

30TH

COISTE SIAMSA AWARDS

Thomond Park, Limerick

February 20, 2026





Contents

P1	Running Order
P2	Coiste Siamsa National Executive Committee
P3	Commissioner's Foreword
P4	Assistant Commissioner's Welcome
P5	A message from Chief Superintendent Smart
P6	Children's Grief Centre
P7	Limerick Mental Health Association
P8	Jamie Rigney - Taekwondo
P9	Sheila Clavin - Rowing
P10	Martin O'Dwyer - Golf
P11	Damien Maher - Rugby
P12	Ian Redican - Sports Administration
P13	Paul Norton - Soccer
P14	Garda College Hurling Team
P15	Ronan Maher - Hurling
P16	Hall of Fame 2026: Liam Kearns
P17	Coiste Siamsa Acknowledgement Award - Jim McGowan
P18	Garda National Women's Football Team
P19	Damian Lawlor & Bernard O'Shea
P20	Coiste Siamsa: A brief history
P22	Roll of Honour: 1994-2025
P27	Hall of Fame: 1994
P28	Event Sponsors



Running Order

7.00PM - Arrival & drinks Reception (Treaty City Brewery, sponsored by Limerick City & County Council & Fine Wines). Music by Garda Band

7.30PM - Call for gala dinner

Event Running Order

- Event Opening by Master of Ceremonies Damian Lawlor
- Formal Address by Commissioner Justin Kelly, Assistant Commissioner Paula Hilman & Chief Superintendent Derek Smart
- Acknowledgement of Achievement & Presentation of International Caps - Garda Women's Soccer Team
- Grace before meal - Fr Joe Kennedy
- Meal served
- A word with our charities - Children's Grief Centre & Limerick Mental Health Association
- Acknowledgement and Award presentations:
 - Jamie Rigney – Taekwondo (Sport Star)
 - Sheila Clavin- Rowing (Sport Star)
 - Martin O'Dwyer- Golf (Sport Star)
 - Damien Maher- Rugby (Special Contribution)
 - Ian Redican- UPSE/Athletics (Sports Administrator Award)
 - Paul Norton - Soccer (Sport Star)
 - Garda College Hurling Team (Team Award)
 - Ronan Maher – Hurling (Sport Star)
 - Posthumous induction to Hall of Fame: Liam Kearns
 - Coiste Siamsa acknowledgement Award: Jim McGowan
- Bernard O'Shea comedy performance (no video recording, please)
- Raffle & concluding remarks
- Music by The Busker & DJ 'til late



Coiste Siamsa National Executive Committee

PATRON

Minister for Justice Equality & Law Reform Jim O'Callaghan

PRESIDENT

Garda Commissioner Justin Kelly

CHAIRPERSON

Assistant Commissioner Paula Hilman

VICE CHAIRS

Chief Supt Brian Sugrue
Edmund O'Reilly

HON. SECRETARY

Gda David Mansfield

ASST. SECRETARY

D/Sgt Mary Moore

HON. TREASURER

D/Supt Colm Fitzgerald

ASST. TREASURER

D/Sgt Louise Brady

PRO

Supt William Geraghty

RETIRED MEMBERS REPRESENTATIVE

Brian Sutton

GARDA STAFF REPRESENTATIVE

Edmund O'Reilly



AS PRESIDENT of Coiste Siamsa, I am very pleased to welcome you all to this year's Sportstar Awards and in particular to mark the 30th anniversary of these awards.

Reaching this milestone is a significant achievement and reflects the longstanding commitment within An Garda Síochána to supporting sport, wellbeing and community engagement among our Gardaí.

These awards provide an important opportunity to recognise and celebrate the outstanding sporting achievements of members of An Garda Síochána, as well as the positive role that sport continues to play within our organisation and across the communities we serve.

I would like to acknowledge the ongoing work of Coiste Siamsa and all those who give their time on a voluntary basis to support sporting activity within An Garda Síochána. Having previously served as chairperson of Coiste Siamsa, I have seen at first-hand the value these activities bring to members across the organisation. Your commitment ensures that our members have opportunities to participate, compete and represent the organisation with pride at local, national and international level.

We take time this evening to honour the late Sergeant Liam Kearns, whose contribution to both An Garda Síochána and to the GAA was significant and long-lasting. He leaves a legacy of commitment, discipline and community leadership, which continues to inspire us all.

This year we are also delighted to



Garda Commissioner Justin Kelly

recognise the exceptional achievement of Garda Ronan Maher, who captained the Tipperary Senior Hurling team to All-Ireland success. Ronan is not only a high-profile athlete but also someone who gives generously of his time within the community, reflecting the values of service and leadership that are central to An Garda Síochána.

Finally, I would like to congratulate all of this year's award recipients. Your dedication and what you have achieved over the last 12 months is a great credit to you all.

Justin Kelly
Garda Commissioner
President Coiste Siamsa

Commissioner's Foreword



Assistant Commissioner's Welcome

Coiste Siamsa
Chairperson
Assistant
Commissioner
Paula Hilman



I AM delighted to welcome you to Thomond Park Limerick for the 2026 Coiste Siamsa Sportstar Awards Ceremony. This is my second year as Chairperson and it is a great honour and privilege to hold this position on the occasion of Coiste Siamsa's 30th Awards Ceremony.

I would like to begin by thanking Chief Superintendent Derek Smart and the Coiste Siamsa local Divisional Committees for organising tonight's event, which will also be raising funds for the Limerick Mental Health Association and the Children's Grief Cen-

tre, both very worthy causes. Coiste Siamsa, will remain committed to reaching out and supporting local communities whilst promoting and developing sport in An Garda Síochána.

