



# MTU

Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta na Mumhan  
Munster Technological University

MTU Cork Campus  
Student **GAA** Club



# 2021 – 2022

# Academic Year Report

Compiled by MTU Cork Campus GAA Officer Keith Ricken

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## **MTU CORK CAMPUS STUDENT GAA CLUB**

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# MTU CORK CAMPUS STUDENT GAA CLUB

## VOLUNTEER MEMBERSHIP 2021/22

### Executive Committee

<b>MTU Cork Campus Club President</b>		Eamonn Wall	(Inniscarra)
<b>Honorary Vice Presidents</b>		Pat Quigley	(St Martins)
		Noel Collins	(Bishopstown)
<b>GAA Club Chairman</b>		Dr Eamonn Cashell	(MTU Cork Campus GAA)
<b>GAA Club Secretary</b>		Keith Ricken	
<b>Student Representatives</b>	Football	Anthony Casey	(Kiskeam)
	Hurling	William Hurley	(Valley Rovers)
	Camogie	Katie Walsh	(Glen Rovers)
	Ladies Football	Leona O Shea	(John Mitchells)
	Handball	Adam Walsh	(St Mary's Wexford)
<b>County Board Delegates</b>	Football	Charlie McCarthy	(Kildorrery)
	Hurling	Seanie O Keeffe	(Aghada)

### Current Staff Members

Sean O Keeffe	Dr Con Burns	Conor Kelleher	Christine Nolan	Norma Buckley
Irene Hogan	Miriam Deasy	Dr Niel Canty	Michael Falahee	Finbarr Sheehan
Daniel Spillane	Keith Ricken	Dr Dan Collins	Ger Neff	Edel Kelly
Michael Loftus	Maurice Murphy	John Meyler	Tommy Broderick	Brendan Deane
Brian Kelleher	Dr Andrew Cashman	Tomás Reidy	Denise Minihane	Colm Craig
Dr Lisa Bolger	Barry O Donovan	Clive Thompson		

### Active Retired Staff Members

Eamonn Wall	Dr Eamonn Cashell	Noel Collins	Charlie McCarthy	Dr Mary McCarthy
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Dan Dulohery      Dr Barry O Connor      Pat Quigley      Dr Brendan Doyle

### Active Graduate Members 2021/22

Timmy Murphy	Padraig Gould	Aoife Walsh	Conor Buckley	Peter O Keffe
Tracey Kiely	Tom Harrington	John Griffin	Ciaran Sheehan	Nicole Hickey
Michael O Sullivan	Kevin Kavanagh	Patrick Bracken	Mark Griffin	Brendan O Driscoll

### Active Associated Members

Fachtna O Connor	Pat Spratt	Paul Holland	Donal McSweeney	Stephen Glasgow
Brian Herlihy	Ger O Halloran	Michael Boland	Christy Connery	Michael O Neill
John Mortell	Niall O Mahony	Donal Mannix	Ian Mortell	Leah Anderson
Jimmy Thompson	John Dineen	Janice Dupuy	Olivia Dupuy	

### Active Student Club Members

Anthony Casey	David O Connor	Dale McCarthy	Saoirse McCarthy	Damien Gore
Katie Walsh	Emma Barry	Karen Delaney	Roisin Dunphy	Aisling Forde
Abbie O Mahony	Sandra Dinan	Brendan Scannell	William Hurley	Brian Hodnett



***Members of the MTU Cork Campus Senior Hurling Management with Alumni and current Waterford Senior Hurling Captain Conor Prunty who paid a visit to a Fitzgibbon Training evening at the MTU Cork Campus Stadium Pitch.***

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# MTU CORK CAMPUS STUDENT GAA CLUB

## ANNUAL REPORT

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### Introduction

On the Monday evening of the 4<sup>th</sup> of October 2021, the MTU Cork Campus Student GAA Club had its first official pitch activity since the enforced Covid Pandemic Hiatus which came into effect on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020. 570 days of inactivity ended when the members of the Camogie, Ladies Football, Fresher Hurling and Senior Football teams took to the pitches for training and trials (or as we call them introductions). It was a fantastic sight, to see the next generation of students walk down the hill with their gear bags over their shoulders full of hope and promise. Until that moment, uncertainty hung in the air like a thick fog– with strict limits enforced re dressing rooms, indoor contact and such like. For the officers and managements of the various clubs there was the insecurity of whether or not there would be any interest from the students – many of whom had never really been in to the campus during their academic journey. Questions abounded such as - What would the season ahead look like? – Would there be leagues? – Will students turn up? – How will we negotiate travel arrangements, dressing rooms, team talks, numbers, equipment safety? Doubt was certainly on the front of the minds of those who volunteered to get things back up and running – but the sight of groups of students making their way to the Campus Sports Grounds on that Monday evening dispelled improbabilities and vagueness and replaced it with a spirit of hope and renewal. And while there were a number of obstacles and teething problems in the first few weeks that needed to be overcome – the energy experienced on that Monday evening as the sounds and sights of full activity abounded across the various pitches never waned and indeed became more vibrant as the season unfolded.

Munster Technological University came into existence on the 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2021 – with the combining of the Institute of Technologies of Cork and Tralee. For the purpose of sport and participation, the decision was rightly taken to maintain the campus structure for clubs and societies. With the focus very much on the student and their needs, it was always envisaged in the preparatory processes that the Cork and Kerry Campus would have two separate campus-based sporting entities flying under the one banner/the one crest. To merge both would have been a disservice to students as it would have certainly reduced the numbers of participation, put undue logistical stress on all involved and dismissed the notion of accessibility on campus activities. While the idea was mooted that elite sports teams would benefit from a best of the best policy, I would have always strongly contested that there is a lot more to sport than just competing to win. Our primary function was and should always be the provision of sport for our students and not students for our



sport. This view has been shared by the vast majority of us who work in the student services on across the university. So, while the MTU Cork Campus GAA Club was formed on the 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2021 – Oct 4<sup>th</sup> also marked the commencement of activities for the new club with the first Intercollegiate game of the new club being a senior camogie practice game between MTU CC and UCC on the 1<sup>st</sup> Nov 2022.

MTU Cork Campus Student GAA Club, which has grown out of CIT and RTC Student GAA Clubs, now flies under the new MTU flag and a new MTU Cork Campus Jersey. The design of the jersey was to a joint project between Tralee and Cork. The task was to have a jersey that, like the old CIT Jersey, was unique and recognisable as a brand in itself. Both Campuses were keen to keep a link with the past with colours, but the GAA jersey design was to be universal across the university. The agreed designs (shown below) have been a hit with the students and supporters alike and it will I believe past the test of time in the years ahead.



***(The red is the primary jersey for the Cork Campus with the Yellow being used where clashes of colours occur.)***

The 2021/2022 Academic Year has been a historic and memorable year on many fronts. The MTU Cork Campus GAA Club played 35 Championship games in our 12 different campaigns. We also fielded in 25 league fixtures and also participated in a further 31 practice games. 161 training activities involving the various GAA teams took place from Oct 4<sup>th</sup> to March 21<sup>st</sup> and we also took part in two Higher Education one day Blitzes. Based on these figures alone we are delighted with the volume of activity for the academic year of 2021/22 and we are especially proud that there were 318 active playing members (students who played 3 or more games) of the MTU Cork Campus Student GAA Club. We also had an active handball club who fielded in all three national intervarsity's and who recently returned with superb victories in the USA Handball College Championships with David Walsh (Mallow) taking the Open Seniors title – while both David and Adam Walsh (Wexford) retained their Open Senior Doubles Championship Titles won in 2020 & 2021. Success on the pitch came with the Ladies Footballers winning the Moynihán Cup, while the Camogie team won the Purcell Shield. While silverware alluded the other teams, some of their performances were outstanding. Our Fresher

Hurlers and Footballers had a fantastic season. The A teams both reached the semi-finals and were very hard done by not to make the finals, while the seconds both reached National Finals. Our male senior teams both recorded victories in their championships and participation rates from all our teams were well up on previous years.

It is important that we recognise the achievements of our Sports Award recipients for 2022. The Ladies Football Ballers won a Sports Award for their achievements in winning the Moynihan Cup for the first time. Ger Collins (Hurling) Damien Gore (Football) and Emma Barry (Camogie & Ladies Football) all received awards for their fantastic contributions to their clubs- not only for the last 12 months but during their time here at the MTU Cork Campus. They have been fantastic ambassadors for sport and for their college. Similarly, we would like to recognise MTU Cork Campus players Roisin Dunphy, Abbie O 'Mahony, Ava Looney, Maeve Daly and Margaret Murphy who were all chosen on the HEC LGFA Rising All Stars for 2022 arising from their fantastic performances with Moynihan Cup winning side.

We are, therefore, truly delighted with the amount of activity of this academic season and so we take our hats off to all who helped make this happen. In particular, I would like to mention all the volunteer members of the club, including staff, retired staff and alumni who make up the bulk of the 72 team management members. The primary task ahead of us at the start of this year was to provide the opportunity to successfully merge the familiar with the new and in doing so, create new experiences and traditions for the students who attend our newly formed university. This report, aims to outline how we went about achieving this goal. In doing we aim to give an accurate account of the activities of the Munster Technological University Cork Campus Student GAA Club in its first official year of existence, identify areas of development and outline future strategies for the years ahead.



***The new Inclusivity Logo launched in 2019 and amended to show the MTU Logo.***

***This is now included on all MTU GAA Jerseys***

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## MTU CORK CAMPUS STUDENT GAA CLUB

### CURRENT DIFFICULTIES IN HIGHER EDUCATION GAA

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The 2021/22 Academic Year was not without its challenges. Most of the colleges and their GAA Development officers have reported the year as a very difficult one on a number of levels. Certainly, coming out of Covid and the uncertainty around all that brought about a lot of anxiety in the beginning of the season, as did not having an active servicing officer for Comhairle Ardoideachais until the beginning of January. Communication and governance were huge issues for the Higher Education GAA Sector and there was very little direction or clarity coming from the top table of the Comhairle Ardoideachais. Fixtures, Venues, Referees, Standards and Promotion were well below the levels we had become accustomed to. The Comhairle Ardoideachais certainly came across as a disorganised and non-cohesive unit, but the HEC and CCIA were streets ahead in terms of support and direction.

Establishing best practice for those involved in the development of student players in Higher Education as well as creating better communication between the different GAA stakeholders with respect to student players is a fundamental requirement needed by all of us charged with the development of the GAA in this sector.

Arising out of the experiences of the GAA Development officers across the colleges, a document was presented to the President of Cumann Luth-Chleas Gael in order to overview of how the organisation is perceived by a number of those whose full-time occupation is as Games Development Officer in a third level setting. The authors of this document were Damian Curley (ATU Galway), Katie Redmond (SETU), Ger Brennan (UCD), Gavin Duffy (QUB), John Grainger (UCC), Mark O'Donnell (TUS Limerick) & Keith Ricken (MTU Cork). Seven current Full-Time 3rd Level GAA Development Officers came together in May 2022 to discuss how they feel things are going and to see if there were commonalities of issues and solutions that could be addressed. This was an eclectic group of GDO's of various provinces, range of experience, gender and college type. Yet all have a commonality of concern for the direction that third level GAA is going. Arising of this concern – 7 GDO's met in the beginning of May to discuss how they perceive the last number of years have gone for them and their college club – Consequently from this discussion we identified five common areas of concern which we feel needs addressing. We put these issues on a document designed to be brief- but would be enough to stimulate further discussion and bring about some clarity and solutions for the enhancement of the GAA in the Third Level Sector.



On the 18th May last the CA AGM is took place in Croke Park. The fact that is was on mid-week and in the middle of the higher education exams is an indication of how detached the administration of the Higher Education GAA has become from those with whom they are charged to serve. These five concerns were addressed at the AGM and we have had assurances that they will be addressed over the course of the year ahead.

The Following are those five issues;

- 1. The Evolution of the Role of the GAA Officer and how best to maximise their expertise for the betterment of the association**
- 2. The current working of the Comhairle Ardoideachais – and how can we make it more efficient**
- 3. The viability of piloting a working “One Association – One Club” at National and Local level in the Higher Education sector**
- 4. Fixtures – solidifying the Higher Education Programme of games and their structures**
- 5. How best to cater for the elite players attending Higher Education – meaningful and manageable player welfare structures and protocols**

It is important to say that the work that CA do is very important and is done with the best interest of the students and colleges throughout the country and abroad. Without CA, our competitions simply would not be streamlined and run as efficiently as they currently do. It is also noted that Ciaran Kearney is new to the job and was thrust into things during the busiest time of the year. He really didn't get a chance to find his feet and will hopefully start the 2023 season with a renewed perspective.

#### **Comhairle Ardoideachais**

In reflection however on the year gone by it is important to make some observations regarding CA:

1. The delay in appointing a new Servicing Officer was nothing short of disrespectful to the whole 3rd Level body. In most cases the GPO's picked up the slack and ensured that the games were played, but there were some issues when it came to the knockout stages which caused some rancour and generally left a bad taste in the mouth.
2. When the new servicing officer was eventually appointed (Ciaran Kearney), he was left to organise everything and as anyone who has operated at this level will tell you there is a huge workload and array of factors that must be considered for each GAME, never mind competition.

3. The draws for our championships (a showcase event for our games, streamed live) were nothing short of a disgrace – numerous mistakes were made, and it portrayed our sector in a very poor light. This led to massive confusion and doubt about the structure and logistics of our championships.
4. There is an issue (still outstanding) with medals for winners of leagues and championships – again we believe that this is a legacy issue due to the delay in appointing a new servicing officer.
5. In the past, up to date fixtures and results would be posted each Friday, so that plans could be put in place for the coming weeks. This was sadly lacking over the past year. College members would also be kept abreast of official CA meetings – again this was sadly lacking – to the point that students wondered if they met at all.
6. In an age where social media is so important, there is a feeling that the Higher Education platforms were sadly lacking in updated content. Apart from the updates by individual colleges it was difficult to find any valuable contributions. The website (the platform most visited by students) is a mess at the moment and should be updated far more regularly.
7. Appointment of referees and officials left a lot to be desired in the 3rd level sector. Financial considerations rather than fairness seemed to influence the appointment of officials. Many of our championship games were played without neutral linesmen and umpires – this is not acceptable currently. It is particularly frustrating for 3rd level colleges as we were told when our grants were withdrawn that it (the grant) was being used to fund the officials for games.

### Fixtures and Planning

The uncertainty surrounding Third Level GAA doesn't lend itself to a smooth-running games programme. There are vast operational differences across the respective CA, CCAO & HEC. To our knowledge, the majority of colleges currently operate under the umbrella of the "One Club Model". From a scheduling perspective, it would facilitate our needs if the respective committees aligned their games programmes;

The Ladies HEC must be commended for the running of both league & championships this past academic year. Dates, venues, fixtures & results were published in weekly emails which was very welcomed. Unfortunately, this was not commonplace across the codes. The lack of a functioning CA, for the men's game,

caused tremendous stress for all GDOs, which included overlapping schedules between competitions & delayed clarity regarding league structures & fixtures. Colleges opted in/out without consequence which also created unnecessary hassle.

The CCAO's running of the championships pre- & post-Christmas needs to be addressed to make it easier for colleges to partake. Overall though there was a good committee in place and they worked very hard with limited resources to ensure that the competitions took place. The current Freshers Camogie competitions finish very early in Semester 2. These students are only finding their feet after Christmas, so there is a suggestion for later start date.

There is scope for non-competitive/blitzes following cease of main championship for student body, excluding inter-county players who'll return to respective county teams. These could be ran regionally followed by a national event – along the lines of a Kilmacud 7's concept or Super 11's as played overseas.

### **Communication**

There is currently a major lack of clear & concise communication from Comhairle Ardoideachais regarding fixtures, match officials, venues & results. This places immense & unnecessary pressure on GDOs pre- & post-match. The nature of facilitating Third Level GAA is hectic at the best of times, and this lack of governance adds to the mental & physical strain organising a games programme schedule. It becomes especially frustrating being unable to inform players, coaches, facility staff & suppliers re: same.

Brendan Connolly was expert in communicating pre-Covid – unfortunately this is no longer the case since his departure. It appears there has been no direct replacement – and if there has, it certainly hasn't been communicated to Third Level GDOs.

The workload has been shared amongst other part-time GAA staff at CA level, but unfortunately it has been largely unsuccessful. There is no clear primary point of contact for GDOs and direct link to HE GAA/CA. Our sector deserves better – our schedule is suffering consequently.

### **Online Presence**

The official Higher Education GAA website is very outdated & largely unengaging – almost non-existent on social media. Colleges are dependent on our own counterparts for the publishing of fixtures & results. This is simply not good enough, in an era where such means are central to daily living, especially for the modern-day student. Currently our games are condensed into a confined window, pre- & post-Christmas – therefore we need to make every effort to promote & “sell” our product to the masses. If Third Level GAA stands any chance to remain viable & sustainable, our governing body are obliged to make it visible!



## Rules & Sanctions

It appears that breaches of rules & the CA's failure to uphold sanctions are commonplace. One high profile example was poorly managed in the Trench Cup, whereby the CA were concerned of media backlash and remained silent after the initial press release. This sector has been built of honesty & integrity between colleges. It would be refreshing to see us return to such an ethos.

## Competition Overlap

Competition overlaps between Fresher & U20 Development Leagues, and Seniors & Winter Pre-Leagues are concerning. Colleges with a larger percentage of inter-county players are almost being punished? It doesn't make sense forcing a player to decide whether to play a non-competitive match with their county, or competitive match with their college.

## Competition Structure

Group structures for championships has potentially run its course. There is scope for an open draw knock-out competition, with a backdoor option. If a club fails to win one of two games, they don't deserve to advance. The removal of groups prevents unnecessary expense for dead rubber games. The Ladies HEC championships are an example of such systems – which run very well.

## Solutions

A full-time servicing officer to communicate with GDOs & publish match details, fixtures & results. The person would act as the primary point of contact for GDOs, and all issues regarding Higher Education GAA.

An active PRO to promote & engage national audiences with our HE games programme. If the general public are unaware of our sector, how on earth can we expect for it to be respected & valued? The examples of the free to air streaming seen on the Ladies HEC social media platforms is welcomed across all codes.

Directive from HE GAA/Croke Park to mandate that students, who wish to play Higher Education GAA competitions, are granted access to compete with their respective college until the completion of the respective competition. This will protect players who are on inter-county panels – thus avoiding the current juggling of team activities.

Alignment of competition structures across the codes, which of course can only occur with the implementation of the One Club Model. This will facilitate dual players, increase participation & reduce barriers to fulfil our games programme. All colleges would welcome more fluid & engaging Third Level GAA committees.

## One Organisation - One Club Approach

Certainly, the debate around fixtures and minding the elite players has been with us for as long as I am involved. The One Association – One Club model is something that must happen if our games are to prosper fully and if we are to maximise the value of all our members. Background

A well-run club must have a solid and defined framework. Many Third Level GAA clubs in Ireland are already implementing a One Club strategy, with such clubs dedicated to actively encouraging and supporting the model in which clubs provide for both male and female members. However, the uncertainties surrounding Third Level GAA does not bode well for these thriving clubs. Currently, there are significant operational disparities between the HE GAA, Ladies HEC, CCAO Third Level Camogie, and ICHA Third Level Handball. Therefore, Third Level GAA clubs from a One Club Model standpoint, would like to propose, the respective committees mentioned above align. This is following on from the fact that official amalgamation has been agreed at the national level.

## Governance and Operations

As one organisation, we want to modernise our governance and operations. We would see a servicing officer and a single organisation – representative of all codes that would coordinate and legislate for the effective running of Higher Education GAA.

The problem will of course be difficult in trying to merge the Gaelic Games Associations at the various levels as there is a large body of work needed in garnering agreement on the structure and governance of the CA, CCIA, HEC and ICHA while ensuring parity and clarity

That Executive of the GAA, Camogie, Ladies Football and Handball would most probably need to formally disband the CA, HEC, CCIA and IHA and form a single governing body for all Gaelic games' codes with proportional representation from Gaelic Football, Hurling, Ladies Gaelic Football, Camogie and Handball. The GAA in collaboration with the HE GAA, Ladies HEC, CCAO Third Level Camogie, and ICHA Third Level Handball, would have to investigate possible integration mechanisms to create a clear vision for one association, as well as a road map to get there.

## The Role of the GDO

With regards the maximising role of the GAA Officer there is acceptance of greater connection between Comhairle Ardoideachais and the GDO's – in particular more involvement of GDO's in the development of the higher education structures. Comhairle Ardoideachais would benefit in having GDO representation on their committee. There is a suggestion that a GDO from each province would serve on the national

committee on an annual rotating basis. Likewise, there is a need for regular pre-season, mid-season and end of season GDO planning and review workshops. Apart from the HEC the GDO has still no vote at AGM's despite being heavily invested in the future direction at 3<sup>rd</sup> level. That really needs to change so that the GDO would have a vote at National and Provincial meetings.

It is hugely important to have a structured and accessible support for and from the CA servicing officer. In particular the clubs need to have IT and Educational workshops to help streamline our administration side of things. We also feel there needs to be greater use of local GDO knowledge in relation to venues, referees and such like. Finally, in relation to the GAA Officer, I feel a review of the Role of the GDO's with a greater emphasis being put in development of the non-elite participation and developing a workable and active GAA Club needs to happen as a matter of urgency.

### **Elite Players in Higher Education**

The status of elite players playing 3<sup>rd</sup> level GAA continues to be a major source of tension and debate within and without of the association. Over the last number of years our amateur players and inter-county teams have immersed themselves in sports science and the belief that 'professional' is now part and parcel of our amateur games, with strength and conditioning coaches, nutritionists, sports psychologists, elite performance specialists at the very core of every inter-county set-up from u17 upwards. This professional approach has earned all inter-county players the grand title of elite players. Professional set ups, professional approaches, professional thinking, professional player educational programmes, professional in everything except profession.

Yet for many who work with this cohort of people it seems that there is often little or no thought given to the young person at the centre of his/her education and vocational experience. The fact that these young people are trying to negotiate – or more so navigate - the world of career and sustainable living while at the same time live up to the status of elite GAA lifestyle . The buzz words of 'player centric' 'player wellness' and such like are banded about like confetti at a wedding – yet in third level there seems, on the whole, to be very little evidence of a joined-up approach for what is really best for young inter-county players. Players who are attending third level, want to play (and the mandatory training sessions) for their club, their county and their college.

The split season has been hailed as the future for the protection of the club player and club activity. That yet has to be seen, but it certainly has the potential to do what it says on the tin. Yet it will take a number of years to see if there are benefits for this. The Split season was designed for two entities – the club and the county – college (2<sup>nd</sup> or third level) was never really factored into the equation. As a result, there seems to



be a squeezing out of (conscious or unintended) the colleges games – with the windows of opportunity reduced so much that an inter-county player certainly doesn't enjoy the same experience of his counter-part in 2012 or 2002. The 2022 Inter-county U20 or Senior Players is fully scheduled, planned, coordinated and prepared to be fully optimal for April and May and hopefully June.

