



Offaly Sports Partnership Newsletter

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Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of the Offaly Sports Partnership newsletter.

In this issue, we introduce the staff of the Offaly Sports Partnership, report on some recent events including the launch of the Strategic Plan, the presentation of Club Development Grants, the Midlands Volleyball Tournament and the launch of the FAI Summer Soccer Schools Programme 2008.

We have also included

information on upcoming events, our autumn workshop options and Buntús.

In addition we are currently in the process of updating our clubs and facilities databases which will also be available online at www.offalysports.ie in the near future. Should you wish your details to be included on the database, please contact Olivia Murphy on 057 93 57462 or by email to omurphy@offalycoco.ie.

Likewise, if there are any upcoming events you would like included on the website or in the newsletter, please contact Olivia Murphy at the Offaly Sports Partnership.

Regards

Eamonn Henry

Coordinator - Offaly Sports Partnership

Offaly Sports Partnership Strategic Plan 2008 - 2010

Offaly Sports Partnership launched its Strategic Plan on Monday 10th March in the Tullamore Court Hotel.

There were over 100 people in attendance on the night including members of the Irish Sports Council, Offaly County Development Board, the Management Committee of the Sports Partnership, local councillors, Oireachtas members,

staff of Offaly County Council, representatives of National Governing Bodies of Sport, schools, clubs and other interested parties.

The Strategy sets out the long term vision, mission and scope of the Partnership from 2008 to 2010. The long term vision for Offaly is of a county with a vibrant sports culture which is inclusive of all people.

To realise this vision, OSP aims to increase participation in sport in County Offaly by promoting inclusion, building capacity, promoting sustainable infrastructure and developing partnership. Contd page 2



Offaly Sports Partnership Strategic Plan 2008 - 2010

Contd from page 1

Eamonn Henry, Coordinator of OSP welcomed all attendees to the event, introduced each of the speakers for the evening and presented the priorities of the Partnership in the coming three years.



Councillor Eamon Doolley, Chairperson of Offaly County Development Board welcomed the publication and launch of the Strategic Plan, and spoke about the CDB's input into the plan.. He spoke about the high level of commitment that was received from the members of the working group to progress the plan forward, welcomed the financial

and moral support of the Irish Sports Council and praised the work of the Partnership to date.



Padraig Boland, Chairperson of OSP spoke about what sport means to the people of Offaly. He made special mention of the lead role that Offaly County Council took in ensuring the designation of Offaly as a Sports Partnership, and of the role that Ann Dillon played in the process of attaining designation and her readiness to administer the adhoc group and her ability to facilitate others buying into her vision. Padraig also thanked both past and present members of the Partnership, "the students who kept the Offaly flag flying when

designation was a distant dream", the Irish Sports Council for their advice, support, programmes and funding and Eamonn Henry, the coordinator for his work to date.



In introducing John Treacy of the Irish Sports Council, Eamonn recapped the heydays and glory days of John in 1978, 1979 and 1984. John Treacy then formally launched the plan, and congratulated the Partnership and Eamonn on their work to date. He also said that he was greatly looking forward to working with OSP in the future.



Copies of the Strategy are available from Offaly Sports Partnership, Community and Enterprise Section, Offaly County Council, Aras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore,. For further information on the services provided by OSP, contact Olivia Murphy on 057 93 57462, or by email on

omurphy@offalycoco.ie.



Club Development Grant Scheme Allocations presented

On Monday 10th March 2008, OSP awarded club development grants totaling €20,000 to 19 clubs in the area.

Club development grants were presented to 13 clubs as follows: - An Clarach Bord na nÓg, Ballinamere / OSSE

Special Olympics, Birr Camogie Club, Country Club Badminton, Drumcullen Camogie Club, Kilmacormac / Killoughey Camogie Club, Killeigh School Boys / Girls Soccer Club, Moneygall Football Club, St Sinchills Camogie Club,

Tubber GAA, Tullamore Camogie Club, Tullamore Hockey Club and Tullamore Tennis Club.

Development plan grants were presented to Offaly Ladies Football County Board.

Daingean Community Games and Kinnitty Badminton Club

received grants under the "New Club" grant scheme while Brosna Community Games, Doon GAA Club and Edenderry Schoolboys/girls Football Club received grants under the "Special Project" grant scheme.

Offaly Sports Partnership Staff

Offaly Sports Partnership has recently increased its number of staff members from two to four.

Eamonn Henry



Eamonn Henry is the Partnership coordinator and is coordinating delivery of the Strategic and Operational Plans of the Partnership.

Eamonn is a native of Daingean currently living in Gracefield.

