CELBRIDGE GAA

YEAR BOOK 2022

JANUARY 2023 / VOL. 8

www.celbridgegaa.com



CLUB ACTIVITIES

LOADS OF PHOTOS

PAT MURPHY - A TRIBUTE

FERGAL CONWAY RETIRES

OUR 1ST COUNTY FOOTBALL CAPTAIN

LOTS MORE

TEAM REPORTS

ACADEMY TO ELITES

Just A Word

Celbridge GAA Year Book 2022 was compiled and edited by Niall Lanigan.

Acknowledgements to all those who took the time out to contribute this year, with reports, photos and other articles. In particular, a huge thank you on behalf of Celbridge GAA supporters near and far to Brendan Holmes and Donagh McInerney for they invaluable and top quality photos.

Many thanks to all who assisted with updates and in activities throughout the very busy year of 2022.

If you wish to be added to our mailing list, please email info@celbridgegaa.com.

Don't forget to follow us on out socials for fixtures, results, news and lots of photos.

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Celbridge GAA Club would like to take this opportunity to thank Haven Hire for their continuous and unwavering support of our club for the last eight years as our main club sponsor. Special thanks to Audrey and Eamonn Kilgallon as they have gone above and beyond the role of sponsor, helping out in so many small and big ways.

A big thank you also to all those who sponsor and support our teams in any way on an ongoing basis and we look forward to your continued and very valued support in the future

Executive Committee 2022

Uachtarán: Pat Murphy RIP
Leas-Uachtarán: Andrew O'Sullivan
Cathaoirleach: Deirdre O'Reilly
Leas-Ceathaoirleach: Declan Naughton
Runaí: Richard Spencer
Leas-Runaí: Jim O'Shea
Cisteoir: Lorraine McIntyre
P.R.O.: Niall Lanigan
Registrar: Declan Naughton
Fixture Secretary: Donie Bolger
Underage Chairman: David McDonnell
Grounds: Tommy Stack

Camogie: Donagh McInerney
Football: Declan Naughton
Hurling: Ciarán O'Donovan
LGFA: Paul Lynch
County Board Rep: Brendan Holmes
Development: John Mulvey
Lotto: Jim O'Shea
Irish Language & Cultural Officer: Donncadh Corcoran
Children's Officer: Sineád Treacy
Other members: Olivia Giles, Mick Mullen, Noel Dunne, Noel McMahon, Fergal Power

Fáilte ón gCathaoirleach

A chara,
It is my honour to welcome you to read this Celbridge GAA Year Book for 2022. Thanks to Niall for his efforts in it's production. The following is the Chairperson's Address from the 2022 AGM.

OUR LATE PRESIDENT PAT MURPHY RIP…

We were privileged to welcome our club president Pat Murphy and his family back to the club on St. Patricks weekend. Pat was thrilled to be back in the club bar he helped to build. He had missed the banter over the 2 years it was closed due to Covid 19. There were fireside chats with pals, old and new and Pat headed off in great spirits.

However, a few short weeks later Pat left us. Our club members came out in force to give Pat the send off he richly deserved. Teams, members, friends and neighbours lined the streets of Celbridge decked out in club colours to pay their respects. Members young and not so young had the club gleaming and ready to host the family and friends of our president.

Pat was remembered well that evening and will forever be fondly thought of in Celbridge GAA. Our new club jersey incorporates an oak tree symbol in recognition of the oak tree planted by Pat at the club in 2021.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.

The Centenary team of 1921 featuring Owen "Skipper" Murphy, Pats father, and a donated county medal that are now part of the permanent display in the clubhouse and special thanks must go to Ciaran O'Donovan for this.

CELBRIDGE AT COUNTY….

We were honoured this year to have Mick O'Grady named as captain of our county football team, the first in our clubs history. Mick is a truly inspirational young man on and off the field. Mick also had club men, Kevin Flynn, Kevin O'Callaghan, Tony Archbold and the legendary Fergal Conway who recently announced his retirement from county football.

Christy Ring All Ireland champions were represented by Celbridge's Gerry Keegan, Niall Ó Muineacháin, Andy Shanagher, Tom Finnerty and Pat Leahy.

Rowen O'Hara was named on the county LFGA panel. County Camogie was represented by Émer Reilly, Eimear Stirling, Emma Barry, Chanice Corcoran & Gillian Keegan

Our own Aaron Browne was named as captain of the U20 county football team and with Dean O'Donoghue and Niall O'Regan went on to the U20 All Ireland but were ultimately beaten in Carrick on Shannon by a very strong Tyrone team.

Orla Carragher was named Kildare minor player of the year & Niamh Barnes won a Leinster minor championship with Kildare ladies football.

LGFA U16 All Ireland champions included our own Rowen Matthews, Lily Mullarkey & FLO Mags Kealy. LFGA U14 All Ireland champions had Celbridge's Aoife Treacy, Aoife Ó Riain, Rebecca Lynch & coach Ronan Lynch.

We had huge numbers representing the club at county level from U14 up to minor in all codes. Well done all.

We also had representation on an administrative level at county with Andrew O'Sullivan, Mick Mullen, Brendan Holmes, Mairead Dwyer, Hugh Gallagher, Donagh McInerney, Sandra Reilly, Joan O'Flynn and Ronan Lynch.

We wish Peter Beirne, Eoin Roche, & Tommy Konstantin best of luck with their county management involvement for 2023.

AT THE CLUB…

While unfortunately senior grade success evaded us this year, there were some successes at other grades and at minor and juvenile levels. The field reports are covered in detail in the pages to follow. I would like to applaud all the players, coaches, managers, mentors, administrators, backroom team, female liaisons, parents, and those who look after the equipment, nets, flags, kit and caboodle without whom there would be no point to our existence, thank you, each and every one. We look forward with renewed optimism for 2023.

On club business - If you recall at a special general meeting in April 2021 we voted to adopt to the Corporate Trustee to hold the real assets of the club on behalf of its members. On 29 August of this year, the largest step was taken towards achieving this when paperwork regarding the clubhouse, training & main pitch and car park were completed with Croke Park. The process is well underway with Kildare Co. Council, Land Registry and CSSO. I would like to extent a huge thank you to Kevin Morgan of Coonan Morgan solicitors for his

diligence on this complex matter. I would also like to acknowledge our former local trustees of Damien Donegan, Angela Norris, Andrew O'Sullivan, Mick O'Reilly, the late John Mc Gee (RIP), the late Christopher Ellis (RIP) and the recently departed Noel Devine (RIP). I would also like to acknowledge the assistance of the aforementioned Andrew and Mick, with Pat White, Francis O'Connell, Willie Holmes and Jim O'Shea for their assistance on the Corporate Trustee matter.

Nearly 12 months after completing the application form, the club was approved the maximum funding of €150,000 from the Sports Capital Programme which will go partially towards the redevelopment of the back and juvenile pitch. Preparation works were completed with the removal of the ESB pole and reducting of ESB power lines during the year by the ESB. Thanks to Tommy Stack and John Mulvey for arranging and overseeing this vital step. John has also been actively progressing the development plans with various industry professionals and the planning application is currently open in Kildare County Council.
Most of you may be aware that the cost of materials and development has rocketed due to many external factors and the original projected cost of this part of the development as increased too. Fundraising for the development will be taking priority once we get a green light from the county council.

On the topic of fundraising, I wish to thank Jim O'Shea and Sean Martyn who have been the standard bearers in relation to club fundraising this year and between them have raised over €50,000 between the Club Lotto and Kildare Draw. Well done men and thank you to you and your helpers Brendan Hughes, Margaret Markey, Maria Corcoran and Anne Hughes. Thanks also our members who work in Intel, Ciara Lynch, Olivia Murphy & the disco crew, and Lorraine McIntyre who was tirelessly involved and instrumental in all fundraising efforts. A special thanks to our juvenile teams who all supported the club lotto and contributed over €7k to the lotto increase. Remember if you are not in, you can't win and the jackpot is now closing on €17,000!

I wish to thank and acknowledge the contribution of Audrey and Eamon Kilgannon over the past 8 years as main club sponsor and warmly welcome and thank Frank Brazil of Leinster Reinforcements for his return for 2023 as our main club sponsor. Frank has been a long standing supporter of the club and we look forward to working with him.

We are also involved in a number of other commercial partnership negotiations with businesses interested in supporting the club that are at an advanced stage and thank Kildare Carpets and the Castletown Pharmacy for their support this year.

As mentioned above, the club bar has re-opened after a long closure due to covid 19. It is managed by Declan Naughton and Lorraine McIntyre and is fully volunteer run. We have had a number of events and parties this year and I would like to acknowledge the contribution of all who have made it a success.

THANKS TO…

A club this size does not run itself and I would like to acknowledge the work done by the LFGA and camogie sections - While we are one club - LGFA and the Camogie Association have a separate administrative structures to the GAA. Thanks to Darren Gallagher, Sinead Goss, Fiona O'Leary, Donagh McInerney, Alan Stirling, Mark Mimnagh & Fiona Lanigan for keeping house in this ever growing section of the club and to our former GPO Jonathan Daniels and David McDonnell for their sterling work in our juvenile section.

To the club executive, members, office holders and to the various sub committees, thank you for your help and contributions this year.

Of particular note, to Sinead Treacy, our Club Childrens Officer who has a difficult but essential role in the club. We cannot have a functioning juvenile section without a Childrens Officer. Olivia Mulvey who goes to enormous effort to keep the club secure and looking well on the inside and to Denis Murphy, Tommy Stack and John Mulvey who go to similar lengths outside. To Donncha O Corcoráin who really took ownership of the Irish officer role this year with pop up gaeltachts, tv crews, blitz commórtas and a Bronze Medal recipient at a recent event in Croke Park. Maith thú Donncha. Well done to Niall Lanigan on your role as PRO who has great plans on how our club brand is to be portrayed on the field, on the street and in the cloud. Thanks to our secretary Richard Spencer who may spend more than an hour a day on secretarial matters and is unfailingly positive and good humoured. To Lorraine McIntyre who did every job imaginable and with a smile will be loss as treasurer but will continue to give 110% to the club, through the bar, fundraising and any event that brings members into the club and preferably adding to the club coffers. To Declan Naughton who I discovered is non stop. He was exceptionally busy as registrar, chair of the football committee, and vice chair. A force of nature.

Thanks to my husband Aubrey, and my children Emer and Gavin who supported my giving of my time to the club.

We have a lot of positivity in the club which we would love to build on – it's not perfect by any means but if you can lend a hand instead of pointing a finger, help is gratefully accepted and bring a friend…

It has been my pleasure and privilege to serve as club chair for 2022 and I look forward to 2023.

Thank you

Deirdre Uí Raghallaigh

Cathaoirleach, CLG Cill Droichid

Celbridge GAA Club welcome Leinster Reinforcements as our new main club sponsor. Frank Brazil and his company have been a long time supporter of the club and we look forward to his continuing support and lots of success over the coming years.

LEINSTER
REINFORCEMENTS LTD

The brand new Celbridge GAA jersey, alternate jersey and our new club playing shorts are available from Sportmaster - Celbridge, while our new line of official on field training and off field leisurewear are available through our O'Neills online shop.



Home Jersey



Alternate Jersey



The new club jerseys, designed in association with O'Neills, is emblazoned with an updated version of our club crest. Originally designed by Emily Cunnane to coincide with the opening of the club grounds in 1995, we have added the year the club was formed, 1885, and introduced an updated celtic font.



On the back of the jersey is a symbol of an oak tree in a circle.

The native Oak Tree is especially synonymous with Cill Dara. We are using this image on our new jersey to symbolise a number of elements integral to our club ethos - strength, endurance, stability, justice, honesty, culture, ancestry and family. The oak tree was often the hub of the community in ancient times and the roots of this Oak Tree form a circle to represent wholeness and oneness and as our symbol of inclusion for all. Cill Droichid CLG is a community that has a place for ALL. We also pay tribute to our late Club President, Pat Murphy and the oak tree he planted to mark the opening of the Páirc nÓg grounds.



Finally, adding some extra local identity and heritage to the home jersey, there is a watermark of the famous Castletown House also on the back.

2008 Girls Camogie -U14

2022 was a very busy year as we returned to more or less normal activities.

Skills and fitness are great and continue to improve. Unfortunately we lost four girls who had joined a little later than the other girls. It is a challenge to blend game time and training attention in a group with a range of experience, particularly if the numbers are awkward. We have about 21 girls in total now with all playing and training very regularly across club, school and county. They are a really great bunch of girls who are really into their camogie. Almost every player also plays football.

The year split in to two main parts – the Spring where the girls participated in the Under 14 leagues, with one team, and the Autumn when the girls participated in the Under 15 leagues, combining with girls born in 2007 to enter two teams.

We started the year with training and a series of excellent challenges against some of the leading Dublin and Meath teams at our age.



In March and April, the girls were focused mainly on the county development hubs and formation of development panels, along with ongoing training in the club. Almost all of the eligible girls participated very strongly in the county development hubs, with 13 going on to play on the county development panel of 60 players. This panel trained and participated in a range of blitzes across the summer, with Celbridge girls featuring prominently and Niamh O'Donovan, Enda Gilchriest and Seán Ó Riain participating as mentors.

The girls played in the U15 Féile competition with the 2007 girls at the end of April. As part of a one day competition, some of the girls played in Division 2 where the team competed well but had to play against the first teams from a range of other clubs at a year older age group. 10 of the girls played in the Division 1 Féile, where they did very well to reach the final against an exceptionally strong Naas team.

The U14 league was completed in a ten day span with the team winning their three matches and drawing a remarkable final against Naas. The final was played to an exceptionally high standard and level of competitiveness in pouring rain on June 2nd. The two teams could not be separated even after extra time and the teams decided to share the trophy as the alternatives (playing longer, taking frees or replaying in September) were very unattractive. This decision proved over the week that followed to be a very good one with both teams proud of their accomplishment and the two panels playing together for Kildare development in a great sprit over the summer. We appreciate the good sportsmanship of Naas and the support of the county board in this matter.

However, it has to be said that completing a league in 10 days does little good for Celbridge or Kildare camogie. A proper programme of games over a schedule that allows player development is essential. In addition it was difficult to supplement these games with challenges due to the time commitments involved in county development, schools competitions and the ongoing football leagues. While some players ran the risk of being overloaded, others were left with relatively little camogie time.



June brought two highlights of the year. A trip to Dicksboro brought a very close loss to the strongest team in Kilkenny, as well as great hospitality in the club and the chance to meet two Kilkenny players and hold the All Ireland O'Duffy Cup. We also went to Carlingford Adventure Centre for a very successful day trip, with some coaches still traumatised by the combination of zipline heights and the volume on the bus. The summer brought training and a fair few holidays as people were able to leave home, and the country,again!

Autumn leagues started in September and the girls played in Divisions 1 and 4 of the Under 15 League (one year older than our girls). In all cases, they were playing the first team from the opposing club. Both teams made it to the Shield finals of their divisions, played on October 16th. This proved to be a terrific day for the girls. In the morning the Division 4 team beat Coill Dubh in the final, putting in a brave and skilful display against a team that had beaten them two weeks before. In the afternoon, the Division 1 team gave a great performance to defeat Naas in a game of a very high standard in difficult conditions. The standard of the performances, the level of individual skill and team play, and the fact that the wins were based on positive contributions of every single player across both divisions made it a special day.

We are continuing to train and improve our skills as long as we can, taking advantage of the time away from league competition to develop our skills and team play. We will get a few challenge games in before the end of the year. We have a really great, skilful, enthusiastic group of girls and the base of camogie skills and team play has really expanded among the group. The girls love playing camogie and can't wait to represent their club on the field in 2023.

We were very fortunate to have David Neville join us as a coach this year and a number of mentors completed additional coaching qualifications and courses.

Both side decided to share the trophy after scores were level after extra time



We have had great support as always from a wonderful group of parents who have been very supportive through the usual ups and downs of the sporting year, as well as of the coaches on a personal basis. We are grateful also to parents who helped out as Female Liaison Officers during the year, as well as acting as umpires, setting up nets and pitches, and more. A special word of thanks to Séamus Irving for helping out in multiple ways across matches, training and more throughout the year.

Looking forward to 2023!

Niamh O'Donovan
Enda Gilchriest
David Neville
Seán Ó Riain

2012 Boys Hurling and Football - U-10

As with everyone else in the club and in the wider world, this was a year to get back on our feet but considering everything a good one for our U10's.

