# Celbridge GAA

# Year Book

## 2023




Volume 9

# Buíochas

Acknowledgements and many thanks 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. Thank you also to Thomas Flinkow for the use of his photos. Check out our socials for lots more of their great photos. Many thanks to all who assisted with updates and in activities throughout the very busy year that was 2023. If you wish to be added to our mailing list, please email info@celbridgegaa.com. Don't forget to follow us on our socials for fixtures, results, news and lots of photos.

Celbridge GAA Year Book 2023 was compiled (eventually) by Niall Lanigan.

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**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.**



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

## Executive 2023

**Uachtarán**: Andrew O'Sullivan
**Leas-Uachtarán**: Pat White
**Cathaoirleach**: Deirdre O'Reilly
**Leas-Ceathaoirleach**: Declan Naughton
**Runaí**: Richard Spencer
**Leas-Runaí**: Jim O'Shea
**P.R.O.**: Niall Lanigan
**Registrar**: Declan Naughton
**County Board Rep**: Brendan Holmes
**Irish Language & Cultural Officer**: Donncha Corcoran

**Camogie**: Donagh McInerney
**Football**: Fergal Power
**Hurling**: Paul Dillon
**LGFA**: Darren Gallagher
**Development**: John Mulvey
**Lotto**: Jim O'Shea
**Grounds**: Tommy Stack
**Children's Officer**: Sineád Treacy
**Committee member**: Olivia Giles

# Message from the Chairperson

A chara,

Welcome to the Celbridge GAA 2023 yearbook. What an exciting year on and off the field it has been!

**Our 2023 Teams and players news**

We were in 2 senior county finals, but alas, foiled by Naas in both, and, although senior success evaded us this year, our U23 hurlers got one over Maynooth to come home with the silverwear and our U20 camogie team did likewise coming home with the trophy. There was also plenty of success at juvenile levels.

I would like to applaud all our players, coaches, managers, mentors, administrators, backroom support, female liaisons, parents, and those who make any contribution to the success of our teams, I thank you, each and every one of you. We look forward with renewed optimism for 2024 as there is plenty of talent coming through. Please enjoy reading through all the ream reports in the yearbook.

Mick O'Grady had the honour again of being the captain of our county football team with the support of club men Kevin Flynn, Kevin O'Callaghan and Tony Archbold by his side. There is great excitement with the re-development of our county grounds and we look forward to the return of our home games to Newbridge.

In county hurling we were represented by Alan Goss, Gerry Keegan and Niall Ó Muineacháin. Best of luck to Fiachra Ó Muineacháin who will be involved in senior county management in 2024 and Brendan McGrath who will be involved with the minor county management.

Niamh Barnes was named on the county LFGA panel and is the proud holder of an All Ireland medal. Congratulations to Niamh, an inspirational young lady.

Kildare Camogie had a tumultuous year and unfortunately did not field a team for the championship. Eimear Stirling, Ella Copeland and Orla Carragher were our 2023 representatives and will be joined in 2024 by Laoise Mimnagh, Meabh O'Donovan, Niamh Mortell, Niamh O'Connor and Teigan Brennan. Conor Kenny will be part of the senior county management set up following his groundbreaking work in county development squads. We are very strongly represented in 2024 and wish you all every success. Thanks to Donagh McInerney, Joan O'Flynn, Sandra Reilly and Joe Reilly for their work in supporting camogie at club and county level.

Congratulations to Killian Browne and the U20 county football team with Tommy Konstantin who are All Ireland Champions – Well done men, a pair to keep an eye on for 2024 with Peter McAteer making the 2024 panel and Trevor O'Sullivan joining the Kildare U20 management.

We had lots of representatives at county level from U14 up to minor in all codes. Well done to you all.

A new team for children from 4 to 18 years with additional needs, the Celbridge GAA All Stars, was established by Lorraine Kavanagh and Maggie O'Donoghue this year. Well done ladies and to all your helpers in this exciting new initiative.

**Our 2023 club news**

I am delighted to see that the redevelopment of the back pitch has started.

This is the 2nd phase of our club development plan ratified 3 years ago. When this phase is complete, we will have an amazing addition to the club, with a fenced, fully lit, inter-county standard grass pitch and community walking track. Thanks to John Mulvey, Tommy Stack and Pat White for your expertise and commitment to this project which will be ongoing over the coming months. The project, due to cost in the region of €340k will be funded by a loan (c€70k), the development levy accumulated over the past number of years (€120k) as well as €150,000 in grant funding that was secured from the Sports Capital Fund 2 years ago. It has taken 3 years to prepare for this work to start, with consulting, drawing, planning, tendering, many formalities with government bodies, and negotiations with various lenders. I am very proud to have been a part of the administration of this project from the start, and like many others, am looking forward to the finished result, which will be a huge addition and benefit, to all our members, and visitors, for years to come.

It has been some time since we benefitted from the Sports Capital Fund which is essential in supporting Sports bodies like GAA clubs. Just so you are aware, and not being one to rest on our laurels, an application has been submitted for the 2023 round of Sports Capital Funding which had an environmental and sustainability focus and is aligned with another phase of the Development Plan. It involves among other things, the replacement of the existing bulbs on the senior pitch with energy efficient LEDs and the installation of solar panels on the club house, resulting in huge energy savings based on current usage. I would like to thank John Mulvey and Paul Lynch of Swyft Energy for their assistance in this regard.

At our AGM, it was unanimously approved that we enter into a licence agreement with a telecom mast operator. The funding from this will provide an important cash injection to help part fund future club development.

I wish to give huge thanks to Jim O'Shea and Sean Martyn who have, again, been the standard bearers in relation to club fundraising, and between them have raised nearly €50,000 between the club lotto and Kildare draw. We also had 2 lotto winners! Congratulations to the Foley Sethi Family who scooped the €18k jackpot and to Conor Plunkett who walked away with nearly €3k. Unfortunately no big winners on the Kildare Draw this year. Well done to Jim and Sean and your helpers Margaret, Anne, Brendan & Willie. Both the Lotto and the Kildare draw have massive potential in fundraising so the support of all members and the wider community is vital.

Thanks also to our many members who work in Intel who secured $10,000 in funds for the club. Ciara Lynch, Olivia Murphy & the disco crew have been amazing as always raising money and making sure our young members have fun!

Lorraine McIntyre was tirelessly involved and instrumental in all fundraising efforts, not to mention being the main woman in keeping the club bar doors open, the drinks flowing and the craic unlimited. The bar takings funded the investment in a new coldroom as the old one was no longer fit for purpose. There are also plans afoot to replace the boiler so the bar heating will no longer be an issue. An honourable mention here to Declan Naughton who co manages the bar and the amazing crew of bar volunteers this year; Aidan Q, Anthony K, Brian K, Ciarán M, Filip, Mary M, Mick F, Mick M, Olivia M, Pat O'B, Paul L, Penny, Ray G, Ronan B, Tommy S, Brian F, Claire O'S, Eoin, Liana, Maria, Susie, Trish, Keith and Lindsey that kept the shutters open. There were many great nights this year notably Nollaig na mBan, brainchild of Penny Quinn and Imelda Gildea.

Our grounds crew of Denis Murphy, Denis Flynn, Jim O'Shea, Pat White, Tommy Stack and John Mulvey have had a tough task this year given the inclement weather and are owed huge thanks and respect for all the work they do.

Our main pitch generator also gave up the ghost this year and a new generator was commissioned and installed with thanks to Tommy for its procurement.

A shout out to our sponsors - Frank Brazil of Leinster Reinforcements as main club sponsor. Derek Collins of Derek Collins Construction, Eoin O'Higgins and Ed Mullen of Tokyo Electron Europe, Paul Lynch of Swyft Energy, Mick Kelly of Hydro Biz, Fionnan Friel of Odyssey, Emer Vennard of Henkel, Glenveagh Homes, and the many other team sponsors who came on board this year. Thank you all most sincerely for your support.

Declan Naughton and Tommy Stack also deserve a special mention for the organising the inaugural Pat Murphy Golf Classic at Palmerstown House in July. A hugely successful event that raised over €15,000 and named in honour of our late club president. €4,000 of that came from a sponsor organised by Mick Flynn.

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

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, Hugh Gallagher & Fiona Lanigan for keeping house in these ever growing sections of the club.

Niall Lanigan has been making sure everyone is kitted out in the new club gear as well as managing all our social channels and will be continuing as club PRO in 2024. We are also very lucky to have Brendan Holmes as county board rep as well as photographer at many club events. Brendan's skills behind the lens are very much appreciated. An honourable mention must go to Donagh McInerney here also. Thanks guys.

Olivia Mulvey does a huge amount of work around the club, quietly, efficiently and tirelessly. Olivia restarted our events committee this year and ran a number of very enjoyable events including a very entertaining Mr. & Mrs night. Thank you Olivia for all you do.

Donncha Corcoran has set the bar high for the next Irish Officer – you will be a hard act to follow but I am sure you will give Niall plenty of assistance!

Thanks to Richard Spencer who has been secretary for 2.5 years now. Richard has been very professional and good humoured throughout his tenure and will be missed.

Declan Naughton was exceptionally busy as registrar and vice chair as well as managing the bar with Lorraine Mc, managing the juvenile referees, managing his sons teams and many, many other things. His drive, determination, and sharp mind make him the force of nature that he is, and he will be a huge loss on the executive.



Of particular note, I want to mention Sinead Treacy our Childrens Officer who has had a very difficult but essential role in the club. We cannot have a functioning juvenile section without a CO. Sinead having spent 10 years in the roll is now taking a well earned rest after all her efforts. Sinead also received by far the most nominations in the AGM papers for the 2023 club person of the year. Thank you Sinead and Congratulations.

Thanks also to Kevin Morgan of Morgan Solicitors for his professionalism and advice on numerous matters.

As my term has ended I would like to acknowledge the help and support of Club President Andrew O'Sullivan, Vice President Pat White, former chairmen Willie Holmes, Mick O'Reilly and Francis O'Connell for their invaluable guidance throughout my tenure.

I want to also take this opportunity to give special thanks to my husband Aubrey and my children Emer and Gavin who supported me in giving my time to the club. Being chairperson requires a great deal of time, energy and commitment and I would not have been able to do it without their back up.

It has been my privilege, and my pleasure, to serve as your club chairperson for the past 2 years and I wish the incoming executive every success.

Is mise le meas,

Deirdre Uí Raghallaigh
Cathaoirleach
CLG Chill Droichid 2022-2023

On behalf of the members and executive of Celbridge GAA, we would like to thank Celbridge resident Marie Molloy and John West Ireland for a recent donation of €1,000 to Celbridge GAA.

A special thank you to Marie for nominating Celbridge GAA in the recent SuperValu John West Féile Buy Scan Win Competition.
Pictured at a recent presentation in SuperValu Celbridge were Sebastian Giraud, John West Ireland, Kilkenny Camogie Star and John West Féile ambassador Grace Walsh, Deirdre O'Reilly Chairperson, Celbridge GAA, Yvonne Quinn, General Manager, Nally's Supervalu Celbridge and Anne-Claire Monde, Head of Marketing, John West Ireland.



## U9 Boys Football

The U9 boys had another great year of football in 2023. The year started slowly with pitches unavailable for a number of weeks but we supplemented these with away friendly games. The start of year Go-games included Maynooth, Ardclough, Leixlip, Cappagh and Naas. We were competitive in all games but we recognised that we had some improvements to make. The training sessions for the year focused on smaller sided games, skills enhancements, and 1 on 1 work. We ensured training was set-up to maximise the number of touches and ball play the boys had. We identified 3 core skills in 2023 with Tackling, Scoring and Heads-up football as our foundation and this was the key feedback to the kids all year.





One of the great successes in 2023 was the performances of our boys in playing the U10 community games. We had North and South Celbridge teams entered into the competition with the North team winning the Kildare Final. The final saw Celbridge play Sarsfields in a pulsating and incredible game in Celbridge. The following match vs the Dublin champions in the next round was equally tense with both games won after extra time and last-minute winning scores. The games had huge attendances at the club and generated fantastic excitement.

The boys eventually lost the Leinster Semi-final vs Navan but the improvement in some of the plays since has been noticeable. The skill levels across the board took a significant jump during the year, especially after the return for the Autumn series of games. The Go-games autumn series of games saw Celbridge play Sarsfield's, St Lawrences, Kilcock, Maynooth, Cappagh and Summerhill. We have been competitive in nearly all matches this yr and have seen a lot of growth and skills improvements in the players.




The coaching group provided excellent support during the year, attendance was always high. 3 of the coaches self-funded the purchase of 3 sets of new goalposts for the club and these can be used by the u8, U9, U10 boys and girls. We had several major events organised that promoted parent and player engagement. In June the U9 team organised a family day BBQ for the u7s, u8s, u9s, u10s boys and girls. We had a huge turnout on the day with KFM on hand to broadcast from the club. A full BBQ, a DJ and magician added to a great occasion. Parents were heavily involved in bringing food and treats for the kids and attendees. In September the U9 boys attended Hell and Back for juniors with 35 boys doing the 2km course. It was a brilliant day out organised by Martin Brosnan. The level of support was again reflective of the positivity in the group. For the county final the U9s brought 85 parents and children on the club organised buses. We had additional kids travel separately to the game. It was an amazing number for a senior match and a full double decker bus sang all the way home and back from the match. For our end of year event we are planning to Raheny GAA club in Nov for a final football match followed by a disco and pizza party.
Overall the year was a great success with a lot of positive energy within the group.

# U23 Hurling

The U23 competition is a very important competition to keep U23s hurling that may not all get game time with senior teams. Competition scheduling was hampered by the weather conditions with matches rescheduled a number of times. Due to the rescheduling and other constraints such as holidays etc it was difficult to get a balanced team on the pitch for the round robin matches but we were competitive for the most part. Nass could not field a team for the final and were asked by the CCC if we could fulfil the fixture.





We had our best squad of the season with a full bench. Team tactics and set up were great and the lads played some great hurling resulting in an excellent victory over the favoured Maynooth to win the U23 championship with a very young team. The team based on age are all eligible to play for the next number of years. This win will really re energise the group of players and there is a lot to be optimistic about for the coming years for U23 and senior.









Many thanks to the management team of Paul Dillon, Kevin Daly and Des Kelly. Special thanks also to Daragh Mooney for the help during the year. Also, special mention to Tony Cullen for his ongoing support at all matches for FA and injury support throughout the year.

Paul, Kevin and Des.







# St. Patrick's Day Parade Celbridge 2023

Míle buíochas agus comhghairdeas to everyone who represented their teams and the club so well in the parade.
#CillDroichidAbú #CillDaraAbú #stpatricksday #GAA #WeAreFamily #GAAGaeilge #GAABelong #gaaforall #OneClub #Camogie #Football #LGFA #Hurling #celbridgegaa2023
























## George Bagnall – RIP

It was with great sadness and shock we heard of the untimely passing in early March of George Bagnall.



Georgie was a club stalwart in so many ways, from his time as a player to the work he did around the club and so much of this in the background, clearing out the stream, painting, cleaning or weeding with his buddy Mick. Always great for a chat too and knowledgeable on local history.

Over the past 45 years George was instrumental, along with other distinguished past and present members , in moulding Celbridge GAA into the club that make us all so proud of being a part of today

He played for Celbridge GAA when we were only a junior club in the late 70s, with Celbridge only having a population of approximately 3000 people at the time, and had considerable success and involvement with teams bringing Celbridge from Junior B to Senior in the early 1980s. In 1986 George captained Celbridge to win the Junior A championship and also the Jack Higgins Cup (defeat our close neighbours Straffan). In that year Celbridge had the distinction of competing in Division 1 of the Senior league while still being a junior club and were narrowly beaten in the Leader Cup final by a strong Sarsfields team. This was all under the leadership and drive of George and to this day no team has replicated this achievement. The following year of 1987 George also was part of team that won the Intermediate Championship and granted Celbridge senior football status. As a player George was totally committed, tough and selfless and had an eye for goal when the opportunity presented itself. Although a native of his beloved Robertstown, George was Celbridge GAA to the core and took great pride and satisfaction in what we as a club had achieved both on and off the field over the years.



**Left**: Georgie as part of a executive committee before the building of the clubhouse.

**Right**: Georgie and the late great Owen Skipper Murphy in St.Conleth's Pk after winning the junior B championship, defeating Nurney in the Final.



Off the field of play when his playing days had come to an end George was forever present when the need arose for volunteers. No matter what the task was George would be one of the first to raise his hand ranging from fundraising, security, groundworks or general cleanup - no task was too big or small. George was truly a Celbridge GAA legend and will be sorely missed by all of us and by the general Celbridge community as a whole. Gone but never forgotten. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.



## 2011 Camogie

At the start of the Year we had approximately 46 Girls committed to playing Camogie competing in the u12 Spring and Autumn Leagues. After the Summer we were down to 42 girls playing in the Autumn Leagues. We are the only club to have 3 Teams entered into the Kildare Leagues which is a great achievement and great credit goes to the girls who are enjoying their Camogie whether in training or in the matches that they play.

With the leagues games being 13 a-side we have had to run a tight ship with panels of 14 or 15 on each team. All the Spring and Autumn League games are scheduled for Wednesday evenings which has been challenging from a pitch availability and on parents travelling to locations like St Laurence's for a 7pm throw-in. There are 4 leagues consisting of 21 Teams and we have a team in Division 1, Division 3 and Division 4 even though the groups are colour coded to allow the girls to feel like the groups are not graded.



**Spring League and Autumn League**: Our Celbridge 1 team finished mid table in the Spring League in a very competitive group where most of the games were very close. They topped the Autumn League with a maximum amount of wins and they were up against some excellent Camogie teams who are starting to emerge from top to bottom in the County. We moved a lot of our girls around for the autumn League so there were some new girls from the Celbridge 2 team who played in this autumn League. We have 14 to 15 girls in this panel who are passionate and competitive in their nature which is great to see. They have really progressed in their Camogie over the last year and will hopefully go on win many trophies for the club.

Our Celbridge 2 team play in a league with 5 other first teams so it is also a very competitive league. They were unlucky not to top their Spring League but came second which was a brilliant achievement. The girls finished with two wins out of 5 in the Autumn league with a new squad of 15 which took a few games for them to get going but when they did, they played some excellent Camogie. This squad shows a great commitment to playing Camogie and work really well as a team.



Our Celbridge 3 Team have had the hardest league to play in compared to the opposition that they faced who were the 2nd teams of other clubs. The Girls never gave up in any of their matches in the Spring league and continued to focus on developing their skills in each game. Their Autumn League was a great boost of confidence for this team who had a win and a draw over teams who beat them in the spring League. The improvement in their fundamental Camogie skills has led to the players having more confidence on the pitch which will hopefully allow the girls to continue playing Camogie for Celbridge into the future.

**Summer Camogie Blitz in UCD:** We were invited to play in the Kilmacud Crokes Camogie Blitz in UCD where clubs from all over the country took part. We brought 17 girls over to play in it and they got to play against teams from Tipperary, Kilkenny, Dublin and Galway. The girls played excellently in all their games and two of our girls took part in a poc-fada which was great fun for the. We have also received invites from other clubs in Dublin to play challenge games in our off season which will be of great benefit to the girls to maintain their high level of Camogie.



**Coaches**: We have a great commitment from the coaches at our age group and without them the girls would never get the chance to enjoy playing camogie for their club. So a big Thank you to all of the Coaches, FLO's, Junior Referees, Parents and to the girls themselves this year and we are looking forward to playing u13 in 2024!

Rodger Quinn 2011 Girls Camogie Coach

# Easter Bunny Egg Hunt










**Well done to Maynooth Education Campus on their win over Our Lady's Terenure in the Dublin Schools B Camogie Final. Especially our players Mia Mahon, Liana Glynn and Emily Mahon.**
**FT 3-11 to 1-6.**



**Congratulations to the Maynooth School's u16 girls football team who won the Leinster and All Ireland Schools. Well done in particular to our players Aoife O'Riain & Hena Foley Sethi and team manager Kevin Larkin.**



## Senior B Hurling

2023 was another challenging year for Senior B. It's important that we have a committed group of adults to hurl competitively outside of Senior. A couple of decisions made early in the year would dictate the season ahead. Firstly, based on the numbers at training players being with the county teams and studying we made a decision to not enter a 2nd team in the adult league. That is hopefully something we can rectify in 2024. Secondly, we were given the option to play senior B again this year and decided to stay senior B and compete.

We played senior B championship with a very young team mostly comprising of minors, u19, u20 and 21 with a smaller group of older players some returning to the game post a travel and breaks. We fielded in 4/5 matched, unable to field a team against Kilcock due to injuries and holidays. We were very competitive in 2 of the matches vs Moorefield and Broadford losing by small margins. Kilcock would have also provided an opportunity for a competitive game. We were well beaten by Nass and Leixlip both of whom competed for Senior B championship title and have been relegated to Intermediate.

Many thanks to the management team of Paul Dillon, Kevin Daly and Des Kelly. Special thanks also to Niall Lanagan and Daragh Mooney for the help during the year. Also, special mention to Tony Cullen for his ongoing support at all matches for FA and injury support throughout the year.





Focus for 2024 should be on getting some of the previous minor players back playing hurling that did not take part this year. Also being in a more competitive competition next year will also help along with maybe having some experienced senior players involved. This year's u23 championship win will also help retain and bring on the younger players. For the size of the club, we need to have 2 fully committed adult teams.

Paul, Kevin and Des.

## First Leinster Title Win for Salesian College U124 Footballers



**CONGRATULATIONS** to the u14 team who defeated St Kierans of Kilkenny in a tight battle in Portlaoise back in February. The team got off to the worst possible start conceding 1-1 in the opening minutes, but grew into the game with strong performances from Men of the match Tomas Gallagher and Glen Ilunga.

Salesians held a 3 point lead at the break with an Arnas Rancas goal the difference. Points from Luke Cullen and 2 goals from Cade Lyons gave Salesians the lead coming in to the final ten minutes but two goals from Kierans meant for a tense finale. Salesians defended, mainly led by first year student Patrick O Brien, and held out for the win. A huge well done to the team and coaches Mr. Lane & Ms. Devlin - what an achievement.

## Senior Ladies Football (Division 4 & Junior A)

Fitness and gym work started early in the year with Eva McPartland, we were mostly in the hall and the gym due to the extreme difficulty at getting pitch space at the start of the year. We had a few preseason games which were very positive. Unfortunately, at the start of our league campaign we lost some very experienced players due to travelling. This left us with a very young squad for the year. We started our league campaign away to Kill in what can only be described as terrible conditions. We started well in the 1st half keeping Kill scoreless, unfortunately a few key misses would prove costly in the second half. Kill played very well in the second half and kept us scoreless and went onto win the game. Our next games were away to Raheens, who beat us handily. Our Next two home games were at home to Rathangan and Two Mile House in which we recorded our first two victories. The Two Mile House game in particular stands out as being a highlight of the league as we played extremely well. This led us to a semi-final in which we played Two Mile House away, again another great performance by the ladies in what is a difficult place to go seen us through as comfortable winners to league final versus Kill. We started well in the first half but an unfortunate injury to one of our experienced players changed the balance of the game. The ladies battled hard but unfortunately our fitness was not at the level required to match Kill who were a very good and well organised team.



This led us onto our championship campaign. The ladies trained hard but unfortunately, we really struggled to get adequate numbers at training to really kick on with our fitness. This was in part due to holidays leaving cert etc. We were very unlucky with injuries as well losing two of our key players for most of the championship. Our first match was against Na Fianna away, the ladies battled really hard in the first half and stayed with Na Fianna up to half time. In the second half Na Fianna took control of the game and we struggled to transition the ball form defence into attack. Unfortunately, our fitness was not at the level required to compete against a well organised experienced team like Na Fianna.






Our second Championship game was a away to Kildangan Nurney, the ladies battled hard throughout and we should have been out of sight in the first half but we missed a few key chances in front of goals. A few silly mistakes and a lack of match sharpness allowed Kildangan Nurney back into the game, but we managed to hold them off and get the win. Our next game was against Na Fianna at home, we started the game rather poorly with Na Fianna scoring an early goal. However, after this we completely took control of the first half and some excellent work from the backs created some great scoring opportunities for the forwards to which they converted, and we went into the second half 5 points up. Again, though in the second half unfortunately our fitness would prove our Achilles heel and we struggled to transition

the ball from our defence into attack. Our defence worked tirelessly and never gave up but unfortunately, we just came up short and Na Fianna got the win. Our last group game was against Kildangan Nurney at home with the winner getting a semi-final place. This was our best performance in the championship as we dominated the match from start to finish running out comfortable winners and booking a semi-final place against Carbury.

Carbury were a different ball game however, they were a very physical, well organised, and experienced team. As mentioned at the start of the report we lost some key experienced players and we had a very young team and injuries to key players did not help the cause. Carbury dominated the game and used all their experience in attack and defence. On a positive however the ladies battled really hard and never gave up. Our fitness was not at the level required to really compete against a team like Carbury who would go onto win the championship, but our work rate was excellent and the ladies battled right till the end.





A special mention to Darren Gallagher, Alan Dunphy, Margaret Kealy, Bernard Kealy and Gerry Robinson for all their help throughout the year. Overall it was a disappointing season for the team, we showed glimpses of how we could play and the potential to really compete against the top teams is really there. But the lack of adequate numbers at training and the loss of key players to traveling, injuries etc really hindered our ability to implement a proper game plan and get the fitness levels to where they should be to win a championship. I strongly believe that the ability and the potential is there to really kick on next season, but a much bigger commitment is required to get to the level we need to be at to compete against the top teams. With that being said, it was very enjoyable year and very special mention has to go out to the younger players on our team a lot of whom it was their first year playing senior football. This will stand to them next year and hopefully has given them the experience to get to the next level in terms of their senior careers. Another highlight was our team bonding weekend which was a huge success and I want to thank everyone who made the effort to come down and anyone who was at it will agree it was a great weekend. I also want to thank Hocus Pocus for coming down and doing a great job looking after the girls, Alison Power, Margaret Kealy and Ciara Morley. Onwards and upwards

Kevin Larkin






## U15 Hurling

It was a very strange start to the year for the U15 Hurlers in 2023, we were all set to compete at our age level when like most clubs around Kildare we were impacted by the Coiste na nÓg decision of even age groupings only for the next three years. The coaches were forced to go back to the drawing board as we had made good plans for the year ahead, the majority of our team would now play up with the U16 hurlers in Division 1 while the rest of our players would contest Division 3 made up of lads from the 15's and 14s's age group.



The players in Division 1 thrived and played some good games against tough opposition while the Division 3 team struggled somewhat. The first three months of the year was a bit of a struggle, we managed to keep the lads together as a unit and trained twice a week with our eye firmly on Féile in April.

Celbridge GAA hosted our Féile "B" group games on Easter Saturday of this year, it was a glorious day both on and off the pitch as we ran out winners in our qualifying group, the team played very competitive games against Sallins, Confey, Moorefield and Naas. A good semi-final win against Moorefield saw us into the Easter Sunday Final in Clane GAA against a much organised and well drilled Sallins team. Although starting off very slowly we gradually grew into the game and found our rhythm, we managed to outscore the opposition in the final few minutes eventually winning with a score of 2-05 to 1-01.

There were jubilant scenes at the end of the game and it was a very proud moment for both the coaching team and our parent group, it was a well deserved win for a team that had conducted themselves impeccably both on and off the pitch that weekend. The celebrations continued back at the clubhouse that evening, it was great to see everyone swapping stories about the weekend and enjoying themselves in general. There will be long lasting memories for the lads of Féile 2023.









Having won County Féile our attention now turned to preparing for Regionals which were to be held in Clonduff GAA, County Down. It was a scorching hot day which saw our group of players win their opening two games against the host club and Ratoath GAA from Co. Meath. Unfortunately we came up a bit short in matches against Gortnamona from Antrim in the qualifying round and Banagher from County Derry in the semi-final. Although the players were a bit disappointed they were proud of how they played and represented their club.

In the second half of the year the majority of our U15's once again played a big part in league and championship games with the U16 group of hurlers, some players also had very brief stints in the U16 "C" Championship. At present all of our lads are training with the U16's and making very good inroads. They look forward to a league final against Maynooth on Sunday the 26th of November which will be hosted by Round Towers of Kildare Town.

Myself and John would like to thank our loyal parent group for all of your support over the year, whether you gave lifts, put up nets, donated to our fundraiser or helped out in the club on Féile weekend, we cannot express our gratitude

enough to you all. We would also like to thank our Club Chairperson Deirdre O'Reilly for all her help, support and guidance. Also, a big word of thanks to Dennis Murphy for keeping our grounds in such good condition all year round.







Thank you all again for such a wonderful and memorable 2023, we look forward to 2024 and a busy year of hurling.

Noel Rubotham & John Mulvey.









# U11 Boys

Currently 45 boys involved of which c.22 are dual players. We train Football on Tuesday and Hurling on Thursday's with matches on the weekend. We competed competitively in this, our last year of Go Games, having entered 3 football teams and 2 hurling teams into this year's League. The development and skill progression is evident, they are growing stronger as a team.

In September we attended a Blitz in Donaghmore Ashbourne GAA. We competed competitively playing 5 football matches and 3 hurling matches. It was a scorcher of a day but that didn't stop the lads giving 100% to every game. Following our successful u10 Festival of Football last year we managed to subsidise the purchase of new O'Neills tracksuits for each player. These were received in January of this year and they all looked very smart and professional




In June we received our new jerseys generously sponsored by 'Henkel', a home blue set and away red set. We debuted the new jerseys by playing a half time mini game at our senior football team match. The boys got to welcome the senior players onto the pitch providing them a cheering guard of honour. At the end of the game they had a meet and greet with the senior players followed by some goodies in the club house.

A number of u11 players competed in the Spring and Autumn u12 leagues for both Hurling and Football. This was a big jump in expectations from our players, they took on the challenges and are better skilled to face u12 leagues in 2024 our official year. The Division 6 team (mixed u11 & u12) made it to the final of the Cup Championship with a narrow 3 point loss on Sunday 19th November. It was a very competitive and exciting game against an extremely tough team, the boys gave everything they had on the day.




We are now looking forward to the league semi final due to be played on Friday 24th November. On Saturday 25th November we have a team building day planned in Redhills Adventure centre. We look forward to team building activities and most importantly a fun day out followed by a pizza party back in the club house.

We would like to thank our parent group for their continued support, we look forward to competing at U12 in 2024.

U11 Coaching Team

## U14 LGFA

On a beautiful sunny afternoon, the Celbridge Ladies Under 14 team travelled to St. Laurence's in Narraghmore to play Suncroft in the 2023 Under 15 Division 8 Final.

It had been a tough campaign with loses to very good Castledermot and Suncroft teams in the round robin phase of the competition. However, with a full squad and a fine semi-final win over Castledermot under the belt, we travelled in a positive mood.





Celbridge won the toss and played with the slight wind in the first half. Starting very strongly, Celbridge had the ball in the Suncroft half for most of the first 15 minutes, scoring 1-4, but Suncroft showed their danger, scoring a goal with their only attack of the quarter. Celbridge continued to apply pressure as the half wore on with some fine scores ending the half ahead 5-5 to 2-1.

The girls committed at halftime to stay focused and protect the lead in the second half. Some beautiful kick and hand passing, keeping to ball low and using our fitness to keep running at Suncroft left the score 6-7 to 3-3 at the second water break. The girls had committed to each other before the game that they would all commit for the full 60 minutes and that they did. Buckling down for the final quarter, several Suncroft attacks were broken down and Celbridge kept applying pressure.