Prior to taking up his role with the Partnership, Eamonn worked for eight years in local development with Tullamore Wider Options and OAK Partnership. Eamonn also has extensive overseas experience having lived and worked in East Africa for most of the 1990s.

Eamonn represented Offaly in juvenile and junior athletics (cross country and track) in the 1980s, and currently coaches athletics in a voluntary capacity.

Eamonn can be contacted on 057 93 46843 or by email to

ehenry@offalycoco.ie

Olivia Murphy



Olivia Murphy is the administrator for the Partnership and is responsible for the day to day running of the office.

Olivia joins us from the Irish Sports Council where she worked in the areas of local sports development, HR and finance.

Olivia is a qualified level 2 kayak instructor working with Newbridge College Canoe Club, Kildare and a qualified trainer assessor working with Dublin Lifesaving & Life-guard Club.

Olivia can be contacted on 057 93 57462 or by email to

omurphy@offalycoco.ie

Claire Grehan



Claire Grehan is the Sports Inclusion Disability Officer (SIDO) and is responsible for the promotion of disability sports in Offaly.

Claire joins us from the National Learning Network where she worked as a Sports Instructor.

Claire plays inter county Gaelic football for Roscommon and soccer with her local club in the Midlands.

Claire can be contacted on 057 93 57463 or by email on

cgrehan@offalycoco.ie

Emma Bunworth



Emma Bunworth is on student placement from Tralee IT and is responsible for the rollout of a national schools programme, local research and sports development in Offaly.

Emma is a 4th year student studying Health & Leisure in Tralee IT.

Emma plays Gaelic football for Brosna and can be contacted at ebunworth@offalycoco.ie

Sports Inclusion Disability Programme

In 2006, the Dormant Accounts Fund earmarked €2 million nationally for projects which address the imbalance in opportunities for people with physical, learning and sensory disabilities to participate in sport and physical activity.

The Irish Sports Council, in collaboration with the network of Local Sports Partnerships identified the need to appoint dedicated Sports Inclusion Disability Officers (SIDOs) at county level in order to address current gaps in the provision of sport and recreation for this target group. Local Sports Partnerships and Local Authorities made applications to Dormant Accounts for funding towards the employment of SIDOs. OSP was successful in its funding bid and currently employs Claire Grehan as the SIDO for

County Offaly.

Clare will work towards increasing participation by people with a disability in sport and active recreation by: -

- Promoting the participation of people with disabilities in sport and physical activity
- Liaising with local special education needs organisations (SENO) regarding the provision of physical education/activity at school.
- Establishing a sports disability forum
- Developing a dedicated disability section on the Offaly Sports Partnership website
- Organising disability sports events and taster sessions
- Assisting in the

establishment of new clubs and/or activities for people with disabilities

- Facilitating, developing and promoting the implementation of education programmes for teachers, coaches, fitness instructors and people with disabilities
- Promoting and supporting people with disabilities becoming coaches, instructors etc
- Providing recommendations for improving the accessibility of sports facilities and access to services to encourage greater participation for people with a disability in sport and physical activity.

For further information on this programme, contact Claire Grehan at Offaly Sports Partnership, Community and Enterprise Section, Offaly County Council, Aras an Chontae Council, Aras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, telephone 057 93 57463, email

cgrehan@offalycoco.ie



Midlands Volleyball Tournament

In conjunction with the Volleyball Association of Ireland, Offaly Sports Partnership hosted a Midlands tournament in which 12 teams participated (8 male and 4 mixed). Three of the participating teams were from Offaly (2 male and 1 mixed).

The tournament was very

successful and it is hoped that the Volleyball Association will continue to host such local competitions as a means of promoting the sport.

As a result of the tournament, two new volleyball clubs have been established in Offaly and will be affiliating to

the Volleyball Association of Ireland.

Offaly Sports Partnership is very grateful to the National Action Plan Against Racism for its support of this and other initiatives to promote the integration of new communities into sport.



Buntús

Buntús programmes are exciting programmes developed to support teachers and childcare practitioners in introducing young people to sport and physical activity.

All Buntús programmes offer bags of equipment, resource cards and training to assist teachers and childcare practitioners to implement this programme

Buntús Play and Sport complement the games strand of the PE curriculum in primary schools, while the Buntús Sport Specific (Badminton, Basketball, Golf, Rugby and Soccer) programmes are designed to further develop fundamental sports skills in the chosen sports through the primary schools.

Buntús Start is a comprehensive child centred

physical activity programme designed to provide a wide range of learning opportunities for young children to develop their fundamental motor skills.

