



# KILMEENA GAA

## NEWSLETTER



December 2015

Volume 2

Issue 1

### Chairman's Address



I wish to introduce the **Second Edition** of Kilmeena G.A.A. Club's Newsletter. It is hard to believe that a year has passed since the introduction of our First Newsletter and my wish is that this issue will jog your memory of what has been another memorable year.

The really positive news is that our Club continues to thrive. We have more parents than ever involved in the running of the Club and we have more boys and girls coming through the gates to take part and enjoy our games. The ideal of being actively involved in the administration of our Club is not just a notion, it is

something I intend to build on. My wish is that everyone coming through the gates feel that they belong to the Club and are willing to give a little of their time in order to advance the Club's objectives. Today I am asking you to get more involved in the running of this wonderful Club and to be as generous as you can be with your time in volunteering your service to the Club. We are constantly seeking people who are willing to volunteer and lighten the load on those already involved.

To reflect on the year past, I wish to say a big thank you to all the coaches and the team managers for their expertise, and for the manner in which our teams have been coached and prepared for all our matches. As I write this piece, our **Junior Team** have finished their League campaign where they finished **fourth in Division 1D**. Success in the Championship eluded us once again. The Team is going in the right direction and I am confident that success will come for these lads. Our **Under 21 Team** are still in the Championship and I sincerely hope that they will be in the shake up on Final day. Our **Minor Team** exceeded all expectations, winning the **West Mayo B Championship** and following it up with winning the **Division 4 County Championship**. This was a remarkable achievement for this group and I have no doubt that these lads will be the backbone of our **Junior Team** for many years to come. All the Underage Teams have been hugely successful, competing in various Semi-finals, and competing and winning at the various Blitzes. Well done to everyone involved. Our Girls' Teams continue to improve year on year, steady progress is being made and success is not far away. The Club is delighted that the girls of the area have an outlet to partake of Gaelic games and culture.

This year, for the first in a while, the Club are entering **Scór na nÓg**. I wish the participants all the best and I hope they enjoy the experience. I am sure they will do the Club proud. This is an important aspect of Club life and is something I am anxious to build on for the future. It is important that the boys and girls are allowed showcase their abundance of talent and this is a wonderful stage to do this.

As you know, the Club has commenced a **development programme** which will see the development of an additional playing pitch, the development of an all-weather training area, the construction of a kicking wall and a storage shed. We have been successful in obtaining funding from the **Sports Capital Fund**. **€80,000** has been allocated to the Club and I want to express the Club's gratitude to **Minister Ring** for this allocation. I also wish to express the Club's gratitude to **Allergan Pharmaceuticals** for their allocation of **\$10,000** towards the cost of this development. We were also successful in obtaining **€11,000 from Connacht Council** towards this development. The projected total cost is **€140,000** and this ultimately means that some fundraising will be required. With your support the amount needed is very achievable. This is an exciting time for the Club. This development will ensure that our facilities will be the best and will provide a good playing experience for the boys and the girls coming through the gates.

Finally I want to thank each one of you for your courtesy and for your co-operation over the past three years. It has been a privilege to have been the Chairman.

I wish to extend season's greetings to you all, and to our emigrants overseas, I wish to assure you that you are foremost in our thoughts and we look forward to the day when you return home.

**Nollaig Shona do gach duine agus ath bhliain faoi mhaise dhibh.**

**Willie Keaveney  
Club Chairman**

### CONNECTIONS WITH THE PAST: SECURING OUR OWN PLAYING FIELD



#### Proposed new Club Development Layout

This year a major expansion of Club facilities are planned, as outlined by the Chairman in his introduction, including the development of an extra playing pitch. It is of interest to reflect back to **1936** when the Club first secured its own grounds, 'St. Brendan's Park', when it purchased lands at Rossakeeran from the Land Commission. Prior to this they were dependent on the good will of landholders to play their games. The Sports Park contained 5 acres, 3 roods, 24 perches and was purchased for the sum of 81 pounds. Kilmeena were one of the first clubs to have their own playing pitch and it was a source of great pride to them.

### Scór na nÓg



Despite an absence of many years from the G.A.A. Scór na nÓg competition (Mayo Division), this year's Kilmeena team represented the Club and Parish with incredible professionalism in Breaffy G.A.A. Clubhouse on Saturday 28th November. The talented group consists of **Muireann Cawley (Banjo and Bouzouki)**, **Roisin Hogan (Tin Whistle and Low Whistle)**, **Ben Lennon (Fiddle)** and **John Ryan (Piano Accordion)**. They competed in the section for **Ceol Uirlise (Instrumental Music)** and played two pieces entitled 'Planxty Hewlett' and 'Humours of Tulla' (reel) which received a rousing applause of approval for a very entertaining performance. Some two hours later the adjudicators' results led to further spontaneity from the Kilmeena supporters 'mar bhuaigh said an corn I gcomhair Ceol Uirlise' (because Kilmeena won the Instrumental Music section). While the individual talent within the group is very apparent, their synchronisation has been achieved under the tutelage and musical expertise of **Dr. Brian Lennon** and **Mr. John Ryan**. The musicians and tutors deserve huge recognition for their tremendous achievement in a victorious outcome in Mayo with their first public performance.

