

GAA



Yearbook

2022





Baltinglass Juniores

juvenile boys

Our Academy ran during the year in line with the school year on Saturday mornings on the Astro under the guidance of our GPO Cormac Noone with large numbers attending.

The u7 and u9 boys trained once a week and they took part in 13 Go Games blitzes on Saturday mornings. Both groups participated in our end of year tournament for the James Byrne and Joe McHugh cups. The U9's also participated in an end of year West Wicklow floodlit tournament.

The u11 boys trained twice a week. They had a good league division 2 finishing in the top two and had a great win in the final in Ballinacill against Tinahely.

The u12 boys were entered in the Tinryland Tournament and had a great day eventually reaching the Shield final and having a fantastic win against Portlaoise. We took part in the Player pathway league entering teams at u10 and u12 grade with the u10's winning their league.

The u13 boys trained twice a week with numbers improving as the year went on. Results were mixed but they finished the year well and improved as the year went on due to good attendance and work by the group in training. They boys won the Plate final in Ballinacill against Eire Og Greystones.



Academy



U7's



U11's

The u15 boys trained twice a week. Similar to the u13 boys results were mixed with the boys improving as the season progressed and they finished with a good win in the Plate final in Ballinacill against Bray Emmets. This team also played in the Féile during the summer which was played over one day. The boys played very well winning 2 of their 3 games just like the previous year which unfortunately meant they did not make the next round but the boys really gave a great account of themselves in the competition.

The minor boys trained twice a week sometimes 3 times. Numbers were low in this group at times especially with 3 of the lads on the County minor panel. The group were committed and kept up a good standard of training throughout. They had a tough year with results but were competitive in every game and had a few narrow losses. They did not get to play their final as Eire Og could not field a team.



Blessington Juneniles

Minor Review 2022

2022 was a very enjoyable and successful year for the team. We played a total of 17 games in the season and grew through each and every step of the season. The one thing that stands out for this team is their commitment to each other and the team. Each and every session, gathering and game was fully embraced. The team's developments through the year reflected the work put in by the players. They are living examples of what improvements looks like. The team brought a great atmosphere to Monday nights in the club, with our new floodlights adding to occasion and there was a real sense of support from the club for the team. In terms of results on the pitch, the championship

the line. They were both performances which summed up this years minor team. Best wishes to the players moving out of juvenile football and into the adult ranks in 2023.

Minor Squad:

Ben Carroll, Tony Carroll, Fionn O'Donovan, Jack Byrne, Jake Maguire, Matty king, Terence Punsiel, Adam Smith, Lenny Templin, Sean Ellis, Conan Behan, Finn Behan, Dylan Friel, David Gilmore, Rob Grassic, Jack Hardy, Tomas Walsh, Oisin O'Neill, Peter Healy, Aaron Keogh, Dylna Keogh, Conor McDonald, Paudric Quinn, Brian Richardson. Management: Barry O'Donovan, Eoin Keogh, Wayne Callaghan, Barry Behan, Kevin Hanlon.



Minors

was a campaign that stretched from early summer to Halloween. The "A" championship was quiet even with many of the games being in the balance right to the end. With our wins and losses, the team displayed an ability to learn from the tough days out and use them as learning in later games. Aside from the very tight games in the group, the highlights of the year was our final home game to beaten finalists Aughrim and the plate victory against St Kevin's. In both occasions, the team delivered performances which reflected everything which was positive about the team – determination, skill and a huge hunger to get over

U15 Review 2022

The panel of 35 lads started the season with great commitments and enthusiasm - while there were two teams entered into the Wicklow league they trained together as one and undertook to perform with great work ethic and spirit all throughout the season.

We played a Total Of 38 Between Two Teams throughout the season in the DIV 01/DIV 04 leagues and championship with a few friendly games thrown in here and there - every player was



U15's

encouraged to you participate in other sports such as hurling / rugby / soccer - building up fitness and team spirit in the different disciplines.

With assistance from Curtis Geraghty and Steven Bohan to the coaches Jimmy Eddie Gerry/Jamie and Ben there was a clear development of the players in the way that they approached the games this year - they became physically stronger and fitter and were able to read the game with more accuracy this year as well as gelling together as one squad and putting in place the techniques that were taught in the training sessions through the various drills of Stephen/Curt.

One of the biggest events this year for this Particular team was Winning Division 1 Wicklow Feile Which Led to Us representing Wicklow in Feile held in Kildare on first weekend of July While it was not to be on the day as Lads Lost Shield Final but the lads gave it their all on the Day and Played to Potential and their effort could not be faulted. An enjoyable day was had by all including the players / coaches and parents. The majority of this squad were the 2007 lads however a number of 2008 lads stepped up to the team. They were presented with new training top / shorts / socks and track suits for the event with the main sponsor being CJK Engineering and Toomey audio and Few other Generous Sponsorships.

