

WINTER 2016 ezine

Seasons Greetings

Welcome to the Christmas edition of our ezine. Seasons Greetings to all our readers and all involved in sport in the county.

Breithlá Shona

Duit



is 10 years old

(2006 - 2016)

Offaly Sports Partnership Celebrates its 10th Anniversary

Offaly Sports Partnership is 10 years old and held a number of events to mark the occasion.

With very generous support from the **Bridge House Hotel**, we hosted the Offaly Sports Awards of the Decade which saw Shane Lowry named as our county's "Sports Achiever of the Decade". More to follow on pages



© sportsfile 17 June 2016, Shane Lowry tees off from the sixth teebox during the practice day of the Irish Open Golf Championship 2016, Fota Island, Cork. Picture credit: Matt Browne / SPORTSFILE



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We also launched "Active Offaly", our new five year strategic plan.

Pictured at the launch of the plan are board members: -

(Front row l to r)

Barry Keegan; Cllr Eddie Fitzpatrick; Miriam O Callaghan (Chair); and Cllr Danny Owens

(Back row l to r)

Mary Duffy; Jude Feehan; Monica Cleary; Eamon Brady; and Clodagh Armitage; and Eamonn Henry (Coordinator, Offaly Sports Partnership)

Make Sport and Physical Activity Your New Year's Resolution

Offaly Sports Partnership would like to wish our readers a very Happy Christmas and prosperous new year. Enjoy the Christmas festivities but remember to make sport and physical activity your new year's resolution by joining us in Birr on the 7th January for Offaly Sports Partnership's Operation Transformation walk



National Walk Day - Offaly

Kick start your Operation Transformation and join Offaly Sports Partnership on:

**Saturday, 7th January 2017 from 9am
(walk 9.30am sharp) at
Birr Civic Offices, Wilmar Road, Birr, Offaly**



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Sports Awards of the Decade

Organised by the Sports Partnership to celebrate our 10th anniversary in style; and with very generous support from our hosts the **Bridge House Hotel** in Tullamore, almost 400 people attended the Offaly Sports Awards of the Decade, a gala function to honour Offaly's outstanding sporting achievements of the past decade (2006 - 2016), on Saturday, 3rd December.

Award winners were selected from fifteen different sports categories along with the overall sports achiever award, which went to Shane Lowry, Clara's own professional golfer. His exploits since turning professional after winning the Irish Open as an amateur in 2009 have captured the imagination of his county and his attendance on the night was a great boost to the event. There were loud cheers as he was presented with his award by one of Offaly's most celebrated and revered sporting personality, Matt Connor, patron of the Sports Partnership.

The importance of volunteerism in sport was also recognised. Long serving Tullamore Harriers chairman, John Cronin who is making his mark in athletics officialdom at world level was feted as the winner of the life time contribution to sport award. The volunteer of the decade went to Edenderry boxing official, Liam Brereton; and the youth volunteer award went to Ann Marie Guinan from Drumcullen Camogie Club.

Winners of the overall sports achiever and the three volunteer awards had been named in advance but the other sixteen recipients were only announced on the night. There were three nominees in each category and this led to a great sense of anticipation as the winners were called to stage. The other award winners were: -

Athletics - James Nolan

Boxing - Lauren Hogan

Camogie - Michaela Morkan

Court sports - Susan Moran (basketball)

Gaelic football - Niall McNamee

Golf - Stuart Grehan (the overall sports achiever could not win the award in his own category)

Horse sport - Pat Smullen

Hurling - Shane Dooley

Ladies football - Mairead Daly

Para sport - Nicole Turner

Rugby - Peter Bracken

Soccer - Iarfhlaith Davoren

Special Olympics - Patrick Moore

Water sports - Niamh Ní Chéilleachair (rowing)

Other sports (two from eight shortlisted)

- Tracey McGrath (pitch and putt) and
- Francine Meehan (cycling and triathlon).

