

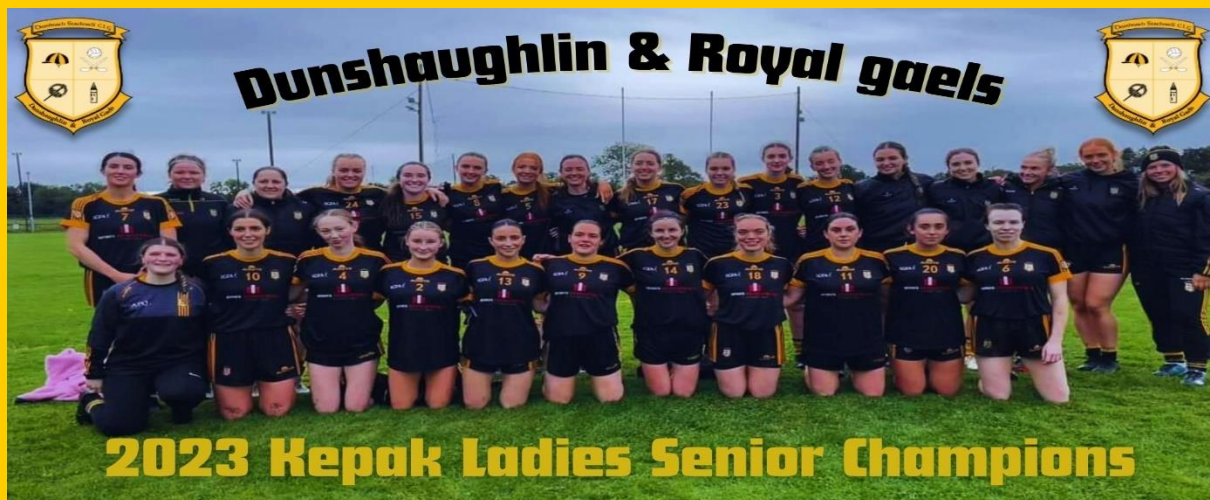


# Dunshaughlin & Royal Gaels

Tuarascál Bhliantiúil 2023

Annual Report 2023

7.30pm 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023



## **Clár**

1. Adoption of Standing Orders
2. Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting
3. Secretary's Annual Report
4. Financial Report
5. Chairperson's Address
6. Ratification
7. Election of Presidents, Officers, and Members of the Executive Committee
8. Motions
9. Other Business

## Tuaraisc an Rúnaí

### Reamhrá

After the great success last year in winning the Men's Intermediate focus switched to our return to Senior ranks and whilst the league was disappointing and resulted in relegation from Division 1 we regrouped well for a great championship run only to be thwarted by a last minute goal against defending champions Ratoath in a tense Quarter final. Significant progress has been made and we look forward to a successful season next year. Many thanks to the management team, players and sponsors for giving us plenty to cheer about and we face the future with optimism and hope to build on the strong foundations in place.

Pride of place goes to our Senior Ladies' team who captured the Joe Breen cup for the first time avenging their defeat in last year's final against St Peter's Dunboyne in a comprehensive victory. A well-deserved win was due reward for all the hard work the players and management put in over the year. Whilst we lost to a strong Kilmacud Crokes team in the Leinster championship we look forward to continued success with plenty of young talent in the club coming through the underage ranks. Whilst the Meath Senior Ladies couldn't repeat their success of the previous two years Niamh O Sullivan, Niamh Gallogly and Méadhbh Byrne continued to represent the club and we are all proud of their achievements.

While the Meath men's team exited the Sam Maguire championship early they quickly switched their attention to the Tailteann cup and after a great display in the final against Down they brought home the first national silverware in a long time and congratulations to Mathew Costello on being named Taliteann Cup player of the year and also to Conor Gray for his place on the team of the year. Great to see their dedication and hard work being rewarded. Maith sibh go léir.

Congratulations to those from our club who represented the county at u20 level this year: Fursey Blake, Conor Gray, Ruairí Kinsella, John McDonagh, Aaron Murphy, Charlie O' Connor.

Our Club Lotto provides a regular income each week which helps in our budget planning for the year but with only 18% of the membership actively contributing we would like to see more people help out and hope to have an initiative in the new year to increase sales.

## **Adult Men's Teams**

### Men's Senior Team

Management team: Richie Kealy, Paul Curran, Fergus Clancy, T.P. Toolan, Tom Clarke

Training began in January with a combination of gym and astro sessions, which were very well attended. The season kicked into gear with the Feis Cup competition in February, where we were drawn in a group with St. Colmcilles, Gaeil Colmcilles and Senechalstown.

Early March saw the league campaign begin in Division 1A, following promotion in 2022. Stepping up to this level was always going to be a challenge without so many frontline players. The Black and Amber came out on top in the first game away to Ashbourne but unfortunately, we had to wait for our next two victories against Wolfe Tones and Trim. A couple of narrow defeats to Skryne and Gaeil Colmcilles unfortunately resulted in relegation. There were 35 different players used in the 1A league.

All eyes turned towards the Senior Championship as we were drawn in Group A with Donaghmore Ashbourne, Curraha and Na Fianna. First up was a trip to Ratoath against Donaghmore and as we came to expect from all the group games, there was little to separate the two teams with the Black and Amber coming out on top by the minimum. Unfortunately, a serious injury captain Niall Murphy ended his season prematurely, but the team would have to fight on. A fortnight later the 11<sup>th</sup> of August the opposition proved to be equally stiff from Na Fianna and once again Richie's young charges were victorious which left the team on the brink of qualification for the knock-out stages but also wary that with the way the group was poised other results could put us in difficulty. Another serious injury ended the year for the unfortunate Conor Gray. The final group game was a cagey affair against Curraha in Ardcath with Dunshaughlin coming out on top in a low scoring game by a solitary point. With a quarter-final to prepare for, all ears waited for the draw to be made. Our reward for topping the group was a local derby with reigning champions Ratoath in Ashbourne. After a titanic physical effort on the night and some wonderful play in the second half, hearts were broken in injury time with a goal that brought the curtain down on the season. The disappointment of the players, management and supporters was palpable but following a tough league campaign the performances in the Championship were excellent. There were 25 different players used in Championship 2023

A special thanks to Sean Gaughan who unfortunately due to injury had to stop contact sports just before the Championship, but when asked, kindly helped with the Video analysis for the rest of the session.

Thanks to Adam Summerville and Jack Hetherington on Stats, Tommy Brennan and his Physio Team for the injury prevention and recovery. Thanks to Fergus Clancy for his help on all the medical and injury side of things.

A special thanks to Ciaran Clusker and Adrian Toolan for their amazing S&C and fitness work over the last 2 years with this group. Their training is having such a positive effect on all the players and can be clearly seen on the pitch and their work has already started for the 2024 session.

We would like to thank our kind sponsor Lorraine Heskin and the Gourmet Food Parlour for their generosity in providing food to the Senior squad after training sessions throughout the championship and this is a great source of recovery but the social benefits to the group, bonding and chatting and enjoying each other's company after the sessions is superb. To Declan Lawless and Lawless's Bar for sponsoring the Ice Baths for recovery.

Thanks to the pitch committee, Ger Reid, Alan O'Dwyer and Declan Bannon and Frank Gallogly for all their help throughout the year and thanks to all the management involved with the second and third teams. As a Club we can look forward with great hope for this team in 2024.

### Men's 2<sup>nd</sup> Team 2023

Management team: Kevin Kealy, Ronan Finnegan, Alan O'Dwyer, Paul Sheehy

Our league campaign was always going to be a tough ask having achieved promotion in 2022 to the third tier of league football in the county. League games for our first team in Division 1A were scheduled for the same time as our second team in Division 2A. This stretched our resources quite thinly as most games were played without county players. The league kicked off in early March and concluded on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May. We must commend the players for making themselves available for many tough trips and fulfilling all eleven fixtures. Our solitary win came at the end against Kilmainham and was preceded by very competitive games against Ballivor, Ashbourne, Drumbaragh, Dunsany and Nobber.

The pre-season competition saw us drawn against St. Patricks, Skryne and Senechalstown in Reserve Cup Div.1. The three games were played in February and provided an opportunity to get game time early in the season. Games were competitive and saw us beat St. Patricks at home, lose narrowly to neighbours Skryne and losing to a strong Yellow Furze outfit.

As the summer approached, preparations were underway for the Championship. The Premier Div.1 championship has been a competitive competition for the past few seasons and this year proved no different. Narrow victories over Skryne, Ratoath and Trim set up a semifinal in a replay of last year's final with Ashbourne. With the home advantage possibly proving pivotal we came out on top by the minimum and set our sights once again on headquarters against Ratoath. On a difficult day for scoring, we came out the wrong side of a tight game and suffered the disappointment of a single point defeat.

Playing a final in Navan is a great opportunity for players and the nature of a championship second team competition means there are changes and uncertainties as the games come and go. Despite the disappointment of losing the final we feel the consistency of the team will mean we will be ready to go again next year. The second team provides games at a meaningful level for players and will hopefully continue to provide competition and development opportunities for our players.

Many thanks to our pitch committee for the excellent facilities made available right through the season. Thank you to Richie and the first team management and Paul Murphy and the third team management for all the help, support and cooperation in 2023.

### Men's 3<sup>rd</sup> team 2023.

Management team: Paul Murphy, Jim Mitchell, Seamus Traynor, Andy Byrne.

The mens 3<sup>rd</sup> team got the season off to a great start, winning the pre-season comp. Having qualified for the semi-final (without having kicked a ball), we beat Donaghmore Ashbourne 3.08 – 1.09 to set up a home final v Cortown. 29 togged out for the final, with 28 of them playing a part in the game which we won by 0.15 – 1.07,

We then moved into our championship playing in the Premier 6 Division. Which consisted of primarily 3<sup>rd</sup> teams. The 8 team group was extremely competitive throughout. Although we only won 2 games, we competed well in all games.

Gael Colmcille 1.07 Dunshaughlin 2.03

Dunshaughlin 1.05, Navan o Mahonys 2.11

Dunshaughlin 1.09, Trim 1.12

Simonstown 1.06, Dunshaughlin 1.09

Dunshaughlin 1.03, Skryne 0.13

S/Hill 0.07, Dunshaughlin 3.19

Dunshaughlin 2.04, Ratoath 2.08.

With a break of a few weeks, we turned our focus to the league (Reserve Cup Division 2) The group consisted of 4 teams with the top team qualifying for a semi-final. With Trim withdrawing from the competition, this left Gael Colmcille, Summerhill and ourselves to fight **it out**. After drawing our game v Gael Colmcille, it left us with a must win game v S/Hill. Unfortunately, it didn't go our way and brought our season to a close.

Dunshaughlin 2.10, Gael Colmcille 2.10

Summerhill 2.15, Dunshaughlin 1.09

Attendance at training was very poor having approx 10 no. At every session. However when we merged with the 2<sup>nd</sup> team, mid-way through the summer, the lads got some good training sessions in.

We were heavily reliant on 2<sup>nd</sup> team players to field this year and our thanks to Kevin Kealy and Paul Sheehy for facilitating us.

We only played a total of 11 games this year and played our last game on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August. We would also like to thank Ciaran Clusker for all his help during the year providing athletic development programmes and organising Gym sessions

We must thank the County Board for the much-improved Premier 6 Championship. It was extremely competitive all round and hopefully will keep the same for next year, having only 3<sup>rd</sup> teams in the group.

Look forward to seeing you all in 2024.

### U19A Championship

Management Team: Alan O' Dwyer, Trevor Lynch, Paul Murphy

At the time of writing the u19 team has played three Championship games vs Trim, Duleek/Bellewstown and Dunderry. Wins against Trim and Dunderry secured a semi-final spot against Skryne. The u19 competition allows players born in 2007, 2006, 2005, 2004 to compete. It has been great to see players of different ages gel so well and for our younger players it has provided an opportunity to see what lies ahead for them as their adult careers come into view.

## Overview

With 60+ games played by our adult section this year it has been a hectic season. Many thanks to all those in the club involved in administration and the facilitating of our teams. Thank you to those involved in the training and managing of our adult teams. Lastly, thank you to the players for representing Black and Amber in 2023. Despite the disappointment of relegation in the A Leagues, the first and second team performed admirably in their Championships and could be considered unlucky not to be in the hunt for silverware. Our third team were unlucky not to get to the knock-out stages of the Championship, but games were always competitive, and progress has been made this year. Also, our third team are responsible for our sole piece of silverware in 2023 – just reward for resilience down through the years.

