



## WEBSITE WATCH

One area where the GAA is eager to make progress is in the IT department.

More and more clubs are switching over their communication to the internet, e mail and web text as a means of carrying out their business.

A few years ago clubs websites were by and large a rarity – but now it is unusual for a club not to feature one as part of their promotional existence.

For some this technology is a chance to go overboard and in their haste to have all the latest 'bells and whistles' the essential information points are missed or hidden behind a maze of graphics. It's important to remember the most vital aspect of a club website is ease of access and being easy to navigate.

The Michael Davitt club from Belfast has a proud tradition dating back to 1912.

Their colourful and informative website is a good example of a well presented site that



Young An Ríocht Winners

carries everything happening in the club in an easy lay out.

Hurling, football, ladies football and handball are all given equal prominence.

What's really clever is a link carrying detailed maps of where their pitches are at Boucher Road and Twinbrook and also the club house location on the junction of the Falls Road and Clonard Street.

The club constitution is also on the site and there is a detailed day by day calendar of events in the club featuring everything from matches to training sessions for all sections of the club and a one stop shop for information.

Most GAA club managers will moan the worst part of the job is the phone bill trying to get in touch with players to inform them of matches, training etc. But a well maintained site like this means that those bills and hours spent on the phone can be spared and put to use elsewhere because players and members can get everything they need at the click of a button.

If there is an award for best GAA club crest, then there are a number of Antrim clubs who would have a strong case for top prize. Indeed, the best club crests in Ireland will soon be displayed for all to see when the GAA unveils it's Falla na gClub or Club Wall at Croke Park where the GAA plan to show every GAA crest in Ireland as part of its 125 celebrations and initiatives to boost to profile of clubs in the association..

The Davitts crest of the stag in full

slight is simple but striking and not your average GAA logo. It will stand out and catch your eye.

Last but not least there is also a hefty gallery of photos on the Davitts site which look the part.

The Antrim County Board deserve great credit for leading the way on IT. Their website [www.gaa.ie/antrim](http://www.gaa.ie/antrim) is first class and well worth a look.

But any club still looking into devising a website and looking for inspiration would do well to check out Michael Davitt's from Antrim as a way of getting information easily and colourfully presented.

Cian Ó Murchadha

email your club website address to [leinstergaapr@eircom.net](mailto:leinstergaapr@eircom.net)



Celebrating the Saoirse Cup win of 2004

(Right) Senior Footballers in Beringer Cup action against Ardoyne



(Below) The Hurlers take on St Brigid's of Belfast

