



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Daniel O'Connor



So, where are you living now and what are you up to?

I made the move to the Middle East in 2022 living in Dubai for two and a half years and recently set up shop in Abu Dhabi. Still working in Hotels enjoying the sunshine.

When did you play for the club and which teams were you on?

I began my hurling career as a chap in 2001.

What were the highlights of your time playing with the club?

Being a part of the Adult Hurling set up from 2006 I think, we won the Junior championship in 2009. Coming home for a week in October 2013 from Baltimore to watch Pooch stand over a free on the stand side of Aughrim and stick the ball over the bar to win the Intermediate Championship.

Off the pitch I was lucky, most might say, to hold the roles of Club Treasurer and Secretary on the committee for different periods. Working alongside great fellow club men and women on the administration side of things. A truly enlightening experience!!

Is there a particular match that stands out in your memory?

Every game holds a special place in my memory.

What mentors stand out who had a big impact on you?

If it wasn't for Colm & Mossy Gaskin back in the day I don't think we would have this group of lads who a lot of are still playing to this day. Driving us the length & breadth of the county for club and county games.

Ciaran Goff, Gerry Walsh and of course you cant mention Hurling in Greystones without thinking of Brendan Cuddihy (Congratulations Bren on your most deserved Lifetime Achievement award) These Gents brought some very special days to hurling in the club and kept the show on the road whenever we went through some bumpy patches!

Eamonn Scallan who managed us from 2017-2021

Any funny or amusing story from your time with the club?

On the pitch, we were playing a Junior Hurling game down the field. The ball landed in around the 21 where Mullo picked it up and made a beeline for the goal with Joyce flanking him. Mullo was tacking hits left right and centre, bouncing off lads, eventually hitting the ground and spilling the ball around the square— Joyce swiftly stepped in and scooped up the sliothar and effortlessly hit the back of the net, celebrating in style. Instead of congratulating him, Mullo made his feelings loud and clear that he had done all the hard work!!

Off the field – meeting Football Anto Byrne – there's not enough space to write down all these funny moments.

Favourite teammate?

Couldn't name one. Extremely fortunate to have a solid group of lads playing together from our early school days. The majority of us were in Primary school together – with Con Súilleabháin giving us direction back then, right up to this day – I think I still speak to most of them!! Great friendships stemmed from the GAA club.

Have you played or been involved in Gaelic games at all since leaving the club?

Not as much as I'd like to have done, balancing work and GAA is not as easy over here as it was back home! Although I have managed a few stints in a Qatar jersey, playing with fellow Middle Eastern Eire Og Greystones man Nathan Unwin in some of the Middle East competitions. Hoping to get a bit more into it for 2025 now after setting up roots in Abu Dhabi.

Any possibility of returning to Greystones and maybe evening wearing the jersey or getting involved in some capacity again?

100% - I've played more hurling back home than over here over the last 3 years. Been lucky enough to pull on the jersey for a game or two each time I come home. Visiting the Cuddihy house for a cup of tea, Brendan seems to always appear with a hurl he had repaired with the initials DOC on written on it.

Don't know what the plans are for the future just yet but I still hold onto the thoughts of playing senior hurling again before Billy, Chester and Petey get too old – otherwise I'll settle for a Junior B championship with them in a few years!!