The game ended 7-7 to 3-5 in a fine victory for Celbridge with 8 separate girls scoring in an all-around team performance. Well done to the players and management



**Niall Ó Muineacháin, pictured here with the Joe McDonagh Cup, retired from intercounty duty after the 2023 season. Niall made his Kildare debut in 2008 and captained the Lilywhites to win the 2014 Christy Ring Cup.**



**Divided Loyalties at the Leitrim GAA v Lancashire GAA Hurling Game in Avant Money Páirc Seán Mac Diarmada. The Lancashire Number 14 Seán Leonard Pictured with his Leitrim grandfather Packie Mc Cabe.**

# EirGrid GAA Football All-Ireland U20 Championship Final

**By Daragh Nolan**, printed in the Leinster Leader May 16th

**Kildare 1-17**
**Sligo 0-12**
Kildare are EirGrid GAA Football All-Ireland U20 Champions following a thrilling final encounter with Sligo.



The final score is far from reflective of the competitive nature of this game. With just five minutes remaining, the game was perfectly poised at 0-14 to 0-11 in Kildare's favour.

The game was set up for a grandstand finish with Sligo pushing forward, spurred on by their enormous and vocal travelling support.

After a Kildare wide, Sligo goalkeeper Ethan Carden looked to restart the match and pick out a man in the middle. Carden saw his effort intercepted by Kildare substitute Killian Browne who kept his cool under pressure and lobbed the Sligo stopper brilliantly for a game-clinching goal. Breffni Park erupted with the cheers of the outnumbered Lilies as they knew the game was won as the ball bounced over the line. As the green flag was lifted so was the pain for many of these players from 12 months ago. Kildare would add scores late on from Shane Farrell, Eoin Cully and Callum Bolton to put some shine on the final scoring tally.

From the first whistle, Kildare came out all guns blazing in this game. Unfortunately, like their semi-final, the Lilies began to put some wides on the board. It would be their goalkeeper Cormac Barker that would open the scoring with a fine free-kick after five minutes.

The play was all Kildare early on and that was once again thanks to their superb backline and in particular Clane's Harry O'Neill who turned over the ball for his side repeatedly. O'Neill, who even added a score to his performance, was one of the many man of the match showings on the day. Niall Dolan would be next on the scoresheet with a sensational outside of the boot effort from the Raheens man. Dolan operated from midfield in this game as Kildare pushed Seán Hanafin into full-forward with great effect. While his teammates kept the scoreboard ticking over, Hanafin wreaked havoc in the danger areas for Kildare and almost got a goal that would have seen the Lilies nearly out of sight early after just 12 minutes.

Callum Bolton was next on that list of scorers for Kildare as he knocked over a superb score from long-range. A necessary bit of quality early on to show Sligo that these Kildare players can't be given that type of space. Hanafin would get a point for his efforts as he once again overpowered the Sligo defence and worked an angle for himself. The Naas man took his simple score well to move Kildare to 0-4 to no score.

Sligo would get their first point of the afternoon through James Donlon. The centre-forward's well-taken point lifted the Sligo support for the first time in this game. That excitement was quickly extinguished by Kildare who had an immediate response. Oisín O'Sullivan used his trademark agility to get free and slot a score over from a tight angle in what was an impressive response by the Lilywhites to Sligo's first score.

Kildare sat 0-5 to 0-1 in the lead when the towering Naas man gathered a long ball into him but guided his effort onto the inside of the post. It was a shot that looked like a certain goal, apparently even from Hanafin's point of view as he put his head in hands in disbelief.

It was all Kildare in the first half but there was a natural concern that the wides they were accumulating could cost them later on. Kildare registered eight wides in the first half.

After some early misses, Adam Fanning would find his scoring boots and extend Kildare's lead to 0-8 to 0-3 with just seven minutes to go in the first half. Sligo came on strong late in the first half as they looked to claw their way back into this game. A Luke Marren free, which was a feature of Sligo's scoring throughout, reduced the gap to four before the break. Kildare would get the last score of the half as Shane Farrell expertly fielded a goal-kick to thunderous applause. Farrell would quickly find Adam Fanning for a score to give Kildare a 0-9 to 0-4 lead going in at half-time.

Having made one in the first half, Sligo made two more changes at the break and looked all the better for it after the restart. The adjustments made and no doubt a message from Paul Henry ringing in their eyes, Sligo came flying out of the blocks. Scores from wing-back Dylan Walsh and substitute Brian Byrne reduced the gap for Sligo. Oisín O'Sullivan would respond for Kildare but the trailing side were no doubt pushing hardest at this stage.








After some Kildare changes to freshen things up, a Luke Marren free-kick reduced the gap to three points with 12 minutes left. Just 30 seconds later, substitute Brian Byrne got his second of the day with a super score to bring Sligo back to within two. All in the stands wearing white were beginning to sweat even more on a fine Cavan afternoon.

However, those on the field donning white didn't expend any extra energy worrying about the scoreline. They looked every bit the seasoned bunch they are at this level of football and kept their cool when the chips were down in this huge tie. The sides traded scores as Killian Browne got a point for Kildare just two minutes after his introduction from the bench. That point was quickly responded to by Sligo talisman Luke Marren who added another to his tally for the day. A Seán Hanafin score would restore Kildare's three-point advantage with five to go. Hanafin's score was the last before Browne's crucial lobbed goal that secured this All-Ireland final win for Kildare.

Speaking after the game, Kildare full-forward for the final Seán Hanafin said, "Absolutely delighted with that win. After last year's experience the lads pushed it this year. Then losing to Westmeath bring it, we left a bit behind against them and we knew what we do." "I am just so glad we have done it now. It is such a relief and it feels so great."

The alleviation of the pressure that this team have been under for so long could be seen all over the Naas mans face. This team having been so close the year previous, set out to win an All-Ireland and they have done so. A truly remarkable feat. Hanafin was an enormous part of that achievement, both through the previous rounds and especially in this final. The shift to push him into the full-forward line was an inspired choice as he scored a welcome 0-2 on the day but even more importantly caused Sligo to change their setup as he caused them endless issues in the opening minutes.

Hanafin said about the positional switch, "We saw it as a chance to play me full-forward and see what they (Sligo) can do with it. The first 10/15 minutes it was going well. "They brought me out to midfield after, I don't mind that, I don't mind full-forward, I am just altogether."

It may be a small thing in the Naas mans mind, but that attitude of not caring about his position is an example of what is key to the success of this Kildare team. An incredible bunch of players that are as industrious as they are talented. Led by a brilliantly astute manager, there can be doubt that this Kildare team is the best in the country.

**Kildare**, Killian Browne 1-1, Adam Fanning 0-3, Seán Hanafin 0-2, Callum Bolton 0-2, Oisín O'Sullivan 0-2, Niall Dolan 0-1, Ryan Sinkey 0-1, Cormac Barker 0-1 (0-1 frees), Shane Farrell 0-1 (0-1 frees), Tomas Von Engelbrechten 0-1, Harry O'Neill 0-1, Eoin Cully 0-1.

Sligo, Luke Marren 0-7 (0-7 frees), Brian Byrne 0-2, Daire O'Boyle 0-1, James Donlon 0-1, Dylan Walsh 0-1.





**KILDARE**: Cormac barker; Harry O'Neill, Tomas Von Engelbrechten, Ryan Burke; James Harris, James McGrath, Jack McKevitt; Niall Dolan, Shane Farrell; Ryan Sinkey, Callum Bolton, Colm Dalton; Adam Fanning, Seán Hanafin, Oisín O'Sullivan. Subs: Eoin Cully for Oisín O'Sullivan (38 minutes), Ethan Mountaine for James Harris 43 minutes), Killian Browne for Ryan Sinkey (47 minutes), Sam Savage for Niall Dolan (55 minutes), Daire Guerin for Adam Fanning (61 minutes).

## Elite Men's Football

We had another fantastic year , playing a bit of football & having great banter at the same time .

We were involved in 6 competitive blitzes this year & ended up in the finals in most of them .

We also had challenge matches every 5 or 6 weeks approx .

Our international trip this year was to Liverpool 😂, where we played a challenge v Wolfe tones GAA .
Great match & craic was had by all , we enjoyed the weekend away !

We have another trip planned for St Patrick's day next year to Belfast where we'll play Bredagh GFC in a challenge match & stay over for the weekend.

We train every Monday night @8pm.
Anyone looking for a run out & have a bit of craic at the same time , then contact ;

Mick Murray
0868142766 .





























## Minor Hurling









## U16,U17 and Minor Ladies Football



The Season started off with the U17 league where Celbridge entered two teams who were placed in Division 2 and Division 8. Our Division 2 team won 4 of their 5 league games and after beating Naas in the semi final at home qualified for the Division 2 final against Balyna. The final was scheduled for June but was unfortunately cancelled on the morning of the final due to adverse weather conditions.

Despite a request to the county board to reschedule the final to September this request fell on deaf ears and Aug 19th was selected as the new date for the final which resulted in some Celbridge players missing the final due to pre-arranged holidays. Celbridge started slowly in the final and were 10 points down after 20 minutes playing with a strong wind.

The girls really put the shoulder to the wheel and midway through the second half had cut the deficit to 3 points. Unfortunately our girls ran out of steam and Balyna closed out the game over the last 10 minutes.

Our Division 8 team had a tougher time of it and lost 3 of their 4 league games, however that was enough to reach the semi final where they were drawn against the strongest team in the Division Sarsfields. Unfortunately despite their best efforts our girls were no match for a superior Sarsfields side who somehow had county U16 players on their team and we were well beaten in a one sided game.

Our attention then turned to the U16 league. Celbridge entered 3 teams in this league and were placed in Division 1, 4 and 7. The Division 4 and 7 teams were made up primarily of the U15 girls. For some reason the county board continue to schedule this league during peak holiday period and this for reasons only known to the county board themselves all games were scheduled to be played over a 21 day period. Our Division 1 team never had a full squad to chose from and having won only 1 of our first 4 league games including having to give a walkover we still had a chance of reaching the semi final with a win in our final game against Kilcullen away. Despite a huge effort from all the girls we were eventually beaten by 2 points and that ended a very short U16 campaign for the Division 1 girls. Our Division 4 team had an excellent campaign being unbeaten during the league and winning the Div 4 title. As the majority of the Div 4 and 7 teams were made up from U15 players this will be covered in more detail by the U15 Mentors.

Next our attention turned to the Minor championship which is currently in progress. We have entered 2 teams who are placed in Division 4 and Division 7. As it currently stands our Division 4 team have won 2 out of our first 3 league games and have already qualified for the semi finals due to be played on December 2nd.

Our Division 7 team have lost their first two games but are improving with each game and hopefully their efforts will be rewarded with a win in the remaining 2 games to be played.

4 of our players Kate Kealy, Lily Mullarkey, Clodagh Berrigan and Alannah Morley were selected for the Kildare U16 squad who were beaten narrowly by Dublin in the Leinster A Final. This was a great achievement by the girls and as clubs were only allowed to send 4 players to trials Celbridge were the only club who had all 4 players selected for the final panel of 30 players

One area of concern for the girls in this age group is the amount of games they are involved in at particular times of the year as 8 of our U16 girls are also involved with our Senior Women's teams. We also have a number of dual players who are also involved in Senior Camogie teams and from September most all these girls are also involved in schools games in both codes. There appears to be no consideration given in the scheduling of games between LGFA/Camogie/Schools resulting in some players having to play multiple games per week during certain periods.





**Minor ladies football league div.4 winners 5-11 to 3-6 victory over Round Towers**

The Squads 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, Ava Corcoran, Teigan Brennan, Eli Clancy, Laura McLaughlin, Erin Farrelly, Sarah Canavan, Olivia Gallagher, Aoife Kirwan, Alannah Morley, Ava Fairbrother Blanc, Rebecca Harmon, Ciara Whelan, Emily Norman, Cara Whittingham, Aoilean Sherlock, Michaela Turley, Simone O'Reilly, Abbie Creevy, Emma McNiffe, Lara Shanley, Aine Clancy, Mia Gannon, Ali Byrne, Clodagh Berrigan, Lucy Holmes, Emma Wallace, Aoife Treacy, Aoife O'Rian, Megan Doherty Brennan, Kate Gardiner, Saoirse Kelly, Lily Dowling, Katelyn Boyle, Lucy Reidy, Tara Kane, Ciosa Kelly, Ella Newman Smith, Michaela Curtis, Rebecca Lynch, Lucy Maycock, Aoife Griffen

U16, 17 and Minor LGFA Coaches.

## Throw back Thursday.....




**2013 under 14 football squad**.
Shane Sweeney, Cian O'Donnachada, Conor Riordan, Lee Maycock, Sean Leonard, Paul Hogan, James Killian, John Clarke, Luke O'Reilly, Shane Redmond, Jack Hogan, David Costello, Connall Howley, Liam O Flynn, Oisín Donnellan, Lee Kenny, Gavin Kearns , Enda Hosty, Paul Black, David McGivern, Taz, Scott Kerrigan, Cian Nolan, Adam Sheeran. Manager Pat Donnellan. Mentors Sean Sweeney, Liam Holland

## 2008 u15 Camogie

2023 continued to be very busy year for this great group of girls – all are dual players and many involved in county and school teams as well as club activities. The girls continue to be a great, spirited group who are very involved in their sport and love to support other teams and be involved in the club.



We have about 17 girls in total now with all playing and training very regularly across club, school and county. A couple of girls left camogie during the year, primarily to focus on other activities and to handle the time pressures involved. We are very glad to have had the girls with us over ten years – and the door is always open!

The year split in to two main parts – the Spring where the girls participated in the Under 15 league and Féile, with one team, and the Summer and Autumn when the girls participated in the Under 16 sevens competition and leagues, combining with girls born in 2007 to enter two teams. This was a change from previous years as the 'odd ages' were in the Spring (mainly to coordinate with Féile). The 2008 girls also helped out as needed with the U17 and U20 leagues.

We started the year with training, including general own bodyweight strength and conditioning in the gym, and a number of tough challenge matches against some of the leading Dublin teams at our age.

The U15 league ran from late March to mid-May and brought double wins against Maynooth and Clane and a loss to Naas, who we then met in the final on May 21st. Unfortunately, Naas ran out winners as the better team on the day in a competitive final that never really took off as a contest and where a couple of scores at key times made a big difference.



More exciting was the county Féile tournament on April 16th, played on a blazing hot day. Celbridge won a terrific initial contest with Maynooth, perhaps the only match on the day not affected by heat and fatigue. We played Naas in the final and after going down to some early scores, staged a massive fight back in the second half to get within a point. However, the heat, the toll of county matches (on the same day….) and injuries on the day proved to be a bridge too far for us and the girls lost narrowly on a great day of Kildare camogie.

We were still involved in a Regional Féile tournament hosted by Celbridge on June 24th. On another blazing hot day, we were unfortunate to lose out to St. Lazarians from Laois after extra time in the semi-final.

The girls put in a huge effort, despite many having only returned from the Gaeltacht the night before, and were unfortunate to lose out to the eventual winners. Many thanks to Donagh McInerney in particular and to all in the club

who organised and ran the tournament, allowing us to concentrate on the camogie end of things. A number of 2009 players made big contributions to the team in the Féile tournaments and league.



We were also very fortunate to obtain sponsorship from TEL (Tokyo Electronics Limited), providing new jerseys. Senior TEL managers from Japan and Ireland enjoyed their visit to the Regional Féile tournament, staying for a few of the matches and enjoying the girls' commitment and skill. The girls distinguished themselves with very good behaviour and a great welcome for the sponsors and very much appreciated the support.

The later part of the year was played largely in combination with the 2007 girls. This began in the summer with 4 nights of 7-a-side U16 competitions. Despite being officially 'non-competitive' these were lively affairs, with the Celbridge girls winning one group and losing out by only two points in the final match of the other.