As a sports body Coiste Siamsa continues to recognize the outstanding sporting achievements by Garda members across many sports. Our annual awards ceremony provides the opportunity to formally acknowledge the dedication and exceptional achievements of both past and present members of An Garda Síochána. The outstanding accomplishments of

our award recipients, which are celebrated at this event, are the result of personal dedication, perseverance, and devotion, and I extend my heartfelt congratulations to those receiving awards and those who were nominated.

I would like also to thank and acknowledge all Garda members and staff who have contributed to Coiste Siamsa since its foundation; some of whom are no longer with us. Coiste Siamsa brings people together who share a love of sport. That includes both athletes themselves and their coaches and families who support them.

As we look forward to 2026, I have no doubt that both individually and collectively, there will be continued success for members of Coiste Siamsa. I wish you all a wonderful evening.

Paula Hilman
Assistant
Commissioner, An
Garda Síochána
Chairperson, Coiste
Siamsa



S MÓR an onóir agus lúchair orm fearadh na failte a chuir roimh Buaiteoiri na nGradam, Urraitheoiri Corparaideach agus Aíonna Speisalta chuig an 30ú Bronnadh na nGradam Coiste Siamsa Realta Spóirt. It is with great honour and pleasure that I extend a warm welcome to our award winners, corporate sponsors and distinguished guests to the 30th Annual Coiste Siamsa Sports Star Awards.

Limerick Division is honoured to host this prestigious event here in Thomond Park Stadium.

Our City is widely hailed as the Sporting Capital of Ireland with a deep rooted passion for sport. The city has become the first in the country to officially be awarded Global Active City status as internationally recognised quality mark that reflects the strong and sustained commitment to physical activity, health and wellbeing.

The Coiste Siamsa Sports Star Awards have long been a celebration of excellence, dedication and the unwavering spirit of the men and women in An Garda Síochána who not only work to keep people safe, but also excel at the highest levels in their sports.

Their achievements and efforts are something for which we are all extremely proud.

These awards not only recognise the outstanding achievements of our athletes in An Garda Síochána,

but also highlight the vital role that sport plays in bringing communities together, fostering resilience and inspiring future generations.

I would like to acknowledge our two charity partners tonight, Children's Grief Centre, who offer free one to one support ser-

vice for children and young people 4-18 years who have been affected by loss, and, Limerick Mental Health Association whose Solace Café offers free out of hours mental health and crisis support in a non-clinical café style environment. Your support for these charities is truly appreciated.

Finally I wish to acknowledge the organising committee who worked tirelessly to bring this event to fruition. Without their efforts and the support of our corporate sponsors, we would not be able to recognise our award winners in such a noteworthy way.

Thank you, and enjoy the 30th Annual Coiste Siamsa Sports Star Awards.



Chief Superintendent Derek Smart

A message from Chief Superintendent Smart



Children's Grief Centre



**The Children's Grief Centre
provides a free one to one
support service for children and
young people 4-18 years who
have been affected by loss.**



**We offer a free one to one
listening service in a
confidential, caring and
supportive environment**

***Contact us 061 224627 or visit
www.childrensgriefcentre.ie***







LIMERICK
Mental Health Association

WHAT DO WE DO?

- Limerick Mental Health Association provides a **safe, non-judgmental space** where you can talk to us in a supportive and relaxed environment.
- We promoting **positive mental health** & supporting adults on their recovery journey through **peer-led engagement**
- We have an **open-door walk-in policy**.
- LMHA provides free **signposting service** for all. **One-to-one peer support** and we run a range of **community events** throughout the year.
- Encouraging **connection**, raising **awareness** and promoting positive mental health.

Solace CAFÉ

Hope • Comfort • Support

WHAT WE DO

- Solace Cafe offers free out-of-hours mental health and crisis support service.
- It is a cafe style, non-clinical, safe environment available to all over 18.
- Aiming to promote mental well-being, reduce isolation and provide support to anyone experiencing challenges with their mental health.

We operate on a NO WRONG DOOR view meaning that if we are not the right service for you we will get you to the right one



Jamie Rigney - Taekwondo

JAMIE Rigney is a highly accomplished athlete and well respected martial arts coach with both national and international representation, whose lifelong dedication to ITF Taekwon-Do has made a significant impact on the sport at club, national, and international level.

With over 36 years of involvement in ITF Taekwon-Do, Jamie has demonstrated sustained excellence as both an athlete and a coach. In November 2025, he was promoted to the rank of Master,

advancing from IV Dan.

This promotion is awarded only to practitioners who demonstrate outstanding technical ability, leadership, teaching skill, and long-term commitment to the art.

Prior to his promotion to Master, Jamie represented Team Ireland at multiple European and World Championships between 2001 and 2024, achieving several podium finishes across different disciplines. These achievements reflect a long and consistent record of high performance at elite international level.

Jamie has also made an exceptional contribution to the sport as a coach. He served as Head Coach of Ballyea Taekwon-Do Club from 2008 to 2019 and has been Head Coach of Inagh Taekwon-Do Ltd since 2011. He has coached many students to black belt level and guided athletes to selection for Team Ireland in sparring, patterns, and power breaking. Athletes under his guidance have also achieved national titles and international podium finishes. Since 2023, Jamie has served as an Official Coach with Team Ireland, playing a key role in athlete preparation, competition planning, and performance support at major championships.

His coaching contribution has helped Team Ireland remain a leading force in international ITF competition.

Alongside his sporting commitments, Jamie has maintained a demanding full-time career as a member of An Garda Síochána since 2006 and is currently attached to the Armed Support Unit.



Jamie Rigney



Sheila Clavin



Sheila Clavin - Rowing

IN 2025 Sheila competed at Regattas nationwide, winning 29 races at events such as Erne, Cork, Limerick, Athlone, Lough Rynn to name a few.

The main target for 2025 was participation in the World Masters Rowing Championships

held Banyoles, Spain where Sheila competed in various events in single sculls, double sculls, fours and eights races.

