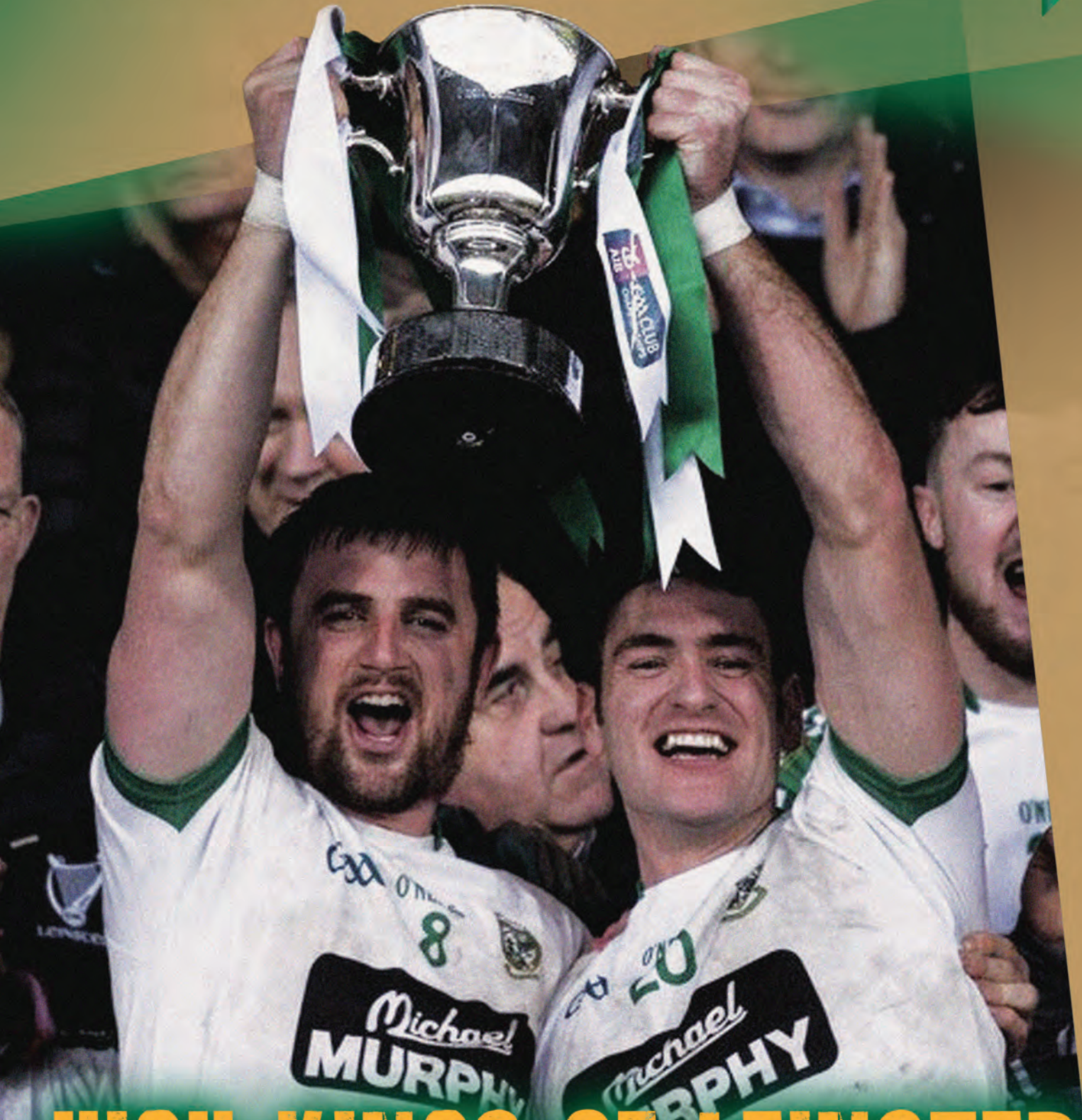


# GREEN FLAG

The official magazine of Leinster GAA

ISSUE 4 • WINTER 2017



# HIGH KINGS OF LEINSTER

# WARM UP FOR THE NEW SEASON

## BORD NA MÓNA LEINSTER GAA SERIES

### Bord na Móna O'Byrne Cup Football

#### GROUP 1

Offaly	v	Wexford	30.12.2017
Dublin	v	Offaly	03.01.2018
Wexford	v	Dublin	07.01.2018

#### GROUP 2

Louth	v	Longford	30.12.2017
Kildare	v	Louth	03.01.2018
Longford	v	Kildare	07.01.2018

#### GROUP 3

Wicklow	v	Carlow	30.12.2017
Carlow	v	Meath	03.01.2018
Meath	v	Wicklow	07.01.2018

#### GROUP 4

Westmeath	v	Laois	30.12.2017
Laois	v	Westmeath	7.1.2018

#### SEMI-FINALS

13/14.01.2018

#### FINAL

20/21.01.2018



Wexford manager Davy Fitzgerald, Dublin selector and coach Anthony Cunningham, Kilkenny selector Derek Lyng, and Offaly Manager Kevin Martin at the launch of the Bord na Móna Leinster GAA series at Bord na Móna O'Connor Park, Tullamore, Co Offaly.

At the launch of the Bord na Móna Leinster GAA series at Bord na Móna O'Connor Park, Tullamore, Co Offaly (L-R): Alan Mulhall of Offaly, Kevin Feely of Kildare, Jonny Cooper of Dublin and Sean Gannon of Carlow.



GAA fans who may be feeling restless over the Christmas period won't have long to wait for action in Leinster, with the Bord na Móna Series – incorporating the O'Byrne Cup, Walsh Cup and Kehoe Cup – commencing on 30th December.

This early-season competitions always attract interest from die-hard fans as managers avail of the opportunity to blend new players into their teams.

The finals will be played earlier than usual in 2018 as the start of the Allianz Leagues has also been brought forward.

A launch of the Bord na Móna series was appropriately held at Bord na Móna O'Connor Park in Tullamore on Tuesday, 12th December, with players and mentors from some of the counties involved among the invited guests.

In early 2017, the Dublin footballers regained the Bord na Móna O'Byrne Cup with a victory over a spirited Louth team while the Walsh Cup hurling decider was also a keenly contested affair with Kilkenny edging out Galway in a Nowlan Park decider.

Following a positive response from supporters, it has been decided to maintain the format for the Bord na Móna O'Byrne Cup which will see teams divided into groups and with mid-week matches taking place to reach the semi-finals.

Leinster GAA Chairman Jim Bolger said: "We are delighted to continue our partnership with Bord na Móna and build upon the strong relationship we have built since 2012.

"They understand the importance of community and the work that we do to enable our clubs and members to be the best they can be.

"The Bord na Móna O'Byrne Cup football trophy has been competed for since 1954 and the Tom Walsh Cup has existed since 1956. Between them they have played a crucial role in Leinster GAA, whereby the proceeds generated by attendances is used in a special fund that looks to benefit ordinary GAA people in Leinster who are in need of assistance.

