



Friday 30th October 2015

St. Moninna's G.A.C. Killeavy Club News

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A tribute to Michael McKnight, RIP

The many hundreds of people who come through the gates of Killeavy's Memorial Park each week are mostly unaware of the debt they owe to the work of Michael McKnight, a former player, chairman and club trustee who passed away last week at the age of 84.

Michael was an outstanding footballer of his generation and played for both St. Michael's GFC, Killeavy and St. Moninna's GFC, Killeavy. He went on to excel with both the County Armagh minor and senior teams. At his funeral last week, it was told how he honed his football skills as a boy kicking ball in summer evenings with his three brothers, John, James and Felix and then later at the football academy of St. Patricks Armagh. Along with his brother John he won an All-Ireland minor medal in 1949 when Armagh defeated Kerry by 1 – 9 to 1 – 7, and it was reported in the Frontier Sentinel – "Two young Newry boys – John and Michael McKnight, Dublin Road, worked valiantly for the home victory". Michael went on to become a regular on the Armagh senior team in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

As a young man of just 23 years he was invited to become Chairman of the Killeavy Memorial Committee on the premature death of his father in 1954. He served with great diligence in that position, leading the fundraising and organisation required to deliver the opening of the Memorial Park in July 1957. In his role as Chairman of St Moninna's GFC in 1963 it was he who proposed the initiative of starting a youth club and was a founder member of St. Moninna's Youth Club Committee when it was set up in January 1965.

Michael served as a Trustee of the Memorial Committee until it was wound up in 1967 and thereafter he was a Trustee of our club, stepping down from this role only last year having served the club as player and administrator for almost 70 years.

The photograph below was taken in 2009 and shows five All Ireland Minor medal winners, James Donnelly, Kealan Downey and Conor King from the 2009 team and John (front left) and Michael (front right) from the 1949 team. This photograph appeared in the club bulletin at the time and Michael had the bulletin framed and placed in pride of place in his Dublin Road home which proudly bears the name 'Moninna'.

We mourn the loss of a true friend of our club and extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Mary, sons, daughters and the entire family circle. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.



This bulletin kindly sponsored by



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u21s reach County final

Having beaten Armagh Harps on the previous Sunday, Killeavy knew that a victory over perennial rivals, Crossmaglen, would see them straight into the county final. Before the game, Killeavy were rocked by the news that star player Ciaran O'Hanlon would not start due to an injury picked up while playing for Queens though as it turned out, he was able to come on for a telling cameo for the last 15 minutes of an exciting game. Like the senior championship match against the same opponents, Killeavy dispensed with the sweeper system and went toe to toe from the start. It did look however as the tactic might backfire as with only five minutes gone, Crossmaglen, aided by a considerable wind advantage, led by 1.02 to 0.00. Gradually however Killeavy began to edge back into the game and closed the gap with points through Míceál McNamee, Caolan McConville and Cathal Boylan. All this good work was undone by a really soft goal almost direct from a line ball but Killeavy refused to let this upset them and outscored Cross by 0.04 to 0.02 over the next 10 minutes to leave the half-time score Killeavy 0.07 – Crossmaglen 2.04.

Considering the strength of the wind, Killeavy would have been pleased enough at half time and when Thomas Hannaway, McNamee and McConville all pointed in the first five minutes of the second half, the sides were level and it looked as though Killeavy would go on to win comfortably. We took the lead through a Paul Quinn effort but our momentum stalled with a number of missed chances including three goal efforts superbly saved by the Cross keeper. The wind had dropped at this time and with Cross coming more into the game, management threw on Ciaran O'Hanlon to bolster the Killeavy effort. This had the desired effect and with Michael Murphy performing well in midfield, Killeavy were able to match Cross score for score over the last quarter and eventually come through on a 0.14 – 2.07 score line.

We wait the outcome of this Sunday's matches to find out who our final opponents will be but the performance of the team last week raises the hope that there might yet be a silver lining on what has been a dismal year of on-field woes.

