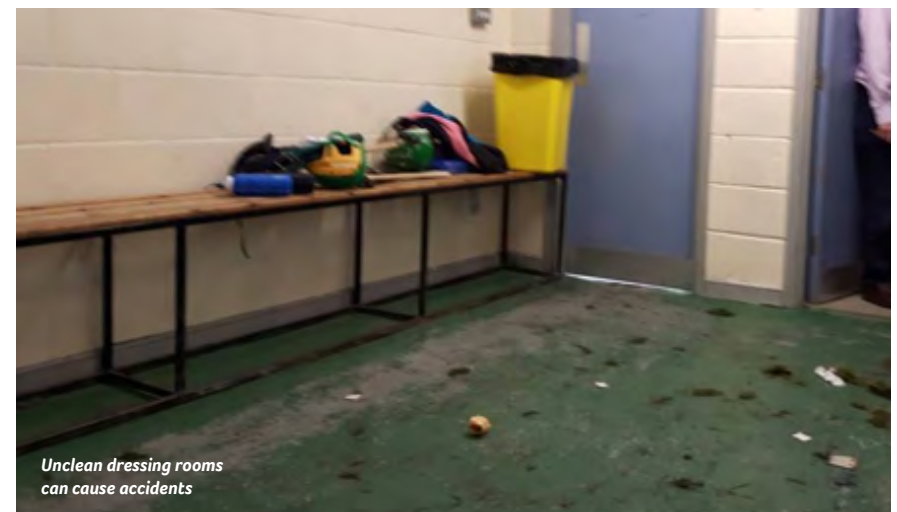
"The club involved in this incident had no regular system of cleaning or inspection in place, the light switch was inaccessible before entry into the dressing rooms, there was no signage in dressing rooms to advise Users to clean after each use, no cleaning supplies (brush) were available in the dressing room. They are all very simple tasks if undertaken and could have entirely prevented this incident and injury to a volunteer."

The claim was submitted to the Personal Injuries Assessment Board who made a judgement of €108,125 to the injured club member.

So the question is simple: Does your clubhouse and dressing room reflect well on your club – or are they an accident waiting to happen?



Dressing rooms kept neat and tidy and free from hazards



Unclean dressing rooms can cause accidents

RECORD VETTING NUMBERS PROCESSED IN AREA OF CHILD PROTECTION

In light of recent high-profile cases relating to the issue of child protection in sport, it is important that all clubs are aware of the GAA club commitments and responsibilities in this area.

The vetting awareness programme has resulted in the processing of more than 19,500 vetting applications by the GAA so far this year.

This brings our numbers to almost 130,000 GAA coaches who have been vetted over the last few years. The awareness at local level that coaches may no longer work with children after 1 January 2018 without having completed the vetting process appears to have had a major impact.

These processed statistics for 2017 do not include the vetting applicants processed by Ulster GAA through AccessNI, (4,000 per annum) or the vetting carried out by LGFA or the Camogie Association.

The forthcoming Child Welfare Information Seminar on 11 November 2017 will discuss the manner in which we can assure the relevant authorities that all GAA coaches working with children are vetted by 1 January 2018 and failing this, how we can remove such coaches - albeit on a temporary basis if necessary.

The Association, in collaboration with others, is engaged in discussions to permit the recognition of vetting on an All-Ireland basis whether the vetting is processed by the GAA through the National Vetting Bureau (Gardaí) or by AccessNI.

www.gaa.ie/the-gaa/child-welfare-and-protection/vetting

All Vetting queries should be forwarded to evetting@gaa.ie

All Child Welfare & Protection queries to nationalchildrensofficer@gaa.ie



CONCUSSION



NOT ALWAYS A KNOCK-OUT!

ACTION PLAN

Recognise *the signs and symptoms*

Report *if suspicious, don't hide it*

Rehab *with rest and medical guidance*

Return *after following Return To Play Protocol and getting medical clearance*

SYMPTOMS

- Headache
- Confusion
- Nausea
- Dizziness
- Double/Blurry Vision
- Sensitivity to Light
- Feeling Hazy or Groggy
- Just not 'feeling right'
- Memory Problems
- Pressure in Head

For the Return to Play Protocol and further information on Concussion see learning.gaa.ie/Concussion

IF IN DOUBT, SIT THEM OUT!!!

GAA'S NATIONAL CLUB DRAW IS GIVING YOUR CLUB THE CHANCE TO RAISE UP TO €20,000 RISK FREE!

