December 2014 Volume 1 Issue 1

Chairman's Address



Welcome to the First Edition of our Club's Newsletter. Earlier this year when we sat down to formulate our Club Development Plan for the next five years, publishing a newsletter was one of the ideas which we felt would improve communication between you, the reader and your GAA Club. We hope that you will agree that it is an excellent first attempt and that you enjoy looking back at what has been a stand-out year.

As Chairman of the Club I am immensely proud of what has been achieved this year. Our various celebrations to mark our 125th Anniversary has really brought a certain togetherness to our Club and has given true meaning to what a vibrant "community" is all about. Our success on the playing field at Under-age - Under 16 County Title, Under 14 West Mayo Champions, Under 13 County Finalists - this together with all the other competitions won at local level has made this the most successful year for a while for our young boys and girls. I congratulate the Ladies Club on their fantastic year. It is good to know that our young girls are being well looked after.

I am also delighted that our Club's efforts have not gone unnoticed and that we have received the highest accolade any club can get, being selected **CLUB OF THE YEAR** in the County. This is a major achievement for a small rural club, but it accurately reflects the hard work being done at all levels.

Looking to the year ahead, Four Sub Committees have been established to ensure the goals in our Development Plan are brought to fruition. We do not intend to rest on our laurels and admire what has been achieved, we intend to push on with further developments at our Club in line with the Development Plan.

I want to personally thank all our volunteers, the people who give their time to coach teams, the people who take care of the Club premises and pitches, the Lotto sellers who make such a contribution to ensure the club is properly funded, our sponsors, and to everyone who has helped in any way in ensuring that this Club is Number One.

I wish to thank also our 125 Committee who have done a Trojan job of work during the year in ensuring that young and old alike will have fond memories of this memorable year.

I also want to put on record my appreciation of everyone who has agreed to sit on a Sub Committee to ensure that our Club will go from strength to strength in the years ahead.

On behalf of our Club I want to wish all our members at home and overseas a joyful and a happy Christmas.

Nollaig shona agus ath-bhliain faoi mhaise dhíbh.

Willie Keaveney Club Chairman

Kicking To Touch with the Community

This year marked the **125th Anniversary** of Kilmeena G.A.A. Club. The proud tradition of our national sport and the relentless work of our predecessors to promote and develop the Club created the corner stone which ensured that Kilmeena G.A.A. Club could celebrate this illustrious year with a true sense of pride, honour and appreciation.

A Steering Committee was formed with the specific purpose of organising events to acknowledge this milestone in the history of the Club. Each event proved a great success because of the huge volume of co-operation and participation from the



Lee Keegan



Jaimee Geraghty

community. The history of the Club was rekindled through the photographs and articles on display in the exhibition. Memories were evoked and a tour of nostalgia created an animated atmosphere. Moments of reflection were shared for loved ones now absent from our lives.

January 2014: The year commenced with a Presentation Night in the Clubroom for the successful U-12 and U-13 boys. Sincere gratitude to Lee Keegan, Two-in-a-Row All Star recipient, who presented the medals. Also congrats to Lee on his worthy selection for the International Rules series this year.

In **February** the Club held the first meeting to discuss the **5 Year Development Plan.** The Steering Committee initiated an Art Competition in the three parish schools with a theme for the 125 Anniversary Logo.

Congrats to 6thclass pupil **Jaimee Geraghty** in St. Brendan's N.S. Myna, winner of the Art Competition. Jaimee's creative artwork was formatted into a sign which is on permanent display in the entrance to the Clubroom. A banner was also produced which took pride of place at all events throughout this year.

Sea 2 Summit: Congrats to all Kilmeena participants in this year's event.











On 8th **March** the 125th Anniversary of Kilmeena G.A.A. was officially launched in the Clew Bay Hotel, Westport. A large attendance enjoyed a night

of memories regaled by former Chairmen, Paddy O'Grady, Willie Quinn, Austin Gibbons and Tom Ryan.









Paddy O'Grady

Willie Quinn

Austin Gibbons

Tom Ryan

Tree Planting Ceremony



April 2014: Former players of the 1968 Team, who were the first to win the coveted Cusack Cup, visited the three national schools in the parish, accompanied by the Club Chairman, Mr. Willie Keaveney and some members of the Club. The Chairman presented each school with

a football autographed by all members of the Mayo Senior Team. A tree planting ceremony took place on the Sports Grounds . Mr. John Moran, a true Club stalwart, planted an oak tree in memory of all deceased members of Kilmeena G.A.A.