Winning a total of 9 gold medals and setting the fastest times in several events as well as coming away from the Championship with the

fastest overall time as a single sculler from a field of over 400 competitors. Sheila is a native of Tullamore, Offaly and stationed in Rathkeale Garda Station and is a previous winner of two Coiste Siamsa awards - rowing in 2012 and Cycling in 2013.



Martin O'Dwyer - Golf

MARTIN O'Dwyer is a native of Thurles, Co Tipperary and joined An Garda Síochána in 1999. He has served in the Waterford Division since joining and is currently attached to Dunmore East Garda Station.

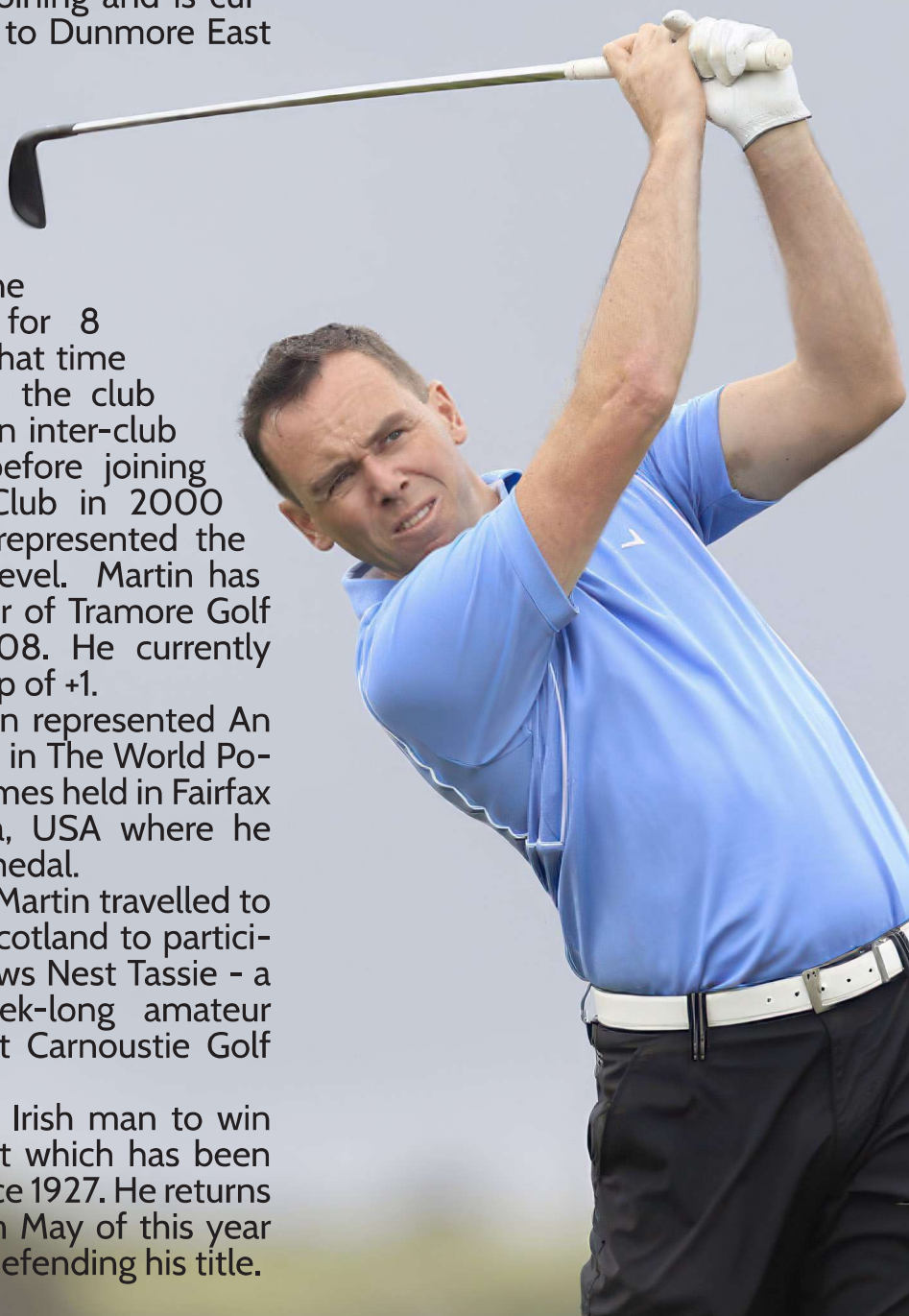
Martin took up golf as a 16-year old, joining Thurles Golf Club where he was member for 8 years. During that time he represented the club at senior level in inter-club competitions before joining Faithleg Golf Club in 2000 where he too represented the club at senior level. Martin has been a member of Tramore Golf Club since 2008. He currently holds a handicap of +1.

In 2015 Martin represented An Garda Síochána in The World Police and Fire Games held in Fairfax County Virginia, USA where he won a Bronze medal.

In May 2025 Martin travelled to Carnoustie in Scotland to participate in The Crows Nest Tassie - a prestigious week-long amateur event played at Carnoustie Golf Links.

Martin is first Irish man to win the Tournament which has been in existence since 1927. He returns to Carnoustie in May of this year in the hope of defending his title.

Martin O'Dwyer





DAMIEN Maher is a native of Dublin and joined An Garda Síochána in April, 1992. He is currently attached to the Armed Support Unit (DMR), at Old Kevin St, Dublin.

Damien's involvement with rugby began at secondary school where he played for Templeogue College and St. Mary's RFC, before commencing his long-serving association with Garda RFC in 1993. Damien was an ever present member of the Senior Garda rugby team for over 20 years participating in the Leinster League and Cup competitions. Damien also played for DLSP in Division 1 of the All Ireland League. Damien has represented An Garda Síochána and Garda rugby with much success on the Irish Police Rugby Team, Leinster Junior XV and at the World Police & Fire Games.

