



KILMEENA G.A.A. CLUB

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2021

COUNTY CHAMPIONS ONCE AGAIN!





CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



Hello and welcome to the eighth edition of our annual club newsletter. It is great to head into Christmas and the New Year with our adult men's team once again Junior Football Champions and looking forward to a Connacht Junior Football final in January against Sli-go champions, St. Patricks GAA, Dromard.

The 2021 season began as 2020 left off with the country in a Covid-19 lockdown. It was not until the end of April that we were allowed back to grounds and our beloved games. After an initial period of training in pods, the go-ahead was given for competitive football to begin. It has been a busy and exciting season since with a full and tight schedule of training and games. We embraced a new way of registration with the launch of the Foireann membership registration system and in September we saw the introduction of online ticketing for Championship games. Both welcome developments as they will help take the burden of administration from club officers.

It was great when we did get to the football field. We had fifty adult men at training and with these numbers there was plenty of football for everyone. We competed in the Kelly cup, Cusack cup, the Michael Walsh League, the West Mayo B JFC, the County Junior C championship and the Mayo league where we were again able to enter a second adult team, with teams in Division 3 and Division 6.

I would like to congratulate the players and management and say well done to all involved - just rewards for the work put in over the last number of years. It is important to acknowledge the management team of John Reilly, Peter Carney, John Doherty and Eoin Sweeney who have put in countless hours of meetings, video analysis, planning, preparation, travel and sleepless nights to make sure that the team were prepared and ready. These men put in as much work as professional and inter-county coaches. Thank you to Michael Ryan, the team kit man who deserves credit and praise for the way he looks after the team jerseys. This clearly shows every time the team takes to the field. Everything from here on is a bonus but I passionately believe that there is still a lot more to come from this group of young men as they head into a Connacht Final and I encourage you all to dream big and who knows where we might go.

It was a competitive year all round for the underage boys and girls with an emphasis on fun and basic skill development for our younger children. The boy's underage format changed from 'even' age to 'odd' age grade with the U17 boys playing

in division A of the Minor County Championship where they were runners-up in the final to neighbours, Westport. This is the first time a Minor team from the club have competed in division A and it is a testament to the ability and commitment of the players and all the coaches who over the years have put so much work and time into developing such a fine team. This group of boys then went on to complete their season when they were crowned the West Mayo U18B champions defeating Parke Kellogues Crimlin in the final played in Ballyheane.

We had 125 boys and girls take part in the Kellogg's Cúl Camp which took place during the week 26th of July. Our U15 boys and girls played in their respective John West Féile competitions, both reaching the semi-final.

Our ladies club continues to grow. It is great to see our girls competing at the business end of competitions. Our U16 girls reached the league final. After a year of not having a senior ladies' team I was delighted to see this. With a new and enthusiastic management team the ladies set to work which saw them as runners-up in League and Championship competitions. This experience bodes well for them and I am sure that there will be silverware in the not-too-distant future.

It is wonderful to see the hard work, commitment and dedication our managers and coaches have and I want to thank them all. As a club we find ourselves in an exciting place, but we must not get complacent. We need to capitalise on this and strive to continually improve and challenge ourselves to be better. We need to do the basic things right and we need to support each other and develop a club culture of positivity and enjoyment for all. We need to continue to be proactive in our approach to identifying new families in the parish and introducing them to the club.

It is always a dream for any player to play with their county and I want to congratulate all those who represented the club at various grades. Jack Carney with the Mayo U20s and Senior team, Liam Moore (Minor), Rian Kilcoyne, Conor Feehan, Conor Kelly and Conall Gill (U16) and Luke Durkan (U15). It is a proud moment to see one of our own wearing the County colours. Well done to you all.

The financing of a club at any time is a challenge. The club Finance Committee, under the guidance of the Treasurer, have worked hard to ensure that we are properly financed and can cover club running costs. The 'Ball on the Wall' fundraiser has been incredibly positive during the year. The granite plaques have been erected and additional pieces will be erected next year. The fundraiser is ongoing and can be signed up to at any stage. This is an investment in the future of the club and that of our children and grandchildren. Our

club lotto remains an important part of fundraising and is one of the primary ways we have of keeping the day-to-day bills paid. Thank you to all those in the parish who consistently play our lotto and to Margaret Duffy in Kilmeena Post Office for selling tickets.

Thank you to Councillor's Brendan Mulroy and John O'Malley who both contributed €5,000 to the club. Brendan also very kindly sponsored a set of gear for the U15 boys. Thank you also to Tile Warehouse who sponsored gear for the U17 boys, Mid West Furniture who sponsored gear for the men's junior panel, Payslip, who sponsored gear for the ladies junior panel, Lidl, where points donated by club members who shopped in store, helped to provide a set of jerseys to the U16 girls, MySign.ie, The Castlecourt Hotel and Westport Credit Union were also very generous in their support.

Thank you to Ruairi Duffy, Michael Feehan, Noel Marley and Willie and Mary Quinn for their continued and generous support towards the club, Darren Madden and the Clew Bay Hotel who have again kindly sponsored the lotto envelopes.

I also want to thank Donal McIntyre for his continued and very generous sponsorship of our annual club newsletter.

We are incredibly grateful to all our sponsors. Without their support the club would struggle to function at the level we do. As always, I would ask club members where possible to support local businesses during the Christmas and New Year period.

Our new Rec Room has been completed and I'd like to acknowledge the work that Peter Carney and members of the men's and ladies' adult teams did in painting and decorating the room. Thank you also to those people in the community who kindly sponsored materials and furnishings and gave of their time to help with building and final finishes to the room.

During the year we had Player of the Year awards presented to our men's and ladies' teams. There were presentations for Club Person of the year (2020) to Noreen Johnston. We had a pitch blessing ceremony and presented the Community Person of the year award (2020) to Fr. Charlie McDonnell and Fr. Jim Walsh. We held a very successful clothes collection. Thank you to all who so kindly donated unwanted clothes and in turn helped support our underage teams. We welcomed Dermot Flanagan to the club on his charity 'Cycle for Mayo Hospital Oncology Unit'. There was a remarkably successful 'Hit the Hill' virtual 5km fundraiser co-ordinated by Carlene Gildea, Noreen Johnston and John Reilly.

After some years it was great to see the return of the Local League for boys and girls aged 9 to 13 years and to see the Healthy Club Committee run a series of fun activities in

parallel with the League. This is something that I would like to see further developed next year. I would like to thank the Gibbons, Quinn, Ryan, Kelly, Mulloy and Fahy families for donating cups, attending presentations and supporting the club over many years.

In July, with the help of Julie Moore and Eimear O'Connell, a GAA Social Rounders Club was founded. This initiative has proved very successful attracting people who would not have previously been active in the club. Thank you to everyone involved and continued success going forward.

I would like to say a big thank you to the Health & Wellbeing Committee. They have worked tirelessly over the last year at promoting health and wellbeing information, health-related events and online webinars. It was a proud day for the club to receive official recognition as a 'GAA Healthy Club'.

At the beginning of the year, the club submitted an application for a new round of Sports Capital Funding and if successful it is planned to replace the ball netting and install new dugouts. As part of the current three-year plan, it is also the club's intention in 2022 to erect lights on the new training pitch to help further enhance our facilities.

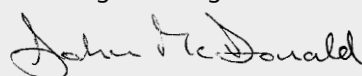
I would like to recognise and say thank you to those who work on this wonderful publication. A special word of thanks to Martin McIntyre who is taking a step back and in doing so is handing over the reins to Michael O'Grady who I am confident will put his own unique stamp on this excellent publication over the coming years.

To those people who helped in any way at all around the club during the year, you know who you are, thank you very much!

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 the family of Fr. Pat O'Brien P.P of Caherlistrane, Co. Galway who was curate in our parish in the 1990's. May his soul and the souls of all the departed rest in peace. I would also like to wish anyone that is sick in our parish at the moment a speedy recovery.

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 2022.

Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi Mhaise Daoibh.



John McDonald
Cathaoirleach

ELECTED CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2022

Club Patron: Fr. Jim Walsh
President: Joe Madden
Vice President: Austin Gibbons
Chairman: John McDonald
Vice Chairman: Damian Hughes
Secretary: Mary Slattery
Assistant Secretary: Majella McGonagle
Joint Treasurers: Kathleen Murphy & Maura Hastings
Assistant Treasurer: Padraic Moore
PRO: Sean Barrett
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
Scór Officer: Brian Lennon
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: John Ryan

ELECTED BORD NA NÓG OFFICERS FOR 2022

Chairman: Peter Mortimer
Secretary: Mairead Durkan
LGFA Registrar: Davina Carney
LGFA Assistant Registrar: Maura Hastings
LGFA PRO: Sarah Hogan
LGFA County Board Delegates: John McDonald, Maura Hastings
Bord na nÓg County Board Delegate: Leonie Martin



NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION TEAM:

Michael O'Grady, John McDonald, Mairead Durkan, Noleen Coughlan, Maura Hastings, Majella O'Malley, Ollie Mulchrone, Barry Murphy, Sarah Hogan, Martin McIntyre.

NEWSLETTER SPONSOR:

Donal McIntyre, New York. www.wesbuilt.com.



TEAM REPORTS

Girls U6 and U8

(Report by Sinead Hopkins)

Following a short 2020 season, the U6 and U8 Kilmeeena girls were determined to make the most of the 2021 football season.

We started in April with 24 little ladies but following some recruitment within the schools, by the girls themselves, we were delighted to see the numbers increase to 36.

The girls trained within their age groups focusing on co ordination, football skills & most importantly fun games. Luckily the weather was favourable, as nearly every Wednesday offered mild conditions. That said, such was the enthusiasm from these girls that not even a drop of rain would stop them training.

As last year was a challenging one with Covid 19 we were determined to get these little ladies some game time and we were lucky enough to pair up with the Under 10 girls' matches. It was wonderful to see our Under 8 girls display their skills and confidence against Islandeady and Burirshoole. On each occasion the Kilmeeena Jersey was worn with great pride having



U6 & U8 Girls: Back Row Sitting: Jessica Kelly, Kayla Armstrong, Ava McKenna, Holly Hastings, Sabhdh Martin, Clíodhna Ryder, Emma Mongey.

Middle Row: Ronan Hyland, Aoibheann Hyland, Anna Brown, Cara Ivin, Lily Sheridan, Molly Joyce, Ellen McDonagh, Millie Chambers, Lily O'Malley, Kate Mulloy, Emily Smyth.

Front Row: Sophie Hopkins, Aoibheann Cawley, Roisín Goggins, Annie Cawley, Anna Little, Amy Joyce, Grace Cunningham, Annie Mullarkey, Katie McKenna.

Missing from picture: Sadhbh McGauley, Ellen McDonagh, Bethany Staunton and Lydia Ní Fhaoiláin.

been donated by the Feehan family in memory of their late mother Noreen Feehan.

The season ended in mid-September with a medal presentation and a football sponsored by the Castlecourt Hotel so the girls can continue to practice their skills in the off season.

Thanks to Sarah Hogan, Fiona Groden

and Sheila Bohan from the junior ladies for their help during the season. It was a pleasure for us, to train these little ladies and the future of girls' football in Kilmeeena is in safe hands.

