



THE YEARBOOK

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Under 7's



The U7s had a great year in 2024. While it started a little slowly, with only one team in the first blitz of the year in Carnew, we finished the year with three teams all competing excellently at the Monster blitz in Ballinakill. Thanks very much to all the parents who brought them to the field every week, and all over the county to the blitzes. It was lovely to see all the new faces develop into great little footballers. They were great fun to coach and always represented the club so well. They have a bright future ahead of them. Well done boys and girls!



Team List: Denis Byrne, Tommy Cuddihy, Tadhg Doyle, Billy Joe Murphy, Aine O'Brien, Laim Clune, Eugene Clune, Gabriel Lloyd-Hyand, Páidí Barnes, Penny Redmond, Darragh Conway, Caylean Finn, Anna Byrne, Eleanor Memery, Abigail Ni Eigearthaigh, Clodagh Healy, Conor O'Toole, Hector Hetherington, Noah Byrne, Sofia Mullaney, Fia O'Toole, Michael Carthy, Patrick Carthy & Oisín Finnuane.

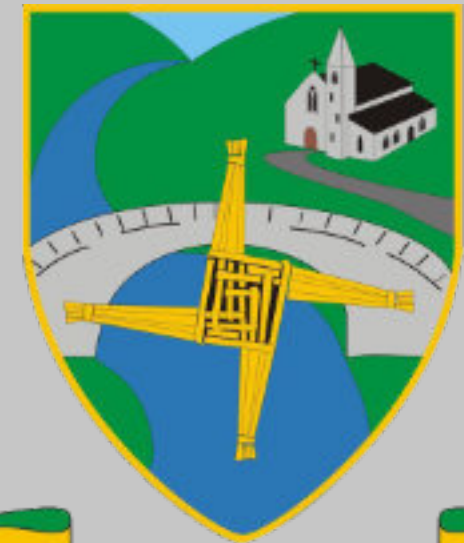
Coaches: Billy Cuddihy, Tracey Murphy, Mark Doyle & Veronica Farrell

Under 9's

This season has been a whirlwind of fun and unforgettable moments for our U9 GAA team! From the hilarious training sessions and score celebration to the enthusiastic that every game was played with and filled with laughter and excitement. Our snack time at the end of games to help kept everyone on track, ensuring no one missed out on the drinks and crisps. We had our fair share of competitive matches and some handstands or Daisy chain making, but through it all, the team showed incredible spirit and camaraderie. With a panel of 30 dedicated players, each one brought their unique energy and talent to the pitch. Decked out in the green and yellow of the Annacurra club, we stood out not just for our skills but for our unity and enthusiasm. A huge

GAA

WHERE WE
ALL BELONG



Áth an Churraigh

thank you to all the coaches for their guidance and patience, and to the parents for their unwavering support and cheers from the sidelines. As we wrap up the season, it's clear that the real victories were the friendships made and the joy of playing together. Here's to more scores, giggles, matches and slightly cleaner jerseys next year to help whoever is washing them!]

Team List: Adam Short, Aoibheann Healy, Alice O'Brien, Blaithin Ni Eigartaigh, Brodie Burke, Cerys Boylan, Chloe Aylward, Ciara Byrne, Danny Byrne, Darragh Doyle, Doireann Doyle, Edward Walker, Eoghan Byrne, Fiach Doyle, Frazer Horan, Nathan Bracken, Jack Siron, Jacob Smyth, Jake McNamara, Maurice Byrne, Max Byrne, Mike O'Brien, Nicholas Doyle, Noah Ward, Rian Finn, Sara Weld, Sean O'Flaherty, Stephen Moran Moules, Thomas Carey & Tom O'Flaherty.

Coaches: Mick O'Brien, Alan Byrne, Neil Short, Kevin Donnegan & David Bailey

Under 11's

2024 season started in early March for our under 11's this year. We started with excellent numbers and continued the same way all through the season, and a big thank you to the players but also to the commitment of the parents for bringing the children to training every Monday and Wednesday and to matches the length of the county. All players put in an excellent effort all year and improved week on week and represented the club very well, no matter where we played, including the hallowed turf of Croke Park on a very special occasion. The future is definitely in safe hands with an excellent bunch of kids.

Team List: TJ Doyle, Asher Kavanagh Horan, Jake Murphy, Freddie Horan, Sam Moules, Alfie Horan, Alex

Ward, Oscar Byrne, Henry Doyle, Oskar Whitty, Zack O'Toole, Noah Donnegan, Patrick Lacey, Callum McNamara, Foster Horan Flynn, Evie O'Brien, Kate Marie Clune, Saoirse Murphy, Kyle Byrne, Ella Short, Hayley O'Toole, Mia Moules, Micheal Farrel, Amelia Farrel, Donnacha O'Neill, Ben Dolan, Luke Madden & Pheobe Hetherington.

Coaches: Clive Horan, Tom Doyle, Philip Doyle, Alan Horan & Eimear Doyle.

Under 13's

Our Under 13 Season started this year with a few new faces on the player and coaching teams. It was great to have Sean O'Neill back in the fold coaching this fine squad, and we were also ably assisted by Evan Byrne, who did a great job as a coach also. Eoghan Kiloran was our latest playing recruit, and he was a great addition to the group. I think it is fair to say that we really found our feet this year. After a first round loss in the Championship, we went unbeaten to the very end where we came up against a very strong Baltinglass team who pipped us at the post in the Under 13 B Final in Ballinakill.

Our development in the past three seasons is there for everyone to see, and the standard of football is really high with these lads. Their progress is boding well for a real tilt at Under 15 honours over the next two seasons. We also have 3 of the boys attending the County Development trials, with others more than capable, but unavailable due to other commitments.

While the Championship wins, and County representatives are always welcomed, it is the development of the whole group, that is our biggest goal. We field a team that is propped up by players from the Under 11s, and this is necessary to field as a Standalone Club. These lads are forming great friendships and memories, that will be with them for





UNDER 15'S B SHIELD WINNERS 2024

many years to come. As always, we thank the parents for their unwavering support, the club for the facilities, and Coiste nan nOg for the fixtures, which ran extremely well in 2024.

Team List: Eoghan Byrne, Sean Byrne, Alex Cullen, Patrick Doyle, T.J Doyle, Henry Doyle, Christopher Geraghty, Caleb Horan, Foster Horan, Billy Hynes, Eoghan Killoran, Callum Mooney, Jake Murphy, Sam Moules, Sam Nolan, Donncha O'Neill, Ross O'Rielly, Zach O'Toole, Matthew Shannon, Cian Ward, Alex Ward.

Coaches: Jon Hynes, Sean O'Neill & Evan Byrne

Under 15's

After a mixed League campaign Annacurra U15 footballers played the Feile on home soil where they beat Eire Og, drew with Naomh Eoin Gaels and lost narrowly to Rathnew who would go on to win their regional competition. Playing in the B Championship, they had very good games against Rathnew, Eire Og, An Tochar and St Nicholas. After the group stages were

complete, the championship semifinal saw Annacurra take on An Tochar. Despite being depleted for the game they fought to the end only losing out in the end by two points to the eventual winners of the competition. The Shield final saw Annacurra renew their rivalry with Rathnew. Previous results were a 2 point and 1 point win for either team and another tight game was expected. The final was played on a perfect playing surface in Avondale where Annacurra made a better start and led 1-7 to 0-1 at half time. They continued this good form in the second half and ran out winners 3-13 to 1-3. The trophy was presented to team Captain Ross Weld after the game.

Team List: Ross Weld, Dillon Doyle, Daniel Duffy, Leon White, Benjamin Horan-Flynn, Keith O'Reilly, Michael Lacey, Alex Weld, Daniel Dolan, Brodie O'Sullivan, Seán Óg O'Neill, Xander McCall, Billy Hynes, Caleb Horan, Sam Nolan, Eoghan Byrne, Patrick Doyle, Seán Byrne, Cian Ward, Ceallach Murphy, Dean Byrne-Whelan.

Coaches: Joe Dolan, Tony Doyle, Sean Weld and Rachael McGrane.

Under 17/Minor's

Our U17 team played in the Div 1 Football Player Pathway in the early part of the season and did themselves justice with some fine performances. Annacurra won their first match against An Tochar away in Roundwood, followed by a loss to Tomnafinogue, Annacurra bounced back with a win over St Nicholas, and had a belter of a game against AGB resulting in a draw. Annacurra finished the league with a narrow win over Michael Dwyers. The team was improving with each match.

The U17A Football Championship started in early July, a county board decision to move the first match forward a week meant we were missing some key players for the first match against Tomnafinogue which resulted in a loss. Unable to convert a number of scores things were not much better against An Tochar and this resulted in another loss. Eire Og were next and Annacurra had a solid performance with a good win. Following on we won a hard-fought match against St Nicholas. Our subsequent opponents were AGB and a narrow 2-point loss was the result. A sending off against AGB meant we had an under-strength team going to Blessington, this with some early injuries were a contributing factor in our biggest loss of the season. A drawn match at home against Michael Dwyers was the final match of the round.

The Plate/Trophy Semi-final was up against Michael Dwyers, and a narrow loss in Ballinakill meant that Annacurra would play Eire Og in the final match for the Plate Championship. Annacurra scored nine goals to make them convincing winners on the day.

A special thanks to a small group of our U15 players who along with fulfilling their own fixtures also helped us throughout the season.

Well done to the team and Management of Johnny Thompson, Michael Healy, Denis Doyle, and Michael



UNDER 17'S/MINOR A PLATE WINNERS 2024

Duffy for all their effort throughout the year. Thanks also to Cillian Duffy who provided us with match statistics during the season.

Team List: Ross Weld, Ryan Jordan, Liam Molloy, Daniel Byrne, Daniel Duffy, Rhyan Moules, TJ Hynes, Evan Byrne, George Doyle, Matthew Byrne, Dillion Doyle, John O Reilly, Jack Wolohan, Keith O Reilly, Se Kiloran, Adam Lively, Stewart Davey, Cillian Duffy, Kyle Moules, Cian Delaney, Cameron Delaney, Cormac Kavanagh, Nicholas Heath & Cillian Duffy.

Coaches: Johnny Thompson, Mick Healy, Mick Duffy & Dennis Doyle.

Junior D's

This year was bit of a step into the unknown with the decision taken to field a third adult men's team to ensure that all the players who graduated from the previous year's minor team having at team to plan in. The league began with Annacurra fielding two junior teams on the same night for the first time in the club's history. A narrow 1-5 to 0-3 win over a travelling Valleymount side ensured the team got off to a good start. An away draw with neighbour's Aughrim ensured

a top four finish in Division 5 Group 1 with sparkling displays from JJ Byrne & Micheál Kavanagh and a place in the Division 5 league quarter final. We travelled to Rooster Park to play Avoca in the quarter final and after a sluggish start and savage impact from the bench we won through to the league semifinal where we faced Arklow Geraldines. The team again started poorly but the team rallied well in the second half before running out of time to lose by three with a late Charlie Graham goal effort rattling the bar.

