

An Introduction to **Scór**:

Questions, Answers, Resources

Cumann Lúthchleas Gael

SCÓR



GAA

Coiste Náisiúnta Scór

Cumann Lúthchleas Gael



RÉAMHFOCAIL Ó UACHTARÁN CLG

Ar son Chumann Lúthchleas Gael, ba mhaith liom chomhgháirdeas a dhéanamh le Choiste Náisiúnta Scór as ucht an leabhrán eolais seo atá curtha le chéile acu.

On behalf of Cumann Luthchleas Gael, I want to offer my congratulations to Coiste Náisiúnta Scór on the publication of this most worthwhile addition to the GAA library and list of information booklets, which can prove such a shot in the arm in the promotion of Scór.

- The GAA continues to be a source of strength and pride in our society and communities through our network of volunteer driven clubs.
- Our Games have never been stronger, never played by so many and matches never attended by such large numbers.
- We've never had more Clubs and that requires us to be pillars of the community that offer not just a sporting outlet but a cultural outlet too.
- There has never been a greater need for Scór to be a vibrant part of a thriving GAA, offering an inclusive all-embracing aspect to our Clubs for young and old alike.

This new publication is a great guide to help people get involved in Scór.

I've no doubt it will prove a thoroughly useful resource and in turn drive up our participation numbers.

To all of those countless volunteers who through their passion and enthusiasm have kept the flame of Scór alive – maith sibh agus míle buíochas.

I look forward to seeing the fruits of this promotional drive in the months and years ahead.

Tá súil agam go rachaidh Scór ó neart go neart gach bliain. Bainigí sult as an leabhar eolais seo.

Rath Dé ar an obair.



Aogán Ó Fearghail,
Uachtarán,
Chumann Lúthchleas Gael



WHAT IS SCÓR?

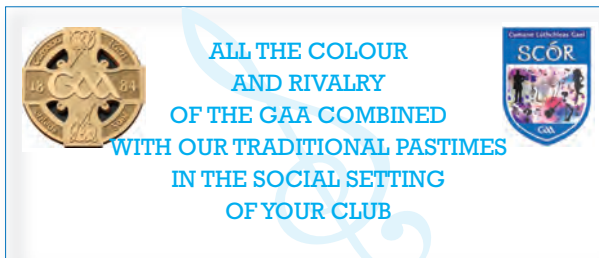
Scór is a GAA competition that combines all the colour and rivalry of Gaelic Games with the social/fun element of Ireland's traditional past-times. The competition was established by the GAA in 1969 with the aim of promoting Ireland's traditional pastimes and culture while offering club members the chance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



*The late Derry Gowan,
founder of Scór*

WHAT IS THE MISSION OF SCÓR?

Scór seeks to advance the aspiration of the GAA to actively support the Irish language, traditional Irish dancing, music, song, and other aspects of Irish culture, through a range of competitions at youth and adult levels, designed to encourage participation, enjoyment, inclusivity and excellence. It shall foster an awareness and love of the national ideals and assist in promoting a community spirit through its clubs at home and abroad.



WHAT DOES SCÓR COMPETITION COMPRISE?

There are eight events/disciplines in Scór that cover all aspects of Irish culture:

- **Rince Foirne** Figure or Ceilí Dancing
- **Amhránaíocht Aonair** Solo Singing
- **Aithriseoireacht/Scéalaíocht** Recitation/Storytelling
- **Bailéad Ghrúpa** Ballad Group
- **Léiriú Stáitse** Stage Presentation
- **Ceol Uirlise** Instrumental Music
- **Rince Seit** Set Dancing
- **Tráth na gCeist** Table Quiz



Are there different levels of competition?

The competitions are divided into three levels:

- Scór na bPáistí A Primary Schools level competition
- Scór na nÓg An inter-club competition for those under 17 years
- Scór Sinsir An Inter-club competition for those 17 years and over.

How are Scór competitions run?

Just like the All-Ireland Football and Hurling Championships, clubs taking part in Scór first run off competitions among the club's own members with the winners going forward to Divisional/District Board stage where deemed necessary, and then on to the County Final. The winners go on to the Provincial final and finally on to the All-Ireland Final.



