

GAA HOLY GAEL

By NEIL COTTER

A GAA club with members from every county in Ireland is aiming to build its own field of dreams in New York.

Shannon Gaels have resisted the lure of US pursuits to develop an Irish sporting enclave in the heart of Queens.

They aim to plant roots to

New York club builds 32-county field of dreams

guarantee an Irish presence on US soil for generations with a facility that could easily fit Croke Park inside it.

Club chairman Colin Mathers told the Irish Sun: "We are just ten years in existence and have really put our roots down.

"We secured a 25-year lease for a public park here in Queens. It's playable, but

we need proper facilities. The plans are for a floodlit pitch and training area.

"(GAA President) Liam O'Neill was here for our 10th anniversary and was impressed. He will do what he can to help."

In 2002, 14 young children and their immigrant parents brought Gaelic football to the heart of Queens. Today,

250 boys and girls descended from every county in Ireland are lining out for the Gaels.

Armagh native Colin added: "It won't be an easy task but we're hopeful we can do it."

A GAA spokesman said: "We receive hundreds of requests for support and all are judged on their merits."

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Park life . . . Gaels set to plant roots