Autumn leagues started in late August with the girls playing in Divisions 1 and 4 of the Under 16 League (one year older than our girls). In all cases, they were playing the first team from the opposing club. Each division was highly competitive, with serious matches against 5 opponents in Division 1 and 6 in Division 4. This was the best competition structure that the girls have experienced so far. Unfortunately the league matches were crammed between 23rd August and early October. Girls were obliged to play 6 camogie matches in 40 days, alongside a full football league programme and a county match and blitz. This timetable was not helpful to the development of the teams or the welfare and enjoyment of the players. In addition, numerous clashes and re-fixtures inevitably arose.



Both teams made it to the Shield finals of their divisions, played in early October, each narrowly missing out on a place in the Cup Final (by one or two points score difference in each case). The Division 1 Shield final was lost to Naas, in a surprisingly flat match in tough conditions. A week later the Division 4 Shield turned out to be a great match, with the girls overturning a half time deficit in a brilliant second half display.

25 girls from 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 played in Division 4 during the league, with most making the final. The team gave a great display of skill, commitment and team spirit to earn a great win over Straffan in front of a large and supportive crowd. Thanks to the coaches from all these other years for cooperation and support.

Throughout the year, many girls were involved in county panel, with 11 playing on the 2008s county development panel and 1 on the 2009 panel. This panel trained and participated in a range of blitzes across the summer, with Celbridge girls featuring prominently and Niamh O'Donovan and Enda Gilchriest participating as mentors

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. Looking forward to 2024!

Niamh O'Donovan Enda Gilchriest David Neville Seán Ó Riain

# Back to the '80's

There were legwarmers, lycra and vibrant coloured clothes dragged from the wardrobes at our '80's night in February.
















**Arnas Rancas who plays hurling and football with Celbridge was crowned a World Cup Kickboxing champion in Innsbruck Austria in March !**




**Comhghairdeas to Fiachra Ó Muineacháin on his second place finish in the Kildare GAA senior county Poc Fada at Naas Racecourse.**

## U14 Football & Hurling

The U14 footballers and hurlers had a fantastic 2023, which was capped by winning a number of competitions.

They include:

- Football Div 2 league
- Hurling Div 1 Spring and Summer Leagues A Championship Shield, D Championship Shield



It was not all plain sailing throughout the year but the lads always give their best and are great ambassadors for the club on and off the field. We also has a number of lads whom made their intercounty debuts in both codes.

Thank you to all the parents and players for their time and dedication
u14 coaches

















## Senior Ladies Football (Division 7 & Junior C)

Following the historic inclusion of two Minor Ladies Football teams in the 2022 campaign, both reaching County Finals, and Division 4 Team winning the Cup, the onus was on the group to ensure that we could build on this success and enter two Senior Ladies teams in the 2023 tournaments. The key was building the collective squad with the integration of the U16 – Minor panels to guarantee numbers for both teams, while creating the competitive edge required to further develop the teams and create the platform for the players to progress to Division 4/Junior A side. The focus was initially on strength & conditioning, with good attendance at our bi-weekly training sessions. Over the course of the pre-season activity, the squads were selected for both teams, with a firm message that whoever was delivering the performances in Division 7 team would be considered for 'promotion' to the Division 4 team.




With our first game against Naas postponed, we kicked off the League campaign with a home fixture against a strong Athgarvan 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 we were quite rusty (& many not having played together previously) it was a very competitive and entertaining game with end-to-end action throughout, but unfortunately result didn't go our way and proved detrimental as would have topped the group and secured an easier semi-final. Our next game was away to Castlemitchell, and apart from a couple of minor instances, we were dominant throughout. It was a great battling performance, clinical finishing on display and great teamwork in ensuring we were back on track and would be a force to reckon with as the campaign advanced.

Our biggest challenge to date awaited with the rescheduled away game against a very strong Naas team – the coaches outlined the desire, enthusiasm, work rate & team focused approach that would be required to come away with the desired result. Although some wasted chances, defensive errors and tired legs by the end, the team put bodies on the line to ensure that we were competitive throughout and with a never say die attitude, off the shoulder running, some excellent blocks from defenders and scores from the forwards, it contributed to what would turn out to be 4 wins out of 5 (with a very narrow loss to Athgarvan the only blemish for the campaign).

Back at home for our penultimate game against an unknown team in the form of Newtown Gaels, 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 pretty much all scoring opportunities, racking up a very impressive scoreline. With three wins in the bag, and a semi-final position secured, the trip away to Raheens was all about climbing the table and ensuring home advantage for the semi-finals. As usual, we were missing a few of the regulars, but this also provided the opportunity to introduce a few more of the U16 girls and provide them with the experience of Senior Ladies Football. They didn't let us down with a fantastic team performance and another fine win for the team.

So, after such a successful campaign and finishing 2nd in the table (remember that Athgarvan result ☹), we were drawn against our nemesis Naas for our home semi-final. With 10 of our starting team unavailable (through, sickness, injury, holidays, work & other sporting commitments) and a seriously depleted squad, the season ambition of delivering another trophy for the group was of Mount Everest proportions. With a Naas side at full strength and absolutely focused on reversing the preliminary game result, and securing a place in the County Final, the result was never in doubt with

their dominance and clinical finishing, resulting in a heavy and demoralising defeat. However, great credit has to be given to the effort of the group that played their heart out on behalf of all those that couldn't be there, and on reflection, was a fantastic campaign and one they should be mighty proud of (as the coaches certainly were !).

With the memory of the League campaign, and what could have been, left behind, it was back to focusing on what we could achieve in the 2023 Junior C Championship campaign. It was made all the more difficult with 4 groups and ONLY the winner of each group progressing to the semi-finals.

First up of our 3 games was at home against Castlemitchell, where without getting out of second gear, defended resolutely, bossed the midfield and scored at will to win by a significant margin. With some of the Junior C players 'promoted' to the Junior A squad, we were up against it once again in our away trip to Naas. Winner takes all in terms of qualifying for semis, but to be fair to Naas, they brought their A game and with flawless finishing, superb fitness levels, strength in depth were just too strong for us on the day. And so it left us with a dead rubber game against St Kevins, which turned out to be a highly entertaining and exhilarating game, probably leaving our best performance til last. So for some, it was time to join up with Junior A team, others to rejoin the Minor group, and for the Management, ponder what could have been (looking forward to the 2024 Season with hope & expectation, but most of all, delighted to see the smiling faces of the girls, while they develop & hone their skills in a fun & enjoyable environment).



A special call out & appreciation to Maurice Clancy for his commitment, advice, energy, enthusiasm & passion in helping ensure we could enter & facilitate a 2nd Senior team, to Kevin & Alan for fab training sessions, Gerry & Eve for strength & conditioning, Ber & Mags Kealy (pitch set up/warm up and FLO/organising refreshments etc.), Brendan for pics & anyone else who helped in any way.

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 integration and building the team camaraderie, and would urge the collective squad to refocus and bring the ambition, dedication, energy and team spirit that will be required in 2024 to drive us forward and be competing for honours once again.




**Paul Lynch on behalf of Swyft Energy presenting a set of gear bags to Niamh Barnes and Sinead McCabe from the senior ladies football squads**




**Niamh Barnes was the guest of honour at a special presentation to her, made by our senior LGFA manager Kevin Larkin, ahead of the All Ireland Intermediate Football Final at Croke Park. Massive congrats again to Kildare LGFA and Niamh from everyone at Celbridge GAA.**

# Celbridge's Donal Moloney reflects on a mighty career and seven Kildare SHC title wins

**In his Love of the Game series Daragh Nolan talks to Donal Moloney who helped end his club's 84-year wait for glory**

**By Daragh Nolan**
**Leinster Leader**
11 Jan 2024



Just like Rose recalling her time on The Titanic in James Cameron's blockbuster film, Celbridge had to look back 84 years to their last Kildare Senior Hurling Championship before they were climbing that mountain again in 2005.

Celbridge had become well-used to that sinking feeling in the years prior as they failed to break into the elite Kildare hurling bracket alongside the likes of Naas, Ardclough and Coill Dubh, who had taken up all the final spots since the turn of the century.

Captain of the team that did breach that gap and win the big one was Donal Moloney. He of course still reflects fondly on that first SHC title win as a part of what came to be the finest generation of hurlers that the club had ever seen.

"They were great days, the first one was the best one," he said.

"We had no baggage in 2005 and maybe created some for ourselves afterwards. We were just used to winning minor finals and U16 finals, it kinda didn't enter our heads anything but a win. We got on a roll, we beat Éire Óg in a league match down in Raheens and it was tight at the end. That was a moment that we thought was big because we had gone toe-to-toe with a big strong senior hurling team that had savage hurlers. To them it was probably only a league match but to us it was a big step along the way in that year."

The team was led by manager Jimmy Doyle, who had carried a large portion of the members of the title winning team through the Celbridge underage system. Donal was made captain by Doyle and captained the team to county glory at 22, a fact that shocked the man himself for a number of reasons.

"It was a surprise to me that I was captain," Donal said. "Jimmy (Doyle) asked me at the start of the year. I had kind of been trying to do hurling and football for a long time, that year a few dual players went to play football and I chose hurling.

"Jimmy asked me to be captain after that and it was unreal, but Jimmy and I both wanted the best and we would often butt heads. We would have a very good relationship a lot of the time. We were both strong-minded and strong-willed and we often clashed. But it was a great honour."

Despite their demands of the people around them and one another, Donal has nothing but praise for the man in the dugout for Celbridge's SHC win that year.

"I owe Jimmy a lot and Celbridge hurling still owes Jimmy a lot. He was our manager in our Feile final, he put a lot of work into underage and he was just stone mad about hurling.

"He was a real driving force for the club. It was great that we got that win under him in '05 and then in the years after we maybe didn't do ourselves justice. We lost a lot of semi-finals and Jimmy stepped down after 2008. But he had put a fair shift in at that stage, because it's not easy to be in charge with a senior group like that for that length of time."

The disappointments that followed under Doyle would never detract from the glory of 2005 as Celbridge beat Coill Dubh 1-14 to 0-9 in Newbridge.

“Tony Murphy got a goal just before half-time, and even when I think of it now I still can still hear the roar in the stands. It would put hair standing on the back of your neck,” Donal explained.

“Niall Lanigan broke his arm in the first half. Phillip Kenny, who was our semi-retired substitute ‘keeper, went in goals. Yet still just nothing seemed to phase us.

“It definitely wasn’t comfortable, we were confident in what we could do but it was great to get to a stage in the match with a minute or two to go where you realised that we are actually going to do this.”

The Celbridge footballers would break their own duck three years later and unleash further scenes of celebration around the town in what was an unforgettable few years for the club.

However, the hurlers were first to do it and when they did get to their first county final since their last Championship win in 1921, the town got behind their men in a major way.

“When we got to the final and there was stuff up around the town, it was incredible. Sure we had never seen that before. It was such a big thing for us, because half the time most of the people in Celbridge wouldn’t know there was a hurling match on. So it was great to see signs in the windows and flags up around the village wishing the team best of luck. It was a real buzz and sense of occasion that we hadn’t felt before,” Donal recalled.



Donal has the distinction of captaining Celbridge to two SHC titles and in doing so lifting two different trophies – the Sean Carey Cup (2005) and the Tony Carew Cup (2013)

“I have often said it to teams I have been involved with. You get to that stage where you are winning county finals and the sense of comradery that you have with the team. They are up there with the best days of your life, they are up there with the day you get married, up there with the day your kids are born. They are unbelievable (days), it’s hard to describe. The nights after the matches, the craic we used to have afterwards. You would then go to play matches in the Leinster Championship and you felt like you were on such an adventure.”

After Jimmy Doyle’s departure in 2008, the years that followed would be truly special for the club. Celbridge further capitalised on their finest ever generation of players with four SHC titles in five years between 2009 and 2013, only missing out in 2012.

“Anthony McCormack came in for 2009 and he brought such a fresh approach. At that time we just felt like we were at the peak of our powers. Everytime we played a match we thought we were going to perform. That was the most enjoyable period of hurling we had and perhaps the only disappointing thing was coming up short in a couple of Leinster finals. But it was a great team to be a part of,” Donal said.

The most painful of Leinster final defeats being in 2016 when Celbridge threw away a lead to a flurry of late goals against Kilkenny Champions Carrickshock, losing 3-12 to 1-16.

Donal would retire with seven Kildare Senior Hurling Championship winners medals after a club career that began in 1999. He departed with no regrets and remains heavily involved with the growing the next generation of Celbridge hurlers.

He concluded, “That is the number one thing I say when I coach kids teams or that I say to parents who aren’t from a GAA background. The great thing is that they will be part of a team, group and a community that is bigger than themselves. It’s what it’s all about, no mind winning or losing, to be a part of that group is the main thing.”

# Lá Mór Gaeilge











# Happily Ever After



**The wedding of the year took place in June as senior footballers Nichola Farrell and Davy Hughes tied the knot in a stylish wedding surrounded by family and team mates.**

**Congratulations to them both and many years of wedded bliss together**

# U15 Football























**Congratulations to two of our u12 LGFA players who won their respective Cumann na mBunscol. First up, Sophie Gillespie and her Straffan NS. Sophie scored 2-2 to help her school to victory.**

**Agus, comhghairdeas do Caitríona Ní Dhuibhir agus a comhscolairí ó Gaelscoil Eiscir Riada, Leamhcán a bhuaigh a gcraobh i pPáirc an Chrócaigh.**



# U13 Camogie and Football

It was another great year for the girls born in 2010. In the spring league we were playing in an U13 league in both football and camogie and fielded two teams in both codes. The autumn competition was u14.

Camogie spring league: The were only two second teams playing in the division 4 league which resulted in very strong opposition for our girls. Our division 4 team had tough battle after tough battle in the league but held their heads high and played each game to the final whistle. Unfortunately they didn't progress to a semi final.





Éire Óg had been our biggest challenge in the round robin stages of the division 1 competition and they were the opposition for the semi final. The girls were outstanding on the day and we progressed to the final. Our division 1 team won the league in a convincing victory over Broadford in the final which was played in Celbridge.

Football spring league: The week after the camogie win, this wonderful group of girls travelled to Éire Óg to face Leixlip in the Div 1 football final. Again they came home with the cup with back to back trophies for most of the girls, as many of them are dual players.




Our second team were wrongly placed in division 4 and again battled so hard in every match. We were dragged all over the county, taking heavy beatings but their attitude and resilience was impressive and they came away happy - with the capri suns and crisps at least!

Autumn Camogie league: The autumn leagues were even ages which meant the girls were playing up in the U14 competition. Some of the 2010 girls played on the division 1 team and were outstanding. They reached a shield final against Naas and lost by the narrowest of margins. The rest of our girls played in the division 4 league. It took a while for girls to settle and there were many underperformances in the round robin stages. However, we managed to make a shield final and this is where these players showed what they were made of, with an outstanding team performance to win the shield.

Autumn Football league : The football league was also an u14 competition but the lower divisions were for U13 players only. For some strange reason, after winning the U13 division 1 league we were put into the second grouping of U13 teams. It was nice to play some new teams but the league didn't pose too much of a challenge and we were victorious in the final.



A great year for all involved with these wonderful 2010 girls. We are very lucky to have a group of coaches who all help with both codes. We currently have over 20 girls attending U14 Camogie Development Hubs with trials to take place in January. The U14 football trials are currently underway and we wish our girls the best of luck.



Coaches: Fiona Lanigan, Rory Browne, Dave Farrelly, Lorraine McIntyre, Mark Wright.





## Throwback Thursday



fom Pauline Halpin
**Back row**. Mrs Mulligan, Mrs Peggy Lynam, Mary McFarland, Bridgey Maloney
**Front row**
Marie Lynam, Georgia Cummins, Marie Lynam, Mary Joe Kenny.

## U7 Boys

2023 was our first year as a new team. We had our first training session on Saturday 4th February with an amazing 28 players and have built our numbers from there. We currently have 46 players playing both football & hurling and we have 10 coaches. We currently train on Tuesdays and Fridays with matches every weekend. In total we will have played 30 matches in both codes in 2023.



We entered 3 teams in both codes in the Spring Go Games and 4 teams in both in the Autumn Go Games. As well as this we've had plenty of other matches and have built up good relationships with our neighbours in Maynooth, Leixlip, Clane, Ardclough, Sallins & Confey.







One of our highlights this year was in June when we provided the half time entertainment when the Celbridge Senior Footballers played in the League. It was great to showcase our fantastic players and their skills. A big thank you to the Football Committee for organising this initiative.

Our focus this year has been on fun (everyone enjoying themselves), the acquisition of the basic skills and lots of match time for all our players. We're looking forward to next year as U8s and hoping to build on everything we achieved in 2023.

We would like to thank all those that helped us this year, our Players, our Parent Group, Juvenile Referees & Celbridge GAA.







Mentors: Amanda Foran, Cathal Garvey, Collie Leane, Colm O'Donovan, Colm Patton, David McDonnell, David Wright, Maria Doyle, Patrick Moore, Tony Kavanagh

## Reserve A Football

The Reserve A Football group is really important to Celbridge GAA as it provides lads who are training all year with the senior team with game time to complement this training. When the management team were appointed this year on top of providing game time we hoped to develop the younger players, many of whom had one minor championship medals into a team in their own right.

These younger players certainly bought into the process but during the year there was a good deal of work involved in ensuring that we were able to field a decent squad in most cases and in some cases field a team. In the 10 matches between league and championship our match day squad size was never over 18 players. There were a number of reasons for this which will need to be addressed going forward to ensure that this group is in a position to be a lot more competitive in a very important grade.

On the playing front, we played 6 matches in the Reserve A league, losing 3 by very small margins, having to give a walkover to Naas, and beating Maynooth and Clane. The performances were really good in these matches and had squads been a bit deeper we would definitely have qualified for the knock outs stages.

In the Championship we lost to Raheens and Athy before a brilliant victory over Maynooth finished our season.

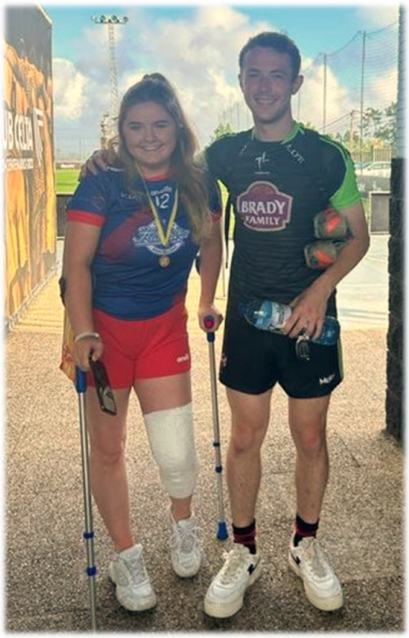
The management would like to thank several of our "veteran" players who togged out for us to ensure we could field a team or to support on the bench and its worth saying that these players definitely didn't look out of place so they might consider their comebacks carefully!

There was a core of 11/12 lads who trained with the seniors and who were hugely committed and should be complemented not only for this commitment in a difficult year but also the quality of their play. The future is definitely bright for football in the club but we need to ensure that the Reserve A squad is seen as a level that ALL adult footballers wish to play at if they cant make the first team.

Thanks as always to the Football Committee for their support in setting up pitches, manning gates, doing linesman it was really appreciated.

Management Team – Fergal Power, Shay Cummins, David Wright, Maurice Cuffe

**Two of our own**, Anna Gallagher (Barca) and Aidan O'Riain (Lisbon) at the Ibero Gaelic games finals. Anna tore ligaments in the first match, but was back from hospital to watch Barcelona Gaels win the Final. Aidan's team unfortunately lost out to a very good Madrid Harps side in their final.







**One of our own**, Tom Donovan living the life in the Canaries

## U11 Girls

The girls had another brilliant year in 2023 and all their coaches noted their maturing and taking their GAA more seriously this year - most of the time!

The girls trained twice a week from the end of January and still haven't stopped yet as we fast approach Christmas. Turn out at training and matches was generally very good but all the girls know they will have to make a huge effort to come to the matches next year when they are playing in the under 12 leagues.





We played football matches against Kilcullen, St Laurences, Maynooth, Leixlip, Kildangan, Nurney, Monasterevin, Naas, Straffard, Ballyna, Clane, Rathcoffey, Kilcock and Confey and the girls acquitted themselves brilliantly in all of these matches. Against sometimes bigger and stronger opponents their skills and fighting spirit always shone through.
The exact same qualities were on display in camogie where we played matches against - Ardclough, Leixlip, St Laurences, Sallins, Kilcock, Maynooth, Broadford, Sarsfields and Straffan.

A few highlights of the year included a June trip to Swords to play Fingallians followed by McDonald's and JumpZone in Santry and also a September trip to Ashbourne to play a dual camogie/football blitz where some of the girls played eight matches in the one day in very hot conditions. They brought home a commemorative plaque and a framed photo which are both now proudly displayed in the clubhouse.





The end of year trip is planned to bowling and laser quest and two of the club's senior county stars Niamh Barnes (football) and Annie Courtney (camogie) will be there to meet the girls.
Huge thanks to all the coaches who gave their time this year - Sam, Michelle, Emily, Louise, Clare, Aidan, Jonathan, Billy, Colm, Coilin, Dermot, Sean, Brian and Mark. Special thanks also to Lesley, Neil and Sam F who had to step away this year but gave huge time to the girls over the years since under 7s.





As usual thanks to the parents who brave the Celbridge traffic a few times a week and encourage their girls to stay involved in sport. Hopefully we will all stick together into the teenage years and there will be some great times ahead for this group..

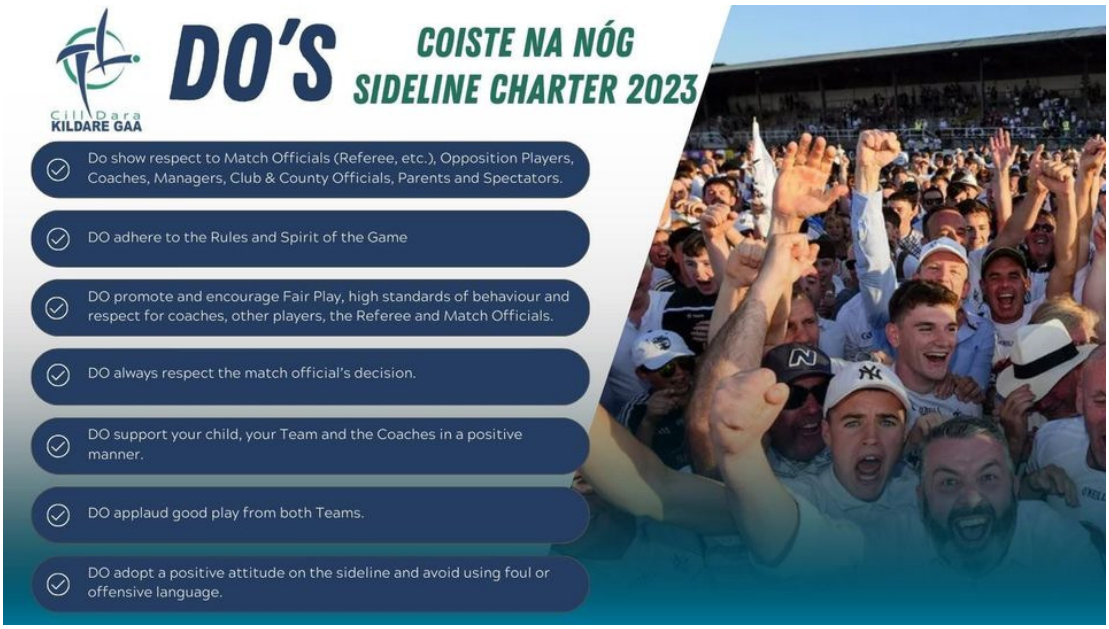
## U8 Hurling







A huge bualadh bos to our U8 Hurlers who welcomed Oranmore/Maree GAA Club of Galway this morning, ahead of the Leinster Leinster Senior Hurling final in Croke park.




**Club Sideline Charter: Protecting our Young Referees.**

**We want to implement a Positive Sideline Initiative to encourage young Referees to participate in our games.**

## Senior Hurling

The Celbridge Senior Hurling Team concluded another eventful and challenging year in 2023. It has been a season filled with highs, lows, victories, and setbacks.

The year started with immense promise as the team showcased remarkable resilience and skill on the field. Despite our light panel, the team dominated several early fixtures in the league—recording wins against Maynooth, Naas, Clane, Confey, & Ardclough. This meant we finished in 2nd position, qualifying for the league semi final. However, the league campaign had been particularly taxing on our squad. Between exams, injuries, and players working abroad, we were missing 19 players —leaving just 12 players available for the semi. We were left with no choice but to concede the game to Maynooth. A decision that was not taken lightly, and left the management & panel extremely disappointed.

We got our championship campaign underway with a preliminary round match v Naas in Hawkfield. We performed well in the first half, going in at the break a point up, but Naas outperformed us in the second half and were deserved winners. This result sent us into Group B for the championship. We topped this group, winning all our games against Maynooth, Confey, & Clane. This lead us to qualify for the county semi-final against Coill Dubh.





Unfortunately, the semi-final did not go our way. It was a day where we didn't perform to the best of 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. Their success in the U23 final is a small glimpse of their potential.

The management team of 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; Derek Collins, Ciaran O'Donovan, Patrick Moore, Niall Lanigan, Tony Cullen, Paul Dillon, Shane Dillon, Aidan Plunkett, Kevin Daly, Denis Murphy, Gavin Egan, and Edel & 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 past two years.

Beidh lá eile againn. Dónal Moloney




DEREK COLLINS
Construction Ltd.

## U12 (b.2011) LGFA

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 5th 2022 and continued all year, taking a 2 week break in July. Our playing numbers continue to be stable with 70 girls participating in our teams this year.

**LGFA Spring League 2022:** We entered 4 teams into the spring league based on 13 a side playing numbers. We were put into Div 1, Div 2, Div 5 and Div 7. These results would determine the gradings for the u12 Autumn league. By entering 4 teams, it's difficult, especially for our 2nd and 3rd teams as we were put into divisions where we would be up against clubs 1st , and often only, team so competition is very difficult in these divisions.

In Div 1, we won 5 from 5 finishing top. A great achievement for the team. In Div 2, we won 2 from 5. In Div 5, we lost all 5. This would be our 3rd team playing the 1st team from Moorefield, Twomilehouse, Carbury and Rathcoffey. So while the results didn't go our way, they were at least competitive. In Div 7, we won 2 from 5.

**LGFA Autumn League 2023**: Similar to the Spring, we again entered 4 teams. This time we were put into Divisions 1, 3, 6 and 7. In Div 1, we won 5 from 5. Some excellent games and rivalries are forming in Division 1 and great to see the girls coming out the right side of 1 and 2 point victories. In Div 3, we won 2 from 5. Very tough league but the girls competed well. In Div 6, we won 2 from 5. Again, very tough league. Two of our defeats were very narrow defeats where the game could have gone either way on another day. In Div 7, we won 4 from 5 finishing top on result against Sarsfields. Overall a very successful campaign. While some results didn't go our way in Div 3 and 6, we were a lot more competitive and only a few points, often separating the teams.

**Trips away:**



Mayo – 15th April: This year we brought the girls to Mayo to play in the Connacht Air Dome in Bekan Co. Mayo. We played Ballyhaunis and Aghamore in challenge matches there. It was a great experience for everyone to play inside the dome and make use of the superb facilities on offer.

Cork – 10th Sept: We were invited to take part in the Passagewest Blitz in Cork in September. A long but great day where the girls got to play against different teams from Cork, Tipperary, Limerick and Clare.

Carlow – 1st July: We were invited to a 16 team blitz in Tinryland, Co. Carlow and were delighted to come back as champions beating Naomh Eanna from Wexford by a point in the final. This was a tough blitz which the girls did very well to win on the day.






**All Ireland LGFA Finals, Croke Park:** A great day out for the girls supporting Kildare in the Intermediate final. We got a bus in and the girls made sure they were heard throughout the day with some great DJ'ing and dancing.

**Cumann na mBunscol:** Following on from Scoil Mochua's success in 2022, Jenny and Saoirse got the opportunity to represent Kildare schools in Croke Park at half time of the Kildare v Dublin match. A proud day for their families, teachers and team mates. Congratulations also to Catriona and Sophie who won their respective Cumann na mBunscol titles this year.

**Thank You** - Special thanks to the many people who helped make the year a success including all the coaches and parents but especially our 70 girls who put in the big effort. To Nicola Brady who has managed all our finances, from paying Refs and managing our trips away. Nicola also organised all our refs for the year – a tough task with often 4 refs to book. To all our coaches and FLO's who made sure training could take place every week without fail. To all the junior refs who did such a wonderful job for us this year – we as coaches, have noticed games becoming a lot more competitive in terms of results and more worryingly on the sideline with coaches so we've been very impressed with some of the brilliant junior referees coming through the club. To Olivia Mulvey for organising our playing equipment, Donie for organising pitch schedules and Sinead our LGFA secretary who handled our many challenge match requests.

Again a special word of thanks to our generous match jersey sponsors: 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. The girls were always immaculately turned out this year.

**Facts & Figures**: 70 best friends, 44 weeks, 80+ Training Sessions, 9 schools, 1000 Jaffa Cakes, 2000 Wine Gums, countless water bottles left behind, 30 sliotars lost, 20 footballs missing, 10 bibs borrowed, 1 Celbridge Lions team! Our 2011 Team of Champions



## Senior & Intermediate Camogie

Celbridge senior camogie team contested both league and championship finals in 2023 losing out to Naas on both occasions. While we played reasonably well on both days we will need to improve in order to regain the county championship. There will undoubtedly be improvement from the five 17 year olds who debuted for the seniors this year but attendance and attitude at training will also need to improve.







Celbridge intermediate camogie team were beaten in the championship quarter and league semi-final's this year. This team is a mixture of youth and experience and the more mature members of the team are excellent at integrating their more youthful teammates in their step up to adult camogie

Between senior and intermediate we used 42 players in championship in 2023.

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 Kara Dolan (physios) who looked after all injuries and had the girls ready for battle at all times. Special thanks to Hugh Gallagher for putting up nets, doing stats and anything else that needs to be done. 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. A special thanks to all the underage mentors who organised their teams to support us on county final day, the atmosphere was the best of the 3 finals I was at this year in Kildare.






Thanks to the club Executive for all your support during the year. Thanks to Donie who did an excellent job as pitch coordinator. Thanks to Denis Murphy and the field committee for their hard work. I know it's another thankless job and frustrating at times but from my own perspective I was very annoyed at having to travel all the way to St. Laurences to play an intermediate championship match when I walked the pitch myself that evening and it was perfect. I spent 2 hours organising players to get a team to go to Laurences, I'm sure parents weren't overly impressed at having to travel that far on a school (Monday) night. Thanks to Frank Brazil for your continued support to the entire club. Thanks also to Eamon Dowling, Seán O'Neill and the staff and management of the Village Inn. Special thanks to Fiona Lanigan (and Doireann) for all the help with team sheets etc throughout the year.

Nollaíg Mac Mathúna, Baínisteoir

## U7 Girls Camogie & Football

**Squad**: There are 20 girls named on the panel, of which 14 could be considered active (judging by attendance at training and fixtures). There is 1 coach involved with the team, with some parents helping out from time to time. The other parents have committed themselves to older teams and are not available all the time. The team competed in both Football and Camogie during the Spring season. Training is on Tuesday evenings at 6 and again on Saturday morning at 10:30 (if there is no match on that day). Attendance for Camogie (especially matches) was below that of football (although not sure if this is maybe related to fixture scheduling highlighted in the Issues section). We took a break from training for the month of July and August during the summer and we are intending to finish up for the year in mid November.



