



# KILMEENA G.A.A. CLUB

## *Newsletter*

DECEMBER 2018 | VOLUME 5 | ISSUE 1

## HIGH ACHIEVERS...



*St Brendan's N.S. Girls County Champions*



*Daniel Honoured  
with Irish  
Captaincy...*



*U13 Division 2 County League Champions*



*Division 3 County Minor League Champions*



*U14 A West Mayo Champions*



### CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS



Welcome to the Club's 5th Annual Newsletter. The Club's Newsletter started as a small project, and it has grown over the last four years which I believe is an accurate indicator of the growth taking place in the Club. The Club is indebted to Martin McIntyre and Claire Ryan for their trojan work in the production of the previous four issues. This year, Claire has chosen to retire, and I am delighted that John McDonald, Majella O'Malley, Mairead Durkan,

Barry Murphy, Trish Hogan and Ollie Mulchrone have agreed to participate with this year's production.

The Club's Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday the 24th of November. With our growth in numbers over the past couple of years, it was expected that a new generation would be putting themselves forward for administrative positions within the Club. Unfortunately, this is not happening, and as a result, there is a real danger of the Club becoming stagnant as a consequence of no fresh thinking or new smart ideas. One other disappointing aspect of the A.G.M. was the absence of the female members. At present, female members account for over half of the Club's members. It has always been a challenge finding people who were willing to take on roles in the administration of the Club. It seems to have become more difficult, with no spare time, due to work commitments being the number one reason why people cannot commit any of their free time for this worthwhile activity. One has to question if this excuse is real, or is it just the easy way out. This is our Club, and it will have to be administered. And the younger generation, present-day parents will have to come out from hiding and put their hands up when positions arise; otherwise I am fearful for the future.

As can be seen from our end of year financial report, the cost of running the Club is growing. In 2018 the Club's expenditure was one hundred and seventeen thousand, six hundred and thirty-six euros. Some of this expenditure was spent putting the final touches to the development work, and the purchase of a tractor and mower. A considerable portion was spent on transport, Public Liability insurance, and in general with the day to day expenditure involved in keeping a Club open for business. Whilst funding was received, by way of donations from Councillor Brendan Mulroy, Five thousand euros, Councillor Christy Hyland, Two thousand euros, Connacht Council, Two thousand five hundred euros, the remainder of our expenditure was made up by the weekly lotto, flag days, and our final fundraiser of the year "A Day of Play." and donations from sponsors. For this, the Club is thankful and acknowledges that without your continued support it would be very hard to exist. I also wish to acknowledge with sincere gratitude the considerable sponsorship for the production of the current newsletter from Donal McIntyre, now resident in New York.

As can be seen from the various match reports, all our teams' boys and girls continue to excel. The results speak for themselves, and this is the result of proper coaching techniques. But more importantly for the boys and girls, is the social side to being involved with a team, being part of a team and taking on board the lessons that either winning or losing will provide. I want to thank all of our coaches, mentors and volunteers. You are providing the Club and the community with a wonderful service.

Our five-year plan will expire in early 2019, and we must put in place a programme which will carry the Club forward for the next five years. There will be a consultation process, and you as a Club member will be invited to a meeting so that your views can be taken on board concerning Club Planning for the next five years.

We have again submitted a further application for funding to the Sports Capital Fund, and if successful, it is the Club's intention to drain and upgrade the main playing pitch. The pitch has served the Club well, but it is time now to make a financial investment in it so that it will continue to be a first-class facility.

In the early part of 2019, it is our intention to paint all the buildings and to have an official opening of our new facilities.

Finally, I want to thank everyone involved with the Club, in whatever capacity you have acted during the year. I want to especially thank Lotto sellers who are hugely important in the overall financing of the Club, and I want to thank the ordinary members of the Club for their generosity towards the various fundraising activities during the year.

I wish to extend Season's greetings to all of you and wish you a Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year. I also want to extend greetings, on behalf of the Club, to all of our emigrants around the globe and wish you all the best for the Holy Season.

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

**Willie Keaveney Club Chairman**

### ELECTED CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2019

Club Patron:	Fr. Jim Walsh
President:	Padraic Golden
Vice President:	Martin McIntyre.
Chairman:	Willie Keaveney
Vice Chairman:	John McDonald
Secretary/Data Protection Officer:	Ollie Mulchrone.
Assistant Secretary:	T.B.D.
Treasurer:	Padraic Moore.
Assistant Treasurer:	T.B.D.
PRO:	Sean Barrett
Registrar/Data Protection Officer:	Damian Hughes
Coaching Officer:	Michael Gavin
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 Keaveney
Children's Officers:	Majella O'Malley,
	Ollie Mulchrone & Derek Walsh
Fixtures Secretary:	Darren Madden
Health Club Officer:	Michael Gavin

### ELECTED BORD na nÓG OFFICERS FOR 2019

Chairman:	Patrick Golden
Vice-Chairman:	Pete Mortimer
Secretary:	Mairead Durkan
Assistant Secretary:	Barry Murphy
LGFA Registrar:	Davina Carney
LGFA Assistant Registrar:	Maura Hastings
LGFA P.R.O.:	Sarah Hogan
LGFA County Board Delagates:	John McDonald
	Trish Hogan
Bord na nÓg County Board Delegate:	Leonie Martin

### NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION TEAM:

John McDonald, Mairead Durkan, Majella O'Malley, Mel King, Ollie Mulchrone, Trish Hogan, Barry Murphy and Martin McIntyre.

### NEWSLETTER SPONSOR:



## FAHY N.S. WIN CUMANN na mBUNSCOL COUNTY HURLING FINAL



Congratulations to Fahy National School, winners of Div. 4 of the Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Mhaigheo County Hurling Final by defeating Cloonlyon NS.

**Daniel Kelly, captain Fahy NS Hurling team being presented with the Div 4 Shield by Jimmy Connor, Chairman Mayo Hurling Board.**



Photos © Michael Donnelly

**“GARDEN COUNTY”***(By Majella O'Malley)*

Growing up in a big family in rural West Wicklow, it is little wonder that GAA was a huge part of our lives. Sunday was a special day. Mass, dinner and a match, in that order. Times have changed now, and we can have mass and matches on Saturday, and maybe no dinner.

My six brothers were all involved with our local club either as players or officers. Ladies Gaelic football wasn't as fashionable back then so the girls joined the “chicks with sticks”. Without the help of Google, we found our way to every corner of the “Garden County” and enjoyed camogie success in Wicklow and Leinster. Being part of the first Wicklow club team to win a Leinster title was very special. (BTW, there are twelve counties in Leinster)

Relocation from “The Far East” to “The Wild West” was a huge move, however, an invite to join Kilmeeena GAA presented new opportunities and an extended GAA community.

As they say, “the GAA is in our DNA”. I'm not sure of the blood type, but there is definitely something that links us together!



**St Kevin's Secondary School Camogie Cup winners Dunlavin, Co. Wicklow, featuring Club Member Majella O'Malley, 3rd from left front row. Also, her sister Breda, back row, centre.**

**PRESENTATION TO THREE LONG-SERVING CLUBMEN**

On the 13th of October 2018, a presentation was held in the Buckfield Inn to honour three long-serving Clubmen. Tommy Cox, Paddy Keane and Vincent Reilly were the worthy recipients of the conferral. The presentation was made to say thanks for your dedication to the Club over many years and for your continued involvement to this day. It was a social occasion, attended by the families of the three recipients. Sean Ryder, the Junior Team Captain, was on hand to make the presentation to Tommy Cox, Padraic Moore, Club Treasurer, made the presentation to Paddy Keane while the Club Chairman, Willie Keaveney, presented Vincent Reilly with his.

The Chairman gave a brief outline of the playing careers of the three persons being honoured. The Club wishes to thank the Buckfield Inn for hosting the presentation and for their generosity in sponsoring the refreshments.



**Padraic Moore, Club Treasurer, presenting Paddy Keane with his trophy.**



**Vincent Reilly accepting his memento from Club Chairman, Willie Keaveney.**



**Sean Ryder, Junior Team Captain, was on hand to present Tommy Cox with his award**

**QUIZ NIGHT..** *(By “Off the Ball”)*

At the beginning of the season, the Junior and Minor Girls with the help of their management team decided to organise a Quiz Night. This event was created solely for the purpose of raising money for the girls' new half-zips. With the ladies determined to get the ball rolling, The Mill Times Hotel was approached by our Junior players, Sabrina Bourke and Caragh Ryan. They kindly offered us their venue and also supplied complimentary finger food on the night. The date was fixed for Friday, 3rd August. Posters were generously designed by Barry Murphy. From the moment we began advertising for our quiz, the response was immense. We were delighted to see so many of our club members, family and friends attending the event.



**Pondering the questions - from left: Tomás Gill, John McGlynn and Nicholas Keane.**

In order to reduce cost, our girls contributed numerous spot prizes. A variety of businesses located in Westport and further afield kindly donated vouchers and prizes for our raffle and quiz winners. David O'Malley, Manager of the Junior/Minor girls prepared the questions (some tricky ones were added to the mix) and Majella O'Malley, kindly did all the printing for the event! Quizmaster on the night was none other than the capable Damian Hughes.

Although we had eight rounds of rather difficult questions, three tables managed to come out in joint position. However, after another intense round or two, the question of how high was Croagh Patrick quickly indicated our winners. First place; Emma Jane Gill, Alice Burns, Carmel Higgins and Noreen Johnston, 2nd place; David Ingham, Theo Ingham, John Ryan and Ann Ryan, 3rd place; AnnMarie Crean and friends. A great night was had by all.

We are very thankful to all who helped and supported our Quiz. We now hope to make this an annual event. The girls would also like to thank Joe O'Malley, proprietor of 'Cosy Joes' for his generous contribution towards the new half-zips.



**U6/U8 GIRLS:** Back row: Maura Hastings, Elsie Coyne, Molly Mulchrone, Grainne Feehan, Aoife Durkan, Maureen Durkan, Shauna Durkan  
 Front Row, left to right: Cara Money, Aisling Lawless, Emily Fahy, Emma Gannon, Katie Moran, Ellie May Keane, Cailin McPhilips, Eabha Feehan, Sadhbh McGauley, Charley Coyle, Sophie Clough  
 Absent: Eabha Goggins, Lauren Munro & Holly Fortune



**U10 BOYS:** Back row: Barry Murphy, Mairead Durkan, Pat Mulchrone, Kieran Hastings  
 Middle row: Jake Staunton, Cormac Slattery, Adam Moran, Alan Gannon, Kyle Mulchrone, Robbie Murphy, Shane Durkan, Jamie Durkan.  
 Front row: Jason Feehan, Eoghan Cannon, Kevin Hastings, Cian Moran, Dara McDonnell, Felix Zeray, Sean Keane.

