Hello Again and welcome to latest edition of Extra time.

We are now getting closer to the possibilities of GAA pitch activities in 2020, the GAA Road Map sets out how that can happen and with this detail, we in Down GAA can set out to our Clubs our path on that Road Map. Coiste Banisti will meet by Microsoft Teams on Monday night next 8th June and then we would fully intend calling an online meeting of the County Committee to give approval to our plans for the remainder of 2020. Details will also be outlined to Clubs in regard to matters of Finance and Insurance for the remainder of 2020, we were after all fully active from November to Mid-March and now we will be resuming hopefully by July time, obligations still have to be met.

We will have a window of opportunity to play Club Championships and the CCC have been engaged in preparing for any possible return to play.

A return to play will bring with it a different set of challenges to what we have ever been used to and in the public interest we must embrace the challenges and regulations set before us to ensure the health and well-being of our members, their families and their friends. It will be different there is no doubting that but by adhering to what we need to do then we will have the opportunity to play games in the Summer and Autumn of 2020.

In the interim we again remind our Clubs to adhere to the regulations at present until the agreed dates as outlined, this means that it is not in order to train on the local Council facilities at present, it is not permitted to train on the local farmers land, you cannot accept his offer, It is not permitted to go and train on the local 'Green' - you are putting your players at risk, they are not covered by Insurance, you are putting their families at risk and you are showing a blatant disregard for the ethos of our Association. Be patient and follow the return to play protocol.

The good news story of the week is that the gaels in East Belfast have complied with rule in making application to be affiliated to Down GAA, this will be considered at the next meeting of the County Committee with the hope that they can soon become a part of the family that is Down GAA. The story has captured the imagination of the general public over the past week and we in Down GAA are delighted that we would have again a Club in this part of Belfast, a city that is after all a City of Two Counties Down and Antrim.

SYMPATHY

On behalf of Down GAA we extend our deepest sympathy to the family of the late Terry McArdle of Castlewellan who died during the week. Terry won a League and Championship with Castlewellan in 1979 and was a great supporter of 'the Town'. He was a man who loved a GAA Jersey and would make his way up to the County Office to see if there were any new designs planned, but most of all he had pride in wearing his Castlewellan Jersey and he always had a smile even when he was ill. A gentleman who will be missed by his sons, daughters and grandchildren. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

We also extend our sympathy to Phil Sloan and family on the loss of a much loved husband and father John. John Sloan is the father of An Riocht Chairperson Raymond and to the entire.

GAA 'RETURN TO PLAY' ROADMAP

The GAA has outlined plans for a safe return to action including key dates for the re-opening of all pitches and when club and inter-county competitions can resume.

The Covid-19 Advisory Group, chaired by Shay Bannon, unveiled its 'Return To Play' roadmap for the Association, the LGFA and the Camogie Association, consisting of four phases: from Phase Two (8 June), Phase Three - 29 June, Phase Four - 20 July and through to Phase Five - 10 August.
Sloan family circle we offer our prayers at this sad and difficult time. John was involved in various roles in the An Riocht club including manager and Football Chairperson, he is also the last connection with the St Malachy’s Lisnacree Championship winning team from 1954.

To the family of Mary Burns a stalwart of the Irish Medium community in Kilkeel, who passed away this week we also extend our deepest sympathy.

GAA training for adults and juvenile teams will return in small groups on 29 June when pitches are set to re-open. Designated walking tracks may re-open beforehand.

31 July sees the resumption of club competitions including juvenile and youth competitions while inter-county training can resume on 14 September in preparation for games in mid-October.

**Key dates:**

- **8 June**
  Designated walking tracks may re-open

- **29 June**
  All GAA pitches to re-open, small group training for adults and juvenile teams

- **20 July**
  Collective outdoor training can resume, Covid Supervisors required to check temperatures and Health Questionnaires must be recorded before entry to grounds

- **31 July**
  Club competitions can resume including juvenile and youth competitions, limitations on spectator numbers to be confirmed in line with Government guidelines

- **10 August**
  Access to GAA buildings and indoor facilities including meeting rooms, gyms, exercise studios permitted

- **14 September**
  Inter-county training can resume

- **17 October**
  Inter-county competitions to take place no sooner than then with fully revised calendar to be published in Phase Three

**KEEPING OUR CLUBS AND GROUNDS SMOKE FREE**

The Public Health Agency (PHA) are providing resources free of charge to GAA Healthy Clubs in Northern Ireland who are committed to transforming their club grounds into complete smoke-free environments (smoking is not permitted anywhere on the club grounds).

