



QUEEN'S  
UNIVERSITY  
BELFAST

QUEEN'S  
SPORT

BELFAST SPIRIT  
**GLOBAL  
GOALS**

New York and Boston  
7-17 June 2024

[queenssport.com](https://queenssport.com)

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the Queen's International Sporting Tour in North America this June to mark the centenary year of Queen's competing in the Sigerson Cup, and 30 years since the formation of the women's Gaelic Football team.

With the first GAA team founded in 1931 and a current membership in excess of 600 students, Queen's GAA has a long and distinguished history within the University.

Sport has a massive influence on the hearts and minds of individuals, communities and nations.

Queen's Sport has long offered a transformational experience to our students, nurturing the vital values and skills of applying focus and determination in the pursuit of excellence; values I am confident will be on display by our prized ambassadors throughout the tour.



Worldwide, we have seen a history of exclusion of women in education and sporting life. As such, promoting gender equality has been an extensive area of focus for Queen's and earlier this year, we became the first university across the island of Ireland, and second in the UK, to be awarded a Gold University status from the prestigious Athena Swan Charter which seeks to transform gender equality in higher education.

I am therefore delighted to see the talent of our women's club profiled on the global stage.

As a world-leading university with strategic partnerships across the world, we are extremely proud of our connections with North America. Over the years we have welcomed countless American students to Queen's and have a growing alumni network in the region.

North America is an important part of our Strategy 2030 ambition, and this tour will serve as a key initiative in growing these partnerships, and developing opportunities for academic collaboration, alumni and civic engagement for Queen's Sport and beyond.



**Professor Sir Ian Greer**  
President and Vice-Chancellor

June 2024 marks the first university-endorsed international sports tour for Queen's Sport GAA as two of its largest teams embark on a tour of New York and Boston.

As an eight-time winner of the Sigerson Cup, various other victories as winners of the O'Connor, Fitzgibbon and Ashbourne Cups, and Alma Mater of some of Gaelic sports' elite players, suffice to say that Queen's GAA has enjoyed huge successes over the years.

It is therefore fitting that we mark the centenary year of the Sigerson, and 30 years since the formation of our women's Gaelic football team on the global stage with a delegation of ambassadors that have contributed to our GAA successes past and present.



This tour is an incredible opportunity, not only for Queen's Sport and our student ambassadors, but for the University as a whole.

Queen's has been a university of choice for US and Canadian students for many decades and we have strong partnerships across the region. Engagements throughout the tour with our alumni network, key partners, and major institutions will enhance this global impact and aid the delivery of our North America Strategy.

I wish the delegation every success as they take on New York and Boston and have no doubt they will represent our University in the most positive light.



**Professor Margaret Topping**  
Pro-Vice-Chancellor for  
Global Engagement

As someone whose role within Queen's University is to enhance, enrich and exceed the expectations of our students, I am delighted to be leading a delegation which is delivering such an incredible experience for our students.

Sport plays a crucial role in our students' lives, fostering friendships, memories, and well-being. We strive to help our students excel academically and athletically. For many students, this tour represents the pinnacle of their involvement with Queen's GAA and Queen's Ladies Football clubs, continuing a proud legacy. They will be aware that they are standing on the shoulders of giants and following in the footsteps of previous generations of Gaelic footballers who have represented the University with such distinction in the past.

The proud heritage of the Club is kept alive through the efforts of our alumni and this tour will no doubt enter the pantheon of stories and reminiscences that form part of that long tradition.

The tour includes competitive games, alumni engagement, and interactions with corporate and community organisations. Most importantly, the students themselves were central to the design of the tour programme and have fully embraced their role as ambassadors for their clubs, counties and for Queen's University. I am confident they will represent us with distinction and create lasting memories.

### **Liz McLaughlin**

Interim Director Student and Campus Life

Queen's Sport are delighted to be involved in this International Sporting Tour which has been over a year in the planning.

For our students and support staff involved, the itinerary on offer will create an incredible experience, the memories of which will last for years to come.

Sport at Queen's has a proud history dating back to the 1860's with many great leaders and world class success stories on and off the field.

Alumni Engagement and Student Experience – a core component of Queen's Sport – contributes significantly to providing those transformative connections,

healthier learners and have the power to unite our communities. These aspirations are shared by many world-leading universities like Queen's and are exemplified in Alumni networks across the world.

Travelling to the States is a fantastic opportunity for today's students to see some of the pathways open to them after graduation, and likewise, a great occasion for us to showcase Queen's as an esteemed place to study for prospective students across the Atlantic.

### **Karl Oakes**

Head of Sport and Physical Wellbeing  
Student and Campus Life





QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

# THE HOME OF STUDENT SPORT IN BELFAST



Queen's Sport's outdoor facilities at Upper Malone in south Belfast are a great source of pride for the University. Champions have been made, trophies won and accolades bestowed upon thousands of students across decades of endeavour. Beyond those high profile activities, our pitches and surrounds have nurtured an ongoing love of sport and wellbeing for countless students, staff, alumni and the wider community.

We have heavily invested in our outdoor facilities. Upper Malone boasts 16 grass and synthetic platforms to host student club activity and those of our partners from the wider sporting community. The water-based hockey pitch and grandstand is a world-class pitch that has become a second home for regional and national teams. Our arena pitch has hosted some of the most high-profile schools games within rugby and Gaelic Games locally.

With the site including a performance gym and meeting rooms, Northern Ireland's senior men's and women's football teams are regularly based at Queen's and other performance level teams – such as the Ireland Rugby team – have used Upper Malone as a training base.

