



THE CAMOGIE ASSOCIATION



#WEAREWICKLOW

YEARBOOK
2023

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As in previous years the 2023 Wicklow GAA Yearbook is an online publication in Acrobat PDF download format. To allow for file size restrictions the Yearbook is divided into different volumes as detailed below.

Followers can down each individual volume of every volume.

Wicklow GAA wishes to thank each of the Clubs individual PRO's who compiled and submitted all the content including photographs for their own clubs submission.

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We hope you enjoy reliving the memories of your Clubs activities in 2023.

Finally we wish all our sponsors and clubs continued success for 2024 and beyond.

SRMA

Wicklow GAA, PR & Communications Committee.

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Poc Fada.

Poc Fada

Wicklow Poc Fada 2023



Wicklow's Senior Poc Fada players

The 2023 edition of Wicklow's Poc Fada took place on Sunday 11th June in the COE Ballinakill, and it resulted in the largest number of players competing at both Senior and U16 levels. All in all 26 players took part on the day with 13 each for Hurling and Camogie. This was one of many firsts for Wicklow Poc Fada in 2024. Among others were the first Sister act to represent Wicklow at the provincial level. Also a first in this years competition was the awarding of County titles and medals in the hurling events.



Wicklow's 2023 Senior Poc Fada Champion Conor McNally, Bray Emmets, receiving his winners medal from County Chairman Damian Byrne.

Fresh from his victory in the Nickey Rackard Cup Final the Saturday before Bray Emmets Conor McNally stepped up to the challenge. Competing against Conor was Ian Clancy of Aughrim, Paddy Mellon from Arklow Rocks Parnell and Billy Molloy of Carnew Emmets.

As so often happens Poc Fada is no respecter of hurling prowess in fact it's the great leveller of the team game. While Conor added the Poc Fada County title to his growing collection of honours in Wicklow Hurling, he didn't have it all his own way. At the end of the course Conor achieved the victory with the minimum one poc victory, taking 17 pocs to complete the course. Ian and Billy finished joint second with 18 pocs, with Paddy finishing on 19 pocs. Only for Paddy taking a penalty poc for a lost slotar the result could have been a much closer finish.

The Under 16 event also had a one poc winning margin with St. Patrick's Wicklow Town Adam O'Brien taking 18 pocs to complete the U16 course.

Following the conclusion of the Hurling events the Ladies of Wicklow Camogie took centre stage in Ballinakill.

Under the watchful eye of Breeda Donnolly the 10 Under 16 girls were paired off with their spotters and scorekeepers to take on the same course as the U16 boys. Finishing with



"Sisters are doing it for themselves". Wicklow's 2023 Camogie Fada Champions, the Byrne sisters of Annacurra Camogie Club who both played in their own and acted as each others Gasóg in the Leinster Camogie Poc Fada finals on Mount Leinster.



Senior Hurling action from the Leinster Poc Fada final

another one poc victory with 19 Pocs was Sarah Doyle of Annacurra, who lead the field of 10 players.

Not to be out done by her younger sister was the Senior Camogie winner Emma Doyle who took 19 pocs to complete the Senior Camogie course. Emma was followed home by Abbie Cleary of Donard The Glen on 22 pocs and Jade Byrne of Kilcoole on 23 pocs.

So Wicklow Camogie would be represented by sisters at the Leinster Poc Fada Finals. Could the Doyle Sisters repeat the double wins from 2022 of the Lynch sisters from Cork?

While Poc Fada is seen as an individual event the Leinster Poc Fada Finals held on Mount Leinster highlighted how it's actually a team sport for the player. In Poc Fada each player



Senior Camogie action from the Leinster Poc Fada final

appoints their own spotter or Gasóg as they are called in Poc Fada. The Gasóg helps the player with both shot selection and finding the sliotar once hit. While Wicklow's Doyle sisters acted as Gasóg for each other, the reigning All-Ireland Hurling Champion Kilkenny's Killian Phelan also acted as Gasóg for his



Hurling action from the Leinster Poc Fada final

Clubmate in the Leinster Final on Saturday June 8th. So important is the role of Gasóg Killian's clubmate Matt Kenny qualified for the All-Ireland Poc Fada final.

While none of our Wicklow players qualified for the All-Ireland final out of Leinster in 2023, all have confirmed they intend to enter again in 2024. Conor McNally will need to keep a watchful eye on Adam O'Brien for the Senior Wicklow title. As also will Emma in Camogie, as Sarah has also promised to enter again in 2024.

