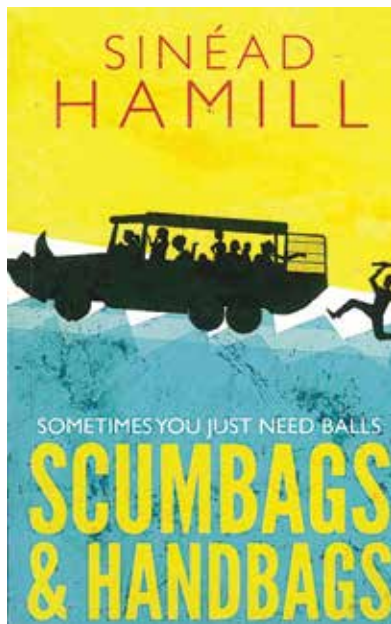


## Gaelic and gangsters

SINÉAD Hamill is a new Dublin author who is testimony to the fact that it is never too late to take up a new pursuit. Having come to GAA football in her forties through the Dublin-based Kilmacud Crokes 'Gaelic for Mothers' team, this venture into the world of GAA has also been the inspiration for her first gritty and humorous novel *Scumbags and handbags*.

The genesis of the book – which, be warned, is not for the faint hearted – is a story in itself. The idea for the plot came during training sessions in all weathers with the mothers' football team at Crokes. The book's main character, Robbie King, took shape at a writers' weekend in Askeaton, when a persistent rooster would awake Sinéad from her slumber. The first chapter was written as an exercise for the course, and from there, the novel took flight.

A Dublin criminal, Robbie, gets sentenced to community service at an affluent South Dublin GAA club and there the story unfolds. The tale surrounds Robbie and Tommy Boylan, one of the



greatest GAA footballers to come out of Dublin. He accepts the challenge of training the novice mummies to play football. Enter the deranged criminal, the Hawk, and the ladies find themselves caught up

in the middle of a €5 million drugs haul.

As they say, truth is stranger than fiction, and Sinéad has had an eventful couple of years herself. She was playing football, running marathons and had started work on the book, only to be diagnosed out of the blue in 2012 with atrial fibrillation. As a highly active and fit person, the diagnosis came as a big surprise.

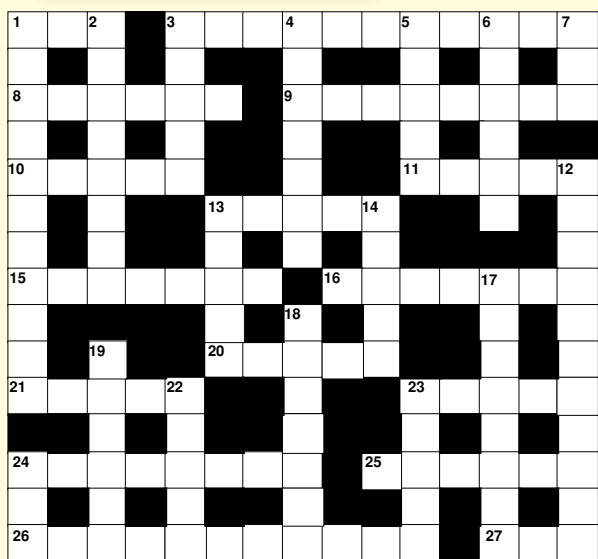
She underwent cardioversion and was put on an anti-coagulant. However, two months later, she had a stroke while driving her two girls to school. Luckily, the preventive medication meant that the post-stroke effects were restricted to some temporary sight loss, which put paid for a while to work on the book.

Happily, 'Scumbags and handbags' was published before Christmas and is available in paperback from [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk). It can also be downloaded as an ebook on Kindle and other platforms.

– Geraldine Meagan

**Scumbags and Handbags** by Sinéad Hamill is available from Amazon and selected book sellers. ISBN 978-1-4935-0588-3 RRP €15

Sponsored by:



### Across

- Asian potentate or solid fuel cooker. (3)
- Vegetable described by Mark Twain as 'nothing but cabbage with a college education'. (11)
- Untidy bunch of baby animals. (6)
- See 2 down.
- Stanza. (5)
- Incantation. (5)
- Adam's ale. (5)
- Flood of raging 13 across; downpour. (7)
- Gol provides some accumulated work. (7)
- Hasten. (5)
- An organisation of craft workers. (5)
- Sir Francis, will he duck this? (5)
- Being cool, Dora could be the making of this US state. (8)
- Ball-shaped object. (6)
- Unsociable, having been poorly strengthened by heat? (3-8)
- Fr Crilly has written a letter to the editor. (3)

### Down

- Vigilante Al might be making pain easier to endure. (11)
- 9a & 17d. Much discussed in sports journalism – the ACL, in full. (8,8,8)
- Take the ship's complement east to an English town. (5)
- Produce milk. (7)
- Secures the curls. (5)
- Less strong. (6)
- A type of bread or alcoholic spirit. (3)
- It occurs when there is a Bank Holiday Monday. (4,7)
- Piece of equipment found in the West, to a small measure. (5)
- Prepared. (5)
- See 2 down.
- One might rebuild a dormer here in Waterford. (7)
- Topped up. (6)
- Funeral song. (5)
- Hoodwinked. (5)
- Will you find corn on this swan? (3)

### Solutions to December crossword:

- Across: 1. Prosciutto 6. Fled 10. Merry Christmas 12. Selects 15. Carol 17. Etch 18. Envy 19. Inset 21. Plastic 23. Laser 24. Ebro 25. Eric 26. Hives 28. Kneecap 33. Angiogram 34. Exile 35. Epee 36. Jet setters

### Down

1. Pump 2. Ourselves 3. Clyde 4. Uncut 5. Turn 7. Lemur 8. Desolation 9. Psychic 13. Call 14. Seaisick 16. Healthcare 20. Submarine 21. Preston 22. Idle 27. Vague 29. Names 30. Eject 31. Tree 32. Kegs

The winner of the December crossword is: **Bernie Goloen** from Mullingar, Co Westmeath

Name: .....  
 Address: .....  
 .....

The prize will go to the first all correct entry opened.

Closing date: Friday, March 14, 2014

Post your entry to: Crossword Competition,

The World of Irish Nursing, MedMedia Publications, 25 Adelaide Street, Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin