



# 2023

**Clubs**  
Barndarrig  
Blessington  
Bray Emmets  
Carnew Emmets

GAA

**WHERE WE ALL BELONG**

*#WEAREWICKLOW*



# An Bearn Dearg CLG. Barndarrig GAA.



## Barndarrig Hurling

Following a difficult 2022, the decision was made to drop down to junior hurling in 2023 to re-group. As well as this, a proposal was put forward to the county board early in the year for Barndarrig and Avondale to join forces and enter a Senior hurling team into the championship. This allowed some of our hurlers the chance to compete against the best in the county and though results went against us, performances were strong,

with all of the lads being more than capable of making the step up.

The Junior league was testing, missing players through injury and inter-county duty, it was a chance for our extended panel to show what they are made of. The return of some former players who had taken career breaks was welcome and contributed massively to us winning the league. With a very hectic schedule, we set our sights on winning the championship.

We started well, but probably weren't hurling to our potential. Defeat to a dogged and skilful Eire Óg was the catalyst to our victory on the county final day. A special congratulations to Andrew Kavanagh who won the Nicky Rackard championship with Wicklow and was selected to represent Ireland in the Shinty challenge, but missed out on that honour to play in the Intermediate football county final. Thanks to Jonny, Tom, Brian and Damian for the year.

## Barndarrig Football

The lads started back in early December, with strength and conditioning training in Arklow Rugby Club, and back on the field in mid-January under the watchful eye of Damian Gilligan, as well as club stalwart Kieran O'Brien who had returned to the

football set up. Similarly to the hurling, missing players through injury and intercounty duty early in the year allowed some of the fringe players extensive game time, developing our squad and proving invaluable as the year went on. The league was fruitful in that sense, winning all of our games except for defeat to Stratford and drawing with St. Pats. The league final was a repeat of the last round of the league which we won to secure promotion back to division 2 for 2024. Next up was the first block of championship games, where we defeated Ballymanus, Kilcoole and Coolkenno, securing our place in the quarter final early in the competition. After a brief break for hurling, we resumed with two losses to Newtown and Hollywood, though we were still confident we could recreate our earlier form and make an impact.

We drew Carnew in the Quarter Final and after a rapid start where we should have been further ahead, Carnew as expected threw everything at us and led 2-08 to 1-08 with 5 minutes left. We hit 5 points without reply to take a 2 point win and went on to meet Vallemount in the semi-final.

Nothing was being taken for granted considering the battles we had with Vallymount over the years. On the day, we ran out 1-16 to 0-04 winners, where everything went well for us and Vallemount probably didn't get going. This was the first time there was talk outside of the group that we were potential



Junior Hurling



## Intermediate Football

championship winners, having been installed as complete underdogs at the start of the year.

We faced beaten 2022 finalists Annacurra in the final, after a dominant first half, we led 0-06 to 1-01. Turning around to play with the wind, we had chances to extend our lead but we didn't take them and allowed Annacurra back into the game. We conceded a late goal, to put us a goal down in injury time.

The next 2 minutes will live on in the memories of everyone present. We quickly won the knockout and scored a point from a scramble in the square, where our physical size was causing havoc. The knockout was won, the mark moved up for holding and changed to a free, another ball floated in and a penalty was awarded for an incident in the square. Jonny Carlin slotted the peno and we won the knockout under the stand to cue the full time whistle and victory was snatched from the jaws of defeat! Just reward for a special group who secured Senior Football status for the first time in the club's history. Celebrations lasted long into the following week!

This topped off a historic year for the club, having won the league and championship in both hurling and football, with 17 dual players contributing, and playing championship games week on week, sometimes playing 3 championship games in 7 day periods.

Massive thanks to Damian for the huge energy he brought, Jonny for his work on S&C and Kieran for his stellar work behind the scenes. Thanks also to Martin Cullen Sr for his tireless work

on providing everything we needed and the committee for allowing us the opportunity to play.

Congratulations also to Malachy and Jacques on being part of the Wicklow senior Football Squad who were promoted to Division 3 this year.

### Minor football

We had 3 players playing with Micheal Hogans Minor team this year reaching a final with Brendan Stone (Capt) and Harry Balfe (hattrick hero in final win)

### U15s football

We had a tough but successful year joined with Avoca Gaa as Niamh Eoin Geals- with some great football being played

### U13s Football

We had a very successful year joined with Avoca Gaa as Niamh Eoin Gaels getting bumped up a division mid-season and accounting for ourselves very well with a nail biting 1 point win in championship final with last minute goal against a very tough St. Pat's side.

### U13s Hurling

We had a very good year this year in both league and championship only losing to Western Gaels in championship final on a wet and winding November Saturday, some great hurling with an added bonus of new players to squad from Avoca Gaa club.

### U11s Football and hurling

A great team of boys and girls – playing great football and hurling completing in finals in both codes.

### U9's & U7's footballers and hurlers

Some great young players delighted with celebrations with Bardarrig's senior County star Andrew Kavanagh with Nicky Rackard Cup.



Under 13 Hurling



Under 11 Football



U9's & U7's footballers and hurlers





# Baile Coimín C.L.G. Blessington GAA.



## Senior Men

Well where do I start writing a few words to describe 2023 for this team?

It all commenced this time last year when Mr Brian Cardiff was appointed senior mens manager. Brian was tasked with refocusing a team who possessed quality and potential throughout the whole squad not to mention the majority had won Miley in 2021. A management team was assembled to support Brian's obvious passion and commitment in early January. The players new and old already had began their journey with sessions both in the gym and on the pitch. From the onset the motto in the squad and management was that all players who wanted to be part of our ambition could join this panel and show what they could do no matter what their capability was but with a shared belief that we are on this journey together.

Like all teams there were some cold, wet and miserable sessions lead up to the league programme. These training sessions showed us that we had some serious talent and a



Seniors

committed crew ready to embrace 2023 with immense passion and tenacity. The league commenced and we took off like Eddie going to collect a payout. As the league progressed we learned a lot about what we needed to change but more importantly the lads began to learn more about themselves as individuals immersed in a squad. Our opposition I'm sure thought Blesso are not gone away and maybe felt they needed to be ready for us come championship.

The squad was nearing a level of fitness and progression that many teams hope to get to and the focus needed to genuinely recapture Miley. Our 'Way of playing' together was becoming prominent with fine tuning continuing throughout intense pitch and gym sessions. The squad exuded a fresh confidence at this point as we neared the start of the championship supported by a progressive mindset change.

The championship kicked off and we started strong but similar to the league we seemed to taper off on occasion however the squad knew we could trust each other but we needed to embrace this trust even deeper. Some time together away from our beloved pitches and safe surroundings mid way through the campaign lead to a team and management actually reaching a mindset of immense 'relentlessness' and 'tenacity'. The progression in the lads now palpable. Every game from here we seen a team going after every ball, every tackle, every chance and every inch of opportunity in every minute of every game. A truly inspiring example of what can be achieved in advance of our team captains of Mikey O Connor and Kevin Hanlon lifting Miley again for a Blessington GAA 2023.

It must be said that this achievement only came about because the 'whole' squad embraced the shared belief and focus on winning this thing together!

Finally and more important than anything this squad would like to thank the town of Blessington for your support and unwavering belief in us all which drove us throughout 2023 but also seeing the younger members of Blessington GAA so inspired. This is what's it's about folks #community and #inspiration

Onwards to 2024

## Junior C

Our Junior C Men's team competed in Division 4 this year, after successfully winning the County Division 5 Title in 2022. There was an influx of Minors from 2022 coming into the panel bringing along a few new faces to what was going to be a successful Year that lay ahead.



