

Winter Edition
Dec 2024 – Feb 2025



NEWSLETTER



CLG Cheathrú Aodha Dhuibh

Activity Update : December 2024 to February 2025



Breandán Ó Sluáin
Cathaoirleach
Chairperson

***Dia daoibh a chairde,** welcome to the first edition of our Newsletter in the 2024-5 playing season.*

In this season's edition you will meet a few new members of our Executive Committee. We were delighted with the turn-out to our AGM back in November and I am honoured to have been voted in as your Chairperson for another year. It was particularly heartening to witness the amount of silverware on display at the AGM, not least of which was our award for Down GAA Club of the Year 2024, an honour which we are humbled to receive but is testament to all who make this club the success that it is.

Surprise guests at our AGM this year were our Scór na nÓg participants. Our novelty drama production - which won the County award and reached the Ulster finals - is worthy of a special mention, managing as they did to embody the spirit of the GAA and the rivalry of neighbouring clubs with humour and great insight. As well as this, our very talented instrumentalists opened our AGM this year. My thanks in particular to Suzanne Waring for her support and expertise which made this a memorable occasion for all involved.

In another excellent end to the year, and in a repeat of last year's success, our Minor Ladies once again won the Ulster championship on a biting cold December day. The ladies produced a very convincing performance and with tremendous skill on display were more than worthy winners. The weight of the win carries a particular poignancy as it was one of the last outings for our former coach and member Delia McCarron, at which she also witnessed her youngest daughter Isa accept Player of the Match. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam uasal.

As has now become an annual event, we enjoyed a glimmer of light in our Ireland Lights Up walks through the darkness of January and February and I'm personally overwhelmed with the enthusiasm with which our members and wider community continue to rise to this challenge. It will be excellent preparation for getting up extra early in May for our Darkness into Light Walk which we encourage everyone to attend. As an event to highlight mental health and suicide awareness it has a relevance to almost every family.

In the same vein we were privileged to have been approached by the Bergin family who, in memory of their son and brother Eddie, supported Lighthouse in sponsoring our U14 hurlers jersey. To further enhance the importance of seeking and offering support, we have also produced an awareness raising video with the support and acting skills of some of our younger players. Thank you to the Bergin family and to all who helped in any way. Reach out, ask twice. Watch the video here: <https://carryduffgac.com/ask-twice-its-ok-not-to-be-ok/>

Finally, our volunteers, particularly the youngest among them, continue to do us proud and we have had no fewer than 14 of them awarded a Bronze Sports Inspire Award for offering 50+ hours of voluntary service to the club. Of course we have many, many volunteers among our adult membership and it is worth once again stating that we are only ever as successful as our combined efforts. So please, help out when you hear the call, as much as you can for as long as you can, it all adds up.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'B8' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Topping the Table in 2024

BEST IN CLASS!



**Down
Club
of the
Year
2024**



Down LGFA Administrator of the Year 2024 – Sandra Hughes

And at yet another awards night, club Secretary, Sandra Hughes, took home the award for her administrative support to the LGFA through her role.

Congratulations also to Noel Napier – senior Ladies head coach who was nominated for LGFA Coach of the Year. Well done to them both.



Down GAA

Club of the Year 2024 - Carryduff GAC

Determined not to rest on our laurels following achievement of Gaelic Life magazine's Ulster club of the year in 2023, we were delighted to be present at the O'Neill's Down GAA County Dinner in the Canal Court Hotel, Newry on Saturday 16th November, to be awarded the 2024 Down GAA Club of the Year.

The club was recognised for its inclusive and community focused approach and its significant efforts to continue to develop additional codes. Congratulations also to James Guinness who came home with a footballing All-Star and to Daniel Guinness, John McGeough, Conor Cassidy, Conor McAlister and Darragh Goodwin on their All-Star nominations for football and hurling respectively.

Proud Chair Brendan Sloan (left) holding the trophy, is pictured with a range of Committee and club members at the celebration event.

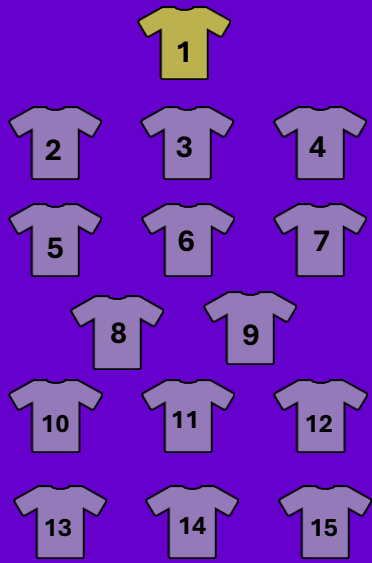
Carryduff GAC

Club Person of the Year 2024 – Maria Gray

Having introduced the All-Stars programme for children and adults with additional needs to the club in Spring 2024, Maria has enthusiastically committed herself to their continued enjoyment.

Although appointed to the Executive Committee just months before, Maria was quick to make her mark by establishing what we hope will be a lasting legacy.

Well done on your club person of the year award Maria!



- 1. Caoimhe Lavery
- 2. Ashling Wojcieszak
- 3. Roisin McKenna
- 4. Eimear McReynolds
- 5. Maria McLornan
- 6. Niamh Napier
- 7. Anna McArdle
- 8. Maebh Napier (C)
- 9. Sophie Kerr
- 10. Grace Loughran
- 11. Isa McCarron
- 12. Ciara McLornan
- 13. Eimear Napier
- 14. Cara Donnelly
- 15. Ellie Sergeant



It was a wonderful day for players and supporters alike when our minor ladies completed a back-to-back success by retaining the Ulster title for a second year. Well done girls and management team – Gerard Sergeant, Noel Napier, Stephen McArdle, Paula Gibney, Maura Moran and Claire Milburn!



