

BIRR GAA CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



County Arms Hotel
Friday November 29th 2024
At 7:30p.m. Sharp



Fáilte

The Executive of Birr GAA Club welcomes all members to this evening's AGM. The highlight of this season has been the success achieved at underage level. Pride of place goes to the Féile na nGael Division 2 All Ireland Champions. This is the 5th occasion National success has been achieved by the Club at the Féile. *Biorra Abú!*



Division 2 Bunclody & Davidstown Group 1

Pos.	Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
1	Birr	2	2	0	0	37	20	4
2	Kevin Lynch Hurling Club	2	1	1	0	29	25	2
3	Clonkill	2	0	2	0	11	32	0

Clonkill (0-4) v (5-4) Birr
 Division 2 Bunclody & Davidstown Group 1 Round 1
 11:30 AM
 Referee: Alan O'Neill

Birr (4-6) v (3-7) Kevin Lynch Hurling Club
 Division 2 Bunclody & Davidstown Group 1 Round 3
 1:10 PM
 Referee: Alan O'Neill

Birr (1-4) v (0-2) Tralee Parnells
 Division 2 Bunclody & Davidstown Knockout Cup SF 1
 2:50 PM
 Referee: John Carton

Birr (2-8) v (2-5) St Anne's Rathangan
 Division 2 Bunclody & Davidstown Knockout Cup Final
 4:20 PM
 Referee: John Carton

Birr GAA Members Remember

We remember all those members who are now departed from this life. Those who have gone before us have given great service and we are now the custodians of this great Club.

This year in particular we remember:

Pauraic Goonan County Senior Champions 1971

Michael Hogan Captain 1st Offaly All Ireland Minor Champions 1986

Captained St. Brendan's Community School to their first All Ireland Colleges A Title

All Ireland Club Champions 1995



AN CHLÁR

1. Fáilte
2. Birr GAA Members Remember
3. Adoption of Standing Orders
4. Minutes of the Previous AGM – (2023)
5. Consideration of the Annual Report submitted by the Secretary
6. Consideration of the Financial Statements including the Report of the Accountant
7. The Chairperson’s Address
8. Election of Officers and Members of the Executive Committee
 - Delegates to the County Board
9. Reports
10. Notice of Motions
11. Any Other Business
 - Management Teams 2025



Standing Orders for Annual General Meeting

In order that the proceedings of the AGM are carried out without delay, the following Standing Orders will be observed:

1. The proposer of a motion or an amendment there to, may speak for three minutes, but not more than three minutes.
2. A member speaking to a motion/proposal/resolution, or an amendment thereto, must not exceed two minutes.
3. The proposer of a motion/proposal/resolution, or amendment, may speak a second time to the same motion or amendment.
4. The Chairperson may, at any time he considers a matter has been sufficiently discussed, call on a proposer for a reply and when this is given, a vote must be taken.
5. A member may with the consent of the Chairperson move “that the motion/proposal/resolution be now put” after which, when the proposer has spoken, a vote must be taken.
6. 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 and entitled to vote.



Minutes of the BIRR GAA AGM of November 2023

The meeting was held in the County Arms Hotel on Friday 24th of November at 7:30pm. A full quorum was present with members signing the required registration sheet. (Appendix No:1 attached to these minutes)

Apologies were received from:

- 1) Chrissie Millar, Rev Bro Denis (Life President), Orla Watkins and Johnny Pilkington who was unable to attend.

The Chairperson William Rigney opened the meeting with a moments silence in memory of deceased members of the club.

To all our departed – Rest in peace. Ar Dheis Dé go raibh siad.

Minutes of the Previous AGM 2022

Proposer: Neil Tierney

Seconded by: Sean Doorley

Standing orders:

Adopted

Proposer: Johnny Kelly

Seconded by: Aarron Whealan

Secretary's Report:

Kieran Horan, Club Secretary provided a detailed report of activities of the club throughout 2023.

Proposer: Neil Tierney

Seconded by: Aaron Whealan.

Treasurers Report:

2023 seen the continuation of challenges presented to the club finances when it came to injuries and sport injuries claims for serious injuries. The Club finances remained steadfast and are still healthy going into 2024.

The Lotto remains the most important source of income for the club and a call for more volunteer's to support the lotto.

A huge thank you goes out to Brian Colohan and Martin & Ursula Walsh.

On-Line Lotto continues to grow and be successful and a thank you to Michael Verney for the great work been done in this area.

A special thank you went out to Frances Teehan and the Camogie Club for their terrific contribution when it comes to selling lotto tickets.

Finance:

Club Accounts, Field Accounts and Minor Club Accounts were all circulated to the members in attendance.

Senior Club Treasurer Brian Colohan presented the club accounts.

Proposer: Eoin Pilkington

Seconded by: Sean Doorley

Field Accounts were presented by Club Treasurer Brian Colohan

Proposer: Aaron Whealan

Seconded by: Tom Carty

Minor Club Accounts were presented by Assistant Club Treasurer Michael Loughnane

Proposer: John Irwin

Seconded by: Tom Carty

Joe Errity raised a question regarding a possible anomaly regarding the reported recording of the income from the Mayoral fundraiser. It was agreed the question would be referred back to the accountant for clarification.

Chairperson's Address:

William Rigney, Chairperson, provided an overview of Club Activities and plans for the future of Birr GAA. William stepped down as Chairperson of the club and will not be going forward in 2023, but he went on to acknowledge the voluntary contribution of so many members while encouraging more to become actively involved in the club. The club remains in a strong position and should continue to make progress on all fronts. The club continues to engage with neighbouring clubs in the parish to ensure players have the best possible opportunity to engage in GAA activities.

A full comprehensive review of the Chairperson's report can be found in the Birr GAA Annual Meeting Booklet – 2023.

Proposer: Barry Kennedy

Seconded by: Sean Doorley

Executive Nominations:

The following were nominated to the Birr GAA Executive 2024 and elected unopposed. It was agreed that the new incoming Chairperson Michael Loughnane meet with all of the individuals and ensure they are happy to serve on the executive in 2024.

Position	Nomination	Position	Nomination
Chairperson	Michael Loughnane	Coaching Officer	Neil Tierney
V-Chairperson	Rory Hanniffy	Irish Language & Cultural Officer	Frances Teehan
Secretary	John Irwin	Club Registrar	Davin Hart

Treasurer - Club	Brian Colohan	Club Child Protection Officer	Chrissie Millar
Assistant Treasurer	Michael Loughnane	"Player Injury Claim Fund "Officer	To be Reviewed
P.R.O.	To be confirmed first committee meeting		
Player Rep:	Jimmy Irwin	Wellbeing Officer	T.B.C.
Committee	Dave Coffey	Committee	Pat Thompson
Committee	Dave Bolger	Committee	Orla Watkins

As all club Executive roles could not be completed at this meeting it was agreed that roles that were not filled would remain for now and all would be reviewed at the first committee meeting in 2024.

Proposer: Sean Doorley

Seconded by: Tom Carty

Delegates to the County Board:

- 1) Chairperson
- 2) Vice – Chairperson
- 3) Secretary
- 4) Dave Bolger
- 5) Dave Coffey

Proposer: Eoin Pilkington

Secunder: Barry Harding

Reports:

- 1) Cultural Officers Report – Frances Teehan
- 2) Development Committee Report – William Rigney
- 3) Birr GAA Senior Club Notes – PRO – Michael Verney
- 4) Birr Minor Report – Michael Loughnane

All taken as read and summaries were given to all officers and members present on the evening. This was followed by brief question and answer session. All reports went to the floor as a group to be proposed and seconded.

Proposer: Sean Doorley

Seconded by: Tom Carty

Motions:

There was one executive motion – Membership & Lotto

Membership rates for adult members to be increased to the following for 2023:

Playing Member - €70.00

Non – Playing Member - €40.00

Non-Playing Couple - €50.00

OAP - €10.00

Membership will also be offered to include entry in the weekly lotto draw for a full year (51 weeks) at the following discounted rates:

Playing member - €160

Non-Playing Member - €130.00

Non-Playing Couple - €140.00

OAP - €105.00

The motion was put to the floor and a vote taken.

Result: Passed unanimously

Outcome: Adopted

A.O.B.

Senior Hurling Team Management:

Senior A & Senior B Hurling:

Manager: Gary Cahill

Selectors: Paul Cleary & Kevin Donovan

Strength & Conditioning: Martin Bennett

Team Secretary: Neil Tierney

Kitman: Pio Spillane

Liaison Officer: Pat Thompson

Junior A Hurling:

Manager: Joe Errity

Selectors: Garech Dooley & A. an. Other

Under 20's Hurling:

The AGM was advised that the executive would make arrangements for U-20's Management at a later date.