The sporting facilities at Upper Malone are a corner stone of the student experience at Queen's. We continue to look for improvement as the next generation of sporting stories begin to unfold, informed and inspired by the stories already told.



# MESSAGE FROM CROKE PARK

A chairde,

Tá áthas an domhain orm gach rath a ghuí ar na himreoirí agus ar na hoifigigh ó Ollscoil na Ríona a bheidh ag gabháil ar an turas seo go Nua-Eabhrac agus go Bostún. Tá na comórtais tríú leibhéal fíorthábhachtach ní hamháin do na hollscoileanna, ach, do himreoirí féin agus iad i mbun forbartha mar imreoirí agus mar dhaoine.

Tá clár oibre cuimsitheach leagtha amach don turas seo ina n-áirítear cluichí in aghaidh Nua-Eabhrac agus rogha imreoirí de chuid Mheiriceá Thuaidh. Beidh seisiúin chóitseála agus cuairteanna á dtabhairt ar chlubanna, fosta, agus is cinnte go mbeidh tionchar ag na cuairteanna sin ar an pheil Ghaelach i Meiriceá go ceann i bhfad.

I am delighted to extend my best wishes to the travelling party of players and officials from Queen's University Belfast undertaking this exciting tour to New York and Boston.

A formative moment in my GAA life was being part of the successful St Mary's team that won a Sigerson Cup in 1989. It was significant not only in terms of developing as a player, but it is something that I look back on as a character-building event and so many of the friendships made then have stood the test of time.

Winning and losing on the pitch is only a small part of the importance that sport plays in student life and in the important role that sports clubs have in our educational institutions. This is especially true in Gaelic games because of the community ethos which underpins the work of the GAA and allows players from a broad spectrum of localities to band together under a single banner.

Like education, a healthy interest and involvement in sport is a gift that keeps on giving and can enrich the lives of our young people wherever they go. The teamwork, discipline and commitment required to compete in any sport are transferable skills to a successful career in any chosen field.

It is no surprise that 140 years ago this year it was a teacher from Carron in Clare, Michael Cusack, who breathed life into the vision that was the GAA. Throughout its remarkable existence the role of educational bodies in the promotion of our games has been of crucial importance and I am delighted that this great tradition is being continued by an event such as this.

The upcoming games for the Sigerson and O'Connor Cup squads against New York and then a North America

Selection will be highlights of the trip. But I am also greatly pleased by the itinerary that includes local club visits and coaching sessions which I hope will leave a positive legacy – so too the University visits that will create opportunities for further collaboration, academic and professional.

To be successful, an event like this requires meticulous planning and I know that this tour has been a year in the planning and development stage, and it is important to acknowledge all of those who have made it possible.

To the players lucky enough to be part of the occasion, I wish you all the very best for the trip of a lifetime and hope that Gaelic games and an involvement in the GAA continues to be a hugely rewarding experience wherever your path in life may lead.

Bainigí idir thairbhe agus thaitneamh as an turas. Ádh mór oraibh uilig.

Iarlaith Ó Broin, Uachtarán CLG

**Jarlath Burns,**  
GAA President



# FESTIVAL OF FOOTBALL

# NEW YORK

Gaelic Park, Bronx  
Sunday 9 June 2024

Gaelic Football  
(3pm)  
**Sigerson Cup Team**  
v  
**New York GAA**

Ladies Gaelic Football  
(5pm)  
**O'Connor Cup Team**  
v  
**New York GAA**

Pre-Match Event Alumni  
and Global Engagement  
'Friends of QUB'  
12-2pm  
Sunday 9 June 2024  
Manhattan College,  
Riverdale, NY

Business Engagement  
Options IT 1.30-4pm  
First Derivatives 1.30-4pm  
Tuesday 11 June 2024 NYC

# BOSTON

Irish Cultural Centre, Canton  
Saturday 15 June 2024

Ladies Gaelic Football  
(1pm)  
**O'Connor Cup Team**  
v  
**Boston All Stars GAA**

Gaelic Football  
(3pm)  
**Sigerson Cup Team**  
v  
**US-All American GAA**

Northeastern University  
Reception and Tour  
12-2pm  
Thursday 13 June 2024  
Northeastern University,  
Massachusetts

Pre-Match Event Alumni  
and Global Engagement  
'Friends of QUB'  
11.30am-12.45pm  
Saturday 15 June 2024  
Irish Cultural Centre,  
Canton Boston

QUEEN'S IN THE COMMUNITY  
GAA COACHING DAYS AT  
CLUBS AND SCHOOLS

- Saturday 8 June, New York
- Friday 14 June, Boston
- Sunday 16 June, Boston



# QUEEN'S GAA CAPTAINS



I dtús báire, ba mhaith liom fáilte a chur romhaibh go léir anseo inniu. Is onóir agus pribhléid domsa agus do mo chomhpháirtithe a bheith ag déanamh

ionadaíochta ar ár dteaglaigh, ar ár gclubanna agus ar Ollscoil na Banríona ar an dturas seo. Is cuid lárnach dár bpobail agus dár gcultúr é an Cumann Lúthchleas Gael. Mar sin is rud an-speisialta é a bheith in ann an tionchar agus an luach atá orainne mar imreoirí a léiriú. Tá súil agam go mbainfidh sibh sult as an turas.

