

GREEN FLAG

The official magazine of Leinster GAA

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Leinster GAA launches the 2018 Beko Club BUA Awards

The health check and code of best practice for GAA clubs in the province

Leinster GAA has launched the 2018 Beko Club Bua awards – the health check and code of best practice for GAA clubs in the province.

Sponsored by Beko, the awards aim to promote best practice on and off the field in all the clubs across the 12 counties. The scheme will identify and reward excellence and also offer a pathway for other clubs to set themselves realistic targets in order to be recognised for achieving high standards.

Using an online application form and checklist on leinstergaa.ie/club-bua/, Leinster GAA Clubs are invited to assess themselves against a set of criteria ranging from their number of Awards 1

and Award 2 coaches, health awareness, club governance and inclusiveness, to name a few.

Star players Ciaran Kilkenny, Lee Chin and Matthew O'Hanlon were present at Croke Park to support the launch just weeks ahead of the championship season.

Bua is the Gaeilge for Win and the Bua awards will result in chosen clubs in each county across Leinster again sharing in a significant prize fund. By the end of this year, more than €85,000 in equipment, footballs and sliotars will have been awards to clubs in the province.



Ian Collins, Managing Director, Beko Ireland, with Dublin footballer Ciaran Kilkenny and Wexford hurler Lee Chin in attendance in Croke Park, Dublin, at the launch of the 2018 Beko Club Bua award scheme, Leinster GAA's accreditation and health check system for clubs in the province.

Winning clubs will also receive a commemorative plaque for their clubhouse acknowledging them as a Beko Club Bua Award winner and additional prizes including tickets for Leinster Championship finals, and a draw to win a place for an Under 8 team at the Leinster GAA Go Games event in Croke Park. All clubs who take part will also be entered into a draw to win Beko appliances.

Speaking at the launch, Leinster GAA Chairman, Jim Bolger said, "The Beko Club Bua Awards were created and designed to be a road map for Leinster Clubs to display best practice and also acknowledge and recognise those clubs that are leading the way. This is the second year of the initiative and based on the feedback we have received from the clubs, we've made a few small tweaks which we believe will make the process more accessible and hopefully encourage more clubs to take part."

"Regardless of whether you are county champions or not, have a large urban or a small rural club, this initiative still applies – it is about encouraging clubs to do things the right way so that the Bua effect will apply on and off the field."

Shane Kelly, Head of Sales and Marketing, Beko Ireland, added, "Beko was thrilled to get involved with Leinster GAA last year. We are equally happy to be back here today to launch the 2018 Beko Club Bua awards. The idea of clubs, regardless of size, getting rewarded for best practice is something we wholeheartedly support."

Beko is one of Ireland's leading and best-selling home appliance manufacturers. Operating in Ireland for over 25 years, Beko has been providing helpful, innovative and energy-efficient electrical appliances while also delivering exceptional value and quality.



THIS IS GOING TO BE EPIC

2018 CHAMPIONSHIPS



A whole new structure in the Senior Hurling Championship, Under 21 Football switching to Under 20, and the age limit for the Minor grades moving to Under 17 are just some of the changes passed for the 2018 GAA Championships. As the largest of the four provinces, it's going to mean even more matches in Leinster this Summer, even if the championships will be within a more condensed timeframe. Here's a look ahead at what lies in store – and don't forget...

NOTHING BEATS
BEING THERE

Leinster Senior Football Championship

1.	Laois v Wexford	12.5.2018
2.	Louth v Carlow	13.5.2018
3.	Offaly v Wicklow	13.5.2018
QUARTER FINALS		
4.	Laois/Wexford v Westmeath	26/27.5.2018
5.	Louth/Carlow v Kildare	26/27.5.2018
6.	Offaly/Wicklow v Dublin	26/27.5.2018
7.	Longford v Meath	26/27.5.2018
SEMI FINALS		
8.	4 v 5	10.6.2018
9.	6 v 7	10.6.2018
FINAL	8 v 9	24.6.2018

Leinster Senior Hurling Championship

Round Robin (5 Rounds) Kilkenny, Dublin, Wexford, Offaly, Galway		
Round 1 (Round Robin)		
1.	Dublin v Kilkenny	13.5.2018
2.	Offaly v Galway	12.5.2018
Round 2 (Round Robin)		
1.	Kilkenny v Offaly	20.5.2018
2.	Wexford v Dublin	20.5.2018
Round 3 (Round Robin)		
1.	Offaly v Wexford	26.5.2018
2.	Galway v Kilkenny	27.5.2018
Round 4 (Round Robin)		
1.	Dublin v Offaly	3.6.2018
2.	Wexford v Galway	2.6.2018
Round 5 (Round Robin)		
1.	Kilkenny v Wexford	9.6.2018
2.	Galway v Dublin	9.6.2018
FINAL	1st Place v 2nd Place	1.7.2018

Leinster Minor Football Championship

Group 1: Louth, Dublin, Meath, Westmeath, Offaly, Wicklow
Group 2: Wexford, Kildare, Carlow, Laois, Longford

Group 1 – Round 1		
1.	Dublin v Louth	7.5.2018
2.	Westmeath v Meath	7.5.2018
3.	Wicklow v Offaly	7.5.2018

