



#### WHY JOIN CLUB AONTROMA

Because Antrim belongs to all of us, it is our place and our home.

Because we share as a collective ambition, a desire to see our county being successful and the Antrim jersey being something all of our children aspire to wearing and taking pride in.

Because we are committed to community, parish, club and county and we cherish the volunteerism that the GAA is built on. We are about contributing, not benefitting. We, not me.

Because we believe in Saffron.

## CLUB AONTROMA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

12<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2020

### COMMITTEE

#### *Executive Officers / Trustees*

Niall Murphy (Chairman)

Ciaran Kearney (secretary)

Eimear Grieve (Treasurer)

Margaret Flynn (Registrar)

Gerry Carlile (PRO)

#### *Committee Members*

Kathryn Bradley (Camogie rep)

Tony Shivers (Saffron Business Forum)

Frankie Quinn (County Secretary)

Ciaran McCavana (County Chairman)

Sean Kelly (County PRO)

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Our new committee assumed position on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

There were 62 active Direct Debits as of that date, per month.

We today have 107 active Direct Debits.

As such we have enhanced our membership by 73%.

The committee met 6 times prior to the event of the pandemic

4<sup>th</sup> July 2019

22<sup>nd</sup> August 2019

17<sup>th</sup> September 2019

10<sup>th</sup> October 2019

14<sup>th</sup> January 2020

10<sup>th</sup> February 2020

The primary objectives of the committee are

- to increase support for Gaelic Games and cultural activity within our county.
- to promote support for our county teams.
- to attract more members to increase the funds raised for the GAA in Antrim.

### ACTIVITIES

**RELAUNCH** Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019, with county captains, Conor McCann, Declan Lynch and Emma Kelly. A leaflet was published which included details for joining Club Aontroma.

**WEBSITE** [www.ClubAontroma.com](http://www.ClubAontroma.com) A new website was designed by Martin McCarry, which crucially includes a facility to join online via a direct debate. Relaunched in March 2020.

**PROGRAMS** We undertook to produce quality match day programs to enhance match day experience, for players and spectators, to showcase positive developments in the County and in our clubs and to commemorate history and memorialise legacy.

**DISBURSEMENTS** We reviewed applications for funds and approved several worthy applicants including Corrigan Park redevelopment, Cumann na mBunscol and LGFA and Camogie live streams for the respective county finals.







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#### 2019 COUNTY FINAL PROGRAMS, RELAUNCH FLYERS AND POP UP BANNERS

On balance the programs cost us £252, one more advert in each program would have neutralised the cost, which was a lesson learned and an expense well incurred.

NET COST TO CLUB AONTROMA including relaunch flyers and pop up banners £889.

#### Total costs £4337

- Hurling program £2200      *2400 Hurling programs £2200*  
*(bigger program 36 pages, as it covered the minor, junior, intermediate and senior finals and was very labour intensive in a shorter period of time)*
- Football program £1430      *1000 football programs £1430*  
*(24 pages, 12 of which were near enough ready from the hurling program)*
- 12,000 Flyers £557
- Pop Ups £150

#### Net Income £3448 (after program sellers/clubs paid)

- Hurling £1871 (-£130 paid to Michaela Foundation)
- Football £1178
- Advertisements £400



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#### NATIONAL LEAGUE PROGRAMS

(4 home games in football out of 7, only 2 home games in hurling out of 5)

#### COST £3624

1. Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January NFL vs Wexford  
**COST £525 plus VAT £105 = £630**

2. Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February NHL vs Mayo  
**COST £525 plus VAT £105 = £630**

3. Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February NHL vs Meath 1230  
Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February NFL vs Carlow 1430  
**COST £1190 plus VAT £238 = £1428**

4. Sunday 1 March NFL v Limerick  
**COST £780 plus VAT £156 = £936**

5. Sunday 22 March NFL v Waterford  
DELAYED

#### INCOME £1233

Glenavy £275 LODGED £2 per unit

Loch gCaol £320 LODGED £3 per unit

Portglenone £300 lodged

Glenavy £138 lodged

Portglenone £200

Glenavy

*PROGRAM ADVERTISING REVENUE £3700 (£3300 received, £400 extant)*

1. Dante Catering (5 games)
2. Data Dispatch (6 games)
3. KRW Law (6 games SBF\*)
4. Premier Electrics 5 games SBF\*)
5. Kennedy Centre (4 games)
6. Kelly Landscape (4 games)
7. Loch gCaol CLG (2 games)
8. McCauley Christie (2 games)
9. Wild Duck (1 game)
10. Pound Bar (2 games)
11. Sign Time

Amount Received £3300

Eimear has issued invoices to the two remaining businesses.

**OVERALL SUMMARY** £1269 profit (with £400 still extant)

COST £3264 INCOME (sales and advertising) £4533, with £400 due in.

Taking the £889 loss from the county final programs, leaflets and banners, and the £1269 profit from the national league programs, on balance we are £380 in profit, from all programs, with £400 extant.



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Allianz LEAGUES GAA

WHERE YOUR  
**EDGE**  
BELONGS



AONTROIM VS  
**LOCH GARMAN**

SUNDAY 26TH JANUARY 2PM  
ST. JOSEPH'S GAC, GLENNAVY

GAA WHERE WE ALL BELONG

The National Football League Official  
Matchday Programme €2.00 / €3.00

Allianz LEAGUES GAA

WHERE YOUR  
**EDGE**  
BELONGS



AONTROIM  
VS **MAIGH EO**

SUNDAY 2ND FEBRUARY 2PM  
FR HEALY PARK, LOUGHGIEL, ANTRIM

GAA WHERE WE ALL BELONG

The National Hurling League Official  
Matchday Programme €3.00 / €3.00

Allianz LEAGUES GAA

WHERE YOUR  
**EDGE**  
BELONGS



AONTROIM VS CEATHARLACH

FEABHRA 23 2020, 2:30PM  
PAIRC NAOMH IOSAEF LANN ABHAIGH

AONTROIM VS AN MHÍ

FEABHRA 23 2020, 12:30PM  
PAIRC UÍ CHEALLAIGH, PORT GLEANN EOGHAIN

GAA WHERE WE ALL BELONG

Clár Oifigiúil  
Luach €3.00 / €3.00

Allianz LEAGUES GAA

WHERE YOUR  
**EDGE**  
BELONGS



AONTROIM  
VS **LUIMNEACH**

MARTA 1 2020  
PAIRC UÍ CHEALLAIGH, PORT CHLUAIN EOGHAIN

GAA WHERE WE ALL BELONG

Clár Oifigiúil  
Luach €3.00 / €3.00





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**PLAYER PROFILES** A core aim of Club Aontroma is to enhance the profile of our county teams and as such our players and to enhance the connectivity between the panels and supporters. Player profiles is the perfect means to do this. We met with both panels and managements and have an agreement in principle for panel membership of Club Aontroma with an undertaking for investment in return.

## JAMES MCAULEY

**AGE 23 CLUB** Naomh Eanna **POSITION** Half Back  
**PRIMARY SCHOOL** St Therese of Lisieux  
**POST PRIMARY SCHOOL** St Malachys College  
**HONOURS** Antrim IFC 2018 / Ulster IFC 2018  
**OCCUPATION** Software Engineer **HEIGHT** 5ft 10" **WEIGHT** 135st



**INTER-COUNTY DEBUT**  
**COMPETITION** NFL  
**YEAR** 2019  
**OPPOSITION** London

**SQUAD SECRETS**  
**HARDEST TRAINER**  
Tomas McCann  
**TOUGHEST DRILL**  
Shooting  
**TEAM MESSER**  
Kevin Quinn  
**FAVOURITE PRE MATCH MEAL**  
Flat white  
**FAVOURITE MACHINE IN THE GYM**  
Anything that works the biceps  
**FAVOURITE WORK OUT SONG**  
Anything Conor Murray puts on

**BIOGRAPHY**  
**FAVOURITE VENUE**  
Croke Park  
**FAVOURITE MUSIC**  
Christy Moore  
**FAVOURITE FILM**  
Man on Fire  
**FAVOURITE RESTAURANT**  
Bogum  
**CHILDHOOD SPORTING HERO**  
Philly Curran

**BIOGRAPHY**  
**TOUGHEST OPPONENT**  
Kevin McCarthy  
**TWITTER HANDLE** @JamesMcAuley96  
**INSTAGRAM HANDLE** @jamesmcauley9619  
**CLUB YOU LIKE TO SEE DO WELL**  
Anyone representing Antrim in Ulster  
**FAVOURITE GROUND**  
Patrick Laverty Pitch, St Endas  
**TOUGHEST OPPONENT**  
Kevin McCarthy  
**ADVICE?**  
**MOST IMPORTANT SKILL**  
Be able to do the basic skills very well, with both feet  
**TIPS FOR NEXT GENERATION**  
Leave the jersey in a better place than when you got it  
**GOAL FOR 2020**  
Promotion from division 4



