



Cumann Spa



# SPA REVIEW

2017 - 2018



## SPA GAA CLUB

KILLARNEY, CO. KERRY [www.spagaa.com](http://www.spagaa.com)





# WELCOME FROM THE COMMITTEE

Welcome to the latest edition of our annual review publication. The past year has been very busy for the club both on and off the field and stage, and in this Review we hope to give you a glimpse of all the news from Spa GAA Club.

There has been so much happening these past 12 months, with the developments of the facilities in Spa, especially the opening of the new floodlighting and surface of the 'top' pitch. Interior building is also progressing with the new state-of-the-art gym nearing completion. Within the competitive level of the club all teams enjoyed success in 2017 and Spa again had reason to light our homecoming bonfires – for our All Ireland Scór champions in February, and the Hogan Cup school champions in April.

The social and cultural element of the club is continually growing, and the club enjoyed another successful Awards Night in February, as well as the annual Lily of Killarney night in June.

2017 also saw the huge commitment and sense of community when the club were the driving force behind a special lotto event for juvenile player Ian O'Connell.

Since our last publication we have said farewell to John Kelly, who was the driving force behind the revival of the Spa Review. John was determined to have an annual publication and to keep the connection with present and past members both at home and those spread across the globe. Before one edition would be printed and ready to distribute, John would already be working on articles and photos for the next one, and always wanted people to remember the history and origins of Spa, with a special emphasis always on the role of Spa in the wider community.

The Review has been a great way to connect with the whole community, both at home and abroad, and to remind people of the variety of activities available through the club. It's also a great way to see snippets of our past and read about the people and the moments that have helped shaped the club to where it is today.

We hope you enjoy!

*Donald Hickley, Deirdre O Sullivan Darcy, Anne Holland and Gerard Mangan*



Ger Mangan handing over the reins to new Spa GAA Club Chairman Michael Cronin.

## TEAM REPORTS 2017

### ABC & U6

#### *"Mol an Óige 'is Tiocfaidh Siad"*

The ABC and U6 training academy was a huge success this year due to positive support we received from all parents. We welcomed many new faces to our club. Each session allowed the young boys and girls to develop their skills in a playful and safe manner. The purchase of new equipment helped greatly.

A huge thank you to Daly's Supervalu for presenting the underage members with 50 new footballs. The kids took part in their first football blitz after Glenflesk visited us to play mini matches. We were invited to Glenflesk and Fossa at different stages during the year. We believe that there is more to the ABC/U6 group than just playing football. It is a social outlet for parents to mingle and new members to feel welcome.

We thank everyone for helping with the various events. It is refreshing to hear parents commenting on how wonderful and safe our facilities are.

#### *The ABC & U6's Academy Training Crew*





# U8

Included in photo are U8 players with their coaches Tom Moynihan, Mike Moriarty, Elaine Moore & Brendan McHugh

The U8 boys enjoyed a super year, with over 20 future stars at each of our 40 training sessions from early March to late October. Here they learnt the fundamental movement and football skills and what it means to be part of a team. The boys played a number of challenge games throughout the year against other local clubs.

We would like to thank everyone who helped, including Ivor Flynn for his continuous support as well as presenting each boy with a new football at the beginning of the year. Thanks to Bernie Courtney for her work and to senior player Dan O'Donoghue for helping with some of our training sessions. Seamus Moynihan and the U8 Boys Coaches

The U8 boys also had the honour of playing at half-time during Spa seniors' intermediate and East Kerry championship games. The support from parents at these games was terrific.

*U8 Boys Coaches: Seamus Moynihan, Tom Moynihan, Mike Moriarty, Elaine Moore & Brendan McLough*



# U10

Included in photo are U10 players with their coaches Adrian McCarthy, Denis Doolan and Mike Doolan

We started with a panel of 16 on a bleak Saturday morning mid-February but there was nothing bleak about their performances until we finished in mid-October.

Well done also to six of our U10s who won County Medals with Spa/Muckcross in the Community Games U10 Football Tournament.

In the second half of the season, we participated in numerous blitzes in Glenflesk, Barraduff, and Rathmore whilst winning our own blitz in dramatic fashion - coming from two points down in the final to get a goal from the last kick of the game on our first night playing under the floodlights.