Junior B Football:

The AGM was advised that the executive would make arrangements for Junior B football management at a later date.

Birr Community School:

A note of thanks to John Kennedy and the Board of Management of St. Brendan's Community School for the use of their great facilities throughout the year. The St. Brendan's Community School is a very important amenity and facility for the Birr GAA Club.

St Brendan's Boys Primary School:

Sincere thanks to Niall Crofton and all in St. Brendan's Boys Primary School for their support and access to the school's facilities particularly on big match days.

Coaches & Mentors:

The Chairperson thanked all Coaches, Managers and Selectors both in the Senior and Minor clubs for their invaluable contribution through volunteerism.

The meeting concluded.

Mise le meas, Ciarán Ó hOráin

Secretary's Report 2024

I would like to thank our Chairperson, Michael Loughnane, and Executive members for their contributions to this AGM booklet. You will find their reports included in this booklet, which provide a record of much of the work completed in Birr GAA Club in 2024.

Thank you to all the coaches and mentors involved in all teams at various levels and grades. Congratulations in particular to minor club coaches and backroom staff for their great efforts and considerable success achieved in 2024 winning National and County titles.

Adult Hurling and Football:

Thank you to all the managers, coaches and back-room staff for their time and commitment when it came to our hurling and football panels.

Adult Hurling Managers, Coaches and back-room staff:

Gary Cahill, Joe Errity, Martin Bennett, Kevin Donovan, Paul Cleary, Adam Harte, Neil Tierney, Garech Doorley, Pat Thompson, Pio Spillane, Conor Mooney.

Success at Senior A was not to be in 2024 going out at quarter final stage in a close fought contest against St. Rynaghs. Our Senior 'B' hurlers have been a credit to the club in recent seasons, but this year proved a bridge too far as we fell back to the intermediate grade for the first time since 2021.

Sincere thanks to Joe Errity, Garech Doorley and Conor Mooney and their backroom for all they have achieved over the last three years. This year's Junior A campaign proved challenging following a very successful and long 2023 season, winning the Junior B title and progressing to an All Ireland semi-final. Junior hurling has been re-established in our Club and will continue to provide an opportunity for younger players in their pathway to future development playing alongside more experienced players.

Conor Mooney volunteered to manage the Junior B footballers for the 2024 season. It is great to see adult football supported in the Club and thanks to Conor and the players for their commitment.

Underage Hurling and Football

I would like to acknowledge the Minor Club under the leadership of Chairperson Brian Stephens and Secretary Conor Mooney. To you, your Executive members, coaches, mentors and young players, congratulations on a very successful year.

We have witnessed the progress that the club is making. The effort and commitment, particularly concerning the development of our young players needs to continue. The arrival of GPO Shane Murphy is a very welcome development in this regard liaising with all coaches and schools, both primary and secondary, on behalf of the Club.

Below please see the record of fixtures that the Club participated in. It is encouraging to see both codes, hurling and football, available to players in our Club.

Tables and Results 2024

U12 A Hurling League

Pos.	Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
1	Birr	7	7	0	0	180	74	14
2	Na Fianna	7	6	1	0	136	79	12
3	Kilcormac-Killoughey	7	5	2	0	153	94	10
4	SBK	7	4	3	0	128	85	8
5	Tullamore	7	3	4	0	75	105	6
6	Ballinamore	7	2	5	0	72	116	4
7	DSK	7	1	6	0	60	143	2
8	Kinnitty Lusmagh	7	0	7	0	33	141	0

Tullamore (2-1) v (6-4) **Birr**

U12 A Hurling League Round 1
O'Brien Park 6:15 PM
Referee: Marius Stones

Birr (8-7) v (7-4) **Kilcormac-Killoughey**

U12 A Hurling League Round 2
Grant Heating St Brendan's Park, Birr 6:15 PM
Referee: Kieran Pat Kelly

SBK (2-5) v (5-10) **Birr**

U12 A Hurling League Round 3
Shinrone 6:15 PM
Referee: Adam Kinahan

Birr (4-5) v (2-7) **Na Fianna**

U12 A Hurling League Round 4
Grant Heating St Brendan's Park, Birr 6:15 PM
Referee: Kieran Dooley

Birr (6-12) v (1-3) **DSK**

U12 A Hurling League Round 5
Grant Heating St Brendan's Park, Birr 6:15 PM
Referee: John Sampson

Kinnitty Lusmagh (1-2) v (8-5) **Birr**

U12 A Hurling League Round 6
Kinnitty 6:45 PM
Referee: Sean Michael Maher

Birr (6-8) v (2-1) **Ballinamore/Durrow**

U12 A Hurling League Round 7
Grant Heating St Brendan's Park, Birr 6:15 PM
Referee: Adam Kinahan

Jack Wyr Tournament Division One Group 1

Pos.	Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
1	Birr	4	4	0	0	69	30	8
2	Na Fianna	4	3	1	0	81	48	6
3	Ballinamere	4	2	2	0	61	50	4
4	Coolderry	4	1	3	0	72	50	2
5	Ferbane	4	0	4	0	19	124	0

Birr (3-4) v (1-8) Na Fianna

Jack Wyr Tournament Division One Group 1 Round 1

Grant Heating St Brendan's Park, Birr 6:00 PM

Referee: Sean Donoghue

Coolderry (1-5) v (2-5) Birr

Jack Wyr Tournament Division One Group 1 Round 2

Coolderry 5:45 PM

Referee: David McLoughlin

Birr (7-10) v (0-3) Ferbane/Belmont

Jack Wyr Tournament Division One Group 1 Round 4

Shannonbridge 7:00 PM

Referee: Odhrán Mc Intyre

Ballinamere/Durrow (1-5) v (3-5) Birr

Jack Wyr Tournament Division One Group 1 Round 5

Ballinamere 11:00 AM

Referee: Steven Connolly

Birr (2-6) v (2-5) Kilcormac-Killoughey

Jack Wyr Division One Finals A Final

Grant Heating St Brendan's Park, Birr 3:00 PM

Referee: Adam Kinahan

U12 B Football League

Pos.	Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
1	Rhode Og	8	7	1	0	171	92	14
2	Clara	8	6	2	0	193	56	12
3	Gracefield	8	6	2	0	98	94	12
4	Birr	8	5	3	0	174	98	10
5	Na Fianna	8	4	4	0	119	105	8
6	Shannonbridge	8	3	5	0	127	202	6
7	St Broughan's	8	3	5	0	129	153	6
8	Kinnitty	8	2	6	0	106	183	4
9	Cloghan	8	0	8	0	40	174	0

Birr (5-5) v (3-2) **Clara**
 U12 B Football League Round 2
 Grant Heating St Brendan's Park, Birr 6:15 PM
 Referee: John Sampson

Rhode Og (2-9) v (6-7) **Birr**
 U12 B Football League Round 3
 Rhode 5:30 PM
 Referee: Martin Carty

Birr (10-6) v (6-9) **Shannonbridge**
 U12 B Football League Round 4
 Grant Heating St Brendan's Park, Birr 6:15 PM
 Referee: John Sampson

St Broughan's (3-14) v (2-7) **Birr**
 U12 B Football League Round 5
 Bracknagh 6:15 PM
 Referee: Fergal Smyth

Birr (9-13) v (0-1) **Kinnitty**
 U12 B Football League Round 7
 Grant Heating St Brendan's Park, Birr 5:45 PM
 Referee: Declan Cooke

Cloghan (3-3) v (3-24) **Birr**
 U12 B Football League Round 8
 Cloghan 6:15 PM
 Referee: John Sampson

Birr (1-4) v (3-0) **Na Fianna**
 U12 B Football League Round 9
 Grant Heating St Brendan's Park, Birr 6:15 PM
 Referee: John Sampson

Jerry Conway Tournament Div 2 Grp 2

Pos.	Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
1	Birr	3	3	0	0	63	24	6
2	Shannonbridge	2	1	1	0	31	55	2
3	St Broughan's	3	1	2	0	34	49	2
4	An Tulach Mhor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	Kinnitty	2	0	2	0	0	0	0

Birr (10-6) v (2-3) **Shannonbridge**
 Jerry Conway Tournament Div 2 Grp 2 Round 1
 Grant Heating St Brendan's Park, Birr 6:15 PM
 Referee: John Sampson

