

## KILMEENA G.A.A. CLUB

DECEMBER 2017

VOLUME 4

ISSUE 1

## CHAMPIONS ALL...

County League Champions...

...Adam Sheridan-Simply the Best!







Cumann na mBunscol County Champions...



U16 County Champions...



West Mayo Minor Champuns

All-Ireland and International Shot-Putt Champion...



## CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS



Once again, welcome to the 4th edition of Kilmeena G.A.A. Club Annual Newsletter. This newsletter is an important aspect to the overall evolution of the Club, and I feel it is an effective source of connection with the wider community providing update

and information.

Kilmeena G.A.A. Club is a place where your children, from the age of 5 years can come and participate in the training and games. The benefits of your local Club are immeasurable. It is a platform to experience teamwork, improve your football and make new acquaintances throughout the parish and

county.

However, as Club Chairman I must caution that a G.A.A. Club in any parish, or in any town, cannot exist without players, coaches, and volunteers. As a small, rural club we must continue to work harder to keep our players, coaches and the volunteers. We need to appraise our existing members and be more inventive in attracting players, coaches and new members to ensure that our Club will continue to prosper.

The current development at the Club is nearing completion. The new playing pitch has been laid and the sand training area is complete. The new building, incorporating the kicking wall, two dressing rooms with storage for machinery, and a multi purpose room upstairs for various types of training is also ready. The addition of the electronic scoreboard has really enhanced our grounds, and will benefit our players long into the future.

As with any development there are costs involved, and this year, in particular, has been an enormous financial challenge. Along with paying the development costs some additional mechanical purchases were necessary which we had not anticipated. My gratitude to everyone who supported the Club by purchasing the National Draw tickets last year. I would again appeal for your generosity when the tickets become available this year. All the monies raised will go straight to the Club and are of enormous benefit to reduce the costs associated with this development. I think it is essential that our stakeholders are up to date on our financial position. We have no loans and all of this has been achieved through funding obtained and from your generosity. I wish to thank Councillor Michael Holmes who made a contribution of three thousand Euros to the Club and Micheal Cannon, originally from Mucklagh, Carrowholly, and now living in Dublin, who donated ten thousand Euros. I can assure both men that the money has been spent wisely for the benefit of all in this Club and our community.

The Club had a really successful year with the Junior team winning Div.1D of the Mayo League. The team worked really hard all year and we look forward to further improvement next year in both the Championship and Division 3 of the league. The Under 16 team won Division 3 of their league, whilst the Minor and under16 teams won their respective West Mayo B Championships. The under 13 boys competed in Division1 of the league but were defeated by Westport in the final. The under 15 team competed in Div.2 of the league and lost to Mayo Gaels in the final. The girls teams were also very competitive and success on the playing field will come. There has been steady progress and all the teams are improving. The Club owes a huge debt of gratitude and appreciation to the coaches and mentors of all the teams for their excellent service and commitment. The U-21 team qualified for a County semi-final against Ballaghaderreen. The lads performed really well but were defeated by an exceptionally strong Ballaghaderreen side. As most of our team will be eligible to play in 2018, it was an immense achievement to reach that level this year.

The Club would find it difficult to survive without sponsorship, and we are indebted to Rev. Fr. Jim Walsh, Mid West Furniture, The Golden Family, Joe Ryan, Hugh Golden, Austin Gibbons, Padraig Gavin and P. J. Mulroy for sponsoring various events and Club gear during the year. I also wish to thank Joe Gibbons for his relentless work on reconditioning the gang mowers earlier this year.

I want to thank Claire Ryan, Martin McIntyre and Barry Murphy for

their work in putting together this Newsletter. I also wish to acknowledge Barry's work in the development of a new modern Club Website which will be online in the near future.

Thank you to Tricia Keane for her initiative in organising a coffee morning to raise funds to purchase a heated box for the Club defibrillator. It is now located in the football stand for the benefit of everyone in the community. I wish to congratulate the Mayo Masters on winning their second consecutive All Ireland Final. Well Done to Club stalwarts Pat Mulchrone, Kieran Hastings Declan Ryan and Darren Madden, Also, congratulations to Pat, Declan and Niall Ryan who played with Allergan and won the All Ireland Inter Firms title. Congratulations to St. Brendan's School Principal, Mr. Mickey Carney, and his team on their epic win in Cumann na mBunscol in June. It was a marvellous achievement for this very young group of footballers. The Club are delighted and proud of our five footballers who donned the Mayo jersey at various levels this year.

Ciara Joyce, (Mayo U-14), her brother, Keith (Minor), Jack Carney (U-16), Mikey Hastings and Ronan O'Donnell (Fahy) played with the U-15 Mayo Development squad. The A.G.M. for the Club was held in November and the Club

Officers are listed in this Newsletter. I want to thank the outgoing Secretary, Paul Ryan, for his help and I wish his replacement Ollie Mulchrone the very best for the coming years. I want to thank all the Club Officers for their input which ensures efficiency and precision and guarantees the prosperity of the Club. There will be a welcome for everybody who wishes to join Kilmeena G.A.A. Club and I would definitely like to see the arrival of new members of the younger generation in the parish. We, the present core are only custodians of the Club. The 21st century has undoubtedly created greater demands on football clubs both on and off the field but the fundamentals that inspired the founders of every Club still exist. We will continue to promote our Gaelic football but we need the young generation to consolidate the future.

Finally, I wish to extend Season's Greetings to all of you and thank you sincerely for your support during the year. I also want to extend greetings to all our parishioners overseas, wherever they may be, and wish them a Happy and a Joyful Christmas with a Healthy and

Prosperous New Year.

Nolllaig Shona do gach duine, agus ath-bhliain faoi mhaise dhibh.

## Willie Keaveney Club Chairman

## **ELECTED CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2018**

President: Padraic Golden. Martin McIntyre. Vice President: Chairman: Willie Keaveney. Darren Madden. Vice Chairman: Secretary/Data Protection Officer: Ollie Mulchrone. Assistant Secretary: Darragh Keaveney. Treasurer: Padraic Moore. John McDonald. Assistant Treasurer: PRO: Trish Hogan. Registrar/Data Protection Officer: Damien Hughes. Michael Gavin. Coaching Officer: Safety Officer: Michael O'Grady. County Board Delegate: Kevin Barrett. West Board Delegate: Kevin Barrett. Scór Officer: Brian Lennon. Irish Language Officer: Máire Uí Riain. Development Officer: Willie Keavenev. Children's Officer: Majella O'Malley, Ollie Mulchrone and Derek Walsh.

Healthy Club Officers to be finalised.

## ELECTED BORD na nÓG OFFICERS FOR 2018

Chairman: John McDonald. Vice-Chairman: Colm Barrett. Secretary: Trish Hogan. Assistant Secretary: Mairead Durkan. Registrar; Majella O'Malley. Assistant Registrar: Davina Carney.

Note: All underage Managers for boys and girls teams will be decided at a meeting in January.

## **CLUB MEMBERSHIP FOR 2018**

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

**MAY THEY REST IN PEACE**It is with profound sadness that Kilmeena G.A.A. Club laid the following to rest during 2017.

Sean Joyce, Carrowholly, and his nephew, Alan Browne, Drumgarve, Kilmeena. Both men were also former footballers.

John Moore, Carrowholly and James St., Westport.

Sean Keane, Los Angeles and formally of Ardkeen, Kilmeena.

The Club also acknowledge the passing of Anne Kilroy, Newport, (nee Cox, Mayour) who was a member of the St. Brendan's Camogie Club and team, Kilmeena, in 1952-1953.

Before going to press, the tragic news reached the Club of the sudden death of Noreen Feehan, Drumhuskert, Kilmeena.

The hand of sincere sympathy is extended to all our parishioners who have suffered the heartache of a bereavement this year.

## ADAM SHERIDAN - All-Ireland Shot-Putt Champion 2017

(By Martin McIntyre)



Kilmeena G.A.A. Club is justifiably proud of U16 Club member Adam Sheridan of Cultrain, Fahy, son of David and Tammy Sheridan, on his recent International achievement when he represented Ireland at the Celtic Games International Athletics events held in the Morton Stadium, Santry, Dublin, on Saturday, August 5th, 2017. (The Celtic Games is a triple International competition between Ireland, Scotland, and Wales, confined to athletes in the U16 and U18 age groups). Adam made his International debut following his qualification from the Irish Life Health National Juvenile Track and Field Championships held in July this year.

Specializing in the Shot-Putt competition, Adam eclipsed all the other competitors in the under 16 Boys category, to take the Gold Medal for the event with a throw of 14.6 meters. This was a phenomenal achievement, considering Adam was then, a mere 14 years of age.