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## MARC JORDAN

**AGE 26 CLUB** Larne Dhearg **POSITION** Midfield/ Half Forward  
**PRIMARY SCHOOL** St Joseph's PS Crumlin  
**POST PRIMARY SCHOOL** St Mary's CBGS  
**HONOURS** Ulster Minor Club Football Championship, McClarnon Cup  
**OCCUPATION** Transporter **HEIGHT** 6'1 **WEIGHT** 87kg



**INTER-COUNTY DEBUT**  
**COMPETITION** NFL (for London)  
**YEAR** 2017  
**OPPOSITION** Carlow

**SQUAD SECRETS**  
**HARDEST TRAINER**  
Kevin Quinn  
**TOUGHEST DRILL**  
Tackle grids  
**TEAM MESSER**  
Fintan Burke  
**FAVOURITE PRE MATCH MEAL**  
Pasta Bolognese  
**FAVOURITE MACHINE IN THE GYM**  
Whatever machine Conor Smal is on  
**FAVOURITE WORK OUT SONG**  
Ann Lee - 2 Times

**BIOGRAPHY**  
**FAVOURITE VENUE**  
Casement  
**FAVOURITE MUSIC**  
Anything Kevin Quinn sings  
**FAVOURITE FILM**  
Cool Runnings  
**FAVOURITE RESTAURANT**  
Goodfellas  
**CHILDHOOD SPORTING HERO**  
Donnchadh Walsh

**BIOGRAPHY**  
**TOUGHEST OPPONENT**  
Christopher McSTEEN  
**TWITTER HANDLE** @MarcJordan\_1  
**INSTAGRAM HANDLE** @jarcJordan

**OTHER CLUBS**  
**CLUB YOU LIKE TO SEE DO WELL**  
Ulster Club San Francisco, St. Enda's  
**FAVOURITE GROUND**  
Casement  
**TOUGHEST OPPONENT**  
An in-form Aidan McGarry  
**ADVICE?**  
**MOST IMPORTANT SKILL**  
Work ethic  
**TIPS FOR NEXT GENERATION**  
Work harder than the person beside you  
**GOAL FOR 2020**  
Win Division 4. Re-set after that



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## NIAL DELARGY

**AGE 26 CLUB** Roger Casement's Portlengone **POSITION** Half Back  
**PRIMARY SCHOOL** St Mary's Portlengone  
**POST PRIMARY SCHOOL** St Louis Ballymena  
**HONOURS** U21 Antrim Club Champ, Antrim Intermediate Champ, Div 2 Football League, All Ireland Colleges Int. Football Champ  
**OCCUPATION** Marketing for Acorn IT Solutions  
**HEIGHT** 6ft **WEIGHT** 12.5 stone



**INTER-COUNTY DEBUT**  
**COMPETITION** McKenna Cup  
**YEAR** 2013  
**OPPOSITION** UUJ

**SQUAD SECRETS**  
**HARDEST TRAINER**  
Colum Duffin  
**TOUGHEST DRILL**  
1v1 Pressure Cookers  
**TEAM MESSER**  
Toss up between Marc Jordan and Fintan Burke  
**FAVOURITE PRE MATCH MEAL**  
Beans on Toast  
**FAVOURITE MACHINE IN THE GYM**  
Free weights  
**FAVOURITE WORK OUT SONG**  
One - Swedish House Mafia

**BIOGRAPHY**  
**FAVOURITE VENUE**  
O'Cahan Park, Portlengone  
**FAVOURITE MUSIC**  
Gerry Cinnamon  
**FAVOURITE FILM**  
The Two Towers  
**FAVOURITE RESTAURANT**  
The Wild Duck  
**CHILDHOOD SPORTING HERO**  
Peter Canavan

**BIOGRAPHY**  
**TOUGHEST OPPONENT**  
Paddy McBrearty  
**TWITTER HANDLE** nial\_delargy93  
**INSTAGRAM HANDLE** nialdelargy

**OTHER CLUBS**  
**CLUB YOU LIKE TO SEE DO WELL**  
All Saints Ballymena  
**FAVOURITE GROUND**  
Ahoghill  
**TOUGHEST OPPONENT**  
Mick McCann  
**ADVICE?**  
**MOST IMPORTANT SKILL**  
Hard Work and Discipline  
**TIPS FOR NEXT GENERATION**  
Master the basics  
**GOAL FOR 2020**  
Promotion, Successful year with club and to tie the knot



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## DERMOT MCALEESE

**AGE 25 CLUB** Roger Casement's Portlengone **POSITION** Half forward  
**PRIMARY SCHOOL** St Mary's Portlengone  
**POST PRIMARY SCHOOL** St Louis Ballymena  
**HONOURS** U21 Antrim Club Championship, Antrim Intermediate Championship  
**OCCUPATION** Admin at BES **HEIGHT** 6ft **WEIGHT** 84kg



**INTER-COUNTY DEBUT**  
**COMPETITION** McKenna Cup  
**YEAR** 2013  
**OPPOSITION** Armagh

**SQUAD SECRETS**  
**HARDEST TRAINER**  
County Colum Duffin **Club** Brian McManus  
**TOUGHEST DRILL**  
Pressure Cookers  
**TEAM MESSER**  
Fintan Burke  
**FAVOURITE PRE MATCH MEAL**  
Porridge  
**FAVOURITE MACHINE IN THE GYM**  
Bench Press  
**FAVOURITE WORK OUT SONG**  
Avicii-Wake Me Up

**BIOGRAPHY**  
**FAVOURITE VENUE**  
Croke Park  
**FAVOURITE MUSIC**  
Coldplay  
**FAVOURITE FILM**  
Shawshank Redemption  
**FAVOURITE RESTAURANT**  
District 45  
**CHILDHOOD SPORTING HERO**  
Bernard Brogan

**BIOGRAPHY**  
**TOUGHEST OPPONENT**  
Jack McCaffrey  
**TWITTER HANDLE** @DermotMcAleese  
**INSTAGRAM HANDLE** dermotmcaleese

**OTHER CLUBS**  
**CLUB YOU LIKE TO SEE DO WELL**  
Any underdog  
**FAVOURITE GROUND**  
O'Cahan Park Portlengone  
**TOUGHEST OPPONENT**  
Declan Doherty - St Vincent's Sheffield  
**ADVICE?**  
**MOST IMPORTANT SKILL**  
All of them  
**TIPS FOR NEXT GENERATION**  
Work hard, practice the basics and enjoy it!  
**GOAL FOR 2020**  
Silverware with Club and County



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## NIALL MCKENNA

**AGE** 25 **CLUB** Sansfields **POSITION** Half forward  
**PRIMARY SCHOOL** Bunscoil tsleibhe Dhuibh  
**POST PRIMARY SCHOOL** Colaiste Feirste  
**HONOURS** 1 Antrim Intermediate Championships, 5 Ulster Senior County, 2 National Hurling League  
**OCCUPATION** Window Glazier **HEIGHT** 6ft **WEIGHT** 14st



**INTER-COUNTY DEBUT**  
**COMPETITION** Ulster Final  
**YEAR** 2013  
**OPPOSITION** Down

**SQUAD SECRETS**  
**HARDEST TRAINER**  
 Domhnall Nugent  
**TOUGHEST DRILL**  
 Pressure cookers  
**TEAM MESSER**  
 Alex Delargy  
**FAVOURITE PRE MATCH MEAL**  
 Scrambled eggs and bacon  
**FAVOURITE MACHINE IN THE GYM**  
 Anything for a disco pump  
**FAVOURITE WORK OUT SONG**  
 ATB-Ecstasy

**BIOGRAPHY**  
**FAVOURITE VENUE**  
 Croke Park  
**FAVOURITE MUSIC**  
 Fan of everything  
**FAVOURITE FILM**  
 One Flew over the cuckoo's nest  
**FAVOURITE RESTAURANT**  
 Goodfellas  
**CHILDHOOD SPORTING HERO**  
 Eoin Kelly (Tipp)

**BIOGRAPHY**  
**TOUGHEST OPPONENT**  
 Padraic Maher  
**TWITTER HANDLE** @NiallMcKenna5  
**INSTAGRAM HANDLE** niall\_12