**Congratulations to both musicians and tutors. Wishing you further success in the Provincial Championship which will be held in Claremorris G.A.A. Clubhouse on 12th December 2015.**



## Greetings from the Kilmeena Diaspora:

### ...Kieran Sheridan in Muscat

It's the 28th of November 2015 and I hobble down to breakfast in a small Irish bar in Bahrain before taking a flight back to Muscat in the Sultanate of Oman. Stephen and I chat about where it all went wrong the evening before, most likely the Guinness! After a full day of football, our club Clann na hOman made it to the Intermediate Final at the Bahrain Irish Festival. A point down with a minute to go in the final, Kilmeena club members will find it hard to believe that Stephen Sheridan popped up in the forwards to level the game and take it to extra time! Alas, we ran out of steam as Sharjah Gaels from the UAE emerged victorious. It's been a while since I've played in a football final and the memories of playing in the Black and White of Kilmeena in a similar style tournament at St. Judes in Dublin came flooding back.

Going back a few years to August 2008, I underwent a knee operation and decided to take a year out of football to gain some overseas work experience. It was always my intention to return to Kilmeena after a year of rehabilitation, but, unfortunately, the healing process did not go as planned. After seven and a half years, I still find it hard to believe I am still here in the Middle East! Becoming involved in a GAA club certainly helped. There have been ups and downs along the way, but getting the chance to lace my boots again, playing alongside my brother this past year, and competing against a childhood club mate, Jonathon Madden, definitely makes being away from my family and club that bit easier.

***"I'm very thankful to Kilmeena GAA club for giving me my first taste of Gaelic Football and life as part of a club."***



Clann na hOman Intermediate Men's Team 15/16 Season, Round 2 in Muscat, Oman. Clann na hOman topped their group on the 16th of October beating teams from Abu Dhabi, Kuwait and Riyadh. Clann na hOman were eventually knocked out in the Semi-Final by our nemesis Sharjah Gaels. Extreme left background: 2008 All-Ireland Football Final referee Maurice Deegan from Co. Laois. Back Row Left to Right - Paul Earley from Ballintubber, Stephen Sheridan from Kilmeena. Front Row Left to Right: Kieran Sheridan from Kilmeena.

I moved from Dubai to Muscat in 2011 through work and was immediately immersed in GAA life again for the first time since leaving Kilmeena. Clann na hOman are a small club competing against clubs from all over the Gulf region. Our club trains twice a week behind a small mosque, with the sound of Myna church bells replaced by



Kieran in typical determined mode playing against Arabian Celts from Bahrain in the Men's Intermediate Middle Eastern League 14/15, round 3 in Al Ain, United Arab Emirates in January 2015.

the call to prayer. Whilst we don't have to deal with the hard slog through a boggy St. Brendan's pitch in the winter months (and that's no disrespect to Joe Madden and Danny Fadden, who tended admirably to the field in my days!), we must deal with temperatures reaching the high 40's. We have on average 15 players per session. The majority of members are Irish with a mix of enthusiastic Aussies, English and Americans who bring the same banter to that of a dressing room at home in Mayo.

There are five tournaments per year in various Gulf countries. Each tournament is an amazing spectacle to witness with camogie, hurling, kid's football, and men's and women's football on display. The

games are 9-a-side on a full sized pitch and three rolling substitutes. After each tournament, there's a chance to mingle with the other teams and have a pint with the players, many of whom I competed against during my playing days with Kilmeena, now working and playing GAA in the Middle East.

When I get home on my holidays, I

### ...Maddens in Canada

Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year to all in Kilmeena, from the Madden family in Stittsville, Canada. We have been here five years and are very grateful. This year is the first year that we do not have snow yet! Snow is a great thing to put on the Santa letter over here! We usually get 6 months of it! Nigel is working for the same company that we started with, Thomas Cavanagh Construction, as a Sewer Crew Supervisor. Thomas Cavanagh Constuction was established in 1971, by 2 brothers, descendents of an Irish Immigrant that came to Canada in the 1800's, from Cavan. Stittsville is a small village, ever expanding, just 20 minutes from Ottawa, the Capital of Canada. Ottawa has a vibrant Irish Community, and a Gaelic Football Club called the Ottawa Gaels, that both Nigel, the girls and I have played for. Nigel continues to work with the youth, that is ever increasing in numbers thanks to the dedication of Noel Mc Ginnity of Monaghan and a number of other Irish Immigrants. The Gaels have started creating pockets of Gaelic football groups in any part of the city that

we have support to do so, and this gives the kids the opportunity to play games against each other and try out their new skills! The Ottawa Gaels Youth aim every year is to send a team to the Continental Youth Championships somewhere in America. We have attended in Boston and Chicago so far and next year it will be hosted in Boston.

We are coming into the season of "Irish Breakfasts" at the Irish Centre in the City. This is something we have always enjoyed since we moved and keeps us connected, especially the girls, to some Irish Tradition. Volunteers prepare pancakes and sausages, with an Irish music session in the back ground for whoever shows up. This is usually a full house

relish the chance to get down to the field in Kilmeena for a kick around with Stephen (we'll have to pay Club membership next year after they read this!), a training session with the current team, or better still a match. It's great to see how far the Club has progressed in the last few years with so many new initiatives and volunteers. The Club's website and Facebook updates are regularly checked during my working day!

I find myself associating with people in Muscat who have the same qualities as club members back home. Whether it's a lift to training,



Nigel, Laura, Jessica & Isabelle Madden and "Mr Finnegan" of course.

as you can imagine. It is a great way to meet new people and have the Craic. When we mention the Craic to our Canadian Friends, we wonder if they might think that we are trying to sell them something! Canada, Ottawa has been a great home for us over the last five years. When you mention you are from Ireland over here, you are already a friend. We have been welcomed so wonderfully to this country and met some wonderful people. We miss home of course, we miss our people. You only realise how much you take for granted when it isn't there anymore, when you walk outside your front door and have no idea whether you should be going right or left. We will especially miss our family this time of the year, we usually

spend most of Christmas and New Year on Skype, and it feels a little like we're there.