We are especially proud that there are four players from this squad representing Blessington on the

Wicklow under 15 Development squad they are Patrick/James/Myles and Max.Also Ciaran Butler on U14 Wicklow Development Squad.

A special mention must be given to the 2009 lads that helped out the Division 4 squad during 2022 in particular during the league matches, where due to injury or holidays without them a team would not have been able to be fielded - it is greatly appreciated

It is of note that of the five competitions that the Panel of 34 was entered into in 2022 they won four of them - being the Division One league / Division One Feile / Division Four league / the Division Four championship unfortunately they lost out by small margin in the Division One championship final but it was a great achievement to reach the final which we Only Lost by 2 points to Tomnafnogue Group Team [Newly Formed in 2022 at U13/ U15 Levels].

The effort put in by the players in the 22 season was second to none and their commitment to attending training sessions and being available for (as much as possible) all the matches is a great reflection of how this team deserve the great Achievements of 2022.

Also a note of appreciation to the coaches -Gerry/ Ben/ Eddie/Jamie/ Curt and Steven gave up their time to attend all the mentioned training sessions/ friendly matches/ league matches/ championship matches / Feile games and working in the

background was Gillian helping out with the admin side of things which was Exceptional as Always.

Again without the commitment from the parents to drive these lads all over the county and take home jerseys after each game win lose or draw the team would not have progressed and so well as they did - once again thank you

The club itself has been a great help too this team throughout 2022 and Facilities are Exceptional and Constantly being Improved to Develop Blessington

GAA.Particular thanks to Lisa/Kim for Social Publicity.

We wish the 2007 lads now moving on up to play minor in 2023 with 2006 Lads and best of luck to the 2008 guys who remain on as under 15 to be joined by the 2009 squad - here's hoping there's a good year ahead for all the players involved and this Squad Reuniting in 2024 as Minor Squad.



U13's

U13 year review

The U13's had a super 2022. The lads went through the whole Div 1 league unbeaten and claimed the league title, some memorable moments along the way was an away win in Pearse park where with beat a very good AGB team. Captain for the League was Alfie Mc Donald and he picked up the cup on behalf of his team mates.

Throughout the year we had some though challenge games against teams for Kildare and elsewhere to get us ready for the championship ... We had a good group stage of the championship which we finished 2nd in our group which meant a semi final v Bray Emmets . The lads put in a huge

performance to come away with a big win which seen us qualify for the county A final V AGB again. This was a huge achievement for this group.

Unfortunately county final day was not out day and we came up just short against a top team from Arklow ...

At the end day as coaches all we can ask is that our players give it their all when then go out on the pitch and these group of young lads certainly do ..

So overall 2022 was a good year with loads of learning's and this super group of young guys looks forward to an exciting 2023

Wes, Brian, Jack, Seán & Elaine ..



U12's

U11 Boys

Under 11 Boys had a super year. All the lads progressed very well throughout the year during the league campaign and had some fine challenge games which set them up for the highlight of their

year - winning the Allen Cup against a strong Baltinglass team in Dunlavin. The boys are a credit to everyone both on and off the pitch. The future is very bright for these youngsters and Blessington GAA club is very proud of them as always.



U11 Allen Cup

U9 Boy's

A season that included games in the picturesque relative rural setting of Kiltegan to the hustle and bustle of Maynooth came to an end with a home match against Clane at the end of October. All throughout the season we enjoyed many competitive games with some difficult challenges. Our team showed pride in the Blessington jersey in every match and displayed an eagerness to improve and team ethic. Watching the lads develop game to game and season to season is a privilege for the coaches involved with the team. One of the highlights of the year didn't involve any opposition on the field. During July, the team raised funds as part of the clubs Walkathon efforts. The joy at getting the opportunity to spray water at all the coaches on the day of the Walkathon was evident. The sheer delight at seeing a bucket of cold water being poured over the head of their "favourite" coach, Kevin Foster, by two unidentified fellow coaches was obvious.

It was great to have some new additions involved in the team in 2022 and we look forward to having all the lads, and maybe some of their friends, back in 2023. A special mention of thanks to the u8 boys and the u9 girls who played with the team during the year when required.