2024 marked a return to the Junior D football championship for Annacurra with the second team having won the inaugural competition contested in



JUNIOR D'S

Wicklow in 2021. Annacurra pitted in one of two groups with Aughrim, Tinahely, Barndarrig & Valleymount. Annacurra's campaign began with a game away to Valleymount. A quickfire treble of goals shortly after half time allowed Annacurra ease to a comfortable win in the end. Annacurra's second game was at home to Aughrim and it was initially as keenly contested as the league encounter with a late Clive Horan goal giving Annacurra breathing space in the end. The third game of the championship campaign was away to Tinahely and missing or injured players had management working through his phonebook. The call to arms was answered by three great Annacurra warriors, Tom Doyle, Sean O'Neill & Peter Clancy. Annacurra were wasteful in the first half and trailed by one at half time. Cool heads prevailed as the team and coach knew that the team was playing well but needed to take our chances. A stellar display in the second half led to comfortable win in the end. This match ensured Annacurra of passage to the semi finals of the championship with the last game in the group against Barndarrig to decide who finished first. A great game of football in Joey Doyle ended in a narrow loss. This resulted in Annacurra facing Ballymanus in the Junior D semi final in Ballinakill. This team's Achilles heel again was to the fore in a sluggish first half with the concession of some poor goals. The never say die Annacurra attitude was to the fore in the

second half with a late rally just running out of time as Ballymanus edged us out by a single point to bring the year to a close.

While it was disappointing to end the year without silverware having reached the knockouts in both league and championship, the future looks bright for the junior team with great development shown by the younger players over the course of the year allied to the older players showing that there is still some diesel left in the tank.

Team List: Mark Doyle (Captain), David Whitty, Patrick O'Neill, Brian Shannon, Adrian Shannon, Shane O'Neill, Clive Horan, Michael Doyle, Alex Doyle, Patrick Moules, John O'Neill, Jack Keenan, Stephen Beattie, James Fitzgerald, James Walsh, Jack O'Neill, Ciaran Byrne (Pound), Rian Byrne, JJ Byrne, Micheál Kavanagh, Seán Carey, Mick Darcy, Seán Beale, Pierce O'Brien, Peter Clancy, Richard Clune, Kevin Donegan, Stephen Doyle, Darren Farrell, Seán O'Neill, Tom Doyle, Stephen Barnes, Cian Fitzgerald, David Holt, Luke Nolan, Charlie Graham,

Sammy Harpur, Eoin O'Connor, Paddy Horan-Flynn, Jamie Woolohan

Coaches: Michael Byrne, Ciaran Byrne (Pound) & Neil Short.

Junior C's

The Junior C Team finished 2024 on a massive high as they went all the way to claim the 2024 Junior C Championship. This win was especially memorable for players, Shane MaCallister, Micheal O'Brien, Ciaran Byrne and Selectors Patrick Moules and Alan Nolan as these men had been victorious in the same competition a mere 25 years previous.

The Championship was broken into 2 group seeing ourselves line up with Enniskerry, Kiltegan and Ashford. First up in the championship race was the visit of Enniskerry to Annacurra, the team that had overturned us in the season before. The lads played a great game and came away with the win helped by a good night for the forward line of Conor Byrne and Luke Nolan in good

shooting form. With the next game away and the C team losing Conor Byrne to the first team the previous weekend Annacurra were under pressure for numbers but they rallied the troops and arrived in Ashford with 22 players, they went about their work well to ensure a second win in the group. So that left the final group game at home to a Kiltegan side that hadn't faltered in the open rounds, it was all to play for. After a good battle and a late equaliser for wingback Dean Barnes the game ended in a draw which was good enough to see us top the table and semifinal bound.

On an unusually calm night in Ballinakill the team lined out to face Rathnew. It was a tough, fast game and again the Annacurra forward line caused Rathnew all sorts of problems, but the work from the men in the backlines was the story of the night, in a low scoring affair Annacurra came away with the win and had put one hand on the Junior C cup.

The final had arrived, the flags were up, the team was ready to take to the field in Aughrim to face last year's finalist Carnew. This was a very entertaining game with everyone giving their absolute all for the team, in the



JUNIOR C CHAMPIONS 2024



end an Ian McDonald early goal was the difference and seen us run out the winners with captain Micheal Healy lifting the cup.

Team List: Shane O’Neill, David Holt, Micheal Kavanagh, Shane O’Keeffe, JJ Byrne, Ciaran Byrne (Pound), John Moran, Adrian Shannon, Dean Barnes, Dan Kirwan, Patrick O’Neill, Shane Ryan, Stephen Murphy, Cian Fitzgerald, Stephen Barnes, Alan Horan, Vinnie O’Flaherty, Rob Davey, David Whitty, John O’Neill, Mick O’Brien, Ian McDonald, Mick Healy, Luke Nolan, Brian Shannon, James Doyle & Shane McAllister.

Coaches: Clive Horan, Patrick Moules, Pierce O’Brien, Alan Nolan & Darragh Kennedy.

Intermediates

The 2024 season kicked off with a good and solid league campaign in Division 2, where loads of players got good game time. In this, there were some strong performances which helped develop the panel for what was to come later in the season. There were several

younger players who got their first taste of adult football. At the finish, the team missed out on a league final and promotion after a loss to Carnew in the league semifinal.

The championship campaign followed quickly behind. This saw us drawn in a group with Ballinacor, Valleymount, Laragh, Hollywood and Carnew. Even though we had a tough group, the lads played some lovely football and showed their trademark heart with good results against Ballinacor, Valleymount & Laragh. They also had tough losses against Hollywood and Carnew, which the team learned from. Moving to the quarter final, we took old rivals, Coolkenno. After a tough game, in difficult conditions, our lads saw out a tight game to get the win. This led us to a semifinal repeat from 2022 against Hollywood. A tough start left our lads with a hill to climb in the second half. They drove at that hill strongly, but eventually fell short by four points.

A progressive year with young players getting valuable championship minutes into them. A bright future ahead. Massive thanks and credit to Joe, Tom, Clive and Mark for their efforts in training the team in the last three years.

Team List: Robert Fitzgerald, Adam Healy, Jack O’Sullivan, James Keenan, Sean Weld, Glenn Austin, Alan Byrne, Martin O’Brien, Ronan Brennan, Frank Clune, Gearoid Murphy, Michael Healy, Dan Kirwan, Shane O’Keeffe, Michael O’Brien, Stephen Murphy, Kevin Healy, Conor Byrne, Elliott Robinson, Pauric Doyle, Rob Davey, Adrian Shannon, Dean Barnes, Brian Shannon, Charlie Graham, Luke Nolan, Sammy Harpur, Eoin O’Connor, Eoghan Murphy, Billy Cuddihy, Oliver Doyle & Paddy Horan Flynn.

Coaches: Joe Murphy, Tom Doyle, Mark O’Neill, Clive Horan, Darragh Kennedy & Dara Kissane.

Under 12's

This year saw the club field not one but two U12 teams, with 29 girls registered this year. A fantastic achievement in our third year running. Our older girls played in Division 1 for the first time and the younger girls played in Division 4. Both teams had a very successful year with excellent team performances all year round. Their hard work and dedication at training made sure the two teams were a force to be reckoned with in two very competitive divisions. All in

all, a hugely successful year for the girls and coaching team and we look forward to 2025.

Team List: Leah Byrne, Fia Morris, Doireann Byrne, Saoirse Murphy, Lauren Byrne, Teagan Neville, Pippa Byrne, Emily Rose Nolan, Pippa Canavan, Sadhbh Ni Eigeartaigh, Kate Marie Clune, Hayley O'Toole, Amelia Doyle, Evie O'Brien, Arabella Doyle, Annie O'Flaherty, Cait Duffy, Isobel Penston, Amelia Farrell, Kitty Sheehan, Niamh Flood, Ella Short, Robyn Gilligan,





Blaithin Tyrrell, Laci Graham, Sara Vieira, Esme Hannay, Zola White & Olivia Keating.

Coaches: Aisling Morris, Michael Doyle, Kevin Penston, Michael Duffy, Niamh Graham & Emma Nolan.

Under 14's

The under 14 girls has a slow start to the year, but improved greatly throughout the year. The team was helped out with a group of under 12's playing up, so well done to those girls in particular. A solid league campaign where the girls had some great wins as well as

some tougher games away from home. They held their own and competed well, building on each performance.

This stood them well as they went on an excellent run in the B Championship. They played great football, beating Clara in the semifinal in Laragh. They faced in to the tough challenge of Carnew in the final, ultimately losing out in a tough game. They played all year with great skill and toughness. Thanks to the parents and coaches for a great year developing these young footballers.

Team List: Sadbh Agnew, Layla Bolster, Leah Byrne, Abbie Byrne, Millie Byrne, Cait Duffy, Allanah Farrell,

Laci Graham, Kate Healy, Edith Horan Flynn, Georgis Horan, Aimee Jordan, Aoife Molloy, Fia Morris, Emily Rose Nolan, Aoibhin Ni Eigearthaigh, Sadbh Ni Eigearthaigh, Robyn O'Toole, Neasa O'Neill, Isobel Penston, Hannah Redmond, Kitty Sheehan, Abigail Stafford, Blaithin Tyrrell, Sara Vieira, Lucy Weld & Jenna Wolohan.

Coaches: Alan Horan, Leigh Horan & Tanya Byrne.

Feile Team

An under 15 team was entered in the Feile which took place in Blessington. The team played Baltinglass, Carnew and St Patricks. The girls didn't progress on the day, and played out one win and two narrow losses.

Team List: Liadian Agnew, Maya O'Driscoll, Emma Kirwan, Sophie Cullen, Alannah Murphy, Allison Byrne, Emma O'Brien, Holly Byrne, Morgan Crowe, Evie Boylan, Danielle Shannon, Holly Smith, Hannah Redmond, Lucy Weld, Millie Byrne, Sadbh Agnew, Neasa O'Neill, Abigail Stafford, Layla Bolster, Kate Healy, Aimee Jordan, Georgia Horan & Freya Brennan.

Coaches: Alan Horan, Leigh Horan, Tanya Byrne & Martin O'Brien

Under 16's

This was the first year for the club to have an U16 team, which is a massive achievement for the club and the players of the grade. Throughout the year, we had 21 girls take play on the team with some U14's playing up. A massive well done and thanks to all. The girls took to the field in Division 2 of the league and were very successful here in winning four out of six games. This left the task of winning the last of needing to beat St



UNDER 14'S

Nicholas' by 19 points on the last day to win the league. With a might effort, the girls won by 16 and showed grit and determination. This meant that our girls went in to the A Championship, where we competed very well. With two games only lost by one point, our girls were extremely unlucky to not get results that would have seen a semi-final place. They dusted themselves down, however, and reversed one of those losses and went on to win the A Shield against An Tochar in Rathnew in a cracking game of football. A talented group of young footballers!