Following his senior rugby playing career, Damien became actively involved in grassroots rugby development in the local community of Lucan and Dublin 15.



He played a central role in establishing and expanding the club's youth and mini rugby structures, namely Garda Westmanstown RFC.

Damien has served on the club committee for almost 30 years in a variety of roles, including Club Treasurer and is the current Director of Rugby. He is also co-manager of the Irish Police Rugby Team, which is a cross border initiative supported by the Garda Commissioner and Chief Constable of the PSNI.

Irish Police Rugby

are the current holders of the 4 Nations Police Championship having completed a clean sweep of victories against the English, Scottish and Welsh Police last season.

Through the development of underage rugby at Garda Westmanstown RFC, Damien's four sons have all represented the club at different age levels over the years, with the proud moment for both Damien and his eldest son, Jack, of toggling out together for the senior team on the odd occasion.

Damien Maher - Rugby



Ian Redican - Sports Administration



IAN Redican joined An Garda Síochána in 1996 and has maintained a life-long involvement in sport.

He has completed 24 marathons, including nine Dublin Marathons, and has regularly used running to support charitable causes. In 2011, he raised funds for the Motor Neuron Disease Association by completing five marathons in five days, running from O'Connell Street in Dublin to Eyre Square in Galway.

He became involved with the Garda Athletic Club in 2010 and is the current

chair of Garda AC, the Coiste Siamsa Athletics Representative. A central part of this work has been the development and coordination of the Garda Blue Line at the Dublin Marathon, an initiative that now sees over 100+ Garda members participating annually in a visible and well-organised presence near the front of the field.

This has involved long-standing liaison with Dublin Marathon organisers and the development of regular participation by the PSNI and other visiting police services.

In a highlight from

2024 and for An Garda Síochána, Ian organised and ran as part of a 4 person group of Garda runners to run alongside actor Colin Farrell during the Dublin Marathon as he raised awareness and funds for DEBRA Ireland in support of Emma Fogarty.

They ensured his safe unhindered passage along the course on his charity quest.

Alongside his sporting roles, Ian works as a Garda photographer with the Garda National Technical Bureau, where he has served since 2002. He also serves in a voluntary capacity as Club President of Donore Harriers.

At international level, Ian contributes in a management and governance role through Union Sportive des Polices d'Europe, serving on the USPE Technical Commission and overseeing the organisation and delivery of European Police Championships in marathon and cross-country.



PAUL Norton is from Clondalkin in Dublin 22, the oldest of four boys. He was a member of the Irish Air Corp before joining An Garda Síochána.

He was first stationed in Drogheda, County Louth in 2008.

Paul served on the Regular Units, Drug and Detective Units in Drogheda during his 10 year stay, before moving to the Garda National Health and Safety Policy Unit in 2018.

He undertook a Level 8 at UCD in Safety Health and Wellbeing and graduated in 2021.

Paul was late 'taking up the whistle' as he played football in the DDSL and then LSL until he was 30.

He represented AGS at the 2011 in the IPA 5-a-side European Championships in Rimini. He took up refereeing really because by his own admission, he was a "painful player to manage for a referee" and had been told numerous times to try refereeing for himself.

In 2012 he completed his beginners course and refereed kids' games on a Saturday while still playing on a Sunday.

Paul quit playing to focus on refereeing in 2015.

In 2018 he was accepted

onto the FAI Referee School of Excellence Programme and joined the League of Ireland Panel in 2019.

Since then he has come through the ranks of the First Division and Premier Division.

Paul has been on the UEFA Match Official Panel since 2024 and has enjoyed appointments in the Champions League and Europa Conference League in this role.

In 2025 he was selected as the President of Ireland's Cup referee and for the Dublin Derby between Shamrock Rovers and Bohemians in Tallaght Stadium.

In November he reached the pinnacle of any Irish referee's career when he was selected to Referee the FAI Cup Final at the Aviva Stadium between Cork City and Shamrock Rovers.

In doing so he became one of only 50 Irishman to referee this prestigious match since its inception in 1921 and followed in the footsteps of great Irish referees and Members of An Garda Síochána such as Padraigh Sutton, Paul McLaughlin and the late Paddy Daly.



Paul Norton

Paul Norton - Soccer



Garda College Hurling Team

THE Garda College got their season off to the perfect start by claiming the Division Two Hurling League title.

They did it the hard way, requiring two extra time wins in the semi-final and final. They defeated TUD Dublin in an enthralling match in Grangegorman in the semi-final. They then went on to defeat red hot favourites UL, in a pulsating and drama filled final in a foggy Dr Morris Park. Having been slow to get out of the traps, Garda College clawed themselves back into the game, and it took an injury time point from UL to take the game into extra time. A Garda College goal proved to be the decisive score and match winner. It was the sweetest of victories, denying a very fancied UL a three in a row, and having shipped 30+ point defeat the previous year to the same opposition, it made the result

even more remarkable.

The Garda College got their defence of the Ryan Cup off to the perfect start, by defeating Queens University, in the second round they were narrowly defeated by SETU Carlow, who had just dropped down from Fitzgibbon Cup. Finishing second in the group set up a quarter final verses Trinity College. Garda College ran out comprehensive winners on the day and were heading to the Connaught Centre of Excellence for semi-final and finals weekend. In the tightest of matches all year, Garda College defeated UUJ by a single point to set up a repeat of the 2024 final against TU Dublin. The final was nip and tuck affair all the way, however in the last 15 minutes, the Garda College pulled away to earn a well-deserved victory and claim back to back Ryan Cups for the first time in their history.



Garda College Ryan Cup winners



Ronan Maher - Hurling

RONAN Maher, Thurles native and a member of An Garda Síochána needs no introduction as Tipperary's all-Ireland Hurling winning captain in 2025. Ronan who is also a proud hurley maker make history last summer in collecting his third Celtic Cross (2016, 2019, 2025) and was added to the Thurles Sarsfields wall of winner's mural outside Semple Stadium for players who have captained Tipperary to All-Ireland Senior hurling titles.

