

NOVEMBER 2017  
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# GAA CLUB 'FUN DAY' ACCIDENTS ARE NO LAUGHING MATTER

Clubs are being warned over the dangers and the responsibilities about the use of inflatable amusements at events after insurance claims through 'bouncy castle' type accidents.

**E**arlier this month a 12-year-old girl received a payment of €47,000 euro from the High Court after a broken collar bone sustained when she was in a plastic inflatable ball, pushed by other children at a 'Club Fun Day' at a Dublin GAA club, and fell badly suffering the injuries.

Both the GAA Club and the supplier of the amusement were named as the defendants in the case.

A fresh warning has now been issued to remind clubs that they have no insurance cover for accidents that happen on their premises with these type of amusements. Clubs will have to pay out in Personal Injuries Claims from their own funds.

The insurance cover held by the supplier of the amusements will cover the suppliers own legal liability – and will not extend to cover the GAA club.

Sinead Leavy is the GAA Insurance and Risk Manager based in Croke Park. She stated: "For a number of years Clubs have been repeatedly advised that there is no cover provided under Central Liability Insurance placement when hired amusements/inflatables are used at GAA

organised events and or on GAA property.

"Despite this many clubs continue to utilise such items at Fun Days and other fundraising activities.

"The supplier of these amusement have insurance in place to cover them the supplier in respect of their legal liability only. This insurance does not extend to provide an indemnity to the GAA club hiring such items. GAA clubs who hire such items are uninsured in respect of their legal liability when such items are used at events.

"In the event a person is injured on one of these hired amusements it will most likely be a child. In the personal injury claim proceedings both the operator and the club will generally be named as defendants to the claim. Separate allegations of negligence will be made against both the operator and the club as defendants.

"GAA clubs who are named in such personal injury proceedings will have no insurance cover to meet the cost of such a claim. The club is then responsible for meeting the costs of such an action entirely from their own funds."



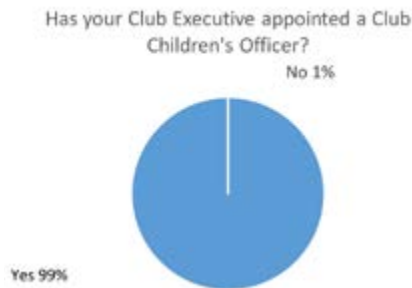
# GAA CLUB CHILD WELFARE & SAFEGUARDING AUDIT – NATIONAL RESPONSE

The results of the first GAA Club and County Child Welfare & Safeguarding Audit were launched at the Child Safeguarding Seminar on 11 November 2017. More than 100 delegates from each of the 32 Counties of Ireland and from Britain heard how the audit enabled us to gauge how the GAA Child Safeguarding agenda has progressed in recent years and how compliant our Clubs and Counties were with our Codes and with statutory requirements.

In advance of the introduction of the Children First Act in December 2017, which will be the established minimum standard of compliance across the Association both North and South, the audit will have enabled us to identify any gaps in our services that can be addressed in 2018. The Camogie Association and Ladies Gaelic Football Associations also participated in the audit and their individual responses can be accessed by contacting each Association.

Of immediate interest following the audit is that 99% of all GAA Clubs have a Club Children's Officer in place of which 77% have attended their mandatory training workshop while 85% of Clubs have appointed a Designed Liaison Person to date. An interesting observation from the audit is that 32% of Clubs indicated that they do not have a website.

In total 1,038 GAA Clubs responded to this first audit with all GAA County and National responses now available at <http://www.gaa.ie/the-gaa/child-welfare-and-protection/welfare-audit>



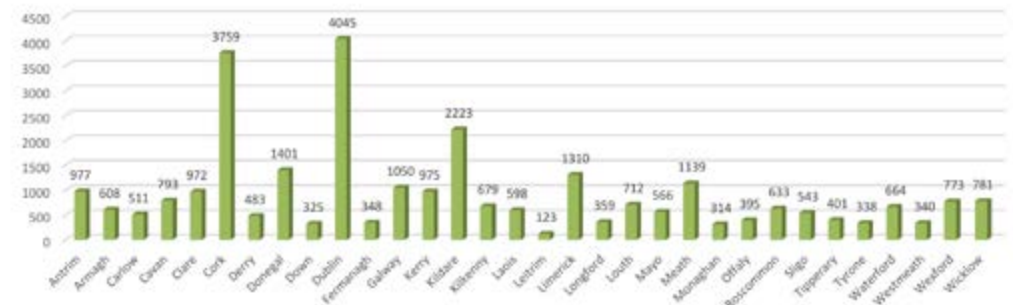
On a national basis 29,138 coaches and mentors are working with children in GAA Clubs. Based on an estimated 1,500 clubs fielding teams at underage level would be approximately 42,000.

## New Children First legislation commences

The Children First Act will commence in full on 11th December 2017. Once commenced all sectors and organisations, including the GAA, have three months in which to comply with all aspects of the Act.

Within the GAA we shall be obliged to carry out a Child Safeguarding risk assessment at club and county level and following this process to put on display the Association's Child Safeguarding Statement that outlines the policies and procedures which we shall put in place to manage any identified risks. The ultimate aim of these documents shall be to ensure that the Association adheres to our obligations to keep children safe from harm while using our services and attend our games.