**Competitions**: Two teams were entered for the Camogie and Football Go games at the start of the year. Unfortunately, due to poor uptake in Camogie and the inability to find a camogie coach, we had to drop out of the Autumn league. Some of the Under 7 girls who wanted to continue playing camogie joined up with the Under 8 girls team.

Throughout the year the girls have been involved in matches against Johnstown Bridge, Naas, Newbridge, Leixlip, Maynooth and Raheens.

The last of the arranged football fixtures was played on 11th November. The girls have 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.





**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. Reliance on one coach and the good will of a few parents.

## U16 Football



**The U16 boys Qualified for the div2 final after victory over Raheens in the semi final.**

# The Pat Murphy Golf Classic























## Dads and Lads Hurling

2023 was a reasonably quiet year on the social hurling scene. There were regular Friday evening poc abouts and then a trip in to the clubhouse for some refreshments. We had some friendly mixed games with neighbours Maynooth over the year but the highlight of the year again was the Annual Naas Social Hurling Blitz in October, where after ten games in two years Celbridge remain unbeaten !!! Some of our group also represented fellow Kildare clubs at the GAA All Ireland Social Hurling blitz in Abbotstown.



Looking forward to 2024 and adding more bodies to the group. It's a perfect opportunity for those that are looking to get back playing the game after time a way in a non contact, social, fun environment or indeed want to get a better understanding of hurling for coaching and playing with their children.

A big thank you to Kevin Morgan Solicitors for sponsorship of the Dad's & Lads team jerseys.

**Left**: when the competitive side comes out.. two years, ten games, unbeaten at the Naas Dads & Lads blitz.

# U9 Boys Hurling (2014)

The U9 Boys group retuned to training on the 11th of February. Coaches were immediately pleased to see the enthusiasm of the boys despite some damp weather conditions. The team had their first match of the season very quickly with a friendly game organised with our strong opponents Round Tower's. It was a fine outing for the boys who acquitted themselves very well against a strong side. The team hosted the traveling players, coaches and parents in the club house for some teas, coffees and biscuits afterwards. It was a great start to the competitive season. A further friendly game followed away to local rivals Ardclough. The boys were really beginning to show their skills striking from the hand and taking some great scores to entertain parents and coaches.





Prior to the start of our scheduled go games the boys were invited to participate in mini games at half time in a Kildare Hurling league fixture against Kerry at St Conleth's park. This was to be the last hurling fixture at St Conleth's before re-development and was a huge honour for the boys. They played mini games at half time v Leixlip and after the game availed of the opportunity to meet the winning Kildare players who were in fantastic form and gave the boys an amazing experience signing autographs and chatting enthusiastically about the day. Our thanks to the County Board and the senior Kildare players for that experience which was one of the year's highlights and made a huge impression on the boys. We brought 36 players along on the day and it was a great promotion for Kildare hurling.

Our go games fixtures followed with 7 home or away games against opponents Maynooth, Clane, Leixlip, Ardclough and Naas. The boys improved and bonded fantastically from this round of fixtures. In conjunction with the u10 boys we trained on into July before taking a well earned break in August.

Before we retuned the boys participated in Hell and back together running the 3km obstacle course as a fun activity to get started for the Autumn campaign. It was great to see the fitness levels of the boys and the teamwork. All enjoyed the day out in Wicklow. We then resumed in September with Autumn league fixtures against Round Towers, Maynooth and Leixlip and Ardclough.



All in all we had a great years hurling. The boy's skills have been developing fantastically well and they are becoming a fine side which parents and coaches can be very proud of.

Over all 28 boys played hurling with this team during the year across 15 matches with the boys training every Monday evening and every 2nd Sunday morning when a match was not arranged. The team was given great support by a fantastic group of parents who turned out for every match encouraging the team and coaches alike and supporting every event.

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



**Players**: Aidan Larkin, Mateo Perciavalle, Kyle O'Neill, Liam O'Neill, Senan Jones, Ultan Jones, Alfie Byrne, Bobby Reid, Cian Grendon, Dáire McCarthy, Daragh Morgan, Tadhg Brosnan, Luca Doran, Darragh King, Reece Henney, Sam O'Shea, Ozzie O'Shea, Harrison Quinn, Charlie O'Shea, Harry O'Shea, Daniel Hannon, Daniel McEvoy, Conor Kirwan, Sean Carney, Finian Spencer, Rowan Shanley, Tadhg Creighton, Darragh Lanigan

# Minor Football

The management team were appointed at the start of January and with changes to the Minor Calendar this left us 5 weeks to prepare for the start of the Minor league in the second week of February.

We had an initial meeting which was attended by over 30 lads where we outlined what to expect during the year and to get buy in from an early stage. We started training by bringing lads to Castletown for early Sunday morning sessions which had worked so well in the past and was certainly a good introduction to Minor football for lads that had just come from U16.






We trained three times a week all year and for the most part attendance was good although unfortunately we faced challenges , that are not unique in some ways to this year, but certainly seemed to materialise at key points of the year. We found that nearly all of our second year minors were doing their leaving cert which resulted in them missing a good bit of training during the summer. With the leaving cert , this leads to leaving cert holidays which also had an effect! We had some lads with county teams and also 4 or our stronger lads were playing rugby at the same time. All that being said, we were clear form the start that we needed to field two Minor teams to ensure that as many lads got game time as possible and we required the support of the U16's to ensure that. Putting out two teams was at times challenging but we were able to do so.

In the Minor A league we won two of our matches, one against Milltown and the second against Raheens who went on to win the League. The second team won two of their matches against Confey and Sarsfields. The lads who played these games showed great endeavour and in particular the matches against Raheens (First Team) and Confey (Second Team) were of a really high quality and showcased the breath of football talent in this group.






The County Board organised a summer league which we entered one team in and in the group games we beat Newtown Gaels, Round Towers and drew away with Lawrences. We played Lawrences then in the final and in a team with 7 U16's we were narrowly beaten but overall the competition was a good success.

We entered two Championship teams. The second team had a difficult experience, losing narrowly to Maynooth and Clane but drawing with Naas and unfortunately weren't able to progress to the semi finals.

The first team started brilliantly with a big victory against Sarsfields, lost narrowly to Clane away, and then beat Milltown at home to qualify for the quarter finals in an incredibly tight minor championship. We were drawn against Sarsfields away who had completely changed their style to a more defensive set up after we beat them, and unfortunately we lost to them to finish out our Minor year.

Overall, the majority of lads who have finished their Underage careers this year , showed great ability and we , as a club, should ensure that there is somewhere for them to play to ensure they come back through our gates in 2024. The jump to the high level that our senior team performs at can be off putting to 18 year olds so this requires attention. The first year minors and the many U16's that supported us this year showed enough that we can be very optimistic about 2024!

The management would like to thank the parents that supported us during the year, the umpires and linesmen, it was very much appreciated. We would also like to take the opportunity to congratulate our vice captain Killian Browne on his fantastic all Ireland victory, brilliant for him, his family, the club and the minor football squad to see him achieve such heights!

Management – Carl McGrane, , Ciaran Murphy, Conor Halpin, Conor Brophy, Maurice Cuffe.

## U8 Girls

There were 38 girls who took part in training/matches at one point or another throughout the year. 3 of these girls have indicated that they are not interested in continuing with the sport but we still see the rest showing up regularly enough to matches/training. We currently train twice a week (Monday at 6 for Camogie and Wednesday at 6 for Football) and then have matches at the weekend (usually alternating between football one week and camogie the next). Since the summer the Camogie training has been a dual session with the U7 (2016) girls.





We currently have 9 coaches/FLO's involved with the panel and a number of these completed their Foundation Coaching course this year. Congrats to all the coaches on completing their first GAA coaching badges

In a similar trend to last year, a number of the girls have indicated that they are only interested in playing Football. The numbers that we get for Camogie matches are ~13 compared to our average Football numbers ~18.

We've tried to formalise our training plans a little more this year to ensure that we're rotating through the different skills, while also trying to ensure that the girls get as many touches of a football/sliothar during training as possible. We've also started to incorporate some light fitness work with a small team run at the start of every session. At the same time, we want to keep a fun element in the training and to this end, we usually end each of our sessions with a little game of bulldog or tag which often includes the coaches as well.

















We trained throughout the summer this year and although numbers were low due to holidays etc, it was nice to keep training going for the girls who wanted a session.

From the Football side, we have been working on positioning and tackling on top of the core skills. We've started getting stricter on the rules in our training matches and it's starting to show some benefits with some really strong disciplined performances in our Go Games. This has been greatly helped by some excellent `first whistles` referees in the club who are always happy to explain all the decisions during a game to the girls. Kudos to refs.

In Camogie we have been encouraging the girls to play more air hurling as the season has gone on. This has been incentivised during training and is starting to show in matches with some girls showing a lot more confidence to lift during a game. Recently we've had two girls from the U15's helping us out with training as part of the Gaisce programme. It's been really great for the U8's to have these role models showing them the skills in person so a big go raibh míle maith agat to Ciara and Cíosa.
We had 2 teams entered in both the Football and Camogie Go Games during the Spring and Autumn rounds. The girls acquitted themselves really well in all the games they played, although we missed a couple of games due to pitch closures with the weather during the year.







The team took part in 27 fixtures or blitzes during the year playing against 26 different teams (from 5 different counties). Our highest attendance at a blitz was 23 and our lowest attendance at a game was 8. Overall our average attendance is 16

Outside of the Go Games, we travelled to Passage West in Cork for an LGFA blitz which included teams from all over the country and we were invited to Leixlip to play in a mixed Football and Camogie blitz which they were hosting against Portlaoise. The team also really enjoyed the juvenile sports day that was run in the club during the summer.




# Fairwell to St.Conleths Pk.

The final football game to be played at the "old" St. Conleths Pk before redevelopment was the Allianz football league clash against Meath on March 26th.

To mark the occasion there was a parade of club colours around the ground at half time carried by u12s players. Michael O'Donoghue represented the club



# GAAla Ball

## At the Hamlet Court














































## Mothers and Others

The Mothers and Others team had another event packed year. The team gained many new members and also a few new babies. Congratulations to all our ladies and their expanding families and we look forward to welcoming them back when they are ready. We also wish those who were injured a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing them up and running again as soon as possible.

Training returned in March and although a slow start the numbers gradually picked up again and the new wonderful group of ladies are settling in nicely with our returning ladies.



With the support of the club Celbridge GAA held the South Leinster G4MO blitz again in June. It was a far bigger event this year with many more teams from South Leinster taking part, for some it was their first blitz. 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.

We played a few more friendly matches this year, the first being against our near neighbours Confey and then later against St Kevin's in preparation for the Leinster blitz. The ladies trained every Tuesday night and we took a few weeks off over the summer. When we came back we went straight into match mode in preparation for the National Blitz in Portmarnock. It is getting harder and harder to get a slot in the national blitz as the G4MO initiative has grown so much. It was again one of the best days in the calendar. It is truly one of the best experiences for any team to take part in. We've made great friends with other teams from the blitz, including our new honorary member "the ref".

The team also took part in a charity blitz in Confey in August and then another one in October in Palmerstown. Both proved to be wonderful days of football played and the ladies skills continue to grow week on week.



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.









Mother and Others will return in 2024 for another season.
We thank all those that support us week on week.

# Celbridge GAA Mr. & Mrs.

After one of the best nights entertainment in the club. Kevin and Leanne were announced as Mr and Mrs Celbridge GAA 2023.

It was a fiercely fought contest but any of the couples could have been winners.

Too many names to mention but a special shout out to all the participants, events committee, bar volunteers, photographers, and the one and only MC Shay Cummins.



























**Well done** to Salesian College Celbridge, captained by our own Tomás Gallagher, in their Dublin schools' B football final win over Scoil Íosa Malahide.
Final score was 9-3 to 2-14

# U10 Hurling

The year started with very low numbers again. These number proved consistent for the early parts of the year. We entered 2 teams in the league but only could field 1 team. The teams we played were very accommodating and we played every kid in each game. We played, 9 aside games, 10 aside game and 12 aside games, we utilised our numbers. We started with a great challenge game against Maynooth, got out all the cobwebs before we beat a strong Naas team in Celbridge.

The 2nd League game against Ardclough, we were beaten by a strong Ardclough team. We then went on a hit and miss streak, beating Clane, Losing to Maynooth, Losing to Ardclough again, before finishing off with a fine win against Clane in Clane. We had 3 games postponed that were never played.

We continued as much as we could through the Summer with training and this proved to be well worth it.
Numbers were up and down but the same consistent kids kept turning up. The Autumn League started, and numbers improved slightly. We entered only one team in the Autumn league which worked very well for us.

We started on the road against Naas, beaten by a strong outfit, our boys were sluggish and never got going.
We then went on a winning streak, beating Ardclough, Clane and Leixlip in the League and losing against Western Gaels in a keenly contested friendly.



**U10 Panel:** Jack Slattery, Aaron Condell, James Mooney, Oisin Keville, Sean Wright, Dara Early, James Carey, Jack Kenna, Noah O'Gorman, Eoin Griffin, Ronan Bourke, Darragh Lanigan, Cian Clear, Cormac Ward,
We consistently had 3 coaches available throughout the year Noel Slattery, Stephen Condell and Brian Mooney with great help from Brian Keville when he was available. A couple of parents jumped in when asked Paddy Kenna and Killian O'Gorman.

As the year went on, the boys improved immensely and coaches from Western Gaels spoke about how we were the strongest they faced with our Blocking, passing, and consisting striking. A very enjoyable year with the boys, A year where we seen massive improvements from all the boys.









# Celbridge's Jim Creighton discusses his club's only SFC title win and much more

**He was 22 years old when Celbridge won the 2008 Kildare Senior Championship title and joins Daragh Nolan to discuss that year for the Love of the Game series**

**By Daragh Nolan**
**Leinster Leader**
29 Dec 2023



The Creighton family have enormous ties with two clubs in County Kildare, Celbridge and Confey.

Jim Creighton and his son, who bears the same name, both have prominent roles in the history of the two clubs.

Jim Sr is a founding member of Confey GAA and was club chairman in the early 90s, a man so significant in the club's history that the club grounds are named in his honour.

However, this piece is about Celbridge and how Jim Jr. was a member of what is still the only Celbridge team to lift the Kildare Senior Football Championship title. Jim talks about his part in an incredible club achievement that was inspired by his father's role in his life inside and outside of the GAA.

"I am a very proud Celbridge man, but I would be an even more proud GAA man," Jim said. "My father instilled that in me, he was a staunch GAA man and he left that to be carried on, it's nearly in the blood. He was the one that made us love Gaelic football and Celbridge, he is the reason behind it all."

Years after his success on the field, an emigration to Australia and subsequent return, Jim is back to volunteering through coaching at Celbridge with his own son coming through the ranks.

After his father's move from his native Roscommon to Kildare a long time ago, there is now another generation of Creighton's playing for Celbridge.

"You are trying to emulate what he's done, which you never could. He was the one that brought us all around the country following Kildare or Roscommon games. He was the one that dropped us off at the GAA club, even if we wanted to play soccer, he'd just drive off and all of a sudden you found that you are loving the GAA and thank god he did it," Jim recalled.

The Celbridge team of 2008 would have their own leading figure on their way to their first Kildare Senior Football Championship success. That came in the form of Dublin legend, Barney Rock.

"We had Barney, who everybody adored, he was a real man-manager. He kept everyone happy on the side instead of in front of people. He was really good at spurring people on to make us all do what we needed to," Jim said.



"Everybody had great things to say about Barney as a person, he was just a good fit. Everyone was saying after (the win) that it was easy to manage the team because there was a Championship in us, but it wasn't really. Barney was the glue, he had been there, done it, and nothing phased him at all. He was hugely important for all of us."