Winners citations (as delivered on the night)

Sports Achiever of the Decade: Shane Lowry

He has reached the highest level of any Offaly sports person, featuring in the top twenty of golf, and competing for some of the



sport's biggest titles. He crowned a very successful amateur career when stunning the world of golf while winning the Irish Open when still in the unpaid ranks in 2009. The Clara man immediately turned professional after that, and has developed into one of the world's top golfers. He won the Portugese Masters in 2012, and achieved the biggest win of his career when winning the World Golf Championship Bridgestone Invitational in 2015. That was one of golf's biggest events but he almost went a step further this year when he led the US Open after three rounds, and was only overhauled by Dustin Johnson on the last day. Now ranked 44th in the world, he has competed regularly for some of golf's biggest events on their biggest stages, and it is surely only a matter of time before he joins the ranks of major winners. From one of Offaly's most renowned GAA families, his achievements have brought a glow of pride to his native county and town. The overall sports

achiever of the decade is Shane Lowry.

Lifetime Contribution: John Cronin

A remarkable man, his upward spiral in athletics continued this year when he was elected as deputy president of Athletics Ireland at their Congress in Tullamore.

He has truly made a life time contribution to his chosen sport. A native of Donegal and a talented 800m runner in his youth, he became immersed in the local athletics scene when he moved to Tullamore in 1983. He soon joined the local Tullamore Harriers, and his contribution to his club has been immense, serving as chairman for over 20 years.

An expert on the rules, he was elected on to the International Association of Athletics Federations Technical Committee in 2015, and is eligible to serve at World Championships and Olympic Games. He has officiated at several top international meetings, and served as an international technical official on the European Athletics Panel from 2005 to 2013, before passing the stringent exams to serve at the highest level of athletics.

Very highly regarded at all levels of athletics, he seems destined for the top role in Irish athletics, and perhaps higher. Our Lifetime Contribution Award goes to a very deserving recipient in John Cronin.



Volunteer of decade: Liam “Morely” Brereton (Boxing)

Mention boxing and Edenderry in the same breath, and the name Brereton comes to mind immediately. For decades, Sean Brereton literally ran the boxing club and saw his eight sons rise to take national honours in the sport; one to represent Ireland in the Olympics, and another to win a European medal. To be a Brereton lad, if you weren't born wearing a pair of boxing gloves, there was a pair waiting for you when you came out.

Now the mantle has passed to one of Sean's sons, to a man who is as passionate about the sport as his father was, but who also has his own unique style. Morley, as he is known around town, literally lives in the club and for the club. He coaches numerous young boxers and is committed to see them realize their potential.

He is an AIBA 3 star coach, which in layman's terms means he is qualified to coach boxers to Olympic standard, only one of seven coaches in Ireland with this qualification. He has pushed for the redevelopment of the club facilities, has started upgrades and has ambitious plans for the future.

He is unique in his commitment to the development of women's boxing, and regularly brings emerging boxers together for training, organizing away tournaments for them, and liaising with international federations to bring teams from other countries to Edenderry for training and competition with the Irish girls. With his sights firmly focused on taking at least one of his charges to the Tokyo Olympics, our Volunteer of the Decade is Liam “Morley” Brereton



Youth award: Ann Marie Guinan (Camogie)

Nominated by her local camogie club in Drumcullen, our youth recipient has been actively volunteering since she was 17; and alongside this played a scoring role in securing Offaly Camogie the All Ireland Minor Championship title in 2013. She has also earned 3rd level Purcell Cup honours with her college, Carlow IT in 2014 and 2015.

A committed club and county player she also takes the time to coach very young girls learning to play the game and to handle all aspects of her club's publicity. With a love for the sport, the vibrancy of youth and an understanding of modern communication she manages the club's social media platforms and compiles regular reports on all club teams.

Her talent as an effective communicator did not go unnoticed, and Offaly County Board and her college also draw on her to promote and publicise the sport gaining much air time and space in local media. Although she has finished her 3rd level education she still finds time to continue to promote 3rd level camogie as a member of their National Executive.