Group 1 – Round 2

4.	Offaly v Westmeath	23.5.2018
5.	Meath v Dublin	23.5.2018
6.	Louth v Wicklow	23.5.2018

Group 1 – Round 3

7.	Wicklow v Westmeath	30.5.2018
8.	Offaly v Dublin	30.5.2018
9.	Louth v Meath	30.5.2018

Group 1 – Round 4

10.	Westmeath v Louth	27.6.2018
11.	Meath v Offaly	27.6.2018
12.	Dublin v Wicklow	27.6.2018

Group 1 – Round 5

13.	Offaly v Louth	3.7.2018
14.	Wicklow v Meath	3.7.2018
15.	Westmeath v Dublin	3.7.2018

Group 2 – Round 1

1.	Kildare v Wexford	7.5.2018
2.	Laois v Longford	7.5.2018

Group 2 – Round 2

3.	Wexford v Laois	23.5.2018
4.	Carlow v Kildare	23.5.2018

Longford Bye

5.	Laois v Carlow	30.5.2018
6.	Longford v Wexford	30.5.2018

Kildare Bye

7.	Kildare v Laois	27.6.2018
8.	Carlow v Longford	27.6.2018

Wexford Bye

9.	Wexford v Carlow	3.7.2018
10.	Longford v Kildare	3.7.2018

Laois Bye

A.	Winners Group 1 v Runners Up Gp 2	7.7.2018
B.	Winners Groups 2 v Runners Up Gp 1	7.7.2018

SEMI FINALS

FINAL	Winners A v Winners B	14/18.7.2018
SHIELD SEMI FINALS		

SHIELD FINAL

A.	3rd Group 1 v 4th Group 2	7.7.2018
B.	3rd Group 2 v 4th Group 1	7.7.2018

A v B

14/18.7.2018

Leinster Minor Hurling Championship

Tier 1 - Kilkenny, Dublin, Laois, Wexford

Tier 2 - Offaly, Meath, Antrim, Kildare

Tier 3 - Carlow, Westmeath, Down

Tier 1 – Round 1

1.	Dublin v Kilkenny	12.5.2018
2.	Wexford v Laois	12.5.2018

Tier 1 – Round 2

3.	Kilkenny v Wexford	19.5.2018
4.	Laois v Dublin	19.5.2018

Tier 1 – Round 3

5.	Laois v Kilkenny	25.5.2018
6.	Dublin v Wexford	25.5.2018

Tier 2 – Round 1

1.	Meath v Offaly	12.5.2018
2.	Kildare v Antrim	12.5.2018

Tier 2 – Round 2

3.	Offaly v Kildare	19.5.2018
4.		

Over 2,000 Under 8 Stars Lift The Cup At Croke Park!

Over 2,000 Under 8 GAA players from across Leinster climbed the steps of the Hogan Stand to lift the cup at Croke Park on April 3rd and 4th!

The annual Go Games brought great excitement to the famous venue, with clubs from all 12 counties involved.

The young players went home with memories to last a lifetime: togging out in a dressing room under the Cusack Stand; running out through the tunnel onto the pitch; taking part in a game of Gaelic football or hurling on the hallowed surface; and then capping it off by collecting the silverware.

Everyone goes home a winner and the experience is as enjoyable for parents and grandparents as it is for the players.

GAA President, John Horan, was an interested spectator as his young son was a member of the Na Fianna U-8 hurling team that displayed their skills. Dubs star Darren Daly was also there as a coach of the Fingal Ravens side, and Offaly legend Damien Martin – the first ever GAA All-Star in 1971 – was present to cheer on his grandson.

For the second year running, Littlewoods Ireland sponsored the GAA Go Games Provincial Days. They further enhanced the experience for the up and coming players by creating a pitch-side studio. Following their matches, the children had more photos taken and were interviewed, just like the adult GAA superstars.

Roll on next year!

Here's a taste of the reaction we picked up from Twitter accounts...

BALLINAKILL GAA A fantastic day was had by our U8s today at Croke Park. Memories made to last forever and many already itching to get back on the pitch someday.

MULLINGAR SHAMROCKS Well done Leinster GAA from Mullingar Shamrocks on the logistical miracle in Croke Park...military precision and lots of happy and tired under 8 footballers.

TEMPLEOGUE SYNGE ST Our Under 8's played a blinder in Croke Park today. Great day had by all.

PORTLAOISE Great memories were made today when our U8's played on the hallowed turf of Croke Park. Big thanks to Leinster GAA and to all the coaches, mentors and parents who made it happen. Future stars for club and county.

RATHCOFFEY GAA What a great day had by our U8 squads as they took to the hallowed turf in Croke Park! They took part in a Leinster Go Games tournament, playing teams from Meath and Wicklow.

ST MONICA'S GAA Great experience in Croke Park for our U8 boys! Thanks to Littlewoods Ireland and Leinster GAA.