Team List: Holly Smyth, Emma O'Brien, Aoibheann Ni Eigeartaigh, Kate Healy, Aimee Jordan, Emma Kirwan, Maya O'Driscoll, Millie Byrne, Ruby Horan, Alison Byrne, Eirin Fanning, Sophie Cullen, Georgia Horan, Morgan Crowe, Liadin Agnew, Allannah Murphy, Charlotte Doyle,

Danielle Shannon, Lucy Weld, Holly Byrne, Inez Sosnowska, Lilly Henry, Grace Dennison & Evie Boylan.



UNDER 16'S

Coaches: Clare Heffernan, Alan Horan, Leigh Horan, Tanya Byrne & Martin O'Brien.

Minor's

The minor LGFA team had a very short but successful campaign where they captured the LGFA minor B championship after two comfortable wins over St Nicholas's and Kilcoole. This was a very experienced group with many boasting the experience of adult football from the summer or previous year in some cases along with having a strong representation of county players from u14 to minor.

The first game was played in a Blustery Donard where the Annacurra girls won on by 12 points. After playing against a stiff breeze in the first half they used the elements to their advantage in second and ran out comfortable winners.

The final was played in Rathnew vs Kilcoole where Annacurra lead from start to finish on a score of 1-11 to 0-2. In a hard-fought game on a wet evening the



Annacurra girls eventually ground out the much deserved win. Well done to all players involved.

Team List: Liadan Agnew, Ciara Byrne, Ella Byrne, Holly Byrne, Millie Byrne, Morgan Crowe, Sophie Cullen, Charlotte Doyle, Isabelle Doyle, Sarah Doyle, Emma Healy, Kate Healy, Goergia Horan, Ruby Horan, Doireann Killoran, Emma Kirwan, Aine Moran, Alannah Murphy, Emma O'Brien, Maya O'Driscoll, Danielle Shannon, Inez Sosnowska, Lucy Weld

Coaches: Robert Fitzgerald, Coleen Clune, Deirdre Healy & Alan Horan

Junior & Intermediate

Annacurra entered 2 Ladies teams into the Junior & Intermediate grade for the 2024 season.

Sean O Sullivan and his backroom team started S&C training the girls in early January and were back on the pitch training by the start of March. The league started at the end of March for both teams. We had a panel of 47 players between both grades and all players got plenty of game time.

We hosted The Ciaran Shannon tournament on the bank holiday weekend in June. We had teams from Carnew & AGB present. The final consisted of both the Annacurra teams going head-to-head and ensuring the cup was staying in Annacurra. Well done to Caoimhe Murphy who received player of the tournament, and Charlotte Doyle who received young player on the day.

Next competition up, was the Summer Cup competition, this was held from the start of June to early August. This was a very successful competition for both teams. They successfully won the Div 2 & Div 4 cup competitions. This was a great competition in the build up to Championship as it gave game time to all the girls.

After the Cup competition was completed, it was head down and work hard to get ready for the Junior & Intermediate Championship. Both teams were in a group of 4, and successfully proceed to the semifinal. This is where it ended for both teams on the 22nd of September.

A very successful season for our ladies from Annacurra LGFA. We look forward to the year ahead and hoping to progress a little further in 2025.

I would like to say a massive thank you to the two ladies that are behind the scenes ensuring that Annacurra LGFA runs smoothly. A big thanks to Niamh Grahm and Emma Nolan for the work and commitment. We look forward to 2025.

Intermediate Team List: Niamh Byrne, Sheenagh Byrne, Siofra Byrne, Georgina Canavan, Coleen Clune, Hannah Doyle, Charlotte Doyle, Sarah Doyle, Nadine Fitzgerald, Deirdre Healy, Emma Healy, Clare Heffernan, Doireann Killoran, Emma Kirwan, Leanne Lively, Allannah Murphy, Caoimhe Murphy, Grace O'Sullivan, Shauna O'Shea, Laci Jane Shannon, Aisling Shannon, Danielle Shannon, Jade Shannon, Aoife Stafford, Keelin Stafford & Deirdre O'Brien.

Junior Team List: Georgina Canavan, Veronica Farrell, Deirdre Healy, Grace O'Sullivan, Aoife Healy, Ruby Horan, Maya O'Driscoll, Isobelle Doyle, Doireann Killoran, Shauna O'Shea, Lauren O'Byrne, Ella Byrne, Molly Hynes, Lucy Pringle, Chloe Cullen, Nadine Fitzgerald, Ciara Byrne, Allannah Murphy, Deirdre O'Brien, Niamh Byrne, Jade Shannon, Aoife Stafford, Danielle Shannon, Coleen Clune, Aisling Morris, Leanne Lively, Mollie Graham, Clare Heffernan, Orla Doyle, Aine Moran, Juliette Ni Chonaill & Sophie Penston.

Intermediate Coaches: Sean O'Sullivan, James Stafford, Mick Murphy, Aisling Morris, Eoghan Murphy & Mirriam Killoran.



Junior A Football

The Junior A Football team had a most successful year in 2024.

We secured promotion to Division 2 in the League and followed this up with a hard fought brilliant county Junior A Championship win.

After our last AGM our newly appointed committee set out and with careful deliberation, thought and discussion decided to bring a fresh bold start to the season and the club by bringing in a new management team headed by Wexford's own, the hardworking, committed, clever and tactically brilliant Kevin Morris with Pdraig Connell, Tommy Forsyth, Brendan Barnes, Andy Holt and Paul Whelan completing a force that couldn't be beaten with their vast experience, huge energy and true club loyalty.

Our first ambition this year was to get to Division 2 status to enable us to play at a higher level and standard in preparation for the Championship.

As a committee we were honoured and duty bound to give our best and with the direction of a very committed Chairperson John Gunning were determined that this was going to be our first major step up in many years and by beating Tinahely we turned this aspiration to a reality.



After overcoming Rathnew again in the semi-final we got to face our neighbours Ballinacor in a league final.

After this, it was noticeable that our lads were growing in confidence and improving in ability with each game and training session, now they started believing in themselves and knew a Championship was within sight.

The dream of being re-instated to intermediate motivated them through the very tight group stages and a quarter final victory vs the mighty An Tochar followed by a win in the semi-final against the odds yet again vs Kilmacanogue.



AUGHRIM JUNIOR A FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS 2024

GAA

WHERE WE
ALL BELONG



Glory for the Granite City

Alex Kavanagh's early goal, the introduction of Dean Newsome and mighty McGuckian key to victory

KYLE MERRIGAN
at Shelton Park, Aughrim

AUGHRIM 1-12
SHILLAGH-COOLBOY 0-12

As Alex Kavanagh goal, the introduction of Dean Newsome and a man-of-the-match performance by Joe McGuckian helped Aughrim secure the inaugural Fitzgibbon Junior 'A' championship title against Shillogh-Coolboy in Aughrim on Saturday afternoon. The game got off to a tense start as both teams showed some nerves by taking a free each side with their first attacks. However, both teams were able to express themselves as Aughrim's Conor Phelan split the posts followed by Shillogh-Coolboy's Cathal Murphy doing the same at the other end.

Clair Keegan from Aughrim sent a long, high ball into the box and Alex Kavanagh got a touch on it ahead of Shaun Conboy in the Shillogh-Coolboy goal to make a green flag on the minutes to give Aughrim a clean start.

Andy O'Brien's man didn't participate in their game plan as the windmill to attack in number six. Conor Phelan was called in front of the goal and after some treatment he split the posts.

Cathal Murphy responded for Shillogh-Coolboy by scoring a free of his own. Aughrim's Alex Kavanagh was causing Aaron Kinsella all sorts of problems in front of the goal to reach even a free score.

A Shillogh-Coolboy attempt was deflected out for a 45 and Wayne Kinnealy finally settled it over the bar to even the score between the teams on 15 minutes. Alex Kavanagh took over free, taking sides as Conor Phelan was finding the effects of an earlier knock. Alex split the posts to extend Aughrim's lead once more.

Johnny Smyth and Cian Keogh were having a great battle out on the wing. Shillogh-Coolboy came out to the middle of the field to get on more ball and try make things happen to Shillogh-Coolboy.

Shillogh-Coolboy lined up with Middle Cullen to set Conor Byrne up, who kicked a free score, but it was quickly cancelled out by Cathal O'Brien converting a free after Joe McGuckian was tested turning



Past Chairman of Fitzgibbon Juniors presents the cup to Aughrim captain Shane McGuckian in the company of the Mayor of SA & Chairman Dean Newsome.

through the Shillogh-Coolboy defence.

The free score of their attack came from the foot of Wayne Kinnealy, who was playing inside area instead of Brian O'Brien, to leave them in it again and leave the half time score at 1-5 to 0-5.

Shillogh-Coolboy came out after the break all girls looking as they lagged on two quick free scores from Conor Byrne and Johnny Smyth to leave their tailing for the moment. Joe McGuckian, who was doing Brian work all around the middle of the field, settled his Aughrim team with a good score on 34 minutes.

Both teams were playing out a showdown as Cathal Murphy fired over a good score from play followed by a point from Aughrim's Conor O'Brien. Paddy Ryan is upped forward to pick off a free score on 46 minutes to leave the score at 1-6 to 0-5.

Shillogh-Coolboy were now struggling to get any more

as shortstopper Cathal Murphy missed over another free before Andy O'Brien's man was dealt a major blow when Conor Byrne received a lateral pass for a pull down on 49 minutes, but Aughrim flourished forward once again and kicked another goalbook to keep the game.

Aughrim capitalised on their numerical advantage by scoring three quickie points. Joe McGuckian, who was taking a free, capped over one and Dean Newsome pulled the bigger name at two minutes to send Aughrim's lead back to three points.

Shillogh-Coolboy won a free and Cathal Murphy competed with normal time around it. They now had their signs set on a goal and they were ahead in only a free wave from the explosive and Robert Lambert between the posts for Aughrim.

Dean Newsome came over another point to leave three between the teams in injury time



Sean Campbell with Liam Fanning, Leo Campbell, Emily and Rachel Campbell.



Aughrim's Alex Kavanagh with the Fitzgibbon Junior 'A' football championship cup.



One of the match, Joe McGuckian getting treatment for a cramp.



Shillogh-Coolboy's Paddy McNeill is tested by Aughrim's Joe McGuckian during the JFPC final in Shelton Park Aughrim.



Brian O'Brien and Leo Clancy celebrate Aughrim's win over Shillogh-Coolboy.



Aughrim captain Shane McGuckian holds the cup high.



Aughrim captain Shane McGuckian, match referee Stephen Pagan and Shillogh-Coolboy captain Aaron Kinsella.



Aughrim's Joe McGuckian receives the man of the match trophy from Conor Phelan with Niall O'Sullivan SAFC Chairman and Dean Newsome.



