



# THEYEARBOOK

#WicklowGAA #officialwicklowgaa #wearewicklow #36C1C





### **General Overview of 2024**

Emmet Carn an Bhua is a proud dual club. 2024 has been an unbelievable year for our club. We have contested All Ireland Finals with our Scór novelty, a record number of Adult Championship Finals and we participated in our first ever "Up for the Match" recording prior to a Championship Final. This year will go down as one of the most enjoyable and thrilling years of Carnew Emmets history. We are looking forward to 2025 where we will have four Senior Adult teams contesting the senior ranks of our respective codes. Hopefully, we will be just as successful next year. We also began our Healthy Clubs journey this year which is a great initiative for our club and community.

Let us pause for a moment to honour our fallen comrades from the Carnew Emmets family. I will refrain from mentioning specific names, as I wish to ensure that we remember each one of them. So, let's all take a moment for each person that we remember at this time.

I would like to take this moment to thank every committee member, management personnel, supporter, parent and our sponsors who give their time and dedication to our club to help strengthen our club from one year to the next. It is important to provide a special acknowledgement to our club players who show unwavering dedication to the Blue and Yellow jersey each day they go out to represent our club. I think it is vital that we continue to show our appreciation to our players who give so much time to ensure that our club continues to experience the success from year to year.

### Club Officers for 2024

President: Edmond Hyland

Secretary: Niamh Myers

Juvenile Chairperson: James O' Toole

Juvenile Secretary: Owen Nicholson

Vice Chairperson: Quentin House

Assistant Secretary:

Chairperson:

Treasurer: Linda Wafer

Children's Officer:

John Walshe

Brian Doran

Kenneth Redmond

PRO:

Niamh Myers

Irish Cultural Officer:

Michelle Doran

Healthy Officer:

Caroline Young





### **Senior Hurling**

Our Senior Hurlers began their year off with a fantastic victory over Bray Emmets in the Senior Hurling League. We had some new players from the Minor team who settled within the team and deserved their place on the team. We had high hopes going into the Championship campaign after our league victory.

Our Championship campaign started very well. Unfortunately, some injuries to key players hindered our success within the Championship. We had great belief in our Senior Hurlers as we booked a place with Bray Emmets in the Championship Final when we overcame Kiltegan in the Semi Final stage. We went in at half time in the County Final in a position that we are not very familiar with when we do battle with Bray Emmets. We were leading with the slightest lead. We came out after the half time break believing that we could continue to hold the Bray team. Unfortunately, the first ten minutes of the second half was the purple patch for Bray as they put their challenge up another notch. On this day, we didn't leave Aughrim with the result that we wanted. We are hoping next year, if we can keep all players together and injury free throughout the championship, we may end our Senior Hurling drought.

### **Intermediate Football**





# **Champions 2024**

This year began as a mixed time for our Intermediate Footballers as we were relegated in 2023 to Division 2 Football League. We had many more games in Division 2 than Division 1A that we believe really stood to us. We were beaten by our near neighbours Shillelagh-Coolboy in the group stages, so once we overcame the challenge of Annacurra in the league Semi Final at home in Carnew, we were ready to do battle with our neighbours once again. We were fortunate that our players stood up to the challenge which would give us a glimpse of the highs to follow

for the rest of the season for our footballers. It was a surreal moment for us as the league final day we would be playing against some of our teammates for the Hurling League the following week.

On Sunday 27th of October 2024, our Intermediate Footballers became the Intermediate Champions. This wet and windy day will forever be etched into our minds as the day that we toppled Hollywood in Echelon Park Aughrim in a replay that followed a thrilling first day final where we were fortunate that our outstanding free taker, Ben Brosnan, was in tremendous form and rose to the occasion to deliver a point from the stand side. Many men recall their memories of this magnificent free which always end in arguments. Some men recall it was 45 yards out from goal, while others are adamant that it was over





60 yards from goal. All I can tell you, that once the ball left Ben's right foot, everyone from Carnew held a breath till we were certain that the umpire waved that most important white flag to bring the Blue and Yellow army back to Aughrim for another day out. Ben Brosnan really lived up to his heroic status within Carnew that weekend.

On the wet and windy Sunday, we had many leaders on the day from young Daniel Redmond and our veterans on the team Michael Rock and Jack Doyle taking on the challenges to the phenomenal Sean Murphy winning the aerial battles. We had got our nerves settled as we entered the half time break leading by 1-07 to 0-01. We had such a lead, that thankfully Hollywood was unable to reach us as we made history for our club with our scoreline of Carnew 1-09 Hollywood 2-2.

# **Intermediate Hurling**

Our Intermediate Hurling League campaign began with some thrilling games. We opened our league campaign with a pulsating game against Kilcoole. It was end to end high scoring game that had spectators in awe of the fine scoring by both teams. We then faced Arklow Rock Parnell's. We could not be separated in Arklow as we ended the game with a draw. Unfortunately, we received two walkovers in the league group stages which impacted our chance of qualifying for the League Final. As score difference was used to determine if it was our hurlers or Arklow Rock Parnell's that would compete in the League



Final against Kilcoole.

In the championship, we were drawn in a group with Aughrim, Bray Emmets and Barndarrig. We were unlucky to be on the losing side against Bray Emmets in the opening game of the Championship on a day that saw sun, rain and even hailstones throughout the game. Next up, we faced a struggling Barndarrig team. We needed this game to bounce back from the loss to Bray Emmets. This game set us up nicely for a 'must win' against Aughrim to see if we could gain a place in the Semi Final stage of the Championship.

What a game it was in Arklow on a sunny Sunday afternoon when many from Carnew were nursing hangovers after the Junior Championship Final victory the previous day. Two teams showed great skill and determination to show how much they both wanted to stay in the Intermediate Hurling Championship. We were more dogged on the day and ensured that the victory went to Carnew Emmets. This victory knocked out Bray Emmets and

set up a place for us in the Semi Final against a favourite Avondale team. We faced a very strong Avondale team in the Semi Final and the better team on the day booked their place in the Final. Unfortunately, one of Avondale's key players, Eoin Baker, received a bad injury in the game and we would like to send our Best Wishes to Eoin on a speedy recovery.

# Junior Hurling Champions 2024

2024 was the year we decided to enter a Junior Hurling team. This was the first time in five years that we fielded three adult hurling teams. We had such an interest to pursue this idea. What a year it turned out to be for this team.

Our Junior Hurling League campaign had nine teams in total. This was important campaign as it would determine who would be in Junior A or Junior B





Hurling Championship. We faced each game as if it was a final. We had a big panel of players to help us for each game. We were delighted when we ended the league group campaign unbeaten. We then had to face Eire Óg Greystones in the League Final. We were delighted that we overcame the massive challenge that Eire Óg brought to us on a sunny Wednesday evening in Echelon Park Aughrim. We had a great crowd to cheer on our players in the final.

