

GAA



Yearbook

2022





Our club presidents at our juveniles presentation evening

2022 was a tough year for Dunlavin GAA. We unfortunately lost our Junior team due to lack of players during the year..

Our senior panel also struggled to get out of the starting blocks this year, and struggled in both the league & championship, narrowly avoiding relegation in the playoff match in the Keating cup, against our neighbours Donard/glen. The game resulted in a draw but we stayed up at senior level for another year based on score difference. All year, regardless of the results, the lads showed true determination to keep pushing & we hope they can build on this for 2023 and reap the rewards.

A huge thank you to Stephen Maxwell and his management team of Alan Deering, Bryan Mc Parland, Dean O'Rourke and Michael Moran for all their hard work and the huge amount of time they invested the past few years.

We have high hopes for 2023, we have a new revived committee in place and we have Mick Murtagh and his team taking over as management of our senior team. We are looking to the future and building the club for success.

Our dinner dance in 2022 was a huge success. We held it alongside the St Nicks ladies and a fantastic

night was had by everyone. The food & entertainment weren't to be faulted and we look forward our 2023 dinner dance!

Massive thanks to Darragh Figgis, our chairman for 2022, who stepped down from the role to go travelling.

And a huge welcome to our new chairman Andy O'Brien, Andy is no stranger to the club or to anyone involved in the club the past 20 years and we are delighted to have him, his experience & knowledge on-board for 2023!

Welcome also to all our new committee members, we look forward to a successful & productive year ahead.

We would like to thank all our club members, all who have supported us this year through fundraising, sponsorship, and those who helped out in anyway big or small and a special thank you to our sponsors ESI foods for their continued support and we wish everyone a happy & healthy 2023.

To all those in our club & community whom we have lost over the last twelve months, may they Rest in Peace



Éire Óg All Stars

All Stars Programme 2022

Éire Óg All Stars is an inclusive GAA and fitness programme that was established in September 2021 with the purpose of creating opportunities for those with additional needs to play gaelic games and be part of their local club. The programme currently caters for up to 12 members across all ages in both a Juniors and Teens & Adults group which run simultaneously every Wednesday from 5-6pm, February to November.

To commence the programme in 2022 each player received an Éire Óg Greystones jersey which they all wear with great pride each week.

The club is also grateful for the continued support from Wicklow Local Sports Partnership including the grant that was received in 2022 which allowed for the purchase of equipment including special balls and bean bags for the players as well as footballs, poles, sliotars and bibs etc.

Lakers have also been great in providing volunteers throughout the year to support the programme which has been greatly appreciated by the players, parents and the club.

All players have gone from strength to strength over the year improving their skills in gaelic football which is down to their great enthusiasm and with thanks to the wonderful dedicated coaches each week.

In 2022 there has been a good retention of members and interest from other local clubs who have set up All Stars programmes based on Éire Óg Greystones (Newcastle GAA and Newtown GAA).

Éire Óg Greystones is looking forward to expanding this programme further in 2023 as interest grows to welcome more members to the club and provide further opportunities for aspiring players including blitzes and skills days with other clubs from Wicklow and neighbouring counties.

Huge thank you to Larry Howard, Jim D'Arcy, Ciara Fagan, Mark Donnelly, Deanna Clarke, Hugh O'Leary, Riain Morris, Becca Caulfield, Charlie Paterson, Eamonn McLarnon, Michelle LeMay, Helen O'Regan, Daniel English, the wider Éire Óg Greystones Committee and club for all the hard work and ongoing support for the programme.

Intermediate Football

The season started with a zoom call on January 3rd to introduce our new manager Chris Traynor, and mgmt. team of Bryan Keaveny, Danny Hynes, John Keane, Adrian Coyle along with John Lane (S&C Coach) and SPARC to the Snr and Jnr squads. The first action on the field involved a feisty internal game played on Jan 16th with 32 players in attendance, and a few questionable refereeing calls. This was to be the first of 210 training sessions in 2022, with 68 players involved across Senior and Junior B games.