May 2014: The Club hosted a reception for the 1968 Team who ignited the Parish with excitement by winning the coveted Cusack Cup for the first time and reaching the County Final that year. Scrolls were presented by Club President, Mr. Tom Ryan, to all players and to a group of people who have played a pivotal role in the promotion of Kilmeena G.A.A. over the years. Many thanks to Clew Bay Pipe Band who provided entertainment and led the parade from the Sports Grounds to the Community Centre. Our sincere gratitude also to the Community Council for use of the facilities to host the reception, to Martin O'Malley for the use of his audio/visual equipment, to Dermot Mullin for his expertise and to Caroline Geraghty for enhancing the atmosphere with her music. It was a befitting tribute to the Club that Irish T.V. covered the day's event and the programme was televised nationally in June.

Paddy Golden Blitz



Hugh, Pauline, Margaret, Mary and Padraig Golden.

June 2014: The Paddy Golden Blitz was a resounding success with 27 teams participating. It proved very enjoyable. The overall winners in Category A were Breaffy. Mrs. Margaret Golden presented the Paddy Golden Memorial Cup to the victorious Captain. Category B winners were Westport and Category C winners were Islandeady. Our sincere gratitude to Margaret Golden and family members for their attendance.

Club of the Year

It has been a very rewarding year in **Kilmeena G.A.A. Club.** The recent accolade of Club of the Year is testimony of recognition, by the judges, of the relentless work undertaken to promote and develop the Club. Replies to correspondence have been received from the Kilmeena diaspora in **Bristol, Wales, San Francisco , Sydney** and throughout Ireland. Sincere thanks to all and keep logging on to the website.

Cycling

May 2014: Well Done to **Anthony Murray,** Carrowholly, who finished 23rd place in the general class of **An Post Rás.** He was also 2nd Overall Irish rider in the Rás. Anthony was a former player with Kilmeena G.A.A. Club and was also a Mayo Minor. Sending you Best Wishes across the miles to Australia. May your career continue to flourish until you claim the coveted yellow jersey.



Clew Bay Pipe Band













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News Kilmeena GAA

Commemorative Mass



July 2014: A Mass to commemorate all deceased members of Kilmeena G.A.A. was held on Fri 4th July. Sincere thanks to Fr. Jim Walsh for his co-operation and flexibility with the preparations. This was followed by the launch of the 5 Year Development Plan in the Community Centre. Once again the Community Council ensured the facilities were available to allow viewing of the Exhibition over the weekend. Sunday 6th July started on a very positive note as the U-12 Girls beat Kilmaine with a very comprehensive win in the second match of the League. The Club hosted a barbecue incorporating an afternoon of sport and fun. Thank you to the chefs, **Michael Mulchrone, John O'Grady** and **Mike Slattery.** It was invigorating to witness so many parents and children participating. There might not have been any candidates for "Ireland's fittest family" but it proved a very enjoyable day.



Community enjoying the Sports Day

Annual Challenge Game: (By W Cox) This annual Fund-raiser is now a feature of the Christmas period. The proceeds this year were presented to **Michael Browne**, recovering from injuries received in a construction accident in England. The Club wishes to thank sincerely the organisers, **John O'Grady** and **Kieran Hastings**, all players who took part and all those who supported this worthy cause.

Presentation of the Annual Awards

Damian Loftus, Junior Team Manager, made the following awards on Presentation Night:

The Player of the Year: Alan Ryan.

The Young Player of the Year: Darragh Keaveney.

The Most Improved Player: Niall Feehan.

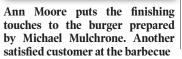
A Special Award: Sean Duffy.

Community Award: Kilmeena Folk Choir.

Clubman of the Year Award: Martin McIntyre, a popular and well deserved tribute for his work with photography and the Club Website.

125 Sports Day







Carmel Moore proudly displaying her "feathers" in the "Fancy Dress" sports event.