Coaches: Jamie Brown, Brian Hyland, Sinead Hopkins, Trish Chambers and Mags Ryder.

Covid Officers: Lilly Cawley, Edel McDonagh and Teresa Hastings.



TEAM REPORTS

U10 Girls

(Report by Maureen Durkan)

The U10 girls kicked off their season with training on Wednesday 12th May 2021. We had 12 girls registered at this age but as the season developed, our numbers grew to 24 girls.

Our first game of the season was in house against our U8 and U9 boys. Some great football was displayed by both sides.

Our girls were pooled into a big group, comprising Aughamore, Charlestown, Hollymount, Tourmakeady, Louisburgh, McHale Rovers, Ballinrobe and Achill.

We also had challenge matches against our neighbours Burrishoole and Islandeady. Our girls competed strongly in all their games. We focused on encouragement and confidence for them this year and especially so, for all our new girls. We hope all the girls will continue to play and be encouraged in the years ahead.

We would like to thank Roisín Hogan and Emma Jane Gill from the junior ladies for their help with coaching during the year. A special thanks also to the parents for their support throughout

the season - we had many long trips in both heat waves and heavy rains.

We finished our season on Sunday 3rd October with a repeat game against the U8 and U9 boys. Great improvements were shown by both teams. These are a great bunch of girls and best of luck to them in 2022 and hopefully we will welcome more new girls to the club.

Management/Coaches: Ritchie Goggins, Lesley Feehan, Maureen Durkan, Bernie Jennings, Sinead McGauley. Covid officers: Veronica McNally and Suzanne Cawley



U10 Girls: Back Row: Cailín McPhilips, Layla Staunton, Muirinn Mulchrone, Aisling Lawless, Shauna Durkan, Emily Fahy, Chloe Monaghan, Molly Mulchrone, Emma Gannon, Alisha Malone.

Front Row: Rachel Feehan, Sheena Cawley, Éabha Goggins, Kate Cawley, Éabha Feehan, Aoife Durkan, Sadhbh McGauley, Faith Duffy, Niamh Byrne, Holly Fortune, Lauren Munro, Shauna Griffin.

Missing from photo: Mollie Cowley and Freya Higgins.

U12 Girls

(Report by Caragh Ryan)

Our U12 girls happily returned to the pitch on Wednesday 5th May once restrictions had eased. Initially as coaches we thought we may struggle to field a team this year as the numbers registered at this age level appeared lower than usual.

On June 9th we began registration for an eight-week Gaelic4Girls programme to encourage more participation through fun games and activities. We incorporated this into our training sessions which proved very successful as we recruited some new girls for our team in the process. We fulfilled all our fixtures this season and competed very well overall.

Some of the older girls from the U10 group joined our team this year and it's safe to say, without them we wouldn't have been able to fulfil all our fixtures.

Kilmeena U12's were placed in Group C for the Grading League along with Achill, Burrishoole and Castlebar Mitchels - all of whom were very strong. We competed well in the group; however, the only win we took from it was against Mitchels.

The next round of fixtures were based on our performance in the first grouping. We were placed in Group O and went on to meet Davitts, The Neale and St Brigids. Unfortunately, we lost all three games by a small margin, but our girls were very competitive and performed well. As these games were during the summer holidays we sometimes struggled with numbers as families were away.



U12 Girls: Back Row: Mairéad Durkan (management), Caragh Ryan (management), Amy McIntyre Gibbons, Tara Byrne, Ellie Mai Keane, Aisling O'Connell, Leah Gavin Walsh, Cara Mongey, Charley Coyle, Emma Gannon, John O'Grady (management).

Front Row: Shauna Durkan, Katie Moran, Emily Fahy, Julie O'Grady, Cailín McPhilips, Molly Mulchrone, Grainne Feehan, Tegan Muldoon, Aisling Lawless.



TEAM REPORTS

We progressed to the knockout stage of the competition where we played at home to Louisburgh. This game was a thrilling encounter, with some wonderful football on display but we were unfortunate to lose by the narrowest of margins.

Following completion of the games, we decided to train for an extra few weeks as the girls were thoroughly enjoying their football and improving each week. We wrapped up our year on the 5th October with some fun drills/games and needless to say - treats!

We would like to extend a massive thank you to our Covid Officers – Tricia and Claire, for their time and dedication to our group this season.

On behalf of John, Mairead 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.

Stay safe.

U14 Girls

(Report by David Ingham)

We had 15 players registered this year. Our first training session was on the 14th of April and we trained on both Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings. Even though our numbers were small in these Covid times, all sessions were well attended and the group were keen to learn and develop their football skills.

On Match days, we were fortunate to have 3 girls from u12's that joined our group. Our first game of the League kicked off on the 30th June v Louisburgh. We won this encounter. In our next outing we also managed to overcome Islandeady. Our final game was against Davitts which was the first game that went to extra time. Davitts came out the winners in the end of this very competitive outing, but in fairness to the girls they put in a huge effort.

The Championship was up next. The first game away was against Davitts - they were the better team on the night. The next game was a close home game against Kilmaine and in the end the visitors managed to secure some vital scores and won this battle. As we did not progress any further in the Championship, the Shield was the next competition we entered with an away game to Kiltane. This was a very close game throughout and in fairness to the girls



U14 Girls: Back row: David Ingham (Manager), Eva Mulchrone, MaryKate Lonergan, Amy Carney, Ruby Lane, Catherine Lawless, Ciara Kelly, Aine Gallagher, Siofra Hughes, Ameila Fahy.

Front row: Niamh McNamara, Laura Ingham, Julie O'Grady, Amy McIntyre-Gibbons, Leah Gavin- Walshe, Roisin Brady, Isobelle Madden.

Absent from photo: Emma Barrett and Laura O'Grady.

they never gave up. Again this game went to extra time with the home side winning this contest by the smallest of margins.

Our final outing this season was a blitz in Tourmakeady, held on the 18th of September. We were paired in a group with Ballinrobe, Breaffy and Achill. Out of the three games played we lost two against Ballinrobe and Achill and won against Breaffy. Despite the weather on day, this was an enjoyable outing for all the girls and a big thank you to Tourmakeady for organising and inviting us to this event.

U15 Girls Féile

(Report by: Maura Hastings)

Our U15 girls were the first team from Kilmeena LGFA to enter the Féile competition. It took place on Monday 25th of October. Kilmeena were playing in division 2 and were happy to be spending the day at the Centre of Excellence in Bekan.

It had been a few years since some of the team played in a blitz but the girls were up for the challenge. We played three matches in the group stages against Kilmovee, Belmullet and Westport B. We came top of the group following three match wins and faced Swinford -Killasser in the semi final. It was a close match with only a point between

Overall the season went well despite the challenge of Covid. As coaches, we tried to make our sessions as enjoyable as possible with the main focus on the basic skills of the game, first touch, kicking, and hand-passing left and right. This was a brilliant group of girls to coach and we look forward to them progressing and developing their skill levels in the years ahead.

Thank you to the parents and also U12 girls and coaches for their support during the year and to our Covid officers, Shona, David and Colm.

the teams at half time. Kilmeena had a one-point lead in the final minutes but Swinford got a goal to capture the title. Final score: Kilmeena 1-6, Swinford-Killasser 1-8.

A special thank you to all the girls for their football efforts and exemplary behaviour on the day. Thank you to the parents, grandparents and other Kilmeena supporters who cheered us on and took some photos of this historic occasion.

Management: Davina Carney, Maura Hastings, Shona Hughes, Paul Moran.



Kilmeena Féile U15 Panel

Back row: Éabha Carney, Aoife Gannon, Ruby Lane, Emma Barrett, Ciara Kelly, Eva Mulchrone, Áine Gallagher, Siófra Hughes, Chloe McGlynn, Katie Moran, Lisa Hastings.

Front Row: Amy Carney, Niamh McNamara, Abbie Quinn, Laura O'Grady, Róisín Feehan, Julie O'Grady, Laura Ingham, Amy McIntyre-Gibbons, Leah Gavin-Walsh.

U16 Girls

(Report by Maura Hastings)

Kilmeena U16 girls started training on the pitch on Wednesday 5th May. Our panel was small with only 14 eligible players, so we relied on the U14 squad to help sustain a full team throughout the season.

Our first Saturday morning session was a trip to Footgolf Mayo. It was fun and a bit of a challenge but also different for our regular golfer Ellen, who shared her score keeping expertise with the girls. We also combined with the U14 panel on Saturdays to help with our team bonding in preparation for matches.

We were competing in Division 3 of the league. Our first match was against Kilmaine on Saturday 12th June at home. Playing in very windy conditions, we came out on top with a score of 6-15 to 4-5. The next match was against The Neale who travelled to Kilmeena for a later throw in of 7pm. It was a tight contest at the start but our girls pulled away from the South Mayo side and finished up scoring 2-19 to The Neale's 1-10. Our goalie Ellen O'Toole had secured a place with the Connacht Rugby U18 Academy so we sent her off with the winning feeling, that evening.



U16 Girls: Back Row: Davina Carney (management), Ava Prenty, Grace Gibbons, Aoife Gannon, James Prenty (management), Eabha Carney, Ellen O'Toole, Paul Moran (management), Katie Moran, Aimee Ingham, Emma Barrett, Maura Hastings (management).

Front Row: Áine Gallagher, Laura Ingham, Amy Carney, Chloe McGlynn, Abbie Quinn, Hattie Cox, Lisa Hastings, Róisín Feehan, Aoife Walshe.

Missing from photograph: Siófra Hughes, Ciara Kelly, Ellen Lonergan, Laura O'Grady, Niamh McNamara, Ruby Lane.

We had a spin to Ballinrobe for our next match. There was some shuffling of positions without our regular goalie but the girls took it on board and gave a strong performance once again. Final score: Kilmeena 2-18 Ballinrobe 3-6.

The semi-final was played on Sunday 4th of July in Ballyhaunis at 11am. It was a close match with the lead changing a few times. After the 2nd water break Kilmeena pushed on and defended brilliantly to finish 4 points ahead. Kilmeena 3-11 Ballyhaunis 3-7.

We then had two weeks to focus and prepare for the final. It was played at Ballyheane (Breaffy GAA) pitch on Sunday 18th July. Throw-in was at 5pm and our opponents were Swinford-Killasser. With temperatures in the mid twenties the game was a close encounter right through. The girls played with their usual passion and determination but the victory went to Swinford-Killasser on the day. Final score: Kilmeena 2-10 Swinford Killasser 2-13.

Our focus moved over to the upcoming championship and some of the panel played with the minor team for a few matches. Our first round of the championship was away to Knockmore on Friday 6th August. With the bare 15, we felt the pressure of playing in Division 2 and Knockmore used their bench wisely to finish with 5-8 to our 3-8. Parke Keellogues Crimlin were our next opponents at home on Sunday 22nd August. It is fair to say that this was our toughest contest all season and Parke KC took the winning points scoring 3-9 to our 3-8. Breaffy travelled to Kilmeena on Monday 6th of September and we got to show off our new jerseys from Lidl. Kilmeena got the upper hand with a few goal mouth scuffles and a penalty. It ended Kilmeena 7-6 Breaffy 5-4.