Barndarrig provided the first challenge game which involved a very vocal injury, an ambulance smashing into the ref's car and a 32 point win. From that, straight into game 1 of Div 1A which resulted in a spirited home win over neighbours Kilcoole in very stormy conditions. Up next was the first real test of the year vs Bray Emmets, which resulted in a 3 point loss at home. From then until the end of the league we remained unbeaten - winning 9 games and drawing one, the highlight being the defeat of the Emmets in the corresponding game by 3-13 to 13 pts. Scoring 32 goals & 138 points, while conceding 5 goals & 112 points led to Eire Og winning Div 1A, and a Herbie Hill Div 1 final loss to eventual Wicklow Senior Football champions St. Pats.

Our Intermediate championship campaign opened and a meeting with Kilmacanogue on July 29th – a good winning start by 5-16 to 1-7. The second round meeting with Hollywood in Roundwood was a tough day at the office losing 2-13 to 1-11. Subsequent hard-earned wins against Barndarrig,



Intermediate Football Champions 2022

Coolkenno and a rout of Kilcoole in the semifinal left us in the final vs outsiders Annacurra. On October 8th in the Intermediate final in Aughrim, we ran out 0-11 to 1-04 winners, with Fintan O'Shea taking MOTM honours, and Dan Keane lifting the trophy and giving a rousing and articulate winning speech. The first round of the Leinster Intermediate c'ship produced a brilliant team performance to beat Carlow's Fenagh by 1-14 to 0-06. The Leinster campaign came to an end on November 5th with a narrow defeat to Wexford's Fethard St. Mogues on a scoreline of 1-11 to 0-11.

Chris, Bryan, Danny, John, Adrian and John Lane would like to offer huge thanks to the countless club members who assisted and supported us and the squad throughout the year, and helped make this a winning and rewarding season.

Junior D Football

For the first time since 2019, the club entered a third adult men's football team.

The principal reason for entering this team was to provide additional matches for our U19 players in advance of the U19 championship and to provide other, mainly older players with an outlet to play.

This team didn't play in the junior league which ran from March to June. The team started its

U13 Hurling

We started the year in February with twice weekly training and played our first league matches in late March.

Fielding two teams in the leagues the Eire Og boys born in 2009 and 2010 showed great commitment and desire as they competed in both the u13A and u13B divisions

We entered one team into the championship which started in August and we had some great games against Avondale, St Pats, Michael Dwyers and Barndarrig. In early September we played Kilmacud Crokes in a challenge game and came away with a great win in what was a very competitive contest. In our championship we qualified for the Shield final where we came up against Avondale. We led by five at half time and by two going into the last 10 mins but unfortunately the evening ended in disappointment and a one-point defeat. In all, the lads played in 27 matches in 2022, their hurling noticeably improved as the season went on and there were plenty of ups and downs along the way

We ended the season with a fun day out in Bray and all 24 of the squad have committed to hurling again in 2023

activity after the Leaving Cert finished in the beginning of July.

In total, the team played 13 matches: eight challenge matches and five championship matches. We won five of our challenge matches and all our championship ones. Culminating in beating Tinahely in Aughrim to win the Junior D championship final on 16 October.

Junior Hurling

One of the big satisfactions of involvement in Junior hurling is to witness the emergence of new talent from the underage ranks and this year was no exception

The other big satisfaction is providing a hurling outlet for men whose birth certs are beginning to yellow and crease like the pages of the Book of Kells.

Their hurling souls are still young, but their knees are more worn out than the shock absorbers of a Garda squad car, yet every Wednesday night they turn up, with the light of hurling in their eyes.

It is one of the great privileges, never to be taken for granted, to stand on a sideline on a summers evening in the Garden county and watch this mixture of youth and experience play the greatest field game on the planet.

We fulfilled all our fixtures, we blooded 4 or 5 new talents which won't linger long in the junior ranks. We reached a county final but we were beaten on the day by our rivals (but not enemies) Avondale.

No Silver to bring to the dinner dance, but we kept the flame alive, we hurled through the warm summer's evenings. There were no clouds over the pitches because God likes to look down on hurling matches.

RIP

Paul McNaughton

While Paul initially played rugby internationally and soccer at League of Ireland level, it was the club's good fortune when he and his wife, Jean made their home in Greystones. A transfer from Bray Emmets was swiftly submitted and Paul went on to play senior football for the club. The club recognises the assistance Paul made to the club over the years both in terms of advice and sponsorship for various fundraisers. A sportsman of the highest calibre across numerous codes and sports, his passing leaves a large void in sport in Greystones and indeed, further afield.