Firstly, in regards games. We participated in the North Kildare Board with 4 football teams and 3 hurling teams in the spring league and 3 football teams and 2 hurling teams in the autumn league. Non-competitive in theory but still seeing a competitive streak growing in the boys. Skill levels improving consistently across the board and also great to see new members still coming in and getting to enjoy our games for the first time.

Participation numbers are excellent. Over 50 Boys are active members, with approximately 30 dual code players. We have 10 adult coaches, all completed or completing the relevant coaching courses.

The highlight of the year was the return of the u10's Gary Kenny festival of football. Although the elements and weather gods on the day had their best shot at washing everyone away, 32 teams from across the country still had a great day. From tea makers, sandwich fillers, tent erecters, bbq chefs, crepe preparers, umpires, refs, pitch coordinators, fund raisers, quiz masters, spot prize sourcers, coaches, pitch liners, goal post procurers, car park attendants, PA announcers, result runners, communicators etc etc, too many to mention by name as half the club was involved and many more besides. Everyone hopefully is proud of all the efforts and the type of day that puts the club on the map.



We attended the Fingallians blitz in April. We were invited to bring 1 team and played 4 tough matches. It was a great experience for the kids in what was their first proper blitz.

Finally, we brought the kids to Croke park for a day out during the year. In total we had 115 people attending which included the boys, some siblings and parents. The kids enjoyed the stadium tour and visiting the dressing rooms and training area and had a great day out.













Some action captured during the Gary Kenny Festival of Football in September



Minor Football

2022 was a year of progress for the minor footballers. Unfortunately we ended up on the losing side in both championship semi finals but the players showed great improvement throughout the year and were always a credit to the club.

We had a tricky beginning to the year as the county board brought in a new u17 league. This was a struggle for us as we didn't have access to our county players and the u18s had no meaningful football at their own age group. Nevertheless we continued on and improved with every game in the u17 league. Difficult defeats to Naas, Raheens and Milltown were followed by much better performances against Sarsfields, St Laurences and Maynooth. We also had a great win away to Round Towers.

Our u18s had the opportunity to play u20 and senior B over the spring which set us up nicely for the summer.

The u18 league over the summer also brought it's own challenges with players on holidays. It was similar to our u17 campaign where we initially struggled against Naas, improved against Balyna and finished with a great win against Kilcock.

We entered an u18 B team also who put up a very spirited performance against Kill and were awarded a walkover by Maynooth.

Minor championship began in the middle of August. We had a very successful start to the campaign by beating Maynooth by 10 points in Celbridge. The was followed by a similar victory out in Kilcock with some outstanding performances on display. We completed the group on top by beating Balyna in our third group game which put us through to the semi finals.

Our u18 B team also made a great start to the championship beating Maynooth. Despite narrow defeats to Athgarvan and St Kevin's we still did enough to progress to the Semi Final.

Unfortunately the semi finals weren't to be. Luck wasn't on our side as we lost a number of players to injury in the lead up to the semi finals. Our u18 A team put in a fantastic performance against championship favourites Raheens. Unfortunately we didn't take our goal chances on the day and were beaten in a fantastic game of football. Our u18B team also had a heartbreaking semi final defeat to Ellistown after extra time.

I'd like to thank Ciaran Murphy, Carl McGrane, Conor Halpin, James Hoare, Ronan Lynch, Barry McClean and Mick Flynn for their huge contribution and time commitment this year. The work of the club officers and executive is also greatly appreciated. The parents were also a huge help in supporting our lads. Finally the progress and attitude of the players should be acknowledged. It's vitally important for the future of the club that the lads carry on now to represent the club at adult level.

Tommy Konstantin



Minor County Footballers, Leinster Finalists 2022.
Cormac O'Sullivan, Killian Browne and Mark Cleary.

2022 Academy Review

2022 was another successful year for the Academy.

We look after boys and girls born in 2016, 2017 & 2018 and our goal is to introduce Gaelic Games in a fun environment. Our weekly session takes place every Saturday from 11.15am to 12.15pm.

We have approximately 150 children in the Academy in total and on average there are 120 attending each week. We spilt the children up by groups (2016, 2017 & 2018) as this allows the children to learn with their peers and build friendships.

Normally sessions consist of a quick warm up and then 2 x 25 minute sessions of hurling/camogie and football.

We have approximately 15 coaches and 11 TY students who are completing the Gaisce President's award. We want to say a big thank you to the TY students who bring great enthusiasm to this role.

We would like to recognise the great work done by the Club's former GPO, Jonathan Daniels, in taking charge of the Academy for the last number of years.





During the year our 2016 boys and girls played in some mini matches for both hurling/camogie and football with Maynooth, Straffan and Rathcoffey. These were fun occasions for young players to "represent" Celbridge for the first time.

We want to wish our 2016 group all the best when the finish up in the Academy in December and start their journey as the new U7 team in 2023.

Club Camps

In 2022 the club ran 4 successful club camps for young people (4-13). The camps took place as follows: -

- Easter Camp (2 days)
- July Summer Camp (5 days)
- August Summer Camp (5 days)
- Halloween Camp (2 days)

A big thank you to **Kildare GAA** hurler Paul Divilly who visited the Club on Thursday along with the Christy Ring Cup as part of the week long Cúl Camp that's running from Monday to Friday this week.




All of the Club Camps were dual camps where both football and hurling/camogie was played. In addition 2 GAA Cul Camps also took place in July 2022 (Football & Hurling/Camogie). Approximately 650 attended all the camps in the club in 2022.

Minor Ladies Football (Division 4)

Given the involvement of many of the squad members with the Senior Ladies team (on their journey in the Junior A Championship), some others not playing football for quite a period of time, others with U16's team, the preparation time for Minor campaign was not ideal, but we did manage to get the Minor specific training sessions up & running in late September. This followed a full Minor squad (40+ players) meeting in mid-September where the new management team outlined the plans, expectations of players, ambition & much more, in order to ensure the dedication, desire, energy & team ethic was aligned for all parties (including coaches ☺). The attendance, focus and effort at our bi-weekly training sessions was exceptional, and even when pitches were unavailable, the circuit sessions in Club Hall brought the same drive & fun approach to building the team camaraderie in anticipation of our first outing.



The inaugural game on 8th October was at home to Milltown which provided the opportunity to establish where we stood from a fitness perspective, integration of younger and older players in the squad (ranged from 2004 to 2007), experiment with new positions for players & patterns of play, not to mention, get game time for the entire panel.

Although a reasonably competitive start to the game against a strong Milltown team, our resolute defence (with sweeper system in place), midfield dominance, coupled with clinical finishing up front, resulted in a comfortable win in the end (great battling, tracking back, support play etc. on view, which was very pleasing given our limited time for integration, preparation & challenge games).

Our next game was at home again to Ballymore Eustace, and having seen their opening results against Ellistown & Rathangan, knew there would be significant challenge ahead (we had also played them in the U17 County Final in June). It was truly a game of two halves where we really hit the ground running and were totally dominant in most positions, great tenacity, controlled aggression, off the shoulder running & super finishing on display in the first half. However, a rejuvenated & determined Ballymore fightback came in the second half where our touch, energy & general work rate was not at the level we expect from the team and the overall result was not reflective of how close the game was. A really competitive and entertaining game with quality play and battling performance from both sides, which should set us up for an exhilarating County Final.

Round	Round Date	Home	Score				Away	Score		
			G	P	T			G	P	T
1	Saturday 17th September	Ballymore	5	17	32	V	Ellistown	0	6	6
		Milltown	5	16	31	V	Rathangan	1	6	9
2	Saturday 8th October	Celbridge	4	13	25	V	Milltown	1	7	10
		Rathangan	2	8	14	V	Ballymore	6	15	33
3	Saturday 22nd October	Ellistown	2	4	10	V	Rathangan	5	8	23
		Celbridge	5	9	24	V	Ballymore	1	13	16
4	Saturday 29th October	Ballymore	5	10	25	V	Milltown	0	5	5
		Ellistown			0	V	Celbridge			0
5	Saturday 5th November	Rathangan	1	8	11	V	Celbridge	3	20	29
		Milltown	3	13	22	V	Ellistown	2	4	10
	Semi Final	Celbridge	5	21	36	V	Rathangan	1	7	10

Our next adventure was an away trip to Ellistown in which we had planned to rotate the squad to ensure more game time for all, but at the last minute, Ellistown were unable to field a team and conceded the points – very disappointing as girls love playing games and management learn and build on the performances from each game. Our final game against Rathangan was a dead rubber having already secured top spot and a home semi-final against the same team. It provided an opportunity to rotate the squad and enable the players to stake a claim for a starting role in the semi final. The game was played with high intensity from the start with some super passing & clinical finishing on display. Although it was a weak Rathangan team, our defence was strong and resolute throughout, restricting Rathangan to a relatively small number of opportunities. Our midfield were on top form and dominant throughout, with some excellent link play and support to the forward line, with the forwards scoring at will, enabling Celbridge to come away with an emphatic victory.

Given the nature of the dominant win against Rathangan in the group stages, there was an air apprehension about the semi-final that was quickly erased with a hugely impressive start and building an unassailable lead in the first half. Tenacious defending as usual with midfield pulling all the strings and forwards in total control. Another great confidence boosting win with huge belief in the squad that this will be our year. So, we march on to the County Final against Ballymore Eustace and fingers crossed we have a full squad available and girls express themselves like we know they can (focus, desire, intensity, teamwork & calmness), thereby securing a Minor County title for Celbridge ☺

A special call out & appreciation to Kevin Larkin, Dave Murray, Paul & Nicolle for their commitment, guidance, encouragement, energy, enthusiasm & passion in helping continue the skills development, improving fitness levels & ultimately building team camaraderie within this Minor squad. A big thanks as always to the parents, family & friends for all the support & encouragement to the girls (not to mention the taxi & laundry service!). For all the players, it's been a fantastic campaign for us thus far, but the biggest challenge still awaits. All we ask is you continue to enjoy playing the game, building team spirit, be the best you can be and having fun in the process.



Minor Ladies Football
– Leinster B Champions

Well done to Niamh Barnes, goalkeeper on the winning team Kildare minor ladies Leinster champs over Meath 2-6 to 0-8.



Niamh (right) models the new club 'keeper jersey and LGFA club shorts



2008 Girls Football - U14

Skills and fitness are great and continue to improve. We lost only one or two girls (mainly because of commitments to other sports) but gained a few girls who returned after a good number of years away. We have about 43 girls in total now with average 34 at training on a weekly basis. They are a really great bunch of girls who are really into their football.

The year split in to two main parts – the Spring where the girls participated in the Under 15 leagues, combining with girls born in 2007, and the Autumn when the girls participated in the Under 14 leagues. The girls played a part in two teams in each of these leagues.

We started the year with training (including some chilly nights in the astro!) and a series of excellent challenges against some of the leading Dublin and Meath teams at our age.

From March onwards, the girls played in Divisions 4 and 8 of the Under 15 League (one year older than our girls). In many or most cases, they were playing the first team from the opposing club. The Division 8 team put in some very strong performances against teams that were typically much physically bigger than them. The players got a good spread of playing time and developed well across the league.

The Division 4 team made it unbeaten to the final vs the first team of Na Fianna, who had been improving throughout the league. Unfortunately, it wasn't to be on the day for our girls. It was a tough loss to take as a number of players couldn't play with injury or played with doses of the flu so it was difficult for the team to do themselves justice. However, the girls were very sporting in defeat and quickly picked themselves up to face the other challenges in the year ahead.

The Spring also saw the involvement of many of the 2008 girls in the Kildare county team trials and panel. Three girls made it on to the panel which took home the U14 LGFA Gold All Ireland in May with a number of other girls very unlucky not to make it through from the final round of trials. Ronan Lynch did great work as a selector and mentor on the county team. As a group we were immensely proud of the contributions of our club players and manager to the exceptional success of the county this year.

The summer brought training, some challenges and a fair few holidays as people were able to leave home, and the country,again! In June we went to Carlingford Adventure Centre for a very successful day trip, with some coaches still traumatised by the combination of zipline heights and the volume on the bus.

Autumn leagues started very early in mid-August. This meant that some players were not available but more importantly that preparation time for the leagues was limited, with the inevitable spike in injuries after a few weeks of the league. Nonetheless, the girls competed well in both Division 1 and Division 7 of the Under 14 leagues.

Both divisions were keenly contested with the girls winning crucial matches under pressure to reach the semi finals in both divisions. Unfortunately, both semi finals were on the same evening, despite attempts to re-schedule (unfortunately pressure of fixtures at the time made this impossible, despite the good faith efforts of our opponents). This was a pity as the girls and parents could not support across the teams, and coaching resources were stretched thin.

The Division 7 team were beaten by St Laurences in a keenly contested and skilful away match. The league campaign for this group was very successful, with the whole group making huge progress in their football skills and match play. A very large number of girls took on strong leadership roles on the pitch and the group have a bright future ahead.

On the same night, the Division 1 team suffered a heartbreaking loss in the semi final away to Sarsfields, losing by one point to a very late goal. The early start to the league affected the girls' ability to prepare for the league, which was always going to be a challenge in a very tightly contested division where every team won matches and where the final was also decided by a point.







We were very fortunate to have Conor Denner join us as a coach this year and a number of mentors completed additional coaching qualifications and courses.

We have had great support as always from a wonderful group of parents who have been very supportive through the usual ups and downs of the sporting year, as well as of the coaches on a personal basis. We are grateful also to parents who helped out as Female Liaison Officers during the year, as well as acting as umpires, setting up nets and pitches, and more



Celbridge under 14 **Kildare LGFA** players and Ronan Lynch after winning the Leinster B final today, beating Longford in the final and Tipperary in the All Ireland Final back in May.
Aoife O'Riain, Rebecca Lynch & Aoife Treacy



CLUB ar TG4







Bhí CLG Chill Droichid ar Tg4 ar 17/11/2022. Bhí sé go hiontach chun na páistí a fheacáil ar an teilifís. Thaispeán an clár na páistí ag imirt, an laochra CLUB agus contae Niall Ó Muineacháin agus ár laochra eile Denis Murphy!
#GAAgaeilge

OUR JUVENILE CLUB's YEAR - 2022

- © *27 players & 8 coaches went to the Lullymore Halloween Event (U9 Girls)*
- © *A consistent approach to training and training nights with a minimum of 300 touches for each child is key to the development of each player as an individual (U9 Boys)*
- © *Amazingly we got 5 new coaches this year and all completed their foundation course on the same weekend (U8 Girls)*
- © *Both our teams have reached the U12 Football Finals to be played on Sunday 20th November (U12 Football)*
- © *Brilliant progress on skills, kids having fun and our numbers are continually growing (U7 Boys)*
- © *Entered 3 teams in U12 Camogie and unlucky too loose in 3 semi-finals (U11 Camogie)*
- © *Entered 4 teams in U12 LGFA and won 2 Divisions (U11 LGFA)*
- © *Had a Super Sunday winning 2 Shield finals on the same day (U15 Camogie)*
- © *It was a great year for our 50 girls with notable victories in football and U12 Camogie league winners (U12 Girls)*
- © *It's a been a good year watching the boys progress and skills improve (U12 Hurling)*
- © *Our first full interrupted season and we now have 46 players. We trained, played matches and went bowling (U10 Girls)*
- © *Played in the U14 Division 9 final (U13 LGFA)*
- © *Started year with 28 players and finished with 40+. Family Day & BBQ Held (U8 Boys)*
- © *We competed strongly in both the league and championship, supported the minors and developed throughout the season (U16 Football)*
- © *We had a great year stepping our into the wider world of Camogie and Football playing in their 1st Camogie Feile and challenges in Kilkenny, Dublin & Meath and for some players representing their county for the 1st time (U14 LGFA & Camogie)*
- © *We had an impressive year and just missed out on the Division 1 league final due to scoring difference (U16 Hurling)*
- © *We have 38 girls who took part in training & 19 games of Camogie & Football, their confidence and skills are growing (U7 Girls)*
- © *We hosted an All-Ireland Festival of Football in Sept with 32 teams taking part (U10 Boys)*
- © *We played teams from all over the country in 2022 (U11 Boys)*
- © *We won Division 2 Feile Hurling and won the Regional Feile Blitz in Co Down (U15 Hurling)*
- © *Winning Division 2 Feile Football (U15 Football)*
- © *Won the Division 1 U13 Shield final (U13 Camogie)*
- © *A trip to Redhills Adventure Centre was a great day out for our players after a long season (U14 Football)*

Under 23 Football

The county board ran u20 and u23 campaigns in 2022. The u20 competition started with an away win in shocking conditions away to Balyna. A heavy defeat to Naas in round 2 was the wake up call that lads needed. We followed this with two hard fought wins against Sarsfields and Maynooth to qualify for the final.



