

Clubs Naomh Eoin Gales Newtown Rathnew Shillelagh Coolboy

Gàà

WHERE WE ALL BELONG

MEARE MICKION



naomh Com Jaels. Naomh Eoin Gales.



Naomh Eoin Gaels is the coming together of Avoca and Barndarrig GAA to play juvenile football.

Under 15

Playing their second year together, 2023 was a great season for this team, winning both Division 3 League and Féile Group C. Highlights from the year include going undefeated in the league with notable victories over Kilcoole, Ashford, Baltinglass and Carnew and winning our Féile group with victories over An Tochar, Kiltegan and Carnew.

The joint captains of Evan Doyle and Jack Power led the team throughout the season at training and on match days. One memorable match that stands out for both of them was the tremendous display of goal-keeping (Evan) and sharpshooting (Jack) on a rainy night in Kiltegan in early August, a victory that qualified us for 'A' Championship Football in 2023.

'A' Championship football proved a great experience for the team as they learned and improved from match to match, culminating in the team 'performance of the year' but unfortunately a narrow defeat to AGB in the Plate Final in Shillelagh. Naomh Eoin 'Player of the Year' in 2023 was Ronan O'Shea who enjoyed a great season at midfield, partnering Jack Nolan – another who played well throughout the season. Our 'Most Improved Player of the Year' was our consistent high performer at centre half back Dillon Fitzpatrick. Top scorer for 2024 was Colclough Byrne who enjoyed another great season at both football and hurling.

With great coaching from Alan McBride, this team have improved throughout the season and we look forward to 2024 as the majority of this team moves up to minor level. It's equally clear that the players the remain like DJ Williams, Ryan Doyle, Luke Purcer and Conor Healy with lead the U15 Naomh



Naomh Eoin Gaels (Avoca and Barndarrig) Under 15 football 2023

Eoin team at U15s next year. We are grateful to all senior players that have supported our training sessions and on match days throughout the season. We thank all the parents and grandparents for their taxi-services. We look forward to the season ahead.

Under 13

We had a very successful year 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.



Naomh Eoin Gaels (Avoca and Barndarrig) Under 13 football 2023

Cl5 Daile ui 3Cearnaish. Newtown.



Intermediate Men

The intermediate team went out in dramatic fashion on Saturday the 30th of September to a strong Valleymount team. To a score of 2-15 to 1-14 after extra time. In an extremely competitive match, which was swinging back and forth all day. Valleymount went into an early lead, but the lads came back into and were only two down at half time. Second half started off the same. With a couple of scores from Valleymount but the lads took charge and were in the lead with a few minutes to go but Valleymount were not to be denied and rallied to get the last couple of scores to drag it to extra time. The lads started well in extra time and held the lead at the half time point but unfortunately, we could not hold on again Valleymount rallied in the last couple of minutes to take back the lead and finish out the match victorious. On another day, with a bit of luck it could have gone our way, but it wasn't to be. So that is it for this year, hopefully next year will be our year. There is plenty of talent in this team and youth. With a little more luck with injuries hopefully we can push on. Newtown Abú.

Junior Men

The junior team is finished for this year, the lads put in some very good performances throughout the year. Unfortunately, no silverware this time round, but with a good bunch of lads who will hopefully be all back next year, we can push on to better days. Newtown Abú.

U15 Boys

Our u15's had a brilliant year! The growth shown by these lads as a group has been excellent!! We had an eventful championship campaign that culminated in us needing to win



Intermediates

our last two groups games against Kilcoole and Baltinglass to progress to the championship semi-final. The lads put in savage performances in both games to get two wins. This left us Ina semi-final against a very strong Carnew team. We played our best game of the year and we were leading by 3 points with about 5 mins to play but two late goals for Carnew saw then run out winners. This left us in the shield final against St. Kevin's. On a miserable day in Laragh our lads played some exceptional football to lead by 9 points at half time, only for St. Kevin's to pull us back in the second half and bring us to extra time!! We eventually got the better of Kevin's in a tight extra time to run out deserved winners of the Shield!

U13 Boys

Our 13s had a successful season on winning the U13s championship. This talented team were deserving winners on



Juniors



Under 15's

the final day playing against a tough opposition St Kevin's.