Scór na nÓg 2015

There was a busy weekend of Scór na nÓg action last week. On Friday evening, our team travelled to Madden for the first round of the All-County competition. There was immediate success for our quiz team of Sean Boylan, Sean King and Claire McMahon (pictured) and for Solo Singer Grainne Cromie who went straight through top the county semi-final. Our other teams were to the Qualifiers on Sunday night where we gained further success with three more of our acts, instrumental group, ballad group and our second solo singer, Riona Stuart also getting through to the semi-final. Unfortunately it was the end of the road for our other two instrumental teams but the standard was very high in this section and they should be very proud of themselves, they are still young and have a good few years left at Scór na nÓg. Getting five acts out of seven through to the semi-final is a fantastic achievement for all involved. More training and practice sessions lie ahead as they all prepare for the next round – we wish them well.



Annual Community Firework Display
and Fancy Dress disco
Killeavy Social Club
Halloween night – Saturday 31st October
from 8.00pm



Development News

Killeavy GAC is now five years into our 10 year development plan and we are delighted to announce that the next stage of our development has reached tender stage. Applications are being sought from experienced contractors to start work on the construction of a 3G playing surface, a community walking track, the supply of outdoor fitness equipment and the building of a Ball wall. It is hoped that the work will start in January 2016 and will be completed by the end of March at an estimated cost of £150,000.

Funding of this ambitious project will be derived chiefly through Club Killeavy subscription but the club will also be running a major Day at the Races fundraiser in Fairyhouse on February 20th. Many of you will remember a similar fundraiser some years ago when almost a thousand Killeavy Gaels and their friends had a day to remember at the races. We do hope that we will be able to call on your support once again.

KILLEAVY GAC

One Life One Club

DAY AT THE RACES

FAIRYHOUSE
SAT 20th FEBRUARY 2016

- BREAKFAST BAP TEA/COFFEE
- TRANSPORT TO AND FROM FAIRYHOUSE
- ENTRY TO RACES/ FREE DRINK ON ARRIVAL
- FREE RACE CARD
- RESERVED AREA FOR KILLEAVY RACEGOERS
- HOT FOOD
- FREE BETS
- LIVE MUSIC INCLUDED IN RESERVED AREA
- CELEBRITY PUNDITS
- £1000 RAFFLE & PRIZES FOR RACEGOERS ONLY
- PRIZES FOR BEST DRESSED LADY/GENT
- MUSIC PROVIDED IN CLUB ON RETURN

£60
€85

ALL PROCEEDS TOWARDS OUR NEW 3G FIELD, OUTDOOR GYM AND WALKING TRAIL TO BE COMPLETED END OF MARCH 2016

Snippets

You are all most welcome to the launch of Oliver McDonald's "History of the GAA in Killeavy" next Saturday 7th November in the Social Club. Special guests on the evening will be County Chairman Paul McArdle and the renowned Armagh journalist, poet, historian and former Armagh manager Peter Makem.

The Rice family have asked us to thank everybody for the overwhelming support of their charity quiz last Friday evening which raised over £2,700 for Epilepsy Action NI and the Katy Phillips Barbershop Award.

Well done to everyone involved in the Ladies Football 25th birthday reunion last Saturday night – an excellent night had by all.

Strictly Come Dancing fundraisers are all the go at the moment – a good one to look out for is Ciaran and Marian's Big Breakfast on Sunday 8th November in the Social Club. Remember that Strictly takes to the stage again on 5th December. Book your tickets early to avoid disappointment.

Finally, please note that any lost property found around the club will be donated to charity by Monday unless claimed before then.

Underage Presentations – Part 1

The first of our underage presentations for 2015 took place last Sunday evening for all our u6, u8 and u10 girls and boys. Many thanks to all our parents, coaches and senior players who helped to give out the medals. The second presentation for u12, u14 and u16 will be held next Thursday 5th November at 7.30pm in the Social club.



u6 boys and girls with their coaches last Sunday evening



Above: u8 boys and girls Below: u10 boys and girls



Lottery News

Thank you to everyone who supports our club through the weekly lottery. The jackpot has hit yet another big milestone – could it be waiting there for you?

14	16	18	21
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There was **NO** winner of the £5,900 jackpot
There were **FOUR** Match 3 Winners - £25 each

NAME	ADDRESS	SELLER
Annette McCoy	Foughilletra Road	Sean Duffy
Kieran King	Dromintee Rd	Larry King
Kevin McGuigan	Tobar Blinne	Stephanie McGuigan
Veronica Watters	St Moninna Pk	Your Store, Meigh

Promoter – £25 – **Donal O'Keefe (Corn Dolly)**
Prize money **£125** Next Jackpot

£6,000