Adam is a member of the Westport Athletic Club since he was seven years old. His hidden talent for the Shot-Putt circle was discovered by accident! Adam had sustained a muscle injury during his 'under 11' season, which severely curtailed his activities on the track, long-jump and cross-country competitions. However, this setback failed to dampen his enthusiasm for attending training sessions with the Club. It was while hanging around unable to participate in the regular athletic events of his choice that his curiosity was aroused by the athletes training for the Shot-Putt and Javelin competitions. His talent for the Shot-Putt was noticed by Shot-Putt coach, Rob Keenan, of the Westport Athletic Club. He was immediately taken by the natural, innate throwing technique of the youngster, as physical physique is not the essential requirement for success in this event. It was under the guidance of Rob that Adam made it to his first National Final, competing in the U12 indoor Shot-Putt final, where he came a commendable 4th. Since then, Adam has never been off the winning podium in either the Shot or Discus competitions at National level. His exploits are not just confined to these events. He has also picked up National medals in the Hammer throwing event. Adam is now under the tutelage of National Coaches, Michael Heneghan and Paddy Kelly, both members of the Castlebar Athletic Club

"Michael recalls first meeting Adam the year

Adam's athletic accomplishments to date might well be reserved for an athlete of more advanced years than that of a mere juvenile:

International Gold Medal (1), All Ireland Gold Medals (14), All Ireland Silver Medals (3), All Ireland Bronze Medal (1). And, for good measure, he has also set 2 new Irish records in his age category in the Shot-Putt during the 2016 athletics season.

He has also represented Rice College at the All-Ireland Athletics Championships in Tullamore, winning the Gold Medal in the Junior Shot-

Putt event in 2017.



Adam - in classic throwing style

after his initial success and was impressed by this quiet spoken lad who had all the attributes required to progress in the Shot-Putt. Adam possesses speed and a good understanding of the *'glide technique'* that coach Rob had instilled in him. He works hard at training while at home, where he has his own Shot-Putt circle and his technique is improving year on year. However, Adam's greatest ability is his steel determination to pull out winning throws in competitions when it really matters; this is the sign of a true champion."

"Michael believes that the future is bright for Adam as he continues to progress up the age groups. If the last few years are anything to go by, Adam can look forward to more National and International honours coming his way. Both Michael and Paddy continue to be very proud of his achievements."

Adam's sporting prowess is not just confined to track and field; a member of the Kilmeena U13, U14 and U16 boy's teams, winning many West Mayo and County titles with the club, lining out in various positions on the field over the years. He was also a member of the Rice College team that won the Connacht "A" Juvenile title in 2016. Also, a soccer player of note, winning many league medals with Fahy Rovers Club in all categories since becoming a member at the tender age of eight years.

Furthermore, his sporting endeavours stretch to Rugby, where he has played with Westport R.F.C. since he was U8, and was a member of the U14 team that won the Connacht Plate in 2016.

Adam's ability to carve out All-Ireland Athletic honours with such consummate ease has won him the admiration of all his athletic peers, coaches, G.A.A. colleagues and Local Community. His unassuming manner and willingness to go that extra mile, has already left an indelible mark on the Mayo athletics scene. It is this level of dedication to his sport that augurs well for his future athletic career.

Truly, an inspiration to us all! We wish him well.



Adam in the Morton Stadium Santry with his coach - Michael Heneghan

## U-6/8GIRLS

(By Maura Hastings)



The U-8 girls group started training in April and continued to the end of September. There were 16 girls registered in this group. This year the focus was on fun, fitness and skills development. All players received their own football from the club and it was decided to use the L.G.F.A. Football

Skills Programme for 8 weeks. This involved daily

practice of a set of skills and the girls worked hard. The improvement in their skills was obvious, especially kicking points with both feet at such a young age.

We travelled to Westport for an end of year game, splitting into U-6 and U-8 teams. The girls were proud to wear the Kilmeena jersey and played their best. We finished the year with a session in the clubhouse. We played some indoor games and had a small presentation for completing the skills programme.

Míle buíochás to the coaches; Sandra McDonald, Nicola McIntyre, Maura Hastings and also, to the parents who helped during the season. We look forward to returning next season and wish those moving on to U-10's all the best.



Back L-R: Amy McIntyre -Gibbons, Keira Kenning, Aoibhinn Lyons, Charley Coyle, Leah Gavin-Walshe, Katie Moran, Cailin McPhilips.

Front Row L-R: Lauren Munroe, Sophie Clough, Cara Mongey, Grainne Feehan, Emily Fahy, Ellie Mai Keane, Emma Gannon. Absent: Kitty Sweeney and Elsie Coyne.

## U-18 Boys

(By Darren Madden)



Kilmeena Minor campaign started well with an unbeaten run in division 2B. We played open and expansive football and thrilled the crowds that came out to support us. The teams that we played in our group were Ballintubber, Hollymount/Carramore, Ballaghaderreen, Ballinrobe and Carras. We topped the group and set up a date with our nearest rivals Burrishoole. We lost this game and were disappointed

as we played very well but lost by a point in a thriller to a well drilled Burrishoole team.

This set us up for another date with Burrishoole in the West Mayo Championship. Again we went down with an under strength side. We knew that if we could defeat Ballintubber in the West semi-final we would again meet Burrishoole in the final. We just about managed to get over Ballintubber in a tight encounter in Clogher. At this stage we were very eager not to come out the wrong end of the result against our neighbour and we turned the tide in the West final. I have to say we enjoyed this performance as everyone played so well. As it happened this was the end of our year. The Minor Championship came at a time when our under 16's were playing Championship and our Junior team was preparing for Junior Quarter-final and trying to win their league. Injury was also a problem and all this meant we had to concede our games. This is one of the problems of having success at every level and having quite a bit of cross-over in age groups. All in all we had a successful year and we eventually defeated the one team that was able to beat us during the season in the most important game for us this year. I would like to thank all the players that gave everything and were a pleasure to manage. I also had the pleasure of working with John Reilly and Brian Lennon. I would like to thank them for all their efforts.

## **TEAM NEWS**

U-16 GIRLS

(By Michael Moore)



The U16 girls competed very well and represented the Club with pride during 2017. A total of 24 ladies played at U16 level throughout the year. Training commenced on the 24th Feb with over 40 outings in total for the group. The U16, minors and Juniors trained together which made training more enjoyable for all. The team competed well in the

league with notable performances against The Neale and Westport. The Championship ended with defeat to St Bridget's in a tight game. A number of the ladies were invited into the Mayo development squad which is important for the development of players in the Club. The future is bright for this group as they develop their skills and enjoy the social side of ladies football.

Thanks to Colm Barrett and Trish Hogan for their help with training and match preparations during the year. Thanks to Pakie Keane and Pat Mulchrone who did several strength and conditioning sessions early in the season. Thanks to all parents for their assistance during the year.

**2017 panel:** Susannah Horgan, Nina Mathestein, Dearbhla Grealis, Laura Moore, Holly Barrett, Ava Ryder, Chloe McGing, Molly Moore, Katie Hogan, Lisa Rose, Jamie Geraghty, Ciara Joyce, Laura Kelly, Dearbhla Feehan, Shannon Burke, Sarah McDonald, Abby McGreal, Áine Regan, Tina Browne, Aoife Gibbons, Rachel Gibbons, Kelly Murray and Cliodhna O Connell and Megan O'Malley.

Kilmeena L.G.F.A. continues to grow. The improved facilities made a big difference with the kicking wall, indoor room and sanded areas being very useful when the pitch was not available. The opening of the additional playing pitch in 2018 will facilitate even more football for the ladies of the parish.

Thanks to everyone for an enjoyable year.



Back Row L-R: Katie Hogan, Molly Moore, Aoife Gibbons, Sarah McDonald, Laura Kelly, Rachel Gibbons, Ava Ryder, Holly Barrett, Dearbhla Feehan, Megan O'Malley.

Front Row L-R: Abby McGreal, Jamie Geraghty, Áine Regan, Ciara Joyce, Laura Moore, Shannon Burke, Tina Browne, Dearbhla Grealis, Ladies unavoidably absent: Susannah Horgan, Chloe McGing, Lisa Rose, Nina Mathestein, Kelly Murray and Cliodhna O'Connell.

## **WEST MAYO MINOR CHAMPIONS**



Back row L-R: Brian Lennon, Kevin Ryder, Jack Staunton, Ryan McGonagle, Alex O'Riain, Bailey Nevin, Ciaran Costello, Jack Carney, Sean McGreal, Sean Moore, Emmet Aylward, Josh Mulchrone, Darren Madden, Manager; Billy McGonagle. Front row L-R: John Reilly, John McGlynn, Kian Moore, Ronan O'Donnell, Keith Joyce, John Ryan, Robbie Harper, John Keane, Simon Duffy, Jason McGlynn.

## **TEAM NEWS**

## **U-16 BOYS** (By Padraic Moore)



Kilmeena U16 Boys commenced training on the Last day of February to set out their stall for the 2017 season. We were pitched in Division 3 of the league (a 9 team group), Aughamore, Hollymount/Carramore, Swinford, Ardnaree, Burrishoole, Naomh Padraig, Parke and Balla. With the age profile of our squad and the calibre of teams in the group

a top four (semi final) spot looked beyond us on paper. However, a convincing home round 1 win against Hollymount/Carramore followed by away wins over Burrishoole and Parke meant the season was off to a great start. Now a top four finish was a realist target, the team improved with each game and carried on the great form to finish the group in top spot and secure a home semi final. Round 9 a home game against Ardnaree (a top of the table clash) was the stand out game of the group which was won by 3 - 12 to 3 - 08. Hollymount/Carramore were defeated in a home semi final to set up a much anticipated final against Ardnaree who had disposed of Naomh Padraig in the other semi. On a sunny evening at the end of May Kilmeena took to the field in Parke for the final but it was

all a bit of an anti-climax when Ardnaree failed to show up. We were presented with the cup but as we had finished top of the table we felt it was well justified.