## No. of coaches/mentors/selectors/managers in the Club currently working with children?



As part of the Act Clubs and County Boards shall be obliged to appoint a Designed Liaison Person and to ensure that all GAA coaches working with underage players have been vetted and have attended child safeguarding training. Failure to comply with these requirements shall be deemed a breach of the Act.

The Association shall appoint a Mandated Person whose role shall be to ensure that allegations of abuse are reported as per the Act to the relevant authorities and to assist in any investigations thereafter.

The National Children's Office shall publish an explanatory leaflet on the implications of the The Children First Act within the GAA to coincide with the commencement of the Act on 11th December 2017.



## CAN YOUR CLUB RAISE UP TO €20,000?

**T**he National Club Draw is providing a brilliant opportunity for Clubs to raise much needed funds. All tickets and prizes are provided by Ard Chomhairle.

Clubs can sell up to 2,000 tickets costing €10 each. All proceeds raised are kept by Clubs. There are some fabulous prizes to be won including a brand new Renault Dynamique, a travel voucher to the value of €2000 and All- Ireland Final tickets.

### Club Specific Draw

There are also some extra prizes up for grabs for Clubs.

Clubs which sell, account for and record (online) a minimum of 200 tickets will automatically be entered into the Club Specific Draw (Terms & Conditions apply - found on the back of every ticket).

This includes:

- A Draw for all Clubs in the country in which 3 Clubs will win a prize of €5,000.
- A Draw for the Clubs in each county with 1 Club per county winning a prize of €1,000.
- The Club with the highest ticket sales in each province will receive €1,000.

### Requests for extra tickets

- Clubs should have received their initial allocation of tickets from their County Liaison Officer.
- Clubs that wish to request extra National Club Draw tickets should get in touch with their County Liaison Officer or email [nationalclubdraw@gaa.ie](mailto:nationalclubdraw@gaa.ie) / [rebekah.evans@gaa.ie](mailto:rebekah.evans@gaa.ie)
- Clubs wishing to order extra National Club Draw tickets before Christmas, should get in touch as soon as possible. Requests must be made before Friday the 15th of December. Delivery of tickets before Christmas will not be guaranteed to Clubs who request tickets after this date.
- Final ticket requests must be made before the 1st of February and all tickets must be returned to County Liaison Officers by Thursday the 8th of February 2018.

The Draw will take place on the 8th of March. Prize Winners will be invited to Croke Park on St. Patrick's Day 2018, Club Championship Finals day, to receive their prizes.

**Go n-éirí an t-ádh libh!**



*Aogán Ó Feargháil, Uachtarán Chumann Lúthcleas Gael, picking out a National Club Draw Winner- You could be next!*

**SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CLUB**  
Opportunity for your GAA Club to raise up to €20,000



## TIER II HURLING COMPETITION NAMED AFTER JOE McDONAGH

**T**he GAA can confirm that the new Tier II hurling competition created at the recent Special Congress will take on the name **Corn Seosamh Mhic Dhonnacha (The Joe McDonagh Cup)**.

The competition, which will be contested for the first time in 2018, has been established to facilitate those counties striving to compete at Liam MacCarthy Cup level.

Former GAA President Joe McDonagh was one of the most respected figures within the GAA.

A former All-Ireland winning hurler and All-Star, with a deep love for the Irish language and culture, he served in a variety of administrative positions in the GAA both before and after his tenure as President (1997-2000). He was also a keen supporter of the growth of Gaelic games overseas.

He died in May 2016.

The decision to honour the former President was confirmed at last weekend's meeting of Central Council and the new competition will involve Carlow, Laois, Meath, Westmeath, Kerry and Antrim in 2018 and will run from May until early July.



# GAA LAUNCH 5 STAR CENTRE INITIATIVE FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS

**The GAA Games Development and Research Department has recently developed the 5 Star Centre initiative for primary schools.**

The GAA 5 Star Centre initiative aims to acknowledge the outstanding work of teachers in promoting Gaelic games. The 5 Star Centre initiative is, effectively, an exercise in empowering teachers to engage children in a manner where they experience the optimum level of fun, friendship, fairness, freedom and, ultimately, fitness functionality.

The initiative is based on the principle that that every child should get 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous activity per week throughout the 26 weeks of the school year.

To become a GAA 5 Star Centre, primary school teachers would organise a range of activities for all children to participate in, with GAA personnel acting in a support capacity. The diverse range activities include Have a Ball, Fun & Run, Camán & Play, Catch & Kick, Skill Challenges, and Go Games. Have a Ball is a series of fun-based exercises that contribute to the development of children's rudimentary and fundamental movement skills.

The GAA piloted it in Killinure N.S. and Lisnagry N.S., Limerick earlier this year. Research conducted by a team from Dublin City University reported that, after a six-week

intervention, there was a remarkable increase of 7.3% in children's fundamental movement skill ability. Another exciting new game called Fun & Run, involving a team of batters/kickers and fielders, is suitable for all age and ability levels. It is particularly suited to meet the needs of people with disabilities, people from socially

deprived and ethnic minority groups who often perceive themselves to be excluded from mainstream GAA activities.

GAA President, Aogán Ó Fearghail, wholeheartedly welcomes this new initiative. He said: "The GAA 5 Star Centre initiative has the potential to make an enormous

contribution to the health and well-being of Ireland's children. This comes at a time when Irish children are engaging in less and less physical activity and levels of obesity and diabetes are on the rise. We want every single boy and girl in Ireland to have had positive introduction to our games by the time they leave primary school.

