



ROSCOMMON GAELS

Gaelforce News

March - April 2022



Club Social Night

It's been a few weeks now since our Club Social Event took place in the Abbey Hotel and reflecting on the night itself, it is safe to say everyone present thoroughly enjoyed the evening out. The floor boards on the Dance Floor of the function room were definitely hot by the end of the evening from the mighty presence on it by our young and older members of the club. It was a joy to see our young players attend the evening and soak up the celebration that was arranged on their behalfs. The Special Guest of the evening Galway Footballer Shane Walsh was a delight to listen to as he spoke to debuting MC for the evening Noel Fallon. Shane had the audience locked-in to his explanations of how he as a youngster set out his stall from a very young age, and how his regard for an old mentor from local village Creggs has remained with him to this day.



Pictured Above: Club Chairperson Philip Mullen gets proceedings underway at Club Social Event.

As well as Medal Presentations, the return of the Annual Club Awards was included in the event where the following award recipients were in attendance to receive.

Hall of Fame:	John O'Gara
Club Person of the Year:	Peter Mullen
Senior Footballer of the Year:	Mark Healy (absent)
Senior Hurler of the Year:	Kenny Doolin
Ladies Footballer of the Year:	Annie McNally
Camogie Player of the Year:	Emily Comiskey
Junior Footballer of the Year:	Connor Doolin
Young Hurler of the Year:	Finn Killion

In addition to the official Club Awards, the following Awards were also presented to Lady Footballers:

U. 19 Team 1 Player of the Year: Carragh Kennedy

U. 19 Team 2 Player of the Year: Zara Fallon

Thanks to the organising group who pulled the event together. Seamus Carthy, Ollie Moran, David Waldron, Nicola Crosbie, Cahal Mahon, Finbar O'Reilly and Orla Fleming.

Surprised Peter Mullen Accepts Club Person of the Year Award

Club member Peter Mullen was announced at the Roscommon Gaels GAA Club Person of the Year 2021. Peter joined the club from Tremane in the early 2000's. With his 3 children playing hurling, football and camogie he became involved with the club from the start and was appointed one of the children's officers to the club executive, a post he held for several years. He also held the position as club secretary along the way and following that he became part of the pitch maintenance team and can be regularly seen, with his dog Charlie close by, in Lisnamult and the Hyde training pitch cutting the pitches and tidying up. He is currently a selector with the senior hurling team. He also has been known to referee the odd game.





Club Person of the Year, Peter Mullen with family.



The Doolin Family at the Club Social Event on March 16th. Both Connor and Kenny received Player of the Year Awards for 2021 in Junior Football and Senior Hurling.

Club says Thank You to Chairperson T. Hession

Orla Fleming, PRO Roscommon Gaels, presented outgoing Chairperson Teresa Hession with a token of gratitude from the Club for her commitment and dedication to the role she played as Chairperson. MC Noel Fallon stated how in her years of tenureship she had been the spine of Roscommon Gaels GAA Club. He also mentioned that “she will always be one to shy away from credit and pass it on to the team around her, however, if it was not for her sheer devotion to the role she played as Chairperson of the Club and how she motivates the people around her – would we have what we see here in our Club today? So thank you Teresa, from everyone in the Club for all your time that you gave.”



Pictured Above: Club PRO, Orla Fleming presents bouquet of flowers to outgoing Chairperson Teresa Hession.

Teresa was also presented with token gift from the Camogie Board of the Club acknowledging her recent work with the All Ireland Camogie Winners from Roscommon Convent. Teresa was prominent part of the success with the team of which Roscommon Gaels had a large number of representatives.

Sponsorship

Big thanks to the Abbey Hotel who, prior to the Minor Footballer's Division 1 Final back in November, kindly sponsored the teams shorts for the final. Thanks to Adrian and the Greally family for their generous contribution to the group of lads.

Pictured Below at the Club's Social Night on March 16th Shane Walsh Galway Footballer, Seamus Carthy, Adrian Greally and Kevin McStay.