Mayo Masters



Nov 2014: Congrats to the Kilmeena stalwarts, **Kieran Hastings, Darren Madden, Pat Mulchrone and Declan Ryan** who donned the Red and Green in the Final of the All Ireland Masters against Galway in Clonberne, Galway. The game was played in challenging weather conditions but it did not deter the determination of the Kilmeena quartet. Unfortunately, the victors were Galway by a single point. Nevertheless the Club is proud of the lads.

CLUB OFFICERS:

President: Tom Ryan. **Chairperson:** Willie Keaveney. **Secretary:** Damian Hughes. **Assistant Sec:** Paul Ryan.

Treasurer: Neil O'Donnell.

Assistant Treasurer: Padraic Moore.

PRO: Trish Hogan;

Registrar: Tommy Duffy;

Coaching Officer: Michael Gavin.

Bord na n-ÓG: Chairman: Willie Keaveney.

Secretary: Trish Hogan;

Ladies Registrar: Majella O'Malley.

Children's Officers: Majella O'Malley, Sean Kenning, Ollie Mulchrone and Derek Walsh.



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IUNIOR TEAM:



(By Willie Keaveney)

2014 was another busy year for our Junior Team. They competed in Division 1D of the Mayo Senior League and turned in some excellent performances to see them take third place behind

Achill and Castlebar. In all the Junior Team played eleven League games, winning eight games, lost two and drew one. Apart from the Aran Islands in the Connacht Junior Final and Castlebar in the County Final, our Junior Team was the only other team to beat Achill this year.

We did not have as much luck in the Championship. We suffered losses to Ballaghadereen and Achill by the narrowest of margins. We then took on Charlestown with a lot hanging in the balance. It was a winner takes all battle with the winner going through to the next Round. Unfortunately we came up short and again were beaten by a single point. We then faced a relegation battle and had to take on Ballina at Islandeady. We were well beaten by Ballina and were left facing the prospect of playing Junior B football in 2015. The final gar to be against Knockmore. Fortunately for us Knockmore were unable to field a team, which meant we held on to our Junior A status for 2015. We now look forward to 2015 with hope. We have a new Management Team in place and with a little luck success will come to this group in the year ahead.

U-12 BOYS:



(By Padraic Moore)

Managers: Padraic Moore, Michael O'Grady, David O'Grady, James Prenty.

We had a **Panel** of 26 players and played in Section B of the County U-12 League (Go Games). The lads won 7

games and drew 2, finishing unbeaten in the Competition and were Runners Up on score difference. This was a great achievement. The highlights of the year were a comprehensive win over Ballintubber and a draw against a strong Moy Davitts Team. In the latter game the large attendance applauded the team off the field in appreciation of the terrific display of football. Also we won the Annual Louisburgh McGrody U-12 Blitz Competition and played 3 Friendly games. 13 of the Panel went on to play a major role with the U-13 Team that won the County League. It was a very successful year and the boys should be very proud of themselves.

Team News

U-15 BOYS



(By Peter Carney)

We debated as to whether or not we would enter our U15 Team in Division 2, given the amount of football the lads had played. However it was the lads themselves that asked for a

team to be entered in the competition, so we honoured their wish. Little did we think we would again be contesting a County Final in November. The lads played fantastic football throughout the campaign and had very impressive victories over Senior clubs such as Charlestown, Ballaghadereen, Ballinrobe and Davitts. We suffered a heavy defeat to Breaffy in an earlier round of the League so few gave us any chance in the Final. However we nearly pulled off the surprise of the year when we ran Breaffy to 5 points in the Final, despite missing 2 of our key players. This was again another fantastic run for this special gang of lads.

Management

Peter Carney (Manager), Michael Gavin (Coach), Nicholas Duffy, John Ryan, Billy McGonigle.

Panel

John McGlynn, John Keane, Ryan McGonigle, Kevin Mortimer, Sean Moore, Josh Mulchrone, Ciaran Costello, Sean McGreal, Keith Joyce, John Ryan, Robbie Harper, Philip Cawley, Daniel Moran, Jack Staunton, Bailey Nevin, Jack Carney, Kevin Ryder, Simon Duffy, Dylan Bourke.

U-13 GIRLS



(By John McDonald)

The UI3 competition allowed our younger UI4 girls and the older girls from the UI2 Team to participate in a development competition which gave the girls the opportunity of playing more football and

thus develop their footballing ability and skills. The girls closed out the season with a Quarter final game against Achill. The girls from both teams are to be complimented on their continued attendance on a weekly basis at training sessions and games. It is wonderful to see so many girls now participating from U8 through to U14 and possibly U16 next year. The future looks good for Kilmeena LGFA.