The neutral might be forgiven to assuming that maybe that is the way it should be – Club and County and that Colleges Competitions have served their time and must give way now to the demands of inter-county and the 'professional approach' era. And just like the railway cups and such like, the Fitzgibbon, Sigerson, and Fresher championships must be allowed to fizzle out.

Yet the evidence seems to contradict the spun narrative those who see third level as a spent force. Firstly, membership grows continuously in the 3<sup>rd</sup> level sector, with more and more teams, competitions and members. The GAA remains the single biggest sporting organisation in the Ireland of Ireland. The financial investment in GAA Infrastructure, such as pitches, floodlights and Stadia has been second to none and the interest in the games from the sporting public has never been bigger. Indeed over 3,500 people came out on a cold Wednesday evening to watch MTU Cork and UCC play out their Sigerson Cup 1<sup>st</sup> Round game earlier this year.

Then there are the players – when they are asked – they all want to take part and play in these unique teams. A team of equal peers, despite the sporadic spread of clubs, counties and cultures – there is a commonality that unites them – they are all on a similar career pathway, not just in third-level education itself, but they are all now equally dabbling in independent living, new social networks and social scenes, the development of life-long relationships, ideals and all the experiences enjoyed during a young person's time in college. These are the formative years and a positive GAA experience at this time will, like all the other positive experiences, influence them for life.

But it is not just that. In their county they are part of a structured set up – a ridged, goal filled and often regimental approach. The followers of a programme, ideals and ideas from the 'professional' set ups that are part and parcel of all inter-county managements now. Their age profile would lend many to be the younger members of senior teams – and not quite there yet as established or leader players. Yet in the college they are not only the main leaders on the pitch – but they are more often the drivers and movers off the field. They are club officers, gear organisers, motivators, captains and much more. In the third level competitions – the inter-county player is the 'Man' or 'Woman' of the group – the driving force and it is in this environment that these attributes that attract the players to want to be involved. Yes colleges want to win, but moreover the players want to lead, to experience and immerse themselves fully with their friends

of similar age, experience and ideals. If it was just for the glory, I'm not sure there would be such a passion by so many to preserve the higher education championships. It is something more holy and wholesome than just glory.

We have however, also to be real about the demands on players – the playing calendar is one thing, but the playing preparation is another. There is no doubt that Higher Education Championships is a pathway for players to step up to inter-county – probably the most effective pathway in that their competitions are the closest thing to Senior Intercounty – ahead of U20 in standard – but not prestige. There is no honour greater in the GAA than playing for your county. And any player will do whatever he or she has to do to try make the county panel. And the inter-county manager will do likewise to allow for that to happen.

So, the issue now is when the player comes into or onto the county set up. Now the demands of three pitch sessions, and two gym sessions become the norm and for many the only place they can complete that is with the squad at base camp (back home in the county). Travel increases, time for study, assignments and social interaction decreases and recovery is a word that becomes familiar but not really understood or practiced. And as for trust – that becomes like hens' teeth – a rare commodity between the player and managements and between college and county set ups.

Just as the problems are complex – so too are the possible solutions. There has to be give and take on both sides – and the player and his/her needs must be placed at the centre of the debate. The focus has to come off the GAA demands of the good player and be put on the demands of the student who happens to be good at playing GAA. There needs to be more trust and their needs to be rules to ensure that students who go to college can be afforded the opportunity to be students – and that we need to maximise the facilities and opportunities we have at our door step and not see it as an obstacle but as an opportunity.

I think there is merit in having in our Higher Education declaration forms– a section where a player would be identified as being on a county panel. That information would be given to Croke park and they would notify the relative counties involved. It would allow for that player to be made available solely for the college for the duration of that competition. Likewise, colleges will have to understand that until that from the commencement of Inter-county training in Dec – up to their CA Championships, players will need to be with their counties, unless travel and or managers deem specific players are better to stay on campus during the mid-week time period. There has to be give and take.

Certainly, these views are not the full answer to all the problems facing third level, but we should be brave enough and committed enough to engage in meaningful debate. There are enough clever people in he



association that can come up with solutions to allow for the survive and thrive of higher education and inter-county players in pursuing of the best of both worlds.



*It's a great place to be when you are smack bang in the middle of a group who share the same goals – Sport gives you the comfort of the group and the courage to go it alone – the collective and individual all rolled into one*





## MTU CORK CAMPUS STUDENT GAA CLUB OVERVIEW OF PLAYING ACTIVITY 2021/22

As already outlined, the MTU Cork Campus Student GAA Club fielded 12 teams this year in the 2021/22 Higher Education Competitions and at the time of writing we are hopeful to field once again in the Cork County Senior Hurling & Football Championships. We also had a very active Handball Club who competed in all 3 Intervarsity Events as sending three representatives to the 2022 US Handball Collegiate Championships in Missouri – where they were successful in the Senior Men’s and Senior Doubles.

**The following is a list of the specific teams and competitions played by MTU Cork Campus Student GAA Club during the 2021/22 Academic Year.**

Hurling	Football	Ladies Football	Camogie
Division 1 League	Division 1 League	Division 3 League	Division 2 League
Fitzgibbon Cup	Sigerson Cup	Moynihan Cup	Purcell Cup
Intermediate League	Intermediate League		1st & 2nd Yr Blitz
Intermediate Championship	Intermediate Championship		
Junior Championship	Junior Football Championship		
Fresher 1 League	Fresher 1 League		
Fresher 2 League	Fresher 2 League		
Fresher A Championship	Fresher A Championship		
Fresher B Championship	Fresher B Championship		

Senior County Championship Senior County Championship

In total there were 658 registrations on the remote registration platform for 2021/22– with almost 400 students who played at some level over the course of the academic year. A staggering **315** students represented the MTU Cork Campus Student GAA Club in third level championships panels for the 2022 campaigns – which is in itself a remarkable figure. In total the Cork Campus Student GAA Club took part in **92** games since the season commenced last October and a there was a further **162** non-game field activities during this time.

The following is a summary breakdown of the specific activity from the 2021/22 Season. (Highlighted in bold is an increase from the previous full season, underlined is the same as last year and marked in red is a decrease)

Activity	Hurling	Hurling	Football	Football	Camogie	Camogie	LGFA	LGFA	Total	Total
Year	19/20	21/22	19/20	21/22	19/20	21/22	19/20	21/22	19/20	21/22
Higher Ed. League Games	12	<b>9</b>	13	<b>9</b>	<u>5</u>	<b>1</b>	3	<b>3</b>	33	<b>22</b>
Higher Ed Championship Games	10	<b>14</b>	8	<b>13</b>	4	<b>4</b>	3	<b>4</b>	25	<b>35</b>
Practice/Challenge Games	29	<b>17</b>	15	<b>14</b>	5	<b>6</b>	5	<b>6</b>	54	<b>43</b>
Organised non-game Activities	44	<b>52</b>	50	<b>48</b>	24	<b>27</b>	19	<b>35</b>	137	<b>162</b>
Higher Education Blitz/Tournament	0	<b>0</b>	0	<b>1</b>	0	<b>1</b>	1	<b>0</b>	1	<b>2</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>264</b>

The figures shown underlines our continued commitment to the development of Gaelic Games at the MTU. In particular, it was very encouraging to see a levelling out of what had previously been a gradual slide in activities. This slide had, as was outlined in previous reports, arisen out of the clash of the club and colleges seasons. It seems, on the face of it at least, that after the Covid restrictions, students had really missed the opportunities to play for their university – or at the very least avail of the opportunity to train mid-week at the university facilities for club competitions. Evidence of this could be seen from the large numbers attending trainings with all teams. Whatever else, it reinforces what we may have previously taken for granted and that social interaction is an integral part of not only our games but of higher education learning and experiences.

On viewing the figures above, it also showed a marked decrease in League activity from previous years. It should be noted that the Covid response at the beginning of the academic year saw the higher education GAA bodies have a later league starting dates and lesser games in more localised competitions so as to support the national guidelines at that time. As these lifted later in the year, so did the activity levels. I would envisage that leagues will be back to pre-pandemic levels next October, as will the opportunities to run more 3<sup>rd</sup> level non-elite blitz days.

Significant debate has surrounded the split club and inter-county season model that has been implemented in part since 2020 and will be fully operational for 2022. While lots of progress seems to have been made re

club v inter-county – we still feel that how to dovetail second and third level competitions into the calendar in order to best show case these competitions and the players that play them is yet to be solved. The question of who/how/when should all our higher education competitions be played or what is the best format to accommodate a closed season at inter-county, being mindful of the concluding stages of club competitions is yet to be agreed. While there has to be meaning consultation, there also has to be the recognition that all sides will have to give and take in order to ensure our Higher Education competitions survive.

It is worth noting that our GAA Club registration figures for this year shows that MTU Cork Campus would have 68% of players whose home clubs are from Cork. Kerry is the next largest catchment group with 10.5% followed by Tipperary 7.5%, Waterford 5%, Limerick 3.5%, Kilkenny 2.2% while the remaining 3.2% consists of players from Wexford, Wicklow, Dublin, Kildare, West Meath, Laois, Carlow, Galway, Mayo, Roscommon, and Down. The average age of the registered membership is 21 years old – with the age profile ranging from 17 to 30. These figures are worth noting because the timing of club competitions, such as Cork Divisional U21 championships/tournaments, inter-county u20 leagues and championships, club championships all have an impact on the traditional 3<sup>rd</sup> level GAA Calendar which runs from Oct to March. Very often the debate at national level regarding 3<sup>rd</sup> level centres on the Sigerson and Fitzgibbon Cups – and trying to find the best solution regarding this. These are our flagship competitions and so every effort should be made to make them work. But our experience here in MTU is the impact the new club calendar has on the freshers/ junior & intermediate competitions. Afterall there are a lot more non-elite players than elite and we should do our level best to ensure that all students who wish to represent their college at Gaelic Games (which is a unique opportunity in their playing careers) should be afforded every meaningful opportunity to do so.

Similarly, with so much other activity we need to ensure that colleges play their part too in issues around player welfare, burnout and such like. In particular how Comhairle Ardoideachais runs its competitions – in particular having relegation in leagues and so forth have to be looked at also. MTU have been very conscious of player welfare and consequently have consciously took the decision to field in leagues without access to many of their more experienced players, so as to ensure proper player welfare practices. Similarly, with regards senior inter-county players attempts were made by MTU management to link with the various Inter-County Managements – with varying degrees of cooperation for our championship campaigns as they prepare for National League and secondary competitions such as McGrath Cups etc. Where there is little or no cooperation there is considerable angst with young plyers, as they vie to break their way on to inter-county teams. The fact that most of our players are so young, they end up not making the inter-county scene anyway for until they are older, so they seem to miss out on the best of both worlds as opposed to availing of these opportunities.



Another statistic worth noting from our registration is, that there is a marked decrease in registration from year one to post-grad. This would be the norm in most, if not all colleges. In MTU Cork Campus of the 658 registrations, 306 would be 1<sup>st</sup> years, 209 are in 2<sup>nd</sup> year, 84 from third year and 52 were in their 4<sup>th</sup> year. With regards to Post-Grad students we had 7 registered to play for 2021-22. These figures reflect a large decrease in activity from years 1 & 2 to those of 3 & 4. In previous reports, we would have shown the decline in numbers at years 2 & 3 with forth year normally having an increase as students tried to play in their final year. While post Covid restrictions saw many of our students back on campus, our experience was that large parts of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year remained remotely thought – particularly for semester 1 and by a lesser degree in semester 2. Not being in on campus would have had an impact on numbers engaging in all sport on campus – Similarly the fact that there was no Higher Education sport in 2020 and half of 2021 would have lent itself to activity levels being lower than the norm. We would hope that 2022/23 Academic Year would see an increase in activity on the later years' student groups.

At fresher level we continue to be consistent in the top six rankings – but what has a significant bearing on our inability to do similar at Senior Level is the age profile of our teams in comparison to those who are in the top six. What is glaringly obvious is the lack of more mature post graduate students playing in MTU Cork Campus. Records for 2022 show that there on the Cork Campuses there are 8258 Full-Time Undergraduate Students of which 637 (7.7%) are mature students. Similarly, there is a further 640 full-time Post-Graduate Students attending in Cork. Strategic planning across the University show more and more post graduate places coming on stream over the next number of years and we would like to think these will be a help in ensuring more experienced students becoming involved.

It is also worth mentioning that MTU Cork Campus Sport, as of yet, do not operate an elite entry scheme (or an equivalent direct-entry scheme that offers concession points or is outside the traditional entry system). Neither do we actively canvas perspective students at inter-county or secondary school level. The view on this has always been to shy away from interfering with the educational choice process and to engage with students who have made their choices and attained the respected grades required for their course choices. There has been an argument that for the opposite of this approach, as other colleges including our sister campus in Tralee offer a number of places at elite entry level – with points allowances for inter-county players to entice them to play. Similarly, many of the elite inter-county u20 and u17 players who have yet to do their leaving certificate are being approached with these offers to entice them to play. There is merit in this in relation to producing successful fresher football teams. It is also argued that It will recognise the fact that elite athletes must give up a lot of their time to achieve excellence in sport and that a direct-entry scheme will simply close the gap for key sportspersons who lose some ground in the points race because of

the heavy demands of training - and fall short of the level required for their chosen course. Yet, GAA is not professional, and I also think there is merit in encouraging students to get that academic v Sport life balance in their secondary level education process. This may be naïve or at least idealistic, but I would contend that the GAA as an amateur organisation is obliged to promote values which complement its purpose. While we should always support our members, we must also ensure that our members are balanced in identity and participation. As academic institutions dedicated to excellence, we need also to ensure that young people are choosing courses suitable to their needs and abilities. If there is elite entry, then we need to have it transparent and accountable and that the ethos of why we have a 3<sup>rd</sup> level Gaelic Games structure is to provide our games for students and not to provide students for our games. There is a difference in this.

Yet for MTU Cork Campus, our approach has not hampered our ability to continue to be a consistent top four fresher hurling and football club over the last number of years. This year our Fresher A and B teams all finished in the top four of the championship. Translating this to Senior is not elite entry or canvassing but the ability to promote and provide post-graduate opportunities for more students who wish to do so, while at the same time continuing to play for MTU Cork Campus Student GAA Club.

Thus far I have focused on numbers and statistics, yet as with all figures, it is worth mentioning that the numbers and statistics are in themselves only part of the story. The real outstanding accomplishments of the 2021/22 season have, despite the obstacles of Covid, been not just been the number of teams, level of competition played, the high level of player involvement or the fact that the Student GAA Club remain the biggest sporting club in MTU. No, the real success is the positive experience and great memories that all involved took from their time involved. That has to be the real yardstick in which we measure how successful any year has been. We will, however, continue to be mindful of what the data says, and in doing so heed any of the warnings. We must constantly reflect to see if we can do things differently both as an organisation and a University. Hopefully this report will go some way in ensuring improvements for the new higher education academic year of 2022/23.



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## MTU CORK CAMPUS STUDENT GAA CLUB

### 2021/22 TEAM REPORTS

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#### SENIOR CAMOGIE

**Captain:** Katie Walsh (Glen Rovers, Cork)

**Manager:** Christy Connery

**Coach:** Michael Boland

**Selectors:** Aoife Walsh, Tracey Kiely & Lisa Bolger

**League:** N/a (no knock out stages this year)

**Championship:** Purcell Shield Winners

**Championship Games:** Played 4      Won 3      Lost 1

**League Games:** Played 2      Won 0      Lost 1      Received 1 Walk Over

**Practice Games:** Played 6

**Blitz:** 1

**Training Sessions:** 27



*The MTU Cork Campus Camogie Team winners of the 2022 Purcell Shield winners*



## Senior Camogie Results 2021/22

Result	For	Against	Date	Code	Grade	Venue	Opposition	Event	Rnd.
Lost Final to UL	.	.	02/11/2021	Camogie	2nd & 1st Year	Limerick	Various	Blitz	N/a
Win for MTU	08:13	00:04	19/01/2022	Camogie	Senior	1 Pitch MTU CC	DCU	Championship	2
Loss for MTU	02:08	06:17	26/01/2022	Camogie	Senior	Broom Bridge (Cabra)	TUD	Championship	3
Win for MTU	10:15	01:10	24/02/2022	Camogie	Senior	St Pat Drumcondra	DCU	Championship	1/2 Final
Win (after AET & Penalties) for MTU	04:16	06:10	07/03/2022	Camogie	Senior	Mallow GAA Grounds	UL	Championship	Final
Walk over received	n/a	n/a	18/11/2021	Camogie	Senior	4 pitch MTU CC	TUS MW	League	3
Loss for MTU	02:09	02:17	29/11/2021	Camogie	Senior	4 Pitch MTU CC	MICL	League	2
Win for MTU	.	.	01/11/2021	Camogie	Senior	3 Pitch MTU CC	UCC	Practice	N/a
Loss for MTU	.	.	10/11/2021	Camogie	Senior	4 Pitch MTU CC	UCC	Practice	N/a
Draw	.	.	22/11/2021	Camogie	Senior	4 Pitch MTU CC	Cork U18's	Practice	N/a
Win for MTU	.	.	09/12/2021	Camogie	Senior	3 Pitch MTU CC	Cork U18's	Practice	N/a
Loss for MTU	.	.	15/12/2021	Camogie	Senior	3 Pitch MTU CC	Cork U18's	Practice	N/a
Loss for MTU	.	.	10/01/2022	Camogie	Senior	3 Pitch MTU CC	Cork U18's	Practice	N/a

### Manager Review

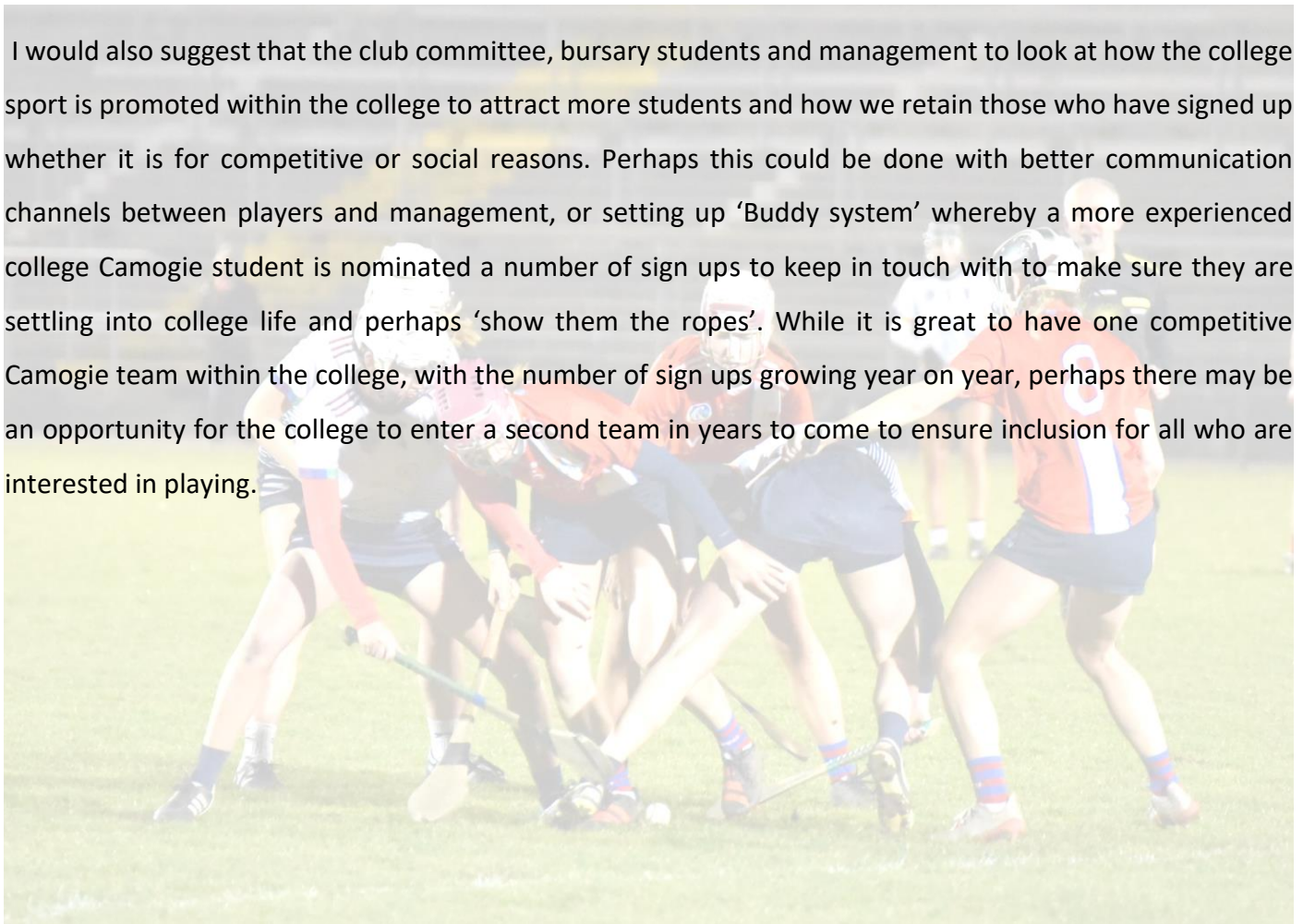
This year was a competitive but rewarding year for college camogie. Starting with a non-competitive league competition which unfortunately other colleges found difficult to fulfil the fixtures, we arranged numerous challenge games to ensure the team got plenty of game time together to create a good bond amongst the students and with management.

We then continued onto the Purcell championship which unfortunately for all teams involved, was a very mixed competition, and while we won well in some matches, we were also beaten well by strong Dublin competition. However, we ended the year on an exciting Purcell shield win, captained by Katie Walsh from Glen Rovers who showed great leadership and skill.

The 2021-22 Purcell shield final will certainly be one to go down in history as we are not aware of any Purcell shield final to end in a penalty shootout. While both teams showed great skill and ability, it could have been anyone's game. With a draw after extra time, it would have to go to a penalty shootout. There were some unlucky misses and great saves from both teams but it was defender Roisin Dunphy from St. Anne's, Waterford who luckily struck the ball across the line after not only miss hitting the ball but also breaking her hurley in the process.

While it was a very exciting and rewarding year for the girls involved, unfortunately, not all the girls that signed up were involved until the very end which is one regret from this year. While some may choose for personal reasons that college camogie is not for them, many join for the social aspect to create bonds and connections with girls of similar interests as they begin their new adult lives in college. We hugely appreciate the effort put in from the college to facilitate travel and food for away games which gives the students a great opportunity to bond together, but perhaps it may be something for the club management to look at going forward as unfortunately we could not bring everyone to the away games which left some girls very disappointed.

