

Sharing & learning together – a pathway for clubs

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Munster club forum 2018



Where is the info going?

850 coaches attended

2,200+ clubs

Croke Park



GAA Games Development Conference

Venue: Croke Park

Dates: 12 - 13th January 2018

Theme: Think It - Do It - Become It

What is a community of practice?

- A coaches' community of practice (CCoP) is described as 'a group of people (coaches) who share a common concern, set of problems, or a passion about a topic, and who deepen their knowledge and expertise in this area by interacting on an ongoing basis' (Wenger et al. 2002: p.4).

What does
that actually
mean?

- A community of practice for club coaches is simply a formal arrangement whereby coaches physically come together to discuss problems, discover solutions & share ideas, knowledge & best practice.
- The collective is more experienced & knowledgeable than the individual.
- It is a form of coaching scaffolding.

Why bother with it?

- Most clubs have huge untapped coaching resources within their own people
- Coaches are generally hoarders of information / education
- Actively draw it out and spread it around
- Collective learning
- A shared repertoire of resources; experiences, stories, tools, as well as ideas for dealing with recurring problems
- A mentoring program for inexperienced coaches

How does it work ? Nuts & bolts

All coaching groups
meet collectively at
the start of the
season for planning
– coaching officer

Set up a club-wide
coaching Whatsapp
group for
information sharing
– articles, ideas, etc.

Main group meets
collectively every 6-
8 weeks (3-4
meetings)

Main group meets
at seasons end to
review process

Build and sustain a
club coaching
identity

Three interconnected benefits

It creates a culture of learning between coaches, mentoring and sharing information

Increased confidence of coaches brought about through regular, structured & on-going dialogue
• Callary (2013)

Regular increased communication between coaches that may not ordinarily have the opportunity



The best collaborations create something bigger than the sum of what each coach can create on their own.

A blue speech bubble with the text "Thank you" inside, set against a background of concentric circles and a black swoosh.

Thank you

Workshop Question 1

What can clubs do to actively promote the creation of a coaches community of practice?

Workshop
question 2

- What are some of the negatives or dangers with setting up a CCOP and how can they be prevented or counteracted?

Workshop Question 3

What can the club administration do to promote and help the development of a coach COP?

Workshop question 4

What are some of the longer term benefits of a club having a functioning COP?

The background features the GAA logo, which consists of a blue shield with a white 'GAA' monogram at the bottom. The shield is surrounded by a yellow border. The text 'Questions' is centered above the shield.

Questions

Question 1.

What can clubs do to actively promote the creation of a coaches community of practice?

Question 2.

What are some of the negatives or dangers with setting up a CCOP and how can they be prevented or counteracted?

Question 3.

What can the club administration do to promote and help the development of a coach COP?

Question 4.

What are some of the longer term benefits of a club having a functioning COP?

of practice?