"These are special competitions that have a crucial place in the calendar because in both codes they act as a vital dress rehearsal for the start of the National Leagues and provide a warmly welcome outlet for supporters who have been starved of seeing their county play since the summer.

Speaking on behalf of Bord na Móna, Pauline Browne said: "We are delighted to be title sponsors of the Bord na Móna O'Byrne Cup, Bord na Móna Walsh Cup, and the Bord na Móna Kehoe Cup.

"Bord na Móna has a long-standing presence and involvement with the people of Leinster in every community and county through our employees and customers. We live in these communities, we work in these communities and we are deeply invested in creating the brightest possible future that we possibly can."

"This sponsorship began in 2012 and saw us become the first title sponsor in the competitions long history and continues our strong association with the GAA. The growth and success of our association in the last few years made it a natural decision to extend our relationship with Leinster GAA."

### Bord na Móna Walsh Cup Hurling

#### GROUP 1

Carlow	v	Wicklow	30.12.2017
Wexford	v	Carlow	03.01.2018
Wicklow	v	Wexford	07.01.2018

#### GROUP 2

Kildare	v	Laois	30.12.2017
Laois	v	Kilkenny	03.01.2018
Kilkenny	v	Kildare	07.01.2018

#### GROUP 3

Meath	v	Antrim	30.12.2017
Meath	v	Dublin	03.01.2018
Dublin	v	Antrim	07.01.2018

#### GROUP 4

Offaly	v	Westmeath	30.12.2017
Westmeath	v	Offaly	07.01.2018

#### SEMI-FINALS

14.01.2018

#### FINAL

20/21.01.2018

### Bord na Móna Kehoe Cup Hurling

Longford v Louth 30.12.2017

Wicklow (2nd) v DCU/St Patrick's 30.12.2017

Louth v Wicklow (2nd) 07.01.2018

Longford v DCU/St Patrick's 07.01.2018

Wicklow (2nd) v Longford 14.01.2018

Louth v DCU/St Patrick's 14.01.2018

#### FINAL

Top Two Teams 21.01.2018

**BORD NA MÓNA**  
Naturally Driven

# EPIC CONCLUSION TO AIB CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS IN LEINSTER

Another dramatic season of AIB Leinster Club action concluded on the second last Sunday before Christmas with one of the most dramatic finishes to a final since these championships started nearly 50 years ago.

Never was the hashtag #TheToughest more appropriate than when Moorefield refused to accept defeat and came storming back to defeat St Loman's in the SFC decider at O'Moore Park.

The Kildare champions hit 1-4 without reply in the closing seven minutes to turn a six point deficit into a one point victory, with former county star Ronan Sweeney and Kerry native Eanna O'Connor among their heroes.

Moorefield won a sensational game by 1-14 to 2-10 – their second provincial title having also triumphed in 2006 – and will now represent their province in the All-Ireland series early in the new year.

Two weeks earlier, Cuala captured back-to-back Senior

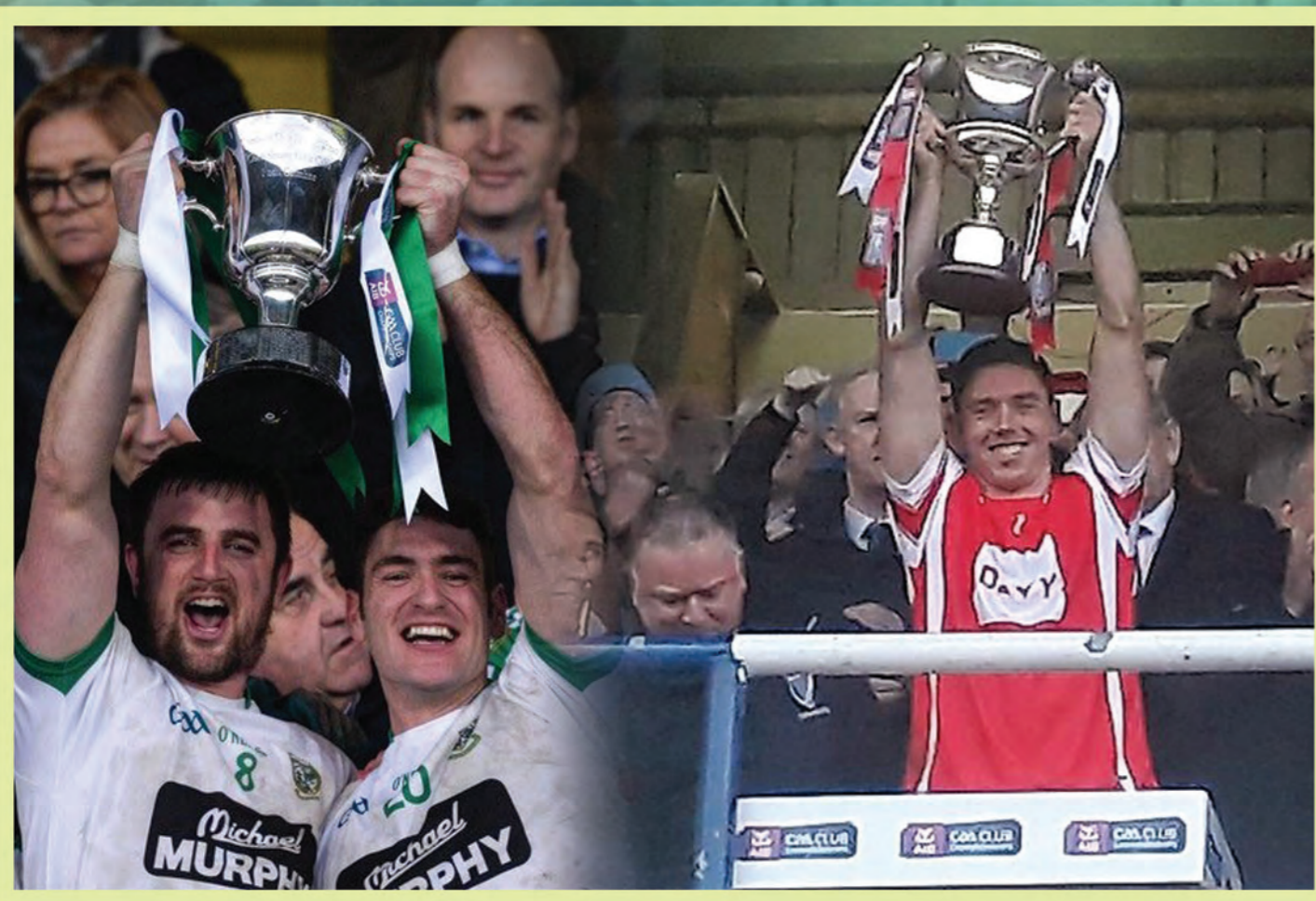
Hurling titles with an emphatic 1-23 to 1-9 victory over Kilcormac/Killoughey, with dual star Con O'Callaghan adding to his sensational goal-scoring tally.