Rock would also bring more eyes with him too as his side's quest for glory gathered national media attention in 2008. Their final with Sarsfields was also broadcast on TG4 for the country to see, a far less common occurrence at the time.

There would be no glory for either side the first time around as Celbridge drew 0-7 each with Kildare's most successful club. The Sash were on a mission of their own to reclaim their county crown after back-to-back Moorefield title wins.

"When we got to the final we naturally thought we could win it, but we saw Sarsfields as a big task. They had Dermot Earley and a few others. Maybe even looking back on it, I don't think we ever truly believed we were going to do it, until we did it," Jim said.

"The draw was nearly like a loss in the first game because your emotions are so built up to winning or losing and then we just drew." The week delay would not be enough for the then 22-year old to make a final appearance after he was carried off with a serious ankle ligament injury in his side's semi-final win over St Laurence's.



He said, "I missed the final, which was devastating for me, and still is a bit sore because I played half-back throughout the league and Championship that year."

It would be second time's the charm for Celbridge as they clinched their first County Championship in a 1-9 to 0-10 win. After late controversy in the first encounter, Celbridge started brilliantly with a Tom Fitzgerald goal after just 40 seconds of play. Mark O'Sullivan hit 0-7 on the day, matching his side's tally from game one all on his own.

"It was brilliant, the atmosphere around the town was incredible, everybody was talking about it. Everywhere you went, everyone you saw, older Celbridge men and women around the town were all coming out of the woodwork to say congratulations during that week of celebrating," Jim recalled.

Adding, "In fairness to the club they did so much around the town, they decorated the whole place. The atmosphere around the bar in the club was huge, they organised a big 40-foot trailer to bring us up and down the village like we had just won the World Cup, it was amazing."

The town of Celbridge went ballistic with celebrations of their first SFC title and seemingly only one person was aware or worried that the Leinster Championship was around the corner.

"The funny thing is that our physio, Davy Lyons, was trying to get us to calm down because we had lost a week and we were playing Kilmacud (Crokes) in the first round. In hindsight, he was dead right because Kilmacud went on to win the All-Ireland that year," Jim said

"Maybe if we had a bit more experience in that scenario, it could have been different. But we had won it (Kildare SFC) now, we were delighted, it was hard to keep going." After a horrendous start to the game against Crokes, Celbridge battled well but came up short against the future All-Ireland champs by 0-13 to 0-8.

The Celbridge team of '08 remain the club's only County football champions, a fact that most in the county are shocked by given the talent that has passed through the north Kildare club. "We probably feel a bit aggrieved by that (still being the only winners), because we have probably let a few go," Jim said.

"We are still very proud to be the only team that has ever done it, there are only 30 of us there with a Senior Championship medal."

It is an achievement that will stand the test of time in Celbridge folklore, as the club continue to hope their 2008 team won't be the only side to climb that mountain, but they will always be the first.

# Senior Football 3rd Team

2023 was a year of mixed results for the Senior 3 team in Celbridge, but with much new talent coming through – the future looks bright.

After the soaring heights of a championship winning season in 2022, 2023 started off with the team losing their long-time bainisteoir, Fergal Power, who was rewarded for all his hard work with a promotion to much vaunted the 2nd team. In the ensuing power vacuum, a management team consisting of Sean O'Sullivan, Michael Phelan, Colm Leane and Ciaran Costello was ratified by the club executive in March.

In April the League campaign commenced. This year the team competed in the Kildare Reserve Football League Division 6 – alongside some familiar foes (Naas, Moorefield, Kilcock and Sarsfields) and a few new ones (Two Mile House, Kildangan, St Laurences).





In their opening game against Two Mile House, a 5 goal haul was enough to get the league off to a good start. In the next game against Moorefield, the Newbridge outfit exacted their revenge for the 2022 championship final and we shipped a defeat overlooking the Curragh. As a result of a number of fixture changes at the end of April and start of May, it was over a month before we played our third game vs Sarsfield. This game resulted in a win for Celbridge to put us in strong contention for a semi-final spot. A tough game against a strong Naas team left us in a mid-table battle for a SF spot. The league campaign was to be determined away to St. Laurence's at the start of June. After we thoroughly dominated the first half in Narraghmore, Laurence's rallied in the second half to win by one point. As a result we missed out on a semi-final berth and our league campaign was over.

The Championship campaign started in August this year. The team competed in the Reserve C championship. The structure was 2 groups of 4 teams. In group B with Celbridge was Ballymore Eustace, Round Towers and Sallins.

The championship started out with a great battle on the back pitch against Ballymore Eustace which resulted in a well-deserved but narrow win. We had a strong team with 34 players showing up to represent the club – which could be a record turnout for a Celbridge senior 3 side. An away trip to Round Towers was next on the list. Towers proved a stiffer challenge and after a close first half, Towers won well in the second half. Our third game, home to Sallins, resulted in a walkover after Sallins' two poor opening results left them with no prospect of progressing.

After finishing 2nd in the group stage, our last day out in the championship would prove to be a semi-final tie against Eadestown in Eadestown. Eadestown proved too strong for us and booked their place in the final with Towers. Eadestown would eventually come out on top to win the C-Championship. All in all, it was a tough championship with Towers and Eadestown proving to be a few lengths ahead of the pack.

That concluded a mixed bag of results for the year for the 3rd team. There were however some great positives from the year. In total, we had 63 different players tog out in some regard for the team. The team had a great mix of youth and experience, with our youngest player at 16 years and our eldest player on the wrong side of 50. We had representation of 11 players who were minor last year.

Our captain this year was James Hoare. At the start of the season James told management that he won't make every game because he had too many commitments at home with 3 young children. In the end James had the highest attendance of the entire squad – missing only one game all year! Finally the team would like to wish Michael Phelan best of luck in his new role in the coming year. Michael has been the heartbeat of this team (with roles both on and off the pitch) for well over a decade!

## 2007 U16 Camogie

The team began the year in the spring U17 competition as the 2nd Celbridge team. We were entered into Division 4. With some great performances throughout the competition we progressed to a Shield Final against Eire g. Unfortunately, at the time the final was due to be played Eire Óg were not in a position to play and at this point it is unlikely to be played.

During the summer we fielded two squads in the u16 7s competition. A great initiative by the county executive and a really good competition. Both our squads split equally between 07, 08 & 09 players. I think the girls really enjoyed the format and we had one team winning their group and the other getting to their group final.



Both teams competed extremely well in the group stages and as a result we reached two Shield finals

In the autumn we were once again joined by 2008 players and split into two groups for our U16 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.



Our division 1 team having been so competitive throughout the competition lost out to Naas 2 in their final, while the division 4 had a great triumph over Straffan to take the Shield.

We had 4 girls represent Kildare as part of the county U16 squads. Laura Burns, Emma Kennedy, Maura Bardy, and Seren Daly all represented Celbridge with distinction in the Lilly White colours. The girls were successful in winning a Leinster Medal with Maura Brady going on to play for Kildare as part of the All Ireland squad.

A major milestone was reached by the group this year in that they all took their first steps into the world of adult camogie. Each girl has overcome their initial fears and moved seamlessly into both intermediate and junior level games. The girls are also currently representing the club as part of the U20 squads.

Special word of thanks to our FLO Ann Brady for all the organisation throughout the year. Thanks also to the 2008 coaches for all the help and support in bringing the two groups together for the autumn leagues and the adult team coaches in helping with the transition to the next stage of the girls camogie careers.

As a final word from us is that we have noticed a drop off of players over the last few years and it is something that the club should address going forward. The importance of team sport and active participation is of huge benefit to these girls in their lives.



To all the 2007 players a big thank you all for your hard work and dedication throughout the year. Finally to the parents as always many thanks for the continued support.

Many thanks

Anthony Kennedy, Ronan Burns, Ann Brady

## Junior Camogie

The Junior league campaign started with an away game against Broadford in April. Missing several players from the previous year and introducing new players to the group the team gave a strong performance in their first outing of the year but lost the opening fixture on a score line of Celbridge 4-11 Broadford 6-9.

The next two fixtures against Naas and Sallins saw the team display some fantastica camogie and the team won both matches comfortably beating Naas 2-17 to 1-06, followed by a 2-9 to 0-2 victory over Sallins. The Junior team then faced Broadford in the Cup final in Celbridge and having trailed in the first half by 7 points the girls played a phenomenal second half against a strongly experiences team but just came up short on the day and lost by one point. The girls left nothing behind them on the pitch and were unfortunate to come out on the wrong side of a pulsating match.

The Junior Championship was schedule to commence in August. Further changes to the team occurred with the natural transition of some girls up to intermediate and senior team and the restructuring and rebuilding of the Junior team began in mid-July. Having some experienced players on the team, new faces from the under 16 age grouped joined some girls on their second year in Adult camogie. The Junior team were also delighted to welcome back some experienced camogie players who played previously for Celbridge at Senior level, and they added wealth and knowledge to the group. Having only regrouped in July, the Junior first outing against Sallins occurred in August and the team narrowly lost on a score line of Sallins 2-5- Celbridge 1-5. The teams next opponents was Naas at home, missing several girls on the day Naas outplayed our Junior team and we lost on a hefty score line of 0-2 Celbridge to Naas 3-14. The return fixture two weeks later would have predicated another win for Naas but the team but in their best performance in the championship and were unlucky not to come away with the win but drew on the day 1-6 apiece. A third meeting in the semi-final saw Celbridge play Naas again in Naas. Both teams played some thrilling camogie and the Celbridge girls played to the very end but lost out on the day by 3 points.

The Junior Management team would like to thank all the players for their commitment, dedication, and desire to play for Celbridge. The door is always opened for new/ex-players to play Junior camogie for the club and we look forward to next season.

Junior Camogie Management Team









**Action from the u17 final v Maynooth, May 19th**













# The Gary Kenny U10 Festival of Football

32 teams from across all four provinces gathered for the 2023 edition of the important event on our club calendar. Celbridge, Lámh Dhearg, Kilmurray Ibrickane, Ballymun Kickhams, Na Gaeil, Templeogue Synge Street, Ardclough, Maynooth, Balyna, Clonguish, Glen Emmets, Leixlip, Shrule/Glencorrib, Donaghmore Ashbourne, Tullamore, Aghaloo O'Neills, Éire Óg Greystones, Palatine, Blessington, Bride Rovers, Moyle Rovers, Ballymore Eustace, Cappagh

















































## Jimmy Healy - RIP

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Jimmy Healy at the end of February.
Jimmy spent much of his working life in America, particularly Chicago. Some years ago he returned to Ireland with Sadie to enjoy his retirement. He was a regular visitor to the club, often coming down to support teams and to socialise in the club bar.

Of course Jimmy has a generational attachment to Celbridge GAA through his father Paddy, a member of the Celbridge team that won the 1921 Kildare Senior Hurling Championship – the first senior title ever won by the club. He also represented Kildare on the hurling pitch in the 1920s, indeed captaining the county against Dublin in the Leinster Junior championship in 1924. Paddy went on to become a well respected GAA referee in Kildare.



Jimmy was also the nephew of Albert O'Neill, another player on the 1921 team. Albert was a member of the Kildare squad that won the 1919 All-Ireland football final defeating Galway.

Jimmy was very proud to be part of the centenary commemorations for the 1921 SHC victory which the club organised. He was delighted to accept the white and green sash replica jersey which was presented to direct descendants of the 1921 players, and Jimmy was often seen proudly wearing the jersey around Celbridge.
Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.

# Family BBQ - June

















## Senior Football

Championships are never won or lost in the cold and dark days in February, but the foundations are laid. The Celbridge senior football team began their Aldridge cup campaign in early February with victories in the group stage over Confey and Clougherinkoe, adding in a tough draw away to Ballyteague. This set up a semi-final challenge against a strong Johnstownbridge team which Celbridge comfortably came through on top.



**Mick Mullen CCC chairman presents Paddy Brophy with the Aldridge Cup**

In what was set to be the last competitive club football game in St. Conleths Park, Celbridge game up against old rivals Sarsfields in the Alridge Cup final, Celbridge eventually running out winners in a thrilling game played at championship intensity on a scoreline of 1-11 to 0-11. Celbridge co-captain Paddy Brophy lifted the Aldridge Cup on the steps of the old St. Conleths Park for the final time.

The league campaign came next in store. With clubs missing players as they represent the county, the competition is used by many to experiment, introduce new players and to test out players young and old in new systems. The main aim for Micheal McDermott and the team was to lay down a marker on the year to come. The league campaign began with a win away to our neighbours Leixlip. Back-to-back weeks came next with a draw away to Athy, victory over Castledermot and the first loss of the year away to Moorefield. Bouncing back from this Celbridge recorded wins over Confey, Johnstownbridge, Raheens and losing to Naas throughout the busy summer months of May and June. Celbridge completed their final league game away to Clane in August with a strong performance setting them up with a league semi-final encounter with Naas. On a day that was not to be for Celbridge in Manguard Park Hawkfield, Naas ran on winners setting themselves up with a league final date. A tough loss for Celbridge which set the motivation for the championship that came next in store.

After nearly eight months of preparation the 2023 Senior Football Championship began on July 29 with a preliminary game against an exciting Raheens team. The game which took place in Clane, saw Celbridge come out victorious putting them in the hat in the winner's group for the championship ahead. Drawn in a group of all the C's - Clane, Clogherkinoe and Carbury. Celbridge had their mind set on the first round of the group in St. Conneff Park, Clane against an organised Clogherinkoe team. Celbridge eventually breaking down the tough defence on a scoreline of 0-14 to 1-7. Next up was a battle with Carbury, again in St. Conneff Park. Celbridge getting into the grove on this one, coming out winners 0-18 to 0-8. A final group stage game against close rivals and beaten championship finalists of 2022 – Clane. A game which would determine the group winners, Celbridge ran on victorious in Manguard Park Hawfield, on a score of 0-16 to 1-8.





The reward of winning the group was a pass straight to the quarter final. But the reward did not come without its consequences as it set up an epic battle against Newbridge rivals Sarsfields. In what was one of the games of the championship between two heavy weight clubs in Manguard Park, Hawkfield. Celbridge coming out on top beating Sarsfields 1-14 to 1-11 to maintain their impressive quarter final record and unbeaten championship run this year. Next came the biggest acid test yet. Celbridge in a semi final against Athy. History says this is where Celbridge fall short every year but for 2023 in a game that had everything this was not the case. Celbridge won the battle in Hawkfield beating a resilient Athy team who refused to be beaten on a score of 2-16 to 0-17.

County final day. A day in Network Cullen Park vs Naas, the first senior championship final outside the county was a tremendous occasion. The result was not to be on the day, but each player put on the jersey with pride and gave everything to fall just short.

This is an opportunity to thank each and every person who supported the team throughout the year. From washing jerseys, handing out meals, waving flags or just being on the side line, it was fantastic to see everyone support the senior football team on their journey this year. As cliché as it is, the support is the 16th man we need on the pitch which got us all the way to the final. We now look forward to next year to go one step further.

Senior Football Management Team

# Kildare SFC final: Naas make it three-in-a-row

**Celbridge come up just two short in dramatic ending**



**Naas 0-13**
**Celbridge 0-11**

**By Tommy Callaghan**
22 Oct 2023 5:53 PM
Email:
tommy@leinsterleader.ie

Naas were crowned Kildare SFC champions for the third year in a row following a hard-earned two point win over a very game Celbridge side in Netwatch Cullen Park, Carlow, this afternoon.

Naas dominated early on but Celbridge came back strong in the second half but never drew level as Naas held on to record the remarkable treble.

It was Celbridge who opened the scoring, Kevin Flynn, getting possession from the throw-in and soloing up the right wing before punching over inside 35 seconds.

Alex Beirne opened his account, and added a free followed by a Darragh Kirwan boomerang to leave the champions leading 0-3 to 0-1 after eight minutes.




Celbridge were struggling to gain meaningful possession but Fergal Conway reduced the deficit to one. Alex Beirne and a fine free from Luke Mullins saw the Naas lead out to three mid-way through.

