

A background image showing two hands shaking over a golf club. The hand on the left is wearing a dark sweater and a white shirt cuff. The hand on the right is holding a yellow golf club head. The background is a dark, textured blue with a large black wave shape at the top.

Club Carlow **BUSINESS SUMMIT**

Creating a
Winning Culture
in Business
and Sport

**Friday 14
November 2025**
Woodford Dolmen
Hotel, Carlow.

SPEAKERS
Brian Cody
Jim Gavin
Anne Heraty
Denis O'Brien

Empowering Business Resilience

Inspired by the community spirit of the GAA and the strength of Carlow's homegrown business network, we are proud to present the Club Carlow Business Summit delivered by a partnership between Club Carlow, Carlow Kilkenny Skillnet & Carlow County Council – Local Enterprise Office.

This dynamic event will take place on Friday, 14 November 2025 at the Woodford Dolmen Hotel, Carlow. It will feature leading voices from both the GAA and business sectors, coming together to explore how collaboration, resilience, and community engagement can drive economic and social progress.

Our goal is to spark meaningful connections between business leaders and the wider Carlow community—fostering a culture of shared growth and local pride.

To Book Your place contact
Club Carlow 085-8098211 or
e-mail: operations.carlow@gaa.ie

WHAT IS THE CLUB CARLOW BUSINESS SUMMIT?

The Club Carlow Business Summit is a unique gathering that brings together two of Ireland's most powerful communities—Creating a Winning Culture in Sport & Business—to explore what it means to be truly resilient in the face of adversity and change. Drawing inspiration from the unshakable spirit of the competitive sports and the dynamic drive of Ireland's business leaders, this event is designed to spark conversation, connection, and collective ambition.

SUMMIT SPEAKERS – SPORT



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Put no limits on where you can go, no limits on what you can do and no limits on what you can achieve.

BRIAN CODY

Brian Cody is a former teacher and principal but is best known for his devotion to Kilkenny hurling. Born in Sheestown, County Kilkenny, Cody's hurling career has been nothing short of extensive, securing All Ireland medals and titles as a player but also as a coach for the Kilkenny Senior Hurling team, who enjoyed unparalleled success with Cody at the helm.

Cody, who was the longest serving manager, stepped down in 2022, but he always had the true spirit of a leader, evidenced by his assurance that it is not about 'I' the leader, but 'we' the team. Cody has received numerous accolades, including an honorary doctorate from DCU. Upon his retirement as manager, the Kilkenny County board described Cody as “the greatest manager in the history of hurling”.



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When we reflect on a match, we always look at the opportunities for growth. What was our current reality...where can we improve? That continuum of growth builds resilience. Failure is only when you give up.

JIM GAVIN

Jim Gavin is a former Dublin football player, manager and coach. Hailing from the banks of the Grand Canal in Clondalkin, he garnered great success for Dublin during his time at the helm, including awards in All-Irelands, Leinster and Allianz leagues. He led Dublin to an historic five-in-a-row between 2015 and 2019 before retiring as manager after seven years as head coach and after 26 years of his involvement. He has not turned his back away from football completely however, as he chairs the Football Review Committee 2024/2025.

Gavin is currently Chief Operations Officer of the Irish Aviation Authority, with an Airline Transport Pilots License, showing that his achievements do not stop at football. In acknowledgement of his successes, he was awarded an honorary doctorate from Dublin City University. He was also awarded the Freedom of Dublin City by the Dublin City Council in 2020 for “his contribution to public life and service to his county and country both on and off the pitch”.

SUMMIT SPEAKERS – BUSINESS

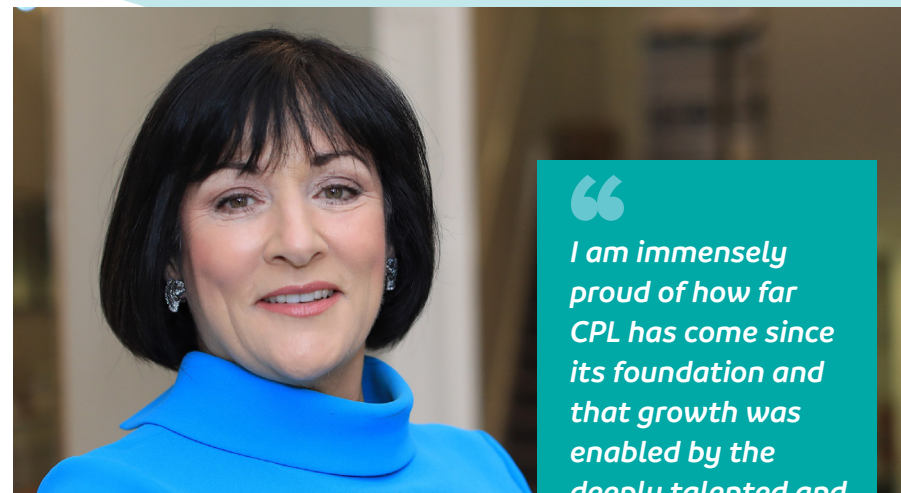


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The model of capitalism has to change. If you want to build a sustainable business in an emerging market, you've got to fund impactful community projects, particularly in education.

