



www.USGAA.org

2026 Finals Issue
SPECIAL EDITION

NUAUGHT



Gaelic Football - Hurling - Camogie - LGF

2026 Finals Welcome Address

USGAA Chair Paul Keane

On behalf of USGAA it gives me great pleasure to welcome everyone to this weekend's USGAA Finals at the Irish Cultural Centre in Canton.

Our finals are traditionally the culmination of our Championship season, and this year is no different. Throughout the Summer, clubs have been playing Divisional Championships or qualifying games in order to reach this weekend. And now we will see close to 100 games take place over a period of about 58 hours, to find out which 20 teams will be crowned 2026 USGAA Champions.



This level of activity wouldn't be possible without the fine facility offered by the Irish Cultural Centre, and the tireless work of the Boston Host Committee led by Ollie Garry, Sharon Brady and Ellen Joyce, and we thank them for all they have done to ensure this weekend is successful. USGAA Finals have grown exponentially since the 1996 edition was hosted in Boston's Dilboy Stadium, with a total of just 25 adult games taking place. This growth of our Finals has created even more work for Host Committee's, which is something that should never be taken for granted, and which does need to be reviewed on an ongoing basis.



Continued inside

Away from our Finals, 2026 was a historic year for USGAA, for a number of reasons:

- Our Men's Football team reached the All-Ireland Junior Final in Croke Park early in July;
- Later in July, USGAA players formed a record 33 teams participating in the World Games in Waterford;
- USGAA Minor teams took on New York in Boys and Girls Football matches – these games are Phase II of the Youth Development Camps launched in 2025, and will develop the players of future USGAA Finals;
- By the years end, almost 60 tournaments will have been hosted by clubs or divisions across the country – providing this number of meaningful games to an ever-increasing number of players, is key to our growth.

All of these achievements would not be possible without the thousands of volunteers who put hours of their time into coaching, supporting, refereeing, organizing and administering our games across the country throughout the year – and we owe them a debt of gratitude for their commitment and dedication.

Finally, I also welcome representatives of our parent organizations, our sponsors, and our partners – your support has been instrumental in the continued growth of Gaelic Games throughout the United States.

Best wishes to all for a successful and enjoyable weekend.



2026 Finals Host Committee Welcome Address



Dear Players, Coaches, Families, Supporters, Officials, and Friends,

On behalf of the Boston Northeast Host Committee, it is our great pleasure to welcome you to the Greater Boston area and the Irish Cultural Centre of Greater Boston in Canton, Massachusetts, for the 2026 USGAA Finals.

We are honored to host this premier championship event and to welcome more than 117 teams from across North America for what promises to be an unforgettable weekend of Gaelic games, camaraderie, and celebration. The USGAA Finals represent the very best of our Association, bringing together athletes, volunteers, supporters, and families who share a passion for our games and our Irish heritage.

The Irish Cultural Centre serves as a cornerstone of Irish culture in New England and provides an exceptional setting for this year's championship weekend. Throughout the event, the grounds will be filled with the excitement of competition, the spirit of sportsmanship, and the traditions that make the Gaelic Athletic Association such an important part of our communities.

During your three days at the Irish Cultural Centre, we invite you to experience all that the venue has to offer beyond the playing fields. Enjoy great food and refreshments throughout the weekend, relax and gather with friends and teammates while taking in live entertainment on the outdoor patio, and participate in a special Handball Demonstration showcasing one of Ireland's oldest sporting traditions. We also encourage you to visit the many informational and cultural tents located throughout the grounds, including those hosted by the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH), Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians (LAOH), the Irish Pastoral Centre, and the Irish Cultural Centre, where you can learn more about the organizations that help preserve and promote Irish heritage and community across New England.

The success of an event of this scale depends upon the dedication of countless volunteers, club members, sponsors, officials, and organizers. We extend our sincere gratitude to everyone whose hard work and commitment have made this championship weekend possible.

To all participating teams, we wish you safe travels, great competition, and lasting memories. May you enjoy a weekend filled with friendship, pride, and excellence both on and off the field.

Thank you for being part of this remarkable gathering of the USGAA community. We are delighted to welcome you to Boston and look forward to sharing a memorable championship weekend with you.