Western Gaels

Our goal was to improve all aspects of our hurling this year and try to keep going where we left off, and to hit the ground running was an understatement winning the league without a defeat. Championship saw the usual clash with holidays but our lads battled on to be beaten once. We had a playoff v Barndarraig to see who would top the group and came out on top to go straight into the final the following wk. Oct 15th was a dry warm morning compared to last year's weather for the final. Our lads gave it their all to go in at half time with a two point lead and strong breeze at our backs for the second. We pulled ahead and stayed there till the final whistle, Glenealy thanks us for one of the best hurling matches all year at the team headed to Murphy's Blessington for grub and celebrations on the house. Jack and I would like to thank all the players for their hard work the parents for taxis everywhere and both Blessington and Hollywood Gaa for pitch allocation and support throughout the year. Finally to wish the best of luck to all current u11s coming up and the older 13s moving on to 15s and also the rising star academy players next yrs u14s trying out in Balinakill, Our panel was Cillian Moulds Taylor, Leo Strucken James Mooney Ben McGrath Sean Byrne Peadar O'Toole Connor Fitzgerald Callum Jordan Dempsey Ruari Glennon Fionn Whelan Alex Toolis Tom Flemming Finn Kieran Oisín Pender Sean Corrigan Dylan Callaghan Kayden Mc Mahon Donnagh O'Brien, Jack Flanagan and Kieran Darker, Western Gaels abù Jack Whelan & Sean Dempsey





Carnew Emmets Juniviles

Boy's Juvenile Section:

2022 saw us return to the field and the resumption of games which was so very welcomed by all and was so important for the general health and wellbeing of our players, mentors/coaches alike. Over all we are delighted with our year. It was a year in which we had great attendances and commitment across all the age groups throughout the entire season. Sincere thanks to our coaching teams, our guest coaches, all our players, parents and guardians and our very important Sponsors, for all their support and commitment throughout the year. We hope to see you all back again next year and new players and mentors/coaches are always welcome at the "Sports Field".

Our Games Promotion Officers (GPO):

In August, the Club said good bye to Jack Keogh who was with us as GPO over the Summer and for both Cúl Camp and our own Club Summer Camp and we thank Jack for his work during this time.

Diarmuid Hayes has now come on board with us as GPO and works between our Club and Kiltegan. Diarmuid is running a programme of coaching in GAA skills, Hurling and Football in the three Schools in the locality and then coaches in the Club on Thursday and Friday evenings and every second Saturday. We would all like to give Diarmuid a big Carnew welcome and look forward to a great year ahead.



Carnew Cubs

Carnew Cubs:

In May, the Carnew Cubs returned to the field, a great group of Girls & Boys ages (4-6) for training in hurling and football on a Friday evening 6.00 to 7:00 pm and this proved to be a great success. The Cubs ran right up to September and they finished

off their year with a medal presentation and goodie bag. We look forward to resuming training in the New Year. The Club has a stock of helmets and hurls available for use by children who might like to give hurling and football a go.



U7's

Under 7's-

These lads were ready for anything, they trained hard and participated in the Blitzes around the County in Hurling & Football as well as hosting on occasions. We finished up the season very well and they were even happier to receive a very nice party bag courtesy of Candy's Carnew.

Under 9's -

A super group of players and like our U 7's they trained and worked very hard all year and participated in their Hurling & Football Blitzes travelling around the County. The current crop of players will be hoping that Michael Kelly of Candy's will be one of their coaches next year!!



U9's



U11 Hurlers

Under 11's -

These players showed huge commitment at training and developed well over the season culminating in fantastic displays of courage, skill, teamwork and determination only missing out on

taking the spoils in the Division A hurling final to Arklow. Our players marched on and played their Division 4 Football final against Avondale and were only beaten by a point in a very good game and they battled right to the end.



U13's

Under 13's -

Another full on season for this team and great work from all the lads at training and in matches. Commitment was not lacking here and our players showed great progress and strength throughout the year. We were winners of the Division A Shield final against Michel Dwyer's and we were defeated in our Football final to Naomh Eoin Gaels. A number of the squad have been involved with the Rising Stars programmes in both codes.

Under 15's -

A very busy and full year for our lads. Tremendous drive and commitment from all the team both in training and on the pitch. Our players have continued to progress and develop, maturing well and have showed us some great displays. The revised Feile competitions kicked off our season and we hosted the Football competition. It has been a successful season for us winning the Shield Final in a cracking game against St. Pat's and we were defeated in the Division 3 Shield Football Final. A number of our panel were selected to play for the Garden County Academy in both codes.



U15's



Minor Hurlers

Minors –

Sadly we are now saying good bye to a number of these players as they move on from the Minor ranks. They have served the Juvenile Club very well and have had much success over the years. This year saw victory for our Minors in the Division B Final against Western Gales and unfortunately we were unable to meet the fixtures in the Football Championship. We are losing players but we have numbers coming up and a number of those players have already gained experience playing at this level. This Minor team has done our Club proud and we had in all 7 players representing the County in this year's Celtic Challenge. These young men have come up through the grades have been loyal to the game, soldiered on, followed direction and guidance of their Mentors and have trained hard over the years.