I would also suggest that the club committee, bursary students and management to look at how the college sport is promoted within the college to attract more students and how we retain those who have signed up whether it is for competitive or social reasons. Perhaps this could be done with better communication channels between players and management, or setting up 'Buddy system' whereby a more experienced college Camogie student is nominated a number of sign ups to keep in touch with to make sure they are settling into college life and perhaps 'show them the ropes'. While it is great to have one competitive Camogie team within the college, with the number of sign ups growing year on year, perhaps there may be an opportunity for the college to enter a second team in years to come to ensure inclusion for all who are interested in playing.





## SENIOR HURLING

**Captain:** William Hurley (Valley Rovers)

**Manager:** John Mortell

**Coach:** Niall O Halloran

**Selectors:** Ger O Halloran, Timmy Murphy, Peter O Keeffe

**Logistics:** Donal Mannix, Ian Mortell

**League:** Failed to qualify

**Championship:** Quarter Final – Lost to eventual champions UL

**Championship Games**      **Played 3**      **Won 1**      **Lost 2**

**League Games**      **Played 3**      **Won 0**      **Lost 2**      **Received 1 Walk Over**

**Practice Games**      **Played 6**

**Training Sessions**      **18**



*Above the MTU Cork Campus team that played Trinity College in the 1<sup>st</sup> round of the 2022 Fitzgibbon Cup*



## Senior Hurling Results 2021/22

Result	For	Against	Day	Date	Code	Grade	Venue	Opposition	Event	Rnd
Loss for MTU	.	.	Thursday	11/11/2021	Hurling	Senior	1 Pitch MTU CC	Kilmoyley	Practice	N/a
Loss for MTU	01:08	02:10	Thursday	09/12/2021	Hurling	Senior	1 Pitch MTU CC	UCC	Practice	N/a
Win for MTU	01:22	01:08	Monday	20/12/2021	Hurling	Senior	1 Pitch MTU CC	Kilmoyley	Practice	N/a
Win for MTU	01:18	01:08	Tuesday	28/12/2021	Hurling	Senior	1 Pitch MTU CC	Courcey Rovers	Practice	N/a
Loss for MTU	00:16	01:24	Friday	31/12/2021	Hurling	Senior	Bishopstown GAA AWP	Cork U20's	Practice	N/a
Win for MTU	.	.	Friday	14/01/2022	Hurling	Senior	1 Pitch MTU CC	Cork U20's	Practice	N/a
Loss for MTU	00:10	02:20	Tuesday	09/11/2021	Hurling	Senior	Mardyke	UCC	League	1
Loss for MTU	00:15	04:12	Wednesday	17/11/2021	Hurling	Senior	1 Pitch MTU CC	WIT	League	3
Win for MTU	01:22	01:16	Thursday	27/01/2022	Hurling	Senior	Santry Sports Ground TCD	Trinity College	Championship	2
Loss for MTU	01:17	01:19	Thursday	03/02/2022	Hurling	Senior	1 Pitch MTU CC	GMIT	Championship	3
Loss for MTU	01:19	02:22	Tuesday	08/02/2022	Hurling	Senior	UL South Campus	UL	Championship	1/4 Final

### Manager Review

Struggled in League again due to club & u21 championships, we were haunted Carlow blinked first and said they couldn't field & pulled out of league. There wasn't a hope we would have made 15 bodies to travel up there. Our first league game vs UCC we only had 1 outfield player who had senior 3rd level experience so that was a challenge at the start due losing a season the previous the year there was a gap of experience.

We were lucky enough that we remained relatively COVID free during the winter bar a handful of positive/close contacts mainly due the fact most our games were in MTU campus. The only two games outside MTU before championship were UCC in Mardyke in league and a challenge in Bishopstown vs Cork 20s, neither requiring a bus. We also decided not to use the dressing rooms for 2 weeks while numbers were particularly high.

The teams were superbly well coached this year – Niall O Halloran really is top class and We really hope he does it again next year. The game plan was clear and players bought into it from the outset. We we're boosted by an extra 4 decent players (2 ended up not toggging due to injuries)on our panel through phase 6 apprentice students which was great and it is an avenue that needs to be explored thoroughly each year.

We were very unlucky with injuries this year and all seemed to be our higher calibre of intercounty player for some reason unfortunately. Players left everything on the pitch, performance against UL was very satisfying despite the gulf in talent and after a bad start. Management were very proud of the players.

The Management were very happy with cooperation from GAA office, anything we required, we got, which was very much appreciated. Despite losing a few experienced high-quality players next year we feel there is enough players left plus 2 strong fresher teams coming through to compete and go a step or two further next year.

## SENIOR & INTERMEDIATE FOOTBALL

**Sigerson Joint Captains:** Brian Hodnett (Carbery Rangers) & Damien Gore (Kilmacabea)

**Intermediate Captain:** Josh O Keeffe

**Manager:** Pat Spratt

**Coach:** Luke Hanna

**Selectors:** Andrew Cashman, Jimmy Thompson, James Condon, Fiachra O Connor, Brian Herlihy

**Logistics:** Charlie McCarthy, Dale McCarthy

**Senior League:** Lost to NUIG in ¼ final

**Inter League:** No Completed

**Sigerson Championship:** Lost in Round 3 to UU

**Inter Championship:** Lost to UCC Round 1

**Championship Games** Played 4 Won 1 Lost 3

**League Games** Played 4 Won 2 Lost 2 Received 1 Walk Over

**Practice Games** Played 4

**Training Sessions** 19





## Senior & Intermediate Football Results for 2021/22

Result	For	Against	Date	Code	Grade	Venue	Opposition	Event	Rnd
.	.	.	03/11/2021	Football	Senior	1 Pitch MTU CC	A v B	Practice	N/a
Loss for MTU	.	.	06/12/2021	Football	Senior	1 pitch MTU CC	Cork Selection	Practice	N/a
Loss for MTU	01:14	03:15	21/12/2021	Football	Senior	1 Pitch MTU CC	Cork Selection	Practice	N/a
Win for MTU	00:10	00:07	03/01/2022	Football	Senior	Thurles	Tipperary Seniors	Practice	N/a
Loss for MTU	00:09	03:15	11/11/2021	Football	Senior	UL (Maguires) Astro	UL	League	3
Win for MTU	00:15	01:09	15/11/2021	Football	Senior	1 pitch MTU CC	UCC	League	1
Loss for MTU	00:13	00:16	24/11/2021	Football	Senior	Galway	NUIG	League	1/4 Final
Win for MTU	00:15	00:13	12/01/2022	Football	Senior	1 Pitch MTU CC	UCC	Championship	1
Loss for MTU	01:10	04:09	18/01/2022	Football	Senior	Tralee	MTU KC	Championship	3
Loss for MTU	00:10	02:11	26/01/2022	Football	Senior	Abbotstown	UUJ	Championship	3
Win for MTU	01:15	01:07	30/11/2021	Football	Intermediate	1 Pitch MTU CC	UCC	League	1
Loss for MTU	00:12	06:14	31/01/2022	Football	Intermediate	1 Pitch MTU CC	UCC	Championship	1



*The MTU Cork Campus Intermediate Football Team that lined out against UCC in the Championship*



## Manager Review

For the 2021/22 season, the non-fresher football squads registered 144 players with 59 of them playing a competitive game at some point in the season (40% engagement). 22 of these players played in the Sigerson campaign which ended in Round 3. 14 of these are final year students and are likely to leave the university this summer. The intermediate footballers only played one championship game and used 25 players. 13 unused Sigerson panellists are included in this. The group also facilitated a Junior football blitz in Mallow on November 10<sup>th</sup> and used 20 players. Its important to note that 8 of these ended up progressing to the senior/intermediate panels and one played Sigerson. 12 of these 20 never engaged beyond this point.

Having reviewed the season, the management group have raised the following points for consideration:

1. Recruitment – A number of avenues remain unexplored from last year. Primarily, the group had no access to or ability to engage with the trades to see which players might be available. There is significant potential here to recruit top level players for Sigerson football squads.
2. Recruitment – The bursary scheme is a huge help to undergraduate players and is key in promoting the GAA club in general. However, it is incredible that some scholarship mechanism for postgraduate students isn't in place. This would open access to more experienced, intercounty standard players who wished to upskill with a research Masters (possibly mature students). Clearly, this would need to be co-funded at best by the research office or other entity in parallel with the GAA club but there is precedent for this in the University. In exchange for the scholarship, the successful candidate would be expected to be available for Senior football squads and provide general leadership and guidance to younger, up-and-coming intercounty players. E.g. Imagine the positive impact Sean Meehan, Matty Taylor or Ian Maguire would have to MTU Sigerson footballers?
3. S & C Pathway – We were surprised how few of our squad members had any activity in strength programs outside of the on-pitch sessions. Bar players already on intercounty groups, most were starting from scratch. Similarly, freshers didn't seem to have any program. We propose that the GAA club as a whole could acquire a generic S&C program or pathway to take players through a 4-year cycle of development. There seems to be an appetite for this amongst the players.
4. Performance Analysis – Video analysis is a hugely important tool and one which our players benefited massively from this season. While we were grateful to have many games recorded, some weren't and more significantly, we had nobody to analyse them and provide stats, key clips and examples,

etc. Coaches took on this role but was time consuming and not sustainable. Some students were approached to support these efforts but requesting freebies from them meant there wasn't any consistent engagement on their end!

5. Bursaries – Some students were on bursaries and did not perform or commit to the GAA club as would be expected. No consultation with coaches happened during the season in this regard and we feel that since there are many more deserving players who may not have been successful in the process, in the interest of fairness, non-committed recipients should have their bursaries reviewed during the season.

6. Junior team – The intermediates were nowhere near the expected standard for that grade. If possible, a drop down should be considered. Furthermore, based on the engagement statistics above, there seems to be a market for a less serious, social team in the University. Maybe further Junior blitz type days could be arranged for these players? Resourcing of course is a challenge!

7. Sigerson calendar – At a higher level, something needs to be done with the Sigerson calendar. Currently, the business end of the third level season clashes with McGrath cups and preseason intercounty fixtures. This places players in an unfair situation. A move of early Sigerson rounds to before Xmas could be worth considering.



***The MTU Cork Campus Sigerson Team that defeated UCC in the 1<sup>st</sup> Round of the 2022 Sigerson Cup***



## SENIOR LADIES FOOTBALL

**Captain:** Aisling Forde (Kanturk, Cork)

**Manager:** Conor Buckley

**Selectors:** Sean Dennehy, Luke McCarthy, Christine Nolan, Nicole Dennehy

**League:** Fail to qualify

**Championship:** Moynihan Cup Winners

**Championship Games** Played 4

**League Games** Played 3 Won 1 Lost 2

**Practice Games** Played 6

**Training Session** 35





## Senior Ladies Football Results 2021/22

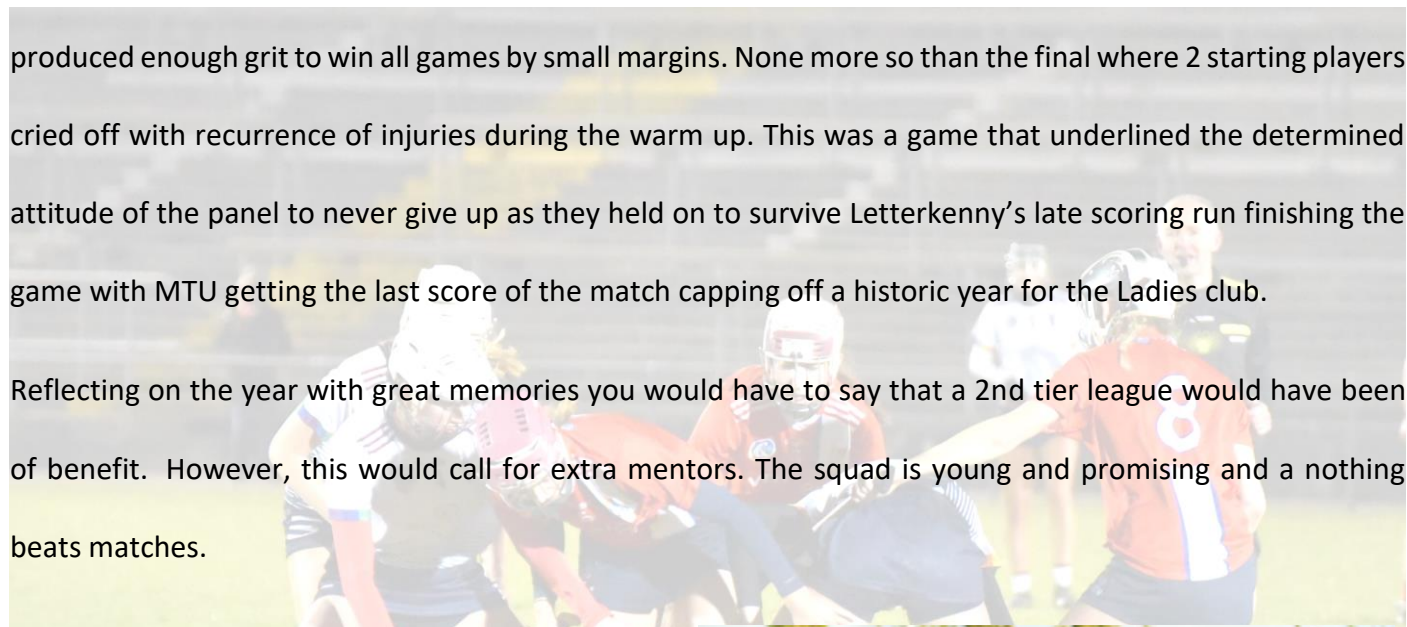
Result	For	Against	Date	Code	Grade	Venue	Opposition	Event	Rnd.
Loss for MTU	.	.	29/11/2021	Ladies Football	Senior	3 Pitch MTU CC	Glanmire	Practice	N/a
Win for MTU	.	.	06/12/2021	Ladies Football	Senior	3 Pitch MTU CC	Glanmire	Practice	N/a
Loss for MTU	.	.	05/01/2022	Ladies Football	Senior	3 pitch MTU CC	Mullinahone	Practice	N/a
Loss for MTU	.	.	11/01/2022	Ladies Football	Senior	3 pitch MTU CC	UCC	Practice	N/a
Loss for MTU	.	.	09/02/2022	Ladies Football	Senior	1 Pitch MTU CC	Glanmire	Practice	N/a
?	.	.	21/02/2022	Ladies Football	Senior	3 Pitch MTU CC	Cork U18's	Practice	N/a
Loss for MTU	01:04	06:11	02/11/2021	Ladies Football	Senior	1 Pitch MTU CC	MTU KC	League	2
Loss for MTU	01:05	04:19	09/11/2021	Ladies Football	Senior	Limerick	UL	League	2
Win for MTU	09:06	00:07	22/11/2021	Ladies Football	Senior	1 Pitch MTU CC	UCC	League	3
Win for MTU	01:11	01:08	01/02/2022	Ladies Football	Senior	1 pitch MTU CC	DCU	Championship	1
Win for MTU	05:05	03:10	15/02/2022	Ladies Football	Senior	1 pitch MTU CC	UCC	Championship	2
Win for MTU	00:11	01:05	01/03/2022	Ladies Football	Senior	1 pitch MTU CC	DCU	Championship	1/2 Final
Win for MTU	03:10	02:11	11/03/2022	Ladies Football	Senior	DCU	LYIT	Championship	Final

### Managers' Review

Great numbers attending from the 2nd week on. A consistent number, each week, of over 40 trained up to the end the league. One of the positive outcomes of the high number was everyone contributed to the sessions whether they were injured or not. Help with cones/balls etc and initially learning names and getting them to choose their own music generated a common bond and helped gel smaller groups that may otherwise may not have mixed.

The selectors Luke and Sean played a huge part in creating this feel good atmosphere even occasionally baking cakes and brown bread to have with tea/coffee afterwards. Those small things really worked well in creating a positive environment. I certainly cannot praise the 2 lads, Nicole and Christine enough for this.

Lack of League games for the 2nd string had an impact on the morale of that group ,especially the Tralee fixture when the informed us at 4pm they were bringing 1 team. However, I counted 13 subs on the Kerry



produced enough grit to win all games by small margins. None more so than the final where 2 starting players cried off with recurrence of injuries during the warm up. This was a game that underlined the determined attitude of the panel to never give up as they held on to survive Letterkenny's late scoring run finishing the game with MTU getting the last score of the match capping off a historic year for the Ladies club.

Reflecting on the year with great memories you would have to say that a 2nd tier league would have been of benefit. However, this would call for extra mentors. The squad is young and promising and a nothing beats matches.

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## INTERMEDIATE & JUNIOR HURLING

**Intermediate captain:** Darren Cuddihy

**Junior Captain:** Luke Elliot

**Manager:** Brendan O Driscoll

**Selectors:** Tom Harrington, Kevin Kavanagh

**League:** Intermediate Fail to qualify      No Junior League

**Intermediate Championship:** Beaten All Ireland Semi Final by UL

**Junior Championship:** Beaten in Munster Semi-Final by UCC

**Championship Games**      Played 3      Won 1      Lost 2

**League Games**      Played 2      Won 0      Lost 2

**Practice Games**      Played 6

**Training Session**      27



*The MTU Intermediate Hurling Team that beat MICL in the Intermediate Hurling Championship*

## Intermediate & Junior Hurling Results 2021/22

Result	For	Against	Date	Code	Grade	Venue	Opposition	Event	Rnd
Loss for MTU	.	.	30/11/2021	Hurling	Intermediate	3 Pitch MTU CC	Bandon	Practice	N/a
Win for MTU	.	.	02/10/2022	Hurling	Intermediate	3 Pitch MTU CC	Ballygiblin	Practice	N/a
Win for MTU	01:21	01:15	31/01/2022	Hurling	Intermediate	4 pitch MTU CC	Douglas	Practice	N/a
Loss for MTU	01:18	03:22	17/11/2021	Hurling	Intermediate	4 pitch MTU CC	WIT	League	3
Loss for MTU	01:12	01:20	22/11/2021	Hurling	Intermediate	Mardyke	UCC	League	1
Win for MTU	01:17	01:11	07/02/2022	Hurling	Intermediate	1 pitch MTU CC	MICL	Championship	1/4 Final
Loss for MTU	01:16	06:15	14/02/2022	Hurling	Intermediate	1 Pitch MTU CC	UL	Championship	Final
.	.	.	20/01/2022	Hurling	Junior	3 Pitch MTU CC	UCC	Practice	N/a
Loss for MTU	.	.	24/01/2022	Hurling	Junior	3 Pitch MTU CC	UCC	Practice	N/a
Loss for MTU	00:10	02:15	17/02/2022	Hurling	Junior	Mardyke	UCC	Championship	1/2 Final

### Managers' Review

#### Intermediate Hurling Team

#### Things that worked well

- Communication between the Intermediate management and the Senior management.

During the Christmas period (late December, early January) when the Senior numbers were low, some Intermediate players were requested to play games and train with them. I felt this worked very well as it made the Senior sessions better as the numbers were there to work on certain elements in training and allow the Seniors to play games weekly.

It allowed the Intermediate players to 'play up' with the Seniors. This allowed the Senior management to see these players on a more regular basis and because of this there were 2 or 3 Intermediate players that played Fitz championship because of the time they spent 'playing up' with the Seniors.



- Having a management link to the Senior team to track the senior players who were available to play intermediate in championship.
- Having an Intermediate training slot separate to the Senior team.

The Intermediate players felt they had a sense of identity of their own rather than just being there to make up the numbers for the Senior panel in training. This created a very positive environment and certainly helped create a bond amongst the players.

- Having spoken to some players since the competitions finished, they really enjoyed the atmosphere and energy around the Intermediate group. Some of the Intermediate players were as good as some of the Senior players but couldn't fully commit to the Senior schedule due to other commitments but were glad to be a part of an MTU hurling team at a decent level.

#### **Things that didn't worked well**

- A couple of nights, Intermediate players were asked to train but weren't used enough in the sessions and some of them were a bit annoyed at being brought in and not used (for the most part this worked well as mentioned above).
- When the Senior players that weren't championship tied came down to play Intermediate, I felt that these players didn't know the rest of the Intermediate panel well enough and there was a small disconnect between the Senior players that came down and the Intermediate players in our championship games.

Overall, a very positive year. We were never short on players for games or training which created a good competitive environment.

Beaten in a Munster final/All Ireland semi-final by the eventual winners and probably should have won on the night.

## Junior Hurling Team

### Things that worked well

- Junior and Intermediate players mixing in training, challenging the Junior players to become better. Having numbers at training allowed to play 15 V 15 games every session to work on certain things that we tried to implement in challenge games and championship games.
- Having the same management as Intermediates worked well as we knew all the players and made sure players got as much game time as possible to help them improve

### Things that didn't work well

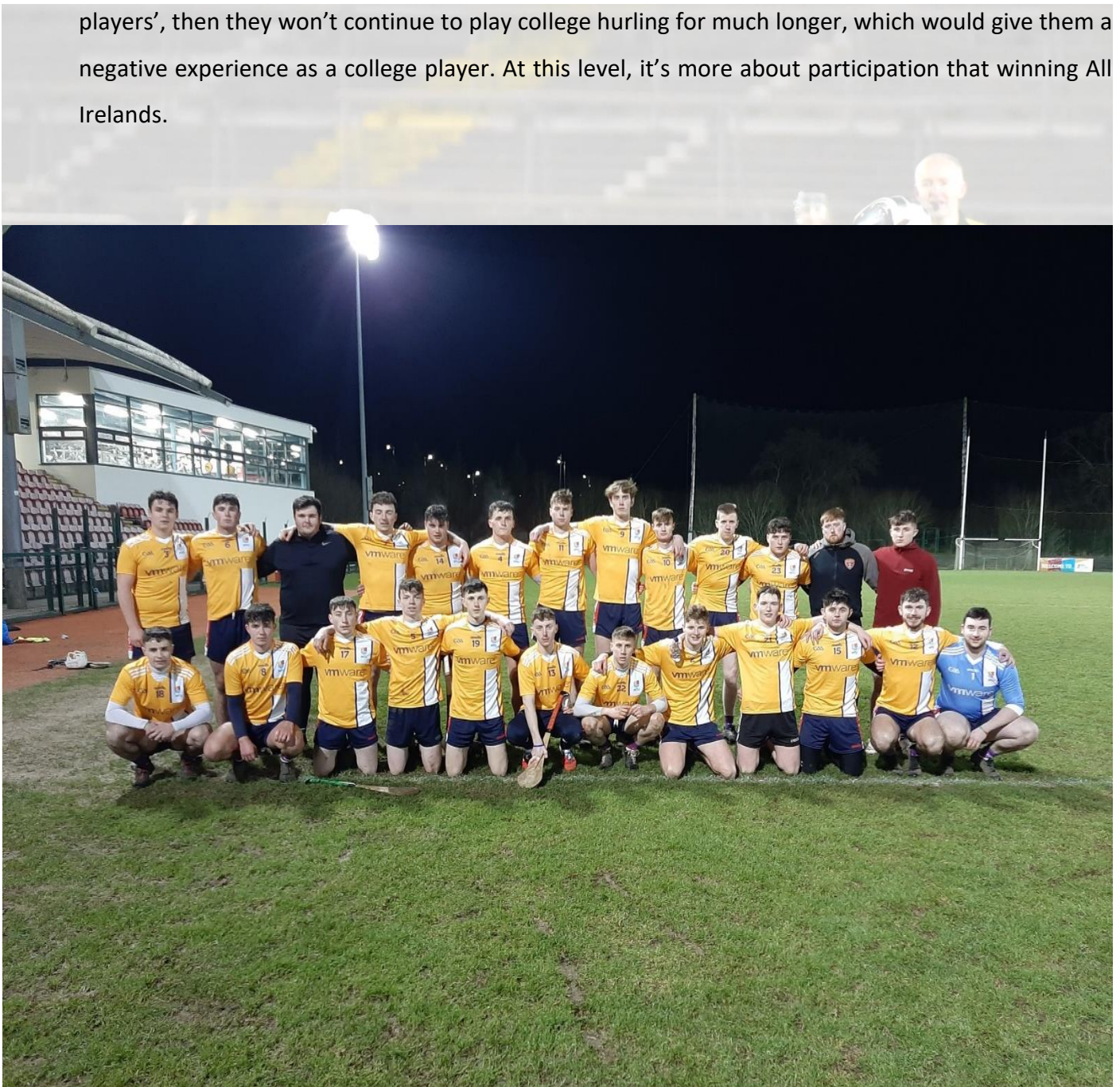
- We could have done with 2<sup>nd</sup> championship team. We have nearly 40 players toggled out for the Junior championship game vs UCC. We managed to get 30 players onto the field but if we want to satisfy the needs of these players, they could have done with their own championship team
- The amount of time required to be both Intermediate & Junior manager was a lot. While it did have its positives in allowing all players equal treatment and game time (where possible), the logistics behind the teams were huge. Trying to organise games for 2 teams, sometimes playing a game with 1 team @ 5.30pm and training the other team @ 7pm meant that spending over 4 hours out in the one night. (While this was ok in 2022/2023 with my role to assist KR and getting paid to be there, a volunteer person might not be interested in doing this going forward).