Our youth volunteer award goes to Ann Marie Guinan



ATHLETICS: James Nolan

(Shortlisted nominees – Gordon Kennedy, James Nolan and Pauline Curley)

Finishing sixth in the World Indoor Championships 1,500m in Moscow in 2006 represented a tremendous high point of a very successful career for our athletics recipient. A two time Olympian, he also competed in the European Championships in 2006; while he made the finals of the European Indoors in 2007. He also competed at the World Indoors in Valencia in 2008 before injury ended his career. He returned in 2013 to set a championship record for the veterans' 1,500m record. The Athletics recipient is James Nolan.

BOXING: Lauren Hogan

(Shortlisted nominees – Brian Kennedy, Gráinne Walsh and Lauren Hogan)

Female boxing is growing the whole time, and tonight's boxing recipient is one of two outstanding young females in Offaly. She represented Ireland in the U-18 World Youth Championships in 2013; won national U-18 and senior elite titles in 2015; defended her senior elite title in 2016; and won a European youth bronze in 2015. Injury forced her withdrawal from the world finals earlier this year, while she boxed in the European Championships. Ladies and gentlemen, Lauren Hogan.

CAMOGIE: Michaela Morkan

(Shortlisted nominees - Elaine Dermody, Michaela Morkan and Sheila Sullivan)

The camogie recipient has been a lynchpin of Offaly Camogie in the last ten years playing with the senior team since 2003. The Shinrone native played a crucial role in Offaly's All Ireland Junior success in 2009 before going on to captain the team the following year to win the All Ireland Intermediate crown. Stylish and dynamic, she has also been pivotal to Offaly pushing hard for senior honours in recent years. The former All Star and Soaring Star has also led her club, Shinrone to a host of county titles in the past ten years with a Leinster Junior Club title in 2001 also a notable high point. An Offaly Camogie Award recipient in 2008, 2013 and 2015; and named in the Offaly Team of the Decade in 2014, tonight Michaela Morkan takes the Camogie award.

COURT SPORTS: Susan Moran (Basketball)

(Shortlisted nominees – David Hope, handball; Susan Moran, basketball; and Micheal O'Brien, handball)

She was one of the outstanding basketball players to come from Ireland, and has enjoyed a very successful professional career, playing in the USA, Europe and Australia. A long serving member of the Irish national basketball team, she was part of an all conquering Tullamore Sacred Heart School basketball team in the early 1990s before going to St Joseph's in Philadelphia on a scholarship. Now coaching colleges basketball in the States, our Court Sports recipient is Susan Moran.

Gaelic Football: Niall McNamee

(Shortlisted nominees – Ciaran Mc Manus, Niall Mc Namee and Karol Slattery)

The top footballer in Offaly for the past decade plus, and ever present on the county senior football team since 2003. A brilliant forward, he has won the Offaly footballer of the year award on five occasions; eight Senior Football Championship medals with Rhode; a Dublin senior football medal with UCD in 2006; a Division 4 National Football League title with Offaly in 2014; and having played international rules with Ireland. He has played 130 times for Offaly seniors, top scored in most campaigns for Offaly and Rhode; the Gaelic Football winner is Niall McNamee.

GOLF: Stuart Grehan

(Shortlisted nominees – Billy Donlon, Shane Lowry and Stuart Grehan)

With Shane Lowry receiving the overall award, the golf recipient goes to a young Tullamore man who looks to have all the ingredients to follow in his footsteps. He has progressed enormously in the past few years, winning the Irish Youth Championship in 2012; and two of Ireland's blue ribbon amateur events, the East and South of Ireland Championships in 2014. Now ranked 58th in the world and 7th in Europe, he has represented Ireland, and Great Britain and Ireland with great distinction at international level. A very bright future lies ahead of Stuart Grehan.

HORSE SPORT: Pat Smullen

(Shortlisted nominees – Darraagh Kenny, Pat Smullen and Tom Malone)

One of the most successful jockeys of the modern era, the Rhode man has been Irish flat racing champion hockey on eight occasions. He has ridden the winners of some of the biggest races in Ireland, France, Britain and the USA on some of the best horses the modern era has seen. Unfortunately he is not able to attend tonight as he is on his way to Dubai, Pat Smullen is represented here by Ken Kelleghan.

