



***Nuachtlitir, Nollaig 2009***

**Seasons Greetings**

This is our final Club Newsletter of the year and rounds off what has been a very busy 2009 for the Association. We wish you and your families a peaceful Christmas and a great New Year and look forward to your continued support in 2010.

**Lisa Clancy**  
**Director of Communications**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our members, players, supporters and sponsors and everyone who played a part in making the year the memorable one that it was. A special word of thanks to everyone who played an active role in the programme of events that marked our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and to all who participated in Lá na gClub. Happy Christmas and have a great GAA New Year.

**Criostóir Ó Cuana**  
**Uachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Gael**

*Nollaig Shona agus Áth Bhliain Faoi Mhaise.*

Below is a poem composed by Fr Leon Ó Murcháin for the GAA.

**Tús --- 1884**

A land lies prostrate--- its spirit stranded,  
Seven men meeting – Cusack, Davin . . . .  
Kindling courage—pride of ancestry:  
Torch to the tender, for the “prairie fire”

**Saol**

From garden to hilltop, from club to Croker,  
Sporting energy with panting abandon;  
In victory or defeat, tradition of fair play.  
The Celtic Cross,  
A flag unfurling, a pride of jersey  
The lash of leather, the sweet-pointed scoring,  
A dance of hurleys, hymn of celebration.  
A language in bloom within a re-kindled culture!

**Críoch---2009**

And now, yet thriving, still in full blossom;  
Man, woman, child; marrow to the bone,  
125 now ended. “Not ended, rather en-livened”



Here's our health for hundreds more,  
In full and fruitful radiance!

### **Leon Ó Morcháin**

#### **Club Focus - Munster /Mumha Killeagh, Co Cork/ Cilliath Co Chorcaí**

In addition to the well documented 125 Anniversary celebrations Killeagh GAA Club in East Cork will look back on 2009 with fond memories after the completion of an impressive development that leaves the club well placed for the coming decades.

A three-year phased plan has seen the club add a third field to their facilities, which will be floodlit in the coming months, as well as a gym, dressing rooms and a meeting room.

The generous support of the local community helped the club raise a third of the €1.1m outlay and combined with Lottery assistance, the project was brought to fruition.

The facilities will be used by the clubs footballers, hurlers, camógs and the ladies footballers of Inch Rovers. The work overseen by the club can be seen at [www.killeaghgaa.org](http://www.killeaghgaa.org)

#### **Ticketing – AIB Club finals and Season Ticket**

Excellent value tickets for the St Patrick's Day AIB GAA All-Ireland Club Football and Hurling finals have gone on sale – four months before next March's Croke Park double billing.

A new ticketing initiative means discounted tickets for these games are now available and can be purchased for as little as €10.

The new progressive pricing system, designed to reward supporters who acquire their tickets in advance of these fixtures, will also see tickets available for €10, €15 and €20 at different stages in the run up to the finals and for €25 on the day of the matches.

There will be no concessions on these discounted tickets and juveniles tickets can be purchased for €5 at all times. (Cusack and Davin Stands only).

The GAA also reminds members and supporters that Season Tickets are available for the 2010 season. County and code specific, they offer excellent value. Further information is available from and purchases can be made through [www.tickets.gaa.ie](http://www.tickets.gaa.ie)



## **GAA Email System**

As of the middle of this month, over 94% of GAA clubs are active and using the new GAA email system.

The GAA would especially like to thank all those involved at club, county and provincial level who successfully helped roll out the new email system since its inception in April 2009. Without such a significant effort from those involved at club level across Ireland and in GAA clubs abroad, this new communication channel, which will allow clubs to receive regular communication from the GAA at national level, would not have come to fruition. Go raibh math agaibh go léir.

Furthermore, as highlighted in last month's Club Nuachtlitir, full decommissioning of the old server took place on Monday November 30 2009.

This means users can no longer log into their old email account. If you still haven't logged into your new email account and need help in doing so, please contact the GAA Email Helpdesk (contact details below) or your county IT officer.

Information on the new email system can be found under the following link:  
<http://newmail.gaa.ie/>

If you would like to get more information or support on the new email solution please contact the GAA email help desk at [mail.support@gaamail.ie](mailto:mail.support@gaamail.ie) or by phone on 076-615 4932 (lo-call number).

## **Master Fixtures 2010 – now posted on [www.gaa.ie](http://www.gaa.ie)**

The Association's 2010 Fixture Masterplan has been finalised and is available online at [gaa.ie](http://gaa.ie)

The list, which covers both championship and league action, also includes the main events for the coming calendar year.

County fixtures at senior, minor and U21 grades, Scór, Ladies football, Camogie and International Rules dates are all included and the full list can be accessed on the website under the fixtures section.