Player of the Match
Isa McCarron

PLAYER ACTIVITY

2024 Minor Panel	
Caoimhe Lavery	Assumption Grammar School
Ashling Wojcieszak	Assumption Grammar School
Roisin McKenna	Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock
Eimear McReynolds	Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock
Maria McLornan	Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock
Niamh Napier	Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock
Anna McArdle	Aquinas Grammar School
Maebh Napier	Queen's University, Belfast
Sophie Kerr	Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock
Grace Loughran	Assumption Grammar School
Isa McCarron	Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock
Ciara McLornan	Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock
Eimear Napier	Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock
Cara Donnelly	Assumption Grammar School
Ellie Sergeant	Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock
Cara Cassin	Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock
Lara Deegan	Assumption Grammar School
Eve Bradshaw	Assumption Grammar School
Shauna Cooney	Aquinas Grammar School
Sarah Ella	Trinity College Dublin
Caoimhe Sherry	Assumption Grammar School
Eylessa Brennan	Assumption Grammar School
Rose Horisk	Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock
Lily Meehan	Assumption Grammar School
Orla Hughes	Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock
Rebecca McDonnell	Aquinas Grammar School
Hannah Cassin	Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock
Cara Connolly	Assumption Grammar School
Ellen Farrell	Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock
Evie McHugh	Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock

Carryduff 3-9 (18) An Clochan Liath (Dungloe) 1-3 (6)

PLAYER ACTIVITY

Handball and Camogie

Handball Season
runs until early
March

One Wall training for
primary school age
takes place at
4.30pm on Sundays
at the Parish Hall
and will complete
for the season on
Sunday 9th March

Very well done to Aoife
McGarry and Sean
Holland (right) who beat
Virginia of Cavan in the
Gael Linn U13 mixed
team in Kingscourt.

Although eventually
beaten by a strong
Carrickmore duo they did
the club proud in its first
entry to this competition.
Great work kids!



U16 Camógs playing in Antrim
Winter series (Feb 2025)



ULSTER HANDBALL FUNDAMENTAL SKILLS ACADEMY

Session Schedule

3 Weeks

Skills included: Serves,
Backwall, Roof Shots,
Side Arm and more...

Player Criteria

U12&U13 Age Group

Entered in County
Championships 2025

Can't have won an
Ulster Championship
title

Further Details

Minimum 4 players per
county

Max 8 players per
session (2 courts)

Delivered by Ulster
Development Officers
Fiona Shannon &
Eilise McCrory

fiona.shannon,ulster@gaa.ie
eilise.mccrory.ulster@gaa.ie

ULSTER GAA

As its popularity continues to grow, we were
very proud to have a number of our Handball
players attend Ulster GAA's Fundamental
Skills Academy for Handball in January



2025 Down County Panels – rising stars

PLAYER ACTIVITY

LGFA

- Seniors** Aisling Cull, Meghan Doherty, Claire Milburn
- Minors** Cara Donnelly, Maria McLornan, Isa McCarron, Anna McArdle (all pictured right)
- U16s** Hannah Cassin, Olivia Dean, Abigail Hanvey, Niamh Napier, Evie McHugh
- U14s** Caoimhe Daly



Football

- Seniors** Daniel Guinness, James Guinness, Owen McCabe, John McGeough
- Minors** Joseph Kerr, Owen McHugh (pictured left)
- U15s** Decision pending

Camogie

- U16s** Catriona Blaney, Caitlin Bradshaw, Abigail Hanvey, Lucy Dumigan, Cara Holland
- U14s** Caoimhe Daly, Aoife Gray, Emma Hodkinson, Aoife McGarry (pictured right)



A special word of congratulations to Cara Donnelly (above), Ulster Ladies Gaelic Post Primary School 2025 football All Star for Assumption Grammar

Hurling

- Seniors** Ronan Beatty
- U20s** Lorcan Cooney, David Morrissey, Liam Blaney
- U17s** Fionn Dougan, Tom Hickson, Ben Neal, Daire O'Neill, Conall Vaugh, Aodhan Young, Sean Young
- U16s** Ethan Connolly, Rory Keenan, Ben Neal, Sean Young
- U15s** Phelim Cooney, Ronan Milligan, Fionn O'Neill, Osian Woods



Our Minor Ladies recently attended a very beneficial CPR training session.

They also later attended a talk to raise awareness about ending violence against women and girls.

All of these events were made possible through Ulster GAA's Club Engagement Programme.

Events and Activities



The Minor boys also kept busy during the quieter winter months, attending an invaluable workshop with NIFRS on road safety, followed by another on gambling awareness and finally a very important 'One Punch can Kill' information session.

Player Development – Personal Health and Well-Being and First Aid

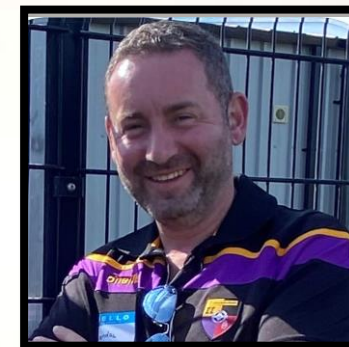




Club Insights



We have been hearing a lot about how important it is to fundraise for the club. Why do we need more money – doesn't our membership cover all our needs?