Now the Dublin champions will set their sights on retaining the All-Ireland title which they captured on St Patrick's Day.

But there's so much more to these championships that just the senior grades. Other titles this season have gone to clubs in Westmeath, Kilkenny and Wexford.

Two cups will spend the winter in the Model County, with Kilanerin – with Matty Forde starring in attack – and St Mogue's, Fethard, winning the Intermediate Football and Junior Hurling finals, respectively.

Multyfarnham of Westmeath capped a super season by beating Erin Rovers of Offaly in the JFC final, while St Patrick's, Ballyragget ensured that it wasn't a barren year for Kilkenny with a hard-fought win over Glenealy in the IHC decider.



## AIB LEINSTER CLUB SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP 2017

### FIRST ROUND

Portlaoise (LS) 1-10, Rhode (OY) 0-10

Rathnew (WW) 2-6, Newtown Blues (LH) 0-9

St Columba's, Mullinalaghta (LD) 1-14, Eire Og (CW) 1-7

### QUARTER-FINALS

Rathnew (WW) 1-13, St Vincent's (DB) 1-9

Moorefield (KE) 1-9, Portlaoise (LS) 0-11

St Loman's (WH) 1-12, St Columba's Mullinalaghta (LD) 1-11

Simonstown Gaels (MH) 1-12, Starlights (WX) 0-8

### SEMI-FINALS

St Loman's (WH) 0-13, Simonstown Gaels (MH) 1-8

SF – Moorefield (KE) 2-13, Rathnew (WW) 2-7

### FINAL

Moorefield (KE) 1-14, St Loman's (WH) 2-10

## AIB LEINSTER CLUB SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP 2017

### QUARTER-FINALS

Kilcormac-Killoughey (OY) 2-15, Castletown Geoghegan (WH) 1-12

Mount Leinster Rangers (CW) 0-19, Camross (LS) 0-13

Cuala (DB) 2-20, Dicksboro (KK) 1-16

### SEMI-FINALS

Kilcormac-Killoughey (OY) 2-21, Mt Leinster Rangers (CW) 0-10

Cuala (DB) 3-17, St Martin's (WX) 0-15

### FINAL

Cuala (DB) 1-23, Kilcormac-Killoughey (OY) 1-9

## AIB LEINSTER CLUB INTERMEDIATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP 2017

### FIRST ROUND

Kilanerin (WX) 1-12, Rathcline (LD) 0-6

O'Connell's GFC (LH) 2-10, Kilbride (CW) 1-8

Durrow (OY) 2-17, Mullinavat (KK) 3-5

Emo (LS) 3-9, Hollywood (WW) 1-13

### QUARTER-FINALS

Emo (LS) 2-17, Ballyboughal (DB) 3-14 (AET)

Curraha (MH) 2-7, O'Connell's (LH) 0-12

Kilanerin (WX) 0-10, Raheens (KE) 0-8

St Mary's Rochfortbridge (WH) 1-13, Durrow (OY) 1-7

REPLAY – Ballyboughal (DB) 1-12, Emo (LS) 0-13

### SEMI-FINALS

Kilanerin (WX) 0-13, St Mary's Rochfortbridge (WH) 2-4

Ballyboughal (DB) 3-7, Curraha (MH) 0-15

### FINAL

Kilanerin (WX) 0-13, Ballyboughal (DB) 0-11

## AIB LEINSTER CLUB INTERMEDIATE HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP 2017

### QUARTER-FINALS

Kiltale (MH) 1-22, The Harps (LS) 1-15

St Patrick's, Ballyragget (KK) 0-24, Ardclough (KE) 1-8

Glenealy (WW) 2-12, Thomas Davis (DB) 2-10

### SEMI-FINALS

St Patrick's, Ballyragget (KK) 2-20, Kiltale (MH) 2-10

Glenealy (WW) 1-14, St Anne's, Rathangan (WX) 2-8

### FINAL

St Patrick's, Ballyragget (KK) 0-19, Glenealy (WW) 1-15

## AIB LEINSTER CLUB JUNIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP 2017

### FIRST ROUND

Crossabeg/Ballymurn (WX) 0-15, Ballon (CW) 2-5

Laragh (WW) 1-9, Kilcavan (LS) 1-8

Erin Rovers (OY) 0-20, Sean Connollys (LD) 2-9

Glen Emmets (LH) 3-12, Conahy Shamrocks (KK) 1-4

### QUARTER-FINALS

Crossabeg/Ballymurn (WX) 1-12, Man O'War (DB) 2-1

Meath Hill (MH) 0-14, Glen Emmets (LH) 0-11

Multyfarnham (WH) 1-10, Laragh (WW) 0-5

Erin Rovers 1-16, Ballymore Eustace 0-13

### SEMI-FINALS

Multyfarnham (WH) 1-7, Crossabeg/ Ballymurn (WX) 0-9

Erin Rovers (OY) 4-8, Meath Hill (MH) 2-10

### FINAL

Multyfarnham (WH) 2-6, Erin Rovers (OY) 0-5

## AIB LEINSTER CLUB JUNIOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP 2017

### FIRST ROUND

Erins Isle (DB) 1-20, Maynooth (KE) 0-9

Naomh Brid (CW) (w/o), Arklow Rock Parnells (WW) (scr)

Fr Dalton's (WH) 2-11, Naomh Moinne (LH) 0-9

Navan O'Mahony's (MH) 7-18, Wolfe Tones (LD) 3-6

### QUARTER-FINALS

St Mogue's, Fethard (WX) 2-11, Naomh Brid (CW) 0-9

Fr. Dalton's (WH) 1-15, Balinamere (OY) 0-14

John Locke's (KK) 4-20, Navan O'Mahony's (MH) 2-12

Erins Isle (DB) 2-11, Trumera (LS) 2-7

### SEMI-FINALS

St Mogue's, Fethard (WX) 1-19, Erins Isle (DB) 3-7

John Locke's (KK) (KK) 2-17, Fr Dalton's (WH) 0-7

### FINAL

St Mogue's, Fethard (WX) 1-17, John Locke's (KK) 2-11

# MASTERTSON

## COMMITTED TO WEXFORD'S UNDERAGE DEVELOPMENT



Brendan Minnock spoke with Anthony Masterson about his new GDA role

Whatever about occupying the loneliest position on a GAA pitch, Gaelic football goalkeepers are not short of like-minded company in the Coaching & Games section of Leinster GAA at present.

Established members of staff include Offaly custodian Alan Mulhall, who is a Provincial Games Development Manager, while Louth no. 1 Craig Lynch and former Longford net-minder Damien Sheridan are busy promoting Gaelic games in their home counties.

And they have been joined on the books by recently retired inter-county 'keeper Anthony Masterson, who has switched his focus from competing at the top level to inspiring the next generation of players in Wexford.

A "spur of the moment" decision to follow-up on a job advertisement which he spotted on Twitter led Anthony to a role which he has quickly developed a passion and love for.

