



Friday 22nd December 2017

St. Moninna's G.A.C.

Killeavy Club News

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What you may have missed: Part 2

The club would like to wish all of its readers a very Merry Christmas this week. The Christmas period has always been one that allows reflection on the year that has been and whilst the club recognise the successful year we have had, we also appreciate that the year has been one of deep loss for some of our members. We have a lot to be thankful for as a community and we would encourage all members to take time over the next week to appreciate the time with loved ones as we prepare for the coming year. This is the second part of our 'Year in review' series and this week focus shifts to our Senior Ladies and Senior Hurling teams as we continue to fill in any gaps that might be missing in our reader's knowledge of how our club has performed in 2017. The bulletin will then revert back to its traditional format in the new year.

More All-Star success for Killeavy



Having been successfully represented at this month's Armagh GAA Club All-Star Awards, Killeavy received more welcome news this week as minor and senior player Conor Magennis received an Ulster GAA College All-Star. This award recognises Conor as one of the best 15 players in college's football and is a fitting acknowledgment of his performances this year

with St.Paul's, Bessbrook and clearly bodes well for the club as he steps up to the senior team next year. A massive congratulations to Conor – well done!

Senior Ladies

The 2017 season was always going to be a difficult affair for our senior ladies team after a league restructuring left Killeavy ladies competing in senior football. This decision was taken in relation to points earned last season however little acknowledgment seemed to be given to the fact that four of Killeavy's points last year came from other teams not fielding against them (without which Killeavy would not have been allocated a slot in the Senior division). While Killeavy always wish to play at the highest level the ladies squad remains in a transitional phase having lost key personnel through injury and retirement since 2012's

championship winning team and it was unfortunate for the young team to be effectively punished for having had the ability to field a team last season. 2017 got off to a tough start and upon reaching the split in the league Killeavy found themselves in the bottom half. From there though, the team showed the quality that is evident throughout the squad with comfortable wins over local rivals Silverbridge and Forkhill. A critical loss to Armagh Harps by the narrowest of margins followed which compounded Killeavy's bad start and unwittingly sealed their fate for 2017. When the last two games of the league went unplayed Killeavy were left in the relegation zone and will face Intermediate Football once more next year.

Having not been given a chance by many upon entering senior football the team were excellent in key games – particularly in the second game against Forkhill (a team who had already beaten them this year). Aine McParland was a constant source of possession from kick-outs in that game and the team used that platform to dominate completely. The team were but one win away from survival upon finishing the year and so it was that these fine margins characterised the season. After a missed penalty and two close free-kicks in the second half Killeavy lost by a single point and exited the Championship to home side Granemore in the first round, ending the year with a deep feeling of dissatisfaction.

Though this may be true now, as the players begin to prepare for next season there should be renewed hope that having been forced into senior football a few years too early – Killeavy will again play at their rightful level. This will allow a young senior team that featured regular appearances from then u16s Aimee McArdle and Rachel McQuaid a chance to develop properly with



competitive football and have a real chance at tangible rewards. There is a feeling within the club that with the right additions to an already talented squad silverware is a serious possibility in 2018 and that this panel of players should look forward in confidence to the year ahead. Ceire McConville who has shown for years her depth of talent and commitment to both codes at senior level was again one of the standout players for the team this year and Killeavy will no doubt look to the more senior players like McConville to lead the team back to championship and league success next year.

Senior Hurlers

Senior hurling in Killeavy had a mixed year for 2017. With entry into Division 2 of the Ulster Tain league hopes of regular competitive league matches were high. Killeavy played in a number of league matches and equipped themselves very well but cancellations and postponements meant that the regular games advertised did not materialise. Killeavy finished just below mid table which importantly means they can play again in this league during 2018. We hope that an improved league structure will lead to a regular schedule of competitive games for our senior hurlers.

Following the end of the league campaign, focus was then placed on the Junior Hurling Championship and the opponents Craobh Rua in the semi-final. The match was played in Carrickcruppen and Killeavy ran out convincing winners showcasing joyful hurling displays. This result took the senior hurlers into the final against Derrynoose – a pairing that had been expected when the Championship draw was made at the start of the year.

The final was played on 10th September and it was Derrynoose who got off to a flying start scoring two goals in the first 23 minutes. The teams went in at half time having scored the same amount of times but the goals meant Derrynoose lead by four (2-4 to 0-6). Rallying at halftime, a much improved Killeavy team came out the second half and outscored Derrynoose by 7 points to 5 with XXX and XXX leading the line at the front whilst XXX, XXX, XXX began to shut down what had been a difficult Derrynoose forward line. Unfortunately though the two goal cushion from the first half was never truly closed and when the final whistle blew there was still two points in it - Final score Killeavy 0-13 Derrynoose 2-9.

It was a disappointing loss but Killeavy can take heart from the second half performance and the experience that 2017 provided for another Killeavy team filled with young members. For next year, no doubt regaining the Junior Championship will be of principle concern but a better league campaign will also be in sharp focus as the team look to cement the advances that have been made in recent years.



u14 Hurlers make history for Killeavy GAC



On Friday 16th June the Killeavy u14 hurlers travelled to Kilkenny as County Armagh Féile shield winners after beating Craobh Rua in March. After winning their opening games against Cloneen Railyard and Carrickmore, Killeavy ensured they would move into the knock out stages later that day in Bree, Co Wexford.

After a tense quarter final win against Barrow/Ballymitty, Killeavy played Luke O'Tooles from Wicklow in the semi-final. The Wicklow side matched the Killeavy lads in the first half but Killeavy rose to the occasion in the second half and when the final whistle blew the lads were ecstatic having earned their place in the final against Wolfe Tones of Longford.

After the national anthem introduced both teams the match started well for the Longford team as they shot over two points without reply. Killeavy struck back with a well-executed goal before Wolfe Tones levelled the game just before half time leaving the score delicately poised at 1-0 to 0-3.

Despite aching limbs and heat exhaustion the team lifted their game in the second half - constantly supporting each other in the rucs and coming out with the ball urged on by a tremendous number of travelling support. Eventually Killeavy made the breakthrough with their second goal. Even then it took some tenacious defending over the last few nervous minutes before Killeavy were crowned All-Ireland Divisional champions with the final score reading Killeavy 2-2 Wolfe Tones 0-5.

Each player has contributed throughout this season and it was a just reward for the hard work that has been the backbone of this team to have the honour of the first Killeavy team in history to win an All-Ireland Féile Final.

Lottery News

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Congratulations to Sharon Treanor, Parkview on winning the £5,800 jackpot and to Mulkerns Eurospar for selling the winning ticket.

There were SEVEN Match 3 winners - £25 each

Katie Hannaway	Parkview	Patrick Hannaway
Marian & Monica	Newtown Road	Eddie Mullen
McNamee Family	Meigh	Oliver McNamee
Kevin McSorley	c/o Mary McAnuff	Mulkerns Eurospar
Maura O'Hare	Rathgullion	Elizabeth Downey
A. Loughran	c/o Madden's	Madden's Bar
Pauline Hannaway	Upper Fathom	Eddie Cassidy

Next week's Jackpot - **£2,500**

Merry Christmas!