



Scór times looms

Do you like to play traditional music, sing or act? Would you like to perform on stage in front of 1500 people in a venue that has hosted Snow Patrol, Riverdance and many of Ireland's top comedians? Well now is your chance, the 2011 All-Ireland Final of the GAA Scór na nÓg competition is coming to The Royal Theatre, Castlebar and you could be there.

For readers who are unfamiliar with Scór, here is a brief summary. Scór is a GAA competition that combines all the colour and rivalry of Gaelic Games with the social/fun element of Ireland's traditional past-times. The competition was established by the GAA in 1969 with the aim of promoting Ireland's traditional pastimes and culture while offering club members the chance to meet up, have fun and represent their club during the winter months while football and hurling had ceased.

There are eight events/disciplines in Scór that cover all aspects of Irish culture: Figure/Céilí Dancing, Solo Singing, Instrumental Music, Recitation,

Ballad Group, Novelty Act, Question Time and Set Dancing. The competition is divided into two age levels, Scór Na nÓg, for young people under-17, and Scór Sinsear, for those over 17. Many counties also run a competition called Scór na bPaistí or Scór na mBunscol for Primary School children.

Just like the All-Ireland Football and Hurling Championships clubs taking part in Scór must first take part in a county championship. The winners go on to the provincial final and then the All-Ireland final, where the four provincial winners meet to decide the All-Ireland Champion. It is interesting to note that the All-Ireland Scór champions are presented with their medals by the President of the GAA and the medals are the same as those give to the All-Ireland football and hurling champions!

Earlier this year, young people from Glencar – Manorhamilton, Leitrim; Drumkeeran, Leitrim; Corofin, Galway; Pdraig Pearses GAA Club, Roscommon; Caltra, Galway; Abbeyknockmoy, Galway; St Farnan's

GAA Club, Sligo all took part in the All-Ireland Final and the team of Laura McDermott, Finbar McDermott and Gerard McDermott from Ballinameen, Roscommon became the 2010 All-Ireland Question Time Champions!

In 2011 you could be taking part in the All-Ireland Final on that stage in Castlebar. For information on how to enter Scór na nÓg 2011, or if you have any questions on Scór, please contact your clubs Culture and Irish / Scór Officer or email scor.connacht@gaa.ie. Officers are available to offer advice and assistance to everyone, especially people from clubs who have not taken part before.

In most cases the county championships will not be starting until early November but it's never too early to start practising! Who knows, an entry in Scór could end up in your club winning a county, provincial or All-Ireland medal - and without the need for training in muddy pitches in the cold and wet winter evenings!

Careers Q & A

Make your GAA hobby work for you



By Liam Horan,
Sli Nua Careers

Your Curriculum Vitae should be much more than a dry, detached account of your achievements – instead, aim to bring it to life so that the interviewer can get a true sense of who you are, what you're passionate about, and how you'll bring that passion to the workplace.

So if you've won two county U-16 medals, let them know. Bagged an All-Ireland? That's one light you should hide atop a skyscraper.

Scored the winning goal in the dying minutes, before rushing to the stand to successfully perform life-saving mouth-to-mouth on a fan who has just taken a strong weakness – well, okay, maybe you should send that storyline to Roy of the Rovers.

But you get my point.

Your CV should tell them about what you've done in sport, what you've gained from it, and how your sporting background has helped to shape the person you are.

And, remember, if you don't tell them, nobody else will.

In the history of job-seeking, no-one has ever talked up the other candidate.

It's amazing the number of people who downplay their sporting victories. "Ah, they don't really care about that – sure we won't be playing football in the office," is the refrain.

The reality though is that the employer is sizing you up for a great deal more than your technical ability to do the job.

They want to see what kind of a person you are. Have you enthusiasm for life? Can you work as part of a team? Have you social skills?

These factors influence an employer greatly. No employer wants to bring in someone who will sit in the corner and decline to engage with fellow employees.

Success on the GAA fields lets the employer know you are ambitious, committed to a project, and able to fit in with others. It's much more powerful than you might think.

Use sport to your advantage. Because you can rest assured the other candidate is – and, for all you know, you might even have beaten them in one of the U-16 finals.

Help us help you achieve your career goals

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Sli Nua Careers (tel 094 95 42965, www.SliNuaCareers.com) are based on Main Street, Headford, Co. Galway, and carry out CV Preparation, Interview Training, and Personal Branding.