As we had secured our place in the Junior A Hurling Championship, a few nerves started to creep in to the panel as we were losing some players to the Intermediate Hurling Team. We were fortunate that we had a big panel as this was not an issue. We were in the A group with Arklow Rock Parnell's, Eire Og Grevstones and St. Patrick's Wicklow Town. We began our Championship campaign with a home fixture against Eire Óg Greystones. As we had lost some key players from the league campaign, we were unsure how our team would fare against a strong Eire Óg Greystones team. The result showed that we should have no worry as our players scored a massive 4-11 to ensure we were victorious. We then headed to Wicklow Town to face St. Patrick's. This game was a great tussle between both teams but unfortunately had to be abandoned due to an injury to our player. A week later, we returned to Wicklow

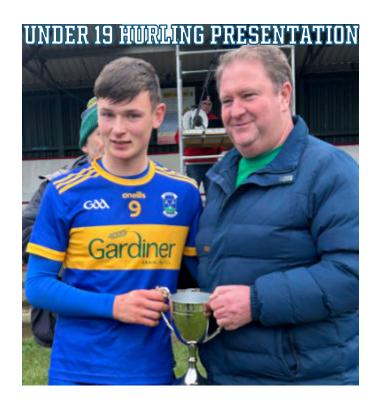


Town. It was a great game of hurling, and our players ended with a strong performance which helped to ensure we were in the Championship Final. We received a walkover from Arklow Rock Parnell's, so all roads then led to Echelon Park Aughrim to once again face Eire Óg Greystones who seemed to be going from strength to strength each game they played.

The Junior Championship Final was scheduled as a curtain raiser to Senior Hurling Championship game between both clubs. It was fantastic to have a massive support for both clubs in both games. Our seasoned players Nick Skeleton, Michael O Sullivan and Cormac Doyle had a great game as they blended with the younger players on team to ensure their experience settled the nerves for Killian O Keefe. William Kenny, Fionn Darcy and Ryan Austin. We were delighted to see the return of Fionn Darcy to finally make his Adult Championship debut as he overcame an injury in the year. We were delighted to secure our Junor A Hurling Championship victory on a scoreline of Carnew Emmets 0-18 to Eire Óg Grevstones 1-08. This was the first piece of championship silverware that we welcomed back to Carnew in 2024. Football

### **Junior C Football**

Our Junior C Footballers had a great league campaign in Division 4. They had some competitive games, and this help them to prepare for the Junior C Football Championship. We were drawn in Group with Arklow Geraldine Ballymoney, Kilbride, Rathnew and Shillelagh-Coolboy. The highlight of the group stages game was the game against Rathnew in Carnew where we could not be separated. We were up by four points and then Rathnew got a goal and got back into the game. We then had to face Kiltegan in the Semi Final stage in Ballinakill. Our players provided the spectators with a dominant performance to help set us up with a showdown with Annacurra in the final, Our footballers faced Annacurra but unfortunately nothing went right for us on the day. We had a very low scoreline whereas we were hitting at least 1-10 in all our games up to the final. We lost on a scoreline of Carnew Emmets 0-05 to Annacurra 1-6.



# **U19 Hurling Champions** 2024

Our U19 hurlers began training shortly after our Senior Hurling and Minor Championships finished within the club. These young players have put in a massive shift all year with their respective teams whether it was Minor all the way up to Senior team. When the players got the call from manager Eugene Jordan they all were committed to give their all for another few weeks to try to bring more silverware back to Carnew Emmets.



Our lads had their first game of the Championship against Glenealy on Sunday morning of the Intermediate Football Championship Final Replay as the previous week we were awarded a walkover from Western Gaels. They took to the field without some of our key players as they were on the panel for the Intermediate Football team. The team narrowly lost to Glenealy in Carnew by one goal. This was a great game of hurling between both sides. We then faced Michael Dwyers which was a great game of hurling between two sides determined to make the final. Then we faced Luke O Tooles away in Aughrim. We started more sluggish than Luke O Tooles, so they went in leading by four points after ten minutes. Half time came around and we were leading by 0-08 to 1-

time like a bat out of hell, and they went in front by 7 points. Our players finally got themselves back into the game and end up taking the victory from the grasps of Luke O Tooles hands. Carnew Emmets won on a scoreline of 2-18 to 2-10. We received a walkover from St Patrick's Wicklow Town to set up a showdown with Glenealy in the Final. We made the short journey to Tinahely and here is where we met Glenealy to do battle for the Jim Kearns Memorial Trophy. The victors would be the first name on the trophy. We started off well with a goal within one minute of the throw in. We went in at half with lead of 1-08 to 0-08. We then restarted the second half with the same gusto as Brandon Rossiter scored his second goal of the game. This allowed us to have some breathing room, but Glenealy would come back into the game after we went six points. Glenealy fought hard and worked tirelessly to try to reduce our lead. Our more experienced players Kenneth Cullen, Fionn Darcy and Killian O Keefe led the charges and encouraged our younger players such as Jack Gregan, Rian Rooney and Tom Brennan to step up to the task at hand. We were delighted when the referee





blew his whistle to ensure the Jim Kearns would make his first journey out of Avondale down south Wicklow to stay at home for the year in Carnew Emmets. We also made history as we are the first ever U19 Hurling Champions of Wicklow.

### **Juvenile Section**

2024 has been a very busy year for our Juveniles on and off the field. Overall, we are delighted with our year. It was a year in which we had great attendances and commitment across all the age groups throughout the entire season. Sincere thanks to our



coaching teams, our guest coaches, all our players, parents and guardians and our very important Sponsors, for all their support and commitment throughout the year. We hope to see you all back again next year and new players and coaches are always welcome at the "Sports Field".

### **Carnew Cubs**

Earlier in the year, Carnew Cubs returned to the field, a great group of Girls & Boys ages (4-6) for training in hurling and football and this proved to be a great success. The Cubs ran right up to August, and they finished off their year with a medal presentation and goodie bag. We look forward to resuming training in





the New Year. The Club has a stock of helmets and hurls available for use by children who might like to give hurling and football a go.

#### **Under 7's**

These lads were ready for anything, they trained hard and participated in their Go Games Blitzes around the County in Hurling & Football as well as hosting on occasions. The boys were very busy this year in parading and playing at half time in Aughrim at



numerous finals. A highlight was the visit to School of some of our Intermediate Footballers with the cup.

### **Under 9's**

A super group of players and like our U 7's they trained and worked very hard all year and participated



### **Under 13's**

Another full on season for this team and great work from all the lads at training and in matches. Commitment was not lacking here and our players showed great progress and strength throughout the year. Several of the squad have been involved with the Rising Stars programme in both codes.

#### **Under 15's**

A very busy and full year for our lads. Tremendous drive and commitment from all the team both in training and on the pitch. Our players have continued to progress and develop, maturing well and have showed us some great displays. It has been a successful season for us. We were winners of the Division C Shield Football Final. Several of our panel were selected to play on the County Hurling Team and one player played on both the Hurling and Football Teams.

At U16 level we had 6 players on the County Hurling Team.

in their Hurling & Football Go Games Blitzes traveling around the County. They too joined the U7's at many games in Aughrim proud to be waiving the Blue and yellow of Carnew and shouting on their heroes. They are looking forward to getting back to training and the start of the new season. We would like to thank the girls who helped us throughout the year.

#### Under 11's

These players showed huge commitment at training and developed well over the season culminating in fantastic displays of skill and teamwork. This was the second year playing under the new format where we finished the season with a monster Hurling and Football Blitz in Ballinakill which concluded with a medal presentation. The Club would like to thank all our U11 Referees for their commitment and the Girls who helped us throughout the year.



#### **Under 17's**

Sadly, we are now saying goodbye to a number of these players as they move on from the Minor ranks. They have served the Juvenile Club verv well and have had much success over the years, the highlight being this vear's victory in the Minor A Hurling Championship Final against Bray Emmets. Unfortunately, we were unable to meet the fixtures in the Football Championship. We are losing some players, but we have numbers coming up. This Minor team has done our Club proud, and we had 3 players representing the County on this year's County Minor Hurling Team.