Please click here for link to expression of interest form

**GROUNDS MAINTENANCE**

The GAA’s National Pitch Maintenance Working Group have updated their advice on essential pitch maintenance.

Please click here to download
GAA Clubs with designated Walkways can now plan for them to open from Monday 8th June. New arrangements are being put in place and it is also worth pointing out that these new arrangements will represent considerable change to what we previously considered to be the norm.

To that end, the role of our officers and members – at every level – takes on an added importance and we thank you in advance for your work in this regard.

We trust your responsible judgement in implementing our guidelines and road map. We are happy for you to set your own pace provided it remains within the confines laid out in the documents we will share. In the meantime, included is a checklist of items we are asking clubs to study if they plan to re-open designated walking areas on June 8. Also attached is a planning template and rota for stewarding.

Clubs should use this documentation to inform and liaise with their county boards if they intend to re-open their walkways. We are conscious of the work involved for clubs in opening their facilities at this time and it is at the discretion of clubs who have these facilities to make that decision for themselves.

Your Contact person in Down is the County Secretary who is also the County Safety Officer.

**CHECKLIST FOR RE-OPENING OF DESIGNATED WALKWAYS (JUNE 2020)**

1. Confirm that your club has a designated walking track.

2. Notify the date the club intends to open it.

3. Confirm that it will be opened initially for a designated supervised period daily of four hours only. (Club can decide, and can vary, the most suitable time periods appropriate to their local setting)

4. Confirm that the club will keep a record of periods when it is open.

5. Confirm that the club will provide designated hours for vulnerable persons or those who have been cocooning within this time frame.

6. Confirm that the club will provide supervision of walkways during opening times to ensure compliance with social distancing guidelines and all other conditions of this re-opening.

7. Confirm that the club walkway is to be used for recreational purposes only – no group/team training of any sort can take place on the walkway.

8. Confirm that persons using walkway will walk in one direction only.

9. Confirm that Covid-19 signage will be erected at the entrances to club property, and a photographic record of this signage to be submitted.

10. Confirm that no other facilities will be used at this time and that supervision will be in place to manage this approach.
This week we have spent some time archiving our stocks of old newspapers and we came across a match report with this team photo below of this team who brought a first Ulster Title to Down in 1958.

The Match Report stated that “Down played delightful, intelligent football all through and at one stage of the game they seemed to score at will, Seán O Neill was in brilliant form at midfield where he was ably assisted by his partner Pat Fitzsimmons. Michael and Thomas Keenan from Banbridge were prominent throughout and the team was captained by Thomas who led Down to a 3-9 to 3-1 victory over Cavan.”

**The Down Team that day was:**
E Lavery (Kilwarlin); J Haughian (Longstone); G Doran (Shamrocks); P Cromie (Kilough); T McArdle (Magheral); P Welsh (Shamrocks); T Keenan (Banbridge); S O Neill (Mitchels); P Fitzsimmons (Kilclief); S Crosse (Mitchels); H McAllister (Castlewellan); J Mullan (Downpatrick); M Keenan (Banbridge); J McKinley (Magheral); R Killen (Glasdrumman).

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**GAA KIDS ACTIVITY PACK**

Something to keep everyone busy.

From dance party challenges to charades, and plenty in between the NEW ISSUE 9 of the #GAA Kids Activity Pack has it all!

It’s time for the whole family to get involved and get creative!

[Check it out now by clicking here](#)

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**ULSTER GAA NEWS**

**Topic - Games & Activities to Improve Scoring & Defensive Opportunities**

This webinar will consist of a number of video and animated games/activities in a football context which can be used to improve scoring and defensive opportunities within your squads.

The content can be used for all our codes and is suitable for players from U-12--Senior.

**Date:** Wednesday 10th June  **Time:** 7.30pm

To register please click on the below link:

[Ulster GAA Webinar 3 - Games & Activities to Improve Scoring & Defensive Opportunities](#)

**Presenter - Tony Scullion**

Tony is the Football Development Officer for Ulster GAA. He won the All-Ireland Senior Football Championship with his county in 1993 as well as winning three National League titles captaining the Team to success in 1995.

He represented Ulster for ten years and won six Railway Cup medals in a row, captaining the team in 1991.

He represented Ireland in two International Rules series against Australia in 1987 and 1990. He also won four All-Star Awards during his career.

Registration will close at 5pm on the 10th of June.
The GAA’s National Child Safeguarding Committee released an update this morning in developments in respect of child safeguarding.