U-12 GIRLS



(by Ollie Mulchrone)

In 2014 Kilmeena had 27 Under 12 girls playing competitive football. Weekly training commenced on the 15th March and continued through to the 22nd October. On Saturday 19th April we hosted

and competed well in an Under 12 Grading Competition for teams from Westport, Louisburgh and Achill. Our first of 5 league games was played on Friday 16th May where Kilmeena was narrowly defeated by a strong Claremorris side. We continued to compete against Carnacon, Charlestown, St. Bridget's and recording a well-deserved victory over Kilmaine on Sunday 6th July. The spirit and positive attitude of this brilliant group of girls never faltered and we finished the year on a positive note by defeating Parke in a Challenge game on Wednesday 17th September. We look forward with confidence that the U-12 girls will continue to develop on the foundations that have been created over the past two years and build on this

momentum to deliver a bright future for Kilmeena LGFA.

U-16 BOYS



(By Michael Carney)

Kilmeena U-16 Team had a very successful 2014 campaign. The Team contested three Finals and gave a wonderful account of themselves. The commitment they showed throughout the year was a great

example to all teams in the Club. They won the Division 4 League Title on a very special evening in McHale Park in front of a huge crowd. The Team were defeated by Bonniconlon after a replay in the County Grounds. They were two wonderful games of football and only a goal separated the teams after the replay. After a long season and without a number of players, the team were defeated by Burrishoole in the West Mayo Final. This was a wonderful year for this superb bunch of young footballers and the Managers, Mickey Carney, Neil O'Donnell and Rory Nevin would like to thank all the players and families for their support. There are big days ahead for this Team and the Club is very proud of them. Well done lads! You all are a credit to the Club.













PRESENTATION NIGHT FOR U-AGE PLAYERS: (By W. Cox)

This year's Presentation of Awards to Under-Age Teams were held on 28/11/14. A packed Mill Times venue heard the Chairman congratulate the various teams on their achievements. The large attendance was in celebratory mood. Special Guests - **Conor O'Shea**, Mayo Senior Player and the legend that is **Cora Staunton** – were on hand to make the various presentations.

The Chairman thanked everyone involved with the various teams and noted the huge sense of pride that is in the Club. The level of participation by both boys and girls in the various competitions and at training sessions is testament to the great work that is being carried out by many people. The good will of parents, mentors, teachers and supporters is very much appreciated. The recently held Local Leagues and Skills Competitions attracted large numbers of boys and girls, which meant we finished off the year on a high.

Various speakers highly praised the young boys and girls for their dedication and urged them and their parents to ensure their future involvement in the Club. They will be the back bone of the Club in future.

Presentations were made as follows:

Local Leagues: The William Quinn, Declan Gibbons and Sean Kelly Memorial Trophies, and the Ryan Cup were made to the winning Teams.

The Winners of the Skills Competitions were:

Girls: U-10s Aoife Gannon; U-12s Laura Kelly; U-14s Dearbhla Grealis.

Boys: U-10s Colin Hastings; U-12s Ian Murphy.

The U-13 and U-16 County Winners and **U-14 West Championship Winners** were especially congratulated on their fine performances.

Players of the Year:

U-12 Ronan O'Donnell; U-13 Jack Carney; U-14 John McGlynn; U-15 John Ryan; U-16 Joey Smyth.

Cora, in a well delivered address, congratulated the Club on its 125th celebrations and all the success achieved throughout the year. She outlined the benefits that ensue from being involved in sport. She urged all the young players to stay involved and not to be afraid to dream the dream. Conor re-echoed her remarks and said that success will come if you persevere. Thus ended another memorable night in a remarkable year!

Team News

U-13 BOYS



(By Peter Carney)

Our **Under 13's** had a fantastic year which culminated in winning a Divisional County Title. If we were to be honest we never thought at the beginning of the year we

would be contesting a County Final as we had a very young team. Only five of the starting team are overage next year! Every opposition we played were bigger and physically stronger, yet the determination and heart of this group of players saw them beat Crossmolina and Parke on the way to the Final, against Bonniconlon.