GARRYCASTLE GAA Well done to our U8 players & management on 2 great matches against Hunterstown of Louth. We are so proud of you all. We would like to wish Hunterstown the very best of luck for the season

GRAIGUEBALLYCALLAN GAA What a fantastic day our U8s had in Croke Park in the GAA Go Games. Thanks to Leinster GAA and Littlewoods Ireland for organising it and to the trainers and parents who travelled on the day. Memories to last a lifetime!

SENESCHALSTOWN GAA Memories to last a lifetime being made in Croke Park today by our U-8's. Thanks to all in Leinster GAA for making it happen.



PJ RYAN

KILKENNY'S KEEPER OF THE FLAME

By John Harrington

Not long after Paul O'Connell famously ripped his hamstring off the bone in Ireland's 2015 Rugby World Cup victory over France, former Kilkenny goalkeeper PJ Ryan suffered the very same injury to much less fanfare.

And, just like O'Connell, the injury spelled the end of Ryan's playing career too. Ryan, now 40, would still be playing club hurling for Fenians were it not for that ripped hamstring, but his enforced retirement has served to accelerate his coaching career.

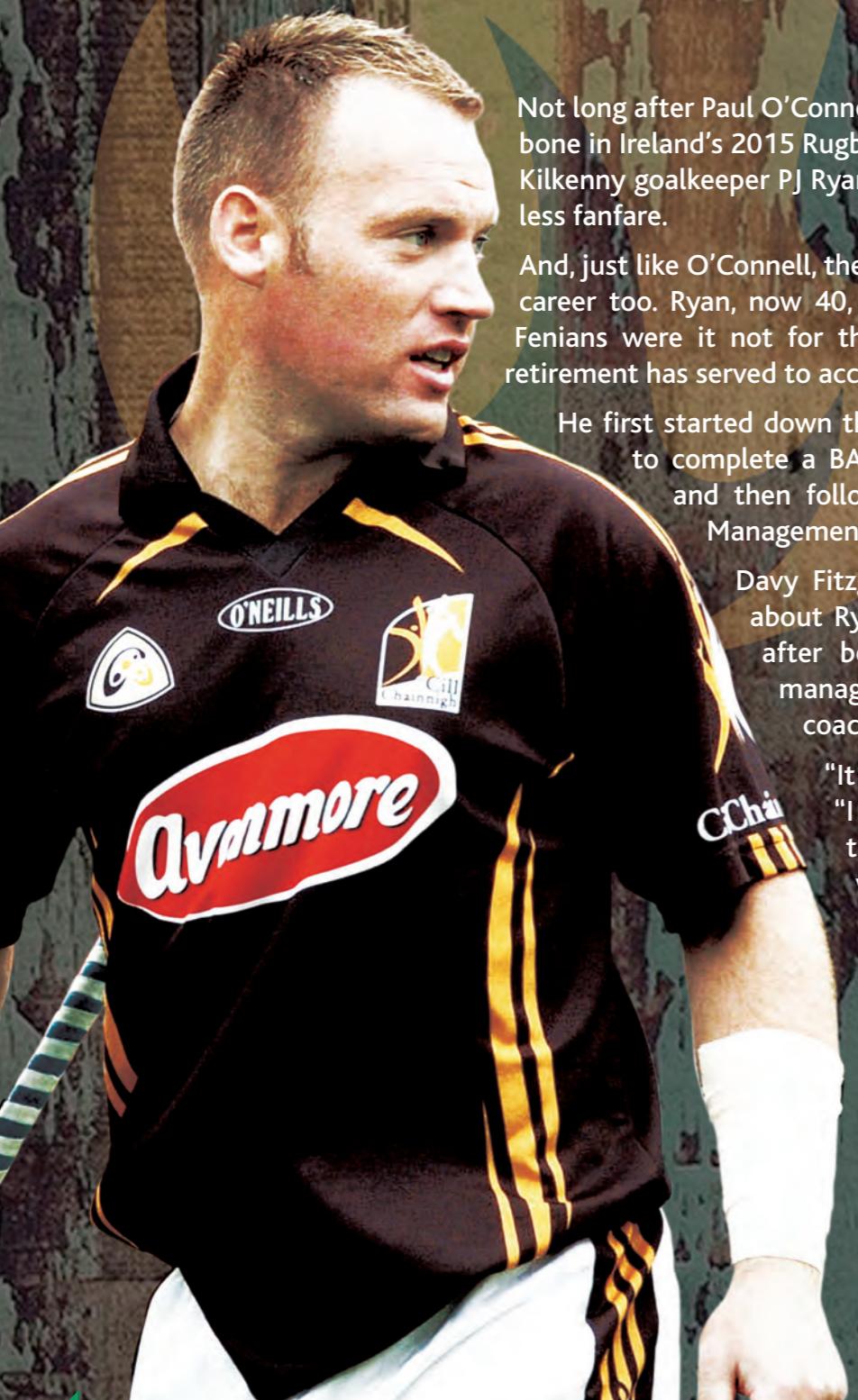
He first started down that path when he went back to College to complete a BA in Sport and Exercise from IT Carlow and then followed that up with a degree in Sports Management Coaching.

Davy Fitzgerald must have liked what he heard about Ryan on the coaching grapevine, because after being appointed Wexford hurling team manager he brought in Ryan as his goalkeeper coach.