U11 Boys

It was a great year for the U11s, the number of boys and girls turning out every week was so good we were able to field 2

teams. Both teams competed brilliantly and if scores were kept at U11 level, would have won the majority of the games... The





Under 13's



Under 9's

Under 11's

season culminated with a Blitz in terrible conditions in a waterlogged Roundwood, but again the kids performed to the end and although the matches ended in draws (as they all do in U11) Newtown scored more than their opponents It was fantastic as a team to have such an even mix of boys and girls. Newtown was standout in this aspect and after so many years together it will be sad to see the girls go, but with great pride in seeing how they have grown in amazing footballers and we'll be cheering them on for years to come.

U9 Boys

It has been a great season for the U9s. The season lasted 8 months, there were 27 training session and 12 matches. Thanks to Alex, Damien, Dave, Lee and Conor for all the help throughout the season. And thanks to all the parents for your support. Most importantly thank you to all the kids. Each and every one of them have improved. We started with twelve players and finished with twenty. All the kids improved their skills, they really are a great bunch of kids to coach!

U7 Boys and girls

Well, the season is over, and what an amazing season it was for the U7's. The kids have developed so much over the last season and were brilliant to watch playing at the Go Games. We always had great support and words of encouragement from the sidelines. The team grew throughout the season and finished with 26 amazing players. The U7's are the best bunch of kids and so much fun to train and watch play Go Games. They are always laughing and having fun, which makes being their coaches an honour. Thank you to everyone who helped us out throughout the season.



Under 7's



GOO CL3 Rarh-Naoi. Rathnew.



Special Mention

This past year has proven to be exceptionally busy for our committee as we adjusted to the responsibilities that were previously overseen by our former Chairman, Bobby Dignam. Additionally, we faced the challenge of two committee members stepping down during the year, which naturally increased the workload and responsibilities for the rest of us. I am proud to say that each and every committee member rose to the occasion, showing dedication and commitment in the face of these challenges.

Let us pause for a moment to honour our fallen comrades from the Rathnew GAA family. I will refrain from mentioning specific names, as I wish to ensure that we remember each and every one of them. I urge all of you to take a moment in your own thoughts to remember those individuals with whom you stood shoulder to shoulder in the name of the red and green cause.

Our club PRO's have had an outstanding year and are the talk of the county with their excellent updates and insights. A big well done to Joanne and Hazel.

Thanks to all who help with the golf classic every year. Thanks to Eammon Franey, Clifford Murphy, Richard Dignam, Anthony Mernagh, Ruth Ann, Bridget Franey, Hazel Quinn and anyone else I have left out and Clifford and SKC for sponsoring the prizes and all who helped on the day. This coming together of past players and members is as important as the funds raised and the solidarity is what makes us different from other clubs.

I would like to thank the adult team managers for their efforts. They are in the field every night with the players, and this is sometimes forgotten. Thanks also to everyone who helps out on the Saturday morning coaching, especially Paul Merrigan, Arlene Prunty, Benny Doyle and all other coaches that helped out during the year. This is a great activity and should be kept going at all expense.

Our club's players deserve a special acknowledgment for their unwavering dedication. While they receive excellent support, it's important to recognize that their commitment can be time-consuming. They experience the highs of heroism when they win, but the lows can be incredibly isolating when they face defeat. Nonetheless, they are incredibly fortunate to represent our esteemed club, and it's vital for them to understand that they serve as a wellspring of inspiration for the next generation. Our young players look up to them as role models, and their conduct both on and off the field leaves a lasting impression on our kids.

A big thank you to SKC, Gaelic Plant Hire and all our sponsors, your support is crucial to the success of our club.

I wish the incoming committee the best of luck for the upcoming year and I truly believe we have a colossal year ahead of us with infinite possibilities. I would like to thank all of the current committee for their efforts.

Senior

Our Senior team had a successful year, even though we fell just short of victory in the final against Blessington after an intense replay. Under Darren and his dedicated management team, the league was utilized as an opportunity to introduce and nurture a wealth of young talent. Every member of the extended panel had a chance to prove themselves and compete for a starting position. The early signs were highly promising, with our league campaign seeing us secure positive results, including lifting the Herbie Hill and Dunne Cups.