Fáilte go Boston and best of luck to all competitors!

Friday Match Schedule

Field A	Field B	Field C	Field D	Field E
8:00 Jr D Football Q/Final 3 CAYMAN ISLANDS 'B' (SE) v DENVER GAELS 'B' (SW)	Jr D Hurling Q/Final 4 AUGUSTA (SE) v PITTSBURGH PUCAS 'B' (MW)	Jr D Football Preliminary 2 COLUMBIA RED BRANCH (NW) v INDIANAPOLIS (HE)	Jr D Football Q/Final 4 MICHAEL COLLINS (MA) v RALEIGH CU CHULAINN (SE)	
9:25 Jr B Ladies Q/Final 1 CAYMAN ISLANDS (SE) v BOSTON SHAMROCKS 'B' (NE)	Mens Jr C F/Ball Q/Final 2 NASHVILLE (SE) v DALLAS FIONN MACCUMHAILLS 'B' (SW)	Jr D Football Q/Final 2 ALBANY REBELS (MW) v JAMES JOYCE (HE)	Jr C Hurling Q/Final 2 DC GAELS (MA) v MILWAUKEE (HE)	Jr C Hurling Q/Final 1 RICHMOND BATTERY (MA) v JERSEY SHORE (PH)
10:50 Mens Jr A F/Ball Q/Final 4 DONEGAL 'C' (HE) v PATRIOTS (CH)	Jr A Hurling SW PLAY-IN DENVER GAELS v ST. PETERS	Jr D Hurling Q/Final 1 COLUMBIA RED BRANCH (NW) v INDIANAPOLIS 'B' (HE)	Jr D Football Preliminary 1 SEATTLE GAELS (NW) v MILTOWN GAELS (HE)	Jr B Ladies Q/Final 2 AUSTIN CELTIC COWBOYS (SW) v CLEVELAND ST. PATS-ST. JARLATHS (MW)
12:15 Mens Jr A F/Ball Q/Final 3 PITTSBURGH CELTICS (MW) v DALLAS FIONN MACCUMHAILLS (SW)		Jr C Hurling Q/Final 3 HARTFORD (NE) v INDIANAPOLIS (HE)	Jr C Ladies Q/Final 3 SEATTLE GAELS (NW) v DC GAELS (MA)	Mens Jr C F/Ball Q/Final 3 HOUSTON GAELS (SW) v BALTIMORE BOHEMIANS (MA)
1:40 Mens Jr A F/Ball Q/Final 2 LA COUGARS (SW) v CAYMAN ISLANDS (SE)	Jr B Camogie Q/Final 1 RALEIGH CU CHULAINN (SE) v WORCESTER FENIANS (NE)	Jr D Hurling Q/Final 3 MILWAUKEE HURLING CLUB (HE) v DENVER GAELS 'B' (SW)	Jr D Hurling Q/Final 2 NA TORAIDHE 'B' (PH) v SEATTLE GAELS (NW)	Jr C Ladies Q/Final 1 HARTFORD (NE) v MADISON (HE)
3:05 Mens Int. F/Ball Q/Final 1 DONEGAL 'B' (HE) v KEVIN BARRYS (PH)	Jr B Hurling Q/Final 1 TWIN CITIES ROBERT EMMETTS (HE) v RALEIGH CU CHULAINN (SE)	Jr C Ladies Q/Final 2 DALLAS FIONN MACCUMHAILLS (SW) v INDIANAPOLIS (HE)		Jr A Ladies Q/Final 1 CONNAUGHT LADIES (NE) v ST. BRENDANS (NE)
4:30 Mens Jr A F/Ball Q/Final 1 DONEGAL 'B' (PH) v DENVER GAELS (SW)	Mens Jr B F/Ball Q/Final 2 CLEVELAND ST. PATS-ST. JARLATHS (MW) v SETANTA, SAN DIEGO 'B' (SW)	Jr D Football Q/Final 1 Seattle Gaels/Miltown Gaels v Columbia Red Branch/Indianapolis	Mens Jr C F/Ball Q/Final 1 PITTSBURGH CELTICS 'B' (MW) v HARTFORD/TRINITY MILTON (NE)	Mens Jr B F/Ball Q/Final 1 AUSTIN CELTIC COWBOYS 'B' (SW) v CHARLOTTE JAMES CONNOLLYS (SE)