"It was a great experience," said Ryan. "I have to say I enjoyed my time down there an awful lot. They made me fierce welcome down there and working with Davy gave me a great insight."

"When I was playing hurling with Kilkenny all we used to have to do was turn up to training and train, so to see the organisation that goes into preparing a team was a real eye-opener."

Ryan isn't involved with Wexford this year because his own native county came calling and appointed him as their new Games Development Administrator.



He started on January 15th and is hugely enthusiastic about his new role.

"It's a dream job," he said. "I went back to College in 2009 down in IT Carlow to do the sport and exercise degree with the aim of hopefully getting in as a GDA somewhere along the line."

"And while it didn't happen straight away, it happened this year and I'm delighted it did happen."

"I'm involved with our own club at home too and when you work on something in training and you see it coming off in the matches and you see lads responding to you and doing well then it gives you a great deal of satisfaction."

One of the main reasons for Kilkenny's dominance of hurling in the past couple of decades has been the county's superbly run coaching structures.

They were ahead of the curve in that regard for a long time and it's only in recent years that many of their rivals have started to catch up.

The club-school links in Kilkenny are very healthy and the impact made by secondary school hurling nurseries like St. Kieran's College and Kilkenny CBS is hugely influential too.

There's no danger of them resting on their laurels and simply relying on tradition to keep them at the forefront of the game. In fact, they're utilising technology to help ensure they stay one step ahead of every other county.

"There's tremendous work going on in Kilkenny all the time and long before I got involved," said Ryan.

"The likes of Brian Ryan, Sean Kelly and James Meagher are doing huge work and then the amount of volunteers that are putting their shoulder to the wheel in Kilkenny is second to none."

"But, yeah, look, you have to keep on top of things. Even now at the moment Kilkenny Coaching and Games have developed an app call 'The Hurler'."

"At the moment the club coaching coordinator and club coaches use the app. It's an age specific app so for U-7s there would be specific skill and fitness tests as well as suitable sample training sessions."

"And then for U-9 and U-13 and the whole way up along to adult teams you'd also have specific tests and sessions."

"It's a huge resource and a great coaching tool to give your coaches a helping hand and to enhance their sessions."

"The coaches test their players at a certain time of the year and your players get a gold, silver or bronze trophy depending on their score and you can also compare how you're doing against the rest of the county."

"It's a great app and a great resource for the coaches to have and we're the first county in the country to have that facility available to us."

"So while lads might say that Kilkenny don't do tactics and whatever, we're certainly leading the pack that way."

Such has been Kilkenny's dominance of the game in recent years, that the fact they've now gone two years in a row without winning the Liam MacCarthy Cup is deemed by some as a mini-crisis.

Ryan isn't concerned though about the health of the game in the county in the short, medium, or long-term, and is determined to play his part in the county's continued success.

"Kilkenny will always have hurlers because it's the main game within the county," he said.

"While they didn't win an All-Ireland for the past couple of years, they're still knocking on the door."

"And as you've seen in the League this year the improvement made by the team from the start of the League until now is immense."

"I suppose for a team that was written off earlier on in the year, they're back in the hunt for being one of the favourites for the All-Ireland."

"Look, Kilkenny will always have hurlers. It's our job to try to develop all the hurlers as best we can and to improve all of the players that we come into contact with. Simple as that."

This article first appeared on the gaa.ie website.



FIRST-TIME WINNERS PROVIDE HIGHLIGHTS OF TOP OIL SCHOOLS' CHAMPIONSHIPS

It's always extra special when a new name joins a GAA Roll of Honour, especially in competitions which have been running for the best part of a century.

History was created twice in quick succession this season with first-time winners of the Top Oil Leinster Post Primary Schools Senior 'A' Football and Hurling Championships.

Those results were among the many highlights from a hectic programme of games across the province, which catered for all age groups.

2018 will be fondly remembered by Naas CBS. A 0-9 to 0-7 defeat of Marist College secured their first ever Top Oil Leinster PP Schools SF 'A' title, and they became the first Kildare side to triumph in the championship since 1923.

Naas CBS's fairytale path to glory, from competing in the 'B' grade last season to lifting the Bro Bosco Cup, featured a succession of hard-earned victories which culminated in a deserved victory over their Athlone-based opponents.

The championship is now renowned for its unpredictability, with two first-time champions in the last three years. Since the start of the new millennium, schools from nine different counties have lifted the trophy at least once, and players from every county in Leinster have won medals since 2003.

This year marked the 100th anniversary of the first ever Leinster Schools Senior Hurling Championship, and there could scarcely

have been a more appropriate final pairing than the most famous nursery of the ancient game up against a combination side attempting to enter the Roll of Honour for the first time.

Dublin North defeated St Kieran's College by 1-14 to 1-11 in an exciting decider - bringing another boost to hurling in the capital. Dublin used to enter just one team in the championship but after provincial titles in 2001 and 2008, opted to field two teams – North and South – and finally made another breakthrough.

With combined teams not permitted to enter the All-Ireland series, St Kieran's College bounced back to claim another Croke Cup title. And there were also some memorable All-Ireland victories for schools at other grades, including Colaiste Choilm, Tullamore (Senior Hurling 'B') and Colaiste Mhuire, Mullingar (Junior Football 'A').

