

Trinity GAA welcomes GAA President

8th February, 2012



L-R Cormac McMahon (Handball), Conor Laverty (Trinity's GAA Development Officer), Mairi Moynahan (Camogie), Christy Cooney (GAA President), Martin Phelan, Paddy Prendergast (Provost), Micky Boyle and Sinead O'Sullivan

The GAA President, Christy Cooney, was greeted by Head of Sport, Michelle Tanner and met with Trinity Students this week when he made an historic visit to the University.

He engaged in a very positive meeting with representatives from each of the five Trinity Clubs (Men's Gaelic Football, Ladies Gaelic Football, Hurling, Camogie and Handball) where they got an opportunity to showcase their club. He thanked Trinity for their "support for GAA" and emphasised the importance of GAA at Third Level, which creates a greater volume of players for club and inter-county teams. He referred to the importance of participation in Gaelic Games at College as an excellent way to balance the pressures of academia and the opportunity to get involved. The role of the volunteer within the GAA is paramount to the success and vibrancy of the organization and the President recognized that future administrators and leaders are currently involved as Student Club Officers. He acknowledged that this is a resource the GAA could nurture going forward.

GAA is often not associated with Trinity College but Cyril Smyth, Chair of DUCAC, discussed the University's long tradition and history in the sport. Trinity College had drawn up its own rules for Hurling as early as 1870, even before the Irish Hurley Union was established in 1879. Current GAA sports in Trinity College date from 1949 when Colm Kennelly of Kerry came to College and was encouraged by Ed Stuart, later Professor of Chemistry, to build a GAA Club. Former Alumni of the GAA Club include Kevin Heffernan of Dublin, Paddy Brennan of Tipperary, Pat Markey of Louth and more recently Joe Brolly of Derry and Pat Gilroy who managed the Dublin team to All Ireland Senior Football success in 2011.

Mr Cooney was thrilled to see the resurgence of handball and wished the Club well in their upcoming trip to the World Collegiate Championships in the USA at the end of the month. He supported the partnership between Clanna Gael and Trinity and in particular the coaching experience that students get through the Clanna Gael Juvenile teams. The President was interested to hear of the development plans at Santry Playing Fields which are no longer fit-for-purpose or meet the sporting needs of clubs and other users. He was impressed with the professionalism and passion for GAA at Trinity and the support of the Provost, Dr Paddy Prendergast who joined the visit.

