

Vienna Gaels – European Handball Championships 2017

Vienna 18th November 2017





Vienna Gaels GAA Club



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Vienna Gaels GAA Club



Introduction

Vienna Gaels GAA Club is honoured to have been given the privilege of hosting the Gaelic Games Europe One-Wall Handball Championships for 2017. This will be a fantastic occasion to showcase the hard work of all the clubs in developing the GAA in our region.

The club has been in existence since 2004 and is very much a multi-cultural one – something which has proved key to its survival. The club has hosted its own regional Gaelic football tournament almost every year, as well as the 2012 and 2015 Pan-European tournaments, and is ever-present at tournaments throughout the region.

In the past number of years we have expanded the club to include a One-Wall Handball team and a Hurling team. We hope to play a significant part in the development of One-Wall Handball in the Central & East European region and across all of Europe.

Vienna is one of Europe's oldest and most beautiful cities and is one of its leading tourist destinations. In recent years the city has consistently been voted among the world's top three most liveable cities thanks to one of the best public transport systems in the world, an abundance of green space amenities, an array of festivals and public events, reasonably low cost of living, and an almost non-existent crime rate.

On behalf of the club, we look forward to welcoming you all here on November 18th. We hope that you all enjoy your stay in Vienna and (more importantly!) success on the playing field!

The Gaels would be delighted to welcome friends old and new to Vienna.

Please find below the details of our proposal. Should you have any additional questions please do not hesitate to contact our secretary. (secretary.vienna.europe@gaa.ie)

Le meas,

Organising Committee 2017

Vienna Gaels GAA Club



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New to the Sport?

The GAA websites provide some excellent resources on training and the rules of the game. A short video on how to play can be found on the Handball section of the Vienna Gaels website : <http://www.gaavienna.at/handball/>

A full list of training drills and info is listed under the GAA Handball site : <https://www.gaahandball.ie/clubzone/downloads/coaching-resources>

Basically it is squash without the racket and side & back walls.

In Play : Players must be holding serve in order score points. The aim is to return the ball against the wall. The ball then needs to bounce once within the perimeter of the court (opposing player can choose to volley the ball before the bounce, at their own risk).

Service : The ball must hit the back wall first and bounce within the back square. If the serve goes long or short, the player receives a second serve. If the ball goes wide then serve switches to the other player.

History of the Championships

The first 2 Gaelic Games Europe One-Wall Championships took place in Nizza-Monferrato in Northern Italy.

November 2015: Teams from Austria, Italy and France participated in the inaugural European Championships. The competition was played over 2 days with Nizza-Monferrato prevailing in the A Championship. Bordeaux battled through to take the B Championship. The ladies competition was taken by the strong local team of Nizza-Monferrato.

The after-tournament dinner and party was attended by the president of the Italian Olympic committee where the president officially launched the bid to have the sport in the Olympic Games in the future

November 2016: A team representing the University of Limerick were added to the line-up for the 2016 tournament. After a pulsating final they were narrowly beaten by Nizza-Monferrato. It was a strong weekend for the local club with Nizza-Monferrato taking the B and Mixed Championship.

Tournament Format

The tournament will be played on a team basis. Teams will consist of 2-4 players. Each team will play 2 singles and 1 doubles game against each other. The team with the best out of 3 in each match will receive a win.



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We will have a men's and ladies tournament. After the initial group stages, teams will move into an A and B championship depending on their results, giving teams of all levels the chance to go home with some silverware.

Facilities & Location

Thanks to the support provided by the GAA and the Department of Foreign Affairs we were able to construct 2 One-Wall Handball courts in Vienna this year. We will host the tournament on these courts which are located at USZ Hietzing ([Altgasse 6, Wien 1130](#)).

The venue shall of course include changing rooms, showers and will be easily accessible via public transport (Underground U4 Stop Hietzing).

Access to Vienna

Vienna has historically been the city linking the “west to the east” and has been referred to as the “gateway to the east”. Therefore, it has an excellent transport network with all major European cities linked via road, rail and air.

Rail & Bus

Bratislava	45 minutes	€8
Budapest	2hrs 30 mins	€32
Prague	4 hrs	€40
Munich	4 hrs	€54
Warsaw	6 hrs	€70

Flights

Vienna has its own international airport and is well connected to the rest of Europe by both no-frill and full-frill airlines. The airport is well-connected to the city via rail, either by the City Airport Train (16 minute journey- EUR11) or by the regional Schnellbahn trains (25 minute journey-EUR2.20). There are also several public and private bus operators which connect to the city centre in similar time.

Region	Clubs	Flight times	Example return flight costs for 18 th – 20 th
North-West	Paris/Rennes/Brest/ Nantes/Jersey/Guernsey	1.5-2	Paris CDG €100-120 (FlyNiki, AirBerlin, TUIfly)



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Scandinavia	Copenhagen/Gothenburg/ Malmo	1.5	<i>Copenhagen</i> €120 (Air Berlin)
Benelux	Maastricht/Den Haag/Amsterdam/Belgium/ Luxembourg/Frankfurt/ Düsseldorf	1.5	- <i>Brussels</i> €150 (Austrian Airlines) - <i>Amsterdam</i> €150 (KLM) - <i>Frankfurt</i> €100 (Austrian Airlines) - <i>Düsseldorf</i> €100 (Air Berlin)
Iberia	Madrid / Barcelona / Pamplona / Valencia Costa Gaels	2-2.5	- <i>Barcelona</i> €120 (FlyNiki) - <i>Madrid</i> €150 (Alitalia)

Additionally there are a host of other airports close to the city, such as:

- Bratislava Airport: 45 mins away and served by Ryanair
- Graz International Airport (1hr 30 mins) served by Austrian Airlines, Air Berlin, Fly Niki, Lufthansa & Ryanair
- Linz International Airport (1hr 30 mins) served by Austrian Airlines and Lufthansa

Lunch & Dinner

A lunch pack will be provided to all players (and supporters upon request) on the day of the tournament. The cost of the lunch-pack will be included in the registration fee.

The Club shall provide a venue to cater for a post-tournament meal and awards ceremony.

The cost of this will be covered in the registration fee. The venue will be decided upon when the number of participants is known closer to the time.

Tournament registration fee will be approximately EUR 35 per player.



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Accommodation

Vienna is one of the leading tourist destinations in Europe. The city offers a wide range of options for every budgetary category. The Club will assist all travelling teams with advice, recommendations and necessary information needed for clubs to find suitable lodgments that meet their needs.

The Host City “Vienna”

The date for the tournament also coincides with the opening of the annual Christmas markets throughout various locations in Vienna. These markets are a great attraction to thousands of tourists over this period and it will be a great opportunity for the players to sample some local traditions in front of Vienna’s most attractive landmarks.

Throughout the years, Vienna has been consistently voted as one of the world’s top three most livable cities. This is due to one of the best public transport systems in the world, an abundance of green space amenities, an array of festivals and public events, reasonably low cost of living, and an almost non-existent crime rate.

The city itself is one of Europe’s oldest and most beautiful, and seamlessly mixes art, architecture and history, with culture, nightlife and music. The club would be happy to arrange tours of the city on the Sunday after the tournament, so that participants can enjoy the many sights of this historical city.

What’s next?

If your club is interested in sending players or if you have any questions, can you please send confirmation to our secretary (secretary.vienna.europe@gaa.ie). Please confirm as soon as possible if you intend to play.

We will provide more details on the dinner location and the tournament schedule closer to the tournament.