

Seoul Gaels

Contact us:

If you would like to find out more about Seoul Gaels, Please find us online at www.seoulgaels.com or contact our club secretary Taidgh Simpson on (010) 4442 1618

OUR SEASON:

Our season traditionally runs from March to November.

2009 KOREAN GAELIC GAMES:

The 3rd Korean Gaelic Games will take place June 6th at Mokdong stadium and will include teams from Korea, Japan and other Asian countries.

ASIAN GAELIC GAMES

This year's Asian Gaelic Games will be held in Bangkok, Thailand in October 2009



A Chairde,

As we dust off the football boots and stretch out after a well needed rest, we sign off on another successful Seoul Gaels year and get ready for a new one. Not only did the club successfully host Korea's 2nd Gaelic Games but 2008 also saw five teams from Seoul proudly representing Korea in the Asian Gaelic Games held in Penang, Malaysia. The Seoul Gaels is celebrating its 7th year as Korea's flagship Gaelic football team and the club is growing from strength to strength.

Gaelic football is a sport growing in popularity and not just for those members of the Irish community. 2008 boasted a wide selection of members from the local and ex-pat community in Korea. Koreans, Aussies, Kiwis, Colombians, Americans, Canadians, Europeans can't get enough of it. Regardless of your past experiences with sport, there's something for everybody. Gaelic football has the winning formula that is guaranteed to have you hooked. To complement the exhilaration on the pitch, there's plenty of excitement off the pitch too. Whether its fitness or a social night out, the Seoul Gaels fits the bill!

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Joining the team

Whether you're interested in learning a new sport, or simply looking to get out and meet new people and have a bit of craic, the Seoul Gaels could be for you (and for all you singletons out, there has been a few blossoming relationships develop right under our noses...so there's hope for ya!). Feel free to come along to any of our events, sporting or social, and check us out. Join our mailing list and we can let you know if anything new and exciting is happening. Word of warning though, this is the Seoul Gaels, there is **always** something new and exciting happening.

Specials at the Wolfhound

Happy Hour

Mon-Fri

₩2000 Draft Cass

Fish and Chips Night

2 for 1 Fish and Chips every

Thursday



Gaelic football is one of the oldest games in the world and one of the two most popular spectator sports in Ireland today.

It is believed to have descended from an ancient Irish football game known as 'caid' which dates back to medieval times, although modern rules were not set down until 1886.

So here's the thing.... if it's been around THAT long and is continuing to escalate in popularity outside the Emerald Isle...surely there must be something good about it ... right?Damn right!!

So how is it that it's kept its legacy intact for so long? What's the big attraction? How is it people foreign to the sport play it, adapt to it quickly, and then LOVE it!?? Just how is it that the passion for this amateur sport extends out of its home place?? Well, we thought the best way to answer these would be to ask those new to the sport just what exactly it is they like about Gaelic football

What First-Time Players Have To Say.

We asked club members, who had never played the game before coming to Korea, what they thought of the sport.

'If you're into intense physical activity this is your sport' says Canadian born Warren Franklin. Warren, whose previous sports include ice hockey and golf, has traveled to compete in the Asian Games for the past two years. According to Warren, 'Gaelic is a game I think anyone can play. It uses all your faculties. So, if you're not good at soccer but are a good rugby or basketball player, you can play this game. If you're a good soccer player but not good at basketball or rugby, you can play this game'.

The lovely Chelsey of Washington DC is quick to agree. 'Gaelic is very easy to pick up....which isn't the case with many other sports I've played'. Chelsey had an astounding first time experience at the Asian Gaelic Games, as she was one of nine ladies selected at the games to receive a very prestigious Gaelic All Star award, which she attributes to the support of the club. 'Whether the best player or the worst on the pitch, you were always encouraged and offered help if you wanted it.'

Fandy Rosero (pictured above) had this to say, 'There are many skills to master in order to be a good player, but I felt from the beginning that I didn't have to be particularly good at all of the skills at once. I could play the game even if I couldn't solo properly, or if my handpass lacked accuracy.' So the moral of the story here is that if you have played any sport before, chances are you'll be a good contender on the pitch and come outfighting! So it gets the blood pumping, it's fast, physical and extremely challenging. The majority of first timers can't get over how much contact is allowed in contrast to other sports. It's even a great sport to watch, mind you, you're so pumped after, that you are ready for action yourself. It's not for the faint hearted. Blend that with the opportunity to represent Korea in an Inter-Asian competition, sure it's no wonder that people often describe themselves as hooked after one session.



Seoul Gaels Banquet 2008

The 2008 Seoul Gaels Banquet marked the end of yet another successful footballing year for the club. As we lifted our glasses we forgot about all the long lost Saturdays, the early morning starts, the shouting, the sprints and not forgetting all the blood, sweat and tears (Irish mummies have ruined those boys!!). And as we refilled our glasses (continuously) we recounted the numerous laughs, craic, shenanigans and banana boats. The Banquet was held at Club Italia in Hannam and we were delighted

to have two of our sponsors in attendance on the night, The Wolfhound and Syntek's Philip Kim.