As a result of winning the league we were drawn in the B section of the Summer Championship against Ballina, Ballaghaderreen and Ballintubber. We were well beaten away to Ballaghaderreen, a home win against Ballintubber, an away defeat to Ballina Jack Carney was voted "U16 Bord na but an impressive performance. nog Player of the Year for 2017" on the strength of his play through-out the year. His consistency of play was laghaderreen we competed very recognised at County level where he well at this level and were gener-wore the green and red for Mayo at Ul6 grade this year. ally happy with where we were at.



The West Mayo B Championship was the final competition for this group. Our first game was a home semi-final against Breaffy who had operated above us in the league. We knew it would take a mas-

sive performance to win this one and a hugely impressive display was delivered to secure a final position by the minimum of margins. Ballintubber were our opposition in the final and on a fine August evening in Islandeady probably our most impressive display of the season was delivered to secure the West crown on a score line of 3 -11 to 1-06. The league and championship double was won and great credit must go to this talented group of young men, who werecaptained by the excellent Jack Carney (who also represented Mayo at U16 level this year.)

## U-15 BOYS (By Padraic Moore)

We were drawn in division 2 of the under 15 league, 5 straight wins over Crossmolina, Ardnaree, Burrishoole, Achill and Naomh

Padraig secured a home semi final against a well drilled physical Ballinrobe side. The "cliché" the game of two halves was very apt for this one as we were 15 points down at half time but went on to win the game by a point with one of the great come backs. We faced a highly fancied Mayo Gaels side in the final and came up short losing 5 - 12 to 3 - 10 in the end.

A great year all round for the U15 and U16 lads.



Mikey Hastings performance at U15 and U16 was enough for him to be named "Bord na nOg U15 Player of the Year for 2017."

## Panel:

Cathal Cawley, Brian Mortimer, Chris McGlynn, Tom Smyth, Simon Duffy, Jack Carney, Niall Mullin, Ronan O'Donnell (Fahy), Mikey Hastings, Iain Murphy, Jason McGlynn, Mark Hastings, Chris McNally, Kian Moore, Ronan O'Donnell (Kilmeena), Robbie Staunton, Sean Costello, Adam Sheridan, Conor Kerins, Nathan Heanue, Luke Garavan, Gerard Gibbons, Cillian O'Grady, Sean Prenty, Oisìn Grimley, Ben Lennon, Daniel O'Malley, Jamie Staunton, Rory Nolan, Jack Walsh, Tighe Costello.

## Management:

Padraic Moore, Neil O'Donnell and Declan Ryan.

## **WEST MAYO U-16 CHAMPIONS**



Back L-R: Padraic Moore (Manager), Conor Kerins, Iain Murphy, Niall Mullin, Simon Duffy, Brian Mortimer, Ronan O'Donnell (Fahy), Chris McGlynn, Adam Sheridan, Kian Moore, Robbie Staunton, Luke Garavan, Ronan O'Donnell (Kilmeena), Nathan Heanue, Neil O'Donnell (Manager).

Front Row L-R: Declan Ryan (Manager), Sean Prenty, Ben Lennon, Cillian O'Grady, Cathal Cawley, Chris McNally, Jason McGlynn, Jack Carney (capt), Sean Costello, Mikey Hastings, Tom Smythe, Oisin Grimley, Mark Hastings.

Senator John O'Mahony



ne of the most enjoyable experiences I had of training Club teams followed a call I received in the Summer of 1995, from Kilmeena Club stalwart, and my former Mayo under 21 selector Willie Kelly. I was manager of Leitrim at the time but they had bowed out narrowly to Galway in the Connacht semifinal so Willie asked me to do a few training

sessions with the Intermediate team.

When I arrived, I found a team, management and indeed Club working together with a unity of purpose that is often absent in bigger clubs. I was energised by the togetherness of all involved, on and off the field. It is easy to raise the bar when all are singing from the one hymn-sheet. Tom Ryan was Club Chairman at the time and Michael Gavin was a major driving force as well. While ultimate glory didn't come that year — neighbours Louisburgh proved too strong in the county final — nevertheless the flame and heartbeat of the Club was rekindled by all involved and ensured that further success wasn't far away.

I have followed your progress over the years since my involvement and was delighted to see you reach All Ireland club Junior Final in 2002. That success continues right up to the present day with your achievement in getting promotion in the league this year and also capturing a West Mayo Minor Championship and toppling some big guns along the way.

I am also delighted to see the Club's plans to expand facilities with additional playing pitch and an all-weather training area. Congratulations also to your Club stalwarts Pat Mulchrone, Darren Madden, Declan Ryan and Kieran Hastings on winning All Ireland medals last weekend with Mayo Masters. Yours excellent website is updated constantly, a great service for your supporters throughout the globe.

May I wish Club Chairman Willie Keaveney and all at the Club, both on and off the field, an enjoyable festive season and every success in 2018.

Yours Sincerely John O'Mahony, Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon.

## Why Join Kilmeena G.A.A. Club?



(By Sarah McDonald, U16 Girls)

Well firstly we're your local G.A.A. Club which covers the areas of Fahy, Carrowholly and Myna. It's always good to help out and support local clubs. It's a place you will always associate with and end up coming back to. When one becomes a member of the

G.A.A., they become part of the G.A.A. family and part of a great community based organisation that enhances the lives of so many people. Kilmeena G.A.A. is full of wonderful friendly people, both young and old who come together for their love and passion of Gaelic football and their community. The Club caters for under-age boys and girls starting from under 8 years. Everyone is encouraged to be the best footballers they can be and to reach their potential and above all have fun. Whether it's shouting from the side lines, playing on the field, organising a bus or making the tea everybody has a part to play. With weekly training sessions and many matches at home and away our players are an important part in bringing our community together. They're committed to the sport but they also love what they do. The facilities at Kilmeena G.A.A. are second to none. We have a great clubhouse with kitchen facilities and a meeting room, a PA system and stand, floodlights, 2 dugouts, 1 main pitch, a newly developed juvenile pitch, 2 training pitches which includes an all year round sand pitch and have recently secured an electronic scoreboard. So how about joining Kilmeena G.A.A.? You'd be mad not to. New members are always welcome!

## U- 14 BOYS (By Michael O'Grady)



The first training session for the U14 panel of 2017 commenced on 27th February and over the following 5 months, the group participated in the Spring League, the Summer League, two challenge matches (Davitts and Westport) and a total of 33 training sessions – the last training session taking place on 27th July.

The panel comprised 30 lads and training sessions were well attended with an average of 23 at each session.

We played in Division 3B (6 teams) for the Spring League; with games away to Crossmolina, Achill and Naomh Padraig. Our home games were against Swinford and Burrishoole, both of which we won. Whilst we didn't make the semi-finals, we were competitive and won 3 out of our 5 games.

For the summer league, we competed in Group C. We played Erris St Pat's and Kiltimagh and as we won both games we qualified for the group semi-final. Our opponents for the semi-final were Ardnaree. The semi, which was played in Swinford, was a very competitive affair. Unfortunately we came out the wrong side of that result by a couple of points.

With the leagues over, the semi-final of the West Mayo Championship took place the following week. Having just a few days to recover from the Ardnaree game and a panel depleted through injury and holidays, we unfortunately lost to Achill, in another competitive game played in Kilmeena.

Both as a group and individually the lad's skill and fitness levels improved throughout the season. This was evident in the two skills tests (May & July) and the Bleep tests undertaken by the team.

Well done to all the lads and keep at it for 2018!

Management: Michael Gavin, Michael O'Grady, Ollie Mulchrone, Robert Coady & James Prenty.

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



U14 Boys with managers: Robert Coady, Ollie Mulchrone, Michael O'Grady and James Prenty.



Kilmeena supporters travelled to Croke Park to support the Mayo La attendance of 46,286 at the match, was the highest ever r

## U-13 Boys

(By Ollie Mulchrone)



The 2017 U13 league commenced in August for the 34 lads registered at this age group. Due to our large numbers we had two teams compete in different league divisions. After the success of the under 12's winning Division 2 of the County league last year we were pitched in the top tier 1A Division. The boys recorded great wins against Claremorris, Ballintubber, Knockmore, and Castlebar Mitchels to

qualify for a County semi Final against Moy Davitts. This game was played in St. Brendan's Sports ground, Kilmeena, on Saturday the 7th October where the Kilmeena lads fought back from a point down at half time to winning by 3 - 09 to 1 - 08. The County Final against our near neighbours Westport was played on Saturday the 14th October in Mulvey Park Castlebar. After a well fought battle Westport emerged the winners but the Kilmeena lads can be immensely proud of their achievements all year.

The second U13 team competed in division 4B with games against Ballina Stephenites (B), Kiltimagh (B), Breaffy (B), Parke (B) and Westport(C) teams.

Thanks to all who came out to support the games or help the lads in any way during the year. Your participation really does make a difference. Particular thanks to Michael Gavin, Mike Slattery, Robert Coady and Dermot Tiernan.

## 2017 U13 boys' panel:

Lorcan Coady, Brian Durkan, Conor Feehan, Cormac Feehan, Sean Gallagher, Conor Gibbons, Finley Gibbons, Colin Hastings, Donal Hastings, Matthew Hogan, Conor Kelly, Rían Kilcoyne, Ciaran Kilcoyne, Cormac Lyons, Liam Moore, 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 Sheridan, Daniel Kelly, Lucas Kennedy, Keelan Corcoran, Conal Gill, Ross Nolan, Mark Nolan and Ryan Heanue.



UI3 Boys with managers: Robert Coady, Michael Gavin, Mike Slattery and Ollie Mulchrone.



dies team in the All-Ireland final against Dublin in September. The ecorded for a women's sporting event to date in Europe.

## U- 12 Boys

(By Mike Slattery)



The U-12 boys started training on 20th March. Throughout the season we had a panel of 30 players and training was well attended. We played five games in the Spring League Division C. We won four and gained promotion. The standard in the Summer

League Division B was much higher but we won two of our five matches. Due to very inclement weather we had to play for three consecutive weeks in torrential downpours! We also played four challenge games against Burrishoole and Westport. Throughout the season, we saw a good improvement in skill and fitness levels and look forward to this group staying together to build on the success already achieved.

Panel: Conor Feehan, Conal Gill, Dylan Staunton, D.J. Kane, Lucas Kennedy, Aaron Burke, Joseph O'Malley, Conor Kelly, Stephen O'Grady, Keelan Corcoran, Oran Tiernan, Mark Nolan, Patrick McGlynn, Michael Moran, Sean Moran, Evan O'Grady, Ivan Walshe, Zac Zeray, Fionn O'Driscoll, Rory Lyons, Aodhan Feehan, Donal Hastings, Daniel Kelly, Rian Kilcoyne, Jack O'Grady, Darragh Slattery, Luke Durcan, Declan Moore, Michael Regan, John Murphy. Coaches: David O'Grady, Mike Slattery, Joe Lyons, Michael Regan, Dermot Tiernan, James Walsh.



U12 Boys with managers: David O'Grady and Mike Slattery.

## U-12 Skills Test Team:

We submitted a team to the U-12 Boys' Club Skills test competition. The team displayed great dedication attending three extra skill practice sessions. They won the West Division competition, held in Islandeady, by a significant margin after competing against six other teams. The boys competed well in their Connaught matches but Eastern Gaels proved too strong and were the outright winners. Team was: Donal Hastings, Conal Gill, Darragh Slattery, Daniel Kelly and Rian Kilcoyne.



UI2 Skills Test Team from left: David O'Grady, Donal Hastings, Conal Gill, Darragh Slattery, Daniel Kelly, Rian Kilcoyne and Mike Slattery.

U-14 Girls

(By Peter Mortimer)



Training commenced on the 2nd March in the new gym with 18 U14 girls in attendance. Pat Mulchrone kindly attended and completed some strength and conditioning exercises with the group. A number of the older under 12 girls also joined the panel for competitive games throughout the year. We played 7 league matches between

the 27th March and the 14th June. We started off with a fabulous win against Carnacon, unfortunately that was the end of the wins in a very difficult league campaign.

On the 17th July we played at home to CL Gaels in the championship. It was a very close 1st half with CL Gaels ahead by 1 point at half time, the second half was also very competitive but CL Gaels hung on for a 2 point win. We finished up the year on 02nd August with an entertaining round of foot golf in Aughagower followed by some refreshments and prizes in the Country Lodge.

## The list of our 2017 U-14 registered players were;

Sarah Gillespie, Emma Murray, Rachel Gibbons, Aoife Gibbons, Megan O'Malley, Àine Regan, Megan Mulchrone, Jessica O' Donnell, Holly Barrett, Abby McGreal, Laura Kelly, Aibhlin O' Flynn, Evie O' Flynn, Anna Moran, Ciara Joyce, Mollie Keane, Sinead Mulchrone, Aisling Hoban, Keeley Hastings, Grace McNally.

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.

## Thanks also to the management team of:

Ann Marie Crean, Geraldine Gibbons, Ollie Mulchrone, Pete Mortimer and Michael Regan.



The U14 Girls and their management team.

## **U-6 Boys**

(By Maura Hastings)

Kilmeena U-6 boys are our future stars. There were 17 enthusiastic boys in this group who trained from April to the end of September. The Club presented each boy with his own football and this was greatly appreciated by the parents and coaches. The emphasis was on fun with a discreet mixture of fitness and skills development carried out during the year.

Thank you to all the parents for encouraging your son to play gaelic football. Thank you to coaches: Mel King, Brian Mc Manamon and Maura Hastings. Good Luck to the boys that are moving on to U-8 and we look forward to playing more football in 2018.



The U6 Boys with the footballs presented by Kilmeena and Mayo Minor footballer, Keith Joyce on behalf of the Club.

Back L-R: Mairead Durkan, Paul Ryan, Willie Keaveney, John McDonald, Padraic Moore, Keith Joyce, Brian McManamon, Barry Murphy and Maura Hastings.

## U-10 Bovs (By Carmel Kilcoyne)

Kilmeena U10 boys started training on the 6th April 2017, with a registered panel of 24 players. The go games group consisted of Islandeady, Tourmakeady, Kilmeena, Achill, Louisbourgh and Burrishoole with whom we competed very well with in all games.

We took part in a number of Blitzes and were successful in Achill and Balla.

We would like to thank Hugh Golden of Logden Homes for the sponsorship of the new set of jerseys.

The U10's completed 4 skill tests throughout the year. Three during the year and the last one took place on the day of the home league final. 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, Mickey Murray, Carmel Kilcoyne and Sean Kenning.

2017 Panel: Louis Corcoran, Alex Coyne, Patrick Feehan, Rory Kilcoyne, Oran Grimley, Luke Hackett, Alex Kenning, Aaron Murray, Darragh O'Grady, Cormac O'Malley, John Paul Ryan, Patrick Sammon, Dean Staunton, Tiernan Aherne, Darren Daly, Shane Durkan, Alan Gannon, Sean Keane, Sean Kilcoyne-Mullarkey, Adam Moran, Alan Mortimer, Kyle Mulchone, Tadhg O'Driscoll, Cormac Slattery.

Three U-8 boys also played with us in the Paddy Golden Blitz 2017. (Jamie Durcan, Felix Zeray and Robbie Murphy). Picture below shows all that played in the Paddy Golden Blitz 2017.



Back row L-R; Robbie Murphy, Rory Kilcoyne, Patrick Feehan, Alex Kenning, Dean Staunton, Louis Corcoran, Cormac O'Malley, Kyle Mulchone, Jamie Durcan, Sean Kilcoyne-Mullarkey, Alan Gannon, Alan Mortimer.

Front row L-R; Shane Durkan, Aaron Murray, Darragh O'Grady, Alex Coyne, Adam Moran, Luke Hackett, Patrick Sammon, Sean Keane, Felix Zeray, Cormac Slattery, John Paul Ryan.

## ST BRENDAN'S GIRLS CUMANN na m



St Brendan's National School girls team, pictured with School Principal I final giving a superb performance that did their School and Club proud. times ahead. Well done girls!

## **U-10 Girls**

(By Shona Hughes)



Under 10 girls represented their club magnificently this year. We kicked off the season in February with a panel of 22 girls. They worked on their skills indoors in Fahy Community Centre, which certainly helped them when they moved out to the pitch in April.

During the season they played brilliantly with 3 matches against Islandeady, 2 matches

against Louisburgh, 1 against Westport and 2 matches against Achill, in all kinds of weather!

Thank you to Fahy Community Centre for the use of the hall. Thank you also to the hard working Managers and Coaches; John Moore, Pete Lane, John Gallagher, Shona Hughes, Luanne O'Donnell and Cathy Burrows.

We would like to pay particular thanks to all the parents for their support throughout the season. They braved some very wet evenings to cheer on the girls. Finally we would like to thank these 22 wonderful girls who will be the future stars of Kilmeena Ladies Gaa. Every one of them put their heart and soul into training and matches this year and we see a huge improvement in all of them.

We look forward to the 2018 season and wish the girls moving up to under 12's all the very best.



UIO Girls with their managers: Shona Hughes, Cathy Burrows, Luanne O'Donnell, Pete Lane, John Moore and John Gallagher.

## BUNSCOL COUNTY FINALISTS 2017



Mickey Carney, reached the final of the Division 2 Cumann na mBunscol Nine of the team that started are eligible to play again in 2018, exciting

## U-12 Girls

(By Davina Carney)



Kilmeena under 12 girls had a very good year in 2017. All the girls showed great commitment to the training during the year and always gave their very best in all the competitive games they played.

The girls travelled great distances to play their games and we were delighted that so many parents assisted in the car pooling to the various venues. Kilmeena recorded great victories over Louisburgh, Davitts, Castlebar

2, and Islandeady, We were delighted to see more players join the squad this year and we hope to continue to add to the panel over the next year. We always try to ensure that all girls get competitive action on a weekly basis. The management team would like to thank the club for all the support and assistance throughout the year. We would also like to thank the parents for their help and support throughout the entire year. In particular we thank the girls themselves for their loyalty and hard work. They have simply been a pleasure to work with and we look forward to another exciting year ahead. Well done girls!!!



U12 Girls with managers: David Ingham and Davina Carney.

U-8 Boys

(By Barry Murphy)



The U8's concluded a very successful season with a training session on the last Thursday of September. Despite the inclement weather for the last six weeks of training, a full turnout of all 17 players was typical from this great bunch of lads. There were matches galore this year starting with a visit from Tourmakeady, and following

blitzes in Islandeady and Achill, and numerous matches against Louisburgh, Islandeady, Achill and others. Our boys emerged unbeaten for the entire season - testament to all their hard work at training. The coaches - Mairead Durkan, Barry Murphy, Ollie Collins and Eamonn Daly - would like to extend their sincere thanks to all the boys' parents for their efforts in getting the boys to all of the training sessions and matches. Here's to another successful season in 2018!



Front Row L-R: Jason Feehan, Liam Quinn, Donnachta McCauley, Alan Heanue, Jason Lawless, Kevin Hastings, Darragh McDonnell. Middle Row L-R: Finn Mulchrone, Noah Coughlan, Tom Cox, Cian Moran, Tadhg Daly, Felix Zeray, Jamie Durkan, Robbie Murphy, Sam Golden.

Coaches L-R Back Row; Ollie Collins, Barry Murphy and Mairead Durkan.



Girls winter League, Section B runners up with management Ann Marie Crean and Pete Mortimer, special guests Nicola O'Malley, Rebecca O'Malley and Barry Moran.



Boys Winter League, Section C runners up with management Michael Regan, Sean Kenning and special guest Barry Moran.

## BORD NA nÓg PRESENTATIONS 2017



Boys U10 Skills winner; Aaron Murray with his dad Mickey Murray, Rebecca O'Malley, Barry Moran, Nicola O'Malley, Carmel Kilcoyne and John O'Grady.



Boys Winter League Section C Winners with management; Ollie Mulchrone and Carmel Kilcoyne and special guest Barry Moran.



Éabha Carney, winning captain of the Girls Winter League Section B, with her teammates, receiving the "Sean Kelly Memorial Cup" from Gerard McCreeve. Also pictured from left; John Gallagher, Davina Carney, guests Nicola and Rebecca O'Malley, Barry Moran and Pete Lane.



Winter League Section A winners



irls UI4 "Player of the Year" Ciara Joyce with Rebecca O'Malley, Ann Iarie Crean, Barry Moran, Nicola O'Malley, Pete Mortimer and Ollie Iulchrone.



Boys Winter League Section A runners up with manager; David O'Grady and special guest Barry Moran.



Boys Winter League Section B runners up with management; Mickey Murray and Mike Slattery and special guest Barry Moran.



Boys Winter League, Section B, winners of the "William Quinn Perpetual Cup" with managers Maura Hastings, John O'Grady and special guest Barry Moran.



with managers; Fintan Durkan and Barry Murphy.



Girls Winter League, Section A runners up with manager; Mickey Carney, special guests Barry Moran, Nicola O'Malley and Rebecca O'Malley.



Boys UI3 "Player of the year" Harry Sheridan with from left; Michael Gavin, Rebecca O'Malley, Barry Moran, mum Tamilyn, Nicola O'Malley, dad David, grandfather Frank and Mike Slattery.



Girls U16 "Player of the Year" Ava Ryder with family members. Also included from left; Colm Barrett, special guests Rebecca O'Malley, Barry Moran and Nicola O'Malley, Trish Hogan and Michael Moore.



Boys U14 "Player of the year" Cillian O'Grady with parents Michael and Mary. Also included at back from left; Ollie Mulchrone, Rebecca O'Malley, Barry Moran, Nicola O'Malley, James Prenty and Michael Gavin.

## BORD NA nÓg AWARDS 2017



Bo wit mu Ne Pa Mo



Bord na nÓg "Player of the Year" recipients with their trophys following the presentation from special guests, Rebecca O'Malley, Nicola O'Malley and Barry Moran.



Boys U15 "Player of the year" Mikey Hastings with mum Mairead and guests, Rebecca O'Malley, Barry Moran and Nicola O'Malley. Also included; Neil O'Donnell, Padraic Moore and Declan Ryan.



Boys U12 "Player of the Year" Daniel Kelly with from left: David O'Grady, Rebecca O'Malley, Barry Moran, Nicola O'Malley, Mike Slattery and dad Eamonn.



Kitty Molloy presenting the "Padraic Molloy Memorial Cup" to Áine Regan winning captain of the Girls Winter League Section A, with her teammates. At back; Nicola O'Malley, David Ingham and Rebecca O'Malley.



Ul4 Boys with management and guests.
Back L-R: Michael Gavin, Ollie Mulchrone, Rebecca O'Malley, Nicola O'Malley, James Prenty, Barry Moran and Michael O'Grady.



ys U16 "Player of the year" Jack Carney th from left; dad Peter, Rebecca O'Malley, am Stephenie, Barry Moran, grandmother llie Carney, Neil O'Donnell, grandfather t Carney, Nicola O'Malley, Padraic pore and Declan Ryan.



U16 Boys with management and guests.
Back L-R: Rebecca O'Malley, Neil O'Donnell, Declan Ryan, Barry Moran, Padraic Moore, Tom McNally and Nicola O'Malley.



U16 Girls with management and guests.

Back L-R: Rebecca O'Malley, Colm Barrett, Trish Hogan, Barry Moran, Nicola O'Malley and Michael Moore.

Grace Gibbons proudly displaying her "Girls U12 Player of the Year" trophy with special guests Rebecca O'Malley, Barry Moran, Nicola O'Malley and mum Elaine



Ul3 Boys with management and guests.
Back L-R: Michael Gavin, Ollie Mulchrone, Mike Slattery, Nicola O'Malley, Rebecca O'Malley and Barry Moran.



Willie Quinn and grandson Liam, presenting the "William Quinn Perpetual Cup" to Donal Hastings, Boys Winter League, Section "B" winners.

## Football-Skills Winners



Girls U10 Skills winner - Áine Gallagher with specia guests; Nicola O'Malley, Barry Moran and Rebecca O'Malley.



Girls U12 Skills winner - Éabha Carney with Ro O'Malley, Barry Moran, Mickey Carney (dad) O'Malley.



Tom Ryan, presenting the "Ryan Perpetual Cup" to team mates. Also in the photo is County Senior Play

## Bord na nÓg Managers and Coaches with special guests Rebecca and Nicola O'Malley and Barry Moran





Damian Gibbons presenting the "Declan Gibbons Memorial Cup" to Stephen O'Grady, winners of section "A" Boys Winter League.



Boys U12 Skills winner - Donal Hastings with Rebecca O'Malley, Barry Moran, Nicola O'Malley and mum Ann.

## BORD NA nÓg Presentations

## U14 Girls with management and guests



ebecca

and Nicola

Patrick McGlynn and ver, Barry Moran.



Back L-R: Michael Regan, Ollie Mulchrone, Ann Marie Crean, Rebecca O'Malley Mayo Ladies Senior Team, Geraldine Gibbons, Pete Mortimer, Nicola O'Malley Mayo Ladies Senior Team and Barry Moran Mayo Senior Men's Team.

## Kilmeena G.A.A.

nce again, Kilmeena G.A.A. hosted another extremely successful and enjoyable Dinner Dance in the Woods Hotel with an attendance that exceeded expectations. This year's guest speaker was Mr. Michael Ring, Minister of State for Regional Economic Development and Rev. Fr. Charlie McDonnell, ADM. Westport also attended.

Even though the Club had no silverware to display, the atmosphere was jovial and there was an air of optimism for the future of the Junior team and all under-age teams. The Chairman, Mr. Willie Keaveney was presented with " Club-man of the Year".

Preparations have already commenced for next year's Dinner Dance which will be held in Woods Hotel on Saturday 10th February 2018. Only your attendance there can ensure the success of this night.



Kieran Hastings accepts his "Senior Player of the Year" award from special guest Minister Michael Ring.



"Player of the Year", Lisa Smith accepting the "Cleary Brothers Memorial Shield" from Bord na nÓg Chairman, John McDonald.



Lisa Smith accepting the "Most Dedicated Player of the Year" award, on behalf of Lucey O'Malley, from John McDonald.



Minister Michael Ring, presen his "Most Improved Player of



"Top Scorer for 2016" Sarah Hogan proudly accepting her award from John McDonald.



Special guest, Michael Ring her "Community Award."



Kilmeena ladies from left Hetty Lawlor, Sarah Mulchrone, Justine Moran and Rachel Keane enjoying the celebrations.



Keane, v O'Grady



ts Joey Smyth with the Year" award.



"Young Player of the Year" Conor Madden, receives the "Barrett Memorial Shield" award from Minister Michael Ring.



Bord na nÓg Chairman, John McDonald, presents Róisín Hogan with her "Leader of the Future" award.



, presents Ann Duffy with

# VALENTINE'S DINNER DANCE AWARDS 2017



Club Chairman, Willie Keaveney, accepting his "Club-man of the Year" award, from Rory Smyth, Mid West Furniture, Club Sponsors, with special Guest Michael Ring, Minister of State for Regional Economic Development.



ending at the function were from left: John Moran, Johnny Nolan, Sean who, sadly, has passed to his eternal reward since then, and Paddy



"DRESSED TO IMPRESS" Players enjoying the festivities...