The Championship B semi-final was against Mac Hale Rovers in Bofenaun on Monday 13th September. On a wet, overcast evening with daylight fading there was no separating the teams after 60 minutes. It was Kilmeena 2-5 Mac Hale Rovers 1-8. Extra time was needed to get a result and Mac Hale Rovers pulled away from us to clinch the win. Final Score after extra time was Kilmeena 2-6 Mac Hale Rovers 2-12. This brought our U16 season to an end but there was still plenty of football for the girls that played with the minor team and our younger girls had Féile to prepare for. Just like the winter of 2020 the girls have moved from the pitch to the greenway and will continue with



TEAM REPORTS

some running over the coming months.

We are extremely thankful to the U14 management for their support and all the U14 girls that played with us in our matches. Thank you to our Covid officers Annette Keane Lonergan and Elaine Anderson. Thank you to all our parents who acted as umpires and officiated at matches. A very sincere thank you to the parents for bringing your daughters to training and matches. Thank you to all the Kilmeena club supporters who came to support us over the season. Our final thank you goes to Martin McIntyre and Ollie Mulchrone for all the wonderful action photos.

Management: Davina Carney, Maura Hastings, Paul Moran, James Prenty



Minor Ladies: Back Row L-R: Julia Szejner, Áine Regan, Megan O'Malley, Ellen O'Toole, Abby McGreal, Keeley Hastings, Ciara Joyce.

Front Row L-R: Katie Moran, Abbie Quinn, Hattie Cox, Emma Murray, Lisa Hastings, Orla McGlinchey, Rachel Gibbons.

Missing from photo: Holly Barrett, Laura Kelly, Eabha Carney, Aoife Gannon, Grace Gibbons, Aimee Ingham, Chloe McGlynn & Ava Prenty.

Kilmeena Minor Ladies

(Report by Peter Mortimer)

This year's 2021 minor ladies panel consisted of 11 players. Due to our low numbers, we joined up with the Junior ladies' team for training sessions throughout the year.

We got off to a good start in our league campaign with a home win against Westport B on 29th June. Four weeks later we were beaten by Claremorris in the second round fixture. Unfortunately, due to Covid we did not get to play our third-round game against Ballinrobe.

The league quarter final pairing saw us drawn to play an away fixture against a tough St Brigid's team. Our ladies battled hard in this game with only two points separating the teams at the start of the final quarter. St Brigid's

with a large panel of players introduced fresh legs in the final quarter which ultimately was the difference between the two sides at the final whistle.

We had Championship wins at home against Castlebar Mitchels and away to Breeffy to qualify for the Cup Semi-Final. We were drawn at home against Louisburgh in the semi-Final pairing. Both teams gave a wonderful display of football in a very tightly contested game. Louisburgh earned their spot in the final with just the kick of a ball between us in the end.

Thanks to all the ladies for their effort

and commitment during the year. Special thanks to the U-16 girls and management without whom we wouldn't be able to field a team.

Thanks to Martin McIntyre for taking photographs. Thanks to our Covid supervisors, Catherine McGlinchey, Chris McGreal, Majella O'Malley and Carol O'Malley. And finally Thanks to all the parents and supporters for helping throughout the year. It was great to see so many people attending all the games this year.

Management team: Peter Mortimer and Ollie Mulchrone.

Kilmeena Junior Ladies

(Report by Peter Mortimer)

What a year! Following an absence in 2020, the Junior ladies started the 2021 season with a Zoom meeting on March 15th to discuss if there was an interest in forming a team for 2021. The mood was apprehensive but it was quickly realised that there was a hunger with the ladies to get back to playing football. As the country was still in lockdown and training in groups was prohibited the ladies started on a strength and conditioning programme provided by Annette Lonergan. Annette quickly realised that she had two very competent strength and conditioning

coaches in Maureen Joyce and Lisa Browne and duly handed over the reins.

Group training finally started on 12th May in Carrowholly. We had our first challenge game away to Achill on 9th June.

The league campaign started on 13th June with a loss to Kiltane but this was followed by wins against, Kilmaine, Balla, Achill, Hollymount B, Kiltane (again) and Westport B. We played Kiltane in a thrilling league Final on 10th Sept which, unfortunately ended

in a two-point loss after extra time, 1-12 to 2-7.

The Championship started on 4th September, we had wins against Shrule/Glencorrib, Balla, Kilmormoy B and Kilmaine. We beat Westport B in the semi-final to set up another final against Kiltane. Another thrilling game with Kiltane ultimately getting the upper hand 3-09 to 3-05.

Management took the time towards the end of the season to provide individual feedback to all the players in order to

help them all improve their skills and performance on the pitch. The players responded by providing management with similar feedback to ensure everyone was getting the most out of everything that we were doing.

'Together we learn and improve'

We completed our season unbeaten at home and there is not a team that can say they didn't suffer a loss to our side at some point during this season. We may not have won any silverware but we finished the year with many new

friendships, improved skills, a great team spirit and ultimately a bright future for Kilmeena LGFA.

We would like to extend a huge word of thanks to; all our supporters who came to watch our games; the Club for backing us; Carrowholly National School for the use of the pitch; The photographers, Martin McIntyre and Colm Barrett; Our strength and conditioning coaches, Annette Lonergan, Maureen Joyce and Lisa Browne; Our Covid Officers, Cris McGreal, Majella O'Malley, Catherine

McGlinchey and Carol O'Malley and to our physiotherapist, Julie Moore.

A special mention to our main sponsor, Payslip, for our team's gear, our silent sponsors for funding our bags and to MySign.ie for providing the team signs for the Championship final.

Management team: Peter Mortimer, Davy Feehan, Ollie Mulchrone, Maureen Joyce, Majella O'Malley and Lisa Browne.



Junior Ladies: Back Row L-R: Majella O'Malley, Davy Feehan, Molly Moore, Sophie Flynn, Keeley Hastings, Julia Szejner, Zoe Bourke, Ciara Faherty, Holly Barrett, Megan O'Malley, Jaimee Geraghty, Sheila Bohan, Susannah Horgan, Sarah Harper, Róisín Carney, Sarah Hogan, Maureen Joyce, Fiona Groden, Abby McGreal, Katie Hogan, Shona Walshe, Aoife O'Kelly, Niamh Faherty, Ollie Mulchrone.

Front Row L-R: Orla McGlinchey, Caragh Ryan, Rachel Gibbons, Rachel Keane, Muireann Cawley, Derbhla Grealis, Emma Murray, Siobhan Golden, Linda Barrett, Laura Kelly, Ciara Joyce, Sarah Mulchrone, Lucy O'Malley, Shannon Bourke, Áine Regan, Mags Ryder, Emma-Jane Gill, Peter Mortimer.

Unavoidably absent from the photo were Lisa Browne, Nina Mathastein, Róisín Hogan & Laura Moore.



U7 Boys
(Report by Sean Kelly)

In early May 2021, we kicked off the U7 boys training for the season. We organised the training sessions to introduce the basic skills of the game such

as kicking, catching, hand passing, toe tap, bounce, pick up and tackling. The emphasis was very much on fun and allowing every player to get as many

touches of the ball as possible during the session. At such a young age movement in every activity is important for their development.

We hosted a number of challenge games against our neighbours Burrishoole, Westport and Louisburgh. We also took to the road to play Westport as well. For many it was the first time they pulled on the coveted Kilmeena jersey. The boys didn't disappoint, they demonstrated great skill, passion and teamwork representing the club during these matches.

Our season concluded with a medal and football presentation performed by Kilmeena senior player Jack Carney. We are grateful to the Westport Credit Union for the sponsorship of the footballs. The coaches Adrian Cawley, Deirdre Garvin, Hugh Kelly, Mel King, Sean Kelly and Mags Ryder, would like to thank the boys and their parents for their continued support. We wish the



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best of luck to the older boys moving on to the Under-9 team, and we look forward to the return of the younger boys and any new boys who wish to join the club in 2022

The panel of Kilmeena U7 boys for 2021 was represented by: Zac Walsh, Matthew Gormonly, Ciaran Kelly, James Lawless, Jesse Lee Durcan, Michael Staunton, Kian McGlynn, Jack O'Malley, Aran Cawley, Callum Coughlan, Rowan Goggins, Josh Moran, Ruairi O'Malley, Aodán Gildea, Gary Feehan, Evan Gilger, Cian Joyce, Lorcan Monaghan, Mark Davitt, Ollie Joyce, Reuben Coughlan, Ruairí Kelly, Thomas Mc Donagh, Ben Kelly, Ethan Armstrong, Jack Sheridan and Conan Ryder.



U9 Boys: Back Row: Jack Molloy, James Hastings, Dylan Duffy, Luke Molloy, Lochlainn Mulchrone, Theo Bronkal, Caolan McLoughlin.

Front Row: Thomas Griffin, Brendan Smyth, Diarmuid Cody, Patrick Scott, Oran McManamon.
Missing from photo: Rory O'Donnell, Keegan Heritage, Tommy Cannon, Matthew Coyle

U9 Boys

(Report by Paul Ryan)

Our 2021 season got underway on May 6th with 28 boys attending the first training session. We played a total of 11 matches, competing against Burrishoole, Westport, Tourmakeady, Islandeady, Castlebar, Ballintubber and Kilmeena U10 Girls.

The boys showed great commitment throughout the year with a good atten-

dance at training. The games definitely improved their skills level and helped them find their best position on the pitch.

Management would like to thank the parents for encouraging the boys and for your commitment to have them at all training sessions, as well as your support at the matches.

We finished our season on October 6th. A personal thanks to Niamh Martin and Niamh Walsh, our Covid Officers and all my fellow coaching colleagues.

Management:
Paul Ryan, Liam Gilger, Vinnie Gibbons, Fintan Durkan, Declan Ryan and Brian McManamon.



U11 Boys: Back Row: Eoghan Smyth, Sam McDonnell, Charlie McLoughlin, Michael Gannon, Paul Joyce, Brian Daly, Rian McManamon

Front Row: James Heanue, Cody Coughlan, Jacob Chambers, Alex Fahy, Adam O'Connell, Ruairí Browne, Michael Francis Gormley.

U11 Boys

(Report by Pat Coughlan)

The long awaited and anticipated commencement of the U11 Boys season took place on the 3rd May, with a squad of 24.

From the outset, these players showed their dedication and enthusiasm with a full squad of 24 toting out at the first training session of the season, on a Bank Holiday Monday. Over the next six months, this bunch of young lads made training thoroughly enjoyable and were enabled to showcase their skills during matches. Training took place two evenings per week with high attendance levels each evening. Such were our numbers, we effectively had to field two teams in every match. These lads went from strength to strength throughout the season and were able to reap the rewards as a result.

Our Go Games fixtures this season involved matches against Burrishoole, Louisburgh, Ballinrobe and Ballintubber.

All of our young players acquitted themselves very well, usually finishing on top in most of their encounters.

In addition to the Go Games, we also participated in the Gearóid Murphy Memorial Blitz in Achill. After two hard fought battles we came out the right

side in both games in our group, against both Islandeady and Louisburgh. We played a magnificent Achill side in the final. Again we battled hard and were victorious in winning the competition, on a healthy score-line of 3-05 to 2-04.