HURLING: Shane Dooley

(Shortlisted nominees – Brian Carroll, Shane Dooley and Rory Hanniffy)

A brilliant forward and a player who would have fitted into any Offaly team in any era, he has been an ever present on the county senior hurling team from 2007 to present, playing 57 times. The winner of a National Hurling League Division 2 medal in 2009, he inspired Tullamore to a surprise Senior hurling title win in 2009, was Offaly senior hurler of the year in 2009 and 2010

and has won a Railway Cup medal with Leinster. A prolific scorer, the Senior Hurler award goes to Shane Dooley.

LADIES FOOTBALL: Mairead Daly

(Shortlisted nominees – Emma Dalton, Mairead Daly and Lorraine Keena)

An inspirational figure as Offaly won the All-Ireland Ladies Junior Football Championship and the National Football League Division 4 title in 2013, she was named on the national Division 4 and 3 teams of the year in 2013 and 2016. Player of the match in the All-Ireland and Leinster finals in 2013, she knows where the posts are and was Offaly ladies footballer of the year in 2013, Mairead Daly.

PARA SPORT: Nicole Turner

(Shortlisted nominees – Eoin Cleare, Lorraine Regan and Nicole Turner)

At just 14 years of age, Nicole is our youngest recipient tonight but already her Paralympic achievements stand out. This Garryhinch teen is a brilliant competitor who has been swimming since she was 5. At the age of seven she won five gold medals in the World Dwarf Games and by 2015 was swimming at senior Paralympic championships. She qualified for six finals in the 2015 World Championships, six finals in the 2016 European Championships, winning two silver and one bronze medals, and she competed in five finals in this year's Paralympics in Rio de Janeiro. With her sights firmly fixed on Tokyo 2020, Paralympian of the Decade is Nicole Turner.

RUGBY: Peter Bracken

(Shortlisted nominees – Peter Bracken, Aaron Deverall and Peter Dooley)

The highlight of a very productive professional rugby career came in 2007 when he was part of the London Wasps squad that won the Heineken Cup. A powerful prop, he won an Anglo Irish Cup in 2006, has played Ireland A rugby and was on the Irish senior squad, where he was very unlucky not to win a cap. He has played professional rugby in Ireland, Wales, England and France and remains very involved in rugby as a scrums coach. The Rugby winner is Peter Bracken.

SOCCER: Iarfhlaith Davoren

(Shortlisted nominees – Iarfhlaith Davoren, Sylvia Gee and Seamus Kelly)

Now playing with the Tulsa Roughnecks in the USA, he has enjoyed a very successful soccer career at League of Ireland level. He has won three FAI Cup medals with Sligo Rovers in 2010, 2011 and 2013, scoring a crucial goal to send the 2011 final to extra time, a League of Ireland title and a League of Ireland Cup in 2010. He has also played with Athlone Town, Galway United, Longford Town and Cork City. Iarfhlaith Davoren.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS: Patrick Moore

(Shortlisted nominees – Damien Breslin, Dessie Gounodue and Patrick Moore)

A fanatical soccer player he has numerous regional and national medals. In 2009 he won a European gold medal with the Tullamore Special Olympics soccer team. The highlight of his career came in 2011 when he captained the Irish five-a-side team at the world games in Athens. As well as taking home the gold, Patrick, with his outgoing personality and infectious smile was awarded smile of the tournament. Always a big hit with the ladies on foreign trips your Special Olympian of the decade, Patrick Moore

WATER SPORTS: Niamh Ní Chéilleachair (rowing)

(Shortlisted nominees – Alex Condrón, swimming; David Neale, rowing; and Niamh Ní Chéilleachair, rowing)

Rowing in women's lightweight doubles, 2006 was the outstanding year for our water sports recipient. Raising her world ranking to 7th she won a world cup medal in this year and was named Irish Times Sports Woman of the Year. From 2005 to 2008 she represented Ireland eight times in world cup events and prior to this placed 4th at World University Games on two occasions. Niamh Ní Chéilleachair