On behalf of the O'Connor squad, I would like to say what an honour and privilege it is to be representing our clubs, counties and indeed, Queen's University Belfast and Queen's GAA on this tour.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved in its organisation and set up. So much time and effort has gone into every aspect of this tour. It has been a great learning experience for me to see first-hand the commitment and hard work that is needed, for things to run smoothly.

The Global Goals initiative provides an opportunity for us as students to connect and build relationships with people and organisations on a world stage. It promotes network development, which is vital in both our career and sporting endeavours.

A special word of thanks to our sponsors who have so generously provided their services. Your continued support is much appreciated and does not go unnoticed. To both committees at New York GAA and Boston GAA, for your kind hospitality - your generosity and accommodation throughout this process has been of immense help and contributed to the success of the tour.

The GAA has a rich history of promoting culture and lifelong participation as a community-based, volunteer-led organisation which enriches lives and communities. My hope is that this tour continues that legacy, not just in these few days, but beyond.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh

**Brid McNally**

Queen's LGFA Captain



It is a great privilege to be able to represent not only our University, but also our counties, clubs and families as we embark on the Queen's GAA

tour of North America this June. GAA is such an integral part of our culture and to be selected to showcase this sport that we love, across the Atlantic, is something I will cherish forever.

The friendships and connections that are nurtured by team sport are so important to our development as young adults and I am incredibly grateful to Queen's Sport and Queen's GAA for the environment that they have created for us as players to thrive, both on the sporting field and academically.

In Queen's GAA's centenary year of competing in the Sigerson Cup, I think it is fitting to pay tribute to those past students and members that have paved the way for this club before us. I feel deeply honoured to have joined this community of people who have been fortunate enough to represent Queen's GAA both past and present, and particularly this year as captain, as we try to emulate the successes of previous Queen's teams. Although we

didn't bring home the prize this season, I believe the club is on a trajectory that will see us back at the top again very soon.

This tour would not be possible without the hard work and support of a lot of people, and it would be remiss of me not to acknowledge their efforts. I would like to thank all of the Queen's Sport and University staff, who have worked tirelessly to plan and oversee each aspect of this tour.

I would also like to thank all of our sponsors; we wouldn't be where we are today as a club without their continued support. A special word of thanks to all those involved with New York GAA, Boston GAA and Northeastern University for your collaborative support and hospitality throughout the planning of this tour.

I have great hopes for the connections that will be established from this tour and the Global Goals initiative, and I look forward to making memories that will last a lifetime.

**Matthew Murnaghan**

Queen's GAA Captain

# PLAYER PROFILES

## O'CONNOR CUP TEAM



### Anna Mulligan

Home Club: Sabhall  
County: Down  
Course: Pharmacy  
Age: 22



### Annie Kilpatrick

Home Club: Ó Donnabháin Rosa  
Machaire Fíolta  
County: Derry  
Course: Medicine  
Age: 20



### Bríd McNally

Home Club: Scairbh na gCaorach  
County: Monaghan  
Course: Psychology  
Age: 21



### Caoimhe Finucane

Home Club: Naomh Éanna  
County: Antrim  
Course: Law  
Age: 20



Ciara Garvey



### Caoimhe Ní Fhearraigh

Home Club: Gaoth Dobhair  
County: Donegal  
Course: Pharmacy  
Age: 21



### Ciara Austin

Home Club: Naomh Bríd  
County: Antrim  
Course: Medicine  
Age: 20



### Ciara Garvey

Home Club: Naomh Pádraig,  
Carraig Chrupáin  
County: Armagh  
Course: Business Information  
Technology  
Age: 22



### Claire Milburn

Home Club: Cheathrú Aodha  
Dhuibh  
County: Down  
Course: Nursing  
Age: 26



### Dúana Coleman

Home Club: Pádraig Sáirséil  
County: Antrim  
Course: Medicine  
Age: 20

BELFAST SPIRITS  
GOLF



# PLAYER PROFILES



## **Eimear Fitzpatrick**

Home Club: Naomh Muire,  
Boireann  
County: Down  
Course: Business Economics  
Age: 21



## **Emma Conlon**

Home Club: Roibeard Eiméid, An  
Chluain Mhór  
County: Armagh  
Course: Pharmacy  
Age: 23



## **Hannah Sheerin**

Home Club: Clann Na nGael  
County: Tyrone  
Course: Finance  
Age: 22



## **Johanna McGrane**

Home Club: Na Daibheidigh,  
Baile Ui Hagáin  
County: Armagh  
Course: Pharmacy  
Age: 19



## **Kinga Bartczak**

Home Club: An Eochair Naomh  
Mhic Artáin  
County: Tyrone  
Course: Structural Engineering  
with Architecture  
Age: 20

Mia Doherty



## **Laura Agnew**

Home Club: Naomh Bríd  
County: Antrim  
Course: Biomedical Science  
Age: 19



## **Maeve Mooney**

Home Club: Bhriain Óig Baile Stí  
County: Derry  
Course: Law with Spanish  
Age: 20



## **Megan McShane**

Home Club: Na Cláirsigh Ard  
Mhacha  
County: Armagh  
Course: Actuarial Science and  
Risk Management  
Age: 22



## **Mia Doherty**

Home Club: Léim an Bhradáin  
County: Kildare  
Course: MPharm - Pharmacy  
Age: 21



## **Rosa McCrudden**

Home Club: Conn Mag Aoidh,  
Gleann Fhreibhail  
County: Antrim  
Course: Marine Biology  
Age: 19