Our journey through the league served as excellent preparation for the championship. We fearlessly faced formidable opponents in what can only be described as the 'group of death.' Despite the fierce competition, we persevered and advanced to the county final, where victory was tantalizingly within our reach. The excitement that engulfed our village during this period underscored our hunger for success and our collective aspiration to return to the pinnacle of Wicklow football and compete at the Leinster level.

A heartfelt congratulations goes out to Darren, Mark, Nickey, and all those who provided invaluable support throughout the year.

Two out of Three and bad but we want the big one next year!!

Junior A

Our Junior A team fought their way into an impressive 4th place in the league, and as it stands, we eagerly await a showdown with the intermediate champions, Barndarrig, for the league title—a trophy we've proudly held for the past two years. This season presented its fair share of challenges for the team. Some players moved up to the Senior ranks, while others faced unfortunate injuries at crucial moments. These factors, combined with a lack of regard for our opponents, ultimately led to our defeat at the hands of Shillelagh/Coolboy in the semi-final, dashing our hopes of appearing in two county finals in 2023. It's worth noting that they were the only team to beat us in the championship, later falling to the eventual winners, Balinacor, a team we had outperformed convincingly in the group stage.

This particular season feels like one that slipped through our grasp, underscoring the vital importance of team spirit over individual talent. In the end, it's the unity and cohesion of our players that truly determine our success on the field and I think this is were we ultimately fell short.

Thanks to Chris, Charles, Lee and Nigel for all their efforts.

Junior B

The Junior B team was set up to get some of the younger lads who were unable to commit to Senior or Junior A, and who had gone away from our games. With a view to hopefully getting them back around the club. They delivered a commendable performance in the Division 4 league, losing out in the playoffs for league cup. They secured a spot in the semifinals of the championship, pitted against a highly-favoured Blessington team. Throughout the match, our lads remained competitive, staying in contention until fatigue eventually took its toll. It's worth noting that some clubs in this division are now prioritizing specific championships and treating them with the same intensity as senior competitions. Consequently, merely showing up for championship games is no longer sufficient.

However, it's important to highlight the remarkable progress this team made during the season. At the outset, we had a dedicated group of between 6 to 9 players training on a Tuesday night, but this number grew substantially to over 30 on certain nights when they trained alongside our other junior team. This growth is a true testament to our success in providing football opportunities for young players transitioning from juvenile football into the adult ranks. This would not have been possible with Harry, Paddy and Bomber.

All year long our PRO's have kept the village and members updated and they would like to thank everyone from our

Seniors down to the academy who worked with them every week both on the pitch roster and match reports.

The match reports being posted on social media encourage members to continue playing football, to bring in new members or just to get the community to come along to support our teams so I would encourage everyone to continue the reports next season.

I am aware that our coaches and mentors are giving enough of their own time to be there for the teams so I'd ask if you don't want to do the report yourself to ask a parent/supporter to do it, someone will hopefully be happy to help out that way.

Keeping on top of the fixtures lists kept the disagreements to a minimum because we knew who was to be where and when, we all worked together and kept everyone or nearly everyone happy.

We hope our increased social media presence will also increase new membership at all ages and grades but also generate more sponsorship for the club too so just keep up the fantastic work you are all doing and hopefully we'll have a great 2024 season.

Off the Field

This year, we celebrated the 25th Anniversary of our 2003 Championship-winning team, and recently, there was a joyful gathering to commemorate this significant achievement, with a few well-deserved drinks shared among friends and teammates. In a similar vein, it's been a decade since we achieved our first of three consecutive championships in 2013, 2014, and 2015. The captains of these remarkable teams are now working diligently to arrange a get-together that accommodates everyone.

These championships represent not only moments of glory on the field but also a cherished part of our shared history. They serve as a testament to the dedication, talent, and unity of our players. Beyond the trophies and accolades, these occasions remind us of the importance of community and the camaraderie that defines the essence of the GAA. In small villages like ours, these team gatherings and social interactions are invaluable. They strengthen the bonds between generations of players and supporters and remind us of the enduring spirit that fuels our club's success. So, let's continue to celebrate our shared history, both on and off the field, at every opportunity.

We've continued our development of the clubhouse and grounds, added equipment to our gym and further developed the club house with upgrades of the dressing rooms and heating systems.

