



BALTIMORE GAA



THE BALTIMORE METRO AREA'S GAELIC GAMES SOCIETY

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Friday FUNdraiser

The Baltimore GAA club in conjunction with Mick O' Shea's hosted a very successful social event on Friday 16th January. More than 100 of our friends gathered to learn more about Gaelic Games.



Our thanks go out to everybody who contributed to the event. In particular, a special thanks to Jay Mussell who managed to recruit 15 guys and gals (pictured to the left) for this event. Thanks Jay!

Everyone enjoyed the burgers and the games on the TV.

The Donegal X-Press put on a lively show of their unique brand of Irish Rock and the management and staff of Mick O'Shea's took very good care of us.

The money raised will be used to purchase equipment for Hurling and Camogie.

Go Raibh Maith Agat!



Special Thanks To



The Donegal X-Press
dxplive.com



Indoor Practice

Indoor Practice has begun! Come out and learn the skills of Gaelic Football, Hurling, & Camogie throughout the winter months.

When: Wednesday Nights from 7.30 PM to 9.30 PM

Where: Virginia Baker Rec. Center in Patterson Park

Alternating Gaelic Football and Hurling/Camogie each week.

Check www.baltimoregaa.com for weekly schedule and directions. Just \$2 per person.

10 Questions - with Sinéad O' Connor

2004 is the 100th anniversary of Camogie. The Camogie association is planning unprecedented celebrations and is conducting a grass roots effort to increase participation of Camogie around the world, with special emphasis on young girls. On a recent trip to Ireland, I caught up with Sinéad O' Connor who is the newly appointed Financial and Sponsorship Manager for the Cumman Camogaiochta na Gael (Camogie Association)



Baltimore GAA Club member Lucy Prendeville with Sinéad O' Connor

Q: Sinéad, where are you from?

A: I am from Moycullen, Co. Galway. I spent some years in college in Scranton PA. My work with the Camogie Association means that I now live in Dublin.

Q: How did you get involved in Camogie?

A: Moycullen is mostly a Gaelic Football town, Camogie is not that strong. However my father is a hurling fanatic and even captained his team to championship success in 1964. So, he got me my first hurley at the age of 5 or 6 and I have been playing it since.

Q: How often did you play?

A: I played with my club in Co. Galway and with my school. I stopped once I went to the USA and promptly started up again when I moved to Dublin.

Q: So, how many girls/women play Camogie?

A: In Ireland there are over 500 clubs with over 84,000 players. I don't know exactly how many play outside of Ireland, but I know Camogie is played in the USA, London, and Australia

Q: What is the aim of your position within the Camogie Association?

A: Simply, I must secure more sponsorship to enable the Camogie Association to better develop Camogie. In order to grow we must bring the game to more young girls. We want to have a larger presence in schools and get the opportunity to coach more players. Additionally, specifically for 2004, I must secure sponsorship for the centenary celebrations.

Q: In your experience, what's the best way to get sponsorship?

A: A lot of hard work and knocking on doors. Asking people and organizations for money is always difficult. You have to be specific and clear as to what the money will be used for.

Q: Has this been working?

A: To an extent yes. However the biggest challenge is that people do not know the structure of the GAA. People think that Camogie is directed by the GAA in Croke Park. However, Camogie is managed by a separate entity that does not have as many revenue streams as the GAA.

Q: What celebrations are planned for 2004?

A: The team of the century will be announced and honored at a banquet on the 28th of February. This team will be displayed in the GAA Museum. There will be a program of events for All-Ireland final day, when we expect to have 40,000 people in attendance. Keep an eye on www.camogie.ie for more details.

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

A: Wear a helmet! Listen to your coach and just go out and enjoy it. It is the best game in the world after all.

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

A: Get the administrative structure right. Running a club is hard and requires that there is a good administrative team in place, from the person in charge to the coaches to the players. Try and have backup for players, a good support system is essential.

Sinéad, the Baltimore GAA Club wishes you the very best and all the success in 2004.

Thanks

Player Profiles



Jay Mussell

Age: 29

From: Trenton, NJ

Occupation: Graduate Student studying Anatomy

Position: Mid-Field

About the GAA: As an American it is wonderful to play a completely new game with so many elements with a fine bunch of people.



Amy Bays

Age: 28

From: Bowie, MD

Occupation: Assistant Director of Financial Aid at Baltimore International College

Position: Half-Forward

About the GAA: It's a lot of fun and a great way to meet new people and play a new interesting sport.



Peter Hanna

Age: 29

From: Tyrone, Ireland

Occupation: Baltimore City Fire Department Paramedic

Position: Left Corner-Back

About the GAA: It's great to see everybody enjoying themselves and I hope it continues and that the club gets stronger.



Joe Ryan

Age: 26

From: Glenwood, Maryland

Occupation: Carpenter

Position: Mid-Field

About the GAA: A good time spent with good people!

Up-Coming events

Feb 14th: Whiskey at the Wake @ The Sidebar Tavern

Feb 15th: St. Patrick's Parade Fundraiser @ J. Patrick's 3 - 7 PM

Feb 26th: Chieftans @ The Meyerhoff in Baltimore

Feb 29th: St. Patrick's Parade Fundraiser @ Mick O' Shea's 3 - 7 PM

Mar 7th: St. Patrick's Parade Fundraiser @ Sean Donlans, Annapolis 3 - 7 PM

Mar 8th: Wolfe Tones Farewell Tour @ Mick O' Shea's 7.30 PM

Mar 14th: 180's Shamrock 5K Parade Run @ 1 PM

*Baltimore GAA Float in St. Patrick's Parade @ 2 PM

* We ask that all members take part in the St. Patrick's Parade. It is a great opportunity to be seen by thousands of Baltimore and Maryland people.



BALTIMORE GAA Newsletter

971 Joshua Tree Court, Owings Mills, MD, 21117

www.baltimoregaa.com

Tips of the Month

Lifting

1 The Crouch Lift



1. Move to the ball, placing supporting foot alongside and a little ahead of it



2. Place cupped hands in front and near the ball with thumbs almost touching at the front



3. Swing the lifting leg forward, moving the ball with the instep up into the hands



4. Bring the ball to the body while the lifting leg continues to complete the stride and the body rises into a playing position

Practice these skills at home!

Lifting

1 Roll-Lift and Catch

1. Adopt Ready Position

Keep Thumbs pointing down the hurley



2. Change to Lifting Position. Place the left foot alongside the ball and bend the knees and back to bring the head down over the ball

3. Place hurley firmly on the ball, roll quickly towards body and slide toe of hurley under the ball to rise it. As it rises, release the weaker hand from the hurley in cupped position allowing the ball to fall into it



Place left foot alongside the ball to maximise control over it when lifting and catching

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 out web site www.baltimoregaa.com. You can also call us on 410-902-7264.

www.baltimoregaa.com