Wicklow Poc Fada would like to thank Brendan Lawrence for the full page coverage in the Wicklow People newspaper of this years competition, one of many firsts for Poc Fada in Wicklow this year, we are sure this will increase it's interest for 2024.



Camogie action from the Leinster Poc Fada final



Allianz
na mBunscol **Cumann**
Chill Mhantáin

2023 – A Month by Month Report Across the Garden County

January

2023 kicked off with a Young Whistlers referee course for Hurling and Camogie in the North East of the county. There was a great turnout, with ten different schools represented on the day. The coaching session was led by North East GDA (Games Development Administrator), Conor Daly.

On Thursday 19th January, 3rd and 4th class girls displayed their brilliant camogie skills and talent in the Indoor Camogie Participation Blitz in Roundwood. There was a superb turn out from



Aughrim



each of the six schools that took part including, Kilcoole Primary School, St. Pat's Wicklow, St. Peter's, St. Fergals, St. Brigids and St. Laurence O'Tooles. Each team played three fast paced matches. The girls had a fantastic opportunity to practise their skills in a non-competitive environment which encouraged a positive experience for all players while also focusing on teamwork and sportsmanship. Every player had a chance to show off their skills and talent which made the day even more enjoyable.

In Aughrim it was the turn of the 3rd and 4th Class boys to show off their hurling skills. Schools represented included Carnew (2 teams), Aughrim (2 teams), Annacurra/Ballycoog/St. Saviour's (Rathdrum), Rathdrum BNS (2 teams), Crossbridge and Berna Chlé.

3rd and 4th class boys travelled to Roundwood to take place in the Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Chill Mhantáin Indoor Hurling Blitz on the 26th January. There were some great skills displayed in an atmosphere of sportsmanship and enjoyment.

February

On Thursday 23rd February there was a great day of indoor hurling/camogie for 1st and 2nd classes in An Tóchar GAA hall in Roundwood. 6 teams

participated from 2 different schools: St. Fergal's and Holy Rosary.

There was a great day of indoor football held in Aughrim on Thursday 23rd February. Schools represented included Laragh, Rathdrum, Aughrim, St. Saviours, Coolafancy, Kilcommon, Ballycoog/Annacurra, Crossbridge, Nuns Cross. Particular word of thanks to the Young Whistlers who did a fine job officiating.

There were some super skills on show in Baltinglass on Thursday 23rd February by the 5th and 6th class girls who took part in a football blitz. The sun shone and all had a great day.

March/April

A fantastic evening was had by those attending the Cornmarket National Awards in Letterkenny, Co. Donegal. Kilcoole Primary School was awarded 2nd place in the School of the Year category for the work being done in promoting Gaelic games and culture. This is a countrywide competition so it is a huge honour for the school. Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Chill Mhantáin was given a Merit Award for its work in Public Relations. Thanks to the local media for all their exposure of Gaelic games in primary schools across the county, without this such an award would not be possible. Kilcoole Primary School was represented on the night by Brian Cornyn (Rúnaí Cumann na mBunscol Chill Mhantáin), Emily Murphy and Pamela McDermott (PRO Cumann na mBunscol Chill Mhantáin); and Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Chill Mhantáin was represented by Cathaoirleach Ciara Fagan and Cisteoir Eamonn Hughes. Kilcoole legend Jimmy Hatton was remembered on the night. He featured in the entry from Kilcoole Primary School as he had been interviewed by the pupils. All in



Dunlavin



Gaelscoil an Inbhir Mhóir

Cumann na mBunscol Chill Mhantáin express their sympathy to the Hatton family on their loss. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

Day 1 of the Allianz Coughlan Cup started with a bang in Bray Emmets on 2nd March. The competition for 5th and 6th class boys from North/East Wicklow was very well subscribed with 29 teams taking part, representing 17 different schools. The boys certainly made the most of the opportunity to practise their skills with some fine team work and point taking on show on the day. Referees Jonah, Leo, Ted, Donncha, Ella and Amelie were a fantastic help in the smooth running of the day.

Participating teams: Kilmacanogue (2), St. Joseph's, Glenealy, St. Brigid's, Greystones (2), St. Laurences, Greystones (2), Greystones ETNS (3), St. Cronan's, Bray (2), Ravenswell, Kilcoole, St. Fergals (2), St. Peters, Newtown (2), Gaelscoil na gCloch Liath (2), Holy Rosary, Ashford (2), Gaelscoil Cill Mhantáin (2), Roundwood, St. Kevins (2).