Easter Weekend Monster Car Wash Charity and Club Fundraiser

Roscommon Gaels GAA Club will be running a Monster Car Wash charity and club fundraiser on April 15th and 16th at the Hyde Centre Athlone Road, Roscommon. Of the proceeds raised, 20% will be donated to the Ukraine Appeal for Refugees located at Cuisle Centre, Donamon. Club Development Officer, Adrian Tully advised that as part of the fundraiser it seemed fit to contribute to the Ukraine Appeal - something that is so close to us in our locality. We are delighted to welcome Ukrainians into our community and anything that we as a club can do to make their stay comfortable we will be happy to help".

The Monster Car Wash will be managed on the days by the Senior and Underage Hurling and Football sides of the club. There plans to be a number of car washing stations with many hands on sponges to make your car shine. The Car wash will be part of a couple of events taking place in the Club over the Easter Bank Holiday weekend. We will have a number of our young underage boys and girls marching in the Easter Parade on Easter Sunday also, so a busy weekend for everyone.

Pictured below, ready with their mops, at the Car Wash launch in Lisnamult: Adrian Tully, Club Development Officer, Francie Hoare, Peter Mullen, Ronan O'Meara and Frankie Dolan.



Hurling

Under 7's

Roscommon Gaels U7 hurling (for boys born 2015) runs every Monday evening at the **grounds in Lisnamult @ 6:30pm from April 11th**

We welcome all new & returning players to the club.

Never played hurling before? Come along to one of our training sessions where we have a limited number of spare hurls & helmets and give it a go!

We also sell new hurls & helmets through the club at cost price.

Your U7 manager for 2022 is Fintan Doyle. If you would like more information or wish to be added to the U7 communication group, please contact Fintan :

086 1990930



Pictured Above: First Day Back and lots of smiles for our Under 7 Hurling stars.

Under 11's

U11 hurling returned after the winter sessions in April on the Astro. Great numbers attended and great times were had reminding each other of the skills we have and found.

Training continues on Wednesdays & alternative Sundays with plenty of matches to look forward to in coming weeks.



Our Under 11's stretching back into sessions.

Football

Under 11's

The Under 11 Footballers had their first blitz of the season on Sunday March 27th against St. Brigid's GAA. On a glorious sunny morning, we fielded three teams of mixed abilities. There were 29 players in total which is a fantastic number to have in the group. Some really good fundamental skills were displayed during the three games. Lots more to do and more games to be played. We encourage all parents to take note of messages in relation to skills being practiced at training week by week and to encourage the boys to continue to practice when at home.

Pictures Below: Action from the Under 11 Blitz on Sunday April 3rd at Lisnamult



Under 15's

The Under 15 (Division 4) Footballers travelled up to Padraig Pearses on Thursday evening last, March 31st to begin their League journey of the season. The game started off with both sides competing on an even keel for the ball scoring points alternatively. The evening was baltic cold for the spectators, however, events heated up in the second half of the game when our lads switched up a gear and pulled away from the home side. Great displays of football from all players on the evening.

The Division 1 Team start their league fixtures on April 7th versus Elphin/Ballinameen in Orchard Park, Elphin. Best of Luck to all the team. Training continues for all Under 15's in Lisnamult every Tuesday evening at 6.45 pm to 8.18 pm.



Under 17's

Season Update

The first phase of the 2022 season came to an end on Monday 4th April when we beat Clann na nGael in the final round of the Division 1 County League. The team finished an honourable 2nd Place in a league comprising of six (6) teams. We won four (4) games and lost one (1) to the winners St. Dominic's – congrats to them.

It was a most enjoyable six (6) weeks of meetings, training, practise, and games. With a panel of 26, it took a little while for management to get to know everybody and get to see everybody play. The league was great for this and going forward, we certainly have a very good idea of who we have, their abilities and commitment and where we can start from come the championship next July.

Results of the games played:

- Challenge Game: well-beaten by a terrific St. Aidan's team who are in Division 2 but played so well on the night
- Round 1: Beat Padraig Pearses in Woodmont
- Round 2: Lost to St. Dominic's in Lisnamult
- Round 3: Beat Michael Glavey's in Lisnamult
- Round 4: Beat Western Gaels in Lisnamult
- Round 5: Beat Clann na nGael in Johnstown

Looking ahead to the championship season, we will meet soon to chat through our championship plans and see what can be done. We certainly feel we will be competitive and anticipate a defiant defence of our title.

Currently the championship is planned to be played between 6th July and early October which we are not very happy about as the championship season is simply too long, especially when you consider we will play a maximum of 7 games if we can reach the final; three months to play 7 games is deemed way to long and leaves little space for family time and holidays. We are in discussions with Roscommon Minor Board to see what can be done to improve matters.