**OTHER CLUBS**  
**CLUB YOU LIKE TO SEE DO WELL**  
 Rosca  
**FAVOURITE GROUND**  
 St Johns  
**TOUGHEST OPPONENT**  
 James Black  
**ADVICE?**  
**MOST IMPORTANT SKILL**  
 Winning Ball & Scoring  
**TIPS FOR NEXT GENERATION**  
 Listening to your coaches, and always have a hurl in your hand  
**GOAL FOR 2020**  
 Promotion to Div 1 and win Joe McDonagh



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## PADDY BURKE

**AGE** 24 **CLUB** Ruairi Og Cushendall **POSITION** Half back  
**PRIMARY SCHOOL** St Mary's Cushendall  
**POST PRIMARY SCHOOL** St Killians Garron Tower  
**HONOURS** 1 Antrim Senior Hurling Championships, 2 Ulster Senior Hurling Championships, 1 Antrim U21 Hurling Championship, 1 Antrim Minor hurling championship, 1 Ulster Minor hurling championship  
**OCCUPATION** Software Developer **HEIGHT** 6ft 1" **WEIGHT** 87kg



**INTER-COUNTY DEBUT**  
**COMPETITION** League  
**YEAR** 2014  
**OPPOSITION** Offaly

**SQUAD SECRETS**  
**HARDEST TRAINER**  
 Conor McCann  
**TOUGHEST DRILL**  
 2 men in the middle tackling  
**TEAM MESSER**  
 Sean Duffin  
**FAVOURITE PRE MATCH MEAL**  
 Pancakes and fruit  
**FAVOURITE MACHINE IN THE GYM**  
 Foam roller  
**FAVOURITE WORK OUT SONG**  
 Giant Calvin Harris

**BIOGRAPHY**  
**FAVOURITE VENUE**  
 Paire Mhuire Cushendall  
**FAVOURITE MUSIC**  
 Eminem  
**FAVOURITE FILM**  
 Any of the Marvel films  
**FAVOURITE RESTAURANT**  
 Amici Portstewart  
**CHILDHOOD SPORTING HERO**  
 JJ Delaney

**BIOGRAPHY**  
**TOUGHEST OPPONENT**  
 Seamus Callanan  
**TWITTER HANDLE** @Paddy\_Burke01  
**INSTAGRAM HANDLE** paddy\_burke7

**OTHER CLUBS**  
**CLUB YOU LIKE TO SEE DO WELL**  
 Cushendun  
**FAVOURITE GROUND**  
 Cushendun  
**TOUGHEST OPPONENT**  
 Conor Boyd  
**ADVICE?**  
**MOST IMPORTANT SKILL**  
 First touch  
**TIPS FOR NEXT GENERATION**  
 Don't be afraid to fail  
**GOAL FOR 2020**  
 Promotion



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## RYAN ELLIOTT

**AGE** 22 **CLUB** Cuchullains Dunloy **POSITION** Goalkeeper  
**PRIMARY SCHOOL** St Josephs Dunloy  
**POST PRIMARY SCHOOL** St Louis Grammar Ballymena  
**HONOURS** 2 Antrim Senior Hurling Championships, 2 Antrim u21 Hurling Championships, Antrim Minor Hurling Championship and Mageean Cup  
**OCCUPATION** Student **HEIGHT** 5ft 10" **WEIGHT** 12st



**INTER-COUNTY DEBUT**  
**COMPETITION** League  
**YEAR** 2018  
**OPPOSITION** Limerick

**SQUAD SECRETS**  
**HARDEST TRAINER**  
 Phelim Duffin  
**TOUGHEST DRILL**  
 Anything that involves running  
**TEAM MESSER**  
 Alex Delargy  
**FAVOURITE PRE MATCH MEAL**  
 Poached Eggs and Bacon  
**FAVOURITE MACHINE IN THE GYM**  
 Barbell  
**FAVOURITE WORK OUT SONG**  
 Welcome to the party

**BIOGRAPHY**  
**FAVOURITE VENUE**  
 Pearse Park, Dunloy  
**FAVOURITE MUSIC**  
 Mumford and Sons  
**FAVOURITE FILM**  
 Batman - Dark Knight Rises  
**FAVOURITE RESTAURANT**  
 Tides, Portrush  
**CHILDHOOD SPORTING HERO**  
 Martin Curry

**BIOGRAPHY**  
**TOUGHEST OPPONENT**  
 Mark Kavanagh  
**TWITTER HANDLE** @ryanelliott\_1  
**INSTAGRAM HANDLE** ryan\_elliott\_97  
**CLUB YOU LIKE TO SEE DO WELL**  
 Cloughmills  
**FAVOURITE GROUND**  
 Ahoghill  
**TOUGHEST OPPONENT**  
 James McNaughton  
**ADVICE?**  
**MOST IMPORTANT SKILL**  
 Striking  
**TIPS FOR NEXT GENERATION**  
 Listen to your coaches and enjoy the game  
**GOAL FOR 2020**  
 Promotion to Division 1 and win the Joe McDonagh



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## CONOR JOHNSTON

**AGE** 24 **CLUB** Naomh Eoin **POSITION** Forward  
**PRIMARY SCHOOL** St Colman's  
**POST PRIMARY SCHOOL** St Mary's CBGS  
**HONOURS** 3 Minor Hurling and Football, 2 U21 Hurling, 3 U21 Football, 5 Ulster Senior County, 1 NHL, 2 Fergal Mahers University Hurling  
**OCCUPATION** Classroom Assistant **HEIGHT** 5ft 9" **WEIGHT** 13st



**INTER-COUNTY DEBUT**  
**COMPETITION** Ulster Final  
**YEAR** 2013  
**OPPOSITION** Down

**SQUAD SECRETS**  
**HARDEST TRAINER**  
 Sammy O'Neill  
**TOUGHEST DRILL**  
 Any of Brendan's running drills  
**TEAM MESSER**  
 Sean Duffin (Chips)  
**FAVOURITE PRE MATCH MEAL**  
 Carrickdale Bolognese  
**FAVOURITE MACHINE IN THE GYM**  
 Squat Machine (1, 2, 3 up)  
**FAVOURITE WORK OUT SONG**  
 Gerry Cinnamon - Canter

**BIOGRAPHY**  
**FAVOURITE VENUE**  
 Casement  
**FAVOURITE MUSIC**  
 Irish Folk  
**FAVOURITE FILM**  
 Man about Dog  
**FAVOURITE RESTAURANT**  
 Hatch (you owe me a coffee Tierney)  
**CHILDHOOD SPORTING HERO**  
 John Troy (all about the showboat)

**BIOGRAPHY**  
**TOUGHEST OPPONENT**  
 Noel Connors  
**INSTAGRAM HANDLE** ConJohn95  
 (Don't be afraid to add)

**OTHER CLUBS**  
**CLUB YOU LIKE TO SEE DO WELL**  
 Liatroim Fontenoy's  
**FAVOURITE GROUND**  
 Loughgall Fr Healy Park  
**TOUGHEST OPPONENT**  
 Pearse Og Strong bal  
**ADVICE?**  
**MOST IMPORTANT SKILL**  
 Striking  
**TIPS FOR NEXT GENERATION**  
 Perseverance (keep coming to the field)  
**GOAL FOR 2020**  
 Promoted in league



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**CLUB PROFILES** Club Aontroma sought to showcase the exceptional visionary and ambitious capital development which is underway throughout the county via Club Profiles in match programs.



## CLUB FOCUS DAVITTS

Michael Davitt GAC, Belfast was officially established in 1912 with the club headquarters established at 2a Dunville Street, Falls Road, more fondly known as the 'Shack'. This became the spiritual home of the Club and remained so right up until the seventies.



The club has maintained a presence in the immediate area and following a short tenure at Lower Clonard Street, moved to the current location at the junction of the Falls Road and Clonard Street in 1985. The social clubhouse has undergone several transformations since then; the last in December 2019 and is now a thriving social club for local Gaels and associates, with gym facilities for use by club members.

For over 100 years, the club provided social, community, cultural and sporting

opportunities to the people of the Clonard, Falls and Beechmount areas, all without a pitch or facilities of its own which meant they had to hire, train and play on various pitches scattered around West Belfast and beyond.

In 2012, the Club officers first engaged with the Diocese of Down and Connor to seek their permission to make use of a toxic wasteland that belonged to Corpus Christi College and which lay idle, along with a piece of derelict wasteland, owned by the Department of Social Development which was used and abused by local youths, a magnet for anti-social behaviour and a blight on the local community.

The Club purchased the DSD land and after a period of discussion and consultation, the Diocese very generously agreed a long-term lease for the adjoining land. After extensive planning, work began on the club's ambitious £1.65m Project in 2017 with funding secured through Belfast City Council, National Lottery Community Fund, BIFFA and strongly supported by Antrim and Ulster GAA, to extensively develop the site and transform it into a sustainable, enhanced community sports, health/wellbeing facility; a safe, attractive space for the Club, local schools and community users of all ages.