They are advising that all clubs use this temporary downtime from games and other activities to ensure that those appointed to work with children on our behalf have fulfilled the GAA’s relevant child safeguarding requirements whereby coaches of underage teams must have completed vetting, have attended child safeguarding training and have a coaching qualification, all of which can be now commenced online.

The GAA also want to ensure that every club has appointed a Club Designated Liaison Person (DLP) to assist with any allegations of abuse, (a statutory requirement), that clubs shall, by 30th June 2020, inform their County Secretary as to who they have chosen to act as their club DLP, along with the person’s contact details. A list of club DLPs shall subsequently be published on gaa.ie with the provision of online training for those who have yet to attend the Designated Liaison Persons’ training programme.

In the next few weeks clubs will receive an up to date list of people who have been vetted by the GAA to enable them to fulfil the vetting requirements to work in their nominated club. Some clubs are already in receipt of these lists while the remaining lists are now being complied. Club lists will be sent directly to club Children’s Officers who are registered on the club Children Officers’ system and to County Secretaries requesting that they forward the list to their respective clubs. We should be very conscious that these lists are prepared and distributed so as to assist clubs in ensuring that those chosen by them to work with children are legally compliant with our vetting requirements and laws and the lists may not be used for any other purposes.

Down are also about to get GAA email accounts for all our club Children’s Officers.

The next events in the Sport Northern Ireland #WebinarWednesday series take place on Wednesday 17th June 2020 at 11am and 8pm. The webinars on this date will be led by Dr Sergio Lara-Bercial of Leeds Beckett University, iCoachKidsEU and the International Council for Coaching Excellence. Sergio will present a session focused on those who support/develop coaches in the morning, and a session for coaches themselves in the evening – both focused on creating amazing children’s coaching environments.

Details for both are as follows:

11am – 12.30pm:
Creating Amazing Children’s Sport Environments (for those who support children’s coaches)
Further information and registration link: https://webinarwednesday17thjune11am.eventbrite.co.uk

8pm – 9.30pm:
Creating Amazing Children’s Sport Environments (for children’s coaches)
Further information and registration link: https://webinarwednesday17thjune8pm.eventbrite.co.uk

Login details will be shared with registered individuals by email 24-48 hours before each webinar (Registration closes at midnight on Tuesday 16th June). A programme of #WebinarWednesday events on the first Wednesday of each month at 8pm will begin on Wednesday 1st of July and run indefinitely, information on the themes and presenters will be shared in the coming weeks.
A statement on GAA.ie reads: "The Covid-19 Advisory Group was tasked with preparing a guidance document and recommendations that would inform the safe resumption of activities within the Gaelic games family.

"While this document provides a guide for a safe return for Gaelic Games activity, it is important to note that further, more detailed, advice and guidance will need to be provided in the coming weeks on specific areas contained within this document such as online training modules, the role of the Covid Supervisor, advice on recording player temperatures, advice on, and samples of signage and so on.

"It is also envisaged that separate and updated advice on the Safe Return for inter-county players will be published during Phase 4 and closer to the resumption time for inter-county activity.

"The Covid-19 Advisory group makes its recommendations on the resumption of activities having studied the best advice available from the Governments and National Health agencies on the island of Ireland, as well as other sporting bodies (separate advice, based on local considerations and consistent with jurisdictional obligations will need to be provided for clubs outside of Ireland). "The evidence and research to date indicates that the resumption of activities is a complex process, that it may not be linear and that small and deliberate steps must be taken before there can be a return to full activity.

"The roadmap contained in this document outlines and defines a set of recommended minimum practices for the reintroduction of activities in a methodical manner which preserves player and community safety. "The objective is to advise members and clubs on how a resumption of activities can best be achieved in a controlled and safe manner. The resumption of activity and the timing of progression between the various phases outlined may be influenced by factors outside the control of the Association.

"The guidelines, protocols and recommendations within the document are capable of evolving and staying abreast of changes in Government policy and developments within the Association. "The priority at all times must be to protect the health and welfare of all those involved in Gaelic Games and to minimise the risk of transmission within the wider community."

