



2023

Clubs

St. Kevin's

St. Nicholas

St. Patrick's Kilcoole

St. Patrick's Wicklow Town

Western Gales

GAA

WHERE WE ALL BELONG

#WEAREWICKLOW



CLG Naomh Chaomhín. St. Kevins Juvenile.



St Kevin's are an amalgamation club with players from Hollywood, Vallemount and Kilbride forming teams to play together from Under 10 to Under 19 level. The club was set up in 1968 to allow young players from the area get meaningful games at underage level as the three small parishes did not have sufficient numbers to field a team in their own right. A great relationship has been built up over the years between the neighbouring clubs through these juvenile teams. We always have a very dedicated group of coaches, mentors, parents and players who put in many hours organising, training and transporting our teams.

All teams took part in their respective leagues and championship, playing lots of football, improving their skills and enjoying themselves



Under 11's



Under 13's



Under 13 E Shield Winners



Under 15's



Under 17's



Under 19's





CLG Naomh Níocláís. St. Nicholas Juvenile.



St. Nicholas Juvenile Club had a very busy year in 2023.

The Under 12's played in the Wicklow PPL and were unlucky in the Allen Cup semi-final, bet in extra time against Blessington.

They had a great day at the Dunlavin GAA "Festival of Fun" where they drew to Moorefield. The Under 13's went from strength to strength and ended the year with a very competitive Shield Final against Baltinglass. The Under 15's won the Wicklow Féile and represented Wicklow in the John West National Féile. The Under 15A team were victorious in Newtown and brought home the Cup against Rathnew. The Under 15D team lost out to a strong Clara Gaels team in their Plate Final.

The Under 17's won the Under 17 Minor B Championship held in Stratford against local rivals, St. Kevin's and our Under 19's got off to a good start in the U19 Championship but lost out to Aughrim in the Shield final.

All the teams had amazing support from the local communities both on and off the field all year.

Under 13

The Under 13's started the year with a defeat to St. Kevin's, they then played Rathnew and Baltinglass only losing marginally to both. Then they played Naomh Eoin Gaels and Newtown with two good wins. The team continued to improve over the year. The Championship Shield Final was a very exciting game against Baltinglass. The lads put in a great effort and just narrowly lost out by 5 points. Well done to all involved.

Under 15

Féile 2023

The Under 15 Team won the Wicklow Féile Competition in Bray and went on to represent Wicklow in Division 3 of the John West National Féile Competition in Claregalway.

The team travelled down the night before, done go karting, a team dinner and a motivational talk from Galway Senior Football Kieran Molloy. Then, down to the football and St. Nicholas done us extremely proud. Every game played was very competitive and the lads reached the Cup semi-final against Mungrets St. Paul of Limerick. It was a nail-biting game that came down to the wire. It went to extra time to decide a winner. Mungrets St Paul went on to win it outright. It was an unforgettable experience for the team.

U15 Division A Championship Champions 2023.

Newtown Mt Kennedy GAA was the venue for the U15A Championship Cup Final against Rathnew. It was a nail-biting match to the very end. Eoin Miley scored a goal in the first few minutes but Rathnew came back with 3 points in quick succession. A penalty to Rathnew that hit the post. It was never going to be easy against a hungry Rathnew side but our lads were just as hungry. It made for a cracking game of football.

It was 1-05 to 0-07 at half time to St. Nicholas.

The second half was just as exciting. Another goal by St. Nicks but then Rathnew came back with a goal straight away. It was a super display of excellent football. Every player on the pitch continued to battle, worked together, put it all on the line and played their part to bring home the Cup to St. Nicholas.

Final Score St. Nicholas 3-13 Rathnew 1-13

Man of the Match – Eoin Miley

Pat Kehoe was also mentioned for his outstanding performance.

Scorers for St. Nicholas - Eoin Miley (2-06), Pat Kehoe (0-06), Ruairi Kavanagh (1-00), Tom Byrne (0-01).



U12's and U13's team banding in Castlecomer park



U13 Final

Under 17 Minor

The Minor Team that won the B Championship Final in Stratford on October Bank Holiday.

Final Score St. Nicholas 1-11, St. Kevin's 1-09.

Management & Coaching Team: Ger Reid, Colm Waters, James Geoghegan, Tom Davis and Ciaran Geoghegan.



