



KILMEENA GAA NEWSLETTER



December 2016

Volume 3

Issue 1



EMMA MURRAY IN ACTION DURING THE HALF-TIME BREAK IN GROKE PARK ON ALL-IRELAND SUNDAY...



LIFE-LONG DEDICATION TO THE CLUB ACKNOWLEDGED...



MASTER PAT LEADS THE WAY...



U16's LIGHT UP THE NIGHT...



Chairman's Address



Welcome to Kilmeena G.A.A. Club's third annual newsletter. I hope you enjoy the read, and that it will jog your memory back over what has been another memorable year in the history of the Club. At the outset I wish to say a big thank you to everyone who has contributed an article for inclusion in the publication, and to the diligent committee who ensure articulation and accuracy. Finally, I want to say to you, the reader, if you have any ideas on improvement for next year's edition please do not hesitate to inform any Club officer.

I am delighted to report tremendous progress in the development of the Club grounds. Unfortunately, the inclement weather has deterred completion so the drainage and seeding will commence in Spring. The building, which will incorporate two dressing rooms, storage facilities for machinery, a gym upstairs, a kicking wall and a sand training area are on target. This is a project that will undoubtedly sustain the Club and the current squad of underage players well into the future. I am sure you can appreciate that all of this comes at a cost. We decided that the Club would not be subjected to a Bank debt, but in order to complete this phase I would be grateful, if possible, for your financial support with the National Club draw. Tickets have been sent to Club members, and I would appeal to all in the parish to support this draw.

The Club has now acquired a new electronic scoreboard which will be operational for our next football season. This acquisition was made possible through the magnanimous sponsorship of Mr. Shane Muldoon and his family. On behalf of the Club I wish to express sincere gratitude to Shane for his spontaneity and generosity. You have ensured that Kilmeena G.A.A. Club has now risen to a primary status alongside other Clubs in the County.

I also wish to thank Michael Slattery, for his generous sponsorship of a CCTV system for the Club. This again is a much appreciated gesture and will be of huge significance to ensure the safety of club property and the safety of persons using our facilities. The system will also double as a recording facility for coaches who wish to record games or training sessions which will ultimately enhance coaching techniques at all levels.

On the playing pitch, the Club is competing admirably, both with the boys and the girls' teams. The under 16 boys won the West Mayo C Championship, the under 14 boys won the West Mayo B Championship, and the under 12 boys won outright Division 2 of the County League. Congrats to management and players because this is a wonderful achievement at this age level. The girls' teams also deserve recognition, their yearly improvement is very obvious and we look forward to next year in the hope that they will bring the elusive silverware to the parish.

The Under 21 team performed really well this year reaching the County final. Unfortunately Ballinrobe proved stronger on the day. This panel of lads will not relent and I predict that if they keep the momentum shown so far, success will come. Our thanks to management and players for the enjoyment and pride that you brought to the Club during this year.

The junior team also had a run in the Championship, reaching the County semi final. We were beaten by Louisburgh, the eventual Connacht Champions. The experience will stand our team in good stead and the aim during next season for this team is to push on, win the Championship and get promoted from Division 1D of the league.

Congratulations to the Mayo Masters who became All Ireland Champions in the replay against Cavan. Kilmeena Club are very proud of our five representatives on that panel: Pat Mulchrone (Captain), Kieran Hastings, Darren Madden, James Prenty and Declan Ryan. A special mention for Kieran Hastings who was "Man of the Match."

I wish to assure everyone that we in Kilmeena Club take the rights of all children coming into the Club very seriously. We will always do our utmost to ensure that their rights are respected and protected. We ensure that all our coaches are Garda vetted and that they operate to the highest standards.

Once again, I wish to acknowledge all the people who make the wheels of this Club turn: my fellow Club officers, Bord na Nog executive, players, parents and coaches. I also want to thank sincerely the Lotto sellers, who have given their commitment to each Thursday night.

Overall, I believe the Club is going from strength to strength, and I am extremely grateful to the numerous new members that have become involved. The Club is the focal point in this community and it is there for the benefit of everyone who wishes to avail of the service and activities. Therefore I again appeal to you if you are in a position to participate in any aspect of Kilmeena G.A.A. Club, please contact a Club officer.

I wish to congratulate Paddy O'Grady and John Moran, on a lifetime of involvement with Kilmeena Club. Both men were honoured with a small presentation in the Buckfield Inn recently. Well done and we look forward to your attendance at Lotto supervision for many years.

Finally, I want to extend my appreciation to everyone in the parish that has contributed to the Club in any way during the year. A note of special thanks to our sponsors, Mid West Furniture, Golden Family, Beirne Express, Molloy Family, Robert Grealis and Austin Gibbons.

On behalf of everyone at the Club I want to wish a Happy and Joyful Christmas to all our parishioners at home and their family members that are dotted around the globe. We are thinking of you at this time and hope that the separation and absence from each other will only strengthen the bonds of love and family life for all of you.

Nollaig Shona do gach duine agus ath bhliain faoi mhaise dhibh.

**Willie Keaveney
Club Chairman**

Mayo Master Cavan



Kilmeena boys celebrating the win in the immediate aftermath of a titanic struggle against Cavan in the All-Ireland Masters final

It took a replay in Ballinagh, Co. Cavan on Saturday, 3rd December, and in total 160 minutes of nail-biting football before Mayo Masters could claim their first All Ireland Championship since 2009. The teams had played in Clonberne, Co. Galway, three weeks previously but after extra time the final score signalled a draw. In the final replay, despite the dismissal of David (Ginger) Tiernan on a straight red card early in the second half, the tenacious Captain, Kilmeena's Pat Mulchrone, was able to motivate his team and Mayo's new level of determination and composure became impenetrable for Cavan. This epic performance by the Red and Green brigade will be remembered for the level of fitness, character and gritty resolve displayed in the battle to claim an All Ireland title.

Congratulations to Kieran Hastings who was selected "Man of the Match". Kieran's astute ability to read the danger signs and his formidable defence were significant components to render him worthy of this accolade.

Kilmeena are also very proud to acknowledge James Prenty, Darren Madden and Declan Ryan who also donned the Red and Green and played a vital part to ensure that Mayo were victorious.

Declan was 2015 Captain of the Mayo Masters. Both Darren and Declan were formidable opponents and inspirational teammates at all age levels during their football careers with the Club.

Two weeks prior to the final, Mayo Masters beat Sligo in the Brian Ruddy Memorial Trophy to complete an extremely memorable year.

The Allergan football team which recently won the Connacht Inter Firms Junior final included Kilmeena's Pat Mulchrone, Tomás Gill, Declan Ryan and Neill Ryan. The Club send Best Wishes to all of you for your Inter- Firms semi final encounter in January.

All The Stars Shine For Lee



Congratulations to Lee Keegan, who not only received his fourth "All Star Award," but was selected by his peers as the GAA/GPA "Footballer of the Year" 2016. Lee is certainly a worthy recipient of this prestigious award and the personal accolade represents the recognition and respect of the players for this outstanding defender. The other contenders for this award were Dublin's Brian Fenton and Ciaran Kilkenny. In November, Lee was a member of the victorious Westport team that beat Sean O Heislins, Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim, and captured the Connacht Intermediate Club Football Championship title for the first time in the history of Westport G.A.A. Club. At the recent Mayo News/O'Neills Club Stars awards he also received the "Special Achievement" award.

