



London GAA Coaching & Games Development Monthly Report

Month: October

Year 6 Schools Tournament A Big Hit

Twelve teams, and over 150 children, took part in an enormously successful and rewarding Year 6 Gaelic Football Schools' Tournament at Tir Chonaill Gaels' Ground, Greenford on Thursday, October 18th.

St Raphael's, Northolt, St Gilda's, Crouch End, St John Fisher, Pinner, St Teresa's, Harrow, St Monica's, Enfield, Larmenier & Sacred Heart, Brook House, St Joseph's, Wembley and St Dominic Savio Primary School, Reading, produced an extremely high level and skilful standard of Gaelic Football in the picture perfect, autumnal weather in west London.



Thirty-two group matches eventually culminated in a final round of matches and these fixtures produced even greater intensity and excitement for the large, watching crowd with the enthusiastic kids excelling beyond all expectations of parents, teachers and coaches.

The final game of the day did not disappoint as a strong St Teresa's, Harrow, clashed with a skilful St Dominic Savio, Reading, and the high-scoring encounter capped off a very enjoyable and entertaining Blitz perfectly.

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Schools Coaching Continues Enthusiastically In The Capital



London GAA's Gaelic Football coaching continued throughout the month of October in the city schools available for Year 6 primary as well as secondary schools' groups.

Many of our schools will be continuing with the current coaching programme after the October half-term break leading into the Christmas holiday.

Our Lunch Time Leagues Gathering Momentum



Our Lunch Time Leagues have received great feedback from all the primary schools involved and are nearing conclusion with the head teachers looking to pick up again after new year. Check out the London GAA Facebook and Twitter for updated fixtures/results and league tables.

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Classy Kiernan's claim Minor Football glory



St Kiernan's edged a thrilling 2018 London Minor Final 2-10 to 3-05 over city rivals Parnells at a drenched McGovern Park, Ruislip on October 6th.

The first half was a tense and cagey affair blown wide open by two goals from Parnells' Conal White and Ciaran Griffin after both goalkeepers had earlier made magnificent saves to keep their goals intact.

However, Parnells were then dealt a hammer blow when Michael Walsh and David Pender had to be withdrawn after an accidental clash of heads and Elliot McPhun, Matthew Joyce and Ali Carney chipped away at their lead to help Kiernan's level at 2-03 to 0-09 at half-time.

The second period was an even tenser affair than the first in the worsening conditions, but Caoilte Healy majored for Kiernan's before Niall Twomey, who gave a fine display in both halves, put Parnells back in the driving seat after raising a third green flag.

But Parnells' JoJo Thabo soon saw red and received his marching for striking ahead of Sean Walsh's well-taken goal crucially giving Kiernan's the lead late on.

The victors then held on in the rampant rain to their precious two-point advantage against the 14 men to secure the 2018 U17 London Minor Championship title in nail biting style.

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Winter Coaching and Safeguarding Courses



London GAA will be running two Coaching Courses for our members in the coming weeks:

- Firstly, there will be a Foundation Level Gaelic Football and Hurling (Dual) Coaching Course on Sunday, November 4th in McGovern Park, Ruislip (HA4 6QX).
- We will also be running a Level One Gaelic Football Coaching Course over two weekends: November 23/24/25th, December 7/9th - both of which will also be at our McGovern Park headquarters in Ruislip.

As well as the coaching courses, we are organising Safeguarding Courses for all of our youth coaches/mentors/administrators involved within London GAA on:

- Friday, November 2nd @ 7.00 p.m.
- Saturday, November 3rd @ 10.00 a.m.

Under the guidelines from the Provincial Council of Britain GAA, anyone involved with teams that have players under the age of 18 must be DBS certified, complete a Coaching Course and, also, a Safeguarding Course.

There will be a zero-tolerance policy on this from the London County Board and the Provincial Council going forward.

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U15s Enjoy Hectic Development Trip To Mayo



London's U15 Development Squad enjoyed a hectic weekend trip to the Connacht Centre of Excellence in Began, County Mayo, when given an insight on playing inter-county football.

The youngsters were put to the test after arrival with some gym exercises including press-ups, sit and reach, standing long jump, a series of squats and jumps, as well as height and weight measurement, filmed so software could determine how muscles and joints worked.

The state-of-the-art centre has four outdoor grass pitches and one 3G pitch, where players completed a type of beep test, which involved running a series of shuttle runs at an increasing pace for as long as possible followed by some shooting and kicking to cool down.