Drawn in a Group 2 which consisted of Kilbride / Baltinglass / Hollywood & Dunlavin, they played 8 matches and topped the Group winning 7 from the 8 matches, with the only defeat at home to Dunlavin. A home quarter final against Rathnew was next on the agenda, winning easily to set up a semi-final against Knockananna in Hollywood. A tight game until Tom Fisher Jnr produced a goal for the ages in the final 5 minutes to set up a win by 2 points and onto a final against our neighbours Dunlavin.

The Finan Cup final took place in Ballinakill against a very strong Dunlavin side. Playing against a strong wind in the first half, Blessington were well in this game coming up to half-time, but unfortunately, we conceded 1-02 in the last 5 minutes of the half. Coming out for the second half 10 points adrift the team battled on to the very last, bringing the gap back to 5 points in the end. 2-14 to 1-12 to Dunlavin the final score. No Cup but a great footing to drive on for that elusive C Championship. Bryan Carroll rolled back the years with a magnificent 0-10 on the night.

With the 16th of October 2022 still in everyone's mine, that last kick of the game goal for Donard deep into injury time to deny the Junior C's the 2022 Championship title, this was the real driver for this panel to get to the promised land in 2023.



Junior C

Drawn in Group 1 which consisted of Carnew / Kiltegan / Ashford / Annacurra & Enniskerry, Driven by that 2022 defeat Blessington lay down a big marker in the Group stages, by winning 5 from 5 in the Group. A quarter final draw walkover from St. Patricks set up a semi-final showdown with Rathnew. Played on a wet and windy evening in Ballinakill this was probably the teams best performance all year. A typical semi final with great passages of play from Blessington, hard hitting and a never say die attitude. This team was not going to be denied a Final date. Running out 1-14 to 0-09 winners and a return to the Final..

The final took place in Rathnew against Carnew, on Saturday the 28th October the day before the Senior Championship final reply. This team was going to set the tone for what was going to be a weekend for the ages that will long live in the memory of the Blessington faithful. Playing against a strong wind in the first half, the game was well in the balance until Micka Nugent hit the back of the net for Blessington. Turning around in the second half we lead 1-03 to 0-03. Nothing was going to stop this team now. Driven on by the experienced players such as Alan Ellis and Barry O'Donovan (Capt), goals came at a plenty and the dominance of this panel shone through. Running out 4-08 to 0-09 winners the pain of 2022 was banished and the Johnny Price Cup was coming back to Blessington. Congratulations to all the Panel for the commitment they gave throughout the Year and the backroom team of Damien Breen (Trainer), Brendan McGarr (Football Director), Christy Broe (Manager).

## Joe Mc'Nally 7's

Gerry Phibbs, Cathal Phibbs, Geoff Elliott, Ben Reid, Lee Brennan, Tom Fisher, Joe Pat Murphy, Barry O' Donovan, Jimmy Mulhall, Damien Breen.



Joe Mc'Nally 7's

## Under 17's

The Blessington U17s had a very successful and enjoyable year. We were able to field two teams in the championship, allowing regular matches for the squad. The squad started training in February and the year was completed in November. On the pitch, the A championship team finished third in the league/

championship format, before losing the shield final against Annacurra in an early November morning in Kilmacanogue. The second team reached the quarter final of the C championship. Off the pitch, the year was very enjoyable and the effort and application of the team was commendable. The team would like to thank our various sponsors for the year, Peter and Natasha Hesly for sponsoring the food after training, Mark Kinsella and David Gilmore for sponsoring the training tops. There were a number of awards at the end of the year, with Robert Grassic awarded player of the year and the three blue stars going to Ronan Smyth, Aaron Keogh and Adam Neilan. We wish the boys heading into Adult football the very best in 2024.



Under 17's

## Under 15's

Training started back in February 23 for the under 15 Blessington GAA team – with the 16 lads being put through their paces from the get-go in an effort to get fitness levels back up asap. Eddie was ably assisted by Curt and Steven for the entire season which led to some tough training sessions for the lads.

The first match of the season was St. Nicks at home an unfortunately ended in a loss for the team – over the next few months in the league the team came up against AGB / Annacurra / Bray / Tomnafinogue and St. Nicks again – with a mixture of great wins and bad losses.

On the bank holiday weekend in May the team represented Blessington in the under 15 Feile qualifiers to represent Wicklow in the regional games in Mayo in July – After winning the first 3 games well against Annacurra / Bray / AGB the last game was v St Nick who turned out to be a stronger team on the day beating us once more.

In the middle of July fixtures issued for a further game against AGB / Eire Og / St. Pats all three games were won easily

A number of players from the younger half of this team stepped up throughout the season to help fulfill fixtures and a big thanks goes out to all those guys.

Championship began on the 16th of August – the first was a game against AGB away and saw a win of 2-14 to 3-07, Next, we met Naomh Eoin Gaels at home and came away with a big

win. On the 12th of September we met St Nick's again away – lost again but this time by 3 points – drawing the gap closer every time. Next up was the Bray game at home – we came away with a good win.

Then on the 17th of October there was a home game against Rathnew – as the Senior mens team for which the 3 coaches are involved were also due to play them in the county final on 22nd there was a massive rivalry on the night – the game ended in a draw.

Similarly, the Senior teams 1st county final game v Rathnew also turned out to be a draw – luckily their replay saw the team bring the Miley cup home to Blesso – well done once again to Curt / Steven & Eddie – Thanks for 2 great days out in Aughrim!

Unfortunately for us the replay in Bray's grounds on the 25th of October saw us lose 3-09 to 5-08

This resulted in us qualifying to play in the shield final against Bray – after a number of attempts to schedule this match Bray eventually gave us a walk over and the shield was awarded to our U 15 team. There was a player of the match award for this game which never happened, the coaches decided this award should be presented to Tadhg Broe based on his performance overall in the games throughout the season.

The lads on the senior team – in particular Curt / Steven and Eddie have been a great inspiration to these young lads – all the parents are very appreciative of their time. To all the parents that helped out throughout the year – it is very much appreciated in particular those that helped with the jersey washing / giving lifts to games and a specific mention needs to go to Alan Bruce (Cian's dad) who provided us with many for pics of the boys in action on the WhatsApp group.

The season finished with an awards night for the juvenile boys section on the 29th of November – three of the team members received the blue star award – Jamie O'Toole / Cian Bruce / Harry Lyon and the player of the year went to Jack Murray.

Looking forward to a successful season next year when the lads move on to minors.



Under 15's

## Under 14's

The Under 14's enjoyed their first season playing 15 a side and on a full pitch. It took a while to get used to the bigger pitch & full touches but the lads soon got to grips with it and really thrived from then on. It was a good season all round picking up 2 pieces of silverware, The Kildare league was the first in June winning a thrilling final against Round Towers which might be a first for the Club winning a Kildare league outright. The Wicklow U15D league soon followed which was a great achievement as it was our Under 14 team playing against some clubs 1st U15 team. The lads went unbeaten the whole way through the Wicklow league which was great to see.

The championship followed and unfortunately we came up a bit short losing to Michéal Dywer's in the semi final. But we will learn from this and look forward to an exciting 2024 where we hope to challenge for the U15A championship & U15 Feile.

We were also well represented in the Wicklow Academy squads with 7 players making the squad.