U15 Feile Coaches



U13 Shield Final

Under 19

St. Nicholas won the first game against Eire Óg but lost the next two against An Tóchar & AGB leaving us in 3rd place and out of the A Championship. We were placed into the A shield which gave us another couple of games, a semi-final win over Tomnafinogue in Donard set us up for a Shield final V's Aughrim on the 3rd of December in Knockananna. We lost this game 2-11 to 1-09.



U15 Wicklow Feile



U15 Feile Team



U15A Champions



U15A Championship Captain and Player of the Match



Minor A Player of the Match



U15D Team



Minor A Champions



Minor A Champions





CLG Cumanna Naomh Pádraig Cill Chomhshail. St. Patrick's Kilcoole.



2023 started on a sombre note for the club with the passing of our club president Jimmy Hatton. Jimmy's passing was felt far and wide across the county and he will be greatly missed by many.

In April we introduced JP Hurley to the club as our full time GPO. Since starting JP has trained several teams, ran summer camp and is currently running S&C sessions. He is a regular face in KPS and is also now in CCA. With the help of our new coaching committee JP will be liaising with team coaches even more in 2024.

On June 3rd we celebrated the success of our County Hurlers in lifting the Nicky Rackard Cup for the first time, clubman Luke Evans a starter on this team. We are all extremely proud of Luke and his success.

The rest of the year was mostly around on field activities, with our fantastic Junior ladies winning the A championship on the 7th of October.

We did secure a second caretaker for the club in Liam(Jacko)Gahan, he and Lizzy are doing great work thank you both.

Committee 2023

- Ciaran Dutton – Chairman
- Pappy Frawley – Vice Chairman
- Dawn O Brien – Secretary
- Pierce Butler – Treasurer
- Holly Martin - PRO
- Orla Parker, Niamh Gogan, Lucy Rooney – LGFA reps
- Luke Evans, Conor Murphy Toole – Players reps
- Evelyn Shannon – Childrens officer

Trevor Tighe – Juvenile Chairman

Fundraising – Friends of Kilcoole GAA

This fundraising committee worked tirelessly over the year - the hard work is showing on the walls of the car park with numerous signs on display. A special thank you to this committee for all the time and effort that was required to make this a success.

Adult football

Similar to last season we had 2 adult football teams one competing in the division 1a league and intermediate championship and the second junior B.

This season proved to be a tough one for our intermediate players, they competed well in the league but unfortunately the championship was not as successful. It ended in a relegation play off against Kilmac which we won allowing us to hold onto Intermediate championship status for the coming season.

Our Junior B footballers competed very well in the league and exited the championship in the group stages.

Thank you to both management teams for everything this season.

Adult hurling

This year we had 2 adult hurling teams 1 competed in the intermediate league and championship and the other junior league and B championship.

For our intermediate hurlers the championship proved to be disappointing not from the team performance but the format of the 2023 competition.

Our Junior hurlers competed in the Junior B championship final, taking the first game to a replay and unfortunately losing out to ARP in that replay.

Again thank you to both management panels for the season.

Juvenile teams

We have 60+ boys and girls registered with the nursery aged between 4 and 6 making Saturday mornings busy at the pitch.

The U7/U9 hurling and football panels competed in many blitzes through-out the year. The numbers at these levels are growing year on year.

We fielded an U11 hurling team, whilst numbers are tight they played a full programme of games and competed very successfully.

U11 football proved to be so successful we were able to field a U11 and a U10 team for the first time. With some organising by the management group both teams fielded on the same nights.

Again at U13 hurling we are low on numbers, a full programme of fixtures at league and championship were completed.

The U13 football had a good league campaign however they were sadly beaten in the championship final.

This season were unable to field hurling teams at U15 and U17 age groups, several players at these age groups played with other teams on permissions.

The U15 footballers had a good league campaign and won the championship C plate final. Minor footballers had a mixed bag in the league and ended the season winning the Minor 2 championship shield final.

The club has again entered a stand-alone team in the U19 football championship and a U20 hurling team in the championship scheduled for January.

Thank you to all who have helped with juvenile teams, your time and commitment is very much acknowledged and appreciated.

LGFA

The ladies section continues to grow in numbers with girls competing in all age groups from U8 to adult.

