



KILMEENA G.A.A. CLUB

# NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2022

## A YEAR TO REMEMBER

HISTORIC WINS CAP AN INCREDIBLE  
YEAR FOR OUR CLUB





# Chairman's Message



Hello and welcome to the ninth edition of the club newsletter and our biggest yet.

What a year for our club! Our Senior men took us on the most wonderful journey, starting last year and culminating on 6th February in Croke Park, where they won the All-Ireland Junior club football championship. The development team were Junior C County Champions, West Mayo

Junior B Runners-Up and were promoted to division 4 of the league. The 1st team consolidated league status in the intermediate ranks and finished out the season as runners up to Ballyhaunis in the IFC final.

The Senior ladies made history too, winning a Junior B title and will compete in Junior A next season. In their first competitive year the rounders team reached the All-Ireland semi-final in the Junior Mixed championship. Not a bad start for a new team. Our U16 girls won the league Division 2 shield final and the minor girls won the division C County shield. The U17 boys competed in division 'A' of the Minor County Championship and then went on to complete their season when they were crowned the West Mayo U18B champions. As a club we can all be tremendously proud of all their achievements.

The primary competition at boy's underage was again the 'uneven' age grade with teams from U7 to U17.

The Cúl Camp at the end of July was attended by 125 boys and girls. The U10's competed in our own Paddy Golden blitz and the Gearóid Murphy blitz in Achill. Overall, our underage teams had a competitive year at all age grades with an emphasis of fun and basic skill development for our younger children.

Thank you to the senior players (male and female) who helped with coaching our underage teams. It helps to inspire our boys and girls when they see a senior player taking an interest in helping train and coach their team. Thank you to the management and coaches at all levels for your hard work, commitment and dedication. "The positive effect a good coach can have on an individual or team and in turn on the club as a whole is invaluable and cannot be understated."

It is important to take a moment to acknowledge the wonderful panel of young men that make up the senior men's team and the joy that they brought to our club and parish these last two years. Thank you to the management team of John Reilly, Peter Carney, John Doherty and Eoin Sweeney who believe me put in more work than anyone sees or realises. Thank you to Michael Ryan, the team kit man and to Julie Moore, the Physio who both contribute so much to the club.

Well done to all the players who represented the club at various grades for the County. Well done also to Mark Ryan who is a member of Maurice Sheridan's Mayo U20 backroom team for 2023. It is a dream to play with or represent the County and a proud moment for the club to see one of our own doing so.

We need to strive to continually improve and challenge ourselves to be better. Officers and coaches need to improve their skills and avail of training and coaching courses provided by the club and by Mayo GAA. I would encourage parents who would like to get involved in the club, not to hesitate. It is one of the most rewarding experiences that you will ever have. We need to do the basic things right, support each other and promote a club culture of positivity.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the club executive and also my fellow officers at the top table, Mary Slattery, Kathleen Geraty, Maura Hastings and Padraic Moore for their work, support and advice throughout the year. The dedication and effort put in by them cannot be underestimated. This was a particularly expensive year both on the football field and with development works undertaken. It is therefore testament to the work of the treasurers who made sure we were properly financed and at all times covering club running costs. The 'Ball on the Wall' fundraiser has been incredibly positive and successful and is still open to anyone who would like to sign up or those who would like to extend their existing contribution. Thank you to all those who consistently play the lotto. It is one of the primary ways we have of financing our club and keeping the day-to-day bills paid. I would ask that every family, if not already doing so, would consider doing an annual online lotto.

Thank you also to Ruairi Duffy, Michael Feehan, Noel Marley, Austin Gibbons and Willie and Mary Quinn who continue to be so generous towards the club. Thanks to The Clew Bay Hotel for sponsoring meals and refreshments for players. Thank you to MySign who sponsored the new club signage.

The club are incredibly grateful to councillors, Brendan Mulroy, John O'Malley and Christy Hyland for continuing to support the club by way of generous donations. The club are again grateful to Midwest Furniture for sponsorship of gear and jerseys for the senior men's team and for their continued sponsorship of the club person of the year award. Thank you to Payslip and Beirne Express who sponsor our senior ladies' team. A sincere and special thanks to all the businesses, families and individuals in our community who support and sponsor our club and teams. Without this support we would struggle to function at the level we do. Please accept my apologies if I have inadvertently left anyone out, it is not intentional. As always, I would ask club members where possible to support local businesses during the Christmas and New Year period.

Facility development and improvement works continued this year with the installation of new sets of dugouts and ball stop netting behind the goals. A new welcome sign, club crest and signage on our clubhouse was erected. The roof of the stand was replaced. The gym got a makeover with the addition of new and improved equipment. A new aerator was purchased and pitches maintained with the application of sand and fertiliser as required. The newly installed floodlights on the training pitch will have the benefit of reducing overall costs on the club in terms of portable lights, pitch hire, travel and the movement of gear for teams.

A sincere thank you to all those who organised, helped and supported the many events we had during the year. The All-Ireland final victory and the subsequent acknowledgement of players and management at half time during the national League game in Hyde Park, the visit of Sean Kelly MEP and former president of the GAA to present the All-Ireland medals, presentation of Club Person of the year award to John Reilly and Community Person of the Year to The All-Ireland winning management team, Paddy Golden blitz, Local league, fashion show, and underage medal presentation to name but a selection.

It too was wonderful to host the visit by Minister of State for Sport and the Gaeltacht, Jack Chambers and Senator Lisa Chambers who saw first-hand the projects undertaken and completed by the club.

I would like to thank the Bord na nÓg officers, Chairman Pete Mortimer and outgoing secretary Mairead Durkan and

welcome Noleen Coughlan who will take over from Mairead. Thank you to our Children's officer, Majella O'Malley who is the first point of contact for any concerns around child welfare. Thank you to Darren Madden for his role as coaching officer. The Healthy club has been a great success and I would like to say a big thanks to Noreen Johnston and the health and wellbeing committee.

Thank you to our club PRO Sean Barrett who steps down after four years. During this time Sean helped to raise the bar in promoting our club and I wish Caragh Ryan all the best as she takes over the role as club PRO. Thanks also to Sarah Hogan who will remain on as part of the PR and communications team to assist with the promotion of ladies football in the club. We need to remain conscious about what we are posting on social media and continue to promote our Club and the GAA family in a true and positive manner.

Thank you to Martin McIntyre, Ollie Mulchrone, Colm Barrett and others for photographing our games and club events. Thank you also to Cormac Feehan a very welcome addition to our team of photographers this year.

Thank you to Willie Keaveney in his role as Development and Planning Officer for managing and overseeing the development works at the club.

I would like to thank Paul Feehan, Paul Fahy and Una Quinn for maintaining our grounds, playing fields, clubhouse, dressing rooms and gym building. We have one of the best kept grounds and clubhouses in Mayo if not Connacht and it is a wonderful tribute to them. It immediately sets the tone of a club when the facilities are kept to such a high standard.

Thank you to Kevin Barrett, County Board and West Board delegate. I would like to say thanks to Michael O'Grady, Barry Murphy and our newsletter team in producing another

excellent publication. Thank you to Donal McIntyre for his continued and very generous sponsorship of the newsletter.

To all who volunteered and helped in any way when asked to do a job, I say a resounding thank you!

In order that the club remains vibrant into the future, it is important that the next generation take up officer roles, bringing with them new ideas and contributing to the running of the club. Kilmeena GAA club belongs to all members young and old and there is a part to play for everyone.

On behalf of the Club, I would like to extend sympathy to the families, of those in the community who passed away in the last 12 months. We remember particularly the families of Vincent Reilly and Paddy O'Grady. Both men served the club with distinction during harder times for the club holding various roles both culminating as club Chairman. May their souls and all the souls of the departed rest in peace.

I would also like on behalf of the club to wish anyone that is sick in our parish at this time a speedy recovery to good health.

Finally, I would like to wish all our members, parishioners and emigrants a happy and peaceful Christmas and best wishes for the New Year. We look forward to another exiting season for Cill Mhíodhna in 2023.

*Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi Mhaise Daoibh.*



**John McDonald**  
Cathaoirleach

## ELECTED CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2023

**Club Patron:** Fr. Jim Walsh  
**President:** Austin Gibbons  
**Vice President:** Michael Cannon  
**Chairman:** John McDonald  
**Vice Chairman:** To be filled  
**Secretary:** Mary Slattery  
**Assistant Secretary:** To be filled  
**Joint Treasurers:** Kathleen Murphy & Maura Hastings  
**Assistant Treasurer:** Padraic Moore  
**PRO:** Caragh Ryan  
**Registrar/Data Protection Officer:** Damian Hughes  
**Coaching Officer:** Darren Madden  
**Safety Officer:** Michael O'Grady  
**County Board Delegate:** Kevin Barrett  
**West Board Delegate:** Kevin Barrett  
**Field Caretaker:** Paul Feehan  
**Irish Language Officer:** Mickey Carney  
**Training & Development Officer:** Willie Keaveney  
**Children's Officer:** Majella O'Malley  
**Fixtures Secretary:** Mary Slattery  
**Healthy Club Officer:** Noreen Johnston  
**Injury Fund Officer:** Mary Slattery  
**Players' Representative:** Paul Groden

## ELECTED BORD NA NÓG OFFICERS FOR 2023

**Chairman:** Peter Mortimer  
**Secretary:** Noleen Coughlan  
**LGFA PRO:** Sarah Hogan  
**LGFA County Board Delegate:** Mairead Durkan  
**Bord na nÓg County Board Delegate:** Darren Madden



### NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION TEAM:

Michael O'Grady, John McDonald, Mairead Durkan, Noreen Johnston, Noleen Coughlan, Maura Hastings, Majella O'Malley, Ollie Mulchrone, Barry Murphy, Sarah Hogan, Peter Mortimer.

### NEWSLETTER SPONSOR:

Donal McIntyre, New York. [www.wesbuilt.com](http://www.wesbuilt.com)

## U7 Boys (Report by Hugh Kelly)

The Kilmeena U7 Boys season started in early April with a great turnout of players. We had 30 players involved in 2022 including 10 new recruits that joined Kilmeena club for the first time. The aim of our training is to teach the boys the fundamental movements of the game and develop their basic skills, along with working as a team and most importantly having fun.

During our first blitz of the year, we played host to Achill and Tourmakeady in St Brendan's Park. There was great excitement as many of the boys pulled on the famous black and white jersey for the first time. Our next outing was at home to Islandeady. Here, we fielded two teams, which gave all the boys plenty of game time and there were great skills on display. Then our neighbours Burrishoole came to visit our home ground and played a very enjoyable and exciting game. Our final outing of the year was away to Islandeady, where we fielded three teams. The skill level shown on the field of play clearly demonstrated that the boys' efforts and training

throughout the year had paid off. The boys really enjoyed the final match and it was a great finish to the U7 season.

Highlights of the season for both boys and coaches was a training session with members of the Kilmeena senior team, including team manager John Reilly and club legend Pat Mulchrone; and the visit of an Ice Cream van to training on a sunny August evening. Thanks to David Scott of Scott's Solicitors for sponsoring the visit.

Special thanks to Westport Credit Union who sponsored a new set of jerseys for our U7 boys team. We truly appreciate and value this support.

Thanks to all the parents for bringing the boys to training and matches. And thanks to the coaches; Stephen Cox, Caitriona Cox, Jody Joyce, Hugh Kelly, Margaret Lawless, Deirdre Lawless and Mags Ryder, for giving of their time to the club.



### Kilmeena Boys U7s

Back row, left to right: Adam Duffy, Jack Sheridan, Ollie Joyce, Liam Corcoran, James Lawless, Eamonn Óg Coyne, Conor Henry, Faolán Loftus, Reuben Coughlan, Evan Gilger, Gary Feehan, Jesse Lee Durcan.

Front row, left to right: Realta Loftus, Pádraig Mullarkey, Tomas Ryder, Ben Kelly, Ronan Gallagher, Seán Lawless, Callum Coughlan, Cian Joyce, Josh Moran, Ethan Armstrong, Cillian Mongey.