### **Recommendations**

- If there was a separate Junior manager to organise the Junior games but continue to train with the Intermediates, that would take the burden off the Intermediate manager as regards trying to organise games for 2 teams. This Junior manager would then be a selector on the Intermediate management team (if interested).
- Enter a 2<sup>nd</sup> Junior team for the championship to cater for the number of players and allow them to experience a championship game (without being brought on in the last 10 mins when the game is essentially over)



- Put forward a rule change or motion at college level that anyone named on a Fitzgibbon panel would be ineligible to play Junior championship.
- We encountered this issue in our Junior championship game vs UCC where they had several Fitzgibbon panel members playing and they were the difference between the 2 teams. It's not fair on the 'Junior' players to be playing 'Senior' players. It's not about trying to win, it's about players playing against players of their own level and being competitive and keeping these players playing for as long as possible while in college and long into their club careers. If these players are marking 'Senior Fitz players', then they won't continue to play college hurling for much longer, which would give them a negative experience as a college player. At this level, it's more about participation than winning All Irelands.



***The Junior Hurling Team that represented MTU Cork Campus for 2022/23***



## FRESHER A & B HURLING

**Fresher A Captain:** Brian McCarthy (Valley Rovers)

**Fresher B Captain:** Ed Kenneally (Newcestown)

**Manager:** Padraig Gould

**Selectors:** Noel Collins, Eamonn Cashell, Stephen Glasgow, Patrick Bracken

**Fresher A League:** Lost ¼ Final to NUIG fail to qualify

**Fresher B League:** Failed to qualify

**Fresher A Championship:** Beaten All Ireland Semi Final to DCU

**Fresher B Championship:** Beaten in All Ireland Final to UL

**Championship Games** Played 8 Won 5 Lost 2 1 Walkover Received

**League Games** Played 5 Won 1 Lost 4

**Practice Games** Played 6

**Training Session** 24



*Pictured above is the Fresher B Hurling Team that reached the All Ireland Championship Final.*



## Fresher A & B Hurling Results 2021/22

.	.	.	06/01/2022	Hurling	A Fresher	1 Pitch MTU CC	Senior Hurling Sel	Practice	N/a
Win for MTU	.	.	10/01/2022	Hurling	A Fresher	4 pitch MTU CC	St Peters Wexford	Practice	N/a
.	.	.	13/01/2022	Hurling	A Fresher	1 Pitch MTU CC	MTU Intermediates	Practice	N/a
Loss for MTU	00:18	00:23	18/01/2022	Hurling	A Fresher	1 Pitch MTU CC	Cork U20's	Practice	N/a
Loss for MTU	.	.	25/01/2022	Hurling	A Fresher	1 Pitch MTU CC	TUS MW	Practice	N/a
Loss for MTU	02:09	02:27	03/11/2021	Hurling	A Fresher	Waterford	WIT	League	2
Win for MTU	00:16	01:10	15/11/2021	Hurling	A Fresher	1 pitch MTU CC	UCC	League	1
AET - Loss for MTU	03:21	04:22	22/11/2021	Hurling	A Fresher	1 Pitch MTU CC	NUIG	League	1/4 Final
Win for MTU	03:09	00:17	01/02/2022	Hurling	A Fresher	Mardyke	UCC	Championship	1
Win for MTU	01:16	00:11	15/02/2022	Hurling	A Fresher	1 pitch MTU CC	WIT	Championship	3
Win for MTU	03:13	00:19	22/02/2022	Hurling	A Fresher	1 pitch MTU CC	TUS MW	Championship	1/4 Final
AET - Loss for MTU	03:15	02:21	02/03/2022	Hurling	A Fresher	DCU	DCU	Championship	1/2 Final
Loss for MTU	00:07	04:15	03/11/2021	Hurling	B Fresher	Waterford	WIT	League	2
Loss for MTU	02:13	01:23	15/11/2021	Hurling	B Fresher	4 Pitch MTU CC	UCC	League	1
Win for MTU	02:13	00:12	10/02/2022	Hurling	B Fresher	1 Pitch MTU CC	UCC	Championship	2
Walk over received	.	.	07/03/2022	Hurling	B Fresher	1 Pitch MTU CC	NUIG	Championship	1/4 Final
Win for MTU	03:20	04:12	14/03/2022	Hurling	B Fresher	Belfield	UCD	Championship	1/2 Final
Loss for MTU	00:16	02:25	23/03/2022	Hurling	B Fresher	Mallow GAA Grounds	UL	Championship	Final



*The Fresher A Hurling Team that played DCU in the All Ireland Semi-Final*

## Managers' Review

All Freshers should be afforded equal opportunity to be a dual player. This year there were numerous players we felt we lost due to being exclusively football only over the demands. Both managements need to have a sit-down meeting regularly to plan the month out accordingly for dual players and seek the proper balance / scheduling of games + training and work concurrently to sort an agreement / plan for the benefit of the player and aiding his personal development so they get to play both codes, and not having the player caught in the middle.

College players should be college players first and foremost until the completion of Championship in February, with inter county u20 / senior panels playing second fiddle from Mon-Thurs. The players should do two sessions with MTU, one with county + gym sessions throughout the week. Players are missing a lot of experiences from their own personal growth/development and they need to be nurtured more carefully as again next year, this group of young men would have missed a lot due to Covid so their integration into college life and the MTU GAA family / support system should be of extreme importance in 2022/23.

To go with this, would it be possible to 'bond' / 'unite' fresher panels and seek common ground by seeing (numbers / course choice dependant) could we arrange study groups before training, (hurling + football both on the same nights) to help them to transition into third level. I feel that getting students through first year exams in 2022/23 is possibly something we need to be more vigilant and mindful of than ever before.

Promotion of games on twitter. It was noted by numerous players / management / neutral external spectators, that the fresher hurling was a poor relation when it came to advertising of championship games in advance online via social media. Earlier start to college championship fixtures? This year the loss of Ciarán and Tommy for the Fresher 1 semi-final led to the knock-on effect of the F2 team being left depleted too for their final. We still feel aggrieved that both teams didn't reach finals and the 1's deserved the opportunity to pit themselves against that extremely talented UL outfit, and with both teams at full strength we would have collected at least one of the cups, a reward this dedicated bunch deserved for how industrious they were all year

Clarity on inter county players; UL had access to their senior intercounty players from Limerick and Clare for all of their games. We never seem to tend to avail of similar exposure from our own county managements, highlights a gulf between both colleges aspirations and end product of being successful. So, a suggestion would be could a college/cork rep be sought, in particular around the Cork team set ups.



## FRESHER A FOOTBALL

**Fresher A Captain:** Mark Casey (Templenoe) & Denis Collins (Glengarriff)

**Manager:** John O Dineen

**Coach:** Paul Holland

**Selectors:** Eoin Ryan, Conor Kelleher, Daniel Spillane, Brian Kelleher,

**League:** Fail to qualify

**Fresher A Championship:** Beaten All Ireland Semi Finalist by DCU

**Championship Games** Played 4 Won 3 Lost 1

**League Games** Played 2 Won 0 Lost 1 Drew 1

**Practice Games** Played 6

**Training Session** 17



*The MTU Cork Campus Fresher A Football Team that drew with UCC in the League*



## Fresher A Football Results 2021/22

Win for MTU	.	.	29/11/2021	Football	A Fresher	1 Pitch MTU CC	Glanmire	Practice	N/a
Loss for MTU	01:08	02:09	08/12/2021	Football	A Fresher	1 pitch MTU CC	Gneeveguilla	Practice	N/a
.	.	.	15/12/2021	Football	A Fresher	1 pitch MTU CC	MTU CC Inters	Practice	N/a
Loss for MTU	00:06	00:15	05/01/2022	Football	A Fresher	1 Pitch MTU CC	Cork U20's	Practice	N/a
Loss for MTU	.	.	14/01/2022	Football	A Fresher	Kerry Centre of Excellence	Kerry U20's	Practice	N/a
Loss for MTU	00:16	04:07	10/11/2021	Football	A Fresher	1 Pitch MTU CC	UL	League	3
Draw	04:06	02:12	16/11/2021	Football	A Fresher	Mardyke	UCC	League	1
Win for MTU	02:12	00:16	20/01/2022	Football	A Fresher	UL (Maguires) Astro	UL	Championship	N/a
Win for MTU	02:10	01:11	27/01/2022	Football	A Fresher	1 Pitch MTU CC	UCC	Championship	3
Win for MTU	05:15	03:07	03/02/2022	Football	A Fresher	1 Pitch MTU CC	GMIT	Championship	1/4 Final
AET - Loss for MTU	00:13	01:11	10/02/2022	Football	A Fresher	Portarlinton	DCU	Championship	1/2 Final



*The MTU Cork Campus Fresher A Football Championship Panel 2022*



## Managers Review

Within the first week of getting together it was clearly evident that the Fresher class of 2021/22 were a fabulous bunch of young men to be involved with. There was a huge appetite amongst the group to train and play for MTU. There were in excess of 100 students registered for Freshers Football, 30 of whom played for the Fresher A team in league/championship and challenge games. The group was made up of players from Cork, Kerry, Tipperary and Waterford. Their commitment was unquestionable and they were a pleasure to deal with. We were fortunate to have a high standard of players within the group this year, many of whom play intercounty and a high level of club football.

We started back in early October and did our best to see all players in action in internal games before filtering them in to first, second and third team groups. We made a conscious decision to train as a group and keep all players involved together. While at times this presented challenges due to high numbers we felt it built a camaraderie amongst the lads which stood to all teams throughout the season. The only time we separated the first team group was in the championship season.

I felt the program of games worked well considering we were still dealing with Covid restrictions. We were grouped with UL and UCC in both league and championship. We had some cracking games in both competitions the highlight of which was travelling to UL in the first game of championship and beating them on their home patch. We progressed out of the group with another win over UCC beat GMIT in quarter-final progressed to a semi-final against a strong DCU team. I won't bore you with the details but we felt very hard done by with the officiating on the night. We eventually fell to a 1-point defeat after extra time! DCU won the final comfortably the following week. We knew ourselves leaving Portarlington that night that a chance to win an All-Ireland title had been taken from us. However, as I said to the lads if they thought back a year from that evening they were preparing for their leaving cert in the height of a lockdown and not a football in sight. They were now after operating at the highest level of college football and making friends for life. That in itself was a win.

The one area I would see room for significant improvement is in the communication with Fresher hurling management and also intercounty managers. On a number of occasions players came to us during games and informed us that they had played games the night before. Players workload needs to be managed better. I would suggest that players fill out a google document each Sunday outlining their schedule for the following week. This would inform management and lead to better load management. I would also like to see intercounty managers give more leeway to players to play with their college teams in the month of January when championship is ongoing.

## FRESHER B FOOTBALL

**Fresher A Captain:** John Lehane (Grenagh) & Tiernan Collins (Castlehaven)

**Manager:** Anthony Casey

**Selectors:** Dale McCarthy, David O Connor

**Fresher B League:** Beaten in All Ireland Final to UUJ

**Fresher B Championship:** Beaten All Ireland Semi Finalist by DCU

Championship Games	Played 4	Won 3	Lost 1	
League Games	Played 3	Won 1	Lost 1	Drew 1
Practice Games	Played 3			
Training Session	20			



*The MTU Cork Campus Fresher B League Finalists 2021*



## Fresher B Football Results 2021/22

Loss for MTU	.	.	20/10/2021	Football	Fresher Sel.	4 Pitch MTU CC	Cork U18's	Practice	N/a
.	.	.	03/11/2021	Football	Fresher Sel.	1 Pitch MTU CC	A v B	Practice	N/a
n/a	.	.	24/01/2022	Football	B Fresher	4 Pitch MTU CC	Juniors	Practice	N/a
Draw	03:11	03:11	10/11/2021	Football	B Fresher	3 Pitch MTU CC	UL	League	3
Win for MTU	03:13	00:10	16/11/2021	Football	B Fresher	Mardyke	UCC	League	1
Loss for MTU	00:09	02:12	14/03/2022	Football	B Fresher	Belfield	UUJ	League	Final
Win for MTU	04:12	02:06	31/01/2022	Football	B Fresher	1 pitch MTU CC	UCC	Championship	1
Win for MTU	02:09	01:09	07/02/2022	Football	B Fresher	Galway	NUIG	Championship	2
Win for MTU	03:09	03:08	14/02/2022	Football	B Fresher	4 Pitch MTU CC	UL	Championship	3
Loss for MTU	00:09	01:08	03/03/2022	Football	B Fresher	DCU	DCU	Championship	1/2 Final

### Managers Review

Our first game took place at home to UL, where MTU hit the roof of the net with an injury time goal to leave the sides level at the final whistle. Game 2 of the league campaign, the Fresher 2 footballers travelled to our neighbours in the Mardyke, UCC. This game preceded the Fresher 1 league game where our men were ready for the challenge. MTU started out the game looking like they had left their shooting boots at home but come the second half the MTU boys were shooting the lights out. The game ended with 8 points to spare and this saw MTU advance to a league final against UU Jordanstown in the All Ireland league final, which was played in Dublin. Despite the spirited effort of the MTU players, we let the game slip away losing out to a very strong UUJ side at the final whistle.

The championship campaign began with our first challenge at home to UCC. We knew they would be coming for revenge after their defeat to us in the league campaign but once again our lads put the shoulder to the wheel for the 60 minutes and won comprehensively in the end. Our next game against UL's 2nd team was quite the change in tempo. UL came with all guns blazing, scoring an early goal but the disciplined MTU took advantage of their chances and won by the minimum after a thrilling game. With 2 wins from 2 we then advanced to the All-Ireland semi-final in DCU against DCU. In what was a close game, the Dublin side proved to be more clinical in front of goal, and their dominance around the middle of the pitch frustrated our lads and we found it hard to hold possession and create any momentum that may have gotten us back into the game. DCU eventually advanced to the decider at our expense, but much like all our previous games, we fought to the very end and left everything we had on the pitch.

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## MTU CORK CAMPUS STUDENT GAA CLUB

### HIGHER EDUCATION GAA ROLE OF HONOUR 1975 - 2022

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#### Hurling Club National Successes

1977	Ryan Cup	2001	CIT (ii) Fresher B Championship
1978	Division 3 League	2001	Intermediate Championship
1979	Division 2 League	2003	Intermediate Championship
1980	Ryan Cup	2005	CIT (iii) Division 3 Championship
1989	Ryan Cup	2006	Intermediate Championship
1991	Fresher A Championship	2008	Fresher A Championship
1992	Fresher A Championship	2009	Fresher A Championship
1993	Division 2 League	2014	Intermediate Championship
1999	Division 1 League	2015	Intermediate League
1999	Intermediate Championship	2016	Fresher A Championship

#### Camogie Club National Successes

2001	Purcell Cup	2014	Purcell Shield
2004	Division 2 League	2016	Purcell Cup
2006	Ashbourne Shield	2017	Ashbourne Shield
2012	Purcell Shield	2018	Division 2 League
		2022	Purcell Shield

#### Football Club National Successes

1978	Division 3 League	2002	CIT (iii) Junior Championship
1979	Trench Cup	2006	CIT (ii) Intermediate Championship
1982	Division 2 League	2006	CIT (iii) Junior Championship
1990	Division 3 League	2009	Sigerson Cup
1991	Fresher A Championship	2011	Fresher Division 1 League



1993	Division 2 League	2012	CIT (ii) Intermediate Championship
2001	CIT (iii) Junior Championship	2016	CIT (ii) Fresher B Championship
		2020	Trench Cup

### Ladies Football Club National Successes

2007	CIT (iii) Division 3 League	2017	Fresher 7's Junior All Ireland
2014	Division 3 League	2020	Moynihan Cup Final v UCD (Competition Cancelled)
2015	Division 2 League	2022	Moynihan Cup



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## MTU CORK CAMPUS STUDENT GAA CLUB

### ALUMNI WHO ARE HOLDERS OF ALL-IRELAND SENIOR MEDALS

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#### Hurling

**Cork (20)** John Hodgins, Jim Cashman, Sean McCarthy, David Quirke, Denis Walsh, Pat Ryan, Barry Egan, Kevin Hennessy, Kevin Murray, Brian Corcoran, Donal Óg Cusack, Ronan Curran, Martin Coleman, John Gardiner, Brian Murphy, Anthony Nash, Pat Mulcahy, Kieran Murphy, Paul Tierney, Cian O Connor,

**Kilkenny (7)** Pat O Neill, Philly Larkin, Aidan Fogarty, Jackie Tyrell, Michael Fennelly, Colin Fennelly, Ger Aylward

**Tipperary (2)** Eugene O Neill, John O Dwyer

**Clare (1)** Patrick O Connor

#### Camogie

**Cork (13)** Miriam Deasy, Emer O Farrell, Jenny Duffy, Eimear O Sullivan (Ballinhassig), Nora Aherne, Paula O Connor, Jessica Kavanagh, Sarah Buckley, Katlyn Hickey, Eimear O Sullivan (Kilbrittan) Amy Lee, Lauren Homan, Saoirse McCarthy

**Galway (1)** Brenda Hanney

**Wexford (2)** Linda Bolger, Lisa Bolger

#### Football

**Cork (21)** Jimmy Kerrigan, Tony Nation, Denis Walsh, John Kearns (RIP), Paddy Hayes, Mick Slocum, Dave Barry, John Cleary, Conor Counihan, Daniel Goulding, Paul Kerrigan, Paul O Flynn, Colm O Neill, Ray Carey, Conor O Driscoll, Patrick O Shea, Graham Canty, Derek Kavanagh, Eoin Cadogan, Donnacha O Connor, Kieran O Connor (RIP)



## Kerry (15)

Eoin Liston, Ger Lynch, Tom Spillane, Aidan O' Mahony, Mark O'Shea, Michael McCarthy, Darren O'Sullivan, Brian Sheehan, Seamus Scanlon, Mark Griffin, Brian Kelly, Brendan Kealy, Darren O'Sullivan, Barry John Keane , Pa Kilkenny

## Ladies Football

## Cork (6)

Juliet Murphy, Anna Maria Walsh, Jean O Sullivan, Jessica O Shea, Sinead Cotter, Emma Farmer,

## Waterford (3)

Deirdre Nagle, Paula Walsh, Bridget Hannigan



*Without doubt one of our most decorated Graduate – Juliet Murphy who gave some great displays in the red and white hoops of Cork Institute of Technology Student GAA Club*



## MTU CORK CAMPUS STUDENT GAA CLUB BURSARIES FOR GAA 2021/22

We are very grateful to MTU for their continued support of the Bursary scheme for GAA players. The Munster Council also have been very generous supporters of third level games and its players over the last 25 years and MTU students have benefited enormously during this time. While it was very disappointing that 2020/21 saw a break in the funding chain, MTU Student GAA Club fully appreciate the unprecedented circumstances that we found ourselves during the pandemic. We are however very grateful for the VMWare Sponsorship which this year off set the Munster Council Bursaries as a once off.

In total therefore, we were able to award a total of saw **34** Bursaries awarded for GAA which included **11** to the value of **€8,250** covered by the VMWare Sponsorship. MTU Bursaries varied in amounts from **€500 to €1,000** and totalled to show a financial investment of **€16,500**. The sum total awarded for GAA Bursaries was **€24,500**. We are aware of, but have not been in contact with, the GPA regarding their bursaries and so are unable to comment on what players are in receipt of these grants. It would be more transparent if we could have GPA active involvement in the selection criteria, process and monitoring of these bursary students, but there seems to be very little information regarding their own expectations of a GPA bursary recipient and a reluctance to work under the same terms of their parent organisation the GAA.