Fundraising is an essential aspect of our club's sustainability and we have ran a number of initiatives during the year to help with this i.e. Golf Classic. However, it's clear that subcommittees play a pivotal role in driving these activities forward and I believe we need to set one up early in the new year to drive the club forward with a calendar of activities to suit all members, new and old, young and bold!!

We've also taken steps to maximize the use of our club facilities, leasing the treatment room downstairs to Lee Clarke and the upstairs area to Melissa Dunne, who is providing valuable training options to ladies from our community. These initiatives alleviate the financial pressures faced by the club.

Running competitive teams in today's environment comes with mounting expenses, as demonstrated by the 2023 county champions who spent over €200,000. However, it's vital to recognize that our committee members are volunteers who dedicate their time and effort without financial compensation. They sacrifice precious moments with their families, partners, and work commitments for the betterment of our club, and we owe them a heartfelt thank you for their unwavering commitment.

As one of the largest clubs in Ireland, Rathnew GAA deserves nothing less than the best from those fortunate enough to represent it at any level. Our village has evolved significantly, attracting more residents due to its commuter-friendly location. With this growth comes a responsibility to prepare for the future, as the saying goes, "fail to prepare, prepare to fail."

Our village's passion for GAA is part of our identity, and it's something we take immense pride in. While we all have varying opinions on club management and team selection, it's crucial to remember that our ultimate goal is to elevate our Senior team back to the pinnacle of Wicklow and Leinster club football. We must prioritize actions that contribute to this objective.

We need to rekindle our ambition and set a course for a return to a Leinster final. Achieving this goal may require making some sacrifices at the county level, but it's Leinster finals that a club of our stature truly belongs. Let's unite behind the incoming committee and team managers as we strive for the success that Rathnew GAA truly deserves.

Juvenile

The year started out busy but we were very fortunate that each team from nursery up all got new training equipment, jerseys, lockers etc which made the job that bit easier for our coaches. The club & grounds have been kept to a high standard throughout so thank you to all involved behind the scenes.

During the year Peter organised a trip to the local schools to promote our club & I feel there is still a huge window of opportunity in our Village to recruit new players across all ages. For the year coming I propose we work hard on this & continue growing our wonderful club. LGFA held a fantastic day in St Coens celebrating all their success. Our Juvenile groups will gather on the 3rd of December for their presentations.

The success of our Juvenile teams is to be admired, the determination & commitment put in by the mentors, volunteers & players alike is second to none.

Nursery

Another fun filled year & a huge success down to the commitment of Peter, Paul, Benny, Arly & Co. Numbers improved every week which hopefully will continue to roll into u7s etc. Peter organised a fun day for the nursery & it was great to see so many locals both old & new come together. The aim of nursery is to introduce kids to Gaelic in a fun & relaxed environment which was done so well by the lads so well done to all involved.

Under 7s

Our u7s had a slow start but numbers picked up as the weeks went on. Thanks to Stephen, Damian, Rob & Benny for all their hard work hopefully this will continue, the future is bright for this team.

Under 9s

The u9s had a great year winning all except one match. Fielding 2 teams for their GoGames home & away there was no stopping these eager young lads. The highlight of their year was to represent us with pride in Aughrim for our Senior Final which will hopefully motivate them to keep putting in the work.

Under 11s

These 2 teams of 30+ kids showed up no matter what with great determination & commitment to their teams. They showed their ability to play football against tough oppositions whilst enjoying every minute. Most of them took part in a Strength & Conditioning group over the winter that kept them driven for their successful year.

The future is very bright for these young lads.

Under 13s

The under 13s got together last November, 23 players done strength and conditioning through the winter & they put in a lot of work. They came from having no team last year through Div 2 unbeaten up to the A championship where they were narrowly beaten by 1 point in the A Shield Final. Barry, Rooster, John and lan have great hopes for this years 13s in Div 1 and the A championship and there are numbers there for Div 3 13s next year too!

The under 12 player pathway was a great opportunity to give the less developed under 13 and strong under 11s plenty of game time although we probably had a team to win this competition but the lads felt it was more important to get game time into everybody before competitive under 13s next season.

They had 51 children from under 10s to under 13s in 2023 Well done to them all.