Also, many thanks to all the parents who supported the boys and helped during the year, especially all who helped with the Blitz in Spa which was a great success.

Some of our U10s tasted success playing in the U11 Division 2 Dylan Crowley Memorial Tournament, a well organised event in Gneeveguilla.

We are proud of this talented bunch of players. If they continue to develop their skills, the future is bright for them.

*Mike Doolan, Denis Doolan and Adrian McCarthy*



U12 panel who were coached by Kieran McCarthy, David O'Sullivan, Des Spillane, Tim O'Connor and Pat O'Neill

## U12

The boys started training indoors on January 29th, 2017. The panel consisted of 30 players divided into two teams. Both teams started their county football league phase 1 in both division 5A & 5B and finished top of their respective divisions.

The second phase of the county league started soon afterwards. The boys were placed in both division 3A & 3B. Listowel Emmets, Ardfert, Legion & Castlegregory provided the opposition. Again, both Spa teams finished top of their respective divisions. This was a massive achievement. The boys were then invited by the Munster Council to take part in a blitz in Fitzgerald Stadium, in July. Some of the U12 girls also took part. O'Sullivan for the club notes; Anne Holland for the photos of the boys; Noelle Casey for organising the referee cheques for the East Kerry home games; Bernie Courtney for all her work regarding group texts and keeping the season flowing.

The Boys' East Kerry league started on September 18th. Due to injury and a long season, the boys were unable to rediscover their county league form.

The coaches would like to thank the following people: Ivor Flynn, Coiste na nÓg Chairperson, and the committee for 2 new sets of jerseys; Michael Cronin and the field committee for providing 2 sets of goals and nets when required; Anne Holland and Adrian O'Sullivan for the club notes; Anne Holland for the photos of the boys; Noelle Casey for organising the referee cheques for the East Kerry home games; Bernie Courtney for all her work regarding group texts and keeping the season flowing.

*Kieran McCarthy, David O Sullivan, Des Spillane, Tim O Connor and Pat O Neill*



## U14

## U14

The first training session for the U14 panel of 2017 commenced on the 14th January and over the following 9 months, the group participated in the County League, the East Kerry League, the East Kerry Coiste na nÓg Championship, two challenge matches (Fossa and Milltown/Castlemaine), the Donal Casey U-14 tournament and a total of 33 training sessions – the last training session taking place on the 15th Sept.

The panel comprised of 24 lads and training sessions were well attended with an average of 13 at each session. We competed in Division 8 (6 teams) of the County League; Our home games were against Rathmore and Skellig Rangers/Valentia both of which we lost but two wins out of three in our away games to Dingle, St. Michael's/Foilmore and Dromid/Waterville saw us qualify for a semi-final against Skellig Rangers/Valentia.

On the night the South Kerry side proved too strong for us. For the East Kerry League, we competed in Division 3. We played Dr. Crokes, Gneeveguilla, Cordal / Scartaglin and Rathmore and after winning one game and drawing another we just fell short of qualifying for the group semi-finals. The final competition of the year for the lads was the East Kerry Coiste na nÓg Championship. We unfortunately lost to Cordal/Scartaglin in the Division 5 final in another competitive game played in Gneeveguilla.

A great day of football was held at the Annual Donal Casey U-14 tournament in Rathmore and Spa started with a win over Ballydesmond. Spa prevailed to qualify for the final against Rathmore in which the home side emerged victorious.

Overall it was a successful year for this brilliant bunch of young men who along with enjoying the highs of winning, they accepted defeat with valour, realising that there's always room for improvement and were always willing to listen and learn. Both as a group and individually the lad's skill and fitness levels improved throughout the season. Well done to all the lads and keep at it for 2018!

*Robert Cremin, Michael Finnegan, Kieran Herlihy & John O Neill*



## U16

Included in Photo is Connie Cremin, Ian O'Connell, Jack O'Connell, Alan O'Sullivan, Liam Spillane, Eoghan Mulvaney, Thomas Cronin, Cian Murphy, Ollie Cremin, Oisín Walsh, Craig McKenzie-Vass, Michael Horgan, Micheál Kearney, Paul O'Sullivan, Conor Brosnan, Daniel O'Sullivan, Darragh O'Leary, Adam Kelly, Ryan Kelliher

After what was a pretty successful 2016 development wise the Spa U16 boys team went into 2017 in a good frame of mind, eager to impress. Challenge games against Glenflesk and Fossa in early March saw a win and a draw and some good performances from this young team.