### **Final Farewell**

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

# **Fundraising**

This year we welcomed back our Carnew Emmets Golf Classic. We held this event in June which we thought would be a beautiful, sunny and warm day. Far from this was the weather on the day. It was wet, windy and cold! But we didn't let the terrible weather dampen our spirits as we headed for the golf course in Coollattin Golf Club. At the start of the year, we ran our Euromillions fundraiser, and we ended the year with the return of our Drive In Bingo.

























We also held some "Golf Master Competitions". On August Bank Holiday weekend, we decided to run "Race Night" to try to bring a crowd. What a night! Preparation is also in full swing for our big fundraiser of 2025 "Strictly Club Dancing".

# **Healthy Club**

Carnew Emmets joined the GAA Healthy Club programme in March and are working towards foundation & silver status. Carnew's Healthy Club launch was on the 4th May in the pitch in conjunction with girls U8 & 10 football & boys U7 & 9 hurling blitz. Healthy treats were provided to the children by the healthy club as well as leaflets & information literature promoting healthy living & well being displayed & available to take away.

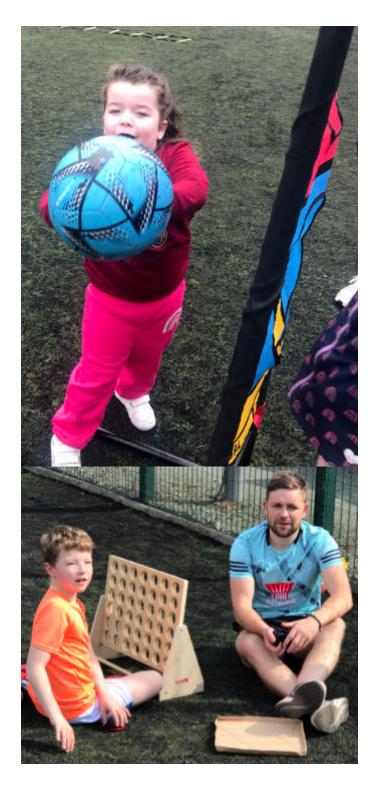
A great afternoon was had by all.

# **All Stars Group**

2024 was a very successful year for our All Stars. 20 children registered for our inclusion programme on Saturday mornings. The season ran from the 9th May













### **Carnew Camogie**



### **U8** and **U10** Teams

Our u8s u10s and u12s had a fantastic year competing in numerous blitz up and down the county. Huge thanks to the coaches for all the hard work training our young stars.

#### Feile shield winners

Our feile team went on to win the shield on what was a fantastic day in Rosslare. Thanks to Jason Molloy, Maurice Wafer and Laura Byrne for all their hard work with the girls.





Feile captain

Our feile team were led by their captain Olivia Austin.



**U16 A championship winners** 

Our U16 winning team coached by Jason and Orlaith Molloy.



**U16** championship captain







U16 A championship winning team was captained by Louise Doran.

U16 Father and daughter coaching duo with another daughter playing.

It was a real Molloy family affair at the U16 A championship final with Jason, Orlaith and Maebh.

### **Senior team**



Our senior team progressed to the final in both league and A championship this year but after an excellent performance in both it was not to be our year. This team were managed by Nick skeleton, Diarmuid Doran, Aofie Kenny and Paul Kelly.

### **Senior captain**

Our senior team was captained by Ciara Wafer. She can be seen here leading out her team with great pride.

### **Junior Team**

Our junior team won the shield final. Our juniors



were coached by Paul Kelly, Maurice Molloy, Vinny Mulroe and Daragh Kenny.

# Junior caption

Junior Captain Phidelma Elvin being presented with the shield trophy from our club chairman and county vice chairman Maurice Molloy.

### Senior schools team

We had great representation on the school senior team this year.





### **U16 County**



### **U14** semi final



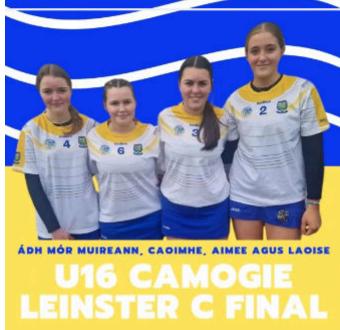
# Minor A championship winning team.

Our minors went on to win the A championship under the guidens of Maurice Wafer, Maurice Molloy, Vinnie Mulroe and Miriam Wafer.

# Minor captain

Our minor team were led by their captain Katie Wafer.









### **U14** Team

Our U14s had a fantastic year competing in both league and championship. Huge thanks to the coaches Maurice Wafer, Laura Byrne and Enda Brennan for all the hard work training the girls.

### **U12 Team**

Our u12s had a fantastic year competing in numerous blitz up and down the county. Huge thanks to the coaches for all the hard work training our young stars.





#### **U8's & U10's**

Managed by Mark Collins, Evelyn Naylor, Karen Collins, Aoife Doran, Sinead Kinsella.

Our U8's and U10's enjoyed blitzes in Aughrim, Avondale, Tinahely. Many travelled to Croke Park for the Kerry v Galway Ladies All Ireland Football Final giving them a taste of "the bigger picture"! Our coaches have done exceptional work with these teams ensuring they learn the fundamentals of the game in a fun environment. Having played in plenty of blitz's over the year they finished off by enjoying Ice-Creams with the U8 and U10's boys.

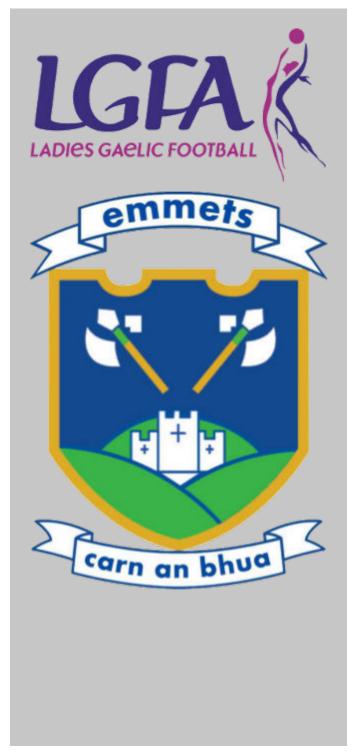


#### **U12's**

Managed by Colin Molloy & Tina Daly

Our U12 team not only look great in their sponsor Caterboss's new jerseys but they have also played some fantastic football against teams throughout the year against Bray, Ashford, Arklow and they finished off with a cracker in Ballinakill v Newcastle. We wish those moving up the ranks the very best of luck in their first competitive year in 2025. They will be great additions to the U14 team.







**U14's** 

Managed by Denise Kinsella and Colin Molloy

Captain - Aoibhe Doran

The U14 girls remained unbeaten in their championship campaign having won against



Baltinglass, Blessington, Annacurra, AGB in the Semi Final and then Annacurra again in the Final. It was raining hard when Captain Aoibhe Doran gave her speech so it's hard to tell whether she had tears of joy or rain drops rolling down her face, possibly both! Maith sibh cailini agus bainsteacht Colin agus Denise.

# **FÉILE PEILE**

29TH JUNE 2024







CAPPAWHITE, TIPPERAR











#### Féile U15's

Managed by Liz Collins, Collin Molloy & Denise Kinsella

Captain - Meabh Molloy

Even though we were unsuccessful in the U15 Féile



Peil which was played in Blessington v Annacurra, St Pat's & Baltinglass, our girls got another crack of the whip in Carnew when we hosted Féile Peile on June 29th. The wettest day in Ireland EVER (so say I) didn't put a damper on the day. Captain Meabh Molloy pushed her team to the limits and a Semi Final for good sport. After a titanic battle, Carnew were narrowly beaten. There was little given out when the team were supplied with BBQ Burgers sponsored by Darren O Flynn Meats, kindly organised by Jaimie Brownrigg and flipped by the Chairperson Christina Kinsella.