Throughout the season we took part

in lots of challenge games. This kept the lads playing football and provided for their continued skills development. We finished our season on a high with a trip to Began Centre of Excellence for a Blitz against Kilmacud Crokes, Breaffy and Castlebar, with wins in all three games. The lads thoroughly enjoyed this experience and it was a great day out for all.

I would like to sincerely thank our coaching team of; Kieran Hastings, Kevin Lawless, Chris McGauley, Liam McDonnell and Liam Heanue.

A special mention and thank you to Daniel Fadian, for coaching our goalkeepers. This proved to be very successful and was very beneficial to them. Thank you to our Covid Officers Aileen McNamara and Ger Mulchrone for their help and assistance throughout the season. Thank you to Tracey's Florist for sponsoring flowers for our Covid Officers, in appreciation of the role they took on, so that these lads could play football.

It was an absolute pleasure for me to coach such an enthusiastic, talented bunch of young lads. The future of Kilmeeena GAA is bright with these upcoming stars.



U11 Boys: Back Row: Lorcan Lane, Luke O'Donnell, Alan Heanue, Jason Lawless, Finn Mulchrone, Charlie Geoghan, Donnachta McGauley.

Front Row: Noah Coughlan, Ryan Cannon, Billy Lane, Jack Ivin, Liam Quinn, Darragh Mulchrone.

U12 Boys

(Report by Barry Murphy)

With barely time to draw breath after coming together from the U11 and U13 teams, the Kilmeeena U12s started training together on Thursday, 9th September.

Our first U12 Championship (Group F) match, just eleven days after the commencement of group training, was a home game against Achill. We won this game easily. Our next game was also a home game, this time against division favourites Tourmakeady, where we eked out a fantastic two-point win.

We were beaten in our third game, an away fixture to Louisburgh. This game was played on a pitch so waterlogged that it's unlikely these boys will ever play on anything like it again! Sadly our opponents for our fourth and final game, Islandeady, chose not to play the fixture. However, this ensured we finished joint top of the table with Tourmakeady, having six points each. With the dark evenings closing in and waterlogged pitches a plenty, a halt was called to the season on 11th October.

This talented bunch of players showed that even in the short space of time they were together, they can compete with

any team and great things are expected of them next season!



U12 Boys: Back row: Coaches Barry Murphy, Kevin Lawless, Pat Coughlan, Mairead Durkan, Kieran Hastings. Middle row: Jason Lawless, Alan Heanue, Finn Mulchrone, Jamie Durkan, Robbie Murphy, Luke O'Donnell.

Front row: Darragh Mulchrone, Charlie Geoghan, Liam Quinn, Jason Feehan, Noah Coughlan, Tom Cox, Cian Moran, Darragh McDonnell, Felix Zeray.

Missing from photo: Billy and Lorcan Lane, Jack Ivin, Donnachta McGauley, Tadhg Daly, Ryan Cannon, Kevin Hastings.



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U13 Boys

(Report by Barry Murphy)

Our U13 team started training for the 2021 season on 26th April and played their final match, a friendly, away to Moy Davitts on 2nd September

In that time we had a total of 30 training sessions and six league matches. Our first of six league games in the U13 (Group D) division took place away to Shrile-Glencorrib, where we eventually emerged comfortable winners. However, our next two games, at home to Parke and away to Tourmakeady proved a reality-check, as we lost badly to both. Our fourth game, at home to Kiltimagh, was an epic encounter with Kilmeena emerging victorious by a single point. This set up our final competitive showdown, at home to Burrishoole, on the 29th July. Putting in a season's best performance, Kilmeena comfortably won this encounter and ensured that we finished the campaign mid-table. Our final game of the season was an away friendly against Moy Davitts. The efforts of the group were rewarded en-route home by way of a pit-stop at Supermacs Westport for some well-deserved nosh.

All in all, it was a satisfying season. The coaches were pleased with the progression of the boys' skills and fitness levels and it's fair to say that both the players and coaches enjoyed the season and are looking forward to the '22 season already!

We would like to thank our Covid Officers, Deirdre Gannon, Finola and Hugo Feehan.

Coaches: Michael Gavin, Padraic Walsh, Mike Slattery, Mairead Durkan, Barry Murphy.



U13 Boys: Back row: Darren Daly, Adam Moran, Robbie Murphy, Jamie Durkan, Kevin Hastings, Alan Mortimer, Alan Gannon, Kyle Mulchrone, Sean Keane, Logan Heraty, Tiernan Aherne.

Front row: Tadhg Daly, Darragh McDonnell, Eoghan Cannon, Cian Moran, Sean Kilcoyne, Felix Zeray, Cormac Slattery, Tom Cox, Jason Feehan, Shane Durkan.

U14 Boys

(Report by Michael Gavin)

Following the completion of the uneven age groups, our U14 lads commenced training on Monday 6th September. We trained twice a week with a good turnout at each session and a total panel of 23 players.

We participated in our first home games of the West Mayo U14B championship on 20th September. We defeated our opponents comfortably with our lads playing some exciting, open and expansive football. We notched a scoring total of 5-12 in the game which gave us great confidence in the further rounds of the competition. Unfortunately we were overpowered and suffered heavy losses in our final two games against Ballintubber at home and away to

Burrishoole. Our results meant we did not proceed to the knockout stages of the competition.

Overall, management were satisfied with the application and skills displayed in the training sessions but a little disappointed in that we didn't get more from ourselves in the games. The management team looks forward to the opportunity to work with this group at U15 level in 2022.

Running sessions on the greenway have recently commenced for the group to ensure fitness levels are maintained and improved. A number of panel members will compete for Rice College at juvenile level in the coming months

and we have no doubt they will shine there too.

Management:
Michael Gavin, Padraig Walsh, Jim Cannon, Mike Slattery

Panel members:
Tiernan Aherne, Rory Kilcoyne, Eoghan Cannon, Sean Kilcoyne, Louie Corcoran, Shane Lavelle, Alex Coyne, Adam Moran, Darren Daly, Alan Mortimer, Kyle Mulchrone, Patrick Feehan, Aaron Murray, Alan Gannon, Cormac O'Malley, Oran Grimley, Darragh O'Grady, Logan Heraty, Cormac Slattery, Sean Keane, Dean Staunton, Alex Kenning.

U15 Boys

(Report by Sean Barrett)

The season commenced on the 26th of April.

In the weeks leading up to the return of games, the lads worked very hard on their skills and fitness.

The first encounter was a pre-season friendly against Erris St.Pats which was a learning curve for the league games ahead.

We had away trips to Kilmovee, Ardagh and Charlestown with home ties against Castlebar, Cill Chomain and Swinford

for the league. No referee showed up for the Swinford game.

In a very tough league, the lads battled hard against some good teams and learned a lot, especially for our Féile campaign.

I would encourage the lads to keep up the good work, and that results are not the 'be-all and end-all' at underage football.

This group of players has plenty of po-

tential, and I am sure we will see some of them line out for our senior team in the coming years.

A special thanks to Kathleen Barrett, who washed and prepared the jerseys and bibs throughout the year. Also, a massive thanks to the management team for their time and effort throughout the season.

Management Team: Sean Barrett, Declan Ryan, Darragh Keaveney and Stephen Staunton.



U15 Boys: Back Row: Davy Feehan, Declan Ryan (management), Patrick McGlynn, Martynas Grimaila, Alex Kenning, Patrick Feehan, Danny Cannon, Cormac O'Malley, Louis Corcoran, Dean Staunton, D.J. Keane, Stephen Staunton (management), Sean Barrett (management)

Front Row: Aaron Murray, Aodhán Feehan, Alex Coyne, Rory Kilcoyne, Aaron Bourke, John Murphy, Micheál Regan, Evan O'Grady, Oran Grimley, Darragh O'Grady, Luke Durkan.

Missing from photo: Darragh Keaveney (management), Shane Lavelle, Declan Moore

Under 16 Boys

(Report by Darren Madden)

After an amazing Under 17 journey and the disappointment of losing a County final, there was no time to waste!!

Our under 16 campaign was underway. The management team of Darren Madden, Declan Ryan, Davy Feehan and Sean Barrett set about organising these lads for a very competitive championship. Not too many former players in our club would have experienced playing A football at this age group, and as a manager it was a new experience and exciting prospect for me and the management team.

First up was Parke at home. We lost that game, but you could feel the disappointment as the group expected more from themselves. In truth, this game came too soon and as a group, we were only starting to get things together. Tactically Parke was better drilled and more aware. Our guys knew this and I know if we met Parke again, we would react differently. It is great to have many young men who are so positive after a defeat and want to learn from the experience.

We couldn't spend too long feeling

sorry for ourselves as we knew the next game was big, with our illustrious neighbours, Westport, waiting in the wings.

After being beaten in the county final only a few weeks earlier, our lads were up for the job in hand. Although behind on the scoreboard at halftime, our second-half performance goes down as the achievement of the year. Coming out of Westport with a draw felt mighty, but we knew (privately) it could have been so much more.



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Our last game was against Castlebar, and this was always going to be difficult as they were by far the best team in the group. However, we competed well and never gave up but were always second best against the eventual champions.

A big thanks to all my managers, all players and notably to Mairead Durkan for her undivided support. It was a pleasure working with a positive group of young men, and we look forward to seeing how they move forward, on and off the field. Kilmeena abú!

Panel of players:

Aaron Bourke, Aodhán Feehan, Conall Gill, Conor Feehan, Conor Kelly, Danny Cannon, Darragh Slattery, Declan Moore, DJ. Keane, Donal Hastings, Evan O'Grady, Jack O'Grady, John Murphy, Dylan Staunton, Joseph O'Malley, Joshua Browne, Keelan Corcoran, Luke Durkan, Martynas Grimaila, Micheál Regan, Patrick McGlynn, Rian Kilcoyne, Rory McDaid, Stephen O'Grady. Management Darren Madden, Declan Ryan, Sean Barrett, Davy Feehan.



U16 Boys: Back row, left to right: Darren Madden (Manager), Martynas Grimaila, Conor Feehan, DJ Keane, Aaron Burke, Aodhán Feehan, Conor Kelly, Rian Kilcoyne, Declan Moore, Danny Cannon, Darragh Slattery.

Front row, left to right: Dylan Staunton, Patrick McGlynn, Donal Hastings, Keelan Corcoran, Luke Durkan, John Murphy, Evan O'Grady, Micheál Regan.

Missing from photo: Conall Gill, Jack O'Grady, Joe O'Malley, Josh Browne, Stephen O'Grady, Sean Barrett (Management), Declan Ryan (management), Nigel Madden (management)

U17 Boys

(Report by Pádraig Moore)

The inaugural Mayo Minor (U17) club championship commenced in 2021, thus aligning with the inter-county Minor format.

We kicked off training towards the end of April and had a six-week lead into our first game. Initially we were placed in the B Championship, (as gradings are based on the previous season's performance.) However, this group of players were determined to appeal this decision and play at a higher level. And, after so doing, we were granted our wish to play A Championship football. We were placed in a nine-team group of primarily senior clubs with the top four qualifying for the semi finals. Reaching the semi-final was a realistic goal if we stayed injury-free and had everyone on board.