David O'Regan

Originally from West Cork and one of seven, it was the club's good fortune that Dave and his wife Helen made Greystones their home. As a result, Éire Óg Greystones has benefited from their immeasurable contributions on many fronts over the last ten years.

A colossus of a man in every sense, Dave was one of the principal reasons behind the enormous growth in our club's thriving Camogie section.

He was an inspirational coach in both juvenile Camogie and Ladies Football across several age grades. He was also a mentor and friend to all those players lucky enough to be under his guidance.

As an administrator, his vision was crucial when it came to securing many improvements in the club's facilities and infrastructure in the last number of years.

Husband to Club Treasurer, player and coach Helen and devoted father to juvenile players Lucy and Katie, the O'Regan family are part of the fabric of Éire Óg, Greystones. Dave will be sadly missed by all our underage players and coaches and all in our club.



Seniors

Glenealy Hurling – Senior

2022 began with a great win for our Senior lads and captain Warren Kavanagh in the Leinster League Division 4. From this our team lead by M.A O'Neill and his management team of Eoghan Dunne and Stefan O'Brien went on to produce a steady display in the league which saw us again top the league for a consecutive year.

By the time championship came around we were pitted in a group with Kiltegan and St. Patricks Wicklow, with two wins out of two in the group we progressed to the semi final where we faced a vibrant Carnew team. Glenealy gave a great display on the day and marched on to another final where we would meet Bray Emmets.

Unfortunately we may feel as though we left it behind us on a sunny Sunday in Aughrim, we started well and went in holding a lead over the reigning champions at half time. After a fierce second half battle Jack Kavanagh was the hero with a point in the dying stages to secure a second chance and finish the game level. The following Saturday we failed to deliver a performance to dispatch Bray of the cup.

Intermediates

A disappointing year for our intermediate team which saw them play in only two competitive games all year. They took on Western Gaels in the first round where a heavy defeat ensued, followed by a defeat to the eventual Champions Bray Emmets. The first half saw Bray build a strong lead but in the second half our lads emerged from the dressing room to battle and they had an inspired comeback, but unfortunately the deficit remained too high and that was the end of our championship journey.



Men's Team 2022 - First Match in New Pitch

Off The Field

An incredible year for Kilbride all round with grants in excess of €300,000 obtained for the Club House, Community Playground and Car Park. And after three years of work the first match was played on the new pitch on Thursday the 2nd of June versus Avondale.

The inaugural Sean Duffy Memorial Trophy was played versus Blessington on the New Pitch, which was a great honour for a great Gael. Unfortunately, Blessington won!!



Sean Duffy Memorial Teams - Kilbride and Blessington

On a sad note the Club lost former Club Chairman Paddy (Rusty) Byrne. Rusty was a GAA fanatic and took great pleasure in guiding young people through sport. In fact, he managed Wicklow County Teams up to Minor Level and a number of teams with St. Bridget's (Blessington & Kilbride), including a couple of Minor Teams. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

Men's Team

Our Men's team unfortunately exited the championship with a defeat against Baltinglass in Baltinglass at the Quarter Final stage of the competition. The committee would like to extend their thanks to the management team of Noel Kinsella, Paul Carroll and David Balfe for all their hard work throughout the season.



Championship Team 2022 v Baltinglass

Ladies Team

The Team failed to field in the Championship and struggled to field in the league. Serious attention should be paid to this team in 2023 in order for Ladies football in Kilbride is to continue. Thanks to Shannen & Valerie Byrne and Richard Ward for managing the team and LGFA matters in 2022.



Kiltegan

Senior Hurling

The 2022 season for the Senior Hurlers can be summarised as great progress made but plenty more to do. The year started with excellent commitment and enthusiasm which would continue throughout the year. There was no doubt that a serious amount of work needed to be done in terms of improving fitness but the commitment to this improvement was excellent. Early season huring work was very difficult to fit in with so many Kiltegan representatives away on county duty. Despite this we had a very successful league campaign with only one defeat to Glenealy. The highlight of the league campaign was undoubtedly the 6 defeat of county champions Bray in Kiltegan. The efforts of the players to adapt to a new style of play and new tactics was commendable and gave strong indications of a hopeful championship campaign to come.