### **U16** 's

Managed by Liz Collins & Gary Doran

Captain Aoife Neville

Captain Aoife Neville accepted the U16 Division 2 Championship Cup on behalf of the U16 squad who after a game of cat and mouse with Bray Emmets took the win. Having coached these girls since they were in nappies, Liz Collins's grit and determination remains the same as it did back then. And the girls are a credit to her. Maith sibh!

### **Junior**

Managed by Christina Kinsella, Maurice Molloy, Aoife Doran, Liz Collins

Captain Sinead Kinsella

Our girls are seen below supporting the annual Darkness into Light event. They played a stormer right up to the Championship Semi Final where the failure of lights in Ballinakill near the end of the match



resulted in a controversial decision to award Ashford the game. Nevertheless, they had great fun playing Arklow, Annacurra, Balintinglass and NTMK along the way. Inspired and encouraged by their Captain, the legendary, Sinead Kinsella.



### Intermediate

Managed by Nick Skeleton, Paul Kelly, Diarmuid Doran, Emma Kelly, Cáit Doran

Captain - Lucy Kemple

History was made in 2024, when our girls won their first ever Intermediate Championship. And although it was a hard-fought win against An Tóchar, the semifinal against Annacurra will be the game etched in the memoires of those lucky enough to have witnessed it. It was electric, both stands and lines filled with support for both team on Tinahely soil, roaring in anticipation.

After a rocky start in the league, a turn around of this magnitude is a direct result of the management team itself. They had foresight, envisioning a future where their players not only exceeded on the field but grew as individuals.





Garden County Support awarded the Intermediate Final" player of the match" to the positive thinking, hardworking Alannah Dagg.

An impressive Bennekerry/Tinryland took the win

against us in the first round of Leinster and would go on to win the competition out. And fair play to them.

# County

# **U14 LGFA Leinster Bronze Winners** v Wexford



Comghairdeas to Niamh & Emily Wafer who were successful in securing the Leinster Bronze Medal. V Wexford. Unfortunately, Wicklow were knocked out at the Quarter All Ireland Final Stages v Monaghan. We are delighted to have these girls represent the club at County Level.

### U16's Karen O Brien & Emma Cullen

Wicklow U16's made it to the C Championship Semi



Final v Laois, despite a level first half, Laois took the lead in the second for the win. Emma Cullen and Karen O Brien are incredible additions to the County Team and are a pleasure to watch on the field. Maith sibh!

### Minor Katie Wafer, Emma Kinnear, Aoife Wafer

We've watched these girls progress through the age groups at County Level. Their dedication to both Club and County are commendable. They played Louth in the Leinster C final which is available on Youtube to watch. Beware, the last few minutes are not good for the ticker. The first score on the board came from the foot of Katie Wafer, the last by the foot of a Louth woman in the last 5 seconds of the game, giving Louth a one-point win.



# Ciaran Shannon 7's & Ellen Kinch Memorial Blitz



We were delighted to have supported the Ciaran Shannon 7's memorial in Annacurra and the Ellen Kitch Memorial blitz in Tinahely. These are days, our girls really look forward to during the year. Great craic!



### Colaiste Bhríde, Carnew – School's Games

Junior Final Winners – Captained by Karen O Brien



Senior Final v Arklow Aril 30th



School's A Final in Dunlavin- May 8th

U14 v Colaiste Bhride, Enniscorthy





# Home away from home

Our club mate Fianna O Reilly togged out for Paris Gaels & Bordeaux Blanquefort GAA (ParisBurdi) winning the 15 aside European Championship Cup Games against Brussels. Ádh Mór Fianna and team as they prepare for the All Ireland Club Championship Quarter Final on November 23rd against Coolera Strandhill Sligo which is set to be played in Maastrict.

Táimid an-bhródúil asat-we are very proud of you Fianna.



### Scor Sinsear & Scor na nog

Early in the year, South East Drama Festival invite Scór na n Óg to see "The Lonesome West" performed at St Brigids Hall, carnew by Bunclody/ Kilmyshall Drama Group. (GRMA)



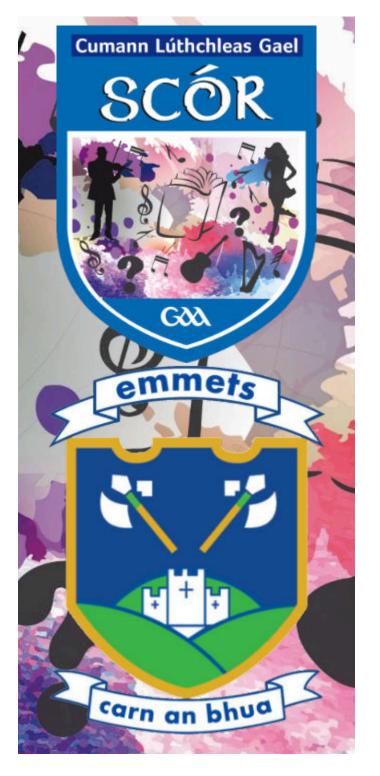
Scór Sinsear perform in Blessington for the County Final on March 22nd. Carnew had entries in the following categories:

- 1. Rince Foirne: Kayleigh Kinsella, Ella Doran, Toni Doran, Maire Doran, Charlotte Myres, Rory Kavanagh, Lauren Byrne, Helen Hughes
- 2. Novelty: Emma Culkin, Fergus Kinsella, Diarmuid Doran, Tom O Hara, Tom Culkin, Tom Darcy, John Joe Myres (Tom (Doc) Darcy, Brian (Rusty) Doran)
  - 3. Solo Singing: Molly Mulroe
- 4. Instrumental: Sophie Doran, Toni Doran, Brendan Grant, Marion Hickey, Theresa Clare



Novelty, Instrumental and Rince Foirne successfully proceeded to the Leinster Semi Final in Oulart and again onto the Leinster Final in the Downs GAA Club, Westmeath.









The Nuachleas were the only act, despite great performances from the others, to win the Leinster Cup and perform on the INEC Arena Stage in Killarney competing in their 3rd All Ireland in a row.



The All Ireland went to the home County of the generous JP McManus, Limerick. We had an absolute ball and met some incredible performers formal all over the country during the weekend. Míle buichoas le Shane Byrne, for his promotion and contributions to Scór. Carnew wish him the best of luck in his future endeavours as his time as County Culture Officer comes to an end.



### Scor na nog

This year saw the largest amount of Carnew entrants to date in the history of Scór na nÓg. We were represented in the Table Quiz x 3, Rince Foirne, Balled Group, Solo Singing, Recitation, Novelty x 2, Instrumetal.

Éire Óg hosted the County Final in style. Keelin Kinsella (recitation), Novelty (All Star Nursing Home), Ballad Group and Instrumental proceeded to the Leinster Semi Final held in Oulart on Sunday the 17th of November. The Novelty, Ballad and Instrumental will face her for the Leinster Final in Summerhill. Meath on November 30th. Well done to





each competitor who has worked tirelessly to get to the Leinster Final Stages. Ádh Mór!!



