The GAA 5 Star Centre initiative is a means of achieving this. Without the contribution of Primary School Teachers, the GAA would not be the wonderful organisation it is today. We want to recognise this significant voluntary effort through our new 5 Star flag, which we hope will be a symbol of how proud we are to promote our games and our culture."

GAA Director of Games Development and Research, Pat Daly, noted: "By 2022, we aim to have generated 39 million hours of moderate to vigorous physical activity across 90% of Ireland's primary schools and 17 million of these hours per school year thereafter. The GAA, given its community framework and proven track record in the promotion and development of Child Sport, - as reflected in the enduring success of the Kelloggs Cúl Camps - is happy to Lead the Way with its Massive Volunteer Army (MVA)."

Primary School Teachers/Principals who wish to express interest in becoming a GAA 5 Star Centre can do so at [learning.gaa.ie/5star](https://learning.gaa.ie/5star).



# DEVELOPMENT FUND OPEN FOR DEPOSITS FROM CLUBS

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

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

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

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

Clubs which have deposited money into the scheme will have priority when it comes to obtaining loans from the fund.

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



# CONCUSSION



## NOT ALWAYS A KNOCK-OUT!

### ACTION PLAN

- R**ecognise *the signs and symptoms*
- R**eport *if suspicious, don't hide it*
- R**ehab *with rest and medical guidance*
- R**eturn *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](http://learning.gaa.ie/Concussion)

## IF IN DOUBT, SIT THEM OUT!!!

# 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

**T**he 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
<b>Aut Even Hospital</b>	Kilkenny	056 7775275	<a href="http://www.autevenhospital.ie">www.autevenhospital.ie</a>
<b>Beacon Hospital</b>	Dublin	01 2936600	<a href="http://www.beaconhospital.ie">www.beaconhospital.ie</a>
<b>Blackrock Clinic</b>	Dublin	01 2832222	<a href="http://www.blackrock-clinic.ie">www.blackrock-clinic.ie</a>
<b>Bon Secours Hospital Group</b>	Cork, Dublin, Limerick, Kerry, Galway	021 4542807	<a href="http://www.bonsecours.ie">www.bonsecours.ie</a>
<b>Cappagh National Orthopaedic Hospital</b>	Dublin	01 8140800	<a href="http://www.cappagh.ie">www.cappagh.ie</a>
<b>Hermitage Medical Clinic</b>	Dublin	01 645 9000	<a href="http://www.hermitageclinic.ie">www.hermitageclinic.ie</a>
<b>Kingsbridge Private Hospital</b>	Belfast	0845 60 06 352	<a href="http://www.3fivetwo.com">www.3fivetwo.com</a>
<b>Mater Private Group</b>	Dublin, Cork, Limerick	01 8858888	<a href="http://www.materprivate.ie">www.materprivate.ie</a>
<b>North West Independent Hospital</b>	Derry	028 777 63090	<a href="http://www.nwih.co.uk">www.nwih.co.uk</a>
<b>Sports Surgery Clinic</b>	Dublin	01 5262000	<a href="http://www.sportssurgeryclinic.com">www.sportssurgeryclinic.com</a>
<b>St. Francis Private Hospital</b>	Westmeath	044 9385300	<a href="http://www.stfrancisprivatehospital.com">www.stfrancisprivatehospital.com</a>
<b>Ulster Independent Clinic</b>	Belfast	028 9066 1212	<a href="http://www.ulsterindependentclinic.com">www.ulsterindependentclinic.com</a>
<b>Whitfield Clinic</b>	Waterford	051 337400	<a href="http://www.whitfieldclinic.ie">www.whitfieldclinic.ie</a>

### 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](mailto: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**

# PREPARING FOR CLUB MEMBER REGISTRATIONS - 2018

**A**s we move towards 2018 and begin to prepare for next season, all clubs will be required to complete the information required for the 'Annual Club Update' in December – The 'Annual Club Update' is a process where some key information is collated which will help to ensure that the Servasport Games Management System operates correctly throughout the year.

In addition, completing this update process will enable clubs to benefit from efficiencies that will come with our New Mobile App for iOS and Android devices. Launching on 22nd January 2018, the first phase functionality of the Mobile App will provide the ability to manage membership renewals and receive online payments, as well as providing GAA news, and fixtures and results.

The second phase launch of the app in February 2018, meanwhile, will include improved functionality for club communications – importantly, helping to facilitate compliance with the new Data Protection Legislation called the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), effective from May 2018.

Upon completion of the Annual Club Update, you will be able to proceed to GMS as normal and will be fully prepared for the launch of the app. This process has been broken down

**GAA Management System**  
 Manager Support | Administration | Logout

Welcome

Location: Welcome

Welcome to the GAA Management System

Annual setup: Please review and update the information requested below.

As we get ready for 2018, it's important that your club prepares for the new season - starting with member registrations and payments.

In order to maximise efficiency and ensure that the Servasport Games Management System (GMS) operates correctly throughout the year, there are a number of pieces of information that must be reviewed, verified or added to the system in the coming weeks. These have been grouped into six simple steps across three broad categories and, once completed, you will be able to proceed to the system as normal.

Whilst much of this is already on the system, there are a number of additional pieces of information that will be required to enable new functionality such as online payments and club communications via our exciting new mobile app for iOS and Android devices - the first phase of which will be launched on 22nd January 2018.

