



## GGDF 2017 – Project Summaries

### 1. Africa

#### Lilongwe Crokes, Malawi: Establishing Gaelic Football in Malawi

The project aims to promote Gaelic football in Malawi by establishing a club in Lilongwe, the capital city. It is hoped that a sufficient number of Malawians will gain knowledge and insight into the game of Gaelic football so that they can coach more Malawians and increase the numbers playing.

#### South Africa Gaels, South Africa: Grassroots Development Programme

Funding was sought to support the SA Gaels in sustaining the existing Development Centres in Johannesburg (Tembisa, Midrand and Alexandra) while also opening new Development Centres in Soweto and Cape Town as well as organising a tour to the Lilongwe Crokes in Malawi.

### 2. Asia

#### Asian County Board: Hurling & Camogie Development in Asia

To establish a stand-alone Hurling & Camogie Tournament in Asia so that more Clubs are encouraged to promote/coach the sport and so that existing players have a chance to avail of more games opportunities.

#### Asian County Board: Asian Youth Games

Funding was sought to support the organisation of the Asian Youth Games for the second year. The aim is to build a tournament that emphasises participation and lifelong learning rather than winning with a focus on fun, learning and establishing a culture of respect and equality.

#### Beijing GAA, China: Beijing GAA Kids Club

Beijing GAA has enjoyed great success and growth in the past number of years at Adult level. Funding was sought for the Club to grow to the next level by establishing a Kids Club to offer an outlet to the young expat and local Chinese families in Beijing.

#### Daegu Fianna GAA, South Korea: Daegu Fianna Academy

The project team sought funding to support the establishment of an academy for children U.12. The overall aim is to implement a structure of youth development that will include training and participation in local and international tournaments.

#### Laochra Busan, South Korea: Junior Development Programme

The general aim of the programme was to provide weekly training sessions and games in order to introduce local Korean children to the game of Gaelic football and also involving their parents and friends in a way that has them enjoying the game, knowing the game, and wanting to bring their friends to share in the game.

#### Laochra Busan, South Korea: Enhancement of Laochra Busan Adult Section

The Club has made significant strides in growing the Adult section of the Club but was facing funding constraints as the training grounds were seeking payment for facility hire. A grant was provided to assist the Club with this expense with a view to raising funds on a self-sustainable basis going forward.

#### Orang Éire, Malaysia: Orang Éire Youth Programme

On foot of a successful project in 2016, funding was provided to run a programme of Gaelic Games including Coaching and Inter-School Blitzes with 6 International Schools in the Klang Valley area.

#### Seoul Gaels GAA Club, South Korea: The Continued Development of Juvenile Gaelic Football

Funding was provided to extend the Schools' Programme in Seoul beyond the International Schools as well as to establish a dedicated girls' team at U.12.

#### Shanghai GAA, China: Outreach Programme

Support was given toward the cost of coaching and the organisation of games in four Universities, eight Schools and to ensure the delivery of weekend activity for youth players was extended to the western part of Shanghai city.



#### Singapore Gaelic Lions, Singapore: Underage Development Project

A grant was provided to assist with the establishment of a Schools' Programme for the first time with the objective of developing players at Youth level to support a sustainable Player Pathway within the Club i.e. maximise the number of local players transitioning from Youth to Adult level.

#### South China GAA Youth Board, Hong Kong: Youth Gaelic Football Development Plan

Using the existing platform in Hong Kong, funding was provided to: further develop the Hong Kong After-Schools' Clubs at Primary Level; to establish activity at Post-Primary level; to expand Gaelic games to Shenzhen; to coordinate with Hong Kong University PE Students and upskill them in coaching.

#### Suzhou Éire Óg, China: Development Project

To fund the continued delivery of coaching and games by supporting facility hire and the recruitment of additional female players for the Ladies' team.