It is a key part of the role of the Chair and the Treasurer to ensure the club has sufficient funds to operate effectively. We are very fortunate to have a strong membership and are grateful for the income that this brings to our club. However, our running costs includes such things as heating, lighting, pitch maintenance costs, affiliation fees for our players and rental costs for additional facilities to meet the ever-increasing demand for space. Unfortunately, income from membership only covers about 65% of these costs. We need to generate additional income by other means to make up the shortfall. This is where our fundraising is used in the first instance. We encourage and expect teams to play their part in generating funds through events. We also depend greatly on our club and team sponsors; all of whom are advertised in the back pages of each quarterly newsletter and through our website and social media platforms. I'd personally like to thank all the businesses who sponsor, advertise and donate to our club. We strongly encourage you, our wider membership, to support those who support us - their financial support is vital to meet this funding gap - as is your ongoing support as members.

We had our highest ever return from our fundraising efforts last year and the importance of this to the club can't be overstated. As a bonus, many of the fundraising activities involved social events that lots of people could get behind and we want to encourage everyone to make a big effort this year to attend just one more club event. It's a small cost to you as an individual but it all adds up to make a huge difference to your club.

But all of this is short-term, it is literally about keeping the lights on; keeping the day-to-day cogs turning. It is important but it is not enough. I have huge ambitions for this club which includes taking a more long-term strategic look at our financial security. We need to be able to maintain the stable position we have brought the club into financially while also 'saving for a rainy day'. And that is all before we even think about developing our facilities, doing more, offering more, creating a legacy.



Interview with the Chair

DEVELOPMENT NEWS



So, aren't there other ways to source money, like grants and loans that we can utilise for development work?



Unfortunately, the well of external funding is drying up. There was a time when EU money may have been an option but there are very limited opportunities out there any more and when a funding call opens the field is always very competitive. That said we have done much better than many clubs over the last few years with support from the Landfill Communities Fund (via Eastwoods Envirowaste) contributing massively to our development activity and more recently with a significant capital funding commitment from Lisburn and Castlereagh Council which will help us with our development Masterplan - provided we can match their contribution pound for pound.



I am very aware of the need to develop and improve our facilities but often funding opportunities emerge which require a club contribution in place to even allow us to apply. We need to make the club 'oven ready' and the projects 'spade ready' if we are to have any chance to meet future needs around facilities such as a club house. It is a longer-term ambition but I am totally committed to starting now even though these efforts may take many years to come to fruition.



Ok, so you seem to be saying that there needs to be something that sits in the background almost like a savings account in case we get an opportunity to develop something?



Yes, something like that. Those with long memories will recall the old 'Club Carryduff' fund which we recently wound up. It supported a huge amount of development activity. However, we believed it needed a refresh to be ready for newly emerging opportunities. So, what we need, and what is in place in many other clubs, and indeed at County level, is a sustainable fund that all members can buy into. It will operate in the background until we need to access the funding pot to avail of an opportunity to develop our facilities. It won't ever be used for day to day running costs because that is absolutely not its purpose, but this investment will be vital to improve facilities, which will in turn enhance team performance, foster a more vibrant community and attract more members.

And it should appeal equally to people who have a strong life-long affiliation to the club as well as those who are just starting to find us. It is the youngest members who have the most to gain from investing early in our future.

CLG Cheathrú Aodha Dhuibh



Interview with the Chair

DEVELOPMENT NEWS



And is there something already in place we can contribute to?



Yes, we have spent a lot of time planning this. We launched our new Sustainable Development Fund - Cairde Carryduff - at the end of last year and have already had significant interest. There is lots of information about this on our Website but what is important about it is that it can be tailored to match affordability. From as little as £10 per month up to £50 per month for the business option, there is an opportunity for everyone to get involved and invest collectively in our future success. We would really appreciate people signing up and also availing of the various benefits it brings. I am very happy to talk to anyone about how the Scheme works so would welcome a call at any time.



To find out more visit...[Cairde Carryduff - Carryduff GAC](#)

Cairde Carryduff Businesses – they're in, are you?



Conor O'Neill
Accountancy



NOVO

Brown & Brown

nimbus
Managing IT complexity

fireplus
Fire and Safety Equipment

John J Rice & Co
SOLICITORS

McFarland Consulting

SP PLUMBING & HEATING SPECIALISTS

- Complete
- Progressing on target
- Progressing with some delays
- Delayed

Status Update

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

2003/2024 Activities	
1. Purchase and install LED lights for 4 lighting columns on Pitch 2 STATUS - COMPLETE	●
2. Purchase and install benches and bins around the walkway and new bicycle pods on the grounds STATUS - COMPLETE	●
3. Design and develop Pitch 3 (junior pitch) with the aim of it being playable for at least 9 months of the year STATUS - COMPLETE	●
4. Utilise additional £40k provided for through Eastwoods and the LC Fund to complete site works at the south side of Pitch 3 STATUS - COMPLETE	●
2024/2025 Activities	
1. Develop a Master Plan for best use of remaining site space STATUS - COMPLETE	●
2. Host a Members' engagement evening to inform membership about upcoming plans STATUS - COMPLETE	●
3. Await outcome of planning applications submitted in relation to Masterplan STATUS - COMPLETE	●
4. Identify and secure funding sources to support Masterplan Phase 2 costs approx. £580k of which we have now identified a significant proportion STATUS - PROGRESSING ON TARGET	●



Site Masterplan – Phase 1 Completed

Works completed up to June 2024 will be referred to as Phase 1 works
This includes completion of the walkway and pitch 3 development

Site Masterplan – Phase 2 In development

Development Sub-Committee has produced a high-level plan – approved by the EC - to address the club's training and playing needs in the immediate future. These include:

- Floodlights at Pitch 3
- Fencing at Pitch 2
- Surface Improvements at Pitch 2
- New additional 3G facility at top end of Pitch 3

Site Masterplan - Phase 3 To be Agreed

On completion of Phase 2 remaining site needs will be reviewed by the Development Sub-Committee and proposals submitted to Executive Committee for approval

At the same time, we will continue to identify additional funding sources to complete these and other works.