**Club information**  
 The information requested below is essential to enable your club, and club officers, to be identified correctly. Items such as your Club Name in English or Irish, normally don't change, but it is important that the spelling is reviewed for accuracy - Club Names as entered on the system appear in some places (e.g. fixtures) automatically and appear exactly as entered on the system.

✓ Step 1: Club Information Completed

Step 2: Club Executive Required

**Membership**  
 On 22 January 2018 we will launch an exciting range of functionalities via our new mobile app for iOS and that will drive time and cost efficiencies and, importantly, facilitate compliance with the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) - effective from May 2018.

The first of these functionalities will enable your members to pay their subscriptions online, using the app. In order to utilise this functionality, however, you must first of all set up your membership fees and an online bank account to receive online payments. If you decide not to enable payments via the mobile phone app, you do not need to provide the information requested below.

Step 3: Membership Categories and fees Required

Step 4: Account Details Optional

**Communications**  
 We are delighted to be able to provide improved functionality for Club Communications, including options to communicate for free via the mobile app. This functionality is also an important mechanism to comply with the new GDPR and to facilitate good governance around communication sent to members - including providing an audit trail of what communication is sent and to whom, and to define what information can, or cannot, be sent.

Step 5: Teams & Coaches Required

Step 6: Communication Groups Required



into six simple steps across three broad categories, as follows:

### CLUB INFORMATION

This information is essential to enable your club, and club officers, to be recorded correctly.

#### Step 1: Club Information

Whilst your club name doesn't normally change, it is important that spelling is reviewed for accuracy. Please ensure that your club name is spelt correctly, in both English and Irish, since this will appear exactly as entered on the system (including in fixtures, for example). Your club's crest image should be of as high a quality as possible, since this will be appear on Teamsheets or in the new mobile App. Please also ensure that the postal address and other contact information for the club are up to date.

#### Step 2: Club Executive

Please add the membership details of your Club Officers for the 2018 season. This information is important to allow the County Board or National Committees to contact the relevant individuals in your club (e.g. Club Secretary, Insurance Officer or Children's Officer). This also acts as an historical record of your Club Committee for a given year. One individual may occupy more than one role and you may add additional roles, if you wish.

### MEMBERSHIPS & ONLINE PAYMENTS

From 22nd January 2018 onwards, members will be able to pay their subscriptions online via the mobile app, using a debit or credit card. To enable your members to utilise this functionality, however, you must first complete steps 3 and 4, as outlined below.

If you decide not to enable payments via the mobile phone app, you do not need to provide the information requested below.

#### Step 3: Membership categories and fees

You must provide a membership category, description and cost for each membership type that you intend to make available via the mobile app - there are no limits to the number of categories you provide. Ensuring that the fee structure is correct at this point will reduce administration time required later to make corrections or refunds.

#### Step 4: Account Details

If you are choosing to receive online payments via the mobile app, you must first set up an online bank account with our provider, Stripe. All payments made via the app will be received into this Stripe account and will automatically be transferrable to your normal club bank account weekly, or on demand.

At this stage, you will be required to provide some additional information and proof of identity - such as passport details for your Treasurer. This is to satisfy financial

regulations, as set out by the Central Bank of Ireland. If you choose not to use the online payments functionality, you do not need to provide this information.

### MEMBERSHIPS & ONLINE PAYMENTS

The second phase launch of the app on 23rd February 2018 will include improved functionality for Club Communications, including options to communicate for free via the mobile app. This functionality is also an important mechanism to comply with the new Data Protection Legislation (GDPR) and to facilitate good governance around communications sent to members. An audit trail of communications sent and to whom is maintained and the ability to define what information can, or cannot, be sent is also provided.

To avail of this functionality, however, clubs must first complete Steps 5 and 6, as outlined below.

#### Step 5: Teams & coaches

Defining your club teams and coaches will enable you to give the appropriate people the correct permissions required to communicate with member groups. If you wish to utilise this functionality, you must first record a list of approved coaches. These coaches will then have the ability to communicate with the members (or their guardians) in his/her team.

#### Step 6: Communications groups

By adding members to communications groups, you will be able to control what information is sent to them. Members will have the ability to opt out of these communications groups via the mobile app - an important legal requirement under GDPR. You will have the ability to set up as many groups as you like - such as a member group per team, a 'Club Executive' group, a 'Lotto Ticket Sellers' group and an 'All Members' group, for example.

### CONTACT DETAILS

More detailed information about the functionality and benefits of using the new mobile app will follow in December's newsletter.

# GAA DATA PROTECTION UPDATE

**O**n the 19th November, the first ever GAA Data Protection Seminar was held in Croke Park with 258 volunteers from 204 clubs in attendance.

The information provided on the day is available to review on the gaa website in the Data Protections section

[www.gaa.ie/dataprotection](http://www.gaa.ie/dataprotection)

## FEEDBACK ON THE DAY WAS COLLECTED AND SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

The agenda will cover a range of topics and will specifically address the following:

- **79%** of those in attendance rated the content delivered as 'Excellent'
- **98%** would recommend attendance at the conference to a Club Colleague
- **60%** would like additional information or support



Further Data Protection seminars will be scheduled over the coming months – please keep an eye out for details as they become available.

In the meantime, why not review the GAA's online Data Protection course available here <http://learning.gaa.ie/courses/dataprotection/> and take the quiz to see how well you know data protection.

It only takes 10 minutes.