Special thanks to all the parents who have always shown us great support throughout the season & to special mention to our Club PRO Lisa Jackson for all the promotion work she does for all the teams.



Under 14's

## Under 12

Our Under 12 boys had another great year winning the Under 12 PPL and also retaining the Allen Cup. We started out the year with 23 players and welcomed new players Dylan Glennon and Noah Bruce during the season. We played in 4 competitions Under 12 PPL Under 13 Div3 league Under 13 C Championship and Allen Cup. We had some great wins in both Under 13 league and championship and got the opportunity to develop our team in preparation for Under 13 A next year. I'm the Under 12 ppl we had Baltinglass Tinahely and St Nicks in our group winning 5/6 matches, again we had St Nicks in the semi final of the Allen Cup and very lucky on that night



Under 12's

In the year the lads had 30 training sessions & 30 games/blitzes throughout the year plus a new rivalry game parents vs kids making 31 games. Thanks to the 3 senior lads Cillian, Ruairi & Jack, the commitment ye still have as players but still managing to turn up is so important cos the lads love seeing ye & listening to ye. We appreciate what ye bring. Dave & Thomas it's easy for ye to turn up on Monday or matches cos like me we've a son playing but simple doing drills, taking a team, giving feedback & just showing the love to be involved is gold at this age. Laura, I think I speak for all coaches & parents u keep the show on the road with texts & been the mammy of the coaches, u do massive work behind the scenes, ur video showed that. For their end of year party we would like to thank Isobel for doing the party bags for the lads, Laura & the parents for running the show in the clubhouse, great to have the 3 lads call up with the Miley cup. Lads were delighted when they came in.

We would like to give massive thanks to our sponsors mercury engineering & Bluestream for the great gear for the lads.

The parents, we would like to thank u for your commitment throughout the year & support for the lads, ye keep things going by turning up for training or matches.

Since we started on the 20th February, we didn't realise how well these lads would develop & what they would learn from our sessions & games throughout the year but they have shown their skills growing in each game and have become such a close group of lads at young age

See everyone in 2024 Thanks again

The coaches.

## Under 11's

Successful year, Played 22 games in total, Wicklow played 14 won 13 lost 1. Kildare league played 6 won 3 lost 3. In the Under 12 Ray Daniels Cup we met Kilbride Under 12 last years winners in the semi final and came away with the win. Facing Stratford Under 12 in the final, great contest with a narrow loss. The lads were devastated walking off the field, tough to take after so much effort put in but also great to see how much it means to them. Huge progress this year, improvements across the entire team, stepping up again next year



Under 11's

## Under 10's

The Under 10 boys competed in the Under 11 league and the Under 10 player pathway league in Wicklow as well as Under 10 league in North Kildare.

The year started very slowly with the team on the back foot against u11 players from other clubs on a pitch size that none of our lads were accustomed to. To the credit of the group, they realised that maintaining a focus in training leads to a collective increase in performance and by extension enjoyment of playing. A big plus was that by the end of the season the entire squad were getting substantial game time while remaining competitive against teams containing players a year older. At the end of the season the smiles were broad and while a rest was welcomed, the enthusiasm to return and develop further in 2024 was evident.



Under 10's



## Healthy Club - All Stars

The Blessington GAA All Stars had a jammed packed fun filled year!!! Every Sunday morning for the past 3 years, we have welcomed boys and girls with additional needs from Blessington and other neighboring areas in Wicklow and Kildare to our club. The All Stars participate in games specifically designed to stimulate and engage the children, along with practicing their football skills, blowing bubbles, and chasing the multicolored parachute.

We had so many highlights this year! kicking off in April with our Easter Egg Hunt, the All Stars really enjoyed the morning, lots of chocolate eggs were found, and lovely happy chocolate covered faces went home with their parents. In June we travelled to Bray Emmett's GAA Club for our second Wicklow All Stars Blitz, the sun was shining and sprits were high. The All Stars engaged in all the fun and games, they received medals, certificates, and delicious Ice-cream, which was very much appreciated by all. This was a hugely successful morning.

The All Inclusion Cul Camp took place in the August; we had 28 children take part in this camp. There was All Stars from various clubs in Wicklow, Dublin, and Kildare, who travelled to Blessington for the camp. We had our fantastic coaches, coordinators, and volunteers in our club, who made this camp such a brilliant and enjoyable experience for the everyone. Thank you so much!!!!

The Blessington All Stars welcomed The SENCO Express Sensory Bus in September, they were so excited to see the BUS pull up, the All Stars spent time playing in the led ball pool,

dancing on the light up floor and gazing and hugging the bubbles tubes and enjoying the many more activities that were provided for them on the bus. The morning was rounded off with goodies and treats for the everyone. The All Stars went home with big smiles on their faces after the super morning.

October was a very exciting month! We had an All Stars Inclusion Family Sports Day, where the egg and spoon race was a firm favorite with the All Stars children and their families. Also, in October the All Stars took a trip to Croke Park, to participate in the Allianz Inclusion and Diversity Day; they got to play fun games and kick a few footballs on the pitch. This was truly a great experience for everyone on the day.

Our Blessington Senior Mens team got to the final and our All Stars got busy making good luck posters and filming video messages for the team, who went on to win the Wicklow Senior County final. UP BLESSO!!!!

To round off the year, in December we had a very special guest from the North Pole, the All Stars children were bursting with excited to see Santa come to into our football grounds, with a big sack full of gifts. On the morning, The Miley Cup made a guest appearance with some of our super Senior Players gave out medals and jumped in for photos with the All Stars.

Thank you so much to all our sponsors who where very generous towards the All Stars this year. Thank you to our coaches and volunteers, but most of all a million thanks to the All-Stars parents who bring their precious children to Blessington All Stars week in and week out, we are extremely fortunate to have your children and you in our club.

An additional need doesn't have to be a social barrier, good etiquette begins with total understanding of what really matters, it's not all about trophies and medals for the Blessington GAA Club, it's about inclusion, compassion, and community.







# CLG Emmet Bhré. Bray Emmets.



## FRONT ROW

Cathal Ó Dualacháin, Michael Boland, Luke Maloney, Brian Nesbitt, Arran Murphy, Diarmaid Masterson, Ben Kearney, David Maloney, Daire Henderson, Marc Lennon (Captain), Seanie Maloney, Christy Moorehouse.

## MANAGEMENT TEAM

Paul Carley (Manager), Glynn-Barntown, Wexford; Brian Duggan (Selector), Ronan O'Brien (Selector), Larry Timmons (Admin), Aidan O'Connor (Physio), Colm McDonagh (Kitman), Jack Lawrence (S&C).

## WINNING ROUTE - To historic Wicklow Five-in-a-row\*

Round 1. Beat Kiltegan 0-19 to 2-8 (July 16)

## LEINSTER INTERMEDIATE HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

Quarter-Final - Bray Emmets 0-18; Portlaoise 0-16

Semi-final - Bray 1-16; Naomh Mearnóg 0-15

Final - Thomastown 2-22 Bray Emmets 1-09

Senior hurlers march to historic Wicklow five-in-a-row



Senior Hurlers five-in-a-row Wicklow Senior Hurling Champions

## How 2023 unfurled for Bray Emmets senior hurlers

Wicklow captain John Henderson lifting the Nicky Rackard Cup in the Hogan Stand at Croke Park on June 3, 2023.

BRAY EMMETS - Wicklow's champions of champions after completing five-in-a-row of county SH titles in 2023.