Des Halpenny, Chairman of the Leinster GAA Post Primary Schools Committee, said the "tremendous work being done by teachers in our schools is greatly appreciated, in addition to the support of parents, clubs and counties".

"In Leinster, we recognised not only the importance of Schools GAA in the development of our players, but also our responsibilities and the role we have to play. We value the importance of the GAA as part of a balanced curriculum and its contribution to the shaping of a fully-rounded individual," Mr Halpenny said.

"Finally, I'd like to thank our sponsors Top Oil for their continued support of Schools GAA in the province."

Dublin North, captained by Lee Gannon, won the Leinster PP Schools Senior Hurling 'A' title



The Colaiste Choilm, Tullamore, players and management celebrate after winning the Leinster PP Schools Senior Hurling 'B' final

**Daire Newcombe,
Captain of Lucan
CBS accepts
the cup from Pat
Lynagh, Leinster
GAA, after the
Leinster PP
Schools Senior
Football 'B' final**



**Joint-captains
Colm Joyce
and Killian
Thompson lift
the Bro Bosco
Cup after Naas
CBS won the Top
Oil Leinster PP
Schools Senior
Football 'A' final**



EDENDERRY CLUBMAN

By Kevin Egan

There are those who would say that the issues facing the GAA in urban and rural areas are worlds apart. While many rural clubs battle to stay going in the face of depopulation and employment shortages, urban clubs try to cater for exploding numbers with limited space and resources, in many cases catering for communities that are far more diverse and multi-ethnic than was ever the case previously.

Despite this, one GAA committee exists to try and look after both those areas of concern, and that's the GAA Community Development Committee, Urban and Rural. Upon taking on the GAA presidency, Uachtarán John Horan asked Edenderry's Colm Cummins to chair this committee, perhaps cognisant of Cummins' role in guiding his native club through a turbulent period when the population of the North Offaly town exploded.

Edenderry and a handful of other clubs notwithstanding, the Faithful County remains a largely rural landscape however, and Cummins is acutely aware that his new role will involve taking on some very different challenges, albeit always guided by the one key principle of ensuring the wellbeing of the association for generations to come.

He will also liaise closely with the Leinster GAA Urban/ Rural Work Group, which is chaired by another Offaly man, Pat Teehan.

"The organisation, in the broad sense, is going through a real period of transition, with people moving to new areas and we need to make sure that the GAA doesn't miss a trick as that happens" said Cummins.

"It's an area that interests me in terms of my professional career, looking at long term planning. With our own club in Edenderry, we would have monitored population change in the area and how we deal with that and tap into it as a new resource. Since 1996 there's been a population change of 80% with a lot of those new people in the town coming in as foreign nationals. That brings opportunities but also challenges".

"Then in the broader sense, you look at trying to provide a meaningful games programme for the wide variety of different types of clubs that we have, it's something that we keep coming back to. A lot of the smaller rural clubs feel that they don't have the numbers of players so they talk about amalgamations, whereas urban clubs are underperforming".

FOCUSSED ON URBAN/RURAL ISSUES FACING GAA

"I sat down with John Horan and had a chat about these issues and he offered me the chance to chair up this committee and to look at the issues on a nationwide basis, because the GAA at a national level is reviewing its strategic plan for the next three years, and this is one element that they really want to deal with".

Cummins appreciates that the first step will be to get a better understanding of the actual numbers, since every course of action stems from those key facts.

"The debate is often misinformed without examining the actual data. Even if we look at the National Planning Framework, which has been in the news in recent months, that brings to people's minds the shift in demographics in the country and the GAA needs to do that as well" he pointed out.

"The conversation often suggests that rural clubs are dying, yet 30% of all the houses that are being built in the country are one off houses in rural areas, so we need to get into the detail of these figures to make informed recommendations. We also have the GAA membership database and we need to look at that in great detail and examine how that stacks up against national population data from things like the census".

The next step that Cummins would like to see is for the GAA to take a more proactive approach, particularly when it comes to large scale infrastructure and development planning at all levels.

"I'd also like to see the GAA make sure it remains prominent when it comes to planning, whether that's local area plan level or in regional planning. The GAA provides such a valuable social resource in this country and while people will say that it's a

wealthy organisation, at the same time we should still get our fair share of the pie when it comes to national funding, and we should position ourselves well with that in mind".

"There's opportunities in that in the next number of years, there has to be a lot of house building, particularly in West Dublin and South West Dublin. This is where the GAA has to get in there and position itself early, to work with the local authorities to ensure that there is land in a central position that can cater for a new club. Resources from a national level can then be put in place from the GAA to get that club off the ground, and so it's not seen as the expansion of the catchment area of an existing club, but you're creating a new club to cater for these new communities."

Cummins also believes that in areas where new clubs are required, bringing them into existence will be easier where new communities are being created, rather than imposing them in places where established clubs may offer resistance.

"You take Portlaoise, or some of the bigger clubs in Dublin, how do you create that second club when it historically has always come from a split, or some kind of bad feeling. You also have the challenge of the second club being perceived as inferior in the face of the one dominant club, so it's very difficult to get it to develop".