BEST OF THE BEST

# PLAYER PROFILES



## Suibhne Gibney

Home Club: Naomh Éanna  
County: Antrim  
Course: Biological sciences  
Age: 20



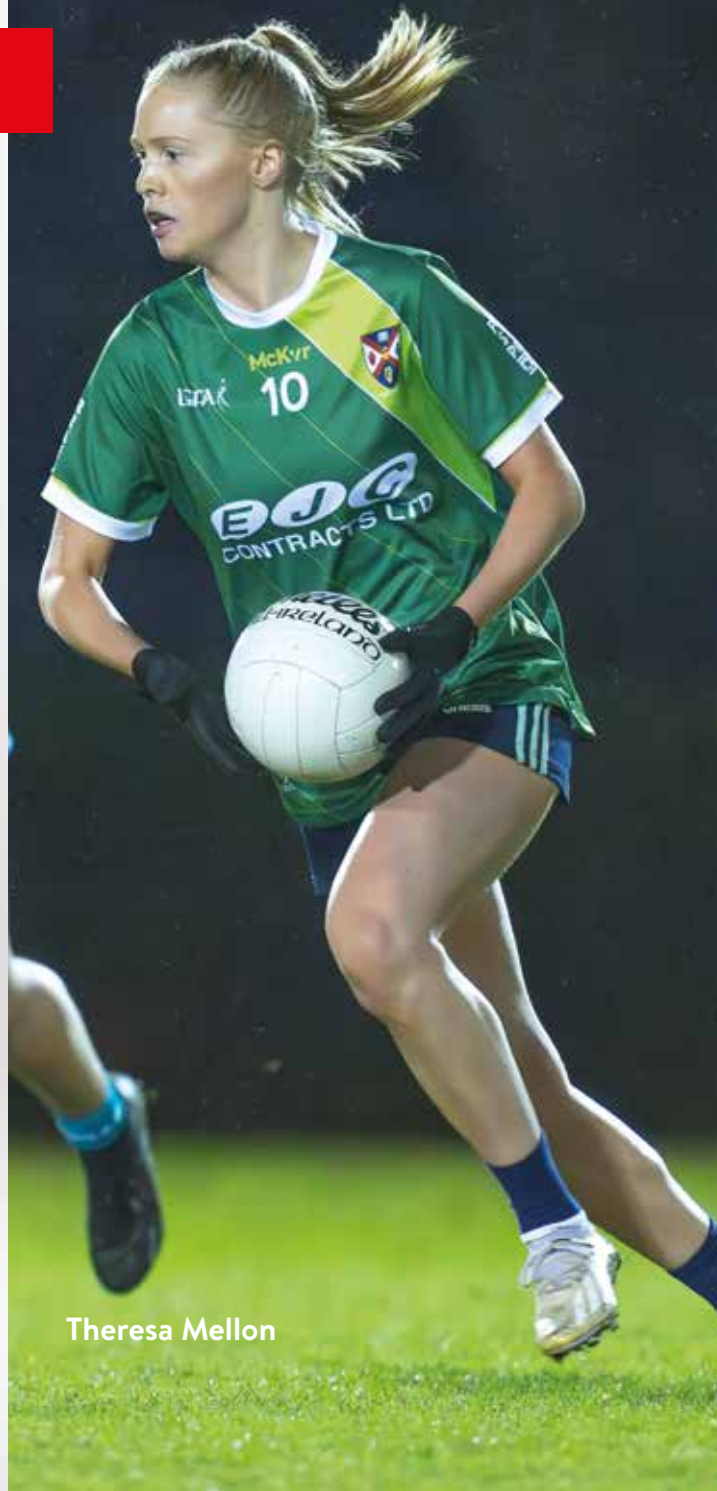
## Tara Conlon

Home Club: Roibeard Eiméid, An Chluain Mhór  
County: Armagh  
Course: Accountancy  
Age: 21



## Theresa Mellon

Home Club: Naomh Bríd  
County: Antrim  
Course: Biomedical Science  
Age: 20



Theresa Mellon

# PLAYER PROFILES

## SIGERSON CUP TEAM



### Adam Crimmins

Home Club: Cumann Naomh Phádraig, Droichead Mhaigh Eo  
County: Down  
Course: Accounting  
Age: 21



### Aidan McCluskey

Home Club: Ó Donnabháin Rosa Machaire Fíolta  
County: Derry  
Course: Actuarial Science  
Age: 22



