



ROSCOMMON GAELS

Gaelforce News

July/August 2021



*Ni Neart go
chur
le Cheile*



Launch of Caseys Roscommon Sponsorship with Roscommon Gaels



On a Sunny evening on June 30th on the forecourt of Casey's Roscommon, Club Chairperson Teresa Hession, Club Secretary John Donnellan along with representatives from the Senior Footballers and Senior Hurlers accepted new sets of Jerseys from Jim Casey Owner and Jim McCausley Manager of Casey's Circle K/Londis/Supermacs & Papa Johns. The club looks forward to having Casey's on-board as main sponsors of the club and building a positive relationship over the years and beyond in our local community. Jim Casey stated at the recent sponsorship launch of the club that they are delighted to get the opportunity to sponsor Roscommon Gaels for the upcoming season and beyond. Speaking with the Orla Fleming Club PRO, he said "We look forward to welcoming all Roscommon Gaels club members to our

Circle K /Londis /Supermacs & Papa John's Pizza. Our family, while not noted for their playing skills or honours won on the field (even my father PJ is wearing his suit in the 1935 photo of Roscommon Town GAA on display in Supermacs!), we are steeped in all things Roscommon, Roscommon Gaels and GAA.

We wish the players, management and officials on all teams the best for the coming season.

<https://www.oneills.com/shop-by-team/gaa/ireland/roscommon-gaels-gaa.html>



*The Late PJ Casey
(front row centre)*

*pictured with
Roscommon Town GAA
1935 as Mascot.*



<https://www.oneills.com/shop-by-team/gaa/ireland/roscommon-gaels-gaa.html>

Click on the Link above for New Jersey purchase.



*Pictures from the Launch and Presentation
of Jerseys on June 30th at Caseys
Roscommon.*

*Above & Left: Jim McCausley & Jim
Casey, Caseys Roscommon, Teresa Hession
Club Chairperson & John Donnellan Club
Secretary.*



Under 14 Div. 1 County Final



Back Row- Adam Hannon, Darragh Gubbins, Eoghan Keavney, Jack Raftery, Josh Lemos, Bertie Satchwell, Evan Collins, Conor Grogan, Conor Mulry, Leo Anic, Liam Naughton, Ciaran Mulry, Aaron McAteer, Lochlann Mulry, Michael Gillooly, Eoghan Carty **Front Row.** Hugh O Connor, Ronan Hoey, Aaron Dolan, Matthew Finneran, Tom Beattie, John McGuinness, Finan Devine, Dylan Carroll, Odhran Fallon, Rory Dunne, Peter Cunningham, Tommie Naughton

Oran / St Croans 2-11 Roscommon Gaels 1-06

On June 27th, our under 14 Squad died with their boots on last Sunday when they lost out to an excellent Oran/St Croans in their County A Final clash on a sun drenched Strokestown pitch. The day was lovely but the outcome for our brave lads was not to be as Oran/St. Croans outfit, led by their excellent midfielder and ably assisted by the full forward, took home the honours.

Our Roscommon Gaels lads started the game slowly and allowed the opposition plenty of possession by turning over the ball easily. In fact by the 11th minute our lads had accrued 9 turn overs yet Oran/St Croans only led by 0-01 to 0-00 from a point by excellent number 8 from a free. The 12th – 14th Minute was to prove decisive for Oran/St Croans as they scored a brilliant goal to the top corner from the Oran St Croan's number 11, sandwiched in between 2 points from the inside forwards.

Then Roscommon Gaels opened their account with an excellent score from Josh Lemos from play just on the stroke of the water break leaving the score 1-03 to 0-01 as the lads headed for a breather. On

the resumption Eoghan Carthy added another point to give the lads some hope, however, 4 points in as many minutes from Oran and one score from Liam Naughton left the gap at 1-07 to 0-03 at half time.

On the resumption both teams swapped points and then on 39 minutes we got a great lease of life when Jack Raftery scored a goal for the Gaels lads with a brilliant lob to claw back the score to 1-08 to 1-04. Could we push on and get closer?

However, we came away scoreless from our next 3 attacks and a dropped short free allowed the Oran lads break up the field and excellent interchange between the full forward and centre forward opened up the goal for Oran to get the clinical goal on 44 mins.