OTHER SPORTS

(Shortlisted nominees – William Buckley Junior, pitch and putt; Mary Daly, triathlon; Aiden Fogarty, clay pigeon shooting; Marie Triona Keane, triathlon; Kevin Keyes, motor bike racing; Cathal Mc Donald, clay pigeon shooting; Tracey Mc Grath, pitch and putt; and Francine Meehan, cycling and triathlon)

Tracey McGrath (pitch and putt)

A brilliant pitch and putt player, her career highlight was when she captained Ireland in the 2011 Catalonia Challenge in Spain while she also represented her country in the European team championships in 2007 and 2003. The winner of several national, Leinster and Offaly stroke and match play titles, please give a warm round of applause for Tracey McGrath.

Francine Meehan (cycling and triathlon)

A multi-talented sports woman, the Killurin woman was the sighted cyclist for Dubliner, Catherine Walsh at the 2012 London paralympics, where they won silver and bronze medals. She was also the guide for Walsh in the 2016 Paralympics in Rio and is a brilliant cyclist in her own right, winning six national cyclo cross titles from 2009 to 2015, bronze in the national time trial in 2013 and woman's national road race series champion in 2009. Francine Meehan.

Offaly Sports Partnership would like to congratulate our worthy winners of the sports awards of the decade, and all of the shortlisted nominees.



Recipients of the Offaly Sports Awards of the Decade 2006 - 2016

Bottom row (l to r): Miriam O Callaghan (Chair, Offaly Sports Partnership), Niamh Ní Chéilleachair (water sports, rowing), Lauren Hogan (boxing), Nicole Turner (Paralympics), Ethna Moran accepting on behalf of Susan Moran (court sports, basketball) and Declan Kirrane (Director of Services, Local Community Development, Offaly County Council). **Second row (l to r):** Francine Meehan (other sports, cycling & triathlon), Tracey Mc Grath (other sports, pitch & putt), Shane Lowry (sports achiever of the decade), John Cronin (lifetime contribution to sport) and Patrick Moore (special Olympics). **Third row (l to r):** Stuart Grehan (golf), Iarfhlaith Davoren (soccer), Liam Brereton (volunteer of the decade), Ann Marie Guinan (youth volunteer of the decade) and Mairead Daly (ladies football). **Top row (l to r):** Michaela Morkan (camogie), Shane Dooley (hurling), James Nolan (athletics) and Peter Bracken (rugby). **Missing:** Niall Mc Namee (GAA) and Pat Smullen (horse sport)

Offaly Sports Partnership would also like to thank our other sponsors: -

Sport Ireland, Dunnes Stores, Banagher Concrete, AIB Tullamore, St Brigid's Credit Union Clara and Ulster Bank Tullamore for their support of the "Offaly Sports Awards of the Decade 2006 - 2016"; and Tullamore Dew for their hosting of our drinks reception on arrival

New Strategy for Offaly Sports Partnership



Since 2006, Offaly Sports Partnership has successfully delivered two strategic plans for sport and physical activity in the county. Launched on the 12th December, our third strategic plan "Active Offaly, 2016 - 2020" (strategic plan and long term framework guiding the work of Offaly Sports Partnership) has identified five areas of priority for the next five years and beyond; including: -

1. Instil Fundamentals and Improve Youth Fitness
2. Increase Adult and Older Adult Participation
3. Include the Least Active
4. Integrate and Celebrate
5. Improve Capacity and Inform the Sector

Copies of the plan are available from Offaly Sports Partnership by contacting the office on 057 93 46843 or by downloading the plan from our website.

Programmes 2016 - September to December

It's been a busy couple of months for Offaly Sports Partnership with a range of programmes delivered to adults, children, post primary and primary school pupils, sports club volunteers, the unemployed, etc. Some of the programmes delivered since September include...

Sports Inclusion Development Programme

Sports Inclusion Development Programmes on offer between September and December include: -



Inclusive Karate Established during the summer, this programme continues to go from strength to strength. Classes take place every Monday from 6.30 to 7.30pm in Tullamore Educate Together. Many thanks to the schools and Thomas Farrer for facilitating the programme.