## **Club Wall unveiling**

As one of the final acts of the GAA's 125 Celebrations a new Falla na gClubanna/ Club Wall will be unveiled at Croke Park on St Patricks Day. The wall has been erected at the entrance to the GAA Museum on the Cusack Stand side of Croke Park and features the crest of those clubs who submitted them for inclusion. It was designed to create a direct link between Croke Park and clubs across the country



and overseas. Next time you are visiting the Cusack Stand side of the stadium or the museum why not seek out your own club crest?

### **VHI Cúl Camps**

The Vhi GAA Cúl Camps are the official summer camps of the Association.

The principal aims of the camps are

- to maximise participation in Gaelic Games
- to optimise playing standards by providing participants – from age 7 to 13 – with a fun filled and game oriented programme of skill development activities.

The Activity at Vhi GAA Cúl Camps is games based and age-appropriate using the Go Games principle and the Fun Do pack as a primary resource. Rounders and handball are also played at the camps, where possible.

People deployed on Camps are suitably qualified and focus attention on ensuring that each participant derives maximum benefit and enjoyment from their involvement.

It is the official policy of the Association that clubs wishing to organise their own camp may do so provided they have organised, or will organise, a Vhi GAA Cúl Camp during that summer as well.

Contact the Vhi GAA Cúl Camp co-ordinator in your county for any help needed in setting up the Vhi GAA Cúl Camp for 2010.

### **Guidelines for Dealing with Allegations of Abuse booklet**

The new Guidelines for Dealing with Allegations of Abuse (Fourth Edition) is now available from all County Secretaries or from the National Children's Office in Croke Park. The booklet may also be downloaded at [www.gaa.ie](http://www.gaa.ie)

Following **widespread consultation** within the Association and with statutory bodies **across** the island of Ireland, these **guidelines** are seen as the most comprehensive set yet and in tandem with the GAA Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport and our Code of Behaviour, they form part of the Association's child welfare and protection strategy.

A feature of the new **guidelines** is the requirement for all Clubs and County Boards to appoint a Designated Person. All allegations of abuse forwarded to statutory bodies will in future be made via the County Designated Person.



The first County Designated Person training event takes place in Croke Park on Saturday January 30 2010. Further information on the roll out of Designated Person training and on the new guidelines can be obtained from Gearóid Ó Maoilmhichíl in Croke Park or at [gearoid.omaoilmhichil@gaa.ie](mailto:gearoid.omaoilmhichil@gaa.ie)

**New GAA website, [www.gaa.ie](http://www.gaa.ie)**

The GAA is delighted to announce that it is re-launching a new website for the Association at the beginning of 2010.

What's New – The new website will bring a host of new and regularly updated content to the site with a dedicated “ClubZone” detailing information, forms and documents ranging from the GAA Official Guide (Part 1) and Playing Rules (Part 2), club constitution, membership forms, club manual, registration and IT related club information.

There is also a dedicated “Find or Join a Club” map search. This will enable a user to search for a club and find out location details for that club's ground and other information such as website address if applicable. This will be phased in over 2010 and we would hope to have all club grounds active on the site with a map and other club details by the end of 2010.

Also new to the site will be regular video, audio and news content, feature pieces and player dairies as well as for the first time, a centralised database of archived results ranging from All Ireland senior, minor, junior, intermediate, U21, Interprovincial and provincial final results (at all levels) in both codes. Also included will be detailed county senior final roll of honours, team listings from all major finals as well as a host of other results in various competitions.

All in all, the new GAA website will be an important communications tool for the Association moving forward and will be the first port of call for all information relating to the club and the Association at large.

**Ag Éisteacht**

The Ag Éisteacht programme being overseen by An tUachtarán and an Ard Stiúrthóir will re-commence in the New Year and the last visit was made to Cork club Ballygarvan two weeks before Christmas. Clubs across all four provinces have been visited and a number of overseas units have also been involved in the initiative which has seen clubs offer up their views and opinions on various aspects of the Association across a wide range of fields. Club interested in participating should contact GAA Communications Manager Alan Milton on [alan.milton@gaa.ie](mailto:alan.milton@gaa.ie) or 01 8658615.



## **Changes to membership rules and registration rules for 2010**

Clubs are reminded that all clubs must complete the registration of Full and Youth members before April 1. Registrations must be completed electronically, through the Association's online player and member registration system (rule 2.2 of the Official Guide). This is now the only acceptable method of registration in the GAA.

Clubs should also be aware that the closing date for the acceptance of membership fees in order to entitle a person to the privileges of membership, including the right to vote at the club AGM, is on a date prior to March 31 (rule 6.2 of the Club Constitution). Therefore, the old date of August 1 is no longer in use.

Training for the new online registration system will take place in all counties in early 2010. Many counties are already on board the online system, with 960 clubs having used the system to register in 2009. Clubs will be receiving further communication on this in due course.