What would your Club do with €20,000? The GAA's National Club Draw 2018 is in full swing with initial tickets gone out to County Liaison Officers around the country and the opportunity there for your Club to raise up to €20,000.

All Gaelic Football, Hurling, Camogie, Handball and Rounders Clubs are welcome to take part in this fantastic opportunity provided for Clubs.

Tickets cost €10 each and Clubs can sell up to 2000 tickets, retaining all proceeds made in the process. Ticket Purchasers will be entered into the Draw, taking place on March 8th, with the chance of winning a spectacular array of prizes, from a new Renault Dynamique, to a Premium All-Ireland Hurling and Football Final Package for two.

Prizes are provided by Ard Chomhairle and the Presentation of Prizes will take place in Croke Park Stadium on March 17th, where the winners will be invited to Croke Park to collect their prize.

Clubs have received login details to The Online Ticket Recording System from their correlating County Liaison Officer. If Clubs are unsure of their login details, they can email nationalclubdraw@gaa.ie.

Once logged in, details of Ticket Purchasers can be filled in online as well as on the tickets themselves. Clubs must ensure that they have accounted for and entered details online, or the tickets will not be entered into the Draw.

If Clubs sell, account for and record a minimum of 200 tickets, along with adhering to the terms of the Draw (found on the back of every ticket) they will also be automatically entered into the **Club Specific Draw**. This allows Clubs the chance to win even more, adding to the proceeds which they have already raised from ticket sales.

In the Club Specific Draw, all clubs will be entered into a Draw, with 3 clubs winning a prize of €5000. A separate draw for each county will be done in which 1 club will win a prize of €1,000. And finally, the club with the highest ticket sales in each province will receive a prize of €1,000.

If your Club wishes to request a further allocation of tickets, they can contact their corresponding County Liaison Officer or email nationalclubdraw@gaa.ie. Tickets can be requested up until February 1st. All tickets must be returned to County Liaison Officers by February 8th and **should not** be sent directly to Croke Park. Requests for additional tickets before Christmas must be in before December 15th, as requests after this date cannot be guaranteed to be sent out before the Christmas break.



17 March 2017; Uachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Gael Aogán Ó Fearghail presents Michael Waldron, Catherine Sweeney, Darina Daly, Lawrence Daly and Frank Hyland, from Davitts GAA Club, in Mayo, who won "Highest sellers in Connacht" during the presentation of prizes to the winners of the GAA National Club Draw at Croke Park in Dublin.

CONTACT DETAILS

If you have any general enquiries or requests relating to the National Club Draw (tickets, flyers, posters, login details etc.), please contact your NCD County Liaison Officer or email

nationalclubdraw@gaa.ie

rebekah.evans@gaa.ie

For any technical issues, please contact the support team at

ncdsupport@gaa.ie.

INJURY BENEFIT FUND



€9M – The amount of money paid by the GAA nationally every year to the Injury Benefit Fund

70% of this fund goes on medical expenses

The GAA has entered into Preferred Medical Provider Agreements with a network of hospitals and clinics countrywide with effect from the 1st October 2017.

The key aim is to help reduce medical costs and to deliver quality healthcare to our registered members through the GAA Injury Benefit Fund.

What is the Preferred Medical Provider Initiative?

Through the operation of the GAA Injury Benefit Fund, which costs Cumann Lúthchleas Gael €9,000,000 to fund per year, medical expenses make up over 70% of the claims payments issued. Given this significant cost, Cumann Lúthchleas Gael approached hospitals and clinics countrywide with a view to agreeing preferred prices for our registered members

who present at these hospitals/clinics following an accidental bodily injury sustained while playing in an official competitive match/ sanctioned challenge match or taking part in an official supervised training session on a team registered under the Fund and for which full payment of registration fees has been received in Croke Park. Furthermore, Cumann Lúthchleas Gael have also obtained service commitments from the Preferred Medical Providers which will help in delivering

quality healthcare to our registered members and enhance our commitment to Player Medical Welfare.

Who are the Preferred Medical Providers?

The following are the list of Preferred Medical Providers who have agreed to work with us on this initiative. It is our intention to build working relationships with the listed providers in the long-term which we hope will provide further benefits to our registered members.