Tullamore Tigers Tag Rugby Supported by Tullamore Rugby Club and Offaly Sports Partnership's Sports Inclusion Development Officer to establish, the Tullamore Tigers Tag Rugby team have been going from strength to strength. Competing in local and national blitzes, playing at half time at a Leinster A game, and due to play in the Aviva Stadium at half time at a Leinster game in December, the team is making excellent progress. Well done to all involved!



Tullamore Tigers competing in local tag rugby blitz recently

Disability Awareness and Inter Schools programmes September saw our Sports Inclusion Development Officer deliver disability awareness training for transition years in Coláiste Choilm, Tullamore. This was followed up by a four week stint delivering physical activity programmes in local schools with special education needs classes. The programme concluded with Coláiste Choilm hosting an inter schools event in October.

November saw the programme replicated in Edenderry with students from Oaklands Community College undergoing the training, delivering a four week physical activity programme, and concluding with an inter schools event in December.

Well done to the students from Coláiste Choilm and Oaklands Community College; and the participating primary schools for their support of this initiative.



Football for All The Football Association of Ireland 's National Football for All coordinator, Oisín Jordan delivered a workshop to Mucklagh and Derry Rovers soccer club coaches and parents on the 28th September and the 5th October. With 30 people in attendance, these workshops have provided club coaches and volunteers with the necessary skills to enable them to assist in the development of Offaly's two Football for All clubs.

Following on from the workshops, Mucklagh Schoolboys / Schoolgirls Soccer Club have begun delivering Football for All sessions in Mucklagh Community Centre on Thursday nights from 7 to 8pm.

Floorball New to our menu of physical activity programmes for people with disabilities is Floorball. Floorball is one of the newest team sports to join the Special Olympics programme. It is a hockey style game (similar to unihoc and ice hockey) and is played in a four versus four format. Paddy O'Reilly of Special Olympics Leinster delivered Floorball training to 40 transition year students from Tullamore College. The students are now coaching and playing Floorball with members of St Joseph's Special Olympics Club, and will be participating in events in Portlington and Northern Ireland in the new year.



Tullamore College transition years students supporting St Joseph's Primary School special education needs unit to participate in Floorball

Inclusive Physical Education for All In conjunction with the Irish Wheelchair Association, the National Council for the Blind, DeafHear and Laois / Offaly Families for Autism, our Sports Inclusion Development Officer delivered inclusive physical education for all training to 20 teachers from four schools (Clonbullogue, Daingean, Scoil Bhríde Edenderry and Walsh Island). The workshop focused on providing practical tips to make primary school physical education sessions more inclusive for children with disabilities.

For more information on our Sports Inclusion Development Programme, contact our Sports Inclusion Development Officer on 057 93 57463 or by [email](#)

Other programmes

Community coaching

Offaly Sports Partnership in conjunction with Laois Sport Partnership and Portarlington Leisure Centre delivered a level 2 and a level 3 community coaching programme for up to 30 participants. The level 2 community coaching programme focused on giving participants the necessary skills to secure employment in the leisure industry as swim teachers, lifeguards, etc; while the level 3 community coaching programme trained participants in gym instruction. The Community Coaching Programme was supported by Dormant Accounts and Sport Ireland.

General programmes

September saw the recommencement of our in school and after school physical activity programmes including: -



Integrated Academy for Athletics Performance (IAAP) With over 30 participants, the IAAP reopened its doors in September. Sessions take place every Monday and Thursday in Portarlington Community Centre. For more information on the IAAP, contact the office on 057 93 46843 or by email.

World Marathon Relay The World Marathon Relay Challenge for post primary students aged 13 years and under took place on Wednesday, 5th October. Tullamore was one of seven Irish teams to participate, and retained the John Treacy Relay Marathon Challenge Cup for another year. Finishing in a time of 1h55m20s, the Tullamore team broke their previous record, and finished second globally. Well done to all the participating students.

WORLD MARATHON CHALLENGE



SPORTSHALL Secondary Offaly Sports Partnership will be coordinating a national SPORTSHALL Athletics for secondary schools in the new year. In preparation for the event, a 1st year boys team and 1st year girls team, along with a junior cycle boys team and junior cycle girls team has been selected.

