



**Supplement
Coolkenno GAA
Coolkenno LGFA**

2023



WHERE WE ALL BELONG

#WEAREWICKLOW



Coolkenno Juveniles

Nursery/Naíolann

Coolkenno under 7 & 9s had a busy year between training and games. The Go-Games are a fantastic pathway for our kids and thankfully in the past couple of years we have seen an increase in numbers. Hopefully as the club rebuilds its underage teams we can utilise the Go-Games platform to enable the growth we need as a club.

The club are extremely grateful for the games and development coaching team and in particular Darren Hayden for their efforts with organising a comprehensive blitz schedule for our Go-Games teams.

The clubs who hosted us every second Saturday and to our own Go-Games referees all this would not have been possible without the cooperation of all stakeholders. The benefit of the Go-Games is that kids develop at different rates and as a club we hope that these games allow the children develop at their own rate.



Under 11's



Under 13 E Champions 2023



U13 Man of the Match

The club are very thankful for the coaching team of our Go-Games teams- Tom Bowes, Cathal Rossiter, Conor Doyle, Jim Cushe & Ger O Shea. Míle buíochas leo!

Faoi 11/Under 11

Our under 11s had a fantastic year in 2023. We started our year in division 5 and finished in division 2. This shows how much they developed as a group of players and as a team. We had a panel of 19 players which was great. We

started back training in February, training 2 nights a week. During the year there was a county skills competition where each club was given skills to test on their players. The winner from each club represented the club in Echelon Park Aughrim. Danny Butler was the Coolkenno representative on the day. He done the club proud. Danny finished 4th overall. This was a fantastic achievement for Danny and the club. I'd like to thank our sponsors Flynn's in Tullow for the new set of jerseys and also thanks to John Ellis Well Drilling for sponsorship on our halfzips. Our year finished with a monster blitz in Tinahely. This was a great day out. The lads really enjoyed it. The under 11s are an excellent group of lads with a brilliant attitude and commitment levels. The future of the club is very much in safe hands.



U13's with mentors
Pauric Murray & Rioghan O'Callaghan

Faoi 13/Under 13

For the first time in 8 years, Coolkenno fielded an u13 team in 2023. This is due to significant work being done at the younger ages. We ended up with 14 games played and 64 training sessions which stood to the lads in their development this year. It was a very good year overall with the team saving their best performance of the year for the final, a performance which any team would be proud of. Their behaviour on and off the field was a credit to them. Commitment to training was top class with 15 to 18 training every night. We went to Redhill on a day out during the year which was a massive boost to the lads. They have grown from children to young men. We had a pizza evening with a game before hand with the u13s playing parents/coaches which was a very enjoyable event. We would also be lost without our sponsors David Butler (jerseys) and Kinsella Building Contractors (tops). A big thanks to 2 of our coaches Pauric Murray and Eamonn Rossiter who were in the field 6 out of 7 nights of the week between juvenile and adult football. Thanks to the parents who travelled up to every training and game. Thanks to the lads for their time and effort. We look forward to 2024 and keep the ship sailing.

PEIL IDIRMHEÁNACH NA BHFEAR/ MEN'S INTERMEDIATE FOOTBALL

An tSraith/The League

Following relegation in 2022, 2023 saw us pitch up in Roinn 2 of the SFL, a division we last won in 2019. We began 2023 with Séamus McClean as the bainisteoir. Séamus was ably assisted by his roghnóirí, Colin Murphy, Ger O'Shea and Brian Hutton.

Roinn 2 proved to be a happy hunting ground for us once again. Our opening game was against Laragh and despite a slow start, we really took over in the second half and won out on a final score of 2-22 to 0-15. We followed this up with wins against Ballymanus and Vallemount, the latter a 15 point win.

The only blot on the copybook in the early stages of the league was a dropped point against Shillelagh/Coolboy in Coolafancy, the home side showing great resilience to come back from 10 points down to snatch a late draw.

We got back to winning ways in our next game, a 4-point win against Donard/Glen, the team which denied us intermediate glory in 2020.

We suffered two defeats in the campaign – both to teams from the west of the county. Firstly, Baltinglass proved that bit hungrier on home turf and then senior side Dunlavin just had a little too much for us on the day. Despite these losses, we found ourselves in the top two going into the last game against Ashford. We knew that, depending on results, a win might be enough to not only be promoted but also to win the division outright.

The stars very much aligned on the night with McClean's men having far too much for Ashford. Word then filtered through that Laragh had beaten Dunlavin. This meant that we were Roinn II winners for 2023 – the third time in a decade we'd won the division after previous triumphs in 2013 and 2019.

Cathaoirleach CLG Chill Mhantáin, Damien Byrne, presented the Timmins Cup to captaen Chúil Uí Chionaoith, John Gregan before a great night of celebrations was had in the Crablane.

An Chraobh/The Championship

After the high of the league campaign, hopes were high of a long run in the championship. Unfortunately, these hopes were not realised. A draw with Ballymanus and narrow defeats to Hollywood, Barndarrig and Kilcoole meant that we went into our final group game with Newtown needing to win to avoid the dreaded relegation playoff.