"It's very busy but, as someone said to me, when Monday feels like a Friday, it's a good job to be in!" he remarked. "It's something I really enjoy. I played football for Wexford and was coaching, and managed the Wexford ladies' team, so I couldn't turn down the opportunity."

It's a timely change of focus for Anthony after hanging up his inter-county gloves, though he still intends to line out between the posts for Castletown, with whom he won a Senior Football title in 2010.

The 34-year-old made a reluctant decision to step away from county duty at the end of the 2016 season, drawing a line under a 12-year intercounty career that saw him play in two Leinster senior finals, one All-Ireland junior final and receive an All Star nomination in 2008. However his grá for the game was too strong for Anthony to ever consider breaking his connection with the sport, and that has led him to his current occupation.

His duties as a Games Development Administrator include enhancing links between GAA Clubs and Primary Schools, having a hands-on role in Gorey Community School, and ensuring the county's Development Squads are properly organised. "I'm just one member of a strong team down here in Wexford and everyone works really well together," he said.

Looking first at the Primary Schools, Anthony is assisting clubs in taking more responsibility for coaching the young children of the county.

"We believe that to achieve success and increase participation, the primary school has to be the focal point of our most concerted effort," Anthony said. "We're

getting volunteers on board from the clubs and working on the skills with the kids more often, either getting them out of class, or during lunch, or even after school."

This, he added, is one of the key aspects of a five-year plan for Gaelic football in the county which they are currently working on.

"Unfortunately, some children are not active enough and part of our strategy is to ensure that even if they're not big into the GAA, they're getting more P.E. each week. That's something we're trying to push and sell with the schools."

He's also encouraging some teenagers in the south east to set their alarm clocks a little earlier in the morning. Gorey Community School (his own alma mater) is one of the biggest schools in the country with an enrolment of over 1,600 pupils, drawn from a wide area that encompasses some of Wexford's strongest footballing heartlands, including Masterson's home club of Castletown and current Leinster

Intermediate club champions Kilanerin.

"I've been given the task of developing football in the school," he said. "We've started running early morning training sessions, we go in at ten to eight in the morning and train the skills for an hour before school."

"We've 37 lads training for first-year football and 31 of them said they were available immediately. It mightn't suit everyone but we're up to a 90% participation rate. Recently, Gorey Community School won their first U-14 South Leinster title in 20 years and the attitude of the players is fantastic. I'd really like to have the school competing in the 'A' grade at some level in three years and have the majority of the school's teams in 'A' within five years. I've seen the achievements of St Peter's College and Good Counsel College and that's inspiring us to go and compete at the same level."

Changing the attitude and culture won't be done overnight, he concedes, but the young players are buying into the plan. "We want the children to know we're taking them seriously," Anthony said. "Especially for early morning sessions, indoor facilities are great and we'll talk to them about nutrition and recovery."

Following on from that, he's also fulfilling a promise made when appointed to the role by striving to get committed coaches working with the county's underage squads. "I've been targeting some of the past players and the fellas I played with," he said. "We've got some great people involved with the development squads now and I hope to see even more involved over the next few years. This year's U-15 management includes David Murphy and Graeme Molloy, who were two Wexford captains, and they have a wealth of knowledge."

As well as benefiting the players, Anthony pointed out the benefits of creating a pathway for managers, "giving them a chance to upskill with development squads, and hopefully they will go on to become Minor and U-20, or even senior managers."

So while one member of the GAA goalkeeping union will be centrally involved in Wexford's assault on the 2018 Leinster and All-Ireland hurling championships, it's clear that one of their own native shot stoppers will be at the heart of their footballing progress for years to come.



# HECTIC FEW MONTHS IN TOP OIL LEINSTER P.P. SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS

It's been a hectic few months in the Top Oil Leinster Post Primary Schools Football and Hurling Championships, with hundreds of games taking place across the province.

Several make-or-break games have taken place in recent weeks in the Senior Football Championship 'A', which is now at the quarter-final stage. And the draw for the last eight took place last week, resulting in the following pairings:

- Scoil Aodhain, Whitehall v Marist College, Athlone
- Colaiste Eoin, Dublin v St Peter's College, Wexford
- Naas CBS v Knockbeg College
- Offaly Schools v Louth Schools

A new format introduced this season provided each school with at least two matches, and while there were clear winners in some of the groups, others went down to the wire. Current champions, St Peter's College are still in contention, despite being held to a draw in the opening round.

Other teams to catch the eye so far include Knockbeg College, who came through a very tough Group B, while Scoil Aodhain, Whitehall and Marist College, Athlone have racked up some impressive victories.

The two remaining Group Teams – Louth Schools and Offaly Schools – were paired together in the quarter-finals. The games are due to take place on Saturday, 20th January 2018.

It was announced at the championship launch that the cup for the winners has been named in honour of Bro Bosco Mulhare (RIP). Leinster GAA Chairman, Jim Bolger said: "In Br Bosco we also have someone worthy of recognition. He gave selflessly of his time and was passionate about Gaelic Games and left a positive legacy from his work with the Patrician Order in Tullow, Newbridge and Ballyfin."

A break from tradition was also introduced in the Top Oil Senior Hurling 'A', as the first round games were not knock-out either. In a move designed to boost hurling development, the beaten teams in these games still have a chance to win their way back into the semi-finals.

In what is the Centenary of the first ever staging of the Corn Uí Dhuill, the draw was performed in the halls of reigning champions St Kieran's College by Kilkenny Senior Hurling manager Brian Cody – himself a Kieran's past pupil. In the 1971/72 season Cody was a Leinster and All-Ireland schools winning captain and he won the Corn Uí Dhuill crown again in the 1972/73 season.

On behalf of the sponsors, Gerard Boylan, CEO of Top Oil said: "Like the GAA, we are invested in the communities which we are proud to serve. We have a long tradition of links to Gaelic Games through our staff and are delighted to sponsor these important competitions which develops young talent."

All the fixtures and are updated in the schools section of [leintergaa.ie](http://leintergaa.ie) and here is a recap of the results in the group games of the Top Oil Leinster P.P. Schools Senior Football 'A'

GROUP A	P	W	D	L	+ -	Pts
Scoil Aodhain	2	2	0	0	+50	4
St Mel's, Longford	2	1	0	1	-38	2
Patrician, Newbridge	2	0	0	2	-12	0

ROUND 1 St Mel's, Longford 1-12, Patrician, Newbridge 0-12  
 ROUND 2 Scoil Aodhain 1-19, Patrician, Newbridge 1-10  
 ROUND 3 Scoil Aodhain 10-20, St Mel's, Longford 0-9

GROUP B	P	W	D	L	+ -	Pts
Knockbeg College	2	2	0	0	+8	4
St Pat's, Navan	2	1	0	1	0	2
Moate C.S.	2	0	0	2	-8	0

ROUND 1 Knockbeg College 1-13, St Pat's, Navan 1-10  
 ROUND 2 St Pat's, Navan 3-8, Moate C.S. 1-11  
 ROUND 3 Knockbeg College 3-7, Moate C.S. 1-8