We hope all our neighbours and friends are doing well and Ireland as a country is doing well and can someday welcome all of its emigrants home. But for now this is our home and it has allowed us freedom and experiences that our girls I am sure will remember as fond childhood memories, such as going camping, swimming in the pool all summer, going to the cottage to see Moose and endless summer bbq's.

A Happy & Peaceful Christmas to you all in Kilmeena. I am sure we will be up to our knees in snow here by Dec 24.

Lots of love from  
Nigel, Laura, Jessica and Isabelle

watching out for the younger lads, or a Sunday dinner (no comparison to Mary Sheridan's), the same goodwill is evident here in the Middle East! I've too many team mates, club members, managers and teachers to mention here who helped me out along the way. I'm very thankful to Kilmeena GAA club for giving me my first taste of Gaelic Football and life as part of a club. Happy Christmas to everyone involved with Kilmeena GAA Club, and I hope the success of the Club continues on and off the field in 2016.



## Paddy Golden Blitz



**Kilmeena U10 Boys:** winners of Section B in the Blitz. receiving the winners shield from Margaret Golden

The annual Paddy Golden U10 Memorial Blitz took place in St Brendan's Sports Park on Saturday 13 June. 300 children (22 boys teams and 6 girls teams) competed. The boys Section A was shared between Castlebar and Breaffy, Section B was won by Kilmeena and Section C was won by Westport. The girls competition was won by Westport. The Club wishes to sincerely thank Margaret Golden and the family for their continued support and presentation of trophies at the Blitz. (By John McDonald)

## Underage Presentations

(By Sarah Hogan)



On Friday 20th November, the Underage boys and girls from the Kilmeena Parish were honoured at our annual presentation night held in The Mill Times Hotel.

**John McDonald, Chairman of Kilmeena Bord na nÓg** welcomed all the young players and their families. Our special guest Kevin McLoughlin from the Mayo Senior Team presented the awards. **Mayo Minor Ladies' Captain, Shauna Howley** alongside her teammate and local **Kilmeena girl, Fiona Groden** also helped with the presentations on the evening.

The following teams were successful in competitions held throughout the year:

**Under 12 Girls:** Won the under 12 blitz in the Neale. This was a great achievement for this bunch of players as it's the first time since the formation of the Ladies Club to see silverware at this level. This trophy reflects on the hard work and determination from the girls and the commitment from the managers and mentors: Ollie Mulchrone, Colm Barrett, Mary Mulachy, Geraldine Gibbons and Ann Hastings.

**Under 10 Boys:** Under the management of Pat Mulchrone, Damian Hughes, Mike Slattery, Dermot Tiernan and Ann Hastings, this group of 32 boys won two cups in Burreishroole, The Tourmakeady cup and The Paddy Golden Shield. These lads are definitely a panel to watch.

### The Local Winter League:

Willie Keaveney presented the Declan Gibbons Memorial Cup to Captain Mickey Hastings.

Willie Quinn presented the Willie Quinn Cup to Captain Tom Smyth.

Tom Ryan presented the Ryan Cup to Captain Jason Mc Glynn.

Gerard McGreeve presented the Kelly Cup to Captain Shannon Bourke.

**Skills Winners** were as follows:

### Girls Section:

U10: Lisa Hastings.

U12: Abbey McGreal.

U13: Shannon Bourke.

The final proceedings of the night were the Player of the Year Awards.

### Girls Player of the Year awards:

U12: Ciara Joyce

U14: Katie Hogan

U16: Lucy O'Malley

### Boys Section:

U10: Donal Hastings.

U12: Colin Hastings

U13: Cillian O'Grady

### Boys Player of the Year:

U12: Chris Mc Glynn

U13: Cian Moore

U14: Jack Carney

U15: John Mc Glynn

U16: Keith Joyce - (Ciara accepted this award on behalf of her brother)

After the awards **Kevin McLoughlin** spoke about the importance of developing your ball skills and how practising their skills is essential to improve as a footballer. 'You need to have the football in your hand all the time, that's how you're going to become a good footballer'.

**Club Chairmen, Willie Keaveney and John McDonald** thanked all the sponsors and all the members and their families who attended the presentation evening. Willie urges more people to get involved in the running of the Club, in particular the ladies. Without volunteers the Club will cease to exist. It's necessary for you, the parents or older siblings to take the initiative to help out in any way you can. **"Volunteers are not paid - not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless."**

## Retirement of Mrs Noreen Feehan

After some twenty years as dedicated caretaker of Kilmeena G.A.A. Clubroom, dressing rooms and grounds, Noreen Feehan announced her retirement in May. This affable lady has been affiliated with Kilmeena G.A.A. Club for over forty years and her record of loyalty is exemplary. Noreen and her husband, Pete, have always taken a keen interest in sports. Noreen, an accomplished darts player, was also a member of the Darts Team that represented Mayo, on several occasions, at All Ireland level. The arrival of their daughter, Caitriona and their four sons, Peter Francis, David, Joey and Gary transferred their attention to Kilmeena G.A.A. Noreen became an integral part at all under age from the onerous task of washing the set of jerseys, even though they might have been worn during very inclement weather conditions. Since the initiation of the Lotto in 1994, she has played a pivotal role in the proliferation of Lotto sales and displayed true leadership by never missing the designated Thursday night. She was also the worthy recipient of **"Club Person of the Year"** in 2004.