Post Script:

The Juvenile Club would like to thank all our players, coaches and loyal supporters/parents who have travelled with us to away games this year. We look forward to working with all our teams next year and we wish all the players that are moving up and onwards all the best.



Dunlavin Juveniles



U11's in Croke Park

Our juvenile U5's, U'7s, U'9, and U'11s had a great year.

Our under 11s had the chance this year to play in croke park in the under 11s go games, a huge moment for this group of kids..

As always, the effort, hard work and dedication put in from our coach's week in/week out each year is visible for all to see and the progress of the kids each year is a testament to this.

It was fantastic to have the ability to throw our fun days, presentation evening's etc for the children again.



Glenealy Juveniles



Glenealy / St. Pat's Minor A Hurling Champions

Minor Glen/Pats

Following on from last years heartache with a last minute defeat in the final, our minor team remained focused and trained hard throughout the year. They had a steady display of wins throughout the year and kept their eyes on the ultimate prize.

The semi final saw a nail biting start against Carnew but in the end a comfortable win to guarantee a final spot. In the final we faced Michael Dwyers who were half of last year's opponents we suffered defeat to.

Pearse Park Arklow was the venue for the final and the two crowds arrived from East and West Wicklow to see a Hurling masterclass from both of the young teams. We took an early lead which made it difficult in the end for Dwyers to take over control. A true team performance from all of our

players who gave it all on the day. Lorcan Byrne left no blade of grass untouched over the 60 mins, Michael Óg O'Neill was on song with his frees and deadly under the high ball, Alex O'Dowd guarded the Glenealy goal with a fantastic display of saves and Alex Kavanagh was unmarkable as man of the match.

Captain Michael Óg O'Neill was presented with the Tom Cooney Memorial Cup as the deserved winners were named Minor A Hurling Champions 2022. The club would like to thank the team for their hard work and dedication throughout the year, our future remains bright with many of this team coming through to our adult club over the coming years. A special thank you as well to the management team of M.A O'Neill, Brian Gleeson, Pat Lynch & Seamie O'Neill.

U15

2022 was a year of ups and downs for the Glenealy U15 squad. They started off the year with positive results from their games and topped their group in the league. Unfortunately after a number of serious injuries this left the team struggling for numbers, but with the help of the U13s they battled their way to the Trophy Final in the championship. It wasn't to be on the day but they showed a great display of skill and commitment.

They also participated in the county U15 Feile and were unfortunately knocked out in the semi-final. A special thank you to coaches Tom Byrne & Niall Keogh, their mentoring and advice brought out the best in the team and gives these young men a bright future in Glenealy Hurling Club.

U13

Our 2022 campaign got off to a flying start on the 28th March and we remained in the top 3 throughout the championship. A heart stopping semi-final v Barndarraig saw us through to the championship final vs Western Gaels. Regrettably on the final day after going in at half time with a healthy lead and massive team performance from the lads, the Gaels were worthy Championship winners at the final whistle.

The shield final with Barndarrig was our forth meeting of the two teams this year and an epic battle. We came up short by just one point, but not without the match of the year, where the lads put on an amazing display of hurling.

Thank you to all our players for their hard work and commitment throughout the year and especially for all of the fantastic entertainment. Thank you especially to our manager Seamie O'Neill

U11

Our 2022 U11 team had a good year with some assistance from the U9 squad due to short numbers we came 3rd in the league and just missed out on the A final. Through hard work and skill development these guys improved massively as the year went on and by the end of the year they could put it up to anyone and was evident to see in the B final against Bray Emmets. What a final it was, end to end hurling and a brilliant display shown by both teams. The lads pulled away in the end and the cup was proudly paraded through the village afterwards. Thanks to Mj, Dave & Ger our coaches and to Dorothy (Admin) for all your hard work & thanks to all of the parents throughout the year too.

U9

The 2022 Glenealy Hurling Club under 9s season was a very successful year and had really good numbers every week for training and the blitz matches every second Friday night. Whether it be at home or away everyone of the under 9 panel represented themselves and their club in a very high manner. The progress made in all their skill sets was really starting to show near the end of the season as they became stronger and more confident in their hurling abilities. This was made possible by some very important people starting with our Covid Officer/ admin Suzanne Collins and our coaches Colm O'Neill, Ger Devil, Brian Coen and Eoghan Dunne. The input that all these individuals had on the team was truly visible. I'd like to thank all the parents for taking the time out to bringing all the little warriors to training and games over the year. Thanks a million for everyone's support.