Elected Club Officers for 2017

President: Willie Kelly
 Vice President: Padraic Golden
 Chairman: Willie Keaveney
 Vice Chairman: Darren Madden
 Secretary: Paul Ryan
 Ass./Secretary: Ollie Mulchrone
 Treasurer: Padraic Moore
 Ass./Treasurer: John Mc Donald
 Registrar: Damien Hughes
 County Board Delegate: Kevin Barrett
 Safety Officer: Michael O'Grady
 Health and Well-Being Officer: Michael Gavin
 Scór Officer: Brian Lennon
 Development Officer: Padraic Moore
 Irish Language Officer: Mary Ryan

Club Membership for 2017

Single Membership = € 70
 Family Membership = € 100
 Family Membership and Lotto = € 130
 Family Membership, Lotto and County Board = € 170

May They Rest In Peace

During 2016 we had to bid farewell to three staunch Club members and former players, Tony Hopkins, Tommy Casey and former club secretary, Bertie Keany.

Kilmeena G.A.A. Club wish to extend sincere sympathy to all our parishioners who have suffered the heartache of a bereavement this year.

Retirement of David Feehan



Davey with his Golden Boot award in 2007

Those of you who can recall Kilmeena's years of success at Junior level during the 1990's to 2003 will recognise the name of David Feehan. This versatile corner forward featured in every game at every level from his introduction to the football pitch for a National Schools' game in 1988 at seven years of age. After twenty seven years of dedicated service to Kilmeena G.A.A. Club Davey reluctantly retired last year. Unfortunately, retirement became a reality for him in 2015 because of a chronic knee injury which totally restricts his ability to participate in the game. His last competitive game in the Black and White jersey was in a League match against Mayo Gaels played in Ballindine. It was a decisive moment for him because he had scored a point from a free and an attempt to score from play, later on in the game, activated further knee pain.

Davey's under-age career flourished and his ability to kick with both feet was recognised during his formative years. At age twelve, he was a member of the 1993 U-14 team that became County Champions, guided by the "formidable" management duo, Mr. Willie Kelly and Mr. Tom Ryan. Despite the diversion by this management from the traditional coaching manual, Davey admits that the archaic football training and techniques were always subsidiary to the encouragement, support and sense of spirit that was transmitted to the team in order to maximise their potential.

At only fifteen years he became a player on the U-21 team. In 2002, his final year on this panel, Kilmeena reached the final of the County Championship but were beaten by Ballaghaderreen whose team included Andy Moran and Barry Regan. During this year Davey's versatility also played a pivotal role on the Junior team as they marched on with a relentless determination to the All

Ireland Club Final against Nobber, Co. Meath. Unfortunately, the Meath men sealed victory but Davey certainly lit up the firmament with an epic score of one goal and nine points on that day. Despite the disappointment of losing that game, this particular football season has created indelible memories of pulsating performances in the semi-final of the County Championship against Shrule/Glencorrib where Davey scored six points in extra time pulling the team back into contention. The County Championship Final for Kilmeena was a battle of skill, vigour and resilience of a team that refused to quit against a highly rated Aghamore side. Davey also played with the Mayo Junior team and earned a Connacht medal to complement his extensive array of trophies and Club medals including a medal from the All Ireland 7's played annually in St. Jude's, Templeogue, Dublin. In 2007, his football prowess was aptly acknowledged when he received the Mayo News "Golden Boot" Award.

While Davey would be very critical of his own performances, the history of Kilmeena G.A.A. will reflect on an extremely talented and prolific footballer who never missed a penalty and contributed inspirational points to the scoreboards during his career. The "Golden Boot" will always be synonymous with David Feehan. His style and skill have certainly earned him a place in Kilmeena football folklore. As the illustrious Tyrone corner forward, Owen (Mugsy) Mulligan wrote: "Why spend time trying to fit in when you were born to stand out?"

Thank you, Davey, for the memories. You wore the famed Black and White No. 13 across the shoulders with distinction and you made our hearts soar with pride.



Davey, in full flight

It was an occasion for nostalgia and anecdotes in Kilmeena G.A.A. Clubroom when the Chairman and Club members had the pleasure of meeting the two daughters of Mr. Jim Cleary, originally from Drimard, Kilmeena, and now residing in Bristol, Wales. Despite his decision to emigrate, Jim has retained tremendous pride in his Irish roots and has never wavered from his interest in Kilmeena parish and Kilmeena G.A.A. Throughout the years he has followed the Club's progress and was delighted

Team News

U-16 GIRLS

(By Michael Moore)



The U16 girls had an enjoyable 2016 season representing the Club. The response from the girls was fantastic when fielding a team looked impossible in January. A total of 26 players represented the Club at this level during 2016. Six girls played ladies football for the first time and were a great addition to the squad. Training commenced on the 20th Feb with 45 outings in total during the year. The U16 and minors trained together which made training much more enjoyable. The team competed well in the league with a memorable win over our neighbours Westport. The championship ended with defeat away to The Neale. A number of the ladies were invited into the Mayo development squad which was tremendous for the Club.

The future is bright for this group as they develop their skills and enjoy the social side of ladies football.

Thanks to Liz Brady and Trish Hogan for their help with training and match preparations and to all parents for their assistance during the year.

2016 panel: Susannah Horgan, Nina Mathestein, Dearbhla Grealis, Laura Moore, Ava Ryder, Lilly Brady, Sarah Mulchrone, Sophie Flynn, Katie Hogan, Aoife Roache, Lisa Rose, Jaimee Geraghty, Ciara Joyce, Laura Kelly, Aoife Lavelle, Shannon Burke, Molly Moore, Sarah McDonald, Clíodhna O'Connell, Rebecca Fitzgerald, Chloe McGing, Sarah Butler, Aleshia McDonnell, Regina Corcoran, Jane Geraghty, Amy Duffy.

Kilmeena LGFA will continue to grow and thank you to everyone for an enjoyable year.



Back L-R: Trish Hogan, Clíodhna O'Connell, Sophie Flynn, Ava Ryder, Amy Duffy, Laura Moore, Sarah Mulchrone, Lisa Rose, Lily Brady, Sarah McDonald, Michael Moore.

Front L-R: Aoife Roache, Dearbhla Grealis, Katie Hogan, Nina Mathestein, Susannah Horgan, Shannon Bourke, Jaimee Geraghty, Regina Corcoran, Rebecca Fitzgerald.

John Moran and Paddy O'Grady accepting the 'Cleary Memorial Shield' from Kim Bacon on behalf of the Club



L-R: Paddy Keane, Liam Garavan, Vincent Reilly, Tommy Casey RIP, John Mulchrone, Anne Mulchrone, Michael Mulchrone, John Moran, Willie Keaveney, Kim Bacon, Tom Ryan, Paddy O'Grady, Pdraic Moore, Maureen Zahringer, Michael Ryan, Tommy Cox, Claire Ryan, Trish Hogan and Martin McIntyre.

with the introduction of the website. This technology has provided Jim with a consistent update and has ignited many valued memories of his friends in Kilmeena.

It is very apparent that Jim's daughters, Kim and Maureen, have inherited their Dad's affection for his native parish. During their earlier years Jim always reminisced and as he related his history the family developed an innate interest in Kilmeena. The 125th Anniversary of Kilmeena G.A.A. prompted Jim to renew a personal contact with the

Club. At his request the ladies travelled here in April, and presented the Cleary Memorial Shield to the Club Chairman. Many of Jim's friends and former neighbours, including the late Tommy Casey, attended the presentation.

Kilmeena G.A.A. Club would like to express sincere gratitude to the Cleary family for their generosity. It was a very proud moment as Kim and Maureen made the presentation. It was a day when friendships were renewed, stories shared and fond memories created for posterity.

Greetings from the Kilmeena Diaspora:

... John Reilly, (Carrowholly)



John, with his Dad Vincent, himself a former great with the Kilmeena Club

Beannachtaí an tSéasúir as Reading.

It has been 7 years since I last played a competitive championship match for Kilmeena. It makes me feel proud here in England to see the Club going from strength to strength with the development of new training facilities, ladies football, the continuing success at under age level and the Men's team reaching the county semi-final. Everyone involved in the club, doing all the hard work that is required and giving their time should be

commended
 Since I left for the foreign shores of Britain, I have immersed myself in the Irish community firstly in London with Fulham Irish Gaelic football club. I spent 2 great seasons with them, the pinnacle of this was winning the senior London championship playing at wing back and going on to play in the All-Ireland Club quarter final against St Brigid's, who were the eventual winners that year. It has been great to see other Kilmeena men been successful over here on and

off the pitch with Ryan Feehan winning an Intermediate title with Heston in 2013, Danny Ryan leading London from centre back against Mayo this year and Liam Sammon coaching Fulham Irish all the way to a senior final, just missing out by a score.

I left London after 2011 to live in Reading, which is situated 30 minutes from the City. The Irish community is a big feature of the town and there is a lot of Irish history linked to the town. I am sure a few Kilmeena men have spent some time in the town in the past due to all the building and infrastructure work that has gone on in the area. I have played an active role in the Saint Anthony's club here in Reading. In 2011 I helped set up the ladies Gaelic football team and as their manager, along with fellow Mayo man Keith Devers guided them to a clean sweep of the London Junior Championship, league and divisional cups in their first season. Playing and managing the men's team also proved fruitful, winning a junior title, again playing at wing back in 2013.

I took a year out in 2014 to complete an Ironman in Wales and a multiple of triathlon events over the season. I returned to Saint Anthony's in 2015 as their manager

and player, the season was a rollercoaster ride but we managed to take the junior championship title once again after over turning an 8-point deficit with 10 minutes to go, with myself hitting the winning score. The season of 2016 has proven to be a lot tougher but we managed to retain our intermediate status with the club losing 18 players to either moving home or further a field. Most have moved back to Ireland

"Since I left for the foreign shores of Britain, I have immersed myself in the Irish community firstly in London with Fulham Irish Gaelic football club..."

hopefully showing a change of fortune within the country.

Working in Britain has helped me appreciate

the Gaelic games a lot more and has helped develop my career in physiotherapy. I have treated a few of the Great British rowing team as their base is here in Reading. I have just completed my MSc in sports medicine at the University College London working along side and shadowing the medical professionals that treat the professional athletes from Soccer, Rugby, Golf and Olympic sports. Hopefully I can transfer these skills to my love of Gaelic football in the future.

Finally, I would like to send my best wishes for 2017 to everyone at home in the Parish of Kilmeena and our expats around the globe.



John, lining out with the Fulham Irish Gaelic Club

Greetings from the Kilmeena Diaspora:

Greetings from Down-Under

...Bernie O'Donnell (Carrowbeg)



Bernie (left) pictured with longlife friends, Harry Mahon, Christina Murray, and Mary Mahon (nee Cusack, Fahy, Westport) during their visit to Sydney in 2015.

I am honoured to be asked to contribute towards this excellent publication and to write about football in Sydney. I have always been interested in football, the GAA and indeed any sport at all. I think it is an Irish thing as no other nation seems to be so obsessed or so my long suffering partner Mark says anyway! I grew up in a family that was steeped in GAA but in a time when football was for boys only. I supported both Kilmeena and Mayo passionately and was totally devastated when Mayo lost. Fortunately I have grown out of that affliction though I watched both of this year's finals as yet again the final hurdle eluded them. This litany of failures almost defies belief but success will come and when it does there will be few in the southern hemisphere happier than myself to see red and green ribbons tied around Sam.

I came here in the early 90's and had little or no intention in getting involved or playing the game. However due to contacts and friends I was taken to training and started to play with the Michael Cusacks Club. I enjoyed my playing days and playing

in a reasonably successful team (there were only four teams!) for almost 15 years so I acquired trophies, plaques and medals in numbers way too large to dust! I played in centre field, because I could run and later on in the half forward line and later on again in the half back line. Kevin McIntyre from Kilmeena also played for the Club in 2001 and for a time he trained the ladies team. We played an Annual Tournament up the coast near the residence of another Kilmeena man, the late Fr Paul Fitzgerald, and occasionally I met him at these games. He too played Gaelic football in Sydney on his arrival here and unfortunately departed this life last year - may he rest in peace. I recall visiting him in his house called "Kilmeena" after which he proudly showed me around his parish - the local school and church - where he zealously laboured. I was again reminded of him and his work when I attended my Auntie Roisin's funeral in New Zealand in 2013. When I saw and heard how revered she was in her community and the contribution she had made I think it can be safely said that they both (and indeed many

"I often wonder if Irish clubs like the GAA have a role to play in the modern expat population..."

more of their ilk) have left worthy legacies in the faraway lands to which they dedicated their lives.

The Michael Cusacks Club was formed in 1988 and called after the famous Michael Cusack from Clare who founded the GAA. In a publication honouring our 25th anniversary in 2013 previous players interviewed stated that for them the Club was a family away from home, a social network for recreation, accommodation, employment and for many a home away from home. It was, and still is, mainly backpackers and holiday visa holders who play for the Club and while I did not fit into that category and settled into Sydney quite easily it was very enjoyable to have the company of fellow sporting fans to watch Irish games and sporting occasions, usually in the small hours of the morning!

While the world has changed dramatically in the last couple of decades with social media taking over as the main means of communication I often wonder if Irish clubs like the GAA have a role to play in the modern expat population. Previous generations of emigrants had different needs and it was important for them to identify and relate to people from the home country but nowadays multiculturalism abounds and the need for that connection is met elsewhere. However like the GAA in Ireland the GAA continues to thrive here - and elsewhere too. Other organisations from past eras however are in decline. The INA (Irish National Association) recently held a function celebrating its 100th year and the distinct lack of youth did not surprise me as I looked down at the sea of grey and white heads. Likewise for the first time there was no St Patrick's Day Parade in Sydney last year, the Gaelic Club recently closed its doors in Brisbane and the Sydney numbers are also in decline. The current generation of Irish expats do not need this meeting place whereas in the past it was a focal point for the Irish - not unlike the Irish centres in London, New York and other major cities. This generation no longer feel compelled to seek the cultural reassurance of Irish clubs because with the advent of modern technology and access to internet they

are much more connected to Ireland. Earlier this year Irish Clubs in Sydney, including the GAA, assisted the INA to host an event to commemorate the 1916 rising. All events were fairly well supported but sometimes I feel that such gatherings mean more to the second or third generation Australian born Irish who seem to be more Irish than the Irish themselves!