**NOREEN FEEHAN**

Noreen and Pete, watched with unassumed pride, as their daughter and sons advanced through all underage levels. While Caitriona continued to excel in Secondary School and in GMT College, the ability and talent of the four boys also became very apparent. However, the potential for a versatile corner forward was imprinted on the boot of David at an early age. This teenager's football career flourished and he provided Kilmeena G.A.A. Club and supporters with many years of pulsating matches with his quality of scores. David was the kingpin in the Junior Team that reached the All Ireland Club Final in 2003. Although Kilmeena had to concede victory to Nobber on the day, the Feehan family and Kilmeena supporters will always treasure the indelible memories of the team's resilience and David's contribution to the scoreboard of 1 - 9. Noreen, Pete and family received a further endorsement of David's prowess when he was awarded the Mayo News "Golden Boot" in 2007.

Noreen's kindness, flexibility, integrity and sense of humour have always been the foundation stones of her character. She is, undoubtedly, the heartbeat of her own home and she displayed those qualities in her role with Kilmeena G.A.A.. She has etched her mark in the annals of our history and in our affections. We express our heartfelt gratitude to this amenable lady and wish her years of boundless happiness and continuous good health as she journeys through the sea of life. Noreen, you truly deserve our admiration and it is only befitting that those of us who have the pleasure of knowing you, will always reflect on your memory and your contribution to Kilmeena G.A.A. with a sense of pride and a smile of endearment.

### CLUB OFFICERS:

**President:** Willie Kelly. **Vice President:** Padraic Golden.

**Chairperson:** Willie Keaveney.

**Secretary:** Paul Ryan. **Assistant Sec:** Ollie Mulchrone.

**Treasurer:** Padraic Moore.

**PRO:** Trish Hogan; **Safety Officer:** Michael O'Grady

**Registrar:** Damian Hughes; **County Board Delegate:** Kevin Barrett.

**Coaching Officer:** Michael Gavin.

**Bord na n-ÓG: Chairman:** John McDonald.

**Secretary:** Trish Hogan;

**Ladies Registrar:** Majella O'Malley.

**Children's Officers:** Majella O'Malley, Sean Kenning, Ollie Mulchrone.



**Memories** (By Kim Bacon, daughter of Jim Cleary, formally of Drimard)



Kim and Husband Neil graced us with their presence during the 125 celebrations in 2014.

Here is some information about my Dad and his connection with Kilmeena Football club. I hope it helps along with my background to explain why we came to Kilmeena.

My Dad Jim (James) Cleary played in the Minors Football Team and played approximately 12/15 games with his brother John, and their friends. They actually played in their working clothes!

My Dad says that, although

were the 1953 Team winners of the West Championship. He had left Ireland in the late 1948 so he didn't play in the winning game sadly. He talks fondly of his times with his friends such as Shamus O'Malley, Padraic Mulloy, Paddy Golden and many others. He mentions the Paddy Golden Cup.

I listen every week to my Dad retelling me the history of Kilmeena Football Team and sharing a pair of football boots with his brother John, the fun times they had as young lads, the friends they made, the history of his homeland and my ancestry.

"I am who I am, because of my heritage and it makes me proud to be a little bit Irish".

I wanted to walk in my Dad's footsteps, look at the view, experience the fun, excitement and joy of watching the game he enjoyed and played as a lad. He is still following this local team because of your website. "Thank you".

He was overjoyed with the photos we brought back and the

*"I am who I am, because of my heritage..."*



**F L - R Jackie O'Malley, Johnny Cleary, Josie Cleary, Tommy O'Malley Back L - R ????, Seamus O'Malley, Tommy Cleary, Paddy Garavan.**

Kilmeena Football Club has been going for 125 years, it became redundant and in 1950 my Dad, my uncle John and Seamus O'Malley (my Dad's friend) and I think Paddy Garavan went to see Father Philbin to see if they could start the Club again. The priest read it out on the altar one Sunday and the Club was reborn in 1951. Joe Higgins (was he Club Chairman?) was another name Dad mentioned.

The team my Dad played for

stories I had to tell him. The Club shirt that we were given for him was as we say, "The icing on the cake". His face was a joy to behold. Thank you so much for such a thoughtful gift.

Sadly, my dad and his siblings left Ireland one by one to find work in the UK. Luckily enough for me and my family, he found my Mum Doreen and had three girls. I am the youngest of the three.

I remember as a little girl of 5

**Kilmeena GAA Annual Charity Run/Walk 2014**

The unusual Summer conditions provided the perfect backdrop for the Club's Annual Charity Fundraiser held on the 28/12/2014. Because of insurance restrictions imposed on GAA clubs by Croke Park for this time of year, this year's Fundraiser was limited to a run/walk. The event started from the Clubhouse and continued via sunny Roscahill, across the scenic Bailegorm hills, culminating in the Community Centre, where copious mounts of mulled wine and other refreshments awaited the participants. Many thanks to the ladies who put on a brilliant spread. Also on display was the Exhibition from the 125th celebrations held earlier this year, depicting the Club's sporting endeavours throughout its history. The event provided an opportunity to meet with old friends from afar, returning to spend time with family and friends for the Festive Season. A special welcome to



The winners enclosure, consisting of **Padraic Moore, Danny Duffy, Kieran Hastings.** AND: believe it or not, **Declan Moore** aged 8 years, finishing 4th overall in the run. Well done Declan.

former club stalwarts, **James Ryan** and **Danny Duffy**, both of whom now ply their footballing skills with clubs in the far off lands of Australia. Also, a céad míle fáilte to **John** and **Niamh Moore**, who graced us with their presence on the occasion.