There was a 5th and 6th class girls blitz as well as a 3rd and 4th class boys blitz held in Baltinglass and Hollywood respectively. The focus of these blitzes was on participation. Schools represented at the girls blitz in Baltinglass included Valleymount, Dunlavin, Baltinglass and Hollywood national schools. The same schools attended the boys' blitz in Hollywood, with the addition of Donard NS.

Bray Emmets GAA club played host to Day 1 of the Wicklow Times Shield Girls Football Blitz on Thursday 16th March. 19 teams participated in the Blitz on a day where the weather presented all four seasons to us! Teams from the following schools were present; Newtownmountkennedy PS, Kilcoole PS, St Peter's, St Fergal's, St Joseph's Glenealy, Gaelscoil na gCloch Liath, Gaelscoil Chill Mhantáin, Roundwood, St Patrick's Wicklow Town, Ravenswell, Greystones ETNS, Holy Rosary Wicklow Town and Kilmacanogue NS. Each school got the opportunity to play at least four matches. There was a high standard of football skills on display.

After an absence of 3 years, it was a pleasure to see the Allianz Coughlan Cup finals day back in full swing! Having been graded from Day 1 all seven divisions proved to be very competitive, with many positions only settled by score difference. Congratulations to St. Kevin's Team 1 who were worthy winners of the Division 1 Coughlan Cup. Roundwood N.S. pushed St. Kevin's all the way in what was a very competitive division. Kilcoole P.S. and St. Laurence's Team 1 completed this highly skilful group. St. Cronan's Team 1 were victorious in Division 2 taking home the inaugural O'Riordan Cup with a fine display of skill and team work. Ashford Team 1, Gaelscoil na gCloch Liath 1 and Newtown 1 pushed St. Cronan's all the way with

Ashford ultimately claiming the runner's up position. This group were a pleasure to watch play with some lovely point taking on display in windy conditions. With over 300 children playing across the 14 pitches this was a fantastic day for Gaelic Games in the county. Well done to all the children who competed and served up a truly magnificent feast of football!

Full results:

Division	Winner	Runner Up	Placed
1	St Kevin's 1	Roundwood	Kilcoole, Laurence's 1
2	St Cronan's 1	Ashford 1	Newtown 1, Gaelscoil na gCloch Liath 1
3	St. Cronan's 2	St Joseph's	St Laurence's 2, Gaelscoil na gCloch Liath 2
4	St Fergal's 1	Gaelscoil Chill Mhantáin 1	Kilmacanogue 1, St Kevin's 2, St Pat's 1
5	Greystones CNS	Ravenswell	Greystones ETNS 1, Newtown 2
6	Holy Rosary	Gaelscoil Chill Mhantáin 2	Kilmacanogue 2, Greystones ETNS 2, St. Fergal's 2
7	St. Peter's	St. Pat's 2	Greystones ETNS 3, Ashford 2

The County Skills Challenge Final was held on Friday 24th March in Ballinakill. The top performing pupils had the opportunity to represent their school and county during the half-time of selected All Ireland Series games during the summer, what an opportunity! Thanks to the Wicklow GDAs for running the tests and for all their organisation.

Congratulations to those who qualified:

Boys Football

Harry Kavanagh, Scoil Naomh Íosaif
Kevin McCart, Ravenswell Primary School

Girls Football

Lily Monahan, Scoil Naomh Íosaif
Hurling

Simon Lynch, St Joseph's Glenealy
Camogie

Lily Foley, Tynock National School
Lilli Hogan, Annacurra NS

Day 2 of the Girls' Football Wicklow Times Shield was held in Bray Emmets on Thursday 30th March. This was the final competition of the girls' football schedule this year. There were 24 teams participating from the following schools: Kilmacanogue NS, Newtownmountkennedy PS,



Gaelscoil na gCloch Liath



Gaelscoil na Lochanna

Kilcoole PS, Scoil na Coroine Mhuire Ashford, St Laurence's, St Brigid's, St Peter's, St Fergal's, Greystones ETNS, Greystones CNS, Gaelscoil Na gCloch Liath, Gaelscoil Chill Mhantáin, Roundwood NS, Holy Rosary Wicklow Town and Ravenswell. The teams were split into 6 divisions for the competition with the top team in each division crowned winners. Over the three games played by each team, there was a wonderful exhibition of football skills. Well done to all schools and children who participated. See winners and runners up from each division is below.

Division 1 – Winners: St Laurence's, Runners up: Kilmacangogue.