Missing from photo: Cillian Cox, Sam Quinn, Thomas McDonagh, Lorcan Monaghan, Evan Cunningham, Peter Geraghty, Ronan Hyland, Ruairi Kelly and Ruairi O'Malley.

## U9 Boys (Report by Sean Kelly)

In late April 2022 we kicked off the U9 boys training for the season. The training sessions included four work stations which focused on the key elements of the game such as kicking, catching, hand pass, toe-tap, bounce and pick up. All players rotated through each station during the session.

Each training session would finish with two in house games to further build on these skills. The emphasis was very much on development and fun while allowing every player to get as many touches of the ball as possible during the session.

We organised a lot of challenge games during the season under the Go Games guidelines. We played Achill, Tourmakeady, Burrishoole, Islandeady, Ballintubber and Louisburgh, both

home and away. We also fielded a team in the Paddy Golden Blitz. The boys didn't disappoint, they demonstrated great skill, passion and teamwork representing the club during these matches.

Our season concluded in advance of the local league. The coaches Adrian Cawley, Brian McManamon, Declan Duffy, Rafal Bronkal, Declan Hastings, Ayleen McNamara, Rian Kilcoyne, Liam Gilger and Sean Kelly would like to thank the boys and their parents for their continued support in both the training and travelling to matches. We wish the best of luck to the older boys moving on to the U11 team and we look forward to the return of the younger boys and any new boys who wish to join the club in 2023.





### Kilmeena Boys U9s

Back row, left to right: Declan Hasting, Sean Kelly, Caolan McLoughlin, Jack Mulloy, James Hastings, Patrick Scott, Theo Bronkal, Aodán Gildea, Rory O'Donnell, Michael Staunton, Ciarán Kelly, Zac Walsh, Kian McGlynn, Declan Duffy, Lochlann Mulchrone, Brian Mc Manamon.  
Front row, left to right: Adrian Cawley, Tommy Cannon, Brendan Smyth, Oran McManamon, Rowan Goggins, Lorcan Monaghan, Aran Cawley, Oisín Corcoran, Dylan Duffy, Conor Olsen, Ruairí O'Malley and Matthew Gormonly.  
Missing from photo: James Sheridan, Thomas Griffin, Keegan Heritage, Jack O'Malley, Conan Ryder, Mark Davitt and Noah Walsh.  
Kelly and Ruairí O'Malley.

## U11 Boys (Report by Pat Coughlan)

This season's training of the U11 Boys took a slightly different approach to other years, in that we had U12, U11 and U10 boys all training in the one session. Up to 43 boys took to the field every Monday and Thursday evening for training, from the 27th of February until 2nd of May. Thereafter, the U12s joined with the U13s. Having the U12s train with the U10s and U11s for the start of the season benefitted the younger lads in the group. It allowed them to see purpose in their training drills and to set targets and goals for themselves going forward.

From May through to October, our U11 squad comprised of 28 boys. Training took place two evenings per week and these young players showed their dedication and enthusiasm with no less than 20 at each training session. Over the next five months this bunch of young lads thoroughly enjoyed training and were enabled to showcase their skills during matches. Such were our numbers we were in a position to field two teams on each match day. The lads went from strength to strength throughout the season and their skills developed progressively throughout the training season.

Our Go Games fixtures this season involved matches against

Achill, Ballintubber, Burrishoole, Islandeady, Louisburgh and Swinford. The boys showed great determination and enthusiasm in all games and they competed very well.

This year the Paddy Golden Blitz involved the U10s, who gave a great account of themselves in the Division A Group, beating Breaffy and Burrishoole to get through to a semi-final. They narrowly lost out to Westport, who went on to win the competition.

We finished our season on the 8th October competing with our U11s in the Gearóid Murphy Memorial Blitz in Achill. Throughout the season we had many challenge games, keeping the lads playing football and using their skills.

I would like to sincerely thank our coaching team Kieran Hastings, Declan Ryan, Paul Ryan, Liam McDonnell, Vinnie Gibbons, and Liam Heanue.

It was an absolute pleasure for me to coach such an enthusiastic, talented bunch of young lads. They showed great commitment and dedication both on and off the pitch. Onwards and upwards for these young lads going forward to the next season.



### Kilmeena Boys U11s

Back row, left to right: Vinnie Gibbons, Evan Ryder, Paul Joyce, Michael Francis Gormley, Jamie Hopkins, Michael Gannon, Charlie McLoughlin, Rian McManamon, Eoghan Smyth, Zander Gibbons, Boddy Lane, Jacob Chambers, James Heanue, Fionn Lavelle and Liam Heanue.  
Front row, left to right: Finn Sheridan, Joe Durkan, Alex Fahy, Ruairí Ryan, Cody Coughlan, Oisín Martin, Bailey Browne, Charlie Walsh, Jaye Joyce, Max Keane.  
Missing from photo: Sam McDonnell, Rory Browne, Adam O'Connell, Diarmuid Coady and Cillian Gilgear.

## U12 Boys (Report by Pat Coughlan)

The U12 boys had a short season this year due to the new structure operated within the County. Our U12 panel consisted of 43 boys, comprising players from U10s, U11s and U12s. To ensure that all of the lads in this large panel got decent game time, we made the decision to enter two teams into the competition.

We were placed in Division 1 of the U12 competition and were grouped with Westport, Castlebar and Breaffy, playing both their A and B teams.

In the first round games, we were narrowly defeated by Westport and Castlebar. Both of these games were played at a high intensity level and provided a steep learning curve

for our boys - these games were fast paced and forced the Kilmeena boys to dig deep.

The lessons learned from the earlier games allowed our lads to bring a higher level of intensity into their final game of the season against Breaffy. The boys showed great determination and played with pace, skill and character, resulting in a comfortable win over a strong Breaffy side.

Overall, this was a hugely positive experience for the U12 boys - they stepped up to the mark and really enjoyed playing at the higher intensity level. A huge thank you to all the parents for bringing the lads to training and matches during this season.



### Kilmeena Boys U12s

Back row, left to right: Billy Lane, Charlie Geoeghan, Jack Ivin, Eoghan Smith, Finn Mulchrone, Luke O'Donnell, Darragh Mulchrone.

Front row, left to right: Paul Joyce, Liam Quinn, Lorcan Lane, Donnachta McGauley, Noah Coughlan, Sam McDonnell, Ryan Cannon, Jason Lawless.

## U13 Boys (Report by Barry Murphy)

The U13 panel commenced training on Tuesday, 3rd May 2022. Our first league match of the season (two weeks later), was away to Louisburgh. We were well beaten on this first outing. However, we regrouped and got our first two points from the campaign at home to Achill the following week. After being beaten twice by both Islandeady and again by Louisburgh, we then beat Achill away on 18th June. We played Islandeady at home in the group semi-finals stage but unfortunately we lost by a narrow margin. It was a disappointing series of results for this group of players but a sense too, that our performances were improving week on week. Prior to the start of the Championship campaign we organised two friendlies, away to Swinford and at home to Breaffy.

Later in the season, the same teams that competed in the league were once again drawn against each other in the Championship. The Championship commenced on 15th August, with an away fixture to Louisburgh. On this occasion, things went much better for us and we emerged easy winners. Our next game was a tighter affair at home to Islandeady but we still emerged six-point winners. We played the final game of the first round games away to Achill and made it three wins in a row. This set up a Division 5 Championship final,

away to Achill two weeks later. To keep the boys focused on their winning ways in the run up to the final, we organised a friendly game against Burrishoole. We were well beaten by Burrishoole and this served as a wake-up call for our boys before the final. The final itself was a frantic affair. Going into the last quarter we trailed Achill by 10 points, then rallied but eventually lost by four points. Our boys were desperately disappointed by the final loss.

To round off the season we had another home match against Breaffy and then, after our final training session, on Monday 26th September, we joined the U13 girls for refreshments in the clubhouse, which was kindly organised by Finola Feehan.

Overall, it was a busy season. In total we had 14 matches and 29 training sessions. We saw enormous improvements in the boys' performances, particularly in the latter part of the season. So from a coaching perspective, it's improvement that matters. This bunch of lads will hopefully start next season together for the initial competition so great things will be expected of them. They won't need to be told that they'll have unfinished business to take care of!





### Kilmeena Boys U13s

Back row, left to right: Chris McGauley, Barry Murphy, Kevin Hastings, Dara McDonnell, Kyle Gavan, Tadhg Daly, Jamie Durkan, Robbie Murphy, Tom Cox, Jack Ivin, Alan Heanue, Luke O'Donnell, Paraic Walsh, Felix Zeray, Jason Lawless, Michael Gavin, Billy Lane, Kevin Lawless.

Front row, left to right: Donnachta McGauley, Noah Coughlan, Darragh Mulchrone, Finn Mulchrone, Cian Moran, Jason Feehan, Lorcan Holland, Lorcan Lane, Liam Quinn, Ryan Cannon, Charlie Geoghegan.

## U14 Boys (Report by Barry Murphy)



### Kilmeena Boys U14s

Back row, left to right: Mairead Durkan, Barry Murphy, Jamie Durkan, Kyle Mulchrone, Cormac Slattery, Alan Gannon, Sean Kilcoyne, Sean Keane, Keir Hills, Tiernan Aherne, Alan Mortimer, Michael Gavin, Mike Slattery.

Front row, left to right: Brendon Witzl, Kyle Gavan, Felix Zeray, Cian Moran, Robbie Murphy, Tom Cox, Jason Feehan, Lewis Hills

Missing from photo: Paraic Walsh (coach), Adam Moran, Tadhg Daly, Darren Daly, Eoghan Cannon, Darragh McDonnell, Logan Heraty, Kevin Hastings.

The U14 boys returned to training on 31st January 2022. We started with floor exercises, ball work in the gym and ball work using the kicking wall and the sand pitch. We continued with this form of training before moving back onto the grass/pitch in early March. We played our first of three Championship games, against Louisburgh on 31st March. We won this game well. We lost the following game against Westport B, but not before the boys put up a decent fight.

As runners-up in our group of three, we were then drawn in a semi-final, away to Breaffy played on 14th April. Unfortunately, we lost badly here. Although we were missing some players for this game, it was a less than ideal way to finish the briefest of campaigns.

Overall, we had 17 training sessions and three matches. This gave the lads some good football before they headed off to their respective U13 and U15 groups.



## U15 Boys (Report by Mike Slattery)

The U15 boys had their first training session on the 3rd of May. At this stage, some of the older lads in the group had a few weeks training with Darren Madden and the U17s, with these additional trainings having the lads up to a higher level at the start of the season. We started with Jim Cannon, Mickey Murray and myself as the coaches. We got a great boost when Darragh Keaveney also joined our team as a coach. The benefits of having a coach who can demonstrate what to do as opposed to just talking about it quickly became obvious!

Due to an administration issue at County level, we were initially placed in error in League Division 2 instead of the provisionally agreed Division 4. With our first game against Ballina Stephenites A, we inevitably took a big defeat. After some further discussions with County Bord na nÓg, we were placed in the originally agreed Division 4.

In this Division, we had wins against Charlestown and Lahardane, but endured defeats to Tourmakeady, Ardroy, and Swinford. We ended level in points on the table with Swinford, winning a playoff against them. In the League Semi-Final, we were knocked out by Tourmakeady.

We were greeted with many of the same teams again in the Championship. After two successive defeats to Tourmakeady in the League, we ominously faced them again in our first Championship game – unfortunately, they went on to win again. Away to Lahardane, we had a memorable comeback near the end of the game to snatch a last second draw, with a clear winner of “Goal of the Season” from Alex Kenning.

The highlight of the season and our best performance was at home against Ballaghaderreen, where a combination of good

attacking play and keeping cool heads, saw us defeat the eventual Championship winners. A resounding victory away to Mayo Gaels followed. Unfortunately, we didn't manage to maintain our momentum in the next home game, having a disappointing loss to Ardroy.

Our season ended in an away Shield Semi-Final defeat to Swinford on the 4th of October. While we didn't secure any silverware this season, I hope the boys would agree that we had a great year. The lads were a really enjoyable and friendly group to work with. Turnout and punctuality for training was really good, with attendance seldom dropping below 16 players. Throughout the season, we saw a clear improvement in skills and fitness levels amongst the group.