WHAT STANDING HAS SCÓR WITHIN THE GAA?



All Ireland Scór champions are presented with their medals by the President of the GAA. Winners are All-Ireland champions in their own right in the same way as All-Ireland Senior Football or Hurling Final winners!

CAN ANYONE ENTER SCÓR?

To enter Scór na nÓg or Scór Sinsir you must be a registered member of the GAA or one of the following sister organisations:

The Camogie Association

Ladies Gaelic Football Association

GAA Handball Association

GAA Rounders Association



Who is responsible for promoting Scór in my Club?

"Clubs should appoint an Irish Language and Cultural Officer whose key role will be to organise Scór and other cultural and language activities in the Club" GAA Club Manual

All GAA clubs have an Oifigeach Cultúr & Teanga. The promotion of Scór is one of the principal duties of this officer. At county board level there is also an Oifigeach Cultúr & Teanga who has responsibility for the County Scór Committee (Coiste Scór). The County Oifigeach Cultúr & Teanga can provide valuable assistance to clubs that are engaging with Scór for the first time or returning to Scór after a break.

My Club has not been involved in Scór. What should I do to get it started?

Before you start set your targets. Initially we wish to have the club represented in Scór na nÓg and Scór Sinsir competition at the initial level of entry in your county. Do not start by aiming to win a county, provincial or national title. If all goes well these targets will present themselves in time.



Starting at school or underage level, recruit some children who have an interest in Irish music, dance, singing, storytelling, quizzing or acting. Now look around at the people in your Club and community - are there musicians, singers, dancers or people who do recitation and acting? Can you get them to agree to mentor the young people and enter teams in Scór na nÓg? All the time have the aim of getting them take part themselves in Scór Sinsir once they see how Scór works. (Alternatively start by recruiting your adult

teams and once they have participated, task them with forming a Scór na nÓg team in the following year.)

Similarly, are there people who would mentor and form Tráth na gCeist teams? Get them together and have them enter Scór on behalf of your Club. Connect the interest they have to a supportive GAA Club or school and see what fun they have. The relationship will be of benefit to all... children, adults, school & club.

Participate. Participate, Participate.

Ambition and practice may lead to titles.... but that is for another day.

Okay, I'm committed. What will I do next?

A 10 Point Plan:

1. Contact your GAA Club Cathaoirleach and inform him/her of your interest and willingness to be involved. Check what back-up is available from the club and what regulations you need to abide by (Garda Vetting, Code of Conduct etc.)
2. Make contact with your Oifigeach Cultúr & Teanga and ascertain when the various competitions within the county take place. If your county is well organised in relation to Scór your club may have to enter a divisional competition as a first step. Again, your division (e.g. South Kerry) should have a Cultural Officer/ Scór Officer and Scór Committee that may be of assistance to you.
3. Decide on the level of participation you see as being a realistic step forward that you can take in promoting Scór this year? (Any or all of the following at school or underage level: Solo Singer, Ballad Group, Music Group, Recitation, Quiz team, Sketch and/or Dance Team)
4. Check what resources there is in the club area, Comhaltas Ceoltoirí Éireann, Irish dance classes or teachers, Drama group, Folk group or Choir, Speech & Drama classes, Table quizzes.
5. Contact the people involved in all or any of the local groups and see who would be interested in helping. Recruit musicians, singers, quizzers who would be willing to mentor children. Remember the requirement to have such mentors vetted.
6. Set up a Scór Committee of three or more persons as it is impossible to do it all on your own.
7. Plan a set of activities..... singing, music, recitation practice, preferably based in the GAA clubhouse (if such exists), school or parish hall.
8. Notify children and adults through schools or local organisations/newsletters.



9. Practice. Start small. Get children/adults singing, solo and group, playing music, reciting without frills. Have mini quizzes. Let teams develop. Build. Use music/ singing teachers to add ornamentation if required.
10. Acquaint yourself with the rules of Scór. “Leabhar Rialacha Scór” (Scór Rulebook) can be had from your Oifigeach Cultúr & Teanga or online at <http://www.gaa.ie/the-gaa/cultur-agus-gaeilge/scór>
Participate. Put Enjoyment ahead of competition.