# WHEN IS YOUR CLUB AGM?

Did you know that your club AGM should take place on a date before the end of November each year?

**T**his requirement stems from Rule 8.3 of the Club Constitution (See Appendix 5 of the 2106 Official Guide) and is aimed at ensuring the Club AGM takes place before County Convention. As it is the most important meeting of the year for a Club, every effort should be made to ensure that it is organised in accordance with the rules as laid out in the Club constitution. The purpose of the AGM is to:

- Review the work of the previous year.
- Review Financial statements and auditor's reports.
- Elect officers and executive committee members.
- Get members views on Club and Association policy.
- Consider Club policy and revise or endorse.
- Make submissions through motions to the County Committee on the framing of policy and dealing with the rules of the Association.

There are three phases to holding a Club AGM:

## Setting the date...

This is the responsibility of the Executive Committee however it should take place before the end of November each year i.e. before the County Convention (Rule 8.3 of the Club Constitution).

## Notice of AGM to Members...

Rules 8.5 to 8.5.3 of the Club constitution govern the calling on the AGM and detail how members are notified. It is important that all Full Members of the Club are notified in writing of the AGM and are forwarded all relevant documentation.

## The AGM Agenda

The business of the Club AGM and the Agenda is set out in rule 8.4 of the Club constitution, outlined as follows:

- Adoption of Standing Orders.
- Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting.
- Consideration of the Annual Report submitted by the Secretary.
- Consideration of the Financial Statements including the Report of the Accountant(s) or Auditor(s).
- The Chairperson's Address.
- Election of Officers and Members of the Executive Committee.
- Notices of Motion.
- Other Business.

More guidance around running the Club AGM can be found within the GAA Club Manual. To access it, visit - <http://learning.gaa.ie/clubmanagement>



## Online Module on Effective Meetings

The GAA has developed an online module to help all Officers meetings run more effectively.

### About the Module

Meetings are an essential part of running a GAA Club Executive, County Management Committee or Provincial Council. Running meetings so that they run smoothly and achieve what they are supposed to is not as easy as it sounds but it is a skill that can be developed. A well-managed meeting can encourage cooperation between members because people can be made aware of developments across their area of interest in the Association and contribute to them. Meetings also play an important role in developing team spirit, as volunteers feel a part of changes and plans that they have helped shape. They are especially useful for problem solving. On the other hand, meetings that are not well run can be a source of frustration for members and slow down progress with developments. Considering this, the GAA has developed an online module to support officers at club, county and provincial levels to run more effective meetings. It is a time-saving guide to planning and running meetings from start to finish which covers preparation, keeping the meeting on track, complying with the GAA Constitution & Rules, and follow-up on actions. It includes best practice advice for dealing with challenging individuals, as well as downloadable templates for creating effective meeting agendas and meeting minutes.

### What you'll learn

1. Approaches, rules and tips for running effective meetings
2. How to prepare and organise a Club Annual General Meeting
3. Tools and templates to organise and run effective meetings

### Accessing the Module

1. To access the module, complete these steps:
2. Open an internet browser on your laptop or PC – (Our preferred browser is Google Chrome. Please note that the module is not compatible with a phone or tablet device)
3. Ensure that pop-ups are enabled on your computer – [Click here](#) for guidance on unblocking pop-ups
4. Click on this link - [http://learning.gaa.ie/courses/Effective\\_Meetings/](http://learning.gaa.ie/courses/Effective_Meetings/)

### More information

For more information, visit - <https://sway.com/1LMvqc1RpCILd7yN>

## Club Planning Programme



### What is the Club Planning Programme?

Originally launched in 2008, the Club Planning Programme (CPP) is designed to support Clubs in the development, implementation and review of Club Plans. Under the current GAA Strategic Plan, covering the period 2015 – 2017, the Club Planning Programme is undergoing a period of review and update to ensure it continues to meet the needs of Clubs developing Plans. Some of the key features of the updated Programme are:

- Club Planning Facilitators working within

each County.

- Updated resources including the Club Planning Guide and online supports.
- Updated Club Planning Workshop.
- Improved implementation, monitoring and evaluation supports.

### How Does the Club Planning Programme work?

The process designed to support Clubs through the creation of a Club Development Plan follows a best-practice approach to devising and implementing a Club Plan.



The duration of this process will largely be at the discretion of the Club; however, the design and development phase should take between two to three months and the recommended Club Plan duration will be from one to three years.

**How can a Club get involved?**

Getting involved in the Club Planning Programme in 2018 is very straight forward. Your County Development Officer is currently seeking interest from Clubs, therefore any Club interested in being a part of the Club Planning Programme should contact its County Development Officer at...

developmentofficer.[COUNTY NAME]@gaa.ie

**Club Leadership Development Programme**

After another successful period of rolling out the GAA's Club Leadership Development Programme (CLDP), feedback would suggest

that the Programme is not only providing excellent support to our Club Officers, but it is also only highlighting the desire of Officers to access additional training and supports.

It can safely be said that aim of the Programme, to provide the principal GAA Club Officers - Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, PRO - with the basic knowledge and core leadership skills required to fulfil their roles effectively, has been met. However, it also highlights the need for continued development of the Programme in terms of content. Throughout the summer months, this development has been ongoing, with structure and content undergoing a review, based on feedback from participants and Leadership Associates, and amendments made.

It is envisioned that training will begin to be rolled out again in some counties from October, with a view to all Counties hosting a CLDP event before April 2018.