## BACK ROW

Eoin McCormack, Andy Conway, Pádraig Doyle, Sam Kearney, Daire Lohan, Cian Lohan, Ronan McMahon, Ben McCormack, John Henderson, Karl Lacey, Shane Lohan, Peter O'Reilly and Conor McNally.

Round 2. Beat Avondale 0-22 to 0-6 (July 21)

Round 3. Beat Carnew 1-21 to 1-12 (July 29)

Round 4. Beat Éire Óg 3-24 to 1-5 (August 26)

Round 5. Beat Glenealy 1-16 to 0-11 (September 3)

Semi-final. Beat Glenealy 2-17 to 0-8 (September 23)

Co Final. Beat Carnew 1-15 to 2-10 (October 15)

\*All above games were played in Aughrim.

## ALONE HE STANDS

A CAPTAIN APART - Marc Lennon who captained Bray Emmets to all five championship successes - 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023.



BRAY'S ALL-IRELAND WINNING CAPTAIN IN CROKE PARK



Marc Lennon

and reach successive Leinster Intermediate Finals

Last year's odyssey into the hurling unknown turned into something more sublime and tangible this year; 2023 became an exploration to find the true depth of talent within this squad intent on making land excursions from Old Conna to plunder the plains of Leinster. And what an experience it was, bringing us all the way to the cusp of Christmas for a second year in succession.

The journey began in July with a first round Wicklow SHC win over Kiltegan in Aughrim on a 0-19 to 2-08 win. It continued with wins in Wicklow over Carnew on July 29 by 1-21 to 1-12 but we would have a much closer encounter with them in the final on October 15 when we emerged victorious on a two-point margin.

Before that in late August we accounted for Éire Óg by 3-24 to 1-05 before beating Glenealy in a dead-rubber game on September 3 by 1-16 to 0-11.

It was a case of *deja vu* when we met the same opposition in the semi-final 20 days later and won by 2-17 to 0-08 before advancing to the final.

In this game we eschewed several goal chances and were leading by five points going into the red zone on the stop watch when Carnew struck for a goal which put the game into the melting pot for the final two minutes before the final whistle sounded.

And so ended our Wicklow journey by achieving an historic five-in-a-row of senior hurling titles.

Then we had a six week break in activity on account of the Carlow champions pulling out of the series. This meant we had two November games in Aughrim in the Leinster quarter-final

against Laois champions Portlaoise and the semi-final pitted us against Dublin title-holders Naomh Mearnóg. We sailed on our sea of obsession into the final but our journey ended on Saturday December 9 to be precise with something of a thud against Kilkenny champions Thomastown.

That afternoon in Aughrim was a blustery day and our aspirations for back-to-back Leinster Intermediate Hurling titles were blown away in no uncertain manner by a superior and well-drilled side fielding in its ranks a number of Kilkenny senior hurlers.

They had stars all over the pitch but the Donnelly brothers, particularly chief scorer Robbie at right half forward and Kilkenny stalwart John at No 12 were literally a few steps above what we are used to encountering in these parts.

In one sense, we had to endure a hurling lesson for the first three-quarters of the game but to our credit, we died with our boots on and gave it our all to the last blast of referee Adam Kinahan's whistle.

This squad will regroup, bloodied yes, and a little unbowed but also aware that the journey has brought us a long way from the team that could only win county titles a few years ago but not progress in Leinster. That particular point can no longer be levelled at us as we now have contested consecutive provincial finals, winning one and losing one.

It is true that we still only had three points to show for all our efforts 19 minutes into the second half but by then we also had acclimatised to the higher pace and technically skilled game we were forced to confront to the extent that we only had allowed Thomastown five points up to then in the second half.

In the final stanza of the game, we shot 1-6 to their 0-4 and when Brian Nesbitt rattled the net with our goal, it brought the biggest cheer of the day from the home faithful.

Of course, it would be too simplistic to overlook the fact that the visitors were by then home and hosed, but still we battled to the end and every man who saw action tried their almighty best to achieve something very unique for Bray. But with that gale putting us on the back foot, it was like the Kilkenny lads had an extra player and more time and space in which to operate. Allied to their superior skills and you get an idea of the challenge that we faced from the throw in.

Every man endured a hard day at the office on this higher plane of combat but it would be remiss not to mention how John Henderson, as always, rose spectacularly to the occasion. One of their mentors said they'd have him any day in their ranks; a true reflection of how the peerless Hendo performed in such adverse circumstances.

Well done to the management trio of Paul Carley, Ronan O'Brien and Brian Duggan and their dedicated backroom support for the huge effort they put in all year. And a genuine

thanks to the 15 starters and to the subs who improved our play when introduced for giving of their time in the Bray cause.

Yes, we were all disappointed with this result but five Wicklow championships in a row and a helluva roller-coaster ride around the province in successive years, and beyond to an All Ireland semi-final last year, gives us something we will all bring with us to our graves.

As they say: "Adversity causes some to break and others to break records." Be sure as we turn a page on this defeat that we will have more chapters to write. Bray Emmets abú!

The incomparable Christy Moorehouse, top scored for Bray Emmets in all their Leinster matches in 2003 and scored 0-9 in the final against Thomastown.



Christy Moorehouse

### Bray Emmets v Thomastown Leinster Final:

C McNally; B Kearney, K Lacey, S Maloney; C Lohan, P Doyle, D Henderson; J Henderson, L Maloney; R McMahan, M Lennon (Capt), D Masterson; A Murphy, C Moorehouse (0-5, 0-5 f, 0-1 65), E McCormack Subs D Maloney, M Lee, B Nesbitt (1-0), S Lohan, D Lohan.

### Leinster Campaign

Earlier in the Leinster campaign Bray Emmets entertained Laois champions Portlaoise and had the measure of them. Make no mistake about it, this was a very good Portlaoise team who had quietly fancied themselves to take home the spoils in this Battle of Aughrim.

What they hadn't counted on was the resilience of this Bray crew to dig deep even in adversity, like when they went behind midway into the second half as the O'Moore men recovered

from a four point half-time deficit to head Paul Carley's boys after holding us to a solitary point for that third quarter.

With the gauntlet well and truly thrown down, we wondered how the Wicklow champions of champions might respond? Carley roared from the sideline that the forwards had lost the previous four puckouts before adding that we had to start winning the second ball.

Portlaoise were playing with a swagger at this stage and their fitness invariably saw one of their jerseys getting to the breaking ball first.

We had reached, to quote a former soccer manager, squeaky bum time, a case of do or die. What followed was slightly mesmeric but totally uplifting for the loud Bray support.

After rallying with two points, Bray still weren't functioning as fluidly as normal. Following a huddle with Ronan and Brian on the line, Paul decided to inject fresh troops as Brian Nesbitt, Davy Maloney and Shane Lohan entered the fray. It was a master stroke as Lohan brought pace and power, the injured Maloney who would otherwise have started, brought poise and purpose while Nesbitt, unlucky not to start, showed his class by scoring a point of wondrous class from the most acute of angles.

All the while Christy, aka Jackie, was waving a wand from the sorcerer's handbook with such deft touches and beautiful stickwork that he had Laois supporters raving about his class long after the final whistle was blown.

Quite simply, he was unmarkable on a day when not everyone in the Bray jersey managed to achieve their usual high standards. That said though, what was heartening to see was how every man gave 100 per cent and refused to hide when the hop of the sliotar went against them.

Christy scored 11 out of 12 frees offered to him, some from tough angles and well out, and also added two more beauties from play. Yet it is not for those great feats this performance will be remembered; more it will be for the way he came out field when we were losing those second balls and turned the game with his wristwork.