GROUP C	P	W	D	L	+ -	Pts
Col Eoin, Dublin	2	1	1	0	+8	3
Col. Mhuire, Clane	2	1	0	1	-2	2
Co. Mhuire, M'gar	2	0	1	1	-6	1

ROUND 1 Colaiste Mhuire, Mullingar 2-9, Colaiste Eoin, Dublin 1-12  
 ROUND 2 Colaiste Mhuire, Clane 0-12, Colaiste Mhuire, Mullingar 0-6  
 ROUND 3 Colaiste Eoin, Dublin 2-12, Colaiste Mhuire, Clane 1-7

GROUP D	P	W	D	L	+ -	Pts
Naas CBS	2	1	1	0	+8	3
St Mary's, Edenderry	2	1	0	1	+8	2
Good Counsel College	2	0	1	1	-16	1

ROUND 1 Good Counsel College 3-7, Naas CBS 1-13  
 ROUND 2 St Mary's, Edenderry 1-23, Good Counsel College 1-7  
 ROUND 3 Naas CBS 3-8, St Mary's, Edenderry 1-6

GROUP E	P	W	D	L	+ -	Pts
St Peter's, Wexford	2	1	1	0	+8	3
Athlone C.C.	2	1	0	1	+7	2
St Benildus College	2	0	1	1	-15	1

ROUND 1 St. Benildus College 1-12, St. Peter's, Wexford 0-15  
 ROUND 2 Athlone CC 3-15, St. Benildus College 0-9  
 ROUND 3 St Peter's, Wexford 2-13, Athlone C.C. 1-8

GROUP F	P	W	D	L	+ -	Pts
Marist College	2	2	0	0	+35	4
Maynooth P.P.	2	1	0	0	-11	2
St Fintan's, Sutton	2	0	0	2	-24	0

ROUND 1 Maynooth PP 3-13, St. Fintan's, Sutton 1-06  
 ROUND 2 Marist College, Athlone 0-17, St Fintan's, Sutton 0-6  
 ROUND 3 Marist College, Athlone 3-20, Maynooth PP 0-5

## GROUP TEAMS SECTION

Louth Schools 2-10, Wicklow Schools 1-15 • Offaly Schools 2-8, Dundalk Schools 0-10

Current champions, St Peter's, Wexford, are into the quarter-finals of the Top Oil Leinster PP Schools SF 'A' and they were represented at this year's launch at Croke Park by players Ben Maddock and Brian Deeney. They are pictured with (L-R): Des Halpenny, Leinster Schools Chairperson, Gerard Boylan, CEO Top Oil, Charlie Carter, Top Oil, and Jim Bolger, Cathaoirleach Comhairle Laighean.

Kilkenny manager Brian Cody and Regional Top Oil Manager James Fitzgerald with, from left, Ciaran Whelan of Borris Vocational School, Co. Carlow, Jack Devereux of St Peter's College, Co. Wexford, Conor Murphy of St Kieran's College, Co. Kilkenny and Dylan Morrissey of Good Counsel College, Co. Wexford in attendance at the Top Oil Leinster Senior A Hurling Championship Launch at St Kieran's College in Kilkenny.





# More clubs receive Leinster GAA Beko Club Bua Award

The last remaining clubs were recently honoured as part of the inaugural staging of the Leinster GAA Beko Club Bua Award for 2017.

Summerhill and Ratoath from Meath, Mountrath, the Heath and Rathdowney Errill in Laois, Milltown in Westmeath, St Jude's of Dublin and Dromard from Longford were all selected after being scored across a range of criteria.

The Beko Club Bua Award was introduced by Leinster GAA this year to recognise and reward clubs who are engaged in best practice both on and off the field.

An online application process scored clubs on different areas such as coaching and games development, club governance, and community integration and promotion.

In all, there have been 24 clubs from across Leinster who have been honoured as Beko Club Bua winners, and who have each received more than €1,000 free playing equipment.

Cathaoirleach Comhairle Laighean Jim Bolger has paid tribute all the winning clubs. He said: "Bua is the Irish word for Win and the Beko Club Bua Award has been specially designed for clubs who are showing the way and engaged in best practice. To be successful on the field, a

club has to have its house in order off the field and that's why the Beko Club Bua Award has different criteria that judging is based upon. "Congratulations to all of those who have been selected and honoured. I've no doubt the consignment of free gear will be put to good use and hopefully make the business of running and being active in your club that bit easier."

"A special word of thanks to Shane Kelly and the team in Beko Ireland for their support. It is a real vote of confidence in the work we are trying to do in Leinster to have such a massive international brand supporting us and I am delighted to say that next year the Beko Club Bua Award will be back, and be even bigger with an even greater prize fund to share out."

After a period of feedback and review, the Beko Club Bua Award will be open for 2018 applications next spring with successful clubs presented with their award at the Leinster senior hurling and football finals in Croke Park next summer.

Details on the process will be communicated directly to GAA clubs in Leinster and on [www.leinstergaa.ie](http://www.leinstergaa.ie)

*Our photos show Cathaoirleach Comhairle Laighean Jim Bolger presenting €1500 worth of equipment to the successful clubs.*



*Jim Bolger, Cathaoirleach, Comhairle Laighean pictured presenting €1,500 worth of equipment to Rathdowney GAA Club, Co. Laois represented by Alex Stenson (left), Secretary and Michael Cleere, Vice Chairman.*



*Jim Bolger, Cathaoirleach, Comhairle Laighean pictured presenting €1,500 worth of equipment to Ciaran Leneghan, Secretary, Ratoath GAA Club, Co. Meath.*



*Cathaoirleach, Comhairle Laighean, Jim Bolger with Paul Hourican, Coaching Officer, Dromard GAA Club, Co. Longford.*



*Pictured at the presentation were (L-R): Paul Heduan, Assistant Secretary, Jim Dalton (Main Club Sponsor), Jim Bolger, Cathaoirleach Comhairle Laighean and Eddie Somers, Chairman, Milltown GAA Club.*



*Geraldine Mangan, Chairperson and Mary Monaghan, Secretary of St. Jude's GAA Club receive the equipment from Jim Bolger, Cathaoirleach Comhairle Laighean.*



*Receiving the equipment from Cathaoirleach Comhairle Laighean, Jim Bolger, on behalf of Summerhill GAA Club, were Dermot Clarke (left), Secretary and Jim Magee, Chairman.*



# Referee Gough Enjoying Education and GAA Development Officer Role

Top inter-county referee David Gough began a new role in September as Education and GAA Development Officer on St. Patrick's Campus of DCU (formally Coláiste Phádraig).

His main responsibility is to develop and coordinate the implementation of various GAA programmes and to maintain the historical links between the GAA and St. Patrick's Campus.

David also endeavours to ensure maximum participation from the student population, through the entry of teams into third level competitions.

"The students were recently delighted to have been invited by Leinster Council to also compete in their Kehoe Cup competition this coming New Year," he said. "Currently the campus fields ten teams in each of the various codes and each team is managed and coached by one of 28 volunteer trainee teachers."