Massive congratulations to those from our club who represented the county at u20 level this year: Fursey Blake, Conor Gray, Ruairí Kinsella, John McDonagh, Aaron Murphy, Charlie O' Connor.

A huge well done to Mathew Costello and Conor Gray for superb performances in the county senior jersey this year, culminating in a great day in Croke Park in June. Both players were honoured with places on the Tailteann Team of the Year.

We look forward to more players from our club going on to represent the club with distinction at county level in 2024 and beyond.

## **Coaching and Games**

### Overview

The year 2023 has been a transformative period for the Dunshaughlin GAA Coaching Committee, characterized by significant strides in coaching excellence and the cultivation of a collaborative and supportive coaching culture. Through a comprehensive approach encompassing targeted workshops, the establishment of a robust database of coaches and qualifications, and a commitment to a clear committee charter, the Coaching Committee has played a pivotal role in empowering coaches and elevating coaching standards across the club.

### Workshops/Courses

#### *Quarter 1 Foundation Course for Nursery Coaches*

In the initial quarter, the Coaching Committee successfully organized and executed a Foundation Course tailored for nursery coaches. This course not only equipped coaches with fundamental skills but also laid the groundwork for nurturing a passion for coaching at the grassroots level.

#### *Quarter 2 Bilateral Skills Session*

A highlight of the second quarter was the Bilateral Skills Session hosted by Pauraic Burke. U11 – U19 coaches actively participated, witnessing practical demonstrations using the U13 Boys team. This hands-on approach provided valuable insights and tools for enhancing coaching techniques.

#### *Quarter 2 Classroom Session on Responsibility and Respect*

Marc Leddy led an impactful classroom session emphasizing the importance of responsibility and respect on the pitch. Coaches delved into fostering a positive team environment, instilling core values essential for player development beyond the technical aspects of the game.

### *Quarter 3 Go Games Coach Education Session*

Owen McGrath spearheaded a comprehensive Go Games Coach Education Session. The combination of a classroom component and a practical pitch session, facilitated by Pauraic Burke with the Girls U12 team, contributed to a well-rounded educational experience for coaches.

### *Quarter 4 Transition Phase Workshop*

The final quarter featured a Transition Phase Workshop with Robbie Brennan leading a classroom session and Jenny Rispin conducting a pitch session. This holistic approach addressed the unique challenges associated with transitioning players to higher levels, ensuring coaches are well-equipped for the developmental journey.

### Database of Coaches and Qualifications

Recognizing the importance of standardized coaching, the Coaching Committee established a comprehensive database of coaches and their qualifications. This initiative ensures that coaching standards remain consistently high across the club and enables strategic planning for future coaching development.

### Committee Charter

The Coaching Committee's has developed their committee charter to delineate the parameters of roles and responsibilities, and collective goals. Their primary focus centres on providing unwavering support to coaches and raising the overall standards of coaching within the club. This commitment is embodied in our committee charter, emphasizing mentorship, strategic planning, and continuous professional development. By fostering a collaborative environment that encourages shared knowledge and innovation, we collectively strive to enhance the coaching experience for every member, contributing to the long-term success of the club. The committee's pathway aligns closely with the Club Football Pathway Plan and LGFA pathway from Dunganny, providing a structured and purposeful framework for development.

### Club Coaching Framework

Led by Martin Reilly, the developed player pathway, consisting of five key stages, serves as a flexible guide for coaches in facilitating player development. Emphasizing adaptability, the framework acknowledges that each child develops at their own pace, ensuring a supportive and inclusive environment. Within the Coaching Framework, key player pathway milestones were identified. These milestones showcase the developmental journey available to all players within the club, offering clear progression markers and growth opportunities.

### Committee

The Coaching Committee comprises dedicated individuals:

- Marc Leddy - Club Coaching Officer (Joint) and Liaison with Ladies Committee
- Diarmuid Shanahan - Club Coaching Officer (Joint) and Liaison with Ladies Committee
- Martin Reilly - Liaison with Juvenile Committee



- Eoin McGrath - Liaison with Juvenile Committee
- Alan Quirke - Pathway Officer and Liaison with Dunganny/Meath GAA

## Conclusion

As the Dunshaughlin GAA Coaching Committee concludes the year, we express profound gratitude to coaches, stakeholders, and the larger club community for their unwavering support. Reflecting on our achievements, we are inspired to continue fostering a culture of continuous improvement and excellence in coaching. The collaborative efforts of our coaches and committee members have laid a robust foundation for the ongoing success of our players and the holistic growth of the club. Anticipating another year of shared accomplishments, we look forward to furthering our commitment to growth, development, and excellence in coaching.

## **Administration**

The executive committee met 8 times in 2022 and the subcommittee structure consisting of: (i) Coaching & Games (ii) Football, with separate committees for adult men & juvenile boys (iii) Royal Gaels (iv) Finance & Fundraising (v) Buildings/Facilities/Pitches (vi) Communications (vii) Health, Well Being, Culture and Inclusion and (viii) a Strategic Development group looking at future medium and long term plans continued to operate reporting to the Executive.

## **Facilities Committee**

The sub-committee held five meetings during the year. The following work is completed or in the progress.

- Five security cameras, two internal and three external and a CCTV monitor installed at the clubhouse.
- An expected drawing from an outside contractor for drainage plans in the car park was not completed after a wait of a year, so we went ahead with installing a number of drains ourselves.
- New gullies were also installed at the gate to limit flows of water from the main road.
- A channel was dug from the clubhouse to the gate and along the inside of the roadside wall for ducting to enable the later installation of lighting in the car park.
- A semi-circular planting area was constructed under the gym window and planted to minimise the fall in that area when it is tarmacked.
- Two loads of '804' sand/gravel were spread on the car park to minimise potholes. Thanks to GEM Construction for spreading the first load in May and Minnis who spread the second load in October.
- The external roadside wall was painted.
- Work by Minnis on the preparation of a new walkway is ongoing.
- Ducting for electrical cables has been placed under the proposed walkway.
- JNC Fencing will erect a fence similar to the one on Pitch 2.
- A Supporters' Wall will be built at the corner of the pitch beside the clubhouse. Supporters can buy plaques for the wall at €200 per plaque to help fund the fence.
- The pitches were regularly mowed during the year by Jim Smith and Pat Maloney along with help on strimming by Andy Byrne.
- A new set of sideline and goal flags with club crest has been bought for use in important championship games only.
- The club has negotiated access to training pitches at Dunshaughlin Community College, thanks to the work of club chairman, Frank Gallogly.

- We have made an application for Sports Capital Funding for two auto-mowers, costing €32,000. Our application is for €26,000.
- We hosted a number of championship games during the year. Thanks to all who helped out, especially our regular gateman, Liam Carey, and best wishes to one of our regular stewards, Gabriel King.
- Thanks to Ultan Blake for constant work and revision of drawings for the walkway and Supporters Wall; to Adam McDermott for design and drawing work in connection with the Supporters' Wall; to John Hayes for design of a retaining wall on a section of the walkway; to Seamus Traynor for sorting replacement lighting at the entrance lobby and in the external toilets and with central heating issues at the start of the year; to Kenny McTigue for plumbing repairs -all this work was done free of charge.
- Thanks to Alan Quirke of Phasor for sorting out plumbing issues and installing timer on gym and internal lobby lights.

#### **Issues to be Addressed:**

- Tarmac on the car park. Early in the year there were discussions with the Department of Education about laying tarmac on part of the car-park. There has been no recent follow-up from the Department but we expect renewed discussions in the coming year. Thanks to the late lamented Damien O Reilly, RIP, County Councillor for his assistance with this.
- To keep the clubhouse and dressing-rooms clean, a rota system of cleaning, or the employment of commercial cleaners is essential.
- Maintenance of the pitches is too demanding for the men doing the job on a completely voluntary basis. The provision of auto-mowers will reduce this workload, if our Sports Capital application is successful.
- Pitch 2 is in poor condition and needs repair and a rest from games and especially training. Early season training should be conducted in the gym, Astro and Community College grounds, where temporary lighting may be required.
- We would urge mentors to consider the condition of pitches when training. Too often areas that are badly worn near the goals are chosen for drills, shuttle runs etc. with serious consequent damage. I rarely see groups selecting grassy, unworn areas away from damaged areas for such work.
- We need to reduce the amount of plastic refuse at the club, especially water bottles, often left on the playing fields, full or partly full, after training and games. They make up the bulk of our refuse collection and create a hazard for the mowers when left on the pitch.
- Goal guards have been provided to protect goal areas, but mentors need to ensure that when they are unlocked and removed the keys are relocked on the chains, as otherwise they fall off and are lost and also damage mowers. To date twenty different locks have had to be provided to replace missing locks.

. Members: Ultan Blake, Cyril Creavin, Jim Gilligan, Pat Gorman, Shaun McTigue, Michael Molloy, Seamus Traynor, Jim Smith.

## **Finance & Fundraising**

2023 was the first year of our agreement with our platinum sponsor Grace Healthcare and we thank them for their ongoing contribution to the club as it provides a strong base for us as we continue to grow and expand our membership.

Also, our longstanding partnership with SuperValu has continued and we are continuing to look for other partners.

Thanks, you to the sponsorship committee driven by Fergus Clancy and Dave McEntee under the stewardship of our Treasurer Pauric McGovern and assisted by Paul Sheehy for their efforts in 2022 in securing sponsorship for our signs – this is important development as it should secure a good stream of recurring revenue for the club.

Yet again Jim Smith ran the highly successful Golf Classic and brought in a notable net return of over €11,000. Thanks to all our loyal supporters who supported the event and a special thanks to Jim, who single-handedly organised and oversaw the event. He certainly epitomises the volunteer spirit that is central to the success of the GAA.

We are lucky to have an agreement with the Department of Education to locate Dunshaughlin Community National School on our grounds and the regular rental income is a big bonus in our budgetary planning for the club. We are currently in negotiations with the Dept of Education in terms of extending the agreement

In terms of our regular day-to-day income the online Lotto has continued and whilst online sales have dropped slightly from a high of €1200 it remains an important part of our income stream in addition to sales at SuperValu, Gills Dry Cleaners etc. We would ask all members to participate if possible

Thanks, to the Lotto team headed by Jim Smith with great assistance from Caroline Malone, Oliver Gogan and Christy Purcell.

We are looking to see if having a coffee shop as a permanent feature at the grounds during games and busy times is a viable proposition and despite efforts, we have been unable to secure a tenant/partner. If anyone knows of any opportunities, please let us know

We also launched our “Be on the Wall” campaign and while sales have been steady we need people to commit to the project to ensure we can complete the development of the fence and walkway

## **Membership**

Teresa Ennis as registrar ably assisted by Mairead Delaney ensured that that membership was collected and recorded, so that players have the benefit of the Players' Injury Scheme. We have continued to maintain the same level of membership fees and would ask that people register and pay as soon as possible using the Foireann application

## **Health & Well Being**

The Health & Well Being Sub Committee was established in January 2022 and is in its second year of existence. In 2022, the club was accepted as part of the national programme for GAA Healthy Clubs and in October this year, the culmination of this work has been recognised and the Club was conferred as a *Foundation Healthy Club*. at the National GAA Awards Ceremony on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> Oct, Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.

The Committee hosted a number of events and activities this year as part of the brief to promote wellbeing, inclusion, cultural diversity, and a sense of community.

The mission of the Health & Well Being Committee is to.

- Promote awareness on health and well-being matters and provide resources for club members, including signposting appropriate services to support members who encounter well-being issues.
- Ensure the club promotes and delivers social activities that promote health and inclusion for the benefit of the members and the wider community.
- Promote Gaelic cultural events in the club.
- Promote the general principles of inclusion and cultural diversity within the club.
- Engage with the wider community networks to build social capital in the community.
- Promote a programme of social & physical activities for non-playing members of the club and non-members in the community.

The initiatives undertaken in 2023 included.