This will include plans and planning approval for a new club house for which specific funding opportunities will need to be identified

Phase 2 Status :-

We are now waiting on our formal Letter of Offer from Lisburn & Castlereagh Council which will allow us to continue the works planned in this Phase.

We have just begun the procurement process to appoint a design team to consider how best to take forward the Phase 2 plans so as to maximise all available space while minimising disruption during the works.

Hopefully you will see some activity beginning to happen over the summer months.



School Liaison Officer

YOUR COMMITTEE

Since joining the club 4 years ago Fiona has been heavily involved in coaching underage, from Nursery to U8.5s and this year moving up to U10.5s. She has two young children who are both also involved in the club.

"It is a pleasure to accept the School Liaison Officer role this year. My two children attend St Ita's Primary and I am keen to bring Gaelic games to all schools in the Carryduff area. Having experienced it myself, it's wonderful to watch my children begin to develop enduring friendships through participation in Gaelic Games."

In my capacity as School Liaison Officer, I hope to encourage other children and their families to get involved and experience the opportunities and sense of community the club has to offer. I have met with many of the schools already and hope to continue to build the connection between schools and the Club over the year."



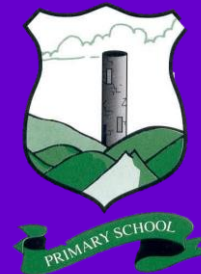
Fiona Keary

Building awareness about the social, cultural and health and well-being opportunities that playing Gaelic games can offer to schools will be beneficial to all parties.

If anyone has any ideas about how to further enhance and strengthen these school/club relations, please contact Fiona on the e-mail below.

schoolliaison@carryduffgac.com

SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT



Excellent and well-established relationships with St. Ita's and St. Joseph's Primary Schools

New relationships forming with Millennium and Cairnshill Integrated Primary Schools.





Volunteer Call – can you help out?

We are always delighted to avail of the skills of members and encourage you to get in touch if you'd like to get involved.

To join our Volunteer Heja Group, where we often post requests for help, please download the [Heja app](#) and enter code

WN-499547

Development Officer

Ryan McCauley has been involved with coaching his son's hurling and football teams at Carryduff for many years. Having last year joined the Development Sub-Committee, he upped the ante this year to accept the role of Club Development Officer.

As Deputy Director of Health Estates and Head of the Health Estates Procurement Standards branch at the Department of Health – which is responsible for the strategic planning, procurement, design and delivery of construction and estates related projects for the Department and its arms length bodies - Ryan brings a wealth of relevant experience to the role.



**Ryan
McCauley**

The Development Sub-Committee makes recommendations to the full Executive Committee and as the club's primary Development Officer, Ryan's duties will include overseeing implementation of the club's Masterplan which includes a programme of pitch improvements and, in the year ahead, the procurement of a new 4g playing facility to allow our teams to train year-round.

We all look forward to a productive and successful year ahead.

TBC Contact via chair email

Health and Safety Officer

Lisa McGovern joined the Committee this year, accepting the role of Health and Safety Officer.

A solicitor who has been involved with coaching her daughter's teams for many years, Lisa first dipped her toe in the management side of the club when she joined the Events sub-committee last year.

"The Health and Safety Officer role is crucial as it ensures the well-being of players, coaches and supporters. The position requires an understanding of health and safety legislation, a proactive approach to risk management, and a commitment to maintaining a safe environment for all Club activities. Volunteering in the Events sub committee gave me an insight to the diligent work of the Committee and the work which goes into every single event. The Club is an amazing community hub and its success lies with the members and brilliant volunteers."



**Lisa
McGovern**

Lisa will also continue to work closely with the Events team to ensure the continued success of our Club activities.

healthandsafety@carryduffgac.com

Carryduff GAC returned to Scór na nÓg in style this year.

2024 Scór na nÓg

CULTURAL ACTIVITY

Our talented soloist Ella reached the semi-final while instrumentalists Eimear and Kate did extremely well to finish 2nd at the Heats to win a place in the County Final.

Our extraordinary quiz masters also did us proud later in November.

On top of all that our amazing novelty (drama) act excelled to take 1st place in the County . They were later defeated in Ulster by a Fermanagh act that went on to win the All-Ireland title.

Perhaps most tellingly, and importantly of all, the club was awarded the prestigious Moya McCormack Cup which recognises the Spirit of Scór.