Special mention to our fine goalkeeper Louie Corcoran whose piercing solo runs up the pitch were a source of debate, stress and fun at most games among supporters and management, with an even split shouting “keep going!”, and others screaming “get back in goal!”

Thanks to Peter Carney for the use of the Carrowholly National School pitch on a few Sundays – it was a nice size pitch for this age group and competitive for 8-a-side training games.

Thanks also to Keir and Lewis Hills and the U14 lads who joined us mid-season for a few games, bringing a renewed vitality to the group, especially when a few holiday absences started to kick in.

It's important that the lads keep their fitness up and do ball work frequently so that we can really hit the ground running next season and build on the progress of this year.



### Kilmeena Boys U15s

Back row, left to right: Mickey Murray (coach), Oran Grimley, Alan Mortimer, Dean Staunton, Alan Gannon, Cormac O'Malley, Louie Corcoran, Kyle Mulchrone, Patrick Feehan, Rory Kilcoyne, Sean Kilcoyne, Jim Cannon (coach), Mike Slattery (coach).

Front row, left to right: Shane Lavelle, Aaron Murray, Sean Keane, Darragh O'Grady, Brendon Witzl, Cormac Slattery, Alex Kenning, Adam Moran, Eoghan Cannon, Logan Heraty.

Missing from photo: Darragh Keaveney (coach), Darren Daly, Tiernan Aherne, Keir Hills, Lewis Hills.





### U16 West Mayo Championship

Kilmeena U16 competed in the C division of the West Mayo Championship against Castlebar, Burrishoole and Louisburgh. The competition started in early April and the group managed one victory and that came against Louisburgh. It was a tough competition but the lads acquitted themselves very well.

This League was all about development, as most of these guys were going to step up to A level football at U17 in the coming months. We had spent most of the Winter in the GYM

implementing a strength and conditioning program. As the months of the Summer rolled on, the benefits of this training became evident. These young men developed very well this year and I am confident that a lot of them have the ability to go on and play for our adult teams in the future.

I would like to thank all the parents for their support during the Year and also to thank Nigel Madden for his time input and efforts. Also, a big thank you to John Reilly for all his help putting together the S&C programme.

## U17 Boys (Report by Nigel Madden)

The U17 league kicked off in May at St Brendans Park with a great team performance and victory over Westport. Buoyed by this result and with the self belief that they could go far in Division 1, the team traveled to Castlebar to take on a strong Mitchels side. The boys played with determination and heart and held out for a two point victory. After two games the lads were flying high at the top of the league.

A Sunday game against Breaffy had gotten away from us early on, with the home team hitting us with some early goals. Although the lads had a mountain to climb, they never gave up and fought valiantly to get back into the game, unfortunately coming up short. The team didn't let this hiccup hold them back, having two consecutive wins against Knockmore and Ballina. Although the next couple of games brought the lads back down to reality, they were never too far from the challenge.

The lads finished the league in a respectable 5th place, with the focus soon diverted to the next challenge - the U17 A Championship. The team went into each game committed, hoping for a good game of football. The lads were competitive throughout the championship, but came up short on the score

lines. This ended with the team in a Shield Final against St. Jarlaths in Islandeady. Unfortunately, the boys were unable to keep the same momentum that they had reached earlier on in the year, losing the game and ending their journey for the season.

More important than the score lines, we watched this group of young men develop trust in their coaches and one another, improve their skills, and mold into a team that will continue to grow together. We are so proud of this squad that is beaming with potential. We are looking forward to the years ahead, the new challenges, adversity and drive for success, as we move closer to our goals and learn from our losses. These young lads never gave up and never dropped their heads. They exemplified tenacity and a will to win, and as a coach that's all we can ask for!

Thanks to the Kilmeena community who supported this team immensely, even on the more dreary days. Thanks to the parents for getting the lads to training and games, and thanks also to the lads for showing up for themselves with an eagerness to improve!



### Kilmeena Boys U17s

Back row, left to right: Darragh Slattery, Conor Kelly, Aaron Bourke, Joe O'Malley, Micheál Regan, Louie Corcoran, Dylan Staunton, Cormac O'Malley, Dean Staunton, Danny Cannon, Keelan Corcoran, Luke Durkan.

Front row, left to right: Evan O'Grady, DJ Keane, Josh Browne, Rian Kilcoyne, Donal Hastings, Stephen O'Grady, Jack O'Grady, Declan Moore, Aodhán Feehan, John Murphy, Conor Feehan.

## U18 Boys (Report by Padraic Moore)

The traditional U18 Minor Championship was brought forward to Spring this year and played on a divisional basis with the 4 divisional winners progressing. We were in the "A" division with Westport, Castlebar & Breaffy and after reaching the U17A County Final last year we knew if we had a full squad available we could be in the business end of the competition again. However, from the outset we had to plan without three key players due to long term injuries and other commitments. Our opening game was at home to neighbours Westport and in a typical local hard fought derby we ground out a one point victory on a score line of 3-5 to 2-7. What was most pleasing about this victory was the U16 lads we brought up to the squad all looked the part at this level.

In the second round we had Breaffy at home which we ran out 3-13 to 0-10 winners. Our final group game was away to Castlebar and in a highly entertaining tussle, we were defeated by 1-10 to 1-7. Kilmeena, Westport and Castlebar all finished on level points so a three team draw put Westport straight in to the final and ourselves and Castlebar had to go to battle again in a semi-final. This time we had home advantage and in a very entertaining battle we secured victory by the minimum on a score line of 1-6 to 0-8, to set up a much anticipated second meeting with neighbours Westport in the space of three weeks.

On Friday 1st April 2022 Kilmeena Minors wrote their own history with a hard fought, well earned victory over neighbours Westport in a pulsating West Minor A final. Westport came into the final wearing the favourites tag despite been narrowly defeated in round one by the boys in black and white. The game started at a frantic pace and Westport looked much slicker with 4 early points. Kilmeena fought back to reduce the score to the minimum when Westport were awarded a penalty. Evan O'Donnell saved magnificently but to everyone's disbelief the referee ordered it to be retaken, for a second time O'Donnell didn't flinch and kept it out. Westport tagged on two more points to lead by 3, but a purple patch by Kilmeena scoring 1-2 without reply, a cool finish by Conal Gill, to leave Kilmeena 1-5 to 0-6 up at half time. Kilmeena started the second half with real intent and with Liam Moore bossing the middle of the field they reeled off 5 points without reply, but were also guilty of some wayward shooting in this period. Westport fought back with 4 late points but the Kilmeena lads kept the score board ticking to run out deserving winners on a score line of 1-12 to 0-11 to land the club's first Minor A title.

Evan O'Donnell was superb and assured in goal, Joseph O'Malley, Jack Mulchrone and Donal Hastings were outstanding in the full back line and dealt with everything Westport threw at them. The half back line of Ciaran Kilcoyne, Conor Feehan, Conor Kelly and Keelan Corcoran defended heroically and drove forward at every opportunity. At midfield Liam Moore gave a master class of high fielding and tagged four long ranged points for good measure. Colin Hastings covered every blade of grass and linked play at every chance. A return of six points from our half forward line of Darragh Slattery, Josh Browne and Brian Durkan meant they were always an attacking threat. Sean Gallagher and Conal Gill's constant movement inside meant that Westport's full back line was always on alert and their work rate was a joy to watch where they turned the Westport defence over time and time again and also contributing 1-01 to the score line. Michael Regan and Adam O'Grady came in as late subs and both contributed to this famous victory.

Just three days later on Monday 4th April, Kilmeena were back in action in the County semi final against Ballina Stephenites in Foxford. This was a pulsating affair which ended in a point win for Kilmeena. In a game that both teams went at it hammer and tongs the result was in doubt right to the final whistle.

Later on that same week Friday 8th April Kilmeena's bid to land the club's first County Minor A title failed to materialise against a much fresher Moy Davitts side. There was great anticipation in the Kilmeena camp after two massive victories over Ballina Stephenites and Westport. The third big game in a week seemed a bridge too far and Kilmeena looked leg weary and void of ideas all over the pitch. Moy Davitts on the other hand looked sharp and fresh and led by 8 points to 2 after twenty minutes. Kilmeena's task was dealt two major blows before half time when first they were reduced to fourteen men and shortly after Moy Davitts found the net to lead 1-09 to 0-02 at half time. In the second half Kilmeena battled very hard in what was an uphill struggle, but a missed penalty, four shots back off the post and a number of poor wides summed up Kilmeena's evening as a whole. Moy Davitts ran out deserving winners 1-13 to 0-06. Kilmeena will look back at this performance with regret as proved in previous matches they were capable of much better.

Kilmeena can look back on the Minor campaign of 2022 with real pride having reached the club's first County Minor A final.



### Kilmeena Boys U18s

Back row, left to right: Pat Mulchrone, Luke Durkan, Cormac O'Malley, Rian Kilcoyne, Sean Gallagher, Dylan Staunton, Joseph O'Malley, Evan O'Donnell, Liam Moore, Darragh Slattery, Brian Durkan, Conor Kelly, Finley Gibbons, Adam O'Grady, Padraic Moore.

Front row, left to right: Micheál Regan, John Murphy, Keelan Corcoran, Conal Gill, Stephen O'Grady, Jack O'Grady, Cormac Feehan, Josh Browne, Colin Hastings, Conor Feehan, Donal Hastings, Ciarán Kilcoyne, Jack Mulchrone, Harry Sheridan, Neil O'Donnell





## Connacht Junior Club Final Kilmeena v St. Patrick's Sligo

Having overcome a dogged Athenry side in the Connacht Semi Final, we had a four week break, which spanned the Christmas holidays. In that time we prepared thoroughly for our clash with St Pats from Sligo. It wasn't lost on us that Markievicz Park had been a graveyard for past Mayo teams.

So, on a wintry day in early January we took the field knowing we would have to be at our best in order to overcome the tough physical West Sligo outfit. In the first half Kilmeena took control early on and kept taking points until an eight point gap had opened up by half time.

St. Patrick's needed a stirring start to the second half, but it was the Kilmeena men who kept the foot to the pedal, and a Niall Ryan goal put the result beyond doubt. The Connacht title was won with a comprehensive win on the score of 1-18 to 0-5.



## All Ireland Junior Club Semi-Final Kilmeena v Clonbullogue (Offaly)

There was no avoiding the big prize lying in wait for the victors of this game. Croke Park is the venue that every player dreams of. Our obstacle was the men from Clonbullogue in Offaly. Having stormed their way through Leinster, we knew they were going to be tough opponents, as they carried a potent goal threat.

A bright day dawned for what would be a defining day in the history of both clubs. Pearse Park in Longford was the scene at the end of January. The Kilmeena boys were in no mood to hang around, and before the game hit the 5 minute mark, we had raised the white flag three times. The Offaly men got their first score but in a devastating spell of football, Kilmeena hit 1-7 without reply. The game was effectively over at half time as Kilmeena entered the dressing rooms with an 11 point cushion. The second half was about putting in a workmanlike performance to see the game through to a 1-18 to 0-6 conclusion.

The scene was set for the greatest of days.





## Seniors (continued)

### All Ireland Junior Club Final – Feb 6th 2022

#### Kilmeena v Gnee McGuilla

Our opponents were inevitably going to be the Kerry champions – Gnee McGuilla. Of course, it was always going to be that way given that Kerry teams had won 8 out of the last 12 Junior Club titles. Could the men from Clew Bay stem the tide of Green and Gold and write their way into the annals of Gaelic Games forever.

The game started at a blistering pace. Both defences were working hard, with scores at a premium. In a see saw first half, the Kerry men went in at the short whistle a point to the good. Kilmeena began to exert their dominance against the Kerry outfit, who were finding it difficult to deal with the work rate and physicality from our boys. As the game entered the final 10 minutes, Kilmeena finally struck for home and opened up a three point gap as the game now hurtled towards its conclusion. And then disaster struck...the proverbial dagger to the heart as Gnee McGuilla fired the ball to the net at the Hill one minute into injury time.