Ronan joined An Garda Síochána in 2020 and was first stationed in Tullamore before transferring to Portlaoise Garda Station where he is now attached to Community Policing. Ronan made his Tipperary senior debut in 2014 after successes at Minor and u21.

A hugely successful career to date has included 3 All Star awards and the additional accolade of the Man of the Match award in last years All Ireland Final. Ronan has 3 County Senior Hurling Medals

with his beloved Thurles Sarsifields and finally he has fond memories of Limerick winning Fitzgibbon Cups with Mary Immaculate College in 2016 and 2017.

Following last summer's success Ronan and his Garda Colleagues in Portlaoise hosted an event with Little Blue Heroes Foundation (supporting families of children with serious illnesses across Ireland).

Ronan is an exemplary member of An Garda Síochána who continues to achieve sporting excellence on the field.



Hall of Fame 2026: Liam Kearns



LIAM Kearns joined An Garda Síochána shortly after completing his secondary education in Tralee, Co Kerry, embarking on a career that spanned several decades. He was first stationed in Henry Street Limerick and served at the Garda College in Templemore, where he also worked as a gym instructor during the 1990s.

Liam later attained the position of sergeant and again served in the Limerick Division before taking up as the CPD lead (Based in Mayorstone Garda Station) before retiring in 2012.

Leveraging his position at the Garda College, he took on his first managerial role with the institution's Gaelic football team, marking the beginning of his coaching journey. Under his guidance, the Garda College team won the Trench Cup in his first season and reached their first Sigerson Cup final in 1996 (lost to UCD).

Born in Tralee in 1962, Liam lined out for the Kerry minor team for two years, winning an All-Ireland Minor Football Championship with them in 1980. He continued on to become a member of the Kerry under-21 and senior football panels and won a Kerry Senior Football Championship medal with Austin Stacks in 1986.

Managerial career highlights include leading Tipperary to a 2016 All-Ireland Senior Football Championship semi-final, the county's first since 1935, a Limerick Under-21 Football Championship title with Na Píarsaigh in Limerick and leading the Limerick under-21 team to successive Munster titles. Liam coached the Na Píarsaigh club to the Limerick Under-21 Football Championship in 1997, the club's only under-21 county football title. Liam managed the Limerick under-21 team to successive Munster titles and to an appearance in the All-Ireland Under-21 Football Championship final. In 2003 he led Limerick to a Division 2 National Football League (NFL) final, where they were beaten by Westmeath.

The following year he led Limerick to the Munster Senior Football Championship final, which they lost on a replay to Kerry. Tralee man Liam was appointed Mick O'Dwyer's successor as senior Laois county football team manager in September 2006. He stayed with Laois until August 2008.

He led Aherlow to the 2010 Tipperary Senior Football Championship title. In 2015, Liam was named as manager of the Tipperary senior football team. In 2017, Tipperary won the Division 3 final of the 2017 National Football League.

After retiring as Tipperary manager, Liam became manager of Roscommon GAA club Clann na nGael. On 11 August 2022, Liam was announced as Offaly manager. He died suddenly in 2023, leaving behind a remarkable legacy as a player, manager, family man and great friend.



JIM is being acknowledged by the Coiste Siamsa Executive for his contribution to the development of sport in An Garda Síochána and his service to Coiste Siamsa over a period of 25 years.

Jim was a member of the Coiste Siamsa Executive Committee right up to his retirement in 2019, during which time he held the roles of Assistant Treasurer and Treasurer, negotiating and securing additional funding contributions.

During his tenure, Jim was instrumental in promoting and fostering participation of members of An Garda Síochána in all sporting activities, and the establishment of GYM's in Garda Stations across the Country.

Jim was a strong supporter and advocate for the Boxing and Soccer Teams, who participated and achieved at national and international level.

He was also pivotal in ensuring An Garda

Síochána's continued representation on the technical committee of the Union Sportive des Polices d'Europe

(USPE), receiving a formal recognition award from USPE for his commitment.



Jim McGowan

Coiste Siamsa acknowledgement Award - Jim McGowan



Garda National Women's Football Team



THE road to the 2025 USPE Women's Police Football Championships began for the the Garda Women's National Football Team in August 2023 at the FAI Sports Campus in Abbotstown.

Under the talented and watchful eyes of Delegates Assistant Commissioner Paula Hillman, Detective Superintendent Colm Fitzgerald, Manager Detective Garda Richie Pender, Management team Detective Sergeant Keith Rothery and Physio Richie Drewet, the La-

dies were put through their paces in intense training sessions and challenge games ahead of the crucial qualifier against the Czech Republic Police in Westmanstown on 20th March 2025.

The Girls in Green produced an outstanding display earning a convincing 3-0 victory against the Czechs, with Paula McGrory scoring a hat trick to seal the deal.

The ladies flew out to Germany on Sunday 15th of June 2025, taking on Norway, Austria and France in Group B, with a fi-

nal game against the Netherlands.

A very special mention goes to the Chair of Coiste Siamsa, Assistant Commissioner Paula Hilman. Assistant Commissioner Hilman travelled extensively with the football teams and has been an outstanding source of support throughout. Her contribution has extended well beyond behind the scenes work, as she has provided valuable assistance on the sidelines and offered encouragement that greatly lifts the teams.