In all credit to our lads they kept at it and a key moment on 57 mins came when an excellent goal chance for the Gaels was hit narrowly wide by our wing forward Tommy Naughton. 2-08 to 1-04 down at the 2nd water break we did get the 1st point after from John McGuinness, but the strong Oran outfit hit 3 more points to our one (John McGuinness) to leave the final score at 2-11 to 1-06.

Losing a County Final is never easy however our lads can take a lot from the season gone and the experience they got will stand to them in years to come. This team has much to look forward too and maybe on another day they may have been closer to what was an excellently coached Oran/ST Croans team who in number 8 have a real talented player.

Well done to our lads, Garreth Carroll and his management team and thank you all for bringing us on an excellent enjoyable journey. We look forward

already to the coming year and supporting this great and talented bunch. You have done yourselves, your family and your Club proud. Thank you for the fun.



Above: Back at the Hyde after the Final, Minor Board Chairperson Seamus Carthy spoke to the Under 14 Team and commended them on their determination and commitment to their team and looks forward to seeing where this bunch of young lads will take the club to in the future.

Under 13/15 Car Wash Fundraiser – Boys Donate to their Friend Ella Donlon



On June 4th our Under 15 and Under 13 squads ran a Car Wash fundraiser for the club in order to raise funds for their teams. During the organising of the event it was decided by the young lads of this group that they would like to donate a portion of funds raised to their friend Ella Donlon which will go towards the purchase of specialist equipment for her.

Ella is 15 is a member of the Under 16 girls Camogie team. She has EDS which is a rare connective tissue disorder and has had years of dislocating her joints which she manages through physio and orthopaedics. Unfortunately, it is now affecting her gastro system and further complications. Ella has spent the last 11 weeks in Crumlin Children's hospital, and options are now being researched for treatment abroad to give her the best outcomes.

Speaking to Martina, Ella's mum, she stated "that Ella's hospital stay has been made much easier by all the good wishes from Roscommon and her friends in the Club and all who know her. The highlight for her has been the thoughtfulness of the Boys Under 15 team in offering a portion of their fundraising to her care. It has really made her feel special and is a great testimony to the boys and their mentors who have shown empathy towards Ella. We will always remember it". Martina went on to say that "unfortunately some of the complications mean her stay in hospital will be longer, however, she is as always, embracing it with her usual good humour and smile".

Roscommon Gaels sends it's well wishes to Ella and also to, Martina, James and family and look forward to seeing Ella home soon to Roscommon.

Pictured below presenting a Cheque of €500 to Ella's Mum Martina McGrath and sister Alannah Donlon, are members of the Under 15 Football Team, Michael Gilhooly Evan Collins, Lochlann Mulry and Jack Raftery.



Match Reports:

Round 1 O'Rourke Cup 2021

Roscommon Gaels 1-07 Clan Na Gael 0-07

Roscommon Gaels Casey's Roscommon sponsored senior footballers commenced their 2021 season with a clash against old rivals Clan Na Gael in Lisnamult on Friday last 2nd July. Before the game commenced a minute silence was observed for Ray Fallon who sadly passed away earlier in the week. Ray was a great ambassador for the Clan club and indeed the wider Roscommon GAA fraternity and will be sadly missed.

The game itself was very competitive and played in good spirit on a lovely evening for football. Our young team started well and were well in the game thanks to some excellent defending by Danny Mahon, Tim Lambe and John McManus. Clan opened the scoring when David McManus scored from a quick free. The Gaels eased into the game and in a very low scoring 1st half the big difference was a well worked goal between Brian Kelly and Mark Purcell which the latter finished brilliantly. Points from Kelly and John McManus along with Clan replying through the excellent Cathal Callinan left the half time score at 1-05 to 0-04 in our favour.

The 2nd half proved to be a cagey affair and some excellent hard work and defending kept the Clan lads at bay. It has to be said some erratic shooting by Clan did not help their cause. The Gaels lads had an opportunity to put the game out of reach but Brian Kelly's penalty rebounded from the crossbar to safety. However the work ethic of the lads and great contribution from some of the young "SuperSubs" helped us close out the game for a deserved 1-07 to 0-07 win. A fine start for this developing bunch of lads.

Western Gaels 0-10 Roscommon Gaels 1-10

Our senior footballers continued their O'Rourke cup campaign with a hard earned victory over Western Gaels played in lovely conditions in Frenchpark on Saturday last.

Western Gaels opened the scoring in the 3rd minute despite us owning the ball for long periods. Our response was swift and by the water break we led 1-02 to 0-01 thanks to a well taken penalty. The penalty award itself may have been fortunate but on general play the Gaels could have been further up but for some poor shot selection and shot execution.