**"Kilmeena Power Walkers"** taking part in the Fundraiser Walk

years old with my sisters, my Mum and Dad taking the train from Bristol Temple Meads to get the boat from Holyhead in North Wales to Dublin. The weather was so bad we couldn't dock for 8 hours. We then caught a train from Dublin to Westport and then a black car to my Grandparents home in Kilmeena and "oh boy what a wonderful time we had". We collected milk from the farms around and also, every little kitten we could find, we milked cows, we stacked the hay, my Dad's brother PJ still lived at home and we visited my Dad's cousin Tommy Casey.

I love visiting Westport, seeing Tommy Casey, checking on my grandparents and PJ's grave. I have climbed Croagh Patrick with my dad.

Sadly Dad and Mum are unable to return to Kilmeena due to my Mum being unwell, so for me to travel to his home town and bring back news keeps it alive for him.

**With best regards  
Kim**



Liam Garavan with Jimmy Cleary, Kim's Dad, sporting the old laced leather football that he would have been very familiar with in his playing days.

(We thank Kim for this evocative article which beautifully captures times past in the Club and illustrates the bond that exists with our former Club players. We owe people like Jim as huge debt of gratitude. Kim is correct when she says that Joe Higgins was Chairman when the Club reformed in 1951, with Bertie Keany as Secretary. At the AGM of that year Tom Cleary, Jim Cleary, John Cleary, and many others, are listed as having paid membership fees, proving the strong connection the Cleary Family had with the Club. (This period is well covered in our Centenary History of the Club which members might like to look at).



## Visiting Ladies Team



On Saturday 22 August 2015 the Kilmeena Ladies Football Club hosted Templeogue Syngé Street U16 Ladies Team in a Challenge game. The Dublin team were on a bonding weekend and staying overnight on Achill Island.

## Team News

### Mayo Masters

Once again, the gallant formidable four, **Declan Ryan, Pat Mulchrone, Darren Madden, Kieran Hastings** donned the Red and Green to represent Mayo in this year's **All Ireland Masters**. The addition to the 2015 programme of the dynamic duo, **Pat Grady** and **James Prenty** ensured an explosive combination of strength and resilience. Kilmeena G.A.A. supporters attended the matches with an extra element of pride since **Declan Ryan** was chosen as **Captain** and revelled in his role with vigour and tenacity. The lads played heroically, with determination and consistency throughout each of their matches. They strived valiantly to conquer old rivals, Galway, in the Semi Final but the Tribesmen proved to be more zealous and were victorious. While the final whistle has sounded for this year, Kilmeena G.A.A. can reflect on **six super Club ambassadors** who graced the various pitches throughout the country with distinction. Well Done Lads.



Pat Mulchrone Darren Madden Declan Ryan Kieran Hastings Pat Grady James Prenty  
Captain

### U-10 GIRLS



(By Mickey Murray)

Our Under 10 Girls commenced training on 8th of April 2015. We welcomed some new girls to our Club this year. We played a total of 13 games this season, with many highlights, for example our games against Burrishoole, a Blitz in Parke on a very wet day where we played four matches and competed very well. Also we played two very enjoyable matches in our local Paddy Golden Blitz. Our final game was a very historic first meeting against Islandeady girls. We wish them all the very best in their newly formed **Ladies Club**. I would like to thank our **Management Team** of **Maura Hastings** and **James Prenty**, also thanks to the **parents** for all their support during the year.

### U-11 BOYS:



(By Mike Slattery)

**David O'Grady** and **Mike Slattery** were the coaches assigned to the U11 group which got together in September. It was a large group with nearly 25 players at most of the training sessions.

A total of four matches were organised. In all matches an effort was made to ensure as many players as possible got even playing time on the pitch. Where opposition had limited numbers, priority was given to selecting the older players who were competing at this level for their final year.

We played Balla and Ballintubber at home, fielding two 11 a Side Teams in each fixture. We played Burrishoole and Islandeady away. In total, we won three of our four games and were only narrowly beaten in the other game.

**This group of players are a talented and committed group and will be an exciting prospect at the U 12 grade next year.**

### U-8 BOYS



(By John O'Grady)

**Management:** John O'Grady, Michael Durkan, Carmel Higgins, Barry Murphy and Maura Hastings.

2015 was another outstanding year for the development of the U-8 Boys. The improvement in the Skills set during the year was noticeable scoring goals and points in competitive games. We had a Panel of 20 plus players and all were very involved throughout the year which they enjoyed. They participated in the McGroddy Tournament and played well. They also played very well in the 'Go Games' against teams like Castlebar, Westport, Islandeady, Burrishoole and Achill. This was a fantastic group of lads to work with, who showed commitment and a willingness to learn. We wish the lads going forward to the U-10's the best of luck. We know that most of these young players will end up playing Senior Football for Kilmeena. Judging by the lads who are still eligible for U-8's next year and the lads moving up from U-6's, next year's U-8's will be a force to reckon with. We would welcome new boys on to the panel.

**Táimid ag súil le bliain iontach i 2016!**

### U-10 BOYS

(By Pat Mulchrone)



**Back row:** Dermot Tiernan, Mike Slattery, Ann Hastings, Damian Hughes and Pat Mulchrone. Middle row left to right: Rian Kilcoyne, DJ Keane, Patrick McGlynn, Dylan Staunton, Conor Feehan, Joseph O'Malley, Lucas Kennedy, Aodhan Feehan, Donal Hastings, Daniel Kelly, Conal Gill, Odhran Tiernan, Darragh Slattery, Louis O'Donnell.