**BORD NA nÓg PRESENTATIONS 2018**  
 with special guests *Noirin Moran (Mayo Senior Ladies player)* and *Alan Dillon (All Star and Mayo senior player)*



**U12 BOYS SKILLS WINNER, AARON MURRAY**  
 David O'Grady, Mickey Murray, Noirin Moran, Aaron Murray, Alan Dillon



**U10 GIRLS SKILLS WINNER, LAURA INGHAM**  
 Noirin Moran, Laura Ingham, Alan Dillon, Pete Lane



**U14 BOYS PLAYER OF THE YEAR, DARRAGH SLATTERY**  
 Michael Gavin, John Doherty, Noirin Moran, Darragh Slattery, Alan Dillon, Tomas Gill, Mary Slattery, Mike Slattery



**WINTER LEAGUE SECTION B WINNING TEAM**  
 Back row: Willie Quinn, Barry Murphy  
 Front row: John Murphy, Luke Durkan, Darragh McDonnell, Finn Mulchrone, Michael Gannon, Sean Keane, Cormac Slattery, Alan Gannon



**U16 GIRLS PANEL:** Back row: Colm Barret, Pete Lane, Holly Barrett, Abby McGreal, Molly Moore, Jessica O'Donnell, Sarah Harper, Laoise Geraghty, Aoife Gibbons, Paul Ryan, Geraldine Gibbons  
 Front row: Ciara Gill, Sarah McDonald, Megan Mulchrone, Keeley Hastings, Sinead Mulchrone, Ciara Joyce, Laura Kelly, Rachel Gibbons, Megan O'Malley, Emma Murray. Absent from the photo: Ollie Mulchrone.



**JOINT WINNERS OF THE U12 GIRLS 'MOST IMPROVED PLAYER', EABHA CARNEY & LISA HASTINGS**  
 Mickey Carney, Noirin Moran, Davina Carney, Eabha Carney, Lisa Hastings, Maura Hastings, Alan Dillon



**U10 BOYS SKILLS WINNER, SHANE DURKAN**  
 Noirin Moran, Maureen Durkan, Shane Durkan, Alan Dillon, Barry Murphy, Mairead Durkan



**WINTER LEAGUE SECTION C: PAUL RYAN PRESENTING THE "RYAN PERPETUAL CUP" TO JAMIE DURKAN**  
 Noirin Moran, Jamie Durkan, Alan Dillon, Paul Ryan



**WINTER LEAGUE GIRLS' WINNERS: KITTY MULLOY PRESENTING THE "PADRAIC MULLOY MEMORIAL CUP" TO LISA HASTINGS.**  
 Noirin Moran, Enda Lonergan, Kitty Mulloy, Lisa Hastings, Alan Dillon



**U12 GIRLS SKILLS WINNER, AMY CARNEY**  
 Mickey Carney, Noirin Moran, Amy Carney, Alan Dillon, Davina Carney



**U14 GIRLS:** Back row: Annette Keane Lonergan, Abby McGreal, Ava Prenty Grace Moran, Sarah Gillespie, Greta Grimailaite, Ellen O'Toole, Holly Barrett, Mickey Murray, Michael Regan  
 Front row: Roisin Moran, Amy Ingham, Ellen Lonergan, Mollie Keane, Emma Murray, Aisling Hoban, Katie Jordan



**U12 BOYS PLAYER OF THE YEAR, MICHÉAL REGAN**  
 Noirin Moran, Michael Regan, Micheál Regan, Alan Dillon, David O'Grady, Carmel Higgins



**U16 MOST IMPROVED PLAYER, MEGAN O'MALLEY**  
 Colm Barrett, Pete Mortimer, Megan O'Malley, Noirin Moran, Alan Dillon, Paul Ryan, Geraldine Gibbons



**U6 BOYS:** Front row: Kyle Staunton, Bobby Lane, Cody Coughlan, Joe Durkan, Ruairi Ryan; Back row: Maura Hastings, Peter Lane



**PRESENTATION OF DECLAN GIBBONS MEMORIAL CUP TO THE WINTER LEAGUE SECTION A WINNERS**  
 Back row: Mickey Murray, Austin Gibbons  
 Front row: Jason Feehan, Aodhán Feehan, Shane Durkan, DJ Keane, Darragh O'Grady, Cormac O'Malley, Kyle Mulchrone



**WINTER LEAGUE, SECTION B WINNERS: WILLIE QUINN PRESENTING THE "WILLIAM QUINN PERPETUAL CUP" TO MICHAEL GANNON.**  
 Willie Quinn, Michael Gannon, Noirin Moran, Alan Dillon

**BORD NA nÓg  
 PRESENTATIONS 2018**



**U8 BOYS:** Lorcan Lane, Billy Lane, Finn Mulchrone, Oisín Ryan, Michael Gannon, Donnacha McGauley, Noah Coughlan, Luke O'Donnell, Darragh Mulchrone, Liam Quinn, Paul Joyce



**U12 GIRLS:** Back row: Davina Carney, Aoife Gannon, Éabha Carney, Katie Moran, Katelyn McGlynn, Abbey Quinn, Chloe McGlynn, Ruby McDonnell, Mickey Carney.  
 Front row: Emma Barrett, Amy Carney, Lisa Hastings, Roisin Feehan, Laura O'Grady, Siofra Hughes, Ciara Kelly, Ruby Lane, Rachele Needham, Aine Gallagher.



Back row: Enda Lonergan, John Gallagher, Pete Lane  
 Front row: Mary Kate Lonergan, Eva Mulchrone, Laura Ingham, Catherine Lawless



**UI16 BOYS PLAYER OF THE YEAR, TOM SMYTH**  
*Neil O'Donnell, Alan Dillon, Tom Smyth, Noirin Moran, Padraic Moore, Michael O'Grady*



**UI13 BOYS PLAYER OF THE YEAR: CONAL GILL**  
*John Doherty, Noirin Moran, Micheál Gill, Conal Gill, Cathy Gill, Alan Dillon, Tomas Gill, Mike Slattery*



**UI12:** *Back row: John O'Grady, Mickey Murray, Patrick McGlynn, Martin Grimailaite, Micheál Regan, Danny Cannon, Aaron Bourke, Luke Durkan, John Murphy, Fionn O'Driscoll, Cormac O'Malley, Aodhán Feehan, Zak Zeray, Evan O'Grady, Sean Kenning, David O'Grady*  
*Front row: DJ Keane, Declan Moore, Rory Kilcoyne, Aaron Murray, Alex Kenning, Louis Corcoran, Alex Coyne, Darragh O'Grady, Patrick Feehan, Carmel Kilcoyne*



**UI13 DIV 2 COUNTY CHAMPIONS**  
*Back row: Patrick McGlynn, Donal Hastings, Mike Slattery, Lucas Kennedy, David O'Grady, Micheál Regan, Danny Cannon, Luke Durkan, Aaron Bourke, Martin Grimailaite, Daniel Kelly, Conor Kelly, Michael Gavin, Keelan Corcoran, Fionn O'Driscoll, Aodhán Feehan, Joseph O'Malley, Tomás Gill, John Doherty*  
*Front row: Declan Moore, Stephen O'Grady, Conal Gill, Rian Kilcoyne, Conor Feehan, Darragh Slattery, Zak Zeray, Evan O'Grady, John Murphy, DJ Keane.*



**PADRAIG MULLOY MEMORIAL CUP - GIRLS WINTER LEAGUE WINNERS**  
*Back row: Kitty Mulloy, Enda Lonergan*  
*Front row: Mary Kate Lonergan, Siofra Hughes, Aine Gallagher, Lisa Hastings, Amy Carney, Roisin Feehan*

**BORD NA nÓg PRESENTATIONS 2018**



**U14 WEST MAYO A CHAMPIONSHIP CUP PRESENTATION**  
*Tomás Gill, Noirin Moran, Harry Sheridan, Alan Dillon, John Doherty*



**WINNERS - WINTER LEAGUE SECTION C WINNING TEAM "RYAN PERPETUAL CUP"**  
*Back row: Mairead Durkan, Paul Ryan*  
*Front row: Adam Moran, Luke Durkan, Cian Moran, Jamie Durkan, Sean Keane, Amy Carney, Cormac O'Malley*



**U14 WEST MAYO A CHAMPIONS**  
*Back row: Michael Gavin, Lucas Kennedy, Gavin Mulchrone, Liam Moore, Evan O'Donnell, Donal Hastings, Keelan Corcoran, Stephen O'Grady, Conor Kelly, Adam O'Grady, Rian Kilcoyne, Darragh Slattery, Finley Gibbons, Tomás Gill, Mike Slattery, John Doherty.*  
*Front Row: Brian Durkan, Sean Gallagher, Daniel Kelly, Colin Hastings, Conor Feehan, Conall Gill, Harry Sheridan, Cormac Feehan, Jack O'Grady, Jack Mulchrone, Ciaran Kilcoyne, Joseph O'Malley.*



# VALENTINE'S DINNER DANCE AWARDS 2018

Photos © Conor McKeown



*The Cleary Brothers Memorial Shield for "Ladies Player of the Year" went to Katie Hogan. Most improved player went to Sarah Mulchrone. Lucy O'Malley accepted the award on her behalf*



*Dean Smyth of Mid-West Furniture and Willie Keaveney presenting the Club Person of the Year award to Padraic Moore.*



*Darren Madden, Ryan McGonagle (Minor Player of the Year), John Reilly, Billy McGonagle*



*Kilmeena Minors: West Mayo Minor B Championship Winners*



*Caragh Ryan, Ann Ryan, John Ryan, recipient of the Barrett Memorial Shield for 'Young Player of the Year', John Ryan Snr; Janine Ryan*



*Kilmeena Junior Team: Division 1D Senior League Winners*



*Sean Moore, Cian Moore, John Hogan, Róisín Hogan, Jack Carney accepting the Community Award on behalf of the Clew Bay Pipe Band.*



*John Ryan, Young Player of the Year, Liam Heanue, Senior Player of the Year and Ryan McGonagle, Minor Player of the Year.*

**FAHY ROVERS' NEW PITCH** *Carmel Higgins*



The 22nd of September 2018 was a dream come true for a lot of people. It was the first time in the history of Fahy Rovers Soccer Club that the Senior Team had an official home ground.

Fahy Rovers started back in 1978, by a number of local people. The team was made up of mostly local players and played their games in a few different venues, Munster's Field, the Point (located in Westport!) and John Beckett's 'Stadium of Light'. The team folded in 1988 due to a lack of numbers as emigration took its toll.

Over the last number of years, what was known as the "Fahy Pitch" was redeveloped. A considerable amount of money was invested and a substantial amount of time by a lot of people to get it over the line. Minister Michael Ring officially opened it on Saturday 22nd September at 3 pm. A large crowd attended the opening. The next day the Fahy Rovers senior team played a home game against Cois Fharráige, a Galway side in the Connaught Cup but had to wait a while to play their first official home league match on it. A large crowd gathered in fabulous sunshine to see this encounter against Achill with Conor O'Malley scoring the winner. Fahy Rovers had their first official home win on home turf.

The number of youths in Fahy has grown over the years with lads and ladies now coming from Kilmeena, Islandeady, Newport, Westport and surrounds. Without these lads and ladies, there would be no youth soccer in Fahy. Quite a number of players who started their career with Fahy went on to great things like Paul Doyle and Cillian O'Grady, who went on to play with Mayo in the underage set up.