## **MAYO FUTURE STARS**



(By Mickey Carney)

It was a special year for Lisa Hastings, Aishling Hoban and Éabha Carney in 2017. The girls had a

tremendous year with their schools and club. The three girls were chosen by the officials of Cumann Na mBunscol to represent their County at Senior Championship half time exhibition games, having put in outstanding performances for their respective schools. Aishling and Éabha were picked to play in the first round of the Senior Football Championship when Mayo played Galway in Pearse stadium. Lisa was picked to play at half time when Galway and Roscommon met in the Connacht Final. The three girls really enjoyed the occasion and gave great performances. Lisa and Éabha played with St Brendan's National School in the Cumann Na mBunscol division 2 final Aishling played for Fahy National School in the division 3 Cumann Na mBunscol final. Both games took place in McHale park. Unfortunately both schools were defeated on the day. We are very proud of our young footballers and we have no doubt that they will continue to train with their Club for many years and wear the famous red and green jersey on many more big days ahead!



Lisa Hastings, Aishling Hoban and Éabha Carney.

## AWESOME ALLERGAN...

Ongratulations to Pat Mulchrone, Declan Ryan and Niall (Woolly!) Ryan who cruised to victory with the Allergan team against Kerry Products, Wicklow and captured the Inter-Firms All Ireland title. The March wind and Winter showers did not deter this Allergan team from producing an epic performance. While it was Declan and Niall's first All Ireland final with the team, it was a day of nostalgia for Pat Mulchrone. Pat was captain of the Allergan team in 1998 when they won their first All Ireland title against Cork Garda. That game was played in Kilmeena and the team included Pat's brother, Michael, his Kilmeena Junior football teammate, Michael Moore, James Horan who became the Mayo Senior

team manager and Neil Chambers who was this year's manager. The transience of time was very apparent in St. Patrick's G.A.A. pitch in Westport, last March, where Pat's



Niall Ryan gave a sterling performance for Allergan.

son, Jack and Declan's James designated and competent water boys for this final of two highly motivated teams. The presence of Jack and James in transition throughout the pitch during the Pictured with the coveted All game completed an Ireland Inter-Firms Cup is extremely memorable clan Ryan, Pat Mulchrone, day for their dads. Niall Ryan and his son Josh. Allergan were under no Front: L-R: Aaron Ryan, illusion that it would Jack Mulchrone and Rachel be a tough battle but Feehan.



they proved to be impenetrable opponents and the force of their resistance ensured that the dream became a reality.

### ST BRENDAN'S CUMANN na mBUNSCOL COUNTY **CHAMPIONS 2017** (By Mickey Carney)

For the first time in the history of St Brendan's N.S. Myna, the team of lads representing their school, teachers and the community, were crowned Cumann na mBunscol County Champions for 2017. Serving up a feast of football that would do justice to any team their senior, they recovered in great style from a half-time deficit of 8 points to take the title. Playing into a strong wind in the first half, against a determined Bekan side, the half-time deficit of 8 points seemed insurmountable. Led by team captain Darragh Slattery, they tackled this shortfall in the second half with a coolness and focus that did justice to their excellent win to the delight of the home support. Well done to all involved.



Back row L - R: Aidan O'Shea, Mayo Senior Player; Joseph O'Malley, Cian O'Brien, Rian Kilcoyne, Brian Durkan, Adam O'Grady, Ross Nolan, Cormac Lyons, Patrick McGlynn, John Murphy, Pat Mulchrone.

Middle row L - R: Michael Carney, School Principal; Ryan Cooper, Rory Johnston, Charlie Hughes, Tom Hastings, Dylan Staunton, Evan O'Donnell, Donal Hastings, Luke Durkan, D.J. Keane, Evan O'Grady, Zak Zeray, John O'Grady.

Front row L - R: Conor Feehan, Colin Hastings, Gavin Mulchrone, Jack Mulchrone, Stephen O'Grady, Darragh Slattery (Captain), Aaron Bourke, Jack O'Grady, Lucas Kennedy, Michael Moran, Mark Nolan, Sean Moran.

## ASK JOE AND MARY...

(By Claire Ryan)



Many of our younger Club members and supporters may not be familiar with Joe and Mary Madden. Yes, they are Darren's parents and Conor's grandparents. Yes, they are always at the matches whether it is under-age, an away game at

any level or likewise a home match. Yes, they will always have the Black and White flags in the boot of the car for those glorious days when one of our teams have reached a School, West, League or County final.

However, the Club flag is a very meagre symbol of the depth of their commitment and loyalty to Kilmeena G.A.A. Club since they returned from England in August 1975 with a very young Caroline and Darren. While the family settled into a daily routine, Joe re-joined Kilmeena G.A.A. Club where he had played minor football prior to his departure to London in 1966. Joe's working life in London did not dilute his passion for Gaelic football and he was a regular visitor to Dr. Crokes where his neighbour, the late Billy Fahy, and another Kilmeena man, Michael O' Grady, (Clooneen), were team players. Joe and Mary also became involved in the Kilmeena Community Council and accepted



Nigel, Darren and Jonathan with young Conor, now a driving force on the U21 and Junior teams.

positions of Chairman and Secretary, respectively, during their tenure there. Of course, their role was not confined to paperwork. In their inimitable way this couple showed their community spirit and gladly participated in the annual Community Sports where they were the proud recipients of first prize for the family race on several occasions.

The Madden family tree had now expanded and the couple welcomed the arrival of Davina, Nigel, Jonathan and Vivienne, R.I.P. All six children excelled at athletics and were always encouraged and supported by their parents. The three boys displayed a natural ability at football which was nurtured by the Club's under-age managers. Hence the Maddens were on the move. Joe recalls, on one occasion, in addition to his own family, he also had eleven team members in his estate car. While Mary is renowned for her prowess at needlecraft, unfortunately, her youngest two daughters did not inherit her talents! The L.G.F.A. had not been established when the girls were young but this did not inhibit either of them. Davina felt that she had a role in the rugby world and commenced training with the boys' squad in Carrowholly.

However, her aspirations towards the Heineken Cup or a Grand Slam were abruptly terminated when she accidentally broke the collarbone of Kilmeena Club team footballer, John Ryan, during a training session! Vivienne chose to play football with the Club. It was a misconception if opposition perceived this genteel blonde with a ponytail or plaits enhanced by the familiar curl on each side of her face, was only part of the team for gender balance. displayed amazing potential and tenacity. Despite the brevity of her young life, Vivienne's impact as a vibrant, fun loving teenager and a herculean footballer has given those of us who knew her treasured indelible memories.

In 1993, Nigel (U-14) and Darren (Junior Team) were preparing for their respective County finals. While the parish analysed the pros and cons of a possible victory, Mary, with her characteristic optimism and practicality was sewing flags and making banners and wristbands. One banner made media headlines: "Ballycastle for the Ceide Fields, Kilmeena for the Cup". That was also the year that Kilmeena G.A.A. Club was introduced to a Black and White panda named "Gerry Ryan" which was stored in the boot of the car until victory was sealed. The latter was won by, now, third level student Darren while attending a show (educational!) in Dublin hosted by RTE celebrity, the late Gerry Ryan. In 1994, Joe proudly received "Club-man of the Year." A further endorsement of his impeccable standard of work with the pitch and grounds arose in 1996 when Mayo Senior team management requested the use of the pitch for the team training session before the All Ireland final.

Joe and Mary were dealt the ultimate and irreparable heartbreak of any parent when 18 year old Vivienne was taken from their lives on 26th June 1999 following an extremely short illness. A stunned community felt incredibly helpless to provide any level of solace to this family with piercing hearts and relentless pain of loss. It was with a cloud of solidarity and solemnity that the Club supporters attended Vivienne's month's mind Mass before depart-

ing to Achill for a West Mayo Junior. A Championship game. The fortitude and resilience of the Madden family is still incomprehensible and unimaginable as they arrived, that evening, to support the team. There was palpable emotion on and off the pitch. The ultimate tribute to Vivienne...The Madden family were back.

As Kilmeena teams progressed, there was also development of the Club grounds. It was a period of volunteerism and spontaneity. Joe and Mary were natural leaders, with a cryst with a wonderful sense of to the Club.



Mary and Joe.

purpose and there was never hesitation or reluctance to undertake any task. "Ask Joe or Mary" would be reverberated. Joe diligently supervised the FAS scheme during the construction of the current stand and the development of the training field adjacent to the main pitch. He also served a three year term as Club President. Meanwhile, Mary was not idle. Following the sudden death, in March 2004, of Tyrone Senior Inter County player and All Star 2003, Cormac McAnallen (age 24 ) Mary initiated a fundraiser for a defibrillator for the Club. Along with her friend, Barbara Jordan, they raised € 3,500. Last June Mary also supplied new flags for the Cumann na mBunscol final which the supporters proudly waved for the victorious Myna N.S. Joe is the only original Lotto seller since its establishment in 1994. In recent years he retired from his regular role as umpire. He was Kilmeena's "HAWKEYE" and every referee relied on his judgement! This couple celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary next year. Forty years of that time has been given selflessly to the Club with unsurpassed affinity and total conviction.