**Front row left to right:** John Murphy, Zac Zeray, Declan Moore, Ivan Walsh, Stephen O'Grady, Michael Regan, Jack O'Grady, Charlie Hughes, Evan O'Grady, Aaron Bourke, Luke Durkan, Fionn O'Driscoll, Rory Lyons.

**Unavoidably absent from the photo:** Brian Mulchrone, Jonathan Garavan, Conor Kelly, Caolan Corcoran and James Geraghty.

This Panel of 32 registered players started training in March. We started Go - Games in May fielding two teams against Achill, Islandeady, Burrishoole, Louisburgh, Westport St. Patrick's, Tourmakeady, and Castlebar Mitchels. We fielded two teams in the Paddy Golden Blitz with one team winning the Shield in the B Final and the other team narrowly losing the C Final to Westport. In the Burrishoole Blitz the lads went one better with both Kilmeena

teams winning Cups. In the Tourmakeady Blitz we had one team and once again our boys won the Cup. In the Balla Blitz we narrowly lost the Semi-Final to Moy Davitts, the team that went on to win the final. We also had a skills test at the start and the end of the season with all players showing big improvement levels.

**The future looks bright for KILMEENA GAA with these lads coming through.**



## U-18 (Minors)

(By Darren Madden, Team Manager).

Kilmeena Minors have had a very successful year. We started by qualifying for the Semi-Final of the League. Unfortunately we were unable to field a team and had to concede. We continued training with the Seniors and many of our Minors started for the Junior Team. We gathered again for the County Championship and West B Championship and had a very successful run. We won the West B Championship defeating Ballintubber, Burrishoole and Achill in the Final. This was a great day for the Club and the performance was outstanding from these fine young men. They went on to win the County Championship by defeating Ballaghdereen in McHale Park under lights. This is the first time this



**Back L-R:** John Ryder (Mentor), Jack Staunton, Paul Moran, Kevin Ryder, Joey Smyth, Philip Cawley, Sean McGreal, Ross Mullin, Barry Duffy, Chris Heanue, John Keane, Colin Coyne, Aaron Mc Ginelly, Darren Madden (Manager).

**Front Row L-R:** Robbie Harper, Conor Madden, Aidan Walsh, Sean Ryder (Capt), Stephen Staunton, John Ryan, Keith Joyce, John McGlynn, Ciaran Costello.

## U-21 TEAM

(By John Doherty)

Kilmeena U-21's have had a very successful campaign this year and stand poised to capture a County title.

The championship started back in August with a trip to Ardnaree. This was a close fought affair and despite a great second half fightback the Kilmeena lads lost out by two points. Next up was a home tie to Kilmovee, and in a game where we were always on top we ran out easy winners. In the group decider we travelled to Glencorrib to take on Shrule/Glencorrib in a group decider. The first half was tight but a flurry of fantastic point taking in the second half saw an 8 point victory to secure qualification to the quarter final.

Kilmeena were paired with Ballyhaunis in the Quarter Final, and after a steady start the Kilmeena lads took a stranglehold on the game and by the final quarter were comprehensive winners of the tie.

The semi-final saw us drawn against Kilmaine. Playing into the face of a gale force wind Kilmeena played some delightful football, and went into the break 3 points up. Kilmaine put up stiffer opposition in the second half but a strong finish saw Kilmeena edge out their opponents by a single point.

We are now waiting to play our final against our opponents from the opening round, Ardnaree. This has been an excellent campaign so far for the U21 squad. Momentum is with this team now and regardless of obstacles put in their way, they are determined to take another county title back to the Western Shores of Clew Bay.

**Team Management**

Mickey Feeney, Neil O'Donnell and John Doherty

## Team News

has been achieved by our Club since this competition was formed back in 1929. A truly historic day for our proud club! This success would not have been possible only for the hard work by many trainers and coaches throughout the years. I would like to thank the efforts of my management partner **John Ryder**, senior management **Mickie Feeney** and **John Doherty**. Physio, **Julie Moore** for keeping the lads fit and well, **Michael Gavin U-16 Manager**, for his co-operation and our **Chairman Willie Keaveney**, for his guidance. And to all the **parents** for their support and understanding. This success was a real team effort.

All in all a great year for our Minor Team.

## U-12 BOYS

(By Michael O'Grady)



The Under 12 squad comprised a total of thirty boys. The squad was managed/coached by Michael O'Grady, David O'Grady, Oliver Mulchrone, Paul Walsh, James Prenty and Robert Coady.

Training commenced in mid-March, with two sessions, Monday and Saturday evening each week, up to early May. Attendance at training was excellent, with 26 to 28 (sometimes up to 30) boys turning up for the twice weekly sessions.

The Under 12 league games began on 11th May. The First Round comprised 5 matches, one each against Naomh Padraig, Lahardane, Crossmolina, Parke and Belmullet.

Kilmeena fielded two teams for all bar the game against Naomh Padraig.

The Under 12 boys were competitive throughout, winning about 50% of their games, the most memorable win being that which involved a great comeback to beat Crossmolina (game played in Crossmolina).

After a one week break in June, the Second Round of games commenced. Here, Kilmeena recorded wins against Burrishoole, Islandeady and Louisburgh, whilst losing out to Achill and Ballintubber.