St Broughan's (2-9) v (4-15) **Birr**
 Jerry Conway Tournament Div 2 Grp 2 Round 3
 Bracknagh 7:00 PM
 Referee: Ciaran Groome

Kinnitty (CONC) v (0-0) **Birr**
 Jerry Conway Tournament Div 2 Grp 2 Round 2
 Kinnitty TBC
 Referee: TBC

U13 A Hurling League

Pos.	Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
1	SBK	4	4	0	0	78	45	8
2	Tullamore	4	2	2	0	87	43	4
3	Birr	4	2	2	0	64	64	4
4	Ballinamere	4	2	2	0	39	55	4
5	Kinnitty Lusmagh	4	0	4	0	34	95	0

Ballinamere/Durrow (1-2) v (3-12) **Birr**

U13 A Hurling League Round 1
Ballinamere 10:30 AM
Referee: Brian Gavin

Birr (7-11) v (5-3) **Kinnitty Lusmagh**

U13 A Hurling League Round 3
Grant Heating St Brendan's Park, Birr 10:30 AM
Referee: John Sampson

SBK (4-9) v (0-5) **Birr**

U13 A Hurling League Round 4
Shinrone 10:30 AM
Referee: Adam Kinahan

Birr (1-3) v (3-11) **Tullamore**

U13 A Hurling League Round 5
Grant Heating St Brendan's Park, Birr 10:30 AM
Referee: John Sampson

U13 Hurling Championship Group Two

Pos.	Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
1	Ballinamere	4	3	0	1	89	45	7
2	Birr	4	3	0	1	87	53	7
3	CRCC	4	2	2	0	59	46	4
4	DSK	4	1	3	0	25	67	2
5	Kinnitty Lusmagh	4	0	4	0	31	80	0

CRCC (1-8) v (2-7) **Birr**

U13 Hurling Championship Group Two Round 2
Crinkle 7:00 PM
Referee: David McLoughlin

Birr (2-11) v (2-6) **DSK**

U13 Hurling Championship Group Two Round 4
Grant Heating St Brendan's Park, Birr 10:30 AM
Referee: John Sampson

Birr (3-12) v (3-12) **Ballinamere/Durrow**
U13 Hurling Championship Group Two Round 1
Grant Heating St Brendan's Park, Birr 6:30 PM
Referee: Adam Kinahan

Kinnitty Lusmagh (1-6) v (9-9) **Birr**
U13 Hurling Championship Group Two Round 5
Kinnitty 10:30 AM
Referee: Sean Donoghue

St Rynaghs Hurling (3-4) v (5-12) **Birr**
U13 Hurling Championship/Competition U13 Hurling Quarter Finals A
Banagher 10:30 AM
Referee: Sean Donoghue

Kilcormac-Killoughey (1-8) v (3-7) **Birr**
U13 Hurling Championship/Competition U13 Hurling Semi Finals A
Shinrone 10:30 AM
Referee: Kieran Dooley
Notes: Extra Time & Winner on The Day



U13A County Champions 2024

U15 Hurling A League

Pos.	Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
1	Birr	4	3	1	0	123	55	6
2	DSK	4	2	2	0	95	69	4
3	Tullamore	4	2	2	0	65	90	4
4	Kilcormac-Killoughey	4	2	2	0	59	85	4
5	Shamrocks	4	1	3	0	51	94	2

Birr (4-16) v (0-8) Shamrocks

U15 Hurling A League Round 2
Grant Heating St Brendan's Park, Birr 6:30 PM
Referee: Kieran Dooley

DSK (5-15) v (4-8) Birr

U15 Hurling A League Round 1
Rath 10:30 AM
Referee: Eamon O Connor

Tullamore (1-7) v (7-17) Birr

U15 Hurling A League Round 3
O'Brien Park 6:30 PM
Referee: Paurig Gallagher

Birr (7-16) v (0-7) Kilcormac-Killoughey

U15 Hurling A League Round 5
Grant Heating St Brendan's Park, Birr 6:30 PM
Referee: Adam Kinahan

U15 Hurling Championship Group Two

Pos.	Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
1	Birr	4	3	0	1	109	62	7
2	St Rynaghs Hurling	4	3	1	0	106	57	6
3	DSK	4	2	1	1	117	73	5
4	Ferbane	4	1	3	0	55	116	2
5	Ballinamere	4	0	4	0	37	116	0

DSK (3-15) v (3-15) Birr

U15 Hurling Championship Group Two Round 1
Rath 6:30 PM
Referee: Steven Connolly

Birr (5-22) v (1-10) Ferbane/Belmont

U15 Hurling Championship Group Two Round 2
Grant Heating St Brendan's Park, Birr 6:30 PM
Referee: John Sampson

Birr (3-10) v (2-10) Ballinamere/Durrow

U15 Hurling Championship Group Two Round 3
Grant Heating St Brendan's Park, Birr 6:30 PM
Referee: Steven Connolly

Birr (5-14) v (0-9) **St Rynaghs Hurling**
U15 Hurling Championship Group Two Round 5
Grant Heating St Brendan's Park, Birr 6:15 PM
Referee: Sean Michael Maher

Birr (5-12) v (2-5) **Tullamore**
U15 Hurling Championship/Competition A Semi Finals
Coolderry 7:00 PM
Referee: Adam Kinahan
Notes: Extra Time & Winner on The Day

Kilcormac-Killoughey (2-12) v (4-9) **Birr**
U15 Hurling Championship/Competition A Final
Grant Heating St Brendan's Park, Birr 1:00 PM
Referee: Adam Kinahan
Notes: Extra Time



U15A County Champions 2024

U15 Football A League

Pos.	Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
1	Tullamore	4	4	0	0	96	27	8
2	Birr	4	2	2	0	61	71	4
3	Na Fianna	4	2	2	0	53	70	4
4	Cloghan	4	1	2	1	61	66	3
5	St. Vincents	4	0	3	1	41	78	1

Cloghan (6-6) v (4-6) Birr

U15 Football A League Round 1

Cloghan 6:30 PM

Referee: Martin Walsh

Birr (3-9) v (2-4) St. Vincents

U15 Football A League Round 2

Grant Heating St Brendan's Park, Birr 6:30 PM

Referee: John Sampson

Tullamore (7-4) v (2-4) Birr

U15 Football A League Round 3

O Brion Park 6:30 PM

Referee: Gerard Keyes

Birr (3-6) v (2-6) Na Fianna

U15 Football A League Round 5

Grant Heating St Brendan's Park, Birr 6:30 PM

Referee: John Sampson

Tullamore (4-9) v (2-1) Birr

U15 League Football Finals A

Mucklagh 6:30 PM

Referee: Steven Connolly

U15 Football Championship Group Two

Pos.	Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
1	Tullamore	4	4	0	0	79	30	8
2	Na Fianna	4	3	1	0	61	43	6
3	Ferbane	4	1	2	1	50	64	3
4	Birr	4	1	3	0	48	62	2
5	St Manchans	4	0	3	1	45	84	1

Ferbane/Belmont (1-12) v (0-5) Birr

U15 Football Championship Group Two Round 1

Ferbane 6:30 PM

Referee: Adam Kinahan

Birr (5-12) v (1-6) St Manchans

U15 Football Championship Group Two Round 2

Grant Heating St Brendan's Park, Birr 6:30 PM

Referee: John Sampson

Tullamore (4-8) v (1-4) Birr
 U15 Football Championship Group Two Round 3
 O'Brien Park 6:30 PM
 Referee: Noel Cooney

Birr (0-9) v (3-9) Na Fianna
 U15 Football Championship Group Two Round 5
 Grant Heating St Brendan's Park, Birr 6:30 PM
 Referee: John Sampson

Minor Hurling A League

Pos.	Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
1	Shamrocks	4	3	1	0	85	69	6
2	Birr	4	3	1	0	84	83	6
3	Kilcormac-Killoughey	4	2	1	1	96	61	5
4	Tullamore	4	1	2	1	72	76	3
5	SBK	4	0	4	0	76	124	0

Kilcormac-Killoughey (1-16) v (1-18) Birr
 Minor Hurling A League Round 1
 Mountbolus 7:00 PM
 Referee: Kieran Dooley

Birr (4-10) v (1-25) Shamrocks
 Minor Hurling A League Round 2
 Grant Heating St Brendan's Park, Birr 6:30 PM
 Referee: Kieran Pat Kelly

Tullamore (0-10) v (1-9) Birr
 Minor Hurling A League Round 3
 O'Brien Park 6:30 PM
 Referee: Eamon O'Connor

