

**USGAA 2023
CLUB OF THE YEAR!**



*The Delaware County Gaels
30th Anniversary Gala*

FRIDAY, THE 27TH OF OCTOBER 2023



Good Evening everyone and thank you for attending and celebrating our 30th Anniversary Gala.

Tonight we recognize our founding members, Paddy Rooney, Frankie McNicholl, Geraldine Nicholas, John. Cullen, Tom Coyle (RIP), and Isobel Lawn, and honor our longest serving chairperson, Louie Bradley.

Our Club is the 2023 USGAA Club of the Year, a distinction we are very proud of and extremely thankful to be were chosen. We realize that this was not based on last year alone. We have had 30 years of outstanding and dedicated Gaels volunteers that worked hard to bring the Club to this level.

We also thank and congratulate all former and current Committee members, Coaches, Players, Volunteers, Sponsors and everyone who supports our Club in any capacity. We are celebrating tonight because of you.

30 years ago, before any of the current Committee members, were even thinking about youth sports, the group we honor tonight had a vision. Thankfully for us, they followed through and made it a reality. Your dedication to the GAA in this area is something you should be very proud of. We are truly indebted to you all for your efforts back then.

Our guest of honor, Louie Bradley, has been a driving force for this club for this past 20 years. His dedication, persistence and diligence have been impossible to ignore. We are beyond grateful to him for mentoring us and leading us by example. We thank Louie for setting such a high standard that we try to follow on a daily basis.

Thank you also to our host venue tonight, The Ridley House and Heritage Ballrooms. Brian and Packie and the crew have been a pleasure to work with and have been extremely accommodating to our requests. I'm sure this Gala is not the last Irish event we will be attending here!

Lastly a big thank you to our entertainment for this evening, an exclusive band that we are all sure to enjoy. Please enjoy yourselves tonight and we look forward to seeing you on the pitch and at future Gaels events.

Aidan Corr
Chairperson
Delaware County Gaels



GUEST OF HONOR

LOUIE BRADLEY

Louie hails from Letterkenny, Co. Donegal. Louie lives in Havertown with his wife Carmel. Louie and Carmel are active and dedicated members of the Irish Community.

Since his arrival in Philadelphia, he has been actively involved in Gaelic Football. First playing for Donegal Philadelphia and later coaching the team for four years. Louie's three children Fiona, Shane and Conor all played for Delco Gaels in the youth program. Shane and Conor now play for the adult team.

Louie was the chairman of the club for over seven years. He has coached many Gaelic football teams both nationally and internationally.

Louie loves his Delco Gaels family and is proud that he is helping to keep Gaelic games alive and well in Philadelphia.



PADDY ROONEY

Paddy Rooney hails from Castlewellan, Co. Down. Paddy's father, Pat Rooney, was an inter-county GAA referee and well respected within Down GAA.

Paddy came over to the USA in 1984 with the Queens University GAA team. Paddy made the USA his home, and got involved with the Kevin Barry's Gaelic Football club. Paddy would serve on the Kevin Barry's Board as Chairperson and Secretary for over 10 years.

While a part of the Kevin Barry's, Paddy sat on the Philadelphia GAA Board for numerous years, serving as Chairperson and Secretary.

Once Paddy and many other colleagues began starting their families, they realized a need for a youth GAA team was needed. Paddy and the other founding members created the Delaware County Gaels Youth GAA organization. Paddy served as the chairperson and vice-chairperson for numerous years for the Delco Gaels.

While apart of the Delco Gaels, Paddy set his eyes on the USGAA County Board. He served as the secretary of the USGAA County Board for a couple of years and then was elected as Chairperson of the USGAA County Board.

Paddy continues to support all GAA clubs in Philadelphia. Since his involvement in the GAA, both in Philly and the USGAA, he turned his attention to benefits and helping out the Irish Community of Philadelphia. Paddy is involved in the Charlie Dunlop Memorial Fund and the Philadelphia Irish Golf Charities.



ISOBEL LAWN

My son Gavin & I returned to the USA on December 7th 1988. My husband Joe had been here since May 1988. It was nice having family nearby two brothers & two sisters.

To meet other Irish people we would go the Irish bars like Traver's, & Cawley's. I became friends with Geraldine, Frankie & Paddy. We had been talking about how the young kids didn't have the opportunity to play Gaelic football. So on a night out in Paddy Rooney's, we decided to get the ball rolling ... and the rest is history.

I am proud to have been a part of the start up of Gaelic football for the kids in Delaware County. It's really amazing how this sport has grown over the years.

Future blessings to the GAA in America.



JOHN CULLEN

John Cullen was born and raised in Cavan Town. John grew up playing football with Cavan Gaels, playing underage through senior level. John emigrated to the USA in 1986 with his wife Teresa and children, spending three years in Boston before moving to Philadelphia.