The Shillogh-Coolboy team who lost out to Aughrim in the Junior 'A' football championship final.



Reproduced with thanks from The Wicklow People newspaper.

The scene was now set for a Junior A County Final with Aughrim vs the combined force of Shillelagh/ Coolboy (the David and Goliath of South Wicklow!) we had already overcome their combined might in the group stages (3-10 to 17pts) stop bragging lads!!!

The team's attitude, self-belief, hunger for victory and most importantly their unified ability bought these mighty Aughrim lads and our club an unforgettable victory on county final day.

We played that game determined to win as a team rather than as a team afraid to lose.

When captain Shane McGuckian raised the Cup on behalf of the team in Echolon park, he raised it for this mighty team, for our club, our community, our county and for unforgettable happy memories in Wicklow GAA.

Our county victory bought us to yet another mighty challenge, a Leinster quarter final vs the Meath Junior A winners Dunsany GAA, despite the loss of Aughrim team pillar's like Eoin Forsyth, Sam Healy, Jack Byrne and Dylan Byrne, we played in heroic fashion to hold level with minutes to go, yet again proving (not required) that we could face any team from any county without fear.

Junior D Football

Our Junior D performance was mixed during the year. We fielded throughout the league but were in a group with 1 less team and then Stratford pulled out which left the team completely short on actual playing time. As a direct result of players moving to play with the Junior A team, injuries and the limited numbers became an issue when we had to forfeit a league semi-final due to the fact we could not field enough eligible paid up members. This issue was worked on with the help of the committee and we fielded a team in the Junior D Championship proper. We won 1 game and lost 2 and we bowed out and did not qualify for the knockout stages of the championship.

I wanted to thank our management team for stepping in to help during the year in particular Mick Brennan, Paul Whelan & Tommy O'Brien

We look forward to having a really good Junior D set up for next year to help progress the development of the younger players coming up from juvenile who may not be fully ready for Adult Intermediate Championship football.

Intermediate Hurling

Our hurlers started the year on a high after the Junior Championship win from last year. A medal presentation for the squad in O'Connor's Tinahely in July was the perfect celebration for this historic victory.

The intermediate league kicked off with games against Avondale, Arklow Rocks, Kilcoole and Western Gaels. Results were not in our favour due to county

commitments and injuries but the games were good preparation for championship.

The management team of Liam Keenan Snr, Shane O'Loughlin, Christy O'Brien and Syl Ivers had full strength side to pick from for championship. The lads qualified for the semi-finals with strong wins over Barndarrig and Bray Emmets. They suffered a narrow defeat to Carnew Emmets but topped the group on score difference.

The lads were victorious in the semi-final beating



Kilcoole but fell short against an experienced Avondale side in the final.

This team improves with every passing year. With the fruits of the work at underage level there is a bright future for hurling in the club. No doubt there is more silverware to come.

A notable mention to James O'Toole and Ronan Byrne for their sponsorship of gear in the lead up to the final. An honourable mention to Dylan Byrne and Ian Clancy for their contributions to the Wicklow senior county hurling team.



2024's County Hurling Final day could not have gone ahead without the involvement of the Keenan family. While Liam Senior found it difficult to hide his Intermediate teams final defeat, it quickly turned to pride as John got ready to referee the Senior Hurling Final.

Aughrim Juvenile Football 2024 round up

Academy



Coaches - Liam Keenan Jnr, Tara Keenan, Ann Clancy

The Academy had a great year. The kids made great progress during the year improving their hand eye coordination, balance, bouncing, catching and kicking. Along with having loads of fun with lots of games thrown into the mix. They had 22 sessions in total. They finished the year with 18 kids receiving their academy certificate and a present of a new football each to keep them in training over the winter.

Under 7's

Coaches - Sarah Doyle , Richie Keegan Gail Nic Eoghain, Rory O'Brien

U7 had a great season. Lots of progress made by all players, with Richie and Sarah at the helm, and Gail helping with crowd control. We usually had 10-14 players at training, and a similar number for blitzes, often fielding 2 teams. Over the course of the season, the 5 younger team members developed their skills, so that by the end of the season, they were all soloing, shooting more accurately for the goal, as well as more consistently kicking over the bar. The older

members who will be moving to U9 demonstrated good ball control, tackling and shooting, with some excellent playing. Lots of blitz's were played with some great performances. Their final outing was to take part in the guard of honour at the county final. A super season, and we're looking forward to even more next year.

Under 9's

Coaches- Willie Byrne, Billy Byrne, Joe McGuckian, Rory O'Brien

U9s had a great season. With a panel of 25 kids training was tough but fun. They enjoyed their blitz's all year with some exceptional football. Looking Forward to most of these lads going up to u11 next year.



Under 11's

Coaches - Paul Cullen & Derek Kavanagh, Joe McGuckian, Willie Byrne Darren Mooney

The u11 team got on very well this year. They started off in group 2 and ended up in group 3 after a couple of fixtures, we had good attendance at training and matches all year round. We had a great day out in Croke Park with the boys.

The boys are great bunch, there is plenty of very good boys to come through in the years to come, especially with Joe's Mc Guckian's guidance, great for the lads to have a current player to look up to and learn from

Under 13's

Coaches - Declan O'Brien, Niall Byrne, Paul Cullen

The season kicked off with 2 Groups of 8 teams in the C division.

There was a total of 19 players available with 75% of them u12 so it was always going to be a big challenge to the team ,but the lads gave a great account of



themselves during the year winning some games and losing by small margins in the other games

There was a total of 17 games played including some challenge games which finished up in September with a cup final v Eire og. To finish the season off the lads had a day out in the stables gorey and pizza afterwards. It was a most enjoyable season overall looking forward to winter training and 2025

Under 15's

Coaches -Tommy Keogh, James Woolmington, Paul Cullen , Cian Keogh

The U15s had a challenging season, often facing teams that could have been in higher divisions, but the boys showed incredible heart and determination. Despite busy schedules, some juggling minor matches, hurling, and county training, they remained committed. While this workload took its toll, it highlights their dedication. Importantly, we kept the same panel of 16/17 players throughout the year, with no dropouts. Four players new to football made tremendous progress, which was fantastic to see. Most importantly, the lads enjoyed themselves, bonded as a team, and displayed great spirit. It's



been a rewarding journey with plenty of positives to build on.

Under 17's

Coaches - Eoin Forsyth, Darren Mooney, Dean Newsome, Joe McGuckian and Jimmy Woolmington

U17s had a solid panel of 26 including four U15 footballers and four Ballinacor players playing on permissions.

They participated in the Player Pathway League in order to dust the cobwebs off and get some game experience to set out benchmarks for the year.

They had a successful championship group stage at first with four wins and a draw, topping the U17 B Championship Group A.

This was followed up by a second group system, where a few losses seeded us into the B Shield Final.

In a close game, our lads played to their strengths and came out on the winning side by a point.

Another year of winning silverware with our minor squad is a great achievement. Hopefully we keep this up and continue producing talented footballers for adult level.



Aughrim LGFA



2024 saw the completion of our second year participating in LGFA in Aughrim. We grew our teams this year to include completing at U12 level in addition to where we started last year with U8 and U10 teams. We have over 50 young girls playing football with us - it is wonderful to see so many girls participating in gaelic games and we are delighted as a club to be able to continue to facilitate LGFA in our village.

Next year we look forward to also fielding our first U14 team along with our first adult LGFA team. We are very lucky to have a wonderful group of coaches and parents involved and we look forward to seeing what the future holds.



On the adult side, our G4MO's team celebrated its 1 year anniversary in October. We have over 50 "mothers and others" local ladies joined up. Weekly training sessions are a laugh a minute and we took part in many blitz competitions over the past year.

LGFA is going strong in Aughrim and we look forward to what 2025 will bring.



Avoca GAA Club had a very successful year culminating with the Junior B team winning the county championship and the U15 and U17 teams both reaching their respective county championship finals.

Juveniles

The juvenile section of the club continues to grow in numbers from year to year. This is mostly down to the excellent coaches and volunteers who help out at training and matches throughout the season. We have some great people on board and our nursery and U7s are coached by Rob Wilson, Ross Byrne and Laoise O Neill. The U9s are coached by Catriona Reddy, John Harper, Darren Keogh and Dave Burke. The U7 and U9 teams competed at all Go Games fixtures throughout the summer and were a great success.

Our U11 team under the guidance of John Gilvarry and Michael O Neill also enjoyed a good season.

Our U13 and U15 teams were playing under the amalgamated team Naomh Eoin Gaels along with players from Bardarrig. The U13s with David Strahan helping Hugh Doyle were beaten in the shield final by Blessington.

The U15s played in Division 3 of the league and won



all their games. They were then moved up to the B championship and had an excellent campaign by reaching the county final against An Tochar. Having beaten Rathnew in their semi final a few days earlier, it just wasn't meant to be in the final as An Tochar deserved the win on the day. Liam Reid and Kevin Harper were part of the management team.

The U17s played with Michael Hogans and got to the



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JUNIOR B FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS 2024

B championship final where they lost out to a strong Rathnew team.

Congratulations to Darragh Harper, Ruairi Fleming and Thomas Nolan who were part of the U14 county development squad that won the Jim Power tournament in Waterford. The 3 lads have made the final cut and will now link up with the U15 county development squad in 2025. Congratulations also to Luke Purser and Lucas Reid on making the U16 county development squad for 2025.

Junior D

With more players coming through to the adult teams from the juveniles the club was in a position to enter a second team which competed in Division 5 of the league and the Junior D championship. The team had an excellent league winning 7 of their 8 games but eventually lost out to Annacurra in the quarter

finals. In the championship they won 3 of their 4 group games and advanced to meet neighbours Barndarrig in the semi final. Unfortunately on the night, Barndarrig came away with the win. Well done to the management team of Andy Doyle and PJ Fluskey on another decent championship despite having a small squad having lost some players to the first team.

Junior B

Under new management for the season with Joe Quinn in charge and assisted by PJ Fluskey and Andy Doyle expectations were high that we might have another good chance in the championship later in the summer. The league campaign went reasonably well with us finishing 5th in Division 3 with 4 wins, 4 defeats and 2 draws. It gave Joe and the lads the chance to try out different things and try and work out what the best team was for the upcoming

championship. There was also the advantage of having 4 of last year's minor players in the panel and other players back from long term injuries.

The championship began on July 18th with a home win against Tinahely. Further wins against Eire Óg, Kilcoole and Hollywood set the lads up nicely for a tough trip up to face Knockananna where the lads came out on top and ensured they finished top of the group. In the knockout stages they beat Blessington in the quarter finals and after a draw for the semi finals next up was Knockananna again. After a titanic battle in Ballinakill, Avoca came out on top and set up a final with Newcastle.