Division

CH = Chicago, HE = Heartland, MA = Midatlantic, MW = Midwest, NE = Northeast, NW = Northwest, PH = Philadelphia, SE = Southeast, SW = Southwest, WE = Western

Draft Version: 081126

Saturday Match Schedule

Field A	Field B	Field C	Field D	Field E
7:30 Jr A Camogie S/Final 1 MADISON (HE) v CLEVELAND ST. PATS-ST. JARLATHS (MW)	Mens Jr C F/Ball S/Final 2 Nashville/Dallas Fionn MacCumhail's 'B' v Houston Gaels/Baltimore Bohemians	Jr C Hurling S/Final 1 ATLANTA CLAN NA GAEL (SE) v Hartford/Indianapolis	Jr A Ladies S/Final 1 Connacht Ladies/St. Brendans v NOTRE DAMES (PH)	Jr A Hurling S/Final 2 PITTSBURGH PUCAS (MW) v MICHAEL CUSACKS 'B' (CH)
8:55 Jr B Hurling S/Final 1 Twin Cities Robert Emmetts/Raleigh Cu Chulainn v CLEVELAND ST. PATS-ST. JARLATHS (MW)	Jr A Hurling S/Final 1 LA HURLING (SW) v St. Peters/Denver Gaels	Jr B Camogie S/Final 2 SEATTLE GAELS (NW) v MIDATLANTIC		Mens Jr B F/Ball S/Final 2 DC GAELS (MA) v LOS SAN PATRICIOS, MEXICO
10:20 Mens Jr A F/Ball S/Final 2 Pittsburgh Celtics/Dallas Fionn MacCumhail's v Donegal/Patriots	Int. Camogie S/Final 2 NA TORAIDHE (PH) v INDIANAPOLIS (HE)	Jr B Ladies S/Final 1 Cayman Islands/Boston Shamrocks 'B' v Austin Celtic Cowboys/Cleveland St. Pat's-St. Jarlath's	Jr A Camogie S/Final 2 ST. MARYS 'B' (CH) v MILWAUKEE (HE)	Jr B Hurling S/Final 2 JOSEPH MARY PLUNKETTS (WE) v WORCESTER FENIANS (NE)
11:45 Mens Int. F/Ball S/Final 2 PEARSE'S 'B' (CH) v SETANTA, SAN DIEGO (SW)	Int. Camogie S/Final 2 ATLANTA CLANN NA GAEL (SE) v TWIN CITIES ROBERT EMMETTS (HE)	Jr D Hurling S/Final 1 Columbia Red Branch/Indianapolis v Na Toraide 'B'/Seattle Gaels	Jr D Hurling S/Final 2 Milwaukee Hurling/Denver Gaels 'B' v Augusta/Pittsburgh Pucas 'B'	Jr A Ladies S/Final 2 AISLING GAELS (CH) v FOG CITY HARPS 'B' (WE)
1:10 Int Ladies S/Final 1 CLAN NA GAEL (WE) v PITTSBURGH BANSHIES (MW)	Mens Int. F/Ball S/Final 1 Donegal 'B' (NE)/Kevin Barry's v AUSTIN CELTIC COWBOYS (SW)	Jr B Ladies S/Final 2 DENVER GAELS (SW) v ERINS ROVERS (CH)		Int Ladies S/Final 2 BOSTON SHAMROCKS (NE) v CHARLOTTE JAMES CONNOLLYS (SE)
2:35 Int Hurling S/Final 2 NA TORAIDHE (PH) v MICHAEL CUSACKS (CH)	Mens Jr B F/Ball S/Final 1 Austin Celtic Cowboys 'B'/Charlotte James Connollys v Cleveland St. Pat's-St. Jarlath's/Setanta San Diego 'B'	Jr D Football S/Final 1 Seattle Gaels/Miltown Gaels/Columbia Red Branch/Indianapolis v Albany Rebels/James Joyce		Mens Jr A F/Ball S/Final 1 Donegal 'B' (PH)/Denver Gaels v LA COUGARS/Cayman Islands
4:00 Mens Jr B F/Ball S/Final 2 PEARSE'S (CH) v DONEGAL (PH)	Mens Jr C F/Ball S/Final 1 Pittsburgh Celtics 'B'/Hartford/Trinity Milton v DELCO GAELS 'B' (PH)	Jr B Camogie S/Final 1 DENVER GAELS (SW) v Raleigh Cu Chulainn/Worcester	Jr C Ladies S/Final 1 Hartford/Madison v Dallas Fionn MacCumhail's/Indianapolis	Jr C Hurling S/Final 1 Richmond Battery/Jersey Shore v DC Gaels/Milwaukee Hurling
5:25 Mens Jr A F/Ball S/Final 1 ULSTER (WE) v GALWAY (NE)	Jr Camogie S/Final 1 CUCHULAINN (WE) v ST. MARYS (CH)	Jr D Football S/Final 2 Cayman Islands 'B'/Denver Gaels 'B' v Michael Collins/Raleigh Cu Chulainn	Jr C Ladies S/Final 2 Seattle Gaels/DC Gaels v PITTSBURGH BANSHIES 'B' (MW)	Int Hurling S/Final 1 AUSTIN CELTIC COWBOYS (SW) v FR. TOMS (NE)