But I digress - back to football - playing on hard dry ground suited me - the ball bounced high, usually over peoples' heads and I perfected the art of waiting for the ball to come to ground or at least down to my height and got quite adept at picking up the 'loose balls'. I won various awards such as Australian Championships for NSW in Brisbane in 1998 and similar in Perth in 1999, "Manager's Player of the Year", "Players' Player of the Year", "Player of the Tournament". When I won



Bernie with friends Dee & Daveena celebrate their Tournament win in 2006

my final "Manager's Player of the Year" in 2005 I decided to call it a day, though breaking five ribs in a game that season did hasten my decision somewhat! I was honoured to be made a life member of the Club in 2000 and served on the committee as treasurer for many years.

Time moves on, and despite all the social and expat changes, the Michael Cusacks Club continues to thrive. It now has 5 teams in all - 2 football, 1 ladies, 1 hurling and 1 camogie. Likewise Kilmeena is a very forward thinking Club and it's good to see it go from strength to strength which is a tribute to the hardworking committee, the trainers and managers who give their time voluntarily and to all the parents who are involved. I will finish by wishing readers all the best for the forthcoming Christmas and New Year, and as my father, Mick O'Donnell, used to say, as he ran the rake over the first newly made haycock every Summer, "go mbeirimid beo ar an am seo arís".



Cusack's Ladies Team 2006

Greetings from the Kilmeena Diaspora:

Kilmeena to London... Danny Ryan



Danny Ryan, former Kilmeena Club footballer, has been living in London, since his decision to accept a teaching position there in 2009. He has been a member of St. Kiernan's football Club, London since 2010. Danny currently plays at centre half back with London and was a member of the panel that played Mayo in the Connacht final in 2013. Danny donned the black and white for Kilmeena at all underage levels. He was always a tenacious and forceful opponent and an extremely valued Club footballer. He was a member of the team that won County and Provincial titles in 2003. Danny also played College football with Rice College, Mayo Under 16 and Mayo Minor League football. His inherent passion for Gaelic football requires no research since his father, Jimmy, and cousin, Vincent Ryan Snr., both represented Mayo at all levels and both played for London during the 1970's.



Danny in action for his club St Kiernan's

Danny had contemplated hanging up his boots but the incentive of Championship football against Mayo in Ruislip in May, this year, was the necessary persuasion to divert that plan. London also played Offaly in the qualifiers in Tullamore but neither match yielded success. However, St. Kiernan's Club have recorded a very memorable season with a clean sweep of the four coveted cups, winning the league, the Senior Championship, the Cara Stationery Conway Cup and the Cara Stationery Tipperary Cup. In addition they have qualified for the quarter finals of the A.I.B. All Ireland Senior Club Championship against the Ulster Champions, Robert Emmets GAC Slaughtneil of Derry. This game will be played in Greenford, London on the weekend of the 10th/11th December.

Best Wishes to Danny and St. Kiernan's Club and our hope that you will claim an historical victory on that day. All of you have carried your love of Gaelic football from your various Clubs in Ireland to your homes in London with an unconditional assurance and loyalty that our Irish heritage will continue to be fostered and preserved.

Hello from County Derry.

Merry Christmas to all the Kilmeena masses at home and abroad and hello from the Quinn family on the banks of the Foyle all the way up North in County Derry. We have been here 16 years following a number of years in Dublin and are well settled in at this stage although home will always be Kilmeena. I was very lucky to get a job when I moved to Derry with a large American insurance company called Allstate Insurance that were just opening up an IT department in Derry and have been with them since. This and the fact that I married a Derry woman have made me start to call Derry my home with Lisa and my two boys, Conor and Ruairi. Allstate in Northern Ireland is a very large operation with 2200 hundred staff between 3 offices in Derry, Strabane and Belfast which has attracted people from almost every county in Ireland including a fellow classmate from Rice College and a covey Jamie Hope. It's always refreshing to hear a home accent when you are surrounded by a wide and varied range of accents and cultures.

Now that my own boys are growing up I find myself thinking much more about growing up in Kilmeena, which obviously had GAA at its core. In fact it's hard to pick any memory from childhood that was not in some way tied to football. In the very early years of following Dad around at the pitch, standing at the gate for the big games, hanging jerseys on the line with Mum after they were all washed and storming the pitch after the big win in '86. Then it was my turn to get on the pitch and that is where the hunger really started to take off. I was very fortunate to be part of a fantastic group of lads right from U12's through U16's where we battled long and hard and won a number of West titles and had both the joy of reaching an U16 County final and the heartache of losing it in a very tight replay against Kiltane. That one point loss was painful and I have to say took a while to get over. However, I often think that it is for those days that GAA is so important, young impressionable lads that could be doing lots of other things all coming together as a tight net group, playing their hearts out

"I often think that it is for those days that GAA is so important, young impressionable lads that could be doing lots of other things..."

and in turn learning tough life affirming lessons - discipline, effort, success and loss which I have to say have all stood me well in life. Unfortunately towards the end of my U16 run I was struggling a lot with back injuries and had to give up the game. I did find it easier to cut all ties with the game for a while as anytime I watched a game I found myself really struggling because I was unable to get back out there. Thankfully that has eased

... David Quinn (Innisnakellev)



David and Lisa Quinn with sons Conor and Ruairi

over time, helped along a lot by watching my eldest son Conor start to feel that lure of sport and the thrill of becoming part of a team. The only tough part is that his first preference sport happened to be that foreign game known as soccer !!! :) He has played Gaelic on and off for our local Club but his passion is firmly rooted in soccer at this point

and it was great to see him only a few weeks back score a beautiful 30 yard top corner kick against our closest rivals in Limavady, which still gives him reason to smile.

My youngest son, Ruairi is not quite sure yet if he wants to be very sporty. He reckons PÉ class at school sometimes makes him feel like he will have a heart attack! More training needed I think.

Derry club football is in great shape with our local team St Marys Faughanvale having come second in the Ulster Junior Club final in 2015 which was great for the area and has helped ensure great support and involvement all through the various teams.



Back Row L-R: Ollie Duffy, John Regan, Jim Cannon, David Quinn, Keith Heneghan, Joe Ryan, Dirmuid Quinn. Front Row L-R: Philip Grady, Alan McIntyre, John Moore, John Ryan, Philip McGee, Kevin McIntyre, Joe Regan, Damien Gibbons.

Facebook has been a great addition over the last few years as it makes it so much easier to keep up on all the action in Kilmeena GAA including our older Kilmeena crew showing all of us how it can still be done with some great displays in the Mayo Masters.

I hope everyone in Kilmeena is doing well and we wish you all a lovely Christmas and New Year.