Division 2 – Winners: Newtownmountkennedy PS, Runners up: Holy Rosary Wicklow Town

Division 3 – Winners: Greystones ETS, Runners up: Gaelscoil Chill Mhantáin

Division 4 – Winners: Gaelscoil na gCloch Liath, Runners up; St Laurence's

Division 5 – Winners: St Peter's, Runners up: Gaelscoil Chill Mhantáin

Division 6 – Winners: Greystones ETS, Runners up: St Fergal's

Primary teachers in the North East of the county attended a coaching course on the basic rules of rounders as well as its main coaching points. It was held in Kilcoole Primary School on Thursday April 27th. Retired teacher, Michael Dowling from Laois brought great energy and enthusiasm to this practical course with lots of activities, training tips

and game play scenarios discussed. Michael has over 30 years of experience in coaching rounders and was very engaging in delivering this PE course.

May

South Wicklow held its Allianz Boys and Girls 5th and 6th Class Cup competitive football blitzes on the 11th May in Ballinakill. There was also a mixed competition for smaller schools. Well done to all who took part. The winners were as follows:

- Boys Cup: Ballyconnell
- Boys Shield: Aughrim
- Girls Cup: Ballyconnell
- Girls Shield: Gaelscoil an Inbhir Mhóir
- Mixed Cup: Bearna Chlé
- Mixed Shield: Coolafancy

An Allianz Cumann na mBunscol football blitz for 5th and 6th class boys was held in Blessington GAA club on May 4th. These blitzes are open to all primary schools in West Wicklow. Schools



Greystones Educate Together



Holy Rosary

represented on the day were 2 St Mary's SNS Blessington teams, 2 St Joseph's Baltinglass teams, Vallemount, Hollywood and Dunlavin. In total 94 boys played. A great day was had with lots of fun and football. Big thanks to Cormac Noone, GDA and Blessington GAA club for all their help on the day.

Ballinakill was blessed with great weather along with a feast of hurling on the 18th May, as over 170 hurlers descended on the Wicklow Centre of Excellence. 13 teams competed across 3 divisions with all games played with a great level of skill, speed and sportsmanship.

In the division 1 competition Carnew N.S, St Patrick's N.S, St. Cronan's N.S, Aughrim N.S and Kilcoole Primary School went to battle for the Credit Union Cup. Kilcoole who last won the cup did everything they could to try and retain their title. However, it was the class and skill of Carnew N.S who prevailed on the day with St. Patrick's N.S finishing runners up. Referee Eddie Leonard was complementary of all the players during the presentation and also wished St. Patrick's N.S teacher & mentor Billy Cuddihy all the best with the Wicklow senior hurling team in the Nicky Rackard hurling final.

Glenealy have produced many brilliant hurlers for Wicklow over the years and they can be excited about a few more on the way, with the display from St. Joseph's N.S as they took the division 2 title.

Gaelscoil na gCloch Liath, Scoil Chualann & Rathdrum N.S contested all games with a never say die attitude and on another day any of them could've come out on top.

Greystones CNS, Scoil Chualann, St Patrick's NS and St. Cronan's did battle for the division 3 title. It was Greystones CNS who emerged victorious, playing in their very first Credit Union Cup. The

other 3 teams can hold their heads up high with how they played, with many of them still eligible for this competition next year. Great credit must go to all the teachers and mentors who turned out teams on the day. They are setting a great example in promoting hurling in Wicklow.

June

This year's Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Sports Day took place in Charlesland Sport and Recreation Park, Greystones on Wednesday 7th June. There was great excitement in the lead up to this event as it had not taken place since 2019. Schools represented included Gaelscoil na gCloch Liath, Greystones Community National School, Greystones Educate Together, Holy Rosary Wicklow, Kilcoole Primary School, Kilmacanogue, St. Coen's Rathnew, St. Fergal's, St. Mary's and St. Gerard's Enniskerry, St. Laurence's Greystones, St. Patrick's Bray, St. Brigid's Greystones, St. Kevin's, Newtown, Ashford, Curtlestown, St. Peter's, Roundwood, Woodstock ETNS, St. Cronan's and Gaelscoil Uí Chéadaigh.

The day began with a parade around the track with each school displaying their banner, wearing their school's colours with pride and singing Amhrán na bhFiann before events got under way. Cathaoirleach Ciara did a fine job of MC on the day and kept every event ticking along nicely. Events included individual races, team relays, tug of war, ball throw, long puck, long kick and long jump. Each boy and girl represented their school impeccably and should be very proud of themselves. Special thanks to all the teachers,



KPS



Laragh

parents, past pupils, first aid team and volunteers who assisted in the running of the day. Thanks to Teresa Kinnane and the staff in Charlesland, we are grateful to have the use of such fantastic facilities. The Sports Day is a day run by volunteers and without such good nature and teamwork it would be possible to hold such an event, to all of those Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Chill Mhantáin are indebted. Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine!