David said he hopes to build on this spirit on campus and encourage the students to fulfil the various administration and coaching roles within the club, giving them a solid grounding in the values and principles of the GAA - volunteerism, inclusiveness, respect and a sense of community - leading to lifelong participation with the association.

Along with this new position, David is serving his second year as Chairman of Cumann na mBunscol Áth Cliath, the first Meath chairman. "Having taught in St. Pius X BNS, Terenure for the past ten years my involvement in Cumann na mBunscol was a natural progression in GAA administration," he remarked.

"In 2018 we will celebrate our 90th anniversary. From humble beginnings in 1928 where there were six founding schools we now boast involvement from 338 schools in the capital with 421 football/ladies football teams and also 302 Hurling/Camogie teams and just shy of 250 partaking in our Santry Sports Athletics Days. The recent development of our website [www.cnm.ie](http://www.cnm.ie) and subsequent development of an integrated content management/communications and fixtures system has greatly aided the enormous organisational task of facilitating all teams in our leagues."

However, attempting to fulfil all these roles and trying to continue to referee on the Elite Championship Panel has proved a challenge.

"The demands on an inter-county referee are enormous," David pointed out. "From county matches in Meath to travelling the country on an almost weekly and sometimes nightly basis, be it as as referee, as linesman, to attend seminars, training sessions, deliver referee

education courses and invitations to speak to teams."

David also welcomed Leinster Council's new physical training and seminar sessions in Abbotsdown which all Leinster Panel Referees are invited to attend. "The sessions include an hour's physical training, coupled with a presentation from specialists in various areas including rules, psychology, nutrition and decision making. This very welcome project will ensure that Leinster will continue to produce referees of the highest calibre," he said.

But he said the challenge does not stop there. "The recruitment of referees is a cause of massive concern for all counties," said David. "I fell into refereeing, like most, not by choice, but by being asked to referee a schools match where no referee arrived. As a student the lucrative offer of €40 was too good to turn down. As a young person however, refereeing is not seen as an attractive role. Our image and culture surrounding referees in the association needs to change for there to be a credible future to our roles."



David Gough, now working as Education and GAA Development Officer on St. Patrick's Campus of DCU, won Young Referee of the Year Award in 2016 and is pictured here with Sean Walsh, National Referees Development Committee, and Uachtarán CLG Aogán Ó Fearghail.

# LEINSTER SCÓR SEASON IN FULL SWING

The Leinster Scór season is up and running and the organising committees at county and provincial level have been doing their best to boost the number of competitors taking part.



Below: The Moate All Whites All-Ireland winning Scór na nÓg Ballad Group pictured at the launch of the Leinster Scór season recently: James Costello, Bronagh Bradley, Edel Stone, Nichole Rabbitte and Oisín Johnston.

Above: At the launch of Leinster Scór for 2017-18 were: Back (L-R): Antoin MacGabhann, Cathoirleach, National Scór; Aidan Walsh, Former Leinster Scór Cathoirleach; Siobhán Ní Chuana, Secretary, National Scór; Michael Reynolds, CEO, Leinster GAA. Front (L-R): Áine Kennedy, Secretary, Leinster Scór; Jim Bolger, Cathoirleach, Leinster GAA and Donal Hickey, Former Leinster Scór Secretary.



Scór na nÓg semi-finals were held recently and the Leinster final will take place in The National Opera House, Wexford, on January 14th at 3p.m.

Senior Scór competitions will then take place, with the Leinster semi-finals pencilled in for 3rd/4th March 2018 and the Leinster final on 10th or 11th March. The All-Ireland finals in 2018 will take place in Sligo.

A first ever launch night for Leinster Scór and Scór na nÓg was held recently, at which Comhairle Laighean Chairman Jim Bolger said everything possible will be done to promote the competitions in the province.

Mr Bolger noted that a Strategic Plan for Scór is in place in Leinster and he appealed to GAA officers to help the competitions flourish again.

Scór Sinsear and Scór na nÓg (for under 17s) have been organised by the GAA since 1969 with the aim of promoting Ireland's culture while offering members of the association the chance to represent their club in a variety of disciplines.

These include Figure Dancing, Solo Singing, Recitation/Storytelling, Instrumental Music, Léiriú (drama), Ballad Group, Set Dancing and Table Quiz.

Leinster Scór Secretary, Aine Kennedy said it is also their intention to increase the opportunities for Scór participants to showcase their talents at GAA games and events.

"For counties that haven't been involved for a few years, our Scór committee have offered to provide training nights and we will do our best to help out in any way," Ms Kennedy said. "We are delighted that there is already a revival in some counties."



# Third Level Students receive Leinster GAA Bursaries



Third-nine Third Level students from across Leinster were presented with a GAA bursary by Comhairle Laighean Chairman, Jim Bolger, at a ceremony in Áras Laighean, Portlaoise, at the end of November.

Since this scheme was initiated over ten years ago, approximately 800 students have received a bursary towards their studies through Leinster GAA. In addition to playing with their home clubs and at Third Level, many of the recipients are involved in GAA coaching or administration.

Speaking at the ceremony, Mr Bolger complimented all the recipients and their families. "We congratulate each and every one of you, and wish you well in both your studies and your sporting careers," he said.

*The students who received bursaries are:*

**Athlone I.T.** Jordan Condon (Carlow).

**Carlow I.T.** John Bowes (Carlow), Padraic Mullen (Kilkenny), Patrick O'Connor (Wicklow), Robert O'Flynn (Kilkenny), Thomas Palmer (Laois).

**Blanchardstown I.T.** Thomas Julian (Kildare).

**D.C.U.** Colm Doyle (Offaly), Cathal Mangan (Offaly), Jennifer Norris (Kilkenny), Aoife Trant (Kildare).

**D.I.T.** Tye Adamson (Westmeath), Sean Flanagan (Westmeath), David Gordon (Meath).

**Marino College** Aoife Jenkins (Kildare).

**I.T. Tallaght** Sean Delappe (Dublin), Dannielle Lawless (Dublin).

**Trinity College** Donncha Butler (Dublin).

**U.C.D.** Aidan Brennan (Laois), Sean Brennan (Kilkenny), Sarah Cullen (Wicklow), Jack Dunphy (Kilkenny), Bill Eviston (Wexford), John Hanrick (Kilkenny), Clodagh Nash (Dublin).



**Left:** Sean Flanagan, D.I.T. student and midfielder with St Loman's GAA Club, Mullingar received a Leinster GAA Third Level Bursary. Pictured at the presentation ceremony with his grandfather Paddy Flanagan, former Treasurer of Leinster Council.