Birr (3-20) v (3-17) SBK
 Minor Hurling A League Round 5
 Grant Heating St Brendan's Park, Birr 6:30 PM
 Referee: Sean Michael Maher

Minor Hurling Championship Group Two

Pos.	Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
1	SBK	5	4	0	1	150	86	9
2	DSK	5	4	1	0	130	115	8
3	Ferbane	5	3	1	1	94	88	7
4	Birr	5	2	3	0	108	124	4
5	Kinnitty Lusmagh	5	1	4	0	89	118	2
6	Ballinamere	5	0	5	0	98	138	0

SBK	(5-20)	v	(2-14)	Birr
Minor Hurling Championship Group Two Round 1 Ballyskenagh 6:30 PM Referee: Odhrán Mc Intyre				
Birr	(2-13)	v	(3-8)	Ballinamere/Durrow
Minor Hurling Championship Group Two Round 2 Grant Heating St Brendan's Park, Birr 7:00 PM Referee: John Sampson				
DSK	(4-22)	v	(4-19)	Birr
Minor Hurling Championship Group Two Round 3 Rath 6:30 PM Referee: Steven Connolly				
Birr	(1-15)	v	(3-13)	Ferbane/Belmont
Minor Hurling Championship Group Two Round 4 Grant Heating St Brendan's Park, Birr 6:30 PM Referee: Sean Donoghue				
Kinnitty Lusmagh	(2-10)	v	(2-14)	Birr
Minor Hurling Championship Group Two Round 5 Kinnitty 11:00 AM Referee: Sean Michael Maher				
Birr	(1-8)	v	(5-17)	Kilcormac-Killoughey
Minor Hurling Championship/Competition A Quarter Finals Grant Heating St Brendan's Park, Birr 12:30 PM Referee: Sean Michael Maher Notes: Extra Time & Winner on The Day				

Senior Hurling League Division 1

Group 1

Pos.	Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
5	Birr	5	3	2	0	107	91	6
6	Belmont	5	2	2	1	90	94	5
7	Shinrone	5	2	3	0	112	123	4
8	Kinnitty	5	1	4	0	93	104	2
9	Ballinamere	5	1	4	0	88	131	2

Birr	(2-15)	v	(1-19)	Seir Kieran
Division 1 Hurling League Round 1 Grant Heating St Brendan's Park, Birr 2:00 PM Referee: Declan Cooke				
Tullamore	(1-12)	v	(1-22)	Birr
Division 1 Hurling League Round 2 Dr Kelly's Field 7:00 PM Referee: Adam Kinahan				
Coolderry	(1-24)	v	(0-14)	Birr
Division 1 Hurling League Round 3 Coolderry 4:00 PM Referee: David McLoughlin				

Kilcormac-Killoughey (2-14) v (2-20) Birr
 Division 1 Hurling League Round 4
 Kilcormac 7:45 PM
 Referee: Joey Deehan

Birr (0-21) v (0-7) St Rynaghs Hurling
 Division 1 Hurling League Round 5
 Grant Heating St Brendan's Park, Birr 6:30 PM
 Referee: Kyle Waters

St Rynaghs Hurling (1-15) v (0-20) Birr
 Division 1 Hurling League K/O Semi-Final
 Lusmagh 7:00 PM
 Referee: Adam Kinahan

Birr (1-9) v (1-17) Belmont
 Division 1 Hurling League K/O Final
 Banagher 6:30 PM
 Referee: Joey Deehan

Division 4 Hurling League Group 2

Pos.	Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
1	Kilcormac-Killoughey	6	6	0	0	157	72	12
2	Seir Kieran	6	5	1	0	121	92	10
3	Crinkill	6	3	2	1	62	69	7
4	Shamrocks	6	2	2	2	66	115	6
5	Birr	6	2	4	0	68	92	4
6	Clara	6	1	4	1	62	85	3
7	Clodiagh Gaels	6	0	6	0	15	26	0

Birr (1-11) v (2-13) Shamrocks
 Division 4 Hurling League Group 2 Round 1
 Grant Heating St Brendan's Park, Birr 12:00 PM
 Referee: Declan Cooke

Seir Kieran (4-16) v (2-12) Birr
 Division 4 Hurling League Group 2 Round 2
 Clareen 7:30 PM
 Referee: Odhrán Mc Intyre

Birr (2-15) v (0-19) Clara
 Division 4 Hurling League Group 2 Round 3
 Grant Heating St Brendan's Park, Birr 7:30 PM
 Referee: Adam Kinahan

Kilcormac-Killoughey (1-23) v (2-9) Birr
 Division 4 Hurling League Group 2 Round 4
 Mountbolus 7:45 PM
 Referee: John Longworth

Birr (0-0) v (CONC) Clodiagh Gaels
 Division 4 Hurling League Group 2 Round 5
 Grant Heating St Brendan's Park, Birr 8:00 PM
 Referee: Declan Cooke

Crinkill (0-0) v (CONC) Birr
 Division 4 Hurling League Group 2 Round 7
 Crinkle 7:30 PM
 Referee: Kieran Dooley

Senior Hurling Champ. Gr 1

Pos.	Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
1	Ballinamere	4	3	0	1	111	67	7
2	Shinrone	4	2	1	1	79	82	5
3	Birr	4	2	1	1	76	79	5
4	Kinnitty	4	1	2	1	54	75	3
5	Belmont	4	0	4	0	59	76	0

Ballinamere (2-17) v (1-20) **Birr**

Senior Hurling Champ. Gr 1 Round 1
Glenisk O'Connor Park 7:45 PM
Referee: Adam Kinahan

Birr (1-15) v (1-14) **Belmont**

Senior Hurling Champ. Gr 1 Round 3
Lusmagh 5:00 PM
Referee: Joey Deehan

Shinrone (2-21) v (1-16) **Birr**

Senior Hurling Champ. Gr 1 Round 4
Banagher 5:15 PM
Referee: Joey Deehan

Birr (0-16) v (0-12) **Kinnitty**

Senior Hurling Champ. Gr 1 Round 5
Crinkle 4:00 PM
Referee: Declan Cooke

Birr (0-17) v (0-20) **St Rynaghs Hurling**

Senior Hurling Championship K/O. Quarter-Final
Glenisk O'Connor Park 4:30 PM
Referee: Adam Kinahan
Notes: Winner on the Day

Senior B Hurling Championship

Pos.	Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
1	Kilcormac-Killoughey	5	5	0	0	137	95	10
2	Carrig Riverstown	5	3	1	1	110	94	7
3	Clodiagh Gaels	5	2	2	1	105	101	5
4	Lusmagh	5	2	3	0	99	112	4
5	Birr	5	1	4	0	94	126	2
6	Clara	5	1	4	0	101	118	2

Birr (0-17) v (7-17) **Kilcormac-Killoughey**

Senior B Hurling Championship Round 1
Banagher 3:30 PM
Referee: Declan Cooke

Clara (1-16) v (1-21) Birr

Senior B Hurling Championship Round 2
Moystown 4:00 PM
Referee: David McLoughlin

Carrig Riverstown (0-26) v (1-15) Birr

Senior B Hurling Championship Round 3
Crinkle 7:00 PM
Referee: David McLoughlin

Birr (0-15) v (1-16) Lusmagh

Senior B Hurling Championship Round 4
Banagher 6:00 PM
Referee: Declan Cooke

Clodiagh Gaels (1-21) v (0-20) Birr

Senior B Hurling Championship Round 5
Kinnitty 5:30 PM
Referee: David McLoughlin

Birr (1-13) v (1-17) Clara

Senior B Hurling Championship Relegation Final
Faithful Fields 7:30 PM
Referee: David McLoughlin

Junior A Hurling Champ. Gr 2

Pos.	Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
1	Belmont	4	4	0	0	115	55	8
2	Kinnitty	4	2	1	1	84	74	5
3	Clodiagh Gaels	4	2	1	1	84	75	5
4	Tullamore	4	0	3	1	68	106	1
5	Birr	4	0	3	1	66	107	1

Clodiagh Gaels (0-24) v (1-20) Birr

Junior A Hurling Champ. Gr 2 Round 1
Killeigh 7:30 PM
Referee: Claran Groome

Birr (1-10) v (1-23) Kinnitty

Junior A Hurling Champ. Gr 2 Round 2
Grant Heating St Brendan's Park, Birr 7:30 PM
Referee: Steven Connolly

Belmont (4-26) v (0-11) Birr

Junior A Hurling Champ. Gr 2 Round 3
Moystown 12:00 PM
Referee: Alex Roe

Birr (1-16) v (2-13) Tullamore

Junior A Hurling Champ. Gr 2 Round 5
Grant Heating St Brendan's Park, Birr 12:00 PM
Referee: Sean Michael Maher

Inter-County Success

It proved a very successful year for Offaly Seniors and u20s on the national stage. Very significant contributions were made by Eoghan Cahill to Offaly's Joe McDonagh success and with Ireland in the Hurling/Shinty International, and Ben Miller and Albie Watkins to the u20 All Ireland success.