Under 15s

The village U15's had a stellar season this year. This group of 08/09 boys built on the successful year with the 07/08 team last season and continued with great momentum to improve on it throughout this season where they went from strength to strength!

These boys attitude was brilliant all season with a great turnout at most training sessions and good discipline on the field of play. We were delighted that they looked after their attendance and discipline without any prompting from their coaches and kept their teammates honest in this regard all season!

In terms of competitiveness, the boys won 3 trophies and reached the County 'A' final.

We entered the B league and the boys won this; putting in some excellent performances across all their games.

A target agreed at the beginning of the year was that we wanted the lads to get a great experience in the feile. They achieved this and more besides; winning the Wicklow Feile and then taking home the shield from the regional feile in Meath on a weekend the boys and their families will remember for years to come.

Following on from their trip to the royal county, the boys made the trip to Ashford for a delayed league final against our great rivals St. Pats... 10 points down at halftime, they put in a classic rathnew comeback and won by 6, thanks to a barnstorming second half!

Following a change in the championship format, and buoyed by their early successes; the lads got an opportunity to play football in division 1. This opportunity they attacked with relish in the prelimary stage qualifying for the A section of the championship.

This was when they really got the bit between their teeth and leaders showed up in numbers. The boys showed what they were made of beating all the big towns and several group teams to qualify for the County A final. The semi final replay against Blessington will live long in the memory as the boys played their best football of the year and bounced into the final against a very good St. Nicholas team.

Unfortunately on the day the bounce of the ball went against us and the winning margin of 6 points didn't truly reflect what was a very, very close game. Even so, this was a vast improvement from our earlier meetings with them during the season. We, their coaches, are immensely proud of these boys. The respect, effort and willingness with which they attacked this season (and indeed, every season since nursery) is a credit to them, their parents and their club and we look forward to watching these boys become men in the club over the next number of years.

Richard, Clifford, Andy, Brian

The U17/Minor

This was a worry throughout the year and despite best efforts of all involved this team ended up giving a walkover in the championship that led to their dismissal from the competition. This was a very good side and we will have good players coming from it next year that will need to be nurtured.

Rachnaoi Abu!





up to do battle with Ballinacor

championship. Unfortunately we came out the wrong side of the result which was heartbreaking for all the lads involved. We thank the players and management team for their efforts in 2023

and look forward to 2024. We got our Junior D team

and it was a great success!

Pat Doyle, Richard Lambert and Garret Gregan. The team

was a mixture of youth and

togging out. Hopefully the

start of a long and successful

adult career. The team took a

few games to gel together but

couldn't be stopped. We were

when they got going they

experience with 6 u19s

The team was under the guidance of Gerry Rawson,

back up and running this year

for the Junior A





Junior D County Champions

After a disappointing 2022, our junior A team were looking to build and really push on to bigger and better things this year. Under the guidance of martin ging and his management team of tom rath and Kieran Byrne there was a sense that we could put up a serious challenge for silverware this year. We were playing our trade in the division 2 league and the Junior A championship and both competitions are incredibly competitive.

We started off the year on the 14th of March with Annacurra being the opposition for our first league game. We secured our division 2 status for 2024 quite comfortably finishing in 5th place in the league! This Then it was championship season. we started off with a defeat against Ballinacor. We replied with a win against Rathnew followed by a another defeat to Blessington. This meant we had to beat Aughrim in the 4th game to guarantee a quarter final place. We best Aughrim and bray in the last 2 games to set up a quarter final with Ashford, this is where this team really began to click. We blew Ashford away and set up a semi final with Rathnew. An outstanding



Junior D captain Jamie Purcell with the cup

in a group with Aughrim, Kilmacanogue, Ballymanus and Avoca for the championship recording big wins over Ballymanus, Avoca and Kilmac and a pulsating draw with Aughrim. We topped the group and set up a semi final with Barndarrig in Balinakill. We were 7 points down in the second half and looked in big trouble until subs made a big impact. We came out with a 1 point win and booked a county final date with local rivals Tinahely! A brilliant performance secured the trophy which captain Jamie Purcell lifted to great cheers. Congratulations to all the lads involved on a brilliant win.

NURSERY

Catriona and Nathan had a total of 18 taking part in the nursery this year And as always had great fun.