Joe and Mary, you have certainly weaved your names into the history of the Club because your contribution has been immeasurable and exemplary. Long may the double beat of your dedication and boundless energy ripple through the anecdotes of Kilmeena G.A.A. Club.



ism and spontaneity. Joe and Tom Ryan, Club Chairman 2001, presenting Joe Madden
Mary were natural leaders, with a crystal football boot in recognition of his contribution
with a wonderful sense of to the Club.

(Image courtesy of Keith Heneghan Photography)

## THE DERMOT EARLEY YOUTH **LEADERSHIP AWARD**

his initiative is a year-long programme running over three modules between October 2017 and May 2018. It involves 30 hours of workshops designed to develop the leadership skills that Dermot epitomised on and off the field. Also, 30 hours of selfdirected learning is also required.

Those who complete all three modules will have the opportunity to graduate from NUIG with a Foundation Certificate in Youth Leadership and Community Action.



Katie Hogan, second from left back row, from Kilmeena L.G.F.A., with other participants/leaders at the launch of the Dermot Earley Youth Leadership Initiative programme in McHale Park.

## JACK CARNEY STEPS UP TO MAYO U-16 **SQUAD**

his year, Jack Carney was afforded a well deserved trial with the Mayo U-16 squad. Jack was the 2017 captain of Kilmeena U-16 team which captured a West Mayo title against Ballintubber, in September with a finishing margin of 11 points between the teams. Even at this young age Jack's leadership on the field of play personifies the spirit that drives his teammates to display their remarkable propensity for winning. Jack's speed and inventive flair are the ingredients which terrorise the opposition. His tackles will always be a tough exchange leaving no recovery time for his opponent. His high fielding and long range kicks are always a nightmare which will result in exposing the fragility and inconsistency of a defence line and leave them with that unwelcome feeling of incredulity. Jack has been reared in an environment steeped in Gaelic football but there is strong archival evidence on the Kenny family tree to establish that Jack emulates the football prowess of his Great Grandfather, Jack Kenny, Westport. This illustrious footballer represented Mayo at senior level during the 1930's. Kilmeena G.A.A. Club sincerely hope that history will be repeated in the Kenny/Carney household in the next few years and that they will have the opportunity to watch with pride as Jack Carney dons the Red and Green for the Mayo Senior



Jack, emulating the pedigree of his Great Grandfather, wearing the Mayo colours at U16 level against Roscommon.

## **CONGRATS CIARA AND KEITH**

t was certainly a year of pride In the Joyce household in Fahy with the selection of both Ciara and Keith to don the Red and Green of Mayo. While Keith played at Minor level, his sister, Ciara, played with the U-14 Girls team. Kilmeena G.A.A. Club are delighted to acknowledge and record the achievements of this dynamic duo. It is also of significance that Ciara is the first girl from Kilmeena Ladies' football to be chosen for the Mayo side. The decision to select Ciara and Keith is a huge endorsement for both of them. At Club Level Ciara in typical shooting mode in their similar football prowess is the girls UIA match against Sligo. reflected in their ability to add a new dimension to each game with an attacking mentality that is the bane of every defender. They both possess a spontaneity and confidence to weave through a web of tackles and successfully drive that ball over the goalposts or slot it with rapidity past the goalkeeper into the net. Their resilience and diligence is inspirational and motivational for their teammates. Their selection for Mayo is certainly a victory for character and recognition of their talents. Hopefully, this towards the Hogan Stand.





Keith made his debut at minor level is the first step of the journey for the Green and Red this year. (Image courtesy of David Farrell Photography)

## THANK YOU TRICIA KEANE

Kilmeena G.A.A. Club wish to express sincere gratitude to Tricia Keane and her ladies' committee who successfully raised €1,074.26 for the heated box that is necessary to store a defibrillator outdoors. Tricia decided to undertake this fundraiser following a medical family crisis which was resolved because there was a defibrillator available and, after a period of hospitalisation, the patient made a full recovery. Tricia's fundraiser surpassed her expectations and while she furnished the Club with a heated box, she donated the rest of the proceeds to Foróige Club who had received a grant to install a defibrillator at the Community Centre and now have enough funds to buy the essential heated box. Tricia hosted her tea/coffee morning in the Clubroom and it was obvious from the array of confectionery that a lot of ovens in the parish were heated early that morning. It was also a social occasion for young and old with gold star service from the group of ladies who added colour and glamour to the day.



Club Chairman, Willie Keaveney, gratefully accepting the fundraiser cheque from Tricia Keane. Also in the picture is Club Treasurer Padraic Moore.

## **PADDY GOLDEN BLITZ 2017**

On Saturday 27th June Kilmeena G.A.A. Club welcomed 30 teams from West Mayo for the annual U-10 Paddy Golden Memorial Blitz. It is noteworthy that there was an increase in the number of Girls' teams this year with 7 registered on the day.

The Overall Winners:

Boys Section A Castlebar Mitchels.

Boys Section B Westport.
Boys Section C Parke.

Girls Section winners Westport "Lions."

Kilmeena G.A.A. Club wish to thank Margaret Golden and family members for your continuous support and attendance at the presentation.

The Club also wish to acknowledge Bord na nÔg Chairman, Mr. John McDonald, Club members and volunteers for your organisation and coordination of another successful sporting day.



Pauline Golden presenting the "Paddy Golden Memorial Shield" to the Captain of the Westport Team, winners of Section B.



Parke, winners of "Section C," receiving the "Paddy Golden Memorial Shield" from Mary Golden.

## MAYO MASTERS DELIVER THE DOUBLE



Club stalwarts; Pat Mulchrone, Darren Madden, Declan Ryan and Kieran Hastings, celebrating their two in-a-row All-Ireland Masters title win over Sligo in the final.

Congratulations to Kilmeena's four stalwarts, Kieran Hastings, Darren Madden, Pat Mulchrone and Declan Ryan who sailed to victory and claimed their second in-a-row Masters All Ireland title. Even the inclement weather did not deter the enthusiasm of the large crowd who travelled to Ballymote on Saturday 11th November, to witness the final encounter between two very versatile teams. Although Sligo were a highly rated team there was never any doubt as the match progressed that Mayo were the masters on the pitch.

Kilmeena Club have outstanding representation on the Mayo Masters team over the last few years. A further endorsement of



Padraic Golden, presenting the "Paddy Golden Memorial Cup" to the Captain of the Castlebar Team, overall winners of the competition.



Patrick Golden presenting the "Paddy Golden Memorial Shield" to the Captain of the Westport "Lions" Girls Team.

the calibre of footballer that Kilmeena has produced was the Masters' decision to select Declan Ryan as Captain in 2015 and Pat Mulchrone, as captain, in 2016. In addition to All Ireland success last year, Kieran Hastings was chosen "Man of the Match" in the final played against Cavan. From the Club's perspective, this year's performance by Darren Madden was most certainly noteworthy. For many years, Kilmeena supporters witnessed this dominant midfielder, on the Junior team, soar to the sky with outstretched arms to tackle for that size five football. However, when Darren donned the Red and Green for the Mayo Masters he had to make a complete transition and adapt to his new role as goalkeeper. Darren displayed the same determination and astuteness in goal as he did in his glory days at midfield for Kilmeena. Despite numerous attempts Sligo failed to register that elusive goal which was denied by Darren and his formidable defence line. There was always a collective sense of mission and an aspiration towards destiny about this game and Mayo Masters ensured that they finished with a flourish.



Kilmeena G.A.A. Club would like to send Christmas greetings to all members of the Kilmeena diaspora, dotted across the Continents. May 2018 be prosperous for you.

(By Julie Moore and Maura Hastings)

## KILMEENA BOYS ON THE RUN



ilmeena G.A.A. Club were represented at three Adifferent age levels on Westport A/C teams at the All-Ireland Cross-Country Championships which were recently held in the National Sports Campus in Abbotstown, Dublin. The team participants were U-12: Luke Durkan and Declan Moore, U-14: Colin Hastings and Jack Mulchrone and U-16, was Ronan O'Donnell, (Fahy). The boys displayed stamina, finesse and heroic challenges as

they battled against very stiff opposition. Ronan O'Donnell's team were the worthy recipients of the Bronze medal. Kilmeena G.A.A. Club are very proud of all the boys. Your dedication and sportsmanship has to be commended. It takes character and diligence to reach this ultimate standard in athletics in Ireland.

The Club would also like to acknowledge Colin Hastings and Jack



Colin Hastings and Jack Mulchrone, with their trophys won at the U14 International Cross-Country Championships in Belfast earlier this year.

Mulchrone who members of the U-14 team that won Gold at International level, in Belfast, earlier this year. It has been a remarkable year for all of the underage boys at their football and athletics. They have etched their names onto both the football pitch and track. They are certainly positive role models for the Club. Their success story is still in its infancy but there is no doubt that glory and greatness beckon for this talented group.



Declan Moore and Luke Durcan, 3rd and 4th from left respectively, represented Westport Athletic Club in the All-Ireland Cross-Country Championships in Abbotstown.



Ronan O'Donnell pictured left, was a member of the U16 team that won Bronze at the event.

## (By Carmel Staunton and Tommy Cox) PRESENTATION TO FR. JIM STAUNTON



A surprised Fr. Jim Staunton was the recent recipient of a presentation by Kilmeena G.A.A. Club. Fr. Jim is originally from Carrowholly and has ministered in Melbourne, Australia for many decades. He has always cherished his strong family bond and returns frequently to spend time with the extended Staunton families in Carrowholly and Westport. His avid interest in the status

of Kilmeena football has never diminished. At present, there is a greater emphasis on the match results because his three grand nephews, Stephen, Jack and Robbie Staunton now don the Black and White jersey for the Club.