Preferred Medical Provider	Locations	Telephone Number	Website
Aut Even Hospital	Kilkenny	056 7775275	www.autevenhospital.ie
Beacon Hospital	Dublin	01 2936600	www.beaconhospital.ie
Blackrock Clinic	Dublin	01 2832222	www.blackrock-clinic.ie
Bon Secours Hospital Group	Cork, Dublin, Limerick, Kerry, Galway	021 4542807	www.bonsecours.ie
Cappagh National Orthopaedic Hospital	Dublin	01 8140800	www.cappagh.ie
Hermitage Medical Clinic	Dublin	01 645 9000	www.hermitageclinic.ie
Kingsbridge Private Hospital	Belfast	0845 60 06 352	www.3fivetwo.com
Mater Private Group	Dublin, Cork, Limerick	01 8858888	www.materprivate.ie
North West Independent Hospital	Derry	028 777 63090	www.nwih.co.uk
Sports Surgery Clinic	Dublin	01 5262000	www.sportsurgeryclinic.com
St. Francis Private Hospital	Westmeath	044 9385300	www.stfrancisprivatehospital.com
Ulster Independent Clinic	Belfast	028 9066 1212	www.ulsterindependentclinic.com
Whitfield Clinic	Waterford	051 337400	www.whitfieldclinic.ie

How will an injured player avail of the Preferred Pricing?

Once a player presents at one of the above named medical facilities, the player will be requested to confirm their Club or County Panel together with their membership number which the hospital will record. Checks will be made with Croke Park to confirm that the Players' seeking to avail of the Preferred Pricing arrangements are registered members of the Association.

Do I have to attend a Preferred Medical Provider to avail of benefit under the GAA Injury Benefit Fund?

No, a player is not required to attend one of the Preferred Medical Providers listed to avail of benefit under the GAA Injury Benefit Fund. A player can continue to attend medical facilities not noted. However, as above preferred prices have been agreed with the listed Medical facilities only.

Will Croke Park be publishing the prices agreed with the Preferred Medical Providers?

No, due to privacy and commercial sensitivity, we are unable to publish the prices agreed with the Preferred Medical Providers. However, we can confirm that the agreed prices reflect a 5 - 10% saving against prices charged to players' prior to the introduction of this initiative. Players and club officers can contact the relevant medical providers as regards obtaining the agreed price for a surgery that a player may require.

Is the Medical Expenses benefit available under the GAA Injury Benefit Fund changing as a result of this initiative?

No, €4,500 is the maximum amount available for unrecoverable medical expenses as per the terms of the Fund.

Will details of the Preferred Medical Providers initiative be included with the GAA Injury Benefit Fund Summary Document?

Yes, the 2018 GAA Injury Benefit Fund Summary document will be issued later this year and details will be included within it of the Preferred Medical Providers Initiative.

IMPORTANT NOTE

We would also remind all, that the playing of Gaelic Football, Hurling, Handball and Rounders' involves the risk of Injury and it is each individual registered player's responsibility to familiarise themselves with the terms and benefits of the GAA Injury Benefit Fund. Each player needs to ensure that they have adequate cover in place to meet their own individual needs and personal circumstances. The GAA Injury Benefit Fund is only in place to cover benefits which cannot be claimed elsewhere and is a benefit cover only. Members should not use the fund as their only recourse or be dependent on the fund to compensate them fully for any losses associated with the injury sustained.

Further Queries

Further queries on the GAA Injury Benefit Fund & The Medical Providers Initiative can be emailed to ciara.clarke@gaa.ie



A NEW OPTION FOR YOUR GAA CLUB TRUSTEE

The Corporate Trustee is now an option for Clubs, when considering appointment of Trustees of Clubs.

“Iontaobhas Corparáideach Chumann Lúthchleas Gael Teoranta”

The Corporate Trustee is a separate legal entity, a Trust Company, called “Iontaobhas Corparáideach Chumann Lúthchleas Gael Teoranta”, set up by the GAA. The Trust Company holds the property for and on behalf of the Club.

Clubs can now opt to hold property through the Corporate Trustee. Holding property through the Corporate Trustee does not affect the ownership in any way but can have advantages in the way of continuous amendments to the title is avoided when trustees die or retire. This will save on legal costs to the Club. This also takes the pressure off of individual Trustees and avoids the publishing of names should court proceedings take place. The Corporate Trustee is optional.

There are three options available to clubs:

OPTION 1 - Clubs may elect to do nothing and to continue to hold Club property through personal Trustees.