**Below:** Cathal and Janette Mangan with Geraldine and David Gordon.



## Recipients of Leinster GAA Bursary Awards 2017 pictured at Áras Laighean

**Back (L-R):** Robert O'Flynn, Kilkenny; Donncha Butler, Dublin; Thomas Julian, Kildare; Jordan Condon, Carlow; Aoife Jenkins, Kildare; Bill Eviston, Wexford; Aidan Brennan, Laois; Patrick O'Connor, Wicklow; John Henrick, Kilkenny; David Gordon, Meath;  
**Centre (L-R):** Sean Brennan, Kilkenny; Thomas Palmer, Laois; Aoife Trant, Kildare; Jack Dunphy, Kilkenny; Jennifer Norris, Kilkenny; Josh Bowes, Carlow; Clodagh Nash, Dublin; Colm Doyle, Offaly; Cathal Mangan, Offaly; Sean Delappe, Dublin.  
**Front row (L-R):** Pat Teehan, Leas-Cathaoirleach, Comhairle Laighean; Danielle Lawless, Dublin; Tye Adamson, Westmeath; Jim Bolger, Cathaoirleach, Comhairle Laighean; Ciaran Flynn, Rúnaí, Comhairle Ardoideachais Laighean; Padraic Mullen, Kilkenny; Sarah Cullen, Wicklow; Sean Flanagan, Westmeath.

# Leinster GAA clubs honoured with **Healthy Club** status



Several GAA Clubs from Leinster were recently honoured with official 'Healthy Club' status.

Twenty GAA Clubs from across the province – at least one from each of the 12 counties – were among a total of 58 Clubs in Ireland to successfully participate in the project, which is backed by Irish Life and Healthy Ireland.

All these clubs became more health-enhancing through a variety of health and wellbeing programmes and initiatives including healthy eating; becoming a smoke-free club; physical activity for non-playing members; engaging older members of the community; emotional wellbeing; youth development; gambling, drug, and alcohol education; and inclusion and integration.

The impact on the clubs has been transformative in terms of improvements in health promoting activities, better opportunity to link the local community with club activities, increased membership and opening up new funding avenues all the while enhancing the health of their communities and ensuring a healthier future for everyone who engages with their club.

They can now proudly fly a flag above their grounds, letting their members and communities know that they value health and wellbeing as much as leagues and championships.

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. For more information, visit: <http://www.gaa.ie/my-gaa/community-and-health>.

Congratulations to all the 'Healthy Clubs' from Leinster and hopefully they will inspire other clubs to follow in their footsteps.

## Leinster 'Healthy Club' Leaders

- Mount Leinster Rangers GAA Club, Carlow
- Clara GAA Club, 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 GF Club, Kildare
- Kiltale Hurling & Camogie Club, Meath
- St. Colmcille's GAA Club, Meath



**Healthy Club Recognition Day**  
 Irish Life CEO David Harney presenting St Colmcille's GAA Club of Meath with their award

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## Positive Feedback From Pre-AGM Pilot Module



**Feedback was positive from club officers who attended Pre-AGM pilot workshops in three Leinster counties recently.**

The events were organised by the Leinster GAA Club Leadership & Planning Committee, in conjunction with Training & Planning staff at Croke Park, who prepared and designed the presentation.

Training and materials were provided to facilitators, who delivered the module in Kildare, Carlow and Meath, and there was an excellent turn-out of club secretaries and chairpersons at each venue.

Everyone who attended was asked to submit opinions on the module, and their views will be taken on board next year, when it is hoped to roll-out the programme across Leinster.

The primary goal of the module is to help clubs to run an effective and compliant Club Annual General Meeting, with reference to the GAA's Official Guide and the Club Constitution. Topics covered included:

- Preparing properly for an AGM;
- Being familiar with the rules covering a Club AGM (including nominations, quorum, voting and elections);
- Getting some tips on how to keep a Club AGM on agenda and running smoothly;
- Being able to start considering what the post-AGM actions are.

The Annual General Meeting is an important event in a GAA Club's calendar and should incorporate the following items:

- 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.

The Pre-AGM course is one of a suite of modules available to club officers through the Club Leadership Programme, which will be available to most counties early in the new year.

The other modules cover:

- The specifics of your role as a Principal Officer in the Club (Chair / Secretary / Treasurer / PRO)
- Office 365
- Communication in a GAA Club
- Volunteer Recruitment
- Games Development & Player Welfare
- Club Governance

**GREENFLAG** 

# PRODUCTIVE CLUB COACHING OFFICER SEMINAR AT CROKE PARK

Advice on how to recruit and retain volunteers was provided at a productive Club Coaching Officer Seminar organised by Leinster GAA at Croke Park on Saturday, 9th December.

Stuart Garland, the Training and Programmes Manager with Volunteer Ireland, delivered the keynote speech which included the expectations of volunteers and the clubs they are involved with, together with a discussion on the barriers to people volunteering in sport.

Mr Garland also emphasised the benefits of having a written role description for people and said that people are more likely to take on roles that are task-based and focussed.

A talk on GAA15, a standard warm-up programme to assist in injury reduction, and its benefits to a GAA Club was delivered by Kilkenny Games Development Administrator, Sean Kelly.

Mr Kelly said that in relation to adolescents playing Gaelic games, injuries occur more often in matches than training, and a quarter of those injuries are over-use in nature, with lower limb injuries the most common.

Other speakers at the event included Liam O'Neill, Leinster GAA Coaching & Games Chairman, and Pat Daly, GAA Director of Games Development and Research.

Colm Clear, the Leinster GAA Learning & Development Manager, also invited a selection of clubs to outline successful initiatives they had undertaken.

John Murphy of St Mullin's GAA (Carlow) spoke on Adolescent Athletic Development programme over Winter and gave examples of their acceleration, speed and strength drills.

Enda McGahern, the Coaching Officer with St Vincent's (Longford) explained the nursery programme he introduced for four to six year olds in their club, which was a huge success. The feedback from parents to the six week pilot programme was very positive and when the nursery resumed for a further nine weeks later in the summer, many of the parents became assistants with the coaches.

Edenderry GAA Club in Offaly also boosted the numbers of players between the ages of four and eight in their club by developing a nursery and promoting a 'mini All-Ireland' blitz, which proved a resounding success, gaining a lot of publicity locally and attracting more help from parents.

Sean Kelly (Dunderry GAA) spoke about the importance of giving game time to the players that were of age for each year. This philosophy has assisted them in retaining players who may have been lost and are now in a position to progress on to the adult teams.

A key part of the day was also round-table discussions, where coaching officers got a chance to share their leanings and experiences with each other in a relaxed and informal way.



Club Coaching Officers at the seminar organised by Leinster GAA at Croke Park on Saturday, 9th December.

# PLANS FINALISED FOR U-13 & U-15 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 putting the finishing touches to an even bigger programme of games in the 2018 leagues.

Due to the high volume of interested clubs, no further applications are being accepted for the leagues, which will run on Saturday afternoons from early February to the end of March. All the groups and fixtures will be published shortly.

This initiative from the Leinster GAA Games Development Committee, Chaired by former GAA President Liam O'Neill, aims

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.

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.