Division

CH = Chicago, HE = Heartland, MA = Midatlantic, MW = Midwest, NE = Northeast, NW = Northwest, PH = Philadelphia, SE = Southeast, SW = Southwest, WE = Western

Draft Version: 081126

Map of Facilities



Handball to be included in USGAA finals for first time

Paul Fitzpatrick, Gaelic Games Journalist



Handball will break new ground in the United States this weekend when the sport is included at the USGAA Finals in Boston for the first time.

The initiative is the latest step in a growing relationship between the handball and wider GAA communities in the US, with a concerted effort now being made to link existing GAA clubs with handball organisations in areas where both have a strong presence.

A One-Wall court will be in place at the USGAA Finals, allowing players and supporters from across the country to watch exhibition matches and try the game for themselves.

Among those in attendance will be leading professional Martin Mulkerrins, his wife Eilish, former world champion Killian Carroll and leading American player Jeff Streibig.

Rob Tierney, Head of Operations with USA GAA, believes the finals provide an ideal stage on which to introduce the sport to a new audience.

“We’re thrilled to bring Handball to the USGAA Finals for the very first time. As one of the GAA’s codes, Handball has a proud tradition, and bringing it to Boston gives us a fantastic opportunity to showcase the sport to a wider audience. The USGAA Finals bring together players and supporters from across the country, so it’s a great platform to give handball wider exposure and encourage more people to experience it.

“We’re excited to build on this first demonstration and look forward to seeing Handball become a growing part of USGAA activities and programming.”

The Boston showcase is not an isolated initiative but the product of approximately two years of work between USGAA and the United States Handball Association (USHA), culminating in a formal Memorandum of Understanding between the organisations.

Matt Kreuger, Executive Director of USGAA, sees the link-up as an opportunity to reconnect a traditional GAA sport with the large network of Gaelic games clubs across America.

“Handball is one of the GAA’s legacy sports, with generations of history and tradition behind it, so having a presence at the USGAA Finals is an important step in reconnecting the game with GAA clubs across the United States.

“The Finals give us an opportunity not only to showcase handball, but to let people experience the game firsthand and see how easily it can become part of their own clubs and communities. We hope Boston serves as a starting point for building a stronger handball presence within USGAA communities across the country.”

One of the driving forces behind the project has been Galway native Mulkerrins, a leading player on the WPH Tour and handball coach at Texas A&M University.

Along with his wife Eilish, he has been working closely with USGAA and USHA to find practical ways of integrating handball into established GAA clubs.

“Eilish and I have been working on collaborative projects with USGAA and USHA for around two years now. Rob Tierney and USGAA have been very supportive throughout,” Mulkerrins explained. “There have been great success stories so far including Eilish and one of our Texas A&M Colleagues, Kayla Jones, attending and presenting at the USGAA National Convention in Nashville last year which also coincided with starting of the MOU between USGAA and USHA.

