



BALTIMORE GAA



THE BALTIMORE METRO AREA'S GAELIC GAMES SOCIETY

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2004 Planning Meeting

The Baltimore GAA club held their first planning meeting on Sunday December 14th. The wind and the rain did not hinder turnout or dampen spirits, as an enthusiastic group of 20 members gathered to discuss the club's activities for 2004.

The attending members unanimously accepted the club's credo - '*Develop Gaelic Games in the Baltimore Area and provide a healthy social outlet for our members and friends*'. A lively discussion followed resulting in many great ideas, and importantly, in a list of club goals for 2004.

Club Goals for 2004

- Teach the skills of Gaelic Games
- Develop the Baltimore Metro League
- Host a Spring/Summer invitational tournament in Baltimore City
- March in the St. Patrick's Day Parade
- Gain exposure through media outlets
- Host a Social Event each month
- Road trip to Pittsburgh, PA
- End of year celebration and awards ceremony

Achieving these goals will be our first step to growing and strengthening Gaelic Games and Gaelic Culture in the Baltimore Area. So, I would ask our members, future members, supporters, and friends to help the Baltimore GAA Club achieve these goals - ***starting with our January Social Event on Jan 16th***.

Thanks and
Happy Holidays
to ALL!



10 Questions - with Tony Kerrigan

November's Newsletter contained a Baltimore Sun article from the late 1950s. It described the first ever Gaelic Football contest in Baltimore City in June 1959. Tony Kerrigan was identified as the Top Scorer for the Baltimore team that day with 1 goal and 3 points. We managed to catch up with Tony to ask him some questions...

Q: When and why did you come to Baltimore?

A: I left Roscommon in 1958, when I was 25, to go to New York to work in a restaurant my uncle owned. However I wasn't crazy about New York and the lifestyle there, so after a couple of weeks I moved down to my 2 sisters in Baltimore. I started working for A&P and worked there for 40 years.

Q: Did you play Gaelic Games in Ireland?

A: Yes, I played in Roscommon with a club called Roskey. It isn't a big club or as organized as clubs are today, but I did play with a young Albert Reynolds, who as you know turned out to be Taoiseach (Prime Minister).

Q: How did you get involved with the Baltimore Shamrocks?

A: I was one of the founders of the Baltimore Shamrocks. We played at Mount St. Joe high school in the city where we picked up some other players.

Q: How much interest was there in Gaelic Games in Baltimore in the 1950s and 60s?

A: Generally we had between 15 and 20 players: many of them were priests, doctors, and students. Of course, not all were great footballers but everybody tried hard. Not all were Irish either; we picked up a lot of Irish-Americans and Polish-Americans from playing in Mount St. Joe high school.

Q: What are your memories of the first game in 1959?

A: It was hot, over 95 degrees. It was too hot for the 100 or so spectators that showed up, never mind the players. It was part of the American League and was an extremely friendly game; we all knew each other and many of the Philly lads were friends. I remember it being a big occasion. Three of us met Mayor Grady for about an hour before the day of the game and there was a Proclamation. Our picture was in the paper.

Q: How many other games were played that season?

A: Probably 3 or 4 against teams like Delaware, Philly, and Newark. Games were a lot of fun, the home teams

would put on music, food, and drinks for the visiting team. It was a great way to meet other lads from home.

Q: When and why did the Baltimore Shamrocks stop playing?

A: As I said earlier many of our players were priests and students. Once the students started to graduate they moved away and we were left without enough players for a team. The Shamrocks stopped playing in Baltimore in about 1961.

Q: What happened after the Shamrocks stopped playing?

A: I practiced and played with the team that was in Washington DC. We practiced in Catholic University in DC. I played with them for some years.

Q: What advice would you give to the new players in Baltimore?

A: To keep fit, "Stay out of the bars". I have been a non-drinker and non-smoker all my life and even at 72, I still run 5 miles on a treadmill. Football has changed a lot since my day. I played the catch-kick-solo brand of football. Today, speed and the hand pass will play a large part in Gaelic Football. New players need to know how to play positions also.

Q: What advice would you give to the new Baltimore GAA Club?

A: There are a number of things that I think are important. Try and get as many players as possible so that even if a few move on you will still have a team. Keep encouraging the new players and teaching them the skills because at the end of the day nobody is getting anything for playing, except enjoyment. Keep the interest in both the games and the social side up. We had functions and house parties back in the 50s and 60s during the off season. Finally, somebody needs to do it. Some people can be Monday Morning Quarterbacks and if we all listened to these people we would never get anything done. Just go out on the field and play these games.

Thanks Tony! Excellent advice!

Player Profiles



Eddie McIntosh

Age: 24

From: Baltimore (& Nova Scotia)

Occupation: Musician

Position: Full Back

About the GAA: I play traditional music so it's great to play traditional sports. It may be my musical inspiration!



Sara Nealon

Age: 20

From: Baltimore

Occupation: Student @ Towson University

Position: Half Back

About the GAA: My friend asked me to play. I'm glad he did. It's fun and very easy to pick up.



Ryan King

Age: 24

From: Baltimore

Occupation: Student @ Towson University

Position: Mid-Field

About the GAA: Gaelic Football and Hurling have allowed me to get exercise and learn about my ancestors pastimes.



Michael Ramsay

Age: 28

From: Glasgow, Scotland

Occupation: Civil Engineer

Position: Mid-Field

About the GAA: Playing Gaelic Football gives us an opportunity to exercise, and then work it all off in the pub afterwards.

Congrats!

Congratulations to Baltimore GAA Club member Lucy Prendeville on her recent appointment as the Camogie Ambassador to the USA. Her responsibilities will include promoting Camogie in all of the USA as well and helping to plan the Camogie 100 year anniversary celebrations in Ireland in 2004.



Well done Lucy, you can count on the Baltimore GAA Club for support!

For more information log onto www.camogie.ie

www.baltimoregaa.com





BALTIMORE GAA Newsletter

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Music, Burgers, & Guinness Night

The Baltimore GAA Club and Mick O' Shea's will be hosting the Music, Burgers, & Guinness Night on Friday, January 16th 2004. Come out and watch videos of Gaelic Football, Camogie, and Hurling, enjoy a Burger and a Guinness, and be entertained by The Donegal X-Press, all for just \$10. Tickets in advance only.

Call 410-685 2676 or log onto

www.baltimoregaa.com.

Contact Us

If you are interested in playing or watching Gaelic Games or if you are interested in receiving our monthly newsletter please sign-up by sending an e-mail to baltimoregaa@hotmail.com or through our web site www.baltimoregaa.com. You can also call us on 410-902-7264.

The Baltimore GAA Club presents
Music, Burgers & Guinness Night
In Mick O'Shea's on Friday Jan. 16th

Gaelic Football, Hurling & Camogie
Information Session 6.30 - 9 pm

Learn about these unique Irish sports.
Meet players.

Join new coed sports leagues in Baltimore.
No experience necessary!

Music by The Donegal X-Press
from 9.30 PM 'til late

Baltimore GAA/Mick O'Shea's Special Offer:

Tickets in advance only
Burger, Fries, a Pint, and entertainment \$10
Tickets: Call 410 685 2676 or see our website



Mick O'Shea's
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