



**TOLOSA GAELS**  
Club de Foot Gaélique & Hurling



**News from your local (well French) parish**

## So what happened in the last few weeks?

### Good stuff ladies!

It all started with a very long drive; a VERY long drive after a hectic St. Patrick's day for most of the gang heading to Paris on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 2016. And even the following day it took a few laps of the 'rocade Parisienne' to finally arrive at the stadium to dispute the first ladies' tournament in the history of the club. There they were, about to play GAA in Paris...the seven brave souls...and Mike; frozen with the cold, relatively late and probably still hungover. It was a with a certain degree of nerves and emotions that the brand new jerseys were donned for the first time, that the captain of the day was designated (and a fine job done by Simone!) and that the first team motivational speech was spouted. Not a word of a lie, the first match was tough...really tough but it became the baseline of the day, things could only get better. And they did...this would be the only downfall until the final.

We had Elaine at her most versatile, a pure defense player at heart but still popping points over the bar and scoring a rake of goals. Simone, who has only a few months training under her belt, showed real potential on the half-back line, fighting like a pit-bull for every single ball. Sarah...aka SMAC showed us all how it's done by literally running all day...and scoring from improbable angles...she's like the energizer bunny that one! Swapping it up in defense and in goals, Loubs and Sassy G made every opposing forward hate their lives that day. Kate, also a newcomer to the game, was proof of how training pays off and made some excellent passes, even when under pressure. Not forgetting the height and skill of Vivienne in midfield, who did her fair share of scoring during the day ☺ and of course the advice and encouragement from Mike on the sideline.

Finishing second overall and securing 20 points on the championship table, it was probably the best possible result for the ladies on their first outing...especially against Rennes, French champions for years running. Rennes are in the headlights this year and it was largely agreed that despite the tough scoreline this time, with a full squad, the Gaelettes will definitely give them a good run for their money this year.

What the match scores cannot reflect however, is the atmosphere and team spirit that was quite evident throughout the day and especially through to the early hours of the morning, where despite sore, stiff limbs...there was still plenty of energy for dancin'! Tolosa abu! Mike abu! #kebab #breakingstereotypes

Next tournament: Bordeaux, April 16<sup>th</sup>.

See [results](#) and [photos](#) !!!

### Under the sun of Provence...

First tournament and first trophy of 2016 for the Tolosa Gaels Men's team!

19 lads, 6 games played and ... won (2 against Bordeaux, pool and final), 1 new trophy for the club and a happy captain (see below). After our victory in Galicia last November, there is no doubt that the Gaels have a very competitive team again this year, which is perfect in order to retain the title! We did very well in Provence (despite of the sun and the warmth) to finally win the final against Bordeaux, **0-10 to 1-3**.

The 2016 championship is off to a great start and we have to maintain this good form in order to defend our title and the coveted duck!

Next tournament: Lyon, April 16<sup>th</sup> (minor).

See [results](#) and [photos](#) !!!

## Coming soon

- Training every Wednesday (7.00 pm, @Paul Sabatier but wait for Mike's email) and Saturday (12.00 – 3.00 pm in Les Argoulets)
- O'Neills Group order – get your Tolosa Gaels merchandise (jersey, hoodies, t-shirts etc)
- **31/03** – MVP night / Superbru prizegiving / Social night at the Monk: 7pm onwards
- **08/04** – Bye Alan & Steph, Killarney, 9.00 pm
- **16/04** – Ladies in Bordeaux, lads in Lyon

## On the pitch

A true legend is leaving us next month ... well not a GAA legend but our very own club legend ☺

It was Alan's last tournament in Provence and we did well to win it for our "*captain of the day*".

As many gone before him, he will return to the motherland with a lady, a title and a tummy... after 6 of "the best years of his life" in Toulouse.

He was there in the very early days of the Tolosa Gaels, when the club could barely field a team and last year became a French Champion (or mushroom, same thing) with a full panel of talented and dedicated teammates: the circle is complete and Alan played a very important part in its formation.

So on behalf of the committee and the club members, old and new...thank you of course for your commitment & perseverance & dedication to the club and the progression of the sport in Europe, but also;

- for your pervy version of a Nirvana song
- for your reaction to getting cut from RTE's The Gathering when you had told everyone you know that you were going to be on 'da telly'.
- for sharing the worst day of your life with us, over and over again – Note to self; never stop at the McDo in Brives
- and especially for this lasting memory which we will never be able to forget, even if we want to! [video](#)



See ya on the 8th of April for a couple of pints.

## Off the pitch

Thoughts to Tom Silva who broke his jaw against Azur Gaels during the tournament last weekend.

On one of the last actions of the game, he collided full force into a teammate and after a rather long pause left the pitch accompanied by applause and concern.

He has now a couple of months to recover and hopefully we will be happy to see him again on the pitch for the finals in Clermont.

Wishing Tom a speedy recovery.

# Who are you ?

**Name:** Louise (aka Loubs)

**Country / city:** Ireland, Donegal

**Profile:** Best defense out of Donegal this last ten years

## Louise, how did you hear about Tolosa Gaels?

I was feeling really homesick while I was on my Erasmus 2 years ago. I did the typical Irish thing and found an Irish pub! I went into Mulligan's and the first person I met was James Acton. He told me about the club, slagged my accent and told me to come to trainings! I'm stuck working with the fecker now 2 years later!!

## Can you tell us 1 or 2 things in French (about the weather, the French lads, ...)?

Récemment, j'ai rencontré mon ancien prof de français. Quand j'étais à l'école, j'ai détesté les cours de français avec une passion! Il était étonné quand je lui ai raconté que j'habitais en France! Mais je reste à l'écart des hommes français: ils ne vous attirent que des ennuis!! Ma mère est inquiète que je trouverai de mec Français avant mon retour en Irlande. Ne contrariez jamais une "Irish Mummy" c'est mieux pour vous !

## How was the craic at the first ever Tolosa Gaelettes tournament?

We had a great weekend and had the added bonus of Micheál as our manager! (Thanks Mike!) Delighted we got to the final in our first ever tournament together! We are still shattering stereotypes from the south of France and I'm still feeling incredible! (Nice frape Smac & Viv!! Well played!) Work to be done on our team song but we made up for that with our questionable dance moves later in the night!



# Last minute ...

The **VI Nations Superbru** predictions game is now over.

Congrats to **K Roll** who won and to our teammate **Yan** who finished second!

No worries, the UEFA EURO 2016 is coming so ... everyone will be welcome to play again ☺ Thanks to all !



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