The Final itself was probably "Match of the Year". Despite a dreadful start going behind by 8 points, the lads rallied superbly in the second half and at full time the sides were level. The superior fitness and skills level of this group told in the end when we won out easily in extra time. A wonderful ending for our U 13's!

Management: Peter Carney **(Manager)**, Michael Gavin **(Coach)**, Dermot Mullin,

Nicholas Duffy. (Selectors)

Panel

Aidan Sheridan, Tom Smyth, Chris McNally, Mark Gannon, Brian Mortimer, Niall Mullin, Jack Carney (Captain), Ronan O'Donnell, Cian Moore, Sean Costello, Iain Murphy, Robbie Staunton, Cathal Cowley, Brain Kelly, Gerard Gibbons, Luke Garavan, Mickey Hastings, Mark Hastings, Nathan Heanue, Simon Duffy.

U-11 BOYS



(By Padraic Moore)

This panel of 25 players had the same Mentors as the U-12 boys. We played in Division B of the West Mayo U-11 League and won 4 of our games, only losing 1 game. We were delighted to finish as Runners'

Up. We played a Friendly away to Ballintubber under floodlights as the last game of the season. We are really looking forward to next year and these boys have a bright future in front of them. Keep at it boys!

Athletics: Our sincere congratulations to Ronan O'Donnell, Fahy, member of the successful Westport U13 Athletic team, on their winning the Gold Medal in the All-Ireland Cross Country Championships 2500M event held in Santry over the weekend.

Also taking part in the second Westport U13 team was **Cian Moore**, Carrowholly, whose team finished outside the medals arena on this occasion.

Congratulations also to **Colin Hastings**, Kiltyroe, Kilmeena on his teams very respectable 4th place finish in the boys U-II 1500M event at the same venue.

U-10 GIRLS



(By Mickey Murray)

A **Management Team** of Mickey Murray, Majella O'Malley and Mary O'Grady were put in charge of nurturing a talented bunch of U-10 footballers. They were eager to get started so we set the ball in motion.

Our first match was at home to Burrishoole where our U-10's competed very well. Our next match was away to Westport. Again the girls played very well and everyone had a lot to cheer about. Following this we played Burrishoole, the eventual winners, in the Paddy Golden Blitz. Westport were up next. This match was a very close and enjoyable match. After a small summer break we regrouped. Our next outing was the Achill Blitz where we reached the Semi-Final. Our young ladies did us very proud. Our next adventure was to face Louisburgh away. Again this proved to be a very exciting game. Our last challenge was the County Blitz played in the Centre of Excellence in Bekan, Claremorris. Here we played four matches and again performed very well and we had a great day. A party was organised in the Clubhouse to mark the end of the year. I would like to commend all the girls for their hard work and dedication. We had a very enjoyable year and the girls developed into a fine team.

U-10 BOYS



(By Ollie Mulchrone)

In 2014 Kilmeena had 36 Under 10 boys playing football from March through to November. We fielded two competitive teams in fortnightly "Go games" against Louisburgh, Burrishoole, Achill,

Islandeady and Westport. We hosted the Paddy Golden Blitz on Saturday 14th June where 27 teams (300+ kids) competed in this prestigious event. On August 2nd we won the highly contested Annual Burrishoole Festival Blitz by beating a strong Achill side in the Final where the lads proudly brought the cup back to Kilmeena. On 7th September we travelled to Balla for another Blitz Competition where we competed well against multiple clubs to qualify for a Semi-final place against Moy Davitts. We travelled to Claregalway in October with two teams that played against U-10 boys from senior clubs in Counties Galway, Roscommon and Mavo.



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U-18 (Minors)



(By Darren Madden, Team Manager).

Kilmeena Minor Football Team competed in the County Summer League, County Championship and West Mayo Championship during the year. After a year when Kilmeena

had to amalgamate with Burrishoole to field a Minor Team, it was welcomed that our Club was able to field and compete at this level. We did struggle at times to field a team but there was a core group of players who were really committed and gave 100% in everything they did. Although there was no silverware for this group of players, it was felt that there was great progress made. We trained with the Senior Panel and it worked well for both groups. It should be noted that a large number of the Minor Players made their debut with the Senior Panel and will become the backbone of this team in years to come. I would like to thank Sean Kenning and Joe Gibbons who gave their time and helped out with the team. I would also like to thank David O Grady who drove us to games and helped on away fixtures. Thanks also to the Club for the support we received during the year and to Martin McIntyre for coming to our games to take photos during the games.