ORGANISING DANCE TEAMS FOR SCÓR

Rince Seit

Teams are traditionally of eight but a half set of four is allowed. A team can be of one or mixed gender.

Get a Panel of Dancers of Similar Age/Size.

Remember that, unlike Ceili Dancing, in Set dancing the Gent (or girl in the Gents position) usually starts on his left foot and the Lady on her right. It is important that you have a sub for both positions as the footwork and movements are different depending on if you dance as a Gent or Lady.

Assess for previous experience.

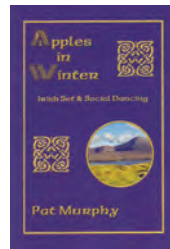
If they have all attended Irish dance classes they should be able to do the basic 123 step- this is a great start for a Polka set. The easiest is the North Kerry but other options with more complicated movement include the Cashel Set, Sliabh gCua, Skibbereen, Sliabh Luachra.

Start Simply

For the reel step the most basic set step is probably the Connemara Set. If able to do a Clare step, the most popular choices are the Caledonian Set or the Plain Set. In the Caledonian and the Plain there are no swings which some teams find difficult. The easiest is Plain 1 and 2 or Caledonian 1 and 2.

Increase Difficulty

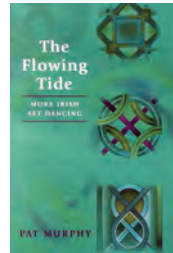
When teams get a little better they need to increase the difficulty of the parts which will make them more competitive, substituting maybe the 3rd or 6th of the Plain or the 5th of the Caledonian instead of the easier ones. However, remember an easy part danced well is always better than a complicated one that is danced poorly. Other popular reel sets include the Cavan Reel, Roscommon Lancers, Corofin Plain, Clare Orange and Green and the Claddagh Set. Some of these have a variety in parts including some Jig and Polka



parts. All have swings and some have different footwork which is more intricate than the basic Clare step.

Online and Other Resources

Most parts of these sets can be found online on “youtube” – some danced by competition teams and some demonstrated by dance teachers. This is a good resource to look at and get an idea of the movements and whether the part chosen will suit the team. “Dance Minder” website also lists the moves of many sets and has videos of teams demonstrating various parts. Remember that a demonstration team only gives the movements and some pointers on the step. A properly practiced competition team will/can make the set look much different and livelier than the demonstration is.



There are many set dances from all over Ireland and abroad. Some useful aids are Terry Moylan and Pat Murphy's books .

Rince Foirne/Céilí



Teams of four, six or eight dancers of mixed or one gender are allowed.

There is a list of allowable dances in the Rince Foirne competition. These can be found in the book “Ár Rincí Foirne/Céilí “. The book, available from “An Comisiún le Rince Gaelach” is updated every few years and the current edition is 2014. A high percentage of the dances are not

suitable for competition dancing. “The High Cauled Cap” is the most popular in competition with “The Cross Reel”, “The Eight-Hand Reel”, “The Eight-Hand Jig”, “The Morris Reel”, “Trip to the Cottage”, “The Sweets of May” and “The Three Tunes” also danced regularly.

The above are all for eight dancers but if a team has only six dancers “The Fairy Reel” or “The Duke Reel” are suitable with “The Four-Hand Reel” or “The Humours of Bandon” being the dances of choice for a team of four dancers.

Generally a group of eight will receive more marks than a team of six or four but this depends on the standard. The goal, then, is to have an eight-hand with a couple of subs –one for the “Gents” position and one for the “Ladies” position as the movements are different for each spot.

It takes a lot of time, practice and effort to get a Rince Foirne group to a high standard. Rome wasn't built in a day and the advice would be to start on an easy dance like “The Morris Reel” or “The High Cauled Cap” and after a couple of years

move to a more unusual/ difficult dance. Timing is crucial. Having dancers practice to a range of music will help them be ready for the competition night.

Competition time is stressful for competitors and they will get nervous and make mistakes. Obviously if a team is made up of experienced Irish dancers this is less of a problem, however, if starting with a team new to dancing, every chance a team has to perform in public should be taken. Other competitions, concerts, even exhibitions at the local old folk's party should be sought out so that the nervousness of dancing in public reduces and the team will be able to perform to the best of their ability when the competition comes around.