That's going to require a lot of thought because I do think some clubs are too big. The levels of "administration and organisation are immense in a club that has membership in the thousands, and then you have the broader concern. Are they tapping into the whole community or is the GAA just missing out because the club can't cater for that number of people".

SCÓR PROMOTION PAYING OFF

All the efforts to promote Scór across Leinster began to bear fruit in recent months, with more counties becoming involved, extra performers taking to the stage, and new venues hosting the finals.

The committee charged with running the competitions pulled out all the stops over the winter, beginning with a launch before Christmas and then organising Scór na nÓg and Scór.

But there is still the potential for many more clubs to take part in at least some of the categories, which include singing, dancing, instrumental music, recitation and ballad group.

2018 Leinster Scór Winners

Figure Dancing	The Downs, Westmeath
Solo Singing	Tullaroan, Kilkenny - Claire Walsh
Recitation	Clann na nGael, MH - Brendán MacGabhann
Instrumental Music	Bannow/ Ballymitty, Wexford
Leiriú/ Drama	Abbeylara, Longford
Ballad Group	St Patrick's Ardagh, Longford
Set Dancing	The Downs, Westmeath



The Ballad Group from St Patrick's, Ardagh (Longford) which won the Leinster final recently



Borris/Kilcotton of Laois won the Leinster Scór na nÓg Instrumental Music Final



The Downs Set Dancing group that won the Leinster Scór final this season



Claire Walsh of Tullaroan in Kilkenny won the Leinster Scór Solo Singing category this year



Programme To Assist Coach & Player Development

TURAS is based on five key principles that, when applied, will positively improve coach and player performance:

- Testing and Challenging: all players should be challenged to improve at their level
- Understands the player is at the centre of the game and provides individualised development (player centred)
- Resembles the game (game based)
- All players involved, all the time – lots of touches, lots of decisions
- Should be an enjoyable, appropriate and holistic GAA experience

"All our staff have been trained extensively on delivering the TURAS programme and they will each take charge of a region in their own county," said James Devane. "Our aim with TURAS is to support 5,000 coaches right through the age groups, and our staff will track and record their interaction with them."

"Club coaches told us that their number one need was resources, so we will be providing them with supports to get all players onto a similar programme, no matter where they are in the province," he added.

"Ultimately, we expect that TURAS will have positive outcomes at all levels by bringing more players into clubs and schools, then developing thriving, developmental and competitive structures in clubs and schools, and achieving success at county level."





Leinster GAA supporting Coach Education in Europe

As Gaelic Games continue to grow in popularity across Europe, Leinster GAA are committed to supporting clubs on the continent in areas such as coach education.

The dedication of GAA members in Europe is exemplified by the large number of games taking place each year at all levels in both codes, when the logistics of travelling long distances to fulfil fixtures requires considerable planning from all involved.

In order to sustain and build on the progress made in recent years, Leinster GAA have been training coaches and earlier this month eight GAA members from Europe spent their second weekend in Dublin to become certified to deliver Foundation Level courses.

The coaches flew in from Belgium, Spain, Finland and Germany and included a mix of Irish expatriates and men and women born in mainland Europe.

This intensive weekend of coach education was initially planned for early March, but had to be called off due to the terrible weather in Ireland. Undaunted, all involved agreed to reschedule the event and travelled over to continue their course which began on the 3rd and 4th February.

A third weekend of training is scheduled for Brussels on 21st April and this will be overseen by a staff member from Leinster GAA.

Colm Clear, Leinster GAA's Learning and Development Manager took charge of the two weekends in Dublin and he praised the dedication of the coaches who travelled over.

"So far, we have five Coach Developers in Europe and when this course is completed, we will have a further eight," he explained.

"Leinster GAA have been partnered with Europe GAA for several years and we recognised the need for these courses because of the growth of Gaelic Games throughout the continent.

"For example, three of the coaches are from Galicia in Spain, and in that region alone there are 13 men's football teams and 11 women's teams, and the majority of players would be locals from that area," said Colm.

The coaches who have been undertaking the course in Dublin are: Anay Ríos Olmedo (Belgium); Declan Treanor (Belgium); Alan Fitzgerald (Belgium); Alexandre Sanmartín Costa (Spain); Alberto Mendez Suarez (Spain); Pablo da Silva Rocha (Spain); Tony McDonald (Finland); Michael Hickey (Germany).



The official magazine of Leinster GAA

EXCITEMENT BUILDING ahead of Féile Peile na nÓg in Louth and Meath

Féile Peile na nÓg 2018 • Down, Louth & Meath • Friday, June 29th – Sunday, July 1st

young people celebrating their love of Gaelic Games, bonding communities and, above all, having fun.

More information is available at: feilepeile2018.com

(The hurling equivalent, Féile na nGael will take place on June 8th/9th/10th in Galway, with some host clubs in Longford and Westmeath also).

Here's some of the main statistics in relation to Féile Peile na nÓg...

- Almost 8,000 players under 14 years participating
- Up to 1,000 coaches and mentors guiding teams.
- 36 finals played in three counties on Sunday.
- 150 referees required at the Féile
- 500 officials as umpires and linesmen.
- 100,000 visitors to the area.
- 25,000 will attend the finals.