Amhran na bhFiann

Scór members Faye Doran and Molloy Molroe sang



the Amhrán na bhFiann ahead of big games at Echelon Park. Faye sang before the Tailteann Cup v Laois,Carnew's Junior A Hurling Final & Carnew's



Intermediate Football Final and Molloy before the Intermediate County Football Final (Replay). Credit to them both for performing in front of big audiences on each occasion. Chilling, beautiful renditions from the cailíní. Our Scór na nOg Group would provide half time entertainment at the Intermeidate Replay. A real treat for the crowd on a miserable wet day.

# **Best overall Float at St Patrick's Day Parade**



# **Scor at Carnew Community Care**

Our Juvenile Scór treated the Community are and residents of the nursing home to some song, dance and storey telling, most done as Gaeilge. We had great fun and hope to do it again.



2024 was a successful year overall for Dunlavin Gaa, both on and off the field.

Off the pitch, We began the year, with our Ireland lights up challenge, where we invited all members of the community to come along and join us for the Operation transformation, walk and talk event under our new walking lights.

Our juvenile registration night in February was hugely successful once again and it was great to see all the kids buzzing to get back to training.

In May our dressing room works were completed and we were blessed to reopen the new and completely revamped dressing rooms & public toilets, the quality and standard of which is amazing. We have also been lucky enough to receive further funding from the Sports capital grant and hope to complete the remaining dressing rooms and clubhouse works by the end of 2025.

In June, we ran a very new, but, amazing fundraiser this year, The Masked Singer, which was hugely successful, we had the support of the full community and appreciate all who got involved and helped out, including of course, our amazing 8 acts, Matt Miley, one of our senior team players was crowned champion on the night, however, all 8 singers were winners and made for a very enjoyable night.

Our weekly lotto remains our most important fundraiser and without . who give their time each Monday night it would not be as successful. So a huge amount of credit goes to our Lotto committee.

Congrats to our Masked Singer winner, Matt Miley – Chilly Willy The Penguin & runner up, Sinead Quinn – Nellie The Elephant. Also thanks to MC on the night Tom Harney.

Reflecting back on 2024, there was a huge amount of work done within the club, we have sub committees, management, coaches, and members, putting in unseen work each week, to ensure that, as a club, we are progressing, growing and developing the club for the future.



### **Adult Football**

# **Division 1A Football League**

We were generally inconsistent in the league un 2024, drawing with the top two teams Kiltegan and Baltinglass and losing to teams at the lower end of the table.

We managed to secure good wins against Kilmacanogue and Kilcoole at the end of the league when it counted and we retained our league status and will again play in Division 1A in 2025.

# **Division 3 Football League**

Division 3 was a major step up in standard from Division 4 and many teams in this division are first teams from other clubs. The improved standard benefitted and improved all players. The younger players who moved up from Minor were thrown in the deep end and showed what a talented group they







were.

We are delighted to have retained our Division 3 status again for 2025.

# Senior Football Championship

We played Division 1 League champions Eire Og Greystones in the first round of the Senior Football Championship. We came away with a well-deserved win which was also our first win in the SFC for 3 years.

Victory in the first championship match gave the team the confidence it needed. We lost further matches against AGB and Rathnew but great wins against Bray Emmets and Barndarrig secured a SFC quarter final against An Tochar.

The SFC quarter-final against An Tochar will go down as one of the most memorable matches in recent Dunlavin GAA history. Against all the odds a late comeback gave us a one point win knocking the unbeaten favourites out of the championship on a scoreline of 2-11 to 1-13.

We played Tinahely in the semi-final. We again had a heroic second half comeback unfortunately losing out by a tight one point margin scoring 2-10 to Tinahely's 1-14. So close yet so far.

Tinahely went on to beat Baltinglass in the Wicklow SFC and followed it up with a win their Leinster SFC match.

# Junior B Championship

Unfortunately & disappointingly. we were unable to field a team in the competition due to a bad run of injuries and not enough players able to commit.

# Hennessy Cup & Jim Mills Tournament

We played in two local West Wicklow tournaments.

The Jim Mills Cup organised by Donard/Glen club was played in February. The Hennessy Cup stretched out through the year with the Final only being played in November. Despite a brave performance by our second team's available players we were beaten by Donard/Glen in the Hennessy Cup Final at Blessington losing out by 0-8 to 0-12.

# **County Football**

Dunlavin GAA club has always been and will continue to be supportive of our county teams.

We were very proud to be represented on the Wicklow Senior County Football team (Eoin Murtagh & Tom Moran), Wicklow Senior County Hurling team (Rory Martin) and the Wicklow Under 20 county team (Cian Deering, Sean Doyle & Dylan Prendergast) in 2024. Congratulations to our 2024 inter county players representing their club and no doubt it will continue to inspire our up-and-coming young players to follow in their footsteps.



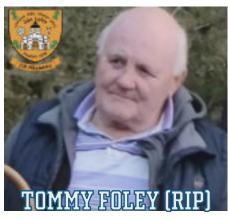
### Juvenile football

Our juveniles got back in the pitch in early March to prepare for the start of the upcoming Kildare League and Go Games schedule.

We had a full pitch each Monday evening, with kids from under 5's up to under 11's training week in week out. Our numbers grew again this year.

Lots of football was played during the course of the year, we had under 7s, under 8s, under 9s, under 10s and under 11s playing games so nobody was missing out on football.

### **Lost Friends in 2024**



Tommy Foley (RIP) Joint Club President, Dunlavin GAA Club, 1948-2024

On October 10th 2024 sad news arrived in Dunlavin and more particularly all within the Dunlavin GAA Club circle that

one of their joint Club Presidents had passed to his eternal reward after being ill for some time, the late Tommy Foley. Tommy was not one for attracting the lime light however it is fair to say the only place Tommy was out in front was on the field of play or

while working for our Club.

The large crowd that supported Tommy's family over the following days marked some of the contributions Tommy made to our Club and County also to say a fond farewell to a family man, Club man and a Community man. Over the years to a large extent Tommy Foley was Dunlavin GAA Club both on and off the field, his passing was marked with heavy hearts by all that knew him.

In GAA terms Tommy's career has been widely written about, his commitment and achievements as he served Club and County with distinction, a career which extended for decades achieving at all levels. From a young age showing the playing and leadership skills of the best in our country.

Club history records Tommy's involvement at all levels, player, captain, trainer, selector, Chairman, Fundraiser, mentor and finally with the honour of being a Club President carrying out one of his last duties in August 2023 at our Club Juvenile day.

All of the above was done second only to his family as an extremely proud Dunlavin GAA member, Dunlavin GAA Club meant everything to Tommy.

Our Club had several important days none more so than September 1977 and again 1981 winning Senior Football Championships, with Tommy's role pivotal on both occasions.

His career also involved hurling and in 1982 he played his leadership role when Dunlavin won their first Hurling Championship, Tommy being captain and trainer.

His involvement with our juveniles over the years could not be covered in a few words put on paper but it is suffice to say Tommy, with a small group of people were the glue of our juvenile club for manly years, in times that did not enjoy the finance and facilities of today.

Tommy over his lifetime was a very supportive Community man, again supported causes of need through fundraising events, again in different times than we currently enjoy. While always a passionate Dunlavin GAA man he became a very welcome friend to many clubs both within and outside Wicklow as he trained many Clubs over the years. Club friendships that still remain today, and indeed trained teams in England while working there.

When reflecting on Tommy we remember a service to this County of some 14 years, 1966 to 1980, with a Junior All-Ireland in 1969. During the 1984 celebrations Tommy was recognised as an outstanding player for the county during the previous 25 years. In 2017 Tommy was inducted into the Wicklow GAA Hall of Fame, an honour of which he was immensely proud of.

