

Hastings Insurance MacHale Park

2025 GAA Pitch of the Year

We feature some interesting facts

Good Luck Mayo in the Connacht Semi-final at Hastings Insurance MacHale Park this weekend

Image: GAA.ie (Sam Barnes – Sports Life)

Join us to celebrate



MAYO DAY 2026
May 2nd 2026
MAYO - THE CONNECTED COUNTY

Are you interested in

TRACING YOUR MAYO ROOTS?

If you are interested in professional help to research your family history or are curious about your ancestry, why not contact us?



The
North Mayo
Heritage
Centre



Riailtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



This project is supported by the Department of Rural and Community Development and Pobal through the Community Services Programme

Mayo Day highlights the importance of connecting people across the county, and Hastings Insurance MacHale Park plays a central role in connecting all generations through the power of sport.

All roads lead to MacHale Park this weekend as Mayo take on Roscommon in the Connacht semi-final clash.

Here we include some interesting facts on Hastings Insurance MacHale Park.

Named 2025 GAA Pitch of the Year it stands as one of Mayo's premier sporting venues.

It is named after John MacHale, who was Archbishop of Tuam from 1831 – 1881.

It is the eighth biggest sports stadium in the Republic of Ireland.

In early 1931, development of the pitch took place at a cost of IR£1,700.



MacHale Park on the day of a big match in the early years. (Image: con-telegraph.ie)

Hastings Insurance MacHale Park

The first competitive matches took place in MacHale Park on 22nd March 1931 when Castlebar Mitchels (the minors) played Balla and Ballina and Cloonacastle played a junior championship match.

The first inter-county match was a National Football League match between Mayo and Sligo on 19 April 1931, with Mayo winning by 0–7 to 0–2.

The official opening took place on 24th May 1931. A major redevelopment was undertaken between 1950 and 1952 which raised the capacity of the ground to 40,000 with seating for 18,000 costing IR£15,000. The ground was reopened 15th June 1952.

In the late 1980s, covered seating was provided in the Gerry McDonald Stand. Over the course of the next 12 years, the ground was converted into a 32,000 all-seater stadium and new dressing rooms, improved press facilities and dug-outs were constructed, in addition to a wheelchair area.

In March 2005, the Mayo County Board took control of MacHale Park on a 50-year lease with a view to upgrading the stadium. In 2008, construction work commenced on a detailed renovation of the ground, to include the construction of a new 10,000 seater stand.

The €16 million redevelopment works included improved facilities for spectators, a museum, underground training areas, and County Board offices. As part of these works, the famous façade on the MacHale Road side of the ground was demolished. Funding for the project was generated by the sale of the naming rights for the stadium as well as the sale of season tickets for matches taking place at the ground.

In 2019, on health and safety reasons, the capacity of MacHale Park was reduced by 6,000 to 25,369. The pitch at MacHale Park was resurfaced in 2022. The capacity in 2025 is approximately 28,000, with attendances of 27,870 (Connacht vs Munster - March 29th 2025) and 27,137 (Mayo vs Galway - May 4th 2025) recorded during the year.

During 2025 it was decided to develop a new state-of-the-art all weather 4G astroturf GAA pitch at the Albany end of the pitch. This has now been completed. This is an all-weather training pitch and was expected to cost about €800,000

Celebrate Mayo Day with us

This year's theme 'Mayo – The Connected County,'

Now in it's eleventh year, Mayo Day has celebrated all things Mayo since 2015 with fantastic annual lineups of events taking place throughout the county and further afield.

This year, our offering for Mayo Day exemplifies the theme 'Mayo – the Connected County' through the launch of a **Genealogy Banner Exhibition**, highlighting the deep roots that connect the people of Mayo to their past.

It invites visitors to consider exploring their family backgrounds and furnishes them with an understanding of how our family research service works. To enhance this experience, our dedicated researcher Brendan will be on hand to offer guidance and answer general questions related to family history research. Brendan's expertise will be particularly valuable as he provides insights into the newly released 1926 census, a groundbreaking resource that opens new windows into Mayo's social history.

We look forward to welcoming everyone to our exhibition, which will continue to be on display throughout the month of May. Our on-site café and Reception will be open on Mayo Day, providing a perfect opportunity to enjoy the event. Free parking is available for all visitors.

Date: Sat, 2nd May 10am – 3pm