With strong numbers now playing for Fahy Rovers, it is hoped to continue the redevelopment and make the club an even greater success in years to come; this can only be achieved by the whole parish becoming involved. We are eternally grateful for everyone's support in the past and look forward to it in the future.



*Images from the official opening day of the new Fahy soccer pitch*

**OFFICIAL OPENING OF KILMEENA COMMUNITY PLAYGROUND** *Mickey Carney*

Despite the poor weather conditions, a large crowd turned out to celebrate the opening of our new playground. The children of St Brendan's National School welcomed all our guests and our special guest Minister Michael Ring. Speakers included Nicholas O'Kelly (Chairperson of St Brendan's NS), Principal Michael Carney, Councillor Brendan Mulroy, Padraic Walsh of West Mayo Municipal District and Minister Michael Ring. Father Walsh gave a special blessing for the playground and all in attendance. All complimented the fantastic work that was carried out and agreed that the playground is a

tremendous asset to the school and the community. Michael Carney thanked everyone that supported the project and thanked everyone for their immense support. Particular thanks was paid to Ann Moore, Mayo County Council, Peter Gill from Mayo County Council, Allergan, Shane Muldoon, Pat Mulchrone and Lisa Gallagher for all their work in the application process. Everyone was treated to beautiful refreshments afterwards which was prepared by the staff and the Parents Association of the school. Minister Ring received a great cheer when he declared no homework for the following Monday for the children.



*Minister Ring with pupils from left; Emma Coady, Katie Moran, Julie O'Grady and Dara McDonnell.*



*The new modern community playground, comprising a wide range of facilities; climbing units, swings, slides, bridges, tunnels etc.*



*Minister Ring, cutting the tape to open the new playground to the delight of the pupils of St Brendan's N.S.*

*Also in the picture from left. Lisa Gallagher, Deputy Principal; Ann Moore, Administrative Officer Mayo County Council; School Principal, Mickey Carney; Nicholas O'Kelly, Chairman of the Board of Management; Christy Hyland, Independent Councillor for West Mayo; Noel Mulroy, Tús representative.*



*Attending the official opening were from left: Walter Cox, former Principal; Tracy O'Donnell, Nicholas O'Kelly, Chairman of the Board of Management; Michael Ring, Minister for Rural & Community Development; Noel Mulroy, Tús representative; Lisa Gallagher, Deputy Principal and Mickey Carney School Principal.*

## PADDY GOLDEN BLITZ 2018

This year, the annual Paddy Golden blitz, a prestigious event in our Club's calendar, took place on Saturday 16th June. In the boys' competition, we entered two teams, one each in Sections B and C. Although the weather was perfect for football, there were no trophies for Kilmeena this year. We were, however, narrowly beaten by Islandeady in the Section B final, having easily won all of our previous games. Our boys were literally on their knees with exhaustion and disappointment at the final whistle, having given every last ounce of energy to the cause.

The eventual winners were:  
 Section A, Westport A.  
 Section B, Islandeady.  
 Section C, Westport C.  
 Ladies Section, Westport A.

Thank you to those who assisted with the parking; Joe Sheridan for doing a fantastic job with the "board", the umpires, referees, linesmen, photographers, the coordinators of the various games who ensured that the games were run off smoothly. The ladies who ensured that everyone got refreshments, the parents for their generosity in supplying the sandwiches, all who helped with the setting up of the pitches and the girls who helped with the shop. The day was a wonderful example of all that is good with Club life in Kilmeena GAA Club.



**Westport - Team A, winners of Category A receiving the "Paddy Golden Cup" from Mrs Margaret Golden.**



**Pdraig Golden, presenting the "Paddy Golden Memorial Shield" to the captain of the Islandeady Boy's Team.**



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



**Westport ladies, winners of "Ladies Section," receiving the "Paddy Golden Memorial Shield" from Julie Golden.**

## MAYO MASTERS COLUMN

Kilmeena GAA Club was well represented on the Mayo Gaelic Masters team of 2018 by the ageless Kieran Hastings, Pat Mulchrone and Declan Ryan. Alas, success was to evade them this year with Mayo losing out to neighbours Roscommon in the Shield final played in Ballforan on Saturday 29th of October. Very few would begrudge the Rossies their victory as this would have been their first time contesting a Masters final in the competition. Speaking to the Club stalwarts, they are already looking forward to donning the green and red again for 2019. We wish them well!



**Pat Mulchrone, Kieran Hastings and Declan Ryan, living the Gaelic Masters mantra: "We don't stop playing because we grow old, we grow old because we stop playing football."**

**TEAM NEWS: END OF SEASON REPORTS**



**U6 BOYS & U8 GIRLS**

*Maura Hastings*

Kilmeena U6 Boys had an excellent first season of football. This group of 20 future stars trained from April to the end of September. Lots of new friendships were formed while they worked on their skills and fitness levels without realising it. We had lots of fun and once we mastered some of the basic skills we enjoyed a few mini matches. Our final session included a short game followed by

some treats and a medal presentation in the clubhouse. Thank you to Maura, Mel, Pete and Sean for coaching this enthusiastic group. Thank you to the boys' parents for encouraging them to play football. Good luck to the older boys moving on to the U8 team and hopefully everyone else will be back again for 2019.



*Kilmeena U6s and U8s were presented with a set of footballs by Liam Campion, Supervalu*

Kilmeena U8 girls panel for 2018 had 19 girls from five to eight years old. We worked on our basic skills and fitness for the first few weeks. A special mention for Ellie May, Grainne and Katie who trained with the U10 group leading up to the Paddy Golden blitz in June so as to have enough for a team. We hosted Burrishoole at home for our first match on the 4th of July. Our next game was against Louisburgh and well done to all our players who played with them so that we could have everyone on the pitch playing a full game. We travelled to Newport on 23rd September to a mini-blitz where we played four matches. It was great to witness the improvement in all our players' abilities, their teamwork and to see that they were enjoying their football. We finished the season with a few speeches, treats and presentation in the clubhouse. Thank you to everyone who helped with this group all season. Wishing good luck to the girls moving to the U10 team and hopefully everyone else is looking forward to coming back in 2019.



*Back L to R: Cailin McPhilips, Shauna Durkan, Ellie May Keane, Sophie Clough, Cara Mongey, Emily Faby, Grainne Feehan, Emma Gannon. Front L to R: Eabha Feehan, Sadhbh McGauley, Molly Mulchrone, Aisling Lawless, Holly Fortune, Aoife Durkan, Lauren Munro, Eabha Goggins.*



**U8 BOYS** *Brian McManamon*

There were 27 players involved in the U8 squad in 2018. The majority of these dedicated boys are eligible again next year. Our primary focus this year was to develop the basic skills of Gaelic football while also creating an inclusive environment where

friendships could blossom, and a team ethic would inevitably emerge. The boys played many exciting games against neighbouring clubs in West Mayo throughout the season. Every player on the panel was given numerous opportunities to participate in each game. Thank you to all the parents/guardians for all your help and support during the year.

Thank you to all the coaches involved: Ollie, Kevin, James, Eamon and Brian.



*Back row L to R: Judah Fitzsimons, Alan Heanne, Jason Lawless, Luke O'Donnell, Ruairi Browne, Sam Golden, Finn Mulchrone, Charlie Geogheghan, Charlie McLoughlin, Michael Gannon, Michael Francis Gormley. Front Row L to R: Adam O'Connell, Regan Fitzsimons, Darragh Mulchrone, David Ryder, Bailey Browne, Noah Coughlan, Donnachta McGauley, Rian McManamon, Oisín Ryan, Jacob Chambers.*



**U10 BOYS** *Pat Mulchrone*

Our U10's concluded a successful season on Thursday evening, 18th October. Refreshments followed a quick match in the clubhouse and a presentation of a beanie hat embroidered with the Kilmeena crest, along with a team photo, to every player.

Our GoGames fixtures this season involved matches against Tourmakeady, Louisburgh, Islandeady and

Burrishoole and our lads acquitted themselves very well, usually finishing on top in most of the encounters. We had four blitzes this season starting with the Paddy Golden blitz in June. We competed in the second division and quickly found ourselves in the final following a series of easy wins. Unfortunately, we narrowly lost - by two points - to Islandeady in the final. Our next blitz was for the Pádraig Mulroe Cup in Tourmakeady in July. Having battled heroically in the early rounds, we made it to our second blitz final of the season, eventually losing to the hosts. We finished runners-up-for the third time this season! losing to Achill in our third blitz final, the Gearóid Murphy Memorial Cup in Achill. Blitz number four took us to Balla where we failed to get out of our group. Such were our numbers, we effectively had to field two teams per game.

Each training session this season was very well attended, and we were pleased with the progress of our players over the season. At our final training session, we gave verbal feedback to each player on their strengths and areas in which they need to improve.

We wish our older lads the best of luck with the U12's next year and look forward to welcoming the new batch from the U8's.



*Front row, left to right: Dara McDonnell, Tom Cox, Cian Moran, Adam Moran, Shane Durkan, Jason Feehan, Felix Zeray, Eoghan Cannon, Jake Staunton. Middle row, left to right: Robbie Murphy, Jamie Durkan, Sean Kilcoyne, Tiernan Aberne, Cormac Slattery, Alan Gannon, Alan Mortimer, Kevin Hastings, Kyle Mulchrone, Sean Keane, Tadhbh Daly. Back row: Coaches Dominic Keane, Kieran Hastings, Mairead Durkan, Barry Murphy, Pat Mulchrone.*



**U10/11 GIRLS** *Peter Lane*

This year, our under 10 girls was made up of a team of the following nine girls: Moira Fernandez-Walsh, Mary Kate Lonergan, Laura Ingham, Amelia Fahy, Catherine Lawless, Pheobie Russell, Amy McIntyre, Leah Gavin Walshe and Eva Mulchrone.

There was a reduction in numbers from last year. However, the girls showed commitment to training every Wednesday evening. After a short period of training sessions, we had our first friendly match against Islandeady at home with a win. Even with a small team, the girls played very well for this match. The annual Paddy Golden blitz followed on from this. Maura Hastings helped us out with the loan of four girls from the U8 team: Ellie May Keane, Grainne Feehan and Katie Moran. Our first match was against Louisburgh which we won well. Unfortunately, two strong Westport teams followed and we were defeated despite the girls playing their very best.

By this stage, the under 11 girls joined with the under 10 team which was a great boost for our team. The panel increased from a team of nine to twenty two. Full commitment was shown at all training sessions, behaviour and discipline was a credit to all the girls. After a small number of training sessions, we had our first U11 game against Islandeady which the girls had a comfortable win.

At weekly training sessions, the girls were improving and eager to learn new skills.

Our next match was at home against Louisburgh which we were defeated. Every girl was given an opportunity to play that evening. A rematch was arranged away where we had a comfortable win. This was our last game of the season.

The under 11 girls who joined our team were Amy Carney, Aine Gallagher, Molly Burrows, Laura O'Grady, Siofra Hughes, Patricia Moore, Ruby McDonnell, Sarah Corrigan, Ruby Lane, Ciara Kelly, Rachel Needham, Kiera Kenning and Kelsey O'Donnell. These group of talented, competitive girls will indeed be a force to be reckoned with when they join the under 12 girls next year.