That moment came in the 17th minute of the second half when following a breaking-ball in midfield, he stopped the trajectory of the sliotar dead in its tracks with his hurl to allow Marc Lennon's bravery in jumping on the ball to be rewarded with a free against his direct opponent.

That converted free was only our third point of the half but it gave us a lead 0-14 to 0-13 and some badly needed confidence.

When the mighty Podge galloped up field two minutes later to fire over a point to lift hearts, you felt that while we were not home and hosed, we were finding our range again.

Christy rose to that challenge with another point but then another easy free equalised yet again. Just as those around us were wondering if there would be extra time if the game ended level, the Bray sap rose again with Jackie finding time and space to spear the post with a beautifully pointed effort.

Ahead once more and instead of falling back, we pressed for the killer point.

Jackie proved he was mere mortal as his only free of the day drifted just wide but young Nesbitt broke Laois hearts with a score of such finesse that you won't see too many like it in the next 12 months.

We must also factor in that our boys were missing injured talisman John Henderson and with Michael Boland in the antipodes and Davy Maloney unable to start, it is true to say that this was a victory fashioned in adversity. It meant changes from the county final starting line-out and the side named in the programme.

Cian Lohan reclaimed his place at right half back, Arran Murphy came into the middle of the park and Ben McCormack replaced Boland in the inner line.

Young Lohan benefitted from this outing and proved he is a man for the big occasion and improved with each passing game. Murphy was back to his best and you could see he was unhappy to be withdrawn against Carnew by the passion and grit he went for every ball.

Ben McCormack is never less than reliable; this time he was sublime in a first-half purple patch which showed his worth in gaining possession but also, in conjunction with his brother, in finishing with a great score after a superb feint of the shoulders. Eoin took a while coming to terms with being placed in the inside line and it is true to say that he was on the ball less than usual; however when it was needed he was

out fighting for the ball in those vital last 10 minutes when the winning and losing of the game was up for grabs. Great players don't always play well but they show up when the team needs them most.

Conor McNally is a top goalie but he is also a pretty good full-back as he showed when he made several timely advances to sweep behind our rearguard. Ben Kearney had a tricky little customer to contend with but had him in his pocket as the game went on. Seanie Maloney had his best game for a long time, and that is saying something. He is the ultimate defender and even had a look at going forward to help out as well.

Karl Lacey has never seen more ball or played it better than in the first half when he followed his man out to the centre berth at times. He was virtually faultless throughout the hour and Portlaoise's paucity of goal chances is largely due to his winning the aerial duels where it mattered.

Podge had big boots to fill with Hendo out of action but his calmness and ability to find a man with precise clearances

despite being under pressure is a great bonus for any team. Just when we needed it too, he landed a monster score which psychologically was a telling moment in the game.

Daire Henderson kept the family flag flying high and gave his all before departing. Always positive in how he tries to put his team on the front foot by winning primary possession, his strong tackling approach leaves it easy for teammates around him to get the ball forward.

Luke Maloney must be powered by duracell batteries and was still motoring up and down the field like a soccer box-to-box player with an hour's hurling already played. Diarmaid Masterson was also doing the hard yards but for once the ball was not rolling for him. However in his defence, he was playing against one of Portlaoise's star men and this time Diarmaid's work went largely unseen as he got back to close down space time and again.

Ronan McMahan must have a sliotar magnet in his hand the way the high balls fly into his outstretched palms and he won virtually every possession he went for.

Marc Lennon started like a train, scoring our first point from play and drawing fouls after gaining possession from good runs onto intelligent clearances. After that he was a marked man and space and time became much less available. When we needed a boost though, it was his bravery to win a dirty free 13 minutes from time that helped to get the Bray engine firing on all cylinders again.

Last but by no means least, how do we describe Christy's importance to this moment in hurling nirvana we as a team and a club are currently experiencing? I've watched him play for close on two decades now as boy and man and just when I am convinced he can't improve any more, he runs out onto the county grounds and produces a display like we saw on Saturday afternoon.

He was magnificent in his striking, in his team play and in his ability to make space but it was his leadership which helped get us over the line. By going out from the full forward line, he managed to win vital frees and reverse the advantage that Portlaoise were imprinting on the outfield narrative.

The on-line general had called for someone to go out and start winning the second ball and his on-field lieutenant duly answered. It was a fitting resolution to a game hard won, but handsomely won nevertheless.

#### **Bray Emmets v Portlaoise:**

C McNally; B Kearney, K Lacy, S Maloney; C Lohan, P Doyle (0-1), D Henderson; L Maloney, A Murphy (0-1); R McMahan, M Lennon (Capt 0-1), D Masterson; B McCormack (0-1), C Maloney (0-13, 0-11f), E McCormack. Subs D Maloney, S Lohan, B Nesbitt (0-1).

#### **Bray 1-16; Naomh Mearnóg 0-15**

Bray senior hurlers faced worthy opponents in Dublin's Naomh Mearnóg who arrived in Aughrim highly rated and left deflated after giving of their best which came up short against the champions.

In terms of form during the game we were a bit like the curate's egg; good in places. Leading by 0-8 to 0-5 at the interval despite having a Christy Moorehouse penalty saved in the opening half, we seemed to be comfortable, if not exactly fring on all cylinders.

They got the last point before the blow of the short whistle, but when they then reeled off a further six unanswered points on the changeover to lead by two, the gauntlet was well and truly thrown down to us.

How would we respond against a team who wore the Kilkenny colours and in that stanza of the game were playing like the Cats as well? When the going got tough, the tough got going. Christy's immaculate sideline delivery from under the stand was brilliantly fielded and dispatched with his foot by Eoin McCormack to record our first goal in the Leinster championship this year or indeed last year for that matter.

They say that when a goal comes, it lifts a team way beyond the three points of its scoreboard worth. And so it was on this occasion because immediately afterwards Christy shot a point to lift Bray. This came as Davy Maloney was introduced and he started to sweep up ball around the middle that was previously going into black and amber hands.

Almost without knowing it, we were gaining ground control again despite our opponents bringing on three giants in an attempt to win back the middle and cause serious aerial problems further in.

It almost paid dividends for them when they seemed certain to score a goal only for man of the match Podge Doyle to emerge from nowhere to clear off the line when a goal would have given the North Dubliners a one-point lead. So once again it came down to the simple old adage; who wanted it more? Bray now had new soldiers in to carry on the battle and Brian Nesbitt immediately began the composition of the most telling cameo with a wonderful point followed by a catch that took the breath away in its brilliance under intense pressure. Once fouled, Christy exacted maximum damage with an unerring delivery to push us three ahead.

Then Shane Lohan made his presence felt with a beautiful score from distance before fittingly skipper Marc Lennon, having his best game of the season which he embellished in the final, sealed the scoring with a fine point to push us four ahead.

What a feeling of exhilaration on the final blow of the whistle to see a Wicklow hurling team become back-to-back provincial finalists.

As we have seen these past Saturdays, sometimes it is not the starting fifteen but the deployment of subs who are responsible for getting us across the line.

There are also another set of heroes who we as club members should recognise and cherish and they are the subs who are putting it all in during training but are not getting a run out on the big day.

That can lead to disaffection in a less tightly knit crew but the individuals in this squad, while obviously disappointed, are prepared to do so for the great good of the club. I know there are more than those listed on Saturday so I'm including them as well while mentioning the following who were on the programme; Peter O'Reilly, Peter Walsh, Cathal Ó Dualacháin, Daire Lohan, Sean Kenny, Alex Binley, Gavin Henderson, Mikey Lee and Rory Lambe.