Our championship run started with an emphatic win over St. Pats. The lads showed the fruits of their work from training and their attacking potential in this game. This set up an opportunity to play Glenealy for top of the group, a game which doubled up as the league final. Unfortunatley an extremely frustrating display followed, which saw

us lose the game by 2 points having missed a potential 3-17 over the course of the game.

The frustration of that defeat, to the players credit only furthered their resolve and efforts in training for the semi final with Bray. A true game of 2 halves- our first half display, while so impressive was not backed up in the second half. While an 8 point defeat was no true reflection of the game, we can have no excuses or complaints. Overall the season can be seen as a success having reached a league final and championship semi final and only losing 3 competitive games all season. It is important though to recognise that we have no trophy to show for our efforts and therefore we need to ensure that we do not settle for one good season. I have no doubt that the team has the potential to push on next season. The players should be commended for their willingness to learn and their openness to coaching. This season was always going to be about setting standards and developing a style of play and tactics that would allow the squad to become more established as county final contenders. With the same enthusiasm, commitment and desire I've no doubt that dream will become a reality in the near future.



Senior Hurlers 2022



Senior Footballers 2022

Senior Football

No need to sugar coat anything here when I say it was a very disappointing year for us in Senior Football, with possibly the only positive to take from the year being the fact we did not lose our status for 2023. Players and management can be proud in the way we regrouped after the loss to AGB and an extended break due to playing off the hurling championship. With regards to the championship proper, we never turned up against either Bray or AGB and certainly didn't do ourselves justice with the amount of work we had put in prior to that. Victor Doyle and the rest of the management left no stone unturned during the year. Training was enjoyable and game focused and even with only 5 or 6 players to work with on hurling nights. Victor brought in other coaches to assist with different parts of the game and was understandably frustrated with the losses, especially as training had been going well. Big thanks especially to Robbie Molloy for the work he did with the goalkeepers during the year. It was also a disappointing year for the junior footballers who did not progress past the group stage of the championship. A big thanks to the management

team involved, for all the work they have put in throughout the year.

Junior Hurling

This year saw the Junior Hurling team do one better than last year and come home with the cup. After facing defeat in 2021 in the final against Aughrim, it was with great delight to come out as Junior B champions this year.

Our league kicked off away against Avondale on June 1st with a bare panel of 16 resulting in a loss of 4 points. Our first official match was supposed to be against Eire Og-Greystones in Ballinakill but Eire-Og conceded the match to us. League matches were unpredictable and scattered throughout league season, usually having a wait of 3 weeks between matches. It was hard for players to build momentum and keep focus.

We played Avondale first, away, resulting in a loss. Avondale started well but we came back into our own, closing the gap but not enough to secure a win. Up next, we played Bray at home in Kiltegan, we won this match. Kiltegan were trailing behind

up until the last 10 minutes where we turned the game around, winning by 2 points. We played Knockananna next, this game was played at home in Kiltegan on July 6th. We had a strong panel, with 20 lads toting out. Knockananna played well and were worthy opponents but couldn't get the better of us. Next, we gave a walk over to St.Pat's. We struggled to get a team together resulting in us conceding to St. Pat's, there were only 14 men available for the match, between injuries and holidays.

Next up saw us face Aughrim in Aughrim, this match was arranged to be played in Kiltegan but the pitch became unavailable and no other local pitch could be sought, resulting in us losing our home advantage and having to travel to Aughrim where we lost by an eye watering 14 points. We only had a panel of 12 for this match resulting selectors Nigel Nolan and Nigel Byrne having to tog out bringing the number up to 14 which they dropped back to 13 when a player was shown a red card. Despite the big loss the lads played very well and were contesting the game throughout.

We were up against Arklow Rocks next in their home ground, we won this game. We played well as did Arklow, it was a tough physical match, but the Kiltegan lads kept their heads down and worked hard to secure the win, winning by 14 points. This win saw us go through to the A semi-final, where we came up against Aughrim once again in Ballinakill, we lost. Our numbers were limited due to football and hurling schedules clashing. From early in the game Aughrim dominated and Kiltegan couldn't pull it back, the lads fought a fair fight, but Aughrim were too strong on the day. This loss put us into the B county final where we took on Bray. We won this game well in the end. The lads played with heart and conviction and done exactly what was asked of them, the final score 2-10 to 0-06 making Kiltegan Junior B County champions for 2022. Thank you to the players, committee, and fellow selectors Nigel Nolan and Nigel Byrne for their commitment. Also, a big thank you to Martin and Treasa Nolan and Muireann and Pat Gartland for their support and help throughout the season.