“Eilish and I ran a pilot program with the Celtic Cowboys in Austin after that last Autumn and Diarmuid and Aoife also supported it; St. Louis GAA have made great strides with Handball and have built a great relationship with the new US National Handball Center and had a winter league there earlier this year and they also participated in Handball at the World GAA Games; San Francisco and San Diego are also doing great work over the past year with organising Handball events and coaching juniors and adults.”

Those developments point towards a potentially important model for handball in the US. Rather than attempting to build completely separate structures from scratch, the sport can tap into established GAA clubs, facilities and communities while existing handball clubs and centres can provide the expertise and coaching required to get programmes up and running.

The partnership received another significant boost when handball was included at the recent GAA World Games in Waterford, where St Louis were among the USGAA clubs to participate. Mulkerrins believes the appearance at the USGAA Finals can now build on that momentum.

“It's great to see the growing integration of Handball into the USGAA family. Handball featuring at the USGAA National Finals in Boston this weekend is a hugely positive step forward for our sport, building on the strong work USGAA and the USHA have done together over the past couple of years. It also has real potential to build momentum for the plans for expanded Handball pilot programs with USGAA Clubs this winter.”

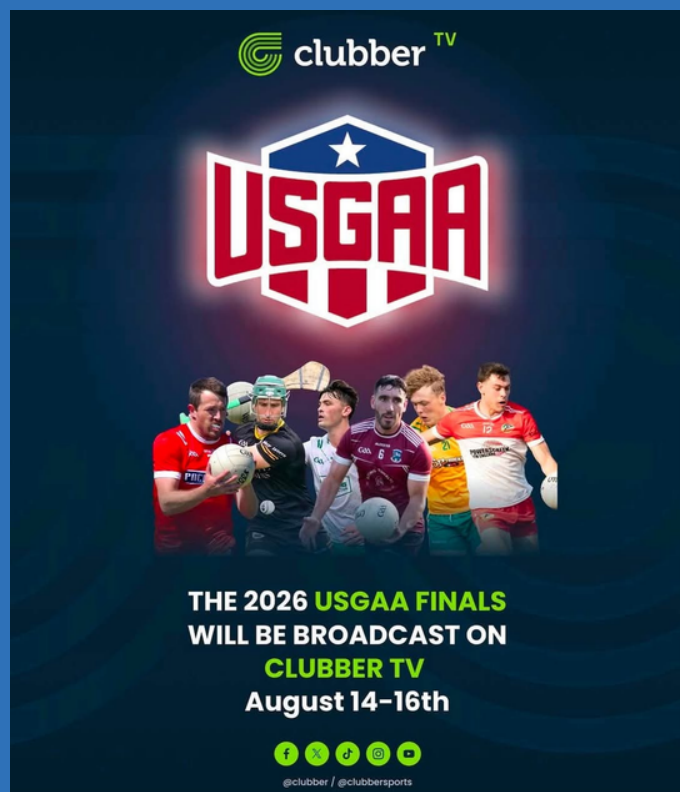
The significance of Boston, therefore, goes beyond the exhibition itself. With hundreds of Gaelic games players, administrators and supporters gathering for one of the biggest weekends on the USGAA calendar, handball will have an opportunity to put itself directly in front of clubs from across the country.

Masita Gear Available for Purchase



Sportswear manufacturer Masita has continued their generous support of the USGAA, and will have a range of gear available exclusively for the event. Visit the Masita tent at the ICC in Canton to pick up your favorite kit this weekend!

USGAA and Clubber TV Team Up to Take American GAA Global



Clubber will provide exclusive worldwide coverage of the USGAA Finals in Boston from 14-16 August, alongside select competitions throughout the season.

Sports streaming service Clubber TV and the United States Gaelic Athletic Association (USGAA) have announced a partnership which will showcase the very best of Gaelic games to fans around the world. The partnership will also see Clubber become a sponsor of the upcoming USGAA Finals in Boston.

The announcement comes at a time of significant growth and momentum for Gaelic games across the US and the wider Americas, as exemplified by the participation of 2,000 youth players in the recent Continental Youth Championship in Philadelphia.

Club teams across the US have often attracted some of the leading talent from Ireland, who join a strong US player-base, with this year's competition being no different. The likes of Darragh McMullen, Senan Baker and Finnbarr Roarty have all participated in this season's competition, joining homegrown American players - many of whom played for USGAA in the recent All-Ireland Junior Final in Croke Park.