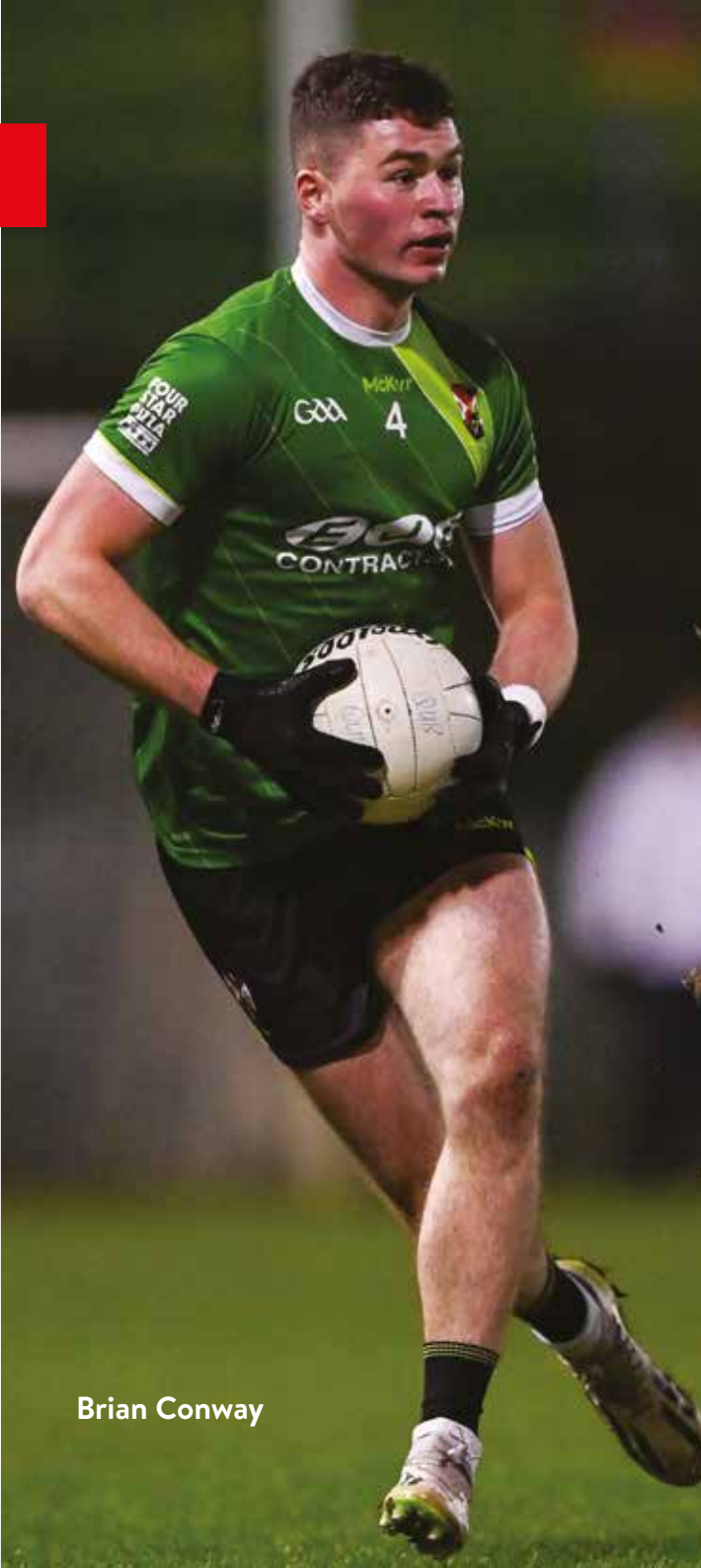
### Anton Tohill

Home Club: Míceal Mhic Dhaibheid Suaitreach  
County: Derry  
Course: Medicine  
Age: 24



### Brian Conway

Home Club: An Charraig Mhór Naomh Colmcille  
County: Tyrone  
Course: MEng Mechanical Engineering  
Age: 22



Brian Conway



### Callum O'Hare

Home Club: Naomh Monínna Cill Sleibhe  
County: Armagh  
Course: Civil Engineering  
Age: 23



### Conall Bohill

Home Club: Naomh Eoin CLG  
County: Antrim  
Course: International Business  
Age: 23



### Conor Kennedy

Home Club: Dún Geanainn Thomáis Uí Cleirigh  
County: Tyrone  
Course: Pharmacy  
Age: 22



### Eoin McFerran

Home Club: Dunloy Cú Chulainn's  
County: Antrim  
Course: Mathematics  
Age: 21



### Fearghal O'Neill

Home Club: Naomh Monínna Cill Sleibhe  
County: Armagh  
Course: Business Management  
Age: 22

BELFAST SPIRITS  
BIG BALLS



# PLAYER PROFILES



## Fionn O'Hara

Home Club: SNaomh Lomáin, An Muileann gCearr  
County: Westmeath  
Course: Psychology  
Age: 22



## Jack Devlin

Home Club: Eoghan Rúa Cill Chua  
County: Down  
Course: Mathematics, Statistics and Operational Research  
Age: 21



## James Gribbin

Home Club: Seán Ó Laoghaire Droichead Nua  
County: Derry  
Course: Dentistry  
Age: 19