Junior Hurlers 2022

Junior A

2022 was the year where community spirit shone above everything else. As a community we supported each other through the good days and the bad days. On the field, 2022 was the year that we had all hoped for. We had a very successful league campaign as we not only held our division 2 status but pushed close to promotion, finishing 3rd place in the end. After a rocky start to the championship we proved that we were true champions with victories over Knockanna, Baltinglass, Aughrim and Blessington in the final. We achieved what we set out to achieve at the beginning of the year and we have regained intermediate status for 2023. We then went on a journey to the Leinster Championship. In the first round we made history by playing the European Champions, Amsterdam in Blessington. It was a very hard fought match but we came out with a very good win. We then went on to play the Meath champions, Castletown, we knew this was going to be a massive battle for the lads and we went into half time level but Castletown went up a gear in the second half and romped home. Castletown has since went on to win the Leinster Junior Championship.



Junior A Champions

Junior A winning team

(Back Row Left to Right) Eric Murnane, Nathan Delamere, Daniel Power, Shane Duffy, David McDonald, Mark Miley, David Miley, Andrew Brancato, Damien Hanlon, Aran Lynham, John Murphy, Stephen Curley, Ciaran Nolan, Gary Cullen.
 (Front Row Left to Right) Andrew Kenny, James Nolan, Alex Olohan, Luke Kearney, Eric Olohan, Myles Conway, Stephen Conway, Mark Cullen, John Nolan, Peter Merrigan, Steven Langan, Alan Smyth.
 (Front) Craig McCoy.

Management team

Manager: Paddy Molloy, Selectors: John Begley & Fergal Olohan.

Executive Committee

Chairperson: Philip Bracken, Vice-chairperson: Christopher Merrigan, Secretary: Ann Kinsella, Treasurer: John Merrigan, P.R.O.: Kyle Merrigan, Annemarie Gilmore, Craig McCoy, Peter Merrigan, Gary Cullen, John Nolan, Liam McEvoy, Pat Cullen, Richard Cullen, Seamus Nolan.

Senior Rathnew

The senior team had great numbers in training at the start of the year with plenty of younger lads on board, in total we did 117 sessions, of which some were games.

The league didn't go as we thought it would finishing 6th, 8 points off top spot, we were missing a few of our key players through injury which hindered our progress, with the upside to that being we blooded a few young lads. Most players that trained hard got plenty of game time which is important for the future of these young men coming through. We had some good results along the way beating Blessington and St Pat, both former and current County champions with the lads playing very well. Other games were not so positive and in hindsight we should have won, but didn't through bad discipline, in particular AGB and Tinahely. On reflection we lacked consistency!

Championship as we all know was a disappointing year, we didn't turn up against Bray and St Pats in the 1/4 final. It was hard to swallow after the effort we put into it, and no one felt it more than the players themselves. The lads knew themselves afterwards that those results didn't do anyone any justice for their efforts all year. Again, injuries in certain key areas didn't help. We feel results would definitely be different if having those players available.

Junior A Rathnew

The Junior A/Div 3 team got off to a flyer and hammered Avoca in the first game of the league but even then there were concerns about the numbers turning up. We had 18 in Rooster Park and that was about the average for the year which was very strange.

We picked up a couple of losses on the trot, having picked up injuries in games and having no subs against St Pats and Balinacor. On both occasions really good performances followed really poor discipline by players who should have known better. Performances were positive in defeat and I felt that we could get back on track.

We went on an unbeaten run throughout the remaining league and found ourselves in 4th place and qualifying for the knockout section of the county Div. 3 county league as a result. Against all odds, we drew with Eire Og in Greystones and when their lights failed a replay was fixed for Ashford a few days later, which our lads won comfortably.

A final was set for Aughrim against a Balinacor team that finished top of the Div 3 league and gained promotion to Div 2. Ballincor had done a really good job on our lads at home when we went to 13 men and payback was on our minds.