I would personally like to thank all coaches for their help and support during the football season. They showed great commitment to the club and the girls all enjoyed the training sessions, matches and the banter we had when we got together each week.

Finally, it was a privilege and honour for me to manage these two teams over the season and I wish all the girls the very best of luck in the future with Kilmeena GAA and look forward to seeing you all again next season. On behalf of the coaches and girls, I would like to congratulate Nicola on the recent addition to the family, Aria, a sister for Amy.



*Back Row: Nicola McIntyre, John Gallagher, Pete Lane, Nora Moore, Enda Lonergan  
Middle Row - Leah Gavin Walsh, Amy McIntyre Gibbons, Mary Kate Lonergan, Laura Ingham, Catherine Lawless.  
Front Row: Katie Moran, Grainne Feehan, Amelia Fahy, Phoebe Russell, Ellie May Keane, Moira Fernandez Walshe*

**UNDER 12 BOYS** *Carmel Higgins*

We had 27 players playing at U12 level this year. We were in a very tough Spring league and while the lads played their hearts out at all times some of the results did not reflect this. So while on the field things may not have been going according to plan, off the field things were a little better. On the 22nd September, a bus left Kilmeena GAA grounds with very excited boys and many parents. Two teams were playing in Croke Park on the day, so everyone got great game time. They represented themselves, their families and Kilmeena GAA

superbly. There was a notable improvement in all the lads' skills from the start to finish of the year. To the lads moving on from U12 to U14, we wish you all the best; to the lads staying and joining the U12s, we look forward to another year.

A final note to the parents of the U12s: the management offers its sincere thanks for the help and support during the season and especially with the fundraiser run in late October. U12 squad 2018: Luke Durkan, Michael Regan, Evan O'Grady, John Murphy, Patrick McGlynn, Aaron Bourke, Michael Moran, Sean Moran, Zac Zeray, DJ Keane, Ivan Walsh, Aodhan Feehan, Fionn O'Driscoll, Declan Moore, Danny Cannon, Louis Corcoran, Alex Coyne, Patrick Feehan, Rory Kilcoyne, Oran Grimley, Alex Kenning, Aaron Murray, Darragh O'Grady, Cormac O'Malley, John Paul Ryan, Patrick Sammon, Dean Staunton, Martin Grimailaite.

Managers: David O'Grady, John O'Grady, Mickey Murray, Sean Kenning, Jim Cannon, Carmel Higgins.



**U12 GIRLS** *Davina Carney*

Kilmeena U12 girls commenced training on the 4th of April 2018, with a panel of 23 girls. All the girls showed great commitment to the training during the year and always gave their best both on and off the field. We started our grading league in April and ended up top of the table having overcome Achill, Louisburgh, Breaffy

and, for the first time, beating a Westport A side, which was a very proud moment for our girls. We had some very competitive games against The Neale and Burrishoole losing both. We had a great win over Claremorris. In the quarter-final against Carnacon, we had a fantastic win with a scoreline of 8-6 to 2-4. Our semi-final was played in Kilfian against St. Brigids which we lost. Our U12 girls had a brilliant year with a lot of them on the winning Cumann Na mBunscoil and Mini Sevens winning teams from Myna N.S. We ended our year with a lovely trip to 'Pure Skills' Galway which was kindly sponsored by Michael O'Haire and our ladies club. These girls have been a credit to the club and themselves all year, and we look forward to seeing these girls shine again next year for Kilmeena Ladies Football Club. Well done!  
Coaches: Mickey Carney, Dave Ingham and Davina Carney.



*Back Row, left to right: Davina Carney (Manager) Sarah Corrigan, Lisa Hastings, Roisin Feehan, Katie Moran, Aine Gallagher, Aoife Walsh, Emma Barrett, Eabha Carney, Chloe McGlynn, Aoife Gannon, Mickey Carney and Dave Ingham (Managers)  
Front row left to right: Kelsey O'Donnell, Siofra Hughes, Patricia Moore, Laura O'Grady, Amy Carney, Ciara Kelly, Molly Burrows, Ruby Lane, Katelyn McGlynn.*

## TEAM NEWS: END OF SEASON REPORTS



### U14 GIRLS *Michael Regan*

The U14 girls started their league campaign with a home win against Tourmakeady with a panel of only 17 players. This bunch went on to win a total of 5 league games beating Kilmaine, Louisburgh, Hollymount and Ballinrobe, which put them into a semi-final against Westport. Although Westport had defeated us in an intriguing battle previously, this time around Kilmeena came out on top securing a place in the County C

League final against a very talented Claremorris side. When the final whistle was blown in Hollymount, it was, unfortunately, Claremorris who took the glory.

In the Championship, Kilmeena, with the introduction of a number of the U13s, beat Ballinrobe and Hollymount to play Bellmullet in the final. This match was played in Moygownagh where Kilmeena battled all the way from start to finish without our regular centre-back and midfielder. Kilmeena girls came away disappointed as the Cup went to Bellmullet.

What a remarkable year it was for these young players. We as managers had certain expectations to develop the girls as a team and we can honestly say they all exceeded our expectations. This group of girls have given all that we asked of them - and more - every time they wore the Kilmeena jersey. Their attitude, determination and hard work was plain to be seen match after match.

We were very proud to be involved with all these girls. Coaches: Pauline Regan, Michael Regan, John Moore, Chris McGreal and Annette Keane Lonergan.



*Back row: Annette Keane Lonergan, Chris McGreal, Ellen Lonergan, Hattie Cox, Roisin Moran, Holly Barrett, Ellen O'Toole, Grace Gibbons, Abby McGreal, Aimee Ingham, Greta Grimilaitte.  
Front row, left to right: Evie Flynn, Ava Prenty, Molly Keane, Katie Jordan, Aisling Hoban, Emma Murray, Aine Regan, Sarah Gillespie.  
Missing from photo: Anna Moran.*



### U16 GIRLS *Pete Mortimer*

We started the year with a strength and conditioning session in the gym on 21st February. Thanks to Tomás Gill for facilitating this session.

Having played four league games and one conceded, we made it to the league semi-final but were beaten by the eventual league champions, Parke.

We played three challenge games through the year against Castlebar B, Carnacon and St. Joseph's from London who visited the club in May. We beat Claremorris in the Championship quarter-final but lost out to Kilmaine (the eventual winners) in the semi-final. We were very fortunate to be one of only 15 clubs in the country to be selected to participate in the LGFA's Gaelic for Teens programme. The purpose of the programme is to keep 15-17-year-old girls involved in sport, this consisted of two days of training for the coaches in Maynooth College focusing on "Player-Centred Coaching" and concluded with a day for the girls in the Abbotstown Centre of Excellence. The day consisted of training drills, seven-a-side blitz and presentations on Lifestyle Balance and Healthy Eating. All were facilitated by current and former ladies GAA county players.

A big thanks to Ronan Lally from Lally's Lloyd Pharmacy for sponsoring our tops and to Mulloy Shellfish for sponsoring kit bags. Well done to our player Aoife Gibbons who sang in Carnegie Hall with the Westport Children's Choir, a fantastic achievement.

We finished off the year with a very successful fundraising disco in the Kilmeena Community Centre.

Our 2018 U-16 registered players were: Rachel Gibbons, Aoife Gibbons, Megan O'Malley, Megan Mulchrone, Jessica O'Donnell, Laura Kelly, Aibhlin O'Flynn, Ciara Joyce, Sinead Mulchrone, Keelie Hastings, Derbhla Feehan, Kelli Murray, Sarah McDonald, Laoise Geraghty, Sarah Harper, Shannon Bourke, Molly Moore, 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 and to the management team of Ann Marie Crean, Geraldine Gibbons, Ollie Mulchrone, Colm Barrett, Paul Ryan and Pete Mortimer.



### U13 BOYS *John Doherty*

The U13 boys' campaign in Division 2 of the league commenced at the end of August. With 30 lads registered, we had initially planned that two teams would participate in competitions. However, it became apparent that there was an insufficient level of attendance for this to happen.

After the success of the West Mayo A championship-winning U14 team, one might have thought that such a high would be hard to come down from. It turned out to be quite the opposite with the lads recording four wins out of a possible five. The wins came against Hollymount/Carramore, Aghamore, The Neale and Ballintubber. Our only defeat of the year came at home against Swinford in torrential wind and rain. Our results in the group stage qualified us for a semi-final against Ardnaree in Kilmeena. The lads overcame the challenge of

Ardnaree with ease, pitting us against Erris St. Pat's in the county final in Knockmore on the 6th of October. This highly competitive game was played in ideal conditions for the time of year. As the old saying goes, "goals win games" and this certainly proved to be the case as we beat the North Mayo side by 5-08 to 1-09. Overall the management are very grateful for the group's hard work and positive attitude. We hope to be working again with every single player in next year's U14 campaign.

Panel: Rory McDaid, John Murphy, Conor Feehan, Donal Hastings, D.J. Keane, Rían Kilcoyne, Michael Regan, Darragh Slattery, Daniel Kelly, Luke Durkan, Conor Kelly, Jack O'Grady, Declan Moore, Conal Gill, Dylan Staunton, Evan O'Grady, Michael Moran, Sean Moran, Ivan Walshe, Fionn O'Driscoll, Aodhán Feehan, Lucas Kennedy, Zak Zera, Aaron Bourke, Patrick McGlynn, Stephen O'Grady, Odhran Tiernan, Kealan Corcoran, Joseph O'Malley, Danny Cannon.

Management: Michael Gavin, John Doherty, Tomás Gill, Mike Slattery, David O'Grady.

## KILMEENA: U13 WEST MAYO D2 CHAMPIONS



*Back Row L-R: Michael Gavin, John Doherty, Aodhán Feehan, Conor Kelly, Rian Kilcoyne, Darragh Slattery, Conor Feehan, Donal Hastings, Aaron Bourke, Daniel Kelly, Conal Gill, Joseph O'Malley, Patrick McGlynn, Martin Gildea, David O'Grady, Mike Slattery*  
*Front row, left to right: Luke Durkan, Keelan Corcoran, Evan O'Grady, Lucas Kennedy, Stephen O'Grady, Declan Moore, Dylan Staunton, Jack O'Grady, DJ Keane, Micheál Regan, Danny Cannon, John Murphy, Zak Zeray, Fionn O'Driscoll*

## KILMEENA: U14 WEST MAYO A CHAMPIONS



*West Mayo U14 Champions Back Row L-R: Back Row: Tomás Gill, Rian Kilcoyne, Brian Durkan, Matthew Hogan, Sean Gallagher, Ciaran Kilcoyne, Liam Moore, Harry Sheirdan, Finlay Gibbons, Evan O'Donnell, Gavin Mulchrone, Adam O'Grady, Daniel Kelly, Conor Kelly, Conal Gill, Lorcan Coady, John Doherty.*  
*Front Row: Rory McDaid, Darragh Slattery, Stephen O'Grady, Keelan Corcoran, Donal Hastings, Conor Feehan, Colin Hastings, Jack O'Grady, Fionn O'Driscoll, Jack Mulchrone, Cormac Feehan, Dylan Staunton, Lucas Kennedy.*

### U14 BOYS *John Doherty*

The Kilmeena U14 team commenced indoor training in mid-December in preparation for the season ahead. A total of 33 boys were registered with an average of 25 players attending each training session. Due to these large numbers, two teams were entered into the league. We had our first game of the season, a challenge match away to Salthill/Knocknacarra (Galway) on 11th February. Our lads managed to prevail despite the snowy conditions! Next up in March we played in the Féile qualifiers in Castlebar. In a strong group and with a number of players out injured, we didn't manage to qualify, but the lads gave a good account of themselves.