The East Kerry league commenced in late March and we were in a group along with Fossa, Crokes B and Currow, where the boys had a good win against Crokes B and suffered 1 point losses to both Fossa and Currow.

The County league commenced in early July and Spa were placed in Division 5 in what was a tough group with St Marys/Renard, Kilcummin, Beale, Cordal/Scartaglin and Kilgarvan/Tousist and Currow. Spa had victories against Cordal/Scart and Kilgarvan/Tousist but suffered defeats against Beale, St Marys/Renard away in South Kerry, away to Kilcummin by 2 points and away to Currow by 1 point.

The loss of Ian O'Connell midway through our county league campaign through the unfortunate accident was a huge blow to our team and mentors. Ian was a colossal figure in the U16 team and on behalf of the boys and my fellow mentors, Hugh and Mike we wish him well on his recovery. In the difficult time, the boys must be afforded huge credit and praise as they showed courage to carry on playing to the best of their ability. The East Kerry Championship saw us pitted against Kilcummin, Currow, Fossa and Crokes B, Spa U16 Boys reached the B final against Currow and in an enthralling game held in Spa under lights we came up just short in a very high scoring game. Overall, it was a huge privilege to be involved with this group of aspiring young men for the last two seasons and we wish them well in their future development and we hope to see them wearing the saffron and blue of Spa senior team in the years to come.

*Donal O'Doherty, Hugh O'Donoghue, Mike Casey*



## Minors

Minor Panel 2017: Front L-R: Ryan Kelliher, Cian Fahy, Alan O'Sullivan, Conor Magee, Niall McCarthy, Daniel Horgan, Micheál Kearney, Eoin O'Donoghue. Back L-R: Aidan Cahill, Gary Vaughan, Niall Moynihan, Thomas Fleming, Jordan Leahy, Ruairí O'Keeffe, Sean Cahill, Adam Kelly, Conor Stack, Eoin O'Carroll, Darragh O'Leary, Kevin Healy

We commenced training at the beginning of January with a 5-week strength and conditioning programme in the hall followed by a tough 6-week running programme under acclaimed running coach Maria McCarthy. These sessions proved very beneficial.

We were in Division 3 of the county league and, despite some very strong and spirited performances, we failed to reach the final stages of the competition.

In the East Kerry League, we reached the Division 3 final and had home advantage for the final against Fossa, but due to holidays and injuries our panel was seriously depleted. We lost by a large margin and the scoreline did not do justice to how close this game really was.

Our final competition was the East Kerry championship where we again made the Division 3 final, losing out to Kilcummin by the narrowest margin.

Thanks to all the players for their commitment and we hope they go on to represent the club at U21 and senior levels. Finally, we acknowledge the enormous role played by Eileen Aherne who has served selflessly with this team from U8 up to minor level.

*Kevin Healy & Aidan Cahill*



## JUNIORS

East Kerry Junior League Champions 2017 – Front L-R Eoin Fitzgerald, Dion Marcus, Mikey Aherne, Paul Cahill, Jim Morris, Paul Russell, Michael Kearney, John Falvey. Back L-R: Neily Kerins, John O'Donoghue, Conor Gleeson, Mike Murphy, John McKenna, Dave Devane, Eric O'Donoghue, Mikey Moynihan, Alfie Giles, Aydan Mulvaney, Andy Fitzgerald, Aaron Farrell, Hugh O'Donoghue, Shane Fenton, Brendan Lynch, Liam Courtney, Margaret Doyle

2017 was again a successful year for this group of players. We returned the Tim Lenihan Memorial Cup for the second year running to the club. The group also contested the O'Sullivan Cup Final & Group 1 County League Final and reached semi-final of McElligott Cup.

In East Kerry Div 2, we reached the final with Glenflesk. With great heart and hard work, we managed a one-point win. In the County League, we were grouped with 3 Senior clubs and 3 Intermediate clubs, Kerins O'Rahillys, Dingle, Legion, Gneeveguilla and Glenflesk. We met O'Rahillys in the final, but lost by 4 pts to a better team.

In the O'Sullivan Cup, we had wins over Glenflesk, Furies and Fossa to set up a place in the final with Dr. Crokes, losing by a point to Dr Crokes, 0-11 to 0-10.