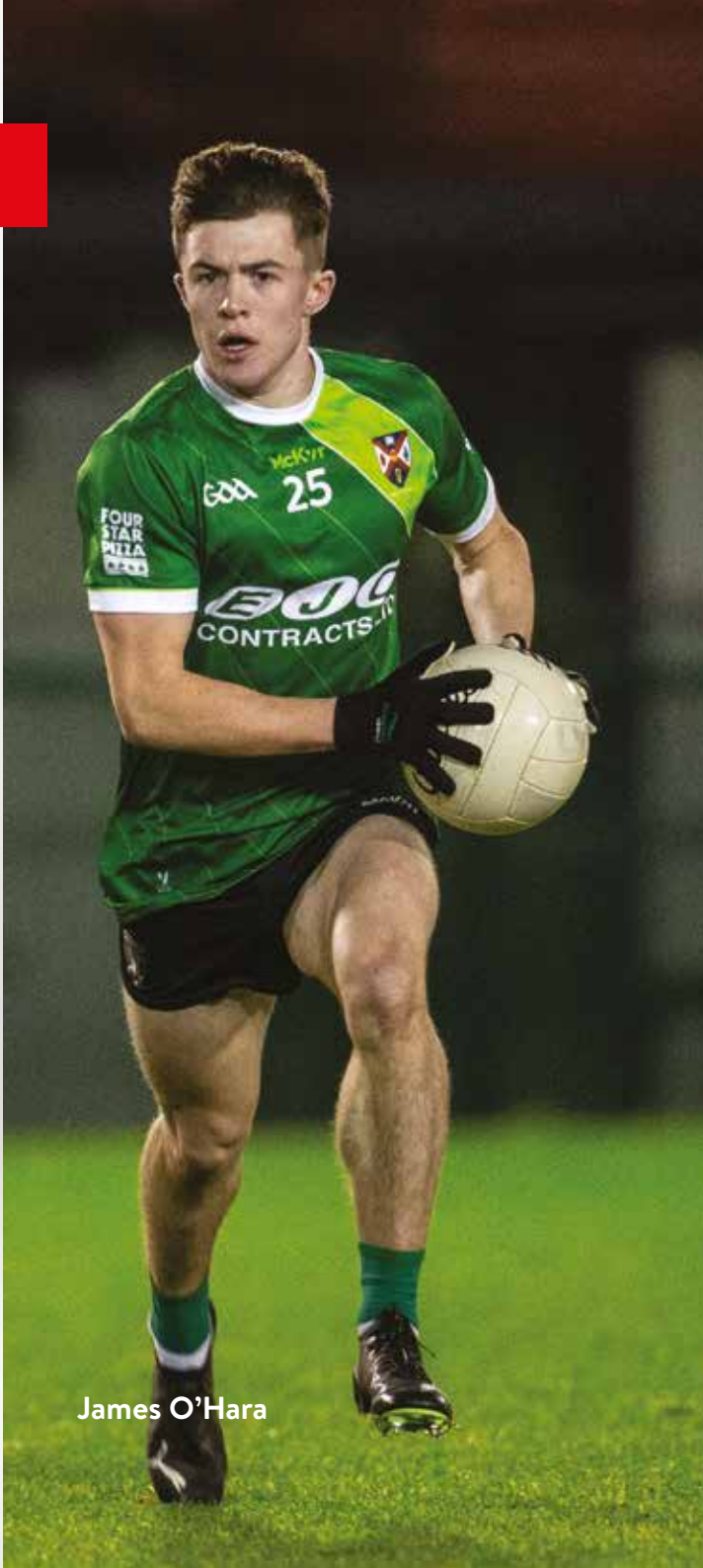
## James O'Hara

Home Club: Micheál Ó Duibhir, An Céide  
County: Armagh  
Course: Economics with Finance  
Age: 21



## Luke Donnelly

Home Club: An Eaglais Naomh Pádraig  
County: Tyrone  
Course: Finance  
Age: 21



James O'Hara



## Luke McManus

Home Club: Na Cláirsigh Mhuineacháin  
County: Monaghan  
Course: Economics and Accounting  
Age: 19



## Matthew Laverty

Home Club: Moy Tír na nÓg  
County: Tyrone  
Course: Finance  
Age: 20



## Matthew Murnaghan

Home Club: CLG Coill an Chlochair Naomh Mhuire  
County: Tyrone  
Course: Mechanical Engineering  
Age: 23



## Neil McCreesh

Home Club: Naomh Pádraig, Coilleach Eanach  
County: Armagh  
Course: Actuary  
Age: 23



## Oran McGrath

Home Club: An Srath Bán Mhic Sioghair  
County: Tyrone  
Course: Biological Sciences  
Age: 21

# PLAYER PROFILES



## Padraig Mitchell

Home Club: CLG An Lúb  
County: Derry  
Course: Civil Engineering  
Age: 23



## Peter McEvoy

Home Club: CLG Chluain Daimh  
County: Down  
Course: Business Management  
Age: 22



## Ronan Cassidy

Home Club: Domhnach Mór  
Naomh Pádraig  
County: Tyrone  
Course: Accounting  
Age: 19