U8, U10 and U12 girls competed in several blitzes throughout the year.

The U14 girls had 2 teams, both successful in the league and one of the teams unfortunately beaten in a championship final.

The U16 girls had a good league and won the C championship final.

The minor ladies are due to compete in the minor B final later this week, good luck to all.

The adult ladies had another successful season fielding 2 teams, the division 4 team secured the league title. More success came for the ladies when the team were crowned Junior A championship winners against local rivals Eire Og on October 7th.

This squad went on to represent Wicklow in the Leinster GAA junior championship, unfortunately results did not go our way. Well done to all squads and to those who have helped.

GAA All Stars

The club successfully launched our GAA All Stars programme this season, this programme is run by the G4MO's and they are having great success with it. We can not wait to see what next year brings for this group and to see the numbers continue to rise.

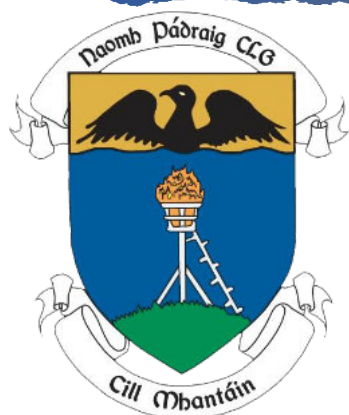
I would like to thank all who have helped make 2023 the success it was for the club both on and off the pitch. From players, parents, coaches, chaperones, lotto sellers, lotto checkers, to those who ran the coffee shop, sub committee and to my fellow committee members and all those I have forgotten to mention.

It takes everyone to make this growing club the success we know it is and want it to continue to be so once again thank you and I look forward to the 2024 season.





Naomh Pádraig Cill Mhantáin. St. Patricks Wicklow Town.



There were a number of highlights for St. Patrick's in 2023.

Casey O'Brien led the County Hurlers to Nicky Rackard Cup success in Croke Park, ably assisted by Mick Hagan (Admin) and Eugene Dooley (Kitman). Andy O'Brien and Matthew Traynor were part of the winning panel with Andy also taking the Nicky Rackard Cup Hurler of the Year.

Gary Duffy was part of Oisín McConville's County Football management team in their successful Allianz League Division 4 campaign. Dean Healy and Paddy O'Keane lined out in the League Final against Sligo in Croke Park back in April.

Our hurlers won the Intermediate Hurling Championship and League and the Leinster League Shield; and our Senior Ladies won a Senior B County Final.

Our senior footballers had a tougher year in 2023 after a very successful 2022 but, with the fielding of three adult football teams and the integration of several new players into the adult set up during the year, are well placed to push on next year. A



Little Warriors

highlight was our Division 3 League team winning promotion to Division 2 for 2024.

Our Juvenile club went from strength to strength across all codes. A highlight was our Little Warriors programme for 4-6 year olds which was a great success this year with over 100 boys and girls taking part. Our Little Warriors develop the basic skills of our games but more importantly, our coaches make sure that the kids have fun and enjoy the experience.

Special mention to our Under 13 hurlers who won the U13 A Hurling Championship, a title last won by St. Patrick's in 1999.

Finally, well done to all of our players and coaches who were part of County Development squads in 2023. It's a great honour to represent your club and family in wearing the county jersey.

Little Warriors

Coaches:

Tom Dunne, Ronan Connolly, Shay Dunne, Barry Traynor, Tom Murphy, Caoimhe Lawlor, Jack Keogh GPO, Adam Heaybeard, Wayne Doyle, Ciaran Doyle, Rebecca Hollingsworth, Frankie Doyle, Garrett Drummond.

Our "Little Warriors" programme for 4-6-year-olds was a great success this year, running every Saturday from April through to Halloween. We had over 100 boys and girls taking part with the emphasis on fun, and an introduction to Gaelic games.

This wouldn't have happened without all our coaches who commit to every Saturday and particularly to the Nursery Lead Tom Dunne who co-ordinates every detail.

Thanks once again to our local Gallagher's Super Valu for their sponsorship of our "Little Warriors".

Under 7 Football



Under 7 Coaches

Coaches: Damien Conroy, Kevin Ivers, Shane Murley, Barry Fitzgerald, Brendan Fitzpatrick, John Joe McCoy, Ramesh Lakshmanaraj and Peter Duffy.