Most importantly well done to each and every child who took part, many of whom have seldom, or maybe never, ran on a track before so this is a wonderful experience for them. We hope it gives them a grá for it and that they will be back again. The level of sportsmanship displayed on the day was truly remarkable. Children could be seen shaking hands at the end of events, congratulating each other on the podium and helping each other out. This lovely atmosphere of sportsmanship was a credit to them and their schools. It is days like this that children remember and the Cumann na mBunscol Sports Day is one such memory to cherish.

Baltinglass GAA club was the venue for a sunny Allianz Cumann na mBunscol blitz on June 15th for 1st and 2nd class boys and girls in West Wicklow. 22 teams took part, which meant 175 boys and girls were playing, what fantastic promotion of the game! Schools participating on the day included St Mary's JNS Blessington, Gaelscoil na Lochanna,

Kilbride, Hollywood, Valleymount, Dunlavin and Knockananna. Each team played three matches as the children enjoyed a fabulous day practising their GAA skills and revelling in the opportunity to pull on their school jerseys for the very first time. Many thanks to Baltinglass GAA, GDA Cormac Noone and all the parents and teachers who made the day possible by organising, coaching and refereeing.

There was an Allianz football participation blitz for 3rd and 4th class held on the 15th June in Ballinakill. The schools who participated in the Girls' blitz included Laragh, Ballyconnell, St. Saviour's, Aughrim, Our Lady's, and Gaelscoil an Inbhir Mhóir; and in the Boys/Mixed blitz, Laragh, Shillelagh, St. Saviour's, Rathdrum BNS, Aughrim, and Gaelscoil an Inbhir Mhóir. Thanks to all involved in the organisation and smooth running of the event, particularly the Young Whistlers who refereed.

Before schools finished up for the holidays in June many Wicklow players visited various schools around the county with All-Ireland trophies, many of whom are past pupils and have graced the fields at Cumann na mBunscol competitions. The Senior hurlers brought the Nicky Rackard cup, the Under-17 hurlers brought the Celtic Challenge trophy and the Under-14 ladies footballers brought the Bronze Football cup. It was heartening to see excitement ripple through schools as these players



Nuns Cross and Young Whistlers



Ravenswell

were greeted as the All-Ireland winning heroes they are and asked to sign autographs and pose for photos. Hopefully these visits will inspire the next generation to bring more cups back to the Garden County, as the saying goes, 'success breeds success!'

Summer '23

INTO Mini Sevens – An Unbelievable Croke Park Experience

What an unbelievable experience I had in Croke Park. I met some great people and the atmosphere was amazing. The pitch was fantastic to play on, so smooth. I have got the potential and mindset to play there in years to come. Thanks to all that made this happen, it was an amazing opportunity and a pleasure to play in Croke Park.

By K. McCart, Ravenswell Primary School, Bray.

A Wonderful All-Ireland Final Half-Time Experience

I was very excited when I was told by Ms. Mulhall, my teacher, that I was going forward to the skills competition in Ballinakill. The 24th March was the coldest, windiest day ever, I thought to myself, I have to work extra hard. I was over the moon to get through and when I returned to school, St Joseph's NS Glenealy, everyone was clapping and cheering, such a feeling. In June news came through from Ms Ryan, Cumann na mBunscol that I would attend the All-Ireland, I was beside myself. Then just last week on 17th July the tickets arrived and the itinerary for the day from Ms. Harte. Even better when I found out that John Keenan was the referee, I was very happy. I went to David Moran Hurls and picked out a new hurl for the day. I made sure it had a red grip to represent my club, Glenealy. On Sunday morning I was up early and in the Barbara Ward Community Centre I met my teammates for the

day. Lads, from Offaly, Laois, Longford, Mayo and Limerick. We were brought over to Croke Park. We got a lovely meal and were kitted out. I was given the Kilkenny Jersey No. 2. It was so exciting! At this point, I couldn't eat, I just wanted to get out on the pitch. We sat for the first half in our teams, I had great craic with the lads, shouting for Limerick. The atmosphere was electric and then best part, we walked out onto Croke Park and played on front of 82,000 people! What a great feeling and pitch was perfect, it felt so good, like carpet. The rest of the day was brilliant too, the second half was fantastic, it was great to be there to see Limerick win their fourth All-Ireland final, they were class. Hard luck to Kilkenny. Thanks to John Keenan for taking the time for a photo after the match. I had such an amazing day and will have the memories forever. Thank you so much to Ms. Mulhall and all at St Joseph's NS, Glenealy, Cumann na mBunscol, INTO, the lovely ladies in the Barbara Ward Community Centre, Croke Park staff and stewards, Glenealy Hurling Club and Wicklow GAA.

