

# 30<sup>TH</sup>

## COISTE SIAMSA AWARDS

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Thomond Park, Limerick

February 20, 2026





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# 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





**A**S 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 firsthand 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**



**I**S MÓR an onóir agus luchtair 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

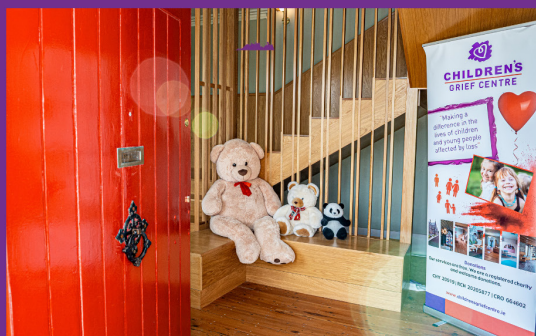
# A message from Chief Superintendent Smart



# 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](http://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

**I**N 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 Rathkale Garda Station and is a previous winner of two Coiste Siamsa awards - rowing in 2012 and Cycling in 2013.



# Martin O'Dwyer - Golf

**M**ARTIN 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.

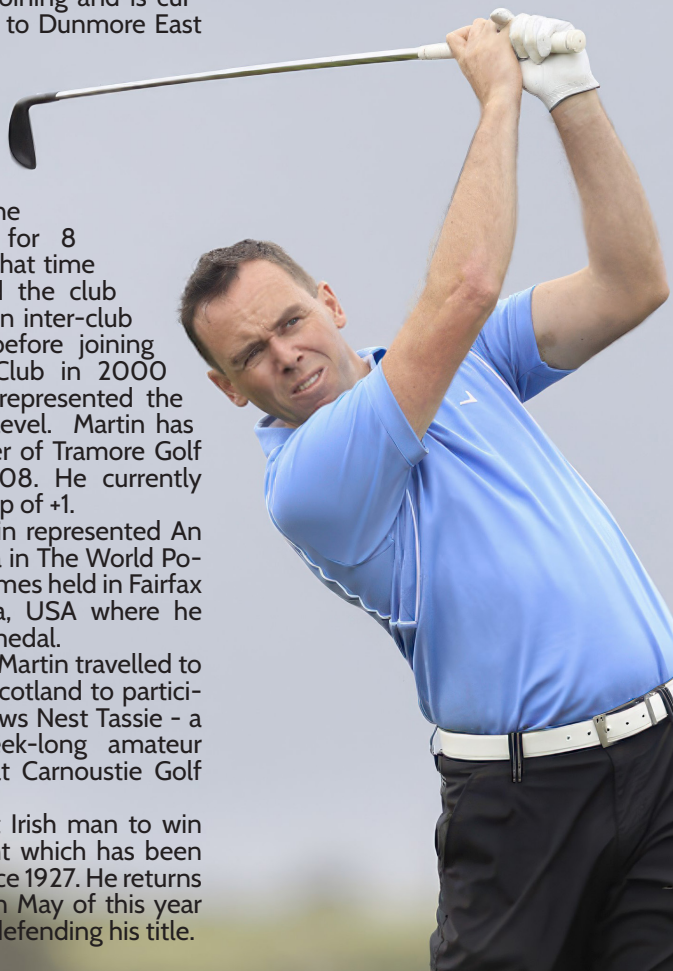
Martin took up golf as a 16-year old, joining Thurles Golf Club where he was member for 8 years. During that time he represented the club at senior level in inter-club competitions before joining Faithleg Golf Club in 2000 where he too represented the club at senior level. Martin has been a member of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





**D**AMIEN 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 tog- ging 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 - Soccer

**P**AUL 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-aside 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



# Garda College Hurling Team

**T**HE 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

**R**ONAN 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 Sarsfields 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



**L**IAM 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 Siochana 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 Siochana 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

Siochána'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



**T**HE 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 RTE television, as well as The Championship on RTE 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 RTE 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 RTE Radio 1.

On television, Bernard co-wrote, starred in, and produced the hit RTE 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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