Western Gaels got more out of the water break than our lads and quickly ate into our lead, levelling the scores at 1-02 to 0-05 by the 28th minute. However a quick succession of points just before half time left us leading at the break by 2 at 1-04 to

0-05 despite playing the last 10 mins with 14 men due to a black card offence.

The 2nd half was a tough affair with no quarter asked or given by both teams. Western Gaels tried desperately to get on level terms but we managed to always stay at least a point up thanks to some excellent defending and point taking under pressure. By the water break we led 1-08 to 0-09, although the scoreboard said differently. The ref consulting with his umpires amended the scoreboard to the correct score and calm was restored.

The last 10 mins was frantic with hard hits going in but our lads managed to outscore the home team by 0-02 to 0-01 to seal the victory at 1-10 to 0-10 when the ref called an end to proceedings. A good victory however maybe spoiled by injuries to some key players and we wish John McManus, Aodha and Shane a speedy recovery.



Strokestown 3-11 Roscommon Gaels 3-13

The senior footballers qualified for the league semi-final with a hard earned victory away to Strokestown. A topsy turvy opening seen our lad's race into a 1-01 to 0-02 lead but some kamikaze defending allowed Strokestown in for an easy goal to hit the front. Despite playing against a stiff breeze the Gaels lads recovered from the setback and with some excellent attacking play the soon built up a lead of 3-07 to 1-08 by half time.

Strokestown started the 2nd half much the better and goaled within a minute from the penalty spot. Indeed but for some poor shot selection they may well have had more scores. By the 2nd water break the Gaels lead had been cut to 2 points 3-11 to 3-09 again a 3rd goal as a result of sloppy work in our own defence. A worrying aspect was some injuries picked up but on a positive front the Gaels added 2 points playing with 14 men to close out the win by 3-13 to 3-11.

A nice way to end the league and build for the championship with hopefully a few injuries clearing up.

Roscommon Gaels "ACADEMY" 2021

Roscommon Gaels "Academy" got off to a flying start in June as children flocked to the Hyde to commence their first training session which is held every Thursday from 6.30-7.15pm. The Coaching Team are delighted to see that numbers have continued to grow each week as word has spread about the training. As the turn-out has been so impressive with numbers in excess of seventy children, the coaches have divided the training sessions

into boys and girls. Children begin each session with a fun warm-up to improve their agility and

coordination, such games include; "Touch The Dome," "Bridges and Rivers," "Roly Poly", "Jack in the Box", "Lateral and Linear Bounce," all of which the children thoroughly enjoy. The session then progresses on to a series of drills which the children rotate through. Once they have completed each drill, the children form a little train and navigate to the next drill at which the coach is stationary. Each session also concludes with another fun game and some light stretches.

While making each session as enjoyable as possible coaches have also been eager to introduce children to both football and hurling and to hone many key skills. Therefore, drills are carefully planned so that children get a taste for both of these games. Throughout the weeks children have



steadily been improving many skills through their engagement with aspects of each game; such as ball/hurl familiarisation, bouncing, throwing, catching, rolling, kicking and striking a sliotar. The enthusiasm and commitment of both the children and the coaches is palpable on the pitch each Thursday. The training will continue until the second week in September so it's never too late to join in the fun!

Camogie

Coach the Coaches

On Aug 6th, Tom Killion was engaged to coach some of the underage camogie coaches in a pilot 'coach the camogie coach' session. Tom has a lifetime of experience as a player, having won several minor and senior county hurling titles, including as captain, with his home club St Dominics. Tom also played for a decade with the Roscommon County Hurling team, securing an All-Ireland 'B' Title in 1994. Since joining Roscommon Gaels GAA club, Tom has been involved in coaching camogie, hurling, football and ladies football, having been a dual player himself. Tom has also been a successful dual referee and attended the Asian GAA games as referee in recent years.