OPTION 2 - Clubs may elect to introduce a partial change in that case property is held by a combination of personal trustees and the Corporate Trustee.

OPTION 3 - Clubs may elect to have property held only through the Corporate Trustee.

**Should Clubs want to know more information or wish to appoint the Corporate Trustee, they should contact the National Finance Department of Croke Park,
Tel: 01 8363222**

INTERNATIONAL RULES: AIDAN O'SHEA 'HONOURED' TO BE NAMED IRELAND CAPTAIN

By John Harrington

Aidan O'Shea says he is 'delighted' to have been named captain of the Ireland International Rules team that will travel to Australia next month.

The Mayo man has been involved in three previous Ireland squads and has consistently been one of the country's most effective players in the hybrid code.

"I was a little bit caught by surprise," said O'Shea today. "I'd just asked work whether I could have the time off and then 10 minutes later Joe rang to say he was going to name me as captain.

"Obviously delighted to be asked and then I saw in the paper last week the list of players who have captained their country. Delighted to be asked and it's a huge honour.

"I've always wanted to play it as a young fella growing up and once I got the opportunity to do so anybody that asked me I'd definitely try give it a go.

"I've been lucky to play in a couple of series over the last couple of years so it's something I've always wanted to play in and I'm delighted to do so again this year."

O'Shea's combination of size and skill makes him a natural fit for International

Rules, and he relishes the opportunity it gives to showcase skills like fielding and kick-passing.

"For me I think it rewards some of the basic skills of the game," said O'Shea. "If you're accurate with your skills from a kick-pass point of view you're guaranteed free possession nobody can tackle you when you take that mark.

"High catching, kick-outs are out over the 45, so it puts an onus on really going to challenge for the ball and if you go and win the ball, you get a reward for it.

"There's obviously the physicality part of it as well, the defined tackle and the rules are very, very clear."

Another reason O'Shea is looking forward to this International Rules Series is because it will shorten his off-season and give him less time to brood over this year's All-Ireland Final defeat to Dublin.

"It's obviously disappointing you go back to work and you focus on work and your attention span drifts off very easily because you're obviously hugely disappointed - it means a lot to you," he said.

"You invest a lot of time in it and then when you come up short, it's obviously hugely disappointing. If it didn't influence your



life, it wouldn't really matter. Obviously, naturally, when you go about your daily business, it floats in and out.

"Things move on very quickly, other things in life are very important too - work, club, family. Things have to move on."

Mayo surprised many pundits by pushing Dublin right to the brink before finally losing out to an injury-time Dean Rock free, but O'Shea was confident going into the game they would be at least that competitive.

"It's not a surprise to us that we're close," he said. "But close isn't really something that helps me through the winter months or helps any of the boys - we want to win the All-Ireland.

"We were really close this year, let it slip in the last couple of minutes; that's the way football is. We could have lost to Derry in the last minute this year, small margins win games.

"We executed really well on the day but just failed to get over the line. Dublin are a serious team side, it's going to take a serious team to beat them.

"It's just about chipping away, it doesn't give me any extra sleep over the winter months that we were close. I'd expect us to be close, we know we're a good team."

O'Shea admits Dublin will be favourites again next year to win the All-Ireland, but he's determined to do all he can once again to stop them in their tracks.

"In fairness Dublin have won three in-a-row now and it's the general path people think they're going to go," he said.

"It's up to us and everybody else to try and stop that. Dublin are doing the right things they've got new players coming in coming out year in year out, you see the strength of their bench, Players of the Years, All-Stars, captains of their country or whatever.

"If someone sat down now that's what people would think, that Dublin will win the All-Ireland next year and they're favourites no doubt, but it's up to us and the rest of the teams that are knocking around to try and stop that.

"We'll be doing our best to try and do so."

IRELAND 2017 INTERNATIONAL RULES SQUAD

Niall Morgan (Edendork, Tyrone)
 Chris Barrett (Belmullet, Mayo)
 Gary Brennan (Clondegad, Clare)
 Eoin Cadogan (Douglas, Cork)
 Killian Clarke (Shercock, Cavan)
 Peter Crowley (Laune Rangers, Kerry)
 Kevin Feely (Athy, Kildare)
 Paul Geaney (Dingle, Kerry)
 Pearce Hanley (Gold Coast/Ballaghaderreen, Mayo)
 Brendan Harrison (Aghamore, Mayo)
 Conor McManus (Clontibret, Monaghan)
 Michael Murphy (Glenswilly, Donegal)
 Niall Murphy (Coolera/Strandhill, Sligo)
 Paul Murphy (Rathmore, Kerry)
 Karl O'Connell (Tyholland, Monaghan)
 Aidan O'Shea (Breaffy, Mayo)
 Niall Sludden (Dromore, Tyrone)
 Enda Smith (Boyle, Roscommon)
 Conor Sweeney (Ballyporeen, Tipperary)
 Zach Tuohy (Geelong/Portlaoise, Laois)
 Shane Walsh (Kilkerrin/Clonberne, Galway)
 Niall Grimley (Madden Raparees, Armagh)
 Seán Powter (Douglas, Cork)