## **Vodafone Affinity Scheme**

The first payment to registered clubs under the GAA's Affinity Scheme with GAA Football Championship Sponsors Vodafone takes place on December 23. Kilruane McDonagh's Co Tipperary, Ogonelloe, Co Clare and Coolaney/Mullinabreena Co Sligo are the top three ranking clubs to avail of the initiative to date. In total 650 clubs and 18,000 people have signed up already. Club members can sign up at [www.supportyourgaaclub.ie](http://www.supportyourgaaclub.ie) and new Vodafone pre-pay customers who sign up before March 31 can avail of free Vodafone Ireland calls and texts for life or they can choose free any network texts for life.

## **Hurling Helmets**

The countdown to the compulsory use of approved hurling helmets, complete with face guards is well and truly underway and comes into effect on January 1. Hurlers of all ages and grades will be obliged to comply once they have a hurley in their hands whether in training or a match.

In just over a month a new ruling will come into effect meaning that all hurlers of all ages will be obliged to wear a helmet complete with faceguard once they pick up a hurley whether in training or in a game.

Match officials will stop play in a situation where a player removes a helmet or attempts to enter the field of play without one. Posters outlining this initiative can be downloaded from [http://www.gaa.ie/page/hurling\\_helmets.html](http://www.gaa.ie/page/hurling_helmets.html).

## **Museum**



### Ultimate Club Day Out - for under €15

The Croke Park Experience has teamed up with the National Aquatic Centre to provide a fun filled day out for GAA Clubs wanting to reward their players of all ages & levels for their hard work and dedication on the pitch. Great savings to be made if you visit both between January & March 2010. Check out [www.nac.ie/](http://www.nac.ie/) [www.gaa.ie/museum](http://www.gaa.ie/museum) for more information or contact: Maria Gorman, Bookings Executive, Tel- 01 8192374 or email [tours@crokepark.ie](mailto:tours@crokepark.ie)

### *December/January Events & Offers in the GAA Museum*

- 25% off online bookings; All December
- Wintry Tours; 29th & 30th December
- Family Fundays; Weekends in January
- Senior Citizens Mondays for €5; December – April
- Kidzone Gallery Talk – Thunder, Lightening and Hurling; Sat 16th January
- Ladies Night; Thursday 29th of January

Check out [www.gaa.ie/museum](http://www.gaa.ie/museum) for more details and to add your name to receive our monthly ezine!

GAA Museum's latest Calendar of Events is now available, to get a copy please email [education@crokepark.ie](mailto:education@crokepark.ie), or call 01 8192361.

### **GAA Respect Initiative**

The GAA Respect Initiative aims to promote positive behaviour and to ensure that an enriching environment is provided for the promotion and development of Gaelic Games. This includes respect for and from all participants on and around the field. The initiative is currently being piloted in four counties (Armagh, Waterford, Kilkenny & Sligo) at all levels up to Under 12 with national roll out at this level planned in 2010. Check out [www.gaa.ie](http://www.gaa.ie) in January for full details.

### **Club/School Links**

75% of primary school teachers surveyed at this years GAA in-service summer courses reported that they found the support of their local GAA club to be good or excellent. The Christmas season is an ideal opportunity for clubs to reward the work of schools who promote Gaelic games and to offer pupils promotional material in club colours. e.g rulers, pencils etc.

For more information on club/school links visit [http://www.gaa.ie/page/club\\_school\\_links.html](http://www.gaa.ie/page/club_school_links.html)



## **Handball Update**

The GAA's 125 celebrations came to a close at Irish handball headquarters, Croke Park on Saturday, where stars from Football, Hurling, Camogie, Handball, Rounders and Ladies Football came together to take part in the Ultimate GAA Showdown.

Some of the finest athletes in Gaelic Games took to the courts in four Showdown competitions, with Wexford and Cork emerging victorious in the Men's categories, and Leinster and Connacht taking honours in the Ladies.

Cork sharp-shooter Donnacha O'Connor paired up with Rebel handball ace Tony Healy to take the 40x20 Showdown title, where they defeated Mayo footballer Andy Moran and his handball partner Joe McCann.

O'Connor recorded a six point victory over Moran in the first battle, and Healy sealed the deal with a one point win over McCann to take the title.

Fellow Wexford star, Mags D'Arcy, was also in winning form and joined up with Wicklow's Shauna Hilley as Leinster took the Ladies 40x20 Showdown title with a victory over Kerry ace Maria Daly, and Tipperary footballer Mairead Morrissey.

In the Ladies 60x30 Showdown, Mayo's Cora Staunton showed she can mix it with the best and paired up with Roscommon's Deirdre Donohue, as they defeated Ulster's Aisling Reilly (Antrim) and Derry's Katie McAuley. Meanwhile, Mayo's Ballaghaderreen are the King of Clubs after they recorded a seven-point victory over Coolboy (Wicklow) in the All-Ireland Open Interclub Final at Abbleylara yesterday (Sunday).

The destination of the 2009 title all hung on the last game, where Joe McCann defeated Johnny Willoughby to seal victory for Ballaghaderreen, who claimed their fifth consecutive crown.