#### Taiwan Celts, Taiwan: The Derek Brady Memorial Cup & Taiwanese Gaelic Football Youth Cup

To establish a tournament in Taiwan in honour of the Club's founding member – Derek Brady, which will serve to recruit more players and to showcase Irish Culture in Taiwan. Funding was also provided toward the organisation of a tournament as part of the Taiwanese Youth Programme with a view to entering a team in the Asian Youth Games.

#### Thai GAA, Thailand: Children's Games Development Programme

To support the continued introduction of Gaelic football at schools' level – both International and Local Schools with a view to having several youth teams, including an all-Thai team, compete at the Asian Gaelic Games in Bangkok in 2017.

#### Viet Celts (Hanoi) and Saigon Gaels (Ho Chi Minh City), Vietnam: The Year of Unification – North meets South

The central aim of this project is to improve the amount of interaction between the two teams in Vietnam by supporting the establishment of a new triangular competition for men's and ladies' teams – the Indochina Cup, which would include Thai teams – and an Autumn Cup.

### 3. Australasia (GFHAA)

#### Victoria GAA, Melbourne: Development of Underage Football & Hurling in Victoria

Funding was provided to support the continued development of the Underage GAA Programme, which started in 2015. The aim is to increase the number of boys and girls playing Gaelic football and Hurling in Melbourne through organising exhibitions/demos in conjunction with community events and by holding coaching sessions in local Primary and Post-Primary schools.

#### Gaelic Football & Hurling Association of South Australia, Adelaide: Growing South Australia's Future – Developing a Pathway for Success

To support the promotion of Gaelic football as a non-contact, all-inclusive game that is great option for PE in schools thereby introducing the Irish culture and heritage to a wider audience. Funding was provided to further this aim and to support the delivery of coaching sessions in schools and a 7-a-side tournament for youth players.

#### Western Australia, Perth: St. Patrick's Day Minor Football Blitz

Grant funding was provided to organise a Minor Football Blitz in Henderson Park, Perth, as part of the 2017 St. Patrick's Day celebrations.

### 4. Canada<sup>1</sup>

#### Eastern Canadian Divisional Board: Training of Qualified GAA Coaches throughout Eastern Canada

Eastern Canada has witnessed a rapid expansion in the number of Clubs in the last number of years. Four of the newest Clubs have ambitions to further develop the Games and require qualified coaches to support this. Funding was granted in order to provide a schedule of Coach Education Courses to members of these new Clubs under the coordination of the Divisional Board.

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<sup>1</sup> Note: Durham Robert Emmett's also applied for and received funding but were subsequently unable to deliver on the project due to a lack of capacity.





#### Fraser Valley Gaels, Vancouver: Building for the Future – Annual Games Day & Adult Gaelic Football Programme

Since its establishment in 2015, the Club has been growing its playing base. Funding was provided for the Club to host the second Annual Games Day, which is an important recruitment and promotion tool. Furthermore, funding was provided to the organisation of a weekly 7-a-side competition for men and women within Vancouver subsequent to the Games Day.

#### JP Ryan's Hurling Club, Vancouver: JP Ryan's Hurling Academy

Funding was provided to support the development and growth of the Club's Hurling/Camogie Academy by attracting new members (experienced ex-Pat and non-Irish beginners) through a series of promotional, coaching and games events with a view to establishing a local league made up of a number of city-based teams in the coming years.

#### Montreal Shamrocks, Montreal: Development of the Montreal Shamrocks Hurling Superleague

Montreal Shamrocks already had a very established and successful Superleague model for Gaelic football. Due to an increased demand from members and non-members the Club sought and received grant funding for the establishment of a similar Superleague model for Hurling/Camogie and the organisation of Hurling coaching and games in the local University.

#### Na Piarasaigh Hurling Club, Toronto: Promotion & Development of Hurling in Toronto

Na Piarasaigh sought funding to support the organisation of a series of Hurling mini-leagues throughout the GAA season in Centennial Park, Toronto. The funding also supported the organisation of cultural events and 'open nights' to attract further members – particularly within the City Universities.