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The development work was carried out by Tony Patterson Sports Grounds and the complex, named Davitt Park, is now a state of the art development that includes a grass pitch with a spectator stand, a flood-lit 4g training pitch, changing rooms, hurling wall, children's playground, outdoor gym and walking track.

A lot of people within the Club (some sadly no longer with us) put a lot of work into making the Davitt Park dream a reality, but none more so than long serving club Chairman Tommy Shaw. Davitt Park is the ultimate legacy of the energy and drive the indefatigable and talismanic Tommy has brought to the club for many decades.

While the complex was officially opened in February 2019, the pitch has rested and grown since then but on Saturday 8th February 2020 Tommy, along with the members of Davitts GAC and hopefully a huge support will welcome our county senior hurlers for the inaugural game to be played on the pitch, against reigning All Ireland champions, Tipperary.



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## CLUB FOCUS ROGER CASEMENTS PORTGLENONE

Cuirimid fáilte speisialta roimh an Foiréann Aontroma agus an Foiréann Luimnigh inniu go bPáirc Uí Ceallaigh. We welcome the footballers, team officials and supporters of Antrim and Limerick today to Kelly Park, Portglenone. Roger Casement's GAC are delighted to host the first National League football game ever to take place in Portglenone. We were equally privileged to host the Division 2A hurling game last Sunday between Antrim and Meath. Portglenone have a rich history of having representation at County level, we currently have three players in the Senior football panel and our Club Treasurer also holds this position at County Level.



John Horan opening pitch May 2018

We are pleased to make available our recently completed facilities: a second full-size Pitch, with flood-lighting, spectator and ball stop fencing, with vehicular access, parking facilities, boundary fencing and sub shelters. A designated pedestrian access with amenity lighting provides access from the Club's existing site. Through a massive fundraising initiative this 1.2 million pounds project has been achieved with all bills paid. We were delighted to receive the 2018 Ulster Council President's Award for the best facilities in Antrim and the runners-up in Ulster.

Founded in 1941 the Club moved to its current home in Gortgole fifty four years

ago, after purchasing a small farm of seven acres at a cost of £1,050. In 2015 the Club embarked on its most ambitious phase, the development of a Second Playing Pitch in the adjoining field of seven acres, effectively doubling its footprint. Any inspection of GAA facilities especially here in SW Antrim would clearly underline the important role that the GAA performs, holding communities together, providing first class facilities, providing employment opportunities, and so on. Casements have relied on the professional skills of its membership, whether design, building, financial, advisory, and they have responded in great measures.



Club committee at pitch opening

As Casements and Geraldines approach our Eightieth Year the Committee has very ambitious plans to mark this milestone. 2019

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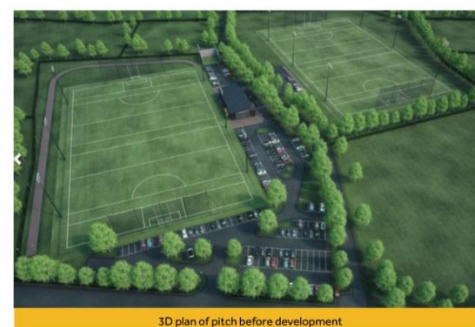
New pitch completed



New pitch completed 2

was marked with the opening of a Gym for use by both the footballers and camogs alike. Phase Five of our Development is well in hand. All made possible by the assurance of voluntary labour and general volunteerism. The establishment and continued presence of Club Portglenone has proved to be the

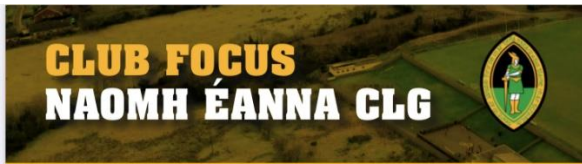
backbone and driving force of all future development. We are committed to investing for future generations, determined to improve our facilities, drawing on the skills and drive of our members and enthusiastic to set and achieve the necessary fundraising targets.



3D plan of pitch before development

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## CLUB FOCUS NAOMH ÉANNA CLG

The calendar year of 2019 saw the most successful year in the history of Naomh Éanna CLG, with both their senior teams claiming Intermediate Ulster championships, losing only to Kerry football and Kilkenny hurling champions, their footballers odyssey concluding in Croke Park in the All Ireland final, with the hurlers only being stopped by the most successful club team in Kilkenny history, led by 9 times All Ireland champion and All Star, GAA legend Tommy Walsh. Club PRO Seamus Mac Dhomnaill tells us about the construction of a €2 million community hall, Halla Éanna! Nestled into the Cave Hill and visible from the M2 passing Sandymount, the hall is a beacon for language, culture and sport for all north Belfast and Glengormley Gaeles.

January 2020 saw another first for the club, the completion of the construction of Ionad Pobal Éanna – Halla Éanna, while our recent on-field activities inspired our juveniles and brought our history to national attention, the new community building is the physical manifestation of the continuous and ongoing development of Pobal Éanna. Pobal Éanna is: Naomh Éanna CLG, Naiscoil & Gaelscoil Éanna, Croí Éanna & Cumann Óige Chroí Éanna, each independent but also interdependent.



The 20 month construction of the hall began in June 2018 and it's recent conclusion has provided a spectacular result!

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The almost €2 million cost, came from a cocktail of funding, with investment coming from An Ciste Infeistíochta (the Irish Language Fund), the Social Investment Fund, the Department of Communities, Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council and crucial in-house fundraising which collectively allowed the dream to become a reality.

### Ground floor, reception, changing rooms, sports hall and ball wall

The entrance area is an ideal display area or event space. The sliding partition allows this space to be quickly and easily changed, underlining a multi-use aspect.

Just off the exhibition area, we have a modern kitchen and also an office space, which we intend to locate our successful Siopa Éanna which provides all playing gear for our 981 members and school uniforms for the wider Éanna community.

The reception, opens into a corridor to two changing rooms, complete with showers, affording internal and external access to the indoor 4G hall and the outdoor Ball Wall and grass pitches.

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Exiting the changing rooms, passing "Seomra an Riteora" we enter the massive hall, 30m length by 20m wide with 4G synthetic playing surface encased by 12 metre high concrete walls height creating rebound surfaces on all four planes with a generous storage facility at the rear.

At the back door, the largest ball wall in Ireland presents with a 2500 square feet wall serviced by a 5500 square foot flush tarmac surface.

### 1st floor Ionad Gaeilge

From our Fáilte (reception area), lift and stair access brings us upstairs to the Irish language centre and from the elevated platforms of the first floor, the view of the whole site is stunning, and will provide supporters with a shelter to watch matches on the Gerry Devlin pitch.

The view from within the building give a breath-taking vista of Slemish straight ahead and Loch Lao just to the right, with Scotland beckoning on a clear day.

Internally the Irish language centre is the heartbeat of the building and under the direction of An Ciste Infeistíochta, the centre has four state of the art classrooms, complete with interactive whiteboards, acoustic dampening and environment controls all to create a pleasant and positive

learning environment, ensuring that language development in this area will continue well into the future. The 1st floor is serviced by a communications room, with the highest mechanical and electrical specifications complete with LAN and WLAN.

The entire building is ethically built, achieving an 'excellent' environmental BREEAM grade. The building produces part of the electricity requirements itself with solar panels, and of course the sedum (grass) roof forming an integral part of the building with the roof lights replicating the Orion star constellations as another of the buildings many unique highlights.

### Basement

The building is future proofed with the sub-committee ensuring that a basement area was excavated with retaining walls and steel beamed roof built in the current phase. As yet unfinished, this space will be developed as a gym with room further provided for two more changing rooms and another referee room.

Cost: €1.8 million

Funders: SIF, An Ciste Infeistíochta, DFC, ANBC, club fundraising.

Architect: Nial O'Neill from DON

BREEAM Certification of "Excellent"



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## CLUB FOCUS GLENARIFFE



Our project came about as Oisins CLG, Glenariffe were in dire need for new changing facilities and the Glenariffe community were in dire need for a community space. The prime location for a community hub which would serve the whole community was most certainly on the hurling club grounds. The site is safe to access, well positioned from the main road with great external play space.



In 2011 Friends of Glenariffe were formed to address these 2 issues. Following extensive research throughout the community it was evident that the club members wanted new changing facilities, indoor training space and meeting and function rooms and the local community wanted a facility which provided access to facilities and services other communities enjoy, proactively help

increase community physical and mental well-being, promote social inclusion, help address the disadvantages of rural isolation and reconnect people of all ages, abilities, backgrounds, beliefs and interests.