All the best from the banks of the Foyle from: David, Lisa, Conor & Ruairi Quinn.

Kilmeena Minor Ladies

(By Robert Grealis)

Team News



Front Row L-R: Muireann Cawley, Rachel Keane, Nicole McGuire, Jaimee Geraghty, Lisa Smith (Captain), Aoife Roache, Katie Hogan, Lucy O'Malley.
Back Row: L-R: Orla Grealis, Lily Brady, Roisin Hogan, Zoe Burke, Sarah Hogan, Becca Walsh, Roisin Smyth, Justine Moran, Sarah Mulchrone, Lisa Rose.

History was made on Wednesday 23rd March 2016 when the first ever Kilmeena Minor Ladies team took to the field against Castlebar Mitchels Minor Ladies in Castlebar.

The panel was made up of existing U16 players, new players and local girls Lisa Smith, Sarah Hogan, Zoe Bourke and Orla Grealis who were returning to their home club to wear the Kilmeena jersey with pride.

The effort by the team on the day didn't deliver the result they deserved. The skill levels of the team were on par with the opposition but a short pre-season meant that fitness levels were an area to work on.

The positive attitude of all the players was demonstrated in their approach to the next game, a first home match for the Minor Ladies. Boosted by the addition of players absent for the previous week's game and a determination to gain their first win, the team took on The Neale and came out resounding winners 4-14 to 1-8.

The final match before the break in the season was away to Tourmakeady on a cold and wet night. A fantastic effort by all the players saw Kilmeena in a commanding position for a good part of the match before Tourmakeady ran out narrow winners.

The break in the season in early April did not suit the team. Momentum had been building, fitness levels improving and increasing numbers

attending training. A 13-week break in competitive matches is a challenge.

In the second half of the season, the Minor Ladies continued to show their potential with strong performances against St Brigid's and Kilcommon whilst a match against Kiltimagh was postponed after their request and a re-scheduling was not possible.

In the Cup, the team were once again drawn against Castlebar Mitchels. It was a sign of the improvements made during the season that this match was much closer than their previous game with Mitchels coming out as eventual winners.

The panel of players deserve great credit for all their efforts throughout the year. The experience of this first year to the younger players in particular will stand to them in 2017.

Leadership

The team were led all year, on and off the pitch by Lisa Smith as Captain and Sarah Hogan as Vice Captain.

Their maturity, dedication and leadership was a very positive influence on the younger players on the panel.

Fitness Levels

The team demonstrated all year that their skill levels are on a par or better than every team they played. Where matches were lost, fitness levels were a factor and this is an area to work on in 2017.

Training

Attendance at training fluctuated during the



Sarah Hogan - leading by example

U-8 BOYS:

(By Mike Slattery and Barry Murphy)



The U-8 had an enjoyable and successful season with an average of sixteen boys in attendance each week. We had hoped to organise games against other clubs but the weather was unsuitable and we are mindful that this is a very young group. We also had to cancel a planned match because the holidays for both coaches overlapped. However, we did have a few successful outings with matches against Louisburgh, Islandeady, Burrishoole and Achill. While a few of the players will move to the U-10's next year there is still an abundance of talent in this group and we are hopeful for a number of match wins next season.

Attendance at U-6 training was very low with a weekly average of 10.

A huge focus is necessary in the three schools to encourage the registration of new players for the U8 panel. We would like to maintain the current level of coaching but need further assistance. It is one hour each week and we would appeal for more volunteers.

year with a number of the panel studying for the Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate affecting turnout as did the break up in the season. This is an area for improvement in 2017.

Thank You

Without the help and support of parents and others, the Minor Ladies team would not have enjoyed the season they did. Thank you to everyone for supporting the team. A very special thank you goes to those who were there week in, week out to work with and support the players - Pakie Keane (fitness guru extraordinaire), Trish Hogan, Bernie Smyth and Majella O'Malley and a special thanks to Michael Moore and Liz Brady from the U16s who worked with us on joint training sessions and ensuring both the Minor and U16 sides worked well together.

The Panel

Finally - A big thank you to all the members of the panel for their interest, dedication and hardwork throughout the year.

The panel of players for competition matches was: **Susannah Horgan* Lucy O'Malley* Roisin Hogan* Nina Matherstein* Dearbhla Grealis* Justine Moran* Lisa Smith (Captain), Becca Walsh Lily Brady* Sarah Mulchrone* Sophie Flynn* Sarah Hogan (Vice Captain) Sarah Lavelle Zoe Burke Roisin Smyth* Muireann Cawley* Katie Hogan* Jaimee Geraghty* Aoife Lavelle* Nicole McGuire* Rachel Keane* Orla Grealis, Ava Ryder* Shannon Burke*.**

*Eligible for 2017 Minor Panel:

A number of other U16 players also joined the panel for a friendly match during the season.

It is a positive sign to see so many of this year's panel remain eligible to play Minor in 2017.

U-16 BOYS (By Michael Gavin)

Panel:

Nathan Heraty, Brian Mortimer, Josh Mulchrone, Simon Duffy, Niall Mullin, Ronan O'Donnell (Fahy), John Keane, Jack Carney, Ryan McGonagle, John McGlynn, Sean Moore, Paul Hoban, Ronan O'Donnell, Dylan Bourke, Nathan Heanue, Kian Moore, Patrick O'Connell, Chris McNally, Michael Hastings, Ian Murphy, Gerard Gibbons, Jason McGlynn, Chris McGlynn, Rob Staunton.

West Mayo Division C Champions.

Loosing finalists to Aughamore Div. 4 Summer championship, played 15 games - won 7, lost 7, drew 1.

Management happy with level of progress.

Player of the year - Ryan McGonagle

Management - Philip Cawley, Billy McGonagle, Peter Carney, Michael Gavin.



U16 West Mayo Champions with managers; Michael Gavin and Philip Cawley

Minor and U-17 Boys

(By Darren Madden, Team Manager).



Kilmeena G.A.A. fielded teams in the Minor league, U-17 Summer league and Minor Championship. The campaign commenced very well getting to the semi final against Burrishoole. We lost in a thriller but are very proud of the lads and look forward to the rest of the season with optimism. As all our lads were training with the seniors we decided only to play in the U-17 Summer league and performed very well against strong opposition. As the business end

Team News

of the season approached Lady Luck did not shine kindly on us. We had a number of serious injuries and were unable to field a team in the West Championship. It was also with a lot of difficulty that we managed to have a team in the County Championship. We fulfilled all fixtures and competed very well. Overall, it was an enjoyable year but a little frustrating that we did not progress. I would like to thank all the players for their commitment and Brian Lennon for his help with the team. Many thanks to all the other team managers for their co-operation and the Club administration for your support.

U-10 BOYS (Carmel Higgins)



Kilmeena U10 boys started training on the 7th April 2016, with a registered panel of 31 players. The Go Games group consisted of Islandeady, Tourmakeady, Kilmeena, Achill, Louisburgh & Burrishoole with whom we competed very well in all games.

We took part in a number of Blitzes entering two teams in some. We were successful in the Paddy Golden Blitz and the Tourmakeady Blitz.