Stand By Players

Mattie Donnelly (Trillick, Tyrone)
 Connaire Harrison (Glasdrumman, Down)
 Caolan Mooney (Rostrevor, Down)
 Seán Murphy (Fenagh, Carlow)
 Brendan Murphy (Rathvilly, Carlow)

SCOTLAND DEFEAT IRELAND IN HURLING-SHINTY SENIOR INTERNATIONAL

SCOTLAND 2-12 IRELAND 0-15

Poor shooting and frees conceded proved very costly for Ireland as they fell to a three-point defeat to Scotland in the Senior Hurling-Shinty International at Bught Park, Inverness.

The visitors hit 19 wides over the course of the 80 minutes and they were made to pay for that profligacy by a more economical Scottish side.

Ireland dominated possession but were pinged time and again for 'hand on the back' frees that were punished by Scotland's highly accurate star forward Kevin Bartlett.

Scotland's two goals proved crucial too and they were quite similar in nature as first Bartlett and then Roddy MacDonald flicked the ball to the net while Ireland goalkeeper Enda Rowland attempted to clear.

MacDonald's goal was a particularly damaging one from an Ireland point of view because it gave them a three-point lead late in the game and the impetus to win the match.

It was a highly competitive and skilful contest throughout the 80 minutes and it was Ireland who performed better in the first quarter as points from John McGrath,

Conor Lehane, Andy O'Brien and Ross King helped them into a 0-4 to 0-2 lead.

But then Bartlett scored a brilliant sideline which was worth two points and ten minutes later struck for that goal that helped Scotland into 1-5 to 0-5 half-time lead.

Ireland dominated long tracts of the second-half and they looked the more likely victors when a John McGrath sideline and points from the lively Conor Lehane (2), David Reidy, and Lee Chin put them 0-11 to 1-5 ahead.

But a couple of two-pointer frees by Bartlett brought Scotland back into and then when MacDonald pounced for that goal it gave the home team a real momentum.

Further scores followed from Bartlett and Finlay MacRae, and a late rally from Ireland that saw Lehane and Ben Conroy score three points between them proved too little too late.

Scorers for Scotland: Kevin Bartlett 1-10 (6f, 4 sideline), Ronnie MacDonald 1-0, Finlay MacRae 0-1, Steven MacDonald 0-1.

Scorers for Ireland: Conor Lehane 0-4, John McGrath 0-3 (2 sideline), Lee Chin 0-3 (2f), Ben Conroy 0-2, Andy O'Brien 0-1, Ross King 0-1, David Reidy 0-1.



Lee Chin of Ireland in action against Rory Kennedy, centre, and Conor Cormack of Scotland



Conor Lehane of Ireland in action against Daniel Grieve of Scotland

IMPORTANT DATA PROTECTION INFORMATION FOR ALL GAA CLUBS

There are some significant changes to Data Protection legislation coming into effect next year which will have an impact every GAA club.

It is important that clubs are aware of how these changes in the law will affect the ways in which members' personal information can be collected and used for GAA purposes.

Over the last number of months, the key points relating to Data Protection have been outlined in previous editions of the club Newsletter (which can be found on the website www.gaa.ie/dataprotection).

Those articles describe what is changing in the law and the implications for GAA clubs. In order to assist GAA clubs to understand specifically what they must do to comply with the legislation, a **Data Protection seminar will be held in Croke Park on November 18th 2017**. The seminar will start at 10:00 am, will last approximately 3 hours and will be repeated in the afternoon. Attendees can choose to attend whichever session, morning or afternoon, that best suits them.

This Seminar is intended for Club, County or Provincial Board officials who will be actively involved in the process of collecting, processing and storing information relating to members over

the coming months. (This may be the club Registrar or the Secretary or another volunteer and it will vary from club to club).