# IRELAND'S FIRST OFFICIAL GAA HEALTHY CLUBS RECEIVE NATIONAL RECOGNITION

- **The award winning Healthy Clubs Project (HCP) aims to turn clubs into hubs for health in their communities**
- **With almost the same number of GAA clubs as GPs across Ireland, the project offers a new setting in which to deliver health promotion and interventions**
- **GAA ambassador Seán Cavanagh commends the clubs for their leadership**

Earlier this month a special ceremony with governmental representation in Croke Park saw 58 GAA clubs recognised as the first official 'Healthy Clubs' on the island of Ireland.

The clubs, at least one in each of the 32 counties, can now proudly fly a flag above their grounds (endorsed by both Healthy Ireland and the Public Health Agency in NI), letting their members and communities know that they value health and wellbeing as much as leagues and championships.

In January 2016, almost 100 clubs applied to participate in Phase 2 of the project (just 16 participated in Phase 1 between 2013-2015). Many cited the dearth of services in their communities that are tackling issues such as obesity, sedentary lifestyles, mental health and suicide. They wanted to be part of the solution.

Clubs engage with their members and community before identifying health themes upon which to focus on. Most common include healthy eating; physical activity for non-playing members; emotional wellbeing; engaging older members of the community; youth development; gambling, drug, and alcohol education; and inclusion and integration. Almost half of the clubs (29) also opted to become completely smoke-free venues as part of their 18-month journey.

The innovative model was developed in partnership with Healthy Ireland, the HSE's health promotion division, the National Office for Suicide Prevention, and is supported by Irish Life through a CSR investment. In an era of unprecedented societal health challenges, the Healthy Club Project aims to harness the potential of the GAA club setting to deliver evidence-based health promotion information and interventions, backed up by appropriate policies and partnerships. Its potential to be replicated by other sports is currently being explored by a working group involving the FAI, IRFU, and Athletics Ireland.

Similar work is being undertaken across European sports associations, and for the past three years the GAA has contributed its learnings to the EU-wide Sports Clubs for Health project. This culminated with the GAA's Community & Health manager,



Sean Cavanagh with Cork's Healthy Clubs

Colin Regan, presenting on the Healthy Club project to a sub-committee of the EU Parliament in Brussels in April.

The Healthy Clubs project is being independently evaluated by a team from Waterford IT's Centre for Health Behaviour Research. While the final report into Phase 2 won't be available until December, the research team have already noted significant successes (see editor's notes for examples of successful interventions).

Aogán Ó Fearghail, An Uachtarán Cumann Luthchleas Gael said, "The 58 Healthy Clubs recognised today have gone above and beyond what is normally expected of a sports club. Health and wellbeing is core to what the GAA is all about and these clubs help bring that to life. I'd like to thank our partners, Healthy Ireland, the HSE, National

Office for Suicide Prevention, the Public Health Agency, and Irish Life, for helping to make the Healthy Club project the success it is. We look forward to growing it from strength to strength."



GAA/Irish Life Healthy Club ambassador Sean Cavanagh

Recognising the achievements of the clubs in Croke Park at the Healthy Club Recognition Event is Catherine Byrne, Minister of State for Health Promotion and the National Drugs Strategy, Department of Health (ROI). She said, "Today is all about recognition for the clubs and the volunteers who make this happen at club level. I would like to congratulate all of the clubs and volunteers involved and acknowledge the contribution that they are all making to bring the vision for Healthy Ireland to life: where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential."

David Harney, CEO, Irish Life said, "Irish Life are delighted to work with the GAA on the Healthy Club initiative. The GAA, reaches into every community on the island of Ireland, and has a significant role to play in the health of the nation through its promotion of Gaelic Games. The association's Healthy Club initiative brings a new dimension to this work. It enables people to access health in an exciting new way. We believe this work has the potential to improve the future health of communities across the country."

Leading GAA ambassador Seán Cavanagh addressed the clubs in Croke Park and presented them with their Healthy Club flag, plaque and certificates. He said: "I've seen myself how the GAA brings communities together in so many different ways so it's fantastic to see the association taking a leadership role in developing healthier communities. The Healthy Clubs around the country are having a positive impact on so many children and young people and as a parent I think it is fantastic."



Healthy kids from GAA Healthy Club St Colmcilles

Through this project I think people will start to appreciate the role of the GAA in our communities even more."

There are numerous benefits to clubs that take part in the GAA HCP including exclusive access to Healthy Club resources and support. The independent evaluation by Waterford IT's Centre for Health Behaviour Research of Phase 1 of the HCP revealed its potential to increase membership, improvements in health promoting activities, better opportunity to link the local community with club activities and opening up new funding avenues all the while enhancing the health of the nation and ensuring a healthier future for everyone.

The GAA hope to extend the project to 150 clubs in Phase 3 (with expressions of interest to open in early 2018) before opening the project to all interested clubs in 2020. There are 1,600 clubs in Ireland and over 400 abroad.