Below are the details of the recipients for the 2021/22 Academic Year;

Full Name	Awarded	GAA Sport	Full Amount	Home Club	County	Course & Year
Ciaran Joyce	Fresher	Hurling	€500.00	Castlemartyr	Cork	Agriculture 1
Jack Cahalane	Fresher	Dual	€500.00	St. Finbarr's	Cork	Coaching Science & Sports 1
Dara Mason	Fresher	Hurling	€500.00	Ballyhale	Kilkenny	Quantity Surveying 1
Colm O Donovan	Fresher	Gaelic Football	€500.00	Newcestown	Cork	Agricultural Science
Seamus O Sullivan	Fresher	Gaelic Football	€500.00	Newcestown	Cork	Construction Man. 1
Tommy Walsh	Fresher	Gaelic Football	€500.00	Kanturk	Cork	Coaching Science & Sports 1
Aaron O Shea	Fresher	Gaelic Football	€500.00	Listry	Kerry	B.I.S. 1
Paudie O Leary	Fresher	Gaelic Football	€500.00	Gneeveguilla	Kerry	Electrical Eng. 1



Full Name	Awarded	GAA Sport	Full Amount	Home Club	County	Course & Year
Ava Hartigan	Developmental	LGFA	€500.00	Knockaineey	Limerick	B.I.S. 4
Daniel O'Connell	Developmental	Gaelic Football	€500.00	Kanturk	Cork	Quantity Surveying 4
Evan Murphy	Developmental	Hurling	€500.00	Causeway	Kerry	Business Administration NF1
Rory Maguire	Developmental	Gaelic Football	€500.00	Castlehaven	Cork	B.I.S. 4
Josh O Keeffe	Developmental	Gaelic Football	€500.00	Newmarket	Cork	Business 4
Adam Walsh	Snr Developmental	Handball	€750.00	St Mary's	Wexford	Construction Man. 4
Cathal Wilson	Snr Developmental	Hurling	€750.00	Newcestown	Cork	Marketing NF1
Aaron Browne	Snr Developmental	Hurling	€750.00	Cashel King Cormac's	Tipperary	Quantity Surveying 3
David Buckley	Snr Developmental	Gaelic Football	€750.00	Newcestown	Cork	Coaching Science & Sport NF1
Chris O' Donoghue	Snr Developmental	Gaelic Football	€750.00	Glenflesk	Co. Kerry	Marketing 4
Danny Linehan	Snr Developmental	Gaelic Football	€750.00	Castlemagner	Cork	Nutrition & Health Science 2
Niall Donohue	Snr Developmental	Gaelic Football	€750.00	Firies	Kerry	B.I.S. Post-Grad 1
Conall Kennedy	Snr Developmental	Gaelic Football	€750.00	Clonmel commercials	Tipperary	Quantity surveying 4
Hannah O Leary	Snr Developmental	Camogie	€750.00	Ballincollig	Cork	Business 2
Lauren Homan	Snr Developmental	Camogie	€750.00	St. Vincent's	Cork	Recreation & Leisure Man2
Aisling Forde	Snr Developmental	LGFA	€750.00	Kanturk	Cork	Social Care 4
Gavin O Brien	Full Senior	Gaelic Football	€1,000.00	Kerins O Rahillys	Kerry	Quantity Surveying 4
Paul Ring	Full Senior	Gaelic Football	€1,000.00	Aghabullogue	Cork	Mechanical Eng. 4
Damien Gore	Full Senior	Gaelic Football	€1,000.00	Kilmacabea	Cork	Business 4
Alan Connolly	Full Senior	Hurling	€1,000.00	Blackrock	Cork	B.I.S. 2
Brian Roche	Full Senior	Hurling	€1,000.00	Bride Rovers	Cork	Accounting 3
Ger Collins	Full Senior	Hurling	€1,000.00	Ballinhassig	Cork	Construction Man 4
Sam Quirke	Full Senior	Hurling	€1,000.00	Midleton	Cork	Business 2
Saoirse McCarthy	Full Senior	Camogie	€1,000.00	Courcey Rovers	Cork	Recreation & Leisure Man. 3
Abbie O' Mahony	Full Senior	LGFA	€1,000.00	Glanmire	Cork	Fine Art 3
Roisin Dunphy	Full Senior	LGFA	€1,000.00	Stradbally	Waterford	Biomedical Eng. 3

The MTU Student GAA Club are particularly grateful to Dr Eamonn Cashell & Noel Collins, who did all the interviews remotely this year and they were able assisted by Christine Nolan, Jess O Shea & Norma Buckley. They are an integral part of the process for the GAA Club, interviewing all candidates who apply and being flexible to allow all the time to attend. Their experience and enthusiasm are invaluable and the professional and considerate manner in how they talk with all the candidates is a joy to observe.

**Bursaries – Issues to be addressed:** Once again, the question is posed *“Is the current cash payment scheme the best option to be afforded to these players?”* The view of many club members working on the ground continues to be that the current scheme is outdated in its approach and unbalanced in terms of what it gives out and what it expects back in return. It needs now to reinvent itself in order to encourage and attract the higher end of prospective sporting talent. If we were to approach the bursary with an authentic student-centred focus then the core issues of Accommodation, Mentor/Academic Support, Fees and Tuition, Player Welfare Support (in particular medical issues), Inter-County demands, Personal Physical Development Programmes, Nutritional Support, Merchandise, PR, and Coach Education Opportunities are all areas which a more tangible support programme should address. The present status of ‘Cash to Perform’ is perceived as a very much hands off and authoritative approach. A more hands on approach is favoured - overseen by a specific individual with the time and institute backing to address the areas outlined above. Bursaries must be tailored to fit the requirements of the individual student athlete. The bursary should also be weighted, with the higher standard and proven committed athletes receiving more the longer they remain studying at the University. There has been the suggestion muted that maybe there should be less bursaries awarded, and they should be coveted and prestigious awards. Likewise, the Bursary application process, elite entry and amounts vary from our sister campus in Tralee. This needs to be standardised across the University and extensive review and discussion should be had around all this.

With regards the role of the Sports Bursary Facilitator, he/she would have a specific programme in place for the promotion, development and implantation of an Elite Athlete programme at MTU. For example, Accommodation, the institute should be able to facilitate in securing a number of units in local student accommodation. Likewise, a recipient should experience regular monthly meetings with appointed mentor who report any issues back to the facilitator. What has improved is the access to the facilities here in MTU, - especially the Elite Gym has become more accessible now for of our elite athlete students. But we need to further expand this.

It is argued that the Bursary Facilitator would ensure that not only various benefactors of the bursary scheme get better value for their money but ensure the MTU Bursary scheme would be in a position to stand out, or at least stand up with, the others National 3<sup>rd</sup> Level Educational Institutions. At present, this is certainly not



the case. The Sports Review Programme had committed to root and branch overview, yet we are still awaiting its findings. Until then we will continue to make this case at Campus level for necessary change. Finally, with the national GAA Bursary Scheme and the GPA Bursary Scheme (For which there is no information forthcoming to the college clubs), there is no stipulation built in regarding successful academic progression. We would like to see some standard applying across all the colleges, which would support not only commitment to their sport and college, but also to their academic endeavours.

Later in the year Caitlin Duffy of Fermoy LGFA received a Munster LGFA Bursary. Below is Caitlin receiving her Bursary for the Munster Chairperson



***Caitlin Duffy receiving her Munster LGFA Bursary***

Since the inception of the Bursary programme at the Cork Campus in the early 1990's, there have always been a small number of instances where students do not fully honour their requirements. At the time of writing we have a few payments regarding GAA Students that are on hold pending passing examinations. We would be hopeful that these will be successful with their repeats and receive their final instalments after the autumn examinations. For this academic year we have had one student who did not meet the criteria in relation to commitment and club engagement.

The vast majority of our Bursary recipients are attached to Inter-County teams. Being available to the University teams for games and training requires considerable effort – mostly through reasonable dialogue between various managements and in some cases the GAA Officer. Training sessions for these players has

to be accepted as very limited to the few sessions before championship in order to prevent overloading these athletes physically and mentally. That these players however, are made available to play games for the University is very important if we are to keep the integrity of both the games and the bursary schemes that surround same. This year we had a number of Inter-County Hurlers who were unavailable re “injury” – yet they seemed to be available for National League a few short days later. This is disappointing to say the very least – especially when you consider how close MTU got in their qualifier over GMIT and subsequent away ¼ final to winners UL. It is an issue which requires constant review and dialogue , both at county, Provincial and National Level. In reality unless we bring it into rule regarding allegiances conflict between College and County – then the student will be the loser. The solution is made more complicated with the Inter-County season being shortened to the first six months of the year and the Club Championship programme running the last six months of the year. We are now seeing more and more players who apply for Bursary, but are unable to play for their university as their county and club demands are not flexible to allow same.

Similarly, with other grades, there are still issues pertaining to counties and clubs where players are expected to train with various squads irrespective of the studies, travel arrangements and college GAA games/training. We are still encountering students who were travelling back to their counties/club 3-4 times a week. Not only where these players unavailable to the college despite being awarded a bursary, more importantly these young athletes are on the road, travelling big distances on winter's nights, at least twice a week back for “squad training”. Some of these players are still some ways off Senior Inter-County standard at present – mainly because of their age and physique but still seem to be at the ‘beck and call’ of “development panels” as well as u20 management at club and county. We continue to bring these issues to the attention of Provincial and National Higher Education and Coaching and Games committees but there has not been any real tangible progress on these issues to date.

Establishing best practice for those involved in the coaching of student players in Higher Education as well as creating better communication between the different GAA stakeholders with respect to student players is a fundamental requirement needed by all of us charged with the development of the GAA here at MTU. One notes that some of the progressive counties and clubs are very facilitating with the needs of the student. These give tangible recognition of their players as students’ and show concern and support for these players in terms of academic, health and college sporting commitments. These counties are in constant contact with either team managements and or the GAA Office. Alas however, for every county that displays this there are equal county team managers whose demand of third level students is far removed from what constitutes good player welfare.



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## MTU CORK CAMPUS STUDENT GAA CLUB

### A BRIEF HISTORY OF GAA ACTIVITY ON THE CORK CAMPUS

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As befits a County with Cork's tradition in Gaelic Games, GAA has occupied a central role in the development of sport in the MTU Cork Campus. The Cork Regional Technical College and then Cork Institute of Technology as it was formally known until its change of titles in 1997 from RTC to CIT and then CIT to MTU Cork Campus in 2021, first occupied its Bishopstown campus in September 1974. The new college buildings were officially opened by that great Cork GAA exponent and Taoiseach of the day, Mr. Jack Lynch, in December 1977.

A student GAA football team was formed in 1975 and the hurling team commenced playing activities in 1976. The staff of the RTC also had an active GAA club competing in the Cork Inter-firm hurling and football leagues and championships. When RTC Cork first opened its campus, the sport's facilities were both limited and rather unusual, consisting of 2 tennis courts and a hockey pitch. Through the farsighted and enlightened efforts of individuals such as Director Dr Pat Kelleher and then Registrar Mr Brendan Goggin, land was purchased which allowed for the development of the modern sports facilities now available to all codes. Today, thanks to the continued support and backing of the Institutes authorities, we now have 3 GAA pitches- fully floodlit, the main one serviced by a 1,100 seated stadium, dressing rooms, medical and meeting rooms to the highest standards all which are regularly used by the wider GAA community for games and underage development.

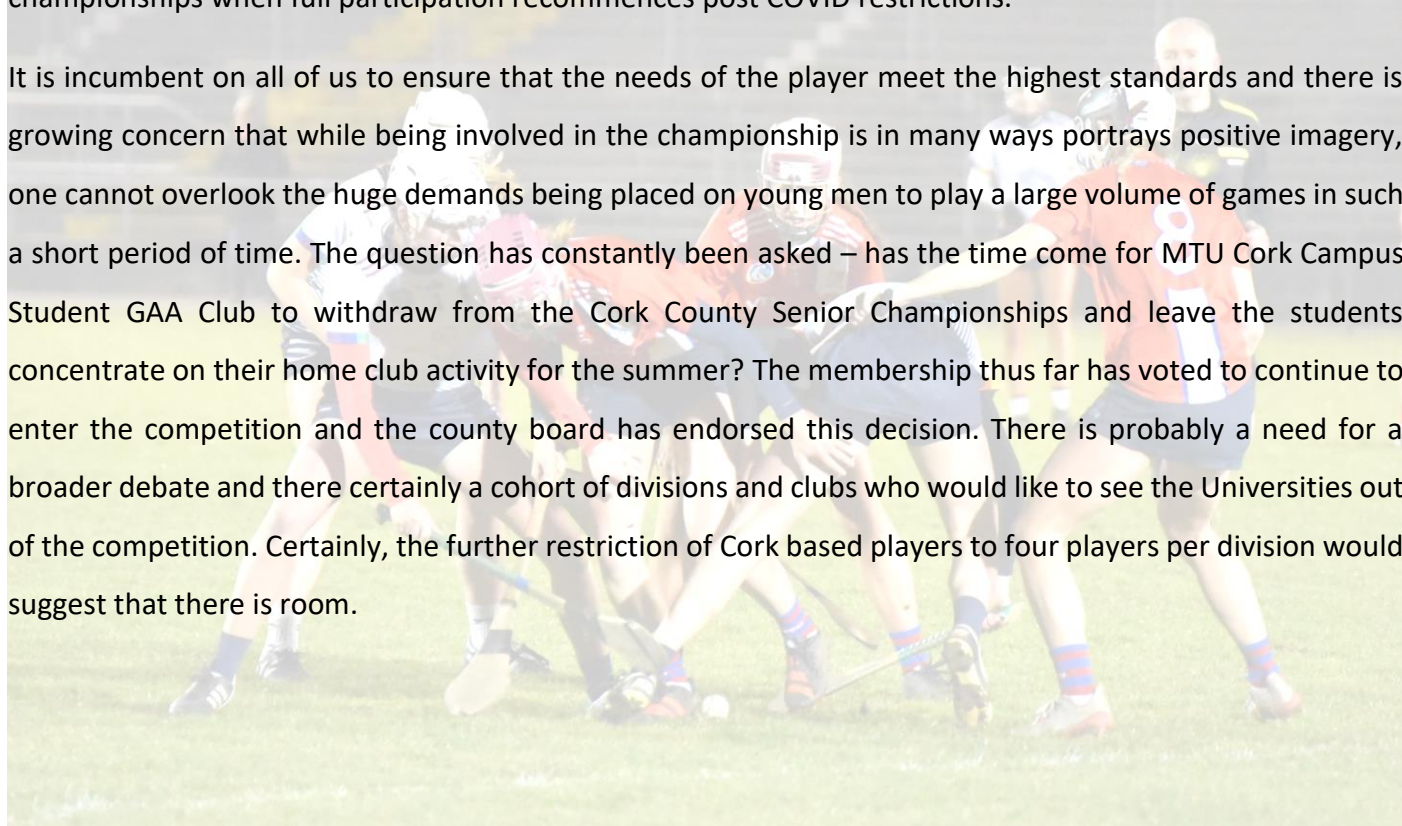
This development, as well as the appointment of John Meyler in 1992 - 1999 and Keith Ricken in 2000 to present, as GAA Development Officers gave a further impetus to the development and structuring of the GAA in the then RTC/CIT and continues to further cement its role with the formation of MTU Cork Campus. Where once we were happy to field teams, structures are now set in place and the club is functioning in as a model of that envisaged by Cumann Luth-Cleas Gael. MTU Cork Campus Student GAA Club will envisage to field teams in all Comhairle Ardoideachais competitions and are likewise hoping to remain a constant figure in the Cork Senior Hurling and Football championships.

Today MTU Cork Campus Student GAA Club has a vibrant club structure which works consistently year after year ensuring that no stone is left unturned both on and off the field of play. It continues to capture the imagination of the students who attend our Institute as it has for the huge numbers that have worn the red and white hoops since 1975. As stated previously in the Overview Section of this report, the previous CIT Student GAA Club fielded 12 teams in 24 Higher Education Competitions across all codes in 2019/20. We

also had a very active Handball Club who competed in the 40 x 20 championships this year as well as sending a representative to the 2018 National one ball tournament and the 2018 US Handball Collegiate. In total 432 students represented the institute at some level in our national games, taking part in 138 games since the season commence last Oct and a further 258 non-game activities.

As well as the Higher Education Competitions we take part in the Cork County Championship, which we first entered in 1995 and have played in every year until 2019. In 2020 a decision was made that due to the forced restricting of GAA Activity in the county, as a result of the pandemic, the MTU Cork Campus Student GAA club decided to withdraw temporarily from the County Championship in order to allow its members concentrate on their home club and so ease the pressure and demands on them in this shortened playing seasons. We will, as we have over the last number of years, re-evaluate our participation in these championships when full participation recommences post COVID restrictions.

It is incumbent on all of us to ensure that the needs of the player meet the highest standards and there is growing concern that while being involved in the championship is in many ways portrays positive imagery, one cannot overlook the huge demands being placed on young men to play a large volume of games in such a short period of time. The question has constantly been asked – has the time come for MTU Cork Campus Student GAA Club to withdraw from the Cork County Senior Championships and leave the students concentrate on their home club activity for the summer? The membership thus far has voted to continue to enter the competition and the county board has endorsed this decision. There is probably a need for a broader debate and there certainly a cohort of divisions and clubs who would like to see the Universities out of the competition. Certainly, the further restriction of Cork based players to four players per division would suggest that there is room.





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## MTU CORK CAMPUS STUDENT GAA CLUB

### HISTORY OF HIGHER EDUCATION GAA DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS

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The decision by the GAA to employ development officers to service Higher Education GAA Clubs commenced in the late 80's with the appointment of Colm Bonnar in Waterford Institute of Technology as the country's first ever Higher Education GAA Club Development Officer. What began as a pilot project thirty years ago, now sees established in the 41 of our third level colleges in Ireland, 34 full time personnel with responsibility to develop and promote our National Games in their specific higher education setting.

While these last 33 years have seen unprecedented changes in the development of Irish Society as a whole, without doubt one of the greatest of these changes has to be the access of our young people to education. We now have the highest numbers ever in the history of the state obtaining Higher Education qualifications and the vast majority of these are young men and women between the ages of 17- 24.

It is no coincidence that, the foresight of the GAA 30 plus years ago in investing and reorganising the Higher Education GAA, Gaelic Games still continue to dominate the Irish third-level sporting arena. Indeed, this investment has spread to the UK Higher Education sector also where there is a huge increase in the participation of the indigenous sports of the Island of Ireland. The importance therefore, of having a popular and successful GAA Club structure operating in a University or College is an aspiration now shared by both the individual colleges and the GAA. For many colleges, the GAA clubs and their high-profile competitions are key sources of promotion and recruitment in attracting students to their respective higher education institutions.

While initially GAA Development Officers were employees of the Association, most now are an integral part of their various Colleges Student Services teams with the continued support of provincial and local county boards. GAA Development Officers are by in large employed by their respective institution, to be part of the multi-faceted response to help in the identification, provision and delivery of services aimed at meeting the needs of their students.

Over these last 30 plus years one of the major aims of the GAA Development Officer is to foster and grow a GAA Community within the college, which over time would envelope a sense of tradition that would weave its way into the fabric of the colleges itself. From the beginning, the view was of looking at the individual as part of a community and not just at the individual who plays sport. In other words, the task of providing Gaelic Games for the Student Community rather than providing students for the GAA Community. This

approach has been the catalyst in allowing students take ownership of their student club and not be just mere participants of the games. In engaging with the students in their community, the GAA Development Officer's purpose is to encompass a sense of community identity through the medium of our National Games. He or she is responsible for ensuring that all aspects of the organisation, (playing, coaching or administration) are accessible to all at their Institute in the hope that the experiences gained by students will benefit their home communities long after they complete their studies.

While Fitzgibbon and Sigerson competitions are commonly perceived as the greatest shows in town, they are certainly not the only show of the Higher Education GAA world. Indeed, most colleges have far more "non-elite" players than elite and there is a keen interest in Intermediate, Junior and Fresher Competitions. In MTU Cork Campus there are 12 teams active in Higher Education Championships and leagues, a handball club, 2 county championship teams and almost 70 volunteers helping with the teams. In addition, many of the 46 higher education institutions on the island of Ireland would replicate these figures. The latest figures show that over 12,000 students currently are registered with the Higher Education GAA for the 2021/22 academic year, while Camogie and Ladies Football are also experiencing higher than ever participation levels. Having a good team that can compete for ultimate honours is an ambition of every college, but the reality is that our greatest products that the GAA has to offer is participation in the Experience and Tradition. There is a window of opportunity for every third level student of between 2 – 6 years to acquire the unique experience in playing Higher Education GAA and to be proud to be part of a tradition that stretches over 100 years. To wear the jersey with pride and to take with him or her the memories of being fully involved with a group of similar age and social profile is without doubt a primary factor in ensuring that the GAA continues to thrive in this sector. So, while the GAA Development Officer is responsible for the organisation, co-ordination, and development of GAA activities (Hurling, Football, Ladies Football, Camogie and Handball) many too are instrumental in the development of GAA facilities in the various campuses across the country. And many colleges have invested sizeable finance into what are some of the country's finest GAA facilities available. In the 1980's there were very few colleges who had adequate playing facilities, now most have multiple designated GAA pitches with state-of-the-art floodlighting and dressing rooms.

Yet the real success of the GAA Development Officer is measured by the overall strength of the College GAA Club. Above all else, participation in meaningful games is still central to the needs of the current generation of students. Similarly, the role of the GAA Officer is to continue to encourage and add to the number of graduates, staff members, retired staff members, current students and associate members who volunteer their time in getting involved with their student GAA club.



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## MTU CORK CAMPUS STUDENT GAA CLUB

### THE EVOLUTION OF THE ROLE OF THE GAA OFFICER 1992 - 2022

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While the day-to-day running of the GAA Club is in itself very time consuming, especially around the various administrative and organisational functions of the job, what can often be overlooked is the amount of energy consumed in the social and emotional interactions with the students and volunteers. Working with and for young adults, can be very challenging, often politically sensitive and requires considerable tact and diplomacy. Keeping lines of communication open can be hard work and there can often be sizable amounts of energy used in motivating and encouraging. Much of this work goes unseen and yet is the vital component in ensuring a successful outcome to any years' work.

It is fair to say that the role of the GAA officer as it was envisaged has changed and evolved in a spontaneous process over the years. Yet the competencies initially required, continue to be central to the role; formidable organisation, communication and teamwork skills, strong time management and inter-personal abilities are key. Likewise, experience in a coaching environment, in the delivery of sporting programmes to clubs and having a fair degree of knowledge and understanding of GAA structures, policies and practices is a necessity which is constantly developed in the job. Experience, however, has taught those of us who are in the job a long time, that in order to operate effectively one has to have flexibility in terms of how you approach your work and that passion for the game and for those who play it, is the major source of encouragement in getting others to become involved.

In engaging with the students in their community, one cannot help but encounter students with concerns and worries. Considering most students enter into Higher Education in order to improve their chances of work and employment, it is not surprising that many of their worries and concerns centre on career choices and identity. The facts show that the demands often placed on a young people who, just happens to be talented in sport, means that by simple division of time, some facet of their development has to lose out. In my experience, the time needed to explore personal development, career and academic advancement often succumbs to the time demanded to sustain high sporting performance. This societal expectation of our GAA Players has, as an unintended consequence, created an environment where time poor student athletes are at a huge risk of being excluded. So very often, where there is perceived understanding by the student that the GAA Officer is familiar with and understands their world, it's only natural for students to go to the college GAA Officer for help and guidance. And so, as a consequence, engaging with the students in the world in which they operate, for many the GAA officer becomes a welcoming signpost for students, helping them

with time Man. and priorities and being a source of encouragement and motivation to complete their studies.

In a serious effort to address these emerging issues, Croke Park's Player Welfare and Higher Education Committees have joined forces to put together a group to examine the possibility of rolling out a module to be delivered across all the third level sector pertaining to the Role of the Higher Education Player Welfare mentor. The aim of training Development Officers/Staff Members and Senior Student Members as Player Welfare Mentors in each Higher Education Institution to provide support and peer mentoring to young players during their time studying at the particular college. The intention is to put forward a useful response to situations where 3rd level students in many cases are susceptible to overtraining, overuse injury and potential burnout as a result of trying to manage the physical and mental demands of trying to fulfil Club, County, School / College training and playing commitments along with the normal demands of their daily lives. It is also an opportunity for the wider HE GAA Club memberships to be educated on topics such as injury prevention, concussion, supplement use and general life skills, with a particular emphasis on mental wellbeing.