On Sunday 13th of October the Avoca supporters decked out in black and amber descended on Echelon Park for the eagerly awaited final against Newcastle. After conceding a goal in the first minute of the match the lads settled down and ran out winners on a score line of 1-12 to 1-3. Finally after

losing 3 finals in recent years, Mikey Fahy lifted the Philip Doyle Memorial Cup to the relief of our supporters. A huge day for the club. On Sunday 27th of October the lads played Aughrim for the Swan and Brian Culleton cups. On a very wet afternoon, Avoca won by 0-11 to 0-8 to round off an excellent year for the club. A mention must also go to Robbie Leahy who came in during the season to put the lads through their paces.

So an excellent season for the club which would not have happened without some great people on the committee.





While 2024 didn't result in any silverware, it was the third successive year where the club fielded two adult teams at Intermediate and Junior D respectively, a fantastic showing for a small club. Thank you as always to the players and coaches for their hard work and commitment throughout the year. Thank you to our sponsors for their continued generosity and finally, thank you to you, our club members and supporters. Your ongoing support is greatly appreciated.

Junior D

Under the watchful eyes of Kieran Whelan, Brendan Doyle, Pdraig Byrne and PJ Byrne, the Junior team had a mixed campaign in the league with wins over Annacurra and Aughrim, and losses to Shillelagh Coolboy, Tinahely and Enniskerry.

After the league, what ensued was a thrilling championship campaign which saw wins over Éire Óg, An Tóchar and Avoca in the group stages. A hotly contested semi final with Annacurra followed on what was a ferociously windy night in Ballinakill. The lads ran out one point winners and marched all the way to the final decider against Barndarrig in Tinahely. The final was played in front of a huge crowd and proved to be an absolute cracker of a game. With some fine football on display, the game could have gone either way but it just wasn't meant to be and they suffered a

1-08 to 0-10 defeat. After a fantastic campaign, we know it's all to play for in 2025.

A special mention to our sponsors Joe Sullivan, Thomas McDonald, James Moran, and Liam Kavanagh who kitted the lads out with new training tops and new socks and shorts. Thank you.

Intermediate

This year welcomed a new intermediate management team of Ollie Murphy, Mickey Daly, Kevin Byrne, Sean O'Neill, Shane Whelan and Will Tyrell. February saw the return of the Jack Murphy Cup and the lads got their year underway. Congratulations to Ballinacor who ran out tournament winners for 2024. The club would like to thank Annacurra, Ballinacor and An Tóchar who participated in what was a very sporting and enjoyable few games.

The league campaign was a very mixed bag with wins over St Pats, Barndarrig, Newtown and Baltinglass, and narrow losses to Donard, Shillelagh Coolboy, Ashford, Carnew and Annacurra. The loss to Annacurra meaning we just missed out on a league semi final spot.

The Intermediates began their championship campaign with a one-point defeat at the hands of

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INTERMEDIATES 2024

Coolkenno in Aughrim after what was a very tight game. Despite several late opportunities, an equalising score just could not be found on the day. The team then moved on to play Kilcoole in the next game, knowing that a result was going to be important. The lads bounced back well from their opening defeat and ran out four-point winners, Mark with two goals on the day.

Our third group game saw us take on Donard. Unfortunately, the concession of three goals in the first half left us on the backfoot and we could not find a way back into the game. The next game saw us secure a crucial one-point win over Newtown in Aughrim in a fiercely contested game. Our final group game was a three-goal loss to Avondale but a quarter final place had been secured. We faced Hollywood in Baltinglass in the quarter final. Despite a huge first half shift which saw us in the driving seat and four ahead, we were unable to recreate the first half performance and were overturned having not scored in the second half.

County

Congratulations to Mark on another year with the Wicklow footballers which saw them

reach the Tailteann Cup Quarter Final against Down. Congratulations also to Ray who represented the club on the Wicklow Gaelic Masters Team.

Billies on Tour

The club would like to acknowledge and congratulate our club members who have had great success this year with their respective clubs in Hurling, Camogie and Ladies Football.



Well done to Knockananna Camogie Club on a historic year which saw them claim their 5th Senior Championship title in a row. The team went on to retain the Leinster Junior A Championship and at the time of writing have progressed to the All-Ireland Junior A Semi-Final where they will play Modeligo, Waterford. The club were also represented on the Under 12, 14 and 16 teams.

Well done to the Tinahely Ladies Football team who also made history when they won their 10th Wicklow Championship Title in a row. They went on to represent Wicklow in the Leinster Championship but unfortunately did not progress on this occasion. The club were also represented on the Under 12, 14, 16 and Intermediate teams.



Well done to Annacurra LGFA on another successful year. 2024 saw the Intermediate ladies retain the Division 2 Cup and saw Deirdre O'Brien captain the Junior ladies to win the Division 4 Cup in a hotly contested final which required extra time to separate the sides. The club were also represented on the Under 12, 14, 16 and Minor team, while Aisling was also involved as a coach.

Well done to Kiltegan GAA Club who won the Junior C Hurling Championship after a replay. The club were represented by Seamus, Aidan and Sean who scored a hat trick on the day. Well done lads on a very successful year.

We were also represented by several club members on the Knockananna Junior Hurling Team and the

Kiltegan Senior Hurling Team who made their Championship semi-finals respectively.

Juvenile

The Ballymanus under 5, 7 and 9 teams had another busy year and as always it was great to see so many local children getting involved. Our 7s & 9s had a hectic year in the Go Games and took part in over 20 blitzes across both football and hurling. Some great talent coming through with lots of skill on show.

The Michael Dwyers Under 11 team had another very successful year and improved steadily as the year went on. A very hard-working group of players, which was evident on the field throughout the year.

The Michael Dwyers Under 13 team had a very successful year in the hurling winning the league and the A championship, which was a fantastic achievement for the those involved. It was a mixed bag of results when it came to the football, but the lads showed great determination all year.

Well done to the Michael Dwyers Under 15 team who had another great year. They made it to the Shield Final but unfortunately were beaten on the day by a strong Newtown side.

Well done to everyone representing the club at Minor level this year. They had a successful year in both codes with great wins against Tomnafinnogue in the A Shield football final and St. Joseph's in the B hurling final. Congratulations to all involved.

We would like to extend our thanks to Ballymanus and Knockananna who facilitated a trip to the football quarter finals in Croke Park earlier in the year for our juvenile players. Everyone had a brilliant day out, a big thank you to all involved for organising this.

This year also saw our juveniles from Under 11 down, getting a new set of jerseys which incorporate the colours of both Ballymanus and Knockananna. We would like to say thanks to DAGDA, who kindly sponsored the jerseys.

Thanks again to Adam, Ewan and Malachy for their refereeing throughout the year.

We would like to also congratulate our club members who have had great success this year with their respective clubs in hurling, camogie and ladies football. The club has been extremely well represented across all codes.

Congratulations to Conor O'Neill who lined out for the Colaiste Bhríde Carnew team who defeated Avondale CC to win the First Year Boys A Final in Aughrim.

Another great year for our juveniles and thanks must be given to everyone involved for their tremendous work. A special mention to Donal, Orla, Ann, Paddy, Kieran, Noel, Sean, Marion, Brendan Whelan, Brendan Doyle, John & Aisling for all their efforts this year.

Well done also to Darragh Byrne who refereed the Leinster Minor Final between Dublin and Longford in May.

Field Day and Ice Cream Party

Ballymanus Field Day and Ice-Cream Party for the Wicklow Branch of Down Syndrome Ireland was a brilliant community day out once again. Huge crowds attended and an amazing €5400 was raised, the biggest year yet. This is a huge amount of money which will help the Wicklow Branch immensely in the great work they do. A huge thank you to everyone who donated raffle prizes along with all of the local businesses who sponsored the event. Well done to Tara and all who helped out on the day.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Jim and Mairead and Aoife and Jordan who tied the knot over the last year. Congratulations also to Brendan and Tara, Mark and Katie, Paddy and Eimear, Anna and Jim and Aidan and Sinead on their new arrivals.

In Remembrance

We couldn't finish without mentioning our past members and supporters of the Club who we lost this year. They will all be sadly missed and fondly remembered. We would like to extend our sympathies to their families and friends. **Ar d'heis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha.**

The Club entered Scór na nÓg in October. Well done to Emma Murphy who participated in the Amhránaíocht Aonar competition.

Well done also to Malachy Byrne, Adam Clancy, Manus Byrne and Maria Byrne who made up our Tráth na gCeist team. We were also represented in the Scór Sinsir competition by our Tráth na gCeist team of Michael O'Keeffe, Ann Doyle, Brendan Doyle and Pádraig Healy. Well done to all involved.



Mothers and Others

This year was one for the history books when the club decided to start a much wanted and needed Gaelic for Mothers and others team. The buzz in the area was palpable and it has proved great for everyone involved. The Women took to the field like ducks to water, starting off slowly learning new skills and getting to know each other as people started to arrive from all areas. The uptake was so great that we got Women from other neighbouring clubs who have now become lifelong Billies.

While there were some pre match nerves for the opening game, once the women got over their initial fears, there was no holding them back. They went on to take part in a tournament in Rathvilly and competed against local teams such as Tinahely, Arklow and Donard. While this may have been the opening year for this team, it is obvious that this team will go from strength to strength over the next few years under the watchful eye of Kieran.

We would like to thank those who sponsored the Ladies. A special mention to Sarah and Padraig O'Keeffe who kitted the women out with a new set of jerseys and also to Mick Smith and sons for new shorts. Also, a big thank you to Arthur Kennedy for giving the Women a fully stocked First Aid kit, one that was badly needed. The defibrillator was almost called for on a few occasions so many thanks to the club for having that on standby.

As was once said "without the mothers, we would have no



others". Here's hoping for many more successful years to come and if anyone would be interested in joining just come along, great fun to be had by all.





GAA - Adult

By our own standards Baltinglass GAA had a very successful year in 2024. The club fielded players and provided football to its members from U7 level through to Adult in both male and female teams which is a success in its own right.

From a competitive nature our Senior men who are the flagship team of our club met their objectives at the start of the year to return to Division 1 of the Senior Football League and also to be competitive in Senior Championship. Under new management of Barry Hayes the Senior men were successful in achieving Division 1 league status for 2025 by going unbeaten in the Division 1 A league and winning the league overall in a hard fought single point win against Kiltegan. The team then had a great run in the Senior Championship, qualified through the group stages and then went on to the Quarter Finals beating AGB, beating Kiltegan again by a single point victory in the Semi Finals and setting up a replay of the 2020 Senior county final against Tinahealy. Unfortunately having use of the wind in the first half and leading by a scoreline of 2.07 to 0.07 at half time, Tinahealy battled their way back to a single point victory on a scoreline of 2.09 to 0.16. As a collective the team worked incredibly hard throughout the year and we look forward to seeing what they can produce in the 2025 season.

