



## What you may have missed: Part 1

Thank you for all the messages we have received welcoming the return of our weekly club bulletin. As acknowledged last week, its prolonged absence has likely left a gap of knowledge across the club as to how each of our teams have performed in 2017. This week we begin the task of rectifying that situation by taking an overview of 2017 for our teams and their hopes for the year to come. The ambition is to cover each section of our club by the year's end before reverting back to our weekly newsletter in the new year.

### New Senior management for 2018

Following an end of year review, the club has decided that a new managerial team should be put in place to address the challenges faced by our return to the top flight of Armagh football. We would like to sincerely thank Paddy McGuinness and Paul Gallagher for their commitment throughout 2017 and wish them every continued success as they move on to their next challenge. In their place Killeavy now greets with the warmest of welcomes 2002 All-Ireland winner, Justin McNulty, as our 2018 senior manager. Having won a Senior Cavan Football Championship as manager of Mullahoran in 2006 and having taken Laois to promotion into Division One of the National League in 2011 the club is confident that Justin has the managerial pedigree needed to mould the club's young and ambitious senior team. We wish him and the team every success in the coming season.



### New Championship structures as well

Following a motion passed at last night's Armagh County Convention, Justin is sure to have a minimum of three senior championship games in September of next year. The motion, which was proposed by the Clann Eireann club and supported by the Killeavy delegation, does away with the 'back-door' and replaces it with a round robin league format with four groups of four teams, guaranteeing everyone three games before getting down to the quarter-final stage. One interesting point is that the groups will be seeded depending on finishing league position so it really should encourage competitive matches all the way through the league as well. The new format is a one year experiment and will also apply across the Intermediate and Junior championships.

### Senior Men

The Senior men this year have a season to look back on with many fond memories. Starting the year with a new management team of Paddy McGuinness and Paul Gallagher the team exploded into the league with five successive wins including a home win against Silverbridge who had beaten them twice in 2016 though a loss to St. Peter's, Lurgan and return defeat at Silverbridge left the season uncertain as they approached the final four games. As it transpired the three horse race for the Division 2A league between Silverbridge, Killeavy and St. Peter's, Lurgan finished in that order. However given that the winner of the Intermediate Championship, if outside the top two in the league, would go up in place of the team who finished second (Killeavy) – all was still to play for as the Championship beckoned.

The Championship run got off to a flyer with a resounding victory over St. Paul's, Lurgan in Ballymacnab followed by another comfortable display against Mullaghbawn in the second round. Killeavy's quarter final against St. Peter's, Lurgan was of critical importance as a win would not only cement a place in the semi-finals but would also bury any chances of the Lurgan side replacing Killeavy in the race for promotion. After some nervy moments early in the second half Killeavy went on to win by seven and confirm their place in the semi-final. Opposition that day were the same St. Paul's team from the first round - after they had successfully negotiated the backdoor system to come through the other side. This game on paper ran nothing like it did on the day and a newly invigorated St. Paul's team, with the inclusion of Armagh's Andrew Murnin, proved to be Killeavy's toughest test in the Armagh Intermediate Championship. Late crossbar drama at the Killeavy goalmouth finished a nervous day for the team as they breathed a sigh of relief at booking their place in the final against Silverbridge by the narrowest of margins.



#### *Intermediate Champions 2017*

*Captain James Donnelly raises the Atty Hearty Cup in front of a jubilant Killeavy team at the Athletic Grounds in October*

The Intermediate Final had a palpable anticipation surrounding it. Not only had both teams now guaranteed promotion but having traded wins in the league many viewed this as the deciding fixture.

From the off it was clear that any prior expectations that Silverbridge might have too much for the young Killeavy team were wildly inaccurate as the team penetrated at will to lead by six at half time. With Silverbridge drawing nearer as the second half played out it was Raymie Teggart who stepped up to settle nerves in the Athletic Grounds with about ten minutes left on the clock. An expansive and at times gritty performance saw Killeavy enter senior football as the Intermediate Champions of 2017.