The Under 12 boys also participated in the McGroddy Blitz in Louisburgh on 20th June, reaching the Cup Final. The squad also played two friendly games in the earlier part of the season.

Overall, the Under 12 Group can be very satisfied with their achievements. They developed both as individuals and team players, learned from their defeats and were very competitive in what was a reasonably strong league group.

**The future prospects from this group are exciting - here's to 2016!**

## U-8 Girls

(By Sandra McDonald)



The U8 girls had an enjoyable 2015 season with a total of 18 girls registered. Training ran from the 8th April through to the 14th October. Training comprised of a mixture of fun team activities and the development of the core skills needed to play football. The emphasis at all times was on inclusion and participation by all.

The girls played 3 Go games (non-competitive) against Westport at home and away and a home game with Louisburgh. This was the first experience that this age group had of playing a match outside of training. These games helped the girls understand the concept of playing in different positions while also developing their ball handling and confidence on the field.

This was a wonderful and enthusiastic group of girls to coach and the **Managers, Sandra McDonald, Noreen Moore and Shona Hughes**, would like to thank all the players and their parents for their support.

Thank you to **Nicola McIntyre, John Moore and John Gallagher** for all their assistance during the year.

It is with parental involvement that we can build and continue to develop the club into the future.

We look forward to welcoming the girls back next season and best of luck to those moving up to the U 10's. **Any new girls from Fahy, Carrowholly and Kilmeena wishing to join the Ladies Club are very welcome.**

## U-14 GIRLS

(By Michael Moore)



The Kilmeena U14 Girls performed well in the 2015 season.

Three good wins were achieved in the league and the team narrowly missed out on a league Semi Final. The girls had their first home championship game in 3 years which they lost to Westport. The U14 and U16 girls trained together which contributed to some very competitive training sessions. A few pre-season challenge matches helped the girls learn how to play together as a team. All in all a good season for the team in the League and Championship.

The coaches were very impressed with the improvement in skill levels the girls showed during the 2015 season.

A number of the panel attended the Mayo development squad and many more have the ability to represent their county in coming years.

Hopefully 2016 will be another successful year for the girls and we hope to see them develop their skills further and challenge for silverware.

Thanks to all parents who helped out during the year. Many thanks to all who helped with the training sessions and games during the year.

**This was a good year for the Kilmeena U14 Girls**



## Junior Team

(By John Doherty)



This year's Junior Campaign was in some ways satisfactory, but at the same time a feeling that more could have been achieved. In Division 4 of the League, Kilmeena have finished in 5th position, while the Championship saw a disappointing campaign end with one win from our three games at the group stage

Two defeats in our first two games to Kilcommin and Crossmolina had us on the back foot straight away. An easy win over Moy Davitts was followed by a huge performance against Balla to get a share of the points. Our next league game saw a commanding display against eventual league winners Ardagh to secure two points and hopes were high of battling for promotion.

Our next game saw another draw against Killala, but a sense of a point lost there. However, we were back on track again with another solid display against Ballycastle.

The low points in our League campaign came with comprehensive defeats to Charlestown and Davitts. A close fought one point victory over neighbours Westport stopped the slide, and this was followed up in the final game with a good win over Knockmore

The League campaign provided evidence at times of the potential of this team. There were outstanding displays against Balla and Ardagh, but unfortunately this was matched with poor performances against Crossmolina, Davitts and Charlestown.

Against the top three teams in the league we had a narrow one point loss, a draw and a 12 point victory. There is no doubt that the ability lies within this squad to compete at a higher level.

With so many players located away from Mayo, it does present a challenge. So many players have made the journey regularly back home at weekends from the likes of Dublin, Sligo, Galway, Cork, Limerick and Inisturk. Like so many clubs throughout the land, it is a challenge we all have to deal with and work with.

Looking forward to 2016, there is now enough to build on and make serious progress. This year a handful of younger players nailed down starting places in the team, and in tandem with more experienced players Kilmeena has the potential to make huge strides

## U-16 BOYS (By Michael Gavin)



The U16 Boys participated in Division 2 and this was a very tough competition. We completed all 7 games and reached the League Semi-final. We were beaten by Breaffy, the eventual winners of the League.

In the Summer League (Division 2) we played 4 games, winning 1.

It was a challenging year due to numerous injuries but we competed and trained well. 11 of the Team played a vital role in the Minor Team success.

**Panel:** Kieran Costello, Sean McGreal, Kevin Ryder, Josh Mulchrone, John Keane, Adam Heffron, Ryan McGonigle, Rob Harper, Jack Carney, John McGlynn, Keith Joyce, Daniel Moran, Sean Moore, Bailey Nevin, Jack Staunton, Alex O Riain, Philip Cawley, John Ryan.

**Captain:** John Ryan, who played corner back on the Ted Webb Mayo U 16 Team. **Player of the Year:** Keith Joyce. **Management:** Michael Gavin, Sean Kenning, Billy McGonagle. **Thanks to all and well done to everybody.**

## Team News

### U- 14 BOYS

(By Padraic Moore)



U14's participated in Division 3B of the County league. After a shaky away opening game loss to Breaffy, we recovered well and recorded memorable wins against Islandeady, Ardnaree & Crossmolina but narrowly missed out on a Semi-Final position.

U14's participated in Division 3A of the County Championship and qualified for the Semi-Final after great wins over Ardnaree, Erris St. Pat's and Ballinrobe. We were drawn away to Bonniconlon, (eventual winners) in the Semi-Final and lost narrowly.

**U14 West Championship:** An under strength Kilmeena team were beaten in the Istround of the Championship by Burreishoole.