There was excellent progression seen from all our young players. There was a fairly even split between players who played Under 7 last year and will move up to Under 9 next year, and new players younger players who will be Under 7 next year again.

Special thanks to Peter Duffy and Wire Ropes Ltd for sponsoring the training tops for the lads. Thanks to all the coaches for all the effort they put in.

Under 7 Hurling

Coaches:

Kevin Ivers, Brendan Fitzpatrick, Damien Conroy, Shane Murley, Ramesh Lakshmanaraj

U7 hurlers had a good year all round with 20-30 hurlers in regular attendance to training on Tuesday evenings and Go Games on alternate Friday's. The monster blitzes held this year were a highlight for the team and it was great to see huge numbers of young hurlers attending in Ballinakill.

There was also a positive impact from Wicklow hurlers winning the Nickey Rackard and the club winning the Intermediate hurling county final and it was great to have club members from both squads giving of their time to encourage the boys at various stages throughout the year.

Under 9 Football

Coaches:

Liam Theobald, Sean O'Brien, Brian Fitzsimmons, John O'Kane, Donal Convery, David McWalter, Shay Dunne

We started off the season with very strong numbers - 59 kids in total in the team. Our first Go Game of the year was an away fixture at An Tochar and we continued with fixtures v Éire Óg, AGB, Bray Emmets, Rathnew, and Enniskerry. We finished of the season with a monster blitz in Ballinakill on the 7th of October which was very exciting for the boys as we got to play other teams from further afield testing ourselves against teams from Dunlavin, Tinahely, Stratford, Shillelagh, and Coolboy.

Under 9 Hurling

Coaches:

John O'Brien, Liam Theobald, Sean O'Brien, John Lane, John O'Kane, Donal Convery



Under 7's

The panel consisted of approximately 35 players over the season.

Training was focused on the basics of good ground hurling striking and rising the sliotar. Great improvement was seen over the course of the season by the coaches and parents, culminating in several strong performances in monster blitzes and regional blitzes.

External coaches Mick Byrne and Conor Daly were invited in to facilitate some sessions over the season as well as support from St Pats intermediate hurler Paddy Murphy. This greatly enhanced the player's abilities as well as injecting great craic into the sessions.

All coaches were very impressed with the organisation and enthusiasm shown across all blitzes throughout the county. The future is bright for Wicklow hurling once these boys all stay at it!

The boys also got to play half time mini matches during the Wicklow v Roscommon senior group game in Aughrim before the Wicklow team went on to beat Donegal to win the Nicky Rackard Cup in June.

The finishing match for the boys was a half time mini match during the Wicklow County Intermediate Senior final where St Pats were victorious against Bray in Aughrim

We would like to thank all players and their parents along with the external coaching support for the fantastic commitment, dedication and passion shown over the season. The improvement in hurling skills over the year was evident and it was a pleasure to coach such an enthusiastic group.

Under 11 Football

Coaches:

Ian O'Brien, Manus Quinn, Mike Cannon, Brian McVicar, Rebecca Hollingsworth, Shane Mitchell, Robert Hollingsworth

The U11 lads enjoyed a mixed season but none the less they worked their socks off all year improving on their game understanding and skills. During the year the lad's skillset improved and their understanding of the game also improved session by session. There are some excellent individual players



Under 9 Football

remaining in the U11 grade for 2024 and positively, the U-12 player pathway team was very competitive in all games and will be strong at the U13 grade next year.

Under 11 Hurling

Coaches:

Jimzer O'Brien, John O'Brien, Ronan Gough, Carol Murphy (Admin)

Our U11 hurlers were lucky enough to have a fantastic day out in Croke Park on 6th April where they played Kilmessan of Meath. This was an amazing experience for both players and coaches.

There was an even divide of players of which approximately half will move up to U13s next season. We have some excellent players coming up from U9s to U11s next season who showed their skills at our U10 Player Pathway matches.

Well done to Jamie Noctor who represented the club at the U11 Hurling Skills in Aughrim in June.

Also, a special thanks to Jim O'Brien who stepped in to ref matches and help with coaching and Jack Keogh who assisted with coaching on a Tuesday evening when available.