Team Wellbeing

Management and team together have had open discussions recently about the tragic loss of any young life, and, in particular the star Sligo footballer, Red Og Murphy. The boys know that they are very much part of what we, as a Club and team management are trying to do, what we are trying to create. The point we continue to want them to know is that it is 'good to

talk' and no matter the circumstances they can always contact us, day or night to chat things through.

Under the 'Just a Minute' initiative from GAA HQ (sponsored by Uachtarán CLCG) management of the Under 17's initiated a conversation with our players about the importance of showing respect to women and girls and calling out unacceptable behaviour. This initiative is inspired by the aftermath of the murder of Ashling Murphy in Offaly last January.

Essentially, it has been underlined the importance of always demonstrating respect for women and girls. We want everyone to demonstrate respect towards women, and to be leaders amongst our peers by calling out any disrespectful behaviour or language towards women or girls that is come across.

Many thanks to the parents who have turned up to support their boys and indeed help with lifts, umpire duties, washing of jerseys and so on. It is very much appreciated. Keep an eye out here for future plans of the championship and other news for our Under 17 Footballer's camp.



Football Success for the CBS

We cannot let it pass and not congratulate the CBS Roscommon on the recent success they have had winning Junior B Colleges Connacht Championships and the first years winning the First Year B Connacht Championship. Both teams defeating the same school Calasanctius College, Oranmore. Roscommon Gaels had a large representation on both teams. Well done to all.



kick into life in the second half to edge to VICTORY!
Well done to all the girls. A good start to the season.



Ladies Football

Under 8's

Under 8 Girls Football will start back to their training sessions on Tuesday May 3rd at 6.30 p.m. in Lisnamult. Make sure to have registered with the Club before starting back.

Under 10's

Under Girls Football is starting back on Thursday, April 21st from 6.30pm to - 7.30pm on the back pitch in Lisnamult continuing every Thursday thereafter. Please ensure all players are registered to play in advance on www.foireann.ie and remember gum shields and water bottles.

Under 12's

The U-12's girls "Purple team" took to the pitch against St. Croan's today while the "Yellow team" had one last training session before their first match. The U-12's "Purple team" were slow off the mark but started to

*Above: The Under 12 Girls "Purple" Team
And Laura Burke & Muireann Mulry giving a hand to
the coaches*

Under 14's

U14 ladies training commenced on Sunday the 6th of March, at the moment we have a panel of 30 girls. Training takes place on Sunday mornings at 11.00am at the Hyde training pitch and Thursday at 7.00pm in Lisnamult.

There are 2 team's entered for league and championship with the league commencing on the 28th of April. New players welcome, contact Michael Burke on 086 8291271

Under 16's

The U16's had their first outing of the league on 27th March v St. Barry's GAA. We were missing a few girls due to clashing with the Camogie All Ireland Final. A special mention to Allana Sutton who was on the minor panel and came back to play in the 2nd half ! Thank

you Allana. It was a tough battle from start to finish with Barrys coming out on top.

Our 2nd match of the league was last on Thursday March 31st in Johnstown against Clan nan Gael. Our ladies shifted gear in last quarter, however, as the old cliché says, "if there had been another 5 minutes we would have came away with game". Next game is Thursday April 7th against St. Brigid's in Kiltoom. Best of Luck Ladies.

Our 2nd u16 team played St Ciaran's on Monday in Lisnamult Both teams could not be separated in ability and the final score ended up at Roscommon Gaels 0-08 St. Ciaran's 2-02



Junior Football

Our Junior Ladies played their first game of the League and of 2022 last Sunday against Oran narrowly losing out by a goal in what was a great game of football - result: Oran 3-08 v Roscommon Gaels 1-11. The ladies face Northern Harps at Ballinameen on Sunday 10th of April in the 2nd round of adult league. Junior Ladies and U19 Ladies train on a Thursday evening and a Sunday morning. All welcome.

