

HERTFORDSHIRE GAA NEWSLETTER

All the latest Gaelic Games news from across the Hertfordshire region

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GAELIC GAMES RETURN TO HERTFORDSHIRE

After a difficult winter for many, Gaelic Games made a very welcome return to Hertfordshire in April with the start of the Men's Senior Football League. With four rounds of games complete, Oxford sit atop the table, followed closely by an in-form St. Josephs. The competition has so far provided some hard-fought encounters and great football, promising an exciting summer of sport ahead when spectators will be able to return. All fixtures, results and tables can be found on the Herts GAA website:

www.hertfordshiregaa.co.uk

On the ladies side, 2021 has so far seen the Mary Ann McGlynn Cup play out, culminating in the final to be held this weekend, Saturday 22nd May at 12:00 in Oxford. Best of luck to both of the teams involved – St. Colmcilles versus Brighton and Crawley Gaels.

With training and matches underway for men's, ladies' and underage teams across the county, sport is well and truly back. A particular thanks to the clubs hosting matches, officials overseeing games, and the various club and county officials making sure all our activities are safe and Covid-secure for all taking part.

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SUPER GAMES COMING TO A TOWN NEAR YOU

Hertfordshire GAA ran the ever Super Games event at St. Colmcilles on Saturday 15th May and it resulted in a fantastic day of Gaelic Football. It was a really well attended event with children joining from St. Dympnas, St. Josephs and St. Vincents. Coaches from all clubs got involved in the age-specific sessions, which centred around playing lots of small-sided games in a fun and relaxed atmosphere.

Moving to Watford next week, we are particularly hoping to see lots of new players, with plenty of coaches on hand to teach you how to play Gaelic Football in just one hour! You can find out more information via this link <https://watfordsupergames.eventbrite.co.uk> but please note the event is now **fully booked**! This just goes to show how much demand there is for our sports amongst youngsters in Hertfordshire.

However, fear not for we will be holding events in a similar format across the county area over the course of the summer and we hope to see you there!

Rory Norris



© St. Colmcilles GAC

Glen Rovers GAA Club presents:

WATFORD

SUPER GAMES

Includes an introduction to Gaelic Football for newcomers

Saturday 22nd May
13.00

Radlett Road
Playing Fields
Watford, WD24 4JH

FREE

Ages 4 - 13

Lots of matches to try out your new skills in a fun and relaxed environment

Register for free:
watfordsupergames.eventbrite.co.uk
For more information:
seanharrington@hotmail.com

GAA

Dates for the diary:

**ALL BRITAIN
COMPETITION
10-12 SEPTEMBER**



**A summer of GAA
awaits...**

With restrictions on organised sport lifting, you can look forward to a full schedule of GAA action in Hertfordshire over the course of the summer. Keep an eye out on social media and the website for all the news and fixtures and get your boots on!

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COACHING CORNER

Coaching Foundation Course



Venue: St. Josephs Parish Centre, Luton

Date: 26 June 2021

Time: 09:00 – 17:00

Cost: £10

To book, contact: cda.hertfordshire@gaa.ie

Why not check out the resources on the all-new GAA Learning & Development Portal, by visiting:

learning.gaa.ie



HEAD OVER TO THE HERTS GAA SHOP FOR ALL THE LATEST COUNTY GEAR



New styles available on the O'Neills website:

https://www.oneills.com/uk_en/shop-by-team/gaa/united-kingdom/hertfordshire-gaa.html

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

A chairde,

What a momentous year it has been and by no means for the right reasons. For the many people who have passed away or who are suffering the loss of loved ones, our thoughts are with you at such a difficult time. And for the many more people affected by the pandemic – whether through impacts on their physical and mental health, the loss of a job, or a longing for family and home – we feel your pain and are here to help. Amid the upheaval of the past twelve months, our clubs and our association have stepped up when needed and I could not be more proud of the work done by many here and back in Ireland to support those in need, demonstrating just how and why the GAA is such an integral part of our communities. For example, to see the Luton Irish Forum recently spearheading a vaccine drive to reach those most vulnerable to the disease in the area was a sign of the dedicated efforts we have been part of. And now, with the vaccination programme going well, numbers down, and the country beginning to open up, we can be cautiously optimistic of being able to get back to some form of normal, including playing Gaelic Games. There is nothing more important than sport to get people active and connected and to help people cope with the many things life throws at them.