Congratulations to Club men Johnny Pilkington, for his involvement with the Offaly u20s, and Adam Hart's support of so many of Offaly's teams.



Eoghan Cahill, Joe McDonagh Cup 2024 winner with Offaly and Hurling/Shinty Ireland International.

Ben Miller, All Ireland u20 winner with Offaly 2024.



Ailbe Watkins, All Ireland u20 winner with Offaly 2024.

Executive Reports

Reports on the Minor Club, St. Brendan's Park, the Development Committee, Child Protection Officer, Cultural Officer and PRO follow this report. I would like to thank all of those involved in supporting the production this annual handbook and record of the year's activities.

County Arms Hotel

The Executive of Birr GAA Club would like to thank Barry Kennedy and the County Arms Hotel for their support to the club during 2024. Barry has been excellent in providing facilities for our club to carry out monthly executive meetings and other meetings that arose throughout the year. Thank you Barry and I hope this support will continue.

Volunteerism

I think it is important to highlight to our membership and prospective new members of the work and time involved in the running of Birr GAA club on a day-to-day basis, I have no doubt that you will find the contents of this booklet informative and worthwhile. We always welcome new members and would greatly welcome any members who wish to join the club committee or any sub-committees. On match days it is always notable the number of volunteer stewards who assist and the camaraderie and good-natured banter involved. These volunteers, under the watchful eye of Neil Tierney, Dave Bolger, Dave Coffey and Pat Thompson, enhance the experience of those attending St Brendan's Park and continue to promote St Brendan's Park as a significant GAA venue both for club and inter-county fixtures.

Thank you:

- **FÁS** – who undertake constant maintenance to grounds, dressing rooms and surrounding areas. Without this additional help it would not be possible to continue to progress. A big thank you to Liam Moran, Gerry Sammon and their workforce.
- To our PRO Adam Hart, our local media for their coverage of games in St Brendan's Park and for their positive reviews around our hosting of matches.
- I would like to take this opportunity to thank the chairperson of the County Board Michael Duignan, County Secretary Colm Cummins and County Treasurer Devil Dolan who complete their terms of office in their respective positions with the County Board.
- Thank you to our own Michele Hogan who completes her term on the County Board as Cultural Officer.

Sincere thanks to St. Brendan's Boys Primary School for access to their facilities. Niall Crofton, Principal, and his team are so supportive and are great promoters of our games. The school so generously makes their facilities available to Birr GAA Club and we now have the opportunity with the development of the astro and ball wall making our facilities available to the school. Thank you Niall and all the team in St. Brendan's Boys Primary School.

Thanks to the County Board for entrusting Birr GAA to host important fixtures in 2024 and we look forward to continuing with this trust in 2025.

- TG4 – for televising various games and the publicity that accrued. The positive feedback from both Croke Park and teams is very welcome.
 - To our loyal supporters
 - To all who support our club through buying lotto tickets.
 - Birr Camogie Club
 - To all those unnamed people who help in any way in the promotion of Birr GAA Club
- Well done and thank you all for such a great success for the club.

Go raibh maith agaibh.

Seán Ó hEireamhóin, Runaí, Biorra CLG.

Chairperson's Address 2024

This past year has been another very busy and thankfully successful one for Birr GAA Club, particularly at underage level. We have seen the benefits that the Ball Wall has provided, by allowing our young players to recommence their training much earlier this year than in previous years.

Thankfully this has paid off on the field, where pride of place has to go to both our U13s, Feile and Under 15 teams. In addition, we had great success with our U12s during the year, in both the Shane Lowry league final's and culminating in a first ever Jack Wyer Win. The future is hopefully bright, with the great work that's going on in the Birr Bears Nursery. The Minor Club is in good hands, thanks to the stewardship of Brian Stephens.

I want to acknowledge and thank the many volunteers that again make Birr GAA Club the success that it is, both on and off the field. We as a club not alone want to maximise our ability and success on the field. However, we also have a vital role in a young person's development and fostering of their love of Gaelic games as they progress in life.

I wish to acknowledge the help, work and dedication of the following people and groups.

- The Executive of the Club for all their hard work, dedication and commitment during the year. We could always do with more help and would value any fresh faces with new ideas. At the end of the day, it's a voluntary organisation, where time constraints on those currently involved is limited. Therefore, as we all want more successes in future years, we are going to need greater help, with more people and members involved.
- I want to express my personal thanks and appreciation to anyone that continues to Coach in our Club at all age levels. I want to particularly thank our Senior Team management of Gary Cahill, Paul Cleary and Kevin Donovan for their efforts over the last 2 years. They have indicated that they don't wish to be considered for another year. Hopefully the fine work that this group has done with our Senior Hurlers will bear fruit in the years ahead. I want to also acknowledge the backroom team of Neil Tierney, Pat Thompson and Pío Spillane for all their hard work not alone this year but over many years in our Club. We wish you nothing but the best in the future lads.

In addition, I want to thank Joe Errity, Garech Doorley and Conor Mooney for their great work and attention to detail at Junior level. Hopefully some of these players with further development will get a chance at Intermediate and even Senior level in the next few years. Both Joe and Garech have now done 4yrs and have expressed their desire to not continue in the role at this stage. We wish them every good wish for the future and leave their roles with grateful thanks and appreciation.

Finally, in terms of Adult Coaching in the Club, I wish to acknowledge and thank the U20's Management this year. This team was led by Aaron Whelehan, who was ably assisted by Sean Ryan, Brian Watkins, Morgan Watkins and Eoin Pilkington. They were narrowly defeated by SBK in the Quarter Final.

- Thanks to our new GPO Shane Murphy. Shane has 9 months under his belt and is doing great work in our Schools and with our younger players. The Club have started a winter Athletic Development programme. Thanks to Chairperson Brian Stephens, Stephen Lonergan and Craig Shortt for their help in this regard.

- GHSBP. Thanks to everyone that helps out on match days and during the year on day to day maintenance work. While I don't want to mention everyone for fear of leaving someone out, I particular want to acknowledge Dave Coffey, Pat Thompson, Neil Tierney and our "Caretaker" Joe Kinsella. I also want to mention the ladies and the lotto sellers, who do tremendous work on match days. Thankfully, we have been successful in our most recent funding application to the National lottery and look forward to the next development in GHSBP under the stewardship of Dave Bolger, Dave Coffey, Pat and anyone else that has an interest in this space.
- Lotto, as our esteemed Treasurer Brian says every year, the weekly lotto is the lifeblood of our club. While showing a marginal increase in Sales, the selling of the lotto is getting increasingly more difficult. Nearly everyone will buy, but it's getting more difficult to find sellers. I want to thank our colleagues in the Camogie Club, particularly Francis Teehan for all their work each week selling Lotto in SuperValu. I also wish to acknowledge Brian, Martin, Ursula and Mrs Verney. Without their ongoing dedication, the lotto wouldn't happen!
- Many congrats to our Senior Scor dancing team on winning the All-Ireland in Killarney on November the 18th. It was as tremendous honour for you and your families and brought great pride to our Club. I also want to extend my congrats to Ben Miller and Albie Watkins on their U20 glory and to Eoghan Cahill on his continued success with Offaly Seniors. Best wishes to each and every one of our players that get to wear the County Jersey at any level in 2025.
- Many thanks to our Sponsors for their continued support. We are privileged to have Grant Engineering on board as part of the naming rights of St Brendan's Park. In addition, we are most grateful to the ongoing financial support of Adrian Sheils and Pro SprayFoam Insulations, who have completed 5 years as Team sponsor. Your support is invaluable and much appreciated.

Finally, it would be remiss of me to not mention colleagues that have done great work for this club over the years and have indicated that they are not seeking re-election. In this regard, I want to thank sincerely the contribution of William Rigney and John Irwin for their tireless work over many years in a variety of roles for Birr GAA Club. Certainly, their work ethic and knowledge of how a GAA club should and does operate will be missed. Hopefully after getting a well-earned "break and rest from Birr GAA Club", that their talents will be used in some facet of the Club in the years ahead. The same must be said of Conor Mooney who in 3 years as secretary of Birr Minor Club has done trojan work.