**LEINSTER CROSS-COUNTY LEAGUES**

**THIS SPRING**

**U-13/U-15 HURLING & FOOTBALL**

**PLAY GAMES AGAINST SIMILAR STANDARD TEAMS FROM ACROSS THE PROVINCE**

**OVER 250 TEAMS FROM ALL OVER LEINSTER PARTICIPATED LAST YEAR**

**REGIONAL LEAGUES**

**PROVINCIAL FINALS FESTIVALS**

**AT CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE**

SATURDAY 3rd FEBRUARY  
FOOTBALL ROUND 1 • U-13 + U-15

SATURDAY 10th FEBRUARY  
FOOTBALL ROUND 2 • U-13 + U-15

SATURDAY 17th FEBRUARY  
HURLING ROUND 1 • U-13 + U-15

SATURDAY 24th FEBRUARY  
FOOTBALL ROUND 3 • U-13 + U-15

SATURDAY 3rd MARCH  
HURLING ROUND 2 • U-13 + U-15

SATURDAY 10th MARCH  
HURLING ROUND 3

**GREENFLAG**

# McCarthy & Cooney awarded Pearse Medals by Leinster GAA

Dublin football powerhouse James McCarthy and prolific Galway hurling forward Conor Cooney have been announced as the Pearse Medal winners by Leinster GAA in 2017.

The specially commissioned Pearse Medal was introduced last year to coincide with the anniversary of the Easter Rising and acknowledge the fact that Pearse had been a member of the Leinster Council through its schools section in the years before his death.

The medal acknowledges the outstanding footballer and hurler in the Leinster Senior Championships. The inaugural winners last year were Diarmuid Connolly of Dublin and Kilkenny's Jonjo Farrell.

This year the adjudicators have selected Ballymun Kickhams flier James McCarthy for the role he played in driving Dublin to a historic seven Leinster senior football titles in a row.

Renowned for his pace, drive and versatility, McCarthy's switch to the midfield engine room helped Jim Gavin's Dublin maintain their edge on their rivals in a season that saw them blitz Carlow, Westmeath and Kildare to retain the Delaney Cup and stay unbeaten in Leinster since 2010.

Conor Cooney's displays in the Galway attack were of crucial importance in what was an unforgettable year for the Tribesmen.

*Our photos show the Leinster GAA Awards for 2017 presented at Croke Park by Cathaoirleach Comhairle Laighean, Jim Bolger (from top, left to right):*

**Conor Cooney (Galway)**  
(Leinster GAA Hurler of the Year)

**David McCarthy, representing his brother James McCarthy (Dublin)**  
(Leinster GAA Footballer of the Year)

**Mary Foley (Buffers Alley GAA, Wexford)**  
(Leinster GAA Club Website of the Year)

**Christine Murray (Kildare)**  
(Leinster GAA County PRO of the Year)

**Bob Doheny (Louth)**  
(Leinster GAA County Senior Final Match Programme of the Year)



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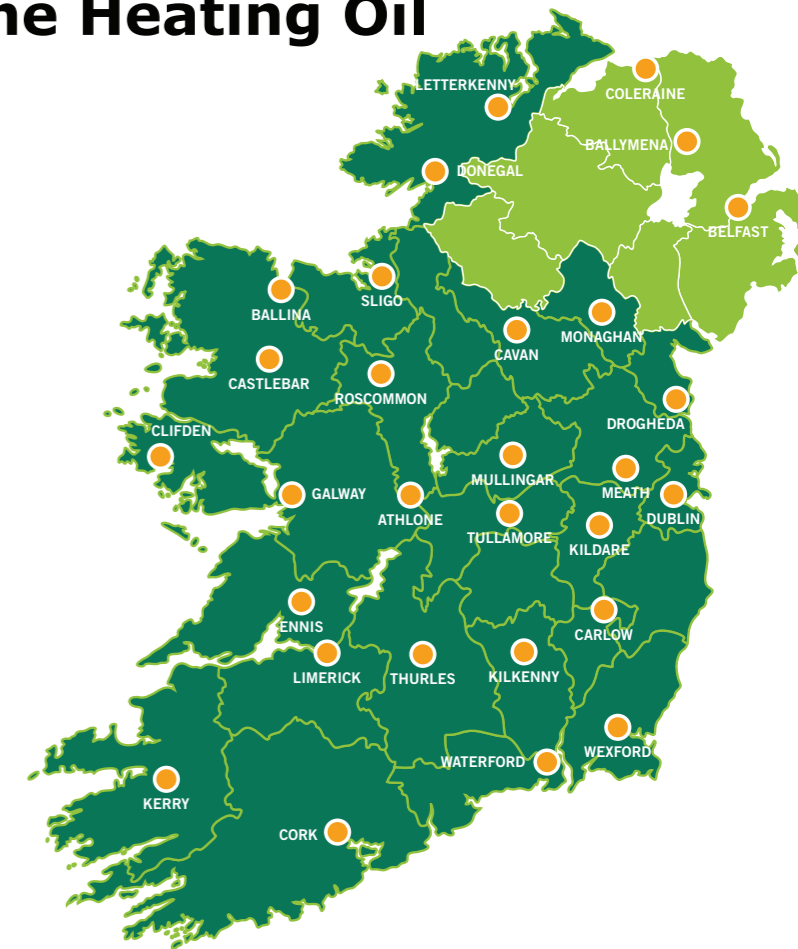
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#### Wexford

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053 9155455

#### Westmeath

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#### Waterford

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051 590100



# Comhairle Laighean represented at Gaelic Games Europe Convention

Leinster GAA Chairman, Jim Bolger, and Vice-Chairman, Pat Teehan attended the Gaelic Games Europe Annual Convention in The Leuven Institute for Ireland in Belgium at the end of November.

Mr Bolger addressed over 80 delegates at the convention and spoke of his admiration for the efforts being undertaken to promote Gaelic Games in Europe.

Leinster GAA is 'twinned' with Europe and staff from the provincial council support the promotion of Gaelic Games on the continent by delivering coaching and refereeing courses, and providing logistical and financial support for games development initiatives.

Speaking at the Convention, Mr Bolger assured the incoming committee of continued support from Comhairle Laighean in the coming years.

Afterwards, newly-elected European Chairperson, Tony Bass, warmly welcomed Mr Bolger's commitment to

maintain and build upon the existing links between Europe and Leinster. "I look forward to future developments in coaching and games development, including training more coach and referee education tutors, support for updating our Strategic Plan, equipment for new clubs and club twinning initiatives," he said.

Another of the guests at the weekend was Caoimhe Ní Néill, the Games Development Operations Coordinator with the GAA, based in Croke Park.

The Department of Foreign Affairs, in conjunction with the GAA, runs the Global Games Development Fund, a grant programme where international GAA Clubs can apply for funding to promote Gaelic Games & Irish cultural activities. European clubs have benefited from the Fund over the years and Ms Ni Néill explained the best ways to ensure an application has the highest chances of being successful.



Leas-Cathaoirleach Comhairle Laighean, Pat Teehan, incoming Gaelic Games Europe Chairperson, Tony Bass, outgoing Gaelic Games Europe Chairperson, Brian Sheehy and Jim Bolger, Cathaoirleach Comhairle Laighean.

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