We started well but lapses in concentration saw the Glen men run in two early goals. Our lads



Junior A's

rallied and we went in at half level. A penalty early in the second half was saved by some young up and coming goalie and our lads drove on and won the Finnigan Cup by 10pts. This was a strong panel and with numbers training with the seniors high, there were plenty of signs that this team could cause an upset or two in the championship.

We lost 5 to the Seniors and 2 to long suspension which meant, to win the championship would be a big ask. Nevertheless, some Junior B players step up Paddy Keogh, Jamie O Connor and Eric Doyle after playing Thursday night football and training with the Junior Bs. Some younger players got their chance in more central positions, which they may not have gotten otherwise.

We had late drama against Knockananna in the first round and after getting a last second equaliser went on to win by 10 points in extra time. Round 2 was a repeat of the Blessington game that saw us exit the previous year's championship by 8 pts. We put in a great performance and one by a point. Blessington would go on to get beaten in the final by Laragh.

We travelled to Arklow to play Aghrim in a quarter final and we may have taken them for granted. We missed loads of chances but never really got going. Aghrims intensity was far better and some poor discipline again saw us go down to 13.

This was the worst performance by this team all year. We travelled to a championship ¼ final with only 19 players, some of which had agreed to come up from Junior B to help out.



ADULTFOOTBALL

After a very underwhelming 2021, our junior A team were looking to build and really push on to bigger and better things this year. Under the guidance of Martin Gíngáin and his management team of Tom Rath and Sean Maher there was a sense that we could put up a serious challenge for silverware this year. We were playing our trade in the Division 2 League and the Junior A Championship and both competitions are incredibly competitive.

We started off the year on the 6th of March with Baltinglass being the opposition for our first league game. Silly mistakes cost us and this turned out to be the story of our year. We then went on to have narrow defeats to Ballymanus, Kilmac, Vallemount and just couldn't cut out the mistakes. We eventually got a win on the board against Barndarrig and followed it up with 2 draws against Stratford and Donard. This meant the lads stayed in Division 2 Football for 2023. Then it was Championship season. We started off brilliantly with a win against Ballinacor which set us up for a battle with Laragh. Our lads had a titanic battle with Laragh and the game eventually being decided on penalties which our lads won. This booked a quarter final date with Blessington. We lost out by a single point after extra time which was heartbreaking for all the lads involved. We thank the players and management team for their efforts in 2022 and look forward to 2023.

BEREAVEMENTS

To the people of the community and surrounding areas who suffered during the past year, our sincerest condolences as all our departed loved ones are remembered fondly at this time of the year, RIP.

FUNDRAISING

The cost of the day to day running of the club continues to escalate. We as a club are incredibly thankful to all the people who help keep this club above water and without your support this wouldn't be possible. Thank you again.

Healthy club

It has been another year full of events Ireland Lights Up saw people out walking and running with Jimmy on a Tuesday and Friday night and people walking the rest of the week with the track lights left on.

The Irish Life Steps challenge had 22 take part and getting us over the 4km target to win a €1000 voucher.

Our go games were popular with kids and the fruit and chocolate milk was a big hit with away clubs also and this was served on the last day of cup camp as a welcome treat from the heat.

We have a full calendar of events for next year starting with Ireland Lights Up Tuesday 10th of January we will run a recertification emergency first aid course for coaches and any new coaches that want to join with plenty of classes and activities to look forward to in 2023 including the pilot for Sign language in sport #signmeup

Wicklow were delighted to get National Health and Well-being committee of the year and Shillelagh Coolboy Healthy club team got the Leinster award!

From all on the HCP team here at Shillelagh Coolboy we hope you have a safe and happy Christmas and new year

SEASONS GREETINGS

To all the players, management team, committee members, sponsors and all our community, Shillelagh-Coolboy GAA Club would like to wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and a healthy and prosperous new year.



Our 2022 Trophies

Senior Footballers

1. Senior Management Team

My involvement with the Club and team began in 2022 after the previous management team stood down after 5 successful years in charge. I was excited by the opportunity to manage and coach the St. Patrick's Senior Football team and looked forward to the challenge that lay ahead.