I also want to remember colleagues that are no longer with us. At this time, we particularly keep in mind the family of the late Michael Hogan, former player who recently passed away. Ar dheis de go raibh a ainm.

I want to thank my family for their on-going support. I would also like to wish you and yours a Happy Christmas and hopefully a Peaceful and Successful 2025 on the many pitches of the Faithful County and beyond.

Is Mise,
Micheal O Lachtain

Child Safeguarding Report – Birr GAA Annual General Meeting – Friday 29th November 2024.

Birr GAA Child Safeguarding Statement was agreed by the Birr GAA Club Executive Committee on May 01st 2023. This statement outlines, in accordance with legislative requirements and our commitments in our Gaelic Games Code of Behavior (Under Age) to safeguard all children regardless of race, ability, ethnicity or sexual orientation from harm, that the welfare and interests of children are paramount in all circumstances. The Code of Behavior aims to ensure that children and young people have a positive, developmental and enjoyable experience of Gaelic Games and other activities and that they do so, in as far as practicable, in a safe and enjoyable environment in accordance with the Children First Act (2015) and the Children (NI) Order 1995.

We can confirm that all of the necessary persons involved with our children have been guarded vetted and certificates up to date.

We encourage all of our children to show respect to their trainers, mentors, team mates, opposition teams and in turn to respect themselves also.

We can confirm that during the past year, we have had no child safeguarding incidents.

A copy of our Safe Guarding Statement can be found on our website.

Mise Le Meas,

Chrissie Ne Muilleoir

Birr Children's Officer.

Cultural Officer's Report

Once again Scór was the main item of activity in 2024. In March the county finals were held in the Marian Hall, where Birr won Figure Dancing. The Leinster semi-finals were hosted by Birr in the Marian Hall, with Figure Dancers progressing the Leinster Finals in The Downs, Mullingar on Sunday April 21st, where they retained their title, progressing to the All-Ireland final.

The team travelled to the INEC in Killarney on Saturday May 11th for the All-Ireland finals. In a highly competitive competition Birr just lost out to Limerick. The Birr figure dancing team comprised of Sarah Cooke, Aoife Gilligan, Eimear Teehan, Sarah Teehan, Tara Seguin, Kathy Dermody, Amy Ryan and Aoife Maher

Thanks to all our participants and to Michelle Hogan Offaly GAA Cultural Officer for her help and support. *Frances Teehan, Cultural Officer, Birr GAA.*



Birr Figure Dancers - Offaly Champions, Leinster Champions and All- Ireland Finalists 2024.

Birr GAA Minor Club Report

In 2024, Birr GAA Minor Club achieved significant success. Winning both Shane Lowry A hurling league title and Shane Lowry Football league title. To add to that age group the U12's won the Jack Wyer A championship a first for the club. Along with notable victories for the U13 hurling team winning the A county championship title and the U15 hurling team, securing both the A county A championship title and both County and National Feile titles. However most notable of all was the strong success of our Nursery the "Birr Bears". A strong foundation has been set for the future development of the club. This success is indeed crucial for the club, providing a much-needed morale boost and potentially marking the beginning of an exciting new chapter. With this positive momentum, the Minor club can build on its achievements and strive for even greater heights in future competitions.

Birr Minor Club is thrilled to have our GPO, Shane Murphy, on board! He is actively coaching in schools and providing valuable support to our club each week. His dedication is greatly appreciated and contributes immensely to the development of our players.

Our Birr Bears nursery for children aged 4-6 successfully ran for 19 Saturdays this year, attracting over 60 registered children and averaging over 30 attendees each week. A heartfelt thank you to Coordinator Alan Walsh and his wife Maeve for their dedicated efforts, along with all the coaches and parents who contributed their time and support every Saturday.

Our Go games teams for hurling and football had an exciting and action-packed season. With monthly blitzes across the county, along with trips to tournaments in Galway and Clare, the players had plenty of opportunities to develop their skills and enjoy the game. The highlight of the season was the u11s' special day out at Croke Park, where they competed against Oylegate Glenbrien GAA Club from Wexford, creating unforgettable memories for the team.

Well done to St Brendans and Gaelscoil Na Laochra combined national school team on winning the Cumann na mBun Scoil final v Dromakeenan National School. The minor club has extended its presence in the national schools. With GPO Shane Murphy now holding regular training sessions in the brand-new Gaelscoil Na Laochra and the Oxmantown national school.

The Birr Óg Academy hurling league was ran over 9 weeks which gave additional hurling to 9,10- and 11-year-olds thanks to Aaron Whelahan and Alun Owens for organising the league and to team managers Eoghan Cahill, Jimmy Irwin, Deven Beale and Eoin Pilkington for their support over the course of the tournament.

We celebrated a successful Vintage Festival of Hurling tournament at Grant Heating St Brendan's Park, featuring enthusiastic participation from u8, u10, and u12 teams. At the end of the matches, each player received medals, presented by the Ryan, Cahill and Nevin families, recognizing their hard work. Minor club secretary Conor Mooney expressed gratitude to families for their continued support. We also had the prestigious Tom Ryan, Billy 'Snipe' Nevin and Adrian Cahill Cups on display, contributing to the vibrant atmosphere of the event. Thanks to travelling teams of Whitegate, Kinnitty, Drumcullen and St Rynaghs who all took part in the tournament.

It was wonderful to hear about the successful Easter and Halloween camps, with over 75 children participating at each camp! A big thank you to GPO Shane Murphy and the young coaches for their invaluable support and effort in making these events enjoyable and memorable for all involved.

Congratulations to all players selected for the development squads! It's fantastic to see such strong representation across all hurling age groups

Our national League forecast was a huge success with over 200 entries. Thanks to all people who took part and well-done to Mattie Dempsey from Ballycommon who was the overall winner and who kindly contributed an amount of his winnings back to the minor club. A special word of thanks to Conor Mooney and Aaron Coffey for their hard work and coordination of the league forecast.

A massive thank you to John Kennedy and the board of management of St. Brendan's Community school for the use of their facilities over the course of the season this is something that is invaluable to our Minor Club. Also, thanks to Neilly Tierney for coordination of pitch schedule and the grounds staff at St Brendan's Community School who contribute with access outside of normal school times.

Congratulations to the Offaly U20s and our own club men Ben Miller, Ailbe Watkins and Johnny Pilkington for their remarkable achievements in the Leinster and All-Ireland championships! A special thanks goes to Ben and Ailbe for their invaluable support for our younger players throughout the year. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!

Thank you to all our coaches across all age groups for your dedication and hard work; together, let's continue to build on our successes and inspire our future GAA stars to reach new heights!

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the sponsors who have generously supported our underage club and our national Feile team. Too many to mention Your commitment and contributions have been vital in helping us achieve our goals and fostering the development of our young GAA players. Thank you for believing in our vision and for making a positive impact in our community!

Thank you to the minor club committee, especially Conor Mooney, for your tremendous dedication and hard work, and to Dawn Guilfoyle for your invaluable contributions as well.

Brian Stephens

Chairperson Birr Minor Club



U13 Jack Wyr Winners



U12A Shane Lowry Hurling Winners

Birr Senior Club Review

As months go, it doesn't get much better than the June just gone when it comes to Offaly hurling and Birr GAA Club played an important part in two huge successes for the county.

It kicked off on the first Saturday of the month when the green, white and gold descended upon Nowlan Park to watch our U-20 hurlers exact sweet revenge on our rivals and neighbours Tipperary.

That saw the U-20 All-Ireland hurling title (the James Nowlan Cup) make its way back to Offaly for the first time with our own Ben Miller, who was full-back, and substitute Ailbe Watkins playing crucial roles.

The management team led by Leo O'Connor also featured our very own Johnny Pilkington, who added another All-Ireland to his collection as a player, while dedicated clubman Adam Hart was also part of the backroom analysis team.

It was a special week for Adam, in particular, as he was also a big part of Johnny Kelly's support team as Offaly got their hands on the Joe McDonagh Cup in Croke Park.

As always, Birr sharpshooter Eoghan Cahill was central to Offaly's success and we cannot wait to see our county dining at the top table in Leinster next year.

Speaking of the county team, it was a pleasure to host the Division 1 League clash of Offaly and subsequent All-Ireland senior hurling champions Clare in Grant Heating St Brendan's Park last March.

That was one of many marquee fixtures at our picturesque venue with the Lidl Ladies Football National League Division 3 and 4 finals also taking place at the home of hurling in April.