U7

The u7s had another successful year developing their skills. We had 13 blitz's throughout the year and won them all, with some epic battles involved. Stefan and Leighton would like to thank Ian, Marcus, Shay and Barry for their help throughout the year and would also like to wish the lads going up to the u9s next year the very best of luck.

Nursery

We had a fantastic year with our youngest stars of Glenealy hurling and camogie this year. The nursery caters for boys and girls aged 3-5. Our nursery group was part of our 'Monday madness' that happened in the pitch in Glenealy and it ran from March until the end of September.

We had 20 boys and girls each week learning their skills, and more importantly having great fun. There were some great little stars in this group, with some moving up to our u7s next year and will be well able for their first year of go-games.

Central to our nursery is having a big group of coaches to help out. A massive thanks to Warren, Dave, Mary, Aaron, Tony and Arly for all their work with this group this year



Kilbride Juveniles



Ray Daniel's Champions 2022

St Kevins Minors

Eight Kilbride lads were on the St Kevins squad for the Minor Plate Final versus Blessington which they unfortunately lost. Kilbride players included: Tadhg Reid, Lee Carroll, Dylan Duffy, Gavin Duffy, Shay Duffy, Dara Cantwell, Conor Donoghue and Patrick Clarke.

The lads just missed out on a top four place and so played were played in the Plate final. The St Kevin's Minors were also managed by Kilbride's Lorcan Clarke and his coaching team.

U11

Under 11's Ray Daniels and County Champions

Our U11's emerged victorious with a strong performance against Donard at the county championships on 3rd October in Ballinakill. Congratulations to all the players and huge thanks to coaches Sinead and Donal for putting in the time and effort over the last year.

History Made - Finally 'Cill Bhríde' etched onto the Ray Daniel's Trophy - Kilbride 2022 Champions

What a game and performance for all these young boys and girls. Losing at half time and then a second half made in heaven! Final Score: 40 - 37 - so just the one point in it.

Every player played a stormer, but special mention to Lucy Keely and Tomas Mckeon who had massive games, Tomas just nudging it for player of the match.

Fionn Cummins Kilbride Captain received the Ray Daniel's trophy from Ben Daniel's.

Well done to all the players who have made tremendous improvements to their game and competitiveness. Special mention to Fionn Cummins and Charlie Gahan for their never-ending commitment and match performance consistency throughout the year.

Well done to Sinead Eustace and Donal Gahan for their dedication throughout the year.

Cill Bhríde U11 Squad

Aaron McGrath, Tommy Clarke, Lorelei Smith, Keelan O'Neill, Christian Kinsella, Charlie Gahan, Fionn Cummins (Captain), Lucy Keeley, Cillian Duggan, Adam Nolan, Tomas McKeon, Aimee Gahan, Charlie O'Connor, Amelie Van Zyl, Eliza Shanahan, Amy Taggert, Etain Veling, Anna Coe, Thomas Fitzsimmons, Tomas Nolan, Oisín McEvoy

U9

Our U9's finished their season with Go Games in Donard on the 3rd October. The team have had a great season practicing their skills and participating in numerous Go Games throughout the season. Again very special thanks to the coaches Paul Cunningham and Catriona and Michelle Reneghan who give up their time every week.



Cill Bhríde Under 9's 2022

U7

Our U7's have also had a fun filled season with training and Go Games. Coaches Gearoidin Burke, Diarmuid Haughian, Ross Hamilton, Lucy Gahan and parents who stepped in when needed ensured all the kids had a lot of fun at training and at Go Games while developing their skills throughout the season.



Cill Bhríde Under 7's 2022



Kiltegan Juneniles

U7 & Kinder Hurling/Football

We had a great year with the lads, again, numbers were strong, but where we needed to make up 2 teams, we prioritised the kids who were in their final year of u7. We worked hard on pickups, and allowed 'air strikes' during games in training towards the end of the year. A few times during Go Games, we noticed that our kids were well ahead of other clubs, in particular in relation to striking from the hand and passing. The training that Nigel,

Ciaran, Heather and Julie have been doing has shown on the pitch.

It's clear that the improvement in these kid's abilities is in no small part due to the fact that there are regularly 4 coaches present, and the kids can be split into smaller groups, so exercises can be tailored more to each group.

Coaches: Nigel Nolan, Ciaran Doyle, Heather Myers, Julie Keogh.