For full list of Official GAA Healthy Clubs

visit <http://www.gaa.ie/my-gaa/community-and-health/events/first-gaa-clubs-ireland-fly-the-official-healthy-club-flag-over-their-club-grounds-151274/>

For more information, visit: [www.gaa.ie/community](http://www.gaa.ie/community)

Follow: [@officialgaa](https://twitter.com/officialgaa) or Like: [www.facebook.com/officialgaa/](https://www.facebook.com/officialgaa/) #gaahealth

**OFFICIAL GAA HEALTHY CLUBS**

- |                                  |           |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Leinster                         |           |
| Mount Leinster Rangers GAA Club  | Carlow    |
| Clara GAA                        | Kilkenny  |
| Dromard GAA Club                 | Longford  |
| Castletown Liam Mellows GAA Club | Wexford   |
| St. John's Volunteers GAA Club   | Wexford   |
| St. Kevin's GAA Club             | Louth     |
| Bray Emmets GAA Club             | Wicklow   |
| Annacurra GAA Club               | Wicklow   |
| St. Loman's Mullingar GAA Club   | Westmeath |
| Ballynacargy GAA                 | Westmeath |
| Tubber GAA Club                  | Offaly    |
| Clonad GAA Club                  | Laois     |
| Kilmacud Crokes GAA Club         | Dublin    |
| Raheny GAA Club                  | Dublin    |
| Good Counsel GAA & Camogie Club  | Dublin    |
| Craobh Chiaráin GAA Club         | Dublin    |
| Thomas Davis GAA Club            | Dublin    |
| Castlemitchell GFC               | Kildare   |
| Kiltale Hurling & Camogie Club   | Meath     |
| St. Colmcille's GAA Club         | Meath     |

**OFFICIAL GAA HEALTHY CLUBS**

- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Munster  |           |
| Killeagh GAA Club                              | Cork      |
| Castlehaven GAA Club                           | Cork      |
| St. Finbarr's National Hurling & Football Club | Cork      |
| Midleton Hurling & Football Club               | Cork      |
| JK Bracken's GAA Club                          | Tipperary |
| Fr. Sheehy's GAA Club                          | Tipperary |
| Nenagh Éire Óg GAA Club                        | Tipperary |
| Na Piarasigh GAA Club                          | Limerick  |
| Mungret St. Paul's GAA Club                    | Limerick  |
| Parteen GAA Club                               | Clare     |
| Tralee Parnell's Hurling & Camogie Club        | Kerry     |
| Beaufort GAA Club                              | Kerry     |
| Brickey Rangers GAA Club                       | Waterford |

**OFFICIAL GAA HEALTHY CLUBS**

- |                                       |           |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Ulster                                |           |
| An Caisléan Glas Cumann Naoimh Pdraig | Tyrone    |
| Omagh, St. Enda's GAA Club            | Tyrone    |
| Castleblayney Faughs GFC              | Monaghan  |
| Derrygonnelly Harps GFC               | Fermanagh |
| Erne Gaels GAC                        | Fermanagh |
| Clonduff GAC                          | Fermanagh |
| St. Peter's GAA Club Warrenpoint      | Down      |
| St. Johns GAA Club Drumnaquoile       | Down      |
| Michael Davitt GAC Swatragh           | Down      |
| Killygarry GAA Club                   | Derry     |
| Cavan Gaels GAA Club                  | Cavan     |
| St. Joseph's GAC Glenavy              | Cavan     |
| St. Mary's GAC Rasharkin              | Antrim    |
| Naomh Mochua Doire Nuis GAA Club      | Antrim    |
| Culloville Blues GAC                  | Armagh    |
| St. Mary's GAA Club, Convoy           | Armagh    |
| CLG Naomh Muire, Íochtar Na Rossan    | Donegal   |
|                                       | Donegal   |

**OFFICIAL GAA HEALTHY CLUBS**

- |                        |           |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Connacht               |           |
| Ballinderreen GAA Club | Galway    |
| Melvin Gaels GAA Club  | Leitrim   |
| Aghamore GAA Club      | Mayo      |
| Achill GAA Club        | Mayo      |
| St. Michael's GAA Club | Sligo     |
| Eastern Harps GAA Club | Sligo     |
| St. Aidan's GAA Club   | Roscommon |
| Oran GAA Club          | Roscommon |

# DERMOT EARLEY YOUTH LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE REACHING NEW STATURES

**‘Your attitude is more important than your ability, your motives are more important than your methods, your courage is more important than your cleverness and always have your heart in the right place’ - Dermot Earley Snr.**



*The late great Dermot Earley, pictured with son Dermot junior after a Kildare SFC game*

In the space of 4 years the Dermot Earley Youth Leadership Initiative has grown its reach from 60 to 400 GAA participants drawing from over 200 clubs across the country.

Between September and October, over 11 programmes successfully launched in 9 counties (Galway, Roscommon, Mayo, Donegal, Monaghan, Antrim, Dublin, Offaly, Kildare) with 166 GAA members, aged 15 to 18 years (both male and female) getting the opportunity to develop key leadership and life skills that Dermot Snr. epitomised both on and off the field.

It's a very exciting time for the 165 successful participants as they start their leadership journey and get the opportunity to develop key skills like decision making, resilience, communication, leadership, team building, critical thinking and presentation skills.

They will also get the opportunity to learn how to work as part of a team and research a particular area of interest within their GAA community. In module 3 participants will put their enhanced leadership skills into action through a club or community based action project.

At the recent Galway and Roscommon launch one young participant stated ‘I would like to undertake the programme to learn new skills, develop leadership qualities, gain a qualification and have fun with my peers. Dermot Earley was a gentleman and a role model for young people. It would be great if I could draw on his attributes and become a more mature and rounded person’.