### **Jan- March 2023**

- Commencement of SMOKE FREE/ VAPE FREE CLUB launched Wednesday, 22nd February National No Smoking Day
- Walking Club, 125 people signed up for the 5-week programme, Ireland Lights up Jan/ Feb 2023– Five walks per week were facilitated. Core group of walkers remain active.
- Attendance at Meath Healthy Club Seminar Monday 20<sup>th</sup> Feb in Dunganny
- The Club entered a boys' team in Meath Scor Quiz in O Mathuna, CLG, Feb 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
- The Player Welfare Officer role was developed and presented to the Club Executive.
- Assisted in facilitating the start-up of Dunshaughlin's Chess Club, run by Barry Higgins

### **April -June 2023**

- Meath Seachtain na Gaeilge events were hosted throughout the county. On Saturday 11th March, the Club hosted an event – Circus performer/ Storyteller who performed for the children "as Gaeilge" and football skills & drills were undertaken on the Astro pitch "as Gaeilge". (Hannah Leahy, Niamh Hetherington)
- Resumption of the All-Stars Programme for children with additional needs in early April

- Inaugural Darkness into Light walk hosted by the Club on 6.5.2023 in conjunction with Dunshaughlin Youths Soccer Club, Dunshaughlin Athletic Club, Dunshaughlin Cycling Club. A crowd of approximately 230 people walked or ran the 5 Km and a sum of €1950 was raised. Special thanks to Paul Healy in Supervalu, Rory O Connor in Hire 2k and Rita Walsh who among them provided refreshments, specialist lighting and baked scones for the walkers.
- The Club hosted a Health & Well Being event on behalf of the Meath Co Board for a number of local Clubs to support the roll out of the GAA Substance Abuse Policy. Five Clubs attended and the guest presenters included Sean Downey Meath Co Board H&WB, James Lynch Meath Co Board H&WB, Brid O Dwyer GAA Health Co-Ordinator, GAA Croke Park, Sgt Pat Smyth, Meath Community Garda, Stephanie Kane, Northeast Drugs Task Force.
- Gaelic Football training session as Gaeilge hosted and coordinated by Hannah Leahy & Niamh Hetherington (Irish Officers) in early June for Juvenile teams like the session for Gaelic for Mothers and Others. A grant application was submitted by Hannah and funding of €1,000 was secured for this event from An Ciste Spreagtha.

### July -Sept 2023

- All Stars Programme ran weekly during the summer until 27/7/23. The Club sponsored playing tops for children. A number of juvenile players, from both the U 15 boys and U 15 girls are assisting which is really appreciated.
- Culture Event evening 22.9.23. Funding €1,000 received from Meath Co Council on foot of application. The event included pottery and art workshops. Special thanks to Hannah Leahy for preparing the submission and coordinating the event.

### Oct – Dec 2023

- Continued with All Stars Programme
- Official Award: On the 19.9.23 the Club was officially notified as being conferred with the national GAA award "*Foundation Healthy Club.*" The award ceremony, which involved presentation of the *Irish Life GAA Healthy Club Plaque and Certificate* to the club was held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> Oct Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise. Two club members were invited to attend. Special thanks to Eadaoin for preparing the submission and overall coordination of the events.
- Collate material for Notice Board to include pictures of Child Welfare officers & Designated Liaison Officer, GAA Substance Abuse Policy & GAA Local Major incident plan.
- Obtain feedback from the Survey Questionnaire and utilize feedback for the launch of the Player Welfare Officer role.
- Successfully applied for early access to GAA "Movember Ahead of the Game" mental health literacy programme, sessions provisionally planned for 5<sup>th</sup> December involving U14 girls' teams and hope to offer to more teams in the future.
- Signage 'as gaeilge' for the club. Sample sign prepared for approval which has been emailed to Chairperson and Secretary. If approved, this can be fitted in the new year.

### Conclusion

Sincere thanks to the small group of members of the Subcommittee, Eadaoin Slattery, Healthy Club Officer, Hannah Leahy, Irish Language Officer, Stephanie Faughnan & Colum Bracken. Special thanks

also to Niamh Hetherington, Irish Officer, who worked with us before her travels to the USA, to Barry Higgins, Chess Club and to Caoimhe Delaney for her networking skills and helping with funding applications.

### **Child Safeguarding**

Child Safeguarding is now an integral part of the safe running of all clubs. Our juvenile players will be our adult players of the future and we have a responsibility to provide a safe environment for them to enjoy our games. Thanks to everyone who participated in the Child Safeguarding courses for our mentors. Special thanks to Ger Reid, our Children's Officer, who has been extremely professional and diligent in ensuring that all involved with Under 18 players are Garda vetted. Garda vetting is now a legal requirement, and it is essential that all mentors comply with this. All officers and members of the incoming Executive Committee should also ensure that they are Garda Vetted and complete a Child Safeguarding course.

### **Ar dheis Dé go raibh siad**

No year passes without unexpected deaths of former players and bereavements affecting members and families involved in the club and community. We would like to offer our condolences to the families of the deceased and we are reprinting below with the kind permission of Denis and Maria's families the wonderful tribute written by Jim Gilligan and published in the programmes for the county finals earlier this year.

#### **. In Remembrance**

**Denis Kealy**

**1979-2023**

**Maria Kealy**

**1984-2022**

After Meath's recent victory in the Tailteann Cup final, manager Colm O'Rourke, reflecting on the tragedies that recently hit the Kealy family, described them as 'the most wonderful GAA family in the country.' Few families can match the Kealys' level of GAA involvement and success and few have been hit so cruelly in recent times. The untimely death of Maria last December was followed by the equally heart wrenching death of Denis in June. Two young stars of the game and of life gone way too soon.

Football ability coursed through the veins of all members of the family. In December 1993 Denis made his first adult championship appearance. Nothing unusual about that. The game was an Under 21 championship refixture between Dunshaughlin and Seneschalstown as the original encounter came to a premature end when referee Joe Harlin was doused with water and promptly abandoned the game. That was certainly unusual. Denis came on as a sub but the most extraordinary aspect of it was that he was then just 14 years old. It couldn't happen nowadays, but it speaks volumes for the regard in which Denis was held, even from his youngest years.

From then until his final senior game in 2015, Denis was an outstanding player who combined consummate skill, steely determination, commitment and bravery in a stellar career. He played in five senior county finals, winning three in successive years, 2000-02, crowning the third with a Leinster

club title. He also won an intermediate championship in 1997. His leadership qualities were evident in winning the Under 21 A title in 2000, seven years after his first appearance in the grade, and he was club captain in 2009. He also represented the Royal County at minor, Under 21 and senior level.

Denis was versatile and skilful, featuring in attack in his youth before reverting to defence, where he was the epitome of determination and top-class defending. Always the go-to man to mark the opposition's best player, he often had to stifle his own natural talent in the interest of the team. His tussles with Rathnew and Wicklow's Tommy Gill in the Leinster club championship remains the stuff of legend. The clubs met eight times in three years and Denis played in them all, invariably triumphing in his tussles with the Wicklow star. Denis's sporting talent stretched beyond the GAA into athletics and soccer. He represented Meath in the Community Games athletics finals and captained the North Eastern Schoolboys at soccer.

Off the field Denis was both a gentleman and a gentle man, quietly spoken, engaging and chatty who always made time for everyone. He started his own business, Keamc Building Contractors, to which he brought his determination, skill and single-mindedness, developing a reputation for quality work and the personal touch.

He was always available to the club with his building expertise and played a major role in completing the clubhouse and entrance to the club in the last two years. His company also provided generous sponsorship and in recent years he was once again a regular in the club at weekends and evenings as his young boys became involved at underage level.

Maria was a prominent star of ladies' football in the county at a time when it didn't attract the same attention or interest as it does currently. Like Denis, she mixed talent and determination in equal measure on and off the playing field.

She captained Meath to an All-Ireland Under 16 title in 2000 and won Leinster minors in 2001 and 2002. With Royal Gaels she won an intermediate title in 2007. Then, to show she could replicate her playing success as a coach, she mentored the 2009 Under 16s to an All-Ireland and a decade later coached the Royals to a provincial minor title, the first since 2002.

She worked as a committed Coaching and Games Officer with Meath GAA before establishing her own business MA.KE Health in Kilmessan and Drogheda. She assisted Kilmessan hurling and camogie clubs and club members from far and near. Her gyms were go-to locations for footballers, hurlers and jockeys seeking help with injuries and rehabilitation. Her can-do approach combined with her ever-present smile and bubbly enthusiasm brought out the best in everyone.

She was a huge supporter of ChildVision Ireland and the charity fittingly described Maria as 'a blinding ray of sunshine wrapped up in an unstoppable force of energy.'

Denis and Maria were alike in many ways: they were the two youngest members of the Kealy family; they were both successful in the sporting world; they brought their talent and leadership on the field into business off it, both building successful enterprises from scratch based on a commitment of heart and soul to every task. Sadly, they were both taken within months of each other.

To their partners, Charlene and Micky, both of whom were Gaelic games stalwarts also, the whole GAA community sends its sympathy. Charlene won junior and intermediate titles in the club's black

and amber, teams that also featured Maria, while she was also a Meath senior. Micky and his brothers Anthony and Tommy were regulars with the club from the mid 2000s. We remember Denis and Charlene's young children, Ciarán, Daniel and Evan, Denis and Maria's brothers and sisters Kevin, Orla, Pat, Dermot, Brendan, Aidan, Richie and Fiona, and in particular their grieving parents Éad and Patsy.

Tá gach duine a raibh aithne orthú brónach futhu ach bródúil as an obair a rinne said agus an oidhreacht a d'fhág said ina ndiaidh. Go dtuga Dia suaimhneas síoraí doibh agus dá ghaolta.

CLG Domhnach Seachnaill agus Gaeil Ríoga

### **Communications Team and Public Relations**

Our PR and communications team continued to attempt to provide coverage for our social media outlets, highlighting the club's ups and down during the year. Many thanks to Stephen Cregan, Lynsey McCormack and Mary O'Regan for their service to the club in this regard but we recognise the need to improve in this area and we are looking for people from within the community and club to help us out in this area. It's a vital tool in contacting members and non-members alike.

### **County Board**

The secretary stood in for our nominated delegate Jim Mitchell as he took up his new role as Secretary of the CCC Disciplinary committee and we are looking for nominations for this important role which gives us a voice at county level.

### **Thanks**

On the playing fields the obvious highlight is our Ladies Senior title win. I know the effort and commitment it took for all the panel and management and to see such dedication and enthusiasm rewarded was a privilege. Similarly, our senior men's team had a wonderful year reaching the county quarter final only to be beaten by a last minute goal by defending champions Ratoath and I'm certain we will challenge again in 2024. Our Men's second team had the heartbreak of another narrow final loss, but they can be proud of their efforts and achievements.

We have over a thousand members and 240 actively volunteering/mentoring so I'd like to pay tribute to everyone who gives of their time and effort to contribute to all the clubs' activities. Volunteerism is the cornerstone of the organisation and without you there would be no club. Particular congratulations to our Health & Well Being committee on their award this initiative has been such a great success since it's launch and we look forward to its continued growth.

Thanks to Frank our Chair for all his hard work and support this year.. Thanks to Pauric McGovern for his work as Treasurer and being such a good influence on the executive. I could not have done the job as Secretary this year without the support and wise counsel of Mairéad Delaney who is always on call to answer questions or queries on any GAA related issue. Past chairmen Jim Smith, Colum Bracken and Paddy Dwyer provided me with sage advice when called upon and also to Jim Gilligan for all his help. I'd like to say a special word of thanks to Alan O'Dwyer who gave me tremendous support this year particularly on match days when due to personal commitments I couldn't attend to the Secretary's duties. Go raibh mile maith agat Alan.



Finally, thanks to all our officers, coaches, mentors, FLOs and selectors who give of their time voluntarily to provide Gaelic Games for our young and adult players, from our Nursery section through to our adult men's and women's teams. It is a real team effort.

Deagláin ÓBanáin Runaí

## Juvenile Reports

### Nursery

2023 was an amazing year for Dunshaughlin and Royal Gaels Nursery, our numbers grew with plenty of new families joining the GAA community in the village. Our mentor team worked amazingly to train the boys and girls and kept them well entertained with skill drills and fun games alike.

Thanks to everyone for helping with our parking plan and to Car Park Stewards for their continuous support.

We had almost 140 children registered with high attendance each week. One week had to be cancelled due to shortage of mentors on the night (not possible to run safely) and thanks to the Minor Boys/Girls for their assistance at some of the sessions

Also a note of thanks to other team mentors. Great communication between groups help to maximize resources, sharing pitches and making sure fixtures go ahead

Our club GPO has visited sessions and was very happy with how it's being run. Feedback on certain elements taken onboard and implemented. Thanks to Stephen for his support.

We look forward to 2024 and introducing plenty of new children and their parents to the club.

### U7 report

2023 In early April the club's youngest team, brimming with very enthusiastic boys with limitless energy descended on the Dunshaughlin & Royal Gaels GAA Club grounds for their first training of the year. In total the panel consisted of 45 boys with numbers at training mostly over 30. A group of 10 coaches from the 4 provinces all brought their own skills and outlook on the game.