By Simon Lynch, 5th Class, St. Joseph's NS, Glenealy, Co Wicklow.

September

Cumann na mBunscol began the school year as it had finished up, with a full calendar planned; and



Scoil Chaoimhín Naofa



Scoil Chualann

there was a huge turnout for the opening blitz of the fixture list on Thursday 21st September in Bray Emmets GAA Club. 16 different schools were represented on the day, bringing 31 teams for a festival of football on a sunny September morning! The schools in attendance were:

Newtownmountkennedy PS, Greystones Community NS, St Peter's, St Laurence's, Ravenswell, St Brigid's, Scoil Chualann, Roundwood, Gaelscoil na gCloch Liath, Gaelscoil Chill Mhantáin, Kilmacanogue NS, Nun's Cross, Greystones ETS, Gaelscoil Uí Chéadaigh, Holy Rosary Wicklow and Scoil Na Coroine Mhuire, Ashford. It was great to see a range of schools in attendance and giving the opportunity to over 300 girls to take part in the participation blitz. The games were spread out across 13 pitches. Each school played up to 5 games on the day. The games were played in great spirit and were an enjoyable watch for all spectators. There was a fantastic display of and team work in each match. The coaching in clubs and schools is evident with the level of skill that was on display in the games. Mile buíochas to all schools for making the day an enjoyable experience for all.

The AGM was next on the list on the 13th September in Laragh, with special thanks to Pádraig Murphy for hosting in Scoil Chaoimhín Naofa. Some lucky AGM participants won sports equipment such as a Wicklow jersey, footballs,

sliotars, helmets, hurls, water bottles, bibs and cones for their schools.

The Young Whistler referees were trained up in Gaelic football in the North East of the county on Wednesday September 27th in Kilcoole Primary School. This course has grown from strength to strength over the last number of years from 12 to 26 participants. There was a wide representation across the district, with thirteen different schools represented on the day. The participants were made up of mature, responsible 5th/6th class boys and girls who share a passion for Gaelic football and are interested in learning more about refereeing. The coaching session was led by North East GDA Garrett Doyle, who engaged the group in discussion about the basic rules of the game and how best to communicate those rules to players, coaches and spectators alike. The course content covered topics such as: Motivation to be a referee, Knowledge of rules, Problem scenarios and Communication styles. The children worked very well together in group and pair work and showed a high level of engagement and enthusiasm throughout.

Date: September 28th 2023

Sport: Gaelic football

Venue: Aughrim Indoor Centre

September 28th was a great day for members of 5th and 6th Class girls from Scoil Chaoimhin Naofa, Laragh. We played four matches against Ballycoog/Annacurra, Aughrim 2, Annacurra and Aughrim 1. Everyone had such an exciting day and all teams played excellently. What really made the day so enjoyable was the incredible teamwork and great sportsmanship that our team and other teams showed. What also made our day even better was the encouragement from other teams and teachers supporting each other. The bus ride



St Kevin's Div 1 Coughlan Cup Winners



St Laurence's Div 1

back to school was a lot quieter than the ride there, as all of us were about to fall asleep in our seats but we were still chatting away about the fun time that we had. Over all it was a fantastic day and we are all looking forward to the next blitz even if it is a while to come yet.

Kirsten Clotworthy

October

The 5th of October saw teams take to the field in Bray Emmets for the first camogie blitz of the year. Schools represented included Scoil Chualann, Gaelscoil na gCloch Liath, Greystones Educate Together, St. Fergal's, St. Laurence's, St. Brigid's, Gaelscoil Uí Chéadaigh and St. Joseph's. Well done to the girls for a great day of skills and sport.

On the 12th October, West Wicklow held a blitz for girls in 5th and 6th class on a fantastic morning weather-wise in Hollywood. 7 teams took part made up of Baltinglass NS, Blessington Senior National School, Gaelscoil na Lochanna, Vallemount and Hollywood. All the games were very competitive with all the teams closely matched. Special mention to Mr Moran and Mr Timmins for helping with the refereeing on the day.