U-21 TEAM



(By Willie Keaveney)

This year was the first year in a while that we fielded a team in the Under 21 Championship. Our first game was against Tourmakeady and we turned in an excellent performance

to see us win the match easily. Our next encounter was against our near neighbours, Burrishoole. Again our lads turned in a great performance and the match ended in a draw. Our last game in the group was against Ballinrobe. We were beaten by a much hungrier Ballinrobe side on the evening. Unfortunately we did not progress any further in this Championship. Overall entering the competition was worthwhile and gave our young men a chance to compete at a different level and it augers well for future development.

Team News

U-14 BOYS



(By Peter Carney)

The Under 14 Team contested both Divisional and County Titles, and a West Mayo Championship Final. Although we beat Charlestown in the early stage of the league, they

proved a little too strong for us on Final evening in McHale Park. Nonetheless, the team performed heroically throughout the campaign and they were given their just reward when they beat a very strong Breaffy side in the West Mayo Championship Final in Ballintubber. This bridged a 10 year gap since last clinching the West Mayo U 14 Title.

Management:

Peter Carney (Manager), Michael Gavin (Coach), Dermot Mullin, Nicholas Duffy, Billy McGonigle.

Panel: Aidan Sheridan, Tom Smyth, Chris McNally, Mark Gannon, Brian Mortimer, Niall Mullin, Jack Carney, Ronan O'Donnell, Kian Moore, Sean Costello, Iain Murphy, Robbie Staunton, Cathal Cowley, Brain Kelly, Gerard Gibbons, Luke Garavan, Mickey Hastings, Mark Hastings, Nathan Heanue, Simon Duffy, John Mc Glynn (Captain), John Keane, Ryan McGonigle, Kevin Mortimer, Sean Moore, Josh Mulchrone, Paul Hoban, Dylan Bourke.

U-8 GIRLS



(By Maura Hastings)

Kilmeena Girls U8 group trained all year. Even though we had no game against another club, we had lots of fun and games at all our sessions. All

the girls improved their fitness levels and their ball skills throughout the season. The players for 2014 were Emma Barrett, Amy Carney, Roisin Feehan, Aine Gallagher, Lisa Hastings, Siofra Hughes, Catherine Lawless, Orla McDonald, Ruby McDonnell, Katie Moran, Sally Mortimer, Kayleigh Muldoon, Patricia Moore, Laura O'Grady and Aoife Walshe. A big thank you to their coaches Maura Hastings, Sandra McDonald and Derek Walshe.

U-8 BOYS



(By John O'Grady)

Management: John O'Grady, Mike Durkan, Carmel Higgins, Barry Murphy.

The U-8's are where the future stars of Kilmeena football are born. The 6 to 8 Year Olds is the

key age in which to instil the basic skills of Gaelic Football in a structured and fun environment. The Go Games and Friendlies which we had during the year really helped us develop and challenge our players in the different playing positions. We had games with Achill, Louisburgh, Islandeady, Castlebar, Burrishoole, and we also took part in a Blitz in Westport. We played most of these games twice and in most cases we dominated the field of play. We will miss some of our stars of this year who are moving on to U-10s. Players like Luke Durkan, D J Keane, Michael Regan, John Murphy, Arran Bourke, Evan O'Grady, Zac Zeray, Aodhán Feehan, Ivan Walsh. Jonathan Garavan, Patrick McGlynn. We wish you guys all the best in the future. But we are also looking forward to working with all last year's U-7 year olds as well as the U-6's. New players are welcome to join us next year. Bhí bliain thar cionn againn i mbliana and go n-eirí go breá linn i 2015!

U-14 GIRLS



(By John McDonald)

In 2014 the Kilmeena under 14 girls competed in League and Championship football competitions. In the League the girls played against Westport,

Swinford/Kilasser and Kilmoremoy on a home and away basis with two comprehensive home wins over Swinford/Kilasser and Kilmoremoy. In the Championship the girls were drawn away to Kilmoremoy and were unlucky on the day not to record a victory. The Championship finished with a playoff game away to Kilmovee which again finished in a narrow defeat. This was our first year competing at this age level and provided the girls and management with valuable experience that can be built on into the future.