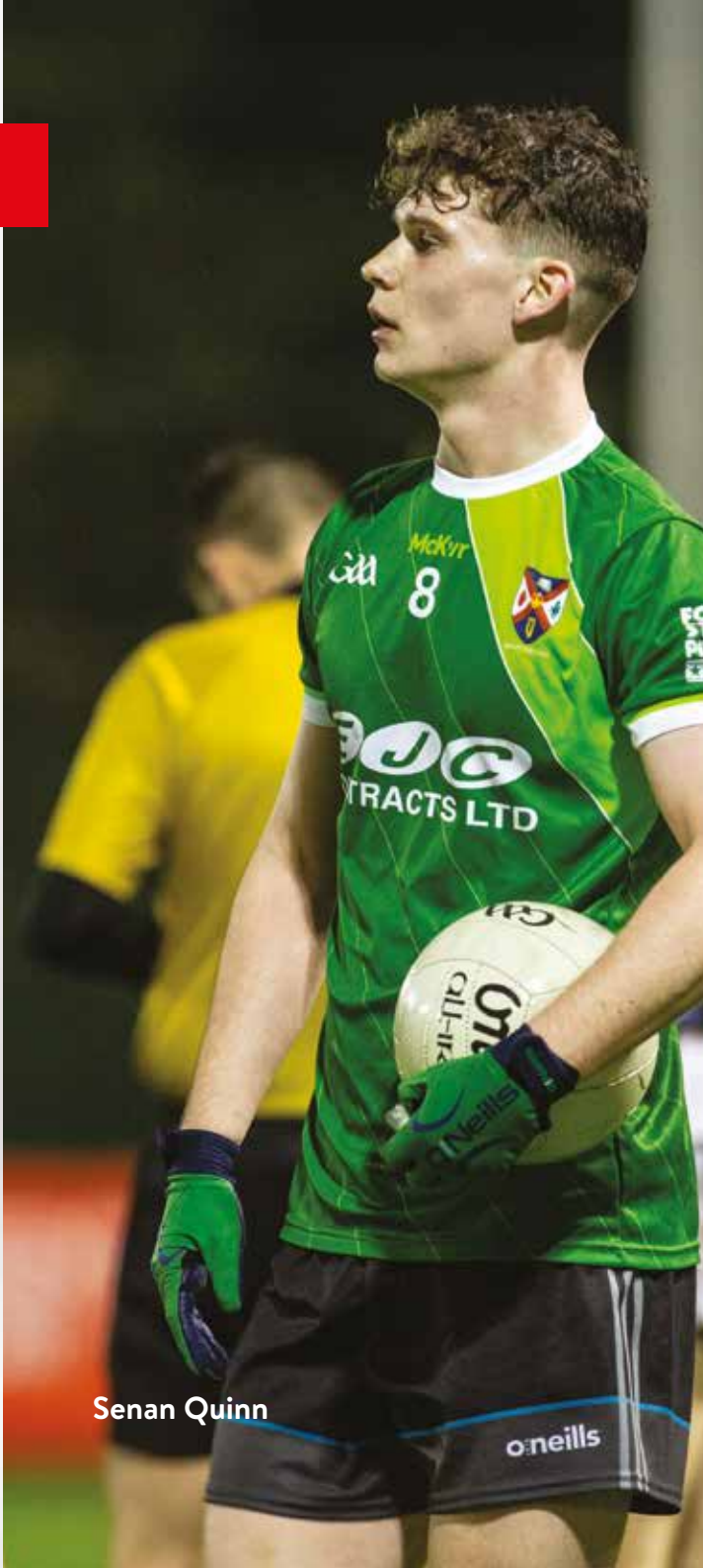
## Ronan O'Neill

Home Club: Naomh Éanna,  
Gleann Ghormlaidhe  
County: Antrim  
Course: Civil Engineering  
Age: 23



## Ronan Rafferty

Home Club: Naomh Maitiú  
Droim Soirn  
County: Derry  
Course: Business IT  
Age: 23



Senan Quinn



## Rory Donnelly

Home Club: An Charraig Mhor  
Naomh Colmcille  
County: Tyrone  
Course: Actuary  
Age: 22



## Rory Quinn

Home Club: CLG Baile Mhic  
Giolla Mhártain  
County: Down  
Course: Dentistry  
Age: 23



## Senan Quinn

Home Club: Na Ceithre Máistir  
County: Donegal  
Course: Applied Maths and Physics  
Age: 20



## Tomas Haigney

Home Club: Naomh Éanna An  
Ómaigh  
County: Tyrone  
Course: Actuary  
Age: 19

BELFAST SPIRITUALS  
GOALS



# SUPPORT STAFF

## Student and Campus Life

### Head of Delegation

**Liz McLaughlin**

Interim Director Student and Campus Life

### Working Group Chair

**Karl Oakes**

Head of Sport and Physical Wellbeing

### Performance Sport

**Aidan O'Rourke**

Performance Sport Manager

### Operational Group Chair

**Paddy Gilmore**

Development and Engagement Manager

### Participation Sport

**Kevin Murray**

Participation Sport Manager

## Coaching Staff

### Ladies Gaelic Football

**Sarah Marley**

Head Coach

### Ladies Gaelic Football

**Sean Fleming**

Support Coach

### Gaelic Football

**Conor Deegan**

Head Coach

### Gaelic Football

**John McAteer**

Support Coach

### GAA Development

**Gavan Duffy**

GAA Development Officer

## Support Staff

### **Ruairi Taylor**

Performance Sport Development Officer

### **Naomi Campbell**

Performance Sport Assistant

### **Shea McAleer**

Lead Physiotherapist

### **Mike McGurn**

Performance Coach

### **Paul Curry**

Operations and Compliance Manager

### **Conor McCullagh**

Digital Communications Officer





# GAA ACADEMY

The GAA Academy at Queen's is one of five established academies to support the University's strategically important sports. This approach allows Queen's Sport – supported by our alumni through the Sean O'Neill Foundation – to invest the necessary resources to help Gaelic games thrive as part of campus life and the overall student experience.

Our clubs, teams and athletes, are supported with a full-time development officer, coaching, sports science, athletic development, physio and medical expertise, plus other services, to put our teams at every level on a competitive footing. The GAA Academy structure also funds scholarships that reinforce recruitment and supports our students as they try to balance the demands of studying while playing football for Queen's and their county.

Queen's GAA are very proud of our tradition of nurturing some of the best players in the country across many decades and the successes they enjoyed with us, and after graduation. That thread of development includes some of the greatest players of each generation.

In the men's game that reaches from Sean O'Neill in the 50s through All-Ireland winning teams from Down, Derry, Armagh and Tyrone to the present day. In the Women's game it includes luminaries such as Gemma Begley, Caroline O'Hanlon and Gráinne McNally. There are too many in both codes to mention.

The GAA Academy aspires to deliver the best possible student experience at Queen's.

To support the ongoing work of the GAA Academy through the Sean O'Neill foundation, please scan the QR code or visit:  
[qub.ac.uk/make-a-gift-to-queens](http://qub.ac.uk/make-a-gift-to-queens)



# QUEEN'S GAA CLUBS

It has been 40 years since Queen's GAA last embarked on a sports tour.

The tour of 1984 was a strong statement by young students determined to promote Queen's GAA to a wider audience and to provide the members with lasting memories – many of whom retain a close bond with our club.