The first half of the season the u7's played in a group consisting of home and away fixtures with:

Duleek-Bellewstown, Blackhall Gaels, Kilbride GFC, Naomh Muire, Ballivor GFC.

Dunshaughlin had 4/5 strong teams on most game days. The boys all got plenty of game time, worked very hard on what they were taught in training and progressed exceptional well through the first half of the season. They were a match for any team they played and were quite dominate throughout.



So much so the decision was taken to elevate them to the most competitive division with the large town teams.

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the season, they played in a division with:

Ratoath, Skryne, St. Colmcille's, Simonstown, Walterstown, Trim, Seneschalstown GFC, Dunboyne.

The boys took on the challenge of the historically strong town teams with fearless gusto. They continued working very hard in training on their kick and hand passing, their tackling and control with the ball. They worked exceptional hard on using their steps to break the tackle, the use of the solo or bounce to look up and find a teammate. This led to endless scores coming from breaking out of defence and working the ball up the field into a scoring position. Again, as in the first half of the season the boys enjoyed great success.

To see so many of the boys improved greatly was a joy to see for all the coaches.



What really showed throughout the year was the boys joy for the game and the friendships they built with their teammates. They encouraged each other greatly and backed each other up when needed.

The season ended with medal celebration and refreshments in the Club. The medals were presented by the boys elder clubmates and current and future Dunshaughlin and Meath stars. The boys all got a chance to raise the Tailteann cup which we all firmly believe will be the first of many cups for this group.

The club is blessed with the facilities they have and hardworking volunteers to foster these boys in sporting success on the pitch and off the pitch. The enthusiasm of the boys to have fun with their friends and to develop in a game which they love was fantastic to witness. We can all only hope they will continue to love going to training, playing matches, and hanging out with their friends for many more years to come.

Its certainly is a very exciting time for the Dunshaughlin & Royal Gaels GAA Club!

#### U8 report.

Our u8s enjoyed a great season on the field of play. We trained from March until November with a huge participation every week. The boys played some excellent matches this year against St Patrick's,

St Michael's, Seneschalstown, Navan O'Mahony's, St Colmcilles, Ratoath, Ashbourne, and Trim. There was plenty of skill and determination on display each week and always fun and enjoyment. Off the field we mourned the tragic loss of our coach Denis Kealy in June. The boys continued their season with great determination and bravery and no doubt Denis was watching over them with great pride. Looking forward to u9 in 2024.

#### U9 report

Our Under 9s had their first training session on 2nd March. Working off a panel of 25 we consistently had 20 or more boys for training and matches. Each and every player has improved in all aspects of the game throughout the year which meant that we competed very well in all Go Games matches which ran from April to October.

The undoubted highlighted of the year was when we were invited to compete in Kilmacud Crokes Festival of Football in UCD. The boys travelled together on a (Fun) bus and played brilliantly against teams from Dublin, Armagh, Down and Galway. Back to the clubhouse afterwards for pizza it truly was a day where friendships were forged.

We are delighted to have procured playing gear for the boys which will be presented at an end of year party. Many thanks to Shane Kelly from BEKO for generously sponsoring.

Going forward into 2024 we will look to grow our panel of players up towards 30 and make sure that the boys continue to improve, compete and most importantly enjoy their football.

Thanks to all the Young Whistlers. Credit must be given to the club for increasing the pool of Young Whistlers. There wasn't one match where there was none available. We'd also like to thank the club for arranging for the pitches at the college to be available for training and matches

Thanks also to Lynsey Mc Cormack for her assistance during the year and to Ger Reid for organising pitches

Coaches/Mentors - Fearghal Gogan, Niall Kelly, Peter Kenefick, Tomas McWeeney, Martin Reilly

#### U10 report

The U10's boys team commenced training on 23<sup>rd</sup> February. We were supposed to start our Go games campaign on 1<sup>st</sup> April at home to Simonstown, but it was rained off.

So we commenced our year with an away match in Kells on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April. We played 11 Go games matches over the season, taking a break in July for the summer holidays.

We also took part in 2 blitzes in Navan O'Mahonys in June and in Seneschalstown in early October. These were of great benefit to the lads development and were fun for all.

Their enthusiasm & commitment was heartening and although numbers dropped slightly in the summer with holidays, numbers were generally good and we had on average 20 players and 2 teams for every fixture. The lads skills levels were good and their tackling also improved as the games went on during year.

We competed well in all the matches and every player had clearly improved by the end of season, when we played Simonstown away on 28<sup>th</sup> October.

We continued training into November and played an internal blitz on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November, finishing with snacks and refreshments upstairs in our clubhouse afterwards.

Unfortunately we tragically lost one of our mentors during the year, Denis Kealy, who will a huge loss. His legacy will last on in his son Ciaran though who has a lot of his dads characteristics and is one of the mainstays of the team. The future looks bright for him and his team-mates, and hopefully progression will continue into the under 11 grade next year.

One comment on year is that we couldn't play some matches on a few Saturdays as our opponents couldn't field teams because of other sports, and other matches were switched to a Thursday night (our training night) to facilitate the opposition. 2 matches were also called off because of bad weather.

Thanks to all the young whistlers, juvenile club secretary & chairman, Ger Reid, our coaching committee, and my fellow mentors for all their help during year.

The mentors were as follows;

Simon Farrell (lead mentor)

Pat Sheridan

Des Keane

Seamus Hegarty

Denis Kealy (RIP)

Mandy Griffin

### U11 Report

The u11 boys football team are progressing nicely in their division and competed very strongly in every game. We easily fielded two 11-aside teams every week with training numbers a consistent 27/28 from a panel of 34. During the season we played against St.Colmcilles, Dunboyne, Ratoath, Donaghmore/Ashbourne, Trim, Skyrne and Walterstown competing brilliantly in every match. The pitch schedule was well organised and we appreciate the work of the pitch committee that enhanced the smooth running of our sessions. The boys have progressed massively from their first practice of the season and improved in every facet of the game. The consistent numbers at every training session is a testament of how much the boys are enjoying their football. The highlight of the year was the boys involvement in the u11 Kilmacud Crokes tournament with great displays in the group stages against Dublin, Kildare and Meath opposition seen the lads reach the final of the competition and pip Kilmacud Crokes. The Black and Amber Camp jointly organised by Graham Dowd and the u11 mentors in August was also a great success for the club. Going forward we hope to get a couple of more parents involved in mentoring at this age group and get them vetted and appropriately certified. Overall this has been a successful and enjoyable session for the u11 boys.

Mentors: Ed O Donoghue, Paul Bohan, Graham Dowd, Johnny O Connor, Donnacha Kelleher, Damien Lynch & Owen McGrath

### U 12 Report

The Under 12 Boys team had a panel of 28 players registered for this year, we played 2 x 11 aside teams simultaneously on Sunday mornings, with official referee's, limited to 2 touches and every score counting as 1 (points and goals) is counted as a singular point. For the spring league we competed in Roinn B against Simonstown, Walterstown, Duleek and Dunboyne winning 3 out of 4 games. For the summer league we competed in Roinn A which was a very competitive league.

During training we concentrated on developing basic skills, hand passing, kick passing, off the shoulder running, blocking, tackling and lately transition phases following a number of coaches participating in the Club Football Transition Phases workshop ran by Robbie Brennan.

We organised 5 challenge matches during the year, 2 prior to the spring league to prepare the boys for the U12 format and 3 since the Summer league finished.

The format of the 2 teams playing simultaneously with aggregate scores allowed all of our boys to get lots of football throughout both leagues enabling them to progress there in-game skills.

All the boys have progressed well during the year and worked very well on skills and development.

Mentors: Paudie Herlihy, Ronan O'Dwyer, Derek Cribben, Brian Hartigan, Trevor Lynch#

### U13 report

Our U13 boys played in Division 1 in both the Spring & Autumn leagues. The leagues were both development leagues with no semi-finals or finals. We used this opportunity to ensure every player got game time in every match. Over the year played 12 league matches and 6 challenge matches and had 46 training sessions. We started the year with Strength & Conditioning circuits for the boys in January on the club astro-pitch. We moved to the Hill of Tara for some fitness / endurance work in February. There was a fun element built into these two blocks of training and the feedback from the players was overwhelmingly positive. Throughout the league we concentrated on continued development of bilateral skills (weak hand / weak foot) and encouraged the boys to use these skills in match situations. In Q2 the boys were used by Dunaganny coaches for the on-pitch demonstration for other coaches from clubs in the region in the demonstration of "Bilateral Skills". In Q3 we joined with the U15s to provide players for the "Transition Workshop" hosted by the club coaching committee and Dunganny coaches.

We had a team building day in July where we brought all the boys kayaking on the Boyne and for a meal afterwards. In between the kayaking and meal we did a "respect for your teammates/ coaches and referees" classroom session in the clubhouse with the club coaching committee and we all found this very beneficial.

Our low panel numbers (18) meant that we did not always have enough players born in 2010 for all matches. We worked closely with the coaches on the U12 team and used 5 different players from 2009 born U12s for matches at various stages during the year. Continued to work on the team environment and good communication with the parent group. All in all a very enjoyable year and the boys are looking forward to moving onto the full-sized pitch next year!

### U15 report

The U15 boys had a very productive year across 3 competitions. In addition, we also played 10 challenge matches throughout the season. Below is a summary of how we fared in the respective competitions:

#### **Feile:**

We played the Meath County Division 2 Feile competition in early May under great conditions in Kells. We had 3 matches in a tough group which included Walterstown, Ratoath and Gaeil Colmcille. We won 2 of the matches to qualify for the semi final against Clann na nGael. A very tight game – we led at half time but then narrowly lost in the end. Thanks to all the help and support from parents on the day.

#### **League:**

We participated in the U15 boys Division 2 league this year, which we very much treated as a development phase for the team. We were delighted to reach the semi-finals but then managed to beat Na Fianna to secure our place in the final against a strong Skyrne team who were the eventual winners. Tons of learnings, however, which we brought into the championship phase, which would be a more competitive landscape.

#### **Championship:**

The team played well in the league stages of Division 2 Championship. We reached the semi-final; were we beat a strong U15s Walterstown team in tough conditions. An unbeaten Clann na nGael team would be our opposition in the final in Ashbourne. The boys hit the ground running from the

start. Game plan, kickout strategies and shot execution all came together for the boys to win 1-14 to 0-4. Well done boys!!!

### U17 report

Our u17 boys enjoyed a progressive season, they are comprised of boys born in 2006 and 2007. Trevor Lynch took over as manager with Aiden Kealy, Bel O'Connor and Niall Foley forming the management team with Martina Carroll on board as Medic/Physio.

We were placed in division 4 for the league after the spring grading competition and began our campaign with a home win over Duleek/Bellewstown. We won 3 out of 6 league games which earned us a semifinal spot versus Wolfe Tones. Unfortunately, we lost to a very strong Wolfe Tones team who had also beaten us in the group section.

We were seeded in section A in Division 4 for the championship where we came up against Clan Na Gael, St. Colmcilles and Round Towers.

We saved probably our best performance of the season for the last group game in the championship, comprehensively beating Round Towers with an excellent team display. As it was our only win out of the 3 games it brought our Minor season to a close.

This group are a very dedicated and talented bunch of young men who really improved this year. Their attitude in training and games was excellent, as was their attendance throughout the season. All these qualities are still on display as many of the lads are on the u19 squad who are pushing for a division 1 title.

Best wishes to all the 2006 lads who are now leaving the Juvenile section of the club and are ready and able to represent the club at adult level.

To all the parents, we know getting to training and games brings pressure to every house so thanks for all the support and dedication during the season.

Finally many thanks to all the management team for their dedication, professionalism and support all year

## Dunshaughlin & Royal Gaels Ladies

### Tuaraisc an Rúnaí

#### Ladies Senior and Junior Team

After a very successful and eventful 2022 season, our ladies teams went into 2023 with optimism and a real sense of drive to push on this season. Winning Div 1 league and reaching a first Senior final, along with an unlucky Junior A quarter final loss, meant that our group were hungry for further improvement from the first week in January 2023.

With a large group starting their running in the cold of January, everything was geared towards challenging in both Div 1 and Div 4 league which kicked off at the end of February. We started how we meant to go on, and won our first 2 leagues games, away to St. Michaels (Div 1) and at home to Dunboyne B (Div 4). Unfortunately for our Div 1 team, it would be a rollercoaster league campaign, with further impressive wins against Simonstown and Seneschalstown, but poor performances led to losses against Donaghmore / Ashbourne, Dee Rangers and Dunboyne. Injuries played a big part to inconsistency in Div 1, but it also led to many of our u16 / u17 players getting regular game time at a very high level. Our Div 4 team would fare much better in terms of results for the remainder of their league, winning all of their matches with some exceptional performances on the way. It meant we were looking forward to another Div 4 league final, against a strong Gaeil Colmcille team. Thankfully, we came out on the right end of the result, and this started what would turn out to be a successful season on the trophy front for this group. 41 different players participated in Div 4 league over the 8 games, which shows the depth of talent which is within the club at this moment.