Our first team was drawn in division 1B of the league. The lads recorded three wins from three against opposition consisting of Moy Davitts, Ballinrobe and Claremorris. This resulted in us being promoted for the next stage of the league where we would be operating in division 1A.

The boys faced stiffer opposition here, and three disappointing losses followed against a rejuvenated Moy Davitts, Castlebar and our local rivals Westport. Our second team also played league football where they recorded two wins out of a possible seven. As the second team progressed through their matches, the management noticed a significant development in their skill levels. After a break of three weeks, our boys played their first game in the county championship away to Castlebar. Despite a massive performance from the lads, we were defeated by six points following a misfortunate run of injuries in the last quarter. Unfortunately, we had to concede our second and final game of the county championship to Westport as a result of the injuries and having some players away on holidays.

In preparation for the West Mayo championship, four challenge games were organised away to Carras, Ballintubber, Ballinrobe and Ballina. We came away with three wins in this series of games. It was during this period that our lads really gelled as a group. All players saw action in these challenge games which created great competition for places. Then on 16th of August, we faced Westport in a wind-swept Kilmeena. In what was described by one club stalwart as "one of the best performances in years by a Kilmeena team at any level at home", we had a comprehensive victory to secure a place in the West Mayo A final, six days later in Clogher. Here our lads were just extraordinary. Despite looking dead and buried midway through the second half we fought back with great character and maturity to emerge as West Mayo A Champions on a scoreline of 2-11 to 2-09. Following the on-field heroics, Harry Sheridan lifted the cup cheered on by the sizeable Kilmeena crowd on a historic evening for the club! Overall, 2018 was a hugely enjoyable and successful year for the Kilmeena U14 lads and management. Panel: Adam O'Grady, Brian Durkan, Cian O'Brien, Ciarán Kilcoyne, Colin Hastings, Conal Gill, Conor Feehan, Conor Gibbons, Conor Kelly, Cormac Feehan, Daniel Kelly, Darragh Slattery, Donal Hastings, Dylan Staunton, Evan O'Donnell, Finlay Gibbons, Gavin Mulchrone, Harry Sheridan, Jack Mulchrone, Jack O'Grady, Joseph O'Malley, Keelan Corcoran, Liam Moore, Lorcan Coady, Lucas Kennedy, Matthew Hogan, Oran Tiernan, Rian Kilcoyne, Rory McDaid, Ryan Heanue, Sean Gallagher, Stephen O'Grady, Tom Hastings.

Management: Michael Gavin, John Doherty, Tomás Gill, Robert Coady, Mike Slattery

## TEAM NEWS: END OF SEASON REPORTS



### SENIORS *John Reilly, Senior Manager*

As 2018 began, the club announced the new management to take the challenge for the upcoming season. John Reilly took the lead as the team manager; Darren Madden and David Feehan took on the roles as team selectors; James Keane came on board as the team support and did a sterling job in handling all the squad's needs throughout the season. Sean Ryder

took the honour of being the captain of the Kilmeena squad for 2018. Training began in early January. For the first time, the senior squad had the use of a fully-equipped gym at the club. The first four weeks of training went very well, and with the numbers attending sessions been so high, the decision to enter two teams into the league was made.

For the first time in the history of Kilmeena GAA, two teams were entered into the league, in Division 3 and Division 6B respectively. Following our promotion from Division 4 in 2017, our aim for 2018 was to consolidate our place in the league. Our first two league games were steep learning curves for us as we lost out to Lahardane and Burrishoole. We got our first points of the league by beating Ardagh and scoring five goals, showcasing some great attacking flair. Bonniconlon and Achill were next up; we lost out by the finest of margins in both games, leaving us with a fight on our hands to stay in the league. Away to Ballycastle Kilmeena scored 21 points, mostly from play, outclassing the North Mayo men to take the points. Louisburgh were made to fight all the way for their two points in a game where Kilmeena were the better team for nearly all of the 60 minutes. The Neale left Kilmeena empty-handed as the team put in an excellent performance to beat the intermediate county semi-finalists. We entered the final three league games needing one win to stay in Division 3. That win came away to Ballyhaunis - Kilmeena outplayed and outmuscled the home team and scored a phenomenal 3-20 away from home. In our final two league games, we lost out to Parke and got a walkover from Mayo Gaels. This meant we finished mid-table in seventh position, consolidating our place in the league.

Our Division 6 team proved very successful as we won 7 games out of 8, only to miss out on a league semi-final spot by losing a hard-fought battle against Burrishoole. There was some excellent football played by the team throughout the season. Games of note were two home wins against Balla and Louisburgh. The blend of youth and maturity was unique in developing the senior squad as a whole. With excellent league form, our expectations were high to win the west Mayo Junior B title for the first time. We had a convincing win over Castlebar but sadly lost out to Parke and Breaffy which meant we failed to get out of the group.

It was 2002 when Kilmeena last won the Cusack Cup. On the June Bank Holiday weekend, Kilmeena overturned two of our biggest rivals in Balla and Achill to lift the Cup. Balla were dispatched with a first-half display of attacking football, followed by backs-to-the-wall defending to get over the line in the second half. The final against

Achill was a high paced game that showed again Kilmeena's willingness to play attacking football. Kilmeena ran out winners containing and over-running a defiant Achill team. Sean Ryder accepted the cup with loud cheers from the team support.

The Kilmeena squad headed out to Inishturk in late July for a team training weekend. Over 40 players attended the training weekend. On the Saturday the pitch on 'Turk was put to use for a morning skills session and an afternoon games session, totalling five hours of training. A good night's social activity was planned in the community centre afterwards. The weekend was a huge success, and the people of 'Turk can't be thanked enough for their hospitality.

The draw for the Junior Championship took place in February, which saw us pitted against Tuar Mhic Eadaigh, Ballycroy and Cill Chomáin. First up was Tuar Mhic Eadaigh in St Brendan's Park. Kilmeena controlled the game from start to finish, but the concession of goals kept the opposition in the game. With two points in the bag, Kilmeena made the trip to Bangor to play Ballycroy and show off our new playing strip kindly sponsored by Mid-West Furniture. Kilmeena took the spoils and headed into the last game against Cill Chomáin with a 100% record. Kilmeena maintained that record by dispatching Cill Chomáin in Ballina to top the group. Knockmore were next up in the county quarter-final played in Ballina. Kilmeena looked to have had the game sewn up, but Knockmore scored eight unanswered points to go two up with minutes left on the clock. Kilmeena rallied and managed to force extra time. In extra time Kilmeena blitzed the opposition 2-6 to a point to go into the semi-final to face Achill. Achill showed their experience in McHale Park by flying into a lead that proved too big to rein in, seeing Kilmeena lose out by four points in the end. Currently, the under-21 team led by Sean Ryder embarks on challenging for the County B title.

2018 proved a very successful year for the senior squad with over 45 players playing for the two senior teams. Large portions of these players were also making their senior debuts having come up from the underage ranks. This shows the prosperity and excellent work done by our youth coaches.

2019 will start again with new expectations and challenges.



*As player-manager, John Reilly's experience brought renewed vigour and passion to the Senior Squad during 2018.*

## KILMEENA: COUNTY JUNIOR SEMI-FINALISTS



**The Kilmeena team that lined out against Achill in the County Junior A Semi-Final in McHale Park.**

*Front row L-R: Patrick Golden, Ronan Keane, Darragh Keaveney, John Reilly (Player/Manager), Paul Groden, Chris Henue, Sean Ryder, Patrick Keane, Sean Barrett, John Ryan, Daniel Lavelle, Nathan Heanue, Alex O'Rian, Baliey Nevin, Liam Henue, Josh Mulchrone, Ryan McGonigle and James Keane.*

*Back Row L-R: Pat Mulchrone, Nicholas Keane, Darren Madden (Coach), Joey Smyth, Stephen Staunton, Niall Feehan, Conor Madden, Tomás Gill, Kevin Ryder, Andrew Grealis, Sean McGreal, Cormac McHale, James Groden, Jack Staunton, Jack Carney, John McGlynn, Jason Barry, Alan Ryan, Brian Mortimor, Nial Ryan, Sean Moore and Declan Ryan.*



## CARAGH MAKES A COMEBACK...



In January this year, I was chatting to my younger brother John, saying how after nine years out of football I'd love to play again. I couldn't run and solo anymore, and I wasn't capable of kicking a ball between the posts. Nevertheless, it didn't take John too long to persuade me. He encouraged me to dust off my boots, knowing the junior ladies team in Kilmeena might have been struggling for numbers. On a cold Wednesday night in the middle of February, I made my way to my first training session with Kilmeena ladies. Having just about survived that (I couldn't even finish the warm up as I was so unfit!) I decided I'd keep at it for the year ahead. We had our first match against Achill on 23rd March and thankfully came out on the right side of it winning 6 - 10 to 0 - 4. Unfortunately, it was only a challenge.

As we carried on with our season, our junior ladies team took all the wrong turns through the league and championship. Looking around at the end of our matches we had a lot of disheartened faces when it came to the final whistle. We are the youngest, smallest and lightest team in our division. I still carry high hopes that we will progress well over the next few years as a team. With the Junior Ladies team only being in its second year of existence we have a lot of work ahead of us to get to where we want to be. I don't believe there was ever a good team created overnight and I think we will have better days ahead!

Ladies football is teaching us not only about teamwork and self-discipline which are both essential on the field of play but more importantly a sense of friendship. I can happily say I feel I've gained an extra 20+ sisters this year through my involvement with the Ladies panel. On behalf of the Junior Ladies, I would like to thank Cosy Joe for the sponsorship towards our half-zips for which we are incredibly grateful. I would also like to thank Pete Feehan and his family for kindly sponsoring a Shield, in memory of his late wife, Noreen, and a set of away jerseys which we will wear with pride next year.

We held two fundraisers during the season. Our first was a hugely successful table quiz in the Mill Times which raised €1200 for our kitty. We then held a 24-hour Cycle-Thon in the stand at the clubhouse in November to raise money towards the development of the club. The junior ladies would like to thank everyone for their support for both of these events.

I am already looking forward to getting back into the swing of things in February. We're going to start it a little differently next year and ease us back into it after the Winter with strength and conditioning sessions each week. We would love to see some new faces, so please, don't be shy!



Caragh, in a struggle for possession with Torumakeady's Orly Kelly, supported by team-mate Helena Kelly, in the Junior Ladies championship earlier this year.



### JUNIOR LADIES *David O'Malley*

2018 will go down in the history books for the Kilmeena Junior Ladies. This team, for the first time in the club's history, entered the Junior Championship. Kilmeena were drawn against the established clubs of Breaffy, Tourmakeady and The Neale.