Navigating us through the night were the club's very own Helen Cooke and John Buckley. The club's co-founder and current Chairman Kevin Tobin was on hand to proudly present awards to those players and members that excelled performing both on and off the pitch.

A special thanks was also made to Jin hui for her notable efforts which

ensured a very smooth Seoul Gaels year. Jin hui worked behind the scenes and had a hand in organising the Korean Gaelic Games and the well planned trip to Penang for the Asian Gaelic Games. Let's not forget to mention all our clean socks.

A good night was had by all so a big thanks to everybody who played their part especially Kevin and his merry band of followers, Taidgh, Sean, Mary, Helen, Fandy, Mairead, Brendan, Brian, Brona and fish loving Custer.

2008 Award winners

Club Person of the Year - Taidgh Simpson

Women's Player of the Tournament – Helen Cooke

Women's Player of the Year – Karen Timbs

Men's Player of the Tournament – Rob Murphy

Men's Player of the Year – Sean Cummane



Up and Coming Events

St. Patrick's Day

After a rocking Seoul Gaels Xmas dinner and a quiet January, the club are now getting ready to launch the 2009 football season. With the help of our patron Saint we will do this in true Irish style. The Irish Association of Korea and the Seoul Gaels will join forces to celebrate St Patrick's Day here in Seoul. So come join in the celebrations on Saturday the 14th of March where we will kick off at 12pm in Maronier Park near HyeHwa station in the Daehangno area of Seoul. These details are yet to be confirmed so keep checking our website or the IAK's at www.iak.co.kr. Alternatively, forward on your email address so we can keep you updated.

Merchandise Now Available!

The Seoul Gaels gear is now available to purchase. The range includes our team jersey, as well as various polo shirts and hooded sweatshirts. This funky fashion label can now be viewed online so check out our website www.seoulgaels.com for more details.



This Year's Asian Gaelic Games

Having been described by some as the most electrifying experience ever and by others as a life time sporting highlight, it's easy to conclude that the Asian Gaelic Games are rapidly growing in popularity. Teams from all over Asia gather annually to compete for the Derek Brady Cup. This year's games will be held in Bangkok, Thailand, so if you fancy a memorable experience, a nice curry, or simply a game of ping pong, we'd love to have you on board. Regardless of athletic ability, you won't find yourself at a loss as the games cater for all levels..... for those who like a challenge and for those who like a laugh!!

2008 Asian Gaelic Games Penang

Penang hosted 35 teams from more than 20 countries from Asia; teams from China, Japan, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Taiwan, and Singapore to teams from Qatar, Bahrain and the UAE all made their way to Malaysia for this year's edition of the Asian Gaelic Games. So while the rest of Korea was adding layers to protect against the cooling October temperatures, the Seoul Gaels were off to brave the humidity. Five teams in total represented Korea, two ladies, two mens and one hurling.

Last year's tournament was another successful year for the Men's Team. Although no football silverware made its way back to the ROK, there were plenty of highlights both on and off the pitch that made the trip rewarding. The only silverware that did make it back was the Korean Men's Hurling Team which went undefeated and won their 'B' competition by a shutout, something unheard of in Hurling.

But football was the main focus of the day and there was great anticipation when the Gaels 'A' team met Hong Kong in the semi-final, as only a year before Seoul Gaels handed them their only loss in almost 3 years at the tournament. This year it was not to be and the 'A' squad sadly bowed out at the semi-finals. Veterans Mark Cummins, Sean Cummane and a number of other key players look to rebuild and prepare for next year while we bid a sad farewell to John Ennis who took off for greener pastures.

The Men's 'B' team led by the age and grace of Vinny O'Connell and John Buckley took themselves to the quarter-finals only to lose the match in a second half of extra time. Special mention goes to Brian Keane who through injury took himself off the 'A' Team to give Brian Howley a spot and instead did what he could on his injured legs for the 'B's.

The awards night saw the Men's Team walk away with a well-deserved Goal-Keeper All-star award won by the Chairman of the Gaels himself, Kevin Tobin.

The ladies 'A' team made more modest progress, narrowly missing out in the final to Dubai, whom they had defeated earlier on in the day. Again, this was somewhat reminiscent of the previous year where victory was within reach but yet untouched. Next year people....next year! But our ladies did not go unnoticed. The team walked away with their well deserved medals and three awards of recognition. Captain Karen Timbs, vice- captain Mary Corry and goal keeper Chelsey Thomas were three of the nine female All Star recipients at the 2008 Asian Gaelic Games. So although, there was no silver, there was definitely a silver lining.

The ladies 'B' team captained by Helen Cooke and coached by Taidgh Simspon had a more inter- Asian club flavour. It consisted of 3 Singapore, 3 Hong Kong, and 4 Seoul Gaels players. These ladies battled but fell short of the Plate, losing out to Japan whom they beat earlier. But with friendship and fun as goals, these ladies accomplished everything they set out to do. The medals were a bonus!

We all look forward to next year with high hopes for a savage tournament in Bangkok and a chance to bring the Derek Brady back to its rightful home in Seoul. The Seoul Gaels of 2008 were proudly sponsored by Syntek Korea, The Wolfhound in Itaewon, Guinness, XiClinic Dermatology and Watts on Tap, Sinchon. We would like to thank all of our