On Easter Monday the lads put in a terrific performance to defeat Naas to become u20 champions. Having started slowly a well worked goal by Riaghan Dunne put Celbridge into the lead at half time. Naas were held to one point in the second half in a really hard working performance. Captain Cillian Devlin proudly lifted the trophy in memory of his mother Claire who was a fantastic supporter of our club.



The u23 championship followed the senior and minor campaigns. It proved to be a difficult competition for us as lads were unavailable due to injuries and holidays after a long season. We suffered disappointing defeats to Maynooth and Naas but responded with a hard fought win against Athy in our final game. Unfortunately our victory against Athy wasn't enough to qualify us for the knockout stages.

Both competitions gave us the opportunity to mix in our younger players to the adult football set up. We hope these lads push on in the new year and help to drive the senior team towards silverware.

Tommy Konstantin, Carl McGrane, Ciaran Murphy, Conor Halpin, Mick Murray, Tommy Stack, Conor Brophy, Ronan Brophy, Shane Mc Namara



Happy faces after victory over Naas in the U20 football final



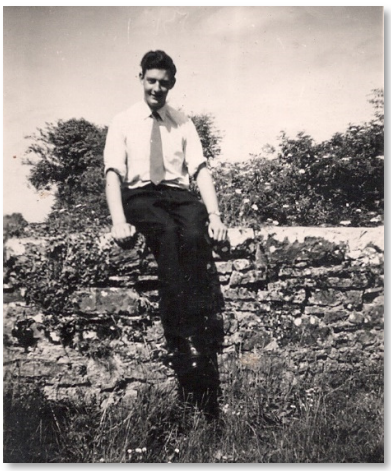




Pat Murphy – A Tribute

It is with profound sadness that we learned of the passing of our Honorary Life President, Pat Murphy. RIP in April.

Pat was a dedicated GAA man involved in many capacities in Celbridge GAA over the years, from his early playing days in both codes to his numerous administrative roles.



A young Pat (left) while 1998 captain Glen Ryan and the Leinster trophy is welcomed to Celbridge by Pat (right)



He was first elected club chairman in 1968 at the age of 28 and went on to hold the position for 10 years. Pat also held the positions of treasurer, county board delegate and juvenile chair when the club hosted Warrenpoint (Co.Down) for Féile in the 70's before returning as chairman again in the 90's.

Pat was instrumental in securing the grounds of our club home on the Hazelhatch Road in 1984.
He was a regular attendee at fixtures and in recent years enjoyed watching games from the VIP section of the main pitch.

We were recently honoured to host Pat and his family back at the club after a long closure due to Covid 19.
Pat was a son of Owen "Skipper" Murphy, captain of the winning Celbridge side of the 1921 County Hurling Championship which was commemorated only last Friday and now part of the permanent display in our clubhouse.



Pat was an lifelong supporter of all Celbridge teams and a loyal Kildare fan. We have lost a true friend, a gentleman, a true Celbridge GAA man.



First and foremost Pat was a dedicated family man and on behalf of the club executive and members we extend our sincere sympathy to sons Eoin & Eamonn, daughters, Mairéad, Edel and Aideen. Grandchildren Rebecca, Emmet, Darragh, Anna, Conor, Lauren, Ryan, Amy, Adam and Eabha. Sons in law Padraic and Matthew, daughters in law Marie, Ursula and Helen, brothers Jack and Owen, sister Patricia, sisters in law, brothers in law, nieces, nephews, relatives, friends and neighbours.

Rest in Peace Pat.



U12 Boys Football & Hurling

Football Panel: 36
Spring Leagues U13
The U13 football leagues were a massive challenge as we progressed from juvenile pitches/11 aside to senior pitches/15 aside in the U13 Leagues straight from the U11 ranks. We entered one team in Division 8 as a number of our players played with the Division 6 (U13) team. We didn't have much time to work with the players on the step up and it showed in our results but it proved good experience for the autumn leagues. Our results for the league was:

Division 8	Played 6	Won 2	Lost 4	4 Points	

Autumn U12 Leagues
We entered 2 teams - Division 2 and Division 6. The leagues were scheduled to start at the end of July and in all honestly this meant that we struggled at the beginning to field teams due to holidays. After 2 years of Covid people were eager to get away and it showed in attendance for both training and matches. Leagues should be scheduled around the school terms! We are happy to report both teams were competitive in both leagues with both qualifying for finals by recently winning their semi finals against Castledermot (D2) and Moorefield, the finals are scheduled for Sunday 20th November in Clane. The results for the leagues were :

Division 2	2nd Place	Played 7	Won 5	Lost 2	10 Points
Division 6	2nd Place	Played 6	Won 4	Lost 2	8 Points

The most satisfying aspect is noticing the improvement in the boys as their skills advance and their match understanding gets better. We would also like to thank the U11 Coaches/boys for their cooperation with the Division 6 team during the autumn league.



Hurling Panel: 17
We entered one team in the Spring U13 Hurling Division 4 League along with the U13's. This was the first experience of playing on senior pitches and the team were competitive throughout the League with the below results:

Division 4	4nd Place	Played 7	Won 4	Lost 3	8 Points

For the Autumn Leagues we entered 1 team in Division 2. Again as a number of games were scheduled during the holidays in the beginning we struggled for numbers but fulfilled most of our games with the following results:

Division 2	4nd Place	Played 5	Won 1	Lost 4	2 Points

The team is in need of a few more players to be more competitive as we continue to work on the core skills. Big thank you to the U12 coaches/girls who assisted us during the autumn league.



We were invited to the Fingallians (Swords) U12 Hurling blitz on the 30th July. We entered 1 team consisting of a number of U11's & U12's. It was a very enjoyable tournament and were competitive in every game. With these blitz's its great to measure ourselves against clubs from other counties and its great to get the cooperation from the U11's as the boys and girls thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

For both codes player retention/attraction remains a focus of the coaches as we try to remain competitive while offering an enjoyable pastime for players of all abilities working on the essential skills required.

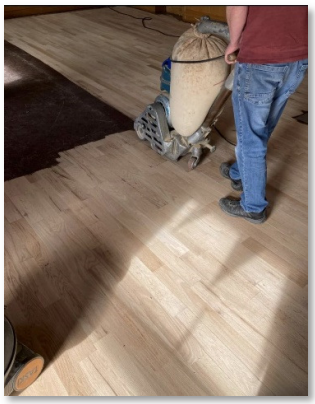
Coaches
Football: Brian Keville, Ray Gallagher, Carl McGrane, Conor Power, Mick Murray
Hurling: Ian Power, Ray Gallagher, Aidan Burke, Brian Keville

Getting the Club Bar Open Again

A lot of work was done behind the scenes to get the Club bar spick and span and ready for reopening St Patrick's Day. A huge thank you to those who offered their services.



Pat Murphy of Murphy FacilitySolutions did a deep clean of the bar area, cold rooms, toilet and hall.



Bernard Egan of Atlantic Flooring did a superb job sanding, varnishing and polishing the floor.



Shane Smyth covered the painting work.







Stephen Gibbons carpenter covered all the joinery work with the skirting, floor repairs, seat plinths, chair backings and replacement toilet fixings and fixtures.

Míle buíochas



If you'd like to volunteer behind the bar for a few hours each month, just talk to Declan or Lorraine.

U9s Girls

2022 has been a very busy and productive year for the U9 girl's team of Celbridge GAA. It has been all go since we got back onto the pitches in April. We have a panel of 35 girls that train twice a week. We participated in both the summer and autumn go games this year, and the girls have greatly benefited from these matches.

We entered 2 camogie teams and 3 Gaelic football teams into each league, ensuring that we have minimum subs for each match, each girl got lots of match time this year. We have been really impressed seeing their confidence and skill level develop throughout this year.

They also have bonded great as a team, and the blossoming friendships have been heart-warming to see develop. They share their tips for pitch cartwheels, piggy backs and getting as mucky as possible, and are never short of stories and chats for their coaches & each other.

At the end of 2021 we added another female coach to the panel which is essential for a girl's team to make sure we have enough female coaches to assist.

This past Halloween we took a squad of 27 players and 8 coaches to The Lullymore Halloween event, it was a great day out which started at the club with James Coaches, Road Trip! Followed by the scary train of ghosts and gouls. Fun was had by all. We do aim to take the girls on another trip in the new year as it's a great bonding session.

We shall end the season on the 20th November with a fun Christmas party for the girls and are really looking forward to moving to U10 in 2023. We shall also continue to encourage some of our players to also try out camogie next year to build our numbers here also.

We would like to thank everyone that assisted our team this year. Donie for the pitch bookings, Olivia for our gear, all the referees that have helped us throughout the year for our home games. A big thank-you also to Jonathon for organising the Football Street League as this resulted in three new players and community spirit was observed with medals and treats afterwards.





Finally, a massive thank-you to all the parents/guardians that discovered many new roads & pitches within Kildare as they brought their girls to the matches this year. Also to the partners of the coaches that were often left to carry the gear ☺

Looking forward to 2023.



The under 9s girls on a trip to Lullymore last Halloween



Minor - Under 18 Hurling

The minor hurlers participated in the league and championship competition in 2022. Many of the minor panel (2004 players) also played senior hurling for the first time, including a pre-season competition, the league and championship. The minor hurlers played on both senior teams in these competitions. The minor panel also trained with the senior group throughout the year, benefiting from the experience of the senior players and the exposure to the senior coaches/management.



The minor hurling championship was played during August and September with Celbridge reaching the minor A final on 25th September in St. Conleth's Park, Newbridge. The game was played before the senior hurling county final. It was a great occasion with strong support from parents and supporters on the day. The Celbridge players put in their best performance of the year against a very strong Naas side. Celbridge held the lead for the majority of the game but unfortunately losing out in injury time by 3 points. There was fantastic support shown by the club members and volunteers prior to, during and after the final.





Celbridge also had a number of players involved in minor and under 20 Kildare squads during 2022, representing the club with distinction.

The minor hurlers will progress to adult hurling teams in 2023. With a very committed and talented group of players the prospects for Celbridge hurling in the years ahead are extremely promising.

Des Kelly and Kevin Daly



U16/17 Junior Camogie

It was a good year for the under 16 & 17's and the junior team this year. In March the under 16's narrowly lost to Maynooth in a pulsating the cup final. 9 girls from this team went on to represent Kildare in the under 16's Leinster championship and gave a good account of themselves. A mixture of under 15/16 & 17's took part in the summer 7 aside tournament in Naas and got to the final against Naas. It was a great experience for the girls and a good way to combine the 3 age groups.

The under 17 won the under 17's on Sunday 13th November in a tough match against Naas, topping of a good year for the girls.
Several of the girls are currently participating in the minor trials and we wish them the very best of luck.











The Junior campaign commenced in March and for some it was their first experience in playing Adult Camogie. After a slow start to the campaign the Junior team went all the way and reached the final against JTB and won it comprehensively.

The team also participated in the summer league and lost out to l Rathcoffey team in the final.

The Junior team went all the way to the Junior Final this year and narrowly lost to an experienced Clane team on the day. Overall, a great year for these teams playing and reaching finals was the goal at the start of the year and all teams delivered. The future of camogie in Celbridge looks very bright.

Thanks
Sean, Joe, Ger & Conor



Junior Camogie team beaten narrowly by Clane in the county final in Hawkfield

Blitzchomórtas Peile Chill Dara

Bhí an-lá go deo againn inniu i bhFíodh Alúine agus sinn ag glacadh páirt sa chéad blitzchomórtas peile i gCill Dara! Níor éirigh linn an chraobh a bhaint amach ach bhí an-am againn agus bhí an Ghaeilge bheo! #gaagaeilge



Mary Murtagh, Lorraine McIntyre, Joanne Cantwell, Claire O'Sullivan, Fiachra Ó Muineacháin, Niamh Nic Gearailt, Gráinne Hickey, Donncadh Corcoran, Tommy Konstantin. As láthair – Kate

Dermot Early Youth Leadership

Recent graduates of the Dermot Earley Youth Leadership Initiative course ran in the club last year.
17 teens in all from Celbridge graduated with a level 5 qualification in Youth Leadership and Community Action.



Pictured at the graduation ceremony recently in NUIG are Niamh Barnes, Abbie Pimlott, Georgia Mooney, Simone O'Reilly, Dara Flynn, Sava Hahajev and Eoghan Lynch.

Well done to all who graduated and to their mentors Aileen Holmes, Martina Ginty, Conor Halpin , Jonathan Daniels, Karen O'Hara and Jean Mooney



Senior Ladies Football

Following the 'retirement' of Paul Earley & Paul Lynch from the management team, Moira Quinn stepped up to take control of the Senior team for the 2022 campaigns. In addition to the loss of some key management personnel, it was also accompanied by many of the 2021 squad being unavailable for most of the current year campaigns (due to retirees, long term injuries, travelling post pandemic lockdown, focus on Camogie, work & Leaving Cert commitments & much more). Apart from the impact that had on training numbers available, the progression to Division 3 in prior years left us in quite a competitive group, so was always going to be a challenging year for the team.

Despite all of this, we continued on the journey of integrating additional younger players to bolster the squad and create the competitive edge required to further develop the team and create the platform for the future progression in the Senior competitions. Although the attendance at training was limited at times, the focus, effort & intensity at our bi-weekly training sessions was really good.



We kicked off the League campaign with a home fixture against a strong Athy team, which provided the opportunity to establish where we stood from a fitness perspective, experiment with new positions for players & patterns of play, identify areas to work on at training and generally get some game time under our belts (with limited opportunities for challenge games in the build-up). Although the scoreline may suggest a relatively comfortable win for Athy, it was a very competitive and entertaining game with end-to-end action throughout, and as the saying goes, 'goals win games'. Our next game was at home to Cappagh and having played them a number of times in recent years, were well aware of their quality and the challenge this would bring. Unfortunately, we did not bring the battling performance, energy and desire that was required to compete with the Cappagh dominance and clinical finishing, resulting in a heavy and demoralising defeat.

This was followed quickly by yet another home game against one of the tournament favourites, Kilcock, where our defence was strong and resolute throughout, midfield battling for every ball, tracking back with some excellent link play and support to the forward line, with the forwards making use of most scoring opportunities. We just came up short in the end, but helped restore some confidence for the next battle. However, this morale boosting performance was short lived with a very heavy defeat away to Carbury with their forwards scoring goals at will, with the only consolation of our own forwards recording best score to date in the campaign. With our fate and relegation to Division 4 already confirmed, we played out another high scoring game away to Na Fianna. It allowed us the opportunity to get game time for the entire squad and although it was a very disappointing overall campaign, the decimation of the squad & rebuilding process that was required, left us feeling that retribution would come in the Championship, where we were collectively aligned to what was required to be competitive once again (commitment, enthusiasm, desire, work rate & team focussed approach).



With the memory of the League campaign firmly erased and total focus on qualifying from our group in the Junior A Championship preliminary rounds, the preparation included challenge games against Kill, Leixlip & Maynooth, with the introduction of a strength and conditioning coach to help build fitness & endurance levels. Our initial game ticked all the boxes from tenacious defending, midfield dominance and forwards on song with some excellent scores – exactly what we needed to build confidence and belief in the team. However, next game was back to our old foes Na Fianna who had begun their campaign with a comprehensive win against Rathangan. Expectation levels were high to deliver and build on our opening game performance, but unfortunately it was a replica of our League match, but without our scoring boots on.