Club Representatives at County Level

Well done to the Roscommon U16s team on April 6th, securing a good win in the first round of the Connacht Championship. Roscommon 2-10 Mayo 1-07. Wins like this v Mayo don't happen too often and nobody knows this better than manager Roscommon Gaels man Declan Walsh. Well done to these brilliant footballers - a talented bunch of girls they are and to their coaches well done. Roscommon Gaels reps Shauna Walsh who scored 1-02, Siofra Hession who also scored 1-02, Martha McSharry, Eve McNeill and Emma Hough. Declan Walsh Manager and Michelle Hughes Walsh Selector and Flo. Next up the ladies play Galway on Wednesday 13th it's a home game with venue yet tbc.

The Club also congratulates Eadoin Walsh and Ellen Biesty on their selection to the County Minor Team

Congratulations to Roscommon Intermediate ladies on their fantastic league win on Sunday last. Pictured is Roscommon Pro/Roscommon Gaels Ladies Secretary with captain Laura Fleming and Vice captain Helena Cummins after their epic win.



We also send our congratulations to Eve Biesty who lined out for DCU, winning the Division 6 league title and getting popped in the O'Connor cup semi final v UCC. Massive Congrats Eva. Ladies HEC Division 6 Football Final Full-time DCU (6) 4-4 TUD CC (2) 0-9



Above: Roscommon Gaels contingent with County Under 16 Ladies Footballers Declan Walsh Manager Emma Hough Shauna Walsh Siofra Hession Martha McSharry Eve McNeill and Michelle Hughes Walsh selector & FLO



Above: Shauna Walsh Roscommon Gaels who captains the County Under 16 Ladies Footballers. Well done Shauna.

Camogie

In early March, the Convent of Mercy Senior Camogie Team became All Ireland Champions when they beat St. Aloysius, Carrigtowhill after a terrific battle and a victory of 3- 6 to 1-8. A historic occasion for the school and to all the girls involved with the team. Roscommon Gaels had a large number of representatives on the team as-well as their management, Teresa Hession.



Celebrations at the Hyde for the returning All Ireland Champions returning to town.

Under 14's

Our u14 campaign got off to a rocky start last Tuesday in Lisnamult V St. Dominic's. With some more hard work to do and some fine tuning we look forward to a positive campaign for this group.

Below Pictured is Roberta Hanily getting the pitch ready for the Under 14's first game out of the year. Good Woman Roberta !!



Under 16's

The U16 Camogie team began their Championship with a game against Oran. They led going into half time but Oran pulled away in second half.

Next game is planned against St. Domnics. With 7 matches to play this team will build in strength and fight for their place in a final in May.



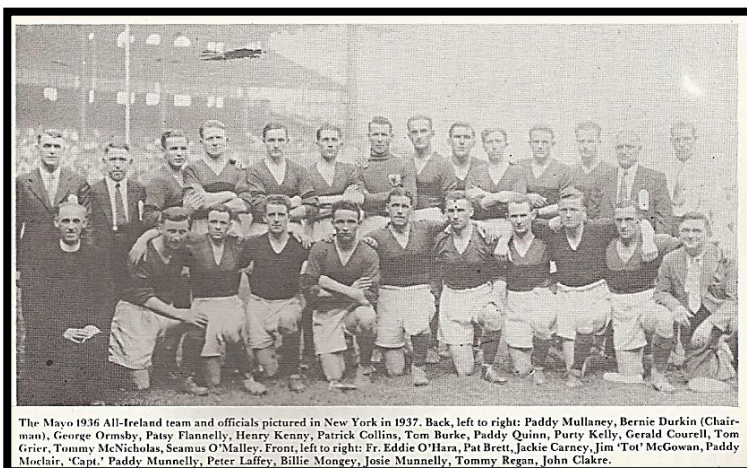
The History of the Lough (cont.)

From 1904 to the late 1920's, in addition to the Lough, there were many other playing fields also used in the locality for Gaelic games. However, a group of locals acquired a section of the Lough grounds from the Irish Land Commission for games in 1926 and it was officially opened 10 years later in **1936** as the County's premier venue. For 36 years, until Dr. Hyde Park opened, it became a place of renown that played host to legendary players and famous games. It evokes special memories for many people, players and fans.

In **July 1936** the Lough hosted the first of many **Connacht finals**. Mayo v Galway ended in a draw which attracted **20,000** people. The replay was also played here.

And then, in August 1936, St Coman's Park hosted its **first ever All Ireland Football Semi Final** – a Minor and Senior double header between Mayo and Kerry, which attracted over 12,000 spectators. Kerry won the Minor while Mayo were victorious in the Senior by 1-5 to 0-6, ultimately going on **to win their first All-Ireland Football title**.