As the final whistle sounded, it seemed that once again the footballing gods were about to crush the dreams of a Mayo team in Croke Park. But not today, not this group of warriors. As we huddled together in the centre of the pitch, there was clarity of thought and a determination to finish the job. Extra time was a whirlwind of just sheer bloody mindedness from this group of young men. They refused to lie down, and instead literally hit the Kerry men with everything they had. A staggering 10 turnovers in the tackle in those final 20 minutes tells its own story. Gnee McGuilla didn't know what hit

them, and a stirring display was capped by points from the ages from Joey and Keavo.

The final whistle saw wild scenes of joy, as the black and white hordes celebrated the greatest of days and Seanie Ryder lifted the trophy, which had been fought for and won so valiantly. This was a day that will be talked about for many generations in West Mayo. Old men and women will remember the day when they as children were in Croke Park to witness their heroes in black and white vanquish the men from East Kerry, and write their way into history.



### AIB All-Ireland Junior Club Football Champions 2021/22

Back row, left to right: Michael Ryan, Kevin Ryder, Tomás Gill, Joey Smyth, Niall Ryan, Paddy Keane, Niall Feehan, Stephen Staunton, Paul Groden, Andrew Grealis, Ben Lennon, Chris McGlynn, Jack Carney, James Groden, Kian Moore, Ronan O'Donnell, Brian Mortimer, Seán Moore, Ryan McGonagle, John Doherty, Peter Carney, Jason Barry.





### Intermediate Championship 2022

Going into this year's Intermediate Championship really was a step into the unknown. It was difficult to gauge what the impact of the Junior Championship campaign would have. Would it provide a springboard for more heroics on the pitch, or would the exertions of the Winter finally catch up with a group who had thrown absolutely everything at their tilt at history?

The group we were drawn in was immediately given the label of being the group of death, and it certainly lived up to that tag. Our first game pitched us against our old rivals Kilmaine on our home ground in Kilmeena. Played in front of a passionate home support, the game started off with both teams raising early green flags. However, in the latter part of the first half and early part of the second half, Kilmeena put Kilmaine under serious pressure high up the pitch to open up a significant gap, and despite conceding a late goal, our boys ran out deserved winners by two points.

The second round saw us travelling to Hollymount to take on the local side. Kilmeena had the hosts seriously on the rack in the first half, with a three point half time lead not a reflection of their first half dominance. However, the second half was a complete turnaround. Hollymount closed the gap within minutes of the restart, and went on to open up a significant gap before running out easy winners.

The final group game against Kiltimagh was set for Ballintubber. Going into the final round of games, all four teams were on two points each. We knew a draw would see us through to



the next round, but nothing less than a win was our aim going into this critical tussle. We started off nervously and hesitant, and at half time found ourselves five points down, and heading for the exit door. Half time was all about stripping everything down, and as a result, an absolutely astounding first 15 minutes of the second half followed with Kilmeena hitting 10 points without reply. Kiltimagh hit back as the tide turned again, and in a frantic finish, we secured the draw that was needed to get to the quarter final.

The quarter final saw us face off against Ballinrobe in Mayo Abbey. This was quite possibly our best performance of the



Front row, left to right: Eoin Sweeney, John Reilly, Daniel O'Malley, Keith Joyce, Darragh Keaveney, Conor Madden, Seán Ryder (Captain), Johnny McGlynn, Chris Heanue, Seán Barrett, John Ryan, John Keane, Kieran Sheridan, Neil Duffy, Pat Mulchrone.





Many pundits throughout the County were scratching their heads as to how a team preparing for a Junior Final last November were now getting ready for an Intermediate Final. It was no surprise to anyone within the group, as we knew we had the ability, and certainly had the heart and desire to be there. In the final against Ballyhaunis, it proved to be a step too far. Our opponents are a fine team, and in a game which see-sawed throughout, we just didn't get the scores in our periods of dominance.

This was a thrilling campaign, and the margins in each of our games were no more than the kick of a ball. This is the beauty of Intermediate football, and this year we proved that we can take our place among the leading teams to challenge for honours. The year has been an incredible journey, and once again this group of players deserve all the plaudits they get for their honesty, and integrity on the pitch and no lack of ability.

campaign. Kilmeena were dominant for long periods of the game. Going into the final quarter, we were one point down when the Robe edged themselves ahead and in the middle of a purple patch. However, once again this group of players proved their strength of mind, and kicked four unanswered points to run out three point winners.

The semi final in Islandeady saw us confront favourites Bohola Moy Davitts. This game played in front of a large attendance was a real tactical battle. Kilmeena hit the net in the first half to open up a gap, and from there to the finish, Moy Davitts weren't able to get control of the scoreboard, and again we ran out three point winners to end up in an Intermediate final.







## Development Squad: Junior C Championship 2022

(Report by John Doherty)

One of our aims this season was to successfully integrate a swathe of young players into adult football. In the past few years, a significant number of young players have emerged from underage in Kilmeena. It is a testament to the quality of coaching and the ethos of the club that so many young players of ability, and with the right attitude are now swelling the ranks of our adult teams.

So, as we embarked on our 2022 campaign, we decided that our second team squad would be our development squad, and with a fair sprinkling of seasoned veterans to help them along the way, this development squad would see a significant amount of football in the course of the year.

The group had successful runs in the Division 5 league securing promotion, and going all the way to the West Mayo Junior B Final. However, they went one step further in securing the County Junior C Championship, which will see us competing in Junior B next year.

This campaign began with a home game against Killala, and in a very one sided contest, Kilmeena ran out winners by 4-19 to 0-3.

The second round game was away to Bonnicconlon, and this proved to be a much closer affair with us edging them out by 2 points in a 0-13 to 18 scoreline.

Castlebar Mitchels conceded the final group game to leave us in a quarter final.

We were drawn against Ballinrobe in Tourmakeady, and in a rip roaring championship game, we emerged victors by 1-14 to 2-8

In the semi final, we were up against Knockmore in Castlebar. Our opponents certainly threw everything at us in a tough



first half, but Kilmeena took control of the game in the second half to run out winners by 1-10 to 0-8.

The final was played in Clogher and we were up against Kilmaine. This certainly was an enthralling contest with no more than a kick of the ball separating the teams through the whole game. In the end, Kilmeena finished strong to take the title by 1-12 to 2-8.

This was certainly a successful campaign for our development squad which resulted in plenty of games for our emerging players, some of whom went on to secure first team squad places in our Intermediate campaign.



### Kilmeena Development Squad

Back row, left to right: Adam O'Grady, Ciaran Kilcoyne, Brian Mortimer, Evan O'Donnell, Liam Moore, Keith Joyce, Seán Moore, Brian Durkan.  
Front row, left to right: Cormac McDonagh, Ben Lennon, Ryan McGonagle, Colin Hastings, Oisín Grimley, Daniel O'Malley, Cillian O'Grady.



## U6 & U8 Girls (Report by Sheila Bohan)

We started our U6/U8 season in April and finished up in September. We had a fantastic bunch of enthusiastic girls attend each Wednesday with coaches and girls thoroughly enjoying the season. Sessions focused on basic skills, coordination and some fun games to finish. It was wonderful to see the skills improve with every session.

We are lucky to have a very talented bunch of girls, with some even incorporating dance and gymnastics moves into the sessions. We were also kept highly entertained with stories

from home, many of which being stories of how good their dads were at football.

A special thanks to the parents who took the time to bring these girls to training. We had 31 girls with us this year with representation from Carrowholly, Fahy and Kilmeena. The future of ladies football in Kilmeena is bright.

Coaches: Mags Ryder, Sheila Bohan, Fiona Groden, Jamie Browne, Trish Chambers



### Kilmeena Girls U6/U8

Back row, left to right: Lucy Bourke, Sophie Hopkins, Jessica Kelly, Lilly Sheridan, Cara Ivan, Madison Browne, Katie McKenna, Annie Mularkey, Kayla Armstrong, Molly Fox, Cliodna Ryder, Sabhdh Martin, Holly Hastings, Emma Mongey, Ava Bourke.

Front row, left to right: Ava McKenna, Lilly O' Malley, Emily Smyth, Lillian Coyne, Neala Barry, Michaela Kenny, Kate Mulloy, Ellie Staunton, Abbie O'Donnell, Aoibheann Cawley, Annie Cawley.

Missing from photo: Anna Browne, Aoibheann Hyland, Iris Kaye, Connie Quinn, Roisin Goggins.

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## U10 Girls (Report by Richie Goggins)

For the 19 girls who registered for Under 10 this year, the focus was on skill development and all of our training sessions were based around this. We began training on Wednesday 27th April for this season. Our games were confined to blitzes this year and we competed in three separate blitzes throughout the season.

Our first blitz was our own Under 10 blitz played in St. Brendan's Park in Kilmeena. On a day that was more akin to a monsoon rather than playing football, our girls gave an excellent account of themselves against Louisburgh and Burrenshoole.

Our second outing of the year was in Westport, where in Mediterranean like heat, we played against Breaffy, Westport and Islandeady. Our team's outstanding performances earned us a place in the final of the 'B' competition where a strong performance saw us victorious against a strong Breaffy side.

Our third and final outing of the year was the County blitz which took place in the Connacht Centre of Excellence in Began. Organised by the County committee, this festival of football took place amidst glorious sunshine. We played two Castlebar teams and MacHale Rovers.

The girls gave an excellent account of themselves on the day

as they done previously across all our games this year and were rewarded with medals, but the highlight of the trip was stopping at the shop on the way home!

Throughout the season the focus has been on improvement and equal participation for all of our players. This philosophy has served our group well and has seen a great improvement in participation and skill levels. All of our players have developed and improved and the future looks bright for our group.

A huge thank you to Noreen Johnson and our Healthy Club Committee who supplied fabulous training tops to our team - they are being worn with pride since we have received them! We finished our season with a presentation evening and a recap on Wednesday 21st September and certificates were presented to all our players and refreshments (provided by Lesley Feehan) were enjoyed by all. Wishing all of our players all the best for 2023 and here's hoping to building on the successes they have enjoyed to date. Many thanks to all who helped our girls this year: Lesley Feehan, Suzanne Cawley and Emma Jane Gill who worked hard organising training; to all of our parents who ensured we were on time for training and matches and especially to our players who gave such tremendous commitment and dedication throughout the year.





### Kilmeena Girls U10

Back row, left to right: Éabha Feehan, Sheena Cawley, Stacey Lea-Fiebig, Ellen McDonagh, Eleanor Munroe, Lauren Munroe, Sadhbh McGauley, Kate Cawley. Front row, left to right: Aoife Durkan, Grace Cunningham, Millie Chambers, Faith Duffy, Amy Joyce, Bethany Staunton, Éabha Goggins, Isla Concannon, Holly Fortune. Missing from photo: Lydia Ní Fhaoileáin and Anna Lyttle.

## U12 Girls (Report by Caragh Ryan)

Our U12 girls happily returned to the pitch on Wednesday 23rd March this year. We started off our season with the U12 Grading League where we met with other West Mayo clubs including Islandeady, Achill, Westport, Louisburgh and Burrishoole – all of whom were quite strong. Following the Grading League we moved onto the summer league where we met Aughamore, Claremorris B and Tourmakeady. Although neither of the leagues went our way, the girls progressed well showing more competitiveness as the season went on.

We then went on to start our U13 season. We were grouped with Breaffy, Kiltaine, Knockmore, St Brigids, Kiltimagh and Achill. We competed very well in this group, finishing 3rd which brought us to a semi-final against the top of the table team, Breaffy B. Unfortunately, we did not take a space in the County final and Breaffy B went on to win this competition.

We had plans to continue on our season for an extra few weeks by organising a few games for our U11 girls with other local clubs, however, the majority of clubs had wrapped up their season earlier as a result of the poor weather.

On behalf of Mairead, Aidan, Bernie, Denise, Paul and myself we would like to wish the girls moving up to U14s the very best of luck and we look forward to seeing the rest of the girls back next year. On behalf of our U12 squad and management we would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our Healthy Club Committee for sponsoring us our half zips this year. We would also like to extend a massive thank you to Michael Gavin and Padraig Walsh for joining us with their expertise and dedication to our U13 girls team this season. It is safe to say the girls AND coaches learnt a lot from you both. Have a lovely Christmas!