Both our Junior A and Junior B men's teams were narrowly beaten by a point in their respective Championship Quarter Finals. The Junior A team were defeated by a very strong Shillelagh-Coolboy side whilst the Junior B's were once again beaten by a tough opposition in Tinahealy. Both sides were yet again a great addition to the adult section of

Baltinglass GAA and help provide an outlet for so many Baltinglass GAA adult footballers. Huge thanks to the players and management on both teams for their efforts.

GAA - Juvenile

Our Juvenile section is thriving at the moment with boys teams ranging from U7 to minor level and girls teams ranging from U8 to minor level. Our little Shamrocks academy is also very busy on a weekly basis and the summer also brought back our Baltinglass GAA Sports for all section. In the boys section we had success in the U12 Allen Cup, U13 B Championship, U15 C Championship and Minor C Championship and the girls section had success in the U14 Shield. The future of our club is looking extremely bright with the juvenile talent coming through and we really look forward to seeing most of these players returning for the 2025 season.

Like all GAA clubs, Baltinglass GAA would not be possible without the volunteers who help out so a huge thank you has to go out to the coaches from all age groups who give up their time on a weekly basis to ensure the success of Baltinglass GAA.



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LGFA

Our Adult Ladies competed in the Senior and Junior Leagues, Cups and Championships for 2024 which brought plenty of competitive football for our ladies. Again to be able to provide an outlet for the adult female players in Baltinglass GAA is a huge success and is down to the hard work of the players and management for both teams. Unfortunately the teams did not bring back any silverware for 2024 however team numbers are strong and we look forward to seeing how they get on in the 2025 season.

Our Gaelic for Mothers and Others section also had a very enjoyable and successful year with over 20+ ladies registered and playing social non-competitive football on a weekly basis. We are always trying to recruit new members so here's hoping we will have more ladies joining us in 2025.





Blessington Juveniles

Its been another great year for our juvenile section across both boys and girls. Its great to see the high numbers at all levels with multiple teams at the various age grades across the county. What will stand out across the club are the obvious wins for our Minor Boys and Girls along with the Feile /championship for the u15 boys and also the u15 Feile girls success. Big congratulations to all.

Not to be forgotten, there are many successes across our club in 2024, the very fact that our teams operate at the highest level via championship and are also able to provide football for all, is a success in itself.

Below you will read about the great successes our teams have had this year and its amazing to see

from Academy up to Minor the pride you all have in your great club.

Finally a word of thanks:

Thank you to the players, coaches, parents and supporters who have made the season so special.

Thank you to the juvenile and adult teams for helping

out with various teams from academy up to Minor.

Thank you to all our sponsors who have contributed to the teams over the last year.

Thank you to Sports Direct for their main sponsorship of the Juvenile club.

Blesso Blues GAA Academy

The Blesso Blues GAA Academy ran from April to the end of October with 29 sessions in total. The sessions were enjoyed by all the kids each evening and feedback from the parents was positive. We had a big number of kids attending each Friday reaching 35-40 kids during the summer months. The sessions were a blend of fun games & basic movements while introducing the basic skills of Gaelic football. Western Gaels were also present each Friday and the kids enjoyed the variety of the hurling zone. We wrapped up a successful season at the end of October and each child was presented with a medal and a Blesso Blues GAA Academy certificate.

Hudson Brothers kindly sponsored the Academy this year and presented the Blesso Blues GAA Academy with a new set of jerseys and hats which was greatly appreciated by all.



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UNDER 7 BOYS

U7 boys

A great first year for the U7s (2017 age group) competing in both the Kildare and Wicklow U7 leagues. Building on the work carried out with this group from the 'Blesso Blues' academy last year and promoting GAA within the schools we have 28 lads on our panel with a strong turnout for games/training between 18 and 22. Promotion within the schools and the Half Way to and Paddys day parades has been key. On the football side the lads have come on leaps and bounds on the skills side competing strongly in both leagues. Learning from a very strong Castledermot team early in the 2nd league game the lads knuckled down and focused in training developing their skills and teamwork which was on full display later in the league in a blitz with both Naas and Castledermot. The season finished with a busy weekend firstly playing Moorefield away where we had 3 teams of 6 players competing strongly against their opposition, this was then followed on Monday the 28th where the lads had the privilege of leading out our Minor team in Aughrim and then playing at half time against An Tochar U7s in front of a big crowd. A day that will live long in the memories of these lads cheering home their new heroes our

fantastic Minor Champions 2024. The lads look forward to an exciting 2025 competing in Kildare and

working alongside our 2016 age group in the Wicklow league. The future is bright for this group. Blessingtonn Abu

U8 boys

The lads have had a exceptional year playing in the Wicklow go games & Kildare leagues, we played with U9s in the Wicklow go games & mixed our teams showing huge potential between the two age groups & the 8s learning loads from playing with the 9s to help our development.

Kildare league we were very competitive & matched a lot of the top clubs in Kildare. We played in Sarsfields all Ireland blitz, this was unreal event & memories lads will remember for years, the huge standard didn't faze the lads at all. We have 23 players turning out for training throughout the year , matches 16 players playing , thanks to the U7s helping out for few games as well. Think the school blitz's or getting into the schools is huge, we gained a player as we finished up who played in the school blitz .Hopefully improvements keeping going in 2025



UNDER 9 BOYS

U9 boys

The U-9 started the year off with 8 rounds of the Kildare Spring League, they then moved to the Wicklow Go-Games program and played some very competitive matches and finished the Go-Games program with a trip to Ballinakill for the Monster Blitz where they played An Tochar, Hollywood and Eire Og, the year was finished playing in the Kildare autumn league. These boys have got better and better throughout the year under the guidance of Paul Wright, Orla Dolan, Ronan Murphy & Gareth McSweeney.

U10 boys

Another good year for the boys. Lot of improvement from the boys who attend regularly. 40 matches played between Wicklow, Kildare and challenge matches. Numbers are challenging but we're up to an active panel of 15 now. Thanks to both the U9 and U11 management for players when we were under pressure. Without them we were in trouble. Coaching team Derek Brady, Lisa O Connor, Noel Hodson, Aine Quinn Pat Murtagh and Jp Moran. Looking forward to 2025 now.

U11 boys

The U11 boys played matches in both Wicklow and Kildare as well as a blitz in Ballyboden during the year. A dedicated panel of 20 players (and parents) ensured that games were played from Arklow to Cappagh, and many places in between, during the season. At U11, no scores are officially recorded but most games were evenly contested with numerous tough battles against Dunlavin in particular.

Playing very well in the Ballyboden blitz against large clubs from other counties was fantastic to see. The season ended with the boys representing the club in the Ray Daniels Cup at U12 level. The first experience of competitive football resulted in a quarter final win over St Nicholas. The following week the boys had a slow start against Stratford and were not able to close the deficit. For both fixtures all 20 panel members were available, a fantastic achievement.



U12 boys

The u12 boys have had a long productive season, playing well over 30 games. The team competed in the u12 pathway league, winning this and staying unbeaten throughout season. Now playing other clubs u13 teams we continued to play well only losing narrowly to Stratford and Avondale. We got through our group and had a semi final with Straforads u13 teams. On our best performance of the year, we were leading this game for 3/4s where eventually the lads ran out of steam. It was a beautiful performance by the lads where everyone of the team contributed. As a result of losing this game we then met Naomh Eoin Gaels in the plate final in Ballinakill. The lads again put in a great performance winning the final 3:11 to 3:08. Great to see all the hard work finally pay off for these lads.

The lads competed in the Allen cup where we won the semi final over St Nicholas. We played the final vs Balto whereby we ran out of steam narrowly missing out on the win. Winning at half time, we lost key personnel through injury and struggled to get a grips with weather. Losing is never nice especially in finals however the lads will learn from this and look forward to putting the record straight next year.

We also competed in Kildare league and championship. This was 15 aside games with full touch. We played in B league against a number of big clubs and easily held our own. Winning and losing games with the bonus everyone getting game time. We are currently playing in the Kildare C championship with a semi final in the plate due

shortly, We look forward the next challenge and next year.

U13 boys

Very good numbers with up to 20 players on the panel – turnout to training was pretty good for almost all the year. We participated in under 13 League/ Champ and Under 14 PPL Division 3. Within the Under 13 the lads produced some super performances against some strong, and usually combined teams.. For almost all these games the boys played some super football and were so unlucky not to come away with a few more wins.

Within the Under 14 PPL division 3, Games were limited in this competition, 1 game per month, with the lads playing up a year again against many amalgamated teams who were physically bigger and stronger, but again the lads produced some super football. I would say we finished high in the standings of this league.

U14 boys

2024 has been a strong and exciting year for the squad, with significant development and progress. The squad was strengthened with new players, leading to healthy competition for key positions and greater depth in the team. The season kicked off in mid-January, with the team joining the U15s squad for strength and conditioning sessions at AIF Fitness. For many of the boys, this was their first experience

with focused fitness training, and they enjoyed the challenge. As we transitioned to the pitches in February, training alongside the U15s we focused on building fitness, improving skills, and preparing for the season ahead.

We were entered into the Wicklow U15's division 3 league and although we came up against some strong opponents the games were always competitive and entertaining. This allowed us to see what the level was like in Wicklow, and we were able to see the boys develop and use the skills we had been practicing on in training each week. The squad learned a lot from these matches, that by working hard and as one team that results can be achieved.

We participated in the U14's Player Pathway League, which is the only competition in Wicklow for our age group and we came away unbeaten in this competition. This year we entered U14 Kildare League competitions and although we had some of our stronger players unavailable for some of the earlier matches, we were still very competitive and gave opportunities to some players from the U13's squad to play alongside our team.

In U14's Kildare Championship, which is still on-going, we have made it to the semi-finals of our division and remain unbeaten in this competition since August. We've still a few more weeks left of training and hopefully two more matches, before we can take a well-earned short break.

U15 boys

U15's had a fantastic year, they made a bit of club history becoming the 1st Boys team to win the U15A Feile & Championship in the same year. We had an unforgettable weekend in late June when we travelled to Roscommon representing the Club in the National Feile where we competed in Div 3 winning our 1st match losing our 2nd & drawing our last match where we missed out on the semi finals on score difference. It was a weekend we will never forget.

Focus they turned to finishing the league and the Start of championship. We lost our only Wicklow game all year losing out to AGB in the league final by

1pt . We then went unbeaten in the championship to Qualify for the A county final against St Pats in Aughrim. It was an enthralling final which saw Blesso bring home the cup with a 3pt win and the unbelievable scenes that greeted the players after the game and when they came home into the town will be remembered for a long time and to See the Blue and white flags flying high.

U17 boys - Minor A Champions

In March this year we met as a group in the clubhouse and set out our plan for the year ahead of what we all wanted to Achieve and wanted to Push to win 2024 Minor A championship. We had 6 lads involved with the County Minor 2024 Patrick Small, Max Kehoe, James Phibbs, Conor O Toole, Oisin O'Connell and Ronan Smyth and 3 players with County U16 Jack Murray, Cillian Behan and Daniel Smith.