U7 Football



U7 Hurling

U9 Football/Hurling

At the start of the season we were struggling for numbers at training. The lack of training was starting to show at Go Games and so we sent a message to parents. Thankfully, the parents responded and numbers improved. One change we had to make during the summer was to move training from Sunday morning to Thursday evening. We had some Sunday's where we only had

4 or 5 kids for u9. When we changed to Thursdays, attendance picked up quite a bit.

We were only able to field one team for most of the Go Games during the summer, but there were a couple of times where the numbers allowed us to field 2 teams. With 3 coaches available, we were able to work closely with them as a group and focus on individual player needs as required.

Coaches: Sean O'Reilly, Michael Barry, Shane O'Toole



U9 Football



U9 Hurling

U11 Football

We had a very positive year in U11 football in 2022. We worked from a panel of 18 throughout the year, which was almost evenly split between players coming up into the grade and those in their final year. There was a step up in level for all players as we only had one team at U11 and we played in Division 2. Overall, our results were generally positive and some strong results at the end of the year especially against table-toppers Tinahely, meant we finished in the 3rd vs 4th Division 2 final and played Annacurra in Ballinakill. This would be our 4th match vs Annacurra, with the previous results going 2/1 in their favour.

There were great signs of overall improvement in the team as they beat Annacurra on the final day in a thrilling match in Ballinakill. Our definite advantage was the total team play which meant we were able to overcome the Annacurra team which had some extremely strong individuals.

Thank you

First, and foremost, a massive thank you to all the coaches involved with the teams. Without their hard work and dedication, the future of our club would not look so bright.

The Juvenile Chairperson and Secretary would also like to acknowledge the support we get from the top table, we are encouraged at every opportunity to continue our work to improve the juvenile side of the club.

We would also like to thank all the parents, for the miles they have to cover, for the support they give their own children & teams, and for their feedback to our coaches.



U11 Football



Laragh Juveniles

Juvenile

It was a very successful year for our juvenile cohort as we went from strength to strength. With record number of members, the club got to see the fruits of their labour from previous years. We welcomed Jack Keogh, GPO in the summer who has helped train our U7's, U9's and U11's as well as our coaches. The club hosted another very successful GAA Kellogg's Cúl Camp in the summer with almost 100 children participating. Our U11 won their first county final with a fantastic win over Éire Óg Greystones. The U13's Clara/Glens lost their county final by a very narrow margin to Stratfrod/Grangecon, joining with Balinacor at this age group has been very beneficial to both clubs. The U15 Michael Hogan's team has gone from strength to strength this year and we look forward to see what they can do next year.



Under 7's



Under 9's



Under 11's



Luke O'Toole's Juvenile Hurling

Luke O' Toole's started the year by adding an U11 team to the amalgamated group team. With U11, U13 and U15 teams Luke O' Toole's were looking forward to the year ahead.

U11 Hurling Team

The new U11 team, coached by Donal Rice and Philip Doyle played in Division 2 of the league and acquitted themselves very well during the year, having some great wins and some narrow defeats as they travelled up and down the county. The team played Western Gaels in their U11 Mini festival final and were unlucky to come out on the wrong side of a 3-06 to 2-05 game. The young boys and girls played their hearts out all year, there are a lot of talented players on board, and they are no doubt a credit to the club.

Panel

Fia Doyle, Darragh Lambert, Odhran Rice, Eamon O' Byrne, Danny Byrne, Oisín Wilson, Sean Byrne, Cait Duffy, Alex Langrell, Evan Keenaghan, Luke Tallon, Henry Doyle, Adam Myers.



Under11's



Under13's

U13 Hurling Team

The U13 team had Fiona McAllister and Mick Juste as their coaches this year. They consistently had good numbers at training and improved their skills throughout the year. They played in the Division 1 league and the A championship. They came off second best to a strong Bray team in the league but fancied another go at them in the championship. In the round robin championship, Bray were up first and with a number of Luke O Toole players missing Bray came out on top again, Luke's dusted themselves off and had a very good win over Michael Dwyer's by the slimmest of margins, they beat Carnew after a disastrous start, before beating an understrength Arklow Rocks team well. This all meant that they would face up to Bray for the 3rd time in the year in the A County Final. (It was Luke's 5th time to reach the final in their 7 short years in existence). Was it to be 3rd time lucky – well on a very wet, cold and windy October day in Ballinakill, we found out very

quickly, Bray got in for 2 early goals to settle them in to the game, and from that point Luke's were chasing the game, they did pull a few points back, but were unable to penetrate the Bray defence for some all-important goals. Bray won out comfortably in the end to a very disappointed Luke O Toole's team. These young boys put in a big effort throughout the year and keep on improving, they will come back stronger in the coming years and will be there or thereabouts at the business end of the season for a while yet.