### Kilmeena Girls U12

Back row, left to right: Emma Gannon, Florence O'Toole, Tegan Muldoon, Ellie Mai Keane, Muireann Mulchrone, Grainne Feehan, Cara Mongey, Leah Gavin-Walsh, Aoibhinn Lyons. Front row, left to right: Chloe Monaghan, Rachel Feehan, Shauna Durkan, Aishling Lawless, Emily Fahy, Molly Mulchrone, Cailín McPhillips, Katie Moran and Alisha Malone. Missing from photo: Julie O'Grady, Freya Higgins, Layla Staunton, Niamh Byrne and Siún Aherne.



## U14 Girls (Report by David Ingham)

Our under 14 girls had their first training session on March 23rd. We had nine girls registered this year, so we depended upon the under 12s to join us on match days.

In the league we had three group games, followed by a semi-final. In the first game we took the short trip to Islandeady on a wet and windy evening in early April. Victory went to the home team on a very challenging evening for football. We hosted Kiltimagh next, where the girls put in a strong second half, but Kiltimagh took the win in the end. Our final group game was against Westport. In a very competitive match, our girls lost by two points. Our final game in the league was the shield semi-final against Davitts where the home team took the spoils.

With the league over we moved on to the championship, where in our first game we hosted Mayo Gaels. The girls had

their first win of the season in a very entertaining and high scoring game. We then travelled (by bus) to Cill Chomainn, where the home side got the vital scores to take the win. In the last game of the group, we played Castlebar B. Our girls gave it their all but lost out by a few points. In the shield semi-final we played Kiltane at home, in what turned out to be our last game of the season. The girls put in a big effort to get to the final, but just came up short on the day.

Overall, it was a challenging season for everyone involved with a lot of rescheduling of games due to the small panel we had, but we fulfilled all our fixtures. I'd like to thank you to all the girls and their parents, especially the U12s who made themselves available on match days. Thanks to Annette and Michelle who were there for the training sessions.

Management team: David Ingham, Annette Lonergan.



### Kilmeena Girls U14

Back row, left to right: Mary Kate Lonergan, Eva Mulchrone, Ameila Fahy, Charley Coyle, Catherine Lawless, Roisín Brady, Laura Ingham, David Ingham (manager).

Front row, left to right: Leah Gavin-Walshe, Grainne Feehan, Julie O'Grady, Aoibhinn Lyons, Cara Mongey, Aishling O'Connell.

Missing from photo: Ellie-Mai Keane and Aisling Lawless.

## U16 Girls (Report by Colm Barrett)

Our League 2B campaign kicked off on the 27th of March with a three-game schedule, a home game against McHale Rovers followed by away games against Swinford-Killasser and Belmullet.

We lost our first two games to much stronger oppositions however we did manage to overcome Belmullet away in a very competitive game, as a result of winning this fixture we qualified for the shield 2B final against Kilmovee Shamrocks, which was played at a neutral venue (Parke). This was a very exciting game as both teams gave it their all. Thankfully, Kilmeena got early goals in this contest which proved just enough to getting our ladies over the line, but not without some nervous moments coming to the finish. Nonetheless it was a very good evening for this group. In winning the shield, these ladies became the first U16 girls team from Kilmeena to secure silverware.

Following a lengthy gap in the season our championship started on the 23rd of August. Our first game was against Charlestown, followed by Augamore and finally we played McHales Rovers. In all these games Kilmeena were very effective but with opposition proving to be more clinical. However, from this we qualified for the championship shield semi-final against Moy Davitts. Unfortunately Moy Davitts were too strong and we did not progress.

As the season comes to an end, we look forward to the next chapter for these girls on their football journey.

A massive thank you to the U14 girls who stepped up to this group and also to Laura Madden, Maura Hastings & David Ingham for their assistance on match days and training sessions.





### Kilmeena Girls U16

Back row, left to right: Catherine Lawless, Eva Mulchrone, Niamh McNamara, Laura Ingham, Aoife Gannon, Éabha Carney, Emma Barrett, Lisa Hastings, Katie Moran, Abbie Quinn, Chloe McGlynn.

Front row, left to right: Mary Kate Lonergan, Laura O'Grady, Ciara Kelly, Ruby Lane, Áine Gallagher, Amy Carney, Julie O'Grady, Róisín Feehan. Missing from photo: Siófra Hughes, Aoife Walshe.

## Minor Ladies (Report by Pete Mortimer)

2022 was a challenging year for the Kilmeena Minor Ladies. As there were only seven ladies at minor age, we relied heavily on the support of the U16s to field our team all year.

We had a good league campaign with wins away to Breaffy and at home to Belmullet, which resulted in our ladies making a semi final place. The semi-final was away to Moy Davitts. Our ladies put in a supreme effort but came up just short on a scoreline 3-10 to 3-09.

The Championship campaign was a challenge in that it was a struggle to field a team for each game. We lost to Kilmovee Shamrocks and Tourmakeady and had to concede to Belmullet. However, we did qualify for the Shield Semi Final against Hollymount which was won comfortably on a

scoreline of 5-19 to 4-04, played in Kilmeena.

The Shield Final was scheduled for The GAA Centre of Excellence in Began. On a beautiful sunny Sunday the Kilmeena ladies completely outclassed Tourmakeady to comfortably win on a scoreline of 3-14 to 3-02.

Thanks to all the ladies for their effort and commitment during the year. Special thanks to the U16 girls and management, without whom we would not have been able to field a team. Thanks also to Martin McIntyre for taking photographs.

Management team: Pete Mortimer, Ollie Mulchrone, Davy Feehan and Maura Hastings.



### Kilmeena Minor Ladies

Back row, left to right: Ollie Mulchrone, Maura Hastings, Grace Gibbons, Ciara Kelly, Holly Barrett, Áine Regan, Áine Gallagher, Aoife Gannon, Katie Moran, Hattie Cox, Aimee Ingham, Eabha Carney, Pete Mortimer, Davy Feehan.

Front row, left to right: Orla McGlinchey, Emma Murray, Niamh McNamara, Laura O'Grady, Abbie Quinn, Lisa Hastings, Siófra Hughes, Ruby Lane, Amy Carney.



## Junior Ladies (Report by Róisín Carney)

The 2022 season for Kilmeena Junior ladies has been one of great success and development. Off the back of two county final losses last year, the team and management gathered in early February with one goal in mind: County final success. This year's panel consisted of over 40 women and girls: many returning players, some new recruits and a number of minor girls making their junior debuts.

No time was wasted in getting training underway in preparation for the opening fixture of the Frank Kelly memorial league on 13th of March. Although we were not ultimately victorious in the competition, it provided us with a great opportunity to develop chemistry, confidence, and character within the new and developing panel.

Our league campaign began on 7th of July, and at that point it was clear that the team was beginning to find its shape and develop momentum. We had great success in the group stages with victories over Kilmaine, Claremorris B and Achill, resulting in the team topping the group. Our league semi-final was a home fixture against a tenacious and determined Tourmakeady team. The concession of two late goals resulted in the team narrowly missing out on a place in the County final by just two points.

After a short two weeks of training to regroup and refocus, the team were prepared for the first Championship fixture against Westport B. Earlier in the season our girls suffered a heavy defeat to Westport B with a score line of 2-17 to 1-05. Remarkably, the team mirrored the previous score line with a 2-17 to 1-05 victory over the neighbouring side. The team gained huge confidence off the back of this victory and continued their run of success with comfortable victories over Balla and Carnacon B.

As we edged ever closer to our goal, Ballinrobe became the penultimate hurdle in our race to the final. This semi-final game was one of great drama and excitement; we had

extended our lead to five points after 15 minutes, however a strong and fast-paced Ballinrobe side managed to clock up the scores to leave both teams level at half time. After a very dramatic second half, the team managed to hold out a three point lead when the final whistle sounded, securing our place in the County final.

Just a few short hours after our semi-final victory, we were informed that we would be facing league finalists, Tourmakeady in the battle for the championship title. The County final fixture was set for the 14th of October which left us with a very short five day window to refocus for the final fixture of the season. Given the result of our previous fixture against the side, we knew we had to prepare for a game that would demand both physical and mental resilience.

On the evening of the 14th of October in the COE, temperatures were low, the wind was strong, and the rain was heavy – but these were the least of our worries! As the throw-in whistle sounded, we settled into the game very well. Our shot execution and forward play was exceptional which was supported by a strong and disciplined defence. We established a comfortable lead going into half time at 3-06 to 0-05. Although the half-time score line was promising, we remained cognisant of the determination and resilience displayed by Tourmakeady in late August. We vowed to each other to 'keep the foot firmly on the gas' and not to become complacent. We held firm, showed hunger and conviction as we continued to keep the scoreboard ticking to finish with a comprehensive victory against the Gaeltacht side (5-08 to 1-06). Scenes of joy spilled across the field from supporters and panel members as the rain fell heavily on this memorable night. History had been made.

As we progress now to Junior A and aspire to continue to build momentum and strengthen the club, we would like to acknowledge and thank those who have been influential in the success we have found to date; to all our supporters who have travelled



**Kilmeena Junior Ladies**

Back row, left to right: Pete Mortimer, Aoife Moran, Lucy O'Malley, Katie Moran, Niamh O'Connor, Nina Mathastein, Laura Madden, Cailin Cunniffe, Mary Duffy, Grace Gibbons, Orla McGlinchey, Eabha Carney, Aine Regan, Aoife Gannon, Maureen Joyce, Sheila Bohan, Fiona Groden, Margaret Ryder, Sarah Hogan, Katie Hogan, Emma Jane Gill, Keeley Hastings, Annie Morrin, Holly Barrett, Aoife Gibbons, Davy Feehan.





and cheered over the past eight months; to the Club for their continued support; to our photographer Martin McNytre for his time and dedication; to our physiotherapist Julie Moore for her diligence and care; to our strength and conditioning coach Maureen Joyce who has been instrumental in developing and strengthening our panel. Thank you all very much.

We would also like to extend our thanks to our sponsors Payslip and Beirne Express for their generosity during these unprecedented times. Your contributions have supported us greatly in providing our large panel with bespoke teamwear and equipment.

We would also like to acknowledge those who have worked

tirelessly to establish and develop the Ladies Club; John McDonald, Trish Hogan and Ollie Mulchrone. We thank you all sincerely for the time and effort you have given in developing a ladies club in our parish.

Finally, a special word of thanks to our management team: Pete Mortimer, Ollie Mulchrone, Davy Feehan and Maureen Joyce. We will be forever indebted to you all for the time you have given to our team both on and off the pitch. We sincerely thank you all for your dedication, enthusiasm, passion and support which has been the foundation of our success.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh.



Front row, left to right: Ollie Mulchrone, Sarah Harper, Megan O'Malley, Abbie Quinn, Sarah Mulchrone, Rachel Keane, Siobhan Golden, Laura Kelly, Roisin Carney, Ciara Joyce, Lisa Hastings, Shannon Bourke, Jaimee Geraghty, Caragh Ryan, Emma Murray, Rachel Gibbons, Molly Moore, Julia Szejner,











# Kilmeena GAA Healthy Club Project – a year in review

(Report by Noreen Johnston)

On the 12th November, the national Healthy Club conference took place in Croke Park rounding off another hugely successful year for the GAA Healthy Club Project. This year saw the number of participating clubs reach 450 with 20 of those in Mayo. Each club brings something different to the mix, which makes this project so successful. This year sees the project enter a new two-year phase. Within those two years, the 450 participating clubs will aim to achieve either foundation, silver or gold status by completing a list of tasks. Kilmeena GAA Healthy Club is well on course to achieve gold status.

This year we saw the following initiatives being undertaken within Kilmeena GAA Club all coming under the umbrella of the Healthy Club project:

- In January 2022 we had our first Ireland Lights Up walks which will return in January 2023.