Team:

Grace Murray (C)
Sinead Whelan
Máire Lyons
Niamh O Sullivan
Niamh Mc Goldrick
Ruth Monaghan
Niamh Neary
Niamh Bailey
Paula McGrory (VC)

Amanda Lynch
Izzy Finnegan
Feena McManamon
Freya Roche
Jamie Duveraux
Kim Flood
Martha Carter
Naima Chemaou
Nicole Keogh
Rebecca Levins

Manager: Richie Pender

Coaching staff: Keith Rothery

Physio: Richie Drewet

Delegates: Assistant Commissioner Paula Hilman & Detective Superintendent Colm Fitzgerald



DAMIAN Lawlor is an Irish broadcaster, journalist, author, event host and MC. He presents The Saturday Game and Saturday GAA Live on RTÉ television, as well as The Championship on RTÉ Radio 1. He also presented the RTE GAA podcast

The former Sky Sports GAA presenter, correspondent and sideline reporter has also worked with Eir Sport and GAA NOW TV.

The eight-time best-selling author's titles include 'After the Storm' (2022), 'When the World Stops Watching' (2020) and 'Fields of Fire' (2014). The Tipperary native has worked extensively as a sports and current affairs correspondent with national print media. He has comprehensive experience in strategic communications and consultancy.



Damian Lawlor

Bernard O'Shea



BERNARD O'Shea is an Irish Writer, Comedian and Broadcaster.

He is the bestselling author of two books – 'My Wife is Married to a Feckin' Eject' and 'Manopause' and currently writes a popular weekly feature column for the Irish Examiner. Bernard is also a regular contributor and content provider across both digital and traditional media platforms.

A seasoned radio voice, Bernard co-hosted 'Breakfast Republic' on RTÉ 2FM for five years, following his time on iRadio Breakfast. He now contributes to 'The Dermot and Dave Show' on Today FM and regularly appears on RTÉ Radio 1.

On television, Bernard co-wrote, starred in, and produced the hit RTÉ comedy series 'Bridget and Eamon'. More recently, he appeared on 'Marty and Bernard: On the Road Again and Bernard's Working Comics'.



Coiste Siamsa: A brief history

COISTE Siamsa evolved from a need in the infant force, for sporting and cultural activities to occupy 500 energetic new recruits who crowded the temporary depot in Kildare during the formative months of the Civic Guard in 1922.

Formal organisation of the body developed over the ensuing years. The history of sport itself in An Garda Síochána began in Kildare when the first tournaments were held on the 24th of September 1922.

In its early constitution, Coiste Siamsa fostered esprit de corps in An Garda Síochána.

In 1923, the official organ of the force, *Iris an Gharda* identified sport as “a bond of unity in every organisation... to cement the ties of comradeship and cooperation as characteristics of our force.”

It was stated at that time, that the aim of Coiste Siamsa is “... not the production of champion athletes, but to ensure that the Garda as a body should contain a high proportion of men who can hold their own with the average athlete in every form of sport – from such participation will, in due course,

spring champion athletes...”

As the years advanced, the stalwarts of the early decades faded from the headlines.

Many of the clubs survived as hobbies for their members, but organised sport was in decline.

1962... RE-BIRTH OF COISTE SIAMSA

In 1962, An Garda Síochána was again becoming a young organisation as the first generation retired in in-



creasing numbers. It was at this time that Coiste Siamsa experienced a re-birth.



Thursday, the 21st of June 1962, saw the opening meeting of the Ard-Comhairle of Coiste Siamsa at the Depot Library in Garda Headquarters.

The then Minister for Justice, Charles J. Haughey addressed the meeting which was also attended by the Garda Commissioner Mr Daniel Costigan, senior Garda officers and others with an interest in sport within An Garda Síochána.

The existence of Coiste Siamsa was put on a solid footing, and has gone from strength to strength since that day.

The last 60 years have seen some major sporting achievements by Garda members at local, national and international level.

Many of those sporting heroes have been honoured by their induction into the Garda Síochána Coiste Siamsa Hall of Fame.

One of the highlights of the sporting year is the Annual Coiste Siamsa Sportstar Awards, where members are honoured for their achievements and contributions to sport.

In its present form, Coiste Siamsa is the gov-

erning body of sporting clubs at national level in the organisation.

The current Chairperson is Deputy Commissioner Anne Marie McMahon.

At local level, each Chief Superintendent is asked to assume Chairmanship of his/her Divisional Coiste Roinne.

The efficient operation of the sporting body is facilitated by a network of Sports Representatives and Provincial and Divisional Secretaries.

USPE – EUROPEAN POLICE SPORT

Coiste Siamsa An Garda Síochána is an associate member of the Union Sportive des Polices d'Europe (USPE), the European Police Sports Association. USPE, whose headquarters and full-time Secretariat is in Germany, was founded in 1950 and currently consists of over 40 member countries.

Its primary purpose is to organise and coordinate police sports competitions across Europe. Over the years, An Garda Síochána has participated in USPE competitions including soccer, swimming, cycling, basketball,

marathon, cross-country and table tennis.

Ireland has hosted many EPC's; Cycling in 1992; Cross-Country in 2000; Women's Basketball in 2011; Marathon in 2018; and we also twice held USPE Congresses in 1992 and 2012.

European Police Competitions (EPC's), in each sport, take place every four years.

Some of the most notable successes include the Ladies Basketball team who won the 2011 EPC Women's Basketball; and David Mansfield who won the 2018 EPC Marathon.

Elections to the Executive Committee and Technical Commission take place at USPE Congress.

Such is the esteem in which Ireland is held by the member countries, that an Irish candidate has been voted in and honoured to hold a seat, since 1996, on the USPE Technical Commission through George Maybury, Brian Brunton, Paul Moran, and currently, Ian Redican.