What had turned out to be our most important game of the season was played in terrible conditions in Annacurra. Newtown rattled the net with their first attack but from there we took control and had built up a healthy lead with ten minutes to go. Newtown mounted a late comeback, however, and it took a late, late save from goalkeeper Don Jackman to

keep them at bay. The final whistle sounded a short time later which meant that we had preserved our Intermediate status for 2024.

Míle buíochas to Séamus McClean for his work with the team throughout the league and the early stages of the Craobh. Thanks also to Pierce McCarthy who took over for the last two games of the Championship. Pierce will continue to wear the bainisteoir's bib in 2024.



Roinn II celebrations in the Crablane

Scór sa Chlub/Scór in the Club

Scór na nÓg has had a great renaissance in the club the last few years. Scór nan Óg took place in March this year. We had plenty of entries with Emily McCarthy, Amierose Cushe, Conor Doran and Rioghan O'Callaghan taking part in the Tráth na gCeist; Sarah Kane taking part in solo-singing; and Megan Weekes, Meadhbh Ward, Sophie Donohue and Katie Keegan participating in rince foirne.



Tráth na gCeist

The Tráth na gCeist team performed brilliantly, finishing in the top 3 after 10 rounds. This meant that they, along with Hollywood and Kilmacanogue, advanced to the on-stage part of the quiz. This consisted of 4 more rounds, after two of which Coolkenno led. However, we lost ground in the final two

rounds as Hollywood took the spoils. A great performance from our four though, our highest placing since we won the competition in 2019.

Sarah Kane sang 'Red is the Rose' accompanying herself on guitar. Making her debut in the competition, Sarah wowed the audience and ended up finishing joint 2nd to Baile Coimín's Fionn Whelan.



Scór na nÓg 2023

Lastly, our dancers. They travelled to Blessington as defending county champions and they left having retained their title after a very composed performance of the 4-hand reel on a pretty rocky stage! Ar fheabhas a chailín! Not content with a county title, the girls then advanced from the Leinster Final to qualify for a second successive Leinster Final. The girls did very well on the day in the Wexford Opera House but couldn't prevent Longford's Ballymore winning the Leinster crown. Meadhbh Ward was unable to attend the Leinster Final and was replaced by Erika O'Grady. Well done to the girls on getting to another final. Míle buíochas to Amey Bermingham for lending her expertise in preparing the cailíní.



Bailéad Ghrúpa County Champions

Scór Sinsir took place in September and once again we had entries in 3 categories: Margaret Byrne in solo-singing; Shane Byrne, Colum O'Rourke, Stephen Donoghue and Alan O'Callaghan in Tráth na gCeist; and Margaret Byrne, Amy Doyle and Bronagh Ward in Bailéadghrúpa.

Once again, our quizzers went close pushing Baile Coimín all the way before the Blessington men pulled away to win their third Tom Walsh Shield in a row. Margaret faced stiff competition in amhránaíocht aonair but performed 'Grace' beautifully. It was Kiltegan's Katie Phelan who took the title in this category.

Margaret returned to the stage with Bronagh and Amy in the 2nd half for the bailéadghrúpa. They really did still the audience with their two songs – Black Velvet Band and Ellis Island. It was no surprise when they were a short time later crowned County Champions for 2023. Éacht! A great achievement! They then advanced to the Leinster Semi-Final in Birr. It was Offaly and Longford that advanced from this at the expense of Wicklow, Kilkenny and Wexford but, at this point, our girls had already well and truly put Coolkenno on the Scór map.



Buaiteoirí rince foirne 2023

Cairde ar Lár/Friends we Lost



Mikey Smith.

Mikey was a talented forward who possessed a lovely left-foot. He was a regular on juvenile teams throughout his childhood and teenage years. He played on both the junior and senior teams as an adult. Mikey passed away suddenly in early September just 18 months after his

mother, Helen.

ΔΡ ρηέις Όέ ζο ραίβη Δ Δηαμ υααΔ.



Fr James Gahan.

Our ΔΡ-Υααηηαυάηη (former President) passed away in October. During his years as Parish Priest (2006–2016), Fr James was a great supporter of the club and indeed, Ballyconnell NS.

ΔΡ ρηέις Όέ ζο ραίβη Δ Δηαμ οίλις.



Ann O'Rourke

Ann was a brilliant supporter of Coolkenno GAA since its very inception. Ann's 41 years washing jerseys represented the longest unbroken role in the club. She was also integral to the organising of the annual Tráth na gCeist fundraiser for the juveniles and Coolkenno Ladies. This year, for the first time, the winners of the quiz were awarded the Ann O'Rourke Memorial Cup, named for Ann as acknowledgement of her long association with the event.

ΔΡ ρηέις Όέ ζο ραίβη Δ Δηαμ υααΔ.



John Bermingham

John passed away at the end of 2022 after a short illness. He was a well-known figure throughout Wicklow LGFA circles and a highly respected referee around the province. Indeed, just a few short weeks before he became ill, John refereed the Ladies SFC Final in Baltinglass. As well as his refereeing duties, John spent many years coaching various Coolkenno Ladies teams.