All this is an example of how the role of the Higher Education GAA Officer has developed from the initial envisaged job specification thirty years ago. Yet the basic principle is the same – to have an active and responsive GAA Community in every third level institution, capable of ensuring that no matter how society changes, the games and the experiences of those involved in our games remain as enjoyable and accessible as ever. With interest in Higher Education GAA continually increasing in popularity, the role of the GAA Development Officer is more important than ever. In ensuring that GAA games continue to contribute significantly to a positive overall student experience not only does it support the mental and physical health of the student, but it also has the nett benefit of enhancing student experience of being involved in something that is uniquely Irish and something we can all be proud of being part of.

### **Currently**

The current job description of the GAA Officer at MTU was one which was drawn up and advertised on the 6th June 2007 and commenced on August 27th of the same year. Prior to this the GAA Officer was employed by Cork County Board and Munster Council GAA and was part-funded by the Institute. In discussions that commenced in 2004, the then Register of the Institute Mr Brendan Goggin moved to regularise the position of the GAA Development Officer to its current status as a member of the Student Services Team of the Institute. MTU Student Services is a multi-faceted response by the Institute to help in the identification, provision and delivery of services aimed at meeting the needs of its students and fulfilling the requirements



of the Institute's policy and procedures in student welfare. The role of the GAA Development Officer in all of this is to be responsible for the organisation, co-ordination, and development of GAA activities (Hurling, Football, Ladies Football, Camogie and Handball) and the related facilities of the Institute. He/she will have responsibility in relation to each of the campuses of MTU. Essentially the primary purpose of the GAA Development Officer is to encompass a sense of community identity in Cork Institute of Technology through the medium of our National Games. The GAA Officer is responsible for ensuring that all aspects of the Organisation, (playing, coaching or administration) are accessible to all at the Institute and so encourage involvement in the hope that the experiences gained at Third Level will encourage those to become active in their own communities.

The main duties of the GAA Officer is as follows;

- To contribute to the development of the Institute's overall policy in relation to sport and recreation and to assist in the development of the administrative structures for sport and recreation in the Institute
- To manage the co-ordination of Gaelic games within the Institute
- To ensure that the Institute competes in the highest levels at both Intervarsity and Cork County Board levels
- To promote a positive image of the GAA to all at the Institute
- To represent the Institute on all third level GAA bodies and on internal bodies as requested and where appropriate
- Develop and maintain a relationship with other student service providers within the Institute
- To assist in the development of the sports facilities on campuses and to improve the provision of a sports programme
- Maintain adequate support structures to allow both students and staff to become involved in all administrative aspects including budgeting, sponsorship and financial responsibilities and to monitor and control the expenditure of the GAA Clubs in accordance with the Institute's requirements
- Organise, co-ordinate and develop specific and general programmes geared towards the promotion and development of Hurling, Football, Camogie, Ladies Football and Handball within the Institute
- Link the Institute's club structure into the overall Organisation

- Contribute to the attainment of the agreed goals and effective relationships as set out by CIT Student Services through the Sports Office and the Gaelic Athletic Association
- To increase student involvement in all aspects of the organisation to include both competitive & recreational activities
- Introduce students into the administrative aspects of the association both internally (through the club structures) and externally (through county, provincial and national level)
- To provide, in accordance with Institute policy and in association with requirements of the GAA, suitably qualified coaches to ensure club development and enhancement
- Organise the Coach Education Programmes for students and staff
- Organise suitable training programmes for officers of the various clubs on an annual basis.
- With regard to health, safety and welfare of students in sports clubs, ensure proper procedures are in place with regard to insurance, medical procedures, transport, etc.
- To help secure sponsorship and oversee all financial expenditure
- To ensure that there is a strong emphasis on enjoyment and participation and the welfare of the participant is always first
- The promotion of sportsmanship, discipline and personal development among its members by making the managers, coaches, captains and club officers responsible for implementing a code of best practice
- To be responsive to changes in society and to the wishes of its members through frequent regular meetings of club and team panels and those students are offered opportunity to provide feedback through this medium
- To foster relations with clubs, schools and colleges in the catchment area of the Institute
- Establish efficient and effective work practices
- Make effective and informed decisions in relation to the role of the Gaelic Games within CIT
- Carry out other duties that may be assigned from time to time – which up to now includes (by agreement with the Registrar's Office and the various GAA Authorities the carrying out of specific activities



to help with the development of projects ran by Cork GAA and Munster Council. These projects are traditionally done during the summer months

- Provide reports to the Institute Authorities and the Coaching Games Committee of the GAA at national, provincial and local level
- Provide the necessary administrative and monitoring of the Institute's and Associations Bursary Schemes for GAA Players

In my role as GAA Officer at MTU Cork Campus, I have always experienced immense job satisfaction in developing the tangible structures that allows for the promotion and development of Gaelic Games in the Higher Education sector. The interest in GAA continues to grow in popularity and while its status is that of an amateur organisation, there are huge demands of time and finance needed to develop a GAA Club in an Institute the size of MTU Cork Campus who compete with those of Institutes and Universities with far larger student populations and subsequently resources. And it is not only the size we have to compete with but also tradition, as MTU Cork Campus is a new educational establishment, it will now commence the process of creating its own historical and traditional identity.

MTU, like its previous CIT management and indeed like most of the higher-level establishments in Ireland, sees the importance and benefits of having a popular and successful GAA Club structure operating on its campus. After all, the GAA club and their most well-known players are key sources of promotion and recruitment. So, there are expectations at institutional level of the GAA to compete at the highest levels and to be seen to actively promote the Institute in a positive and attractive light.



***Sports Sign Up Day was a significant part of GAA Club Recruitment Drive – Covid put paid to this over the last two years but necessity is the mother of all invention and we have developed an online registration platform which proved very successful in the first year of existence.***

Also, in acknowledging that most of the Student Games Activity is now focused on evening and night times, the day is constantly being filled with administrative and preparative work and consequently the success and growth of the club has brought with it more and more requirements. As a result, the job, while never envisaged as a 9am to 5pm job in the first place, has gone from being a 35 hour a week (with accepted fluctuating hours of work) employment contract to working longer and longer hours during the academic year. Indeed, I have recorded average weeks of between 55 and 65 hours, which is very much in line with some of colleagues in the other colleges – many of whom have the addition of tangible administrative support.

The initial theory was that the more people one got in to help and the more student one encouraged to be active the more you could spread the work load. The reality is though that the more volunteers you got involved, the greater the amount of activity occurs and also the great the amount of support is needed. The other theory was that from Mid-March onwards things would slow down and one could take time in lieu in retrospect of the long hours since the previous September. Yet the County Championships still run and administrative and financial demands still require attention. And no sooner is one year over then Annual Reviews, AGM's and Strategic Implementation are the primary focus for getting into place before the next academic year. Also, there are the summer demands from the Cork County Board and Munster Council which need to be honoured. It has to be mentioned that over the last few years these demands from the GAA have been greatly reduced as there has been the realisation that the GAA Officer needs the time to recover and prepare for the following year. Nonetheless, there are still a number of activities that require time to prepare and implement.

Furthermore, in the time I have spent here in MTU Cork Campus working as an Administrator with a specific focus on the development of Irish Traditional Sports in an Irish Higher Educational setting, I have come to recognise a side of my work which has led me on more occasions that I care to remember out of the role of Sports Development and into the world of personal support and development. In an attempt to understand this other dimension, I have in recent years spent time studying and subsequently completing Level 8 and Level 9 qualifications in Adult Guidance and Counselling as well as various Level 7 qualifications in Youth and Community and Guidance and Supports Studies for Young Adults. Indeed, as my work as a GAA Officer evolved, I starting becoming more consciously aware of the dynamic exchanges that were taking place between the students that I worked with and myself. In particular those interactions which centred on issues that were not specifically sports or team related, but were more akin to dilemmas that were taking place outside of the sports arena and far from where the power, support and influence of the team unit.



Although the job is very much part of a team set ups, I was experiencing more and more situations involving students who were feeling isolated, struggling and even lost. It was this recognition which promoted the initial meander into structurally examining the job through the discipline of academic research with the sole purpose of understanding of the world in which I work and people with whom I work with and for. On embarking in researching this dimension of the role - generously funded by the Institute (as they too recognised that interpersonal dimension of the job required some degree of research and training) - it was never my intention to do anything other than develop the skills set required to deal with an aspect of my job in order to help me to do the job more effectively. It was a genuine attempt to address what was becoming more and more part of the everyday demands of dealing with young adults and the reality that my role as an administrator and coach seemed to be a significant conduit for students to access help with issues.

While the day-to-day running of the GAA Club is in itself very time consuming, especially around the various administrative and organisational functions of the job, what is often overlooked is the amount of energy consumed in the social and emotional interactions with the students and volunteers. In working with and for young adults, my experience has concluded that it can be very challenging, often politically sensitive and requires considerable tact and diplomacy. Keeping lines of communication open can be hard work and there can often be sizable amounts of energy used in motivating and encouraging. This time is often not factored into the actual number of hours worked, as much of it goes unseen and yet is vital component in ensuring a successful outcome to any year's work.

In engaging with the students in their community, one cannot help but encounter students with concerns and worries. Considering most students enter into Higher Education in order to improve their chances of work and employment, it is not surprising that many of their worries and concerns are centred on career choices and identity. While the model of holistic approach to a student's development is painted by Higher Educational Institutions, the demands often placed on a young people who, just happens to be talented in sport, means that by simple division of time, some facet of their development has to lose out. In my experience, it is often the time needed to explore personal development and in his/her career and academic advancement which often succumbs to the demanded to sustain high sporting performance. This societal expectation of these athletes has as an unintended consequence created an environment where time poor student athletes are at a huge risk of being excluded. The role therefore of the GAA Officer has, unintentionally, yet avoidably interwoven itself into the very fabric of the student experience at the Institute. While not factored into the Role of GAA Officer, it is a natural progressive development, which in itself takes up significant amount of additional time and energy.

Based on what has been written thus far, it is no exaggeration to say that the role of the GAA officer, as it was envisaged, has changed and evolved in a spontaneous process as a result of its emersion into the social interactive environment of college life. The competencies which were initially required for the job required that the GAA Officer would have;

- Excellent organisation, communication and teamwork skills
- Strong time Man. and inter-personal skills
- Experience in a coaching environment
- Experience in the delivery of sporting programmes to clubs
- Have knowledge and understanding of GAA structures, policies and practices and an ability to operate effectively in relation to these
- Show a maturity and flexibility in terms of how you approach your work and the requirements needed to successfully do the job specifications outline

I would contend that I have mostly been successful in attempting to meet the requirements of what was asked when I undertook the role of GAA Officer for the then CIT in 2000. I feel, however, that it would have been remiss of me not to outline in previous reports that the role as it exists needs to be revisited and that the expectations of the individual in carrying out that role would need to be more realistic in terms of time Man. and resources. On evaluation of the administrative duties, Insurance & Player Injury Processes, GAA Bursaries, Data Processing and Updating, Registration and Finance Management are the significant constants which take up a lot of the time of the GAA officer. Assistance in these areas would be an enormous help and would allow the GAA Officer both the time and the energy required to work more closely with club and player development. Moreover, it would result in the role of the GAA Officer being brought into line with the working hours that was initially envisaged and thus adjusting to an acceptable equilibrium of the Work – Life Balance.

The Role of the GAA Officer at the MTU Cork Campus Student GAA Club comes under the remit of the Student Services which conform to the provisions of The Organisation of Working Time Act 1997 - which states that the maximum average working week for many employees cannot exceed 48 hours. While this does not mean that a working week can never exceed 48 hours, it is the average that is important, particularly the average which is recommended to be taken over 4 months. In acknowledgment of this the Institute does allow for time in lieu, which is encouraged to be taken in the April to September period. The reality is while there is some time taken back, appropriating large chunks of time is neither practical nor possible. Mainly due to the



very nature of the role and then fact that these months are used both to catch up on administrative work which may have fallen behind during the busy months, organising the various county championship campaigns, planning for the next academic year and honouring the agreements between Cork County Board, Munster Council and the Institute.

MTU Cork Campus Student Services has taken some small measures over the last few years in providing some extra administrative support through the student bases and involved taking on a student under the student leadership programme that undertook between 8 - 12 hours a week working in assisting the GAA Officer in some administrative duties. This has been very helpful and successful in that it proved very helpful in off-loading what can be very tedious and time-consuming office work. We will also continue to provide two Administration GAA Bursaries, to the value of €750.00 each, to work with the men's fresher hurling and football teams. Their assistance in the whole area of data in-put and logistical support to the various clubs during what is normally a very busy first semester is hugely supportive.

Going forward therefore, the continued success of the Role of GAA Officer and the MTU Cork Campus Student GAA Club has to compliment the conventional research findings of the third level student that emphasises the importance of engaging with the students in the world in which they operate. Experience and research have shown that successful interactions with students are more likely to happen where there is a perceived understanding by the student that the GAA Officer is familiar with their world.

Successful student interactions ensuring the primary purpose of the GAA Development Officer of "encompassing a sense of community identity in Cork Institute of Technology" must continue to be given highest priority. It is important too that there continues to be tangible acknowledgment by the University that the informal support by the GAA Office contributes significantly to a positive overall student experience and does, not only support the mental and physical health of the student, but also has the nett benefit of enhancing student retention.

At almost 52 years of age and with 22 years given, I have to question if I am the right person to be in this role now? There is a danger of becoming stale or taking the role for granted. I hope that this is not the case but it is important to pose the question. The other question is whether I have the energy required? As outlined, the job requires a high volume of energy and as I get older, I wonder if I am physically able to give that which is demanded. For now, at least, I will commit to the role of GAA Development Officer and continue to seek an even greater commitment of resources and administrative support from the Institute in the areas already mentioned. Serious consideration must be given to funding a postgraduate administrative placement, which

may not be necessary totally GAA but would assist in the areas of - Insurance & Player Injury Processes, GAA Bursaries, Data Processing and Updating, Registration and Finance Management Systems.

What has become more obvious to all involved in the GAA over the last number of years is the development of social media and technology. While the MTU Cork Campus Student GAA Club has an active Twitter account, with almost 7k followers, and it does tweet regularly events coming up and results of games, there are several areas which we definitely need to prioritise over the next twelve months. One has to be the whole area of photos and PR and linking this to an active and live website. We need, if we are to market and promote ourselves to the level that is expected, to put some financial resources into updating our very limited and outdated website and to be posting on a more regular basis photos of our activities and events. We have a good record in informing our student members and the Institute staff of updates and results and we have developed this network over the last number of years, but there is no doubt that we will need to re-invent and re-think our approach to social media and public relations for the 21st century user. To that end I have already put in to the MTU HR Department a proposal for an internship for Marketing and Communications. This is currently in train and I hope to have that person in place (provided it will be sanctioned) by the beginning of September 2022.

Finally, in our efforts to attempt to encompass a sense of community identity in the newly established MTU Cork Campus Student GAA Club through the medium of our National Games, it has become clear to our members that to be fully successful in this regard we must commit to generating a genuine sense of socio-cultural equality, with an authentic embracement of the differences between people and groups in our society. Our Student GAA Club, therefore, have now decided to formally recognise Diversity and Inclusion in our Club.

The decision was to come up with a simple, yet unique and valuable initiative that would acknowledge the broad of differences which make up our entire community by placing on all our MTU Cork Campus Student GAA Club Jerseys and Leisurewear our specifically designed Support Diversity and Inclusion Logo. We hope that this will be a tangible first step in showing our visible solidarity in the continuing the efforts in ensuring that equality must be continuously promoted in a context of creating a genuine respect for diversity and meaningful inclusion in our society.



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## MTU CORK CAMPUS STUDENT GAA CLUB CONTRIBUTING TO THE WIDER COMMUNITY

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MTU Student GAA Club has long established a strong commitment to the education and social inclusion principles promoted by the Institute. Over the last number of years, we have, through partnership with all key stakeholders, establish strong links in all the various facets of the Student Support Services and have developed a reputation of being student friendly and student centred. Many of our members would avail of these links to Educational, Career and Social Supports. While our primary objective is to make all aspects of the Gaelic Athletic Association, playing, coaching and administration, accessible to all that attend or work at the Institute – the student support model is vital in maintaining a sense of community identity through the medium of our National Games. It is the view of the executive of the MTU Cork Campus Student GAA Club that the positive experiences gained at MTU Cork Campus will encompass a strong sense of belonging and encourage students to become active in their own communities long after they finish their formal education.



***One of the many games played under lights at the MTU Cork Campus Stadium Pitch. Always in excellent condition – it attracts large crowds who come to witness our students giving their all in representing MTU.***

**Foundation and Award 1 Coaching:** Once again we successfully completed the Foundation Coaching in Hurling & Football with Con Burns, Irene Hogan and Keith Ricken coordinating. This year we had 34 successful complete the coach education programme. It is always our aim that those who complete their coaching awards in MTU Cork Campus, would go on to hone their coaching skills within their own communities and

some may even go on to get involved in the development of the teams and players of the MTU Cork Campus Student GAA club. The following are the list of students including their club and county;

Name	Club	County
Koffi Akimboni, Christ J.	Glen Rovers	Cork
Barrow, Ronan	Ballinora	Cork
Butler, Dara	Castlegregory	Co. Kerry
Caplice, Darren	Kildorrery	Co. Cork
Carbery, Billy	Ballinora	Co Cork
Coffey, Leo	Kilworth	Co Cork
Donovan, Mathew	Blarney	Co Cork
Earley, Brandon	Beara	Co. Cork
Elwood, Philip	Douglas	Cork
Finn, Steven	Ballyclough	Co. Cork
Hackett, Vinny	St. Michaels	Co. Cork
Harrington, Tomas	Passage	Co. Cork
Kelleher, Eoin	Ballyclough	Co Cork
Kelleher, Fia	Cloyne	Co. Cork
Kelly, Jamie	Cobh	Co. Cork
Morgan, Kevin	Blackrock	Cork
Murphy, Brandon	Kanturk	Co. Cork
Murphy, Cian	Carrigtwohill	Co. Cork
Nolan, Eric	Glanmire	Co. Cork
Noonan, Luke	Douglas	Cork
O'Brien, Lauren	Cahir	Co. Tipperary





Name	Club	County
O'Callaghan, Cian	St. Finbarr's	Cork
O'Callaghan, Kyle	Na Piarasigh	Cork
O'Callaghan, Michael	Mallow	Co Cork
O'Connell, Yvonne	Ballinhassig	Co. Cork
O'Kelly, Aaron	Douglas	Cork
O'Neill, Tadhg	MTU	Kilkenny
O'Shea, David	Douglas	Cork
O'Brian Oviawe	Mallow	Co. Cork
Reidy, Ben	Glanmire	Cork
Reidy, Tadhg	Goleen	Co. Cork
Sheehan, Jack	Éire Óg	Co. Cork
Sinclair, Robert	Killeagh	Co. Cork
Walsh, Connor	Whitechurch	Co. Cork



*'Fitz' Action from MTU v TCD*



*Frantic Stuff in the closing stages of the Purcell Shield Final*



## MTU Sports Facilities and Serving the GAA

**Community:** Currently there are two full size floodlit pitches dedicated to GAA with the main stadium pitch having well over 90% of its activity exclusive to GAA. In addition, there are a further two Gymnasiums that cater for elite athletes, in which Student GAA Club members have some access. We have a spacious dedicated storage room and the use of meeting/social rooms on request. There is a very good working relationship between the MTU Cork Campus Student GAA Club and the MTU Cork Campus Facilities Manager Ger Neff and his team of groundsmen the support given to the Student GAA Club is very extensive and fully cooperative.

While there is unanimity in ensuring that the needs of the students are to be our number one priority, there is also the acceptance that the University must try to generate income and PR through the process of outside users having access to our sports facilities. The administrative procedures of making our facilities available to the wider GAA Community can be very complex, as there exists a fine line between the needs of the community and the requirements of the Institutes clubs. Ger Neff works tirelessly on behalf of MTU in keeping this balance in check and the groundsmen do huge amount of work in having the pitches in the best possible order. We continue to be vigilant regarding the non-MTU activity on the fields during the academic year and maintain constant vigilance in monitoring all bookings in the March- September period in order to create the proper conditions for the repair of pitches.

There remains a very strong case for the University to invest in a full size GAA All Weather 4 G facility. This would ideally be separate to the existing fields and one that could garner extra income in rental. It would need to be serviced with two separate dressing rooms which could work separately or supportive to the existing infrastructure. There is also a need to investigate the possibility of completely enforcing the fencing on Pitch 1 to see if such action would prevent the damage and flooding every time the river ruptures its banks. It is felt that if we were to complete the concrete embankment at the top and ends on the riverside we would be able to keep large volumes of water from soaking the pitch.



We welcome the investment by the University of our new Sporting Arena – which is currently under construction and hopes are for it to be completed for the new academic year of 2022/23. This development includes a two-storey multi-purpose sports arena, located south of the existing outdoor Athletics Track and will comprise eight courts, fitness studios, a health and fitness facility, along with dressing rooms, seminar and social facilities. This will further enhance our already extensive sporting infrastructure and concretises the continuing commitment the University has to the overall wellbeing of our students and staff.

It is to be noted that it is the belief of the MTU Cork Campus Student GAA Club that the amount of capital being invested into providing a facility is still not at the level that we would like and that too has led to its own problems in terms of general upkeep of pitches and dressing rooms but there has been some financial investment to improve these issues and the GAA Club welcomes this. Likewise, the provision of extra manpower at the evenings and nights during the college semester has contributed enormously in providing better cover of the sports facilities for the huge volume of students who come in their hundreds to train and play. Similarly, stronger policing of usage – with particular reference to outside users in the peak periods, has led to a vast improvement to the playing surfaces as well as upkeep of the dressing room areas. The Student GAA Club continually bring issues to the attention of the University authorities in the hope that we will secure the adequate financial support required to have our standards at the level required.

Once again, the MTU Cork Campus Student GAA Club wish to express the sincerest of thanks to Facilities manager Ger Neff, Grounds men Colm Craig & Clive Thompson, part-time groundsmen Barry O Donovan and Norman Stanton and indeed, all involved in supporting and maintaining the grounds and various facilities used by the Student GAA Club members.

**MTU Cork Campus as a Centre of GAA Excellence:** MTU continues to expand and develop its growing reputation as a centre of sporting excellence and in particular has now established a very good working relationship with the various different facets of the Gaelic Athletic Association. This year we will see the Cork Footballer squads from Senior to U17 base themselves here as their centre for training, as well as being used by all the various development squads. Similarly, the Senior Hurlers, U 20 Hurlers and U17 Hurlers have used it regularly also. We also have the Cork Senior Ladies Football team based here on occasion as will their Fé 18 and Fé 21 Football teams. In addition, various Cork Rebel Óg underage development teams avail of the facilities.