Roll of Honour: 1994-2025

1994

Paul Myles
Athletics
John Faughnan
Basketball
Eddie Corry
Soccer
Dara O'Sullivan
Rugby
Garda Women's
Swimming Team
Swimming
Jim O'Connor
Table Tennis
Dermot Deasy
Gaelic Football
Mick Nash
Hurling

1995

George Maybury
Athletics
Brian Murray
Gaelic Football
Anthony O'Flaherty
Handball
Garda 1995 Novice Four
Crew
Rowing
Dara O'Sullivan
Rugby
Daniel Flavin
Sailing
Michael Gillespie
(Athletics)
Administration

1996

Pat Collins
Athletics

Chris Collins
Clay Pigeon Shooting
Garvan Ware
Gaelic Football
Padraig Tobin
Hurling
Ian Gillen
Lawn Bowling
Brendan Dolan
Rowing
Dara O'Sullivan
Rugby
Eamon McGonigle
Soccer
Tom Morrisroe (Golf)
Administration

1997

Michael Macken
Athletics
Thomas Lavery
Cycling
Declan O'Keefe
Gaelic Football
Ollie Baker
Hurling
Brendan Dolan
Rowing
David Moriarty
Rugby
Warren Parkes
Soccer
Martin Vaughan
Tug O War
John Scanlon (Garda
College)
Administration

1998

Con Lynch
Athletics

Garda College Ladies
Basketball Team
Basketball
Gerry Burke
Gaelic Football
Peter Queally
Hurling
Paraic McManus
Rugby
Brendan Dolan
Rowing
Mick Moody
Soccer
Donal O'Donovan / Pat
Lordan
Motor Sport
Jim Murphy (Garda
Club)
Administration

1999

Garda College Ladies
Basketball Team
Basketball
Ciara Gaynor
Camogie
Martina O'Ryan
Gaelic Football
Eamon O'Neill
Handball
Colm O'Hanlon
Soccer
Ollie Baker
Hurling
Garda Senior Crew
Rowing
Donal O'Donovan / Pat
Lordan
Motor Sport
Tom Ward (Boxing)
Administration
Anne Shore (Wexford)



(Athletics)
Outstanding Contribution
to Garda Sports

2000

Garda College Ladies
Badminton Team
Badminton
Ciara Gaynor
Camogie
Declan O'Keefe
Gaelic Football
Matt Cronin
Golf
Eddie Brennan
Hurling
Bill Daly
Road Bowling
Garda Senior 8
Rowing
Damien Maher
Rugby
Mary Kennedy (Coiste
Siamsa)
Administration
Pat 'Pa' O'Shea (Rugby)
Outstanding Contribution

2001

Jarlath Duffy
Athletics
Darren Conlon
Boxing
Ciara Gaynor
Camogie
Kevin Walsh
Gaelic Football
John McCarthy
Soccer
David Kennedy
Hurling
Bernie Deegan

Ladies Gaelic Football
Garda Intermediate
Coxed
Four Crew
Rowing
Ken Hogan
(Garda College & Hurling)
Administration

2002

Catriona White
Basketball
Pat Scully
Clay Pigeon Shooting
Sean Collum
Gaelic Football
Eddie Brennan
Hurling
Jonathan Sweeney
Karate
Ian Gillen
Lawn Bowling
Patricia O'Sullivan
Rowing
Declan Schulle
Soccer
Larry Morrison (Boxing)
Administration / Special
Contribution Award

2003

Brendan Bourke
Athletics
Marvin Lee
Boxing
Ciara Gaynor
Camogie
Darran Rooney
Gaelic Football
Eddie Brennan
Hurling

Louisa Healy
Hockey
Caroline Ryan
Rowing
Michael Macken
Triathlon
Pat O'Toole (Coiste
Siamsa)
Administration/Special
Contribution Award

2004

Valerie O'Keefe
Camogie
Marvin Lee
Boxing
John Crowley
Gaelic Football
Jerry O'Connor
Hurling
Robert Brosnan
Soccer
Ken McDonald
Rowing
Annette Clarke
Ladies Football
Tom McMahon
Clay Pigeon Shooting
Ned Hogan (Coiste
Roinne)
Administration/Special
Contribution Award

2005

Gillian Morris
Basketball
Ian Roche
Boxing
Kieran Fitzgerald
Gaelic Football
Jerry O'Connor



Hurling

Rory McGrath

Rugby

Dave Cherry

Swimming

Caroline Ryan

Rowing

Paddy Donovan

Handball

Paul Caffrey (Gaelic Football)

Administration/Special Contribution Award

2006

Mark Walsh

Basketball

Louisa Healy

Hockey

Tom O'Sullivan

Gaelic Football

Eddie Brennan

Hurling

Brendan Bourke

Athletics

Maura Walsh

Clay Pigeon Shooting

Caroline Ryan

Rowing

Michelle Short

Camogie

Fergal O'Donnell (Gaelic Football)