The GAA envisages the re-opening of its playing facilities (pitches) only once the Irish Government is happy to move to Phase 3 of the Government’s Roadmap for the Re-Opening of Society and Business. Initially the return to training will be for small groups as outlined in the GAA Safe Return Roadmap that follows. In order to ensure your club is ready for a Safe Return in Phase 3, you need to ensure the following:

1. This document has been circulated to all players and team personnel intending to return
2. You have familiarised yourself with the basic Medical Information in Section 1 of this Document
3. You have completed the actions outlined in Section 2 of this document for preparation of Facilities
4. The Secretary and Chairperson of the Club – or their nominees – have completed the online Gaelic Games education module
5. Each team returning to training has a nominated Covid Supervisor who has completed the Gaelic Games online education module
6. A timetable system is in place so that individual teams in each club are aware of their allocated training times
7. All participants have completed the Gaelic Games online education module
8. A system is in place for completion of player health questionnaires and recording of temperatures

Further information on aspects of the GAA Safe Return Roadmap, including information on Training and Education modules will be circulated to Clubs as it becomes available during Phase 2 (June 8th to June 29th)
## Section 5 – Gaelic Games Safe Return Roadmap

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>PHASE 2 – 8th June</th>
<th>PHASE 3 – 29th June*</th>
<th>PHASE 4 – 20th Jul*</th>
<th>PHASE 5 – 10th Aug*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GAA COVID-19 DRAFT PLAN</td>
<td>Dedicated GAA walking tracks may be used for recreational use in groups of no more than 4 people</td>
<td>All GAA pitches open.</td>
<td>All forms of team and group training permitted</td>
<td>Club Competitions continue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COHORTS:</td>
<td>Persons using the facilities must be located within the recommended 20km radius</td>
<td>Training to recommence for Adult and Juvenile teams in small groups only (details below)</td>
<td>Resumption of club competitions for all cohorts from Friday July 31st</td>
<td>Access to GAA buildings and indoor facilities including meeting rooms, gyms, exercise studios permitted where regular and effective cleaning can be carried out and where required indoor social distancing measures can be maintained. Access to club facilities to be monitored.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juveniles &lt;14</td>
<td>Individual training at home incorporating running/aerobic/agility training, resistance training and skills training.</td>
<td>Access to GAA buildings and indoor facilities including meeting rooms not permitted (exception: sanitized toilet facilities)</td>
<td>Contact tracing measures to remain in place.</td>
<td>Contact tracing measures to remain in place.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth 15-18</td>
<td>All other GAA grounds remain closed.</td>
<td>All forms of competition remain postponed; entry to grounds restricted to playing &amp; management personnel only.</td>
<td>Adequate sanitisers to be available throughout the facility.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>No games, or team or small group training permitted on GAA facilities</td>
<td>Cohort Group 1 (u14 and below) begin training – small groups (not more than 10 players/2 coaches in a designated area of the pitch) for non-contact training under social distancing guidelines – where players can maintain the Govt advised distance from each other (currently 2m)</td>
<td>Club facility to display signage and information for managing Covid-19.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All clubrooms and dressing room facilities closed.</td>
<td>Cohort Group 2 (15-18) begin training – small groups (not more than 10 players/2 coaches in a designated area of the pitch) for non-contact training under social distancing guidelines – where players can maintain the Govt advised distance from each other (currently 2m)</td>
<td>Subject to no changes in medical advice or research there will be a resumption of inter county training from 14th September.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Covid-19 protocols related to training to be developed in line with Return to Play requirements and medical advice.</td>
<td>Cohort Group 3 (adult) begin training – small groups (not more than 10 players/2 coaches in a designated area of the pitch) for non-contact training under social distancing guidelines – where players can maintain the Govt advised distance from each other (currently 2m)</td>
<td>#Limitations on spectator numbers (in line with Govt Guidelines)</td>
<td>#Further information on Spectators and spectator safety will be provided before Phase 4 commences</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The type of training envisaged is running, Aerobic training, resistance training agility and ball work.</td>
<td>Covid Supervisor to ensure temperature of all team participants is recorded on the Health Questionnaire before entry to ground. If Temperature is over 37.5° individual must return home.</td>
<td>#Further information on Spectators and spectator safety will be provided before Phase 4 commences.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Players cannot share equipment (such as water bottles) and all other equipment used must be sanitised before and after training</td>
<td>Contact tracing measures to be in place.</td>
<td>Separate spectators from players in line with social distancing requirements.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Contact tracing measures to be in place.</td>
<td>All participants to complete Health Questionnaire and submit to Covid Supervisor on entry to the ground at each session</td>
<td>#Further information on Spectators and spectator safety will be provided before Phase 4 commences</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Outline Games Proposal:**

**Juvenile and Youth competitions to take place from July 31st to mid-October.**

**Adult competitions (including county players) to take place from July 31st to Sunday October 11th.**

**Inter county competitions to take place no sooner than October 17th (Full revised inter county calendar to be agreed and will be published once the GAA proceeds to phase 3).**
Seán Óg Mac an tSaoir
Seán Óg McAteer
Runaí Coiste Chontae an Dúin
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