We laid down a marker in our first game home to Breaffy as we ran out winners by five points to get our season off to the perfect start. Round 2 was an away game against our near neighbours, Westport, which turned out to be a typical local derby. On this occasion, we were defeated by five points but played well enough to suggest we could still progress to the later stages of the competition.

Defeats in round 3 home to Ballina and round 4 away to Aughamore, playing poorly, conceding some sloppy scores and also missing a few players in both games, seemed to completely derail our season. However, we were now in the territory of knock-out football, and we knew we could not afford another defeat if we were to progress in the Championship.

Round 5 was a home game against a fancied Moydavitts side, and this was the game that we made a real statement of intent, winning by seven points with some superb defending and creating some great scores. An away game v Ballinrobe in Round 6 was won by seven points in another convincing display, and this result had us back in the mix with 2 rounds to play.

We were convincing winners over Naomh Pádraig in round 7 in our final home game, which left us on eight points and qualification was now within our reach.

Westport and Aughamore had qualified for the semi final by this stage, and anyone of five other teams could join them heading into the final rounds of group games. Our final fixture was

away to Castlebar Mitchels (last year's County U16A Champions) in a do or die clash for both sides. In a very tight enthralling encounter, our lads prevailed by 1 - 9 to 0 - 09 to progress to the semis. Following this victory, we were convinced we would now give the business end of the Championship a good go.

We had to travel to Aughamore for the semi-final, as we finished on the same number points, but as they had beaten us earlier in the campaign, they gained a home advantage. However, we knew we were a much better side than they had beaten in round 5, plus now we had everyone back on board. We dominated the game from the very start and led by 7 points to 3 at halftime, playing against a very strong breeze. A blistering start to the second half which we scored 1 - 03 without reply, put the game to bed as a contest. The game ended 1 - 13 to 0 - 06 in what was a real dominant all round display. Westport defeated Ballinrobe in the other semifinal to set up a much anticipated all West Mayo County Minor A-Final.

On a crisp September night under the floodlights in Islandeady with a huge crowd, both teams went at it hammer

and tongs. Westport led the game and had the edge in most of the contest, but Kilmeeena will look back on the third quarter of this game with regret as they had reeled their neighbours to

within 1 point and also had 8 wides in this dominant period. Westport went on to score two late goals as Kilmeeena was chasing the game to leave a final score of 3 - 07 to 1 - 04. It was a real

disappointment to lose a County Minor A-Final but, when the dust settles on the 2021 season, our lads will look back with real satisfaction at their capability of playing at the highest level.



U17 Boys: Back Row: Cormac Lyons, Darragh Slattery, Conall Gill, Sean Gallagher, Brian Durkan, Evan O' Donnell, Liam Moore, Josh Browne, Harry Sheridan, Adam O' Grady, Conor Feehan, Conor Kelly, Rian Kilcoyne, Joseph O'Malley, Padraig Moore (Manager).

Front Row: Pat Mulchrone (Coach), Neil O'Donnell (Manager), Luke Durkan, Keelan Corcoran, Jack O'Grady, Colin Hastings, Donal Hastings, Ciaran Kilcoyne, Jack Mulchrone, Stephen O'Grady, Cormac Feehan, Conor Madden (Coach)

Missing from photo: Finley Gibbons.



U18 Boys: Back Row: Padraig Moore (manager), Pat Mulchrone (Coach), Ciaran Kilcoyne, Chris McGlynn, Harry Sheridan, Evan O'Donnell, Rian Kilcoyne, Brian Durkan, Sean Gallagher, Ben Lennon, Adam O'Grady, Rory Nolan, Conor Kelly, Neil O'Donnell (coach), Cillian O'Grady, Michael O'Grady (coach).

Front Row: Darragh Slattery, Oisín Grimley, Liam Moore, Jack Walsh, Daniel O'Malley (Capt.), Jack Mulchrone, Josh Browne, Conall Gill, Conor Feehan, Colin Hastings, Cormac Feehan, Sean Prenty.

Missing from photo: Cormac Lyons, Finley Gibbons.

U18 Boys

(Report by Michael O'Grady)

Following the change in competition sequencing which saw the odd-numbered competitions first, followed by the even-numbered rounds later, the

U18 competition got underway in late September. On Friday 24th September, Kilmeeena began with an away game to Achill and were victorious on a scoreline

of 13 points to 2. The following Friday evening, Kilmeeena hosted Burrishoole. In a dominant display, the lads in black and white were again comprehensive



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winner on a scoreline of 2-11 to 0-3. This win put Kilmeena through to a West Mayo U18B Final whose opponents would be Parke. The game took place on Friday 15th October at the Breaffy GAA grounds in Ballyheane. In a tight but exciting contest, the men in black and white came out on top (2-10 to 1-10) to win the West Mayo title.

This triumph offered Kilmeena the opportunity to compete for a county title. On Sunday, 24th October, Kilmeena

took on East Mayo champions, Charles-town, in a semi-final contest played at Pairc Josie Munnely, Castlebar. Kilmeena dominated early on and led at half time, lost their way somewhat in the 3rd quarter but finished strongly to claim a spot in the U18B County Final. The final score was 2-13 to 1-10.

The County Final, against Crossmolina, took place on Friday 29th October under lights in Mulvey Park, Castlebar. From a position of parity both at half

time and as the contest entered the final 15 minutes, the final loss (3 - 7 to 4 - 10) was very disappointing for Kilmeena. On the night, Crossmolina were the better side. However, the Kilmeena lads can be very proud of their achievement in reaching a County Final and one which on another day, they may well have come out on top, had their efforts not been blighted by injured personnel. With this abundance of talented and enthusiastic young men, the future is bright for Kilmeena GAA.

Seniors

(Report by John Doherty)

This winter the Peter McDermott Cup will reside on the shores of Clew Bay nestled among the drumlins of the Kilmeena parish. This famous trophy made its last visit here in 2002, and there has been a yearning to have it back here ever since the club returned to junior ranks a decade ago.

There has been much expectation over the past few years that this group of players would deliver on that dream, but many of the current crop of players would be the first to acknowledge the work of those teammates that went before them in bringing the club to this stage.

The year began when Covid restrictions were lifted in May and collective training could begin. From the outset the focus was clear – get back to a county final and use the experience of last year to go one step further.

Early Season

The season began with a flurry of early-season competitions. First up was the Kelly Cup and the West Mayo Junior B Championship. The Kelly Cup campaign saw us off to a good start with good wins over Achill and Tourmakeady, and a hard-fought tussle with Islandeady, which ended in a share of the spoils. Qualification to the knockout stage was denied on points difference.

In the West Mayo Junior B, our second string competed well against strong teams. We lost to Breaffy by the narrowest of margins, then defeated a strong Westport team before ending the campaign with a loss against a Balla team studded with players from Senior ranks.

Our B team had one outing in the County Junior C Championship, which involved a mid-summer trip up to Cill Chomáin. Although we lost comprehensively, it was a good day out, and little did we know, we would be locking horns with them on a much bigger stage later in the year.



Seniors: Back row, left to right: Rian Kilcoyne, Patrick Golden, Seán Bradshaw, John Reilly (Manager), Kian Moore, Stephen Staunton, Ben Lennon, Joey Smyth, Paul Groden, Andrew Grealis, Jack Carney, Tomás Gill, Conor Madden, Chris McGlynn, Niall Ryan, James Groden, Kevin Ryder, Seán Moore, Brian Mortimer, Chris Heanue, Darragh Slattery, John Doherty (Management Team), Peter Carney (Management Team)

In July, we competed in the Michael Walsh Junior League. Wins over Tourmakeady and Ballycroy looked to have set us up for further progress in the competition, but we were stunned at home by Eastern Gaels, who brought more dynamism and speed of thought on the day to edge us out, and ensure their own advancement to the latter stages.

League Campaigns and Cusack Cup

The league for both our A and B teams started in early August. We were able to integrate most of the successful minor squad into our B team for this campaign, and it was particularly pleasing to see these young men flourish in the early stages of their adult football careers. We started with two very narrow losses to Islandeady and Westport, but in the next game gained a very creditable draw against Castlebar, and then went on to defeat Balla comprehensively in our final League game.

For the first team, the month of August proved to be particularly difficult and ultimately a season-defining few weeks. We started off with a narrow home defeat to Parke, and on our next outing lost by a big margin in Balla. Next we headed off to Ballyhaunis hoping to get some league points on the board but our hopes were dashed by a stronger performance on the day from the East Mayo men.

Next up was the Cusack Cup Final in Newport against Achill. Surely this would be the game to stop the recent losing streak? An under-par performance saw us failing to retain the trophy, but more importantly, the question was could this group of players respond to turn their season around?

Potential relegation to Division 4 was a distinct possibility. Ardagh came to St. Brendan's Park in a must-win game for both teams. Our boys found their form and ran out easy winners. They backed this up a week later with an early scoring blitz in Bonniconlon to secure Division 3 status for another year.

Junior Championship Campaign

In our opening game, we hosted Tourmakeady on a pleasant late September evening, and after a bright opening, ran out facile winners on a score of 4-11 to 0-4.

Next up was a trip to Kilfian, and on a wet and breezy day in North Mayo, we once again ran up a big score to win out by 3-18 to 0-3.

The group decider was against Ardagh in Newport, and despite our league victory a few weeks earlier, we were prepared for a real battle, and so it proved. Our physicality and sheer hard work saw us prevail by 1-14 to 0-8.

With no time to rest on our laurels, we met Killala on a wet and windy day in Parke. We struggled to impose our game on Killala who had set up very defensively and it was the final quarter before we really imposed ourselves on the game, but once again won by a wide margin of 1-12 to 1-3.

When we were drawn against Islandeady for the semi-finals, there was much talk of the big two meeting head on. There was no doubt that we were prepared for our stiffest challenge of the season. The early exchanges saw us creating a number of chances which we failed to take and the three-point margin at half time didn't fully reflect our superiority. The third quarter saw the team really demonstrating their defensive and attacking prowess, which saw the platform set for a 1-19 to 0-6 victory.

County Final

The team had now scaled the heights of last year, but this time they were not to be denied their march to the summit. We came up against an excellently organised Cill Chomáin team, and on the day we needed big performances from key players, which they duly delivered on. Much already has been written about the heroes on the day, but a number of moments will live long in the memory.



Front row, left to right: Julie Moore (Physio), Eoin Sweeney (Management Team), Jason Barry, Jack Walsh, Niall Feehan, John McGlynn, Seán Ryder (Captain), Keith Joyce, John Keane, John Ryan, Ronan O'Donnell, Darragh Keaveney, Pat Mulchrone, Paddy Keane, Seán Barrett, Daniel O'Malley, Kieran Sheridan, Cillian O'Grady, Neil Duffy



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When Sean Ryder sent over a raking long range point to put us four up going down the final straight, I'm sure the roar from the Kilmeena hordes could be heard at the other end of Crossmolina. When the team and squad stood as one to sing the national anthem, it surely sent the message to the Cill Chomáin squad that we meant business, and when the final whistle went and the Kilmeena faithful invaded the pitch, there was no doubting the sheer joy, pride and emotion which this victory had brought to the parish.

This day will go down in folklore and for years to come, when these players come together, they will share their memories of the day. It might be Mossy Gill's block on the line, it could well be Stephen Staunton's altercation with his opposite number or ultimately it might be Seanie Ryder's tackle which set up his goal. Whatever it is, this group of players deserve to look back on their achievements because of the sheer hard work they put in all year.

