

Down GAA Update

EXTRA TIME – Saturday 30th May 2020



- [This week's edition of Extra Time can be viewed online by Clicking here](#)
- [This week's edition of Extra Time can be download in PDF Format by Clicking here](#)

Welcome again to our Newsletter Extra time. This weekend should have been one of our busiest of the year to date, this evening we should have had our glad rags on, our Race Cards in hand and been heading to Down Royal on what will be a glorious summer evening. Last year we had a great day at the Races and interest was good for this year, for your perusal we attach some images from the event in 2019 and when we do next get to the Races make sure that you are in the winner's enclosure!



Our Senior Hurlers should have been heading to Roscommon on Saturday for a Christy Ring Cup tie against the hosts but again it is not to be and we hope that we will see Christy Ring action in 2020.

Our football leagues would now be at Series 8 and there should have been some tasty ties this weekend, in Division One Kilcoo would have been hosting Burren, in Division Two there would have been a big interest in St Johns v Castlewellan, Division Three would have been at Series 10 and a local derby Tullylish v Clann na Banna whilst in Division 4 Junior Champions Bright would have been entertaining St Pauls.

We ask you all to please remain patient and just to reemphasise some key points:

- Our Grounds and our must remain Closed until there is Official Notification.
- Our Walkways must remain closed until there is Official Notification.
- Small Groups cannot come together to train.

Club Committees can only meet by the use of technology and online by using Zoom or Microsoft Teams.

OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION

County Chairman John Devaney has confirmed to Clubs that when we have definite detail on a return to play, there will be a meeting of the County Committee to brief everyone on our plans for Competitions in 2020.

That meeting will most likely be conducted online, when the time is right and we have official notification of a roadmap for a return to play then we will call such a meeting.



CLUB MAITH



Ulster GAA will deliver The Club Maith Pathway webinar on Monday 8th June at 7pm.

This session will:

- Provide an overview of the Club Maith Pathway
- Outline the benefits of engaging in the process
- Highlight the requirements
- Demonstrate the online portal for uploading evidence

This webinar is open to any club interested in beginning their Club Maith application or for those who are currently involved but may seek clarity on some of the requirements.

The event will be hosted via Microsoft Teams. You can access Teams through your web browser, or you can download the Teams application onto your device.

All registered participants will be emailed the link to the webinar on the morning of Monday 8th June.

To register please complete your registration at the following link: clubmaith.eventbrite.co.uk

HEALTH AND WELLBEING WEBINAR

Next weeks' Community & Health webinar will take place on Wednesday the 3rd of June at 7 pm and will focus on 'The Role of Health & Wellbeing in GAA County Structures'. We will be joined on the night by Michael Duignan (Offaly County Board Chairperson), Niall Dunne (Mayo CHWC Chairperson), and Damien McHugh (Fermanagh CHWC Chairperson).

The aim of this webinar is to provide guidance to CHWC's and County Boards on the role that health and wellbeing is playing during the current crisis and its importance year-round. Further details can be found in the attached press release.

Webinar Details

Date: Wednesday the 3rd of June 2020

Time: 7pm – 8pm

Access: To access the webinar on the night please click on the following link: [Join Microsoft Teams Live Webinar.](#)

PITCH MAINTENANCE ADVICE



Our pitches have seldom been quieter than they have been for the last two and a half months.

However, when we do return, it's likely they will be in high demand by various club teams.

Many clubs have been maintaining their playing facilities over the course of the pandemic.

Our National Pitch Maintenance Working Group have prepared a document ([please click here to download](#)) to assist clubs in maintaining their pitches and can be contacted at the following email address with any queries: nationalpitchmaintenanceworkgroup@gaa.ie



Get your Limited Edition
Down GAA Paypoint Card
for your Home
Heating Oil



MORGANFUELS.COM



The temporary postponement of our games and training sessions has undoubtedly impacted on many of us including our underage teams and the children and young people in our clubs, i.e. those under 18 years of age and their families.

It is however always gratifying to hear of coaches and clubs who have recently contacted us seeking permission during these restricted times to deliver live online exercise and coaching sessions for our underage teams. With the correct safety guidance and good practices in place, we wish to support such initiatives.

In the downloads section of this page you will find protocols around organising these sessions, outlining the safeguards that must be adhered to when staging this type of activity and a guide to using 'Microsoft Teams', an online collaboration tool which is available to holders of official GAA email addresses and can be used to organise club activities with members.

For the safety of all of our members, please ensure you do not organise or participate in sessions that do not follow the GAA's guidance on this area. [For more visit GAA.ie by clicking here](#)

GAA LEARNING WEBSITE

The GAA Learning platform at learning.gaa.ie is host to a series of Games Development initiatives building on the vast array of resources and courses published in recent years that are now providing a very valuable outlet for Coaches, Players, and Teachers without the opportunity to perform their usual roles in the promotion and playing of our games.