After a few post league holidays, and championship getting closer, the Masita Cup took centre stage for the month of July. In a very difficult group, a draw against St Ultans and 2 wins against Skryne & Oldcastle, meant we had a semi final meeting against St Colmcilles in Pilltown. In what was a tight game, the Dunshaughlin girls pulled away in the final 10 minutes to win by 8 points over the 2022 winners. This win set up a final meeting with a Walterstown team who had been performing extremely well in 2023. However, with more of a settled group now, Royal Gaels ran out emphatic winners by 35 points. This turned out to be great preparation for our Senior and Junior A championships.

Both of our teams were drawn in the toughest possible groups for championship, with our seniors facing newly promoted neighbours Skryne, 2018 & 2019 Senior champions Simonstown, and 3 in a row Champions Dunboyne. Our Junior A group was even tougher, with 2 of the championship favourites St Patricks and Walterstown drawn, along with old foes Dunboyne B. On the 19th & 20th August, we got our championships underway with a hard fought win against Skryne in the senior, followed by a defeat against a strong St Pats team in Stamullen. The second round would follow the same outcome with the Senior team showing a very mature performance against a resolute Simonstown, before our Juniors were comprehensively beaten by Walterstown. However, round 3 was where the excitement really kicked in, with 2 games against Dunboyne in 2 days. On both days, we got the end result we needed, which was topping our group in Senior, and progressing to quarter final in Junior A. All attention focused on Moynalvey in the first of the knockout games in Junior A. We were extremely unlucky not to come away with a win against the soon to be finalists, and our girls can be extremely proud of the effort put in.



For the next week, all eyes were on a repeat of round 1, and a meeting with Skryne. With Skryne believing they should have won a few weeks earlier, our girls hit their stride and looked comfortable after 20 minutes, mirroring the same route we had to a final in 2022. However, there was a different mindset and belief in 2023. Going into another battle with Dunboyne, confidence was high for the biggest day in the Meath ladies club calendar. We travelled to Simonstown knowing if we could perform to our level, that no-one will stop us. And with a bit of luck, the girls achieved another piece of history for a great club. A 16 point win, in a senior final does not happen too often, but it gives a sense of what can be achieved with this group. 6 of the players who played in the final were 18 or younger and this gives the group a great platform for the 2024 season.

A defeat to Kilmacud in the Leinster quarter final would not dampen our year, and only adds as fuel to strive for more in 2024.

We would like to thank Mikey in Minnis Development for once again looking after our girls as main sponsor in 2023. Thank you to Gourmet Food Parlour for the post training food at our last session before the final and to Tomás Mc Weeney of Fresh Today for providing refreshments for the Final. I would also like to congratulate Michelle & Bronagh, and Tara & Lizzie on their weddings this year, and for organising them the week before Championship 😊 I would also like to congratulate Lisa & Stephen, on the birth of their first child, Isabelle.

I would like to thank the club for their continued support over the 3 years. I have been extremely lucky in my role to have many people backing my ideas. I also want to thank my management team for their complete commitment to my vision over the last 3 years. Their desire to help each player improve is something that any club would love to have and I am eternally grateful for their support from day one.

Manager: Shane Farrelly.

Management team: Irene Munnelly, Ger Doherty, Ellie Lane, Brian Williams, Dave McEntee

FLOs: Rose Sorohan, Mary O'Regan.

## **Minor**

### Minor Div 1 & 6

The minor competition only begins in the latter end of the year once the senior and junior championship competitions are finished. This year we made the decision to enter two teams in the competition in order to give some of our younger girls a taste of minor football. The Division 1 team included the 2005 & 6 girls, the goalie and 4 county representatives from the 2007 team. We had good take up from the younger girls in relation to the second team.

Both divisions have now played two games, coming away with wins on both occasions. The next games will prove crucial as the only the top team in each group goes through to the final.

Mentors Div 1: Mentors: Laura Quinn, Daniel Quinn & Trevor Lynch

Mentors Div 6: Teresa Ennis, George Ennis & Stephen Robinson

### U17 Div 1

The U17 girls began their spring league campaign with confidence after gaining success in their u16 winter league with a division 2 title under their belt.

The girls grew from strength to strength as they developed a lovely style of play. New leaders stepped up each game and the girls gained a serious momentum which carried them all the way to

the top of the table with a home semi final on the cards. The team progressed to the division 1 final after beating Oldcastle on a score line of 2.17 to 2.7. With two weeks to prepare for this group's first division 1 final, the girls knew it was going to be a tough game against a seasoned Navan O Mahony's team. A toss of the coin meant Royal Gaels had home advantage. The game was tight throughout but Navan's experience showed in spades as they remained calm and collected throughout. Unfortunately it was not to be our day but it was a hugely successful campaign for this talented team.

To top it all off, the biggest achievement these girls had was their seamless transition into adult football over the summer. The girls made a serious impact with the junior A team while Anna, Keva and Sarah gelled expertly into the senior squad, becoming mainstays in the starting fifteen and winning the clubs first ever senior title.

The whole team have grit, determination and talent in abundance. They are eager to continue learning and developing as players as they start their adult footballing journey.

Team: Caitlin Summerville, Lucy Boyle, Eileen Gannon, Ronnique Kato, Emily Carter, Siun Hartigan, Keva McTigue, Claire McDonagh, Grace Summerville, Sarah Duffy, Anna Moyles, Tara Glennon, Olivia Quinn, Orlaith McEntee, Annie Lynch, Anna Duffy, Megan Duignan, Emily Fairbrother

FLO: Maria McTigue

#### U17 Division 6

The girls started off their campaign with an away trip to Navan O Mahonys in Paddy O'Brien Park. With other activities occurring around the same time a few girls didn't arrive until half time. The girls started very slowly and trailed 7 points to 2 at half time. A much improved second half saw the girls out score their opponents 3-6 to 3-4, but they just ran out of time and lost out by 3 points. Final score Navan o Mahonys 3-11 Royal Gaels 3-8. Next up was a home game on an absolutely rain soaked pitch where the girls welcomed Dunboyne. The girls put in a much improved performance and ran out comfortable winners with a final score line Royal Gaels 4-12 Dunboyne 2-3.

Our next match brought us to the seaside to St Colmcilles. The girls put in their best display of the campaign and ran out very comfortable winners on a score line of 4-21 to 1-3

Back home for their next game v Trim, on paper this looked like it was going to be a tough assignment. However, the girls had a great first half performance and lead by 2 goals and 10 points to 5 points. This big lead gave the management a chance to make several changes in the second half which allowed Trim to get a couple of goals back but the girls held on to win by 7-14 to 5-9

The next game brought the girls to Simonstown on a lovely sunny Sunday afternoon. Once again, the girls put in a fantastic first half performance which saw them lead by 3-10 to 2 goals at half time. The second half started where the first half ended and despite having no subs the girls held their opponents scoreless in the second half whilst adding another 6 goals and 11 points to run out comfortable winners. Full time score 9-21 to 2-2. This result ensured that Royal Gaels would have home advantage in the semi-final.

In our last division game we welcomed Donaghmore-Ashbourne to our pitch. With no pressure to get a result they still put in an outstanding display of football to run out convincing winners on a score line of 6-13 to 1-4.

Semi-final

We welcomed Trim back to Dunshaughlin. It was obvious from the start that Trim had done their homework since our previous meeting, which showed at the first water break as they lead 2-6 to 2 goals. As hard as the girls tried they still trailed at half time by 6 points. Half time score Trim 3-8 to RG 3-2. The third quarter showed a much improved performance from our girls where they scored 3 goals and 5 points whilst holding their opponents to just one additional goal in this quarter, which meant going into the final quarter with RG 6-7 leading to Trim 4-8. Scores were scarce in the final quarter with the girls adding just one more goal and a point and Trim adding 3 points. This meant after a pulsating battle the final score read RG 7-8 Trim 4-11, a 6 point victory for our girls.

#### Final

After winning the toss to host the final, we welcomed the only team to defeat us in the league, Navan O'Mahonys, to Dunshaughlin on an absolutely scorching bank holiday Saturday. In really tough conditions for both teams, Navan O'Mahonys played the better game of football in the first half. This saw them lead by what they and their supporters probably thought was an unassailable lead going in at half time with a 13 point lead. Then in the third quarter and in true Royal Gaels fighting spirit, the girls reduced the deficit to 6 points before the final water break. In the final quarter, and what can only be described as a Lazarus type comeback, the girls completed an unbelievable turnaround to win by 13 points, which was a 26 point turn around in what was an fantastic all round team performance. Final score Royal Gaels 11-07 to Navan O' Mahonys 7-06. Captain Caoimhe McCool received the trophy from Meath LGFA representative Gerry Reynolds.

The U17 girls also took part in the Sarsfields 7-a-side tournament but lost out in the semi-final.

Mentors: George and Teresa Ennis

FLOs Rose Sorohan and Karen McCool.

#### U16 Division 1

First up for Div 1 girls was an away trip to Navan O'Mahonys, despite dominating the early exchanges Royal Gaels' efforts wasn't reflected on the scoreboard, the Navan side eventually grew into the game and totally dominated the 2nd half. Full time Navan O' Mahonys 4-7 Royal Gaels 2-5 The next game saw Dunboyne visit Dunshaughlin, a super first half from our girls saw them lead by 10pts to 2pts at half time, but in a much improved display from Dunboyne they closed the gap considerably. Despite only scoring 2 goals throughout the second half the girls held on to take the points on a scoreline of 2-10 to 1-6.

The third game in this contest was over very early in the 1st half with the girls running riot over St Ultans, some superb play and passing, running off the ball had the opposition bewildered, with some great scores throughout the hour the girls won comfortably by 9-18 to 2-3

An away trip followed to St. Colmcilles, on an awful evening for football, the girls quickly adapted to the conditions, with some slick handpasses the girls controlled the game from start to finish guaranteeing themselves a home semi final. Full time: 3-13 to 0-5.

Our 6th game was a walkover from Ratoath and the final round game of group was away to St Pats Despite both teams having already qualified for semis, this was a great battle all over the pitch. The girls took a while to get to grips with their opponents but eventually pulled away to an easy to an 8pt victory. Full time: 2-12 to 0-10

#### Semi Final

We welcomed St Pats to Dunshaughlin on a dark wet Bank Holiday Monday in October, the conditions didn't help either team, in fact it turned into a dour struggle with neither team getting a

foothold in the game, the Gaels kept plugging away forcing three late free kicks which were duly converted putting them into the final. Full time: 1-6 to 0-5

#### Final

Our Under 16 Division 1 team made the short trip to Dunboyne on a damp, foggy Saturday morning for their final. With 6 wins from 7 in the round games they had overcome St Pats the previous week to face old foes Dunboyne in the final. Our girls started off with fire in their bellies and totally dominated the opposition, a few early points settled them down and a thundering goal saw them go into the second half 1.05 to 0-02 up. Dunboyne started the 2nd half much better with two quick points reducing the deficit to 3 points but our girls responded well with some outstanding defending. Our midfield were tireless, covering ground with ease and passing the ball in to the forwards. The half back line put in a great performance also. We used all of our substitutes who slotted seamless into the game keeping the momentum going ensuring the victory on a scoreline of 2-10 to 0-8 in what was an outstanding display from all 19 girls.

Captain, Grace Summerville accepted the cup from Meath LGFA's Patricia Mead on behalf of a delighted team.

Mentors: Teresa Ennis, George Ennis, Laura Quinn & Daniel Quinn.

FLOs: Maria McTigue, Deirdre Summerville

#### U 16 Division 6

Our new season saw the girls being graded on ability and not age and this gave the opportunity for them to play with some new faces and after a few training sessions under their belts we started our Under 16 division 6 campaign with a home game to Trim under lights. The girls started well but only led by a single point at half time, the score board showing 1.04 to 1.03, and with a much-improved 2nd half performance this saw the girls build a comfortable 3.11 to 1.07 lead with 8 minutes to go, 2 late goals from Trim made for a very nervous finish but the girls held on for a 3.11 to 3.07 victory.