A more detailed examination of the new legislation and its implications for the GAA will be covered as well as the specific actions to be taken by clubs to comply. Templates and tools to assist clubs, such as Privacy Statements for inclusion on membership applications, will be provided.

It is hoped to have as many GAA Clubs as possible in attendance and delegates interested in attending should reserve their place in advance. The event is free but places are limited and you must reserve a place if you plan to attend.

To reserve your place at the morning Seminar please complete the form [here](#)

To reserve your place at the afternoon Seminar please complete the form [here](#)

Please bring this event to the attention of the relevant person in your club.



EVENT DETAILS: Data Protection Seminar - An overview of the implications for GAA Clubs of new Data Protection legislation called GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations) which is coming into effect in 2018.

WHEN IS IT ON: November 18th in Croke Park at 10:00am and 1:30pm. (It is the same session repeated, so attendees only need to attend one)

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: The person in your GAA Club who is responsible for collecting and managing Membership Information is the most appropriate person to attend. If clubs wish to send more than one delegate, that's fine.

WHAT WILL BE COVERED? The agenda will cover a range of topics and will specifically address the following:

- An overview of Data Protection legislation
- Specific changes arising from GDPR
- Tools and supports available to support including:
 - o Updated Paper Membership Form templates
 - o Enhancements to GAA Membership Systems
 - o Other systems available to support compliance
 - o Data Protection Officer

GAA MACNAMEE AWARDS

Clubs encouraged to submit entries to win a prestigious MacNamee Award

The GAA MacNamee Awards are held annually to honour excellence in the area of communications, public relations and journalism, specifically related to the activities of the Association.

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

Applications for the 2017 MacNamee Awards are now being accepted. It should be noted that only work published or completed in the 2017 calendar year is eligible for consideration and entries will not be returned. The awards scheme will be judged under the following headings:



- **BEST GAA PUBLICATION**
To cover general works focussing on the Association.
- **BEST GAA CLUB PUBLICATION**
To cover GAA County Yearbooks and Club History.
- **BEST GAA WEBSITE OR SOCIAL MEDIA BY CLUB/COUNTY**
Covering the websites and social media channels of all the Association's units.
- **BEST NEW DIGITAL INITIATIVE**
Acknowledging the efforts made to find new ways to deliver GAA digital content, i.e. live streaming, social content, fan engagement etc.
- **BEST PHOTOGRAPH**
Focussing on the best GAA-themed image.
- **BEST PROGRAMME**
To cater for all match day programmes produced for any level of the GAA.
- **BEST GAA RELATED RADIO PROGRAMME**
To cater for all GAA programming broadcast either nationally or locally.
- **PROVINCIAL MEDIA AWARD**
To acknowledge high quality written journalism in a provincial publication.
- **NATIONAL MEDIA AWARD**
To acknowledge high quality written journalism in national Daily or Sunday publication.
- **IRISH LANGUAGE AWARD / GRADAM NA GAEILGE**
To recognise excellence in the field of Irish language GAA journalism across all media/Aitheantas do ard-chaighdeán iriseoireachta, bainteach le CLG, in aon bhrainte de mheáin na Gaeilge.

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

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

All entries should be marked "GAA MacNamee Awards 2017" and addressed for the attention of **Director of Communications, Alan Milton, Croke Park, Dublin 3** or emailed to communications@gaa.ie

Entrants should also clearly state what category they are submitting their entry under.

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

Closing date for entries is Friday, 08/12/17.

For further information please contact
Alan Milton,
Director of Communications,
Croke Park
on 01 8658612

RED HAND HURLING HEROES

Kilkenny's Martin Fogarty is the GAA's National Director of Hurling. In the course of his work he has been far and wide to see the work being done not only in hurling strongholds, but increasingly, in areas where the game is looking to put down roots. Here is his account of a recent inspirational initiative he saw in Tyrone hosted by the Omagh St Enda's club.

I would like to share a wonderful experience I had one Saturday in September. In these times when so many are moaning about the state of hurling in so many places, I once again witnessed "Real Hurling People" at work at the coalface.

Omagh St. Enda's in Tyrone, is a club that has been working hard over the past number of years to re-establish Hurling and Camogie in the club and after working from the ground up they have fielded an adult team last year for the first time in nearly 15 years.