A large number of Fr. Jim's friends and neighbours were in attendance which ensured an animated and jovial atmosphere throughout the



Pictured is Kilmeena G.A.A. Club Chairman, Willie Keaveney, making a presentation to Fr. Jim. This picture was aptly chosen as it captures Fr. Jim playing the 15th hole at Westport Golf Course, enjoying his favourite hobby. The panoramic background includes a view of Fr. Jim's native Carrowholly. Also in the photo is Club Treasurer, Padraic Moore.

night. Tommy Cox, Mayour, who played football with Fr. Jim during the early 1950's, rekindled reminiscence and recalled humorous incidents that occurred during matches when defender Jim tackled opponent his ball. the Tommy's diplomacy would not permit him to elaborate but he did state that Fr. Jim "took no prisoners." Their most memorable in the Buckfield Inn. match from that era was



Tommy Cox and Paddy Keane, former Club stalwarts, presenting former playing colleague, Fr Jim Staunton, with a copy of the Club's Centenary book at the reception

in 1954 when they played Westport and Kilmeena demolished them by a sixteen point margin. It was a vindication in its warmth and a long overdue victory.

Bernie O'Donnell (Carrowbeg) who now resides in Sydney, Australia, reflects on the kindness and hospitality which Fr. Jim showed to her when she arrived in Melbourne in 1990 to start a new life. Fr. Jim's ministry was in the Melbourne suburb of Blackburn and Bernie recalls his cordiality, thoughtfulness and generosity in his home. Bernie's late Aunt Grace O'Donnell also visited Fr. Jim in 2001 and enjoyed an afternoon of anecdotes and shared memories from their vouth in Kilmeena.

It is with sadness that the Club now records the recent passing of Fr. Jim's sister, Margaret (Meaney), who lived in Westport. Kilmeena G.A.A. Club extend sincere sympathy to Fr. Jim, his brother Gerard and all members of the Meaney and Staunton families. May your heartache find solace in the valued family memories of happy days and laughing times in your beloved home in Carrowholly.

## (By Robert Grealis)

## KILMEENA MINOR AND JUNIOR LADIES TEAMS



In 2016, the club made history when it fielded its first ever Minor Ladies team. This year the evolution of the Ladies Club continues with Kilmeena fielding a Ladies Junior team for the first time and with up to 25 players now playing at Minor/Junior level.

Minor Ladies:

Supported by a large number of U16 players, the Minor panel competed well in all their matches against strong opposition, best shown in their 2 - 5 score against a very experienced and organised Breaffy team in the league. The Championship saw the team facing a strong St. Brigid's team away who were deserved winners on the day.

Strong second half displays in many matches showed the spirit of the team for which they deserve great credit. With numbers growing and many of the panel still eligible next year, the Minor team will hopefully go from strength to strength in 2018.

## **Junior Ladies:**

The Minor panel together with former Minor players Lisa Smith, Sarah Hogan, Orla Grealis and new player Ann Marie Crean proudly represented themselves and their Club at adult level for the first time. Competing against teams who are already established at junior level, their efforts on the field throughout the year were not rewarded with the results they deserved but showed that their skill sets were a match for any opposition. This was best reflected in the match against Tourmakeady where the team lost but played some wonderful football and scored 3 - 9. Hopefully the foundation for the future has been laid and the Junior panel will continue to grow and develop in 2018 and results will reflect their efforts.

## Lessons for the Future:

Both Minor and Junior panels have shown high levels of footballing skills but fitness continues to be a factor and an area to work on in

2018. Consistent numbers at training remains a challenge. Although secondary school examinations and attendance at third level are a factor, numbers at training over the Summer months need to improve.

Without the help and support of parents and others, the Minor & Junior Ladies teams would have been unable to enjoy the season. 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 – Trish Hogan, Bernie Smyth, Majella O'Malley and John McDonald as well as the U16's management team.



Muireann Cawley played a pivotal role for the Ladies team throughout 2017.

## The Panels:

Finally – A big thank you to all the members of the panel for representing their Club. Thank you, also, for the interest and dedication throughout the year.

The panel of players for both Minor and Junior teams were: Lisa Smith (Junior only), Sarah Hogan (Junior only), Orla Grealis (Junior only), Ann Marie Crean (Junior only), Susannah Horgan, Lucy O'Malley, Róisín Hogan, Nina Matherstein, Dearbhla Grealis, Chloe McGing, Lily Brady, Sarah Mulchrone, Sophie Flynn, Róisín Smyth, Muireann Cawley, Katie Hogan, Jaimee Geraghty, Rachel Keane, Sarah McDonald, Molly Moore, Ava Ryder, Shannon Burke, Aoife Roche, Ciara Joyce, Tina Browne.



Back row L-R: Muireann Cawley, Róisín Hogan, Sarah McDonald, Ava Ryder, Sarah Hogan, Katie Hogan, Dearbhla Grealis, Lisa Smith and Lily Brady.

Front Row L-R: Rachel Keane, Lucy O'Malley, Sarah Mulchrone, Jaimee Geraghty, Shannon Bourke, Aoife Roache and Sophie Flynn.

Kilmeena G.A.A. News

## **SENIOR REVIEW 2017**

## League Division 1D/Junior Championship



aving narrowly missed out on promotion in 2016, the clear aim for 2017 was to get promotion to Div 1C. It was always going to be a challenge given any number of issues that can come to light in a six month campaign.

There wasn't much time to ease our way into the campaign, when faced with a home fixture against promotion contenders Killala. In an evenly

matched contest the lads from Kilmeena ran out winners and we

were up and running.

Then it was off to Tourmakeady a week later and in a tough uncompromising encounter, we salvaged a draw. Two games in and a steady start against tough opponents. Garrymore conceded the points



Paul Moran's stength and height brought a new dimension to the team hosted Ballycastle in a game this year.

in our next fixture, and then a visit to Ballintubber resulted in a comprehensive victory leaving us top of the table after the first set of league fixtures.

Championship then started at the end of May and first up was Crossmolina. In the recent past, having suffered these opponents, nothing was left to chance and a 9 point victory was a good return for a very focussed performance. Ballina was up next in the Championship campaign and they met the same fate in the face of an excellent Kilmeena performance.

Back to the bread and butter of the League, we we knew was going to be critical to our promotion

hopes. We struggled for long periods, but we managed to ease out the visitors, and after we followed up with a big win in Kilfian, promotion was on the horizon at the halfway point of the campaign. Next in line was Charlestown in the Championship, and again a good solid victory was registered and top of the championship group was secured.

A few weeks later we hosted Crossmolina this time in the league, and in a stunning performance the boys in black and white ran out easy winners. This was followed up with a tough bruising encounter at Davitts, and after an excellent victory, we were on the cusp of promotion.

Going into September, and we were all set for a Championship quarter final against Ballycastle. The scene was set in Ballina and on a stormy day in a low scoring encounter we managed to rescue a draw at the death. The replay two weeks later was to prove to be the most frustrating day of the year. We were well beaten on a day when we

seriously under performed. However, there was no time to wallow in self pity. Knockmore were coming to town in a huge promotion clash a week later, and in a sense we held our breath to see how this young team would respond. In the end there should have been no need to worry. This squad did what they always do in adversity - the response was as incisive as a surgeon's knife, and Knockmore were put to the sword in a display full of vigour and sheer bloody mindedness. The points were secured and we stood on the brink of promotion.

defining game and the home lot were in no mood to facilitate our path to glory. In a game which swung back and forth, again perseverance won through and an outstanding year was capped with promotion. Now the focus was on becoming league champions and one victory in the last two games would secure the league.

(By John Doherty)

Kilcommin came to Kilmeena, but were no answer to the firepower of the Kilmeena men as we ran out comprehensive winners, and the league was secured. In the final game we travelled to play Charlestown, who in a senior studded lineout really gave us a game of it, which we edged through by the minimum margin.

This was achievement for committed squad of players. The Championship ended in a very disappointing manner especially when the run was looking promising. However, the league campaign was exceptional in how we maintained our consistency We went through unbeaten and in the end were four league points ahead of our nearest opponents. Moving to a higher level and engaging with tougher opponents will not be beyond this squad enjoy in 2018.





and will be a challenge that John Ryan's astute defensive skills this team will relish and augur well for the future of the team.

## **JUNIOR LEAGUE CHAMPIONS**



Back Row L-R: Mickey Feeney, Jason Barry, Joey Smyth, Ross Mullin, Niall Feehan, Sean Ryder, Andrew Grealis, Stephen Staunton, Alan Ryan, Niall Ryan, Neil Duffy, John Reilly, Sean Barrett, Ronan Keane, Kevin Ryder, Patrick Golden, John Doherty and John McGlynn. Front Row L-R: Paul Groden, Declan Ryan, John Ryan, Darragh Keaveney, David Stenson, Liam Heanue, Chris Heanue, Kieran Hastings, James Keane, Jack Staunton, Pat Mulchrone, Paul Moran, Joe Ryan and Keith Joyce.