On the 28th Aug we travelled to St Pat's Stamullen for our 2nd round game, unfortunately an injury in the warm up led one of our girls having to sit this one out, and despite dominating in the 1st half the girls only held a 3 point lead of 1.06 to 2 goals, the girls completely dominated the 2nd half and ran out winners on a score line on 3.12 to 4.01

For our 3rd game we travelled to Navan O'Mahony's on the 4th Sept and playing against a strong wind the girls settled into the game early on and led by 2.05 to 1.06 at half time and with the elements behind them in the 2nd half the girls really turned the screw to win by 5.15 to 2.06

On Friday the 9th Sept, St Colmcilles arrived to play us under lights on a night where there was a great buzz around the club, as our 3 senior county ladies had a meet and greet with excited kids and adults within the club. The girl's fitness was beginning to show at this stage with the extra "no ball work" training sessions and playing against the wind in the 1st half the girls led by 1.06 to .05 points at half time, and despite numerous changes in the 2nd half they held their opponents to 3 points while adding on another 1 goal and 5 points to help the girls win by 2.14 to .08 points

On the 25th of Sept we were due to travel to our close neighbour's Ratoath for our last round game, but unfortunately Ratoath could not field a team and despite preferring to play the game at a later stage, we were awarded the points and therefore gained top spot in the group and thus home advantage in the semi-final.

After a 6 week break from competitive football and on a glorious but breezy Saturday afternoon on the 22nd of Oct, we welcomed St. Colmcilles to our grounds for our long awaited semi-final and although playing into a strong wind the girls led by 2.04 to 1.02 at half time, and with the elements behind them in the 2nd half the girls held their opponents to .01 point while adding on a magnificent 6.10 themselves, while showing lovely team work and movement on the ball to run out 8.16 to 1.03 winners and guaranteeing their rightful spot in the final

The Final had arrived, and on a wet and wind-swept bank holiday Sunday 30th Oct, the black and amber army travelled to Carlanstown to meet Trim who had given us our toughest game in the group stages, so we knew we were in for another tough competitive game. Having lost the toss we were playing into the wind in the 1st half but despite this the girls put in a great shift and trailed by 3.02 to 3.07 at half time and this was the 1st time in the whole campaign that the girls found themselves behind at the interval. With the wind and the heavy rain at their backs in the 2nd half the girls started narrowing down the lead, meanwhile at the other end Trim kept the scoreboard ticking over, which meant, despite great efforts for them girls they couldn't quite reel Trim in and trailed by 2 points with 5 minutes to go and in true Royal Gaels style they dug deep and rattled in 2 goals and 2 points with minutes to go while keeping their opponents scoreless for an unbelievable pulsating finish to a great match by both teams on a score line of 6.12 to 4.12.

Footnote:

We would like to thank the girls for their commitment at training throughout the year, while making sure fun was always had. We would also like to thank the parents of the Under 14's who allowed their daughters to play up and support the under 16 team

Special thanks also goes to Mervyn Ennis of Breifne Plastering for the sponsorship of the girls training tops

Mentors & FLO's : George and Teresa Ennis, Karen McCool FLO and when Karen was unavailable Cora Salmon and Rose Sorohan would gladly step into the breach

#### Under 15 Division 1

U15 were placed in a tough division, the season started slowly with games deferred because of difficulties with pitches due to the weather. The team suffered 3 losses to three of the strongest teams in the group. They didn't progress beyond the group stages.

This group also competed in the Meath Féile competition which was held in Ratoath on 1<sup>st</sup> May. The team played really well on the day beating Skryne 5-05 to 0-01 and St Ultans 1-04 to 0-02.

They came up against a strong Navan O'Mahonys side in the semi-final and so ended their Féile journey for 2023.

Thanks to our FLOs for looking after the team throughout the season

Mentors: Johnny O'Connor, Ken McTigue, Lara Reynolds & Lar Smith.

#### Under 15 Division 7

The 15 Division 7 girls had a great start to the year, winning all of their games in the group stages, resulting in a home semi-final against Ashbourne. They won that game well and having won the toss for home advantage, had a home final against St Pats. In what turned out to be a real thriller, the girls went ahead, before Pats narrowed our lead to the minimum, but the Royal Gaels dug deep to

win in the end. We would like to thank Tara Ryan for coming on board to help train the girls in the run up to the final following a number of mentors stepping away from the team.

Mentors: Derek Cribbin, Evelyn Cribbin, Hugh McCarthy, Maria O'Shea.

#### Under 14 Division 2

For the Autumn competition, the girls were eligible to play in the U14 Division, moving up into the Division 2 league as this was their correct age group. The Division was a tough one and the girls were unlucky to be on the opposite side of fortunes compared to the spring campaign, with a number of injuries and availability of several players being an issue, team was unable to build momentum which won them the div 7 league earlier in the year. With only one mentor available to take the team and following some heavy defeats, the decision was taken to concede the final two round games and manager Derek Cribbin has also stepped down.

Mentor: Derek Cribbin

The team have since returned to training, coached temporarily by a number of our Senior players in advance of next season.

#### U14 Division 7

The Autumn League kicked off at the end of August with the girls assigned Div. 7. There were 20 girls in the group. It was the right level for the girls and they only lost 2 matches in the league (St Colmcilles and Walterstown). In the end they finished in second place and were drawn against St Ultans in the semi-final. It was neck and neck in the first half but Dunshaughlin pulled away in the second half and were eventual winners.

In the Final we played Walterstown on the 18th Nov and unfortunately it wasn't to be our day. The girls really enjoyed the autumn league and their performances improved week on week.

The League was an incredible journey for these girls and they really developed something special as a team. The attendance at training and matches was excellent and each of the girls turned up with lots of energy and enthusiasm. The coaches are extremely proud of what they have achieved, representing themselves, their family and their club.

Special thanks to Jackie Glennon for co-ordinating the FLO's for each training session and the matches.

Mentors: Liam Galligan, Simon Duignan, Paul Bohan

Lead FLO Co-ordinator: Jackie Glennon supported by Caroline Caffery, Ursula Hill, Lina Chi Mc Grath, Gosia Zarneka, Eadaoin Slattery.

#### U14 Division 9

We entered a third team in the U14 championship due to the number of girls registered at the age group. On paper we appeared to have the numbers but in reality this left the third team requiring too much assistance from the U12 group. The team struggled for numbers to field teams at various stages throughout the campaign having to concede their last game due to insufficient numbers.

We will review the number of teams entered in next year's competitions. It is a balance between having two large panels and trying to give every girl a game or entering a third team to ensure girls got ample playing time.

Mentor: Garreth Kelly

### Under 13 Division 1

As well as competing in the Under 13 Division 1 competition, the girls took part in the U14 Community Games in May but were beaten in the semifinal v Walterstown.

Mentors: Liam Galligan, Simon Duignan, Paul Bohan.  
Lead FLO Co-ordinator: Jackie Glennon

### Under 12 & 13

An unusual year this year for the 2011 born girls. They started the early part of the playing two years out of age in the u13 league before reverting back to u12s in the Autumn which this year was redesigned as non-competitive Go Games.

There are tight numbers in this age group with only 17 girls born in 2011. However, despite low numbers and sometimes taking the field in a couple of matches with the bare 13, the girls have continued to develop and grow into a determined and resilient young side that argues well for the future.

The u13 league started and finished with wins away from home against St. Pats and Dunboyne, but the in between games were tougher with some score lines that didn't reflect the efforts the girls were putting in.

Later in the year the girls played in the Div 2 of the new u12 Go Games league.

The league was designed as non-competitive, and the girls were first out against a very strong Trim side. With the bare 13 playing, the girls put in a battling performance before tired legs saw Trim pull well away in the end.

Home games followed against Navan and Moynalvey, where our shooting deserted us despite creating numerous chances. Both games ending with narrow defeats by a single score.

After the Harvest festival weekend the girls luck in front of goal changed and wins followed on the road in games away in Skryne and Oldcastle. In between the road trips the girls recorded a good win at home to Seneschalstown.

All in all, a respectable showing in a league where the girls should find themselves at u13 next year.

As always a special word of thanks to all the FLOs who looked after the team in training and matches, and to all the parents who get the girls there during the week and at the weekends.

Unfortunately both mentors have stepped aside at the end of the Autumn league.

However we are super proud of how the girls have come on over the last few years. Their skill set has improved week on week, and we look forward to watching the girls over the next few years and wish them the best of luck in the future.

Mentors: Stephen Robinson & Shona Donoghue

## Under 11

2023 saw the team starting the season as they finished last, in the U11 Go Games Competition. From April to September the team competed strong and well against all their opponents in this competition.

From September the team transitioned to U12. This saw the girls moving from Go Games to competitive games along with a significant increase in pitch size and competition. The girls took this significant step up as a team and despite high quality opponents and experiencing defeats, they continued to do themselves proud with their team spirit, support and commitment.

“Our colours are amber and black  
We don’t take any slack  
We’re tall, we’re small  
We’re mean, we’re keen  
We’re the ROYAL GAELS FOOTBALL TEAM!”  
Was chanted loud and proud at pitches across the county!

## Mentor Development

Our 4 strong Mentor Team of Edwina, Owen, Leonard & Tomas bring a great mix of experience, enthusiasm, ideas and dedication to the team. Representing three of the four provinces of Ireland they work with the team two sessions a week including matches and bring a healthy mixture of fun and development to the squad.

The mentor team completed their Level 1 Coaching Course in 2023 and have signed up for Award One Coaching in January 2024. Along with training the girls; getting trained themselves many give more of their time to attend club meetings; fundraise; provide lifts; decorate the club to support other club and county teams and volunteer in many other ways for the club such is their commitment and dedication.

## Player Development

One of the areas of focus this year was the development and use of both hands and both feet. The mentors developed many drills and training games to work with the team on these very important skills and it is heartening to see them not just improve in training but to utilise these skills in competitive matches.

Man marking & long range scoring were also highlighted in the girls development this year. Tackling and blocking has helped their confidence in playing against strong oppositions.

## Fund Raising

Year after year, the team’s phenomenal commitment to each other and the club astounds. This year their goodwill stretched even further. Their annual May Bank Holiday Plant Sale & Summer Raffle raised €3,000. Huge appreciation for the plants donated and to Eamon Dunne, Farmhouse Foods and Fresh Today for the prizes.

The girls again showed their business and sales prowess with manning the flower stalls; selling raffle tickets and importantly having fun. They divided their raised funds between the club; the team and the LauraLynn Charity.



Trips = To celebrate their effort and commitment throughout the year a 30 strong team of mentors; FLOs and players are heading to the Helix on the 25th November to enjoy the Xmas Panto - Treasure Island, with treats and a celebratory dinner on return to the club house. Many thanks to Michael Brady, Arva Cavan; Gary Moran, Dunshaughlin & Helix and Lorraine Heskin, Gourmet Food Parlour for their support and generosity to make this an extra special day for the team.

#### Sponsorship

The team have secured sponsorship from Kepak Group; Ishka Spring Water; Chicken with Attitude & Gourmet Food Parlour and are delighted to use these funds for the purchase of a new set of jerseys in 2024.

#### Support Team

We also wish to pay tribute to Dunshaughlin LGFA ladies whose phenomenal achievements continue to influence and inspire the team. A special mention for Niamh Gallogoly who has taken the girls training and not only put them but the mentors through their paces!

As we all know the glue that holds any team together and makes it possible are the mentors, parents, FLOs for their help, support, and interest. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our Female Liaison Officers: Sinead Darby, Orla Rafter, Lisa Breeze; Aisling O'Toole; Paula Daly; Maria O'Shea and Elaine Mc Cormack

We are really looking forward to progressing further with the team and building on the skills they have developed next year

Mentors: Edwina Reid, Tomás Mc Weeney, Owen Herlihy; Leonard Grogan.

#### Under 10

We started back this year in February with a new training time of 12 midday which suited the group more which meant our attendance improved massively. We also thankfully managed to get some extra help in the form of 5 new FLO's and an extra coach so we were already off to a great start compared to the start of the 2022 season.

We were also very lucky to have a group of sponsors including Tekton Construction & Boles Hire and we'd like to take the opportunity to thank them for the contributions they made to the U10's this year including sponsorship for training tops, socks & shorts. We'd also like to thank Peter Brophy for supplying the team with a much-needed set of footballs.

There were some gaps in the season and missed training sessions, mostly due to poor weather and small attendance numbers over the summer holidays but overall, we had consistent numbers at training and the girls always came with a smile and eagerness to get stuck in. The girls have come on leaps and bounds over the last 12 months. There's been a collective increase in the understanding of pitch positions and how to gel as a team. The girls have grown closer and it's showing on the pitch. The girls understand their roles on and off the pitch as team mates and this coupled with some wins across the year and also some new players being added to the team, we as managers would consider it to have been a hugely successful year for the girls' growth as players & individuals.