Under 13 Hurling

Coaches:

Tomás Morrissey, Damien Marah, Bosco Guinan, Jimzer O'Brien, Paul Gaskin, Marky Conway, and Peadar De Hóra.

The under 13 boys had a very good season. We had a panel of 28 players which allowed us to participate in Division A and Division B with a 2010 team and a 2011 team. The boys were very committed to the training and each player developed individually throughout the year.

We had a strong league campaign with the 2010 Division A team finishing second in the league having lost only two matches out of 12 matches played. This strong league campaign stood to the team. Despite losing to Glenealy in the first match of the championship the team went on to win the remainder of their matches which brought them into the Division A final for the first time.

After a really tough battle with Bray Emmets the boys came out on top by a point to win the A title, the first time St Pats have won the title since 1999. A huge achievement for the team and well deserved after a hugely successful campaign.

The 2011 Division B team struggled in the league campaign against some very strong opposition. However, as some of the kids who were only starting hurling in 2023 started to improve and with the assistance of 3-4 of the 2010 players the 2011 team grew stronger and put in some excellent performances in the championship. The team qualified for the Shield final against a very strong Arklow Rocks team who had come down from Division A to Division B for the championship. The team were in the game all the way up to the last 10 minutes when Arklow scored some great scores to pull away. The team should be very proud as they have shown good development in the 2023 season.

Under 13 Football

A total of 40 boys represented the U13 teams. From a coaching perspective it was rewarding to see all players improve and become more confident as the season progressed. Player retention as always was a concern and mentors wanted to end the season with retaining as many players as possible. Thankfully most of our players completed the season with the bonus of a small number joining the group during the season.

The league was played on a home and away basis, this involved trips to west Wicklow on occasion to places like Baltinglass, Blessington, Donard and then closer to home on the east side



Under 11 Football



Under 9 Hurling

against Bray Emmets, Enniskerry, Greystones, Kilcoole, Rathnew, Barndarrig and Arklow.

The Blue team played Naomh Eoin in their final. On the day twenty-two boys toggled out and all players enjoyed game time. We were unlucky to lose out narrowly on the day.

The White team played AGB in their final. This was a game of two halves with AGB leading on the scoreboard at halftime. The boys dug deep in the second half and with the assistance of a number of positional switches combined with more confidence in front of goals St Pats pulled away and won very comfortably in the end. Rian Kavanagh accepted the trophy on behalf of the team while Chris Delahunt in midfield got the plaque for player of the game.

We would like to thank the entire panel that put in such a consistent effort all season during training and games, to their parents who transported them to all the games and gave great support during the games. To all mentors for their work and dedication in developing the skills, team play and giving positive encouragement and support on the sidelines even when things were not always going so well on the field.

Under 15 Football

Coaches:

Stephen Farrell, Gary O Leary, Joe Cawley, John Joe Mc Coy, Sean O'Brien, Christian Czwalina.

The under 15 boys had a very good season. They commenced back in January and ended season at the end of October. We



Under 11 Hurling



Under 13 Football



had a panel of 26 and always had good number for training. The boys were very committed to the training and each developed individually.

We commenced the league season back in April and ended up in a league final. The boys played really well in the final only to be narrowly to be beaten. We then moved into a championship season where we narrowly missed out to qualify for the championship final and had to settle for a shield final against Eire Og. The boys played really well in the final probably one of their best games played this year, their S&C, skills and motivation came in to play and were victorious in the final.

Also well done to the lads who were involved with the County Academy and Development squad – there were 11 lads involved with the squads.



Minor Football



Under 15 Football

Under 15 Hurling

We had insufficient numbers for our own U15 hurling team this year. Jack O' Leary, Senan Shorthall, John Brien, and George Connors played on loan with Arklow Rocks for the year. They reached the County "B" final where they lost narrowly to Carnew.

Minor Hurling

Coaches: Alan Lawlor, James Phelan, Paddy Culleton, Jim Browne, Michael Doyle

Our minor hurlers had a busy season this year with a Spring league, followed by a round-robin championship format with 9 teams taking part in the minor championship. We also travelled to Tymon Park in Dublin to take on St Judes in a friendly over the summer. With numbers tight we really relied on every member of the panel including some of our U15's who were more than able to hold their own at this level.



