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GALWAY TRIBESMEN LAND ON MILWAUKEE SHORES

Galway GAA Representatives Deliver Formal Invitation to Aer Lingus International Hurling Festival

by Aislinn Leonard



Three legends of Galway hurling came to Brown Deer Park on Sunday June 9, 2013 to formally invite the Milwaukee Hurling Club to the Aer Lingus International Hurling Festival. Former GAA President Joe McDonagh, Galway Senior Hurling Manager Anthony Cunningham, and Galway Senior Hurling Coach and Selector Mattie Kenny were accompanied by Michael Grealy, Aer Lingus Chief Human Resources Officer, and Sean Murphy, Aer Lingus Director of Change and Engagement. All five came extending a warm welcome the whole MHC community and they left fully impressed and armed with a little bit of Milwaukee swag.

After spending the better part of the afternoon watching games, enjoying the company of the sidelines, and running a mini youth camp, Mattie Kenny, Project Manager for the Aer Lingus International Hurling Festival said he was most impressed with the "buzz around the pitch all day long." He also mentioned that the MHC is an "amazing model that could be repeated worldwide, even in Ireland." When asked what specifically drew his attention he said the high coaching standard, the family atmosphere, the structure of the day, and the fact that

every kid he saw anywhere around the park that day had a hurley in his hand.

When we asked our own Nick "Tater" Ruetz about what he heard from our visitors on Sunday he said, "One thing I learned is they reaffirmed we're doing it the right way; that the Milwaukee model is a proven success and a viable example that could be used internationally. They were absolutely amazed at our whole operation and were especially impressed with the U7 teams and that we start the kids so young."

Before leaving, after a visit we all felt was much too short, Dave Olson and the crew presented our new friends with gift bags that contained MHC caps, Harley Davidson polo shirts, and other Milwaukee area goodies. After opening his bag, Michael Grealy told Nick Ruetz that the kids are going to freak out at his son's school when he shows up in an MHC t-shirt!

In one last act of friendship before they got in the truck to leave, Anthony Cunningham, who'd never had this opportunity before, presented Adam Blackwell's son with his first hurley. This was a memorable moment to end an even more memorable day.

Our Gracious Galway Guests



Joe McDonagh

Former GAA President (1997-2000)
Galway Senior Hurling Captain 1979
Named one of the 125 Most Influential
People in GAA History in 2009
Position Played: Halfback



Anthony Cunningham

Galway Senior and U21 Hurling
Manager
Two-time All-Ireland Champion
Captain
Position Played: Left corner forward



Mattie Kenny

Galway Senior Hurling Manager and
Selector
Galway Senior Hurling Team
Member from 1988-1992
Position Played: Left corner forward



Michael Grealy

Aer Lingus Chief Human Resources
Officer



Sean Murphy

Aer Lingus Director of Change and
Engagement



It's a Brain Game:

Concussion Awareness Makes Long Awaited Debut to MHC

by *Aislinn Leonard*

It's no secret that hurling can be a rough sport. The MHC medics treat everything from bleeding fingers to twisted ankles, but until this year there was no specific protocol for concussions.

MHC Medic Tim Sulik has worked hard to pull together information for the coaches and captains so that the MHC can comply with the Wisconsin Concussion Law (Wisconsin Act 172). The youth coaches met for an informational meeting to review the symptoms to watch out for when it comes to concussions.

In a flyer handed out to coaches and captains last weekend, Tim laid out the important points of this exciting step forward. The flyer stated, "Last year Wisconsin enacted a law that governs policies and procedures related to concussions and brain injuries as they relate to athletes under 19 years old. The MHC is in the process of formalizing our policy for all players, and will require your help in the coming weeks."

Keep an eye out for information packets about the club's policy that will be handed out **June 23rd**.

After reading the packet, the signed form will need to be returned **July 7th**. **Players will not be able to participate until this form is signed and returned.**

Any questions should be directed toward coaches or Medic Tim Sulik.