Rd	Date	Home Team	Home Score		- Vs -	Away Score		Away Team
			Goals	Points		Goals	Points	
1	Tues 5th April	CAPPAGH	4	19	Vs	2	07	CARBURY
		CELBRIDGE	0	11	Vs	3	08	ATHY
		KILCOCK	2	08	Vs	0	12	NA FIANNA
2	Tues 12th April	CELBRIDGE	0	05	Vs	1	20	CAPPAGH
		NA FIANNA	1	04	Vs	0	07	CARBURY
		ATHY	1	04	Vs	3	15	KILCOCK
3	Tues 19th April	CAPPAGH	1	11	Vs	1	10	NA FIANNA
		CELBRIDGE	1	07	Vs	1	12	KILCOCK
		CARBURY	3	11	Vs	5	10	ATHY
4	Tues 26th April	KILCOCK	3	06	Vs	3	11	CAPPAGH
		ATHY	2	14	Vs	3	14	NA FIANNA
		CARBURY	8	13	Vs	3	07	CELBRIDGE
5	Tues 3rd May	ATHY	3	15	Vs	4	09	CAPPAGH
		CARBURY	1	11	Vs	2	10	KILCOCK
		NA FIANNA	3	21	Vs	2	13	CELBRIDGE

It was back to the drawing board to ensure we were fully prepared for the Rathangan game, as a positive result was absolutely critical in securing a semi final place. This was duly delivered setting up a semi final against Raheens, which although not going our way, the battling performance and never say die attitude did at least leave a positive perspective on a very difficult 2022 season ☺

Round	Date	Home Team	Home Score		- Vs -	Away Score		Away Team
			Goals	Points		Goals	Points	
1	9th August	Na Fianna	4	21	Vs	1	06	Rathangan
		Celbridge	3	12	Vs	0	03	Ballykelly
2	16th August	Na Fianna	3	17	Vs	1	05	Celbridge
		Rathangan	4	18	Vs	1	09	Ballykelly
3	23rd August	Ballykelly	0	01	Vs	2	15	Na Fianna
		Rathangan	1	07	Vs	2	12	Celbridge

Semi-Finals	13th September			
1st Group A	**Raheens**	v	**Celbridge**	2nd Group B
1st Group B	**Na Fianna**	v	**Kildangan**	2nd Group A

A special call out & appreciation to Moira Quinn for her commitment, guidance, encouragement, energy, enthusiasm & passion in helping continue the skills development, improving fitness levels & ultimately building team camaraderie within this Senior squad. A big thanks as always to the parents, family & friends for all the support & encouragement to the girls. For the players, it's been a year of consolidation and rebuilding for the future, but would urge the collective squad to refocus and bring the ambition, dedication, energy and team spirit that will be required in 2023 to drive us forward and competing for honours once again.



Boys U11s Football

Training:
Football training was held 3 times per fortnight focusing on skills development (kicking/passing with both feet/hands, soloing, etc.) and game readiness (support play, kicking under pressure, etc). A number of training sessions were supported by Jonathan Daniels in early spring, who introduced and demonstrated new drills which lifted the intensity of our training sessions. Training groups were split by player ability to maximise player involvement and touches on the ball. This was discussed with parents prior to implementation. This approach resulted increased player confidence and improved skills levels across all abilities.

Training sessions in H1 2022 were attended by c38 players on average while over H2 2022 we observed a drop in players participation, reducing to c25 players per session, as a number of players switched to other sports. Training ran throughout the summer to maintain and improve skill levels.
Additionally, a number of training sessions were supported and lead by members of the Celbridge Senior Football team which was a great thrill of our players.

Spring and autumn leagues:
The U11s fulfilled all league Spring and Autumn fixtures, fielding three teams of 11 in Spring and two teams of 11 in Autumn. All matches were played in accordance Go Games ethos with no incidents of note arising. The U11s were competitive in all games with better performances being delivered in the Autumn league games. Throughout our leagues games our players showed respect for all teammates, their opposition and the match officials.
Additionally, a number of players played up with the U12s in division 6, an experience which they all really enjoyed (15 aside matches with numbered jerseys!).

Coaches:
Simon Clarke, Mick Wright, Maurice Eighan and Diarmuid Cowler. Aaron Kavanagh, James Browne and Declan Naughton joined the U11 coaching team during 2022.

Acknowledgement:
We would like to thank everyone that assisted our team this year, especially our referees (Kieran Rubotham, Chris McLoughlin, David Daly & Senan Cuffe), Donie Bolger for the pitch bookings and a massive thank-you to all the parents/guardians.

Kildare U20s do a Training Session with U13s



Our three lads that were part of the Leinster under 20 football Championship winning side did a fun coaching session with under 13 boys on a beautiful sunny evening back in August.

Aaron Browne, Niall O'Regan and Dean O'Donoghue also brought along the Leinster cup to U11 training.



Community Games Poc Fada

Congrats to our two under 11 hurlers that took gold and silver in the boys under 12 Kildare Community Games Poc Fada county finals – Sean Cowler and Finn Treacy and the u12 camogie girls that took home gold, silver and bronze in the u14s event – Temi Oladehin, Lucy Cowler, Elin Fox





GAALA Ball

The GAAla ball made a much anticipated return to the social calendar in November 2022 after a 3 year hiatus and this time was hosted in the fabulous surrounds of the Hamlet Court Hotel. As is usual there was plenty of “schtyle”.
































Celbridge GAA
@CelbridgeGAA













U7 Girls Camogie & Football

Squad

There are 36 girls named on the panel, of which 31 could be considered active (judging by attendance at training and fixtures). There are also 10 coaches involved with the team. The team competes in both Football and Camogie. Training is on Thursday evenings at 6 and again on Saturday morning at 10 (if there is no match on that day). Attendance for Camogie (especially matches) is below that of football (although not sure if this is maybe related to fixture scheduling highlighted in the Issues section). There have been four panel members who have stated they have no interest in playing Camogie, but possibly more share that view based on attendances.

We took a break from training for the month of July during the summer and we are intending to finish up for the year some time in early November.



Competitions

Three teams were entered for the Camogie and Football Go games at the start of the year. Due to non consistent attendance rates, we dropped to two teams submitted for the Autumn round of games. Throughout the year the girls have been involved in 18 matches (11 Football and 7 Camogie). The last of the arranged football fixtures was played on 15th October and the last of the Camogie fixtures is due to be played on the 23rd of October.

The girls have generally performed very well in matches. Players with higher attendance tend to be much more confident in games. The hope is we'll get attendance rates up for training and games next year across the board.

The highest number of girls we've had at a match was 28 (Home Football v Naas on 15th October) and the lowest attendance we've had for a fixture was 11 (Home Camogie v Rathcoffey & Kilcock on 9th September)

Issues

- The Autumn fixtures round scheduling was poorly organised. Football and Camogie fixtures were scheduled the same weekend (Football on Saturday and Camogie on Sunday) and then a gap weekend with no fixtures the following week. This led to poorer attendances for the Camogie games on a Sunday.





U14 Hurling

The U14 Hurlers had a very busy 2022; we started off the year and entered into the U15 league where we performed admirably with 1 win, 1 draw and a loss. The team also got the opportunity to partake in the Féile blitz where we met some very strong opposition but unfortunately didn't make it out of the qualifying group, although the results didn't go our way the benefit of playing against older opposition was positive and held us in good stead for our U14 league. It was a great experience and we look forward to participating again in 2023. Seven of our panel played up with the older (U15) age group and were part of the winning regional Féile team.

In preparation for the league we played several challenge matches, we had great battles against teams such as Lucan Sarsfields and Dunboyne. Our U14 league was played throughout the summer and despite missing players in some games, we managed to qualify for the finals in both League and Championship "B" where we came up against a very strong St Cocas team in both finals. The two games were fiercely contested and our lads gave it their all but unfortunately St Cocas came away with both wins. This U14 team are a hard working group and we have had a number of new players join up with the squad this year, our numbers are steadily increasing which is fantastic.



There are eight of our players involved in the U14 Kildare Development Squad, all of these lads have had the privilege of pulling on the white jersey and have played competitive games against the likes of Limerick, Galway & Wexford. These lads are thriving in this environment and we look forward to seeing them play for the county again in 2023.



Our Senior hurling manager Donal Moloney took some training sessions with the lads which we are very grateful to Donal for. We would also like to acknowledge the Club Secretary Richard Spencer and Juvenile Chairman David McDonnell for all of their support and assistance throughout the year and also to Denis Murphy who keeps the pitches in such great condition. Most importantly, myself and John would like to thank our fantastic parent group for all of their loyal support and help throughout the year.

We look forward to a very busy 2023 where we expect to be playing a very high level of hurling, we will put the disappointments that were experienced in 2022 behind us and look forward to a very successful 2023.

Noel Rubotham & John Mulvey.



Missing from Photo: Sean Ahearn, Arnas Rancas, Darragh Knowles, Sean Finnegan.

Under 8s Girls

Numbers:

We started the year with a panel of 23, one girl dropped out and we have 6 new players. All girls are welcoming and the group is really developing. We'd expect more joiners in the coming year.

Training:

Our training for U8's has been focussed on fun, movement and skills. The girls have visibly progressed in all areas of both Camogie and Football this year. With exception of 1 girl, all are playing both codes. We have trained twice a week except on match weeks. We have alternated codes in training days to ensure there is an even split on time given to development.

Go Games:

The girls played both Spring and Autumn go games. The improvement in teamwork and commitment was visible for all parents to see between the two schedules. In football, the team is kicking on with some great results against local clubs.

In Camogie, the girls played their first Blitz events playing with sliotar from the hand rules. They took it all in their stride and will be a focus of our training for the remainder of this year.

Coaching:

We had a relatively new coaching team this year. The really positive green shoots for the age group was 5 new coaches completing the foundation level course. This will only lead to better coaching for the girls and a more dedicated coaching regime due to better coach/player ratios.

Overall the girls seem to be really enjoying both training and matches.
Coaches: Cormac O Brien, Joanne McGarry, Jenny Power, Andy Nolan, Andrew Leyden, Dec O Brien.
Looking forward to finishing the year with a few fun activity weeks for the girls and maybe a group tipple for the coaches.

Pop Up Gaeltacht

Bhí an-oíche go deo againn an Bealtaine seo chaite sa chlubtheach agus sinn ag céiliuradh an Pop Up Gaeltacht. Bia blasta agus neart caint agus comhrá chomh maith. Ár mbuíochas le gach duine a bhí linn #SnaG









U 12 Camogie & LGFA

2022 was a superb year for this group of girls. Their dedication and commitment to training and matches is phenomenal. Our average turn out at training was over 20 and it has been great to also have a steady stream of new players who are joining the group, with our overall numbers now at 50.



In the Spring we competed in the U12 LGFA & Camogie leagues. We continued to field mixed ability teams when most other teams were streaming their players. We had some tough games, some great wins, some near misses and some games that we learned a lot from. Our pink team had wins over Naas, Clane and Leixlip while our purple team had wins over Naas, Sarsfields, Kilcullen, Leixlip.

The Kildare camogie association organised a blitz format in the Spring as a pre-cursor to the leagues. One of the highlights of the year, was definitely having both of our camogie teams playing the Cup semi-finals against Clane. The matches were played on the main pitch in Clane while the sun streamed down on the parents and supporters who lined the bank. It was the first time that our girls had the opportunity to see and support their team mates. Both teams had great wins which set us up for two Sup finals. Unfortunately, the finals were in different venues, which was a terrible pity, but it was great to see one of our teams go on to comprehensively beat Sallins in Kill. Our other team weren't as fortunate in Leixlip but we all celebrated together in the clubhouse later that evening.





The Autumn LGFA league kicked off in September. We continued with mixed teams but had learned so much from the Spring league. Our Pink team placed joint top of the league with Sarsfields with only one game left to play – against Sarsfields. Unfortunately, this final match had to be abandoned at half time, due to unimaginable rain, but with Celbridge in complete control. The finishing date for the league had passed and the result from a further game v Sarsfields would not be counted. It was a pity to finish the league in this manner but it will only add to the hunger for that league title next Spring. Our purple team had great wins in all their games, beating Leixlip, Straffard, Naas and Kilcock comprehensively. However, our trip to Carbury didn't go our way and this superior team (who should be in Div 1) came away with the victory. This left us with 2nd in the table. What a great year!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the girls for their effort, attitude, behaviour and interest. Thanks also to the parents for bringing your girls, having their gear ready and all your support. We have great coaches, great parents, great girls …a winning formula!

U16 Hurling

The U16 players joined with U17 to play in the U17 division 1 league this year starting in March. Teams in the competition were St. Cocas, Maynooth, Clane, Naas and EOCC. Due to a Covid outbreak at St. Cocas, Celbridge agreed to postpone our first game.
We were unable to field due to a Covid outbreak ourselves for the reply but this time win was awarded against us. We appealed but to no avail. We were beaten by Clane in Clane. We drew against Maynooth at home and beat Naas at home. Versus Naas, we had 4 minor players back and each played great. Versus EOCC, we were way behind at half time and pulled back to within 2 with a great fight back but couldnt quite catch up and lost the game.

The under 16's then joined up with the U15's for the U16's competition. This year was a step up for the team to Division 1 after competing in division 2 the previous year. The other teams involved were St. Cocas, Maynooth, St Laurences, Clane Naas.
Things started in July which meant teams were disrupted due to holidays. First up for celbridge was St. Cocas at home. It was a very even affair with St. Cocas pulling ahead by 2 points close to the end only for Celbridge to snatch a dramatic victory at the death with a well worked move starting at the back and ending with a goal smashed into the net.
Next up was away to Maynooth. They proved to be too strong for us on the night and unfortunately we were beaten convincingly.
After Maynooth there was a trip to St Laurences. Celbridge were in front for most of the match but not by much and Laurences sensed blood and with a strong push at the end snatched victory with a soft goal.

As luck would have it we were drawn against St. Laurences again in a championship quarter final. This seemed to be a carbon copy of the previous game with Celbridge not quite at their best and suffering another loss by a small margin.
In the second last game of the league the old foes Naas came to Celbridge. The summer holidays were over which meant the first match with a full squad. The celbridge lads came on to the pitch guns blazing. They were first to every ball, fighting for each other at every step and it showed in the score line with Celbridge well up at half time. We knew it was likely Naas would come back strong after the shell shock of the first half and that was the case as they got stronger as the second half wore on. But Celbridge stood firm, buoyed by a very vocal bench and continued to keep up the scoring enough to see out the match for a very enjoyable victory.

With one game remaining the league table was very tight as all teams lost at least one game. We had a great win against Clane. We were well on top for most of the game and ran out comfortable winners in the end scoring 7 goals in the process. This meant we finished tied for 2nd place in the league with Naas and Maynooth. Unfortunately though we lost out on qualifying for a final based on score difference. The hard work the team has put in over the last couple of years seemed to be very present this year. With some luck we will carry on the great squad spirit and strength in the next year and give all opposition something to think about. Special thanks to the parents for their continued and vocal support.

March 23, 2022





It was great to see our Club president Pat Murphy up to checkout the bar over the weekend after a successful re-opening on St.Patrick's Day. Pat is joined by county senior football captain Mick O'Grady, former Club and County chairman Andrew O'Sullivan and All Ireland medal winner with Offaly Mick Wright.

Fergal Conway announced his intercounty retirement in last October and the following is taken from a Kildare Nationalist interview he did with Pat Costello on October 28

AFTER agonising for quite a time and playing through the pain barrier for a number of years Kildare's outstanding servant, Fergal Conway, decided to retire from intercounty football recently, on medical advice, because of persistent knee injuries.
When he finally made the decision to retire the Celbridge man felt a certain relief considering the pain management he had to endure for a number of years because of those knee injuries.

"Tom Cribbin used to call me the Paul McGrath of Gaelic football," he laughs. "There was no regret," he says, " but I was probably emotional enough. I met Glenn and Anthony and that was difficult, but I think they understood. It was like breaking up with a longterm girlfriend. They asked me to take a few days to think about it but I knew it was time to step away. I spoke with my girlfriend, Kate, who has been through it all with me and my family. The toughest phone call was probably with Mick O'Grady. No tears but close."
"Exiting the players WhatsApp Group was also tough he recalls.

WITH a father from Tullamore and a mother from Clondalkin it was no surprise, I suppose, that Fergal Conway and older brother, Gearoid, would end up living in Celbridge when the Mam and Dad, Grainne and Tadhg, moved from the Dublin suburb.
Rugby was initially the sport for the Conway brothers and both were involved with Barnhall. Gearoid went on to have a good career with the club but Fergal switched to GAA in Celbridge around the Feile years and the rest, as they say, is history.

The teenage Fergal Conway would have played soccer and Gaelic with Salesian College and underage Gaelic with Celbridge with a deal of success. "Trevor O'Sullivan was very good for us during that time," Fergal recalls, "and he made me U21 captain when we beat a very good Athy team in the Final. We also went on to win U21 hurling and football subsequently. I played minor in 2010 for Kildare under Bryan Murphy."

The young Fergal Conway was involved in the Kildare set up while Kieran McGeeney was manager while Trevor O'Sullivan and Tom Cribbin were selectors on the U21 teams when they won Leinster. "Geezer used to take a group of us to fill in for a training game with the seniors and that was a great experience. He was very good at coaching me in the role of centre half back as Trevor had started playing me in that position with the club."

After losing to Galway in an All Ireland U21 semi final in 2013, Conway had to have a operation on his knee which ruled him out of progressing into the seniors then in McGeeney's last year in charge of Kildare seniors. "I would have liked to have worked with him a bit more and a lot of the U21's would have been the same at the time.