Those who complete all 3 modules will have the opportunity to graduate from NUIG with a Foundation Certificate in Youth Leadership



*Influencing the GAA Leaders of the future*

and Community Action. The workshops are facilitated by a troupe of excellently trained tutors who have already received a Diploma in Training and Education for their efforts and commitment.

On October 14th a number of participants who completed the programme in June received their Foundation Certificate in Youth Leadership and Community Action in NUIG. A memorable day by all involved.



*Leaders and now NUIG Graduates*

# CAMOGIE NEWS



## DEVELOPMENT NEWS: MUNSTER SCHOOLS CAMOGIE COACHING PROJECT AND MORE!

### Munster Schools Camogie Coaching Project

12 Primary and secondary schools in Kerry, Limerick, Tipperary and Clare have been receiving specialist coaching to try and increase playing numbers in targeted clubs and areas around Munster. Coaches have included county stars Laura Collins (Kerry) and Laura O'Neill (Limerick), as well as club mentors Noel O'Connell (Tipp) and David Carroll (Clare). The coaching will continue over the winter, and finish off with a blitz day for all schools involved!

### Coaching Courses - Munster

Causeway hosted a Foundation level coaching course on Saturday, where 17 eager coaches were put through their paces by Camogie tutors George Fitzgibbon and David Carroll (pictured). Monaleen in Limerick also hosted a Foundation course on Saturday 11th November for 24 coaches, and Cratloe GAA was the setting for a Level 1 course on the 10/11/18th November. Well done to all involved!



### MUNSTER COACHING WORKSHOP SELLS OUT!

The very first Munster Camogie Coaching Skills Workshop proved to be extremely popular, selling out in just two days! The workshop will be held on Saturday 2nd December @ Mallow GAA, and will feature a stellar line up of coaches including Brendan Cummins, Martin Fogarty and Paudie Butler amongst others!

### CAMOGIE FOR TEENS BELFAST

Camogie 4 Teen girls in the city had two great weeks, they completed their first Whistle course November 10th with over 15 girls passing the assignment. This was followed by an excellent programme delivered From AWARE called Mindfit, the girls discussed social problems and Building resilience as players and youth. It was excellent to see so many of the girls engaged in such relevant topics. Simon McCrory Antrim hurling Captain also came along and delivered a practical session to the girls. Thanks to Simon for his time and effort. So far this has been another excellent programme.



## DARVER HOSTS SECONDARY SCHOOL BLITZ

A second secondary school camogie/hurling blitz took place in Darver on Mon 13th November.

Ten teams from Louth took part on the day. St. Louis, Dundalk, St. Vincent's Secondary, Scoil Ui Mhuiri, Dunleer, Our Lady's College, St. Oliver's CS, and Ardee schools all took part in the blitz. Despite the cold conditions it was an enjoyable day of Camogie. We look forward to running more of the same in 2018.



Ardee



Scoil Ui Mhuiri



St. Louis



St. Oliver's



St. Vincents

## 2017-18 SCÓR PROGRAMME IN IT SLIGO

UACHTARÁN Aogán Ó Fearghail launched the 2017-18 Scór programme in IT Sligo recently.

**S**cór is the cultural showpiece of the GAA and incorporates music, song, drama, dance and a quiz:

The All Ireland finals will be held next year in the Knocknarea Arena in IT Sligo.

Among the speakers on the launch night were Sligo GAA Chairman Joe Taffee, Connacht GAA President Mick Rock, Connacht Scór Chair Gerry McGovern and National Scór Chair Antoin MacGabhann.

Sligo GAA's Irish & Cultural Officer and Scór Chairman, Keith Henry explained that there are different age levels within the competition. "Scór na bPaistí is for National School children and does not proceed on beyond a County Final. For the first time ever Sligo are hosting this competition in Sligo so that's a positive step. Then you have Scór na nÓg for people under 17 and Scór Sinsir for over 17," Keith said.

The hosting of the All Ireland finals will bring a boost to the town as close to 2000 people will attend the finals over the weekend from all over the country. "Similar to the field sports every county has a final and the winners go on to a provincial final with the winners there going onto the All Ireland. So we'll have plenty of visitors to Sligo," he added.

The President of the GAA put out the call to all

clubs in the county to play their part. "This is a fantastic competition that can bring people into the club scene that may not be playing our field games and it's a great way of having fun in the winter months, so I'm asking everyone to just give it a try," Mr Ó Fearghail said.

"We want to give ourselves the best opportunity to have as many Sligo competitors and hopefully winners on the stage of the Knocknarea so we hope to have as many competing in our upcoming county finals as possible," Keith Henry concluded.

People wishing to enter or enquire are asked to contact Keith Henry on 086-3357182 or Catherine Gallagher on 087-6494568

### SCÓR SLIGO DATES 2017/18

Scór na nÓg (U17) County Final: 26th November 2017 Ballintogher  
 Scór na nÓg (U17) Quiz County Final: 10th December 2017  
 Scór na nÓg (U17) Connacht Final: 14th January 2018 Claremorris  
 Scór na nÓg (U17) All Ireland Final: 17th February 2018 IT Sligo

Scór Sinsir (Over 17) County Final and Quiz: 3rd March 2018  
 Scór Sinsir (Over 17) Connacht Final: 24th March 2018  
 Scór Sinsir (Over 17) All Ireland Final: 14th April 2018 IT Sligo

# SCÓR





Football

Hurling

Club

General

## MÍLE BUÍOCHAS

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

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