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see your picture in the Dish!

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The Dish Needs You!

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U11 and U15 game reporters

Twin Cities Northstar Tournament

by Ivan Baker

The Men's Traveling and Women's Camogie Teams ventured on the cannonball-run to the North Star Tourney in the Twin Cities, Minnesota over the weekend.

A special note: this is a difficult tournament to contend in considering that most of our players have club games on

Sunday. This tourney requires that everyone drives up Friday, play all day Saturday, drive home right after, sleep a few hours, and then play/coach/captain on Sunday. Thank you all for making the sacrifice for the MHC!

The day opened and remained in hurling-perfect weather, slightly overcast and breezy, never hot nor cold. In the opening match, our boys in blue met a spritely Robert Emmits club who made no delay in moving the ball to score, and our MHC boy's matched marks. TCRE kept active pursuit, keeping a constant lead over Milwaukee. A more aggressive second half showed a more enlivened MHC, but unfortunately, the Twin Cities Robert Emmits Hurling Club slightly edged over Milwaukee.

Our Camogie squad met the TCRE Camogie team twice on Saturday. The girls in blue fought hard against a well-seasoned



photo credit: Ellen Burmeister

Emmits crew. Fun was had by all, so much so, an MHC spectator, Laura Allen, couldn't help but suit up in blue and get on the field with a hurley.

The Men's Traveling Team finished out the next three games with precision and speed, even-temper and gentlemanly sportsmanship: with a scoring surplus, they bested Duluth (1st year), Fox River Valley, and Madison.

Into their fifth game of the day, our MHC Men's Traveling Team clashed once again with TCRE in the championship match, and the hard fight ended in a one goal difference, MHC 2-2 and TCRE 3-2.

Congratulations to TCRE and thanks for a great tournament!

Shamrock Club Griffins Swoop Past Silver Spring House

by Jack Harrold



photo credit: Ellen Burmeister

On a brisk Sunday morning that would be long remembered as a historic turning point for the MHC as they welcomed VIPs from the Aer Lingus International Hurling Festival, the Shamrock Club Griffins took the field against the Silver Spring House Heavyweights. Shamrock Club set the pace early with a goal by Noah Leydel.

For their part, Silver Spring House swarmed the ball across all lines of the field. Unfortunately, this also proved to be their undoing as the sheer number of players around

the ball cut off passing and shooting lanes. By halftime, solid defensive play and teamwork between the half-lines kept the play on Heavyweight defensive side of the field opening up a commanding lead of 3-5 (14) to 0-1 (1).

The second half started in much the same way as the first, with Shamrock dictating play across the field. When the sliothar dropped into their defense, Griffins Trent Kielley, Tim Russell and Kathleen Moloney were quick to shuffle the ball out to the sidelines and then up the field. Meanwhile, their

offense continued to score spreading the shots out among their entire offense.

As the fourth quarter began, Silver Spring House prepared for a final push. Heavyweights Caleb Hunnicut, Sean-Rae Zalewski and Joel Ingebrigtsen pounded the ball toward the goal. Though many shots went wide, they did manage to find the back of the net once and the uprights a few times. It was not enough, though to hold off the Shamrock Club who took the first game of the day with a commanding victory of 3-12 (21) to 1-4 (7).

Ninjas Attack from the Shadows to Repel the Marauder Assault

by Jason Kirkpatrick



photo credit: Kerry Leonard

The Irish Pub Ninjas (2-1) were out for redemption after a tough loss last week. However, it was the Ale House Marauders (1-1) who had the early advantage, forcing the Ninja's midfielders to drop back to help their embattled defense. After two points from Marauders Jack Tuescher and Andrew Fehrenback, the Pub defense was able to settle down and limit the damage.