Selectors for the year were Joe Quinn and Barry Fitzgerald with Alan O'Brien providing Administration and Match Day and Training Kit/Gear support. Eugene Dooley also stepped in to assist re Kit/Gear once his involvement with County set-up was finished and Niamh Conroy provided Physio support. Des Earls organised and

coordinated the S&C programme while Shay Dunne provided match day video and performance metrics.

2. Objective

The Management team had a few objectives in relation to the panel and the wider club. The priority of any team is to try and achieve as many goals as possible in relation to winning trophies. Our main aim was to bring back the Miley Cup to Dunbur Road, to give the players a chance to win a county title and to have something tangible to show at the end of the season.

Outside of this, there was also a responsibility to develop player's skills and their ability to play a team role and contribute positively to the goals of



Senior Football Champions 2022

the team. There was also a responsibility to create a team and club ethos within the squad so that all players contributed to the team and the wider club.

Players, in my opinion, respond to input from the club and will give back as much as they perceive is “given” to them.

3. League

At late notice, we were informed that the league was starting earlier than the usual; training began on February 1, with the first league game pencilled in for the 19th of that month.

At the start of the year, several players retired or stepped away from the squad, so it was an opportunity for some younger players to step up and get exposure to senior football on a more frequent basis. In all, we used approx. 35 players during the league campaign, providing valuable preparation for the Championship campaign that lay ahead.

This year’s Division 1 league was made up of 8 teams, each team playing each other both home and away, so in total 14 games.

Heading into the last league game of the year at the start of July, we had 10 wins and 3 losses, meaning that a win versus AGB in our last game would secure the league title for 2022 with ourselves and Baltinglass both in the running for league honours.

On a Saturday evening in Dunbur we won on a scoreline of 2-17 to 1-8 to win the League title (Dunne cup presented). By virtue of winning the league, we got to compete for the Herbie Hill Cup, the following week, versus the winners of Division 1A, Eire Og Greystones. This game took place in Aughrim, and we won comprehensively on a scoreline of 1-17 to 0-6. What was notable about this win, was that it was the first time that several of the younger players had played a game in the county grounds in Aughrim. This would help come Championship time.

4. Championship

Championship came around quickly with our first game in early August.

Following the league campaign, the panel was further hit with some long-term injuries in addition to a few others heading away on travels therefore putting increased pressure on the panel in terms of numbers. Realistically, we were now working with a panel of 20/22 players.

In our first Championship game, we were drawn to play An Tochar, a young and improving team, who we had not previously encountered during the year. After an extremely slow start, we fought our way back into the game but after probably riding our luck a little in normal time, we proceeded to dominate in extra time and came out on top with a 5-point win. There was a muted response to our win, but in hindsight, if a bounce of the ball went another way for An Tochar in their semi-final, we probably would have ended up playing them again in the County final. The game helped us re-focus on what we needed to do heading into the Quarter Final.

In the Quarter-final, we played Rathnew, our near neighbours where passions usually run high. Our aim was to not get wrapped up in that side of things and to concentrate on our own game. I believe we controlled the game very well and while not spectacular, we came away with a 12-point win in our local derby with a solid and efficient performance.

The Semi-final saw us pitted against AGB and after a slow start that entailed the first 20 minutes, we played our way into the game and with a strong second half performance came away with a 4-point win to make it back to the County final. There was a calmness after this game from the players, knowing that, while nice to win the semi-final, there was no good being in the final without winning it.

And so, onto Sunday, October 9th, and County final day versus Baltinglass. We went into the game as slight underdogs but after beating Baltinglass in our 2 league games during the year, and after losing by a point in the semi-final stage the previous year, the belief and hunger was there that we could come out on top this time round. On a wet and windy afternoon, we were again very slow to start and found ourselves 4 points down at half-time, doing well to stay in the game and still giving ourselves a chance if we played to our potential. The second half performance was immense, and the desire, energy, and hunger to succeed showed by the entire team to come out on top at the final whistle was there for all to see.

It was great to see Tommy Kelly lift the cup and have Padge McWalter named as man-of-the match; two great Pats men. It was also great to see all the support, both old and young, out on the pitch celebrating afterwards. It meant a lot to the team.

5. Future

The aim now is to keep progressing and improving, something I have no doubt the team and club can achieve. The club needs to provide for and allow the younger players an opportunity to play and develop in an environment that allows each of them to reach their full potential.