Popcorn game was as popular as ever,

With ball skills and obstacles course times improving greatly over the season.

We did our best to be outside as much as possible as this was a wet year. Thanks to all the Parents that helped out . We are Looking forward to next year

Junior D County Champions

And we wish any children moving on to 7s all the best in their football career,

And hope you enjoyed your time with us.

Under 7 TEAM

The Under 7s started training just after St. Patrick's Day and had training each Monday evening until the end of September. Ann Lennon, Brian Hickey and Anthony Holly took charge of the team. We had about 20 players through the season and we took part in 7 blitzes, finishing up with the monster blitz in Ballinakil. Well done to all the players and their parents for their commitment during the year.

Under 9 TEAM

The Shillelagh Coolboy Under 9s had another great year with 17 players training and playing go games.we had 22 trainings and 10 blitz's In every blitz they played with great spirit and wore their maroon and blue jerseys with great pride. This team was under the guidance of frank deegan, Jason Bolger and Michelle Remington.

Under 11 TEAM

We had a panel of 16 - all boys. Coaches were joe and mark Dempsey , John Jennings and Graham Carroll.We trained regularly each Monday but training and games were disrupted with the bad weather during the season . The first half of the league was challenging as we were in against some strong teams where they were all at 11 years old . Our team is half 11 years and half 10 years . The second half of the season was more even and players improved through the season . The league was 'non competitive' our thanks to Lorna Simpson who took up referee duties this year. Thanks to all parents for all the help during the year as well.



Gaelic 4 Mothers and Others

Under 13 TEAM

Under 13s had a total of 23 players with some Under 11s coming up to help field a b team. we had training on Fridays of most weeks from early Feb to Oct. We had a very strong league campaign finishing 2nd with only 4 losses 2 of which were against eventual winners of league and championship eire og . unfortunately our championship didn't go that way with only 2 wins from 5 games. A lot of the teams were a lot bigger and stronger than us which probably led to our demise in championship , with 2 strong teams brought up to the A championship. A lot of the team about 50 percent are Under 13 again next year so they should be well equipped to give it a good go next year.

The b team had a few wins but a good few losses aswell mostly due to the very unmatched ties in there group. In there final which was completely miss matched against a very strong eire og team we suffered a big defeat but another young team some with 3 more years Under 13 in front of them so should stand to them going forward

Under 15 TEAM

This team were coached by Paul behan, eamonn Byrne and Daniel behan. We struggled for numbers all year and had to bring up some Under 13s to help field a team. We were on the end of some bad beatings but these young men showed great determination to keep coming back every week. We performed very well in the feile at the beginning of the year winning 2 of the 3 group games before being narrowly beaten by eventual winners rathnew. We would like to thank all the players for their efforts throughout a very tough year.

Minor TEAM

We fielded 2 minor teams this year. The first team were playing there trade in A division while the second team were playing in the C/D division! Both teams trained together and had 80 training sessions with an average of 28 players at training every night! The Minor A team were managed by Anthony cullen, Keith Byrne, and tom Murphy while eamonn Byrne, Sam Walker and Claude dagge have a helping hand. This team reached the minor A final and suffered a heartbreaking 1 point defeat.

The second minor team were coached by Gerry rawson, Richard lambert and Jonathan Cronin. This team were supported by some Under 15s to help out for numbers. They were up against some very strong teams and came out the wrong side of some big beatings! But to their credit these young men stuck with it and should be credited for that. It also saw a few former players get back playing football which is brilliant and one Big positive to take away from the year.

BEREAVEMENTS

To the people of the community and surrounding areas who suffered during the past year, our sincerest condolences as all our departed loved ones are remembered fondly at this time of the year, RIP.

FUNDRAISING

We got our annual golf classic back up and running this year and it was a great success, a massive thank you to all the organising committee. Our 24hr walkathon continues to be a big fundraiser and we can't thank everyone involved in running it enough! The cost of the day to day running of the club continues to escalate . We as a club are incredibly thankful to all the people who help keep this club above water and without your support this wouldn't be possible. Thank you again.

SEASONS GREETINGS

To all the players, management team, committee members, sponsors and all our community, Shillelagh-Coolboy GAA Club would like to wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and a healthy and prosperous new year.