We hope in the next year we'll begin to put more structure on the team with the girls being assigned positions, coaching movement & introducing more fitness based training.

U10's Finished their season off with a Trip to Leisuredome, Ashbourne.

Mentors: Ronan Collier, Orlaith Moyles, Joe Mangan, Jim Timmins, Mark Glesson

FLOs: Marie, Jennifer, Clodagh, Aine, Clare & Ger

### Under 9

The aim from nursery up to now was to instil the technical fundamentals, help the players understand their collective responsibilities and most importantly to have fun. I believe we've done well in our endeavour.

This season was one of those really important moments in the development of a team when the hard work done by the players in training begins to manifest itself on the pitch in games. The team has worked incredibly hard at understanding the concepts of space and collective movement and how they relate to each other in both expanding and condensing it on the pitch when transitioning between defence and attack.

The performances of the team received multiple plaudits and compliments from other clubs exemplifying what a credit this group of players are to the club.

It remains my privilege to coach this group and there is no doubt that they will go on to achieve great things together.

We would like to thank the parents and FLOs for their continued support.

Mentor: Vincent Mulvey.

### U8 (2015 Girls)

We retained all mentors and were delighted to have one additional FLO join the team this year.

The number of players remained consistent throughout the year, with 26 players on our squad. It is worth noting that just under half of the players hit attendance rates of between 82 - 100%. We have continued to have a very open and approachable two-way communication style with all of our players and parents. Parents have been hugely supportive to the team with almost 100% response rates to events throughout the year. We have not witnessed any negativity towards players, referees, coaches or opposition at any time throughout the year.

Our year ran from the first week of March until the middle of November. We entered three teams into both the Spring and Autumn Little Ladies Leagues. We fulfilled all of our fixtures in full unless weather conditions prevented the games from proceeding. In these cases, we were successful in re-scheduling all but one. In this case, it was due to the other team being unable to re-commit. We concluded the year with a presentation of medals and certificates and a trip to the bowling alley.

The players have come along tremendously throughout the year and are an extremely strong group. One of the main objectives we had set out from the inception of our group is for all of our

players to play instinctively as a full team, and one of the most notable things about watching our players is how generous and supportive they are to each other which results in consistently strong performances with nobody excluded. This has been helped by the examples being set by the adult teams, both Men and Ladies, who the girls have noticeably supported throughout the year. About half of our players attended the Ladies Senior Final in Navan last month to cheer them on to victory. We would like to thank so many of the adult ladies for being so present and encouraging to our players throughout the year.

We were delighted to receive very generous sponsorship from two local businesses/people. We would like to thank Pádraig Sherry, Sherry Fitzgerald, who very generously sponsored a set of 30 new jerseys. We would also like to thank Peter Brophy for his continued generosity to the team with the purchase of 35 brand new footballs. The players and the mentors are so grateful to the sponsors for their generosity and for Mary O'Regan and the club for all of their help in this regard.

We would like to thank all of the players, parents, mentors and FLOs, Frank, Robert, Declan, Mary, Ger, Teresa, Stephen and all the club executives and officials for all of their help and support again this year.

Mentors: Janet Kealy, Vincent Cronolly, John Gallagher, Damien Lynch, Joe Mangan, Micheal Molloy, Eanna O' Cinneide, Diarmuid Shanahan.

FLOs: Deirdre Cronolly, Shona Mangan, Mairead O'Connor, Jane Reilly

## U7 Girls

### Overview

The year 2023 has been a season of growth, development, and joyful experiences for our U7 Girls Football Team. With a series of Spring and Autumn league matches, a memorable team party, and the generous support of sponsors, this year has marked significant progress both on and off the field.

### Spring League Highlights

In the Spring league, our U7 girls demonstrated their enthusiasm and skills in matches against Ratoath, Trim, Moynalvey, Walterstown, Summerhill, Longwood, and Dunsany. The team's dedication and positive spirit were evident in every game, showcasing their enjoyment and commitment to improvement.

### Team Party in August

A highlight of the summer was our team party held upstairs in the clubhouse. The event featured a platter of food from Supervalu, and an abundance of sweets. The excitement reached its peak with a special presentation by county stars Niamh O Sullivan and Niamh Galloghly, who revealed the team's new gear. We extend immense gratitude to Advantec FM for sponsoring a new set of jerseys, and to Advantec FM, Boles Hire, and Designer Group for collectively sponsoring shorts, socks, and half zips for the 32 players and 9 coaches.

### Autumn League Success

Building on the momentum from the Spring, our U7 girls continued to shine in the Autumn League, facing strong opponents like Trim, Ashbourne, and Moynalvey. The season concluded with an

exciting end-of-year challenge against Ratoath, followed by a special presentation to celebrate the girls' achievements.

#### Special Guests and Championship Cup

A memorable moment for the team was the visit of the Senior ladies, proudly bringing down the Senior Championship cup following their successful 2023 campaign. The girls were thrilled to witness the triumph of the Senior ladies, providing inspiration for their own football journey.

#### Skill development

The primary goal at the start of the year was to teach our U7 girls the fundamental skills of gaelic football, including soloing, bouncing, catching, kicking, and hand passing, within a fun and friendly environment. This goal was successfully implemented, garnering positive feedback from both parents and kids. As the season progressed, the girls showcased their new skills in matches, with many confidently executing solos and kicking scores throughout the matches. This not only demonstrated their technical ability but also highlighted their growing confidence on the field.

#### Coaching Team and FLOs

The success of the U7 Girls Football Team would not be possible without the dedication of the coaches. We extend our gratitude to the coaching team made up of Marc Leddy, Grainne Kelly, John O'Mara, Davy McCormack, Ronan Collier, Susan Brady, Eoin Corrigan, Tom Heery, and Dolores Malone, for creating an environment conducive to learning and growth.

Special thanks also go to our Female Liaison Officers (FLOs) Tara O'Callaghan, Sinead Duffy, and Laura Grey, whose support and contributions have been invaluable throughout the season.

#### Conclusion

As we reflect on the achievements and joy shared by our U7 girls, we look forward to another exciting year of growth, development, and camaraderie. The U7 Girls Football Team has truly embraced the spirit of the game, and we are grateful for the ongoing support of parents, sponsors, and the entire club community.

As we look forward to the coming year, we are excited to continue nurturing the skills and enthusiasm of our U7 girls, building on the foundation laid during this remarkable season.

#### Representation on County teams

We are proud to have had great representation on Meath teams this year, from our Senior girls, Niamh O'Sullivan, Niamh Gallogly and Meadhbh Byrne to Elena Kennedy, Anna Moyles and Molly O'Connor at Minor level and at Under 16 we were represented by Grace Summerville, Ronnique Kato, Siún Hartigan and Tara Glennon, the girls all did us proud. We wish all our girls attending trials in the coming weeks the best of luck in their endeavours.

#### Community Efforts

A number of our girl's teams helped the Tidy Towns group out during the summer. They cleaned along by the fire Station, did some weeding and tidying up around the Church and the Courthouse and planted up pots with summer bedding plants helping to keep our village looking great.

## G4MO Report

Another successful year completed for our Mothers & Others seeing over 50 players registered for the year. Our Rep Caoimhe Delany has stepped down after a successful 3 years and has handed over the reins to Ciara O'Sullivan. Again this year we hosted a successful "Gaelic tri Ghaeilge night which saw Muinteoir Niamh & Caitlin come to share some cupla focail.

This year we happily attended the Leinster blitz in Erin's isle and local blitz in Dunsany and were hoping to be in a position to host our own blitz in Dunshaughlin this coming year. We started back our new season back in sept to coincide with school returns & saw 9 new registrations from players who have never played before to players who played for the clubs years ago. We were very fortunate to self fund new training tops and half zips with the help of Senior men's player Adam McDermott working for Cico. We will finish off the year playing a friendly at home vs Dunboyne G4MO on the 30th of November followed by our annual Turkey "Kick Fada" on the 7th of December and finishing for our winter break before starting back fresh in February.

## Golf Society

Established in 2011 the Society is proving hugely popular with members and friends of the club. Whether its competitive golf you're interested in or just a friendly round, why not take part and join in the fun! This year the calendar consisted of six event.

### Event 1 - Roganstown Golf & Country Club - Saturday 22nd April 2023

Course conditions - Greens very difficult, good condition, fast, lots of breaks. Weather - Started out fine, heavy rain on 8th hole which persisted heavy for an hour, light rain through to finish. Congratulations to Declan O'Connor who posted a 32 point haul in challenging conditions to win our first outing of the year. Thank you to our hosts Roganstown Golf & Country Club. The course was in excellent condition and the grub, on course (badly needed) and in the clubhouse after was lovely. Thank you to everyone that turned out and despite the rain on the back nine, an enjoyable day was had. Well done to everyone who was in the winners enclosure. A big thank you also to our event sponsor - Ronan Gogan.

### Event 2 - Headfort Old, Kells - Saturday 20th May 2023

Course conditions - course dry after recent rain. Weather - Humid, sunny at times. The good weather conditions were conducive to excellent scoring. George Lovell claimed 1st overall with a strong score of 33 points. He was followed into the winner's enclosure by Brian Kirwan on 31 points. Thank you to our hosts Headfort Golf Club. The course was in good condition and the welcome in the clubhouse after was as warm as always. Thank you to everyone that turned out and made it such a great day. The clash with the egg chasing in the Aviva meant unfortunately we were missing some regulars. But we hope to see everyone back the next day. Great to see so many guests being invited along on the day. We'd love to see this continue and keep the numbers attending our events growing. Well done to everyone who participated on the day and especially to our winners on the day. A big thank you also to our event sponsor - [www.aofeskitchen.ie](http://www.aofeskitchen.ie), for freshly baked bespoke buttercream cakes, cupcakes and treat boxes, made by Aoife from scratch and with love. Absolutely delicious to the last piece.

### Event 3 - Friday Fun, Black Bush Golf Club - Friday 23rd June 2023

Course conditions - course dry after recent rain. Weather - Humid, sunny at times. Thanks to everyone who turned out for what was our first Friday event. The Black Bush was in fantastic condition as per usual, and aside from a few drops of rain on the first couple of holes, we had a

brilliant day. A special mention to the new faces who joined us today, it's always great to see. Also, a big thank you to our sponsors on the day Jim Smith and Maurice Connolly. Much appreciated, Jim. The winner's enclosure consists of the following. Overall Winner: John Gallagher 36pts (€60) 2nd Overall: Declan Bannon 35pts (€50) Cat 1 Winner: Sean Delaney 31pts (€40) Cat 2 Winner: Brian Devaney (€40) Longest Drive: Brian Devaney Nearest the Pin: Maurice Connolly

#### Event 4 - Swords Open Golf Club - Saturday 19th August 2023

Course conditions - Course dry after Storm Betty. Weather - Humid & damp; Sunny After an early morning inspection, the course was deemed fit for play and it sure did prove a challenge. A challenge to find balls under the leaves Storm Betty left all over the course. While many parts of Dunshaughlin and its surrounding areas were without power, Aidan McHugh was fully charged and blew away the opposition with a fantastic 40 points, upgrading his second-place finish at Roganstown in April.

The winner's enclosure consists of the following. Overall Winner: Aidan McHugh 40pts (€60). 2nd Overall: Declan Bannon 30pts (€50). Cat 1 Winner: Gerry Keenan 27pts (€40). Cat 2 Winner: John Davis 29pts (€40). Longest Drive: Ronan Gogan. Nearest the Pin: Gerry Keenan. We also had a Birdie Hole winner that day, Declan O'Connor scooping the loot.

It was a perfect warm up for Friday 8th September when Black Bush Golf Club hosted our Annual Golf Classic. A vital fundraiser for the club it had a shot gun start at 1.30pm. Once again Jim Smith organised a wonderful day out all while raising a significant amount for the club.

#### Event 5 - Captains Prize Day - Saturday 16th September 2023

Course conditions - Course wet underfoot after recent rain, but a splendid course otherwise. Weather - sunny at first, overcast later. A trip to the Breifne County was the order of the day, with Virginia and Cavan Town negotiated the beautiful grounds of Farnham Estate Spa & Golf Resort played host to our Captains Prize. While the wet underfoot conditions were a challenge it was offset by some of the stunning holes, each with the own charm as the course wound its way around the expansive estate. The longest drive on 9 was into the wind while the pin was hidden away in the corner of the 16th green making nearest the pin a real challenge from the elevated tee box. We had an excellent turnout and with an international flavour as we had players from the USA and England as guests. Great to see so many regulars out and hopefully some of the guests will be tempted to come back again in the future. The winner's enclosure consists of the following.

