



BALTIMORE GAA



THE BALTIMORE METRO AREA'S GAELIC GAMES SOCIETY

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Fall Recap

The Baltimore GAA club has been practicing each Sunday since late September, eight Sundays in all to date. More than 40 players have come out at one time or another and everybody seems to enjoying themselves. At first the players find the basic rules a little strange, but after their first practice the game becomes very natural.

The participation at the practices has been fantastic. Many of the players are friends of the inaugural players, so it seems that our club is growing from word of mouth. Our online campaign is also yielding benefits, with some players finding out about us from web sites that have linked to ours.

The diversity amongst the players is great. We have students, musicians, Irish ex-pats, engineers, fire fighters, and much more. This can only help our club as it grows, reaching out to all walks of life throughout Baltimore.

Please spread the word of the Baltimore GAA club to as many people as you can - Thanks!



History of Gaelic Games in Baltimore.....

‘Our Lads’ Top Philadelphia In First Gaelic Football Here

The Shamrocks did more than the Orioles for Baltimore yesterday.

At the same time the Tigers were piling up their 7-2 victory in Detroit, the Baltimore Shamrocks were trouncing Philadelphia 13-9 at Kirk Stadium, on Kirk Avenue just north of Twenty-Fifth Street. There was another notable difference.

Look For Shade In Stand

It was not baseball the fifteen-man Shamrock team was playing, but Gaelic football, the Irish national sport, a rough-and-tumble combination of American football, soccer, basketball and English rugby.

The 100-odd panting spectators, who the sponsors said saw the first such game ever played in Baltimore, Md., squeezed themselves into every available square inch of shade in the grandstands.

Among them was the honored guest of the Baltimore Shamrock Club, Joseph F. Shields, counselor of the Irish Embassy in Washington, who threw out the ball to begin play between the two handshaking teams.

“I’m glad I’m here as a spectator and not as a participant,” Mr. Shields said with a jolly brogue. “I used to play in Ireland many years ago, but I never remember it as hot as this, not even in Baltimore, county Cork.”

On Mayor’s Proclamation

In Baltimore, Md., it was Gaelic Football Day by proclamation of Mayor Grady, read in full over the public-address system (also in a jolly brogue) by Johnny Marron, manager and president of the new Baltimore club and vice president of the Eastern Division of Gaelic Football’s American League.

The win over Philadelphia gave Baltimore a tie for first place in the league. Three weeks ago in Philadelphia, the fledgling Shamrocks bowed to the 15-year-old Quaker City club, 7-11.

In all fairness, it should be noted that yesterday’s loss was by unusually handicapped Philadelphians.

The club was fielding two teams in simultaneous league competition 500 miles apart in Baltimore and Boston.

A spokesman for the league said, in still another variation of a thick brogue, that there are indeed some wrinkles yet to be ironed out in the scheduling, but as it stands no Baltimore will be treated to its second Gaelic football game when the Shamrocks play Newark some time in July.

In the last few minutes of yesterday’s play, Philadelphia’s right-half-forward was knocked down hard for the second time and had to be taken out of the game. No one replaced him.

“We Don’t Have A Sub”

“We don’t have a sub, not a one,” a Philadelphia manager said.

To the ear not accustomed to Gaelic football, the players’ positions sound a little strange – center fielders, half forwards and full forwards.

But on an afternoon when the still, hot air rang with more genuine Irish brogue and lilting Irish blarney than at most Abbey Players performance, all team members alike were “lads”.

Ages on the teams ranged from 18 to 55.

Baltimore Players

The Baltimore players were Doug McGrew, goal; Larry Lunden, Carroll Carson and John Ostrowski, full-backs; the Rev. Desmond Murphy, John Nolan and Slim McCartney, half-backs; Mickey O’Donnell and Tony Quigley, center-field; Roddy Martin, Colum Quinn and Dennis Ray, half-forwards; and the Rev. Ray Davern (“like ‘tavern’ with a D”, he said), Dr. Sean Murphy and Tony Kerrigan, full-forwards.

High scorer for Baltimore was Kerrigan, with one goal into the net, worth three points, and three successful kicks through the uprights for a point apiece.

Other Shamrock scorers were Ostrowski, whose point in the second half put Baltimore in the lead, Quinn and Dr. Murphy.

...From the *Baltimore Sun*, June 1956

***** Next Month - An interview with Top Scorer Tony Kerrigan *****

Player Profiles



Isaac Shay

Age: 24

From: Baltimore

Occupation: Musician / Bike Messenger

Position: Corner Forward

About the GAA: Isaac thinks Gaelic Football is a good work out! Isaac is the only player to attend all practices to date.



Martine Eadie

Age: 26

From: Scotland

Occupation: British Embassy Associate

Position: Corner Forward

About the GAA: Martine thinks the Gaelic Games is easy to pick up and she is happy it is Co-ed.



Jay Brooke

Age: 24

From: Baltimore

Occupation: Student at Johns Hopkins

Position: Center Forward

About the GAA: Jay thinks playing Gaelic Games is a lot more exciting than watching it on the TV.



Roisin Brady

Age: Almost 21

From: Cavan, Ireland

Occupation: Student at BIC

Position: Center Back

About the GAA: Simply put, Roisin thinks that the GAA is good craic!

Up Coming Events

St. Patrick's Parade Fundraisers: The St. Patrick's Parade committee will be running pub fundraisers from now until March 2004. Check www.stpatricksparade.com (or www.baltimoregaa.com) for more details.

Celtic Solstice 5 Mile Run / Walk: This will be on December 20th, a good opportunity to get some exercise over the holiday period, details on the events page on www.baltimoregaa.com.

Baltimore GAA Social: The Baltimore GAA Club would like to have a holiday social event during the holiday season. Date and venue has not yet been decided, but stay tuned to www.baltimoregaa.com for more details.

Musical Events: Stay tuned to our events page on www.baltimoregaa.com to find out about Irish Music acts in the Baltimore area.



BALTIMORE GAA Newsletter

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A Word of Thanks!

The Baltimore GAA Club would like to express their sincerest gratitude to the Emerald Society of the Baltimore City Fire Department. To find out what this society does go to <http://hometown.aol.com/bcfdemso/myhomepage/profile.html>. This society generously gave us a much needed donation that will allow us to buy Hurling and Gaelic Football equipment. Once again, thank you very much.

Baltimore GAA Trophy

On a recent trip to J. Patrick's bar in Locust Point, Joe Byrne offered the Baltimore GAA trophy from the 1980s and 90s as a prize for the Baltimore GAA Spring 2004 tournament. Many thanks - stay tuned for more details.



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.

www.baltimoregaa.com