



WMT GAELS UPDATE



"Where every child plays"

May 2020

Welcome from Juvenile Chair

Staying in touch whilst remaining apart

I hope that you and those close to you remain in good health as we continue to comply with the challenges posed by our current everyday life. As we enter the summer months, traditionally peak GAA activity times, our games remain suspended. However, this is somewhat tempered by the determination that efforts being made across all sections of society with regards to social distancing will reap rewards soon.

The purpose of this communication is to update you on all things GAA relevant to the Juvenile section of our Club, regardless of the suspension of activities. A virtual handshake, as we continue to remain apart. As our facilities remain closed, you'll have to take my word for it that, there is a lot going on behind the scenes.

Please take the time to read on for more news from our Club. Stay safe, and I hope to see you all back at our grounds soon.

Michael



The Féile na nÓg is a Club festival at Under 14 level, involving teams from across the Association.

Féile provides an opportunity for players to participate in an annual Festival of Hurling/Camogie, Handball and Gaelic Football/Ladies Gaelic football

Clubs to experience playing against teams from other Counties/Provinces

Clubs to foster links with other Clubs in other Counties/Provinces

Counties to celebrate Gaelic games by acting as hosts

A core aim of Féile tournaments is to promote a philosophy whereby every player has the opportunity to participate and play in their respective Féile tournament at a level commensurate to their age, skills and strengths. This years National hurling/camogie Féile was scheduled to be held in Dublin and Garda, Westmanstown Gaels were selected to host a camogie team from Mayo. This was to be the first Westmanstown Gaels Camogie team to represent our Club. Regrettably, National Féile for 2020 has been cancelled. However, the respective county boards hope to reschedule Dublin Féile for later in the year. Our Under 14 boys and girls were entered for both football and hurling/camogie. We hope that they get the opportunity to represent our Club later in the year and if possible, that we may host one, or both, of the competitions at our grounds.

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FACILITIES FACELIFT

Our facilities team continue the upkeep of our grounds. The suspension of activities has allowed for improvement work to be carried out at the grounds and cabins. Thank you to Ciara O'Brien who took a break from her duties to paint the tuck shop, pictured below.



Lisa Burke, volunteered to paint the picnic benches, thank you Lisa, and Alan Lynch has put a team of volunteers together to paint the dressing rooms. In full compliance with social distancing, of course.

The pitches continue to recover from the exceptional wet weather experienced in February, there's even a full growth of grass on pitch 2. They continue to be cut and lined in readiness for the return of activities.

Repairs to the boys and girls cabins, the nursery container, and badly needed lining of the car park, are currently being progressed.

MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

Please complete your renewal

The final date for payment of 2020 membership fees passed on 31st March and presently there is a considerable amount of fees outstanding from the Juvenile section. The Club is dependent on membership fees as income received from astro pitch rental and fundraising is significantly reduced. We continue to invest in our facilities, equipment and team gear, along with our contribution to Dublin County Board for our GPO so we need your support in completing your registration.

If you have not paid your fees please logon on to the website homepage and follow the [2020 Membership now open](#) tab under [Latest News](#).

Please note that no player insurance cover is extended without registration.

Thank you.

HELLO FROM OUR G.P.O.



Hi everyone, thank you for continuing to share your videos, Mams and Dads for putting them up on the teams groups and the players for participating in skills. I'm delighted to see how we are coming on and thrilled to see the players adding their own touches to the games, this is really important.

In the last week I have started to reach out to the coaches, who are vital members of our club, with regards to coach education. This week alone I'll have had zoom chats with the coaching teams of the Under 8 and 9's boys and girls. Some of the very interesting topics we have touched on are teaching points and how we, as coaches, can give accurate feedback to our players. I am really looking forward to catching up with the other coaches from under 10's up over the coming weeks.

I would like to thank the coaches who have engaged with the Dublin county board coach education webinars that I've shared on the coaching groups and appreciate the time commitment this involves.

I greatly miss watching our younger players as they arrive at training with broad smiles on their faces and full of enthusiasm. I really look forward to seeing you all back at Westmanstown in the not too distant future.

Declan

MEET THE ADULTS TEAM

Damien Quirke, Captain, Men's Intermediate Team

Where are you from? Kerry

What club did you play for? Austin Stacks

What is your earliest memory of GAA? Watching Kerry beat Cork in the League in Tralee, March 1997.

Your favourite experience playing GAA? Winning the U21 Club Championship with Austin Stacks and winning the Inter B Championship with Garda GAA club.

Who is your current favourite player? Paul Murphy – rarely has a bad game.

What makes him special? Consistency and he is versatile. He could do a job in most positions.

What is the most important thing about playing GAA? The enjoyment it brings when I'm training and playing. People will say winning is the most important thing but not everyone can win. Enjoy playing as long as you can.

What is your favourite ground to play in? It's a toss up between Connolly Park, Tralee and Westmanstown.

What advice would you give to younger players? Keep practicing your skills, train hard and enjoy the games.

How often do you train? Twice a week with Garda GAA and twice a week on my own.