Συαίμηηεαα ζίοραί όά Δηαμ οίλις.



PEIL NA NÓG

A positive year for the club overall. With numbers increasing in our underage groups, we can see a bright future for the club with plenty of talent coming up through the ranks.

Starting off with our academy group who are mixed with the juvenile boys. It is amazing to see parents bringing their kids each week to training. It has been great to see the development of the kids throughout the year, becoming more social and picking up skills along the way. Due to the number of kids training each Friday in this age group, it's essential to have enough help, and we would like to say a huge thank you to all the volunteers and coaches that give up their time to train this group.

Under 8's

Our Under 8 group of girls are going from strength to strength with over 25 girls training on Wednesdays and Fridays.

The u8s participated in several matches locally throughout the year and the club also hosted a



Under 8's

few blitzes. It's clear that match time for this age group to get used to the rules and layout is crucial and we can see how well all the game time benefited our girls this year. Our coaches wish them the best as many of the girls will move up to u10s next year.

Under 10's

Our u10 team continued to develop this year, with a lot of the girls playing u12s. It was evident that the step-up in age group benefited the girls hugely as you could see their confidence and skill level improve immensely. We look forward to seeing what 2024 has in store for this great bunch of girls.

Under 12's

Our u12s this year was a very young team with only 2 of the girls actually being 12 years of age. The remainder of the team was made up of girls 9-11 years old and all will still be u12 next season. They struggled against most of their opposing teams throughout the season because of the young team but they were determined and each one of them stuck with it and showed up at every training and game right to the end.

Midway through the season they partook in a charity blitz in Rathvilly GAA hosted by the Carlow Rose, Caoimhe Deering in aid of Temple Street Children's Hospital.



Festival of Football

They played a total of 14 league games throughout the season and kept their best game until last with a great display of football in their finals at the Festival of Football in Ballinakill in September. The coaches and parents are really proud to see how much they had come on as a team throughout the season, getting stronger and improving their skills week by week.

Under 14's

Our u14s had a great league season, winning division 3. However, they just came up short in the championship going out in the semifinal to a division 2 team. The team showed great passion and growth throughout the year with great future potential at underage levels.

Under 16's

Our 16s had a very tough year as similar to our 12s, they were a very young team, which was

dominated by girls still under age for Under 14. The girls found themselves competing in division 2 which was challenging but they showed great heart and determination as always. They made it to the division 2 shield final giving their all on a miserable Tuesday evening in the rain, losing to Rathnew. The team is building and moving in the right direction and with the girls having

another year's experience, we are confident that the team will drive on again next year and do well.

GRMA

Management would like to wish Emily McCarthy, Sarah Kane & Abby Hutton all the best as they head to ladies football next year.

Ádh mór oráibh a chailíní!

PEIL IDIRMHEÁNACH NA MBAN/ LADIES INTERMEDIATE FOOTBALL

The Coolkenno Intermediate Ladies team began the year in celebratory form with a dinner dance in Germaine's, Baltinglass. A great night was had with the girls receiving their Junior A medals. There was an array of special awards including a Lifetime Achievement Award for the great Jack Bowes for his contribution to Coolkenno LGFA over the years.

The team had a very successful league campaign beating AGB, St. Nicks's and Kilcoole. They went down to the newly formed Annacurra side to miss out on league glory.

The jump up to intermediate championship status was challenging for this young side and they came up against some very strong teams including neighbours, Carnew. However new additions to the team in the form of talented U16s is very promising and we look forward to more great days out during the 2024 season.



Under 12's



Under 14's

Peil do Mháthreacha & Eile/Mothers and Others

Our Mothers and Others team took to the field in April following on from a very successful inaugural year. 2023 got off to a fantastic start with membership almost doubling the previous season.



Gaelic 4 Mothers and Others

The team were under the guidance of PJ Tompkins and Noelle Hunter for 2023.

The team attended blitzes and matches across Wicklow and Carlow and headed to Dublin for the biggest Ladies Gaelic Football tournament in the country in September.

The national blitz was held in Malahide and the team got on fantastically, winning 2 out of 4 games in the group.

As an end of season celebration, the team headed to Germaines and The Dying Cow to end the year in style.

GRMA

Thanks to all involved and see you all on the field in 2024.

To all our Sponsors, thank you for your generosity and support throughout the year!



Under 16's

Well done to our players who have represented Coolkenno at County level this year. The club are very proud of you all.

U14s - Sophie Donohoe who won the bronze All-Ireland Final this year.

Minor- Ruby Keogh & Aine Donoghue

Intermediate- Erika Dagge, Eimear Murphy, Ruby Keogh & Emma Nolan.

Well done to Margaret, Amy & Bronagh who proudly represented the club in Scór Sinsir this year, reaching the Leinster semi-finals.

A huge thank you to all involved in the club, from our committee to our coaches and volunteers, to our players and parents. The club would not be where it is without contributions from you all.

We welcome anyone wanting to get involved in the coming year to contact a member of the committee. All help is greatly appreciated for our growing club.



Intermediate Ladies enjoying an uachtar reoitte!



Tullow Credit Union presentation of training tops