Overall Winner: Declan Bannon 33pts. 2nd Overall: Vincent Brady 34pts. Cat 1 Winner: Patrick Smith (USA) 33pts. Cat 2 Winner: Damien McLoughlin. Longest Drive: Patrick Smith (USA). Nearest the Pin: Damien McLoughlin. Our sponsor on the day was Declan Bannon.

Our sixth and final event of the year took place on Saturday 14th October in Silloge Park Golf Club. Rounding off the fun for the year, the format was a team event. Winners on the day were Declan Bannon and Brian Devaney followed closely in second place by Christy Canavan and Kevin Brady. A great day was had in Silloge before a dash to Simonstown for the Ladies Senior Football Final which resulted in a historic win for our Ladies.

"Success isn't always about greatness. It's about consistency. Consistent hard work leads to success. Greatness will come." – Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson. Our Golfer of the Year was the epitome of consistency, posting high scores at all of our events this year. Finishing second in Black Bush and Swords and winning the Captains Prize, it was fitting that Declan Bannon also claimed the overall Golfer of the Year Award for 2023, proudly taking home the Tommy Brennan Shield. Honourable mentions to Brian Devaney, Declan O'Connor and John Davis who pushed Declan to the last day.

A big thank you to 2023 Captain Gerry Keenan who put up a lovely Captains Prize and very generously presented each player with a goody bag which was a very nice touch. A native of Tyrone, Gerry's involvement with Dunshaughlin started in the glory years around the turn of the millennium.

Gerry was on the sideline for many of our most successful days in Navan and further afield as Dunshaughlin won three Senior Football Championships in a row and went on to win a Leinster title by defeating Louth Champions Mattock Rangers a few days before Christmas 2002. Gerry was the team physio and his "magic sponge" kept many key players fit and ready for battle. Gerry set up a very successful business in the village, The Physio Studio on Main Street Dunshaughlin. Opened in 2002, over the past 2 decades Gerry has grown the clinic into a centre of excellence in muscular skeletal therapy. Gerry also had the honour of passing on the baton to the incoming Captain for 2024 Damien McLoughlin. Our calendar of event for 2024 is already set, we look forward to seeing everyone again next year

#### Golf Society Calendar 2024

20 APR 24 - Bellewstown Golf Club - 10.50am

18 MAY 24 - Rathsallagh Golf Club - 9am

17 AUG 24 - Roganstown Golf & Country Club - 10.20am

30 AUG 24 - Golf Classic (Black Bush Golf Club)

28 Sep 24 - Co Meath Golf Club-8.50am (Captains Prize)

## **Standing Orders/Bunordaithe**

Definition: The Rules of Debate at the AGM are referred to as “Standing Orders.”

1. The Proposer of a Resolution or of an Amendment thereto may speak for four minutes.
2. A delegate speaking to a Resolution or of an Amendment must not exceed three minutes.
3. The Proposer of a Resolution or an Amendment may speak a second time for three minutes before a vote is taken, but no other delegate may speak a second time to the same Resolution or Amendment.
4. The Chairman may at any time he considers a matter has been sufficiently discussed call on the proposer for a reply, and when that has been given a vote must be taken.
5. A delegate may, with the consent of the Chairman, move “that the question be now put”, after which when the proposer has spoken, a vote must be taken.
6. Where the AGM considers it appropriate, a vote may be by secret ballot.
7. A speaker to the Annual Report or to any other general discussion shall not exceed four minutes to any one topic.
8. Any motion seeking additions or amendments to the Constitution or Rules must have a majority equal to two-thirds of those present, entitled to vote and voting.
9. Standing Orders shall not be suspended for the purpose of considering any matter not on the Agenda except by the consent of a majority equal to two-thirds of those present, entitled to vote and voting.
10. The Chairman may change the order of items on the agenda with the support of a simple majority of those present, entitled to vote and voting.

Adapted from the G.A.A.’s AGM Standing Orders, A Guideline for Members



## Ratification

(i) Club Trustees

The current club trustees are Paddy O Dwyer, Cyril Creavin, Jim Smith and the GAA's Corporate Trustee.

(ii) Membership Fees for 2023

Adult Player Membership	€175
Adult Player on third or fourth championship team	€130
Student/Apprentice Membership	€120
Juvenile Membership U11–U18	€120
Non-Playing Adult	€75
Couple, non-playing Membership	€100
Juveniles 2 or more	€220
Family 2 adults plus 1 child	€200
Family 2 adults plus 2 children	€260
Family 2 adults plus more than 2 children	€300
Family 1 adult plus 1 child	€170
Family 1 adult plus 2 children	€230
Family 1 adult plus more than 2 children	€270
Senior Citizen	€50
FLO	€40
Under 8 to Under 10	€80
Nursery Child + Adult Volunteer	€100
Nursery Child Single	€50
All Stars Program	€5
Foreign Exchange Student	€60
G4Mothers & Others	€20
Social Club Member	€5

Notes: Golf Society / G4M / Over 35s to be treated separately to core membership

## Nominations for 2023

Presidents	Fr. Joe Clavin, Val Dowd, Tom Everard, Ead Kealy, Catherine McHale, Shaun McTigue, Paddy O Dwyer, Tommy O'Dwyer, Christy Purcell.
Chair	Frank Gallogly
Vice Chair	Jim Mitchell
Secretary	Declan Bannon
Asst Secretary	Alan O'Dwyer
Treasurer	Pauric McGovern
Asst Treasurer	Alan Quirke
PRO	
Club Registrar	Teresa Ennis
County Board Delegate	
Coaching Officer	Marc Leddy
Irish Language & Cultural Officer	Hannah Leahy
Players Rep Men	
Players Rep Ladies	
Insurance Officer	
IT Officer	Neil O'Dwyer
Safety Officer	
Well Being Officer	Eadaoin Slattery
Committee	Alan O'Dwyer, Jim Smith, Fergus Clancy,
Ladies Chair	
Ladies Vice Chair	
Ladies Secretary	
Ladies Asst Secretary	
Ladies PRO	
Ladies Committee	Michael Molloy
Juvenile Boys Chair	Neil O'Dwyer
Juvenile Vice Chair	
Juvenile Secretary	Lynsey McCormack
Juvenile Asst secretary	
Juvenile PRO	
Juvenile Committee	

**Note: The Children's Officer shall be appointed upon the recommendation of the incoming Executive Committee**

## Motions

1. The grounds to be named 'Denis and Maria Kealy Park' in recognition of the service Denis and Maria made to Dunshaughlin & Royal Gaels GFC. Approval has been given by the families of both Denis and Maria. – Proposer Michael McHale
2. From u10s on, complex skills drills to be implemented into the start of all training sessions. – Proposer Michael McHale
3. Under age games between the ages of u7 to u12s to be held at half time between league home men's and women's games. Whether that be between opposition or amongst self. – Proposer Michael McHale

## End of Year Accounts 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dunshaughlin & Royal Gaels CLG					
Income & Expenditure a/c Year End 2023					
Income	2022 Final	Year to date 2023	Expenditure	2022 Final	Year to date 2023
Lotto	€ 67,026.05	€ 48,832.40	Lotto	€ 49,154.00	€ 27,500.00
Membership	€ 59,546.30	€ 82,086.00	Registration & Affiliation-Girls	€ 18,615.00	€ 20,680.00
Gates	€ 4,309.98	€ 3,625.53	Registration & Affiliation-Boys	€ 4,995.56	€ 3,079.54
Sponsorship	€ 25,729.95	€ 51,475.00	Teams & Training	€ 25,168.74	€ 16,313.13
Donations	€ 4,000.00	-	Physio/Medical/S&C	€ 24,765.00	€ 43,437.50
Open Day	€ 239.30	-	Clubhouse Maintenance & Equip	€ 21,238.44	€ 29,515.04
Gaelic for Mothers	€ 2,927.38	€ 2,690.00	Pitch Maintenance	€ 9,545.02	€ 947.80
Dept of Education	€ 40,000.00	€ 40,000.00	ESB Phone Water Oil	€ 11,724.33	€ 10,627.62
Pitch & Room Rental	-	€ 400.00	Lawnmower	€ 3,260.00	-
Grants	€ 20,866.00	€ 10,100.00	Building	€ 89,926.93	€ 1,315.00
National Club Draw	€ 470.00	€ 810.00	Gym Equipment	€ 9,788.34	-
St Stephens Day Fundraiser	€ 475.00	€ 1,485.00	Lift	€ 14,074.00	€ 14,074.00
Golf Classic	€ 7,530.01	€ 15,450.00	Nursery Expenses	€ 3,969.14	-
242424	€ 9,047.89	-	Pitch/Hall Rental	€ 300.00	€ 125.00
Plant Sale	€ 353.93	€ 1,794.04	Match videos	€ 1,740.00	€ 1,400.00
Miscellaneous	-	€ 420.00	Co Board Gates Out	€ 1,020.00	€ 500.00
Dinner Dance	-	€ 10,336.93	Paypal & My Club Finances Fees	€ 5,663.40	€ 3,896.85
Astroturf Fees	-	-	Insurance & Players Injury fund	€ 2,300.00	€ 11,747.38
Fund Raising Events	-	-	Printing/Promotions/IT/Signage	€ 3,576.99	€ 8,829.51
Coaching Course	-	€ 150.00	Survey Monkey	€ 39.00	-
Bus	-	€ 1,890.00	School Quiz	€ 208.00	-
Church Gate Collection	-	€ 350.00	Meath County Board Levies	€ 1,700.00	€ 2,259.25
Leinster Championship Games	-	€ 1,250.00	Donations	€ 1,000.00	€ 5,878.00
Darkness Into Light	-	€ 1,866.27	Safeguarding Course	€ 496.40	€ 240.00
Black & Amber Camp Registration	-	€ 5,250.00	Bank Charges	€ 234.03	€ 267.50
All Ireland Hurling & Football Tickets	€ 450.00	€ 450.00	All Ireland Tickets	€ 990.00	€ 270.00
Glove Sales	-	€ 1,070.00	Day Event Expenses	€ 3,901.42	€ 3,432.80
			Professional/Legal Fees	€ 150.00	€ 100.00
			Presentations / Dinner Dance	€ 1,997.50	€ 14,782.07
			Black & Amber Camp Gear	-	€ 4,710.75
			Referees Fees	€ 3,347.50	€ 4,355.00
			Meath CB Golf Day / Race Day	-	€ 1,000.00
			Club Gear	-	€ 5,091.41
			East Leinster GPO Scheme	-	€ 19,795.00
			Refund of Membership	€ 785.00	€ 45.00
			Ladies County Board Book	€ 200.00	-
			SportsKey Pitch Booking	-	€ 676.50
			Supervalu Express	€ 1,164.63	€ 1,885.13
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>€ 242,971.79</b>	<b>€ 281,781.17</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>€ 317,038.37</b>	<b>€ 258,776.78</b>
			Lotto Jackpot Provision	€ 3,400.00	€ 1,200.00
			<b>Adjusted Expenditure</b>	<b>€ 320,438.37</b>	<b>€ 259,976.78</b>
<b>Gross Surplus</b>	<b>-€ 77,466.58</b>	<b>€ 6,415.39</b>	<b>Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>€ 117,049.27</b>	<b>€ 15,389.00</b>
Loan Repayments	€ 26,825.04	€ 24,589.62	<b>Net Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>€ 117,049.27</b>	<b>€ 15,389.00</b>
<b>Nett Surplus</b>	<b>-€ 104,291.62</b>	<b>-€ 18,174.23</b>			

Cash Balances	At 30/09/2023	Available Cash	Comments
Current Account	€ 14,159.23	€ 14,159.23	Current Bank Loan Balance Excl Change in Interest Rates - €208,951.65 @ 24th Aug 2023
Development Account	€ 28,041.37	€ 28,041.37	
Foireann / Stripe	€ 36,667.11	€ 36,667.11	
Lotto / Clubforce	€ 1,018.95	€ 1,018.95	
Paypal	€ 603.05	€ 603.05	
	<b>€ 80,489.71</b>	<b>€ 80,489.71</b>	

Note-Bank Balances at 30/09/2023. New financial year commenced 1/10/2022



**Grace Healthcare are delighted to be the main sponsor of Dunshaughlin & Royal Gaels and we look forward to continue working with everyone in the club and community**