#### PEI Celts, Prince Edward Island: Building Bridges

Funding was provided to the PEI Celts to support the delivery of Gaelic football coaching and games opportunities at 14 schools on the Island and the delivery of Hurling coaching and games opportunities at 7 of these schools.

#### Roger Casement's GAA, Toronto: Winter Indoor Gaelic Football Programme for Girls

Roger Casement's undertook the organisation of a Gaelic football Programme for Girls during the Winter of 2016/2017 with a view to encouraging more members to join and increasing the skills of the players involved. Funding was given towards the hire of a suitable facility and the purchase of equipment to support the Programme.

#### St. Patrick's GAA, Toronto: Forming Links with Celtic Studies – University of Toronto

St. Patrick's GAA Club in Toronto sought and received funding to establish a Club/University Link between St. Patrick's GAA and the Celtic Studies Programme offered at the University of St. Michael's College at the University of Toronto. The aim is to provide opportunities for students enrolled in the Programme to learn about Gaelic games and to experience playing GAA with a view to establishing a pathway to participation for students wanting to continue to play Gaelic games through becoming a member of the club.

#### Ottawa Gaels, Ottawa: 'The Sunday Game' – Weekly Adult Football League

The Ottawa Gaels sought to adopt and adapt the Superleague model developed by Montreal Shamrocks with a view to providing weekly games opportunities for Adult players (3 Ladies' teams and 3 Men's teams) during the Winter season culminating in the indoor 'Spring Thaw Tournament'.

#### Toronto Chieftain's, Toronto: Youth Gaelic Football League

Funding was provided for the Toronto Chieftain's to expand upon the Youth Gaelic Football League, which they had established in 2016 as a Pilot. The League will provide games opportunities for children and young people aged 7 – 14 years old who are living in Toronto. Furthermore, a 'Learn to Play' Programme for children aged 4 – 6 years old was also supported via the grant.

#### Toronto Gaels, Toronto: Indoor Goalposts for Off-Season Gaelic Football

Irish emigrants arriving in Canada during the Winter months can find it difficult to connect with and network through their local GAA Clubs due to lack of activity during this period. The Toronto Gaels sought and received funding for the purchase of indoor goalposts that would enable them to run an indoor league during the Winter, which would allow newcomers to become involved all year round rather than just in the Summer.





## 5. Europe<sup>2</sup>

### [Azur Gaels, France: Rooting Gaelic Games on the Côte d'Azur](#)

2016 witnessed the first year of GAA activity in the Côte d'Azur and the Azur Gaels subsequently sought and received funding to further grow Gaelic games in the region through the introduction of activities specifically for Ladies and for children including: competing in the French Ladies' Championship; and the delivery of Easter/Summer Camps for children in the local schools and holiday resorts.

### [EC Gaelic Club, Brussels, Belgium: BENELUX League](#)

The EC Gaelic Club in Brussels coordinated the submission of an application for funding toward the establishment of a BENELUX League for child and youth players in Brussels, Den Haag, Luxembourg and Frankfurt. The application was successful and a grant was provided to support the organisation and delivery of games opportunities for players from the various Clubs.

### [Frankfurt Sarsfields, Germany: Gaelic Games – A Sporting Option for Families in the Frankfurt Area](#)

In Summer 2016 Frankfurt Sarsfields established a Ladies and a Juvenile section within the Club, which met with a very positive response and a host of international families participating in Gaelic games for the first time. For 2017, the Club sought and received funding to support the purchase of playing equipment for the children as well as participation in the BENELUX League and the organisation of a dedicated Cúl Camp in Frankfurt.