After a few O'Byrne Cup games Fergal Conway made his senior debut as a sub under Jason Byrne. "I don't think it was tactical, I think someone got injured and I went in as centre back, marking Keith Higgins," he recalls. "It was great to get that exposure in the first year. Against Kerry I was marking Bryan Sheehan and against Tyrone I was marking Mattie Donnelly, so I had to learn quickly."
I actually sat in Geezer's seat the first time I was in with the county so that didn't go down too well," Fergal Conway laughs. "Looking back at that time I probably regret that I felt I had to survive and probably played with too much fear. I probably wasn't keen to put my head up in case I made a mistake but as they years went on I probably settled in a bit but the players were very welcoming at that time and Emmet Bolton and Keith Cribbin were always good for a few pointers."

Conway was just back after fracturing his eye socket when Kildare began to ship a number of heavy beatings in Croke Park which many believe had a psychological affect on Kildare teams subsequently.
"Those defeats were really tough but in all those defeats it was probably a case of not sticking to the what would have worked in terms of the game plan and the structure. It always seemed that when one bad thing happened we always compounded it by another bad thing rather than slowing the game down and take stock of what we have," the former centre half says. "You probably could reflect poorly on this beatings but it's not like that when you're in the group but we were probably a team that was in a bit of transition at the time but you'd always go out thinking you were going to win," Conway tells us. "There's resilience in players and all you want to do is give the best account of yourself but sometimes that's easier said than done."

That resilience was severely tested by the shock defeat to Carlow in the Leinster Championship in Tullamore. "It was very difficult between that and the Derry game in the Qualifiers. I don't think any fingers could be pointed back at Management. We were just flat and lacked aggression, you would have thought that Carlow were the higher ranked team. You come in to Conleth's on the Tuesday and you can barely look at Cian (O'Neill) and the lads as you know you have let them down. It was a tough session. There were a few words. We had a chance to have a discussion and to call each other out. Cathal McNally had something to say about me over a 50/50 ball that he thought I should have won and he was dead right but that killed me knowing that one of my own was calling me out. Redemption became the work after that," the Celbridge man recalls.

The team were fired up to repay the fans in the Derry game and continued with that progress in the Newbridge or Nowhere game.
Moving to 2022 Fergal Conway felt that the League game against Tyrone was one they probably left behind. “Nobody within the group saw the defeat against Dublin,” he says. Asked if he was disappointed not to get more game time himself in 2022, “yes and no” was the quick response. “I hurt the shoulder with the club so I had a bit of rehab over Christmas so I was only back out on the pitch in the week of the Kerry game so I wasn’t in contention for that. Then the knees were giving me a bit more both bother than usual and David Herity was always helpful to me. I I met Cathal Moran in Santry Clinic at the end of January and I researched stem cells to help me. I remember I had a note pad for the meeting. One side I had if he said yes I had one set of questions and if he said no I had another. Within five minutes the conversation was over. I remember him saying the horse had bolted.”

Conway made the decision after that meeting in Santry that this would be his last year in the Lilywhite shirt. “It was tough to take but I kind of knew from a few years out that the day would come. It was something I spoke to Glenn about. It didn’t go the way I wanted and some things I wasn’t happy with and I would have liked to play more but even if I had been nominated for an All Star and won Player of the Year, I knew it would be my last year. I had to think of life after football which is something I probably didn’t do before.”
Looking to the future Fergal Conway hopes to continue to play club football for Celbridge but he has no plans, as yet, to enter into the coaching or managerial side of the game.

Senior & Intermediate Camogie

Celbridge again fielded 3 adult camogie teams in 2022 which was great achievement given that we lost so many players from our 2021 squads. With the world opening up again after Covid it was inevitable that people would start travelling again and sure who can blame them. Being able to go on holiday again, nightclubs etc reopening were all novelties to us all again. This of course meant that collective training was haphazard at times to say the least of it.





Between senior and intermediate we used 36 players in championship in 2022 reaching the senior final and intermediate semi-final. It was a year for introducing younger players to senior having served their apprenticeships in intermediate. We had to replace 6 starters from our 2021 senior championship winning team which is quite a lot and ultimately retaining the cup proved a step too far. But with the experience garnered this year and some of the underage players pushing hard for places in 2023 I believe we have a great chance of getting our hands on the title again.

I would like to thank Padraic Carty who is an excellent trainer and coach and is invaluable to the set up. Thanks to Davy Lyons and Eva McPartland (physios) who looked after all injuries and had the girls ready for battle at all times. Thanks also to Donagh McInerney and especially Hugh Gallagher for putting up nets etc. To all our hard core supporters (you know who you are) a very special thanks, it’s always great to have you cheering (and groaning) on the line. Thanks to the club Executive for all your support, Denis Murphy and the field committee for having the pitches in tip top condition throughout the year. Thanks to Audrey Kilgallon of Haven Hire for your continued support to the club.





Nollaíg Mac Mathúna, Baínisteoir

Under 8 Football – 2014

A very successful year for the u8 boys (2014 age group). The year started at the end of March against Leixlip and ended Nov 5th vs Kilcock and Blessington. We were averaging about 27-28 kids in April / May but by the end of the year we were up to 45+. We saw a significant spike in players with great support from the Ballyouster and Celbridge town soccer managers who were recommending the GAA to their players. Word of mouth with parents was also a great help in promoting the team and the good work of the coaches. The coaching team had on average 8-10 coaches available for all football games and trainings which made a huge difference. Several the coaches completed their foundational coaching courses and we saw a big improvement in coaching standards, training sessions and overall levels of trainings.





We had great support from parents throughout the year for the football and most of them had to juggle success games in the early mornings. Hopefully as the boys get older, we can move the GAA games to 1 weekend day and the soccer to another. A fantastic BBQ was organised for the players and their families for Father's day, in June and we had a huge attendance. We organised a fun day for the kids and the resulting positivity generated from the event has been a huge factor in keeping parents and kids with the team. A second event is scheduled for Nov and the turnout is expected to be significant. The standard of games were good during the year - truth be told the Celbridge team proved to be too strong for most opponents. We are looking forward to testing the boys against stronger opposition in 2023.



The players themselves had a brilliant year. The level of skill has improved dramatically, the interest in training and games was really high. There is a fantastic team spirit between the group and a positive attitude is promoted by the coaches in trainings and games. The environment is competitive, fun and social. The focus for the year has been on improving skills, specifically the soloing and kicking. Every player is making great efforts in following the rules, the consistency in how the players attempt the ball pickup being a great example. The players have been brilliant with their efforts this year and the coaches are incredibly proud of them. We hope to continue to improve nest year, it would be great to see the coaches get further coaching levels done. The focus will be on teamwork and skills improvements for 2023. We cannot wait for the new year already!











Ozzie O'Shea, Sam O'Shea, Mateo Perciavalle, Reece Henney, Callan Reeves, Alfie Byrne, Daire McCarthy, Dexter Gunning, Daniel McEvoy, Tadhg Creighton, Cian Grendon, Conor Bass, Harry O'Shea, Liam Burke, Charlie O'Shea, Peter O'Connell, Aidan Larkin, Daniel Hannon, Max Newton, Rowan Shanley, Frankie Mongan, Conor Shannon, Nathan Bowman, Conor Reilly, Finian Spencer, Harry O'Hehir, Tadhg Brosnan, Tim Klemanskas, Josh Hanlon, Ultan Jones, Senan Jones, Sean O'Reilly, Bobby Reid, Conor Kirwan, Joe Keeshan, Kyle O'Neill, Liam O'Neill, Darragh Lanigan, Donncadh Ginty, Harrison Quinn, Luca Doran, Sean Carney, Ruben Clarke, Darragh King, Johnny Melia, Tom Underwood, Donncadh Power, Braden Nolan, Donncha Sands, Ethan Farrell, Alden, Evan, Jesse

Senior Football 3rd team

Over the past number of years something has been building with the Celbridge senior 3 team and finally the dedication and commitment came to flourish in 2022 as they were winners of the Reserve C Senior Championship on a fantastic night in Hawkfield beating a strong Moorefield team in the final.



The year began with a strong unbeaten league campaign where the team went 6 wins out of the 6 games. The team reached the semi-final where they came up against a tough Sarsfields team who edged them out narrowly to knock them out of the competition in the early summer.

Next up came the championship and the one we really wanted. It began with a round robin campaign beating Clougherinkoe and Kilcock while losing to Naas. A hard-fought quarter final win against a young Sallins team set the marker for the next two games. Naas came next in the semi-final, over the last number of years this has been a bogey team and our main arch rival. To overcome Naas in the semi final was a fantastic show of determination and talent showed by all players on the team. We were never going to stop there, on a night in Hawfield with a packed stand full of Celbridge support the lads edged out a Moorefield team in a game played at championship speed and intensity. 30 players togged out for the final and each and everyone contributed to the win and enabled the team to lift the trophy.





From the start of the year this team was about a few things – a team for players towards the end of their career, players who needed an introduction to football for the first time and a team for young players to start their senior footballing careers. This team surely fulfilled all this and even more. Throughout the league and championship campaign the team saw over 50 players play in some shape of form, a fantastic show for the team and club. Some players won their first ever championship medal at the age of 18 and others won their first championship medal at the age of 46. A testament to never knowing when your next medal will be so enjoy it when you get the opportunity.



One mantra this team had throughout the year was to enjoy every match as anytime you pull on the Celbridge jersey it should be a proud moment. This group of lads truly honoured the Celbridge crest and did the club proud on and off the pitch.

Finally, the management would like to thank all the people who contributed to the team throughout the year from putting up nets, washing jerseys, umpires and supporters, without you the team would not have flourished. We now look forward to getting back out onto the pitch and having a successful 2023 campaign.

Fergal Power, Conor Halpin, Mick Phelan, Ciaran Costello









Action from the Reserve C Senior Championship final against Moorefield, played in Hawkfield













2022 - U15 Boys Football

2022 was a very successful year for U15 Football Team. In December 2021 our team won the U15 (Age Group Above) Div. 6 League Final with a 1 point over Naas.

In the 1st half of the year we had 2 teams playing in the U15 League. Our 1st team played in Div. 1 and our 2nd Team played in Div. 7 with the support of players from the U14s. Our 1st team were very unlucky and were relegated from Div. 1. We lost to Clane in the relegation final after extra time. Unfortunately we were missing key players due to injuries for a lot of that league but the coaches were very proud of the way the boys performed. Our 2nd team finished 3rd in Div. 7 and performed very well in all their matches.

We entered 2 teams in the U15 Feile competitions. The blitzes were held on Sat 30th April. Our 2nd team had to play in the Div. 4 blitz in Rathangan and performed very well but were up against much stronger teams and did not qualify for the Semi Finals. Our 1st team qualified for the Semi Finals after the Div. 2 blitz which was held in Celbridge. They won their Semi Final v Round Towers which was played later on the same day as the blitz. The Final was held 2 days later in Hawkfield on Monday 2nd May and the opposition were St Edward's. After a slow start Celbridge took control and ran out winners on a score line of 1-9 to 0-06.

As Div. 2 Feile champions, we got to represent Kildare in the Feile Regional Finals which were held in Ferns, Co.Wexford on Saturday 4th June. We had a great time in Wexford but ultimately were beaten in all our matches but we were very proud of all our players and how they performed.



In the 2nd half of 2022 we entered 1 team into the U16 League and Championship. We also gave 2 of our players to our U16 squad.

We performed very well in the League winning 4 matches and only loosing 1 match in the Group stages. We were beaten by Clane in the League Semi Final. In the Championship we progressed to the Shield Final which is scheduled to be played on Tuesday 8th November v Naas in Hawkfield.

As in 2020 & 2021 we have had an extra weekly training session to create more options to attend for players due to the demands of school & other sports. We have also continued some fun elements to training like shooting challenges and cross bar challenges. In October we organised an outing to Carlingford Adventure Centre where the team and coaches did Laser Combat and the Aerial Challenge. We also did a lot of fundraising this year for our Feile Competitions and from that were able to organise Training gear and Club Bags for all our squad. A big thank you to all our sponsors and everyone who supported our fundraising in 2022.

We have continued to keep our panel numbers strong and we currently have 35 players. In 2022 we had a total of 40 matches between Competitive and Challenge matches and we have had 88 training sessions to date.

We would also like to thank all those that helped us this year, our players, our Parent Group, Celbridge GAA, Jonathan Daniels, our sponsors and the U16/U14 coaches.

Sean O'Neill (Head Coach)
David McDonnell
Andrew Conaty
Keith Fagan



Luke Murray, Darragh Colton and Peter Fagan were part of the Kildare development squads in 2022.



Under 13 Ladies Football & Camogie

The under 13 ladies have had a strong year with 30 girls training and playing on a regular basis. They played in Division 1 of the under 13 league in the spring and found it tough. The girls have grown in confidence throughout the year and played in Division 9 of the under 14 league as under 13s in the Autumn. Had some very strong performances and made the final of this league where they narrowly lost out to Leixlip.



The under 13 Camogie team has 20 girls playing and training regularly. They did not participate in the under 14 league in the Spring. In the Autumn they played in Divison 1 of the under 13 Camogie league and won the shield final. It is disappointing that there were only 5 teams in under 13 Division 1.

During the year the girls also enjoyed a trip to the All Ireland Ladies Football Finals and a trip to Bray on the train where they hiked up Bray head.

Intel Matching Program

There was a great post on the Intel Global facebook page featuring Club member and Intel employee Paul Dillon, talking about his experience as a coach.

The Intel Matching Grant Program aims to recognize Intel employees, who engage in outreach and volunteerism to make communities a better place to live, work, and play.
Intel supports employees' who give their time and talent to qualified non profits and non-governmental organizations.

Here at Celbridge GAA, we are privileged to have Intel employees Paul Dillon, Vincent Murphy, Gerard Darcy, David Neville, Conor Halpin, Seamus Irving, Mike O'Dwyer, & John Gardiner giving their time and talent to our club.

Celbridge GAA Club would like to recognize and thank these dedicated Intel employees who generously give their time above & beyond what is needed to secure these funds.



On 4th May 2021, Celbridge GAA Club received €5,692.80 from Intel. These much needed funds are used every year to help with the many expenses which are needed to keep our juvenile section a float.

Thank you lads & thank you to Intel for your on going support

Under 15/16 Ladies Football

The Girls U15/16 squad of nearly 40 players made up of girls born in 2006/2007 started early in the New Year with our first training session held on Jan 8th and our first challenge match, a win over Balyna held on Jan 29th. Before the start of the U15 league in March we completed in Kildare Feile on March 17th & 18th. We were drawn against Sarsfield's in our first game in Round Towers GAA club in Kildare Town and after a titanic battle came out on top. This was followed up by another win against the host club Round Towers to qualify us for the semi-finals in Hawkfield the following day. Unfortunately we were beaten by the eventual winners Kilcullen who were the stronger team on the day.

The 2006 girls then moved up to play in the U17 league and the 2007 girls competed in the U15 League where our strongest 20 girls completed in Division 1 and the remaining players joining the 2008 girls to compete in Division 4 and Division 8. Our Division 1 team reached the semi finals where we were once again beaten by Kilcullen who were by far the batter team on the day, Our players involved in the Div 4 league reached the final where they were narrowly beaten by Na Fianna after a titanic battle in St Laurences GAA club on May 14th and the players involved with the Division 8 league put in some great performances but ultimately didn't progress beyond the league stages.

We took part in Leinster Feile on the June Bank Holiday weekend. There were 4 teams in our group and after winning all three group games against teams from Louth, Wexford and Longford we were drawn against Thomas Davis of Dublin in the Cup final. After a very close battle through out Tomas Davis got a vital goal in the closing minutes to win by 4 points. Despite losing the final a very enjoyable day was had by all the girls.

The 2006 players rejoined us in late June after winning the U17 Division 5 Final and we entered two teams in the U16 League competing in Division 1 and Division 8. Due to players being away on holidays and at the gaeltacht training numbers were very poor during the summer and due to a very early start to the league in August we were not very well prepared and were missing a number of players for most of our games. The lack of preparation really showed during the league and unfortunately both teams lost all their games in the Division 1 and Division 8 leagues. We knew our Division 1 team were going to struggle in their league but to their credit they put in some excellent performances and never gave up in any game. We expected our Division 8 team to be more competitive in that league but unfortunately this didn't turn out to be the case and despite some good performances were narrowly beaten in a number of games which could have gone either way. Overall a very disappointing autumn league campaign.