- Social Rounders has proven to be very popular and is now firmly established within the club. What started out as a social project has been hugely successful in a short period of time bringing our rounders team all the way to an All-Ireland semi-final. Mayo Sports Partnership has been a great support throughout. Congratulations to all involved in making the rounders team so successful.
- Our local card players are delighted to have the 25 cards back on Monday nights in the Clubhouse. A huge thank you to those who ensure the continuation of this event.
- We are very lucky to have our Ladies fitness classes continue twice weekly in the newly upgraded gym.
- Community Cuppa is a new initiative started this year providing an opportunity for our wider community to meet for a chat and a cuppa once a month after Sunday mass. Thank you to our Community Centre committee who have been hugely supportive of this initiative.
- Our first GAA for All event took place this year. Together with Mayo Sports Partnership we facilitated an inclusive come and try day in our Club to get this new initiative off the ground. This event coincided with European Week of Sport and allowed us to partake in the National Inclusion Fitness Day. Our GAA for All coaches aim to have a regular schedule of events in the coming year. Thank you to Mayo Sports Partnership for all the support and resources made available to us to make this dream a reality.



- Mayo Sports Partnership is not the only organisation with whom we have made contact this year, Croi, Get Ireland Walking, Sport Ireland, Mayo GAA Health & Wellbeing Committee, Downs Syndrome Ireland, CARA, Samaritans Roundle Initiative, Breast Cancer Research Ireland, Bodywhys, Mayo Public Participation Network, Mindspace and the Mayo Mental Health Association are some of the many organisations whose resources we have benefitted from over the past year. Links to events, training and information provided by these various organisations are advertised through our new social media outlets and the new Healthy Club section on Kilmeena GAA website.

The Healthy Club project aims to help GAA clubs explore how they contribute to the health and wellbeing of their members by providing opportunities to develop their physical, social, emotional, and psychological health. Kilmeena GAA Healthy Club is proving to be a success story in this wonderful project and we look forward to bringing you new initiatives for the year ahead.

Thank you as always to those within our Club and our wider community for your continued support. Follow us on Kilmeena GAA Healthy Club Facebook page and Instagram page and our new Healthy Club section on [www.kilmeenagaclub.ie](http://www.kilmeenagaclub.ie)





# Cúl Camp 2022

KILMEENA GAA NEWSLETTER 2022



This year's hugely successful Cúl Camp took place at Kilmeena GAA pitch from Monday 23rd July to Friday 27th July.





# Kilmeena GAA Club Dinner Dance 2022



The evening started with the Clew Bay Pipe Band leading the All-Ireland winning men's Senior team in to the room



Most Improved Player of the Year, Paul Groden, receives the award from John Prenty, Secretary of Connacht GAA, and John Reilly, manager



Mens Players' Player of the Year, Niall Feehan, accepting the Cillian McDonagh Memorial shield from Cormac McDonagh



Minor Player of the Year, Jack Mulchrone, accepting the Alan Browne Memorial shield from Anto Browne



Mens Young Player of the Year, Jack Carney, accepting the Barrett Family Memorial shield from Joe Barrett



Club Person of the Year, John Reilly (Senior team manager), receives his award from Rory Smyth, Mid West Furniture (sponsor)





Ladies Senior Player of the Year: Fiona Groden accepting the Noreen Feehan Memorial shield from Davy Feehan



A special presentation of appreciation was made by John Prenty, Secretary of Connacht Council, and team captain Sean Ryder to Michael Ryan (Senior team kitman) and Julie Moore (Senior team physio)



Siobhan Golden, Players' Player of the Year with John Prenty, Secretary of Connacht GAA



Ciara Joyce Minor Player of the year with John Prenty, Secretary of Connacht GAA



Ladies team with Pete Mortimer (Manager) and selectors Davy Feehan and Maureen Joyce. Unavoidably absent was selector, Ollie Mulchrone



# Paddy Golden Memorial Blitz

The Annual Kilmeena GAA U10 Paddy Golden Memorial Blitz made a welcome return on Saturday 11th June after a gap of two years due to Covid restrictions.

The day started a little wet with a blustery wind but this certainly didn't dampen the enthusiasm of these future stars. 27 teams with almost 400 boys and girls took part.

Six teams participated in the boys A section with Balla and Kilmeena topping their respective groups in a fiercely competitive section. Each facing the runners up of their alternative groups. The home team faced strong opposition from their neighbours Westport in a very close semi-final encounter, however the Kilmeena boys were unable to see off their opposition on this occasion losing on a tight score line of 1-02 to 0-03. Westport marched on to face Balla in the A final cheered on by the huge visiting crowd. It was a tight encounter from start to finish with the prevailing wind playing a significant role in the two halves. At the final whistle the cheers from the Westport camp indicated to all spectators, whose name was to be etched onto the silverware. Westport 3-04 to Balla 1-03.

Eight teams contested for B section title in a large group with almost all west Mayo clubs represented. Ballintubber and Tourmakeady emerged from their respective groups to put themselves centre stage for the B final. Ballintubber continued their winning streak, proving too strong for the Tourmakeady side, outscoring them by 3-05 to 2-02.

Section C was made up of four teams which were run off in one group with Parke facing the host club in the final. It was a tight competitive game, where the Kilmeena lads showed true grit but were outscored narrowly by the boys in amber and black. Final score was Parke 5-02 to Kilmeena 3-0

The girls section proved every bit as entertaining as their male counterparts. This competition was divided into two sections. Four teams contested for the A title; with Burrishoole, Westport, Carnacon and Islandeady all scoring well in their opening games. On the day, Carnacon ladies showed more hunger, and blazed through to the final with only Burrishoole standing in their way of the top prize.

The final was a good competitive game of football, both teams giving it everything. The Burrishoole girls defended well but were unable to stem the scoring of the girls in green and red. Carancon emerged victorious on a score line of 6-02 to 1-02.

Five teams participated in the girls B section. There was a total of 10 games played in this round ensuring the girls had lots of opportunities to showcase their skills. Kilmeena, Burrishoole, Louisburgh, Westport and Balla clubs were all well represented. The games were competitive and proved very entertaining to the visiting crowd. However, it was Louisburgh and Westport B who marched forward from the group. The final proved to be an evenly matched affair with Westport B outscoring their neighbours by 3-02 to 1-02

Well done to all the boys and girls who participated in the blitz and congratulations to the winning teams. We would like to express our gratitude to the Golden family, Carrowholly, for their continued sponsorship of this event.

A huge community effort is put into making this blitz successful. It takes a massive effort to plan and run this event. So, to all the club volunteers; parking stewards, referees, umpires, pitch coordinators, first aiders, photographers, score takers, MC's, shop assistants, kitchen helpers and those who brought food - míle buiochas daoibh go leir!









# Kilmeena GAA Fashion Show Fundraiser

A fantastic night of fashion, fundraising and craic was held by Kilmeena GAA Club at the fashion show in Knockranny House Hotel on October 20th. The club's organising committee would like to thank our fantastic models, MC, supporters and all those who helped in organising the event.

A donation from the funds raised was made to Breast Cancer Ireland.









# Bord na nÓg Presentation

## Local League presentations



Gibbons Cup Winners: Austin Gibbons presenting to team captain Finn Mulchrone



Ryan Cup Winners: Paul Ryan presenting to team captain Donnachta McGauley



William Quinn Cup Winners: Abbie Quinn presenting to team captain Noah Coughlan



Ryan Cup Runners Up team captained by Jack Ivin



Kelly Cup Winners: Mairead Durkan (Secretary of Bord na nÓg) presented the Kelly cup on behalf of the family to the girls Section B captain, Gráinne Feehan



Mulloy Cup: Kitty Mulloy presenting to team captain Shauna Durkan



William Quinn Cup Runners Up team captained by Darragh Mulchrone



Gibbons Cup Runners Up team captained by Alan Heanue





## Players of the Year



U12 Girls: Aoibhinn Lyons receiving her award from Mairead Durkan and Róisín Carney



U16 Girls: Ruby Lane receiving her award from Colm Barrett and Róisín Carney



U14 Boys: Logan Heraty receiving his award from Mike Slattery and Paul Groden



U15 Boys: Louie Corcoran receiving his award from Mickey Murray and John Reilly



U13 Girls: Katie Moran receiving her award from Aidan Moran and Róisín Carney



U12 Boys: Noah Coughlan receiving his award from Michael Gavin and Paul Groden



U16 Boys - Micheál Regan receiving his award from Darren Madden and John Reilly



U14 Girls: Leah Walsh receiving her award from David Ingham and Róisín Carney



U13 Boys: Cian Moran receiving his award from Barry Murphy and John Reilly



U17 Boys: Joseph O'Malley receiving his award from Darren Madden and Paul Groden



# Bord na nÓg Presentation

## Presentations to Girls Winning Teams



### Minor Girls C Shield Winners

Back row, left to right: John Reilly, Paul Groden, Pete Mortimer, Aoife Gannon, Niamh McNamara, Katie Moran, Ciara Kelly, Emma Barrett, Ruby Lane, Grace Gibbons, Éabha Carney, Amy Ingham, Róisín Carney, Ollie Mulchrone.

Front row, left to right: Hattie Cox, Laura O'Grady, Amy Carney, Siofra Hughes, Áine Gallagher, Lisa Hastings, Abbie Quinn, Roisin Feehan  
Missing from photo: Emma Murray, Áine Regan, Orla McGlinchey, Holly Barrett.



### U16 Girls Division 2 League Shield Winners

Back row, left to right: Paul Groden, John Reilly, Aoife Gannon, Emma Barrett, Katie Moran, Ciara Kelly, Ruby Lane, Áine Gallagher, Niamh McNamara, Róisín Feehan, Éabha Carney, Róisín Carney, Colm Barrett.

Front row, left to right: Amy Carney, Lisa Hastings, Mary Kate Lonergan, Laura Ingham, Laura O'Grady, Siofra Hughes, Eva Mulchrone, Abbie Quinn.



A section of the huge crowd in attendance



# The Local League 2022

KILMEENA GAA NEWSLETTER 2022



The Local league had a slightly different format this year. It was held in a 'round robin' format on the evenings the underage players trained.

The girls league was played on Wednesday evening, 5th October. Four teams contested three games of eight minutes a side. The top two teams played for the Pádraig Mulloy Memorial Cup, with the Kilmeena Jerseys team coming up winners. The non-bibs team won the second final, taking home the Sean Kelly Memorial Cup.

The boys league was played over two evenings, on the 29th of September and 6th of October. Six teams contested these games with three rounds held on the first evening. The last two rounds and the finals were played on the second evening. The A final played for the Declan Gibbons Memorial Cup, which was won by the Orange Team. The B final was played

for the William Quinn Memorial Cup and was won by the Kilmeena Jerseys boys team. The C final was played for the Ryan Cup, with the Green team coming out on top.

Well done to all of the girls and boys involved! It's so important that you continue to practice the skills you've developed over the winter break, so that you are all ready for next season.

A huge thank you to all of the senior and minor lads and ladies who managed the teams and refereed the games each evening. Thanks to the coaches who volunteered their time, helping to organise and set up the pitches ensuring that the matches ran smoothly. Thanks to Martin McIntyre for the photos over the Local Leagues duration. As always, the Club is very appreciative and thankful to the families who sponsor the underage cups.



Back row, left to right: Kate Cawley, Cara Mongey, Cailín McPhillips. Middle row, left to right: Florence O'Toole, Bernie Jennings and Niamh O'Connor (mentors). Front row, left to right: Aoife Durkan, Rachel Feehan, Shauna Durkan, Emily Fahy and Amy Joyce.



Left to right: Emma Gannon, Holly Fortune, Éabha Feehan, Stacy-Lea Fiebig, Grainne Feehan, Molly Mulchrone, Sadhbh McGauley and Mags Ryder (mentor).



Left to right: Bethany Staunton, Tegan Muldoon, Niamh Byrne, Aishling Lawless, Layla Staunton, Katie Moran and Éabha Goggins.



Back row, left to right: Siún Aherne, Ellie Mai Keane, Muireann Mulchrone. Front Row, Left to Right: Chloe Monaghan, Elenor Munroe, Faith Duffy, Ellen McDonagh and Aliesha Malone.



Left to right: Tommy Cannon, Conor Olsen, Charlie Geoghegan, Jaye Joyce, Rian McManamon, Willie Quinn, Noah Coughlan (captain), Aodán Gildea, Jamie Hopkins, Alex Fahy, Keegan Heritage. Missing from photo: Max Keane



Left to right: Ciarán Kelly, Aran Cawley, Charlie Walsh, James Hastings, Imelda Gibbons, Finn Mulchrone (captain), Cody Coughlan, Ryan Cannon, Lorcan Lane. Missing from photo: Jacob Chambers, Thomas Griffin, Noah Walsh.