In the league, Kilmeena were drawn in 3B against Davitts, McHale Rovers, The Neale and Ballyhaunis.

The ladies battled bravely throughout the season but were unlucky not to take a few scalps along the way. Some notable performances came against a robust McHale Rovers team and a championship bout against Breaffy.

2019 will be an important season for this group of ladies. The first season for any team is difficult but the foundations have been set, and the destiny of this team is in the hands of a talented group of players.

A special mention to Pat Mulchrone and Michael Moore whose tactical advice was much appreciated throughout the year. Also, a big thank you to Trish Hogan and Majella O'Malley for looking after the team's logistics.



Back row, left to right: Trish Hogan, Mary Gill, Sophie Flynn, Aoife Lavelle, Sarah Lavelle, Fiona Groden, Laoise Kelly, Nina Mathastein, Ava Ryder, Róisín Hogan, Katie Hogan, Sarah Hogan, Michael Moore.  
Front row, left to right: Pat Mulchrone, Dearbhla Grealis, Aoife Roache, Carvagh Ryan, Shannon Bourke, Helena Kelly (captain), Ciara Joyce, Lucy O'Malley, Lily Brady, David O'Malley, Ann Marie Crean.

### ST BRENDAN'S GIRLS: DIV 2 COUNTY CHAMPIONS *Mickey Carney*

St Brendan's NS won the girls' division 2 county final in McHale Park when they defeated Currabaggan NS of Knockmore in the final on a scoreline of 5 goals and 9 points to 2 points on Monday the 28th of May 2018. The whole parish turned up to see a superb display of football from the girls. They defeated the hot favourites and played outstanding football throughout the game. Currabaggan were contesting their third final in four years and always had an outstanding tradition in this competition. However, this was to be St Brendan's National Schools' day, and as the final whistle was blown, incredible scenes of pure joy were witnessed. The huge crowd ran onto the pitch to celebrate this incredible achievement for our school. This triumph was the first time in the school's history to win the division 2 girl's title.

These are incredible achievements for our school. Great credit is due to the pupils, management and Kilmeena club for all the work that is put into our underage set up.

This achievement was due to all the hard work the girls put in all year with both their school and the club. We look forward to many many more similar occasions in the years to come.



Back Row left to right: Davina Carney, Mickey Carney, Kathleen McGlynn, Katie Moran, Aoife Gannon, Hattie Cox, Ava Pretty, Lisa Hastings, Emma Barret, Roisin Moran, Chloe McGlynn, Nina Griffin, Amy Carney, Aoife Walsh, Maura Hastings.  
Front row left to right: Siofra Hughes, Laura O Grady, Abbie Quinn, Eabha Carney, Patricia Moore, Chloe McNally, Roisin Feehan, Ruby McDonnell.

## TEAM NEWS: END OF SEASON REPORTS



### U15 BOYS *Michael O'Grady*

Having done well in competitive divisions at U14 and U16 earlier in the season, the U15 boys' squad were placed among the top teams for this competition - Division 1A. Comprising of six teams. Kilmeena's opponents in Division 1A included Breaffy, Ballintubber, Westport, Castlebar Mitchels and Ballinrobe.

Due to injuries and absentees, Kilmeena was unable to field a team to play Westport in the first round. Thereafter, at home to Castlebar Mitchels and away to Ballinrobe, Kilmeena struggled and were well beaten. We were competitive against Ballintubber – a game played in Kilmeena – but ultimately came up just short. We travelled to Breaffy for our final game and finished on a high with a good win against the men in blue and white.

Shorn of our main players through injury, the opportunity to play top division football couldn't have presented itself at a less appropriate time. But the squad deserve great credit for their commitment, determination and a never-say-die attitude throughout the U15 campaign. The experience gained by this bunch of players playing top division/club sides will undoubtedly stand to the lads as they embark on the 2019 U16 campaign.

Well done to all. The U15 squad was as follows: Oisín Grimley, Cillian O'Grady, Sean Prenty, Ben Lennon, Daniel O'Malley, Rory Nolan, Lorcan Coady, Brian Durkan, Cormac Feehan, Sean Gallagher, Finley Gibbons, Tom Hastings, Colin Hastings, Matthew Hogan, Ciaran Kilcoyne, Gavin Mulchrone, Jack Mulchrone, Evan O'Donnell, Adam O'Grady, Ryan Heanue, Liam Moore, Rian Kilcoyne and Darragh Slattery

Management Team: Pádraig Moore, Neil O'Donnell & Michael O'Grady



*A tenacious player, Cillian O'Grady's defensive qualities could always be relied upon in every game he played in this year.*

## THE GIRLS FROM THE BLACK AND WHITE: GRASS-ROOTS TO GREEN SHIRTS

*Dermot Ruddy: Westport Rugby Coach*



2018 will long be remembered for an exceptional group of girls who represented Kilmeena GAA, Westport RFC and Connacht Rugby. This year, for the first time since its inception, Kilmeena Ladies Football Club reached a minor final and were unlucky not to win on the day. This was from a team who hadn't had many good results over the previous four years, but a cornerstone of this team was that they stood together through the hard times and grew as a team. What isn't known is that among this team there was a group of nine girls who were representing Westport Rugby Club and Connacht Rugby in an historic year. Westport won the under 18 Connacht league and were beaten in the cup final by one point. One girl, Lily Brady, represented Ireland at youth level and was a member of an Irish team that created history by winning the first Four Nations Cup, beating England, Scotland and Wales twice, to become Home Nations Champions. Back on home soil, Lily, along with her Connacht teammates Katie Hogan, Nina Mathastien, Ava Ryder and Chloe McGing lined out for the Connacht girls youth team. In another historic achievement, Connacht won the Interprovincial series beating Leinster, Ulster, and Munster to become interprovincial champions. The Kilmeena LGFA girls who played for Westport RFC were Lily Brady, Susannah Horgan, Dearbhla Grealis, Katie Hogan, Nina Mathastien, Muireann Cawley, Shannon Bourke, Ava Ryder and Chloe McGing. I have had the pleasure of coaching this group of girls for the last seven years along with girls from Westport, Achill, Burrishoole and Louisburgh. I am grateful to have coached girls who are so driven and at the same time are the essence of the word *team* - they do it for each other.

*Enjoying their win in the All-Ireland Inter-Pro Cup  
From left: Chloe McGing, Ava Ryder, Nina Mathastien, Katie Hogan and Lily Brady (front).*



**U16 BOYS** *Pdraic Moore*

A great year but no silverware!

The 2018 U16 Boy's team commenced training on 4th February and competed in a highly competitive Division 2 Spring League, comprising of eight teams. To progress in this division, the Kilmeena lads would require a top-four finish against teams from three Intermediate and four Senior clubs. Kilmeena's opponents in Division 2 were The Neale, Moy Davitts, Ballaghaderreen, Knockmore, Breaffy, Ballintubber and Mayo Gaels.

The season got off to a good start with a home win against The Neale. This win was followed a week later by a narrow away defeat to Knockmore. Regrouping for their third game, Kilmeena had a good away win against Ballaghaderreen.

Thereafter, except for a narrow home defeat to Ballintubber, all other results went in favour of the men in black and white, setting up a semi-final match against Moy Davitts.

A workman-like performance against Moy Davitts yielded a win for Kilmeena and another shot at Knockmore in the final which was played on a dry, warm and sunny evening at the end of May in Breaffy.

From the first to the final whistle, both teams went at it hammer-and-tongs, serving up a highly entertaining game that had a bit of everything – skill, passion, desire, mistakes from both sides, tension and a never-say-die attitude. There was little to separate both teams throughout 60-plus minutes of football, with the result in doubt right up to the final whistle. In the end, Knockmore edged it by the narrowest of margins.

From the management's point of view, it was a superb display of football from the Kilmeena lads, against a team that had beaten us four weeks earlier but it was also a missed opportunity to claim a League title. Still, the lads left it all on the pitch, and we were very proud of them all on that sunny evening last May.

A top-four finish in the League meant that the Club was contesting U16 'A' Championship football for the first time in a long number of years.



*Jason McGlynn's power and strength is synonymous with his style of play at underage level.*



*Back Row, L to R: Michael O'Grady, Neil O'Donnell, Mark Hastings, Liam Moore, Robbie Staunton, Conor Kearns, Ronan O'Donnell, Adam Sheridan, Chris Mc Glynn, Ian Murphy, Rory Nolan, Pdraic Moore. Front L to R, Harry Sheridan, Jason Mc Glynn, Cathal Cawley, Chris Mc Nally, Kian Moore, Mikey Hastings, Jack Walsh, Daniel O'Malley, Tom Smythe, Cillian O'Grady, Sean Prenty, Ben Lennon. Absent from photo: Oisín Grimley, Seán Sammon, Luke Garavan and Darragh Slattery.*

Eight teams in two groups of four was the way it panned out, and we were drawn against Ballina, Moy Davitts and Ballintubber. The prize for defeating Moy Davitts was a semi-final spot against Castlebar Mitchels.

So, on a pleasant Sunday morning in late August, Kilmeena travelled to Castlebar to take on the Mitchels. This game would be an enormous test for this U16 team, but from the off, it was clear that our boys were well up for the challenge. At the small whistle, Castlebar Mitchells lead by 0 - 7 to 0 - 4. The early exchanges of the second half continued in the same vein with Kilmeena scoring a cracking goal to narrow the gap to two points and in so doing, throwing down the gauntlet to Mitchels. But Mitchels had a strong bench and following some personnel changes the Castlebar lads pulled away in the final quarter to win by 11 points.

Similar to our League final in May, Kilmeena had chances, missing out on four goal-scoring opportunities during the match. Mitchels went on to win the 'A' Championship defeating Claremorris in the Final.

Completing the season for the U16's was the West Mayo Championship. Kilmeena played Ballintubber away and came out of Clogher with a one-point win after a tense performance. Breaffy were our opponents in the final, which was played in Islandeady in early September.

With injuries to many players, Kilmeena struggled from start to finish in this contest. Still, the lads gave it their all, and it was only in the final few minutes that Breaffy scored their third goal to put six points between the teams. We knew our fate was sealed at that stage.

All in all, we had a great year. The lads got the opportunity to play at the highest level in their grade and this will have brought on a massive improvement in this great bunch of young men that will stand to them in the future.

The U16 panel for 2018 comprised of the following: Cathal Cawley, Harry Sheridan, Adam Sheridan, Tom Smythe, Oisín Grimley, Ronan O'Donnell, Chris McGlynn, Mikey Hastings, Mark Hastings, Kian Moore, Robbie Staunton, Jason McGlynn, Ian Murphy, Chris McNally, Cillian O'Grady, Sean Prenty, Ben Lennon, Daniel O'Malley, Jack Walsh, Rory Nolan, Luke Garavan, Liam Moore, Sean Sammon, Conor Kearns, Darragh Slattery.

Management Team: Pdraic Moore, Neil O'Donnell & Michael O'Grady.