The following 8 years were solely immersed in fundraising and applying for whatever grants were available. In October 2016 all our hard work started to pay off and the grants started to come in. Our total project cost, including fit out to date, was £1.1 million and of that the build cost was £853,578.08. The base of our grant funding came from The Big Lottery Space & Place Programme for the sum of £420,000; this was followed with funding from Causeway Coast & Glens Council for £180,000; we received £30,000 from Ulster Garden Villages Fund to kit out our kitchen; and to bridge the gap we took a loan from UCIT (Ulster Community Investment Trust Ltd) for £150,000 but the want and need for this facility was shown in what we raised ourselves as a community – our own contribution to the project was £320,000.

The centre comprises of 2 levels - on the ground floor there are 4 large changing rooms with toilet and shower facilities for both the able and disabled bodied. These rooms have also been used for meetings and exercise and arts and crafts classes.



On the first floor there is a 16-station gym which has fabulous views up the Glenariffe Glen. Our current users range from age 16 to those in their 80's. It has been a fabulous tool for those wanting to improve in their mental as well as their physical wellbeing.



On this floor we also have a community room, which again has fabulous views overlooking the Irish Sea and kitchen. This room leads onto a balcony from which you can watch training, matches or a prime spot for the budding artist.

The community room has been used daily since we opened in June 2019. The room has been a great benefit to the club as we are able to carry out internal fitness training in the winter months for all age groups and for fundraising events. The community have used it for birthday parties, funeral teas, exercise and arts and crafts classes.

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## Showcasing Positivity

### GAELFAST

**TÚS NUA – ALL COUNTY –  
ALL CODES – ALL COMMUNITIES**



Gaelfast is a pioneering new approach to reignite enthusiasm and involvement in gaelic games. Our mandate is to be a catalyst for change in Belfast and across Antrim. Our mission is: All County, All Codes and All Communities.

Is tús nua é Gaelfast i bhforbairt ár gcluichí Gaelacha i gContae Aontroma. Tús maith leath na hoidre!

Our 2019 Games Development Plan embraces All Codes. Through this,

Gaelfast has created opportunities for improving access to our County Centre of Excellence at Dunsilly. Our review of underage Development Squads is developing proposals for a new, coherent player pathway, to support the athletic and personal development of our young people from u13 to u20. Our team is forging new partnerships with primary and post-primary schools throughout Belfast and across Antrim. Working with Cumann na mBunscol and promoting



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the GAA 5 Star Centre initiative, we are helping hundreds of teachers and schools upgrade their own capacity and delivery of gaelic games. Just down the road from Casement Park, we are building a strategic partnership with St Mary's University College Belfast, with its own rich heritage in gaelic games. Our ground-breaking Club Membership Survey will provide a research baseline

about the real needs of ordinary Gaels. This is the first study of its kind in Belfast and Antrim.

From the Causeway coast to the Lough shore and over the Belfast Hills to Ireland's second city, Gaelfast is striving to include everyone. You don't have to play our games to play a part in shaping the way forward for Antrim. Our Gaelfast Plan to be launched in 2020 will set out a vision and mission for the next 10-15 years. There is no five year fix or shortcut to success. Our job is to create an environment in Belfast and Antrim within which gaelic games can progress and prosper in years to come. Together we can do it. Ní neart go cur le chéile. Gabh le Gaelfast. Tá síol curtha!



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## Saffron Business Forum

The Saffron Business Forum has nearly 100 members and facilitates local businesses with an affinity to Antrim GAA promote their business interests and gain access to a wider market by association with a large sporting organisation.

The Saffron Business Forum will promote business between its members and others through networking events, business referrals and social media. The forum hosts four business networking events every year, which consist of one fundraising lunch and three business breakfasts.

### Members and Associates include

- Antrim GAA Corporate & Commercial Sponsors
- Other Corporate and Commercial Business representatives
- Antrim GAA Patrons
- Local Businesses and SME's



### Benefits of Membership include

- Networking opportunities
- Business Referrals
- Business Information Seminars & Workshops
- Marketing and Promotional Initiatives
- Representation and Lobbying
- Antrim Championship pass
- Limited edition Saffron Forum coat
- Limited edition Saffron Forum polo shirt
- Entry into a draw for All Ireland tickets



## Our Members

Abacus Recruitment  
Andras Hotels  
ATC Systems Ltd  
Ashdown HVAC Controls Ltd  
Automation Controls Ltd  
B4B Telecoms  
Balmoral Hotel  
Bank of Ireland  
Bathshack  
BDO Northern Ireland  
Bennett (Construction) Ltd  
Bourke Sports  
BTA Pharm  
Burke Systems & Solutions  
Cairn Electrical Consulting Ltd  
Carson McDowell LLP  
CBRE NI Ltd  
Century Electrical Wholesale Ltd  
Christie & McCauley  
Conlon Group  
Convery Sportsturf & Landscape Contractors  
Cleaver Fulton Rankin  
Creagh Concrete  
Deloitte LLP  
DFC NI Ltd  
Donnelly Group  
Downs Group  
Dowling Financial Planning Ltd  
Down Royal Park Racecourse Ltd  
E McMullan Ltd  
ESS (Electronic and Security Serviced Limited)  
Evolve CPA  
Fáilte Feirste Thiar  
First Trust Bank  
fonaCAB  
Galgorm Resort & Spa  
Gillan's Chemist  
Hannon Transport  
Hart & Co Solicitors  
Heron Bros Ltd  
Hill Vellacott  
H&J Martin  
Homefit Merchants  
The Irish News  
J Haughey and Co  
John McQuillan (Contracts) Ltd  
Kelly Stone  
Keystone Law  
Killaney Estates Ltd  
KPMG  
KRW LAW LLP  
Lagan Group  
Lambert Smith Hampton  
Lehding Services Design Ltd  
Lisburn Road Dental Clinic  
Lockton Companies LLP  
Lynskey Engineering Ltd  
M. Hasson & Sons Ltd  
Macklin Group  
MCA Systems Ltd  
MCE Public Relations Ltd  
McKeague Morgan & Company  
McKeever Hotels Ltd  
McLaughlin & Harvey  
Mercury Security and Facilities  
Management Ltd  
Millar McCall Wyllie Solicitors  
Muldoon & Co Ltd  
Musco Lighting Europe Ltd

Natural World Products Ltd  
North Financial Planning LLP  
Northern Property  
Northern Switchgear  
O'Neill's International  
Sportsware  
Outsource Solutions (NI) Ltd  
Peak Physique  
People 1st  
PKF-FPM  
Podium 4 Sport  
Premier Electrics  
Quarter Chartered Accountants  
Radius Corporate Finance  
Saffron Gael  
Sean Graham Bookmakers Ltd  
Semple & McKillop Ltd  
Shannon Roadmarkings Ltd  
Sperrin Switchgear Ltd  
Straben Limited  
Syndeo  
Team Kit  
The Country Garage  
The League of Advertising  
Think People Consulting  
Thornton Roofing (Ireland) Ltd  
Total Produce  
Traction Finance  
Travel Ireland Coaches Ltd  
Trustford  
Tughans  
Value Cabs  
Vincent Raney Finance Ltd  
W.S. Mercer  
Willis Insurance





## Commemorating history

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## THE MEN OF '69

By John McIlwaine

When Antrim set out on their Ulster Under 21 Championship campaign in the summer of '69 the north of Ireland, and Belfast in particular, was a troubled place. The majority of the team were from the city and there was much more going on around West Belfast at that time to occupy young minds than playing football.

That is what makes the achievement of that great team even more remarkable. Under the guidance of the great St John's stalwart Tommy Hall they defied the odds in more ways than one to win an Ulster and All Ireland title and write their names in the history books as arguably Antrim's greatest team. The backbone of the team were from the city with St John's supplying four of them in Andy McCallin, Gerry McCann, Din Joe McGroggan and Martin McGranaghan while Rossa had Alan Hamill and Jimmy Mullin. Gerry Neill was from Sarsfields. Terry Dunlop came from Q'Donnell's, Mickey Culbert, Gerry Pollock and Joe Dowds from St Gall's and Liam Millar from Dwyers. Goalkeeper Ray McIlroy and Sean Boyland came from Mitchell's, Donal Burns from St Enda's in Glengormley, while St Malachy's supplied the man who would lift the Clarke Cup on the steps of Croke Park on September 14th 1969 Liam Boyle.

Down in the south west of the county Liam Killough from Ahoghill was chosen to wear the number 3 shirt, while Gerry Dillon from Dunloy had the number 14 on

his back. Dillon's clubmate Sean McLean plus Creggan's Sean Maguire and Dessie McAteer and Kieran O'Neill from Glenavy were also members of the panel.