The Ninjas then took the fight to Ale House as Pub co-captain Tony Gaar sent one sailing into the goal to put the Ninjas on the board. The invigorated Irish Pub squad gave Ale House keeper Gerald "Jerry" Miksch a workout, but he handled the onslaught well. The Marauders weren't going to let the game get out of hand though. After a point off a penalty, the Ale House squad showcased

some fluid passing and Matt Danahey was able to put in another Marauder point. Not to be outdone, Tony Gaar once again stormed down the field to score a second Ninja goal and put them up at the half 2-0 (6) over Ale House 0-4 (4).

The second half began as a battle of defenses including a beautiful hook by Marauder Tim Sulik on Ninja Tim Dombroski, showing all his rookie's from camp how it's done. The rejuvenated Ale House turned up the pressure and Tuescher was finally able to put in a goal to take the lead.

Three more Irish Pub points saw the narrow lead switch back to the Ninjas as both sides were aggressively fighting to bring home the win. Ale House made valiant efforts, but hope was extinguished late in the match with two more Ninja points. Brian Lynch led the spirited Ninja defense to ensure there was no comeback late in the match as the Marauders were defeated with a final score of Irish Pub 2-5 (11) to Ale House 1-4 (7).



Meghan's Murrmurings

*by Meghan Neuenschwander
Veteran Social Pro*

Tips for Rookies- Part 2

Rookie Pro Tip #7

THANK THE MEDICS!

Let me repeat that: THANK THE MEDICS! Our medical team works hard to make sure that you continue to work right! Without them, we definitely wouldn't have made it this long and they don't get the credit they deserve for everything they do. If you get hurt, make sure you thank them a bunch. If you don't get hurt, make sure you still thank them a bunch!

Rookie Pro Tip #8

Support Our Sponsors!

Our sponsors are all pretty awesome, that's why they sponsor hurling teams, so go help them out too! There's nothing better after a long, hard day of hurling than eating some delicious food and not having to make it yourself.

Rookie Pro Tip #9

Meet Some (New) People!

We both know that you didn't join hurling just to play the game, so even if you already know some people, make some new friends! The hurling club is full of amazing people and we know you'll fit right in considering that you're now someone we can talk to about this sport we love. Don't be afraid to talk to people, most of us don't bite.

Rookie Pro Tip #10

Be Willing to Listen and Learn!

And that doesn't just apply to your captains. There are people in the club who have been playing for a LONG time and they know what they're talking about. We also really want you to do well, so people tend to give a lot of pointers. That doesn't mean that you have to take every piece of advice that everyone gives you, but listen to it and weigh it for yourself, chances are it will be really helpful!

Rookie Pro Tip #11

Don't Get Too Heated!

Hurling is a fiercely competitive sport and that gets to all of us, but make sure that you can keep it in check. One of the best things about the Milwaukee Hurling Club is that even if things get really heated on the field, we keep it there. No matter what happens, we're friends and family once we get back on the sidelines. You're going to get mad about things that happen, everyone does, but don't let it get in the way of you having fun later.

Rookie Pro Tip #12

COME BACK NEXT YEAR!!!

We love our club, and we hope that you do too! If you had a good time (and we know you did) come back and play again next year! If nothing else, come back and cheer on the sidelines. Hurling is an amazing experience no matter what aspect you're involved in and we really hope you'll continue to be involved!

Slim McGinn's Quells Trinity's Rebellion

by Ivan Baker



The Trinity Rebels did not rebel enough against Slim's oppressive tyranny of offense. The Rebels prompted the battle for goals early in the first quarter only to receive a bitter response of four goals from the Slaintes. The Rebels', fiery in spirit, responded with several goal offensives, but Slim's Goalie Dave "Chico" Monfre had several pointblank saves to keep his team in a comfortable lead by the half. One Rebel rookie, Dan Slawski, outwitted the veteran goalie to score a great goal.