The U10's completed 4 skills tests throughout the year with the last test taking place on the final's day of the home league. A marked improvement was noted from test 1 to test 4.

We would like to thank the parents/guardians for bringing the lads to training and matches. We also thank the trainers :Pat Mulchrone, John O'Grady, Kieran Hastings and Carmel Kilcoyne.

2016 Players Panel: Aaron Bourke, Luke Durkan, Aodhan Feehan, James Geraghty, Paul Jennings, D.J. Keane, Rory Lyons, Patrick McGlynn, Declan Moore, Michael Moran, Sean Moran, John Murphy, Evan O'Grady, Michael Regan, Ivan Walsh, Zak Zeray, Fionn O'Driscoll, Dillon Coughlan, Patrick Feehan, Rory Feehan, Oran Grimley, Alex Kenning, Rory Kilcoyne, Aaron Murray, Darragh O'Grady, Aaron O'Haire, Cormac O'Malley, Patrick Sammon, Sean Staunton, Louis Corcoran and Alex Coyne.



Kilmeena Senior team reached the County Semi-Final of the Junior A Championship. The eventual winners Louisburgh, went on to win the County final against Balla, and later, defeating Creggs of Roscommon in the Connaught final.

U21 Team (By John Doherty)



Kilmeena started off this year's campaign by hosting Tourmakeady, and ran out emphatic winners on the night. A close encounter in Achill saw us edged out by a point, but it was enough to see us into a Quarter final.

After a long break we eventually headed off to Bonniclonlon in late October to play the hosts who were regarded as slight favourites for the game. After early sparring, Kilmeena took the game by the scruff of the neck, broke our hosts' hearts with relentless pressure and eventually won the game. A semi-final against our previous opponents Achill was our reward, and from the start Kilmeena applied serious pressure and pace to the game. Achill, determined as ever hung in there, but gradually Kilmeena ended up winning the game comfortably.

So, it was back to McHale Park for a meeting with championship favourites Ballinrobe. The pundits expected Kilmeena to put up a brave fight but eventually had to relent to opponents who had much more experience and physicality. However, the lads in black and white turned the form book on its head from the start and dominated their opponents. The half time score was not a true reflection of the state of the game, and in the second half the Kilmeena lads set up addressing that by powering into the lead. However, Ballinrobe sealed victory with a late surge.

While defeat in a County Final is never easy, there is so much to take from the performance in this campaign of a group of young men that belies their youth and inexperience. They conquered three clubs who at Senior Level are supposed to be a level above them, and ran a Senior Club very close. This is a serious indication that this group of players have the right attitude and potential to go on to greater things.

U-8 Girls (By Sandra McDonald)



2016 was another enjoyable year for U8 girls football. The season commenced on April 8th when we welcomed some new girls to Kilmeena LGFA.

Initially, training comprised of fun team games and activities, moving onto the fundamental skills needed to play football. As the season progressed more training time was given to match play in which there was very enthusiastic participation from the girls. The matches helped the girls to practice their skills, improved their confidence and gave them a better understanding of football.

This year the U8 girls got the opportunity to play more Go Games (non-competitive) at home and away against Westport, Burrishoole and Achill. The highlight of their season was the bus trip away to Parke!

The coaches were very impressed with the improvement in skill levels shown by the girls during 2016. This was a lovely group of girls and we all had fun and laughs along the way.

Coaches, Sandra McDonald, Noreen Moore, Shona Hughes and Nicola McIntyre would like to thank the girls and their parents for their continued support. Also thank you to the Mammies who washed jerseys, made sandwiches and car pooled.

We wish the best of luck to the girls moving up to U10 and we look forward to the return of our U8 girls and any new girls from **Carrowholly, Fahy and Kilmeena** who wish to join the Ladies club are very welcome.



The U21 team - narrowly lost to Ballinrobe in the County Final

Junior Team

(By John Doherty)



Kilmeena Seniors went into 2016 hoping and expecting to improve on our 2015 campaign. However, in our first outing of the season, we came up short against eventual champions Lahardane. It was an early setback to promotion hopes.

A week later, however, we were back on track with a resounding home win over Kilfian.

Breaffy conceded the points, and this was followed by an emphatic win against Knockmore. After that early defeat, we were now very much in contention for league honours. Our next outing confirmed this when Davitts were no match for the power and pace of a team that was in superb form.

Ballycastle were our next opponents and despite tough resistance, Kilmeena came away with the points, and when we took two points again on the road to Charlestown, we were very much top of the league. Now there was a group of four teams at the top with little between them.

We had a tough home game against Killala where we managed to get a draw and in our next league outing, we had a comprehensive victory over Ballintubber. Crossmolina conceded the points to us in our penultimate league game, which set us up for final encounter against Balla.

Balla were to prove too strong in the end and were outright winners in a tough bruising game. Having only lost two league games, we missed out on promotion by a single point. The league campaign was an improvement on last year, but we know there is much more in this team and promotion is a very realistic target for this progressive team. Highlights of the campaign were the performances against Knockmore, Davitts and Ballintubber.

Junior Championship:

The big question heading into Championship campaign was the possibility that Kilmeena could break the run and progress beyond the group stage. However, we fell at the first hurdle against Ballintubber, in a game we dominated from the start. A second half collapse saw the game handed to our opponents. The next game in Ballycastle played in tough conditions saw a rip roaring encounter where we managed to pull out a draw at the end of the game.

So, everything came down to the Killala game and needing the other result to go our way. At half time we were under serious pressure, down on the scoreboard and playing against a stiff breeze. However, Killala had no response to a determined Kilmeena team, and along with the right result in the other game, the spell was broken, and we were in a County Quarter Final.

Achill were strong favourites to advance, but in an epic encounter played out before a huge Kilmeena support in Westport, the game was in the balance heading into the final stages, with the Achill men just ahead. However, a stirring finish from the men from the shore left the islanders stunned as Kilmeena edged the game by the narrowest of margins. A semi-final against Louisburgh awaited up the road in McHale Park.

On the day, Kilmeena just didn't perform, and when it was too late, we started to play some football, which only served to spare some of our blushes, as the men from across the bay coasted into a County Final. However, this cannot deflect from a campaign that up until that semi-final had been full of commitment, desire, and excellent football.

This group are on the brink of something very positive for the club. There is a pool of young players in the squad with more to follow, that have serious talent, and more importantly the right attitude to perform at a higher level. Their goal is to perform at a higher level, so that they can in turn realise their potential to be the best they can be.

Team News

U- 14 BOYS

(By Michael O'Grady)



The 2016 U14 panel of 24 started training on 22nd February and the season culminated on 14th July with an epic win over Ballintubber, in the West Mayo B Championship Final.

There was a healthy attendance of 18-20 lads at the twice weekly early season training sessions.

We were pitted in the competitive Division 1B (8 teams) for the Spring League; with our opening game away to Ballinrobe on 31st March. We played a total of three away games and four home games. We won three out of four home games - Ballaghaderreen being the only team to defeat us on home soil in Spring. We struggled a bit with our away games, losing all three to stronger opposition, on the day.

Overall we were very competitive in this division and but for a couple of results of other games in the last round not going in our favour, we were set for a semi-final spot.