Blessington was the venue for a very enjoyable hurling blitz for 3rd and 4th class boys and girls in

West Wicklow. Attendance was very positive with over 70 children making light of the autumnal conditions. There was a fantastic mix of experienced players who delighted in getting to represent their schools at the sport they love and new players who were eager to pick up a hurl and participate in a hurling blitz for the first time. Well done to all the schools involved: Scoil Nioclais Naofa Dunlavin, Hollywood NS, Gaelscoil na Lochanna (2 teams), St. Mary's SNS Blessington (4 teams). Special thanks to Conor Daly GDA, Blessington GAA and Western Gaels for their help in coordinating the blitz, providing hurleys and helmets and setting up pitches.

There was a fantastic attendance in Bray Emmets for the 5th and 6th class boys hurling participation blitz on Thursday, 12th of October. Fifteen teams from ten different schools put on an exhibition of hurling for those who were lucky enough to attend. The massive potential for hurling in the Greystones area was highlighted by the fact that six different teams lined out from the area; two from Greystones C.N.S, two from Greystones Educate Together and one each from Gaelscoil na gCloch Liath and St. Laurence's. It is no wonder either, how Bray Emmets are becoming a hurling powerhouse with the work that is being done in the local primary schools. Two excellent teams St. Cronan's took part, along with a very talented team from Scoil Chualann. St. Fergal's of Bray have



St Mary's Coolfancy



St Mary's SNS Blessington

been putting in super work in recent times, also turned out 2 teams. Two quality teams from St. Patrick's N.S Wicklow Town, one skilful team from Kilcoole and an excellent side from St. Joseph's Glenealy made up the rest. Every team got to play four 10-aside games each. This meant that every player got plenty of touches and were able to experience playing in a range of positions. Year after year, the numbers and skill levels of the young players continue to improve, which is testament to all the hard work being done by teachers and hurling coaches in Wicklow schools. A big thanks must go out to Cumann na mBunscol treasurer Eamonn Hughes who presented every school who attended on the day with a pack of sliotars. I'm sure they will be put to great use!

November

Allianz Cumann na mBunscol held a Young Whistlers referee course for Hurling and Camogie in the North East of the county on Wednesday November 8th led by Conor Daly.

Also held on the 8th, the rescheduled 3rd & 4th class Girls Participation Blitz took place in Bray Emmets GAA Club in sunny and dry conditions. 30 teams from various schools participated on the day with each team playing four matches. The matches were very competitive with lots of great footballing talent on display. There were no goalkeepers so the emphasis was on point-taking to score. Many examples of great shooting were on view for all the spectators to see. A huge thank you to our Young Whistlers from 5th & 6th class who came along to assist with refereeing the matches. Many of these children recently completed a Young Whistler Course. Well done all! The day of matches was a great success and it was very encouraging to see over 300 girls participating in the blitz. Well done to all schools who were

involved and who are promoting Gaelic Games in their schools. The participating schools were; Newtownmountkennedy PS, St Brigids, St Laurences, Greystones ETNS, Greystones Community School, Gaelscoil Clocha Liatha, Gaelscoil Uí Chéadaigh, Roundwood NS, Scoil Na Coroine Mhuire Ashford, Nun's Cross, Gaelscoil Chill Mhántáin, St Patricks WW Town, St Peters, Holy Rosary and Kilmacanogue NS.

Following the disappointment of having September's blitz cancelled due to poor weather conditions the 5th and 6th class boys of the North East were truly chomping at the bit to get going on November 9th. Luckily, we were blessed with a fine day this time around. The turnout was huge with 37 teams participating on the day. It was great to see the wide range of schools in attendance giving their boys the opportunity to pull on their school jerseys and take part in this participation blitz.

Bhi craic agus ceisteanna againn i Lynhams oíche Déardaoin seo chaite. Over one hundred pupils from all over the county made the trip to Laragh for the annual Allianz Cumann na mBunscol, Tráth na gCeist. Lynham's did brilliantly to accommodate us again as the event continues to grow in popularity year on year. Twenty-seven



St Pat's



Tinahely

teams competed across eight rounds, racking their brains to dredge up past players, managers and generally obscure knowledge. In the end, St. Patrick's NS, Wicklow Town came out on top for the first time in well over a decade. They scored a total of 59 points on the night. Second place was decided by a tie break question, as both Roundwood NS and Kilcoole PS were tied on 57 points, and it was the Roundwood school who pipped it. A huge thanks must go to the schools who donated ever so generously to our raffle, with a huge haul of GAA equipment, and the odd bit of chocolate being brought home by many young pupils. The teachers present on the night were flat out handing out the prizes, on top of collecting, correcting and updating the scores. Tá buíochas ar leith ag dul dóibh as a gcúnamh. Finally, thanks to all the parents who brought the young stars to Laragh, on a dark and uninviting November evening. Go raibh maith agaibh as bhur dtacaíocht leanúnach.

