

**Biographies of Participants at the St Brigid's Day Event at the Irish Embassy, London
 1 February 2022**

Panel: Women and Sport



Shirley McCay

Shirley McCay was born in Omagh in 1988. She was typically late to start playing hockey, starting at the age of 13 at Omagh Academy, where she was part of the team to win the Schools' Cup and All Ireland Title for the first time. Shirley represented Ulster and Ireland at underage level, and made her debut for the Irish senior team in January 2007 at the age of 18.

Since then she has played a record 316 times for Ireland, travelling all over the world to compete. Her caps total makes her the highest capped athlete in any team sport in Irish history. In 2018, she was part of the team that made history by finishing 2nd in the World Cup, a first for any Irish hockey team, male or female. In 2019, Shirley played her 300th test for Ireland in front of 6,000+ fans in Dublin, helping the team qualify for the Tokyo Olympics for the very first time. In 2021, Shirley represented Team Ireland at the Tokyo Olympic games. In the same year, she was also awarded an Honorary Doctorate from Queen's University for Services to Sport.



Vikki Wall

Hailing from Meath, Vikki Wall plays football for St. Peter's Dunboyne GAA and Meath Senior Ladies. She was an integral part in Meath winning the intermediate All-Ireland Championship in 2020, progressing to Senior where they claimed the 2021 All-Ireland Senior Ladies Football Championship title for the first time. Vikki was awarded the 2020 Intermediate Players' Player of the Year and was named the 2021 Senior Players' Player of the Year, as well as earning her first All Star Award.

Vikki works closely with the Women's Gaelic Players Association (WGPA) on their Next Gen Leaders, a leadership programme for young GAA players aiming to enhance their involvement in the sport.

Off the pitch, Vikki was awarded scholarships by Dublin City University, the Ladies' Gaelic Football Association, and WGPA and is currently undertaking a Masters in Digital Marketing, having completed her Business degree. Vikki is

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conversant in Irish and speaks publicly on women in sport, health and fitness, and leadership skills.



Katie-George Dunlevy

Katie-George Dunlevy is an Irish para-cyclist, a stoker sitting on the back of the very successful Irish female tandem who are working towards competing in Paris 2024. She is visually impaired and has Retinitis Pigmentosa.

In 2011, Katie started cycling and competed in the London 2012 Paralympics. In 2014, Eve McCrystal from Dundalk became her pilot, and over the last eight years, they have won 12 world championship medals, five of them gold. In 2016 in Rio de Janeiro, they became Paralympic champions in the Time Trial and won silver in Road Race. In South Africa in 2017, they became double world champions, retaining both titles in 2018 in Italy. In the Tokyo Paralympics in 2021, they became double Paralympic champions winning gold in the time trial and road race, plus silver in the 3k pursuit on the track.

Born in Crawley, England Katie claims alliance to Ireland through her father, John, who was born in Mountcharles, Donegal.