Charlie Harrison, one of only three Sligo county players to have been awarded an All-Star then gave an insight to what it meant to be a county footballer and the sacrifices required.

Mayo's Andy Moran, two-time All Star and 2017 Player of The Year, also addressed the boys about how to become an inter-county footballer and an intriguing Q&A session followed.

The U15s returned to the Centre of Excellence the following day to play three matches, beating North Mayo by 6-9 to 0-2 before comfortably defeating South Mayo 9-12 to 1-1.

The final game, against a well-drilled Galway select side, was a closer affair, but the London boys still managed to win the game by an impressive eight points.

Well done to all of the players and their mentors on a hugely successful weekend!

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London GAA's Youth Committee Awards Night A Resounding Success



Over 250 present and future Gaelic Games enthusiasts attended London's GAA Annual Youth Committee Awards Night at Ruislip's McGovern Park, on October 26th.

The top table was crammed with shining silverware for all Boys age groups ranging from Under 13 to 17s, while the young Ladies were being presented with their U12 to U18 prizes.

London Youth Committee chairperson, Joel McInern, revelled in his role as Master of Ceremonies for the night awarding the first Boys team award to U13 Pool 'A' champions Tara, ahead of Tir Chonaill Gaels collecting their Pool 'B' title. Tara picked up their second trophy of the night with the U15 'A' Championship trophy as well as the team's second piece of silverware for the season - the Division 1 league title.

St Clarets collected the U15 'B' Championship, while Thomas McCurtains took a first trophy to east London by claiming the Division 2 league crown. St Kiernan's collected their U17 Minor Championship while runners-up, Parnells, held the Division 1 League trophy aloft.

It was Tara who took an extremely competitive U12 Ladies title with TCG picking up the U14 honours. The Gaels also clinched the U16 silverware while Tara took away the U18s trophy.

The outstanding work and achievements of the Feile teams were also recognised with South London Boys claiming the Division 2 All-Ireland Feile title for the second straight season and North London winning the Division 4 competition. The Feile Girls were another representative team acclaimed on the night after receiving their Division 6 Shield trophy.

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Siobhan McCann 7s Tournaments Fittingly Supported



Dulwich Harps and Fulham Irish ran very enjoyable Ladies and Mens 7s Siobhan McCann Tournaments on Saturday, October 27th. All proceeds raised went directly to former Dulwich Harp and Fulham Irish physiotherapist Siobhan to fund the alternative therapy treatments she so desperately needs.

Twenty-four teams, 12 in each the Ladies' and Mens' competitions, from London and Ireland took part at Tir Chonaill Gaels Grounds in Greenford. The 2018 LGFA All Ireland Intermediate Club 7s champions Parnells proved once again to be the team to beat in the Ladies' competition, and defeated a strong Tir Chonaill Gaels side in the final while a strong St Kiernan's men's team beat an impressive Keenwood Limited side in their decider.

Huge crowds were in attendance in Greenford to show their support to brave Siobhan with the day running like clockwork as everyone involved worked extremely hard to ensure everything was in place for all the players and supporters.

Everyone involved should be truly proud of the event and London GAA would like to wish Siobhan the very best of luck and hope to see her return to the football field again whenever she feels ready. The huge turnout helped to greatly bolster the funds being raised for brave Siobhan with all the teams showing great skills and sportsmanship throughout an enthralling day.

London GAA continues to wish her the very best in her battle and recovery from her illness:
<https://www.gofundme.com/help-beat-siobhans-toughestopponent>

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Contact: John McDonagh – 07759695617

ST. ANTHONYS (F) – King’s Meadow Park, Reading RG1 8DF
Contact: Bart Ballantine 07592673458

ST. CLARETS (F) – Hayes Rugby Club, Kinghill Ave. Hayes, Middlesex UB4 8BZ
Contact: Tadgh Lee – 07534802951

ST. JOSEPHS (F) - Boston Manor Playing Fields, Boston Gardens, Brentford TW8 9LR
Contact: Derek Dunne - 07527711759

ST. KIERNANS (F) – Hendon Rugby Club, Greenlands Lane, London NW4RL
Contact: Declan Ryan – 07818023639

TARA (F) – Sudbury Court, East Lane, Wembley HA0 3LE
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THOMAS McCURTAINS (F & H) – Goodmayes, Medici Close, Ilford IG3 8FE
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Yours in sport,

London GAA Coaching and Games’ Development Office

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