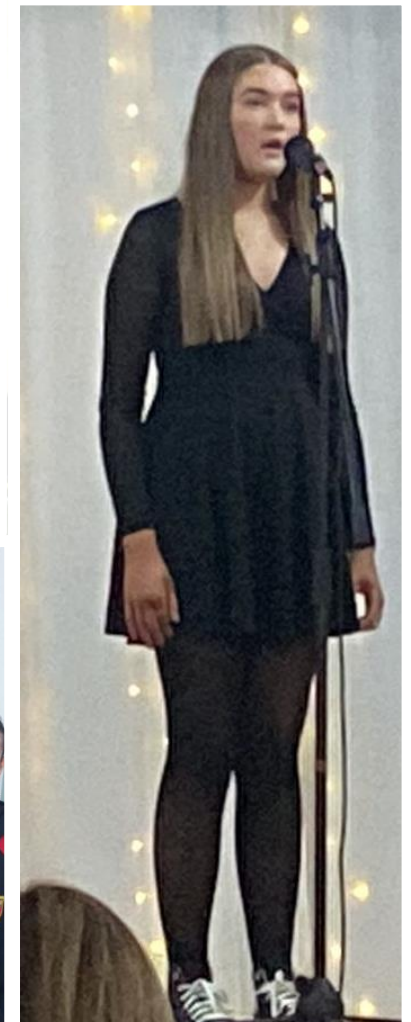
Novelty Act – Eilbhe Byrne; Cara Waring; Annie Mackell; Selma Collins; Fiadh Waring



Instrumental – Eimear McGreer and Kate McAtamney



Quiz Team – Oisín Byrne; Annie Mackell; Torin Deeny; Ciaran O’Loinsigh



Soloist – Ella Coey

CULTURAL ACTIVITY

Culture and Language



Thanks to the experts who helped us celebrate Christmas and St Brigid's Day by teaching us all a few crafty new tricks - plenty of fun for our younger and older members!



Our culture and language calendar remains as busy as ever and helps greatly to bring us over those dark winter nights when weather and light impedes our sporting opportunities.

As well as our increasingly popular Irish language classes, we've enjoyed singing circles, book clubs (with an Irish theme), Christmas wreath making, St Brigid's cross masterclasses and great fun practicing for the Scór na nÓg with our younger members.



In addition, you'll have noticed the plaques dotted around the grounds with QR codes which you can scan with your phone while out walking to learn more about our ancient Celtic festivals. The recordings were completed by pupils at St Joseph's primary school. Thanks to them and their teachers for all the hard work and to the Community Foundation and the Ultach Fund for funding the project.



CLG Cheathrú Aodha Dhuibh



Carryduff All Stars had a fantastic afternoon pizza making courtesy of Ciaran Kelly and James Woods at Pizza Crew Lisburn. Thank you to our sponsors Pizza Crew for their ongoing support.



Festive fun at Christmas time for the Carryduff All Stars and their families



SOCIAL ACTIVITY



Our Camógs were honoured to have former Camóg, and current Olympian, Ciara Mageean drop into the Hub to offer words of sporting wisdom and advice.



A fantastic night had by all the Carryduff GAC representatives celebrating 120 years of Camogie, at the Official Down GAA Gala dinner

SOCIAL ACTIVITY

2024 Christmas Elf Walk

Our third annual elf walk proved another huge success as hundreds of families gathered to enjoy the pre-Christmas festivities and a chance to meet the Big Man himself!



SOCIAL ACTIVITY

Ireland Lights Up 2025



Where in the World did we walk to?

Together we walked a total of 52,977km during the 6-week challenge. If we were to set off East in a straight line – assuming we could also walk on water (!) - we would have circumnavigated the globe after 40,075km. If we continued at the same latitude as Carryduff on the map for the additional 12,902km we would end up at the Krasnoyarsk Krai Mountains in central Siberia (photo included)! **Let's try for somewhere more tropical next year!**

Carryduff GAC 2025 Leaderboard

Name	2024 Total	2025 Total
Brian Lamont	835.2km	895.9km
Paul Proctor	-	837.8km
Richard Doherty	-	735.3km
Marius Mulligan	852.8km	681.6km
Sean Latimer	915.8km	640.6km
Johnny Bradshaw	575.4km	623.4km
Claire Proctor	-	609.4km
Eamonn McKeever	-	605.9km
Brendan Gallagher	-	596.6km
Fiona O'Rawe	-	588.3km
Top 10 travelled	6,967.8km	6,814.8km
Carryduff walkers- total	67,998.8Km (353 walkers)	52,977.2km (224 walkers)
	1st in Ulster 2nd in Ireland	2nd in Ulster 2nd in Ireland

Ireland Lights Up/Steps Challenge ran from Monday 6th January for 6 weeks and 224 walkers (members and the wider community) signed up to have their steps counted with Carryduff GAC.

In another hugely successful Steps Challenge Carryduff GAC finished 2nd in Ulster and 3rd in Ireland out of upwards of 1000 participating GAA clubs!

Well done to one and all!



Awards and Accolades

In an outstanding reflection of the dedication of our youth volunteers, Carryduff GAC have no fewer than 14 young people due to receive the Sports Inspire Bronze Award which is jointly administered by Ulster GAA, IFA and Ulster Rugby to young people who complete at least 50 volunteer hours each at their clubs.



Congratulations to:

- ✓ Aidan Caughey
- ✓ Cara Connolly
- ✓ Orla Cooney
- ✓ Patrick Fowler
- ✓ Conor Gilmore
- ✓ Orla Hughes
- ✓ Lochlann McCaffrey
- ✓ Aisling McCaul
- ✓ Ronan McCullagh
- ✓ Thomas McGarry
- ✓ Evie McHugh
- ✓ David Morrissey
- ✓ Eimear Napier
- ✓ Niamh Napier

Awards Ceremony to be held in The Mac on March 26th.