They now look forward to a Connacht campaign and Intermediate football in 2022. As Seanie Ryder, our captain stated euphorically when he lifted the Peter McDermott cup, "this is only the start boys, it's only the start".





CLUB PRESENTATIONS 2020



Paddy Keane receiving the "Manager's Player of the Year" shield from Senior manager John Reilly.



Tomás Gill presents Niall Feehan with the "Players' Player of the Year" trophy on behalf of his teammates.



The U18 Boys "Player of the Year", Cillian O'Grady, was presented with his trophy by Padraic Moore, Club Treasurer. Also pictured, on left, is Cillian's dad, Michael.



Club Chairman, John McDonald, presents Liam Óg McNamara with his "Most Improved Player of the Year" award.



Katie Moran accepts her "U14 Girls Player of the Year" award from team manager Davina Carney.



Managers Peter Mortimer, Sarah Hogan and Róisín Carney, present Holly Barrett with her trophy for "U16 Girls Player of the Year".



Molly Moore receives her "Minor Player of the Year" award, from left, Peter Mortimer (manager), dad Padraic and Sarah Hogan (coach)



Jim Cannon, manager of the U12 Boys, presents his son Eoghan with the "U12 Boys Player of the Year" award. Also pictured, left to right are U12 managers, Mike Slattery, Barry Murphy, mother Cathy, and Mairead Durkan.



Luke Durkan receives his "U14 Boys Player of the Year" trophy from U14 managers Padraic Walsh and Michael Gavin. Also pictured, from left to right, are Club PRO, Sean Barrett and parents Mairead and Michael Durkan.



John Keane received the "Barrett Memorial Young Player of the Year" award from Sean Barrett on behalf of the Barrett family.



U16 team manager Neil O'Donnell presented Ciaran Kilcoyne with his "U16 Player of the Year" memento.



Team manager Maura Hastings presents "U13 Girls Player of the Year" winner Laura O'Grady with her trophy.



Sean Barrett, Padraic Walsh, Michael Gavin and Cormac's father, Conor O'Malley, present Cormac with his statuette for "U13 Player of the Year".



Rian Kilcoyne receiving the "U15 Boys Player of the Year" trophy. Presenting the trophy are, from left, Club Chairman, John McDonald, brother Ciaran, Neil O'Donnell, recipient Rian, mum Carmel and Club Treasurer Padraic Moore.



LOCAL LEAGUE 2021

Return of the Winter League a huge success

A fantastic day was had by all at Kilmeena GAA club for this year's Winter League on Sunday 14th November. We had a lovely morning of mini-games for our young girls and boys.

Our Healthy Club Committee helped out by organising fun activities for kids and served well-earned refreshments too! The day concluded with cup and medal presentations.

The winners of the boys' A final were presented with the Declan Gibbons Memorial Cup, the winners of the B final were presented with the

William Quinn Memorial Cup and the Ryan Cup was presented to the winners of the C final. The winning girls were presented with the Padraic Mulloy Memorial Cup while the Sean Kelly Memorial Cup was presented to the girls runners-up.

A huge 'thank you' to all of the organisers, coaches, referees and everyone that helped with refreshments along with our photographer for the day, Ollie Mulchrone. Thanks also to the families who have so kindly sponsored these cups. We are very grateful.

Go raibh maith agaibh!



Back row left to right: Emma Jane Gill, Chloe Monaghan, Caillín McPhillips, Rachel Feehan, Emma Gannon, Roisín Brady, Catherine Lawless, Jaimee Geraghty.
Front row left to right: Aishling Lawless, Niamh Byrne, Emily Fahy, Shauna Durkan, Julie O'Grady, Amy Joyce, Anna Lyttle, Molly Mulchrone.



Back row, left to right: Finn Mulchrone, Logan Heraghty, Tiernan Aherne, Billy Lane, Kieran Hastings.
Front row, left to right: Adam O'Connell, Evan Ryder, Jason Lawless, Eoghan Smyth.



Back row left to right: Emma Jane Gill, Rachel Feehan, Caillín McPhillips, Roisín Brady, Shauna Durkan.
Front row left to right: Emily Fahy, Anna Lyttle, Molly Mulchrone.



Back row, left to right: Alan Heanue, Kevin Hastings, Tom Cox, Cian Moran, Liam Heanue.
Front row, left to right: James Heanue, Sam McDonnell, Michael-Francis Gormonly, Bobby Lane



Back row, left to right: Hugo Feehan, Jason Feehan, Kyle Mulchrone, Noah Coughlan, Rian McManamon.
Front row, left to right: Cody Coughlan, Paul Joyce, Oran McManaman, Lorcan Lane.



Back row left to right: Catherine Lawless, Emma Gannon, Chloe Monaghan, Jaimee Geraghty.
Front row left to right: Aishling Lawless, Julie O'Grady, Amy Joyce, Niamh Byrne



Back row, left to right: Darren Madden, Liam Quinn, Cormac Slattery, Alan Gannon, Michael Gannon.
Front row, left to right: Charlie McLoughlin, Charlie Walsh, Jaye Joyce, Darragh Mulchrone.



The Healthy Club Committee: Noreen Johnston, Noleen Coughlan and Julie Moore



The Padraic Mulloy Memorial cup being presented to Cailin McPhillips by Mickey Carney



The Sean Kelly Memorial Cup being presented to Catherine Lawless by Mickey Carney



The Declan Gibbons Memorial Cup being presented to Kyle Mulchrone by Austin Gibbons



The William Quinn Memorial Cup being presented to Alan Gannon by Willie Quinn



The Ryan Cup being presented to Tiernan Ahern by Tom Ryan





SPORTS ROUND-UP

Boys' Winter Training

We have introduced a new winter training programme for boys between 9-14 years of age. The purpose is to gain some fitness and ball handling skills while having a bit of fun during the off-season.



Greenway fitness takes place on Thursday evenings at 6.30pm starting from the old community centre. This is aimed at 12-14-year-olds.

Astro turf football sessions takes place at Westport GAA's Astro turf pitch on Sundays from 5-6pm. These sessions are aimed at 9-12-year-olds working on ball drills and some fun games!

They are great opportunities for our younger boys and we are encouraging all players to attend.

A huge thanks to the trainers who have introduced these sessions and continue to run them each week.



Making Their Mark With Mayo!

Congratulations to the Kilmeena GAA players who represented themselves and their club well at West Mayo competitions this season: Darragh Slattery, Conal Gill, Micheál Regan, Darragh O'Grady and Aaron Murray.

Congratulations also to those who continue to do so on Mayo Academy teams - U17: Liam Moore; U16: Conor Feehan, Conor Kelly and Rian Kilcoyne; U15: Luke Durkan; U14 Cormac O'Malley.

The New 'Recreational Room'

The new Rec Room is located in the old storage area under the gym. It is a really cool space, where club members can meet up, relax, and have a coffee after a gym or pitch session. The room will also be used to view VEO match analysis, thus enhancing both player and coach development. The room has been finished to a very high standard. Everything is brand new. It has laminated flooring, cushioned benches, T.V., Wi-Fi, microwave, Nespresso coffee machine, bluetooth speakers and a fridge.

Labour on the project was done free of charge by club members and players. All materials and fittings listed above have been sponsored by players and club members. In the space of two hours, following the Kilmeena v. Kilfian Junior Championship match, the Junior (now Intermediate) men's team along with some other club members, sponsored €1,640 worth of furniture and fittings in a WhatsApp auction!

There are still a few outstanding items that we would like to further enhance and completely finish the Rec Room. The average cost of these items is €50. If you haven't already contributed and would like to now, please contact Peter Carney on 086-8530365.

We feel that the 'Rec Room' is unique to Kilmeena G.A.A. Club. We hope that adult players, mentors, managements and members will enjoy meeting up here in the months and years to come. Projects such as this give us a huge 'sense of belonging' to Kilmeena G.A.A. We should be very proud of what we all have achieved together both on and off the field this year.

Sincere thanks to all who helped bring this project to life. Ní heart go cur le chéile!

Underage Ladies Representing County and Province



Kilmeena U16 players Aoife Gannon (Westport United) and Lisa Hastings (Fahy Rovers) were selected to play with the Mayo U15 Girls Gaynor Cup team.



Ellen O'Toole from the U16 ladies team was selected for Connacht Rugby U18 Interprovincial Squad. The season saw Ellen gain three caps playing as the Connacht No.1 against Leinster, Munster and Ulster.



Pictured at the Aldi National Community Games Pitch and Putt Golf finals in Celbridge, Co. Kildare, representing Mayo Community Games, are the Lonergan sisters from Carrowholly, Westport who won two medals at the event. Mary Kate won a bronze and her sister Ellen won a gold medal in the girls U-16 event.



Representing Club & County - Jack Carney

(By John Doherty)

It was the run-up period to Christmas 2020 and the eve of Mayo's All Ireland Football Final v. Dublin, when Jack Carney got the call, to tell him he would be part of the County Senior Football extended panel, scheduled to get together early in 2021. By this stage, Jack was already a leading member of the County U20 squad, but this was to be a major step up for him again.

Jack has a great belief in living in the now and not looking too much beyond himself. So, while others might have been talking of big days ahead for him in the green and red, he was very much focused on just being part of this new environment and the learning and development that this would bring to his game.

Of course, this was a completely unique time for a young man joining his first inter-county squad. Initially, there were no squad get-togethers or opportunities to link up with his county squad colleagues. Covid lockdowns and restrictions had put paid to all that, so it was down to the grind of following the gym programmes laid out for him.

As winter gave way to spring, news came through that the National Football League would be starting in early May. Jack found himself still in the panel even as numbers were gradually being reduced. He was informed days before the Westmeath game that he was in the 26, and so it came to pass that Jack Carney became the first man from Kilmeena since Michael Gavin to pull on the green and red jersey at senior level. Jack made his senior debut for Mayo at Cusack Park, Mullingar on Sat 22nd May 2021, on a never to be forgotten day for Jack's family, friends and club mates. As Jack says himself, 'at the time you only realise how big a deal it is when you see the reaction of those around you'.

The following week, on a warm sunny day in McHale Park, Jack went one better and made the starting 15 against Meath in the final league game of the season.

After this it was back to the U20s for Jack, and the upcoming Connacht Championship. In their semi-final, Mayo encountered current champions, Galway. In what turned out to be a very tight game, which included extra time and a penalty shoot out, Mayo came out on top. In the final against Roscommon, Mayo went down to a second half blitz, with Jack contributing two points to Mayo's tally on the day.

Unfortunately Jack suffered a serious shoulder injury in the summer, which ruled him out of involvement with the Mayo Senior squad for the remainder of this year (2021). Thankfully, following physio and rehab, Jack was able to play his part in the latter knock-out stages of Kilmeena's march to the County Junior title.

While everyone in the club looks forward with eager anticipation to 2022 and what that may bring, Jack will stay true to his belief in being present in the here and now. Whatever 2022 brings in terms of County participation, he will only focus for now on Kilmeena. And if that is good enough to bring him into the Mayo panel again next year, then so be it.