Minor Hurling

Our championship opener couldn't have been much tougher with a depleted team travelling to Carnew the eventual "A" Championship winners where we were well beaten. In fairness to the group, we bounced back and went on an unbeaten run with wins over Arklow Rocks, Michael Dwyers, and Glenealy and an away draw against Eire Og. We then came up against a strong Bray Emmets side who beat us in Bray, before finishing our games with a good win over Luke O'Tooles in Ballinakill.

Unfortunately during the holiday season, we had insufficient numbers to travel to Western Gaels and had to concede the game, this meant that we finished 5th in the table and didn't achieve our goal of making the "A" semi-finals. We were drawn to play Luke O' Tooles once again in the "C" semi-final where after a flat performance we ended up losing by 1 point to Luke O' Tooles who went on to beat Arklow in the final.

We finished off the season with an internal blitz in Dunbur with everybody already looking forward to getting back on the playing field next year.

Thanks also to James Quirke and Mick Byrne who gave sessions as guest coaches during the year. Finally, a big thanks to Mark Johnston Motors for their sponsorship towards training tops for the team.

Minor Football

Our Minor Footballers had a frustrating season, but credit must go to all the players for their commitment and attitude. The lads were much better than results suggested, showing glimpses of their potential in most games but unfortunately unable to sustain it for long periods. There is a talented group still underage, and we look forward to being more competitive next season. Best of luck to all our players who enter into adult football for the coming season.

Intermediate Hurling

2023 has been a very important year. Not only did we decide to drop down to Intermediate Hurling, but we also decided to go with only one team by not entering the junior league or championship team.

We entered the Leinster League, County Intermediate League and the County Intermediate Championship. This gave us plenty of opportunities for players to gain precious game time. The players responded and showed the commitment and desire to improve and get back to winning ways.

Throughout the year the players committed to training both on the field and in the gym. Fitness levels increased and this showed in the results. We asked the question and the players responded. Competition for places grew and winning games became more of a habit than a rare occasion. We participated in many challenge matches against teams from Dublin Wexford and Kilkenny allowing us to improve even further.



Intermediate Hurling Champions 2023

The season ended on a high with the team winning the intermediate Hurling Championship adding to the Intermediate Hurling League and a Leinster League Shield. A successful year all round.

We had the assistance and support of many people on the way. Our main sponsor was Francesco's Diner who sponsor our jerseys. Also Paul O'Brien - training tops; Eugene Dooley - club shorts; Fachtna Whittle - club socks. Ceart / Exchange House funded many different aspects such as training days and healthy eating.

Thanks also to Mick Byrne for his excellent training and instilling the belief back into the players; John Gill for all his time and effort with the team and necessary paperwork; Paul O'Brien for his time and dedication to the team and training sessions; Notty O'Brien for his support and efforts towards the team; and John Greengrass O'Brien - Mr. Hurling - what he didn't do would be easier to write. This man gives so much and deserves all the plaudits.

Hopefully we can continue to grow as a panel with the introduction of new members coming up from the minor ranks along with the reintroduction of past player to complement the current panel. The future looks bright.

Senior Football

Joe Quinn and Barry Fitzgerald managed our Senior footballers in 2023, along with Selector/Coach Liam Keogh and Graham Carton providing statistical analysis and administrative support. Conor Brennan provided physio support for the group. Gary Duffy joined the coaching team in August to assist with the coaching and his support and expertise provided a huge boost to the group.

League

The league campaign was extremely challenging. At the start of the year, several players retired or went travelling. There were multiple players involved on county panels (hurling and football) and several long term injuries meant we were short the bulk of the championship winning team for almost all the league campaign.

On the plus side it gave an opportunity for several younger players to get exposure to senior football. The group trained hard and gave their all in every game. The lessons learned in this period will stand to this group going forward.

Championship

The Championship kicked off in August with a draw against Éire Óg, followed by a defeat to Tinahely. Following this we

regrouped and made changes to the coaching team and players. These changes paid immediate dividends as we rebounded to beat Baltinglass by 4-8 to 0-16. We followed that up with a 1-11 to 0-9 defeat of Rathnew and finished the group stage with a 9 point defeat of Dunlavin.