Simple costume preferably in club colours is best to start with. This can be upgraded as the team improve.

Official CLRG guidebook "Ár Rincí Céilí" on 30 Céilí dances for exam and competition purposes. (Price including postage and packaging €15).)

Visual aid to accompany the "Ár Rince Céilí" booklet (Price including postage and packaging €15).

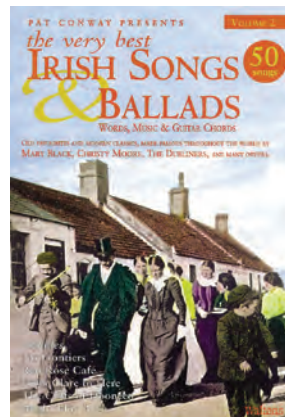
Notes for Bailéad Ghrúpaí

A ballad group consists of at least three and no more than five members. No more than three members may accompany any ballad with musical instruments.

A group must sing two ballads of contrasting tempo. The ballads must be of the history of Ireland, its people, places and folklore. As a ballad is defined as "a story in song" groups should aim to communicate the meaning and sentiment of their song to the audience in an engaging and sincere fashion. The song arrangement should reflect and reinforce the story that the ballads are telling. Musical devices such as harmonisation, part-singing, dynamics etc may be used for effect but should not dominate performances.

The following ballads might be a good starting point for a Ballad Group starting out:

- Súil a Rúin.
- Eileen Óg.
- Red is the Rose.
- Colcannon.
- Molly Malone.
- Isle of Hope.
- Tá na Báid
- The Sally Gardens.
- The City of Chicago.
- The Cavan Girl.
- The Star of the County Down.
- Mo Ghile Mear.



- The Strawberry Beds..
- Mo Cháilín Rua.
- Buachaill ón Éirne

There are a range of County Ballads to choose from, including:

- The Rose of Mooncoin.
- Slievenamon.
- The West's Awake.
- The Curragh of Kildare.
- The Fields of Athenry.

Be careful when choosing Ballads to ensure that they are Irish. For example the following songs are often thought to be of Irish origin but aren't:

- Caledonia.
- Black is the Colour.
- Marie's Wedding.
- Lakes of Pontchartrain.

The following resources may be useful:

'A Stór is a Stóirín' Book & CD available from Gael Linn.
A very useful resource with 36 Amhráin as Gaeilge.

Books and CDs: www.musicmadeeasy.ie
www.ceolireland.ie

Lyrics websites: www.irishsongs.com/lyrics
www.irish-song-lyrics.com



NOTES FOR CREATING A LÉIRIÚ STÁITSE

Script/Theme

In producing a script it is important to pick a central theme. All items that do not support the central theme should be excluded and all items included should contribute to the central theme directly and consistently.

- Once the theme is chosen brainstorm for ideas around the theme. Record all suggestions.
- Connect suggestions from brainstorm to produce a picture board of a given number of scenarios.

- Consider how the scenario can be complimented by use of song, movement, music, or lighting.
- Develop dialogue to fill out scenes.

Production

Pay attention to use of the space. In moving avoid having players obstructing each other. Make sure that there is a focus point on stage at all times and that the audience are not being distracted by movement outside the focal area. Create the mood of the piece by use of set, props, music, lighting, movement, costume, make-up and dialogue. If any of these items are superfluous leave them out.



Acting & Presentation



Characters should be convincing and believable and should stay in character for the duration of the piece. Actors should be clearly heard, listen and respond to one another and if using accents make sure they are well executed and appropriate. Narrators should be used sparingly, the cast work as a team and overacting should be avoided.

Impact & Entertainment

The show should flow seamlessly from start to finish. It is important to engage the audience from the very start and to sustain their engagement throughout. Every Léiriú should have at least one memorable moment. Originality is rewarded in the marking of shows.