SPORTS ROUND-UP

Success for Fahy Rovers

Congratulations to the management and squad of the Fahy Junior B team on winning the Mayo League 3 Cup in Solar Park in November. Well done to the Kilmeena GAA players who participated strongly in this competition: Cormac Feehan, Sean Gallagher, Ben Lennon, Brian Durkan, Colin Hastings, Ciarán Kilcoyne, Jack Mulchrone, Daniel O'Malley. Congratulations also to Ciaran Kilcoyne on picking up the Man of the Match Award.

Missing from photo: Rian Kilcoyne, Evan O'Donnell and Cormac Lyons.



Camogie Exploits

2021 was a very successful year for Westport Camogie Club.

Áine Gallagher was a member of U14 team who won the U14 C Galway competition. Áine is pictured below with her mother Anne.



Áine Regan and Sarah Harper are members of Westport team who won Galway Junior "B" 12 a-side



Kilmeena Ladies Workout

(Report by Julie Moore)

Like most activities over the last two years our ladies workout group in Kilmeena has had to evolve with the Covid times.

In October 2019 we started off with two fitness classes a week in the Kilmeena GAA gym and were going strong until March 2020 when Covid struck and we went into lockdown. It wasn't until summer 2020 when restrictions lifted and we were able to meet up outdoors that we were able to resume our classes. So began a summer of outdoor classes that helped keep our ladies fit and connected with each other. Little did we know that in summer 2021 we would be back for another round of outdoor classes while the gym and club buildings remained closed.

Not deterred by bad weather or the prospect of yet more burpees, our ladies

turned up week after week. We could be found on the pitch, on the sand or occasionally in the stand if the rain was very bad! Fun, enthusiasm and high spirits were guaranteed whatever the Kilmeena Weather Gods threw at us.

As enjoyable as it was, we were, nonetheless, delighted when the GAA club buildings could open and our gym was back in action. We can now be found in there every Monday and Thursday evening doing a variety of strength and cardio-based sessions. Our ladies continue to get stronger and fitter.

We are so lucky to have such a fantastic facility in our club and it's great that we can make it accessible to the wider community of members within Kilmeena GAA.



Some new additions to the gym to keep our ladies working hard!

Kilmeena GAA Healthy Club

(Report by Noreen Johnston, Healthy Club Officer)



It's official! Kilmeena GAA Club has now achieved Healthy Club status. All thanks to the massive effort of Club, community and parish coming together.

A huge thank you to everyone in our Club, parish and community

for all your support and participation in our Healthy Club initiatives to date.

Achieving Healthy Club status for us means that we are in the enviable position of being offered initiatives, resources and supports for our club. Going forward we will be in the fantastic position of being enabled to make these resources available within our club and community.

The year 2021 was a busy year for the Kilmeena Healthy Club, not only did we complete all of the tasks required in order to achieve our Healthy Club status but we have also been involved in, supported and worked with a lot of different initiatives within our community.

Some of the fitness, health and well-being initiatives within our club and community this year are; November 3km a Day;

Weekly Walks every Wednesday evening and Sunday morning; weekly fitness classes; underage girls weekly running group; Social Rounders; West of Ireland Mini Marathon training group; Hit the Hill and Couch to 5km training programme prior to Hit the Hill; healthy eating webinars; substance abuse, Men's Health and Mental Health webinars. The latest on our Healthy Club calendar is the Healthy Club Annual Conference 2021 which, due to Covid restrictions was held via YouTube and is still available to watch.

Due to the Covid restrictions and our reliance on social media to share our weekly updates and make the information available to everyone, we would like to thank those behind the scenes who share our regular updates with our club members and wider community via Facebook, Instagram and Twitter our events and links to resources. Thank you!

2021 has been a busy year for our Healthy Club and we are looking to 2022. Plans are in place to host lots of initiatives and we are always looking for new ideas and want your input on what you would like to see taking place in your club for your community so please let us know. You can contact your Healthy Club Committee at jnjohnston1@gmail.com

As always thank you to the Healthy Club Committee. Always quietly doing so much in the background!

Thank you!

Christmas Jingle Run

Pictured are some of the Kilmeena LGFA teenage girls and supporters on the night of their Christmas run on 13th December 2020.

This group trained on the greenway twice a week, from the end of September up until Christmas.

It proved a great way of keeping active and building up to running a 5km distance after 10 weeks. The final run for 2020 was from Midwest Furniture to the clubhouse where all participants enjoyed some refreshments and a Kris Kringle lucky dip.

Well done everyone!





Kilmeena Social Rounders

(By Julie Moore)

This year saw the welcome introduction of Social Rounders in Kilmeena GAA. What started off as a 6-week plan in July 2021 is still going strong now. As part of our Healthy Club initiative we were looking for opportunities to build a broader, more inclusive spectrum of sports and fun activities for our members. Along with a growing competitive aspect to the sport it became clear that there was a drive towards building a network of 'Social Rounders' teams in each province. We decided to give it a go and see if there was any interest in our club. The response was fantastic and we ended up with a great mix of ages, gender, and experience. Everyone had a common goal - to have fun.

The GAA Rounders coordinator visited the club, equipped us with our bats, bases and sliotars, gave us a crash course on how to play and away we went.

Many of us fondly remember playing Rounders as a child at school but not many people realise that it is an official GAA Sport. GAA Rounders was included in the original GAA Charter back in 1884 along with Gaelic Football, Hurling and Handball. Rounders is a bat and ball game and is often compared to Baseball. However, it is now generally accepted that Baseball is actually derived from Rounders in some form or other and was probably brought over to America by the early settlers from Ireland. It wasn't that widely played in Ireland until the launch of the Primary Schools Rounders Championships in 1970. Locally, the Quay School, Westport, was very successful in that event and we are proud to say that two of our members were on the All Ireland winning team - twice.

Pat Coughlan and Will Fahy have been instrumental in helping our group improve and develop to such an extent that we have participated in two blitzes - one in Dublin and the other in the Connaught Centre of Excellence in Began. In addition we have enjoyed challenge matches with other local clubs who, like ourselves, have recently set up a Rounders Team. Going forward we plan to hopefully secure a sponsor to facilitate a set of jerseys so that we can represent Kilmeena in style. We definitely envisage participating in more competitive matches but are also focused on continuing to build on the social aspect for

our members that just want to enjoy our training sessions, meet new people and have a bit of exercise into the bargain.

We set up our Social Rounders to be a fun and inclusive 'healthy club' initiative. To say that it has been a success is

an understatement. Our group meets most weeks on a Sunday for about an hour and half and each week we come away with a smile on our faces. We would love more people to come and join us so feel free to get in touch and join in the fun.



Back row, left to right: John McDonald, Iain McLoughlin, Pat Coughlan,
Front row, left to right: Audrey Harnedy, Irene Kaye, Catherine McGlinchy, Julie Moore, Ayleen McNamara, Noleen Coughlan, Claire McDonald, Marie O'Grady-Hills



Back row, left to right: Iain McLoughlin, Niamh Martin, John McDonald, Peter Moore, Pat Coughlan, Will Fahy.
Front row, left to right: Noleen Coughlan, Irene Kaye, Claire McDonald, Ayleen McNamara, Julie Moore and in front, the Coughlan boys - Cody, Callum and Noah.

LGFA – Kilmeena Junior Ladies Blog

(By Sarah Hogan)

Let's rewind to the 2020 season - when our Kilmeena Junior Ladies couldn't even field a team. It wasn't for the lack of effort or passion, but merely a lack of appreciation for just how privileged we were at that time. We had an opportunity to play for our Club, share a common interest and love of sport, not to mention a chance to socialise with other girls from outside of our "bubble". Strangely, the year absent from football benefitted us. It reignited the desire and determination we inadvertently craved to be part of a team again. Well, that, or the fact that everyone was out exercising in some form or another during lockdown and the notion of landing down to a pre-season training session wouldn't be *that* bad!

It is difficult to imagine that we were ever in this position, especially considering our current panel consists of 40 girls and six managers/coaches. Similarly, our 2021 season couldn't have been made possible without each member of the team and management volunteering their personal time; 24 weeks of training amounting to over 64 pitch sessions on top of 14 games. This is the level of ambition and commitment necessary to maintain our competitiveness and improve collectively as a team, and in such a short space of time, we managed to earn a spot in two county finals.

Playing sport is so much more than just the physical aspects – it builds character and moulds friendships and I would hope for the team to remember that. Win or lose, it's also important to set a progressive example for younger girls, one that creates an inclusive and welcoming community in which they would like to belong. For instance, our current 2021 panel consists of girls who first joined Kilmeena LGFA at U12 level; it's this appreciation and admiration of women's sport that our Club wishes to instil amongst our underage

levels. I trust that the younger girls of our parish can look up to the friendships our team has built over the course of the season, aspiring to have and be lucky enough to experience the same sense of community.

The panel of women and band of management involved in our 2021 season has lent a new lease of life into the team. A cliché of sorts, but there are no two girls the same - everyone has a unique personality, contributing different life experiences and characteristics to the team's environment. Some of the girls are in school or college, others are recent graduates or working professionals and some of us are mothers – all of whom are brought together by a shared passion.

Creating a cultural shift by encouraging women and girls to participate in and play sport is still a modern phenomenon. Our Kilmeena LGFA Club was only recently established in 2013 - it took us women 124 years to separate ourselves from the men's Club. For our small and rural community, located on the outskirts of Westport town, to recognise and have an independent ladies club is an extraordinary achievement. As such, supporting and nurturing the development of our LGFA Club over the next few years is crucial to ensure our continued success.

On behalf of the Kilmeena Junior Ladies team, I wish to extend a special mention and huge thank you to our incredible management team; Peter Mortimer, Davy Feehan, Ollie Mulchrone, Maureen Joyce and Majella O'Malley for volunteering their personal time to ensure the success of the team.

Here's to the sequel "2022"!





PRO Overview

(By Sean Barrett, PRO, Kilmeeena GAA Club)



Another busy year on the social media side in keeping people updated of the ongoing events in the club near and far. In the last number of years our social platforms have grown massively and are reaching out to a wider audience than we ever have had before. Our Facebook page now has 2,149 followers, our Twitter account has 923 followers and our Instagram page has 856 followers. These figures are increasing year on year and we are extending our reach all the time. The Junior County Final victory post in November reached out to over 12,500 people. This is a sign of the interest and it's so important to keep the posts updated on a regular basis.

A special word of thanks to Caragh Ryan for all her help throughout the year.

Make sure to keep an eye on our social platforms for updates of the ongoing events at Kilmeeena GAA.

Safeguarding Children (By Majella O'Malley - Children's Officer)

The GAA and LGFA have agreed a number of Child Safeguarding initiatives and policies to ensure the safety of children while playing our games. The adoption of such agreed documents alone will not achieve this aim. The continuous commitment and implementation of such good practices by dedicated volunteers in our club with the support and vigilance of our parents assist us to create a safe environment for young people in which to grow and develop.

The agreed procedures require that all coaches of underage players must undertake Garda vetting, attend regular Gaelic games safeguarding and have a

coaching qualification relevant to their role. The club is required to maintain and update regularly a compliance register of all volunteers.