The event in Boston will attract more than 4,000 people, with around half of these attendees made up of players from across 112 teams. For the USGAA, the agreement with Clubber represents an important step in showcasing the scale and quality of Gaelic games in America, while giving supporters around the world the opportunity to follow the action.

Paul Keane, Chairperson of the USGAA, said:

“USGAA has become a vital part of both the global Gaelic games community, and the Irish communities in the US, with competitions across the Americas providing opportunities for players of all ages and levels to participate, compete and represent their communities.

“This new partnership with Clubber will help build on that momentum by giving the USGAA Championships a dedicated global streaming platform, allowing supporters who cannot attend games in person to follow the action live.

“It will also provide clubs and competitions an opportunity to reach new audiences and showcase the talent, passion and community spirit that continues to drive the growth of Gaelic games across the Americas.”

Jimmy Doyle, CEO of Clubber TV, said:

“Clubber has always been totally committed to supporting the growth of GAA, both in Ireland and now further afield. In recent weeks we have showcased brilliant matches in Boston and San Francisco, and this partnership will further showcase the exceptional quality and talent of the game in the US. This comes at a time where we are showing more than 100 GAA matches from Ireland a week, to be able to add this competition to our portfolio gives our viewers access to even more exceptional GAA entertainment.”

The USGAA Championships will be available to watch live on Clubber TV, with further details of fixtures, coverage and access to be announced ahead of the championships.

Championship Cups Named for USGAA Legends

In advance of its forthcoming National Finals, USGAA today announced the naming of a number of National Championships after individuals who contributed to Gaelic Games in the US.

This continues USGAA's goal of acknowledging the important contributions of many individuals to the growth of Gaelic Games in the US. In line with recent years, past members will be honored by the commemoration of different championship trophies with their names in recognition of their service to the organization.

"While Gaelic Games in the US has grown exponentially in the last 20 years, without the dedication and work of our past members, the foundations for that growth would not have existed", said USGAA Chairperson Paul Keane. "As we continue to develop and expand as an organization, it is only fitting that we recognize the importance of their contributions to our success."

Those remembered in 2026 are:

Mickey Coyne, Boston, MA – Junior A Hurling

Howard Elbert, Pittsburgh, PA – Junior C Ladies Gaelic Football

Joe McGinn, Philadelphia, PA – Junior C Hurling



Mickey Coyne



Howard Elbert



Joe McGinn

Championship Cups Named for USGAA Legends

Mickey Coyne
(1933-2009)
Junior A Hurling

Mickey Coyne was born in Creggs, Co. Roscommon.

For more than 40 years he made his home in Arlington, Massachusetts, where he worked as a real estate agent with Bowes Realty.

A proud and dedicated member of the GAA community, Mickey gave many years of service to Gaelic Games in Boston and across North America. He served as a Trustee of the Northeast Divisional Board, Registrar of the Boston GAA, and Treasurer of the North American County Board from 2002–2006. He was also a former member of the Cork and Roscommon football clubs and a member of Knights of Columbus Council 109.

Mickey was a familiar and much-loved presence around the GAA grounds, regularly attending hurling and football matches in Canton and, before that, at Dilboy Stadium in Somerville. Known for his great sense of humor and his stories of the GAA through the years, he had a deep knowledge and genuine love of Gaelic Games and the community surrounding them.

Despite making his life in Massachusetts, Mickey always kept a close eye on the games back home and frequently returned to Ireland to attend matches. A proud Roscommon man, he took particular pleasure in the great Roscommon team that captured four consecutive Connacht Senior Football Championships from 1977 through 1980, one of the great periods in the county's football history.

Mickey was the devoted husband of Mary (née Fitzmaurice), originally from Ballygar, and proud father of Fiona, Michael and Thomas. Members of the Coyne family will join us on Sunday to present the cup that now proudly bears Mickey's name.

The Mickey Coyne Cup is a fitting tribute to a man who gave so much of his time to the GAA and whose friendship, humor and love of Gaelic Games left a lasting mark on the community. His name will now continue to be part of the games and the GAA community he cherished.