In this context it was great to see Andy Conway get his first provincial run on Saturday and having watched all recent training sessions, I'd say that is a reward for the form he is showing on Tuesdays and Thursday evenings in Old Conna. I'm sure that any of the previously mentioned nine names could be thrown in and would more than hold their own.

Conor McNally kept another clean sheet, with more than a little help from Podge, but marshalled his defence well and his puck outs continue to improve in their trajectory.

Ben Kearney was right up there in my view for man of the match such was the composure and coolness of his performance right through the 60 plus minutes.

Karl Lacey saw more ball than he remembered in the Portlaoise match but on this occasion he had to be a hard-tackling man-marker against a clever full forward in Bernard Daey. He got a hand, a foot, a jostle in just as his opponent was about to pull the trigger and kept him scoreless, no mean feat considering he was their go-to player for much of the game.

Seanie Maloney was the perfect foil to his inside defending comrades, covering when required or bursting out past two or three attackers much to the relief of his fellow defenders.

Podge was literally and figuratively heads and shoulders above everyone else on the day as he grew by the minute into Hendo's normal role. And how generous of him in interviews afterwards to praise the aforementioned Hendo for his coaching during the match as well as lauding how brilliantly Arran Murphy had sacrificed his own game to man-mark their danger man. He is the man-marker who thrives on negating opponents for years in both football and hurling.

Such was the pattern of play down the middle that neither Cian Lohan nor Daire Henderson saw as much of the ball as usual but neither gave his direct opponent any change from loose play.

The middle third area was a battleground where both Luke and Arran were closing down more often than opening up into their opponents defence.

It was a thankless job but had to be done and the fact that Diarmaid Masterson was firing on all cylinders going forward notionally from No 10 but really as a third midfielder meant that the Bray penetration, he got two excellent points, was sufficiently evident to keep the scoreboard ticking over.

Marc Lennon was the on-field conductor particularly in the first half in the way he sprayed the ball around. His only blemish was from the lip when his hard-won free was changed to a throw in and a yellow card.

You could see though he was out to make amends after that and did so with that sublime late point which put the game to bed.

Eoin McCormack has a huge game in him just waiting to get out and in this game his goal was the turning point in the encounter. Not for the first time he turned the tide when needed and his point before half time was our last score for 15 minutes until he booted home the goal.

His brother Ben never plays a bad game and was winning ball which is tough on a sticky surface when the sliotar comes in like an exocet

missile. Like Ronan McMahan, both probably operate better when further out and may next be seen as half forwards to get the maximum from their style of play.

Many may not have known this but Christy was heroic in simply lining out for the team as he was suffering from flu all week. Put it this way, he may have missed two placed balls but if Naomh Mearnóg had him in their ranks as freetaker, they would have been there or thereabouts at the end instead of four points adrift.

The timing and the introduction of the new faces had a much more profound effect on the game than their opponents five changes.

#### Bray Emmets SH v Naomh Mearnóg:

C McNally; B Kearney, K Lacey, S Maloney; C Lohan, P Doyle, D Henderson; L Maloney, A Murphy; D Masterson (0-2), M Lennon (0-1), E McCormack (1-1); B McCormack, C Moorehouse (0-10, 0-9f), R McMahan Subs D Maloney, A Conway, B Nesbitt (0-1), S Lohan (0-1).

#### Twelve All Ireland medals arrive in Bray

At a function in the golf club in Wicklow town in late November, our 12 players in the Wicklow squad which won the Nickey Rackard Cup were presented with their Celtic Crosses by Leinster Council Chairman Derek Kent.

While the club exploits was a ho topic of the conversation, it was still good to reflect on the achievements of the summer



Under 15's

under captain John Henderson, who gave a lovely speech in front his dad, John snr and a packed crowd.

The dozen with All Ireland medals now residing in Bray are Conor McNally, Ben Kearney, Luke and Davy Maloney, Cian Lohan, John Henderson, Diarmaid Masterson, Eoin McCormack, Michael Boland, Pádraig Doyle, Mikey Lee and Christy Moorehouse.

## Footballers Unlucky to lose League Final

On the adult football front, Bray started the year well and disputed the league leadership for much of the way before qualifying for that final against old rivals Rathnew.

They gave as good as they got on that occasion but the more experienced village outfit had a little too much know-how and emerged victorious by the narrowest of margins.

Still that game augured well for the rest of the championship but a mixture of bad luck, a huge injury list and unfortunate timing saw us just about scrape into the last eight following victories over Avondale and An Tochar.

We then had every chance of progressing when we faced the highest placed team from the other section, Tinahely, in the quarter-finals of the championship. But having gone two points up early in the second half, we failed to find the target for the rest of the game and the southern club found their

range to advance to the semi-finals on a two-point victory margin.

## Juvenile Section

The Juvenile section faced a busy calendar of fixtures in Wicklow this year and a big thanks to all the coaches, volunteers and unsung heroes behind the scenes that made it all possible for the juveniles to take to the fields.

The Academy section is continuing to thrive and the ability to train indoors during the cold months at the start of the year is of huge benefit to us. The juvenile section is growing steadily and this is down to the quality of coaching and training in the club, the nurturing of friendships and the promotion of Gaelic games in the local primary schools.

The Juvenile boys section had a successful year in both hurling and football in Wicklow. Despite marginally missing out on victory we saw our Minor team, U15 hurlers and U13 hurlers in three finals which was a fantastic achievement. They have been a great group of players, across all three age groups most of whom have been involved since joining the Academy.

They have created great bonds and friendships and have shown great commitment, respect and dedication to their teams, club and mentors. 2023 has seen great squad effort and every player has stepped up and delivered when needed. These teams displayed an excellent work ethic and a desire to

continue to learn the game to become the best footballers and hurlers they can be.

U-15 hurlers were magnificent in defeat in Co Final

Luke O'Toole's 1-12

Bray Emmets 1-11

## Under 15

Our U-15 hurlers were magnificent in defeat. Sometimes you don't get what you deserve and this was very much the case in Arklow when a brilliant U-15 hurling team were caught by an added time point to lose to a Luke O'Toole's team in one of the best matches played at any level this year.

U-13s beaten by minimum margin too

St Pats 1-06; Bray Emmets 1-05

It was heartache too for our U-13 who were also in a Division 1 final when they went under by a single point after an epic battle against Carnew.

The one bright spot for the team was the fact that Denis Hynes (above) picked up the Man of the Match award following a brilliant performance.

## Under 12

Our Bray Emmets U12 Boys took a trip west to the world's largest sports air dome, the Connacht GAA Centre of Excellence, just outside Knock, Co. Mayo.

22 players accompanied by their coaches and parents.

Two fine Bray teams lined up against Ballyhaunis GAA. Both games were very competitive, with excellent skills in evidence from all involved.

Our Bray boys did their club and families proud on and off the pitch and they boarded the Victory bus home happily after putting on a fine display in The Dome.

The day was marked by strong teamwork, respect and camaraderie between the teams.



Under 13 Hurlers



U-12 Footballers into the Dome and into the West!