Some of these initiatives include:

- GAA Primary Challenges
 - Lesson Plans & Physical Activities for Primary School Children
- Coaching Webinars
 - Live and recorded webinars with leaders in Coaching and Coach Education
- 100's of activities to Coach Hurling, Football, Handball and Rounders on the GAA Coaching Planner <https://learning.gaa.ie/planner/>
- Games Development Conference Videos and Presentations from 2014 to 2020 <https://learning.gaa.ie/GamesConference2020>
- 'GAA 15' Injury Prevention Programme <https://learning.gaa.ie/gaa15>
- Céim ar Aghaidh Resources for Primary School <https://learning.gaa.ie/ceim>
- The Skills of Hurling <https://learning.gaa.ie/hurlingskills>
- The Skills of Football <https://learning.gaa.ie/footballskills>
- Online Courses and Workshops for Coaches, Players, Referees and Administrators
- LGFA and Camogie Resources and Programmes

VOLUNTEER WEEK JUNE 1ST- 7TH

Volunteer Week is next week and usually Volunteer Now encourage organisations to celebrate their volunteers but this year the focus will be on Thanking all those volunteers who not only continued to volunteer if they could but also those hundreds of new volunteers who responded to the current crisis.

Volunteer Now are going to carry a story each day on social media during volunteer week covering 7 themes. I want to mirror this here in Newry, Mourne and Down so it would be great if you could email me any good news/ thanks story about your volunteers that would be relevant to the 7 themes below:

1. Monday – Listening and Support
2. Tuesday – Youth Volunteering
3. Wednesday – Fundraising
4. Thursday – Covid Response
5. Friday – Environment and Heritage
6. Saturday – Arts and Culture
7. Sunday – Sports

It is such an unusual time that has resulted in a surge in volunteering so it would be great to share several stories throughout each day so anything at all would be great. If you can send through photos that would be great too!! If you are doing anything yourselves for Volunteer Week let me know and we can share that too.

In the meantime stay safe.

Clara O'Callaghan
Clara.O'Callaghan@volunteernow.co.uk
Volunteering Support Officer for Newry, Mourne & Down

RED AND BLACK DAY

Congratulations to all, Young and Old, at Home and Overseas who took part in our Red and Black Day last Sunday, it was great to see us hang out our brightest colours and I have no doubt that the 16th man the Down Supporters would have got us over the line last Sunday if we had been in Brewster Park. Congratulations to our PR Committee for their initiative and we now look forward to their plans for La na gClubanna which is planned for June 7th, the day when we should now be preparing for an Ulster Semi Final.

Down GAAs Red and Black day a major success

Down GAA's Red and Black day which was held on Sunday 24th May has been a major success with hundreds and hundreds of photos of supporters donning their Jersey's, hats, flags and headbands submitted online to Down GAA's Official Social Media Channels.

Down GAA's Senior and Minor Footballers were due to travel to Enniskillen on Sunday the 24th May to take on Fermanagh in their opening game of the 2020 Ulster Championship, while the Senior Hurlers should have already played two games in this year's Christy Ring Cup having been due to take on Kildare and London.

Down GAA PR Committee had asked supporters on Sunday to upload photos on Social Media and to tag @OfficialDownGAA and #RedandBlack of them in their County colours as if they were attending a Down match and supporting the boys in red and black.

Commenting on the success of the project Down GAA County Chairperson John Devaney stated

"The initiative to invite supporters from across the county to don their red and black on what should have been our opening Ulster championship day reminded us of what we are missing. But we hope that the opportunity to take on Fermanagh and get our championship campaign under way will come again. Our supporters are itching to get back to what is so familiar to them in summer time, so wearing the county colours gives them some sense of desire to see action soon again."

"Now, with the continued absence of football and hurling, our online attention turns to a virtual Lá na gClub Day. To add some colour to an empty early summer, later in June we hope that our clubs, members and supporters put on their club colours and brighten up our social media. I commend our PR and Communications Committee for these ideas, and I really do hope the clubs promote this one far and wide within their units and their communities."

Down GAA PR Committee will be in contact with our Clubs in the coming days about the virtual Lá na gClub.

Below is some of the images we received. Check out our social media channels for more or watch are combination of some of them in this video: [Click here to view video images.](#)







**RED & BLACK DAY!
SUNDAY 24th MAY**

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE
WHO SENT IN PHOTOS

Follow us online:
DownGAA.net

f t i

#DownGAA

IT DOWN GAA ON ULSTER
PATRONSHIP WEEKEND BY
BRAND CREATIVITY COLOURS!

**100% DAY!
4TH MAY**

IT DOWN GAA ON ULSTER
PATRONSHIP WEEKEND BY
BRAND CREATIVITY COLOURS!

[Click here to watch video](#)

FROM JUNE 8TH GAA SHOULD BE ABLE TO APPLY TO OPEN WALKING TRACKS

The GAA is set to partially reopen some of its facilities on Monday 8th June as part of its phased plan on lifting of Coronavirus restrictions. It is hoped that GAA clubs after the 8th June will be able to re-open designated walking tracks, subject to engagement with Croke Park and relevant County Boards around a facilities management plan.