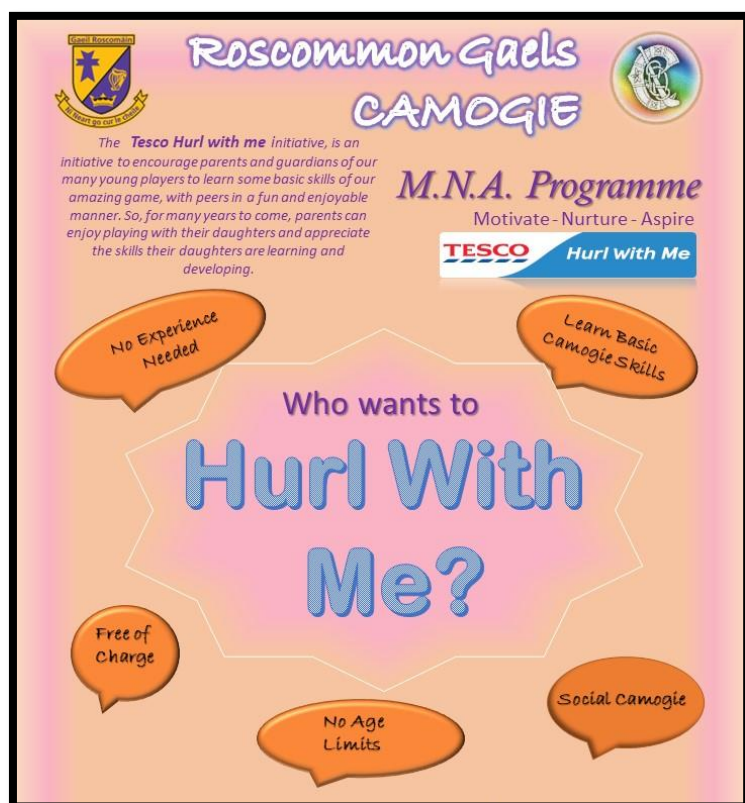
This was a very enjoyable coaching session where Tom explained to camogie coaches the importance of getting young players starting out on their playing path, to hold the hurley correctly and to learn the correct "wristy" swing of the hurley for a true and consistent puck of the ball, on the ground or in the air. When young players learn how to execute the skills correctly from the beginning, they grow in confidence, leading to seamless improvement with practice over the years that follow. Coaches at this pilot session included Joan Noone, Aimee Costello, Aisling Mannion, Brenda Hegarty and Alannah Corcoran. They were ably joined by young camogie players, Michaela, Eve, Maeve and Alannah who had great fun telling their mummies how to get it right!!!! Future sessions are planned for other underage coaches – more to follow.



Tesco Ireland 'Hurl With Me'

Our Tesco Hurl With Me 'Motivate, Nurture, Inspire' (MNA) mentors running this programme in Roscommon Gaels Camogie are Joan Noone and Lorraine Reynolds. The parents of underage players (U8 and U10) were asked to attend two Friday evening one-hour sessions in order to learn the basic skills of camogie, or to improve their existing skills. The programme was also about giving parents confidence in teaching and playing with their own daughters in a fun and social setting. Some enthusiastic parents turned up and the craic and banter was mighty. After learning and practicing the basic skills, the all important training match finished off the sessions and the competition between the parents was serious!! We could see where their daughters get their competitiveness from.

Another mentoring session will be organised for Saturday 28th August at 10am in Roscommon Community Sports Park (astro pitch). We would love as many parents as possible to attend with their daughters to play some camogie, and have lots of fun. No experience is necessary and hurleys will be provided.



U8's and U10's

Training continues on Friday evenings in Lisnamult from 6.30pm. Good numbers of players are attending regularly and have been improving their skills. Home and Away games have been on-going throughout the summer with other clubs so the girls have been able to hone their skills on the pitch.

U12's

The 'Eagles' and the 'Hawks' have been performing well in the U12 competition and have played a number of games to date. The finals day will be held on 18th September and our two fabulous U12 teams will be there. Discussions are underway at present at county board level on how to re-create the annual Camán to Croker/Camán to Connaught events in County Roscommon this year and perhaps enhance the U12 finals day. More to come on this.

U14's

This team has gone from strength to strength this year with 3 wins against Four Roads, Oran, Tulsk and 1 draw in a cracking game with St Dominics in the Féile championship. Pdraig Pearses conceded and we have with two games left to play against Athleague and Boyle, the Gaels are well placed to do well in this competition. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the usual national Féile competition will be run differently this year as a standalone U15 blitz day in each county. These events will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the National Féile Championship on 21st August which is a weeks away! Roscommon Gaels will be represented and there is a bit of work to do yet to get fully prepared. Venue to be confirmed.

U16's

Our U16 camogie girls have played two championship games to date. They overcame Four Roads in style in the first round and despite a cracking game of camogie against a very evenly matched St Dominics team last week, our girls lost by a single point. Next up is Pdraig Pearses in Lisnamult Saturday 07/08/2021 at 12pm.