### [German GAA, Germany: Sustain, Strengthen & Expand – Building on Success](#)

This project adopted a coordinated approach by the German GAA Federation for the benefit of all existing German Clubs (7) and a number of newly established Clubs. Funding was provided toward the organisation of games opportunities (German Football Cup/German Hurling Cup), the delivery of demonstrations/starter sessions in Leipzig and in Bremen, coaching sessions by special guests in both Hurling and Football as well as the organisation of a number of Coach Education Courses in various locations in Germany.

### [Finland GAA, Finland: Building Finland's Gaelic Games](#)

Similar to the German GAA Project, this project involves collaboration between the three GAA Clubs in Finland (based in Helsinki, Oulu and Jyväskylä) to further the organisation of games opportunities through the organisation of a series of domestic tournaments.

### [Madrid Harps, Spain: European Youth Tournament](#)

Funding was provided to the Madrid Harps for the organisation of a Youth Gaelic Football Tournament for children aged 6 – 16 years. The Tournament - hosted by Madrid Harps - involves teams from Ireland and across Europe at the various age-grades.

### [Paris Gaels, France: Paris Hurling 7's Tournament](#)

Paris Gaels sought and received funding toward the preparation and organisation of an invitational 7-a-side Hurling Tournament to be hosted in the French Capital.

### [Slovak Shamrocks, Slovakia: GAA Cúl Camp](#)

Funding was granted to the Slovak Shamrocks to support the promotion, resourcing and organisation of a number of weekend Cúl Camps to be held in Bratislava and in Kosice (the second largest city in Slovakia) targeting Irish families and children from International Schools in particular.

### [Vienna Gaels, Austria: Construction of GAA One-Wall Handball Courts](#)

The main aim of the project was to enhance the growth of GAA One-Wall Handball across Europe through the provision of funding to develop infrastructure in Vienna that would allow the Club to host a series of invitational tournaments for new members and for players from other Clubs in the region.

### [Zurich Inneoin GAA, Switzerland: Promoting GAA Rounders in the Zurich Region & Beyond](#)

Zurich Inneoin sought and received funding to support the purchase of GAA Rounders equipment and to provide a series of introductory sessions to members/non-members in Zurich as well as members of Basel GAA and Geneva Gaels.

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<sup>2</sup> Note: Eindhoven Shamrocks and Lille GAA also applied for and received funding but were subsequently unable to deliver on the project due to a lack of capacity.





## 6. Middle East

### Arabian Celts, Bahrain: Development of Club/School Links in the Kingdom of Bahrain

The Arabian Celts rely on active membership from local Bahrainis and other international expatriates in order to field teams. As a result, the Club sought and received funding for a project to develop Gaelic Football in local schools and to organise an active underage programme in the Club so that an increased number of local players progress from Child through to Youth and Adult level.

### Arabian Celts, Bahrain: Gaelic Games Coaching & Development Seminar

Funding was granted towards the organisation of 2 two-day Coaching & Games Development Seminars, which were hosted and organised by the Arabian Celts for the benefit of all Clubs in the greater Middle East and Arabian Gulf regions.

### Kuwait Harps, Kuwait: Promotion of Gaelic Games in the Local Schools & Community

The project team sought and received funding to support the delivery of after-school Blitzes at the American International School on a weekly basis in addition to two Inter-School tournaments each semester. Furthermore, the grant funding was approved for the organisation of two Recreational Adult Tournaments during the year with a view to encouraging more members of the local Community to join the Club.

### Middle East GAA: International Units 'Test-Match' Tournament

Funding was provided to support the organisation of an International Unit's invitation 'Test-Match' series for all four codes to be played in Bahrain with invitees from Asia, Europe and Africa.

### Naomh Alee GAA, Saudi Arabia: Expanding Gaelic Games Engagement with Parents

The Naomh Alee GAA Club sought funding to work in conjunction with the Riyadh Irish Society and the Irish Business Network to provide two Mother & Child Coaching and Games sessions per month. Grant funding was also provided to a Recreational Football programme for over-40's.