This will include building on the existing training programmes tailored to develop players and achieve goals for the season; allowing players to

develop all aspects of the player; aerobic fitness, power, strength, football skills and ball skills.

6. Conclusions

The year was a great success for the team, one in which all players and club members should feel very proud of.

There were several challenges throughout the year, all of which were met with a willingness and eagerness to overcome.

On a personal level, after much thought, I have made the tough decision to step down from my position/role with the team.

I would just like to say that the last year has been one which I have thoroughly enjoyed. I want to thank all St. Pat's members for welcoming me to the Club and it will always mean a lot to me. I have met many people who I hope will keep in touch. I know I will be watching from not too far away.

I would like to thank John Smith, as Chairman, and the entire Football committee for all the help during the year in areas such as fixtures, equipment for training, venues for training and they have been very supportive, and no doubt will continue to do so with the next management group.

I would also like to publicly thank the rest of the management group for all their help and support throughout the year and finally to all our sponsors, you were very generous, and it was greatly appreciated by all of the Senior panel.



Junior A Football

The 2022 season for the Junior A panel was always going to be a tough one. With the senior panel in transition, it was always going to impact on the junior squad. This however didn't stop the lads having a relatively successful league campaign and only missing out on a division three semi-final spot, at the last game. The lads would have battled strong and pulled off some impressive victories, namely Rathnew, AGB, Tinahely and Avoca. As the Senior championship began, the importance of the junior A set up was clear to see. Four current Junior A players moved up to make their senior

championship debuts in a tightly contested win over An Tochar. In the junior A championship itself, it was a bridge too far for the young team. Defeats 2 AGB and Aughrim meant and early exit was confirmed. Thankfully, no relegation meant that there would be no unwelcomed play off and so the panel look forward to another junior A championship next year. Going forward for the junior a team, it's important that a strong mix of youth and experience is developed in tandem. Management would like to thank all players for their effort and division promotion should be a priority for next season. Patrice, Donal, Sean, Keith.



Junior A Footballers

Junior Hurlers

Junior hurling team went through the whole year unbeaten; they won the junior league got to the A final in the Championship. Only to lose out to Aughrim.

Senior Hurlers

The senior hurling team played 6 league matches, won 2, drew 1, lost 3. In the championship we drew in a group of 3. And we lost our 2 games. We didn't make it out of the group.



Junior Hurlers



Senior Hurlers



Intermediate's

Adult Football

Our Division 5 lads were grouped in the league with Stratford/Grangecon, Blessington, Donard/The Glen and Kiltegan. They were in Group 2 of the Junior D Championship with Coolkenno, Stratford/Grangecon, Ballymanus and Tinahely. They did very well in the Championship this year, beating Aughrim in the quarter final but losing out to Eire Óg in the semi-final. Thanks to Anthony, Andy and Aislinn for looking after the team for the year.

Our Division 2 lads competed in the league and finished sixth on the league table, thereby securing their place in the Division 2 for the coming year. They played in the Intermediate Championship playing 3 games and 3 relegation games, where they stay up by winning 2 games against Kilmac and Stratford. Thanks to Darren and David for looking after the team for the year.



Junior D's

Lotto

The club continues to run its bi-weekly lotto. Congratulations to Oisín Scally who won our jackpot of €14,600 back in March. Thank you to all who support us by buying tickets and to those who sell tickets. A big thanks to the few regular lads who run the lotto draw every fortnight, your dedication is greatly appreciated.

Thanks to our CE/Tús workers who keep the clubhouse and grounds in great condition. Big thanks to Seamus Miley who mows the field. A big thank you to all managers, trainers and selectors and mentors who have looked after all our teams during the year.

A massive thank you to Blessington & District Credit Union Ltd. on their recent generous donation to the club.

Thanks to all who have supported us throughout the year and we look forward to your continued support in the coming years. It does not go unnoticed!

Finally, we at Valleymount GAA would like to extend our deepest sympathies to all club members who have lost loved ones in the past year.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

Club Officers 2022:

Chairman: Michael Nolan

Treasurer: Brendan Hughes

Secretary: Aislinn Nugent Reid

Fixtures: Liam Kavanagh

PRO: Caoimhe Nolan

Children's Officer: Shann Morris