Mercy was unbeknownst the Slaintes, as they relentlessly kept offensive pressure on the Rebels, bombarding them with both 5 goals and 5 points in the third quarter. The southerly wind gusts proved helpful for Slim's long-range attacks, something that Trinity failed to capitalize on in the first half. Steve "Jake" Jakabowski continued with the same punishment in the second half, administering more of his deadly accurate goals. Trinity would not go down lightly though, Rebel Shannon Meller produced some clever goals to keep his team's morale lifted. Until the final whistle, Trinity kept fighting the empowered Slim's with a final score of 8-10 (34) to 5-4 (19).

photo credit: Sarah Eslyn



U7 Squads Accelerate into Higher Gear

by Aislinn Leonard

The “speed” message barked out from Dave Olson at practice this week was even heard by the U7s, and they brought the speed and tenacity into the feature games this weekend.

Before the game even started, the U7s showed their MHC team spirit by chanting, “We need Brody!” to help encourage a reluctant friend to leave the sideline and join them for the game. With that extra boost, Brody Bleck joined the fun, along with his brother Brooks of the Ritter Law, and even though they just joined, fell right into the swing of things.

Following in the footsteps of her older brother Gabe (U11), Natalie Meller of the Shoreview Pediatrics took off at the first whistle and never stopped running. Her drive throughout the match helped her teammates stay focused.

Rookie Megan Johnston stepped up her game this week after a shy start on Opening Day with speed to match any of her opponents. She had some beautiful ground hurls just like a veteran.

Nate Giese, Antoinette Brilz, and Abrianna Chojnacki impressed the coaches by winning every foot race to the ball. Abrianna plays each week with passion and desire in her own efforts, but also by helping her teammates and even opponents. The speed of the game lead to Antoinette’s flood of goals in the second half and a very happy celebration dance. Nate fed off the energy and passed to his teammates with ground hurls like a pro.

The coaches love the improvements they are seeing each week and can’t wait to see what the next match brings.



photo credit: Kerry Leonard

Tweens of the U15s Tie It Up!

photos and captions by Ellen Burmeister



Tristan shoots ... Tristan scores! It's always exciting to watch as these kids grow in skills and confidence through the season.



An amicable end to a hard-fought match.



Ninja addresses the ball and gets ready to send it!



Don't let their size or age fool you ... these kids can play just as rough-and-tumble as the adults!

Burke's Irish Castle Cages County Clare Cats

by Jack Harrold

The final game of the day witnessed Burke's Irish Castle, fresh off a bye-week and seeking their first win, face the County Clare Cats that sought to expand on the previous week's victory. Burke's got their feet under them quickly in the first quarter with a pair of goals by William DuPlanty and Marin Koebert and points from Captain Tony Johnson while holding the Cats scorelessly at bay.

Expanding on their initial surge, Castle-men Joe "JB" Blanchar, Dennis "Dirty" Davidson and Josh O'Malley continued to dominate play, beating the Cats to the ball consistently. County Clare forward Jeff "V" Vanevenhoven tried to rally his team, chasing down Castle-men clear out to midfield. A spectator jokingly commented that this game saw Jeff run more than he had the entire previous season. But, by halftime, Burke's held a commanding, shutout lead of 2-6 (12) to 0-0 (0).

Something sparked during the break for County



photo credit: Kerry Leonard

Clare as they managed to find ways to score multiple times. Cat Rachel Chevremont, playing smart offense, took advantage of an opportunity and slung a shot into the back of the net.

The tide seemed to be turning for Clare and its cheering section led by Cat Nate "Mr. Duncan" Brunner's fiance (and former hurler) Andrea Duncan. Creative cheers such as "Squirt some mustard in there!", "Bring it home to momma!" and "Come on Clare, Work for the Beer!" urged the Clare side on as they began to whittle down the Castle's lead.

As the fourth quarter, the Clare midfield lit the Castle upright, putting 3

back-to-back points through the uprights within a minute. Though the second half push was indeed brilliant, Burke's would not be denied their first victory. They continued to create opportunities as they had all game and convert on them; handily earning them their first and impressive victory of 4-10 (22) to 1-8 (11).

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