### Qatar GAA, Qatar: Qatar Non-Irish Tournament

Funding was provided to support the purchase of a portable set of goalposts for use in a 'Non-Irish Born GAA Tournament Day' to encourage new members to join the Club.

### Ruwais Gaels, Abu Dhabi, UAE: Developing the Ruwais Gaels

Ruwais Gaels are based in a rural area approximately 240 km from Abu Dhabi. Due to its rural location, the Club does not have a ready flow of sponsorship available, therefore, the Club sought and received funding to establish a Men's team (the Ladies team has been in place since 2015) and to resource a Schools' Programme using the existing teaching community in the Club.

## 7. South America

### ArgGAA, Argentina: Gaelic Games' Promotion & League Development

Funding was sought and received to expand Gaelic Games beyond the Hurling Club in Buenos Aires to other locations in Argentina through the organisation of Camps and Tournaments in Rosario, Concordia and Cordoba with a view to developing a sustainable League between teams in these areas.

## 8. USGAA

### Albuquerque Gaelic Football Club, New Mexico: Recruitment Programme

The ABQ GAA is a young Club with a small core of dedicated members. The Club is eager to grow and sought and received funding to support expansion through the purchase of suitable equipment, which would facilitate proper training sessions as well as funding for the organisation of promotional material and activities.

### Atlanta GAA, Atlanta, Georgia: Atlanta GAA Cúl Camp

Atlanta GAA sought and received funding to organise the first ever GAA Cúl Camp for children aged 5 – 12 years old in Atlanta over 5 days for 100 participants during Summer 2017.

### Austin Celtic Cowboys, Austin, Texas: Expansion of Adult Gaelic Football & Establishment of Youth Hurling Development

Funding was provided to the Austin Celtic Cowboys to support the resourcing and organisation of the following activities: a Co-ed 7-a-side Adult Football League; Ladies Football Coaching Clinics; Winter & Spring Skills Youth Hurling Development Programme; and a Cúl Camp.







#### Charlotte James Connolly GAA, Charlotte, North Carolina: Charlotte GAA & Big Brother/Big Sisters of the Carolinas

Charlotte GAA collaborated with the 'Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Carolinas' organisation to provide an introductory day to Gaelic Games and Irish Culture to approximately 50 children. Funding was granted to support equipment purchase and facility hire so that the children's first experience of Gaelic Games was a quality one thereby encouraging them to become further involved in the Club.

#### Denver Gaels & Colorado Regulators, Colorado: Southwest Invitational Tournament

Due to the geographical breadth of the Division, the Southwest had not to date had a premier tournament for all Clubs to attend and participate in. Funding was provided to support the inaugural Southwest Invitational Tournament hosted and organised by the Denver Gaels in conjunction with the Colorado Regulators.

#### Greenville Gaels, South Carolina: Games Development Programme

Funding was provided to support the Greenville Gaels to deliver a range of Games Development activities including: Award 1 Coaching Course; a Referee Course; a 3-day Cúl Camp; Demo Days in local Schools and Festivals; and a GAA Outreach Programme for disadvantaged young people in the Community.

#### Raleigh GAA, North Carolina: Grow our Games Initiative

As part of their application for funding, Raleigh GAA set out a vision to grow all strands of Gaelic Games in the Raleigh area by progressing a number of initiative including: the organisation of a Cúl Camp; hosting a Referee Course; organising a Coaching Event to support the fledgling GAA Club in the University of Chapel Hill (UNC), North Carolina; a Winter Club League; the organisation of an Invitational Tournament for Gaelic Football and Hurling; and the hosting of an Irish Cultural & Gaelic Games Festival.

#### San Diego GAA, California: West Coach Sevens' Tournament

San Diego GAA, which represents three Clubs in the San Diego area – Na Fianna, St. Peter's Hurling Club, Setanta GFC – sought and received funding towards the purchase of equipment to enable the expansion of the Tournament to include a fourth field i.e. portable goalposts and nets.