John continued to be involved with the GAA here in Philadelphia, first being involved with the Cavan Football Club. Most of John's time here has been spent being involved with the Young Irelands Club. John also spent three years as registrar of the Philadelphia GAA Board.

While there was a fair amount of GAA football in Philadelphia for many years, there was no underage team. John was approached about helping to start a team and joined the first committee. As far as John can remember, the first training took place at the Cardington Recreation Field behind 69th Street in Upper Darby. While there was a good turn out on that first day, few could foresee what the Delaware County Gaels would become today. John considers his part in the story of the Delco Gaels as a small one, and it is really all those men and women through the years since who have built the club into the success it is today, providing the opportunity for young people to play Gaelic Games here in Philadelphia.



FRANKIE MCNICHOLL

Frankie was born in Gortnagh, Dungiven Co. Derry married to John McNicholl from Glenullin Co. Derry. They have three wonderful children, Sean, Conall and Aine. She followed GAA from a young age with brothers playing football and herself and her sisters playing camogie.

Frankie went to the USA in June 1984 and settled in Boston and then moved to Philadelphia in 1987. She didn't get involved with GAA here in Philadelphia until their kids started playing.

She is very proud to have been one of the founding members of this club which developed in to great club thanks to all the individuals involved now.

Wishing every success in the future and congratulations to Louie and all the founding members.



TOM COYLE

Tom was born in Ballymachugh, Co. Cavan. His love for the game started in Ballynarry National School, where he was Captain of the boys team. He continued to play football during his years at Granard Technical School in Co. Longford. After finishing school, Tom decided to see the works. He made the long journey of 20 miles to Castlepollard Co. Westmeath to find work, there was no Gaelic football in Castlepollard, Tom started playing hurling and like all his other endeavours in life, he became quite successful with the hurl winning three junior county championship medals, in 1960, 61 and 62. While looking around Tom decided the world did not end in Westmeath so he set out for Port Talbot in Wales, while there he helped start a Gaelic football team.

While working in Wales Tom met his wife Marie. While again looking around one day Tom decided Wales was not the end of the world either. In 1972 he headed for Philadelphia and Marie arrived here shortly after. Tom and Marie returned home in 1974 to get married and in 1979 had a daughter Bridget.

Since his arrival in the US Tom had been an active member of the GAA as a player, organiser and referee. In 1973, he had won a junior championship and junior b championship in 1982 with Cavan.

Tom was elected vice president of the Philadelphia GAA board in 1976. The Cavan football club elected him president in 1976, 1977 and 1983. He was also Philadelphia man of the year in 1983. Tom was a proud Cavan club man until the club folded in 1997. Tom's interests are not entirely confined to GAA however he was an active member of the Cavan Society and was vice president in 1976 and 1977 and president in 1979.

Tom was actively involved with the camogie in the city of Philadelphia since its inception, and has held the office of manager, trainer and coach of various teams. He was a much sought after camogie referee here in Philadelphia. Tom was very active in pushing the youth of Philadelphia to try Gaelic sports. Tom also worked very hard to get a minor league going, but unfortunately to no avail. As the twilight sets in around his athletic career. He also played some different sports in his spare time aside from football. One of them was dart throwing, where he became one of the top throwers in the Philadelphia league. He also played a bit of golf.

In 2002, Tom and Marie made their way home to Bailieborough Co. Cavan. Sadly in March of 2008 Tom passed away. His legacy does live on, his 3 granddaughter's are all involved in the GAA at home in Derry. Tom's family here in Philadelphia were all at one time active members in the Philadelphia GAA, his daughter Bridget played for the Emerald Eagles before her move home to Derry. His eldest granddaughter Mary, was a sanctioned player this year in Philadelphia playing for the Notre Dames and Na Toraidhe, a true full circle moment for the family.

His family is delighted to have his legacy and commitment to the GAA honored tonight.



GERALDINE NICHOLAS

Geraldine, originally from Dungiven in County Derry, grew up in a household where Gaelic sports were a big part of family life. She played camogie when she was a young girl, and her love for Gaelic sports continued when she moved to the USA in 1986, where she supported the local Philadelphia GAA teams.

When she realized there was no youth program for kids to get involved, Geraldine and her co-founders took action and created the Delaware County Gaels. They aimed to introduce as many kids as possible, including her son and daughter, to the sport and spread the word about this exciting opportunity.

She's proud of the part she played in getting the youth program off the ground and is thankful for everyone who has contributed to its growth.

Geraldine is deeply committed to preserving Irish culture in the United States. A special moment for her was watching the Delaware County Gaels play at the GAA World Games in 2022 in Derry.

She is a loving grandmother, eager to one day take her five grandchildren to Ireland to share her love for both the culture and the sport.