In addition to this they recently hosted an Invitational Hurling Tournament for U8 & U10 players. To say I was blown away by what I witnessed is a huge understatement. They had 20 Clubs from 8 counties participating, featuring 32 teams, over 3 venues, at 12 pitches and I estimate 100 games.

Every team played a minimum of 6 little games and made it to a semi-final, something which in itself, was a stroke of genius. (I observed youngsters after losing a game running to their mothers delighted, telling them they were in the "semi-final").

Knowing how troublesome it was for years on a Wednesday after school to have the juvenile goals set up and the pitch marked out with cones for the schools matches, I got some idea as to the work involved by these volunteers to get 12 pitches all neatly laid out and labelled. The logistics of getting 12 sets of goalposts even is staggering.

The day ran like clockwork with all matches starting and ending together on the sound of a hooter (interesting). The finals were all in Healy Park which was a great attraction and the thrill for 8 teams to walk up the steps was an added bonus. Food was provided, hot dogs were being given out in the stand and everyone had a great day.

The games were all played in a very sporting manner. All the values promoted by the organisation and indeed the games development department were visible namely: fun, involvement, respect, learning to compete, encouragement without madness etc.

The U8's played camán/ ground hurling

which was a pleasure to watch and is excellent for development.

The work and influence of our full-time staff throughout the province was apparent in bucketfuls, plenty of enthusiastic and supporting mentors and parents, great attitudes and a very decent range of skill level. To chat to some mentors and hear how they travel across counties regularly (1hr + drives) with 10 cars for challenge games was really humbling, when one considers how easy it is in the strong counties. "It's all about providing fun for the Cubs," was a comment I heard several times during the day.

The organising Club St. Enda's, the visiting teams and their mentors and indeed the full time-staff across the province deserve huge thanks for the work they are doing in promoting the game of hurling.

Regards,

Martin Fogarty



LEINSTER CROSS COUNTY LEAGUES

Following on from the success of the first ever Cross-County Leagues in hurling and football for Under 13 and Under 15 players this year, Leinster GAA are hoping that even more clubs will get involved in 2018.

The Leinster GAA Games Development Committee, Chaired by former GAA President Liam O’Neill, aim to provide more games of a similar standard for teams in both codes, and also to lengthen the playing season around the province. Ultimately, the aim is to increase participation, combat drop-off and improve standards.

With over 250 teams entered in 2017, the organising committee have listened to feedback from clubs, mentors and players and have made some tweaks to the format going forward, as explained here

Competition Structures

It has been decided to divide all teams into divisions in the north and south of the province based on grading advice from County Coiste na nÓg committees. Each division will be made up of groups of four, therefore giving each club three games at their own standard in their region before advancing to a full provincial semi-final and finals day. This will cut down on travel and try to provide games of a similar standard throughout the competition.

Where teams finish in the group determines what level of semi-final they enter (*i.e.* 1st place in Div 1 Group A, South v 1st place in Div 1 Group B, North)

This carries through for all teams in each group, so wherever teams finish, they find their level and play a semi-final at that level.



- 2 points for a win, 1 point for a draw, 0 points for a loss
 - Head to head followed by score difference to decide placings
 - Leinster GAA and home teams’ County Board are responsible for appointment of referee
 - All semi-finals and finals to be played as part of Leinster GAA Cross County Finals Festivals at Centres of Excellence throughout the province.
 - All teams must pay a deposit of €250 to enter (returned on completion of all games)
- Playing Rules**
- Under 13**
- Under 13 is 13-a-side
All games 30 minutes per half
Under 13 size 4 football & sliotar to be used
Under 13 to use small goals and pitch size from 13m line to opposite 13m line. Full width.
Unlimited substitutions
- Under 15**
- Under 15 is 15-a-side
All games 30 minutes per half
Under 15 size 5 football & sliotar to be used
Under 15 Full size pitch
Unlimited substitutions
- All games will be fixed for Saturday, u13 at 1pm and u15 at 2.30pm, but should both clubs agree an alternative date the home team are responsible for appointment of a replacement referee for the re- fixture.
 - Home team responsible for payment of €35 to referee
 - All results to be returned by home team to hannah.horan.leinster@gaa.ie
 - All re-fixed games must be played by 10th of March, league standings will be decided on 10th of March

FOR APPLICATION FORM – [CLICK HERE](#)

CAMOGIE NEWS

WEXFORD FUTURE STARS JOIN FORCES IN FUN DAY

Hollymount, St.Ibars was the venue on Saturday 7th October for the joint initiative of Hurl with Me and Camogie4Teens fun day. Three clubs in Wexford (Kilmore, Clonard and Gorey), under the guidance of 3 top coaches in Wexford, completed 4 weeks of the Hurl with Me programme over the months of September/October. With the aim of the programme to encourage parents to get involved and enjoy playing with their daughters, it proved to an enjoyable month for those who took part. Huge thanks to the clubs, the parents, kids and coaches for your enthusiasm and effort.