At Club level he started in a serious capacity in 1961 at U14 level, his career went through Junior, and Senior, winning finals, keeping our club up there with the best.

As Tommy's passing is marked and time moves on one thing is assured wherever Dunlavin GAA is mentioned Tommy will be central to that conversation for his commitment on and off the field of play.

Slan Tommy agus Ar dheis De go raibh do Anam.

To all the friends & family we have lost over the year, from past players to current members, our club extends our deepest sympathies to their families and loved ones, as we begin 2025 in their absence.

May they rest in peace.

### A thanks

We would like to thank all our club members, our community, and all who have supported us this year through fundraising, sponsorship, and those who helped out in anyway big or small.

A special thank you to all our sponsors in 2024 and all those who have supported the club generously this past year.

All in the club wish everyone a happy & healthy 2025.

### **LGFA**

It was a big year for our girls as we joined the LGFA and formed both under 8s and under 10s girls only teams, this was an amazing step for the girls and the

club, which was hugely beneficial to the girls as they were getting more football each week.

Well done to all the kids, parents and coaches for their commitment over the year.









### Adult men's senior football

Another team who had a successful year were our adult men's senior footballers.

The Division 1 league campaign started under lights at home in February against a dogged Tinahely team, with Éire Óg holding on for a slender win. Next up a tough away assignment against AGB, but Éire Óg came away with a 9-point win and a sparkling attacking performance to boot. Four more wins in a row left us with a home game against an unbeaten Rathnew to determine who would come top of the league. Following a breathless encounter that had

everything, Eire Og showed great heart by scoring 3 points from play in injury time to draw the game, and secure Division 1.

Two out of three wins in the top 4 group phase including a 1-12 to 0-10 win over Rathnew led to a Dunne Cup final and a third game in eight weeks against the same team rivals. A hard-earned 4-point win for Éire Óg led to more silverware.

# **Adult hurling**

2024 was also a hugely successful year for adult hurling in the club. The Junior hurlers reached both the League & Championship 'A' finals. Both were









Our first U13 team won the Wicklow Div1 league outright and our second teams made up of both U12s and U13 competed very strongly and also picked up silverware at the end of the year.

# **Club Sustainability**

In line with GAA guidelines the club appointed Olive O'Farrell as our Sustainability Officer at the start of the year. This is a new role within the Gaelic Athletic Association focused on promoting sustainable practices across the organization and its clubs. This role supports environmental responsibility, community well-being, and the long-term viability of GAA operations.

against Carnew and despite losing them narrowly, the development value to the younger players in getting to the latter stages will pay dividends to the club long into the future. Our Seniors had a year to remember, playing 28 matches in total. We were finally accepted into the Dublin hurling league. It gave us real impetus for the year and we were in contention for promotion right up to the last day.

In the championship we fielded two teams in junior camogie, a first for the club to field two adult teams in Championship. The Éire Óg 1 team just missed out on a semi-final spot in a very tough group stage, ultimately going on to win the Plate Final against Arklow Rocks.

The Éire Óg 2 team went from strength to strength as the games progressed, getting their reward for their commitment and skill with a comprehensive win over Annacurra in the Trophy final. Over the course of the year over 40 players took to the field, with all players getting huge amounts of game time, and many of our

U16s getting experience playing at Junior level. This will no doubt stand to us in the coming years.

# U13 boys football

We had three competitive U13 teams playing Groups A, D and E and two U12 teams competed in the U12 player pathway Teams were competitive in each division.





# **Camogie**

In the championship we fielded two teams in junior camogie, a first for the club to field two adult teams in Championship. The Eire Og 1 team just missed out on a semi-final spot in a very tough group stage, ultimately going on to win the Plate Final against Arklow Rocks.

The Éire Óg 2 team went from strength to strength as the games progressed, getting their reward for their commitment and skill with a comprehensive win over Annacurra in the Trophy final. Over the course of the year over 40 players took to the field, with all players getting huge amounts of game time, and many of our U16s getting experience playing at Junior level. This will no doubt stand to us in the coming years.

### **U16 Camogie**

The U16s had a remarkable journey filled with challenges that were met with resilience and determination. Despite facing injuries, remained competitive in the league and showcased strength as a team. A standout moment was the U15 girls bringing home silverware from Féile for the first time in the club's history—a truly historic achievement! Another exciting milestone for the club was winning the U16 shield final. It's clear that hard work and teamwork are paving the way for a bright future.









### **Adult ladies football**

Pride of place this year has to go to our adult ladies' LGFA team who achieved an incredible double winning both the Junior League and Championship! They showed immense resilience, putting last year's heartbreak of a final defeat behind them to power forward to the quarter-finals of their Leinster campaign. Congratulations to them and their management team, led by Peter O'Neill.

**U15 LGFA** 

2009 and 2010-born girls, had a memorable journey.

This season, our U15 Féile team, made up of our

Coached by Nicola Gibbons and Ciaran Marrinan, the team travelled to Bray in late April to represent the club in the Division 2 Wicklow Féile. Drawn into the same group as the host team, Bray, the competition was tough. Bray took their first match, with both Éire Óg and Bray coming out on top against St. Nicks. Éire Óg then moved on to face our neighbours Kilcoole and winners of Group 2, in a well-fought semifinal. After a hard-earned win, we found ourselves back on the field against Bray in the final. The final was intense, with both teams displaying skill and determination right to the very end. With a narrow win, Éire Óg emerged victorious, finishing with a scoreline of 1-02 to 1-03, a testament to the team's resilience and hard work.





# **SCÓR**

SCÓR in Éire Óg has enjoyed another excellent year. Interest in participating in both junior and senior categories continued after the success of the senior Éire Óg Set dancers in 2023.

The clubhouse was used extensively for practice sessions for our musicians, dancers and singers. A club culture night was held at the clubhouse during St. Patrick's weekend 2024 with performances from our junior and senior members. A bigger event like this is planned for 2025 to launch the SCÓR season whilst simultaneously providing a cultural event for all our members to experience and enjoy.

The Senior County competition was held at the end of March 2024 in Blessington, with fine performances in the music and singing categories and repeat success in the Set Dancing competition earning another County title. The team went on to dance at the Leinster Semi Final and qualified for the Leinster Final which was held in County Westmeath. The team placed 3rd out of 4 teams and received very positive feedback. At junior level, a newly formed set.







# **Glenealy Hurling Club**

2024 was a memorable year in the fundraising and development side of our clubs history. Building on the momentum gathered over the past few years we saw our first full sized pitch open in our new grounds in Ballyfree. A welcome addition alongside our all weather pitch and ball wall.

Early on in the year we launched our pitch hoarding campaign. This saw many local businesses contribute to our club in turn to have their advertisement in Ballyfree. This was a hugely successful campaign and we'd like to thank all those who put in tremendous work to get it off the ground and of course to our generous sponsors.

We obtained funding through the sports capital grant which will go towards the competition of a running track around our Astro with work due to commence in the new year.

Our fundraising and events committee teamed up with Glenealy Camogie Club to run "The Jungle Challenge" in November. This fundraiser exceeded every one of our expectations in so many ways. Our 24 contestants worked tirelessly for their

sponsorships and provided epic entertainment on the night, once again the local businesses who continue to support us and of course our village and community, the back bone of our club who always show us unwavering support.

The event was a sell out on the night and a fundraiser that will be talked about for many years to come in Glenealy. Congratulations to Glenn O'Gorman who was crowned King of the Jungle on the night. A special thank you to Fundraising Events Company who were a pleasure to deal with throughout.









