

LGFA *Learn to Lead* Launches

While there are more and more women getting involved in the decision making structures of the LGFA. Last year the Strategic Roadmap 2017-2022 was launched and a key area highlighted was to 'define a model to promote Female Leadership across the Association.'

The need for a Female Leadership Programme was identified, as part of the overall Female Leadership strategy. Under the guidance of National Games Development Manager Lyn Savage, the 'Learn to Lead' programme was devised.

The aim of the programme is to develop the next generation of female leaders within Ladies Gaelic Football. Participants

were invited to apply for 1 of the 4 available strands depending on where their interests lie – coaching, officiating, administration and PR/Media. The course will be delivered over 12 months and only 5 applicants per strand were chosen for each strand.

For the coming year each participant will also be assigned a mentor who is currently working in their area of interest. This will allow the participant to not only gain knowledge from the workshops and self development sessions run by the LGFA but also from interactions with somebody who has experience on the cold face.

Day one of the programme set the bar high as the keynote address was delivered by former President of Ireland, Mary McAleese, and course content was delivered by Niamh McElwain, who designs and teaches transformational learning programmes at Google.

Over the coming year we will be following the participants here in Peil Magazine and on all the LGFA Online Channels in order to share in their development over the course of the programme.

THE PARTICIPANTS

ADMINISTRATION

EILEEN JONES

Profession: Teacher

Club: Aodh Ruadh, Dungannon, Tyrone

Background: Eileen has worked in nearly every aspect of the LGFA from player to full time employee. She is currently the President elect of Ulster LGFA. Eileen aims to draw as much knowledge from the programme in order to help her lead as effectively as possible during her time as Ulster President.

LIZ AHERN

Profession: IT Systems Administrator

Club: Carrigtwohill, Cork.

Background: Liz has over 20 years experience in LGFA. She was the Children's Officer in Cork from 2015 to 2018 and is on the National Appeals Panel. Liz believes that having appropriate structures and processes in place guard against ambiguity and poor communication in decision making. She is eager to use this programme to develop her own leadership skills.

EIMEAR O'CONNOR

Profession: Business Development of New Business.

Club: Mountrath, Laois.

Background: Eimear is a new business owner and has been part of the phenomenal growth in Ladies Football in Mountrath. She is committed to her own self development in order to lead and motivate those around her. Eimear believes that the LGFA will be served well by the development of strong, competent, energetic and positive women to drive the Association forward.

SINEAD REEL

Profession: Locksmith

Club: Silverbridge Harps, Armagh

Background: Sinead is the current Armagh Chairperson and has administrative experience in the LGFA at club & county level. Sinead is looking forward to "learning from others so that she can improve all aspect of the LGFA in Armagh." ►

TRINA MURRAY

Profession: Post Office Clerk

Club: Moate, Westmeath.

Background: Trina has been involved in the administration of Westmeath and Leinster LGFA. She believes that "it is vital to have female leaders in the organisation that understand the game, the players and the structures of the LGFA."

COACHING

DIANE O'HORA

Profession: Sales Manager

Club: Clanna Gael Fontenoy, Dublin/Mayo.

Background: Diane is a former Intercounty player and wore the Mayo jersey with pride for many years. Since retiring from football Diane has been involved with the coaching and managing of various club and County teams. Diane is eager to use the opportunities presented in the programme to hone her skills set in order to become the best coach and manager that she can be.

AILBHE QUINN

Profession: Student Teacher

Club: Latton Ladies, Monaghan.

Background: Ailbhe is a hugely active Coach in Monaghan. She was involved in the National Gaelic4Teens programme in 2018 and has since become involved with the Monaghan U16 team for 2019. Ailbhe is passionate about tackling the issue of player retention in the LGFA, her experience of proactively addressing this problem in her own club has already made her a very reflective and progressive coach.

OLIVIA BUTLER

Profession: Paediatric Nurse Manager

Club: St Pats, Waterford.

Background: Olivia has been involved in Ladies Football for her entire life. She won 5 All Ireland titles with Waterford. Since hanging up her own boots she has been involved in coaching in her club and has recently started coaching in the development pathway in Waterford. Olivia describes how playing football at the highest level helped her develop a variety of life skills, she is now eager to combine her love of football, passion for coaching and desire to lead in order to become a proactive leader within LGFA.

JENNIFER HIGGINS

Profession: Student Teacher

Club: Western Gaels, Roscommon.

Background: Jennifer is a current member of the Roscommon County team. She has been coaching Roscommon underage and development squad for the last number of years. Jennifer is keen to identify her own strengths and weakness in relation to leadership. She sees the value of strong female leaders in the association and is striving to continue on her path to be such an individual.

DONNA HAGAN

Profession: Mechanical Tendering & Programming Engineer

Club: Kildress Wolfe Tones, Tyrone.

Background: Donna has spent the last decade developing her coaching skills in her club in Tyrone. In 2017 she was involved with the u15 Tyrone development squad, and this year she

is involved in the County u14 team. Donna is an ambitious coach that wants to continuously improve herself. She is keen to identify her leadership strength and weaknesses and use the programme to reach her potential as a coach and a leader.

