

## **Sarah Marley**

### **From player to coach; a journey with the Queen's O'Connor Cup team**

Club/County: Lissummon, Armagh.

#### **Are you still involved in Ladies' Gaelic Football as a player/coach?**

I am still playing with my club Lissummon and help out with the underage coaching. I retired from Armagh after 15 years' service in 2022.

#### **What did you study at Queen's?**

I completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Professional Legal Studies.

#### **Memory Lane...**

#### **What were some of your highlights from your involvement in Queen's GAA and the O'Connor Cup?**

I have been very fortunate to have played on the winning O'Connor Cup team in 2013. It was great to share the experience with so many Armagh players who were also on the panel. I have made some great friends from other counties and regularly stay in touch. Having retired it's now when I look back, I appreciate the massive achievement of being part of the first ever Queen's winning team. It was also an honour to be recognised at the Blues ceremony.

#### **Coaching the O'Connor Cup team in the USA, 2024**

#### **What was your experience of coaching the O'Connor Cup team during the recent International Sporting Tour of the USA?**

This was without a doubt a highlight of my career. It was a once in a lifetime experience that I'm so grateful for. I have forged a really strong bond with the players and it was great to win both our games. I have built strong connections with the other coaches and Queen's personnel and have made some really good friends. I had an opportunity to coach children in Boston and see the importance of Queen's University's partnerships with its sister universities.

#### **Women in Sport...**

#### **How do you feel the opportunities for women in sport have changed since your time at university?**

I have certainly witnessed first-hand the positive direction. Women's sport within the University is given a platform like their counterparts. They have access to all facilities and the promotion of the Ladies' game both by Queen's and Ladies' Gaelic Football has improved massively since I graduated in 2013. I only see things continuing in that positive vein and commend all involved for their tireless efforts in promoting Ladies' Gaelic Football!