The Delaware County Gaels

Roll of Honor

YOUTH TEAMS

2019 JOHN WEST FÉILE CHAMPIONSHIP: IRELAND

U14 BOYS FOOTBALL CHAMPS

U14 GIRLS FOOTBALL CHAMPS

2014 CYC CHAMPIONSHIP: NEW YORK

U16A BOYS FOOTBALL

U12 GIRLS FOOTBALL

2019 CYC CHAMPIONSHIP: PHILADELPHIA

U14 BOYS FOOTBALL

U14 GIRLS FOOTBALL

U14 BOYS HURLING

2013 CYC CHAMPIONSHIP: PHILADELPHIA

U8 A BOYS HURLING

U12A BOYS

U16A BOYS

2018 CYC CHAMPIONSHIP: BOSTON

U16A BOYS FOOTBALL

2012 CYC CHAMPIONSHIP: CHICAGO

U14A BOYS FOOTBALL

U16A BOYS FOOTBALL

2017 CYC CHAMPIONSHIP: BUFFALO

U12B BOYS HURLING

U12B GIRLS FOOTBALL

U12 GIRLS CAMOGIE

U14B BOYS FOOTBALL

2011 CYC CHAMPIONSHIP: BOSTON

U14A BOYS FOOTBALL

2010 CYC CHAMPIONSHIP: NEW YORK

U12B BOYS FOOTBALL

2016 CYC CHAMPIONSHIP: SAN FRANCISCO

U12B GIRLS FOOTBALL

2005 CYC CHAMPIONSHIP: SAN FRANCISCO

U8A BOYS FOOTBALL

ADULT TEAMS

MEN'S FOOTBALL MAJOR TROPHIES

2023 PHILADELPHIA JUNIOR LEAGUE HURLING CHAMPS

2023 USGAA INTERMEDIATE CHAMPS

2023 PHILADELPHIA INTERMEDIATE CHAMPS

2022 USGAA JUNIOR B CHAMPS

2022 PHILADELPHIA JUNIOR CHAMPS

2021 USGAA JUNIOR C LADIES CHAMPS

2021 USGAA JUNIOR C CHAMPS

2021 USGAA JUNIOR D CHAMPS

2021 PHILADELPHIA OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

2021 PHILADELPHIA JUNIOR D CHAMPS



USGAA 2023 CLUB OF THE YEAR!

DELCO GAELS 2023 - 2024 CALENDAR

FALL BALL

ON NOW! SATURDAY NIGHTS THROUGH THE WINTER

ALL AGES

6:00 - 7:30 PM @ THE HAVERFORD RESERVE (TURF FIELDS)

FEILE INTEREST SESSION

BOYS AND GIRLS BORN IN 2009, 2010, 2011

NOVEMBER 18TH

6:00 - 7:30 PM @ THE HAVERFORD RESERVE (TURF FIELDS)

DELCO GAELS THINK TANK

NOVEMBER 19TH

11:00 AM @ IRISH DIASPORA CENTER

ALL ARE WELCOME AS WE DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF OUR CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023

1:00 PM @ IRISH DIASPORA CENTER

-ALL ARE WELCOME-

6 WEEK INDOOR SESSION

AGES U10 -16

SATURDAYS: JANUARY 6TH - FEBRUARY 10TH

TIMES TBA @ STARFINDER FOUNDATION

6 WEEK INDOOR SESSION

AGES U4 - U8

LOCATION AND TIMES TBA

ANNUAL NIGHT AT THE RACES

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 9, 2024

PALOMBARO CLUB ARDMORE

START OF OUTDOOR/REGULAR SEASON

MONDAY, APRIL 8TH @ POLO FIELDS BRYN MAWR

LIBERTY BELL CHAMPIONSHIPS

SUMMER 2024; TIME AND DATE TBA

CONTINENTAL YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

JULY 11TH - JULY 14TH; CANTON, MASSACHUSETTS

2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHAIRPERSON: AIDAN CORR

VICE CHAIRPERSON: TRISH DALY

SECRETARY: ALANNA BARRY MCCLOSKEY

RECORDING SECRETARY: JAN BAFFA

TREASURER: CAROLINE BAKER

FINANCE SECRETARY: JIM MCCORMICK

REGISTRAR: RYAN BAXTER

GAMES DEVELOPMENT: LORNA CORR

PUBLIC RELATIONS: ADRIAN HUGHES

EQUIPMENT MANAGER: KATHY HERAGHTY

HURLING/CAMOGIE OFFICER: PAT SHEEHY

CLUB LIAISON OFFICER: PATRICK ROONEY, JR.

CLUB DELEGATE: MICHAEL CONBOY

CLUB DELEGATE: NOEL DOHERTY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023

1:00 PM

**IRISH DIASPORA CENTER
1001 DARBY ROAD, HAVERTOWN
PA 19083**

ALL ARE WELCOME



CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

FOR MORE INFORMATION

WWW.DELCOGAELSGAA.COM