

# History of the GAA Comprehension

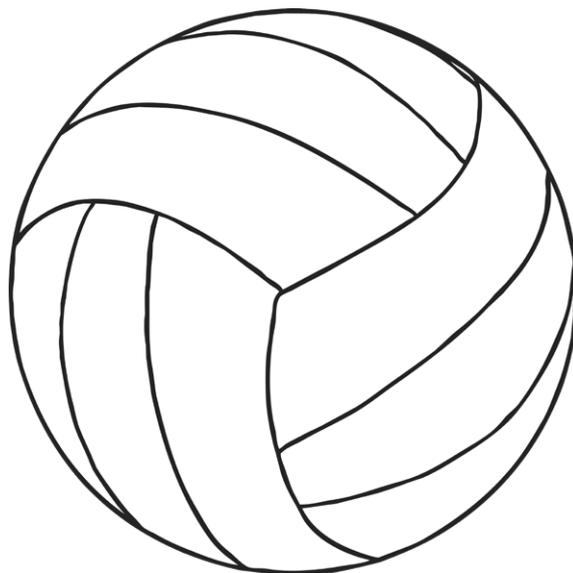
The Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA), was formed by seven men at 3 p.m. on Saturday 1st November 1884. Michael Cusack organised this famous meeting in Mrs Hayes' Hotel in Thurles, County Tipperary. In Ireland, there was an increasing popularity of the new British sports of soccer and rugby. Cusack wanted to revive the traditional Irish sports of handball, hurling and football.

Determined to restore the playing of Irish sports, Cusack wrote a famous letter to the newspaper calling for the preservation of national games to be discussed at a meeting in Hayes' Hotel. During this meeting, a man named Maurice Davin was made president of the GAA, whilst Cusack was chosen as secretary.

As a result of that meeting and the efforts of Maurice Davin, Michael Cusack and the other patrons, the GAA quickly gained popularity and every parish in Ireland had its own GAA Club. Today there are over 2000 clubs all over Ireland and two stands in the Croke Park GAA Stadium are named after the GAA founders Cusack and Davin.

## Did You Know?

These traditional Irish games had existed for centuries in Ireland, with hurling being linked to the ancient legend of Cú Chulainn. Cú Chulainn was a mighty Irish warrior who used his hurling skills to defeat an angry hound, by hitting it with his ball (called a sliotar) at an enormous speed.



# History of the GAA

## Comprehension Questions

1. The term 'GAA' stands for 'Gaelic Athletic Association'.

true

false

2. The GAA was formed on Sunday 1st November 1884 at...

4pm

3pm

2pm

3. What was Michael Cusack's job before he founded the GAA?

teacher

farmer

athlete

4. Which sports were becoming popular in Ireland at the start of the 19th century?

tennis and  
badminton

swimming and  
gymnastics

rugby and  
football

5. Which Irish sport did Cú Chulainn excel in?

hurling

gaelic football

handball

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The Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA), was formed by seven men at 3 p.m. on Saturday 1st November 1884. Michael Cusack, a teacher from Dublin, organised this famous meeting in Mrs Hayes' Hotel in Thurles, County Tipperary. The 19th century in Ireland was a time of great revolution in sport and there was an increasing popularity of the new British sports of soccer and rugby. The 19th century however, also saw a revival of Irish culture, including dancing, music and literature. Cusack therefore wanted to revive the traditional Irish sports of handball, hurling and football.

## Did You Know?

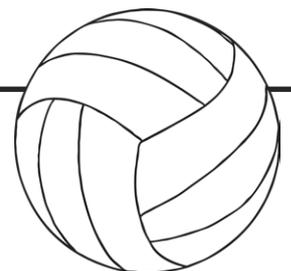
These traditional Irish games had existed for centuries in Ireland, with hurling being linked to the ancient legend of Cú Chulainn. Cú Chulainn, who was originally called Setanta, was a mighty Irish warrior who used his hurling skills to defeat an angry hound, owned by a blacksmith called Culann. He did so by hitting it with his ball (called a sliotar) at an enormous speed.

Determined to restore the playing of Irish sports, Cusack wrote a famous article called, 'A word about Irish athletics' and a letter to the United Ireland Newspaper, calling for the preservation of national games to be discussed at a meeting in Hayes' Hotel. During this meeting, a man named Maurice Davin was made president of the GAA, whilst Cusack was chosen as secretary.

As a result of that meeting in Thurles and the efforts of Maurice Davin, Michael Cusack and the other patrons, the GAA quickly gained popularity and every parish in Ireland had its own GAA Club. Today there are over 2000 clubs all over Ireland and two stands in the Croke Park GAA Stadium are named after the GAA founders Cusack and Davin. This stadium has been the home to the All-Ireland Senior Football and Hurling Championship finals since 1887.