For more information on any of the Buntús programmes or if you wish to register your interest, contact Olivia Murphy on 057 93 57462 or by email at

omurphy@offalycoco.ie



Offaly Sports Partnership is currently in the process of updating its club database for 2008. Members receive information from the Partnership in relation to events, workshops and opportunities relevant to their sector. In the future, this club database will also be available online at



Club database

www.offalysports.ie.

If you would like your club included on the database, please contact Olivia Murphy on 057 93 57462 or by email to omurphy@offalycoco.ie with your details. Your details should include the following: -

- Club name
- Contact name
- Contact address
- Contact Number
- Email
- Website address

Facilities audit

An audit of sports facilities in the county will be undertaken in conjunction with Offaly County Council in the near future.

Further information will issue in future publications.



Autumn workshops

Offaly Sports Partnership are requesting expressions of interest from clubs, schools, facilities, community groups, etc for their Autumn line up of workshops.

Subject to demand, workshops on offer will include:

Active Leadership Award

- this award is designed to provide a panel of trained, knowledgeable and enthusiastic community based

sports leaders, whose aim is to encourage more people to become and remain in sport and physical activity

Go For Life PALs - this is an Age & Opportunity initiative funded by the Irish Sports Council to increase participation and train older people to organize physical activities in their active retirement groups, etc

Insurance

Lucozade Sport - the

objective of the programme is to provide continuous professional development opportunities to coaches, teachers, parents, sports scientists and medical personnel, thereby ensuring they are equipped on an ongoing basis with the relevant knowledge and skills to perform their vital role in Irish sport

Player Welfare - player welfare workshops will focus on all aspects of player welfare support

Including first aid, fluid and fuel for athletes, etc

Sports Capital Grant Scheme

Turf Management

Volunteer Recruitment & Retention

Please complete the enclosed expression of interest form and return to Offaly Sports Partnership offices by Monday, 30th June if you would like to attend any of these workshops

FAI Summer Soccer Camps 2008

The 2008 National Irish Bank FAI Summer Soccer School Programme for Offaly and Laois was launched on Friday, 18th April at Tullamore Town Football Club by the FAI, local school children and participating host clubs in this year's programme.

Approximately 23,000 children will attend these camps in over 250 ven-

ues nationwide. The camps deliver five football action packed days of fun, skills and games for boys and girls of all levels of ability.

The schools are under the direction of the FAI Technical Director, Packie Bonner and the FAI National Coordinator, Philip Behan. The camps are delivered by official FAI qualified

coaches from 10.30am to 3pm, Monday to Friday, and begin on the 30th June 2008.

Each participant will receive a special kit including jersey, shorts and socks, a football, a water bottle and backpack. All participants will also receive a free season pass to their preferred Eircom League of Ireland Club.

To book a place at any of the camps detailed in our upcoming events, book online through www.fai.ie or by calling 1850 653 653



Community Services Programme 2008

The Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs has recently announced a Community Services Programme call for 2008. Guidelines and application forms for the programme can be downloaded from the

Pobal website at www.pobal.ie.

This is primarily a labour market programme that provides supports for staffing of specific projects. Under the 2008 there are three eligible strands.

Applications for the programme must be made through a local intermediary by 31st May. Local intermediaries include Offaly Leader, OAK Partnership, Tullamore Wider Options and West Offaly Partnership.

Further information is available from any of the intermediary companies, Lee Ann Greville, Offaly Cohesion Steering Group on 057 93 22850, leeanne@offalyleader.ie or from Eamonn Henry on 057 93 46843, ehenry@offalycoco.ie.

Upcoming events

Offaly Sports Partnership

Sports Hall Athletics

Days & Times:

Saturdays at 10 & 11.30am from 26th April

Location: St Mary's Youth Centre, Tullamore

Contact: Bridget Malone on 057 93 22963

Tullamore Canoe Club

Rolling Clinics

Date: 16, 23 & 30 May

6, 13 & 20 June

Time: 8pm to 10pm

Location: Clara Swimming Pool.

Contact: Van on 057 93 20478 or by email to vangillessen@tullamorecanoecub.ie for more information

Tullamore Golf Club

Junior Golf Coaching

Date: 3, 10, 17 & 24 May Golf Club

Contact: Tullamore Golf Club

HSE Dublin Mid Leinster

Organising Sports Festivals for Older People Workshop

1 day workshop in Longford from 10am to 3pm in May for Physical Activity Leaders wishing to organise sports festivals for older people.