Ireland's Fastest Feet In association with "Believe & Achieve Coaching", Offaly Sports Partnership brought the Ireland's Fastest Feet project for primary schools to two locations in Offaly in November. Seven schools and 700 primary school pupils participated in the event aimed at 7 and 8 year olds.



October saw the recommencement of the **o50s boccia league**. An adaptation of Boules and Petanque, boccia is played in teams of between three and six people; and is played in a round robin (friendlies) style format. "Friendlies" involve the meeting of two teams to play with and against each other. Teams can be male, female or

mixed but participants must be over 50 years of age. There are 23 teams from 12 groups participating in the 2016 / 2017 o50s boccea league which will conclude in March 2017.



Offaly Mental Health Talk Week took place from the 5th to 12th November and focuses on promoting positive mental health in Offaly. As part of the week, a variety of activities were hosted in the Offaly Mental Health Talk Week's "Wellness Hub" in the Bridge Centre, while additional talks, presentations and walks were delivered throughout the week. Offaly Sports Partnership hosted two "Get into Walking" sessions as part of the programme of events

Education and Training

In addition to our education and training programmes delivered as part of our Sports Inclusion Development Programme, Offaly Sports Partnership has also delivered: -

Sports Leaders UK Level 1 qualification in Sports Leadership This award provides the ideal starting point for learners aged 13 years and over who wish to develop their leadership skills, whilst under the direct supervision of their tutor / assessor. The syllabus is designed to develop generic leadership skills that can be applied to a variety of sports and / or recreational situations as well as contributing to the personal development of the learner. The Level 1 qualification in Sports Leadership is a practical award in which learners must demonstrate their ability to lead others in simple sport / physical activity.



The Level 1 qualification in Sports Leadership has been delivered to 27 transition year students from Gallen Community School, Ferbane. Additional courses will be taking place in the new year in Edenderry, Ferbane and Tullamore.

If your school is interested in participating on future courses, please contact the office on 057 93 57463 or by [email](#)

November / December saw Go for Life deliver the first four workshops in their **Physical Activity Leader training programme** hosted by Offaly Sports Partnership. 25 people from 10 active retirement / older people's groups have completed the workshops which include Basic Principles, Sit Fit, Better Balance and Going Strong. The workshops recommence on the 17th January 2017; and include Stepping & Strolling, Rolling & Bowling, Pitching & Tossing and PALs Skills. We hope the participants get to try out their newly learnt skills in leading physical activity sessions during the Christmas break.



Safeguarding Children training Offaly Sports Partnership is currently rolling out Sport Ireland's Child Welfare and Protection training programme. Three workshops are available within this programme: -

1. *Safeguarding 1*: Basic Awareness workshop in child welfare and protection. This workshop looks at how we can keep adults and young people safe and happy within the club environment. This workshop is open to sports leaders, coaches, parents, children's officers and other adults involved in the organisation of sport for young people; and will help to create and maintain a safe and fun environment for young people within the sports club or organisation. Our most recent workshop took

place on the 30th November for 25 sports volunteers from nine clubs.

2. *Safeguarding 2: Club Children's Officer workshop.* A must for all Club Children's Officers, this course will help Children's Officers to carry out the function of their role in the club; and support the implementation of best practice in the club
3. *Safeguarding 3: Designated Liaison Person workshop.* Currently the final module in Sport Ireland's Child Welfare and Protection training programme, this course will help Designated Liaison Persons carry out the function of their role in the club. (Every club / organisation should designate a person to be responsible for dealing with any concerns about the protection of children. The Designated Liaison Person is responsible for reporting allegations of or suspicions of child abuse to TUSLA Child and Family Agency or Social Services Northern Ireland, and / or An Garda Síochána or the Police Services Northern Ireland).

Each workshop is three hours in duration, and participants must have attended the Safeguarding 1 workshop at a minimum before attending any other workshop. For more information or to book a place at one of these workshops, please contact the office by [email](#).