# Who are Hollywood GAA

Hollywood GAA club was founded shortly after the founding of the Gaelic Athletic Association in 1884, in the village of Hollywood, County Wicklow. The club was formerly known as Hollywood Shamrocks. Hollywood GAA currently have two adult teams competing in the Intermediate and Junior B Championships and a newly formed LGFA club competing at U12. At underage from U11 to U19, they are amalgamated with Valleymount, Lacken, and Kilbride known as St. Kevin's. Throughout the decades the hard work and dedication of the local community has ensured the continued success of the club.

### **Junior Football Team**

Our second team competed in Division 4 of the league and in the Junior B championship. The Hennessy Cup competition got our junior team off to an earlier, but very welcome, start to the 2024 the season and it was tremendous to see them reach the semi-final, but it was our neighbours Dunlavin who ran out winners on the day. The competition was very useful to give players early game time and an opportunity for the younger players to transition to adult football.

Despite being competitive in the group stages of the junior B championship, we just missed out on making it to the knockout stages.

### **Nursery & Go Games**

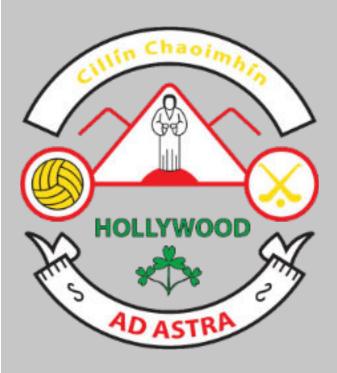
Our nursery and Go Games groups continue to go from strength to strength with numbers attending continuing to increase. Our thanks to all our volunteers who work tirelessly with this group and to Wicklow GAA for arranging games and blitzes for this age group. Our juvenile players particularly enjoyed the games played under lights towards the end of the season.



#### St. Kevin's

Our congratulations and thanks to the St. Kevin's coaches and committee who worked so hard, yet again this year, to provide football for all age groups from U11 to U19.







### **Intermediate Football**

2024 has been a good year for our club at all levels and age groups. We continue to field two competitive adult teams at a time when all clubs are struggling with player numbers.

Our Intermediate team just missed out on finishing in the top half of the Division 1A league campaign. A different result in just one game would have given them the opportunity to push for promotion to Division 1.

After a strong group stage performance in the Intermediate Championship, Hollywood secured their spot for the knockout stages but sadly, suffered a narrow defeat to Carnew Emmets in the 2024 D'Arcy Sands Intermediate County Final. Although it wasn't the result we hoped for, management and supporters alike will be looking forward to a more successful 2025. We have several young players being integrated into the squad and an additional cohort to come from this year's minor team which will add strength and depth to the panel for the year ahead.



### **LGFA**

This was a momentous year for Hollywood GAA as we registered and affiliated our first ever LGFA team. On a historic night for our club, April 25th, 2024, 14 girls became the first official LGFA team in the 138 years of our club.

### **U12's**

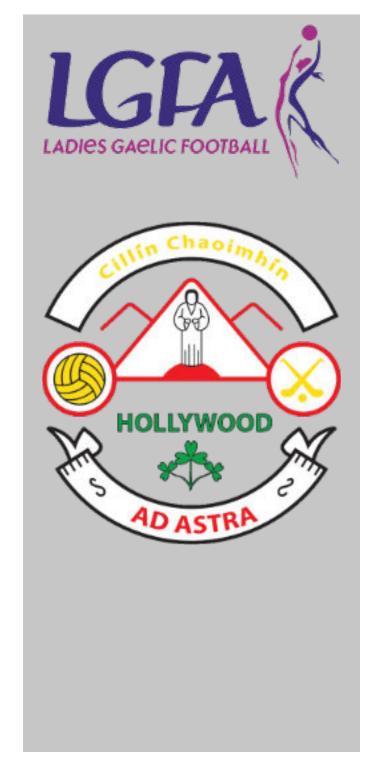
The U12 team was formed as part of a player pathway to facilitate our girls moving out of juvenile academy. It has been a resounding success for our club. The girls played 15 matches during the year and showed incredible skill, determination and had great enjoyment throughout the year. We are looking forward to building on same for the 2025 season.



# Gaelic for Mothers and Others

Now entering its third season, our Gaelic for Mothers and Others continues to a huge success story in our club. We now have more than forty ladies taking part. Our ladies played in several challenge games and blitzes, and they were all played with an infectious sense of goodwill and energy. Our ladies participated in the South Leinster Blitz which took place on June 15th in Bray Emmets GAA, County Wicklow.





# Club Events/Occasions 2024

### Lip Sync



Fundraising this year was focused on one main event. "Kiltegan Gaa Lip Sync Battle 2024". What an event this turned out to be. It's fair to say that this surpassed all our expectations. Where initially it was all about raising some much-needed funds, it soon grew into something much more special, which bonded a community and forged friendships for life. The committee, chaired by Paul Boland and a team of Anne Murphy, Grainne O'Toole, John Farrell, Kieran Fitzgearld, Michelle Byrne, Nigel Byrne,

Siobhan Doyle and Paula Boland, these people put unbelievable effort into this and by God it paid off. finishing up somewhere in the region of €86.000 profit. Thanks to anyone who helped out on the night or in any small way along the journey. Our community came out in droves to support our 13 wonderful acts and as a club we will be forever grateful for their support and generosity. A massive thank you to all the fantastic people in the acts who put on the show. The talent was off the charts and what is left to be said about our winning act "The Lotto Boys". It speaks volumes about what our club is all about to see the lads putting themselves out there and the younger members supporting them all the way. We were so lucky to have the amazing Caoimhe Byrne on board with us. Her infectious positivity, energy, and most importantly patience, really made the whole experience a special one for all involved. She really left a lasting impression on us all. To all our sponsors who helped out it any way, thank you. To our main lip sync sponsors Kaideen Knitwear and the Doogue family, thank you. Your continued support is really appreciated. This was an amazing journey from start to finish and one that will live long in the memory.

### National Lottery Good Cause Awards

In 2024, Kiltegan GAA Club were eligible to apply for these awards as a recipient of Sports Capital Funding in 2022. Our online application was one of approximately seven hundred in the Sports Category







across Ireland and we were selected as the Sports Wicklow Winner in June 2024. All county winners were then reassessed by the judges to select five National Finalists across Ireland in the Sports Category. In July 2024, we were delighted to hear that Kiltegan GAA club was selected as a National Finalist, the club received €1,000 and were invited to deliver a 5-minute pitch followed by questions to six judges in Dublin on 5th September 2024. An awards night would be held in Killashee on 12th October 2024.

The National Lottery representatives visited our club on 28th August 2024 for filming, photos and interviewed club representatives Ciaran O' Toole, Paula Boland & Adrian Keogh. Work progressed over many weeks on our planned pitch to the six judges which was delivered in Abbotstown, Co. Dublin by Paula Boland & Adrian Keogh, followed by questions and answers over the course of 15 minutes. Our pitch was well received and included a poem which summarises the epitome of our development work, our people and our great club.



Our club was also invited to nominate their Club Hero of the Year to attend on awards night and John Timmins was unanimously put forward for the phenomenal work he has done and still does for our club.

All roads then led to Killahsee Hotel in Naas on the 12th of October to the Good Cause Awards black-tie event and whilst we didn't take away a National Award, being there in itself was winning. It was just such an inspirational and humbling experience to







hear some of the stories of selfless life-changing work of so many volunteer groups across Ireland. We had a lovely evening together in good company, were honoured to represent "ár Club Beag le Croí Mór, Naomh Téagáin" and be recognised as one of the top five Sports Clubs in Ireland for our inclusive facility development work. The icing on the cake was that our club hero John Timmins was acknowledged for his lifelong selfless work for our club over so many years, and John and Liz met Marty!