Panel

Padraig Lambert, Darragh O' Byrne, Jake Martin, Oisin Fanning, Daniel Fitzgerald, Ross Weld, Daniel Duffy, Michael Lacey, Alex Penston, Dylan Doyle, Keith O' Reilly, Brodie O' Sullivan, Peter Mooty Monaghan, James Kavanagh, Colman O' Byrne, Tom Clancy, Kyle Juste, Conor Quinn

U15 Hurling Team

The U15 team having delivered the U13 2020 A Championship in June of 2021 were looking to add an U15 A Championship to their bow in 2022. The team set out their stall early in the year and after drawing with the Arklow Rocks in the Feile in April, they secured a position in the Regional Feile by winning the B section. The team travelled to Darver in Louth on the 28th of May to play in an 8-team competition. Luke's were initially pitted against teams from Carrickmacross Co. Monaghan, Ballerin Co. Derry and St Laurence's Co Kildare, and having dispatched all 3 teams with some fabulous hurling they qualified for the Cup semi-final. Luke's played The Saints of Meath in this encounter and after a nervy start they found their rhythm and won out easily in the end. St Laurence's had won through in the other semi-final, so it was time for a re-match. Luke's had beaten St Laurence's well in the group stage but knew a final was a different ball game and so it was. Luke's were 1-02 to 1-01 up at half time and when Laurence's levelled shortly after the break you could see the Luke's heads start to drop, after 2 hours of hurling already

bodies were tired, limbs were aching and energy levels were eon empty, but that is when big men are called upon – Adam Lively stood tall and after a dazzling solo run buried the ball in the Laurence's net, Sean Byrne and Adam added points to stretch the lead to 5 and when Marc O' Shea added a goal it was all over, Mikey Keogh had the final say when he added to 4th goal to leave the game at 4-04 to 1-03. Wild celebrations ensued and Adam Lively graciously accepted the Feile Trophy on behalf of the team. It must be said that Brian Tallon was excellent in the goal throughout the day, Barry Kealy, Callum Keenaghan and Liam Molloy were immense in defence, while Pearse Byrne was quickly eyed as a danger man at midfield such was his dominance. Marc O' Shea, Adam Lively, James Lambert, Rhyan Moules and Sean Byrne all had fantastic games and Mikey Keogh, a lad working his way back from a long-term injury did his club and parents proud contributing a few important goals. It was a great team performance throughout the long day, and it will go down in history as another fantastic day for the Luke O' Toole's club. In 7 short years, 2 of which were marred with Covid, the Club has won a National Feile (2015) and



Under15's at the Regional Feile

now a Regional Feile (2022). Between the 3 clubs involved – Aughrim, Tinahely and Annacurra, they are producing some fantastic hurlers. Well done Luke O’ Toole’s U15 team and coaches on a fantastic achievement, another venture that will live long in the memory.

Next on the agenda was the matter of the U15 A-Championship, the team had a great win against Carnew in the first round and then got a walkover v Barndarrig, we moved on with and an impressive win against Michael Dwyers. There was a break for almost 6 weeks, and this certainly didn’t help our cause. We struggled to beat Eire Og, got back on track a bit against Kilcoole, before falling to Bray Emmetts at home for our first defeat of the campaign. Our players took the game v Western Gaels for granted and as a result were lucky to come home with a draw. We got our act together again and comprehensively beat Glenealy. We needed to beat St Pats to secure our place in the semi-final, but this didn’t happen, we played the game under very poor lighting and just couldn’t get moving on the night. Our final game was against favourites Arklow Rocks and after a hum dinger of a game where we played the 2nd half with 14 men, we just came up short. The result of which left us playing Western Gaels in the A Plate final and out of the A Championship. It wasn’t what we wanted but we will learn a lot more from this

disappointed than if we had progressed. We played Western Gaels in the Plate final and this time we didn’t take them for granted, we were ready, we managed to pull 7 points clear at the start of the 2nd half and looked home and hosed, however Western Gaels dug deep and clawed their way back in to the game to leave the bare minimum in it with time up, Luke’s missed a penalty at this juncture but did manage to score a point from the resulting play to win out on a score of 3-09 to 2-10. It turned out to be a teak tough battle in the end. With captain Pearse Byrne out sick, Adam Lively lifted the trophy on the club’s behalf, while James Lambert picked up the man of the match award for his fine display in the game.