Well done Sean!

Lisburn & Castlereagh Council Sports Person with a Disability of the Year – Club member, Sean McCartan.
Sean was a member of the Ulster Special Olympics squad that took part in the Irish Winter Games where he stormed home with a Gold in the intermediate slalom and a bronze in the intermediate giant slalom. (Sean is pictured with his parents Mark and Joan)

Well done to the U16 girls from Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock on winning the Ulster Post-Primary School final - A division - on 29th January.

We are so proud of Ellen Farrell, Evie McHugh, Orla Hughes, Fiona O'Neill, Orla McReynolds, Emer Heverin, Rhea Fitzgerald, Hannah Cassin, Rose Horisk, Anna Tinnelly, Niamh Napier, Abigail Hanvey, Cara Holland, Catriona Blaney and Isa Mc Carron who was assisting on the sidelines. We wish every success to the girls in the next stage of the competition – AISF Mar 5th 2pm at Louth Centre of Excellence.



Presented monthly to young volunteers whose efforts best demonstrate the volunteering ethos and community spirit of the GAA, we are super proud of our Minor footballer **Maria McLornan (left)** who was awarded the Translink Ulster GAA Young Volunteer of the Month award for October 2024.

Maith thú Maria!

CLG Cheathrú Aodha Dhuibh



Reaching Out



The recently opened £1.7m pitches facility at Lough Moss

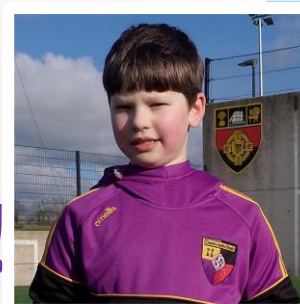
New Shared 3G Facility at Lough Moss

The new floodlit facility boasts a full size G.A.A. pitch – which will give the club an additional state-of-the-art venue for training and matches; a huge help with the challenges of finding space for our ever-increasing numbers.



NEWS

Poc Fada!



Fionn Mc Cool

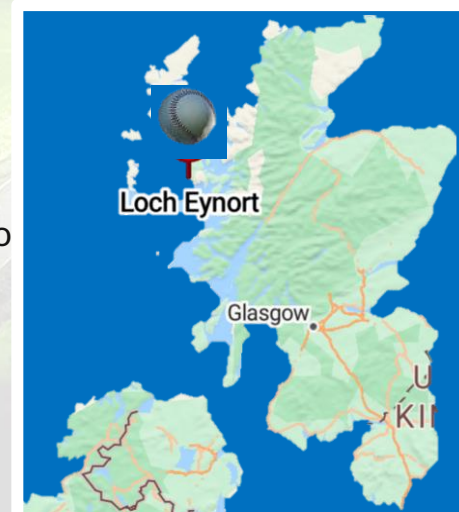


We might have collectively walked to Siberia, but surely no-one has ever pucked a sliotar from Donegal to Scotland – until now!

Eight-year-old Fionn O'Neill (above) was delighted to be reunited with his lost sliotar in February 2025, eight months after he last played with in on the beach in Donegal. While walking along the coast near his home in Loch Eynort in Scotland, Donald Mac Isaac (right) found the hurling ball with a name and the crest of Carryduff and decided to find out where it came from.

As a fluent Scottish Gaelic speaker, he instantly recognised the Irish Gaelic and set to work, making contact with Carryduff and ultimately reuniting a delighted Fionn with his ball. The uplifting tale made the BCC headlines in both regions.

If you can beat that story we'd love to hear from you!





Membership – Sign Up

NEWS

Club Lotto

Many thanks to the hundreds of Club members who participate in our weekly Lotto Draw in the hope of winning up to £150 by matching 3 numbers, or of taking home the Jackpot – which currently stands at the maximum permitted £20,000!

Since October 21,600 Lotto tickets have been sold, representing a 27% increase on the same period last year. So far this year we have given out £3,150 in prizes and added a further £7,683 to our Jackpot Fund.

If you don't already play the Lotto, why not start today by scanning in the QR code above or clicking on the link below
https://www.klubfunder.com/Clubs/Carryduff_GAC/lotto

2025 Club Membership

- Application for Membership remains open all year
- Membership for all codes runs from 1st January through to 31 December.
- Anyone wishing to train, play or coach must have their 2025 membership in place before commencing.

Players of all ages are reminded that they are not covered by the GAA Injury Fund if they do not have 2025 membership at the time of any injury incurred.

- Instalments are available to spread the cost.
- Adult players and families who took their membership out before the 28/2/25 received a free Down Draw ticket worth £120.
- Please visit our [website](#) for further information



Gym Membership

If you are 12+ and wish to join the gym please contact Maria
healthandwellbeing@carryduffgac.com

Membership options include

- £100 upfront annual payment or
- £10 per month direct debit

Options can be found on [klubfunder](#)

Opening times 6am-midnight

You will receive a fob to enable entry at your own convenience within those hours.

Set your alarm:
Saturday 10 May

Darkness
into
light

supported by
electric
ireland

SIGN UP
SAVE LIVES

Join Carryduff GAC's Occasional
Book Club focusing on books or
authors with an Irish connection.

Last Thursday each month @ the
Hub

Contact [AnaMarie](#) for more
information

All welcome to Carryduff
GAC's Singing Circle
Wednesdays @ the Hub
6:30-7:30pm
Until End March
No expertise required!

What's Coming Up
– Save the dates!