The year started with a huge turnout at the Celebration Dinner Dance toasting the success of the Birr senior/minor camogie county champions, our Birr Junior 'B' hurlers and the club's Scór Figure Dancers.

What a great night it was in the County Arm's Hotel and what a great representation of our club the Scór Figure Dancers have been in recent times with Offaly and Leinster success secured once again this year.

While back-to-back All-Ireland titles narrowly eluded them, they continued to soar when bringing home two All-Ireland Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann titles - the over 18 eight-hand and the over 18 four-hand.

There was also great excitement in February when our Junior 'B' hurlers contested the All-Ireland semi-final in Limerick where a great campaign eventually ended in defeat to Tipperary club Drom & Inch.

There was silverware in the form of a third level title with Birr's Darragh Tierney part of the All-Ireland-winning Ulster University team, who secured the Fergal Maher Cup.

Elsewhere on the pitch, the Birr senior hurlers lost the Division 1 League final to Belmont before exiting the championship at the quarter-final stage with a three-point defeat to old rivals St Rynagh's.

We must give a big shout-out to Liam Butler of Haven Pharmacy Butlers for generously sponsoring protein and protein shakers for our senior hurling team throughout the year.

Our Senior 'B' hurlers have been a credit to the club in recent seasons but this year proved a bridge too far as we fell back to the intermediate grade for the first time since 2021.

Huge thanks to Gary Cahill, Kevin Donovan, Paul Cleary and Martin Bennett for their work with both squads over the past two years while our junior hurlers found the going tough up a grade after last

year's epic victory. Massive thanks to Joe Errity and Garech Doorley for their trojan work with the lads.

The Birr u20s reached the County Quarter Final losing out in a tight contest against SBK. Sincere thanks to the players and the management team under the leadership team of Aaron Whelehan for their commitment.

We are always proud of how Birr folk represent the club across the world and well done to Neil Rogers on his exploits as London senior hurling manager in 2024.

Similarly, congratulations to Rory Carty and Campbell Boyd after their Tipperary New York side claimed the New York Senior Hurling title during the summer.

Every great club needs a great sponsor and we were so proud to have Pro SprayFoam Insulations on board with us again as our main sponsor for 2024.

Adrian Sheils and his team are market leaders in high-quality spray foam insulations, as well as being staunch supporters of the green and red, and we strongly encourage our members to support those who support us.

One of the best days of the club year is always the Birr GAA Golf Classic and it was no different this year with over 50 teams duking it out for the honour of claiming The Peter Pardy Perpetual Cup.

Thank you to all those that played in, sponsored Tee Boxes or contributed to the raffle with sincere thanks to Michael Loughnane (Loughnane Centra), who was main sponsor of the prizes, and to Francie Horan and all his team in Birr Golf Club for hosting us.

Congratulations to the winning team led by Brian Doyle while huge thanks go to the organising committee led by Jimmy Irwin and Brian Stephens, and ably assisted by Dave Coffey, Sean Doorley, Kevin McNamara, Derek Ryan and many of our club Executive.

Our Birr GAA Lotto proved once again to be our main source of income for the year with huge work once again undertaken by Martin and Ursula Walsh, Brian Colohan and Seamie Brien to keep the show on the road while online lotto sales are also proving lucrative.

This year was also tinged with its share of sadness and Birr was in mourning after the death of our great friend and supporter Noel Watkins (Cayman Islands and formerly of Birr) at the age of 46 in March.

Noel was known by all in Birr and beyond and having played underage with the green and red, he always followed our fortunes from near and far, particularly keeping an eye on the exploits of his younger brother Brian as well as so many nephews and great friends.

We also remember Pauraic Goonan, a member of the 1971 team which ended a barren period for Birr GAA securing the County Senior title. Just before our AGM we were also saddened by the death of Michael 'Mick' Hogan. Mick captained the Offaly Minores to their first All-Ireland Title in 1986 and captained St. Brendan's Community to their first All-Ireland Colleges A title. Mick was also corner back on the first Birr Club All Ireland winning side in 1995.

We lost some loyal Gaels during the year and we offer our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of those who passed away in 2024. Ar dheis Dé go raibh siad.

Birr Minor Club Review

There is only one place to start when looking back at a jam-packed 2024 in the underage section of our club and that is a famous Féile na nGael success for our U-15 hurlers.

The summer started in perfect fashion in the sunny south east as the club's fifth ever All-Ireland Division 2 title was secured with a 2-8 to 2-5 victory over the local St Anne's club in Wexford.

The lads, brilliantly managed by Simon Whelahan, Alun Owens and Brian Whelahan, defeated Clonkill (Westmeath), Kevin Lynch's (Derry) and Tralee Parnells (Kerry) along the way on that June weekend before captain Barry Bennett got his hands on the cup.

This group, many of which are also excelling with the big ball and helping to put football back on the map in Birr and its hinterland, are one of many hugely-exciting squads in our underage system and it was great to see so many players represented at development squad level with the county.

At U-16, we had Tom Dwyer, James Carroll and Rory Pilkington while there was a large cohort at U-15 level with Barry Bennett, Michael Kelly, Robert Landy, Campbell Naughton, Edward Carthy and Darragh Carthy all representing Offaly with distinction.

At U-14, Lorcan Owens, Ryan Legace, Tom Dwyer, Jack Carroll and Shane Milne sampled wearing the green, white and gold while Morgan Feenane and Tom Enright were our Birr representatives at minor level in the Leinster championship.

It was great to welcome Shane Murphy to Birr this year as Games Promotion Officer (GPO) and he wasted little time putting his shoulder firmly to the Birr wheel with huge work completed from nursery level upwards.

Our ball wall and all-weather facilities have been a huge addition over the last 18 months with both adult and underage teams getting great use from them (brilliantly co-ordinated by Neil Tierney) as we continue to plan for the club's future on all fronts.

The Birr Bears Academy continues to go from strength to strength as we introduce our stars of the future to the GAA in a fun and friendly fashion and it was even bigger and better this year.

Their season concluded with a bang as they attended the County Nursery Fun Day in Glenisk O'Connor Park and we must give a huge thanks to Club Nursery Co-Ordinator Alan Walsh and all his team for their great work.

This year also saw the inaugural Birr Óg Academy Hurling League with eight weeks of brilliant hurling building up to finals day in Grant Heating St Brendan's Park.

Huge thanks to Aaron Whelahan and Alun Owens for organising the League as well as team managers Deven Beale, Eoghan Cahill, Jimmy Irwin, Eoin Pilkington and a number of other vital helpers that played a crucial part.

August also brought our annual 'Vintage Festival of Hurling' where so many young hurlers featured in competitions named after some of our finest clubmen (U-8 - Tom Ryan, U-10 - Billy 'Snipe' Nevin and The Adrian Cahill Memorial Cup at U-12).

Huge thanks to St Rynagh's, Drumcullen/Seir Kieran and Whitegate (Clare) for joining us on what was a feast of hurling as the next generation showed that the future is as bright as ever.

There was more silverware collected with our U-12 hurlers winning their Shane Lowry League Final against Na Fianna while our U-12 footballers also took home silverware when coming out victorious in the Jerry Conway Cup final in Glenisk O'Connor Park.

The success continued right to the end of the season securing the u13 and u15 County Hurling Titles. It is indeed a season of celebration in our Minor Club which is also nominated for Minor Club of the year.

Off the pitch, our hugely popular Birr Minor League Forecast Competition saw Ballycommon's Mattie Dempsey Walk away with the overall prize of €400 - half of which he kindly donated to the minor club for the purchase of Gaelic footballs to help continue the game's growth in the town.

Huge thanks to the 200 people who played over the eight weeks and to the pubs and shops who facilitated the sales of entry forms each week - as well as organisers Brian Stephens, Conor Mooney and Aaron Coffey - with these funds going a long way to running our underage club in 2024.

We would also like to thank Minor chairman Brian Stephens, who has hit the ground running in his first year, and Minor secretary Conor Mooney for their trojan work overseeing everything to do with the club, as well as everyone who supported the club in any way throughout the year.

The GAA's foundation is based around volunteers, and you can never have enough people giving a hand so we encourage everyone to play their part in any way possible with the green and red.

Roll on another great year in 2025.