A foul on Brian Byrne saw Luke Mullins come forward again to pop over and when Darragh Kirwan landed his second Naas were now leading by five on 25 minutes.

Celbridge coming more into the game as half-time approached, reduced the lead with points from Davy Hughes and Kevin O'Callaghan as the half-time whistle arrived with Naas leading 0-7 to 0-4.

All the excitement arrived in the second half as Naas played 'keep' football for long periods, especially after losing Eoin Doyle to a black card in the 49 minute when leading by two. Darragh Kirwan stretched it to three before Celbridge hit back with two Paddy Brophy points.







Celbridge hit two wides before Naas came back again with two points from Paul McDermott and Kevin Cummins to lead 0-12 to 0-9 on 65 minutes.

Nine minutes of time added on due to an injury hold-up; Aaron Browne reduced the deficit to two; Paddy Brophy (free) to a point on 68 but a late Darragh Kirwan point clinched it for Naas as they recorded an incredible three titles on a final score line of Naas 0-13 Celbridge 0-11.

Scorers: **Naas**, Darragh Kirwan 0-4, Alex Beirne 0-3 (1 free), Luke Mullins 0-2 (2 frees), Paul McDermott 0-1, Kevin Cummins 0-1, Dermot Hanafin 0-1, Sean Hanafin 0-1.

**Celbridge**, Davy Hughes 0-3 (1 free), Paddy Brophy 0-3 (2 frees), Kevin Flynn 0-1, Kevin O'Callaghan 0-1, Fergal Conway 0-1, Aaron Browne 0-1, Niall O'Regan 0-1.

Man of the match: Darragh Kirwan.







**NAAS**: Luke Mullins; Cathal Daly, Brian Byrne, Mark Maguire; Paddy McDermott, Eoin Doyle, Eoghan Prizeman; Paul McDermott, James Burke; Alex Beirne, Sean Hanafin, Jack McKevitt; Darragh Kirwan, Dermot Hanafin, Conor McCarthy Subs: Tom Browne for Jack McKevitt (54 minutes); Kevin Cummins for Dermot Hanafin (54 minutes); Eamonn Callagan for Cathal Daly (62 minutes).

**CELBRIDGE**: Shane McNamara; John Clarke, Peter McAteer, Mick O'Grady; Kevin Flynn, Mick Konstantin cpt., Liam O'Flynn; Dean O'Donoghue, Tony Archbold; Paddy Wall, Aaron Browne Kevin O'Callaghan; Davy Hughes, Fergal Conway, Paddy Brophy. Subs: Killian Browne for Aaron Browne (37 minutes); Niall O'Regan for Paddy Wall (39 minutes); Conor Plunkett for Tony Archbold (45 minutes); Johnny Owens for Conor Plunkett (48 minutes); Aaron Browne for Davy Hughes (57 minutes).



# Celbridge GAA All Stars




**February 26th 2023 was a day to remember for all the coaches of Celbridge All Stars**

After months of planning, vetting and training, we finally opened our doors to the wider community and had our first ever All Stars inclusive session.

We had a fantastic turnout of boys and girls of different abilities coming together to have fun and make new friends. Everybody had a great time.







Since then we have grown in numbers and have a steady 15 - 20 kids taking part every week. These are kids that were never part of our club before and the difference it's made to them and their parents is huge !!!







We certainly could not have done any of this alone and would like to Thank all the coaches that made this possible.

Big things to come in 2024

Thanks everyone.

Lorraine & Maggie.

## U12 Girls

Great to see the girls skills improving every game with some great teamwork and performances on display throughout in both camogie and football.

















**Celbridge Team — 1958.**



Standing, L.-R: Peter Connolly, Owen Murphy, Fr. Corbett, Con Gaffney, Joe O'Reilly, Tommy Carey, Pat Murphy, Jimmy Mulligan, Pat Walsh, Brendan Ward, Mick Tyndall, Terry Ward, Barney Cullen, John Dunphy, Billy Farrell.
Kneeling: L.-R: Frank Kenny, John Nolan, 'Kiterboy' Kenny, John White, Colm Hassett (Capt.), Mick Kenny, Sean Healy, Dougal Farrell, Leo Morigan, Vincent Ward and Kevin Galvin.

**It was with sadness we learned of the passing of Brendan Ward, late of Loughlinstown.**

**Brendan Ward was part of the 1958 Celbridge team below, and he played along side his brothers Terry and Vincent.**
**Ár dheis Dé go raibh a anam.**

# U10 Football Community Games

**Leinster Quarter Final**
**Celbridge North 4-14**
**Skerries 5-7**
June 20th
By Paul O'Hehir

NEVER mind the Dubs at Croke Park this weekend, the true Blues will be strutting their stuff in Longford on Saturday. Hundreds of Celbridge fans will be descending on the midlands for the semi-final and final of the U10 Football Community Games - and this team means business!



Celbridge North produced a sensational performance last month to win the Kildare title when they pipped St Conleth's in a thriller.
Two points down in extra-time, they scored a last minute goal to win by a point in a game that has already become the stuff of legend.

Could lightning strike twice for this remarkable team - coached by Cathal O'Shea, Niall Lanigan, Jim Creighton and Rodger Quinn

Skerries were the opposition in Tuesday's Leinster quarter-final in Celbridge, and the visitors are the kingpins of Dublin having swept all before them to win their county title. Formidable opponents for sure, so Celbridge North knew they had their work cut out, but the bigger the challenge, the better these boys play.

And they certainly didn't disappoint in another remarkable game in front of a capacity crowd that captivated spectators throughout. While Skerries took an early lead, Celbridge North powered back and led by five points at half-time before stretching that lead to seven in the second-half. But a brilliant Skerries side proved why they are Dublin's finest and levelled the game in the dying stages with a flurry of superb goals.



Yet Celbridge North - with Ozzie O'Shea in inspired form, scoring 2-8 - refused to bend and when the going got tough deep in extra-time, the tough got going. Harrison Quinn and Harry O'Hehir provided the inch-perfect passes up field for Dara Earley who buried a goal and a point to send his side marching onto Longford for the final's weekend.



**CELBRIDGE NORTH**: Liam Burke, James Carey (missing from team photo above), Tadhg Creighton (0-1), Dara Earley (1-1), Donnchadh Ginty, Cian Grendon (1-1), Josh Hanlon, Daniel Hannon (0-1), Reece Henney, Darragh Lanigan (0-1), Harry O'Hehir, Ozzie O'Shea (2-8), Sam O'Shea, Harrison Quinn (0-1), Bobby Reid, Sean Wright.

# Nollaig na mBan
















In celebration of the feast of the Epiphany in Ireland, January 6th is marked by Nollaig na mBan or Women's Little Christmas. On this day it is the tradition in Ireland for the women to get together and enjoy their own Christmas while the men folk stay at home and handle all chores.

# U15 Girls Football

















**Celbridge men Bryan Flynn (capt), John Costello and Craig Mooney played in the London junior football championship final for Dulwich Harps GAA**

# O'HORA'S LILYWHITE HEROINES CAPTURE ALL IRELAND TITLE IN DRAMATIC FINALE

**Kildare Nationalist**
**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2023**

By Tara Byrne



**Celbridge's Niamh Barne's lifts the Mary Quinn Memorial Cup in Croke Park**

**TG4 LGFA Intermediate Football Championship Final**

**KILDARE: 2-11 CLARE: 2-10**

TWO first half goals Kildare the breathing room in Croke Park on Sunday to weather a dramatic late Clare comeback before Neasa Dooley hit the insurance point five minutes from time to crown the Lily Ladies TG4 Intermediate All Ireland Championship for the second time in seven years. Two early pointed frees from Fidelma Marrinan had Clare off to a good start and it took until the ninth minute before Kildare put their first score on the board, a Róisín Byrne point also coming from a placed ball.

The magical tenth minute saw the tide turn for Kildare. Corner back, Lauren Burke, who unfortunately suffered a nasty knee injury in the second half, burst forward along the right wing and fed Byrne who in turn released Neasa Dooley who floated the sweetest pass across the face of goals to the onrushing Trina Duggan and the pint sized wing forward blasted past Amy Lenihan in the Clare goals. This proved to be a lead Kildare would refuse to relinquish.
Byrne added a further two points before Chloe Moloney pointed once more from play mid-way through the half, leaving Duggan's goal the all-important difference.

Lara Gilbert doubled her season's tally to two with a well taken score before Marrinan added her third free of the afternoon. A free from Byrne just before twenty minutes mark looked to again take Kildare beyond one score before Ellen Dowling pounced on a poor Clare kickout to roll the ball into an empty net with aplomb from distance.
An exchange of points from Byrne and Moloney left Kildare leading impressively 2-6 to 0-5 at the break.

Diane O'Hora was no doubt the happier of the managers as Clare's manager, Kildare's Wayne Freeman, had watched his side having only one shot from play on the opening thirty minutes.
On the restart Byrne and Moloney once more exchanged frees and Clare got their first score from play in the 38th minute through full forward, Cliodhna Blake.

Kildare once more pushed forward and Byrne looked to keep the account ticking over with a free into the Hill 16 goals.
Clare taliswoman Marrinan pointed another free mid-way through the second half leaving the two first half goals from Duggan and Dowling the difference. Points from Dooley and Dowling left Kildare eight clear and almost within touching distance of the Mary Quinn Memorial Cup for a second time.
Kildare's impressive corner back, Lauren Burke then went down with a knee injury. Although her screams of pain were audible above the 45,000 watching supporters Kildare fans watched as their most dedicated of servants received

attention, hoping against hope that she would get back to her feet. This hope faded as the Croke Park ambulance quickly rushed to her side and took her from the field of play.

Almost adding insult to injury Marrinan converted a free for the Banner as Kildare's defensive cohesion became a little frayed after Burke's loss. Another Moloney free was fielded by Mary Hulgraine but Marriman was on hand to punch to the net from the keeper's grasp. It was game on as four points lay between the sides and Clare grew in confidence. Moments later a second point from Blake brought the deficit to three before Dooley chipped over with five minutes on the clock to give Kildare an insurance point.

Four clear with as many minutes of the clock the tie began to open up. Lenihan working a long kick-out for Clare and a mix up in the Kildare defence and Moloney, who had moved into the full forward position got a palm to it before Hulgraine could gather and sliced the deficit to one and all of a sudden it was game on again.
With two seconds on the countdown clock Clare won a fifty yard free but Marrinan's free dropped short and when Referee, Gus Chapman, called time it was Kildare who were left celebrating as they claimed their second ever TG4 Intermediate All Ireland Championship.

**KILDARE**: Mary Hulgraine; Lauren Burke, Laoise Lenehan, Aoife Clifford; Lara Gilbert 0-1, Ruth Sargent, Lauren Murtagh; Grace Clifford, Aoife Rattigan; Trina Duggan 1-0, Neasa Dooley 0-2, Claire Sullivan; Ellen Dowling 1-1, Roisin Byrne 0-7 (5 frees), Lara Curran. Subs: Grainne Kenneally for Duggan 42, Fiona Troute for Burke 46, Mia Doherty for Rattigan 46, Orlaith Sullivan for Curran 51.
**CLARE**: Amy Lenihan; Aine Keane, Siofra Ní Chonaill, Grainne Harvey; Louise Griffin, Caoimhe Harvey, Orla Devitt; Aisling Reidy, Chole Moloney 1-3 (3 frees); Laurie Ryan, Fidelma Marrinan 1-5 (5 frees), Amy Sexton; Laura Griffey, Cliodhna Blake 0-2, Caoimhe Cahill. Subs: Megan Downes for Griffin 12, Ciara McCarthy for Griffey 39, Roisin Looney for Cahill 45, Sinead Considine for Sexton 48, Joanna Doohan for Devitt 57.





**Niamh Barnes had a senior debut season to remember in 2023. The Celbridge 'keeper was part of the Kildare ladies football squad that won the Lidl National League Div.2 title, The Leinster Intermediate Championship and the TG4 All Ireland Intermediate Championship.**

**Niamh is an amazing role model for young players in our club and is always very giving of her time too to present medals and talk to our underage girls in particular.**

# U12 Boys Football



**Congratulations to our U12 footballers who won the A Shield final on Sunday against Maynooth on a scoreline of 1-7 to 1-6.**
**A great bunch of lads who've worked hard all year. Well done to all involved**




**Scoil Mochua**







**St.Wolstans Community School**





**Scoil na Mainistreach**





**Salesian College**

# Celebrity Bainisteoir



















# County




Kevin Flynn, Mick O'Grady, Tony Archbold and Kevin O'Callaghan were part of the senior football squad who made the group stages of the All Ireland championship series



Our girls Lily Mullarkey, Kate Kealy, Alannah Morley and Clodagh Berrigan were named on the Kildare LGFA u16 squad for 2023.



Emma Kennedy, Seren Daly, Laura Burns, Maura Brady were part of the Kildare camogie u16 team.



Michael Owens, Caolfhinn Montgomery, Conor O'Brien and Cian McGrath lined out with the county U16 hurlers



**Senior Camogie -** 2023 wasn't a year to remember for the senior county team as they were withdrawn from competition after the League campaign. Celbridge were represented by Eimear Stirling, Orla Carragher and Ella Copeland.



Patrick O'Brien, Rian Hudson, Jack Gilmartin , Elliott O'Dwyer, Robbie Reid, Jack King and Sean Tobin made their debuts for the Kildare U14 hurlers.



Niall Ó Muineacháin, Gerry Keegan and Alan Goss were part of the Kildare senior hurling team that won the Kehoe Cup in 2023



Peter Fagan, Luke Murray and Darragh Colton were part of the Kildare U16 football Development squad



Massive congrats to Kildare LGFA u14s after beating Dublin 6-12 to 0-7 in the Leinster final and especially to our girls Aoife Treacy, Gwyn Canavan & Gemma Henny



A great experience for the two Celbridge u12 girls Jenny Mooney and Saoirse Griffen to play in Croke Park before the Kildare v Dublin Leinster championship game. Hopefully the first of many appearances in Croker.



U15 Camogie



U14 Camogie



Cian Degrieck , Michael Owens and Sean Mimnagh were part of the Kildare minor hurling squad for 2023.

**U17 Camogie** – Éabha Kenny, Ali Byrne, Laura McLoughlin, Aoife Kirwan, Ciara Skehan, Caoimhe Lynch, Laura McLaughlin, Emma Barry, Jane McHugh

**Minor camogie -** Fionnuala Hughes, Hannah Finnerty, Emily Mahon, Niamh O'Connor

**U20 Hurling** – Jack O'Brien, Sean Gleeson, Ciarán Kirwan, Conor Treacy, James Dolan, Oisín Lynam, Sean Holmes.



**Comhghairdeas to our U20 Camogie team after their 2-7 to 0-5 win over Leixlip in the Kildare Camogie championship final.**

Congratulations to all our young members who graduated from the University of Galway with a Foundation Certificate in Youth Leadership and Community Management following their completion of the Dermot Earley inspired Leadership Initiative.
24 in the group graduated and a special mention to the five mentors Mary Clair Owens, Louise Naughton, Denise Geraghty, Inge Nylof and John Hogan.



## In Ómós

Celbridge GAA would like to express our condolences to the family and friends of all those loved ones that we lost in 2023. In particular we remember those that served the club both on the field and in roles of administration and those family members brought to our attention.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Imelda Kenny | Michael Larkin | Patrick Gilchriest | Mick Burns |
| George Bagnal | Jimmy Healy | Paul Finnerty | Brendan Ward |
| Peggy Keville | Mary Murphy | Bernadette Pierce | John Kinahan |
| John Farrell | Joe Ryan | Lucy Tumilty | Billy Ring |
| Bernard Boothman | Mary McCann | Brenda Gardiner | Seán O'Riain |
| Mary Farrell | Michael Lacey | | |

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha

# Awards Night 2023



























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