Contact: Alan Coyne, Health Promotion Officer on 057 93 57827 or by email to alan.coyne1@hse.ie for more information

St Abban's Athletic Club Fit 4 Life

Monavea Women's-Mini Marathon

Date: 11th May 08

Start time: 1pm

Entry fee: €15

Contact: Laois Sports Partnership on 057 86 71248

Ben Brennan on 087 9613360

Noeleen Condron on 087 9614099

Disability Sports Come Try It Days

Date: 16th May

Time: 10am to 2pm

Location: Tullamore Harriers

Date: 31st May

Time: 10am to 1pm

Location: St Mary's Youth Centre

Contact: Offaly Sports Partnership on 057 93 54763 or by email to cgrehan@offalycoco.ie

1st Blackwater Region 10k Run & Walk

Date: 18 May 08

Location: Monaghan town

Registration: 9.30am (entries taken on the day)

Start time: 12pm

Entry fee: €15/£12 (runners)

€7/£5.50 (walkers)

Contact: Maeve Murray on 048 3756 9108

Code of Ethics

Date: 19 & 26 May

Time: 7.30 to 9.30pm

Location: Oak Partnership, Edenderry

Closing date: Please return the enclosed

booking form to Offaly Sports Partnership by 14 May

Contact: Offaly Sports Partnership on 057 93 57462 or by email to omurphy@offalycoco.ie

Flora Women's Mini Marathon

Date: 2 June 08

Contact:

www.florawomensminimarathon.ie

Code of Ethics

Date: 16 & 23 June

Location: County Arms Hotel, Birr

Time: 7.30 to 9.30pm

Closing date: Please return the enclosed booking form to Offaly Sports Partnership by 11 June

Contact: Offaly Sports Partnership on 057 93 57462 or by email to omurphy@offalycoco.ie

Féile na nGael

Date: 20/21/22 June 08

Contact:

www.feilenangael.com

GAA Cul Camps**Offaly Summer Camps 2008****Date:** 30 June - 4 July**Location:** Tullamore, Kinnitty & Kilcormac**Date:** 7 - 14 July**Location:** Clara, Ferbane, Coolderry**Date:** 14 - 18 July**Location:** Rhode & Banagher**Date:** 21 - 25 July**Location:** Edenderry, Clareen & Doon**Date:** 28 July - 1 August**Location:** Tullamore, Shamrocks, Rath & Shinrone**Date:** 14 - 18 July**Location:** Rhode & Banagher**Date:** 21 - 25 July**Location:** Edenderry, Clareen & Doon**Date:** 28 July - 1 August**Location:** Tullamore, Shamrocks, Rath & Shinrone**Date:** 11 - 16 August**Location:** Gracefield & Birr**Date:** 18 - 22 August**Location:** Daingean**Time:** 10am to 2.30pm**Age group:** 2nd - 6th class**Cost:** €55**Closing date:** 30 May**Contact:** John Leahy on 087 2073226 or john.leahy@games.gaa.ie**International Games Festival****Date:** 5/6 July 2008**Location:** Tullamore Harriers & St Mary's Youth Centre**Closing date for entries:****Contact:** Offaly Sports Partnership on 057 93 57462 or omurphy@offalycoco.ie**FAI Summer Soccer Schools 2008****Date:** 7 - 11 July**Location:** Birr Town Football Club, Woodfield Park**Date:** 14 - 18 July**Location:** Tullamore Town Football Club, Leah Victoria Park**Date:** 21 - 25 July**Location:** Gallen United, Brosna Press Park, Ferbane**Date:** 28 July - 1 August**Location:** Killeigh Schoolboys/Schoolgirls Soccer Club, Killeigh**Date:** 4 - 8 August**Location:** Tullamore Town Football Club, Leah Victoria Park**Time:** 10.30am - 3pm**Age group:** 7 - 15 years**Cost:** €99**Contact:** www.fai.ie**FAI Summer Soccer Goalkeeper School 2008****Date:** 5 - 7 August**Location:** Tullamore Town Football Club, Leah Victoria Park**Time:** 6 - 9pm**Age group:** 7 - 15 years**Cost:** €70**Contact:** www.fai.ie

If you would like your upcoming event to be included in the newsletter, please contact Olivia Murphy on 057 93 57462 or by email to

omurphy@offalycoco.ie

with details of the event. These details should include: -

- Title of event
- Date of event
- Location of event
- Time of event
- Age group that the event caters for
- Cost of the event
- Event organiser details

Offaly Sports Partnership are looking for news items, photographs, club/facilities profiles, upcoming events, etc for their newsletter.

If you have a story, photograph, club, facility or event that you would like profiled in the newsletter, contact Olivia Murphy on 057 93 57462 or by email to omurphy@offalycoco.ie