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## MTU CORK CAMPUS STUDENT GAA CLUB

### VMWARE SPONSORSHIP 2014 - 2022

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MTU Cork Campus Student GAA Club is delighted with the continued support of VMware who began their sponsorship of the CIT Student GAA club back in 2014.

The original sponsorship agreement drawn up in November 2013. It has rolled over every year since. The initial agreed amount was for €15,000 and this has remained the figure since – paid at the beginning of each calendar year – the first being 2014.

A brief overview of how the sponsorship came about: VMware Cork is home to functions such as Global Support Services, Finance, Inside Sales, IT, Order Management, Deal Desk, Facilities, Legal, HR and Recruitment. When we first met back in 2013 regarding the possibility of sponsorship, the then Senior Vice President John Dolan spoke of their ethos of giving back to create a thriving community together as being a key value for VMware globally. Investing therefore in our third level education setting was seen as a key focus for VMware. The company played a major role in collaborating with the then Cork Institute of Technology, to develop the world's first suite of Masters and Undergraduate Degree programmes in Cloud Computing, which is still going strong. It was because this and with the support of MTU Vice President Michael Loftus, that the sponsorship agreement came about. It was a perfect fit in that regard.



The MTU Cork Campus Student GAA Club has been delighted to be associated with such a highly innovative and forward-thinking organisation and over the last number of year it has grown to be an animated and rewarding partnership. The financial injection that the VMWare monies give, go a significant way in covering costs of the MTU Cork Campus GAA Club playing gear. It is our belief that VMware brand name has garnered significant benefit in PR through the national media coverage received during the Higher Education GAA Competitions and Cork County Senior Championships since. The VMWare brand name is now inextricably linked to MTU Cork Campus.



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## MTU CORK CAMPUS STUDENT GAA CLUB

### 2021 AND BEYOND

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We continue to have within our ranks a cohort of committed and enthusiastic people involved in the management of our non-elite adult teams and this in turn saw an equally committed and enthusiastic input from the players. It is so important for the future of the club that a well organised and competitive non-elite competitions are attractive and accessible to students. So, while we must play our part in activity recruitment it is also incumbent on the Higher Education Committee to ensure meaningful local and national competitions for these players. While the championship is structured well, a lot more can be done to provide a series of meaningful games at league level for the intermediate and junior teams. September 2022 should see a return to a pre-Covid competition structures and more students back on campuses full-time. This hopefully will have a positive knock on effect in terms of activity and participation – which in turn will pre-empt how our competitions are designed and ran.

While silverware in the men's side of the club didn't materialise as we would have liked – we were still very happy with how the year panned out for the male teams. Plenty of activity, some good senior wins and performances and very promising performances by all our fresher teams means that the future remains bright and hopeful. For the Girls the Moynihan Cup and Purcell Shield wins were very welcomed – but there is no doubt we would like to have more teams and activities if we are to continue to progress back up to the higher levels.

As has been stated in previous reports, while the purpose or aim of the Student GAA Club in MTU Cork Campus is to encompass a sense of community identity through the medium of our National Games winning trophies does help along the way to motivate and focus. Our club's objective is to make all aspects of the Gaelic Athletic Association, be it playing, coaching or administration, accessible to all that attend or work at the Institute. We aspire to encourage involvement in the hope that the experiences gained at Third level will encourage students to become active in their own communities long after they finish their formal education. This is essentially the barometer we use to determine whether the year has been a success or not. Victories on the field of play are only meaningful when they are as a direct consequence of the members upholding the aims and ethos of their club. It is fair to say that while there will always be areas in need of improvement, we continue to be making progress on and off the field of play.

Nobody likes losing, particularly when you know intimately the effort and commitment given by a group. I must state however, that in my time working with young people here in MTU, it is the experiences garnered during the not so good times that ultimately stand the test of time and where the true and lasting value is found. When you know that they cared and that the hurt felt in losing is real, then you know that they found a cause which they thought was worth making a big investment of energy and commitment. If we facilitate our young people in finding a cause, we not only give them hope but much more importantly we afford them an arena to hone the skills specific to finding purpose and sense in their lives.

I have previously outlined the issues that higher education face and these are not all easily overcome. We must, however, ensure that we keep at the centre of any planning the core principles of the association and the needs of players whom it serves. We have to get the balance right between some few players having too much demanded from them and a large majority who are not being serviced enough in terms of meaningful and planned competitions. We, in the 3rd level GAA need to be brave enough to explore all options. However, we also need to be cleverer in the way we structure our own competitions and develop more transparent and suitable grading systems and put into place structures that encourage participation and support /reward colleges who put the work in on the ground. We also need to reduce the amount of the needless and duplicated administrative work that clubs are asked to do.

We must always do the right thing, and the right thing is providing a positive experience for players. Freshers, Junior, Intermediate and Senior Fixtures programmes and their best place in the calendar is going to be a headache trying to identify. But as an association, we shouldn't be walking away from headaches. Fixtures are good headaches. It means there are people there to play the games. But young people need to be playing consistently and at a rate which is suitable for their full development. The Question must be asked that - Is it a case that the national fixtures committee want to have the boxes ticked, and competitions done and dusted irrelevant of the experience of the majority that partook in them? Or is it a case that we have a challenge here so let's face it. We constantly tell our young people that if you have a challenge in life, you must face that challenge. We often talk about this young generation being the snowflake generation. Third level GAA Clubs by and large don't buy that analogy. What we can find a bit 'snowflakey' though are some of the decisions made up along the line. There seems to be contradictions in talking about player centredness, player experience, and promotion of our games, and what we see done to the Fresher & Senior Higher Education competitions and the inter-county Senior & U20 competitions. There seems a big rush to cement our competition dates in stone before ever seeing if they really suit or fit the those they are meant to serve.

Certainly, the growth of the Ladies Football over the last number of years is a huge success story for 3<sup>rd</sup> level GAA and the HEC is a vibrant and forward-thinking body that by and large does its business very well. The HEC



is certainly a very different organisation to the one encountered in 2000 when this GAA Officer first started out. While Camogie had been very hit and miss in terms of CCIA Organisation over the years, there has been huge progress made over the last three years once again in terms of recruitment of volunteers and long goal structures. Subsequently there is now a vibrant and energetic committee in place and there has been far greater cohesiveness in terms of fixtures and competitions. They have done great work in terms of promotion of the games and as a result they are now attracting a wider audience. We welcome too the moves by the Camogie Association to provide very valuable administrative assistance and we hope this might once again evolve into having a part-time servicing officer next year. This would make a great difference in getting competitions played. Moreover, though, it needs the full support of the various GAA Clubs and their GDO's if Camogie is to get to the same levels as Ladies Football both in terms of participation and organisational development.

More than ever now we need to return to having a united front in trying to keep the third level as a priority in the GAA Calendar into the future. CA has to have meaningful and constant engagement with all its members.



***Everyday is a fight of some sort – but life is not worth living if we are not willing to fight to have it***

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## MTU CORK CAMPUS STUDENT GAA CLUB

### CONCLUDING REMARKS

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A lot has changed in society over the last few years and as we emerge from the Covid Pandemic we are yet to fully understand the long-term consequences of almost two years of social and emotional isolation. What is certain that the landscape has changed for now and expectations will have to change accordingly. For those of us involved in Higher Education sport we do know that we must remain optimistic and prepare for higher education GAA competitions for the academic year 2022-23 with a renewed energy and commitment. We should welcome planning for a full calendar of leagues and championships and for this we need to be ready to hit the ground running in September. 'Hope springs eternal'. What we have in our games is certainly worth whatever energies needed to ensure that GAA remains the main sport of choice in Irish Higher Education facilities. One this is definite - Nothing will work unless we do, so it is imperative that every angle should be views as an opportunity to develop and adapt for the greater good of our games.

Looking back on the last 12 months as GAA Officer at Munster Technological University Cork Campus, I continue to be amazed and humbled by the allegiance, enthusiasm and organisational abilities of both our student players and volunteer managements and administrators. These individuals continue to give remarkable levels of commitment to their University GAA Club and the development of our National Games. As always, I am indebted to the many staff, former staff, graduates and fellow GAA colleagues who continuously endure in the mammoth task of promoting the game on a voluntary capacity at MTU. These loyal individuals, too numerous to mention individually, go way and beyond the call of duty to inspire, organise and motivate all our members to become involved with the MTU GAA Club. They are truly remarkable people and noteworthy role models to our young people.

The considerable majority of the third level institutions that MTU compete against at the higher echelons of Higher Education GAA competitions have significantly larger student population to choose from. As a result, we have evolved into having a Spartan approach in terms of effort, commitment and dedication. It is an attitude that continues to attract individuals in becoming involved with the club as every contribution is valued and appreciated.

Without doubt, one of the greatest achievements of the MTU Student GAA Club is the amount of staff, retired staff members and graduates who selflessly get involved within the club. These are a colossal source of support to both the GAA Office and the Student GAA Club members. The validation of our activities by the



University's Academic, Administrative Staff and successful Graduates is certainly the single most significant promotional activity that occurs in the club and provides a valuable support and encouragement to the hundreds of students with whom they encounter.

I would like therefore to take this opportunity to thank all the members, players, mentors, logistic personnel, board delegates, club officers, committee members, bursary board interviewers, other associated members and supporters who help fly the flag for the GAA here at MTU.

We would like to formally acknowledge the University for their continued support of our games both financially and otherwise and expressly to Dr Maggie Cusack, President of MTU, Dr Áine Ní Shé, Registrar and VP of Academic Affairs and Dr Dan Collins Academic Administration & Student Affairs Manager for their support in ensuring that the GAA receives the recognition and support necessary and for proper development of our National games.

We are particularly indebted Ms Fiona Kelly who recently retired as Student Services Senior Staff Officer. Her stewardship of MTU Student Services was second to none and we take this opportunity to thank her for all her assistance to the club over the years. Likewise, Dr Barry O Connor who stepped down as President of MTU last December is another fantastic supporter of the GAA here in Cork Campus and his appearance at our games lending his voice of support on and off the field of play has been a huge source of encouragement for the students and all those involved. While he has now officially retired, we have no doubt that he will be at even more games supporting when and wherever he can.

Personally, I would like to thank all my colleagues in the Sports Office – including Sports Officers Miriam Deasy and Norma Buckley and the office administrators Fintan O Leary, Amy Dineen and Denise Minihane. Acknowledgement must be given to the Medical Centre Staff who are very accommodating the many GAA Club members injured in the line of duty. Indeed, the wider University Support Structures must be recognised for their loyal assistance to the club in what is a very busy and pressured period. Without doubt the one of greatest cogs in the wheels of the day today running of the MTU Student GAA Club are the sports ground staff of Colm, Clive, Barry and the MTU Sports Facility Manager Mr Gerard Neff. They do a fantastic job in ensuring our facilities are up to the standard required and without whose help we would not be able to do what we do.

Any plaudits would be incomplete if we did not mention Ms Janice Dupuy and her team of Olivia, Leah and David and Mrs Mary Gleasure who are not only our main physical and physiotherapists, but also a great source of support for the students who attend. The Student GAA Club are indebted to the University for

providing such important and valuable medical care to all the students and without whose dedication, we certainly would not be able to function with any degree of confidence and care.

Attending meetings is often a thankless task. MTU Student GAA Club have been very lucky to have people who give of their time in these time consuming yet necessary part of the GAA Activity. Charlie McCarthy, who is Chairman of the Coláistí Triú Leibhéil na Mumhan and 3<sup>rd</sup> level representative at Comhairle na Mumhan and Comhairle Ardoideachais. His expertise is very appreciated by all colleges. It must be noted that Charlie McCarthy and Seanie O Keeffe are also board delegates to Coiste Chontae Chorcaí and while these meetings take up a lot of time, I do know that their presence in the board is very welcomed.

Finally, the role of GAA Officer at MTU has afforded me a job that is deeply rewarding and fulfilling. In the 22 years doing this work in the third level sector, I have made great friends both in MTU and in the various different colleges throughout the country. In particular, in working with my fellow GAA Officers I have, by enlarge, found kindred spirits, who possess a genuine and shared interest in the development of the games and the students that play them. It is my hope that they, the institutions that they serve and the Gaelic Athletic Association that they endorse, would continue to do this great work. It is my humble and honest belief that work done by the GAA in the third level sector is not merely functional or self-serving as it has at its core, a spiritual and social dimension which uniquely and positively contributes in the formation of the next generation of Irish sporting leaders, players and administrators.



**Keith Ricken**

**Development Officer for MTU Cork Student GAA Club**

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# MTU CORK CAMPUS STUDENT GAA CLUB

## PANELS 2021/22

Code	Panel	Name	Home Club	County	Course Name	Yr.
Camogie	Purcell	Aileen McGrath	Aghada	Cork	Accounting	3
Camogie	Purcell	Aisling Walsh	Douglas	Cork	Sport and Exercise Man.	2
Camogie	Purcell	Alison Donnelly	Glenmore	Kilkenny	Home Economics & Business	1
Camogie	Purcell	Annie Condon	Ballinascarthy	Cork	Biomedical engineering	1
Camogie	Purcell	Aoife O' Neill	St Finbarr's	Cork	Biomedical Engineering	1
Camogie	Purcell	Ciara O shea	Kilbrittain	Cork	Nutrition and Health Science	1
Camogie	Purcell	Clodagh Doherty	Blackrock Effin	Limerick	Biomedical Engineering	1
Camogie	Purcell	Eimear O'Sullivan	Bishopstown	Cork	Mechanical Engineering	2
Camogie	Purcell	Ellen Maguire	Courcey Rovers	Cork	Nutrition and Health Science	2
Camogie	Purcell	Emma Barry	Bride Rovers	Cork	Early Childhood Care & Ed.	4
Camogie	Purcell	Hannah O Leary	Ballincollig	Cork	Business	2
Camogie	Purcell	Ilana Keegan	St Finbarra	Cork	IT Management	4
Camogie	Purcell	Isabelle Lyons	Crecora	Limerick	Applied Biosciences	1
Camogie	Purcell	Karen Delaney	Naomh Bríd Ballyragget	Kilkenny	Agricultural Science	4
Camogie	Purcell	Kate Foley	Banteer	Cork	Home Economics & Business	1
Camogie	Purcell	Katelyn Dineen	Kilbrittan - Timoleague	Cork	Marketing	1
Camogie	Purcell	Katie Daly	Sliabh Rua	Cork	Biomedical Engineering	4
Camogie	Purcell	Katie Walsh	Glen Rovers	Cork	Chemical Engineering	4
Camogie	Purcell	Lauren Homan	St. Vincent's	Cork	Recreation and Leisure Man	2
Camogie	Purcell	Lisa O Riordan	Glen Rovers	Cork	Quantity Surveying	2
Camogie	Purcell	Lucy McNulty	Castlelyons	Cork	Environmental Science & Sustainable Technology	1
Camogie	Purcell	Nodhlaig McCarthy	Castlelyons	Cork	Coaching Science and Sports Pedagogy	1
Camogie	Purcell	Orlaith Cummins	Sliabh Rua	Cork	Biomedical Engineering	2

Code	Panel	Name	Home Club	County	Course Name	Yr.
Camogie	Purcell	Rachel Crowley	Ballygarvan	Cork	BIS	1
Camogie	Purcell	Rebecca O Shea	Carrigaline	Cork	Sport and Exercise Management	1
Camogie	Purcell	Riona O Carroll	Charleville	Cork	Early Childhood Education and Care	2
Camogie	Purcell	Roisin Dunphy	St. Anne's	Waterford	Biomedical Engineering	3
Camogie	Purcell	Róisín Foley	Banteer	Cork	Mechanical Engineering	2
Camogie	Purcell	Saoirse McCarthy	Courcey rovers	Cork	Recreation and Leisure Management	3
Camogie	Purcell	Sarah Leahy	Ballinhassig	Cork	Structural Engineering	1
Camogie	Purcell	Sarah O Keeffe	Ballinora	Cork	Social Care Work	1
LGFA	League Panel	Alannah Ngwa	Carrigtwohill	Cork	Biological Sciences	1
LGFA	League Panel	Aoife Carberry	Bishopstown	Cork	Biomedical Engineering	3
LGFA	League Panel	Aoife Hegarty	Ballypheane	Cork	Recreation and Leisure Management	3
LGFA	League Panel	Ava Walsh	Kanturk LGFA	Cork	Bachelor of Business common entry	1
LGFA	League Panel	Brianna O'Shea	Castlehaven	Cork	Marketing	3
LGFA	League Panel	Cecelia Mc Innes	Aghada	Cork	Agri Bioscience	1
LGFA	League Panel	Ciara Moynihan	Spa	Kerry	Accounting	3
LGFA	League Panel	Ellen Maguire	Courcey Rovers	Cork	Nutrition and health science	2
LGFA	League Panel	Ilana Keegan	Nemo Rangers	Cork	IT Management	4
LGFA	League Panel	Kaitlyn Kelleher	Banteer	Cork	Social Care	2
LGFA	League Panel	Katelyn Farr	Shamrocks	Cork	Recreation and Leisure Management	3
LGFA	League Panel	Mary Fitzgerald	Erin's Own	Cork	Sport and Exercise Management	2
LGFA	League Panel	Sara Kelleher	Bantry Blues	Cork	Quantity Surveying	2
LGFA	League Panel	Sarah Barrett	Na Gaeil	Kerry	Bachelor of Business	1
LGFA	League Panel	Sarah O' Connor	Moyle Rovers	Tipperary	Business	2
LGFA	League Panel	Shauna Heraty	Westport	Mayo	Accounting	2
LGFA	League Panel	Shauna O Donoghue	Glenflesk	Kerry	Bachelor of Business	2
LGFA	League Panel	Shona Lang	Brian Borus	Tipperary	Nutrition and health science	3
LGFA	Moynihan Cup	Abbie O' Mahony	Glanmire	Cork	BA Hons Fine Art	3
LGFA	Moynihan Cup	Abby Quirke	Midleton	Cork	Social Care	3



Code	Panel	Name	Home Club	County	Course Name	Yr.
LGFA	Moynihan Cup	Aideen Bohane	O Donovan Rossa	Cork	Biomedical Engineering	3
LGFA	Moynihan Cup	Aisling Forde	Kanturk	Cork	Social Care	4
LGFA	Moynihan Cup	Ava Hartigan	Knockainey LGFA	Limerick	Business Information systems	4
LGFA	Moynihan Cup	Ava Looney	Knocknagree	Cork	Nutrition and Health Science	2
LGFA	Moynihan Cup	Caitlin Duffy	Fermoy	Cork	Biomedical Science	1
LGFA	Moynihan Cup	Caitlin O Mahony	Bantry Blues	Cork	Recreation and Leisure Management	2
LGFA	Moynihan Cup	Cliona McTaggart	Nemo Rangers	Cork	Applied Biosciences	2
LGFA	Moynihan Cup	Cliona Murphy	Southern Gaels	Kerry	Home Economics and Business	1
LGFA	Moynihan Cup	Ellen Moore	Moyne Templetohy	Tipperary	Biological science	1
LGFA	Moynihan Cup	Emer McCarthy	O'Donovan Rossa	Cork	Chemical and Biopharmaceutical Eng.	2
LGFA	Moynihan Cup	Emma Barry	Bride Rovers	Cork	Early Childhood Care and Education	4
LGFA	Moynihan Cup	Erin O Grady	Westport	Mayo	Agri-Biosciences	1
LGFA	Moynihan Cup	Eva Mulcahy	Ballymacarbry	Waterford	Pharmaceutical Biotechnology	3
LGFA	Moynihan Cup	Gillian Concannon	Naomh Finbarra	Cork	Architectural technology	2
LGFA	Moynihan Cup	Grace Kelly	Araglen Desmonds Bui	Kerry	Nutrition and Health Science	2
LGFA	Moynihan Cup	Kate O'Sullivan	Rosscarbery	Cork	Coaching science and sports pedagogy	1
LGFA	Moynihan Cup	Kayleigh McGlashan	Laune Rangers	Kerry	Applied Biosciences	1
LGFA	Moynihan Cup	Laura Oates	Calry St Joseph's	Sligo	Coaching science and sport pedagogy	1
LGFA	Moynihan Cup	Leah Buckley	Carrigtwohill	Cork	Social care	1
LGFA	Moynihan Cup	Leanne Murphy	St. Patricks LGFA	Tipperary	Biomedical Engineering	2
LGFA	Moynihan Cup	Leona O Shea	John Mitchell's	Kerry	Marketing	4
LGFA	Moynihan Cup	Maeve Daly	Ballyduff Upper	Waterford	Marketing	1
LGFA	Moynihan Cup	Margaret Murphy	Gabriel Rangers	Cork	Accounting	1
LGFA	Moynihan Cup	Molly Ring	Naomh Fionnbarra	Cork	Quantity Surveying	2
LGFA	Moynihan Cup	Eva Mulcahy	Ballymacarbry	Waterford	Pharmaceutical Biotechnology	3
LGFA	Moynihan Cup	Niamh Ryan	Moynetempletuohy	Tipperary	Pharmaceutical Biotechnology	3
LGFA	Moynihan Cup	Phoebe Hogan	Gabriel rangers	Cork	Biomedical science	1
LGFA	Moynihan Cup	Rachael Evans	Laune rangers	Kerry	Marketing and international Business	2