Despite the disruption caused to last year's GAA calendar, we managed to get some sport played – including a senior football championship – albeit without the youth competitions that bring such energy and purpose to our county. This year, the story is different and we have already had four rounds of the senior football league and, with the lifting of restrictions, youth games are also underway – through a “super games” format that lends itself well to bringing new players into our sports. We have a full slate of competitions scheduled for the summer, including the return of the All Britain Championship on the 10-12 September, and we'll soon be able to encourage spectators down to watch games in person.

I would like to extend my thanks to the many people who have stepped up to ensure Gaelic Games could be played over the last year. These include the players, parents and officials following the advice and setting up protocols to ensure the sport is safe to play and helping make sure things continue to improve. It is important to remember that restrictions are still in place and these must be adhered to. Make sure to keep up with the latest rules, follow advice from trusted sources and avoid contact with people if you are showing symptoms. Clubs and players should continue to follow protocols set by the GAA and Province. While this is not over, we do have chance to enjoy sport again – and for that we should all be grateful!

Stay safe, be responsible, look after each other, and have fun.

Slán go fóill

Frank Dillon

Cathaoirleach – Hertfordshire GAA County Board



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Coronavirus Roadmap in England

29 March – formally organised outdoor sport can resume

12 April – hospitality and non-essential retail (including gyms) reopen but with restrictions and social distancing

17 May – restrictions on outdoor events lifted but still no gatherings of over 30 people. Indoor adult sport & exercise can resume

21 June – remaining restrictions are planned to be lifted

These rules are subject to change. More details can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-coronavirus-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do>

For trusted sources of information:

- NHS
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>
- Vaccines
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine/>
- UK Government
<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>
- World Health Organisation
<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>
- HSE
<https://www2.hse.ie/coronavirus/>

CLUB PROTOCOLS

Clubs are asked to continue following protocols set by the Government, GAA and Province, including regarding risk assessment, recording attendees at events, completion of the Return to Play module and health questionnaire, and ensuring facilities and equipment remain Covid-safe.

A NEW PROVINCIAL SECRETARY

It was with great delight that we saw our own Frank Dillon of Éire Óg, Oxford, and chair of Hertfordshire GAA elected as Secretary of the Council of Britain GAA at Convention in January. Frank has been a dedicated servant to the county and has overseen the growth of the GAA in Herts over the past 10 years. No doubt he'll continue in the same vein for the rest of Britain. Comhghairdeas!

The GAA monthly club newsletter is great place to find out the latest from Croke Park and provides links to all sorts of helpful resources. They are all available to read online or into your inboxes:

May 2021: <https://www.gaa.ie/stories/read-the-latest-club-newsletter-may-2021/>

April 2021: <https://www.gaa.ie/stories/read-the-latest-club-newsletter-april-2021/>

March 2021: <https://www.gaa.ie/stories/read-the-latest-club-newsletter-march-2021/>

Jan 2021: <https://www.gaa.ie/stories/read-the-latest-club-newsletter-january-2021/>

Finding things difficult?

Help is available and there is no shame in asking for it. Reach out to a friend, family member, team mate, coach or club officer and they can help get you the support you need. That's what teams are for.

Samaritans: www.samaritans.org

Mind UK: www.mind.org.uk

NHS: www.nhs.uk/mental-health

CALM: www.thecalmzone.net

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CLUB CONTACTS

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secretary.cambridgeparnells.hertfordshire@gaa.ie



CLADDAGH GAELS (LUTON) Youths & Senior Women's
claddaghgaels.gloherts@lgfa.ie



ÉIRE ÓG (OXFORD) Youth, Senior Men's & Senior Women's
secretary.eireog.hertfordshire@gaa.ie



GLEN ROVERS (WATFORD) Youth, Senior Men's & Senior Women's
secretary.glenrovers.hertfordshire@gaa.ie



ST. COLMCILLES (ST ALBANS) Youth, Senior Men's & Senior Women's
secretary.stcolmcilles.hertfordshire@gaa.ie



ST. DECLANS (HURLING) Senior Men's
secretary.stdeclans.hertfordshire@gaa.ie



ST. DYMPNAS (LUTON) Youth & Senior Men's
secretary.stdympnas.hertfordshire@gaa.ie



ST. JOSEPHS (WALTHAM CROSS) Youth, Senior Men's & Senior Women's
secretary.stjosephs.hertfordshire@gaa.ie



ST. VINCENTS (LUTON) Youth & Senior Men's
secretary.stvincents.hertfordshire@gaa.ie



For more information, please contact the Herts GAA County Secretary: secretary.hertfordshire@gaa.ie

For info on sponsorship opportunities, please contact: cda.hertfordshire@gaa.ie or pro.hertfordshire@gaa.ie

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