**ST. BRENDAN'S N.S. MINI 7'S** *Mickey Carney*



St. Brendan's National school were victorious in the West Mayo Mini 7's competition this year. The girls played brilliantly in the competition that involved 16 teams. It was a marvellous day for the girls and such a fantastic achievement to win the tournament out. We then played Scoil Rafteri in the county quarter-final, and again the girls gave a fantastic display of football. The girls built up a commanding lead in the first half and went on to win the game very comfortably. All

roads then led to Began for the county semi-final against the Quay school from Ballina. Even though the girls gave their very best efforts, we were beaten by a better team on the day. The girls made history by becoming the first girls' team from the school to get this far in the competition. It was simply a pleasure to work with the girls, and they are a credit to the school and their club.

*Back row left to right: Emma Barret, Aoife Walsh, Katie Moran, Lisa Hastings, Kayleigh Muldoon, Front row left to right: Ruby McDonnell, Amy Carney, Patricia Moore, Laura O'Grady. Missing from the photo: team member Siofra Hughes.*



## TEAM NEWS: END OF SEASON REPORTS



### MINORS BOYS *Declan Ryan*

The Kilmeena minor team began their league campaign on St Patrick's Day. The team were pitched in Division 3 of the league and faced teams such as Breaffy, Kiltimagh, Swinford, Ballinrobe and Hollymount-Carramore, with each team playing a home and away fixture. The opening games of the league proved difficult because of the absence of several key players who were also involved with Rice College in the Hogan Cup final. Nevertheless, the remaining players performed admirably and won two of the opening three games, beating Breaffy (away) and Hollymount-Carramore (home), while losing narrowly to Kiltimagh (home).

After the Rice College campaign concluded, we were restored to a full complement of players and defeated Breaffy (home) but suffered a significant loss to Ballinrobe (away). The team then faced Kiltimagh (away) and were keen to avenge the previous defeat. The team performed beyond expectations and after a hard battle secured two points at the expense of Kiltimagh. This was a particularly important match to win as it was achieved in the absence of our key midfielder and all-around team leader, Jack Carney, who was representing Kilmeena with the Mayo U17 team.



*Josh Mulchrone proved to be a stalwart defender for his team throughout the year.*

We faced into our remaining two games against Ballinrobe (home) and Hollymount-Carramore (away) needing at least three points to secure second place in the league and thereby qualify for a league semi-final. Buoyed by home advantage and home support, Kilmeena turned around a previous 15 point loss to Ballinrobe to run out four-point winners in what was an awe-inspiring and controlled performance. The team then travelled to Hollymount-Carramore needing a draw or a win to qualify for a place in the knock-out stages. Trailing the hosts at half-time by nine points, it appeared unlikely that Kilmeena could salvage a point from the game. However, and not for the first time in the season, the players showed their character and refused to yield an inch. In a pulsating second-half performance, Kilmeena overcame a 9 point deficit to draw level on the stroke of the final whistle and in doing so held their hosts scoreless for the last 30 minute period.

Having secured a place in the league semi-final, the team's focus turned to their West Mayo semi-final against a fancied Louisburgh team. Once again Kilmeena put in a strong performance to comprehensively beat Louisburgh and set up a final against Burrishoole. Unfortunately, after an end-to-end game, the men from Kilmeena came up short against a more physical Burrishoole team on the evening.

Panel: Niall Mullen, Sean Moore, Ronan O'Donnell, Kian Moore, Paul Hoban, Jack Carney, Jason McGlynn, Chris McNally, Ryan McGonagle, Ian Murphy, Brian Mortimer, Nathan Heanue, Simon Duffy, Robbie Staunton, John Keane, Josh Mulchrone, Emmet Aylward, John McGlynn, Ronan O'Donnell, Mikey Hastings, Cathal Cawley, Chris McGlynn, Tom Smyth.

Management: Declan Ryan, Liam Heanue, Mark Ryan, Niall Ryan.

After the disappointment of the West Final, the players rallied for a trip to Ballycastle to face Naomh Padraig for a place in the league final. In a tight contest, and reduced to 12 men, Kilmeena showed great determination to secure a two-point win and book a place in the league final against their old foes Ballinrobe.

The final took place in Claremorris on the 14th of October in conditions perfect for football. The men from Kilmeena saved their best performance of the season for last. This was all the more impressive considering Kilmeena were without their captain and one of their leading scorers, John McGlynn, who was ruled out through injury. In a thrilling encounter, which took on a life of its own, the team in black and white fought tooth and nail to secure a three-point win after extra time. The players showed tremendous character throughout a pulsating 80 minutes of football to secure a league title for the club on a scoreline of 22 points to 3 goals and 10 points (19). This win represented a significant achievement for this group of players and was just reward for their efforts throughout the year.



*John Keane provided a plentiful supply of quality ball to his forwards from his position at centrefield*

## DIVISION 3 COUNTY MINOR CHAMPIONS 2018



*Back Row, Left to Right: Niall Ryan, Declan Ryan, Ronan O'Donnell, Sean Moore, Simon Duffy, Brian Mortimer, Ryan McGonagle, Nathan Heanue, Emmet Aylward, Josh Mulchrone, Niall Mullen, Liam Heanue.*

*Front Row, Left to Right: Ian Murphy, Jason Mc Glynn, Chris McNally, Chris McGlynn, JohnMc Glynn, Jack Carney, John Keane, Ronan O'Donnell, Kian Moore, Robbie Staunton, Mark Ryan.*

## CLUB GROUNDS DEVELOPMENT

*Willie Keaveney*

Phase 1 of our Club Development has been finalised for now. Thank God, I hear you all say. On a serious note, though, I feel it is necessary to update our Club Members, Sponsors and all of you, who have donated towards the improvement works carried out at the Club to date. The new all-weather pitch is complete and in operation, with goal posts kindly sponsored by the O'Donnell family Carrowbeg, in memory of their father, the late Mick O'Donnell, who during his lifetime gave so much of his time and energy to the Club. Ball stop nets have also been erected on this pitch. Car parking developed alongside this new pitch is also completed for the present time. The construction of the new building is completed as is the sand training area. The electronic scoreboard is in place and working. These developments have been realised at a cost in the region of three hundred thousand euro. Eighty thousand euro was drawn down by the Club from the Sports Capital Fund, and the rest has been made up locally with donations from Connacht Council (14,000 euro). Donations from three Councillors - Michael Holmes, Brendan Mulroy and Christy Hyland - and the rest, has been made up from your contributions to the various fundraising activities. This is a magnificent achievement of which we are very proud.

The Club Officers are appreciative for your generosity, and for allowing us to make these improvements to our grounds which I believe will be of great benefit to future generations.

A substantial part of this development was the construction of the new playing pitch. For this, I want to thank John Foran of "Emerald Pitch Developments" of Edenderry, Co. Offaly for his expertise and his advice and wisdom in its development. He is indeed a professional in his field and was decent to the Club in all his dealings with us.

Today I wish to thank all the local labour, who at short notice made themselves and their tractors available for that hated grind that was stone-picking. It was done at least four times, but like everything else was worth it when the final product was delivered.

Cameraman, Martin McIntyre, took time out from his "stone gathering" role, to capture the various sequences of works involved in the construction of the pitch. I want to thank Padraic Moore, Club Treasurer, for his expertise in the building construction and for overseeing that all the works were carried out to the highest possible standard. The Club is fortunate to have people of his calibre involved in the Club.

My wish now for the Club is to get maximum use out of the facilities which are first class and to keep the momentum going and the will to achieve going from strength to strength.



**Club Caretaker, Paul Feehan and Club Chairman, Willie Keaveney, take time out from the back-breaking task of stone picking for a photo-shoot. Also included are members of the pitch "Development" team.**



**Pitch under construction**



**And finally; "green shoots" - indicative of the success of the project.**

## KILMEENA CLUB REPRESENTATIVES ON MAYO TEAMS 2018:



**Darragh Keaveney: Mayo Junior Team**



**Niall Feehan: Mayo Junior Team**



**Conor Madden: Mayo Junior Team**



**Stephen Staunton: Mayo Junior Team**



**Katie Hogan: Mayo Ladies Minor Team**



**Ronan O'Donnell: Mayo Ted Webb Team**



**Mikey Hastings: Mayo Ted Webb Team**



**Jack Carney: Mayo UI7 Team**

**TEAM NEWS: END OF SEASON REPORTS**

**MINOR/U18 LADIES** *Michael Moore*



The Minor / U18 girls reached their first County final in 2018. A total of 28 ladies played at U18 level during the year. Training commenced on the 21st Feb with over 40 outings in total for the group. The minors and Juniors trained together and were joined by the U16 girls on a few occasions. The team competed well in the league with good wins over Cill Chomain and Westport. Momentum was building for the championship with great wins against McHale Rovers and beating a well

fancied The Neale side in the Semi-final. The County final ended in a disappointing defeat to a strong Kiltimagh team. The experience will stand the girls well in the future.

A number of the ladies were invited into Mayo development squads which is important for the development of players and the club. The availability of a new playing pitch in 2018 allowed great flexibility for training for the ladies.

Thanks to Trish Hogan, Majella O Malley, David O Malley, Pat Mulchrone and Bernie Moore for their work with training and match preparations during the year. Thanks to all parents for their assistance during the year



*Aoife Roache played a prominent part for the Kilmeena Minor and Junior Ladies this year*



**Back row L to R: Laura Moore, Sarah McDonald, Ava Ryder, Molly Moore, Sophie Flynn, Aoife Lavelle, Ellen O Toole, Susannah Horgan, Rachel Gibbons, Megan O Malley, Aine Regan, Ciara Joyce.**  
**Front Row L to R: Jamie Geraghty, Katie Hogan, Chloe McGing, Lily Brady, Shannon Bourke, Aoife Roache, Sarah Mulchrone, Nina Mathestein, Dearbhla Grealis, Laura Kelly, Sarah Harper.**  
**Missing from photo: Lisa Rose, Holly Barrett, Abby McGreal, Laoise Geraghty, Tina Browne and Aoife Gibbons.**

**DANIEL - CAPTAIN OF IRELAND**

Kilmeena GAA would like to congratulate our Club under 13 player Daniel Kelly who was recently given the prestigious honour to Captain the FAI National Emerging Talent Squad, which played in the Actavo Cup on the weekend of the 14th -16th September last. Cherry Orchard FC, located in Ballyfermot Dublin, hosted the event. Daniel's team played against squads from non-other than Glasgow Celtic, Newcastle Utd, St Patrick's Athletic and Swansea City, Liverpool and Aberdeen. The host club Cherry Orchard, also took part in this competition.

In the meantime, along with two others from Westport United Soccer Club, Daniel is invited to attend an assessment soccer session at Bournemouth F.C. in Feb 2019.



**Daniel playing a captain's role on his International debut earlier this year**



**Presenting his credentials to the match officials**

**ATHLETICS** *Julie Moore*



The Connaught Cross Country Championships took place on 13th November in Beleek, Ballina. It was cold and wet, but that didn't seem to deter the Kilmeena boys running with Westport AC in various age groups. Jamie Durkan competed in the under 11 category for boys and raced well over a distance of 1.5 km.

Running in the under 13 category we had Luke Durkan, John Murphy and Declan Moore. Their team secured 2nd place in the 2.5 km race.