Code	Panel	Name	Home Club	County	Course Name	Yr.
LGFA	Moynihan Cup	Roisin Dunphy	Stradbally	Waterford	Biomedical Engineering	3
LGFA	Moynihan Cup	Sandra Dinan	Glanmire	Cork	Chemical and Biopharmaceutical Engineering	4
LGFA	Moynihan Cup	Shannon Edwards	Ellistown	Kildare	Marketing	3
Hurling	A Fresher	Aidan Walsh	Piltown	Kilkenny	Common Entry Engineering	1
Hurling	A Fresher	Brandon Murphy	Dromtariffe	Cork	Sports and Exercise Management	1
Hurling	A Fresher	Brian Lynch	Ballinhassig	Cork	Coaching Science and Sports Pedagogy	1
Hurling (Capt.)	A Fresher	Brian McCarthy	Valley Rovers	Cork	Agriculture	1
Hurling	A Fresher	Cathal Deely	St. Mary's	Tipperary	Common Engineering	1
Hurling	A Fresher	Ciaran Joyce	Castlemartyr	Cork	Agriculture	1
Hurling	A Fresher	Connall Cullinane	Ballinascarthy	Cork	Agricultural science	1
Hurling	A Fresher	Dara Mason	Ballyhale Shamrocks Kilkenny		Quantity Surveying	1
Hurling	A Fresher	David Scanlon	Midleton	Cork	Business Common Entry	1
Hurling	A Fresher	Henry Fogarty	Thurles Sarsfield's	Tipperary	Common Entry Engineering	1
Hurling	A Fresher	Jack Cahalane	St. Finbarr's	Cork	Coaching Science and Sports Pedagogy	1
Hurling	A Fresher	Jack Sheehan	Eire Óg	Cork	Sports and Exercise Management	1
Hurling	A Fresher	James Hannon	Bishopstown	Cork	Marketing	1
Hurling	A Fresher	Jamie O Keffe	James Stephens	Kilkenny	Construction	1
Hurling	A Fresher	Luke O Donoghue	Millstreet	Cork	Biological science	1
Hurling	A Fresher	Peter Condon	Glanworth/Harbour Rovers	Cork	Quantity Surveying	1
Hurling	A Fresher	Ruairi O Brien	Ballinascarthy	Cork	Common Entry Engineering	1
Hurling	A Fresher	Sean Power	Carrick swan	Tipperary	Business	1
Hurling	A Fresher	Sean Walsh	Fourmilewater	Tipperary	Mechanical Engineering	1
Hurling	A Fresher	Tommy Walsh	Kanturk	Cork	Coaching Science and Sports Pedagogy	1
Hurling	A Fresher	David O Sullivan	Ballincollig	Cork	Coaching Science and Sports Pedagogy	1
Hurling	A Fresher	Eddie Kenneally	Newcestown	Cork	Marketing	1
Hurling	A Fresher	Eoin O Donoghue	Tracton	Cork	Mechanical Engineering (CR071)	1
Hurling	A Fresher	Mark Byrne	Tracton	Cork	Quantity Surveying	1
Hurling	A Fresher	Oisin O Shea	Éire Óg	Cork	Common Engineering	1



Code	Panel	Name	Home Club	County	Course Name	Yr.
Hurling	A Fresher	Stephen Dermody	Dicksboro	Kilkenny	Structural Engineering	1
Hurling	B Fresher	Eoin O Donoghue	Tracton GAA	Cork	Mechanical Engineering (CR071)	1
Hurling	B Fresher	Sam Barrett	Glen Rovers	Cork	Chemical & bio pharmaceutical engineering	1
Hurling	B Fresher	Joe Fouhy	Tracton	Cork	Chemical & bio pharmaceutical engineering	1
Hurling	B Fresher	Eoin Murphy	Erins own	Cork	Mechanical engineering	1
Hurling	B Fresher	Padraig Dorney	Ballymartle	Cork	Common Entry Engineering	1
Hurling	B Fresher	David Condon	St. Mary's/Sliabh Gcua	Waterford	Chemical & bio pharmaceutical Eng.	1
Hurling	B Fresher	Conor Neville	Kilsheelan	Tipperary	Construction management	1
Hurling	B Fresher	Oisin O Shea	Éire Óg	Cork	Common Engineering	1
Hurling	B Fresher	Harry Andrews	Shamrocks	Cork	Business Information Systems	1
Hurling	B Fresher	Mark Byrne	Tracton	Cork	Quantity Surveying	1
Hurling	B Fresher	Robert Sinclair	Killeagh GAA	Cork	Recreation & Leisure Management	1
Hurling	B Fresher	Ciarán Leahy	Killeagh GAA	Cork	Electrical Engineering	1
Hurling (Capt.)	B Fresher	Edmund Kenneally	Newcestown	Cork	Marketing	1
Hurling	B Fresher	Dylan Collins	Ballyhooly	Cork	Environmental engineering	1
Hurling	B Fresher	Aodhán Shanahan	Lixnaw	Kerry	Common Entry Engineering	1
Hurling	B Fresher	Daniel McAllister	Fr o Neills	Cork	Chemical & bio pharmaceutical engineering	1
Hurling	B Fresher	Evan Lucey	Gleann Na Laoí	Cork	Chemical & bio pharmaceutical engineering	1
Hurling	B Fresher	Jeff Gowen	Ballyhooly	Cork	Construction management	1
Hurling	B Fresher	Kevin Morgan	Blackrock	Cork	Sports and Exercise Management	1
Hurling	B Fresher	Michael O'Callaghan	Ballyclough	Cork	Sport and Exercise Management	1
Hurling	B Fresher	Nicky Hayes	Cloyne	Cork	Automotive Technology & Management	1
Hurling	B Fresher	Seán Sugrue	Castletownroche	Cork	Sport and exercise management	1
Hurling	B Fresher	Jack O Halloran	Latten/Cullen	Tipperary	Construction management	1
Hurling	B Fresher	Cormac Hallahan	Lisgould	Cork	Chemical & bio pharmaceutical engineering	1
Hurling	B Fresher	Conn MacFarlane	Bredagh GAC	Down	Sustainable Energy Engineering	1
Hurling	B Fresher	Conor Hourihan	Carrigaline	Cork	Business Administration	1
Hurling	B Fresher	Cormac Rooney	Portlaw	Waterford	Electrical Engineering	1

Code	Panel	Name	Home Club	County	Course Name	Yr.
Hurling	B Fresher	David O Sullivan	Ballincollig	Cork	Coaching Science and Sports Pedagogy	1
Hurling	B Fresher	Eoin Kelleher	Ballyclough	Cork	Sport and Exercise Management	1
Hurling	B Fresher	Eugene Sinnott	Danesfort	Kilkenny	Construction management	1
Hurling	B Fresher	Evin Cunningham	Inniscarra	Cork	Quantity surveying	1
Hurling	B Fresher	Gary Doyle	Watergrasshill	Cork	Accounting	1
Hurling	B Fresher	James Barry	Watergrasshill	Cork	Mechanical Engineering	1
Hurling	B Fresher	Kevin Cooper	Eire Óg	Cork	Mechanical engineering	1
Hurling	B Fresher	Michael Cahill	Cloyne	Cork	Manufacturing Engineering	1
Hurling	B Fresher	Ronan Barrow	Ballinora	Cork	Sport and exercise management	1
Hurling	B Fresher	Rory O'Brien	Sarsfield's	Cork	Common Entry Engineering	1
Hurling	Intermediate	Cathal Wilson	Newcestown	Cork	Marketing	NF 1
Hurling	Intermediate	Aaron Browne	Cashel King Cormac's	Tipperary	Quantity Surveying	3
Hurling	Intermediate	Oran O'Connell	Charleville	Cork	Business Information Systems	2
Hurling	Intermediate	Conor Duggan	St Patrick's	Tipperary	Agriculture	3
Hurling	Intermediate	Rory King	Kilbrin	Cork	Structural Engineering	3
Hurling	Intermediate	Sean Buckley	Charleville	Cork	Electrical Apprenticeship	Ph 6
Hurling	Intermediate	Darren Cuddihy	Conahy Shamrocks	Kilkenny	Agriculture	2
Hurling	Intermediate	Kieran O Sullivan	Newtownshandrum	Cork	Accounting	3
Hurling	Intermediate	David Byrne	Tracton	Cork	Accounting	4
Hurling	Intermediate	Matthew Lawton	Argideen Rangers	Cork	Construction Management	4
Hurling	Intermediate	Joseph Cooper	Éire Óg	Cork	Mechanical Engineering	2
Hurling	Intermediate	Ronan Kelleher	Carrigaline	Cork	Business information system	2
Hurling	Intermediate	DJ Twomey	Courcey rovers	Cork	Accounting	2
Hurling	Intermediate	Eoin Barry	Killenaule	Tipperary	Construction management	4
Hurling	Intermediate	Luke Lordan	Bishopstown	Cork	Biomedical engineering	3
Hurling	Intermediate	David Morrison	Castlelyons	Cork	Agriculture	3
Hurling	Intermediate	Eoin Finn	Dromina	Cork	Business Information Systems	2
Hurling	Intermediate	Jack Scannell	Fermoy	Cork	Business Information Systems	3



Code	Panel	Name	Home Club	County	Course Name	Yr.
Hurling	Intermediate	Tomas Harrington	Passage west	Cork	Recreation and Leisure	NF 1
Hurling	Intermediate	Frank Hannifin	Holycross-Ballycahill	Tipperary	Mechanical Engineering	2
Hurling	Intermediate	Jason Mannix	Bride Rovers	Cork	Business	NF 1
Hurling	Intermediate	Conor Barry	Bride Rovers	Cork	Business	2
Hurling	Intermediate	Kyle Browne	Youghal	Cork	Interior Architecture	2
Hurling	Intermediate	Jack Leahy	Sarsfield	Cork	Business Information Systems	2
Hurling	Intermediate	Ray O Halloran	Ballygarvan	Cork	Business	2
Hurling	Intermediate	Cian Crowley	Nenagh Eire Óg	Tipperary	Biomedical Engineering Level 8	3
Hurling	Intermediate	Adam McSweeney	Barryroe	Cork	Sport and Exercise Management	2
Hurling	Intermediate	Frankie Herr	Effin	Limerick	Auto tech and management	3
Hurling	Intermediate	Darragh O Keeffe	St Mary's, Clonmel	Tipperary	Sport and exercise management	2
Hurling	Intermediate	Luke Elliot	Cloughduv	Cork	Marine Engineering	4
Hurling	Intermediate	Evan Murphy	Dromtarriffe	Cork	Accounting	4
Hurling	Intermediate	Seamie Doyle	Thurles Sarsfield's	Tipperary	Environmental science & Sustainable Technology	4
Hurling	Intermediate	Jack Hallahan	Cloyne	Cork	Mechanical Engineering	4
Hurling	Intermediate	Alan Coughlan	Banteer	Cork	Business	2
Hurling	Intermediate	Conor O Hora	Bishopstown	Cork	Mechanical Engineering	3
Hurling	Senior	Aaron Browne	Cashel King Cormac's	Tipperary	Quantity Surveying	3
Hurling	Senior	Alan Connolly	Blackrock	Cork	BIS	2
Hurling	Senior	Alan Walsh	Kanturk	Cork	Accounting	2
Hurling	Senior	Billy Murphy	Carrick Swan	Tipperary	Construction Management	4
Hurling	Senior	Brian Roche	Bride Rovers	Cork	Accounting	3
Hurling	Senior	Cathal Wilson	Newcestown	Cork	Marketing	NF 1
Hurling	Senior	Cathal Hickey	Lisgould	Cork	Bachelor of Business	2
Hurling	Senior	Jack Buckley	Charleville	Cork	Electrician Apprentice	Ph 6
Hurling	Senior	Conor Duggan	St Patrick's	Tipperary	Agriculture	3
Hurling	Senior	Conor O' Leary	Ballincollig	Cork	Mechanical Engineering	2
Hurling	Senior	Jake Cranny	St Lazerian's /Abbeyleix	Laois	Electrician Apprentice	Ph 6

Code	Panel	Name	Home Club	County	Course Name	Yr.
Hurling	Senior	Cillian Roche	Sarsfield's	Cork	Structural Engineering	Post-Grad 1
Hurling	Senior	David Byrne	Tracton	Cork	Accounting	4
Hurling	Senior	Declan Hanlon	Blarney	Cork	Mechanical engineering	3
Hurling	Senior	Eoghan Collins	Newcestown	Cork	Agriculture Science	2
Hurling	Senior	Eoin Barry	Killenaule	Tipperary	Construction management	4
Hurling	Senior	Declan Dalton	Fr O Neills	Cork	Electrician Apprentice	PH6
Hurling	Senior	Ger Collins	Ballinhassig	Cork	Construction management	4
Hurling	Senior	James Mulcahy	Carrigtwohill	Cork	Biological Sciences	2
Hurling	Senior	Barry Kehoe	Kilsheelan Kilcash	Tipperary	Biological Sciences	2
Hurling	Senior	Brendan Twomey	Carrigtwohill	Cork	Biomedical Engineering	Post Grad 1
Hurling	Senior	Joseph Cooper	Éire Óg	Cork	Mechanical Engineering	2
Hurling	Senior	Killian Murphy	Sarsfield's	Cork	Mechanical Engineering	2
Hurling	Senior	Kyle Browne	Youghal	Cork	Interior Architecture	2
Hurling	Senior	Liam O' Shea	Lisgould	Cork	Business Administration	3
Hurling	Senior	Matthew Lawton	Argideen Rangers	Cork	Construction management	4
Hurling	Senior	Oran O' Connell	Charleville	Cork	BIS	2
Hurling	Senior	Paddy Creedon	Thurles Sarsfield's	Tipperary	Environmental Engineering	2
Hurling	Senior	Andrew O' Connell	Douglas	Cork	Business Studies	3
Hurling	Senior	Patrick O' Flynn	Bride Rovers	Cork	Accounting	3
Hurling	Senior	Sam Quirke	Midleton	Cork	Business	2
Hurling	Senior	Stephen Keoghan	Graigie Ballycallan	Kilkenny	Agriculture	2
Hurling	Senior	Tomás Howard	Dromtariffe	Cork	BIS	4
Hurling (Capt.)	Senior	William Hurley	Valley Rovers	Cork	Masters in Mechanical Engineering	1
Hurling	Senior	William Ryan	Inniscarra	Cork	Mechanical engineering	2
Football	A Fresher	Aaron O Shea	Listry	Kerry	Business Information Systems	1
Football	A Fresher	Ben Comerford	Grangemockler Ballyneil	Tipperary	Agri-bio sciences	1
Football	A Fresher	Cathal Deely	Commercials	Tipperary	Common Engineering	1
Football	A Fresher	Conor Lane	Brosna GAA	Kerry	Mechanical Engineering	1



Code	Panel	Name	Home Club	County	Course Name	Yr.
Football	A Fresher	Damien Cronin	Gneeveguilla	Kerry	Quantity Surveying	1
Football	A Fresher	David Lynch	Glanmire	Cork	Business information systems	1
Football	A Fresher	Denis Collins	Glengarriff	Cork	Common Engineering	1
Football	A Fresher	Enda O'Connor	Na Gaeil	Kerry	Agriculture	1
Football	A Fresher	Eoin McCarthy	Clonmel Commercials	Tipperary	Common Engineering	1
Football	A Fresher	Fergal Walsh	Argideen Rangers	Cork	Agricultural science	1
Football	A Fresher	Gearoid O Mahony	Kilmurry	Cork	Common Engineering	1
Football	A Fresher	Jack Cahalane	Castlehaven	Cork	Coaching Science and Sports Pedagogy	1
Football	A Fresher	Liam Smith	Glenbeigh/Glencar	Kerry	Quantity Surveying	1
Football	A Fresher	Lorcan O Leary	Argideen Rangers	Cork	Agricultural Science	1
Football	A Fresher	Mark Casey	Templenoe	Kerry	Agri biosciences	1
Football	A Fresher	Matthew Leslie	Laune rangers	Kerry	Business	1
Football	A Fresher	Micheal Dolan	Churchill	Kerry	Common engineering	1
Football	A Fresher	Paudie O Leary	Gneeveguilla	Kerry	Electrical engineering	1
Football	A Fresher	Ronan Barrow	Ballinora	Cork	Sport and exercise management	1
Football	A Fresher	Seamus O Sullivan	Newcestown	Cork	Construction management	1
Football	A Fresher	Seán Cleary	Laune rangers	Kerry	Common entry engineering	1
Football	A Fresher	Sean Walsh	Argideen rangers	Cork	Agricultural science	1
Football	A Fresher	Sean Walsh	The Nire	Waterford	Mechanical engineering	1
Football	A Fresher	Tommy Walsh	Kanturk	Cork	Coaching Science and Sports Pedagogy	1
Football	B Fresher	Andrew Guinevan	Argideen Rangers	Cork	Computer systems	1
Football	B Fresher	Ben Guiney	Boherbue GAA	Cork	Business	1
Football	B Fresher	Ben Sullivan	Urhan GAA	Cork	Coaching Science and Sports Pedagogy	1
Football	B Fresher	Brendan O'Leary	Ballydesmond	Kerry	Quantity surveying	1
Football	B Fresher	Brian Cassidy	Bally Mcelligott	Kerry	Construction studies	1
Football	B Fresher	Ciaran Lucey	Naomh Abán	Cork	Agriculture	1
Football	B Fresher	Connall Cullinane	Ballinascorthy	Cork	Agricultural science	1
Football	B Fresher	Conor Neville	Kilsheelan	Tipperary	Construction management	1

Code	Panel	Name	Home Club	County	Course Name	Yr.
Football	B Fresher	Daniel Hanley	Castletownbere	Cork	Coaching Science and Sports Pedagogy	1
Football	B Fresher	Darragh O'Shea	Gabriel rangers	Cork	Construction Management	1
Football	B Fresher	Darragh Veale	Kilrossanty	Waterford	Common Engineering	1
Football	B Fresher	David Coleman	Grenagh	Cork	Quantity Surveying	1
Football	B Fresher	Donagh Murphy	Millstreet	Cork	Common Entry Engineering	1
Football	B Fresher	Eoin Kelleher	Ballyclough	Cork	Sport and Exercise Management	1
Football	B Fresher	Hugh Granville	Templenoe	Kerry	Electrical Engineering	1
Football	B Fresher	Jimmy Lehane	Kenmare Shamrocks	Kerry	Quantity surveying	1
Football	B Fresher	John Lehane	Grenagh	Cork	Civil Engineering	1
Football	B Fresher	Jonathan McCarthy	Kilmichael	Cork	Civil Engineering	1
Football	B Fresher	Liam Moynihan	Boherbue	Cork	Common Engineering	1
Football	B Fresher	Luke Harrington	Glengarriff	Cork	Construction management	1
Football	B Fresher	Michael O'Callaghan	Ballyclough	Cork	Sport & Exercise Management	1
Football	B Fresher	Mikey Murphy	Grenagh	Cork	Marketing	1
Football	B Fresher	Nathan O'Keeffe	Carrigaline	Cork	Civil engineering	1
Football	B Fresher	Niall Coleman	Grenagh	Cork	Quantity surveying	1
Football	B Fresher	Niall O Riordan	Buttevant	Cork	Construction studies	1
Football	B Fresher	Oisin Doyle	Bandon	Cork	Coaching Science and Sport Pedagogy	1
Football	B Fresher	Padraig Healy	St Oliver Plunket's	Cork	Engineering common entry	1
Football	B Fresher	Ruairi O'Brien	Ballinascorthy	Cork	Common entry engineering	1
Football	B Fresher	Scott Geaney	Douglas GAA	Cork	Software development	1
Football	B Fresher	Sean Dore	Ballincollig	Cork	Sustainable Energy Engineering	1
Football	B Fresher	Tiernan Collins	Castle haven	Cork	Common engineering	1
Football	B Fresher	Tomas Murphy	Castletownbere	Cork	Business common entry	1
Football	Intermediate	Aran Teahan	Rathangan	Kildare	Agriculture	4
Football	Intermediate	Brendan Scannell	Shamrocks GAA	Limerick	Information Technology	1
Football	Intermediate	Brian Hurley	Eire Óg	Cork	Bachelor Business	4
Football	Intermediate	Cialan O'Sullivan	Aghabullogue	Cork	Sport and exercise management	2



Code	Panel	Name	Home Club	County	Course Name	Yr.
Football	Intermediate	Cillian Murphy	Kiskeam	Cork	Chemical and Biopharmaceutical Eng.	2
Football	Intermediate	Daire Keane	Ballymacelligott	Kerry	Agricultural science	3
Football	Intermediate	Dale McCarthy	St Vincent's	Mayo	Civil engineering	1
Football	Intermediate	Diarmuid McCarthy	Douglas	Cork	Business Information Systems	2
Football	Intermediate	Donnacha O Mahony	Kinsale	Cork	Structural Engineering	3
Football	Intermediate	Eanna O Hanlon	Kilshannig	Cork	Accounting	3
Football	Intermediate	Eoin Collins	Rockchapel	Cork	Accounting	2
Football	Intermediate	Eoin O Sullivan	Valley Rovers	Cork	Business Information Systems	2
Football	Intermediate	Ian Jones	Uibh Laoire	Cork	BIS	2
Football	Intermediate	Jack Dillon	Mallow	Cork	Business Information Systems	3
Football	Intermediate	Jack Dolan	Churchill	Kerry	Agriculture	3
Football	Intermediate	James Molyneaux	Dromcollogher/Broadford	Limerick	Agri-Biosciences	2
Football	Intermediate	Jerome Kelleher	Eire Óg	Cork	Mechanical Engineering	4
Football	Intermediate	Josh O Keffe	Newmarket	Cork	Business	4
Football	Intermediate	Kevin O' Donovan	Castlehaven	Cork	Agriculture	3
Football	Intermediate	Kevin O Mahony	Mallow	Cork	BIS	2
Football	Intermediate	Kieran Hurley	Kildorrery GAA	Cork	Business	2
Football	Intermediate	Liam Sugrue	Renard	Kerry	Recreation and leisure management	2
Football	Intermediate	Luke O Brien	Ardfinnan GAA	Tipperary	Quantity Surveying	3
Football	Intermediate	Micheal White	Grenagh	Cork	Business Information Systems	3
Football	Intermediate	Sean Andrews	Shamrocks	Cork	Biomedical Engineering	2
Football	Sigerson	Adam Murphy	Aghabullogue	Cork	BIS	2
Football	Sigerson	Brian Hodnett	Carbery Rangers	Cork	Business	4
Football	Sigerson	Chris O' Donoghue	Glenflesk	Kerry	Marketing	4
Football	Sigerson	Cillian Donovan	Macroom	Cork	Structural Engineering	3
Football	Sigerson	Colm O'Shea	Kilshannig	Cork	Construction Management	3
Football	Sigerson	Conall Kennedy	Clonmel commercials	Tipperary	Quantity surveying	4
Football	Sigerson	Damien Gore	Kilmacabea	Cork	Bachelor of Business	4

Code	Panel	Name	Home Club	County	Course Name	Yr.
Football	Sigerson	Daniel O'Connell	Kanturk	Cork	Quantity Surveying	4
Football	Sigerson	Darragh O Leary	Naomh Abán	Cork	Marketing	4
Football	Sigerson	David Buckley	Newcestown	Cork	Quantity Surveying	2
Football	Sigerson	David O'Connor	St Vincent's	Cork	Common engineering	1
Football	Sigerson	Dylan O Connor	Castletownroche	Cork	Business	3
Football	Sigerson	Evan Murphy	Dromtariffe	Cork	Accounting	4
Football	Sigerson	Gavin O Brien	Kerins O Rahilly's	Kerry	Quantity Surveying	4
Football	Sigerson	John Cooper	Eire Óg	Cork	Mechanical Engineering Post-Grad	
Football	Sigerson	Niall Donohue	Firies	Kerry	HR Management Masters	1
Football	Sigerson	Paul Ring	Aghabullogue	Cork	Mechanical Engineering	4
Football	Sigerson	Rory Maguire	Castlehaven	Cork	BIS	4
Football	Sigerson	Ryan Scully	St. Finbarr's	Cork	Business Studies	4
Football	Sigerson	Thomas Casey	Kiskeam Cork	Quantity	Surveying	2



***Action from the MTU Cork Campus v Ulster University Jordanstown Sigerson Cup 3<sup>rd</sup> Round***