Jarlath Burns. It is great to get the recognition for this as lots of time and effort has been going into the club in the area of Green Energy and Sustainability. Things like the wildflowers beside the astro, the LED lighting on the field, insulation in the gym and other things in the pipeline such as Solar Panels, keep cups for the shop, bottle bins, water refill stations, etc all adding to reduce our impact on the environment and reducing the running costs for our club.

### **Green Clubs**

Kiltegan GAA were recognised as a Green Club at a function in Croke Park in November. James Whelan was presented with the award from GAA President





#### **Meet for Mark**

Early November was the 1st anniversary of our fellow club member and friend Mark Pierce. The club decided to run a 24-hour walkathon in Mark's memory and possibly raise some funds for Pieta house counselling service along the way. We were bowled over with the response and reaction we got from the Pierce family, his friends, teammates and more importantly the wider community. It's a testament to Mark to see the crowd that turned out in support of his family. Hard to believe it's a year all ready. A great character that is sorely missed.

#### **Hall of Fame**

Early this year Sean Keogh was inducted into the Wicklow GAA Hall of Fame. An unbelievable achievement for Sean and a very proud moment for him, his family and our club. Sean's contribution to both Wicklow GAA and Kiltegan GAA over his lifetime has been incredible. From his heroic playing days to his successful days in management for club and county, Sean has done it all. Congratulations Sean. Well deserved.

# **Hurling Championship**

Senior Hurling Championship 2024 proved a real mixed bag of results and unfortunately concluded with another semifinal defeat to Carnew. 2 commanding results against Glenealy and Eire Og ensured qualification following 2 narrow defeats to Carnew and Bray in our opening games. We finished the league stage of the championship with a loss to St Pats.

The defeat to Carnew in the county semifinal was perhaps our most disappointing defeat of the year. Ultimately, we once again failed to play to our potential when it mattered most. Thanks to David Galway and his management team for all his work with this group over the year.

Our Junior Bs brought home the Cup after a replay with Avondale in Blessington. Having come back from the dead in the replay the lads put in a brilliant display from 1 to 24 and got the win. It was a just



reward for this group who had worked hard all year and was a great way to remember our dear friend and teammate, Mark Pierce, who's number 8 jersey was pitch side at every game. Congratulations to Eoin O'Neill on collecting the trophy on behalf of his teammates and well done to the management team of Liam Kayanagh. Pat Ivory. Denis Hayes. Eoin

O'Neill and Teresa Nolan on guiding this team all year.



# **Football Championship**

Our journey in the Senior Football Championship also ended in huge disappointment for us, losing out by a point in the semi-final to our neighbours Baltinglass. This was the 13th week on the bounce for a large number of the players and it finally took its toll, we had gone to the well one too many times. The team picked up some good results during the year gaining promotion to Division 1 for 2025 and losing by the narrowest of margins in the league final to Baltinglass. There was some further good work during the group stages of championship also, getting a draw out of the game vs St Pats when a defeat was imminent. A huge second half



performance vs Tinahely saw the lads turn around an 8-point deficit into a win and brilliant performance in Blessington saw us topple Baltinglass in a high scoring affair. It is progress again for this group guided by Victor Doyle.

It was also a disappointing year for the junior footballers who were beaten by Carnew in the semi-final of the Junior C Championship. A poor first half performance left it all to do in the second half in a wet and windy Ballinakill and ultimately ran out of time.

### **U7 & Kinder Football**

We had a busy year with the U7s, with good numbers showing up on a regular basis for training each Thursday evening. Training focused on movement and drills emphasising the basic skills of the game, working as a collective, having fun, etc.



the skill sets develop and refine in each individual from April through to September; and are optimistic about the future of this collection of players.

### **U7 & Kinder Hurling**

Similar to the U7 football, we had a busy year with the U7 hurling with large numbers turning up for training Tuesday evenings. Training focused on movement and drills emphasising the basic skills of the game, having fun and working as a collective, etc.

The hurlers also had a busy year attending Go Games fixtures; and generally fielded a team for most outings. The U7 hurlers also acquitted themselves very well at any of the fixtures; displaying the range of skills of the game (applicable at this age bracket), and competing very well.

### **U9** Football

As a continuation of the approach in 2023, game-based scenarios were dominant in training. Focus was continually on game play and skills execution. We were competitive against almost everyone we played. But there was one stand out day for the lads.

There was a Go Games in Ballymanus, and when we got down there, we only had 7 players. That meant no rest for any of them, and they all had to play every minute. The lads absolutely played out of their skins that day and we managed to win all our matches. Was a real highlight of the year for us.

### **U9** Hurling

There's been a change in the way the Go Games are for hurling now, and in 2023 it moved to about once a month, instead of every 2 weeks. It's a little more than once a month, but not the regularity we used to see before.

We did have a brilliant Blitz in Ballinkillen in Co. Carlow. This was in memory of the two Chadda brothers from the area, Ruari and Eoghan, called Teammates Forever. There were 4 clubs there, including Kiltegan/MI Dwyers. The Kiltegan team in

the u8's section actually won their final. And in a fitting tribute to the two boys, their 2nd cousin, our own Euan Gartland was able to accept the trophy on our behalf.

A brilliant experience and massive thanks to the club for providing a bus for all the children on the day, it really added to the atmosphere for the kids.

#### **U11 Football**

Similar to 2023, there were no official referees in 2024, was non-competitive, and results were texted into the Co Board after each match. Initially, matches were planned to determine the ability of the teams and put them in appropriate divisions then.

It's a big jump up from the younger Go Games matches to play full games of 25 mins a half, but new players adapted very well and were given great guidance by the older team members.

We had a mixed year, with some brilliant performances, but there were teams in Division 2 who certainly should not have been in Division 2. Annacurra gave us a bad beating in Kiltegan one evening, it was just a complete mismatch. However, we progressed as the season went on, and had a few very competitive games against Kilcoole and Avondale.

For the day of the finals, the format was slightly changed, with shorter games being played. The format suited us, and we ended up beating Avondale and almost got over Tinahely (who had beaten us well twice previously). But Donard got one over on us in the final game, so a valuable lesson was learned by the squad there too.

A very strong group of footballers, given the size of the panel.

### **U15 Football**

In 2024, Kiltegan GAA fielded a U-15 football team for the second year in a row. Our year started in January with strength and conditioning in the gym and we trained one night a week on the Astro pitch.

We were placed in Division 1 of the league. The league was very competitive for our panel of 22 players, we won our games against Rathnew, An Tochar and Annacurra, drew with AGB and narrowly lost to St. Pats. This resulted in us finishing third in the league.

The Wicklow Feile was played in Blessington on a very warm Saturday morning. We played four games in a row which was a very tough task, on a hot sunny day. We won 2 of our matches and lost 2.

For the championship, we were placed in the 'A' championship group. We played five games, won three and lost narrowly to Blessington and St. Pats. We finished third in our group and narrowly missed out on a place in the A championship final. We played AGB in the Shield final in Ballinakill and fought to the very end and came away with a one-point win.

# **Dearly Departed Friends**

The club would like to send condolences to anyone who has lost family or friends during the year. Former trainers Tom Foley, Vincent Harvey and Fr Martin O Connell passed away this year and we would like to thank them for their contribution to our club. May they Rest in Peace.