OFFICIATING

GRAINNE SANDS

Profession: Administrator

Club: Glenn John Martins, Down.

Background: Grainne is involved as a coach, administrator and recently a linesperson in Co. Down. She is ambitious and eager to become a knowledgeable and respected referee within the Association. Grainne believes that it is important to increase the presence of females in the all aspects of the Association so that younger members see that they can not only play the game but also become prominent figures within the Association.

SINEAD MCHUGH

Profession: Post Primary Teacher

Club: Kilmacud Crokes (Dublin), Donegal.

Background: Sinead is a Referee and Referee Tutor in the LGFA. Sinead has been involved in the association for many year filling a variety of roles. She is committed to raising the standards in the Association and is always looking for opportunities to develop her own skills.



Diane O'Hora

Jennifer Higgins

Donna Hagan

Ailbhe Quinn

Eimear O'Connor

Triona Murray



Aishling Carey

Gráinne Sands

Nadine Doherty

Niamh Dunne

Michelle Ryan

Kellie Cunningham

MAIREAD DULLEA

Profession: Post Primary Teacher.

Club: Bantry Blues, Cork.

Background: Mairead is starting her second year at Level 3 Refereeing. She is enthusiastic about her growth and development through the Referee Pathway and is eager to continue her progress to date. She sees the Learn to Lead programme as a great opportunity to develop her own leadership skills in order to present herself as an effective role model for female referees in Cork and beyond.

AISLING CAREY

Profession: Compliance Officer and Student Teacher.

Club: Shandonagh, Mullingar, Westmeath.

Background: Aisling has played football for her club for many years. As she is seeing her playing career potentially come to an end in the coming years she is eager to find another way to stay actively involved in the game she loves. She sees the value in having gender diversity in LGFA/GAA Clubs in order for all codes to be progressive and vibrant.

KELLEY CUNNINGHAM

Profession: Key Holder & Intersport Elverys.

Club: Tullamore, Offaly.

Background: Kelley currently undertakes a multitude of roles within the LGFA. Not only does she play football for Offaly and is part of the management team for the Offaly U14 Team but she is also a referee at club and Provincial level, and a linesperson at Provincial and National level. Kelley has also recently taken part in the Referee Development Programme. Despite her enviable list of achievements to date Kelley recognises that she could be more confident in her ability as a role model and a leader. She is eager to develop these skills through the programme.

PR/MEDIA

NADINE DOHERTY

Profession: Primary School Deputy Principal

Club: Na Fianna, Dublin/Donegal.

Background: Nadine is a former Donegal Intercounty football and played with Na Fianna in Glasnevin when she relocated to Dublin some years ago. Over the last number of years Nadine has developed her interest in sports media. She is a current contributor to www.sportstalk.ie through podcasts and written articles. Nadine is eager to continue to develop high level discourse and analysis around Ladies Football as this is vital to the continued growth of the game. Nadine is also passionate about the LGFA in general and sees the Learn to Lead programme as an unrivalled opportunity for passionate members of the Association to develop leadership skills that will ultimately help them progress the sport that they love.

MICHELLE RYAN

Profession: Post Primary Teacher

Club: Ballymacarbry, Waterford.

Background: Michelle is no stranger to the LGFA, having been a central figure on the Waterford team for the last decade. She is now serving as Club Chairperson and Club Coach also. Michelle has been a contributor to media coverage of Ladies Football already and is keen to develop her skills in this area. Michelle believes that the Learn to Lead programme is invaluable as it empowers people like her, who are passionate and committed to the sport, to become even stronger leaders and advocates for the LGFA in whatever sphere they are operating in.

BRID STACK

Profession: Post Primary Teacher

Club: St Val's, Cork.

Background: Brid is a familiar face to many. She is former Cork Player, multiple All Ireland winner and All Star and is a current RTE GAA Analyst. Brid is active in the media coverage of Ladies Football and GAA in general. As a high achiever with high standards Brid is eager to take advantage of the opportunities that the programme affords her to develop her media skills to an even higher level.

DENISE MASTERSON

Profession: Post Primary Teacher

Club: Ballymun Kickhams, Dublin

Background: Denise only started playing football when she was in college in DCU. She rose to prominence when she became the reliable and forceful Dublin midfielder and the captain that led Dublin to their first ever All Ireland in 2010. Since retiring Denise has continued to contribute to the Association as a club player and a media analyst for the TG4 Championship. Another player committed to high standards, Denise is looking forward to learning from experts in the Media and Leadership to further enhance her skills in this area.

NIAMH DUNNE

Profession: Advertising/PR

Club: Park Ratheneska, Laois.

Background: Niamh is already working in their field but is eager to find more ways to use her professional skills to the benefit of the sport that she loves. Niamh knows the value and importance of having a media presence for any sport, she is eager to learn from others who have similar interests as herself and develop her own ability to be a strong leader in the area in the Association.