The journey started on June 1st when Monaghan fell to a Gerry Dillon double in what was a comfortable win for the Saffrons in a preliminary round. Derry who had eight of the 1968 All Ireland winning minor team in their ranks were next to fall on June 18th as Wee Andy grabbed four points and Din Joe McGroggan got a goal.

In the semi-final, which was played more than a month later on July 13th, Antrim were way too strong for Fermanagh as McCallin, Din Joe McGroggan and Sean Boyland all found the Erne net to set up a final meeting with Down.

During the build up to the final against a Down team who had no less than eight of the 1968 All Ireland Senior winning team in their ranks, including team captain Colm McAlarney, conditions for training were far from ideal with nightly rioting providing the backdrop. However this special team managed to get through it all

and on Sunday August 10th they shocked the football world by beating the Mourne men by 2-8 to 1-9, with star of the show Andy McCallin hitting the Down net inside the opening minute.

Antrim were drawn away to Munster champions, Cork in the All Ireland semi-final and thanks to the intervention of then Taoiseach Jack Lynch a plane was commissioned to take them on their journey. Once again the young men from the troubled city of Belfast defied the odds as they won by 3-7 to 1-12 against a Cork side that had the great Ray Cummins in its ranks, two of the goals coming the mercurial Din Joe McGroggan.

The final against Roscommon on September 14th was far from a classic but Antrim got over the line in a tough

battle against the Connacht men by 1-8 to 0-10. 1-5 of those come from Wee Andy who proved again to be the man for the big day.

Sadly time has caught up with a few of the men who made Antrim hearts proud that September day 50 golden years ago. Din Joe died tragically in a bomb attack on the White Fort Inn in July 1976 when he ripped in for a quick pint before setting off on holiday with his wife and two children. Martin McGranaghan has also gone to his eternal reward but thankfully the majority of the team were still together when they met in on the 50th anniversary at the Balmoral Hotel and later in Casement Social Club. Hopefully they will be there again today in Corrigan Park to receive the praise and cheers they so richly deserve. We may never see their likes again!



## REMEMBER THE MEN OF '89

By John 'Curly' McIlwaine

Thirty years ago this month the hurlers of Antrim bridged a forty six year gap by qualifying for the All Ireland Senior Hurling final for only the second time in the county's history. In 1943 the Saffrons had first made the breakthrough when they beat Galway in the quarter final and Kilkenny in the semi-final, both games played at Corrigan Park, Belfast. Unfortunately defeat was their lot as they came up against a great Cork side, led by the legend Christy Ring, who were in the middle of a first ever 4-in-a-row of titles.

The Antrim star faded over the following years and though their great team of 1970 won the All Ireland Intermediate title, they still were not competing at the top level. Into the 1980s and things slowly began to change. Loughgiel won the All Ireland club title in 1983 and there was optimism within the county that Antrim hurling was on the rise again and when Sean McGuinness took over as manager in the mid-80s the rise continued. The Ulster senior championship was now back in vogue, with the winners qualifying for the All Ireland Senior semi-final and in 1986 the men from the Glens gave a great performance against Munster champions Cork, losing out by 7-7 to 1-24 on August 10th in Croke Park.

In 1987, with Jim Nelson having taken over as manager, they qualified for the semi-final once again and this time they came up against Leinster champions Kilkenny in St Brigid's Park Dundak. Antrim had wanted Kilkenny to toss for venue, but the Cats declined and Dundak was chosen, even though Galway and Tipperary were playing in the other semi-final in Croke Park that very same day. The small Co Louth ground was packed that August day as the Ulster champions took on the might of Kilkenny and the atmosphere was electric. Antrim really put it up the kinkins of

hurling and two goals from full forward Danny McNaughton put them in a strong position, but a strong finish by the Cats and barrage of scores from corner-forward Harry Ryan saw them gain victory by 2-18 to 2-11.

Despite that defeat it was clear the Ulster men were steadily progressing and having qualified for Division 1 of the National Hurling League in the spring of 1988 they again won Ulster and qualified to face Tipperary in the All Ireland semi-final in Croke Park.

Tipperary won the game comfortably enough but, again Antrim gave a good account of themselves, and in truth and eight point defeat against the Munster champions was nothing to be ashamed of.

Their Division 1 league campaign in the Autumn of 1988 got away to a great start when they beat Wexford by 2-15 to 0-11 in their opening game in Loughgiel. Defeats followed to Kilkenny (1-15 to 0-13 in Nowlan Park, Waterford (5-12 to 2-10) in Walsh Park, Galway (3-12 to 2-9 in Casement Park, Tipperary (2-15 to 0-7) in Semple Stadium and Limerick (1-12 to 0-17) in Casement Park, but when they beat Offaly in the final league game of the season in April down in Birr with a last gasp goal from Clute McFetridge they secured a place in the relegations play-offs. Wexford beat them well in the first play-off game in Croke Park and so it was down to a winner take all game, once again with Offaly, this time in Drogheda. Just as in the league game in Birr a few weeks earlier the Saffrons once again produced the goods to beat the Faithful county by 3-15 to 2-16 and retain their Division 1 status.

Those wins were to prove significant as the 1989 season progressed for, after winning



ANTRIM SENIOR HURLING TEAM, 1989 ALL IRELAND FINAL

Ulster once again to behold who should they meet in the All Ireland semi-final but their old friends Offaly.

Having beaten them twice in the league campaign Jim Nelson and his backroom team felt that this was a great chance to make it to an All Ireland final and so it proved. The Leinster champions had the better of the opening half and led by four at half time but the second half saw the Saffrons throw off the shackles and blow the Faithful county away with three unforgettable goals, two from the little magician Clute McFetridge and one from Aidan Beaver McCarry.

The hype in the four weeks between the semi-final and final was like nothing we had ever seen before and it in truth was hard for the players to escape to all. Come final day Tipperary's great team, who hadn't won an All Ireland title for seventeen years, proved just too strong as they won by 4-24 to 3-9. The media told us that 3-9 was in the highest score by a losing side in a final for so many years but in truth it was scant consolation. Antrim were not that

far behind Tipperary to be honest but on the day nothing went for the Ulster men. When they played each other two months later in the league in Casement Park there was just a point between the sides, Tipperary edging it by 0-15 to 1-11. Aidan McCarry having an injury time penalty touched over the bar.

The nucleus of the team was there for a few years after that and in 1991 they gave what many regards as their greatest ever All Ireland semi-final display as they lost out by two injury points to Kilkenny, and with it the chance of another tilt at Tipp. That team competed with the big boys for seven or eight years and took a good few famous scalps along the way. A magical time for Antrim fans which included great Ulster final battles with a very good Down team and some memorable games the length and breadth of Ireland.

They were our heroes back then, and still are today, so let's give Claran Barr and his mighty men a really warm welcome when they are introduced at half time.





## Memorialising legacy

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## THROUGH TRIALS TO TRIUMPHS

By Anto Finnegan



I've travelled to every corner of our wonderful county over the years for work, training as a player and as a spectator. The people, the history and the scenery combine to make it a very special place for me.

Recently I came across a little piece of history that I am embarrassed to admit I did not know before. Which leads me to the title of this piece. The motto for the county of Antrim is "Per angusta ad augusta" (Latin), which translates to "Through Trials to Triumphs". Whoever coined that phrase many years ago must have had a crystal ball. We could adopt this motto for Antrim GAA.

It would be easy to be negative at this point and list the things that I believe are wrong within our county, but there are others that have a better insight to those things than I do. So I'll leave that to them. Also, to focus on these things would be to ignore and do a disservice to the hard work that is going on, much of it unseen, particularly at underage level to raise the standards and participation levels across all ages and codes.

The successful application by the previous county board for funding to Croke Park for the Gaeltacht programme is a game changer, if it delivers tangible results, specifically around increasing participation levels. Having seen first-hand the collaboration between the

Gaeltacht team, St Mary's university and the participating schools. I believe our county board will be in a strong position to secure further funding to grow the programme into the future.

We are hopefully close to a decision on Casement and it would be great to see the first sod of turf cut early in the New Year. Overcoming the challenges and delays faced in the last number of years will be a huge relief to all Antrim gael.

Our development squads are attending and in many cases competing for silverware across Ireland. The challenge will be in maintaining a conveyor belt of talent with the skills and positive attitude required to transition to senior level.

The senior club competitions have thrown up some cracking games to date, some of which have taken two or three (1), more games to separate teams. The standard of Hurling at the recent semi-finals and finals held at McQuillans, Ballycastle was as good as anything we see on TG4 each Sunday, and indeed this year, we were showcased on TG4 for the entire country to watch and enjoy, raising the profile of our club competitions even further. The goals alone were worth tuning in for. Some of the scores achieved this year have been outrageous, with audacious scores in both football semi-finals games.