This year's tour has generated great excitement amongst the students and the preparation and planning has been a great experience for everyone involved.

We are grateful that the University has recognised this opportunity to bring our students and stories to an international audience and the wider engagement possibilities for Queen's. I would particularly like to thank Queen's Sport, under the leadership of Karl Oakes, for driving this project from its inception.

With over 500 student members, Queen's GAA currently fields 15 teams across the gamut of Gaelic sports. Our clubs have gone from strength to strength in recent years, having secured five All-Ireland titles in the

past year alone, and over 60 students representing their counties at various levels. We will continue to develop and promote Gaelic games at Queen's building on previous O'Connor and Sigerson Cup legacies and give today's students those exceptional experiences as Queen's women and men.

This year is especially significant as we celebrate a century of competing in the prestigious Sigerson Cup, a testament to our enduring legacy and passion for Gaelic games within Queen's University.

This tour of New York and Boston marks a monumental occasion in our club's illustrious history and one that I, as GAA officer at Queen's, am delighted to be part of. This is a special occasion for those involved in the tour, the wider club, and all those who have gone before us, to whom the club will always be grateful.

Is mise

**Gavan Duffy**  
GAA Development Officer  
Student and Campus Life





# QUEEN'S GAA PAST MEMBERS' UNION

Since the establishment of Queen's GAA clubs back in the 1930s, we have embarked on some significant projects over the years, but none as ambitious as the forthcoming tour of the US. This summer marks 40 years since the Gaelic footballers first ventured across the Atlantic in the GAA's Centenary Year for a visit to New York, Boston and Philadelphia, with a touring party of 42, and on a budget of £30,000.

For past members who were part of the club back then, it still ranks as a highlight at a time when they were enjoying success on the field of play. Four years later, the hurlers did likewise.

Many of those who were part of the 1984 tour were founding members of the Past Members' Union in 1990 and still maintain strong connections to the club.

Four decades later, so much has changed. With our present students as ambassadors for Queen's, they will set their sights on a bigger sporting, cultural, social and academic project that will promote the University and our clubs, build old and new connections amongst our alumni, past members and the GAA communities on the US East Coast.

**Jack Devaney**  
Cathaoirleach, QUB GAA PMU.



# PAST MEMBERS' TESTIMONIALS

I am **Lauryn Hollywood** from Greencastle, Co Tyrone. I studied Finance at Queen's and first moved to NYC in 2019 for my placement year where I worked as an Intern at Prudential Financial. After my graduation in 2021, I moved back to NYC and where I now work as a Senior Investment Analyst at Prudential.

I play for O'Donovan Rossa Ladies (ODR). Living and working in NYC is hectic, so it takes huge sacrifices of time and commitment to play. GAA clubs are the life and soul of the Irish

community and I have tried to get involved as much as possible on and off the field. Last year I captained ODR to victory in the New York Junior Championship and this year I have taken on the role of Vice Chairperson.

Working in New York is incredible. The opportunities here are endless if you are willing to work for them, and the competitive nature of the city truly does push you to be your best. But it's not all hard work, New Yorkers definitely know the meaning of the phrase "work hard play hard"!





# PAST MEMBERS TESTIMONIALS

I'm **Mick Cunningham**, from Castlewellan. I attended Queen's from 2012 to 2016 and played on three Sigerson campaigns. I also played for Down before moving to the States in 2017. Here I play for Brooklyn Shamrocks, and also played for two years with New York. I'm a Goalkeeper. I was playing for New York last year when we made history on penalties as the first New York team to win a Connacht Championship match - it was an unbelievable evening in the Bronx!

I did the conversion masters in Software Development and learned at

Queen's that the team environment, the commitment, and the dedication necessary to manage your studies as well as your sporting endeavours are transferable to business life. Currently, I'm a Co-Founder and Chief Technology Officer at Zelta AI.

Living and working in New York is unreal, just the buzz of the city is so infectious. Despite missing some home comforts, making the move has been one of the best decisions I have ever made!



**Shane Bolger** is my name, and I am a proud Queen's University Belfast Alumni. I hail from Killeshin, County Laois where we have a small tightknit rural GAA Club.

Queen's GAA Club supported me with finding my feet and introducing me to the Sigerson players. They welcomed me immediately and after one night out in The Points, I felt like part of the team. Special shout out to Tiarnan Bogue!

Working as a Project Manager in the Big Apple can be tough, as it's a fast-paced construction industry. My

success so far would not have been possible without undergoing a fantastic year at QUB on the Masters course.

I have been involved with New York GAA at senior intercounty level and Brooklyn Shamrocks at senior club level. I recently played at corner back v Mayo in the Connaught SFC. We are now looking forward to playing in the Tailteann Cup prelim quarter final which involves a trip back to Ireland as we did versus Carlow last year.



# THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS / PARTNERS

Queen's Sport would like to acknowledge the support and co-operation of the many sponsors and partners whose various contributions have made this tour possible. Your support of Queen's GAA teams throughout the year and specifically for this tour, is hugely appreciated by everyone involved with the club and Queen's Sport.

We are particularly indebted to our colleagues at Northeastern University whose generosity and support has been critical to the planning and delivery of this tour.

We would like to thank them for making their facilities, resources, and excellent staff team available and for helping us plan such a memorable experience for our students. Likewise, we would like to thank the team at the Irish Cultural Centre in Boston for their generosity in making their excellent venue available and putting together such an extensive programme.

To the many others whose support and encouragement have made this tour possible, thank you all for helping create such a special opportunity for our students.



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