Photo of the first victorious All-Ireland Senior Mayo team, who won their All Ireland Semi-final in Roscommon's historic grounds, St. Coman's Park / the Lough, in 1936.



The Mayo 1936 All-Ireland team and officials pictured in New York in 1937. Back, left to right: Paddy Mullaney, Bernie Durkin (Chairman), George Ormsby, Patsy Flannelly, Henry Kenny, Patrick Collins, Tom Burke, Paddy Quinn, Purty Kelly, Gerald Courell, Tom Grier, Tommy McNicholas, Seamus O'Malley. Front, left to right: Fr. Eddie O'Hara, Pat Brett, Jackie Carney, Jim 'Tot' McGowan, Paddy Moclair, 'Capt.' Paddy Munnelly, Peter Laffey, Billie Mongey, Josie Munnelly, Tommy Regan, John Clarke.

Scór na nÓg

A packed Elphin Community Centre hosted the County Final of Scór na nÓg on Saturday, 12th March. With coveted county titles at stake and a chance to represent Roscommon at the Connacht final the atmosphere and buzz in the hall were electric. Competitors on the night had qualified from an earlier qualifying round and Roscommon Gaels was very well represented with 2 dancing groups, 2 competitors in the recitation event, 2 quiz teams and 3 music groups. The competition was of very high standard and our instrumental music group comprising of Shauna Hynes (flute), William Godfrey (fiddle), Laurence O'Connor (tin whistle), Cormac Fleming (button accordion and guitar) & Diarmuid Fleming (banjo) won county honours with their playing of 'An Ghaoth Aneas' and 'Humours of Glendart'.

On April 2nd the group went on to represent the county at the Connacht Final in the Town Hall Theatre, Ballinasloe. Unfortunately the group were not successful at prize level, however as first time participants in the competition as well as being the youngest participants in the category, the experience gained was prize worthy in itself. This was an excellent achievement for this very young group of musicians. Their teamwork, musicianship, confidence and competence were praised highly by the team of judges.

Our quiz team of Simone Carroll, Diarmuid Fleming, Séamie Carthy and William Godfrey came second in the Tráth na gCeist (quiz) competition. Nine teams took part in this competition with Quizmaster Paddy McDermott (Cavan) putting the youngsters through their paces with Kilglass Gaels emerging as winners. We were very pleased with this result. All of our young competitors represented their club excellently. We look forward to our continued involvement in Scór na nÓg.



Pictured Above: Brian Carroll, Secretary Roscommon GAA with Roscommon Gaels Scór Instrumental Group Cormac Fleming, Shauna Hynes, William Godfrey, Laurence O'Connor and Diarmuid Fleming who represented the County at Connacht Scór na nÓg.



Easter Parade

Our Underage Players across the Club are been sought after to come out in their new Casey's Kit and/or Roscommon Gaels colours on Easter Sunday and march up the town in the name of the Club. The Easter Parade is always a spectacular event in the town. 2022 marks the 50th Year of the parade, and the theme announced for this year is "My Community". This theme sits very well with Roscommon Gaels and the hugely positive impact our club brings to the community of Roscommon Town. Hence, we are looking for as many parents & kids to come along on Easter Sunday. Contact Seamus O'Neill on 086-8688129 for further enquiries.

No More Single Use Plastic

At a recent meeting of the Club Executive, it was agreed that Roscommon Gaels, as part of the GAA Green Clubs Programme would ban the use of Single Use Plastic Bottles at GAA sessions and games alike. The Gaelic Games Associations are founded on the principles of respect and community – a respect not only for each other but also for the land on which we live; a community defined not only by its individuals but also by its links to place, to heritage and to the natural and built environment

With the support of the Chairpersons of the 4 Codes in the Club, all teams have now been communicated to and requested to communicate the message to parents and players not to bring plastic bottles to matches or to training. Visiting clubs will also be communicated this message and requested to consider our policy when visiting our grounds.

Single-use plastic products (SUPs) are used once, or for a short period of time, before being thrown away. The impacts of this plastic waste on the environment and our health are global and can be drastic.

We look forward to the support of parents and players in implementing this initiative.

Don't Forget