To follow on from this, the Camogie4Teens group who have completed tremendous work in 2016/2017 were provided with an Event Management Workshop delivered by Geraldine Curtis. This gave them insight into the organising of a camogie event. They quickly got to work on organising the Hurl With Me fun day and they covered every aspect from contacting clubs, inviting media, doing PR through their Facebook page, games, refreshments etc.

Huge credit to the girls, their parents and the clubs who organised, helped out and attended this event and to St.Ibars also for hosting.



BELFAST FRIDAY NIGHT SPEED LEAGUE

The Belfast Speed leagues got underway on Friday 6th October and will continue over the next 6 weeks in the new Gort Na Mona 3G facility. Over the coming weeks more than 120 girls from U14 and U16 level will take part in the two half hour programme, with great numbers of players and coaches out enjoying their first session on Friday. The below images feature teams that took part on Friday night.

Speed League brief overview:

The concept is simple; fitness through small sided games which are played at speed. This is used as a participation module to help fitness levels, stick work, fun and enjoyment etc. It can be played both indoor or outdoor.

When played indoor the ball is always live and only stops when a goal is scored and the goalkeeper is encouraged to take a quick puck out with a spare ball at the net. If a point is scored and rebounds back out off the wall and the same player who scored the point catches it then they can't score again and must pass to another team mate. The ball is always live with no stoppage of play but for frees.

There is no score kept and focus on skill development and speed of play.



1ST AND 2ND YEAR BLITZES FOR CARLOW, KILDARE AND MEATH SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Following on from the very successful 1st & 2nd year school's blitzes that took place on Tuesday 19th September at Carlow Centre of Excellence (Fenagh) and Meath Centre of Excellence (Dunganny), school teams from Carlow, Kildare and Meath played a further blitz at Kildare Centre of Excellence (Hawkfield – with thanks to Kildare GAA) on Tuesday, 3rd October.

8 teams representing 6 different schools including Presentation/Gaelcholaiste, Carlow, Ratoath College, Boyne C.S., St. Peter's Dunboyne, all Meath, Celbridge C.S. and Cross and Passion College, Kilcullen, both Kildare. This saw almost 100 school girls out playing camogie; for some it was their first experience of schools' camogie. It is great to see the interest growing across the secondary schools and hopefully into the future we will see these schools developing further at the game.



GLOBAL GAMES DEVELOPMENT FUND 2018

Applications are now being accepted for the Global Games Development Fund 2018

The Global Games Development Fund is co-funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade's Emigrant Support Programme and the GAA. The Fund provides financial support specifically for projects and initiatives that increase or improve opportunities for the Irish Diaspora and other communities abroad to play Gaelic Games. Through the provision of financial assistance, it is the aim of the Fund to support the Irish Diaspora and strengthen Irish networks and Irish identity internationally.

Who can apply for the Global Games Development Fund?

Since 2013, through the Global Games Development Fund, the Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade and the GAA have provided financial support for developmental projects and initiatives in GAA clubs and units across Asia, Australasia, Canada, Europe, the Middle East, Africa and South America. For 2018, the Fund will be expanded to support projects in 6 Divisions of the USGAA: Heartland, Mid-Atlantic, Mid-West, Northwest, Southwest & Southeast. What type of projects are supported through the Global Games Development Fund?

Over the past three years, more than 100 projects have received funding through the Global Games Development Fund. The projects are varied and reflect the needs of the Irish Diaspora and GAA in a particular area or region. Some projects are one-off events, others have activities lasting the course of a year. All have been truly inspirational and beneficial. Please download the International Reports for 2015 and 2016 to get a flavour of the type of projects that have been funded.

How to apply?

In November every year, the GAA issue an Open Call seeking applications for funding from Clubs and units that intend to run a developmental project or initiative during the following calendar year.

If your Club is interested in applying or requires any further information please contact the Board of the relevant International Unit in the first instance.





Football

Hurling

Club

General

MÍLE BUÍOCHAS

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

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