U18's

The minor competition was divided into two groups with Roscommon Gaels playing and narrowly losing both their round games against Four Roads and Oran. However, we have been seeded in a C' final which will be played in September hopefully.

Adult team – Our adult camogie team has been performing well to date. This is the first year that we have entered the Adult Summer League and the Junior Championship will begin later in September. The girls played Athleague twice to date, once in a challenge and once in the League, and prevailed on both occasions. A fantastic game of camogie was had with Oran a couple of weeks ago where the Gaels women led for much of the game but the experience of Oran won out in the end. This was a brilliant performance by our team

considering that Oran regraded as a club en masse last year from Senior camogie level. Oran won the Junior A in 2020 with Roscommon Gaels winning the Junior A in 2019. The girls have to pick up a game with Four Roads which was postponed due to Covid contacts and are down to play St Dominics next week.



County Camogie News

U14

We have a strong representation from the Gaels on the County U14 squad, with a huge focus on development at this age group, and training and matches are continuing. Our own U14 coaches Lizzie Glennon-Tully and Teresa Hession are assisting with county management.

U16

Roscommon Gaels had a number of girls on the County U16 squad which reached the All-Ireland Final against Westmeath a couple of weeks ago, while Bernie Mulry assisted the county management team. Ava Mulry, Martha McSharry, Alannah Sutton, Grace Geraghty, Emma Hough, Ciara Killeen, Jennifer Morris and Eve McNeill all represented our Club proudly. Ava, Alannah and Jennifer entered the field of play in the All-Ireland Final with Ava scoring two important points when she came on. This was one of the best camogie matches seen in some time between two evenly matched sides. The match was played in Birr during Ireland's heatwave and the temperature was high all day in a close contest between these two teams. A heart-breaking late goal clinched it for Westmeath. The final score was Westmeath 1-1; Roscommon 0-3.

U18

Eimear O Farrell, Ellen Beisty, Claire McNeill, Mikayla Martin, Niamh Kelly and Ava Mulry represent the Gaels on the County Minor camogie. They had their first outing last Sunday against a strong Meath team and this Sunday they will play Kerry in Dr Hyde Park. There will remain two

games to play before placings for the final will be decided. Our U18 manager Sean Mulry is assisting the county U18 management team.

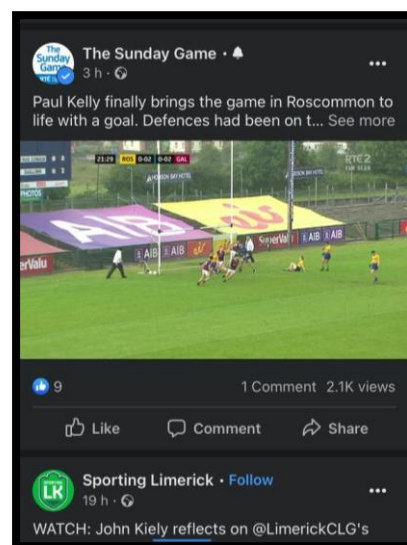
Junior

It is wonderful to have strong representation on the County adult camogie team also with Lisa Mullen, Niamh Madden, Mia Fallon, Colleen Kelly and Katie Nugent. These girls provide leadership at club level to the other girls. The team performed well in the National League, reaching the Final against a much stronger Cavan side. The girls prevailed in the first round of the Championship against Kildare a couple of weeks ago but in a tight game against Clare in Dr Hyde Park last weekend, the team narrowly lost out on honours.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Siobhan Cullen Harlow who was the winner of €500 in the recent club fundraiser Lucky First Goal run by the Club's underage sector.

Well done to Siobhan who is pictured below with her children Tommy and Sally May.



Ladies Football

Ladies Junior League Semi Final 2021

Roscommon Gaels Ladies Junior team played Clann na nGael Junior team in the Division 4 Semi Final last Sunday 8th August in Lisnamult.

This team has had a great run through the league with some big wins and just one loss placing them second in group A, and into a semi-final against Clann na nGael who finished first in group B.

The Semi Final was a well contested game between two fit and determined teams. Both sets of defenders put in a great performance making it difficult to win scores, but Roscommon Gaels managed to get a good start with a goal. Roscommon Gaels attackers maintained a lead right through the game by taking a direct route and scoring another 3 goals, Clann levelling the scores only once. The third quarter saw our ladies pull away but in the last 10 minutes of the game - Clann pressed hard and scored a number of points reducing the margin to only one. In this quarter they made a number of attempts to get behind the Roscommon Gaels defence with goals on their mind, but we were well organised and with a determined defence worked hard and smart to stop them.