We Played 7 Championship Rounds Starting Round 1 with a great win away to Eire OG. Round 2 we were at home to AGB and on a terrible night of bad weather for both teams. Unfortunately came out on losing side by 2 points. Round 3 we were away to Michael Dwyers in Stratford and another loss which hurt Lads a lot. We spoke to team a lot after this defeat and we all knew we had to step it up a gear to achieve our target as we couldn't afford to lose any more games to make top 4. So Round 4 we were at Home to An Tochar and we got back on winning ways as we won by 2 Points. Next up Round 5 was away to St. Nicks and after a Very tough battle we came away with 3 Point win. Round 6 we were at home to Annacurra which we had a fantastic home win and home Crowd was a big help.

Round 7 was our last Group Game which was at home to Tomnafinogue and didn't take much to Ignite the players as U15 A Champ Final loss was still in their minds and needless to say team played a great standard of football and we came away with the win .

So, we headed into Semi Final against AGB in Baltinglass on Wednesday Oct 9 th we started game very slow being 1.02 down after 10mins but we stepped it up a level and we were 2 Points up at halftime and after a good chat at the half time the

players pushed on to win 2.08 to 1.06.

Our Supporters were immense on the night and cheered this team into the Minor A County Final.

On Bank Holiday Monday October 28th 2024 was our County Minor A Final in Aughrim v An Tochar, the previous year's champions.

We started well but struggled at times to break down a well drilled An Tochar side and we missed a few early chances and went it at halftime 0.5 to 0.3 behind.

At halftime the Management discussed what changes we could make but decided to leave as finished first half for few minutes of Second half, but a few strong words were said in dressing room and deep down the lads knew we were not playing as a team and this was one of our number one goals we set out at beginning of year meeting. With about 10 mins to go a couple of positional changes, things started to go our way. Everyone stepped up a level from goals through to forwards.

Then up stepped Luke Higgins to swing over a sweet left foot point and the belief really kicked in. That play was followed by 2 epic points from Patrick Small to put us 8 points to 7 points up and the final whistle blew.

Unbelievable scenes happened in Aughrim as the pitch was invaded by a sea of blue and white. It was the proudest moment for me as manager.

Then Ronan Smyth (Captain) lifted the cup in the stand as this group of lads achieved only what they deserved for years of hard work.

Blessington 2024 Minor A Football Champions !!!



UNDER 15 BOYS WICKLOW FEILE & CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS 2024



UNDER 17 BOYS WICKLOW MINOR A CHAMPIONS 2024



Tuarascáil Oifigeach Gaeilge agus Cultúir 2024

Is é ról an Oifigigh Ghaeilge agus Chultúrtha ná tacaíocht don Ghaeilge agus gnéithe eile de chultúr na hÉireann a chur chun cinn go gníomhach ar nós ceol traidisiúnta, amhránaíocht, rince, comhrá agus cluichí laistigh den chlub. Go dtí seo, ba é príomhfhócas an oifigigh ná baill a árdú agus a earcú chun páirt a ghlacadh i Scór na nÓg agus Scór Sinsir. Bíonn dlúth-theagmháil ag an oifigeach leis an Oifigeach Cultúrtha Contae.

Ó chláraigh siad le Glór na nGael agus le Fondúireacht Seosaimh Mac Dhonncha in 2023, fuair ionadaithe CLG Cros Bhaile Coimín, Oifigeach Gaeilge agus Cultúir Nóirín Ní Aodhagáin Caomhnaigh agus Martín Ó Seanáin ó Choiste na Gaeilge an Bonn Cré-umha as úsáid iomlán na Gaeilge a chur chun cinn go gníomhach i mbealaí éagsúla sa chlub agus sa phobal le linn 2023. Is é an dea-scéala ná gur bronnadh an bonn airgid ar CLG Cros Bhaile Coimín as 35/80 beart a bhaint amach. Déanfaidh Noreen agus Pádraig Ó Maolmhuaidh ionadaíocht don chlub ag an mbronnadh i bPáirc an Chrócaigh ar an 29 Samhain 2024.

Scór

Is comórtas CLG é Scór a chomhcheanglaíonn dath agus iomaíocht na gCluichí Gaelacha leis an ngné shóisialta/spraoi de shaol traidisiúnta na hÉireann. Bhunaigh CLG an comórtas sa bhliain 1969 chun caitheamh aimsire agus cultúr traidisiúnta na hÉireann a chur chun cinn agus deis a thabhairt do bhaill an chlub bualadh le chéile, spraoi a bheith acu agus ionadaíocht a dhéanamh ar a gclubanna i rith míonna an gheimhridh fad is a bhí deireadh le peil agus iománaíocht.

Tá ocht n-imeacht/disciplín i Scór a chlúdaíonn gach gné de chultúr na hÉireann: Damhsa Fíorúil, Amhránaíocht Aonair, Ceol Uirlise, Aithriseoireacht/Scéalaíocht, Grúpa Bailéad, Aisteoireachta Úrnuachta, Tráth na gCeist agus Rince Seit. Tá an comórtas roinnte i dhá leibhéal aoise, Scór Na nÓg, do dhaoine óga faoi 17 agus Scór Sinsir, dóibh siúd

atá os cionn 17.

Bhí athrú ar an leagan amach Scór i 2024. Tá Scór Sinsir ar siúl arís sa chéad ráithe anois agus beidh Scór na nÓg ar siúl sa tríú ráithe den bhliain.

Scór Sinsir

Choinnigh CLG Cros Bhaile Coimín Sciath Chuimhneacháin Tom Walsh don cheathrú uair as a chéile i gcatagóir Thráth na gCeist. Tá an fhoireann comhdhéanta de Pádraig Ó Branáin (Capt.), Pádraig Ó Maolmhuaidh, Tomás Mac Dhómhnaill, agus Déaglán Ó Raighne. Bhí Cluiche Ceannais Chill Mhantáin ar siúl i bPáirc Echelon ar 8 Márta. Fógraíodh CLG Cros Bhaile Coimín mar bhuaiteoirí. Chuaigh siad ar aghaidh go dtí Cluiche Ceannais Scór Sinsiar Laighean i Seamróga an Mhuilinn Chearr ar 21 Aibreán agus chríochnaigh siad gann ar an sprioc de thrí sa chúigiú háit.

Reáchtáil CLG Cros Bhaile Coimín Scór Sinsir ar 22 Márta 2024 i Halla Naomh Caoimhín. Ócáid a raibh an-fhreastal air agus bhí ionadaithe ag CLG Cros Baile Coimín i dtí chatagóir – Amhránaíocht Aonair, Aithriseoireacht agus Ceol Traidisiúnta. Ba iad Asia O’Riordán (Amhránaíocht Aonair) agus Síle Ní Neachtain (Aithriseoireacht) na buaiteoirí contae ón gclub. Chuaigh an bheirt tríd go dtí cluiche leathcheannais Laighean san Oulart 6 Aibreán. Chuaigh Síle ar aghaidh go Cluiche Ceannais Laighean ach ar an drochuair níor shroich sí an cluiche ceannais náisiúnta i mbliana.

Scór na nÓg

I mbliana bhí an comórtas ar siúl don chéad uair in Eire Óg Greystones. Bhí an-fhreastal air. Ar an drochuair, ní raibh ach foireann Tráth na gCeist amháin ag an gclub ag déanamh ionadaíochta ar an gclub mar ní raibh aon ghlacadóirí do na catagóirí eile. Chuaigh na leids – Alfie O’ Ceallachain, Fiachra Ó Dubhthaigh, Aaron Cantwell agus Conor Mac Gearailt i bhfeidhm ar na hiontrálaithe don chéad uair le scór 32, gan ach ocht bpointe taobh thiar de na buaiteoirí.



GAA Tráth na gCeist 2024

Déanfaidh ár bhfoireann tráth na gceist ionadaíocht ar son an chlub ar an Máirt 12 Samhain i Sráid Éanna, Baile Bhuadáin. Is iad baill den fhoireann ná Pádraig Ó Branáin (Capt), Tomás Mac Dhómhnaill, Déaglán Ó Raighne agus Conor Dhómhnaill I in ionadaíocht Pádraig Ó Maolmhuaidh.

Maoiniú ó Glór na nGael – Fuair an club dhá dheontais – ceann i mí Aibreáin (€190) agus ceann eile i mí Mheán Fómhair (€500). Ar gach €2 a fuaireamar i ndeontais bhí ar an gclub é a mheatsáil le airgead tirim de €1. Chuir sé seo ar ár gcumas tús a chur lenár ranganna Gaeilge do thosaitheoirí a bhí saor in aisce le freastal orthu, bratach tarraingt suas do Ghaeltachtaí aníos amach anseo agus Saorscéalaíocht Ghaeilge saor in aisce a eagrú i Leabharlann Bhaile Coimín ar feadh ocht seisiún.

2024

- Ranganna Gaeilge do Thosaitheoirí 17 Aibreán ar feadh sé seachtaine
- Ranganna Réamhmheánacha Gaeilge 4 Meán Fómhair ar feadh sé seachtaine
- Pop-up Gaeltacht ag Kaleidoscope 29/30

Meitheamh.

- Scéalaíocht Ghaeilge In Aisce 28 Meán Fómhair go 14 Nollaig (ocht seisiún)
- Fógraí ar na meáin shóisialta agus chuig baill i nGaeilge agus i mBéarla
- Comharthaí timpeall an chlub i nGaeilge agus i mBéarla
- Méadú ar ghníomhaíocht na meán sóisialta le linn Sheachtain na Gaeilge
- Freastal ar chruinnithe líonra na nOifigeach Gaeilge i gCill Dara (x3)

2025

- Ciorcal Comhrá (ar bhonn seachtainiúil, b'fhéidir ag tosú i mí Eanáir/Feabhra 2025)
- Pop-up Gaeltacht ag cluichí
- Cuireadh foireann isteach i blitz na hÉireann i gCo. na Mí (1 Feabhra 2025)
- Cuir isteach ar mhaoiniú breise ón FSMD
- Páirt a ghlacadh i Scór na nÓg agus Scór Sinsir 2025
- Glac páirt i dTráth na gCeist Chúige Laighean le Glór na nGael
- Deis deontas don Ghaeltacht do bhall óg.
- Imeacht Gaeilge a eagrú i dteannta bunscoil áitiúil
- Suirbhé ar bhaill agus ar an bpobal faoina gcumas agus riachtanais teanga
- Ócáid Ghaeilge a eagrú ar an Oíche Chultúir le linn seachtain na Gaeilge.