Championship Cups Named for USGAA Legends

Howard Elbert
(1946-2025)
Junior C Ladies Gaelic Football

Howard Elbert was born in Pittsburgh, PA.

There's an old Irish saying about judging a man by the company he keeps, and by that measure Howard Elbert was truly remarkable. Known affectionately to generations of GAA members simply as "H," Howard was a man surrounded by friends and admirers, built through decades of service, friendship and commitment to Gaelic Games.

Howard joined the Pittsburgh Celtics in 1984 at the age of 36—an age when many players might have been thinking about hanging up their boots. Instead, Howard was just getting started. A forward, he described himself with his trademark self-deprecating humor as “a finesse player who could win with smarts and guile, and was dead accurate.” He played until 1988 before moving into coaching and later becoming an accomplished referee, travelling throughout the Midwest Division to officiate games.

But Howard's contribution extended far beyond the playing field. A true GAA lifer, he served the Pittsburgh Celtics as Chairperson, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary throughout the 1980s and '90s, represented the club at numerous NACB—now USGAA—Conventions, and continued to accept positions on the club board whenever his experience and leadership were needed.

Howard also played a part in an important moment in the growth of Gaelic Games in Pittsburgh. In 2002, he chaired the meeting at which the Pittsburgh Banshees were formed, beginning another chapter in the city's GAA story.

At divisional level, Howard served the Midwest GAA as Chairperson, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. He was a tireless advocate for the Midwest and its clubs and was never afraid to champion their interests at NACB meetings and conventions.

Across decades as a player, coach, referee, administrator and advocate, Howard embodied what it means to give back to the GAA. More importantly, he did it while building friendships and earning the respect of those around him.

It is particularly fitting that the Junior C Ladies Football Cup should bear the name of Howard Elbert—a man who devoted so much of his life to Gaelic Games and whose service touched so many aspects of the GAA in Pittsburgh and throughout the Midwest. The Howard Elbert Cup will ensure that “H,” and his many years of friendship and service to the GAA, are remembered by future generations.

Championship Cups Named for USGAA Legends

Joe McGinn
(1961-2024)
Junior C Hurling

Joe McGinn was born in Co. Tyrone.

Joe McGinn arrived in Philadelphia in early 1985 from St. Patrick's GAC Tattyreagh in West Tyrone and quickly became a familiar and much-loved figure in the Philadelphia GAA community.

Joe joined Kevin Barry GFC, proudly wearing the club's amber and white as a stalwart of the half-back line before later moving to corner forward, where he became an accomplished free taker. He also represented the NACB at county level, travelling back to Ireland to compete on a number of occasions.

A true GAA man, Joe's contribution extended well beyond playing. He served as Registrar of Kevin Barry's and, when the call went out for referees, Joe was among the first to step forward. It wasn't unusual for him to finish a game in the Philadelphia summer heat, take off the Barrys' jersey, put on the referee's jersey and head straight back onto the field. A no-nonsense and respected official, he went on to referee for many years in Philadelphia, at the USGAA Finals and at Gaelic Park in New York.

After his playing days, Joe moved into management, taking charge of several Philadelphia teams, including Kevin Barry's GFC, Tyrone GFC, Derry GFC and the Philadelphia Notre Dames LGFC. He enjoyed success as both a player and manager, including guiding Tyrone GFC to a USGAA Intermediate Football Championship in San Francisco. He also served the wider GAA community as Divisional Board Treasurer.

Joe was equally well known for his personality. A great character and storyteller, his friends fondly recalled that he would never let the truth interfere with a good story. He was also someone who could always be counted on—whether that meant refereeing a game, managing a team, buying a ticket, supporting an event or simply rolling up his sleeves when work needed to be done.

Although football was Joe's first sporting love, he once responded to someone who told him they were more from the hurling side of the GAA with the simple words: "If you're a GAA man, that's good enough for me." It is particularly fitting, then, that his name will now be carried by a hurling cup.

Joe is greatly missed by the Philadelphia GAA community and especially by his family, Niall and Catherine, Dionne, Grace and Ashling, who shared so much of his time with the GAA.

The Joe McGinn Junior C Hurling Cup is a lasting recognition of a player, manager, referee, administrator, volunteer, storyteller and, above all, a great GAA man.