All in all it was a very good U14 campaign bearing in mind most of the panel are under age again next year.

#### Panel:

Ronan O'Donnell (Fahy), Cathal Cawley, Ian Murphy, Chris McNally, Mickey Hastings, Kian Moore, Sean Costello, Robbie Staunton, Jack Carney, Ronan O'Donnell (Myna), Brian Mortimer, Brian Kelly, Tom Smyth, Luke Garavan, Denis Kelly, Nathan Heanue, Simon Duffy, Niall Mullen, Jason Mc Glynn, Michael Mullarkey, Mark Hastings, Gerard Gibbons, Mark Gannon, Adam Sheridan, Killian O Grady, Chris Mc Glynn, Sean Prenty.

#### Managers:

Padraic Moore, Peter Carney, Dermot Mullin



Laura Moore defending her lines in the U14 Girls match against Westport in August

## U- 12 GIRLS

(By Ollie Mulchrone)



2015 will be remembered as a historic year for Kilmeena Ladies Gaelic Football Club as the U-12 girls won our first piece of silverware by winning Division 2B of the County League.

There are 24 girls registered on the Under 12 girls Panel in 2015. Weekly training commenced on the 1st April and continued through to the 30th September. On the 12th April we were fortunate to get the opportunity of playing at half time in the National Football Division 1 League game between Mayo and Galway at St. James' Park Ballina.

We continued to build on the solid foundations that were established over the past two years. Positive progress was witnessed throughout the year where these girls participated in very enjoyable games against well matched teams such as Kilmovee, Moy Davitts, Carnacon, Tourmakeady and Davitts. This high spirited group of girls recorded victories over Westport B, Breaffy, St. Bridget's, Castlebar Mitchell's and Charlestown.

The Management team of **Ollie Mulchrone, Ann Hastings, Geraldine Gibbons, Colm Barrett and Mary Mulcahy** would like to thank all the players, their parents, supporters, Martin McIntyre for his photography and our wonderful team sponsors (**Molloy Shellfish & The Big Tree**) for all their hard work and assistance during the year. Finally, **I'd ask parents to consider getting involved in helping out in some small way either on or off the football field.**

We again look forward to next year with confidence that the **Kilmeena LGFA** will continue to grow and develop, providing a vital resource for the girls to socialise, make new friends and participate in sporting activities.

#### 2015 U-12 Panel:

Aisling Hoban, Abby McGreal, Aibhlinn O Flynn, Aine Mulcahy, Aine Regan, Anna Moran, Aoife Gibbons, Ciara Joyce, Ciara Walshe, Emma Murray, Evie Flynn, Grace McNally, Holly Barrett, Jessica O'Donnell, Keeley Hastings, Laura Kelly, Megan Mulchrone, Megan O Malley, Mollie Keane, Rachel Gibbons, Sarah Gillespie, Sinead Mulchrone, Leah Rankin, Emma L Murray.

## U- 13 GIRLS

(By Ollie Mulchrone)

The U-13 Girls Competition commenced on the 28th August and was played during the months of September, October and November. The objective of this league is to give the younger U-14 and stronger U-12 girls a chance to play football in this middle grade, whilst providing an opportunity for them to play into the Winter months. The results from this league are also used to grade the clubs into the different divisions next year. **Well done to all the girls involved.**



**U- 13 BOYS**

(By Padraic Moore)

**Team News**



**U 13's with coaches Michael O'Grady, Padraic Moore and James Prenty**

We participated in Division 2 of the County League and easily qualified for the Semi- Final with great wins over Ardnaree, Balla, Achill, Davitts and Bonniconlon. We faced Belmullet in a home Semi-Final where we were narrowly beaten.

**Panel**

Ronan O' Donnell (Fahy), Cathal Cawley, Ian Murphy, Chris Mc Nally, Mickey Hastings, Cian Moore, Sean Costello, Robbie Staunton, Tom Smyth, Luke Garavan, Denis Kelly, Jason Mc Glynn, Mark Hastings, Adam Sheridan, Killian O' Grady, Chris McGlynn, Sean Prenty, Oisín Grimley, Milo Mc Manus, Ben Lennon, Daniel O' Malley, Jack Walsh, Rory Nolan, Jamie Staunton, Sean Sammon, Connor Keirns, Liam Moore.

**Managers**

Padraic Moore & Michael O' Grady



Kian Moore displaying his high fielding skills in the U13 championship game against Belmullet



**U13 Girls with coaches Ollie Mulchrone, Ger Gibbons, Ann Hastings and Colm Barrett**

**U16 Girls**

(By Bernie Smyth)



It's hard to believe that football is over for another year. We don't have any trophies or medals on our shelves but what we have is much more valuable. We have a team that played with determination, learned to motivate and help each other when the going was tough. You cannot buy this team spirit.

We are very proud of this bunch of girls regardless of the results. Everything

that was asked of them they gave whole heartily, even when the weather wasn't so kind to us they turned up for training full of energy and fun.

Thanks to the **coaches - Bernie Smyth, Packie Keane, Trish Hogan and John McDonald** and to all of you who helped with the U16 ladies in any way, washing jerseys, filling water bottles, lifts to training and matches and the cheering support at the matches, it's all appreciated.

**With your continued support, the future is bright for the Ladies Football. Bring on 2016.**



Ciara Joyce in full flight in the final game of the Girls U13 league against Westport



Girls U16 Team with coach Bernie Smyth



Lucy O'Malley in action in the Girls U16 match against Kilmovee in April