Tá ceithre mhí dhéag caite ó chláraigh an club agus cuireadh tús le clár chun an Ghaeilge a úsáid níos mó laistigh den chlub agus bhuaigh sé bonn Cré-



umha agus Airgid san am sin. Bhí muid ar an gcéad

FOGLAIM GAEILGE LINN

BÍGÍ LINN DON CHÚRSA GAEILGE AGAINN ATÁ LE TEACHT

✦ RÉAMHRÁ 6 SEACHTAINÉ AR AN NGAELIGE

📅 RANGANNA: LÁR MHI AIBREÁIN GO DEIREADH MHI BEALTAINÉ

🕒 FAD: 1 UAIR IN AGHAIDH AN TSEISIÚIN

🎯 FÓCAS: COMHRÁ GAEILGE

👋 FÁILTE BOIMH DACH LÉIRHÉAL, LENA NÁIRITEAR TOSAITHEDIR!

CHUR D'ÁIT A CHUR IN ÁIRITHE, DÉAN TEAGHNÁIL LE NOREEN AG 087 3898275 NÓ SEOL RÍOMHPHOIST CHUIO NOREENKEEGANKAVANAUGH@GMAIL.COM BOIMH BOINE, AN BÓ MÁRTA. SPÁSANNA TEORANTA AR FÁIL, MAR SIN NÁ CAILL AMACH! LEIG DÚINN FOGHLAIM LE CHÉILE AGUS GLACADH LE NÁILLEACHT NA GAEILGE!

#BLESSINGTONGAA #IRISHLANGUAGECOURSE #COMMUNITYLEARNING #GAEGAEILGE

chlub i gCill Mhantáin a fuair an dá bhonn Cré-umha agus Airgid.

Comhbhrón ó chroí le muintir Tirial as bás brónach Eoin. Rinne Eoin ionadaíocht don chlub i gCluiche Ceannais Chill Mhantáin de Scór Sinsir ar an 29 Meán Fómhair 2023 sa chatagóir Áithriseoireacht

CLG CROS BHAILE COIMÍN

Fáilte go dtí ár Pop-Up Gaeltacht

An bhfuil cúpla focal Gaeilge agat?

“Conas atá tú?”
“Táim go maith agus tú?”

“An maith leat peil a imirt?”
“Is maith liom peil a imirt.”

“Conas atá an aimsir inniu?”
“Tá sé an-ghrianmhar inniu”

#Gaeilge

TÁ ÁIT DÚINN UILIG ANN

Maoinithe ag Fondúireacht Sheosamh Mhíic Donncha agus CLG Cros Bhaile Coimín



Brilliant Blessington win fourth title on the trot

TRATH NA GCEIST

BLESSINGTON GAA completed a memorable four-in-a-row of Sior Tráth na gCeist titles on Friday night in Echelon Park Aughrin, taking home the first adult county title of the year with six points to spare over Ballymanus, the last club other than Cros Sháile Corinn to win this title.

The Blessington quartet of Declan Reaps, Tommy McDonnell and the two Pats - Mulloy and Brennan - led or co-led from pillar to post on Friday night but were given a stern examination by Ballymanus and Coolkenno throughout the evening.

For the majority of the initial 10 rounds, it was Coolkenno who kept pace with the now perennial champions. After three rounds it was Blessington and the team from the Cadow border who led for the lead at 17 each. At this point, it was Knockananna who held the third spot - opening up with three consistent rounds of 5/5. This represented a fine return to Sior for Cnoc an Eanáigh.

Other clubs who were either making their returns after long absences or their first ever appearance at Sior Tráth na gCeist on Friday included Naomh Pádraig, Ashford, Coolkenno LGFA and Naomh Íosaigín. It must be said, however, that you would never have guessed that this was these clubs' first appearance given the high scores being posted on the scoreboard by county PNG, Shauna Kelly.

At the halfway point, Blessington had eked out a small advantage over the Coolkenno foursome of Shane Byrne, Steve Donoghue, Colum O'Rourke and Alan O'Callaghan - 26 to 24. Ballymanus had,



Wicklow GAA Chairman Seán Byrne presents the Tom Walsh Memorial Shield to the four-in-a-row winning Blessington team.

at this point, annexed third place from Knockananna - albeit by the minimum - 21 to 20.

Blessington's lead would stretch to three at one point but by the end of the 10 rounds, Coolkenno had finished strongly to reduce the arrears to the minimum - 52 to 51. Ballymanus' consistent scoring rate saw them take third on 46 with St Pat's plugging Carrive to fourth spot - both clubs having really surged in the final three rounds.

On then to the four individual rounds to which Ballymanus, Coolkenno and Blessington advanced. In this section, each correct answer is worth two points so the complexion of the scoreboard can change quite quickly with 40 points on offer over the course of the four five-question rounds.

Coolkenno, having been right on Blessington's heels, slipped back significantly. It was the Ballymanus four of Ann Doyle, Brendan Doyle, Michael O'Keefe and Pádraig Healy who kept pace, matching Blessington round for round, score for score. However, they just couldn't close back the six points (or three correct answers)

that they needed to land their first Tom Walsh Shield since 2018.

When the scores were totted up, there were still those six separating them - 74 to 68. Coolkenno had to settle for third on a score of 58.

Cathach leach CLD Chifí Mhantáin, Damien Byrne, presented the Tom Walsh Memorial Shield to a delighted Blessington team who are becoming renowned county-wide for their quiz prowess. They now advance to provincial level. At the time of writing, it was not yet confirmed if that would be to a Limerick semi-final or final.

Altogether, 11 clubs took part in the Tráth na gCeist this year. Mairéad na gCeistanna, Liam O'Loughlin, commented that it was great to see such growth in the competition in recent years with the life now holly contested each year. No doubt Ballymanus, Coolkenno and a host of other challengers will be eager to stop Blessington's drive for five in 2025 (doesn't that have a bit of a ring to it!).

Ath mór ar Sháile Corinn sa chuid bhíochta seo. Best of luck to Blessington in the next round.



agus d'aithris sé bundán le David Leigh dar teideal "The Papishier and the Prod". Mar bhuaiteoir contae Chill Mhantáin rinne Eoin ionadaíocht ar son an chlub agus an chontae i gcluiche leathcheannais Laighean ar 14 Meán Fómhair 2023. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

Nóirín Ní Aodhagáin Caomhnaigh

Oifigeach Gaeilge agus Cultúir

Juvenile overview

Its been another great year for our juvenile section across both boys and girls. Its great to see the high numbers at all levels with multiple teams at the various age grades across the county. What will stand out across the club are the obvious wins for our Minor Boys and Girls along with the Feile /championship for the u15 boys and also the u15 Feile girls success. Big congratulations to all.

Not to be forgotten, there are many successes across our club in 2024, the very fact that our teams operate at the highest level via championship and are also able to provide football for all, is a success in itself.

U8 Girls

Despite a worry about numbers at the start of the year we had a good core of about 20 players. We had a reasonable amount of matches. The girls developed well through the year and were always fairly competitive in games. They are a bubbly group that place a big emphasis on having fun with their friends.

U10 Girls

The U10 girls had a great season, we had the new

girls that joined us from the U8's and we had the girls that were with it for a second year. We had 5 Blitz throughout the year, 2 of which were hosted by Blessington which was great... the other blitz were in Dunlavin, Caragh and Portlaoise. The girls were amazing both on and off the pitch. By the end of the season we could see the huge improvement in the girls skills and in their confidence. Training was fun and the girls were great.

Proud and honoured to have been involved with them. Superstars of the future.

Sarah, Kevin Leanne, Greg & Declan

U12 Girls

We have a huge amount of girls playing at this age group...we had 35 girls at most training sessions all year!!!The girls had a really busy calendar, we played in division 1 & 2 in Wicklow, our Blue & White Team had plenty of games. Our Blue are the older girls born in 2012 & Whites are the girls born in 2013. We had a game for both girls most weeks and they loved every minute of it.

Carragh GAA invited us to a Blitz they hosted in July, it was an amazing for our girls. We had two teams that day so every girl got lots of minutes and they done really well representing our club.

A couple of weeks later Rathvilly invited us to their





UNDER 10 GIRLS

Blitz, and once again the girls showed how much they have improved.

The girls have come on leaps and bounds we are so proud of them, their skills, their support to one another. We had friendly games throughout the year with our neighbouring teams. Eadestown was a great one to have, down the road and they came to us also.

Ballinakill hosted the Festival of Football where the girls once again performed beautifully.

U14 Girls white/pink

After a decent league both teams had a tough championship. Whites got an extra match with Shield semi-final. Despite this their morale remained high during training with up to 40 girls turning up some evenings.

U14 Girls-Blue

They trained brilliantly throughout the year, starting in February with an emphasis initially on fitness work moving into ball work and skills later on in the season. This resulted in us having a very strong league

campaign finishing runner up to a very strong AGB team. We used 23 players throughout the campaign with all players getting equal playing time. We moved into our championship campaign, where again we came ever so close to getting across the finishing line, we made our way through

U15 Girls Feile

We were delighted again as a club to host the division one County Feile competition. Having gotten off to

the worst possible start losing to Tinahely, the girls then regrouped and went on to win our remaining group games to qualify for the semi-final. We beat a tough Carnew team to qualify for the County Feile final in front of a huge home support, where we again met Tinahely. In the final the girls had learned from our first match against Tinahely and came out on top in a convincing win.

The prep then began for national Feile, where we made the long journey over to Galway. The girls played their hearts out but unfortunately came up against very strong opposition, this didn't dampen the spirits. The girls had a great trip to Galway and made memories that will last forever!

U16 Girls

A great bunch of girls on and off the field. 2024 seen the girls start the year with some gym work coordinated by Meabh which the girls absolutely loved. Managed to field two teams at Div 1 and Div 3 with the help of the brilliant U14 girls. Win/lose/draw plenty of lessons were learned.

We did some Yoga, some bonding and topped it off with a well-deserved bowling trip for all. Thanks to parents for all the support along the way. To the mentors/volunteers - without them there would be no football for these girls. Best of luck to those girls staying at U16 and those girls who move onto the next chapter.



UNDER 12 GIRLS



UNDER 14 GIRLS WHITE PINK



UNDER 14 GIRLS BLUE

U18 girls

We took part in the minor league which started in February. During this campaign we found it tough going trying to get a team out, this was due to a high number of payers being involved in county u16, minor and senior level with the rules for the league not allowing county players to participate. Fair play to Michelle and Paul who got a team together to fulfil our fixtures and which turned out to be great experience for our younger players.

The minor competitions then took a break over the summer, while county matches and senior club competitions were completed.

Pat Brennan came on board as manager for our championship campaign and he along with his management team got the girls ready to head into a tough championship campaign.

We were placed with An Tochar and Tinahely in the group stage winning both games to progress to final!

The skill and fitness level from the girls at this time of the year is incredible, but more importantly their attitude, their ability to listen to learn and their sheer will to win. As a result of the enormous effort the girls put in, they finished off their year in style by capturing their 4th Minor A title in a row defeating AGB in a great game of football.

A great achievement for these girls. For some players they will move on to adult football, for others they will make every effort to bring home the glory next year.