U12 Shane Lowry Football Winners



Birr Bears Nursery

Is Mise,
Adam Hart, Birr GAA PRO, supported by Michael Verney, Birr Review

St. Brendan's Park

At the outset a big thank you to all the personnel involved, who continue to provide their time and services to ensure that St. Brendan's Park is presented to the highest possible standard at all times. This involves significant hours and effort which is given on a voluntary basis and without which we could not continue. For this we are truly grateful. The pitch has as per usual hosted many high-profile games while at the same time provided the base from which our teams conduct much of their training in preparation for championship. (Refer Appendix)

There are a number of key people who lead the way, namely Neil Tierney who schedules training and Fixtures, ably assisted by Dave Coffey. In addition, Neil is our club Coaching Development Officer. Joe Kinsella who devotes significant time to the club and takes great pride in having the facility in top condition. A sample of his commitment, opening gates, marking the pitch, putting out flags, ensuring dressing rooms are clean and tidy, toilets are available and in good condition and attendance on match days.

Pat Thompson has garnered a committed group of volunteers over the years who provide their time and skills on match day in various capacities as directed by Pat. These volunteers include Ticket Scanners, Score Board attendants, Dressing Room personnel, Ushers, Lotto sellers and Shop personnel who provide service with a smile. The shop continues to grow from strength to strength and provides vital support to the enhancement of St. Brendan's Park.

To our match day Stewards, a huge thank you. Without your continued attendance, professionalism and willingness to assist, our club would not be asked to host the numerous finals which were hosted in 2024. Refer Appendix. Long may it continue.

The beauty at this stage is that all these volunteers understand their roles, promote a positive image for Birr GAA and are happy to be involved. Pat has developed an excellent reputation with County Board Officials and O Connor Park.

St. Brendan's Park has seen significant improvements in the past number of years and the intention is to continue along this path. We have identified a number of areas for further attention and upgrade and it is our intention to prioritise same in a systematic manner and within our budget.

Brian Doyle continues to play a pivotal role in St. Brendan's Park, his skills, approachability and know how are greatly appreciated by all involved. He takes great pride in the facility and no task is too big or small.

The club is grateful to have the continued assistance of Liam Moran and his team. He is very approachable and willing to assist our efforts in every way. This is very beneficial in particular with

the stand and surroundings.

If I have forgotten to mention anyone, it certainly is not my intention and I apologise.

Is mise,

David Bolger, Birr GAA Development and Field Sub-committees

High Profile Finals hosted by Grant Heating St. Brendan's Park , Birr in 2024

Cumann na mBunscol Offaly Finals (National Schools)

Ladies Gaelic Football Association , Division 3 and 4 League Finals

Offaly Under 13 B Hurling Championship Final

Offaly Under 15 A and B Hurling Championship Finals

Offaly Under 17 A and B Hurling Championship Finals

Offaly Intermediate Hurling Final

Offaly Senior B Hurling Final

Offaly Camogie Senior Finals A and B

Inter County League Hurling Division 1 Offaly versus Clare

In addition St. Brendan's Park hosted many Group games and semi finals throughout 2024 . St. Brendan's Park featured regularly of Clubber GAA in addition to TG4 .

Sincere thanks to all our Club Sponsors and in Grant Heating St. Brendan's Park



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Grant Heating St. Brendan's Park*



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Development Report

In recent years our club has undertaken a number of infrastructural upgrades and additions, including the dressing rooms and the Ball Wall / Astro Turf. During 2024 we fitted a net overhead the Ball Wall as a safety precaution given our proximity to main road. Our development committee has identified a number of essential items in need of attention which will be attended to in 2025. At all times, our committee is conscious of incremental improvements while at the same time looking towards the bigger picture for our club.

Facility wise our main asset is the pitch in St. Brendan’s Park.

We continue to follow a pitch maintenance programme which is vital, given level of traffic within the

ground throughout the season. This costs money. Our main income for St. Brendan's Park is pitch rental, Sponsorship and Shop sales.

In 2024 we purchased a second-hand finishing mower, which provides a lovely finish on match day. We have received many compliments throughout the year on how well the overall facility looks. We hosted numerous county finals in 2024 in both hurling and camogie, details of which are available in the Appendix. We do all in our power to have the facility in best condition .

As you will be aware , all match reports include " A Venue Watch" which is quite detailed and includes commentary on state of pitch , availability of stewards , how well the event was hosted and any incidents worthy of comment .

The club was successful in securing external funding in 2024 from the following sources :

Provisional Approval of € 191,022 from Sports Capital Unit in September 2024 .

The project identified is a Gymnasium with dressing rooms.

Leinster Council Grant of € 6,700 received on the back of the capital spend on Ball Wall / Astro.

We were awarded € 1,000 from the Derrinlough Windfarm Fund. There is the possibility of further funding from this source once the Wind farm is up and running.

We entered the Texaco Support for Sport competition, however, we were unsuccessful (only one winner per county).

We have a second grant application with Leinster Council and await outcome of same.

It is heartening to see " Green Shoots " for the club under a number of headings.

It is our responsibility as members of the club to maintain this progress.

We on the development committee are committed to playing our part to ensure that the playing membership are given every opportunity to continue on this upward trajectory.

David Bolger, Birr GAA Development and Field Sub-committees.

Nominations for Executive 2025

Position	Outgoing	Nominations
Chairperson	Michael Loughnane	Michael Loughnane
Vice - Chairperson	Rory Hanniffy	Rory Hanniffy
Secretary	John Irwin	
Treasurer	Brian Colohan	Brian Colohan
Assistant Treasurer	Michael Loughnane	Michael Loughnane
P.R.O.	Adam Hart	Adam Hart
Player Representative	Jimmy Irwin	Colm Mulrooney
Coaching Officer	Neil Tierney	
Cultural Officer	Frances Teehan	Frances Teehan Nominated by outgoing Executive Committee
Registrar	Davin Hart	
Club Child Protection Officer	Chrisse Miller	Chrisse Miller Nominated by outgoing Executive Committee
Wellbeing Officer	Anna Boch	Anna Boch
Committee	Pat Thompson	Pat Thompson
Committee	Dave Coffey	Dave Coffey
Committee	Dave Bolger	Dave Bolger
Committee	William Rigney	Neil Tierney
Committee	Orla Watkins	Orla Watkins
Committee		Cha Cahill
Committee		Maria Molloy

County Board Delegates:

Club Chairperson
 Club Vice Chairperson
 Club Secretary
 Dave Bolger
 Dave Coffey

Motions

As required the outgoing Executive will bring a motion regarding membership fees 2025 to the AGM for consideration by all members present.

Membership rates for adult members 2025:

Playing member - €70.00

Non playing member - €40

Couple - €50

OAP - €10

Membership will also be offered to include entry in the weekly lotto draw for a full year (51 weeks) at the following discounted rates:

Playing member - €160

Non Playing Member - €130

Couple - €140

OAP - €100





Golf Classic Sponsors



Loughnane's Centra Birr
Main Prize Sponsor Golf Classic

Tee Box Sponsors

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Barber 21	Michael Verney	John Irwin	Duggan & Power
HD Desigh	Thermowise	John Hassett	Sancrest Const.
D A Houlihan LLP	Pilkingtons	Arachas	McAuliffe Medical
Mannion's Expert	Darren Hanniffy	Gary Hanniffy	County Arms Hotel
Carol Nolan T.D.	Fox's Pharmacy	Bowe Orthodontic	Seamus Bradley
Kinnity Castle	William Rigney	Kelly's Bar	Hedgerows
Corrib Oil	Peter Ormond Mcc	Loughnane Conc.	Guinan's Footwear
DR Tyres	Kennedy Motors	Amber King	MTC Cabling Ltd
Gradewell Plant	Hybrid Plant	O'Meara Sliothars	John Butler
Birr Leisure Centre	Willie Burns	Dave Coffey	Junior Hurlers
Ormond Club Hse	David O'Meara	Sharon McGrath	Will & Faye Delaney
Pro Physical	John Shortt	Molloy's Bar	Ronan Joyce
DL Cleaners	Enright Solicitors	DB Beauty	Smith + O'Mahoney
EBS Mortgages	Kearns Transport	Aaron Whelehan	Whelehan's Bar
Birr Carpets	Fighting Cocks Bar	Organic Store	FCR Media
Magical Reconst.	Hugo Loonam	Audrey Kennedy	The Cherry Tree
Birr Camogie Club	Boyd's Butchers	Oliver Douglas	Cathal Cleary Lidl
	Martin Bennet	Loughnane Centra	

Prize Sponsors: RJ Barber & Sons, Glennon's Cash and Carry, The Loft, Kelly's Main Street Birr, Sean Doorley, Super Valu, Oisín O'Neill, The Villa Café, Dooley's Hotel, Ger Teehan, Tullamore Golf Club, Esker Hills Golf Club, Birr Golf Club



Go raibh mile maith agaibh