A great win by our Ladies Junior team who have made significant progress over the past year.

The Final will most likely be played at 7pm this Sunday against St Dominics. It is scheduled to be in Knockcroghery, to be confirmed...if you are free please come and support this great panel of players.

Final score: Roscommon Gaels 4 02 Clann na nGael 2 07



All Stars

All Stars continues on Friday evenings at 5.45pm with great numbers in attendance at the Astro Turf in Lisnamult. A few sessions had to be cancelled recently due to weather conditions. We look forward to hopefully being back indoors in the near future so there can be no interruptions.



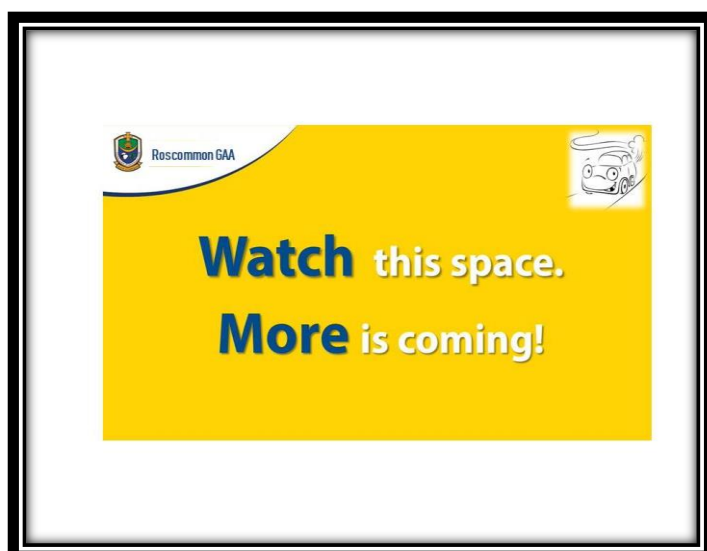
Other News

Roscommon County Board will be launching a fundraiser for all Clubs in the County to participate in in the coming weeks. The first prize will be a car!

All tickets sold by Roscommon Gaels, allows the club to retain the proceeds from those ticket sales.

Tickets will be : €10 for 1 or €20 for 3

More details to follow in the coming weeks.....



County Representatives

It has been a very busy number of weeks for our [#roscommongaelsreps](#) at County Level in all Codes. Some of the teams have experienced great moments and others are on the way to more. The Club is extremely proud of everyone who puts on the Primrose and Blue representing Roscommon Gaels GAA.



Above: DJ Hession, Rory Carthy, Ethan O'Reilly, Senan Lambe and Ryan Conlon who all played with the County Minor U17 Connacht Final.



Above: Eimer Farrell in Action against Meath.



Above: Ava Mulry, Jennifer Morris, Emma Hough, Eve McNeill, Ciara Killeen, Grace Geraghty, Allanah Sutton, Martha McSharry U16 Camogie



Above: Roscommon Gaels representatives on Roscommon County Minor Camogie panel who defeated Kerry in the Hyde on Sunday Aug 8th: Clare McNeill, Ava Mulry, Emer o Farrell, Mikayla Martin and Ellen Biesty.



Left: Joe O'Malley who will tog out with Roscommon next Sunday at Croke Park. The very best of Luck to team and Management Joey!

Below: David Hough, James Connolly, DJ Hession, Ethan Reilly, Jack Fleming, who were park of the successful Roscommon U17 Celtic Challenge Cup



Below: Aaron Shannon and Ryan Conlon who were members of the successful Under 20's team 2020/2021



Below: Siofra Hession and Amy Winston, Under 14 Roscommon Team.



Also, Finn Killion, Kevin Glynn, Sean Tully and Dean Conlon who were part of the Roscommon U20 Team (Photo Unavailable)

Also, Sarah Purcell, Alannah Sutton, Emma Hough, Shauna Walsh in Roscommon U16 Ladies Football (Photo Unavailable)

Also, James Fetherstone Goalkeeper with Roscommon Senior Panel 2021 (Photo Unavailable)



Far Left: Richard Hughes
Left: Peter Gillooly
Members of the Roscommon Senior Panel 2021