# CLG Emmets Carn an bhua. Carnew Emmets GAA.



## General Overview of 2023

2023 was a year of highs and lows for Carnew, which is the norm for all clubs. Carnew this year fielded many males, female, boys, and girls' teams from Under 7 to Adult level throughout the course of the year at both codes. We are extremely proud that we are a minority within Wicklow GAA that fields a team at both codes. It is an achievement that we are tremendously honoured to fulfil as a club. That is the most important return for the year as we would not be able to fulfil each team if it were not down to the players and mentors who have given their upmost dedication and determination to each team that they are a member of. We would like to take this time to thank each player, manager and supporter who has given their time to the club. Each evening there is an enormous crowd of individuals who are training which starts in January and continues to late October which will hopefully be a great indicator of our future as a club.

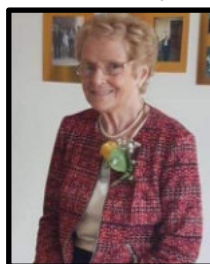
## Club Officers for 2023

- President: Edmond Hyland
- Chairperson: Kenneth Redmond
- Secretary: Niamh Myers
- Juvenile Chairperson: James O' Toole
- Juvenile Secretary: Owen Nicholson
- Vice Chairperson: Quentin House
- Assistant Secretary: Brian Doran
- Treasurer: Michael Greene and Linda Wafer
- Insurance Officer: Fergus Kinsella
- Children's Officer: John Walshe

- PRO: Niamh Myers
- Registrar: Kenneth Redmond
- Irish Cultural Officer: James Doran

## Sadness

This year we lost two influential individuals within the club. We lost our Camogie President Breda Hyland and we lost our great club stalwart James "The Bear" Doran. Our club has tried to come to terms with the great loss that was felt with the untimely passing of both Breda and James. We will always hold these two individuals close to our heart as Breda and James were both always on hand to help steer the club in the right direction. Breda and James both had the spirit of Carnew and were always instrumental when it came to encouraging our players to reach their full potential. Breda and James loss will be felt for the years ahead.



AR rheim De go raibh a n-anamcha.

## Senior Adult Football Teams

Our Intermediate Footballers reached the Quarter final stage of the Intermediate Football Championship. We lost to the eventual winners of Barndarrig. Barndarrig went ahead in the first ten minutes which meant we had a lot of work to do but we got it back to within a point for the second half. With two minutes remaining in the second half, we were up by two points but unfortunately we could not hold onto our lead and we allowed Barndarrig to get the victory.

Our Junior Footballers gained promotion to Division 3 this year which was a big step for our young team. We had a few heavy defeats in this league. We were graded to Junior C Football Championship after our dire display in the league. We reached the Junior C Football Championship Final but we met a very experienced Blessington team. We felt that with a month off from Semi Final to the Final, impacted our potential in the Final. We hope to have a great run in the Championship next year.



Junior C Footballers

## Senior Adult Hurling Teams



Our County Nickey Rackard Players





### Senior Hurlers

Our Senior Hurlers reached the Senior Hurling Championship Final where we narrowly lost to Bray Emmets. Our players showed great heart and determination to show such a great display against the reigning champions. We are extremely proud of this team as they had to compete in the final only two weeks after the sudden passing of James Doran.

Bray went ahead with a goal within the first two minutes of the game. Adrian Myers scored a fantastic goal just before half time to send us into half time trailing by one point. We unfortunately lost our influential player, Jack Doyle, to a shoulder injury just before half time. Our players never gave up in the second half and if we had got one or two major calls in the game, we could have had a different result. We had a great support in Aughrim. We have a lot of positivities going into the 2024 season and we hope to end our drought of Senior Hurling titles.

Our Intermediate hurlers exited the Hurling Championship after extra time in the Semi Final stage. Our Intermediate Hurlers could not be separated from Bray after the full 60 minutes and they needed extra time. Unfortunately, we lost by one point in extra time. We had a number of young players on this team and we hope that this experience will stand to them come 2024 championship

### Nickey Rackard Champions

We were extremely proud to have seven members on the winning Nickey Rackard team. We would like to send congratulations once again to Pdraig Doran, Martin O'Brien, Jack Doyle, Tommy Collins, John Doyle, Conall McCrea and Graham Keogh. We had a massive Carnew contingent in Croke Park to show our support to our players. We welcomed the Nickey Rackard Cup and Wicklow Team to Carnew to celebrate their fantastic win.

### Scór

Carnew Emmets strives to inject Scór culture into club and county. We have represented Leinster many times before in the Novelty Act. Since forming in 2000, we have lost three and won three Scór All Ireland Finals, our last victory being 2011. This year we became Leinster and All Ireland champions in the Novelty

group for the second year in a row.



### Scór Trad

The Bear Doran put massive emphasis on Scór in 2023. Anyone, having won an All Ireland the year prior might be expected to quit while ahead and retire for a few years but that wasn't an option for Bear. Let's go at it says he...with only a flicker of an idea for a novelty entry, he predicted an All Ireland Win. The odds

might have been low and I'm not a gambling woman, but in that moment, I would have put the house on it.

Two days after our Wicklow title, influential cast member and script writer, James Doran passed away suddenly. Doc Darcy would be the man to step up and fill the Bear's role. Undoubtedly the hardest task of all, but detrimental to the continuance of Scór in Carnew. A role, he would fill at ease and



### Scór Novelty

as much as he wouldn't admit it, pride (Good man Doc there). 2023, saw the reintroduction of Irish Dancers for Carnew. All Ireland Champions Birr represented Leinster having defeated our top class performance on stage in Carnew in the Leinster Final. Brendan Grant once again represented Carnew Emmets in the Solo Singing but a chilling rendition of Come My Little Son by Kiltegan's Katie Phelan would win on the night.

Brendan would have his chance again, competing with the talented Sophie and Toni Doran in the instrumental group. Bear would have sat in the audience in Birr with pride listening to his Neices perform. Hosting the Leinster was a big day for the club which was well received by visitors from every corner of Leinster. We send our congratulations to the very hardworking men and women who ensures that we keep our titles within Carnew.



### Scór Dancing

**James (The Bear) Doran**  
**Carnew Emmets Nuachleas/Novelty Act**

Q **Scór Début?**  
A. 1999

Q **How did you become involved in Scór?**  
A. We were begged to enter by every parish in South Wicklow after they saw our talents in Tops of the Town

Q **Scór Titles?**  
A. 6 Leinster titles, 3 All-Ireland titles

Q **Toughest Opponents?**  
A. Taghmon, Wexford back in the day

Q **Best Scór Memory?**  
A. Winning the first All-Ireland in Ulster Hall, Belfast, Gave us a taste for more!

Q **Most likely teammate to forget their lines?**  
A. Without a doubt Mick Sinnot

Q **Joker of the Team?**  
A. I don't know about joker, but Doc is definitely the biggest Diva

Q **Most Embarrassing Scór Moment?**  
A. We used a cooked chicken as a prop one year. A fortnight later, I couldn't figure out what the smell was in the van, until I found the chicken under a pile of coats 🐔👎



## Scór na nÓg

Earlier in the year, saw the club's biggest entry of Scór na nóg participants, so much so, we held auditions in the club house. The Novelty Group performed "An Cailín Uaigneas", which was written by Ettie Kilbride and performed magnificently by a eager, talented group of Carnew Emmets children. Much help was given to the set by the kids who didn't make it to the stage performance and they turned up every night at practice to help and in support of their friends on stage. Two instrumental groups participated at County Level, two recitations and Aoibhe Doran who sang a unique piece which suit her unique voice. Abbey and the Novelty progressed with only the Novelty continuing to Leinster. The Bear was truly devastated for the kids when The Downs, Westmeath echoed as Champions in Wexford Opera House. Damiem Ozzie, Willie Brennan, Timmy Collins and Giggler Doyle took part in the the Table Quiz category as did Karen O'Brien, Laoise Doran, Finán Kinsella and Rían Rooney in the Scór na Nóg competition.