What other sports do you enjoy playing/supporting? Soccer would be my second sport outside of that I enjoy going to the gym.

Will Mayo ever win Sam Maguire again? It's hard to see past the Dubs but if anyone can take Sam away from them it's Kerry.



DAMIEN WITH THE 'MC CARTHY CUP' AFTER DEFEATING THE PSNI IN MARCH 2020. ALSO PRESENT EUGENE O'SULLIVAN, CHAIRMAN, GARDA GAA AND PEADAR HEFFERNAN, PRESIDENT PSNI GAA CLUB.

UPDATE ON CAMPS & NURSERY

At present the GAA have not confirmed any decision on the schedule for the Kelloggs Cúl camps which Westmanstown were due to host at the start of July. A lot will depend on the return to games within the Government and HSE protocols. We hope to be in a position to run our own summer camp at the end of August.

We also will recommence the children's nursery once cleared to do so by the GAA.

We also will be delighted to welcome new players across all ages in the Juvenile section. Please see our website for more details on training and games.

A recruitment poster for Westmanstown Gaels. The top section is blue with the text 'Join Our Club Today!' and the GAA logo. Below that, it says 'Westmanstown Gaels' and 'Make Friends, Have Fun, Keep Fit'. It also states 'All Kids & Teens (5 - 16) Welcome!' and 'Boys & Girls - 5 - 7 years - Come along to our GAA Nursery Every Saturday - 10am to 11.30am on the All-Weather Pitches'. There are images of children playing GAA. At the bottom, there is a photo of Declan Jennings, the Club Promotions Officer, and contact information: 'For more information call Tel: 085 800 6101'. Social media handles for Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram are also listed, along with the website 'www.westmanstowngaels.ie'.

2019 SPORTS CAPITAL GRANT

Our Sports Capital Grant of €60k, was earlier this year assessed and prioritised to upgrading all weather lighting, all weather surfacing for goal mouths and purchasing of storage containers. The grant is calculated at 85% of the overall project costs which necessitates the club funding the balance, usually through fundraising activities. With the suspension of games the opportunity to fundraise is not available but the Club will count on the continued generosity of members and the wider community to help with this once activities resume. If you are in a position to help with some of the planned work, either through business contacts or in the form of sponsorship/donation or if you feel you can offer assistance with these projects please contact the Club Commercial Officer, George Kyne at 083 4029439.

A comprehensive update on our capital projects, including the ball wall and pitch 1 realignment, will be communicated in the next fortnight.

MEET THE ADULTS TEAM

Ciara O'Brien, Senior Ladies, Asst. Club Treasurer

Where are you from? Loughill Co Limerick

What club did you first play GAA for? Gerald Griffins

What is your earliest memory of GAA? Playing in primary school against other schools

Your favourite experience playing GAA? Winning the cup with Garda Westmanstown Gaels about 3 years ago!

Who is your current favourite player? Sarah Rowe (Mayo)

What makes her special?

I have been following her for the last few years during her GAA career and into Aussie rules, she seems to just always put sport first and her fitness and skill is just amazing. She is also going out with rugby player Sean O'Brien and they are constantly having little fitness battles against each!

What is the most important thing about playing GAA for you? The friends I have made over the years

What is your favourite ground to play in? Westmanstown!

What advice would you give to young players? Be committed to training sessions, it's where you will learn most, especially from the people you are playing with, it's where things are made perfect before bringing it onto the pitch.

How often do you train? 3 to 4 times a week

What other sports do you enjoy playing/supporting?

I also play rugby and love watching hurling.

Will Mayo ever win Sam Maguire again? As long as Limerick bring Liam McCarthy home, Mayo can have Sam!!



GET THE TAPE OUT!!!

The Annual GAA Congress was held on 28th and 29th of February. Amongst the business conducted at congress is a vote on rule changes as set out by the Central Council and motions received from County boards. All Motions passed became effective on March 28th.

Two of these changes bare relevance to underage games. In Underage Hurling up to and including U12 age groups the use of metal bands on hurleys is prohibited unless the metal bands are taped over.

The other big playing rule change is:

A player in receipt of a kick-out cannot pass the ball directly back to his goalkeeper.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF THIS RULE – A free kick will be awarded to the opposition from the position the goalkeeper receives the pass, or if the goalkeeper is inside the 13m line when in receipt of the pass the free will be from the 13m lines opposite where the foul occurred. If any coaches in the Juvenile section have queries about playing rules please contact our Referee Co-ordinator, Kevin Doherty, who will be happy to answer your question.

RETURN TO PLAY

There is a lot of speculation in the media about how and when GAA and all team sports will return. The club will take our lead from the GAA and only sanction the reopening of our facilities, and a return to training, on the directive of the Dublin County Board. All other decisions that fall within the scope of the individual clubs will be made by the Executive in the best interests of our members and their families.

We will continue to update members as more information is communicated with regards to the resumption of GAA activities and the scheduling, where possible, of games and camps.

If you have any questions regarding the Juvenile section please email Secretarybng.westmanstowngaels.dublin@gaa.ie