Our policies and procedures are in accordance with current legislative requirements and include:

- The publication of a Child Safeguarding Statement
- Carrying out an annual Risk Assessment procedure in our club
- A Code of Behaviour for Underage which includes: recruitment policy for those working with children, child

safeguarding training requirements, anti-bullying statement and social media policy.

- Guidance for dealing and reporting allegations or concerns of abuse
- Appointing Children's Officers and Designated Liaison Persons in our club.

As our club is growing year on year we encourage others to take on the above roles to ensure the continued safety of our children while participating in our activities.

Community Person of the Year Award

On August 9th 2021, Fr. Jim Walsh and Fr Charlie McDonnell blessed the newly laid pitch surface at St Brendan's Park.

After the blessing, the Club presented both men with the 'Community Person of the Year' award in recognition of everything they have done and continue to do for our community and parish.

This was especially evident over recent times when despite the challenges of Covid-19, they continued to provide the sacraments, support young and old alike and keep our spirits lifted, for which we are all very grateful.



Left to Right: Fr. Charlie McDonnell, Fr. Jim Walsh and John McDonald (Club Chairman).

Ball on the Wall

(By Padraic Moore)

The Ball on the Wall fundraiser was launched in September 2020 to raise much needed funds for the installation of the new drainage system to the main pitch.

It is based on the simple idea of a person or family sponsoring an engraved granite ball, which has a set monetary value. Each sponsored engraved granite ball is then erected on the wall of the viewing stand. The engraving could comprise of the name of an individual, a family, a business or could be in memory of a loved one.

The method of sponsorship is that the sponsor sets up a direct debit of €5 per week, over a two year period. This novel idea has been met with a very positive response so far, with

over 100 people having signed up to date. Sixty engraved granite ball plaques have so far been erected.

On behalf of the Club, I would sincerely like to thank everybody who has contributed so far. It has created a lot of interest from past club members who now reside outside the Parish. This fundraiser remains open and can be joined at any time. It is hoped that its success to date can be built upon as a means to raise additional funding for ongoing and future developments of our Club.

If any person or family is interested in sponsoring an engraved granite ball on the wall, please contact Padraic Moore at: 087 2861190.



**KILMEENA
GAA CLUB**

PITCH DEVELOPMENT FUNDRAISER

PURCHASE A

BALL ON THE WALL

JOHN SMITH
ROSSAKEERAN
KILMEENA

JOHN SMITH
& FAMILY
ROSSAKEERAN
KILMEENA

JOHN & MAY
SMITH
& FAMILY
ROSSAKEERAN
KILMEENA

IN MEMORY OF
JOHN SMITH
ROSSAKEERAN
KILMEENA

Have the name of an individual, family or loved one inscribed on a granite wall to be permanently displayed on the stand.

Padraic Moore: 087 2861 190
Mike Slattery: 087 2384 200
Maura Hastings: 087 2139 779

Carmel Higgins: 086 3230 955
Majella McGonagle: 087 9829 958
John McDonald: 087 2475 733



PLAY YOUR PART IN YOUR CLUB'S FUTURE



OTHER NEWS

Gaelic4Girls

(By Mairead Durkan)

Congratulations to the Gaelic4Girls participants who received their long-awaited jerseys in the glorious Kilmeena sunshine of summer 2021!

The girls made huge progress each week and every player had a chance to show off their improved skills in a series of mini games.

Kilmeena LGFA welcomes any new girls from the parish of Kilmeena, Fahy and Carrowholly, including the surrounding areas. All girls are encouraged to attend practice sessions and learn the basic skills of Ladies Gaelic Football. It is a great way to make new friends and learn a new sport! We are most definitely building for the future of Kilmeena LGFA!

The Gaelic4Girls fun sessions were a huge success in 2021 and this would not have been possible without the dedicated coaches: Maureen, Richie, Lesley, Bernie, Roisín, John, Caragh and Mairéad.



New Board for the Officers!

Following exhaustive research by some of our dedicated members, a new display board with the names of our past Presidents, Chairpersons, Secretaries and Treasurers has been erected in the meeting room in the clubhouse.

This research was no easy undertaking: club records dating back to 1906 were trawled to complete the board insofar as was possible.

Many thanks to all involved!

KILMEENA GAA CLUB			
PRESIDENTS	CHAIRPERSONS	SECRETARIES	TREASURERS
1906-1907: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1906-1907: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1906-1907: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1906-1907: Mrs. M. O'Connell
1908-1909: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1908-1909: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1908-1909: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1908-1909: Mrs. M. O'Connell
1910-1911: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1910-1911: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1910-1911: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1910-1911: Mrs. M. O'Connell
1912-1913: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1912-1913: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1912-1913: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1912-1913: Mrs. M. O'Connell
1914-1915: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1914-1915: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1914-1915: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1914-1915: Mrs. M. O'Connell
1916-1917: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1916-1917: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1916-1917: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1916-1917: Mrs. M. O'Connell
1918-1919: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1918-1919: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1918-1919: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1918-1919: Mrs. M. O'Connell
1920-1921: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1920-1921: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1920-1921: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1920-1921: Mrs. M. O'Connell
1922-1923: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1922-1923: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1922-1923: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1922-1923: Mrs. M. O'Connell
1924-1925: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1924-1925: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1924-1925: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1924-1925: Mrs. M. O'Connell
1926-1927: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1926-1927: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1926-1927: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1926-1927: Mrs. M. O'Connell
1928-1929: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1928-1929: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1928-1929: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1928-1929: Mrs. M. O'Connell
1930-1931: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1930-1931: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1930-1931: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1930-1931: Mrs. M. O'Connell
1932-1933: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1932-1933: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1932-1933: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1932-1933: Mrs. M. O'Connell
1934-1935: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1934-1935: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1934-1935: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1934-1935: Mrs. M. O'Connell
1936-1937: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1936-1937: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1936-1937: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1936-1937: Mrs. M. O'Connell
1938-1939: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1938-1939: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1938-1939: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1938-1939: Mrs. M. O'Connell
1940-1941: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1940-1941: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1940-1941: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1940-1941: Mrs. M. O'Connell
1942-1943: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1942-1943: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1942-1943: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1942-1943: Mrs. M. O'Connell
1944-1945: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1944-1945: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1944-1945: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1944-1945: Mrs. M. O'Connell
1946-1947: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1946-1947: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1946-1947: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1946-1947: Mrs. M. O'Connell
1948-1949: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1948-1949: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1948-1949: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1948-1949: Mrs. M. O'Connell
1950-1951: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1950-1951: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1950-1951: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1950-1951: Mrs. M. O'Connell
1952-1953: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1952-1953: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1952-1953: Mrs. M. O'Connell	1952-1953: Mrs. M. O'Connell
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2010-2011: Mrs. M. O'Connell	2010-2011: Mrs. M. O'Connell	2010-2011: Mrs. M. O'Connell	2010-2011: Mrs. M. O'Connell
2012-2013: Mrs. M. O'Connell	2012-2013: Mrs. M. O'Connell	2012-2013: Mrs. M. O'Connell	2012-2013: Mrs. M. O'Connell
2014-2015: Mrs. M. O'Connell	2014-2015: Mrs. M. O'Connell	2014-2015: Mrs. M. O'Connell	2014-2015: Mrs. M. O'Connell
2016-2017: Mrs. M. O'Connell	2016-2017: Mrs. M. O'Connell	2016-2017: Mrs. M. O'Connell	2016-2017: Mrs. M. O'Connell
2018-2019: Mrs. M. O'Connell	2018-2019: Mrs. M. O'Connell	2018-2019: Mrs. M. O'Connell	2018-2019: Mrs. M. O'Connell
2020-2021: Mrs. M. O'Connell	2020-2021: Mrs. M. O'Connell	2020-2021: Mrs. M. O'Connell	2020-2021: Mrs. M. O'Connell



Facilities to be proud of

With our newly developed main pitch - funded by our 'Ball on the Wall' campaign and generous donations - the Rec Room, gym and training pitch, Kilmeena GAA Club has facilities that are the envy of many other clubs. We should be proud of what we have achieved!



Achill to Athens Cycle



On September 1st a group of three men set off to complete a 6000km cycle that would take them from Achill to Athens. The group comprised of Stephen Ryan from Kilmeena, his cousin Cormac Ryan from Dublin and Niall O'Donnell also from Dublin. The cycle was to raise money for Pieta House and Bodywhys, two charities who support mental health and eating disorders. 58 days and 13 countries later, on the 28th of October they arrived in Athens. On behalf of everyone in Kilmeena GAA - well done on your achievement. You are an inspiration to others to chase their dream and never give up.



KILMEENA GAA QUIZ (By Ollie Mulchrone)

1. Do you know why the entire Kilmeena football team was arrested and imprisoned in the old workhouse in Westport under a strong guard of armed police in December 1915?
2. Who did Kilmeena beat in the 1977 County Junior Championship final to claim the Pete McDonnell Cup for the first time?
3. Who was the right half forward on the first Mayo Vocational school team to win the All Ireland schools competition in 1971?
4. Who managed the Kilmeena team to win their second ever County Junior title in 1986?
5. Can you name the Management team of the Kilmeena Junior team that competed in the 2002 All Ireland Final in 2003?
6. Who were the three mascots that marched around the pitch with the Kilmeena Junior football team before the 2002 All Ireland Final?
7. How many different boys and girls teams competed in the Annual Paddy Golden U-10 blitz on the 22nd June 2019?
8. Who was the Kilmeena LGFA Junior football team captain for 2021?
9. What Kilmeena Clubman won the best newcomer award in the Rounders Connaught Challenge Cup competition in October 2021?
10. What event post on the Kilmeena GAA Facebook page had over 12,500 hits in 2021?

(Answers on bottom of page)



New School Mural

St Brendan's National School have recently added a beautiful mural to the school building. The staff and children worked with artist Sorcha O'Higgins on the project which was supported by Jean Paul and the Westport arts council. The artist visited the school on numerous occasions to work with the 3rd and 4th class children on the project which incorporated all aspects of life in the parish of Kilmeena. The workshops included working on ideas that symbolised what our community stands for and the children used various art forms to create the ideas. We are also very thankful to Walter Cox Snr, Paddy Keane Snr

and Seamus Hamilton for working with the artist and the children on the project. Their history of the parish was invaluable to the overall project. We are also very thankful to Martin McIntyre, Ollie Mulchrone and the family of Liam Lyons for allowing us to use old photographs and assisting with the project. We hope that the mural gives the children an appreciation and insight into the parish of Kilmeena. Everyone is welcome to come along and have a look! We feel it tells many great stories of the past and shows what a beautiful area we all are fortunate to call our home!

1: They were all active volunteers involved in cattle drives against the large estate farmers in the area. When they were being taken from the workhouse to the courthouse in Westport they were escorted by four bands that paraded around the town supporting the Kilmeena men. When they arrived at the courthouse they had no evidence against the men and they were all released; 2: Carramore; 3: Liam Gibbons; 4: Mick Bourke; 5: The team Manager was Michael Moore with Ollie Mulchrone, Pheilm McManamon & Vincent Reilly as selectors; 6: Conor Madden, Sean Barrett and Kieran Golden; 7: 36 teams - over 400 kids; 8: Sarah Hogan; 9: Will Fahy; 10: Report on winning the County Junior football final dated 20th November 2021.