Left to right: Fionn Lavelle, Jack Mulloy, Dylan Duffy, James Heanue, Lorcan Holland, Tom Ryan, Theo Bronkal, Zander Gibbons, Evan Ryder, Paul Joyce, Ruairí O Malley, Donnachta McGauley (captain). In-front: Nathan Ryan



## News Roundup



Members of the Junior All-Ireland team pictured with Sean Kelly MEP and former President of the GAA (2003-2006) following their All-Ireland medal presentation.

### Visit by Minister Jack Chambers and Senator Lisa Chambers

Kilmeena GAA club were delighted to host the visit during the year by Minister of State for Sport and the Gaeltacht, Jack Chambers, and Senator Lisa Chambers. The Minister was impressed to see the various projects undertaken by the club had been realised. These included updated club signage at the entrance and at the clubhouse, the new comprehensively equipped gym, the “homely” recreational room and the installation of new dugouts servicing both playing pitches. Since the Ministers visited, the club have also replaced the ball stop netting for both pitches and installed state of the art floodlights on the training pitch.



Left to right: Councillor Peter Flynn, Councillor Brendan Mulroy, Club Chairman John McDonald, Senator Lisa Chambers, Minister of State for Sport and the Gaeltacht Jack Chambers and Councillor Christy Hyland. Unavoidably absent was Councillor John O'Malley.

### Mayo GAA Scór Competition 2022

The 2022 Mayo GAA Scór competition took place in Balla community centre on Saturday 5th March and Kilmeena GAA club entered a team in the quiz and had two entries in the recitation category.



Quiz Team: Katie Moran, Noah Coughlan, Eoghan Smyth, Jason Feehan



Recitation: Ellie Mai Keane, Sophie Clough



Well done to Aoife Gannon who was part of the Mayo U16 soccer squad.



### Stars in the making

Congratulations to two of our U15 players Darragh O'Grady and Shane Lavelle who were both selected by Connaught Rugby to train with the Elite Provincial Talent Squad. Such a super achievement by these two young lads. We wish them both the very best of luck with this adventure.





## Monday Night Cards

Apart from the Government ban on social gatherings during the Covid period, cards have been played in the Kilmeena GAA clubhouse for the past twelve years. This social event is held every Monday night from 8:30pm during the winter months and from 9:00pm for the remainder of the year. Depending on the number of card players present, two or three tables are hosted on the night. The usual format consists of games of "25" up to "110". Prizes are awarded for 1st and 2nd place on the night. Depending on the intensity of the game, a break, consisting of tea and biscuits, is offered to the players

after the first game, with play resuming for the second session shortly after. Players from Fahy, Carrowholly, Kilmeena and the outer reaches of Westport are well represented at the games. New players are welcome to come along and enjoy the craic. It's a great time to catch up with neighbors and friends and provides an ideal setting to get time away from your TV, tablet or phone screens. You don't have to be an expert at playing as the card games aren't taken too seriously. Light-hearted banter is the order of the day. So, feel free to join us on any Monday night.



Card-playing friends celebrating a recent milestone birthday with Marie Mortimer

## Liam Hyland - World Record

On Saturday 2nd July 2022 at Kilmeena GAA club, Liam Hyland achieved the Guinness world record for the most Gaelic football penalties (407) taken in one hour by an individual. Congratulations and well-done Liam on a great achievement.



## Cormac Feehan

Pictured is Cormac Feehan who this season joined the club communications team in helping out with taking photographs at club events and match days.



## News Roundup

### Kilmeena Ladies represented on SHS Football Teams



U16 ladies from Kilmeena represented on the Sacred Heart School football team that won the Connacht A Final. The Sacred Heart School went on to contest the All Ireland final but lost to a strong Loreto, Cavan team. Pictured above, left to right: Katie Moran, Lisa Hastings, Éabha Carney, Aoife Gannon, Hattie Cox.



Kilmeena ladies, left to right: Ruby Lane, Siófra Hughes, Ciara Kelly, Amy Carney and Áine Gallagher were part of the Sacred Heart School U14 panel/team that were crowned Connacht Champions.

### Kilmeena LGFA Quiz Night (Report by Laura Madden)

Players, family and friends of Kilmeena GAA club enjoyed a fun evening out at the club table quiz night on Friday 26th August.

The Ladies Senior Team organised a great evening, with support from local businesses and community. The Mariner Hotel generously offered a complimentary room to host the table quiz. The main prize was sponsored by Madden's Bar and Dannys Bar. The club also received generous spot prizes from many local businesses including Lally's Pharmacy, O'Briens, SuperValu, Schuh it, Westport Town Hall, Market 57, Namawe and Cosy Joe's. In addition, some club members also donated wine, which really helped towards the evening! Our quiz evening all but sold out in advance, with only one or two tables left to fill.

Thanks to our MC Damien Hughes, who kept the evening's event flowing very efficiently. Also, a special thanks to our Captain Roisin Carney for all her work - Roisin put together

a great set of questions and was instrumental throughout the evening in making sure the event ran off smoothly and successfully.

Owing to the short lead in time to arrange the quiz night, some club members were unable to attend on the night. However, many of those still gave generously to our raffle on the training evenings at the club.

The money raised will assist towards the ongoing improvements of our club facilities.

We are very grateful for all the generous support from those that attended, those that bought raffle tickets and donated of their time.

Looking forward to another great year for the Kilmeena LGFA/GAA Club in 2023!







Mary Kate (left) and Ellen Lonergan with their All Ireland schools junior championship medals

## Un-fore-gettable year for the Lonergan sisters!

Congratulations to Mary Kate Lonergan who won two Connaught and three All Ireland titles. She, along with her sister Ellen, also won an All-Ireland schools junior championship title.



Our next four group games were against Mayo Gaels (home), Bunbrosna (Westmeath), Dunderry (home) and St Treas (Derry). Remarkably, and often with limited numbers to travel, we won them all. Next up was an All Ireland Semi Final v Emos. This was played in the Meath Centre of Excellence on 28th August. Sadly it wasn't to be and we lost to a very strong team that went on to win the All Ireland Junior mixed championship.

However, it still wasn't time to put away our Bats and Sliotars! The Connaught Cup in October saw our hardy warriors play a full day competition in Galway COE in the driving wind and rain. Thankfully the only casualties were 2 Gazebo's that didn't survive the day! Our team punched above their weight beating 3 much more experienced teams, only to lose out in the semi final. Next up for us is the Connaught Winter League with our first game scheduled for the end of November. Yet again we are back on the Astroturf under lights for training. It's still cold and wet but also a lot of fun!

We recently held a group meeting to review the year of 2022. Top of the agenda was how we re-focussed ourselves as a group after a year that took many unexpected twists and turns. Re-establishing our commitment to Social Rounders will be a top priority for next year and we will actively be seeking new members to join us. Decisions will be made on what teams we will enter into the 2023 Championship and we have some exciting plans for the development of Youth Rounders within our club.

We continue to learn and grow as a group. If you would like to join us we would love to have you on board.

## Kilmeena Rounders 2022 (Report by Julie Moore)

2021 saw the start of Kilmeena Social Rounders and what a fantastic first year we had! Our Social Rounders went from strength to strength throughout the summer of 2021. The twice weekly practice sessions brought a host of new members, a lot of laughs, as well as some real skill development and improving fitness levels.

We decided to keep our training sessions going over the winter 2021/22, by using the Rice College Astroturf once a week. It was cold and often wet but we had the best fun under lights and when spring 2022 arrived our ever growing group were keen to press on in competition. We had all these new skills and it would have been a shame not to put them to some use!

The Junior mixed Championship was entered with trepidation as we had no idea what to expect but we had nothing to lose. From the outset it was challenging - mainly because of the geography. With only one other team in Connaught at Junior level our group included teams from Derry, Meath, Westmeath and Limerick.

The season began with a journey to Roscommon to play St Sennans of Limerick. We were well beaten by an experienced team but many lessons were learnt and we left determined to improve.



Kilmeena ladies, Áine Regan, Ciara Joyce and Rachel Gibbons were part of the SHS Senior football panel that won the Connaught Final in early 2022.



## Underage Ladies Representing County

Lisa Hastings and Éabha Carney after the Connacht U16 final against Galway. The team met Kildare in the All Ireland semi-final but that match brought their season to an end. Well done girls.

## Congratulations...

... to Kilmeena players **Luke Durkan** (U16), **Conor Kelly** (U17), **Rian Kilcoyne** (U17), **Cormac O'Malley** (U15) and **Aaron Murray** (U15) who attended the County development squads in 2022.

... to Kilmeena players **Conal Gill**, **Cormac Lyons** and **Harry Sheridan** who were with Connacht rugby development squads.

... to **Noah Coughlan** (Westport United) and **Finn Mulchrone** (Fahy Rovers) for getting the call up to the Mayo U13 soccer team.







## Success for Fahy Rovers Girls

Congratulations to Fahy Rovers U11 girls and management who won all 10 games in the Inaugural Mayo U11 League and following a 3-0 victory over Partry Athletic confirmed their status as the County's first ever Mayo U11 Girls league champions.

Well done to the Kilmeena GAA players: Éabha Feehan, Sheena Cawley, Lauren Munroe, Éabha Goggins, Kate Cawley, Stacey Fiebig, Aoife Durkan, Sadbh Martin, Holly Fortune, Eleanor Munro and Amy Joyce.

Congratulations also to the U12 girls who were unbeaten in their League campaign, finishing second in the U12 Gold Division.

Well done to the Kilmeena GAA players: Emma Gannon, Freya Higgins, Aishling Lawless, Rachel Feehan, Cailín McPhilips, Shauna Durkan, Alisha Malone, Muireann Mulchrone, Chloe Monaghan, Molly Mulchrone, Aoife Durkan and Emily Fahy.

## Tackling Bullying

The GAA became the country's first sporting organisation to launch a national anti-bullying campaign with the unveiling of the GAA Tackling Bullying Programme in March 2013. GAA Tackling Bullying is a new training resource that the GAA developed in response to a growing awareness of the impact of bullying in society and particularly in sport. The programme consists of a two-hour training workshop suitable for Coaches, Parents, Players and other Club personnel and also includes a range of publicity materials for Clubs. Kilmeena GAA Club intends to implement the initiative in advance of the start of the 2023 season.

## GAA Tackling Bullying

**The GAA aims to create a supportive environment where any form of bullying is unacceptable.**

**We adopt a whole organisational approach to addressing bullying and are committed to implementing structures and relevant training to deal with allegations of bullying. Incidents of bullying are regarded as serious breaches of our Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport.**

**We are committed to achieving an ethos of respect so as to maximise the potential of all of our members when playing or participating in our Gaelic Games.**

### What is Bullying?

We define Bullying as 'repeated aggression be it verbal, psychological or physical, conducted by an individual or group against others'.

Bullying can take many different forms:

- Verbal:** threatening consequences, spreading rumours, name calling, teasing, making sexual/racist/sectarian remarks, highlighting physical appearances or sporting ability.
- Physical:** kicking, punching, hitting, spitting, biting, tripping, theft or destruction of property and kit.
- Emotional:** ignoring, excluding, getting people into trouble, leaving them out of games, talking behind their backs, writing unpleasant notes/letters/graffiti, writing letters/text messages/emails or comments on social network sites.

In our games and at our activities different people may be involved in bullying incidences. These may include players/coaches/mentors/parents/spectators/bystanders.

**BULLYING CAN HAPPEN FROM**  
 Young Person To Young Person  
 Young Person To Adult  
 Adult To Young Person  
 Adult To Adult

If you have a concern or if you believe that you or somebody else may be the target, recipient or victim of Bullying within the Club you should contact the Club's Children's Officer who will deal with your concern.

### Preventing Bullying

It is the responsibility of everybody in the Club to prevent or if need be to deal with incidents of bullying if ever they occur. Our approach is to create a supportive environment where it is not acceptable to bully and where the ethos of the Association is that it is 'ok to tell' if you know about incidents of bullying.