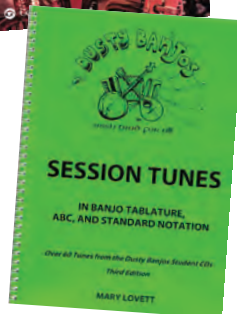
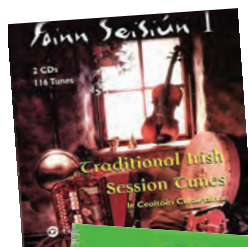


Guidance for Ceol Uirlise

As with many of the other competitions it is important to keep in mind that you are rarely starting entirely from scratch. Competitors wishing to take part in the Ceol Uirlise competitions will invariably have a formal or informal (parent or sibling) teacher. Where participants are attending classes in traditional music, their teacher will be able to guide in selecting suitable material and may also help with practice. Local branches of Comhaltas Ceóltoirí Éireann are often very helpful while instruments can be rented from Music Generation

- Ceol Uirlise groups can range from two to five members playing two tunes at Scór na nÓg level and three at Scór Sinsir. Electrical or battery power instruments are not allowed. (See Leabhar Rialacha Scór for further details.)

- Foinn Seisiún Books with accompanying CD, published by Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, have a good collection of tunes from the common traditional repertoire, all of which would be suitable.
- The Dusty Banjos Tunebooks are excellent and group tunes together. They can be accessed in most Music shops and on their online shop. There are also many other published collections of common tunes available in Music Stores and online.
- www.thesession.org is an excellent online resource. Comhaltas Live is a great YouTube channel with lots of group performances.
- CD's of Irish Music by groups and by solo artistes can be used as source material or for listening.



Where groups are coming together or being put together initially for Scór na nÓg great latitude should be allowed in the combination of instruments. As groups progress and develop more attention can be given to the blend of instruments.



SOLO COMPETITIONS

Aithriseoireacht /Scéalaíocht:

Recitation/Storytelling is an easy entry point to Scór competition for any contestant as it is so broad in its sweep. Contestants may recite in English or “As Gaeilge”

- A poem
- A Speech
- A Monologue

- An Excerpt from a play , book or film
- A Story
- A Folktale
- An original piece relating to Ireland, it's history, local folklore, people or places.



Examples of winning pieces can be viewed on YouTube by searching for:

- Scór Recitations
- Scór Aithriseoireacht

Contestants in this competition may choose to wear costumes to get into character. Notes on Presentation and Acting in the Léiriú Stáitse section may be helpful.

Amhránaíocht Aonair:

As with Aithriseoireacht/ Scéalaíocht this is an easy entry point for contestants. A competitor sings one song which must be relating to Ireland, it's history, local folklore, people or places. Competitors may accompany themselves with a single instrument but Piano or Keyboard are not allowed. Songs can be in any style, contemporary, traditional, folk or seas-nós in English or as Gaeilge

Resources for this competition are similar to those for Bailéad Ghrúpa and many examples can be found on YouTube by searching for

- Scór Amhránaíocht
- Solo Singing or
- Oireachtas Sean Nós singing.



Tráth na gCeist

The quiz competition is in a Table-Quiz format and is designed for teams of four. There are ten rounds of eight questions.

The questions cover:

- GAA (3 rounds)
- Irish History, Geography, Culture and Current Affairs, (4 rounds)
- World History and Geography and Current Affairs (2 rounds)
- General Knowledge (1 round)

In selecting teams some thought should be given to the strengths of individual team members across a range of subjects. Practice is vital. Quizbooks are available in bookshops, libraries and online.



GENERAL INFORMATION

<http://www.gaa.ie/the-gaa/cultur-agus-gaeilge/scor> has the following information:

- Scór Rulebook
- Rúnaithe Scór na gContaetha
- Tráth na gCeist - Answer Sheets
- Scór Marking Cards - 10 Rows
- Marking Card - 4 Rows
- Scór Remark Sheets



GAA Scór Oifigiúil on Facebook carries information on Scór activities countrywide www.facebook.com/scorgaa/

Many GAA county websites carry information on Scór under a Culture heading.

Many provincial and county Scór Committees run their own Facebook pages.



*All the colour and rivalry of the GAA
combined with our traditional pastimes
in the social setting of your club*

*An spleodar agus an choimhlint a bhaineann le CLG Ceangailte
lenár gcathmhí aimsire traidisiúnta ar an teallach i do club*





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