Offaly Sports Partnership also hosted an **information evening** on the **National Vetting Bureau Act** which was enacted in April 2016, in November. Inputs from Sport Ireland were available on the night, and the presentation from the evening is available on our website.

Notes for clubs, facilities, groups, organisations and schools

Clubs database: Offaly Sports Partnership is currently in the process of updating its clubs, facilities, groups, organisations and schools' databases. Clubs and facilities, please review the clubs and facilities directories [online](#) and advise of any changes by [email](#). Schools, groups and organisations, if you are concerned that the Partnership may have incorrect details for your school, group or organisation, please contact us by [email](#) to update your details.

Schools programmes: Offaly Sports Partnership offers a variety of programmes and information to schools in support of physical education, and the Active Schools Flag.

Programmes include: -

- Daily mile
- Disability awareness training
- Floorball
- Inclusive physical education for children and young people with disabilities
- Ireland's "Fastest Feet" for primary schools in conjunction with "Believe & Achieve Coaching"
- National initiatives such as Bike Week, Operation Transformation, Play Day and Recreation Week
- Remote Fit School Challenge for primary schools
- SPORTSHALL Athletics (primary and post primary)
- Sports Leader UK Level 1 qualification in Sports Leadership for transition years
- World Marathon 5,000m Relay Challenge for primary schools
- World Marathon Relay Challenge for post primary schools

If you would like more information on our schools programmes, please contact the office on 057 93 46843 or by [email](#).



For more information on Offaly Sports Partnership and our work now and into the future, contact the office on 057 93 57462, email us at sports@offalycoco.ie, visit our website www.offalysports.ie or follow us on Facebook and Flickr / Offaly Sports Partnership or Twitter @OffalySP

To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#)
Questions or comments? [Email us](#) or call 057 93 57462

Supported by





ANNUAL REPORT 2015

Compiled by the staff of Offaly Sports Partnership



sport ireland Offaly Sports Partnership is a sub-committee of Offaly County Council, funded by Sport Ireland and hosted by the Local Community Development Section of Offaly County Council.

Other News

Offaly Sports Partnership 2015 Annual Report now available Remote Fit School Challenge; inter schools events; post primary schools sport and physical activity programmes; inter generational sport and physical activity programmes; sustainable inclusion sport and physical activity programme for low income communities, older people, people with a disability, people of an ethnic background, and the unemployed; and education and training programmes for clubs and organisations; were all highlights from Offaly Sports Partnership 2015 Annual Report. The full report can be found [here](#).

Minister O Donovan Launches National Report on Sports Partnership Network

Minister of State for Tourism and Sport, Patrick O Donovan TD recently launched the ninth annual Sport Ireland Strategic, Planning, Evaluation and Knowledge (SPEAK) report on the national network of Local Sports Partnerships (LSPs).

The SPEAK report provides an overview of the work of the 29 LSPs across the country and highlights innovative good practice projects and programmes that are being delivered locally. The full report can be found [here](#)



Minister O Donovan Launches Irish Sports Monitor Report

Minister of State for Tourism and Sport, Patrick O Donovan TD recently launched the sixth Irish Sports Monitor Report for the year April 2015 to April 2016. The report, written by IPSOS MRBI on behalf of Sport Ireland measures adult participation in sport and physical activity and compares it with information published for previous years.

The report shows that 45% of the adult population participate regularly in sport equating to approximately 1.6 million people benefitting from the physical, mental and social benefits obtained from participating in sport.

Overall personal exercise is the most popular activity at 13.7%; with running at 8.2%; swimming at 8%; cycling at 5.5%; and soccer at 4.8%. The full report can be found [here](#)



Funding

Go for Life Grant Scheme for Older Peoples' Groups The successful recipients of Go for Life's 2016 National Grant Scheme for Sport and Physical Activity for Older People were announced on Friday, 9th December by Minister Patrick O Donovan TD, Minister of State for Tourism and Sport in the Desmond Complex, Newcastle West, Limerick.



Waterways Ireland is delighted to launch the 2017 Waterways Ireland Events programme, formally known as the Waterways Ireland Sponsorship programme. Clubs interested in applying for this programme, check out the [website](#).