A disappointing Ulster Quarter Final defeat by the narrowest of margins against Donegal champions, Milford will be the one sore point from a fantastic year as Killeavy let slip a four point lead with ten minutes left on the clock. That frustration though will likely be used by the team as they seek to establish Killeavy in the Senior Division once more. For a team that could boast only three players over the age of 24 when they lined out against Silverbridge in the Championship Final there is a real sense that if directed in the correct manner, this group of players will see Killeavy return to the highest echelons of gaelic football in the years ahead. For 2018 Killeavy will participate in the Senior Championship and will operate in Senior League 1b where they will face opposition from Annaghmore, Pearse Ogs, Sarsfields, Madden, , Whitecross, Tir na nOg and Silverbridge.



### Lottery News

|           |           |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>13</b> | <b>18</b> | <b>21</b> | <b>27</b> |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|

There was **NO** winner of the £5,700 jackpot

There were **SIX** Match 3 Winners - £25 each

| NAME              | ADDRESS          | SELLER            |
|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Una O'Neill       | Belfast          | Michael O'Neill   |
| Seamus McDonnell  | Ferryhill Road   | Patrick Hannaway  |
| Fr. D. Maloney    | c/o Mary Mallon  | Mary Mallon       |
| Eamonn McAteer    | Keggal Road      | Club Killeavy     |
| McNamee Family    | Meigh            | Oliver McNamee    |
| Brian Marmion     | c/o L. Marmion   | Lily Marmion      |
| Sean Loughran     | Trasna Road      | Social Club       |
| Anthony Bennett   | c/o M. Hughes    | Martin Hughes     |
| Geraldine Poucher | Glenside Terrace | Elizabeth Carroll |
| Noel Quinn        | c/o E. Downey    | Elizabeth Downey  |
| Stevie Rickard    | c/o P. McGowan   | Philomena McGowan |
| Fr. P. Keenan     | c/o S. Coyle     | Seamus Coyle      |

Promoter Prize – £25 – Lawrence King

Prize money this week **£325** Next Jackpot

# £5,800

### 2017 Division 2A Final Standings

| Team           | P  | W  | L  | D | Points |
|----------------|----|----|----|---|--------|
| Silverbridge   | 14 | 12 | 1  | 1 | 25     |
| Killeavy       | 14 | 11 | 2  | 1 | 23     |
| St. Peters     | 14 | 8  | 3  | 3 | 19     |
| Carrickcruppen | 14 | 6  | 7  | 1 | 13     |
| Grange         | 14 | 4  | 8  | 2 | 10     |
| Clan na Gael   | 14 | 3  | 8  | 3 | 9      |
| Forkhill       | 14 | 3  | 8  | 3 | 9      |
| Tullysaran     | 14 | 2  | 12 | 0 | 4      |

### Senior Camogie

2017 was a year of real development for Killeavy's Senior Camogie team. The code has only been reformed since 2013 and whilst there had been a risk of losing camogie in Killeavy over recent years the current panel have bonded to create a burgeoning new class of camogs that are beginning to show real potential. Though their league form stuttered on and off, leaving them mid-table at the year's end, there were key standout moments which illustrate their development as a squad. The defeat of Clann na Gael for the first time since 2013 for example will be what the squad will look to build on the back of going into next season with noteworthy performances on the day from Bronagh Byrne and Leanne Coburn, who impressed throughout the season by adapting with ease to new roles.



The team will of course look back at their Championship Shield Final loss to Meabh O'Neill's, Camlough in September with a certain degree of frustration as they failed to utilise their strength down the middle of the park until too late. Though the result will understandably be disappointing, the experience of playing in finals is something that should not be underestimated for any developing team and whilst this year's campaign ended in defeat there is a sense within the squad that improvements to key areas could see a reverse of fortune next year. As the team continue to build on their already strong panel of 32 players the key to success will be to nurture a host of new talent that includes new additions such as Laura McGuinness and Siofra Fee who we hope are forerunners for a new breed of camogs coming through from underage. Many of the senior squad are intimately involved with managing and coaching of underage camogie within the club and as the code continues to develop and set roots the team will no doubt look to 2018 with the hope of lifting silverware for the first time.