We put the disappointment of the autumn league behind us on the first weekend in September when 35 members of our squad and 6 coaches went to Carlingford Adventure Center for a fun packed team building weekend. Activities included High Ropes challenge, Paintballing, canoeing, late night singing and we finished off with some pier jumping. Having gone to Killary Adventure Centre a year previously these weekends are definitely a highlight for the girls and something they look forward to.

All our players are now competing in the Minor League and 9 of the girls have moved up to play with the Division 4 Minor team. The remaining 28 players have been entered into Division 8 of the Minor League and both teams have now qualified for the semi-finals of each league with the Div 4 team winning all 4 league games to finish top of their group and the Div 8 team winning 3 out of 4 games to finish second in their group. We are hoping that both teams will qualify for the finals in Hawkfield on November 19th

Two of our players Rowen Matthews and Lily Mullarkey were also selected for the Kildare U16 panel who won the All Ireland U16 B title so huge congratulations to both Rowen and Lily



The Squad consisted of the following players:

Lily Mullarkey, Kate Kealy, Rowen Matthews, Jane Power, Ava O'Leary Moore, Fionnuala Hughes, Hanna Roze Anderson, Abigael Brady Gannon, Sarah Lynch, Sarah Allen, Hena Foley Sethi, Tara Cunnelly, Maura Brady, Laura Burns, Ava Corcoran, Eli Clancy, Emma Kennedy, Laura McLaughlin, Sarah Canavan, Emile Cinge, Aoife Kirwan, Alannah Morley, Ava Fairbrother Blanc, Rebecca Harmon, Ciara Whelan, Emily Norman, Cara Whittingham, Grace O'Brien, Aoilean Sherlock, Michaela Turley, Abbie Creevy, Emma McNiffe, Lara Shanley, Áine Clancy, Emma Darcy, Ali Byrne, Clodagh Berrigan, Lucy Holmes, Emma Wallace

Elites Football

As usual it was a great year for the Elites, always positive and everyone enjoyed another year of playing a bit of football and having a great bit of craic at the same time .

We travelled over to Edinburgh for a challenge match on St Patrick's day and we stayed there for 2 nights to recouperate!! 😂, had great craic and also enjoyed the football and the city of Edinburgh! .



We went to St Anne's 7 a side blitz in September & we entered 2 teams. Both teams made the quarter finals & put on a great display of football!!

We have a fantastic bunch of lads , who love the craic and also love the fact they can get out on the pitch again and play a bit of football .

It's great for the mental health side of things , and we hope to keep going as long as the legs will carry us !!! 😂

Always looking for new members !

Mick Murray, Tommy Stack

Senior Football 2nd team

We had a good year , all be it a challenging year , loosing lads to County football , Senior /u20 ,
doesn't always help with numbers , but All the lads pulled together & we had a decent run in the Reserve A league & also in the Championship.

We have a great bunch of lads now in the senior panel , huge boost last year with the minors coming through , & we also had this year's current minors playing for us in the league, which was a brilliant experience for the young lads , & they did themselves & our club proud .

Huge positives to take from the last 2 years at this level of Reserve senior football, we are in a good competitive place .

If we keep the minor lads coming through , our senior panel will only get stronger as a whole & hopefully win a championship at this level sooner, rather than later .

Thanks coaches.

Mick Murray
Tommy Stack
Declan Naughton
Brian Foley .

St Patricks Day























Senior Hurling

2022 began for the Senior Hurling group in mid-February. The team went through a rigorous preseason that started with gym sessions in The Performance Clinic. While our pitch sessions started on 21 March. 2022 was a different year for Senior Hurling fixtures in the county which saw a reduced league format and the introduction of a Cup competition. In this new competition, the Senior Hurling Cup, which began in April, we beat Coill Dubh and Confey to qualify for the final where we lost to Naas in Hawkfield.

Our league form was up and down. We recorded wins against Leixlip, Coill Dubh, and Confey, while losing to Naas & Ardclough. During the league and Cup competition, our playing panel was extremely stretched. We had to call on every resource possible. Many players ended up playing two games in a day on one occasion. While this particular scenario is unacceptable and we never want to see it again, there were some positives from this time. It allowed us to give senior hurling game time to lots of the younger players which will be hugely important in terms of development.





We got our championship campaign underway with a preliminary round match to Coill Dubh in Newbridge. We didn't perform to the level we are capable of and Coill Dubh were deserved winners. This result sent us into Group B for the championship. We topped this group, winning against Ardclough & Leixlip, while drawing with Confey. This lead us to qualify for the county semi-final against Maynooth. Unfortunately, the semi-final did not go our way. It was another day where we didn't perform to our ability. On a positive note, our young players are beginning to gain valuable experience and game time. Many of them got debuts and game time this year. It is this younger group of players who will be the future of Celbridge hurling for years to come. If the right mix of experience from our older players can be blended with the youth, it can only be positive for Celbridge hurling.



The management team of Derek, John, Peter, and myself would like to thank all the people in the club behind the scenes who contribute in a hugely important way. In particular, I would like to mention; Ciaran O'Donovan, Patrick Moore, Niall Lanigan, Lorraine McIntyre, Tony Cullen, Paul Dillon, Shane Dillon, Aidan Plunkett, Kevin Daly, Des Kelly, Alan Hogan, Mark Hogan, Denis Murphy, David Sheill, & Mark Kenneally. Forgive me if I have left anyone out. I would like to thank the club executive for their support. I would also like to thank volunteers that did linesman & umpire for games. I would like to thank all club members who came out to support the team.



Finally, I would like to thank the players for their effort and commitment throughout the year. Beidh lá eile again.

Dónal Moloney

U15 Hurling

The U15 hurling league division 1 started in mid-February. Our opponents were St. Cocas, Leixlip, Coill Dubh, Maynooth & Naas. We also played Thomas Davis (twice) and Rathmolyon in challenge games during this time. Unfortunately due to Covid and a long injury list a number of our regular 2007 born players were not available to us for most of this league. The upside however is more players from the u14 team played in a number of the games and also some 2007 players who had not played hurling for a few years were now prepared to return and help us out. We'd like to especially thank Noel & John for their cooperation with the U14 players during this time. Without it we would not have been able to field a team. We did struggle to get results but thankfully managed to retain our division 1 status for next year. Most importantly the returning players and several u14s remained with us and continue to make a huge contribution since.

Next up was the Kildare Féile hurling competition which was played as a blitz tournament over easter weekend (April 16th & 17th). Because of our league position we ended up in Féile division 2. We won all our group games and beat Clane in a semi final which set up a final versus Ardclough on Sunday 16th April. The lads put in a great performance for this game and after a tough battle we ended up winning by 9 points. This victory meant that we would now compete in a regional Féile competition which took place over the weekend of 27th/28th May.



A big fundraising drive took place in advance of this and we'd like to say a huge thank you to the fundraising committee (Valerie, Adrienne, Emma, Lisa, Rosie & Mary Claire) and all who contributed to the various fundraising events. A special thanks to Declan Owens who secured sponsorship for training gear and tracksuits through his Company MJ Flood Group. Well done to Niall Lanigan who ensured that the orders for gear were delivered on time and for that we're hugely grateful. Big thanks also to Derek Collins Construction who generously provided the players with sponsored gear bags. The regional Féile weekend was without doubt the highlight of our year.

The venue was Clonduff GAA club in Co. Down and our opponents were from Antrim, Down, Derry, Armagh and Westmeath. We won all our group games and as a result qualified straight to a final against Banagher from Co. Derry. After an excellent performance and in a nail biting finish we also won the final by 2 points and were crowned the Regional Féile Hurling champions for 2022. After a shaky start to the season the team really stuck together and ensured 2022 would be a memorable year for all concerned.

To all parents, we're very grateful for your ongoing support and cooperation which is so important when it comes to giving the players the best possible chance of reaching their potential. Most important of all to the players, thank you for your total commitment and effort. Well done on a great year, no doubt we have some rising stars in this group and we look ahead with great excitement to 2023 and beyond.





Finally, congrats to the 7 players who were part of the U15 Kildare hurling development panel. These guys got the opportunity to represent Kildare in a number of intercounty games throughout the year and we wish them best of luck with the development panel next year. Adam Bradley, Caolann Montgomery, Cian McGrath, Paddy Malone, Oran Conaty, Conor O'Brien and Michael Owens.

Under 11s LGFA & Camogie (2011)

Another wonderful year for our 2011 Girls who have made great strides in their development. We've noticed a massive change in their maturity and leadership qualities this year and their skill levels have improved noticeably also. We started back training on Feb 5 th 2022 and continued all year, taking a 2 week break in July.

LGFA Spring League 2022: We entered 5 teams into the spring league based on 11 a side playing numbers. Each team played 8 games which worked out pretty well in terms of matches. Although games were played in the Go Games ethos, scores were kept and submitted.

LGFA Autumn League 2022: As there was no u11 competition for Autumn, the girls entered the u12 leagues. We entered 4 teams as the max allowed was 13 a side. We were put into the Div 8, 9, 10 and 11 with Div 8 meant to include the strongest u11 teams. Teams were streamed for the first time but when looking at the divisions, there was not much thought put into them. For instance Division 11 consisted of the 1st teams for Straffard, Carbury and Rathangan and our "4th team" which was very unfair on our girls while Div 10 contained both Towers & Kill who had won all their Spring League games. But results went well overall with our teams winning Div 8 and Div 10 and our 2 emerging teams competing well in Div 9 and Div 11 winning 1 game against the odds in each division.

Results from u12 Autumn LGFA League:

Division 8			
Celbridge	4-13	0-0	Leixlip
Kilcock	1-1	10-21	Celbridge
Sarsfields	1-0	3-12	Celbridge
Celbridge	8-8	0-2	Naas
Maynooth	2-5	2-7	Celbridge

Division 10			
Celbridge	8-13	1-5	Naas
Moorefield	2-4	8-22	Celbridge
Round Towers	2-7	2-8	Celbridge
Kill	3-2	6-4	Celbridge
Celbridge	4-7	5-2	Leixlip

Division 9			
Celbridge	6-5	8-2	Leixlip
Balyna	5-7	4-1	Celbridge
Naas	1-4	2-7	Celbridge
Celbridge	2-3	12-7	Clane
Maynooth	6-5	1-0	Celbridge

Division 11			
Rathangan	4-10	1-2	Celbridge
Celbridge	3-7	1-9	Carbury
Straffard	6-11	1-2	Celbridge
Celbridge	0-0	7-19	Rathangan
Celbridge	0-2	8-9	Straffard



Camogie: We entered 4 blended teams into the Spring Go Games where we had 6 rounds of good matches. For the Autumn League, there was a bit of a competitive factor to it with 3 divisions with Celbridge the only club in Kildare to enter 3 teams. Only Clane, Leixlip, EOCC and Straffan entered 2 teams and everyone else with the 1 team. The girls did very well to reach the semi finals of all 3 Divisional Cup competitions but unfortunately we were beaten by Round Towers, Clane and JTB in each of the semi finals.

Trips away



Galway – 18th June: This year we brought the girls to Galway to play Salthill Knocknacarra LGFA. The girls played very well against the local side and it was a great experience to play against the older u12s and also playing in full size pitch for the first time. But the game was of little significance to be honest as the fun was all in the journey. We hopped on our 2 buses early doors to set off for Salthill. The girls paraded along the promenade in full singing voice before making our way to the game. Afterwards we headed to Pure Skill where the girls tried their hand at many different sports and took to them like fish to water. Finally, a trip to Galway wouldn't be a trip to Galway without a stop off in Supermacs on the way home. A great day with lovely memories.

Sugarloaf 18th September: On a beautiful fresh autumn morning, the girls took on a new challenge – to climb the Sugarloaf mountain. This challenged the girls to something outside their comfort zone – great experience for them and something we'll repeat next year – they'll want a bigger mountain next time!



Fundraising: As we made the transition to compete in official leagues, we needed new sets of numbered jerseys – 4 for our 4 teams. As part of the fundraising efforts, we organised a raffle where the main prize was a 65' TV sponsored by Joan Turley and the good people in NordeMende. Also included in the prizes were 2 tickets to the All Ireland Football Final and 2 tickets to an Autumn Rugby International, kindly sponsored by Mark Mulraney and the team in Jan Janssens along with other excellent spot prizes.



The raffle was a huge success generating €2220 for the team, allowing us to buy shorts & socks for the girls as well as a set of jerseys. We also received full sponsorship from Ready 4 Road Driving School, Freedom Travel and Davenham Engineering for 3 other sets. Many thanks to all parents and sponsors for being so generous and as a result we have kitted out all 72 girls in new Celbridge playing kits. Overall we raised €5050.

Team Building Throughout September, Carolann & Nicola held three 1 hour sessions on Team Building, respecting your team mates and bullying. As the girls grow into teenagers, and as they are split into different playing teams, it's important to deliver this message. The message was focused on the language we use when people make mistakes, what we do in that situation, how we talk to and respect referees and leadership. Some great feedback and excellent activities delivered.

Thank You Special thanks to the many people who helped make the year a success including all the coaches and parents but especially our 72 girls who put in the big effort. To Olivia for organising our playing equipment, Niall for organising the playing gear and social media updates, Donie for organising pitch space, Sinead our LGFA secretary and Alan our Camogie secretary.

Finally a special word of thanks to our generous sponsors this year who forked out hundreds of euro when times are difficult, but by doing so, has eased the burden on our parents: Thanks to Fiona & Joe in Ready 4 Road Driving School, Ciara in Freedom Travel, Joan and the kind folks in NordeMende and to Denis in Davenham Engineering. Facts & Figures: 71 friends, 32 weekends of matches, 80+ Training Sessions, 1600 Jaffa Cakes, 2000 Wine Gums, 2000 hands shaked, 23 lost water bottles, 30 sliotars lost, 20 footballs missing, 10 bibs borrowed, 1 Celbridge Lions team







You Don't Have To Be A Star At Underage .... To Be County Senior Captain



Mick O'Grady has been described recently as Mr. Consistency. The modest and unassuming Celbridge club man will make his 77th appearance for the Kildare senior footballers this Sunday against the Dubs in an already sold-out St.Conleth's Park, Newbridge in round 4 of the Allianz National Football League. Named captain of the county senior footballers for 2022 by Glen Ryan and his management, this will be his fourth league game to lead the Lilywhites. The fact that he is the very first Celbridge man to be named captain of the Kildare senior footballers in the 137-year history of the club is both a huge honour for him as he says and the north Kildare club.

We caught up with Mick ahead of the big Allianz league game against Dublin at Conleth's Pak back in April for a chat about things football, what it means to him to be captain and interestingly growing up in the O'Grady house.

Earliest memory of playing football

It was playing under 10's or under 11's with Mick Mullen in charge. Back then, he says, he was "chancing his arm up in the forwards". He remembers the game well because he scored a goal, a rare occurrence he adds, and then heading off to do a Klinnsmann slide ... into a big puddle … followed by another couple of lads. He also remembers his auld lad letting out a big roar "ya big eejit".



The Celbridge under 11A Autumn Football League winners, 2002.

Mick O'Grady is third from the right in the back row.

Growing up in Thornhill Meadows he would have often kicked or pucked around with a good bunch of lads, "the likes of Kev Murphy and (Conor) Plunkett from up in Ballygoran and Davy Hughes in Castle Village. There was always a group playing some game or sport of some kind".

A recent memory popped up on Facebook for Kevin Murphy's birthday of himself and Stephen Murphy heading off to their debs with the younger Murphy giving them a guard of honour with a hurl as they headed off in the limo.

Earliest influences

Mick Mullen looked after all the underage teams Mick played on and the Meath man had a big influence on the young O'Grady. Trevor O'Sullivan then came in for the minor year to take the reins. The Féile team two years after him under John Slevin, with current Celbridge senior players Fergal Conway and Conor Plunkett went on to lose out in an All Ireland div.1 Féile Peil na nóg final in Baltinglass to current All Ireland senior Club champions Kilcoo of Down but Mick's under 14, 15 and 16 years while winning competitions didn't quite reach the same heights. What Mick didn't mention was that he took a break for a while away from the GAA, to maybe dabble in a bit of soccer, according Mick Mullen.

At minor the young O'Grady was back and part of a group that lost out to Naas in a county semi final, "The first real bit of success came though, with a win in the under 21 championship in 2012 with Trevor O'Sullivan again as the bainisteoir. This team was made up of a few lads from the group that came up through the ranks with Mick but the majority were from the year below".