Féile Peile na nÓg has developed into one of the best weekends in the GAA calendar. This festival is about



GREENFLAG





Leinster GAA's new Go Games Referee Course

"We want our Go Games referees to be friendly guides instead of rule enforcers"



Leinster GAA, in consultation with county coaching personnel, have begun the roll out of their new Go Games Referee Course throughout the province.

Go Games have become best practise for underage games in counties with teams involved from Under 7 up to and including Under 11. To continue the development of both the referee and the player, Leinster GAA upgraded the pathway for young referees to reflect the need for clarity and independence in each county.

In order to best prepare those who are attending the course, all participants complete the county specific 'Go Games Rules Quiz' online through the GAA Learning Portal before arriving for the workshop.

The new course includes the following:

- An Introduction and brief description of the philosophy of the Go Games model
- Participants explore the qualities of a good referee
- The identification of the 'Tools of the Trade' and what is required for them to perform the role of a referee
- A demonstration of the 'GPS' method of recording scores
- Introduction of the 'Give Respect Get Respect' Programme and how this is reflected on and off the pitch

- Reflecting on and understanding the responsibilities of safeguarding the welfare of all players
- Show how effective communication can increase the quality of the game
- Provide the skills and knowledge on how to deal with dissent and lack of discipline
- An overview of the difference between Go Games referees and full referees
- Best practise videos on signalling, communication and game management
- Recap on county specific rules
- Conclusion and Q & A

Each module is tutor-led and supported by resources including a Power Point presentation, partner and group led discussion, videos and visual aids supporting key principles and practical tasks to underpin and show the benefits of effective communication.

All participants must be aged 16 or over and all clubs are asked to identify those within their club best suited to become regular Go Games referees. This is the first step in the GAA Referee Education Pathway and will give young referees the confidence and know how to make the 'Go Games' experience fun and enjoyable for all.



IT CARLOW STUDENTS ASSIST WITH SUCCESSFUL EASTER GAA CAMP

Students at the Institute of Technology Carlow helped make a big success of a GAA Easter Camp run in conjunction with Carlow GAA

GAA Camps during Easter have become more popular in recent years and despite the recent poor weather, every county in Leinster provided an opportunity for boys and girls to fine-tune their skills.

The event held at IT Carlow was packed to capacity, with 160 children between the ages of five and 12 taking part in the three-day camp.

And they benefited from the involvement of third-level students who are studying for a GAA-related degree.

Alan Nolan is employed as a Games Development Officer at IT Carlow and he said the Easter Camps provided "a great opportunity for students to get experience working with children and also working in a camp environment."

"The students are also assessed during the camp, so it links into the practical coaching experience required as part of their course."

Carlow GAA provide supervisors for the course, but the students assist by delivering sessions to help the participants with their skill development.

"The feedback from the Easter Camp was very positive," Alan added. "And the fact that Carlow GAA is going well at present in hurling and football probably contributed to that."

The degree course in Carlow is the only one of its kind in Ireland and is delivered in association with the GAA.

Second-level students can apply for both the BA (Honours) Sport Management and Coaching (CW858 - NFQ Level 8) and the Sports Coaching and Business Management (GAA), (CW807 - NFQ Level 7) courses on the CAO application. Both courses run concurrently for the first three years.

The Sports Coaching and Business Management (GAA) degree explores the cross-functional nature of business and sport and equips students with the necessary skills to attain careers in sports management, club development, games development and club administration.

IT Carlow have top-class facilities including an elite sports gym, general student gym, GAA pitches with full changing facilities and a viewing stand.



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LEINSTER GAA HOST WORKSHOP FOR PERFORMANCE ANALYSTS

In 2017, the GAA established a Quality Assurance Accreditation programme for performance analysts working within the sport. The accreditation is based on the applicant's experience, their performance analysis competence and their ability to deliver within the context of the GAA's values and ethos.

This is the second year of the programme and in Leinster, the GAA context piece was delivered via a compulsory half day workshop looking at philosophy of practice in a GAA environment and focusing on what coaches really need from an analyst which place on Saturday the 14th April at the Leinster GAA Offices in Portlaoise. Organised by Colm Clear, the Leinster GAA Learning & Development Manager, it ran from 10am until 2pm and was interactive in format.

The GAA intends to foster a philosophy of practice and shared learning within the GAA performance analyst community which aligns with the principles and underlying values of the Coach10 Model.

