

## Secretary's Report 2024 A.G.M. Fri. Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> 2023 in Community Hall.

Cuirim Fáilte Romhaibh. Ba mhaith liom buíochas a gabháil do gach duine a chabhraigh. Táimid buíoch go bhfuil an halla seo ar fail.

2023 saw us back as an Intermediate Club after winning 2022 Junior Championship. We had won promotion to Div 3 Senior League in 2022 as well. Our Intermediate status and league grade were retained. Paul Drewitt was our team manager and we extend to him and his side kicks, Kenny Byrne, Tony Clarke and Dan Buckley a big "Thank You". Our league performances were unexciting. We won 2 matches v. Kill (3 8 to 0 10) v. Caragh (2 11 to 2 10) and had 2 draws v. St. Kevin's (2 8 to 1 11) and Rathangan (0 14 to 1 11). Losses to Ballyteague (1 8 to 2 12), Ellistown (1 14 to 0 20), Ballymore (1 15 to 2 13), Monasterevan (3 17 to 1 14). The forced deduction of one league point for conceding a w.o. v. Grange on May 19<sup>th</sup> due to Kipper Stanley's R.I.P. repose left us top of the Lower Section at the split. Losses to Ballymore, Ellistown, Caragh and a draw v. Kill led to the Championship where performances improved. We lost narrowly to Allenwood, the eventual Champions, (3 11 to 1 21), a win v. Ellistown (3 9 to 2 7), loss to T.M.H. who reached the Semi-Final, (1 6 to 0 10) and Nurney (0 10 to 1 12) closed the year.

Reserves had a dismal league losing to Caragh (1 7 to 3 13), Ballyteague (3 4 to 2 15), Monasterevan (1 6 to 5 13), Ellistown (1 8 to 2 15), Kill (3 12 to 3 14), Confey (3 10 to 2 9), Rathcoffey (0 7 to 0 16). Having been upped a grade after winning their championship in 2022 the challenge was on. Lost to Caragh (0 15 to 4 7). Tables were then turned winning v. Ellistown (2 10 to 1 9), Rathcoffey (0 14 to 0 12) leading to semi-final v. Kildangan (3 11 to 1 11) and a final victory v. Caragh (4 9 to 2 9). Two in a row Champions. Yippee. Congratulations to the team and particularly to manager, Steve Reynar. Challenges 2 v. Rathangan (6 10 to 0 13), v. u/23s and Blacks v. Whites had primed the team.

Bernie Molloy religiously looks after marriages and deaths, involves herself in Cúl Camp, Club Camp, Tish Kearney Fun Day, weekly lotto and much more. The Lotto sub-committee Bernie, John Blake, Matt Duggan and Pat Molloy slave year after year, week after week, to keep the club wheels rolling. Catherine Cooke aided and abetted this year. I thank all our volunteers.

Other officers will make reports outlining the healthy state of our ship. Every ship has a captain. No words of mine can do justice to what John Neenan is doing and has done. Míle Buíochas, John.

Physio costs are a huge drain on our club. Dave Noonan's volunteerism is greatly appreciated.

We are an organisation of volunteers. We feed off each other. Our motivation in Straffan GAA is to provide for the young and the wider community. The active youth of to-day become the wholesome citizens of to-morrow. Our volunteers to-day know they will not benefit directly. The baton will be passed to some of you here. When our established residents moved to Straffan they accepted the challenges. New residents here are becoming established and undoubtedly are rising to the challenges. Straffan is your place now. You are needed to provide for our children's future. Our predecessors responded to the needs of their times. The GAA is about place. It defines where you come from. It's about volunteers working together for something worthwhile.

Seán Ó hÉineagáin (Rúnaí)