Administration / Special Contribution Award

2007

Aidan O'Mahony

Gaelic Football

Bill Daly

Road Bowling

Michelle Fahy

Basketball

Darragh Hughes

Rugby

Noelle Curran

Ladies Football

Ken McDonald

Rowing

Eddie Brennan

Hurling

David Conlon

Boxing

Eamon Maher

Sport Administration

Ray Campion

Special Contribution Award

2008

Peter Egan

Canoeing/Kayaking

Darren Mullahy

Gaelic Football

Louisa Healy

Hockey

Martha Carter

Ladies Football

Eddie Brennan

Hurling

Anthony Russell

Soccer

Caroline Ryan

Rowing

Stephen Kelly

Rugby

Teresa McCabe

Sport Administration

/ Special Contribution Award

2009

Peter Egan

Canoeing/Kayaking

Tom O'Sullivan

Gaelic Football

Louisa Healy

Hockey

Michelle Fahy

Basketball

Martin Brady

Motor Rallying

Eddie Brennan

Hurling

Garda Mixed Lifesaving Team

Swimming/Lifesaving

Fiona & Pauline Glennon

Badminton

Larry Morrison

Sport Administration

/ Special Contribution Award

2010

Josie Dwyer

Camogie

Peter Egan

Canoeing/Kayaking

Caroline Ryan

Cycling

James Kavanagh

Gaelic Football

Louisa Healy

Hockey

Niamh Briggs

Rugby

Padraig Sutton

Soccer

Michael Macken

Triathlon

Michael Toner



Sport Administration
/ Special Contribution
Award

2011

Laoise Traynor

Boxing

Aaron Hoey

Gaelic Football

Eddie Brennan

Hurling

Martin Byrne

Mountain Climbing

Paul Tierney

Athletics

Caroline Ryan

Cycling

Maura Walsh

Clay Pigeon Shooting

Áine Grogan

Rugby

Tony Hannon

Special Contribution
Award

2012

Garda Ladies Team

Basketball

Adam Nolan

Boxing

Josie Dwyer

Camogie

Peter Egan

Canoeing/Kayaking

Garda Ladies Team

Cycling

Sandra Fitzgerald

Cycling

David Clarke

Gaelic Football

Tony O'Flaherty

Handball

Darren Conlon (Boxing)

Sport Administration

2013

Niall Kennedy

Boxing

Peter Egan

Canoeing/Kayaking

Sheila Clavin

Rowing

Colm Boyle

Gaelic Football

Joanne Moore

Ladies Football

Niamh Briggs

Rugby

Sinead Tyrell

Swimming

Adrian Tucker

Ultra-Running

Pat Cullen (Clay Pigeon
Shooting)

Sport Administration

Great Garda Run

Committee

Special Contribution
Award

2014

Niamh Briggs

Rugby

Peter Egan

Canoeing/Kayaking

Aidan O'Mahony

Gaelic Football

James Woodlock

Hurling

Garda Angling Team

Angling

Brendan Flanagan

Triathlon

Michelle Casey

Camogie

Eve McCrystal

Cycling

Seamus Moriarty

Sport Administration

James O'Mahony

Social/Cultural

Contribution Award

2015

David Mansfield

Athletics

Peter Egan

Canoeing/Kayaking

Eve McCrystal

Cycling

Colm Boyle

Gaelic Football

Conor O'Brien

Hurling

Damien Kelly & Ronan

Allen

Rowing

Niamh Briggs

Rugby

Adam Nolan

Boxing

George Kyne (GAA)

Sport Administration

Michael McDonagh

Social/Cultural

Contribution Award

2016

David Mansfield

Athletics

Peter Egan

Canoeing/Kayaking

Eve McCrystal



Cycling

Padraic Maher

Hurling

David Clarke

Gaelic Football

Colm Boyle

Gaelic Football

Damien Kelly

Rowing

Jeffrey Kehoe

Shooting

Paul McLaughlin (Soccer)

Sport Administration

The Chris Crossing Team

Special Contribution
Award

2017

Tom Power

Athletics

David Clarke

Gaelic Football

Eve McCrystal

Cycling

Niall Kennedy

Boxing

Martha Carter

Ladies Gaelic Football

Declan Conlon

Fly-fishing

Jeffrey Kehoe

Shooting

Colm Boyle

Gaelic Football

Garda College Hurling
Club

Team of the Year

Garda 4 Peaks Challenge

Special Contribution
Award

2018

David Mansfield

Athletics

Eve McCrystal

Cycling

Clodagh Kiernan

Swimming

Colin Murray

Basketball

Leanne McCarthy

Triathlon

Ken McDonald

Rowing

Garda Fly Fishing Team

Team of the Year

Garda Soccer Team

Team of the Year

Brian Willoughby

Special Contribution
Award

2019

David Mansfield

Athletics

Christina Desmond

Boxing

Patrick Rogers, Gary

Rogers, Simon Cadam,

Shane Mulligan

Gaelic Football

Padraig Maher & Ronan
Maher

Hurling

Ken McDonald

Rowing

Sinead Scully

Swimming

Tom Finnan

Special Contribution
Award

Martin Fennessy

Special Contribution

Award for Youth

Engagement through
Sport

2023

Christina Desmond

Boxing

Gda Gary Butler

Clay Target Shooting

Shane Cunningham

Gaelic Football

Sinéad Meagher

Handball

Kate Brady

Powerlifting

Fiona Reidy

Rugby

Ciaran Kavanagh

Special Contribution
Award

Adrian Donohue & Tony
Golden

Posthumous Awards

2025

Eve McCrystal

Cycling

James Woodlock

Manager of the Year

Golf Society Donegal

Team of the Year

Aisling O'Connell

LGFA

Shaun Patton

GAA

Kelly McDonald

Rowing

Mick Murphy

Special Contribution to
Sport

Connie Lynch

Hall of Fame

Robert McCallion RIP

Posthumous Award



- 1994 Sean Kavanagh Rowing
1995 Matt Connor Gaelic Football
1996 Brian Murphy Hurling & Gaelic Football
1997 Tim O'Donnell Gaelic Football
1998 John Egan Gaelic Football
1999 Michael Carolan Athletics / Gaelic Football
2000 Willie Ryan Rowing
2001 Mick Higgins Gaelic Football
2002 John McCarthy Gaelic Football
2003 Jim Sheridan Soccer
2004 Brendan Lynch Gaelic Football
2005 Sean Ferriter Gaelic Football
2006 Joachim Kelly Hurling
2007 James 'Jas' Murphy Gaelic Football
2008 Mick Leahy Rugby
2009 Frank Cummins Hurling
2010 Mick Reid Boxing
2011 Brian Byrne Boxing
2012 Frank Moore Rowing / Cycling
2013 Christy O'Brien Rowing
2014 William McGee Gaelic Football
2015 Jim Muldoon Rowing
2016 Ned Kirby Gaelic Football
2017 Paul Rayfus Golf
2018 Mick Ryan Rowing
2019 Ken Hogan Hurling
2022 Seamus Mc Quaid Hurling
2024 No Hall of Fame Award
2025 Connie Lynch Athletics

Hall of Fame: 1994 - 2025



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