The rationale for developing a Quality Assurance System include:

- To ensure players receive high quality analysis support empowering their holistic development
- To provide a quality assured register of GAA analysts to coaches and administrators
- To support the development of a community of practice for GAA analysts in line with the GAA ethos

Further information on GAA Accredited Performance Analysts is available here:

<http://learning.gaa.ie/AccreditedAnalysts>



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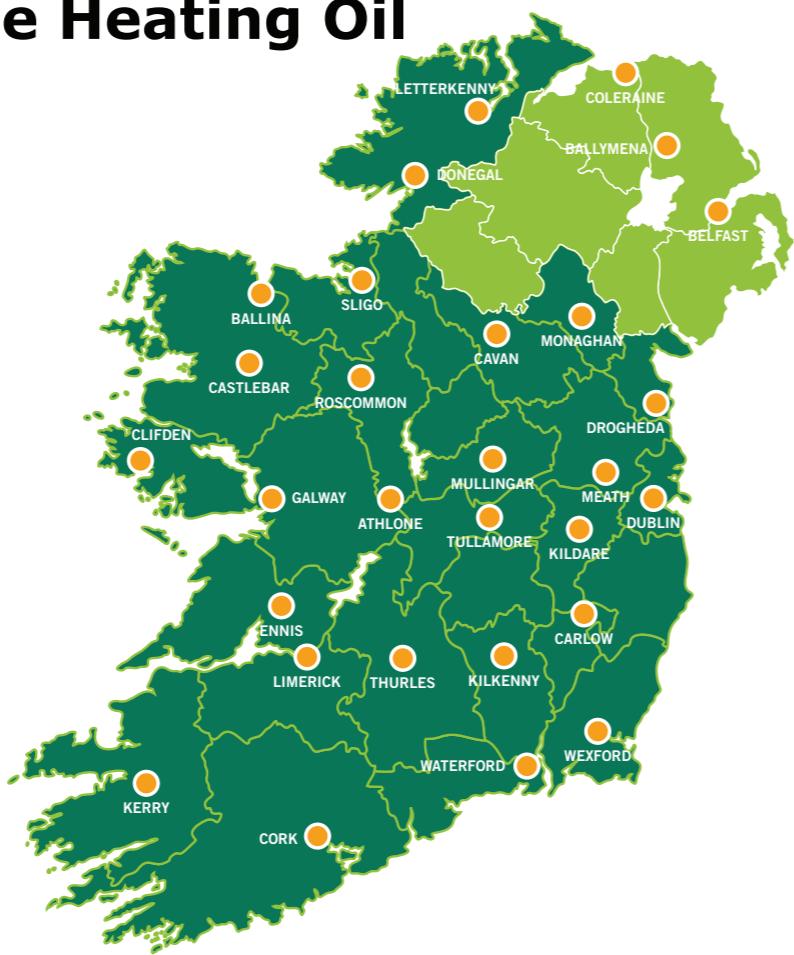
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GAA must be aware of new Data Protection Legislation

There are some significant changes to Data Protection legislation coming into effect on 25 May 2018 which will have an impact on how the GAA, at all levels, engages with its members. It is important that every GAA Club, and indeed every member, is aware of how these changes in the law will affect the ways in which members' personal information can be collected and used for GAA purposes.

GAA Clubs in Leinster were recently invited to a well-attended information seminar in Portlaoise and more information will be provided in the coming months.

General information relating to Data Protection and GDPR is available on the Data Protection Commissioner's website <http://www.dataprotection.ie>

Additional information and how data protection specifically impacts on the GAA and supporting templates, forms and process documentation is available on the GAA website <http://www.gaa.ie/dataprotection>

Queries and Support Queries regarding Data Protection can be sent to dataprotection@gaa.ie

An online module to train club administrators, registrars, club executive committee and members is available at learning.gaa.ie/courses/dataprotection

What is Data Protection?

- Data Protection legislation is intended to protect the right to privacy of individuals (all of us) and seeks to ensure that Personal Information is used appropriately by third parties that may have it (Data Controllers).
- In essence Data Protection relates to any information that can be used to identify a living person such as Name, Date of Birth, Address, Phone Number, Email address, Membership Number, IP Address, photographs etc.
- There are other categories of information which currently are defined as Sensitive Personal Data which require more stringent measures of protection and these categories include religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, trade union membership, medical information etc.

What is GDPR?

- The General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) is new EU legislation that comes into effect on May 25th 2018.

- It very clearly sets out the ways in which the privacy rights of every EU citizen must be protected and the ways in which a person's 'Personal Data' can and can't be used.
- It places the onus on the person or entity that collects a person's information (Data Controller) to comply with the legislation and to demonstrate compliance.

Data Protection can be summarised in the following 8 'rules'

You must...

1. Obtain and process the information fairly
2. Keep it only for one or more specified and lawful purposes
3. Process it only in ways compatible with the purposes for which it was given to you initially
4. Keep it safe and secure
5. Keep it accurate and up-to-date
6. Ensure that it is adequate, relevant and not excessive
7. Retain it no longer than is necessary for the specified purpose or purposes
8. Give a copy of his/her personal data to any individual, on request

What does Data Protection Legislation mean to me?

- The legislation sets out rules about how this information (personal Information) can be obtained, how it can be used and how it is stored.
- Every person must give their consent for their data to be collected and processed for a specific purpose which must be communicated to them at the time the data is obtained.
- They must specifically Opt-In and must be allowed to Opt-Out at any time. They must also be given the opportunity to review the consent they have given on a regular basis (i.e. yearly).
- Data must be kept safe and secure and must be kept accurate and up to date.
- An Individual can request a copy of all of the personal information held about them (this is called a Subject Access Request) and must be allowed to have all of their data deleted or returned to them, if they so wish.



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