There was great excitement on Thursday 16th November as the much-anticipated rescheduled 3rd & 4th class boys' participation football blitz got under way. For many of the boys it was their first experience of an Allianz Cumann na mBunscol blitz and they certainly made the most of the



West Wicklow Girls

opportunity with a fine array of skills and team work on display. The turnout on the day was very positive with 27 teams representing 12 different schools. A special word of thanks and praise for the many Young Whistlers who assisted with refereeing at the blitz. All the Young Whistlers went about their task in a very fair, friendly and assured manner. Schools represented: Kilmacanogue NS (2), Newtown (2), Ashford (3), St. Laurence's (5), St. Cronan's (2), Nuns Cross (2), Greystones Community National School (2), Greystones Educate Together (3), St. Brigid's, St. Peter's, Holy Rosary (2), Gaelscoil na gCloch Liath (2).

Well done to all the schools who participated in the recent indoor blitzes for 1st and 2nd class boys and girls held in Aughrim. Special mention to the Young Whistlers who took charge on the day, it was great to see you putting skills learned into action.

Girls' teams: St. Saviour's, Tinahely, Annacurra/Ballycoog, Laragh, Nuns Cross and Aughrim.

Boys' teams: Aughrim, Bearna Chlé, Nuns Cross, Annacurra, Ballycoog/Annacurra, St. Saviour's, Kilcommon, Crossbridge, Rathdrum, Laragh and Tinahely.

Allianz Cumann na mBunscol held a Young Whistlers referee course in Aughrim for children in the south of the county. Well done to all the boys and girls who volunteered to be trained up as Young Whistlers and we look forward to seeing you refereeing games in your locality in the future.

The 24th November was a night to remember for Allianz Cumann na mBunscol when guest of honour Brian Cody launched the 'Caoga Bliain ag Fás' book which documents the history of Cumann na mBunscol since its foundation in 1971. The book has been a project for the last 3 years for authors Ciarán Crowe and Cathaoirleach Joe

Lyons. Every county in the country is represented and it would be an excellent stocking filler for Christmas and a good read for the long winter evenings. Wicklow Cumann na mBunscol was represented on the night by Ciara Fagan, Andrew Cornyn and Jim O'Riordán.

Finally, Cumann na mBunscol Chill Mhantáin would like to take this opportunity to thank all teachers, parents and volunteers who have helped make such a jam-packed fixtures list possible. Thanks to the local GAA clubs where we are always made welcome whenever we request the use of their facilities. Thanks to the County Board for their support, as well as Hugh Kenny and his team of excellent coaches who co-ordinate events in all regions, with particular mention to Garrett Doyle, Conor Daly, Darren Hayden and Cormac Noone. Thanks to Dave Barry and Willie Braine from Bray Emmets who set up pitches and are instrumental in the running of the blitz days; also, to the transition year pupils from Coláiste Ráithín and Presentation College Bray who referee and contribute hugely to the smooth running of the blitzes in the North East.

Most importantly, we want to say thank you and well done to the children who participate in such a sporting manner in our activities. The primary school games, for many is their first exposure to Gaelic games and we hope it is a positive one. We look forward to another year of progression and hard work where our efforts are concentrated on making Gaelic games the games of choice of our pupils. Our aim is that every child in our schools is given the opportunity to participate so that they develop a love of our national sports and culture in an atmosphere of sportsmanship, safety but most of all fun. Looking forward to 2024 already!



St Pat's 1st Place



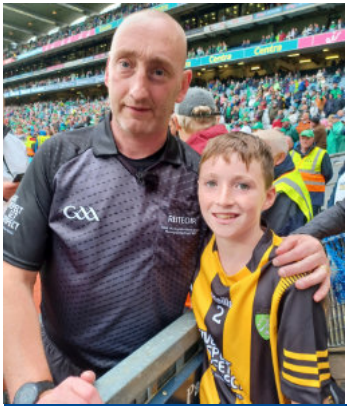
Boys Relay Winners



Girls Relay Winners



Hurling Young Whistlers



Meeting our GAA hero's



National Awards 2023



Rounders



Nicky Rackard and Celtic Challenge in KPS



Presenting sliotars



Young Whistlers Group



Young Whistlers South



U14 Ladies in KPS