In between competition matches, we played 'friendly' (not always...) matches against Westport, Burrishoole, Islandeady and Louisburgh.

For the summer league, we competed in Division 2A, against Breaffy, Mayo Gaels and Hollymount-Carrowmore. Whilst competitive, we again missed the opportunity to progress.

With the leagues over, next up was the semi-final of the West Mayo B Championship. We were pitted against our neighbours, Burrishoole. The game was played in Burrishoole on 7th July and the Kilmeena lads were victorious; thus earning a final spot against Ballintubber.

The West Mayo B Championship Final (against Ballintubber) took place in Westport on Thursday evening, 14th July.

This match was, to say the least, a battle for the ages, the proverbial game of two halves and one. When the final whistle sounded it represented a triumph of monumental proportions for this group of young Kilmeena men. If the first half belonged to Ballintubber, then Kilmeena took complete ownership of the second period, to record a famous one point victory over Ballintubber and claim the West Mayo B Championship for 2016.

Management: Padraic Moore, Michael O'Grady & James Prenty.

Panel: R O'Donnell, C Cawley, I Murphy, C McNally, M Hastings, K Moore, S Costello, R Staunton, T Smythe, L Garavan, J McGlynn, M Hastings, A Sheridan, C O'Grady, C McGlynn, S Prenty, O Grimley, B Lennon, D O'Malley, J Walsh, R Nolan, J Staunton, S Salmon, C Salmon/Kearns, T Costello.



Ronan O'Donnell, team captain, holds aloft the Cup, following their win over Ballintubber in the U14B West Mayo Championship Final

U- 13 BOYS

(By Michael O'Grady)



The 2016 U13 panel of 30 boys assembled about mid August and we had our first training session on 18th August. The attendance at training sessions averaged around 20 lads.

We were entered in a 'competitive' Division 2 for this League and played in a total four games - competing against Ballinrobe, Moy Davitts, Balla and

Breaffy.

Whilst we were competitive at times in each game and taking into account the unavailability of some key players (due to injury), in truth, we were operating in a division that was a little beyond this group. However, there are many opportunities in defeat - the experience presented has given the lads an insight into the demands of operating in the higher divisions. In this regard the experience gained can be the catalyst this group of young men need entering into 2017, where they can raise the bar for themselves.

Lads - the ability exists. You can make it happen at U14 in 2017!!

Management: Michael O'Grady, David O'Grady, Robert Coady and James Prenty.

Panel: C O'Grady, C McGlynn, S Prenty, O Grimley, B Lennon, D O'Malley, J Walsh, R Nolan, J Staunton, S Salmon, T Costello, L Coady, B Durkan, S Gallagher, F Gibbons, C Hastings, C Gibbons, M Hogan, C Kilcoyne, G Mulchrone, J Mulchrone, C O'Brien, E O'Donnell, A O'Grady, H Sheridan, P O'Toole, J Monaghan, C Feehan, C Lyons, L O'Donnell.

U- 14 Girls

(By Mickey Murray)



Training commenced on the 10th March in Rice College Astro pitch. We had 16 under 14 girls registered. A number of the older under 12 girls also joined the panel for competitive games throughout the year. We played five league matches between the 16th May and the 8th June with wins recorded against Castlebar Mitchels and the Neale. These wins resulted in us qualifying for the Division 4 County semi-final which ended our league campaign.

On the 1st July we played at home to Westport in the championship. Having competed well in the first half Westport got on top and pulled away in the second half to win comfortably in the end. Westport went on to win the Championship. We finished up the year with a fun quiz and some treats in the clubhouse on Wednesday the 26th October.

The list of our **2016 U-14 registered players is;** Shannon Bourke, Derbhla Feehan, Aoife Gibbons, Rachel Gibbons, Keeley Hastings, Ciara Joyce, Laura Kelly, Megan Mulchrone, Sinead Mulchrone, Kelli Murray, Jessica O'Donnell, Megan O'Malley, Leah Rankin, Sarah McDonald, Molly Moore and Ciara Gill.

Thanks to all the girls for their effort and commitment during the year. Thanks also to the parents for their support and help throughout the year. Special thanks to Beirne Express for providing a set of jerseys to the U14 girls. Thanks also to the **management team** of Joan Bourke, Geraldine Gibbons, Ollie Mulchrone, Pete Mortimer and Mickey Murray.

Club Veterans Honoured



John Moran and Paddy O'Grady with their achievement trophies

Mr. John Moran and Mr. Paddy O'Grady were, recently, the recipients of a presentation by the Club Chairman in recognition of their commitment, dedication and loyalty to Kilmeena G.A.A.. Both men have been involved with the Club since the 1950's and are still familiar faces at all the matches. John and Paddy have been exemplary Club Officers and, in more recent years, Club members. They both held the role of secretary, intermittently, during the formative years of the Club when it was very difficult to encourage participation or render an effective promotion.

While John emigrated to London in 1957, Paddy and his colleagues continued the battle to keep Kilmeena G.A.A. tenable. Paddy led by example and agreed to accept the position of Chairman from 1963- 1966. He was also the West Board delegate and a Junior team selector. John's years in England did not quell his appetite for gaelic football and he spent many years

U- 12 Boys

(By Ollie Mulchrone)



2016 will be remembered as one of the most successful years on record for the 38 U12 boys registered with the Kilmeena GAA Club. Football training commenced on the 14th of March and continued right up until the conclusion of the Winter league on Sunday the 6th November.

The grading league started on the 9th of May with a great home win against Balla. Further wins were recorded against Aughamore, Kiltimagh and Ballintubber which resulted in Kilmeena being placed in a highly competitive group for the County league.

These boys continued their winning ways making history by going undefeated in Division 2 of this County league. This league commenced on the 20th June with an away victory against Ballinrobe, followed by wins over Swinford, Claremorris and concluded with another great win away to

in Parnells Gaelic Club in London where he found solace with the other Irish emigrants who were also determined to promote our national game amongst the Irish fraternity. John still receives the London " Irish Post" for the specific purpose of the football update on the Irish Clubs. On his return to Kilmeena during the 1970's John instinctively re-joined Kilmeena G.A.A. and became a trainer with the Junior team. Although this team reached the West Final in 1973 and the West semi- finals in 1974 and 1975, the ultimate victory belonged to the opposition on each occasion.

Regardless of the transformation in attitudes and techniques to the game of gaelic football or the influence of other sports, both of these men have never relented from their aspiration to promote the G.A.A within the parish and build a Club that would withstand the test of time. Throughout the years they have witnessed the exhilaration of victory and the disappointment of defeat. They have extended the hand of friendship to numerous new members and encouraged many young footballers with a discreet word of praise. Two simple gestures applied with the noble quality of their characters and an in-depth belief in the future of Kilmeena G.A.A.Club.

John and Paddy were always unobtrusive in their administrative roles and in their willingness to assist with any task that was of benefit to the Club. They remained the Club mainstay when emigration and apathy were dominant in the parish. They brought a dignity and finesse to their encounters with other clubs in the county. They have made an endless contribution to ensure that Kilmeena G.A.A. Club will continue to develop and take pride of place in the history of this small rural parish.