We then played Blessington in the Quarter Final but were undone by 2 points. We had our chances to win it but it didn't happen for us on the day.

2023 saw Senior Championship debuts for Ronan Murray, Paul Marah, Ken O'Grady, Alex Sinnott, and Cormac Byrne. In addition to the players who made Championship debuts a number of players made their senior debuts in the league including Tom Phelan, Sam Culleton, Ryan McConnell, Reese Kelly, Cal Kelly and Cormac Murnane.

The management team would like to thank the club for their help and support during the year. The Chairman, football committee, Treasurer and pitch team were a great help in areas such as fixtures, equipment for training, venues for training and their efforts are much appreciated.

Junior A Football

The team had a very successful league campaign – 8 wins, 1 draw and 1 loss left us joint top of the league with promotion to division 2. In championship football we finished 3rd in our group with 3 wins and 2 losses. This led us to qualify for the quarter final where we were beaten by Ballinacor.

All in all, it was a successful season for the Junior A footballers, gaining promotion in the league to Division 2 our big goal at the beginning of the year. Over the course of the season we used a total of 49 players and 12 of these went on to play senior championship football.

Captain:

Shane Murley / Chris Kavanagh

Management:

Stephen Duffy, Colm Byrne, Andy Jameson, Paul Earls, Joe Duffy.

Sponsorship provided throughout the year by: Wire Ropes Ltd., Ernies Bar, D&W Crash Repairs

Junior C Football

The club for the first time in many years entered a third team into the championship. The overall aim was to integrate last year's minors to adult football along with recently retired players and to encourage players back who had stepped away.

This overall was a success with the team eventually making it to a quarter final. Unfortunately, due to several members of the panel being called upon by the Junior A's and the match clashing with the intermediate hurlers, we were unable to fulfil the fixture to eventual winners Blessington. The club will be looking to build on this for the year ahead.





CLG Gaeil an Iarthair. Western Gaels.



Under 7

Coaches Cormac Styles & Kiran Woolhead



Under 7's

We had a fantastic year this year with great numbers, especially at training. We were focusing on mostly ground hurling, blocking, hitting a moving ball, tackling, getting stuck in and mostly having fun and learning. We were also practicing on lifting and hitting the ball in the air, especially for the kids moving up in 2024. The kids massively improved over the course of the year which was great to see. Thanks to the coaches and parents that helped, Cormac, Kiran, Aoife, Con and Gordon as well as all the parents that tirelessly taxied around the kids in all weather. We're excited to get new joiners



Under 7's

for next year and improve on the existing skills and keep up the high level of fun and enthusiasm.

Under 9

Coaches Paul Wright, Alan Fagan & Orla Dolan



Under 9's

The Western Gaels Under 9s began their hurling journey on the 1st of March 2023 and ended the last week of October. Throughout the eight months the children trained, developed their hurling skills, had fun and bonded as a team. They travelled the length and breadth of Wicklow and Kildare playing matches. They marched in the St. Patrick day's parade. They played in Monster blitzes in Ballinakill. They were invited to blitzes and played in St. Mark's in Tallaght, Glenealy and Bray. It was a great joy for all the coaches involved to witness the progress that each and every player made throughout the season. So we look forward to next season to greet the returning children and begin our journey again.

Under 10

Coaches Will Harrington & Sam Cullen

Our Under 10 boys competed in the Under 10 player pathway league playing 5 games. The lads put in a huge effort throughout the whole year and improved with every session. A big thanks to this group for stepping up to help our Under 11 hurlers and to all the parents for travelling around the county.

Under 11

Coaches Will Harrington & Sam Cullen



Under 11's

Our Under 11 hurlers with the help of our Under 10 panel played 13 very competitive games throughout the county with the highlight of the year playing in Croke Park in April. This was a day that these young boys will never forget and a huge

thanks to Conor Daly, Gavin Weir and the County Board for such a great opportunity.



Under 11's in Croke Park

Throughout the year we had plenty of outings to Croke park and a big thanks to Matt, Sandra and all the parents for supporting these trips.

A big thanks also to Clare Hurler and All Star David McInerney for attending our summer camp and to all the parents for their support throughout the year.

Lastly to our super group of boys and girls at Under 10/11s thanks for all your commitment and effort over the last twelve months, the improvement witnessed by all the coaches has been immense.