Growing up in the O'Grady house with a Dublin Ma and a Kerry father

"We kind of ignore the Dublin side of the family to be honest" he says with a laugh. "Growing up watching the Kerry teams win All Irelands in the 2000's, but maybe my dad's influence, I would've grown up with a Kildare jersey or a Kerry jersey on me. I don't think you'd ever find a picture of me with a Dublin top or jersey on me. No, it just didn't happen".

"That's where the love of football came from" he goes on to say. "I went playing soccer for a few years and while the father was supportive, he was always asking was I going back playing gaelic football or if I was going back".



First Year with Kildare

"I played on a development squad at under 14 and then there was a barren period but I didn't come up as an underage star or anything like that" he modestly says of himself. "I never played minor or anything with Kildare and actually got dropped from the under 21's when I was two years eligible and then made it in my last year". This, would you believe, was actually the first time he ended up playing in the full back line. After going in still playing as wing back or half back he found himself filling in at a training session because they were stuck for someone in the full back line. "Alan Barry fired me into the full back line to mark a lad from Clane called Conor Murphy and all I did was pull and drag out of him for 50 or 60 minutes, whatever the game was… and that was it I was stuck there until maybe last year until I got a bit of a spin at mid field with the club".

As luck would have it, he got injured leading up to the championship and didn't get to play for Kildare in the knockout championship as it was at the time as they went down to Offaly. Back with the club he got game time with the third team and second team and eventually broke into senior team the year after the club's maiden SFC title of 2008. Although not starting but coming on as a sub in most games. The Salesian's debs and the Wolstan's debs got in the way too of a couple of championship games and while he reckons Mark Shaw mightn't have taken it too bad it probably blew any chances he had of playing first team football.

Kildare Senior Captain, what does it mean to you ?

"Ah look, being captain is a massive honour, a huge honour. If I'm being brutally honest, I probably won't appreciate it as much as I should until maybe I stop playing football" says the ever modest 30 year old. "I obviously have added responsibility, but I just try to do what I normally do. I'm not trying to let it change what I've been doing since 2013 or 2014 when I first got called into the senior team, so look as the first Celbridge man to be appointed captain it mean's world to me".

"Being able to say we're a proud Kildare Club and that the county captain is from Celbridge, if that was to inspire another youngster, that's what it's all about really. That's why we're playing, to create a path for them to play for the county if that's what they want to do".

Most memorable game for Kildare

Obviously, the Newbridge or Nowhere game against Mayo from 2018 springs to a lot of people's minds but the game he made his Kildare debut, an O'Byrne Cup match against Athlone brings back great memories. Getting to the Super Eights a few years back too, "there were a few big games where there were massive crowds. The Leinster final of 2017 there was sixty odd thousand there and you don't get to play in front of numbers like that too often. It's a different kind of energy. Even the first game of this year's league campaign against Kerry in Newbridge there was a packed house, those games give you the kind of buzz that it's hard to find elsewhere, a serious adrenaline rush".

And what about this Sunday's sold out game in Conleth's Park? "We're itching for the game against the Dubs on Sunday in Conleth's. The noise will be electric. As a player you feel that and you can really get the benefit of having the support behind you".

Being one of the oldest in the Kildare Squad

Since Jack O'Connor came up and got involved the panel has turned around massively and Mick found himself the oldest in the starting fifteen that took to the field in Omagh against the All Ireland champions last week. "Looking around still thinking you're a young lad but all of a sudden you're the most senior man here, the years fly by and there's a lot of boys that were part of the successful under 21 team of 2018 now getting their chance with the seniors".



Mick O'Grady in action from Kildare v Dublin, Croke Pk 2021

Last week in Healy Park was the first time Mick has faced off against Tyrone on their home patch. The three previous encounters being in Newbridge. "They're always a hard physical team and we left there disappointed not to get the result after conceding two sloppy goals and not taking some chances of our own. But there were massive positives to be taken though especially with such a young team. Kildare have shown now that they can compete with the likes of Tyrone, and that can only be good for their development and should be able to take great belief out of it".

Indeed, it's something similar with Celbridge "with the lads coming up from the minors and under 20s of the last few years. They're great to have around bringing freshness to the setup and they're all very eager to get their chance. And "while the pressure on the older lads sometimes isn't always liked, it is needed" he points out.

Playing under the Legends of '98

You grow up and watching these guys. "I grew up watching Glen (Ryan) captain Kildare to a Leinster title in 1998 and idolising Dermot (Earley) and Dara Ó Sé, lads in mid-field going up and plucking the ball out of the sky. I was lucky enough to play with Johnny (Doyle) at the tail end of his career. He was finishing up just as I was starting and I got to see what he was like in training and what he was like in matches and stuff like that. He's recognised as one of the best, if not the best forwards that Kildare has produced. Anthony (Rainbow) would've been involved in the under 21 team that I was on so I would've known the lads but yeah, they are all legends and whatever they say has to carry massive weight because they've been there and won Leinster titles, got to an All Ireland final and as far as success goes in Kildare football they've been at the top. These lads know what they're talking about. They're not trying to reinvent the wheel here they're just making sure the team is playing like Kildare men and to get that pride back in the jersey. Along with focusing on what all successful teams focus on like work rate and intensity in a game".

"There's some things to work on from the first few league games but I'd like to think that in those first few games we have applied ourselves well and shown good commitment to that jersey and trying to leave it all out on the pitch. That's what these lads are bringing and obviously the tactics that go with that. A key thing too is that Kildare fans will be leaving a game saying that I identify with that team".

Disappointments

The honours list wouldn't be long he says, if he was to sit down and put them on paper. "I'd murder for a senior club championship with Celbridge and then obviously for a Leinster and All Ireland title with Kildare, so not winning enough is probably, while maybe not a regret.. it would be nice to get over the line with both Celbridge and Kildare, and I feel we will do that. We do have with both club and county very strong panels with plenty of young talent coming through. The downside is not having that honours list a bit longer".

When asked what kind of players are the hardest to mark in a game, O'Grady says "it's important to get the match ups right when you're coming up against an opposition". For him though personally he'd rather "a bigger player to get into a physical battle with, whereas the smaller nipper lad that's going to stay running for seventy minutes, well he's going to be a lot more annoying".



Sarsfields would go on to get the better of the Celbridge side in the 2021 Kildare senior club championship semi final



This Sticky corner back, doesn't give away too many scores

If there was a Transfer market in GAA, who would you like to see brought into play with Kildare ?

Maybe it was down to the traces of Kerry blood with his answer to this one but "You'd definitely bring in, from the forwards anyway, maybe Sean O' Sé from Kerry and of course hard to look past (David) Clifford as well, while from a defensive point of view (Padraig) Hampsey of Tyrone is a good defender and he can go up and kick scores as well".

What One Rule would you change in Gaelic Football

After thinking about it for a few seconds, Mick is fairly adamant he'd get rid of the mark. "Going forward I don't mind the mark but defending it's a different story. The defensive mark is not seen too often in games and you can be as tight as you want but if the forward does catch the ball it's just a free shot at goal for him".

Ambitions for 2022

Celbridge unfortunately have made a bad habit of losing at the penultimate stage of the championship, losing 8 of the last 9 senior football championship semi finals. All in the Celbridge club, including Mick will be hoping to turn that around in 2022.

"Has to be to win the senior club championship with Celbridge and then to win a Leinster and All Ireland with Kildare. Also, to stay up in division 1 of the league, while not the be all and end all, it's hugely beneficial for especially the young guys in the squad to learn their trade playing against the division 1 teams. Not too many teams win an All Ireland from outside of division 1 so it's important to be playing these top teams and showing yourself that you can compete with these teams. Marking the top players in the country and getting marked by the top players is how to get the best experience".



During the 2021 club championship campaign with Celbridge, Mick got to play further out the field than his familiar full back line role

Most Difficult Opponent

It's maybe a bit of a cliché to name one of your team mates "in training anyway when you're marking the likes of Daniel Flynn he can give you just an absolute awful day. He's a lot of attributes that others don't have. He's as quick a player and as strong a player you'll come across so he can cause fierce problems". Looking back to 2014, James O'Donoghue was at his prolific best and Mick remembers having a bad day when he came up against the Kerry man in a league game. In what was one of his first league games in the lilywhite jersey. "It turned out to be a steep learning curve" and the future player of the year "made the most of it that day".

Advice you'd give to young players

Mick takes on a philosophical view with this one "I didn't grow up being on underage teams, so the advice would be if your ambition is to go on and play with Kildare be with football, camogie, ladies football or hurling don't let any setbacks, especially at a young age, define you. If you stay plugging away, there's always another path there. Don't get too hung up if you're not making county underage teams, stay working hard with your club and you'll eventually get that break that you need".

Pic cred. Brendan Holmes, Mick Mullen

U10 Girls

The u10 girls had their first proper full season as a team after two covid interrupted years and they are all going from strength to strength as players in both sports. We have 46 footballers and 41 camogie players and the attendance was generally excellent at two trainings a week and matches at the weekend.



We had a bowling and pizza night in June and are looking forward to an upcoming trip to Awesome Walls followed by a party in the clubhouse.

We have a great group of parents too who ferry the girls to training and matches and turn up to cheer them on in matches and their continued support will be vital in keeping the girls involved and interested over the coming years and into their teenage years.
Thanks as always go to our team of coaches who give up their time every week to help the players improve their skills and enjoy their sport.

U11 Hurling

The U-11 boys hurling squad began training on the 6th February and have not stopped since! 2022 has been a formative year for the boys where we believe we have gone to a higher level of play and engagement.

We have achieved this in a number of ways.

1. We entered a team in the U-12 Division 4 Autumn league. This gave our squad hurling games every weekend throughout September, October and November to date.

2. We played challenge matches against high quality opposition throughout the Summer months. Traditionally July and August are rest months between the Spring and Autumn leagues but we decided to continue to train and play challenges during the fine Summer months. In addition to submitting 2 teams in our highly successful All Ireland U-11 festival in July, we played challenges against Lucan Sarsfields, Loughmore Castleiney, Kilmessan, Ardclough and the Celbridge U-12 camogie team. These were fantastic learning experiences and helped our players understand what high level hurling is all about.
In October we took part in the Kilmacud All Ireland festival in UCD. The boys did very well in winning 3 of their 4 games.

3. We arranged some "player engagement" events such as striking and first touch clinics. In September we had a visit from 2 of the Celbridge minor team to help out with training and to share their experiences on the game of hurling. Many thanks to Oisin Lanigan and James Treacy.

The result of our hard work is clear. We have a squad of over 30 players, an increase from last year. We competed well in both the Spring and Autumn Go Games leagues. We're currently at semi final stage of the U-12 Division 4 league.

The coaches would like to sincerely thank all players for their hard work and fantastic attitude. We are very grateful also to parents and guardians who bring their boys to training and matches.



Players: Adam Mullen, Aaron Earley, Aidan Farrelly, Alastair Ahern, Cian Byrne, Cian Heraghty, Sean Horgan, Sean Cowler, Stephen Power, Padraic Fox, Ronan Gorman, Elliot Bolger, Darragh McKenna, Jonathan Gillard, Luke Neville, Eamon Lehane, Harry White, Jack Hannon, Jakob Stanley, Leo Nestor, Keane Kavanagh, Dylan Browne, Finn Treacy, Peter Moulton, Oliver Rubotham, Daniel Wright, Liam McGaley, Callum Naughton, Matt Bezuidenhout, Denis McGrath, Tommy Keeshan, Ken Anaedozie, Evan Zhang,

Coaches: Donie Bolger; Ed Mullen; Cathal Earley; Aaron Kavanagh; Maurice Eighan; Dermot Cowler; Simon Clarke; Mick Wright; James Browne; Liam Nestor

U9 Football

The U9's boys football had a good year on the field of play competing well in the spring and autumn groups. We fielded 3 teams in Spring but decided to move to 2 teams in Autumn as we were struggling to field 3 teams of 9 kids each week. We found the numbers had dropped off and kids were prioritising soccer and other sports above GAA. We therefore put in corrective action steps to address this and have found our numbers have grown. We came up with a plan (see below) with the football committee to focus on developing our numbers.

● 1 to 1 support makes it easy for kids to learn ● To get kids back playing we need to pick up the phone and ring parents. ● We need to build a relationship with parents ● We will implement teamer for football ● We have noted that a better planned, more consistent structure leads to higher attendance and player retention. This includes not deviating from the agreed training schedule and nights ● The consistency will be addressed by keeping the Thursday 6-7pm and Sat 3pm session as consistent as possible. ● We need 2 training sessions in football to keep up with the standards of other clubs. It was noted that it is club policy from u9 onwards in Sarsfields in Newbridge ● The club's goal is to have 40-48 kids at this age group as this is the club standard number which allows for 2 minor teams in years to come. ● We need to keep our coaches happy and ensure they are involved and empowered to run sessions. ● Parents appreciate a well structured consistent setup. E.g setup training 20 minutes before. Chase kids' and the parents when they have missed a few weeks. Goals Agreed ● 25 kids attending training by the end of 2022 season ● Professional and consistent structure at training every week. ● Have a parents meeting before Nov and make contact with parents.



All games were completed in Autumn except Blessington who pulled out of the league at the very end. We now have approx 28 players which is an increase on the previous year of 8 players and exceeds the target we set with the football committee. We met the football committee to address this and have worked closely with the u10's to increase the number of kids. There has been a great response and particular thanks to Tara and Kevin from the u10 coaches. Also want to thank the football game for their assistance and for Jonathan Daniels' support as well. We are on a sure footing with larger numbers now and we look forward to hosting the u10 all Ireland blitz next year.

We played the following games this year Ardclough - March 22 Naas - April 22 Kill - April Sarsfields - May 22 St Edwards May 22 Clane - June 22 Celbridge U8 Game - June 22 Kilcock - June 22 Naas - July 22 Ardclough - August 22 Kill - Sept 22 Balyna - Sept 22 Maynooth - Oct 22 Clane - Oct 22 Kilcock - Oct 22 Confey - Nov 22.

We would like to thank all the coaches involved namely Damian O Sullivan, Rory Clear, Noel Slattery, Joe McMahon, Stephen Condell, Brian Kelville Rossa Smith and Shay Cummins who helped at the start of the year. Also want to recognise Katriona Dunne who does the whatsapp and teamer notifications We also want to recognise the coaches and parents from the u8 group who have supported the U9's with players when we need them. Credit to the coaches working closely with us and testimony that we celebrated a joint Christmas Party.

We also celebrated the senior team's success in getting to the county semi final. We had a joint meet and greet the team evening in the club astro with the u8/9s where every child was presented with a ball. Finally the club street league competition was a great success and many of the u9's participated and enjoyed it



Some of the U9 football and hurling group players



Eugene Leonard – A Tribute

Christmas 2022 will be remembered, with great sadness, by the membership of Celbridge GAA due to the passing of one of its finest and most influential members, Eugene Leonard.

Trying to sum up Eugene's life, and his contribution to society in general would require much more thorough research. However, for us in Celbridge GAA, we were extremely fortunate that this proud Galway man decided to set up his family home in Celbridge in the late 1970's. It was obvious from the earliest meetings with Eugene that there was something special about him, he was always welcoming and curious to get to know people by way of developing relationships rather than being intrusive. Eugene worked in the construction industry for most of his life and despite the macho image associated with many in that industry, Eugene also displayed a sensitive and emotional side, your typical "Gentle Giant".



A photograph, circulating on social media, of a group of members celebrating the opening of our club bar in 1995 shows Eugene's glass raised highest of all. He was enormously proud of his adopted club and the roles that he and his family played in its development. As the club continued to grow Eugene was ever present, as a member of the executive, enthusiastic supporter of all teams and the central character at all social events. No party would be complete until Eugene arrived dressed to the nines, his sense of fun was infectious, and surrounded by his fellow tribesmen, Eugene was in his element.





Aside from the club, Eugene was a committed family man who was never shy in expressing his pride in his family and their various achievements. To his wife Eileen, and family members Ronan, Aoife, Sinead, Eoghan, Niall, extended family and numerous friends, we wish to express heartfelt sympathies from all at Celbridge GAA.

We have lost a very special friend. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam



A special presentation was made to the Celbridge players that were part of the Kildare Under 20 football team that went all the way to the All Ireland Final – Andrew O'Sullivan (Club vice President), Niall O'Regan, Dean O'Donoghue, Aaron Browne (team captain) and Deirdre O'Reilly (Club Chairperson)

County



Matthew Gallagher, Dara Flynn and Cian Kelly were in action for the **U17 Kildare Cadets hurling** squad



Clodagh Ní Cionnaith, Lucy Kennedy, Lily Pimlott, Sophie Ross, Alice Buggle and Katie Russell were part of the **U13 Kildare LGFA** Development squad.