Running in the under 15 category we had Jack Mulchrone, Brian Durkan and Colin Hastings. As the rain closed in, these boys looked strong over 3.5 kilometres and secured first place with their team.

Both groups trained hard for the All-Ireland Championships in Navan, held in stormy conditions, on Saturday 14th December. They all performed herocially as they represented Westport AC and, of course, Kilmeena GAA Club, with pride.



**Athletes pictured from left: Luke Durkan, Declan Moore, Colin Hastings, John Murphy, Jamie Durkan, Jack Mulchrone and Brian Durkan.**

**SARAH LAVELLE...**



Kilmeena GAA would like to extend a huge congratulations to Sarah Lavelle on her outstanding academic achievements. Sarah, who is studying pharmacy at Ulster University, received the highest mark in her year for her professional practice module and her OSCE's, an objective structured clinical examination. We wish Sarah all the best with her continued studies and for her future endeavours. Clearly, Sarah is just as good at the books as she is on the pitch!

**REMEMBERING CILLIAN**

*by Mark Ryan*



The indelible memories of my valued friendship with Cillian MacDonagh are now my constant companion. Throughout the previous months I have often reflected with pride, a smile and a sense of sorrow on the life of a true gentleman. Whether in Glenstal Abbey, the University of Limerick, Kilmeena or with Young Munster RFC, I have no doubt Cillian enriched the lives of the

numerous persons with whom he was acquainted.

Cillian's parents, Peter and Kirstin, reared two exemplary sons in both Cillian and his younger brother, Cormac. They epitomised the core values of society which can sometimes be ignored and misplaced in today's busy world. Through their natural progression as children, adolescence to adulthood, the boys never wavered from their intrinsic characteristics of integrity, sincerity, loyalty and kindness.

As a footballer, playing centre half back at under-age level and corner back with the Junior team, Cillian was one of the most committed and focused players I've ever had the privilege of coaching. His dedication and loyalty towards team-mates and the Club

## LOGGING OFF *Trish Hogan*



As many of you may already know, I have left my position as Club PRO and Bord na nÓg Secretary. I have volunteered a tremendous amount of my time to support our club's development. I would love to see more of you, our community members, donating some of your own time to further promote our GAA Club. There are so many people 'on the sidelines' that could deliver so much more success within the club both on and off the field.

It is a hugely rewarding and fulfilling experience and a great way to meet new people. Believe me, I wouldn't have lasted almost 8 years if it wasn't! So here's how I became involved with Kilmeena GAA Club in the hope that it will encourage more of you to follow in my footsteps.

In 2011, I was invited to attend the AGM of Bord na nÓg on the 16th of November by Willie Keaveney. Being a blow in, I knew very few from the area so I guess I was an easy target! It was at that same AGM where I was duly elected as Secretary. I remember leaving the clubhouse that night and wondering what I had signed up to. I was the only female in attendance that night and in fact I was the only female present for a lot of the meetings thereafter! From there, I spent two years as Secretary working alongside the Chairman of Bord na nÓg, Willie Keaveney. The club was growing at a phenomenal pace, with the boys and girls both training together. With increasing numbers, I could see the opportunity presenting itself to introduce a Ladies Football Club. The notion was put on the agenda for a meeting to be held in early January 2013. Initially the idea received mixed reviews, some were in favour while others were unsure. However, with the help and determination of our Chairman, Willie, we decided to invite delegates from the Ladies County Board to attend another meeting. This was a huge benefit, with them giving us a mountain of advice. It was suggested that we start small, building from the underage teams and working our way up, so that's exactly what we did.

In March 2013, Kilmeena LGFA Club was formed from the hard work, determination and ambition, from all those involved in the GAA. With managers put in place and a few training sessions under our belts, our newly formed under 12 girls team burned tracks towards Louisburgh. Borrowing a set of jerseys from the underage boys, our girls wore them with pride, with their excitement filling the dressing room. From that day, our Kilmeena Ladies Club has continued to grow, with every age group claiming their own set of jerseys. Having designed our first set of jerseys, with The Towers as a sponsor, what once was an idea slowly became a reality. Some of the first girls to play for our Kilmeena Ladies Club still continue to play today at both Minor and Junior levels. It has been my sheer honour and privilege to see these girls and many other girls, become the outstanding players they are today.

It was later that year, John McDonald was elected as Chairman to Bord na nÓg. We have continued to work hard to build this Ladies Club to what it is today. It is wonderful to see the club growing at all ages and

to date we have over 135 registered club members. With some of our girls attending Mayo Development and Mayo Trials, the future looks very bright for us ladies! In order to keep the club strong and to develop it even further, it is vital we gain more volunteers as the same few cannot be expected to do it all.

I have sincerely enjoyed my time as Secretary, even at times when the job spec took on different roles from washing jerseys to treating injuries, I wouldn't change a second of it. I have made life long friends through my involvement within the GAA. I thank each and everyone of you who has helped me along the way to make my job that bit easier. My most treasured and memorable achievement was the formation of the Kilmeena LGFA Club. Also, I am glad to report that a few more females are now attending the meetings! I hope many more of you will get involved within the club and give it a go, I guarantee you will not regret it!

No doubt you will see me lurking around the pitches supporting our club and cheering on our players, but as of now, I am logging off!!

Best of luck to all for the 2019 season.



**Throw back to Louisburgh 2013 where history was made!**  
**Back row: Dearbhla Grealis, Carolyn Keane, Sarah McDonald, Sarah Butler and Katie Hogan.**  
**Front row: Aoife Lavelle captain, Nina Mathastein, Shannon Bourke and Cliodhna O'Connell.**

epitomised his sincerity and was a reflection of the manner in which Cillian approached everything in his life.

At the age of 17, while still attending school in Glenstall Abbey, Cillian was asked to join the Junior Team in Kilmeena. Although he was four years my junior, from the time I coached Cillian I have always admired and looked up to him. He was professional, honest, hard-working and so sincere is his approach to sport and life. He possessed all the attributes that one associates with high achievers and combined those attributes with an inherent love for all persons and all things. He offered a rainbow on the cloudiest of days and showed an in-depth sense of compassion which had a lasting impact on all those who knew him. Cillian has certainly left an eternal footprint on our hearts and one of nature's true gentlemen will live long in our memory.

To Peter and Kirstin: my sincere gratitude for your permission to pen this tribute to your beloved Cillian.

*"The song has ended but the melody lingers on."*

**Cillian, contesting the ball with The Neale's Sean Cosgrave, during the Kilmeena V The Neale U21 match in 2011.**



**'Tis easy being a manager...** *John Reilly*

"Christ, lads will ye hit them hard" I shout at the lads on the pitch. I don't really think it's going to change the situation but if in doubt always hit them hard. Also, it maintains consistency from my team talk before the match, which can be summarised in one phrase: "tear into them lads". I had been working on that specific tactic the last number of weeks. When we found out that we would be facing the neighbours in the first round of the Championship, I knew they wouldn't expect us to tear into them and hit them hard. It's not like we tried that before. Anyways, them town folk aren't as tough as us country folk. An old coach of mine once described them as 'like china - they're brittle and they'll break lads, so hit them hard'. I am sure this tactic will work a treat.



The game now is in full swing; I think I'll have to make a switch as hitting them hard is not having the desired effect I planned. These bucks must have been on the protein over the winter. I'll stick the big midfielder into the full forward line and let it in long. Sure it works for Kerry; it'll work for us. After deliberating with the selection committee, the chairman and the auld fella in the stand, it's agreed that the cornerback will go fullback, the fullback will go to wing back, the wing back will go to midfield, the midfielder will go to full forward and the full forward will go cornerback. Jaysus lads if this works they'll think I'm a genius.

Halftime lands with us still in the fight, even if the full forward now cornerback did score an own point, thinking he was still in the full forward line. I blame them bright pink boots he wears; no self-respecting cornerback in my day would ever wear a colour like that. Does he not know that black is the colour of stealth. You can't sneak up on the corner forward wearing bright pink. Has the National Geographic not taught these young lads anything?



I collect myself for a minute, its halftime, playing the neighbours in the championship, down by 2; it's my time to shine here. I channel my inner Al Pacino from Any Given Sunday. They will talk about this speech for years to come, people will say they should have recorded it, as it could bring hope to the whole parish. I start by telling the lads that they haven't hit them hard enough, after all, consistency is very important for any manager. I then channel my true inner coach and become inspired. "Lads, sometimes in life if you want to make it. You have to chop your own timber" I say with conviction. Heads that were down looking at their pink boots suddenly picked up and eye contact is made. Right there I knew I had them. "Lads, no-one is going to chop that timber but you, if you want to make it through this game, you gotta chop your own timber". With that, the captain stands up and roars "COME ON LADS, let's get out there and hit them hard". At that moment I felt a tear in my eye. The lads, they have finally come of age.

We are well in this match, the game plan of hitting them hard is working a treat, and the cracks in the china are beginning to show. The full forward - now corner back - is having a stormer, it must be them pink boots he wears and the big buck we put in the full forward line is breaking everything. The opposing management keeps shouting "will someone do something with that awkward son of a B#t\*h at full forward". My selection committee, the chairman and the auld fella in the stand keep saying "we have them rattled lads, keep her lit". Maybe I am a genius and have this game mastered after all.

No sooner than I had envisaged receiving a Nobel prize for Gaelic football, the ball has ended up in the back of our net. Pandemonium erupts on the line; we are 2 points down with 2 minutes on the clock. The selection committee and the chairman are lost for ideas. I consider stripping off the tracksuit, a bit like Superman in the movies but without the six-pack. Instead, we decide to go for broke, hit her long into the square that will save the day.

As the ball is kicked high in towards the square, time seems to slow down. We can see our awkward son of a B#t\*h full forward is being marked by 3 lads and been pulled like a young calf out of his mother. Somehow he manages to get a fist to it, the ball breaks into a group of players and like a flash, a bright pink boot appears to rifle it into the roof of the net. Now the ref is being told to blow her up, or there will be hell to pay.

The dressing room is ablaze with lads cheering and singing; there is nothing like beating the neighbours come championship time. The Chairman tells me "I knew you were the man for the job"; others say I was a "tactical genius". The truth is, 'tis easy being a manager when you win.

**LGFA COUNTY FINAL** *Ollie Mulchrone*

Kilmeena GAA Club were honoured to host the Mayo LGFA Senior Club Championship County Final on, Sunday the 21st October between Carnacon and Knockmore.



**In all its splendour: Kilmeena GAA grounds, including the recently developed pitch to the right of picture on the LGFA County Final day in October.**

**THANK YOU**

The Kilmeena Ladies Football Club would like to thank Pete Feehan and family for their most generous sponsorship of an "away set" of jerseys for the senior girls team and a set of jerseys for the U6/U8 girls team. The Feehan family have also kindly sponsored a 'Young Player of the Year' Shield in memory of the late Noreen Feehan, Pete's wife.



**Receiving the Jersey and Shield from Pete Feehan from left: Emma Jane Gill, Laoise Kelly, Caragh Ryan, Helena Kelly captain, Pete Feehan, Rachel Gibbons, John McDonald, Maura Hastings, Lisa Hastings and Ciara Joyce.**