NEWS



Event	Date & Time	Location
Singing Circle (weekly on Wednesdays)	To end March	Carryduff GAC @ The Hub (for 5 weeks)
Book Club (monthly on Thursdays)	Last Thursday	Carryduff GAC @ The Hub
Seachtain na Gaeilge (events tbc)	10-17 th March	Watch out for details on social media
Drámaíocht & Dreolín (age 7+)	Sat 7 th March 6pm	St Josphe's Hall, Carryduff
St Patrick Day celebrations	Sunday 16 th March	Carryduff GAC @ The Hub (10-12noon)
World Book Day book Sale	Saturday 8 th May	Carryduff GAC @ The Hub
Darkness Into Light Walk 2025	Saturday 10 th May	Carryduff GAC @ The Hub

For more details about any of our events please contact eventsofficer@carryduffgac.com

For Irish language and cultural activities please contact culturalofficer@carryduffgac.com

HURLING & CAMOGIE NURSERY & P1



Starting: Sunday March 2nd

9:15 AM @ 3G PITCH
EVERY SUNDAY

- Learn the game in a fun, structured, and safe environment
- All boys & girls aged 4 welcome (must turn 4 before July 2025)
- Hurls provided with helmets available to rent/buy from the hub
- Club membership covers both football and hurling
- Everyone is welcome regardless of ability
- Join Heja for more details heja.io/download/IQ555280



Scan Me

Nursery and Primary 1 children –
Saturday and Sunday mornings

GAA FOOTBALL

NURSERY
2025



GAA FOOTBALL NURSERY ACADEMY
SATURDAY 5TH APRIL
9AM START

FUN-BASED GAMES TO DEVELOP MOVEMENT & SKILLS
FOR CHILDREN AGED 4-5 YEARS. FOOTBALL FOCUSED.
TO REGISTER, PLEASE VISIT
WWW.CARRYDUFFGAC.COM

What's Coming Up – Training



CARRYDUFF GAC 2025 COACH EDUCATION

CLG Cheathrú Aodha Dhuibh

Award 1 Youth Football and Hurling Courses

HURLING AND FOOTBALL THEORY - SATURDAY 1ST MARCH
 FOOTBALL PRACTICAL - SATURDAY 15TH MARCH
 HURLING PRACTICAL - SATURDAY 29TH MARCH

Training Opportunities	Date & Time	Location
Award 1 Football	Sat. 1 st March	Carryduff GAC (contact Coaching Officer)
Award 1 Hurling	Sat. 1 st March	Carryduff GAC (contact Coaching Officer)
Safeguarding	Wed. 5 th March @7pm	https://learning.gaa.ie/node/290024
Safeguarding	Tues. 11 th March Carryduff @7pm	https://learning.gaa.ie/node/289468
Award 1 Football	Sat. 15 th March	Carryduff GAC (contact Coaching Officer)
Safeguarding	Tues. 18 th March St Paul's, Hollywood @7pm	https://learning.gaa.ie/node/289848
Safeguarding	Fri. 28 th March @ 7pm	Virtual (TBC contact Children's Officer)
Award 1 Hurling	Sat. 29 th March	Carryduff GAC (contact Coaching Officer)
Safeguarding	Mon 31 st March @ 7pm.	Virtual (TBC contact Children's Officer)
Snr. Ladies Easter Camp	Thu. 24 th and Fri. 25 th April 10am-1pm	TBC (contact Coaching Officer)

If you are aged 16+ and wish to volunteer *in any capacity at a GAA club* it is a requirement of the GAA that you complete a Safeguarding course (see dates above) **and** secure Access NI clearance. For more details about any of our safeguarding opportunities or requirements please contact childrensofficer.carryduff.down@gaa.ie

For more details about any of our coaching opportunities please contact
coachingofficer@carryduffgac.com

YOUR COMMITTEE

Playing Contacts 2025

Each code has a representative on the Executive Committee. These people work with your team managers to ensure effective two-way engagement between managers and the Committee.

Our Players' Representative is there to represent the needs of all our senior playing members – across all codes.

Our Coaching Officer helps to organise appropriate and current training and support for our full cohort of coaches and players.

Should you have any issues with regard to training or matches please speak to the relevant Head Coach (see table to the right) in the first instance and, if necessary, raise with the relevant Head of Code (above).

Child/Vulnerable Adult welfare issues should be raised with the Children's Officer

Heads of Code 2025



Hurling
Ronan McCaughey

hurling@carryduffgac.com



LGFA – Ladies Football
Stephen Magorrian

carryduff.down@LGFA.ie



Male Football
Paul Dougan

malefootball@carryduffgac.com



Camogie
Maeve Holland

secretary.carryduff.down@camogie.ie

Supporting Officers



Snr Players' Representative
– all codes
Ronan Lawlor

playersrep@carryduffgac.com



Coaching Officer
- all codes
Orla Napier

coachingofficer@carryduffgac.com

Head Coaches 2025

	Hurling	Camogie	Male Football	LGFA*
Senior	Michael Ennis	N/A	Finnian Moriarity	Noel Napier
Reserves/Intermed.	Niall Watson	N/A	Rory McGrath	Paula Gibney
Minor	Peter Murray	N/A	Paul Hickson	Damian Horisk
Under 16	James Byrne	Michael Holland	Barry Donnelly	Stevie Cassin
Under 14	Damian Caughey	Conor McGarry	Gerry Collins	David Garvin
Under 12	John McCaffrey	Mark Graham / Phil Waring	Eamon O'Neill	David Kelly
Under 10.5 / P6	Fiona Keary	Brendan Cawley	Ryan McCauley	John Mackle
Under 9.5 / P5	N/A	N/A	N/A	John Conlon
Under 8.5 / P4	Mark McGinley	Aideen Devlin	Garret Greene	Maura Moran
Under 7.5 / P3	Padraig Bolger	Ruairi McKay	Gareth Moore/Johnathan Strain	Ruari McKay
Under 6.5 / P2	Ruairi Boyle	Roisin McAlister	Davin Hanlon	John Hearty
Nursery Academy	Caoimhin Graham / Donal Rooney		Myles McCann	