Panel

Brian Tallon, Sean Byrne, Cillian Duffy, Conor Wilson, Lucas Cronin, Callum Keenaghan, Liam Molloy, Marc O’Shea, Pearse Byrne, Barry Kealy, Adam Lively, Rhyan Moules, Cormac Sheridan, James Lambert, Daniel Byrne, Pierce Carroll, Mikey Keogh, Darragh Rice, John O’ Reilly, Dominic O’ Loughlin, Peter Toomey, Tiernan Byrne. Ryan Whelan, Aaron Mooney, Ewan Doyle, Finlay Jameson and Daniel Duffy. Coaches: Sean O’ Shea, Majella O’ Shea, John Byrne, Donal Rice, Stephen Rafferty, Eamonn Byrne, Neil Carroll.



Under 15's Regional Feile Winners

County Squads

The Club had good representation on County development squads in 2022. On the U15 Squad who faced Mayo, Kildare, Carlow, Derry, Antrim, Sligo, Meath and Westmeath were: Pearse Byrne, Callum Keenaghan, Lucas Cronin, Brian Tallon, Cillian Duffy, Rhyan Moules, Marc O' Shea, James Lambert, Conor Wilson, Adam Lively, with Sean O' Shea as a Coach to the Squad. We had Liam Molloy, Sean Byrne Pierce Carroll and Tiernan Byrne on the U14 squad, while represented on the U13 Rising Star Programme we had: Daniel Duffy, Ross Weld, Dylan Doyle, Oisín Fanning, Darragh O' Byrne, Alex Penston, Padraig Lambert, Peter Mooty Monaghan and James Kavanagh, with Fiona McAllister as a coach to the squad. With this sizeable representation on County teams, we hope that all our players will come back to the club bigger, faster, stronger and more importantly better hurlers.

A big thank you

Finally, as a club we would like to thank all our coaches for their continued dedication and commitment. In these very busy time's, we are lucky to have such gifted coaches and we look forward to working with them and recruiting more help in 2023.



Newtown Juveniles

U7

The U7's team through training and Go Games made huge improvements. They learned hand and eye coordination, rules of the game and had great team spirit. They were exciting and great fun to watch for all!

U9

There has been great leaps forward in the level of understanding the rules from all the kids. You can genuinely see the improvement each week. The kids skills sets are steadily improving, some great tackles & passing happening at each training/ matches. It's down to great work from all the coaches who deserve a huge amount of credit. Looking forward to the rest of the year ahead. Special mention to Justin, Gordon & Ciaran for all the great work.

U11

A big thank you to all the boys and girls in the U11s for all the hard work and dedication (and hopefully fun) in training. This paid off in the attitude and teamwork they showed in matches. There were some tough games throughout the year but this spirit and teamwork saw them through to some big victories especially commendable as all but 3 of the squad are still U11 next year.

U13

It was a challenging year for the u13s as most of the team were still u12. The league standings do not reflect the great standard of football displayed by this team. Their character shone through and they never gave up and fought to the end of each game. A talented team in the making and the future of Newtown GAA looks bright.

U15

Our U15's had a good year. Lots of tough games for our lads but with a squad made up of mostly u14's the lads never shirked a challenge. They will be far stronger for the year and showed massive development individually and as a squad. Full squad was: Scott Elliott-Doyle, Michael Daly, Sam Fenelon, Ryan Collins, Michael Synnott, Bailey Collingwood, Pat Carey, Ryan McDonald, Leon O'Connor, Max Roche, Cathal O'Toole, Luke Turley, Oisin Duffy, PJ Duffy, Aidan Heffernan, Matthew Doyle, Dayle Carthy, Aaron Roy, Scott McKenna, Dylan Dunleavy, John Turley, Aaron Nolan, Kayden McMahon and PJ Cunningham. Managers Shane Mooney and Cathal McNicholas. Massive thank you to all the parents for the year for supporting the lads come hail, rain or shine. Looking forward to next year.

U17

Newtown U17s made a major contribution to an ultimately successful year for Pearse Gaels in 2022. The season started in April with the U17 pathway league as a lead in to the Championship league in the Summer. Both leagues featured some excellent performances mixed with some very average but they did however find some consistency just at the right time. A good win in the final championship group game in Newtown set the lads up for a semi final against Michael Hogans which resulted in a good 7 point win. This set up a Championship Final against local rivals Kilcoole which was a super game with Pearse Gaels dominating the match, the concession of 3 late goals looked to throw it away but Gaels showed great character to grab a late equaliser and to get back up again and finish the job in the extra time. A great way to finish the season and for some of the lads their last game of juvenile football.

The Newtown players who contributed greatly to this team during the year were, Ryan Clarke, Daragh Heffernan, Shane Synnott, Scott Elliott Doyle, Bailey Collingwood, Michael Synnott, Aidan Heffernan and Marcel Kodjaca.