**GAA players, coaches, spectators and clubs should:**

- ✓ Respect every person's right to play and participate in an environment which is safe and secure and also offers praise and recognition
- ✓ Ensure that every person is treated with respect, dignity and sensitivity
- ✓ Recognise that everyone is important and that our differences make each of us special
- ✓ Challenge all forms of prejudice and promote equality
- ✓ Model fair play, respectful behaviour and leadership
- ✓ Discourage people from colluding with bullying

The Children's Officer in each Club has a responsibility to promote an 'anti bullying ethos' and ensure that the club adheres to the GAA Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport.

### Dealing with Bullying

**How do you know if it's Bullying?**  
**Ask yourself the following questions:**

**Targeted**  
Is the behaviour targeted at a group or individual?

**Duration**  
Has this behaviour been happening over a period of time?

**Frequency**  
How frequent is the behaviour and is there a pattern occurring?

**Intention**  
Is the intention of the behaviour to cause pain/harm/distress to an individual or group?

**It is the responsibility of the club to ensure that:**

- ✓ The target of the Bullying is made feel safe
- ✓ That the Bullying is stopped and the bully's behaviour is addressed
- ✓ Every person in membership of a GAA Club or attending our games or activities should be fully aware that Bullying is unacceptable in the GAA

## Logging Off (Sean Barrett, Kilmeena GAA Club PRO)



As I write my final yearly PRO review I can look back on one of most historical years for our club. When the year 2022 is mentioned around the parish it will always track your mind back to February 6th heroics.

Like previous years, things on the online social side of the club have grown ever more and it's not just the fact of throwing up a post of an upcoming game. The graphics side of things have been improved this year thanks to Canva as we try and showcase the club as well as possible on the online front.

This year you could say has been different especially how busy it has been from January right the way through to November with the amount of games at the various age grades and the amount of publicity surrounding February's All Ireland Final.

In a role like this organisation is key and the advances of apps to help schedule events has been a great asset. This year the various social pages has grown massively on previous years with our Facebook page having 3,000-plus likes, Instagram having 1,400 plus followers and Twitter accounting for over 1,300 followers which is a sign that Kilmeena GAA club is on the map.

I would like to thank Caragh Ryan for her assistance throughout the year on helping with match day posts etc. I would encourage anyone who has in interest to come forward and help out as the role is ever growing and as the saying goes many hands make light work.

Lastly as I sign off from my four-year term as PRO, I would to thank the club officers and supporters who have assisted in any way over the years and I wish my successor the very best of luck.







## Camogie News



Áine Gallagher had a successful year with Westport Camogie in 2022 winning a Féile U15 medal, and U16 C medal in Galway. Áine was also a member of Mayo U16 team which captured an All-Ireland title in U16 D competition.



Áine Regan had her best camogie season to date in 2022. Her hard work and determination saw her claim the No. 9 jersey on the Westport Junior team. She played a pivotal role in the team reaching their first Galway league final. She continued to excel at midfield position throughout the championship before her departure to Poland to further her studies.

## GAA Green Club Programme

The GAA Green Club Programme is a partnership between the GAA, LGFA and Camogie Association and local authorities across Ireland



SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS

• ENERGY • WATER • WASTE  
• BIODIVERSITY • TRANSPORT

The Green Clubs Programme is structured around five main thematic areas and supported by expert partners:

- **Energy – Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)**
- **Water – Irish Water and the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPro)**
- **Waste – Regional Waste Management Offices**
- **Biodiversity – National Biodiversity Data Centre**
- **Travel & Transport – The National Transport Authority (NTA)**

The role of the expert partners is to ensure that existing resources and structures are availed of (to avoid any duplication); that any new resources developed best respond to the needs of the Gaelic Games community (clubs, counties, venues); and to provide information on and support in accessing funding opportunities.

The GAA, LGFA and Camogie Association are committed to providing through the Green Club programme the leadership, education and guidance to transform the commitment and passion of individuals into a national programme with the potential for powerful behavioural, material and infrastructural change. The programme will help clubs to identify and implement simple measures to protect our natural heritage and secure a sustainable future for our local communities.

Kilmeena GAA would like to undertake projects under the above headings, that will help enhance our club and preserve the beauty of the area where we live. For us to be successful in creating any meaningful club or community projects, we will need the whole community to get behind us. Anyone who has expertise or a desire to improve our local environment, please contact us. The more people that get involved, the more we will be able to achieve.

**We want to hear your ideas and as a club and community let us try to make our local environment and area a better place for our children and future generations.**



# Club and Pitch Development

(Report by John McDonald)

Facility development and improvement works continued this year with the installation of a new set of dugouts on the main pitch and on the training pitch. The precast concrete dugouts were painted in the club colours and are an additional enhancement to both pitches.

Ball stop netting behind the goals was replaced as the existing netting was aged and had seen better days.

A new Welcome sign was put up at the entrance to the grounds and the club crest and large letter signage on both gables of the clubhouse.

The stand roof is 20 years old and had begun to show signs of wear with leaks appearing during the year thus prompting the need to replace the roof sheeting before winter and the inevitable storms arriving.

The club gym got a makeover with the addition of new and improved equipment. This is a wonderful and much used facility and is available to all adult club members.

Having developed two quality pitches in the last few years, a new aerator was purchased at the start of this year, the purpose of which is to loosen soil, improve drainage, prevent thatch build up and help roots get the food they need to grow properly.

The pitches received a dressing of sand at the start of the season and fertiliser at regular intervals as guided by Emerald Pitch Development and in accordance with GAA recommendations for pitches, thus ensuring that our pitches are maintained to the highest standards. Goalmouths and worn spots on both pitches were also resodded where required.

Floodlights are in the process of being erected on the training pitch which will allow all our teams to train regardless of time of year. The lights will have the benefit of reducing overall costs on the club in terms of portable lights, hiring pitches, travel and the movement of gear for teams.

The continued improvement, development and normal day to day maintenance of our club and grounds is something that needs continual work and attention in order to keep our club at the forefront. This all takes careful planning and financing and the club have achieved all works without needing to approach financial institutions for any loans.

Thank you to all our club members, sponsors, councillors and people of the parish for your continued and generous support of Kilmeena GAA club. Thank you to the club treasurers and finance committee and to the grounds people who week in week out quietly work away to develop and maintain our wonderful club.



New gym equipment



New floodlighting



One of the four new dugouts



New signage



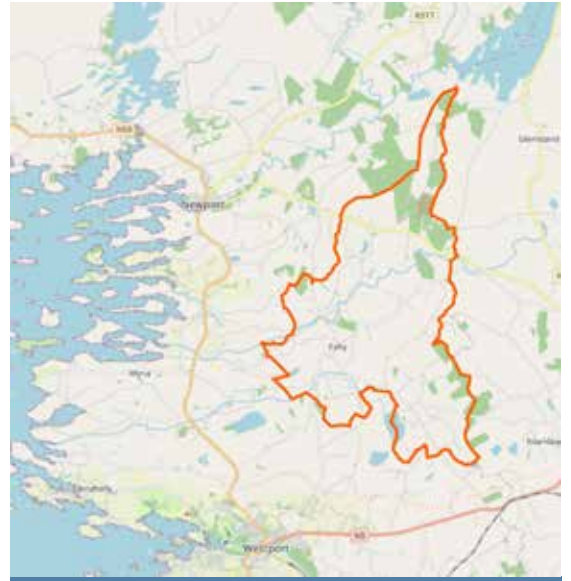


## Kilmeena GAA Club: Parish Catchment & Townlands



### Townlands of Kilmeena & Carraholly:

Ardkeen	Kiltyroe
Ballinlough	Knockasproha
Bocullin	Knockavanloman
Buckfield	Knockballagh
Castleaffy	Knockboy
Cushalogurt	Knockmoyle
Carrigeenglass	Knocknaboley
Carrowbeg	Knockycahillaun
Carrowcally	Knockychottaun
Cross	Knockysprickaun
Myna	Lisclovaun
Claggan	Mayour
Clynish	Myna
Clooneen	Money
Clookeen	Mucklagh
Conrea	Rossakeeran
Coolbarreen	RoeKilmeena
Corratowick	Roemore
Corragaun	Rusheen
Cranareen	Rosbeg
Creggaunnahorna	Rossow
Crovinish	Roscahill
Cushalogurt	Rosssduane
Derrinish	Roslaher
Doirinish Beg	Rosmindle
Doirinish Mhór	Rosmoney
Derrylea	Rosnakilly
Derrynanaff	Rostoohy
Derrynaraw	Shanvallybeg
Drumgarve	Shandrum
Drumard	Slogar
Drumhuskert	Tonaraha
Drumminabo	The Demesne
Freaghillaun	The Islands
Gortawarla	
Inishturk	



### Townlands of Fahy:

Aghagowla  
 Ballintleva  
 Ballyglass  
 Ballynacarriga  
 Brockagh  
 Cartún  
 Clooncanavan  
 Cuiltrean  
 Derinumera  
 Derryribbeen  
 Drumgoney  
 Drumgar  
 Drumilra  
 Fahybeg  
 Fahymór  
 Gortnaclassagh  
 Gurteen  
 Knockglass  
 Knockmoyleen  
 Knockmuinard  
 Lugnafahy  
 Rushbrook  
 Slinaun  
 Slinaunroe  
 TawnyEamon  
 Toorgarve





## Vincent Reilly



It was with great sadness that Kilmeena GAA and the community learned of the passing of one of our club's great stalwarts and a former club chairman, Vincent Reilly.

Vincent was a true gentleman, a wonderful footballer, a Gael and was always a great supporter of Kilmeena GAA Club. He enjoyed nothing better than going to the matches and

meeting with people and having the craic and banter.

Vincent played football with Westport during the period 1959-1963 as the club in Kilmeena had become defunct. In 1961 he played for the County minors. During a period in the 60's while working in Dublin, he played with St. Vincent's club. On his return Vincent represented the Kilmeena Club as a player where he had few peers, finishing his playing career in 1972/'73. During the 1970s Vincent was active in club administration

serving as Club Chairman during the years 1970 and 1971, 1973, 1974 and 1978. He served as Vice-Chairman in 1979. He also held the position of Vice President in 1981.

Vincent was part of the organising committee when the Kilmeena team famously toured the United States and Canada in 1970 playing games in New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Cleveland and Toronto.

In 2001 and 2002 Vincent, along with Phelim McManamon, Michael Moore and Ollie Mulchrone took over the management of the men's junior team and was very proud when his son John took over the management of the present Kilmeena senior team.

Vincent will be greatly missed around our club and community.

All at Kilmeena GAA club would like to extend their deepest sympathies to Vincent's wife, Irene, son John and daughter Susan and to all his family, friends and neighbours.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.

## Paddy O'Grady



The passing of Paddy O'Grady, Cushalogart, Kilmeena brought great sadness to the parish and wider community and to the members of Kilmeena GAA Club.

Paddy was predeceased by his wife Mary (nee Gibbons), brother Michael Joe and sister Mary O'Shea (Chicago).

Paddy was a quiet and unassuming family man, who enjoyed the farming life, had an infectious love of Gaelic games and Kilmeena GAA. He was a caring neighbour and friend and like so many of his generation had a great faith in his religion.

During the fifties Paddy was involved in the club both as a player and as an administrator. He served as Secretary in 1956 and again in 1959. Then after a short period of inactivity in the club, Paddy was at the forefront when in 1963 efforts were made to reform the club.

He took on the role of Chairman serving from 1963 to 1966 at a time when a steady hand was required. Paddy's excellent leadership helped to guide and steer the club back on to its feet.

He was always a great man to patiently encourage those he met with words of wisdom and support. You couldn't but come away feeling better after talking with Paddy O'Grady.

Paddy was a loyal supporter of the club lotto and regularly attended the Thursday night draws where he met friends and caught up on the activities of club and community over the previous week.

He will be greatly missed around our club and community.

Kilmeena GAA Club extends its deepest sympathies to Paddy's family: Ann, Mary (Club Secretary), Regina, Michael and Geoffrey, his grandchildren, extended family, friends and neighbours.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.