*G4MO coach – Bronagh Papenfus



Safeguarding

YOUR COMMITTEE

Children's Officer

Hilary White



- Safeguarding is a key focus of all organisations that deal with children and vulnerable adults and the GAA is no exception.
- Safeguarding protects the most vulnerable of our members but also protects our volunteers by offering clear guidance to ensure they always follow correct procedure
- County Boards offer training on safeguarding continually through the year and **it is a requirement of all volunteers in Carryduff that they complete Level 1 safeguarding as a minimum. They must also have current Access NI (police checks) clearance in place**
- Your Children's Officer – to whom concerns can be raised in the first instance – is Hilary White. Chairperson Brendan Sloan acts as the club's Designated Liaison Person with responsibility for issues that are escalated and require additional interventions including, potentially, social services or police involvement. Club Secretary Sandra Hughes is deputy DLP in the event of any conflict of interest. All three officers have been fully trained for their positions and you should have no hesitation coming forward if you have a concern about any abuse or risk of abuse (physical, emotional, sexual or other)
- All conversations will be restricted to these individuals and information shared will remain strictly confidential
- Our Safeguarding Statement is available on our website and is positioned at various locations around our premises

Chairperson of
Carryduff GAC and

Designated Liaison Person (DLP) Brendan Sloan



Secretary of Carryduff
GAC and **Deputy**

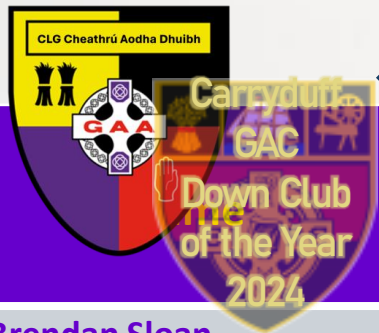
Designated Liaison Person (DDL) Sandra Hughes



Childrensofficer.carryduff.down@gaa.ie

Chairperson.carryduff.down@gaa.ie

Secretary.carryduff.down@gaa.ie



2025 Executive Committee

YOUR COMMITTEE

	Role(s)	E-mail Address
Brendan Sloan	Chair / Designated Liaison Person - safeguarding	chairperson.carryduff.down@gaa.ie
Sandra Hughes	Secretary	secretary.carryduff.down@gaa.ie
Conor O'Neill	Treasurer / Head of Finance	treasurer.carryduff.down@gaa.ie
Niall McCullagh	Registrar	registrar.carryduff.down@gaa.ie
Philip Loughran	PRO	pro.carryduff.down@gaa.ie
Eamon Rooney	Assistant Secretary (pitch booking, fixtures and transfer activity)	assistantsecretary.carryduff.down@gaa.ie
Ronan Lawlor	Players' Representative	playersrep@carryduffgac.com
Orla Napier	Coaching Officer	coachingofficer@carryduffgac.com
Hilary Whyte	Children's Officer	childrensofficer.carryduff.down@gaa.ie
AnaMarie Magorrian	Culture and Language Officer	culturalofficer@carryduffgac.com
Paul Dougan	Head of Male Football / Compliance and Insurance	malefootball@carryduffgac.com
Maria Gray	Health & Well Being Officer / Head of GAA All Stars	healthandwellbeing@carryduffgac.com
Maeve Holland	Head of Camogie / County Rep Camogie	secretary.carryduff.down@camogie.ie
Fiona Keary	School Liaison Officer	schoolliaison@carryduffgac.com
Stephen Magorrian	Head of Ladies Football / County Rep LGFA	carryduff.down@LGFA.ie
Ryan McCauley	Development Officer	TBC via chairperson.carryduff.down@gaa.ie
Ronan McCaughey	Head of Hurling	hurling@carryduffgac.com
Lisa McGovern	Health & Safety Officer	healthandsafetyofficer@carryduffgac.com
Claire Morris	Events and Fundraising Officer	eventsofficer@carryduffgac.com



Go raibh maith agaibh
Please support those who support us

TEAM SPONSORS



Team Sponsorship Opportunities available in All codes

Ladies Football - Intermediate, U14
Hurling – Reserves, Minors, U16
Camogie – U16

To sponsor a team please contact
Brendan on 07710063925

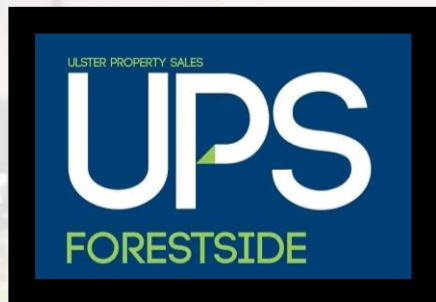


To sponsor a team please contact Brendan on 07710063925

Go raibh maith agaibh

Please support those who support us

TEAM SPONSORS





PITCH SIDE SPONSORS
Please support those who support us
To advertise your business at our pitches please contact
Brendan on 07710063925





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