The GAA do not envisage a return to training in small groups at this stage and pitches and playing areas are to remain closed. However this may be reviewed in the next phase of lifting restrictions.

The GAA has also confirmed that it will publish its Return to Safe Activity Document when the Irish government signals that the country has moved to the second phase of its plan. The GAA has stuck rigidly to the government's plan and dates from the outset of this outbreak and will continue to do so, taking advice from medical experts and the GAA own Advisory Committee.

The GAA re-affirmed its position that no one is keener to return to games and general games-related activity but this will only be considered when it is acceptable to do so to maximise the safety and well-being of its players, members and wider society.

MAKE SURE YOUR CLUB TAKES PART IN GAA COACHES SURVEY



The GAA has launched the largest coaching survey in the history of Irish sport – Please make sure your club takes part. The Online survey will for the first time bring in the entire Gaelic games community - with coaches across every levels of football, hurling, camogie, handball and rounders encouraged and urged to make their voices heard.

The survey should take no more than 15 minutes to complete, and is completely anonymous, and confidential, so that, coaches can be as honest as possible. The GAA have committed to producing a number of different reports from the survey, one for every county, each province, and across the entire response rate.

[Please click here for the GAA survey:](https://learning.gaa.ie/coachsurvey)
<https://learning.gaa.ie/coachsurvey>

ARCHIVE



This week the BBC Championship clips online showed highlights of a Down Hurling Team preparing for a meeting with Kerry in a final in 1983 under the watchful eye of Michael Keenan, this got me digging in the archives and I found that indeed Down played Kerry in the All Ireland B Final in Croke Park on this weekend 29th May in 1983.

The Score was Kerry 3-16 Down 2-13, with Kerry always the dominant side.

The Down Team that day was:

N Keith (Ballycran); G Savage (Ballygalget); B Bell (Ballycran); P Dorrian (Ballycran); P Hughes (Ballycran); P McMullan (Portaferry); E Sheehan (An Riocht); C O Flynn (Ballycran); P Branniff (Ballygalget); P Savage (Ballygalget); G Coulter (Ballygalget); B Coulter (Ballygalget); H Gilmore (Ballycran); B Gilmore (Ballycran); K O Neill (Ballyvarley)

The real hurling story of the summer of 1983 was the performance of the Under 21 team. Down won the Ulster title and were due to face Tipperary in Thurles in the All Ireland Semi Final, approaches were made to Tipperary in the spirit of the Game to concede home advantage and to travel to Down.

In a very sporting response Tipperary agreed to play the game in McKenna Park in Ballycran on the last Sunday of July. It was a thrilling encounter by all accounts, Tipperary edged ahead and at the interval led by 1-7 to 0-5, Down were matching Tipperary man for man and the Crowd were behind the home team.

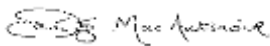
The second half had barely started when Hugh Gilmore had the ball in the Tipperary net, the margin was now down to two, the Munster men added four points in quick succession but Paddy Branniff brought the margin back to five with a monster point. Four more points from Tipperary to a single Martin Bailie score left Down trailing by eight points. It was all or nothing now for Down as the selectors made positional switches. Twenty five minutes were on the clock when Hugh Gilmore set the game alight with his second goal and within a minute he had a hat trick and now there was only two pints between the sides.

A pointed free steadied the Munster men and in a dramatic finish Paddy Branniff came so close to an equaliser. It was not to be Tipperary survived a scare in the Peninsula on a final score of 1-16 to Down's 3-7. Many of this Down side went on to be the back bone of our great Hurling Teams of the 1990s.

Watch the video by click here: <https://www.facebook.com/THECHAMPIONSHIP/videos/1083638092005738/>

We again appeal to people that we are open for Archive materials, Match Programmes, Old Newspapers please do not discard especially now when we are all tidying up, we will have a Down Museum in our new centre at Ballykinlar and we need materials to have on display for future generations.

Please contact Seán Óg 07739700705 if you wish to share with us any archive materials.



Seán Óg Mac an tSaoir

Seán Óg McAteer
Runaí Coiste Chontae an Dúin
46-48 Main Street, Castlewellan, County Down. BT31 9DG

Mobile : 07739700705 Tel: 028 437 70880

Down GAA Main Sponsors

EOS IT Solutions

Down GAA Associate Sponsors

Morgan Fuels		The Parador Belfast		O'Neills Sportswear		Eamonn Rooney Coach Hire
Autoline Insurance		O Hare and McGovern Construction		The Quays Shopping Centre		Modern Tyres
The Murdock Group		Martin Fegan Transport		The Milestone Rathfriland		The Canal Court Hotel/Carrickdale Hotel
Tullyraine Quarries		Killowen Contracts		Mc Cartan Bros Newry		HMT Shipping Warrenpoint
Ulster Bank Ltd		KN Group		Highline Construction New York		Ciaran Russell Auto Sales



Follow us online:



DownGAA.net



#OfficialDownGAA