## Scór Life Time Achievement Award:

What's rare is wonderful and what's wonderful is Ettie Kilbride. Recognised for her Contributions to Scór and G.A.A, Ettie Kilbride received the Life Time Achievement Award on stage in Killarney moments before her club were crowned All Ireland Winning champions which of course she Mentored.

A special thank you, to the Big Lad Diarmuid 'Din' Doran. Without him, there would be no set, no novelty, no Ding A

### CARNEW LGFA SCÓR NA NÓG 2023

LILY BUTTLE  
KAREN Ó BRIEN  
CAOIMHE KINSELLA  
LEAN DORAN



## INSTRUMENTAL

### CARNEW EMMETS GAA CLUB SCÓR NA NÓG 2023

AMY JORDAN  
CAOIMHE KINSELLA  
FINÁN KINSELLA  
AOIBHE DORAN  
FAYE DORAN  
LUCY KENNEDY  
THOMAS KINSELLA  
KEELAN KINSELLA



## NOVELTY ACT

### CARNEW EMMETS GAA CLUB SCÓR NA NÓG 2023

KEELAN MOLLY  
HOLLY BRENNAN



## INSTRUMENTAL

### CARNEW EMMETS GAA CLUB SCÓR NA NÓG 2023

RIAN ROONEY  
FINÁN KINSELLA  
KAREN O BRIEN  
LAOISE DORAN



## TABLE QUIZ

### CARNEW EMMETS GAA CLUB SCÓR NA NÓG 2023

THOMAS  
KINSELLA



## RECITATION

CARNEW LGFA  
SCÓR NA NÓG 2023

ABBEY  
DORAN



RECITATION

CARNEW EMMETS  
GAA CLUB  
SCÓR NA NÓG 2023

AOIBHE  
DORAN



SOLO SINGING

Ling. Also, to the army of Club members who showed up to help at the Leinster Semi Final Scór Na Nóg Competition and Scór Sinsir Leinster Final held at St Brigid's Hall.

Thanks to half of the parish who travelled to Killarney to support Carnew Emmets Scór and those who remained at home who sent well wishes. Carnew Abú!



LIFE TIME  
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Ettie Kilbride

### Inclusion Camp

Last year, we decided we wanted to ensure that all members of the community were catered for within our club. We wanted to ensure that we had activities for Children with Additional Needs. We decided we wanted to set up an Inclusion element to our club. This was a pilot programme that we wished to establish for our members. A dedicated, hardworking committee was formed with support from Clara Jenkinson of Wicklow County Council. We dedicated every Saturday morning for one hour from May to September. Our volunteers underwent extensive training to ensure that every need was catered for and we ensured that all equipment was gathered

from researching and observation of this model in other clubs. We got advice from other clubs who were running this great initiative in their clubs within the county. We ensured that fun was an important aspect as we wanted the children to return each week. We got great feedback from the parents to help us to implement any changes to improve the activities for the children. Their main objective was to include children that could not take part in a typical team game assisting them with ball skills, target practice activities and games, obstacle course, parachute, and sensory activities in a safe and fun environment. These sessions were very much child centred with all children receiving 1:1 support. Another important goal for Carnew Emmets was to promote the ethos of inclusion in our GAA club. This year we added a new element to our Inclusion Camp, we introduced an All Stars Cul Camp which was implemented with the help from Cormac Noone Wicklow GAA. We look forward to welcoming everyone back next year.



Inclusion Coaches

### Double Winning Senior Champions 1973

We have had a great year celebrating the history making team of 1973 who won Senior Hurling and Senior Football Championships. These guys were the Grand Marshals for the St. Patrick's Day parade in Carnew. We had a celebratory dinner to commemorate this great team and their success. We hope to complete this success in the future.

### Juvenile Section

2023 has been a very busy year for our Juveniles on and off the field. Over all we are delighted with our year. It was a year in which we had great attendances and commitment across all the age groups throughout the entire season. Sincere thanks to our coaching teams, our guest coaches, all our players, parents and guardians and our very important Sponsors, for all their support and commitment throughout the year. We hope to see you all back again next year and new players and mentors/coaches are always welcome at the "Sports Field".



Minor Hurling Champions

### On the field

Carnew Cubs: In April, the Carnew Cubs returned to the field, a great group of Girls & Boys ages (4-6) for training in hurling and football on a Friday evening 6.00 to 7:00 pm and this proved to be a great success. The Cubs ran right up to September and they finished off their year with a medal presentation and goodie bag. Some of the highlights in the year were the launch of their new jersey and the visit that they enjoyed from their County heroes when they brought the Nicky Rackard Cup to Town. 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 the Go Games Blitzes around the County in Hurling & Football as well as hosting on occasions. We finished up the season very well and they were even happier to receive their medals at their award ceremony.

### Under 9's

A super group of players and like our U 7's they trained and worked very hard all year and participated in their Hurling & Football Go Games Blitzes traveling around the County. They are looking forward to getting back to training and the start of the new season.

### Under 11's

These players showed huge commitment at training and developed well over the season culminating in fantastic displays of skill and teamwork. Playing under the new format this year we finished the season with a Hurling and Football Blitz in Ballinakill which concluded with a medal presentation. One of the highlights for our U11 Hurlers this year was their visit to Croke Park where they played on the pitch and had a most enjoyable day.

### Under 13's

Another full on season for this team and great work from all the lads at training and in matches. Commitment was not lacking here and our players showed great progress and strength throughout the year. We were runners up in Division A Hurling Plate Final and winners in the E Shield Final. A number of the squad have been involved with the Rising Stars programmes in both codes.

### Under 15's

A very busy and full year for our lads. Tremendous drive and commitment from all the team both in training and on the pitch. Our players have continued to progress and develop, maturing well and have showed us some great displays. It has been a very successful season for us. The second year of the revised Feile competitions and we were honoured to have the privilege of representing our Club and County at the John West Féile nGael in Ballinasloe where we were narrowly defeated in the Division 3 Shield Final. We were winners of the A Shield Hurling Final and were defeated in the Division C Shield Football Final. A number of our panel were selected to play for the Garden County Academy in both codes.

### Minor Hurling

Mid –Season our Minor Team lost one of their Mentors, James “Bear” Doran, who was not only a Coach/Mentor to this group of young men but he was a friend, a leader and a role model passionate about his Club and County, GAA to the core.

After what was a very difficult time for the club, our inspirational Minor Hurling team had to face Bray Emmets in the Minor A Hurling Final in Pearse Park Arklow. This game was scheduled to take place three days after their great win against Glenealy in the Semi Final. We had a few major injuries in the Semi Final which hindered our preparations for the Final. We were delighted to get the narrowest win over Bray Emmets.

We all admire these young men and their Coaches who rallied the Team in a supportive way and the Boys found focus and were deserving winners of the Minor A Hurling Championship and the PPL Group 1 winners, a great achievement and testament to their character and ability.

Unfortunately we were unable to meet the fixtures in the Football Championship. As a Club we are very proud of this Minor Team and their achievements this year.

A number of these players will be moving on from the Minor ranks, they have served the Juvenile Club very well and we wish them all the best and much success in their adult playing careers.

### Post Script

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



Minor Captains