Looking forward to 2024. Keep up the practice, Western Gaels Abu.

Under 13

Coaches John Whelan, Eoin Roddy & PJ Grace

A great year for our Under 13 team, we started slow but as the year went on the lads gained momentum, trained twice a week and really put a big effort in which paid off in the end. We lost one match in the championship against Micheal Dwyer's, topped the table and went on to beat Barndarrig in the final. They are a fantastic bunch of lads, all dual players and really enjoy playing hurling, looking forward to the 2024 season and doing it all again.



Under 13's



Under 15's

Under 15

Coaches Thomas Geoghegan & Sean Dempsey

Looking back, there was some great memorial games, some tough battles. Feile for one.... so close, just losing the final by one point in extra time. The league where we finished mid table ahead of some Div 1 teams. The Championship was tough as always where we had to contend with blended Div 1 teams but the one thing to take away from it all, is we never gave up. Every week players gave 100% both at training and games so thank you. Thanks to all the parents for all you support. Your kids are a credit to you all. We once again recruited new players to hurling which is fantastic to see. You've all grown and gained a lot of experience this year. All in all we played 19 games throughout the year and with a small panel that was no mean feat. A little reward for all the hard work is winning the Trophy Final, all be it by concession. Finally, both Sean and myself would like to say it's been a pleasure to work with these kids... how they conduct themselves both on and off the pitch... It's incredible to see. Total goals scored - 37.

... total points scored – 164 Already looking forward to next year.

Under 17

Coaches Martin Walsh, Aaron Geoghegan & Bernard Higgins

The minor hurling team is made up of players from Under 15/ Under 16 and (Under 17) ages and were very competitive with some notable wins in League and championship rounds.

At the end of the 8 game championship rounds, we found ourselves qualifying for a home venue semi-final versus Bray Emmets in Hollywood. We had notable wins away to Carnew and key win over Eire Og away in the close out. The semifinal was a great occasion in Hollywood under lights and the team played and defended brilliantly, especially in the first half against the breeze, but ultimately some missed chances by Gaels and some great forward play by Bray saw the visitors over the line. In the subsequent 3rd place shield final played

unusually in Laragh - despite again taking the lead for most of the game were unlucky to lose to a last gasp goal to Glenealy.

It can be a struggle, especially over summer holidays to keep teams fielded as well as trained in the catchment clubs across these ages. We'd like to thank players and parents alike for the support during the year especially those Under 15's who were playing up, and those that scheduled in the match fixtures with other personal plans meaning we held all the championship match fixture dates.

The Players and Coaches would like to thank the Home clubs of Dunlavin, Hollywood, Kilbride, Valleymount and Blessington for supporting the minor hurling year of Western Gaels via match pitches and training grounds etc – special mention to John Clarke, Lyndsey Walsh, Michelle Richardson and Barry O'Donovan, and of course Matt Byrne and Sandra Cleary for keeping the wheels turning.

Intermediate

For the Western Gaels Intermediate team since getting promotion in 2022, the transition from Junior to the higher grade has been a challenge. A large number of talented underage minors have emerged in the past three to four years but trying to juggle exams, other sports and work has been



Under 15's



Under 17's

difficult for the club, in addition retirements and injuries to some of our older players did not help the situation. After requesting and getting a change to the Intermediate championship from the county board in 2023 to have two even groups, Western Gaels were in a group containing ARP, Carnew, Glenealy and Aughrim. With limited numbers the team was narrowly beaten by ARP in the first game and managed to beat Glenealy before succumbing to Carnew and Aughrim in the last game. Each game was competitive, and the younger players stepped up to the adult stage. The split season suited the club as the many dual players from the five football clubs tried to manage their schedules over a shorter time frame although injury, rehab and holidays were still factors which had to be managed. It is recommended that the current Intermediate Championship be maintained.

Thanks to Pat English who coached the team and the various physios for match days. To the younger players who hopefully

enjoyed the year and with their talent will be back to push on in 2024, to the mentors and committee members who tried to develop each player but who also tried to make it enjoyable.

Final acknowledgement to the football clubs of Western Gaels for the use of their club facilities and pitches during the year for training and matches and in particular the patience and assistance of the pitch coordinators is much appreciated.



Under 17's