Congratulations Gentlemen. Kilmeena G.A.A. Club are indebted to both of you for your unflinching participation throughout six decades. You have walked in the footsteps of our forefathers who established the Club in 1889 and through your unselfishness and persistence you have expanded the parameters . History will record your names but it will still be an inadequate account of two very unassuming men with a passion for gaelic football and an unremitting loyalty to their Club.

Knockmore on the 18th July.

This bunch of lads were also invited to play in an Inter-County football tournament run by the Westport Club on Saturday the 29th October. The Kilmeena teams were successful again in this competition winning the B and drawing the C groups. Finally thanks to all who helped in any way with the U-12 boys in 2016 but in particular to David O Grady, Mickey Carney, Robert Coady, Dermot Tiernan, Michael Mulchrone and Damien Hughes.

2016 U-12 boys panel;

Lorcan Coady, Brian Durkan, Conor Feehan, Cormac Feehan, Sean Gallagher, Conor Gibbons, Finley Gibbons, Colin Hastings, Donal Hastings, Matthew Hogan, Charlie Hughes, Conor Kelly, Rian Kilcoyne, Ciaran Kilcoyne, Cormac Lyons, Liam Moore, Brian Mulchrone, Gavin Mulchrone, Jack Mulchrone, Cian O'Brien, Evan O'Donnell, Adam O'Grady, Jack O'Grady, Stephen O'Grady, Joseph O'Malley, Darragh Slattery, Dylan Staunton, Odhran Tieran, Harry Sherdian, Daniel Kelly, Lucas Kennedy, Jack Jennings, Keelan Corcoran, Conal Gill, Jason Monaghan, Peadar O Toole, Louis O'Donnell and Luke Hackett.



The U12 County League Champions with managers; Ollie Mulchrone, Michael Mulchrone, David O'Grady, Dermot Tiernan and Mickey Carney.

Dinner Dance Presentations 2016



Johnny Nolan is pictured accepting the "Club and Community Service" award from guest speaker Brian McEniff.



Michael Gavin accepted the "Clubman of the Year" award from Diane Mullin, sponsored by Midwest Furniture



Mickey Feeney and Brian McEniff presented the "Most Improved Player of the Year" award to Sean Barrett.



Pat Mulchrone accepted "Player of the Year" award from Mickey Feeney and Brian McEniff at the Kilmeena GAA presentation night.

(Dinner Dance Images courtesy of Conor McKeown)

Bord na nÓg Presentations 2016



U8 Girls with team managers Sandra McDonald, Noreen Moore and Mayo Gaelic Ladies star Cora Staunton



U8 Boys with team manager Barry Murphy



Boys A Cup winning captain Ciaran Kilcoyne receiving the "Declan Gibbons Memorial Cup" from Austin Gibbons and Martin Carney



Boys B Cup winning captain Brian Durkan receiving the "William Quinn Perpetual Cup" from Willie Quinn and Martin Carney

"Player of the Year" award winners



Back Row L-R: Brian Mortimer, Chris McGlynn, Colin Hastings, Michael Hastings, Ryan McGonagle. Front Row L-R: Aoife Gibbons, Anna Moran and Nina Matherstein.



Girls B Cup Winner Aine Regan, receiving the "Sean Kelly Memorial Cup" from Gerard McCreave and Cora Staunton



Girls A Cup Winning Captain Emma Murray receiving the "Padraic Mulloy Memorial Cup" from Kitty Mulloy and Cora Staunton. Emma also played in the Cuman na mBunscol exhibition games at half-time in the All-Ireland Final in September



Donal Hastings captain of the C Cup winning team receiving the "Ryan Cup" from Tom Ryan and invited guest Martin Carney

U-12 Girls

(By Colm Barrett)



U12 Team management would like to express their gratitude and appreciation for the support from Bord na Nog Chairman & Secretary, Club Chairman and Club officers during the year.

Thank you to Michael & Pauline Regan, David Ingham, Chris McGreal & Emma Jane Gill for their invaluable input and assistance during the season. Perhaps they will resume their roles during 2017.

With 20 girls registered this year, attendance at training and match days was very good with over 90% participation.

We played in League 3B which had an 8 game programme. We won 4, drew 1 and lost 3. However we made it to semi final stage but were narrowly beaten by a stronger Breaflly team on the day.

Overall, this talented group have made real progress. They have developed their skills and displayed a passion for the game. Their determination has ensured that they are more competitive even against the bigger and longer established clubs. The future looks bright.

Paddy Golden Blitz

The annual Paddy Golden Memorial Blitz was held in June with 25 teams entering this U-10 competition. A total of 300 boys and girls participated.

The Overall Winners: Boys Section A were Castlebar Mitchels, Boys Section B Kilmeena, Boys Section C Westport and the winners of the Girls Section were Burrishoole.

Kilmeena G.A.A Club wish to sincerely thank Margaret Golden and family members for your support and attendance on the day.

The Club also wish to acknowledge Bord na nÓg Chairman, Club members and volunteers for your organisation and co-ordination of another successful blitz.



Winners of the U10 Boys competition with the Paddy Golden Memorial Shield with their manager John O'Grady



Pauline Golden presents the winning U10 Division B captain Luke Durcan, with the Paddy Golden Memorial Shield



Padraic Golden presents the Paddy Golden Memorial Cup to the winning U10 A division Captain of the Castlebar team

Dinner Dance and Presentation to Minor County Champions

The Kilmeena G.A.A. Club calendar 2016 commenced in February with an extremely successful Dinner Dance held in the Woods Hotel. The night included the presentation of medals to the Minor team that won the West Mayo B Championship and Division 4 of the County League. The special guests were Donegal's legendary Brian Mc Niff, and one of Mayo's County unsung heroes, Jason Doherty.

It was a night of animated discourse with the Chairman acting as a very competent M.C. Although Brian and Jason are at opposite ends of the spectrum in relation to their football careers, they both emphasised the huge level of discipline, training effort, team work and commitment that is required to continue the pursuance of that elusive victory for the Club.

Despite the absence of silverware Kilmeena G.A.A. administration, Club members and supporters are extremely proud of all the footballers and their management at all levels. Once again, the Club calendar year will commence with a Dinner Dance. The decision to host a Dinner Dance provides a social occasion when the football year and our gallant teams can be properly acknowledged.

Your date is Saturday 11th February 2017 in the Woods Hotel. Tickets will be available in January from any of the Club Officers. The details of the function will be updated on the Kilmeena website and advertised in the Mayo News.

Minor County Champions 2015



Special guest at the Kilmeena Club celebration night Brian McNiff, with Senior Team Manager Mickey Feeney, presented "Minor Player of the Year" award to Conor Madden.



**Back Row L-R: Special guest County footballer Jason Doherty, John Ryder (manager), Ross Mullin, Robbie Harper, Joey Smyth, Seanie McGreal, Conor Madden, Stephen Staunton, John Keane, Barry Duffy, Paul Moran, Colin Coyne, Darren Madden (manager).
Front Row L-R: Aaron McGinley, Kevin Ryder, Keith Joyce, John Ryan, Sean Ryder, John McGlynn, Chris Heanue, Aidan Walsh, Jack Staunton.**