Much needed support from the county board to Charities and other community groups such as Cancer focus, Bowel Cancer UK and our own deterMIND, all with a GAA member connection is to be commended. If we are to triumph, our association has a wider role to play than just producing competitive teams. Thankfully Antrim GAA excel in this area and the great work they do is underpinned by a public relations and social media platform that is second to none.

Do our county board get everything right? No. Are there areas for improvement? Absolutely. The issues around fixtures are always a bone of contention. Communications with clubs can also be better. Having said that, our current Chair has shown that rather than ignore or run away from criticism, he is prepared to

acknowledge when things go wrong and more importantly, work to address them.

There is still much to do. Our county Football and Hurling managers require full support from all clubs and players if we are to move up through the divisions. We have overcome many trials and will face more in the years ahead. However, we all have our part to play to ensure we triumph.

**Per angusta ad augusta**  
**Through Trials To Triumphs**  
**Anto Finnegan**

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## SAMBO INDUCTED TO GAA HALL OF FAME

By Brendan Crossan

**Terence 'Sambo' McNaughton**  
**— Antrim Legend inducted into**  
**GAA Hall of Fame at Croke Park**

UPON his GAA Hall of Fame induction in Croke Park earlier this month, Terence 'Sambo' McNaughton joked that he was the "token Ulsterman" on the 2019 roster - but didn't disguise the sense of pride he felt at being recognised in such lofty company.



Flanked by his wife Ursula, his sons Shane and Christy and daughter Terri-Marie, 'Sambo' remembered some of the men who made him into one of the greatest hurlers of his generation.

*"It's a lovely honour and I hope it's a lovely honour for my club and the people that coached me. People like Jim Nelson and Alex Emerson and Brian Thompson. God rest him and God rest Jim."*

Now 56-years-young, Sambo has come a long way since spending endless hours hitting a ball against the old ruins of James Stewart's cottage and the sense of achievement he felt when helping Cusheendall Ruairi Ogs win the U12 North Antrim Championship back in 1977.

By the early 1980s, he became one of the driving forces of the Ruairi Ogs senior team who claimed county titles in 1981, '85 and '87 before establishing himself as one of the key players in Antrim's pursuit of provincial and All-Ireland glory.

Former Irish News journalist Gerry McLaughlin famously wrote: "Sambo McNaughton does



*not fear where the timber tests his soul; you could hear his heart beating from the stands."*

Sambo was defiance itself, a force of nature who never truly lost on a hurling field.

After Antrim's All-Ireland final defeat to Tipperary in 1989 - which he describes as a missed opportunity - he was awarded an Allstar in 1991.

The Saffrons had further chances to contest another All-Ireland but they never got back to right the wrongs of '89.

In 1997, he reluctantly stepped away from the inter-county scene while the Ruairi Ogs squeezed a few more seasons out of his legs.

"You know you're finished," he laughed, "when your brain is telling you: 'You need to run out to the '45 and your body's telling you: 'I ain't going.'"

Since his playing days, Sambo has always remained relevant.

He's coached every level at club and county and just recently guided Naomh Eanna to Division One hurling for the first time in the club's history.

But, of course, it's never been about promotions and lifting silverware.

"Coaches get carried away," he said. "Unless a team is a good team, they don't want anything to do with them. People in clubs don't want to look after teams unless they're successful. [But] You have to develop players."



| 8

| 9





#### WHY JOIN CLUB AONTROMA

Because Antrim belongs to all of us, it is our place and our home.

Because we share as a collective ambition, a desire to see our county being successful and the Antrim jersey being something all of our children aspire to wearing and taking pride in.

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Because we believe in Saffron.

#### Corrigan Park £25,000

Our most significant contribution was £25,000 to the capital development project of a 500 seater stand and 2000 terraced standing at Corrigan Park.

Whereas Antrim will own and have a say in the redeveloped Casement Park, Ulster Council will be the authority. Antrim requires a ground of our own, for all of our games that we have control of. A county ground fit for purpose, such as Parnell Park for Dublin. Groundworks commenced on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January, planning having been approved already.

By 2023 we will have Casement, Corrigan and Dunsilly.

At our committee meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020, our office bearers of Club Aontroma approved the donation of £25k now and undertook to review an application for a further £25k later in the year.

Our contribution was noted and appreciated by the applicants and reported publicly in the press:

1. <https://thesaffrongael.com/2020/06/22/corrigan-park-development-starting-to-take-shape/>
2. <https://www.gaa.ie/news/antrim-gaa-are-busy-building-a-brighter-future/>
3. Antrim optimism over Casement go-ahead as Corrigan Park gets face lift BBC Sport [www.bbc.co.uk/sport/av/gaelic-games/53149623](http://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/av/gaelic-games/53149623)
4. <https://www.rte.ie/sport/gaa/2020/0624/1149319-gaels-set-to-unite-in-brotherhood-as-pitches-open/>
5. <http://www.irishnews.com/paywall/tsb/irishnews/irishnews/irishnews//sport/gaafootball/2020/06/22/news/corrigan-park-rebuild-the-continued-shaft-of-light-in-antrim-1981022/content.html>
6. 'It's like hitting a reset button' - Club Aontroma chairman Niall Murphy on life after Covid-19 - BBC Sport [www.bbc.co.uk/sport/gaelic-games/53139279](http://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/gaelic-games/53139279)





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## CORRIGAN PARK REDEVELOPMENT



### Article reproduced from the Saffron Gael

Ulster GAA President Oliver Galligan, county chairman Claran McCavana and St John Chairman Gerry McCann were joined by representatives of the Saffron Business Forum, Club Aontroma and fellow supporters of Antrim GAA, at Monday morning's ceremonial sod-cutting at Corrigan Park as Phase One of the project to build a new stand at the famous old ground got underway. Chairman of the project's steering committee Colliie Donnelly spoke about the pride he felt at finally seeing the venture get underway.



Former county chairman Colliie Donnelly who is chairman of the Corrigan Park Development Steering Committee at Monday's cutting of the ceremonial sod to mark the start of the building of the new stand. Pic by John McIlwaine

Donnelly, a former St John's and Antrim hurler, who was also chairman of the Antrim county board, was one of the leading lights in driving the project forward. The St John's man was quick to point out that this was far from a one man campaign and had high praise for his former colleagues on the Antrim county board, the current board, the Ulster Council, fundraising groups within the county like the Saffron Business Forum and Club Aontroma. Colliie also singled out former GAA Director General Pádraic Duffy who he said had given great help and support during the venture.

One of the project will see a covered seating area which will hold 500 people, with terracing for a further 2000 along the side of the pitch where the old stand once was. Phase Two will see terracing added on the other side of the ground which would raise the capacity of the ground to 5000. With Phase One underway it is hoped that the new facilities will be ready by time the Antrim championships get underway in August and it is likely that the county finals will be played there this year, that is of course provided St John's are not one of the teams involved.

Corrigan Park was the main ground for Antrim GAA before the opening of in 1953. It is named in honour of Sean Corrigan, mentor of the Brian Óg club who were 's first hurling champions.

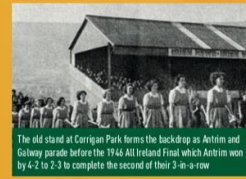
Corrigan Park was associated with the run of the Antrim hurling team to the final of the All Ireland, the Saffrons claiming the scalps of in the semi-final and in the final.

Corrigan Park staged the of 1944, 1946 and 1947, two of which were won by the Antrim girls. It also staged several of Antrim's semi-finals in that period and became known as the home of camogie during that golden era.

Among the major football championship matches it staged were the -Antrim Ulster championship semi-finals of 1930, 1931 and 1949. Its last major provincial football championship match was Antrim v in the Ulster championship of 1952.



St John's chairman Gerry McCann, Ulster GAA President Oliver Galligan (left) and Antrim county chairman Claran McCavana (right). Pic by John McIlwaine



The old stand at Corrigan Park forms the backdrop as Antrim and Galway parade before the 1946 All Ireland Final which Antrim won by 4-2 to 2-3 to complete the second of their 3-in-a-row



Ulster GAA President Oliver Galligan and local MP Paul Maskey joined members of the Antrim county board, Club Aontroma, The Saffron Business Forum and members of the St John's club at Monday's cutting of the ceremonial sod to mark the start of the building of the new stand at Corrigan Park. Pic by John McIlwaine







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RELAUNCH OF WEBSITE [www.ClubAontroma.com](http://www.ClubAontroma.com) March 2020

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**Join Us** - become a Club Aontroma member!