Well done to **Kildare Camogie** on winning **the u15 intercounty** blitz today in Portlaoise. Especially our four girls - Maura Brady, Emma Kennedy , Hena Foley Sethi, Laura Burns. All made a huge contribution to the games against Laois, Offaly, Carlow and Wicklow







16 Ladies Football – All Ireland B Champions.
Well done to Rowen, Lily and the **Kildare LGFA** u16s



The Intermediate camogie team retained their staus for 2023. Well done to our players Émer Reilly, Emma Barry, Éimear Stirling, Chanice Corcoran and Gillian Keegan



Under 14…

Hurling – Darragh O'Connor, James Murphy, Thomas Gallagher, Harry Rubotham, Matthew McLoughlan, Tom Wright, Eoin Young, Adam Warren

Camogie- Róisín Gilchriest, Megan Doherty Brennan, Ciara O'Donovan, Lucy Maycock, Cíosa Kelly, Aoife Griffin, Jessica Power, Beth Kenny, Kate Gardiner, Caoimhe Keville, Ava Richards

Football – Thomas Gallagher, Finn O'Beirne







Christy Ring Cup Winners









Celbridge were represented on the Kildare senior hurling team that won the 2022 Christy Ring Cup back on May 21st by Tom Finnerty, Pat Leahy, Andy Shanagher, Niall Ó Muineacháin and Gerry Keegan. The lilywhites came out with a 16 point winning margin 2-29 to 0-19. Kildare dominated exchanges all over the pitch but it was Gerry Keegan's 0-10 from play (and he smashed a rocket off the post too) that grabbed the headlines that ensured his inclusion on the GAA hurling Team of the Week. #CillDaraAbú



Billy White announced his retirement at the end of 2022 after playing senior hurling with the club for 24 years. Captaining the team to the 2011 SHC

Brothers in arms…

A memorable day in St. Conleth's as Kildare, captained by our own Mick O'Grady beat the Dubs 1-12 to 0-12 in the Allianz Football league on February 27. As the ref blew the final whistle, four of the five Celbridge players on the panel – Kevin Flynn, Tony Archbold, Kevin O'Callaghan and Mick O'Grady were captured together on the TV coverage.







U-16 squad
Cillian Treacy, Sean Mimnagh, Shuban Thoppe and Cian Degrieck



Orla Carragher – county minor camogie player of the year. Pic Austin Crowe

U15 Camogie

The team began the year in the spring U16 competition as the 2nd Celbridge team. We were entered into Division 3 and came up against strong opposition in the form of Moorefield, Rathcoffey, Straffan and Naas 2. While the girls gave their all throughout each game we ended up on the end of some heavy defeats, which can happen against the first teams of other clubs. It was a real learning experience for the team and despite the results we showed our skill levels & team work were improving.

Following on from the spring competition we had our Feile competition. We had 2 teams entered in divisions 1 and 4. We were joined by the 2008 girls in order to field two teams. In a 3 team division 1 our girls began with victory over Maynooth before losing out to a strong Naas side in the final. Having been just 1 point behind at half time, we kind of ran out of steam in the closing stages, however the girls gave it their all having only come together in the week before. A small squad of players made the trip to Clane where we competed in the Division 4 competition against some very strong teams. Again the girls gave it their all throughout each game and they enjoyed the occasion.

In the autumn we were once again joined by 2008 and split into two groups for our U15 competitions. We competed in Division 1 and 4. It can be tough to split the group that trains together all year but it is important that each girl finds a level that they are comfortable playing at. Both teams competed extremely well in the group stages and as a result we reached two Shield finals held in Eire Og on Sunday 15th October. To start our Super Sunday the division 4 girls got revenge on Coill Dubh on a score line of 6-03 to 5-01. A great team performance was capped off with a hat trick of goals from Leanne Green. Every girl involved contributed to the victory which allowed joint captains Ava Cuff and Beth Kenny to lift the cup on behalf of the team!!!!! The day was rounded off by the division 1 team beating Naas on a 5-10 to 2-05 score line. It was an outstanding performance and was thoroughly deserved for all the hard work the girls had put in all year. Both teams enjoyed the celebrations back in the club house that evening where they received their medals.



On a side note we had 6 girls represent Kildare as part of the county U15 squads. Laura Burns, Emma Kennedy, Maura Bardy, Seren Daly, Ellie Clancy and Hena Foley Sethi all represented Celbridge with distinction in the Lilly White colours. Special word of thanks to our FLO Ann Brady for all the organization throughout the year. Also to the 2008 coaches Niamh O'Donovan, Enda Gilchriest and Sean O'Rian a big thanks for all the help and support in bringing the two groups together for the autumn leagues. To all the 2007 girls Aine Clancy, Ava Cuff, Emma Kennedy, Laura Burns, Sarah O'Connor, Ellie Clancy, Maura Brady, Seren Daly, Saidbh Tobin, Leanne Green, Hena Foley-Sethi, Emma Darcy, Sophie Lyons, Emelia Cinga, Grace Kennedy-Collins, Ava Fairbrother-Blanc thank you all for your hard work and dedication throughout the year. Finally to the parents as always many thanks for the continued support.

Anthony Kennedy, Ronan Burns, Ann Brady

U 8 Boys Hurling

Following on from the promise of last year the under 8 boys 2022 season was eagerly anticipated by both boys and coaches. Training resumed following some weather cancellations in the middle of February. This year the boys would be striking from the hand for the first time in matches so training sessions brought a new emphasis to the skills of lifting and striking from the hand. These skills brought a new energy to the game for all the boys and the excitement and energy shown in training was really encouraging for the coaches. Games on the hurling front were slow to puck-off due to an unavoidable cancellation and a first round bye in the go games schedule. The Celbridge under 8 boys therefore had their first taste of competitive "air" hurling against opponents Round Towers on the 1st of May. Reflecting the enthusiasm of the boys Celbridge fielded 3 teams against the strong Round Towers side acquitting themselves well and enjoying their first match of the season. The boys moved on with very strong showings against Ardclough, Naas, Leixlip and Maynooth. By June It was clear that all the boys were developing nicely and every player was contributing on match day and enjoying the games. Training was being well attended and new players joining the team for the first time. The boys trained on into July, making the most of the good weather with a challenge game away to Rathcoole Commercials before the summer break.



The boys returned from a short summer break at the end of August. Coaches were immediately delighted to notice that many of the boys had done plenty of practice over the summer months with the boys striking from the hand clearly improved across the board. Nothing beats practice at home at this stage in the boy's development. The boys went on to have superb displays against Clane, Maynooth, Leixlip and a combined fixture with Naas and Newbridge Sarsfield graciously hosted by Sarsfield's. The boys last fixture of the year is anticipated as an away match against Eire óg Corra Choil and also an away trip to Cappagh.



Overall over 38 boys played hurling with this team during the year with 24 boys on average training every Monday night. The team was given great support by a fantastic group of parents who turned out for every match encouraging the team and coaches alike. They can be extremely proud of the boys hurling achievements during the year.

Big thanks go to coaches Micheál Larkin, Niall Lanigan, Martin Brosnan, Colin Kirwan, Richard Spencer, Rodger Quinn,



Players: Aidan Larkin, Alfie Byrne, Charlie O'Shea, Bobby Reid, Luca Doran, Cian Sheridan, Harrison Quinn, Max Newton, Conor Kirwan, Liam Burke, Nathan Bowman, Daniel Hannon, Senan Jones, Dáire McCarthy, Daniel McEvoy, Ultan Jones, Tadgh Creighton, Darragh King, Josh Hanlon, Cian Grendon, Darragh Lanigan, Timofei Klemanshas, Kyle O'Neill, Darragh Morgan, Liam O'Neill, Dexter Gunning, Sam O'Shea, Mateo Perciavalle, Finnian Spencer, Tadgh Brosnan, Ozzie O'Shea, Frankie Mongan Donegan, Sean Carney, Reece Henney, Harry O'Shea, Rowan Shanley.

Dads & Lads Hurling

The social hurling group started after the re-introduction of the All Ireland Hurling eve “Masters” game where everyone is encouraged to get out their county jerseys… the older the better…. and give hurling a go.

Social hurling is an initiative aimed at providing retired players with regular recreational hurling but has now widened out to be anyone’s game. Social games are small-sided games with modified rules to encourage fun, participation and fitness. They are all inclusive and are suitable for all ages and abilities.

The highlight of activities was playing in a brilliantly ran blitz organised by Naas GAA in October. We played five games, winning four and drawing one. Winners on the day were actually decided by a penalty shoot out and an 80mts sprint. We won’t mention our designated penalty taker, from Waterford, ahem…. but the spritely Cathal Earley took the honours for Celbridge in the sprint….woohoo !

Special thanks to Kevin Morgan from **Coonan & Morgan Solicitors** who has sponsored a set of jerseys for the 2023 season

"We don't stop playing because we grow old. We grow old because we stop playing"

George Bernard Shaw



2020 Minor Football Championship Medal Presentation

After a long, long wait we got the opportunity to present this great bunch of lads with their medals.
County captain Mick O'Grady was on hand to make the presentations. The minors defeated Maynooth in the 2020 final, deferred because of Covid and the U20s were successful against Naas back in April.





Fondúireacht Sheosaimh Mhic Dhonncha Bronze Medal

Our Irish Language & Cultural Officer, Donncadh Corcoran, has been doing a lot to promote the use of gaeilge in the club including hosting the Pop Up Gaeltacht, securing grants for signage you'll see around the club in the coming months and was also instrumental in bringing the TG4 production of Club to Celbridge. We received a bronze medal in 2022 for our promotion and use of teanga gaeilge. #GAAgaeilge





Mothers and Others Football

The Mothers and Others team has had the most eventful of years in 2022. The team gained many new members and also many new babies. The future for the club looks promising with the new arrivals. Congratulations to all our ladies and their families and we look forward to welcoming them back when they are ready.

When we returned to training in March we were asked by the Leinster LGFA to host one of the Provincial Blitzs. With the support of the club exec the idea was approved and a great day was had by all on the June bank holiday weekend. We couldn't have made it such a successful day for all the teams involved without the club community and we would like to thank all those that gave their time to it.



The ladies trained every Tuesday night and we took the month of August off for the summer break. We came back in September to the National Blitz in Portmarnock on what was possibly the wettest day of the year. It didn't dampen spirits and we played some football and bonded as a team well into the evening. It is truly one of the best experiences for any team to take part in.

The team also took part in a charity blitz in October in Palmerstown which proved to be another wonderful day of football and meeting other local teams. We hope to play some matches against these local teams in the new year.

In summary the Mothers and Others team continues to follow the ethos of the LGFA initiative of a social team for fun and fitness. All ladies taking part do so with the support of each other and have made a whole new set of friends while gaining some skills in a sport they always watched from the sideline or played years ago.

Senior Football

While 2022 ultimately was a disappointing year for our senior football team, there were enough positive signs to bring us into the 2023 season.

Our season started off with the Aldridge Cup in February. We reacted well to our loss in the opening game away to Eadestown with victories against Carbury, Maynooth and Johnstownbridge to qualify for the final. Unfortunately we were defeated by Athy on the May Bank Holiday Monday.







The Senior Football League was a challenging campaign for us. Unable to use our 8 county players for the majority of the league, it gave us the opportunity to blood up and coming young talent to the senior team. Although there were tough learnings on the way we finished the campaign with impressive victories against St Laurences and Castledermot, ensuring we had some momentum coming into championship.

We started our championship campaign with a victory against Kilcock on a hot summers evening in Raheens. We began our group stage beating Sarsfields with a terrific late winning goal by Kevin Flynn. Unfortunately this followed with a tough defeat against Clane. We used this game to soul search and strengthen ourselves for the rest of the championship. A strong reaction against Raheens followed, which qualified us for the Quarter Finals.



On a wet afternoon in St Conleths, against a talented Johnstownbridge side, we came out on top in a dogfight. Current champions Naas, awaited us in the Semi Final. A strong performance was no consolation, as Naas found two Darragh Kirwan goals to beat us by 3 points, putting an end to our Championship dream for 2022.

On a positive note the talent within the squad was showcased country wide with our county teams. Aaron Browne captained the u20 team to a Leinster championship. Dean O'Donoghue and Niall O'Regan were also crucial parts of that team that made it to the All Ireland Final.



We had the honour of Mick O'Grady captaining our senior county team. Kevin O'Callaghan and Tony Archbold really impressed in their breakthrough year. Kevin Flynn continued to develop his reputation on the intercounty scene. Club and county legend Fergal Conway announced his retirement from county football. Fergal had an outstanding career, becoming a crucial player for Kildare in the middle third over the last decade. Unfortunately we didn't get the right result in his final appearance against Mayo, but Fergal finished with an excellent performance.

Celbridge Senior Football would also like to acknowledge the work behind the scenes by the executive and football committees. The work put in by Simon Hughes and Aidan Plunkett also needs to be acknowledged. Two great club men, that never look for the limelight, were once again a massive support for us in our push for success.

We look forward to 2023 with the hope that the fresh addition of young players and a new management team will push us towards our targets.

Schools



St Patricks National School fielded their first ever hurling team and went all the way to the Cumann na mBunscoil div 5 county final.

Congratulations to **Scoil Mochua** u11s on winning the Kildare Cumann na mBunscol title on Wednesday. A number of our Under 11s are involved with the school team and completes a great year for the group after winning the Div 8 and Div 10 u12 Autumn league.





Congratulations to **St Wolstan's Community School** who won the Dublin Schools B senior Camogie Final



U16 Football

2022 saw a new league structure introduced by Coiste Na nOg.
Under the new structure the U16 league and championship was scheduled to commence from June to October. To ensure the players maintained and developed their skills we entered the U17's league and we completed in Div 4. We faced opposition such as Sarsfields, Abbey Rangers, St Edwards and Athgarvan. Overall a very challenging league for the players, they completed well in each game and their skills developed over the first 6 months. The focus in training was centred around decision making, attacking patterns, defending and kick outs.



June 2022 saw the U16 Division 2 league and championship throw in, our league saw us face Balyna, Castlemitchell, Alymer Gaels, Kilcock and Leixlip.
Our opening game saw lose to Alymer Gaels, we won our next 2 games against Kilcock and Miltown followed by a draw to Cadbury. The results put us 2nd in the league, the remaining 3 games saw us win 2 against Leixlip and Castlemitchell and a narrow 2 point defeat to Balyna.

Overall this was a strong competitive league were we finished 3rd in the table. We played 7 games, won 4, lost 2 and drew 1. This gave us a league semi final against Balyna. It was a hard fought game by both teams and we narrowly missed out. The lads bought into our game plan from the beginning, 7 players represented the club in both the minor league and championship.

Our championship saw us reach the shield final against Alymer Gaels, we played strong attacking football from the start. We out by 2 points on the day.

The best of luck to all the players as the play Minor in 2023.

Celbridge U16's
Cillian Naughton (capt), Adam Quinn, Ben Fenton, Brian Synnott , Cian Degrieck, Cillian Treacy , Conor Condel, Conor O'Brien, David Geraghty, Euan Handley, Jamie O'Leary, Josh Fagan, Matthew Hogan, Paraic Gildea, Peter Goss, Ryan O Hanlon, Sam Kelly, Sean Butler, Sean Mimnagh, Shane Dillon, Shuban Thoppe, Tim Nyhof

Coaches: Aidan Quinn, Chris Treacy, Declan Naughton, Maurice Cuffe , Ramesh Thoppe

In Ómós

Celbridge GAA would like to express our condolences to the family and friends of all those loved ones that we lost in 2022.

In particular we remember those that served the club both on the field and in roles of administration

Claire Devlin
Pat Murphy
Joe Minnock
Richie Crean
Noel Devine
Eugene Leonard

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha

Camán Chill Dara Gold Medal

This awards scheme is designed to recognise achievement in the promotion and development of hurling within clubs throughout the county. The development of hurling in Kildare continues to be a key part of Kildare GAA's strategy as set out in the 2018 Hurling Action plan. A great deal of progress has been achieved since the launch of this plan and the county board recognises the progress made at club level. This is our second consecutive gold medal and a lot of credit must go to Ciarán O'Donovan, Maireád Dwyer, Jonathon Daniels and the hurling coaches in our club.



Representing Celbridge at the Camán Chill Dara medal presentation was club chairperson Deirdre O'Reilly and Maireád Dwyer. Also pictured are John Burke (Kildare hurling committee chair), Leinster GAA chair Pat Teehan and Mick O Gorman (Kildare GAA county board chair)



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