## Did You Know?

Michael Cusack was born in Carron, County Clare in 1847. He was a well-known figure in Dublin as he opened and taught in his own school in the city. He could be recognised by his large beard and blackthorn stick which he always used to carry. He was a fluent Irish speaker and had a passion for Irish sport.



# History of the GAA

## Comprehension Questions

1. In the following sentence what does the word 'organised' mean?  
Michael Cusack, a teacher from Dublin, organised this famous meeting.

forgot      planned      postponed

2. The GAA was formed on Sunday 1st November 1884 at...

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3. Find and copy another word from the passage which means 'old'.

---

4. Tennis and badminton were becoming popular sports in Ireland at the start of the 19th century?

true

false

How do we know Cú Chulainn excelled in the sport of hurling?

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# History of the GAA

## Comprehension Answers

1. In the following sentence what does the word 'organised' mean?  
Michael Cusack, a teacher from Dublin, organised this famous meeting.

forgot

planned

postponed

2. The GAA was formed on Sunday 1st November 1884 at...  
The GAA was founded on Saturday 1st November 1884 at 3 p.m.

3. Find and copy another word from the passage which means 'old'.  
**ancient**

4. Tennis and badminton were becoming popular sports in Ireland at the start of the 19th century?

true

false

5. How do we know Cú Chulainn excelled in the sport of hurling?  
Cú Chulainn excelled in the sport of hurling because he killed an angry hound by hitting a sliotar at enormous speed.

# History of the GAA Comprehension

The Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA), was formed by seven men at 3 p.m. on Saturday 1st November 1884. Michael Cusack, a teacher from Dublin, organised this famous meeting in Mrs Hayes' Hotel in Thurles, County Tipperary. The 19th century in Ireland was a time of great revolution in sport and there was an increasing popularity of the new British sports of soccer and rugby. The 19th century however, also saw a revival of Irish culture, including dancing, music and literature. Cusack therefore wanted to revive the traditional Irish sports of handball, hurling and football.

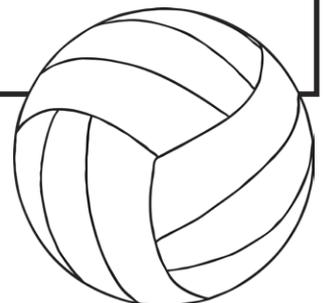
## Did You Know?

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Determined to restore the playing of Irish sports, Cusack set up the 'Metropolitan Hurling Club' in December 1883. Inspired by the success of this club, Cusack was convinced the playing of Irish sports could be promoted on a nationwide scale. He wrote a famous article called, 'A word about Irish athletics' and a letter to the United Ireland Newspaper calling for the preservation of national games to be discussed at a meeting in Hayes' Hotel. During this meeting, a man named Maurice Davin was made president of the GAA, whilst Cusack was chosen as secretary.

## Did You Know?

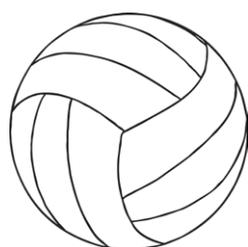
Maurice Davin was a world famous athlete, who also shared Cusack's passion to revive Irish sports. He was one of four brothers who were all athletes. Davin competed in several sports including rowing, boxing and running. He held world records in hammer throwing and also excelled at the high-jump.



As a result of that meeting in Thurles and the efforts of Maurice Davin, Michael Cusack and the other patrons, the GAA quickly gained popularity and every parish in Ireland had its own GAA Club. Today there are over 2000 clubs all over Ireland and two stands in the Croke Park GAA Stadium are named after the GAA founders Cusack and Davin. This stadium has been the home to the All-Ireland Senior Football and Hurling Championship finals since 1887.

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# History of the GAA

## Comprehension Questions

1. What is 'GAA' short for?

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2. Find and copy a word from the passage which means to 'bring back' something.

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3. How did people find out about where and when this meeting was?

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4. Why was this GAA meeting organised?

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5. In your opinion, do you think this meeting was a success?  
Give a reason for your answer.

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6. How are Cusack and Davin remembered today?

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# History of the GAA

## Comprehension Answers

1. What is 'GAA' short for?

The GAA is short for the Gaelic Athletic Association.

2. Find and copy a word from the passage which means to 'bring back' something.  
revive

3. How did people find out about where and when this meeting was?

People found out where and when the meeting was from a letter Cusack had written in the newspaper.

4. Why was this GAA meeting organised?

The GAA meeting was organised as Cusack wanted to revive the playing of Irish sports in Ireland.

5. In your opinion, do you think this meeting was a success?

Give a reason for your answer.

Yes, I think it was a success as there are now over 2000 GAA clubs in Ireland.

6. How are Cusack and Davin remembered today?

Cusack and Davin are remembered today by the two stands in Croke Park which are named after them.