[Sign Up](#)

## Club Aontroma

The management and development of the Gaelic Games in Antrim is in a strong, confident and vibrant era.

With our new and ambitious capital projects at Casement Park and Corrigan Park and our Centre of Participation at Dunsilly, as well as the GaelFast initiative, we have much to look forward to and plan for.

Our shared goal is to increase support for Gaelic Games and cultural activity within our county and to promote support for our county teams.

Our new committee seeks to attract more members into Club Aontroma to increase the funds raised for the Gaelic Games in Antrim.

[Read More](#)[View All Videos](#)[Home](#)[About](#)[Programmes](#)[News](#)[Contact Us](#)[Sign Up](#)

## Sign Up

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### Cláraigh

Please sign up for a direct debit donation with Club Aontroma by clicking the link below.

[Sign up to Donate Now](#)

### Overseas's Supporters

For those of you who are overseas's or unable to set up a direct debit you can still support us via the link below.

[Overseas's Donations](#)



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#### LIVE STREAMS OF CAMOGIE and LGFA COUNTY FINALS £1200

Cognisant of our four code, One Antrim ethos, we donated £1200 to ensure that the county finals in Ladies Football and Camogie were broadcast live on Facebook by Jerome Quinn.



**Antrim Camogie**  
@CamogieAontroim

Replying to @ClubAontroma @AontroimGAA and @AntrimLGFA

Ár mbuíočas le Club Aontroma a chuir an cluiche ceannais ar fáil ar líne inné.

Thanks to Club Aontroma for arranging streaming of our senior final yesterday.

Please support their efforts to promote all Gaelic Games in the County

#LeChéile

[Translate Tweet](#)

11:15 · 21/09/2020 · [Twitter for Android](#)



**AntrimLGFA**  
@AntrimLGFA

Replying to @ClubAontroma @CamogieAontroim and @AontroimGAA

Without the help and support of @ClubAontroma we would not have been able to live stream our intermediate final. For just £10 a month you could help support gaelic games in Antrim 🧡 #SaffsTogether

10:12 · 21/09/2020 · [Twitter for Android](#)



**Antrim Camogie**  
@CamogieAontroim

'The Live Stream made it even better' - Loughgiel captain Maeve Connolly thanked @ClubAontroma and @JeromeQuinn & @MQ\_Video & @janepadams14 after tonight's Senior Final win.. @UlsterCamogie @OfficialCamogie



7,100 views



**AntrimLGFA**  
@AntrimLGFA

Champions! From our Live Stream with @MQ\_Video and with thanks to @ClubAontroma for making it happen.



👤 Moneyglass GAC

17:45 · 13/09/2020 · [Twitter Web App](#)





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## PRESENTATION OF JERSEYS, SHORTS AND SOCKS TO CUMANN na mBUNSCOL £1332

oneills

**R/B DETAIL:**

**STRIPE DETAIL:**

**TEXT BACK COLLAR:**

Aontrom Abú

**BRANDING:**

**CREST L/B:**

**SPONSOR FRONT & BACK:**

**GOLD**

**AMBER + SHAD**

**BOTTLE**

**P 305 C**

**P 306 C**

**WHITE**

**BLACK**

**GREEN 06**

**MED GREY**

**GAELIC JERSEY**

**STYLE 1**

**COLLAR : CREW K2 INSERT**

**FABRIC : K2**

**ADDITIONAL NOTES :**

**MARTIN 5 PATTERN**

**SET-IN SLEEVE**

**SPONSOR TO BE APPROVED**

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### Gaelic Games

## Children will savour the thrill of donning the jersey of their heroes

**A**T Sunday's Antrim SFC final in Portlengone, Niall Murphy (centre) presented a new set of jerseys on behalf of Club Aontroma to Paudie Shivers and Jim Brady of Cumann na mBunscol.

The jerseys, shorts and socks will be worn by representative primary school children at the half-time games of county National League matches.

"We are delighted to be able to contribute to the ongoing development of Gaelic Games inspiring our next generation," said Club Aontroma chairman Niall Murphy.

"Cumann na mBunscol have re-organised and rejuvenated themselves on an all-county basis, with the assistance of the Gaelic project, and that our youngest Gaels will wear the same jersey as their senior heroes is part of what



we are trying to achieve.

"The children will know that they have the same jersey on their back as captains Conor McCann or a Declan Lynch and that can only but inspire them."

Murphy added: "I would appeal to all Saffron-minded Gaels to consider joining our

fundraising efforts via our website clubaontroma.com. For \$10 per month you can put your shoulder to the fundraising wheel. In recent months the sum total of our efforts has contributed \$25,000 to the development of Corrigan Park and consistent with our four codes approach we have also

ensured the broadcast of LGFA and Camogie county finals this past week, complementing the exceptional broadcast efforts of the county board.

"But primary school is where the Gaelic journey begins for us all and it was special to make a contribution towards the great

work being carried out by our teachers."

Meanwhile, treasurer Donal Murphy and PRO Sean Kelly handed over a \$1,000 cheque on behalf of the Antrim County Board to Patrick and John McIlwaine of the Saffron Gael, the county's online magazine.



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#### Saffron Gael £500 donation made

@TheSaffronGael

# THE SAFFRON GAEI



An online platform covering all things GAA in the Saffron County

Since our launch in May 2017 the Saffron Gael has had over 3 million views and has proved a popular source of information for the Gaels of Antrim. Our coverage of underage competition is unrivalled with reports and photographs on the vast majority of finals in hurling, football and camogie.

The demise of local newspapers like the Ballymena Chronicle and the County Antrim Post, and the decreasing coverage of our games in North Antrim in particular, was the catalyst for us to start a website that would focus solely on GAA within the county. From the start it has proved popular with numbers growing each year. Up to last weekend we have published 3,690 reports and previews of games plus tens of thousands of photographs. We survive largely on a team of volunteers who share our love of the games, and without them we simply could not survive. However they all need to get expenses to cover their costs of travelling

and updating equipment so we are asking for your support to keep it all going.

We have attracted a number of sponsors whose financial support has been invaluable and the clubs within the county have been very supportive but we need that little bit more to keep the whole thing going. From the start we have had a donate button on the site where a good few regulars contribute through PayPal and to them we are deeply indebted.

In an effort to establish a more sound footing we are asking you the reader to contribute £5 per month through direct debit. £5 a month, that is less than a cup of coffee a week to show your support for the coverage of our games.

Below is the Saffron Gael's bank details. Please sign up and support The Saffron Gael

**Sort Code** 950679 **Acc no.** 60144215



*Ciaran Kearney presents cheque to Curley McIlwaine*





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#### SENIOR PANEL ENGAGEMENT

On 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020, Ciaran Kearney and Niall Murphy met the senior hurling panel, to advocate the benefits of Club Aontroma membership. Darren Gleeson was particularly keen to emphasise a mutually beneficial relationship given his experience of the Tipperary Supporters Club. Niall also met with Lenny Harbinson, as did Ciaran with our camogie and LGFA reps, with similar engagements having been arranged with the respective panels, which were cancelled due to the event of the pandemic.

<https://clubaontroma.com/news/antrim-hurlers-support-club-aontroma>

### Antrim Hurlers support Club Aontroma

5<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Club Aontroma Chairperson Niall Murphy and Secretary Ciaran Kearney met with the Antrim Senior Hurlers who have pledged their support to the Club Aontroma scheme. The Senior Hurling management led by Darren Gleeson outlined to the squad how supportive the scheme could be to the aspirations and goals of the Saffron's which has resulted in the senior hurlers and management personally joining the Club Aontroma scheme while also committing to sign up additional family members.

Manager Darren Gleeson said

*"As a management team and group of players we recognise that to adequately prepare an intercounty side it takes considerable support. I am delighted that our senior hurlers, management and their family members are vested in the success of Antrim and we are delighted to support Club Aontroma and their efforts to development Gaelic Games within the County at all levels".*

*Club Aontroma Chairperson Niall Murphy said*

*"We are confident that Darren and his management team have assembled the strongest possible squad of hurlers within the County and we wish them all the best for the rest of the year. We are delighted the senior hurlers have committed to supporting Club Aontroma which will see resources distributed back into all of Gaelic Games within Antrim"*

Our senior hurlers have had a very positive start to the 2020 campaign and we wish them all the best for this weekend's National League Division 2 Final against Kerry.





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#### **CAMOGIE and LGFA CONVENTIONS AND GAELFAST ENGAGEMENT November 2019**

Ciaran Kearney spoke on our behalf at the LGFA and Camogie Annual Conventions which both took place on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

Ciaran also addressed a Celebration of our development squads convened by GaelFast on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at St Mary's University College, Belfast.