DENIS O'BRIEN

Denis O'Brien is an Irish entrepreneur who has founded numerous businesses and actively invests across telecoms, technology, media, property, sports and leisure, utility services, healthcare and renewable energy. He is Founder and Director of Digicel Group, a telecommunications company in 25 Caribbean and Central American markets. His leisure and hospitality interests include Quinta Do Lago resort in Portugal and the Camiral resort in Catalunya, host of the 2031 Ryder Cup. A recipient of the EY Entrepreneur of the Year Award, he chaired the 2003 Special Olympics World Summer Games and serves as a United Nations Broadband Commissioner for Sustainable Development. As Founding Patron of the Digicel Foundation, he supported building 198 schools in Haiti and 360 in Papua New Guinea. He has received the Clinton Global Citizen Award, the National Order of Honour and Merit, and the title of Goodwill Ambassador for his charitable work in Haiti. In 2021 he founded The Repair Campaign, a social movement for reparatory justice in 15 Caribbean countries, urging British and European governments, institutions and individuals to acknowledge their role in the transatlantic trafficking of enslaved Africans.



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I am immensely proud of how far CPL has come since its foundation and that growth was enabled by the deeply talented and committed team I have been privileged to work with.

ANNE HERATY

Anne Heraty, one of Ireland's most successful businesswomen, founded CPL Resources in 1989. In 1999, she made history as the first female CEO of an Irish company listed on the stock exchange. Heraty's many achievements include the 'EY Entrepreneur of the Year Award' (2006), Business & Finance 'Business Person of the Year' (2014), and Irish Times 'Business Person of the Year' (2021). Most recently, she received the IMAGE PwC Businesswoman of the Year Lifetime Achievement Award in 2024.

"The real achievement has been pulling a great team together and creating a strong culture with high values within CPL." After 33 years at the helm, Heraty stepped down as CEO in 2021. She remains committed to entrepreneurship and supporting Irish businesses, serving as chairperson of IBEC, Sherry Fitzgerald and Barretstown, and non-executive director of Kingspan. She is also a founding member of Endeavour in Ireland and Chair of the Board of Directors of LIFT Ireland, a social enterprise increasing positive leadership in Ireland.

SUMMIT SCHEDULE

Programme 11am-3pm

Guest Arrival & Registration / Welcome refreshments and check-in

Welcome to Club Carlow –
Business Summit

David Walsh – Chair, Club Carlow

Coilín O'Reilly – Chief Executive,
Carlow County Council

Starter Served

Fireside Chats – Sporting Excellence
Featuring **Brian Cody** and **Jim Gavin**

Main Course Served

Auction

Desert Served

Fireside Chat - Business Leadership
& Resilience featuring **Denis O'Brien**
and **Anne Heraty**

Closing Remarks - **David Walsh** –
Chair, Club Carlow

SUMMIT PARTNERS

Club Carlow

Club Carlow is a dedicated patrons' support group committed to strengthening the future of Carlow GAA. Through fundraising and community engagement, they provide vital resources for hurlers and footballers, ensuring access to top-class training facilities and development opportunities. With a strong focus on inclusion, excellence, and tradition, Club Carlow celebrates the passion and dedication of all who wear the county jersey.

Carlow Kilkenny Skillnet

Established in 1999 by local business leaders, Carlow Kilkenny Skillnet supports enterprise-led workforce development across the region. Their mission is to enhance the competitiveness, innovation, and productivity of local businesses by delivering high-impact upskilling and reskilling programmes tailored to employer needs.

Carlow County Council – Local Enterprise Office

Carlow County Council is responsible for delivering services, supporting communities, and driving economic, social, and cultural development across County Carlow.

Its Local Enterprise Office operated in partnership with Enterprise Ireland provides a comprehensive suite of supports for start-ups and growing businesses. From advisory services and feasibility grants to training, mentoring, and financial supports, LEO Carlow acts as a first-stop-shop for entrepreneurs at every stage of their journey. Its mission is to help local businesses become stronger, more resilient, and better equipped for sustainable growth.