In the McElligott Cup, we had a win over Moyvane at home. After a long wait we played John Mitchells in the semi-final losing by 3 points which brought a great year to an end. During the year, we also lost our captain Paul Russell to a serious injury. I would like to thank all the lads who played a part in a most enjoyable year. Sincere thanks also to my fellow mentors John O'Donoghue, Dan Kennedy & Neily Kerins. Thanks also to Margaret Doyle who attended to the players during the season.

*Liam Courtney*



U21 panel 2017: Front L-R Eric O'Donoghue, Conor Cronin, Michael Shannon, John McKenna, Ciaran Spillane, Eoin Fitzgerald, Evan Cronin, Niall McCarthy, David Spillane. Back L-R Micheál Kearney, Conor Stack, Eoin Carroll, Darren O'Connor, Aidan Kelly, Aydan Mulvaney, Shane Cronin, David Carroll, Corey Doyle, David Moynihan, Eoghan Cronin, Mikey Moynihan, Michael McCarthy, Liam Kearney.

### U21 Co. Championship v St Kieran's

Our first-round game in the U21 Co. Championship saw us drawn away to St Kieran's, in June, with a very weakened team due to the absence of key players such as Liam Kearney, Dan O'Donoghue, Michael Foley, Dara Moynihan, Mike McCarthy and Eric O'Donoghue. We led at the break by a point (0-7 to 0-6), but St Kieran's threw everything at us in the second half and it took a great individual goal from centre back Shane Cronin, in the 61st minute, to snatch victory. The handful of supporters that travelled were treated to a fantastic performance. Final Score: St Kieran's 0-14 Spa 1-13

### 28/06/2017 Spa v Kenmare District (in Spa)

Our quarter final saw us at home to Kenmare District a week later and we were strengthened by the availability of Mike McCarthy and Eric O'Donoghue. A disastrous first half saw us with only one point on the board after 30 minutes and 0-5 to 0-1 down at the break. A much improved second half saw us leading, 1-5 to 0-5, six minutes into the second half. There was never much between the teams and, as the game entered the closing stages, we just couldn't find the score to take it to extra time. Kenmare District went on to win the competition. Final Score: Spa 2-7 Kenmare District 1-11

### 15/12/2017 East Kerry U21 Championship semi-final

(in Lewis Rd) Played under lights in Lewis Rd on Friday 15th December, we faced a strong Crokes team going for three in a row in East Kerry. An outstanding first half performance saw us ahead at half time by three points. As the Crokes upped the tempo in the second half, however, we didn't have the legs to stay with them.

The response that we received from this bunch of players was fantastic. They travelled from college in Limerick and Cork without question and our locally-based players gave the same commitment.

To Mike O'Donoghue, Pat Cronin & James Fitzgerald who always gave full commitment. Stam was probably the key to everything. When his time comes to hang up those great boots, he will make a fantastic trainer / manager. Gerard Mangan has always been very good to us as has Deirdre. Our only regret is that we couldn't provide some silverware after three years in charge.

*Sean Cronin*

## SENIOR MEN

The Senior squad assembled in January 2017 with renewed enthusiasm. The year's activities commenced with a bonding session which involved a long and arduous run/hike to Kenmare.

As management team, Tom, Mike and I set ourselves a number of goals, the principal ones being to improve fitness levels and physical training techniques. PJ Galvin and Tomas Griffin, both with extensive experience, were brought on board.

The fresh approach to physical training and recuperation brought a significant improvement to fitness levels and helped further integrate the younger members into the Senior squad by placing greater responsibility on them.

The second part of this was getting the more mature squad members to buy into what the junior squad members had to offer and to see them as integral to team success. The progress was most evident in the change in the way the squad bonded and engaged with each other.

The aim was to prepare the team to perform at their optimum in the Intermediate & East Kerry Championship and, ultimately, achieve promotion to Division 1. Unfortunately, we were well beaten by Castleisland Desmonds in the Intermediate Championship and just came up short against a very experienced Rathmore team who later went on to win the O'Donoghue Cup.

We believe that the standard of football, commitment and backbone shown by the Spa team that day was a clear indication of the significant improvements over the year. Promotion to Division 1 was achieved.

We take particular pride in this success against the backdrop of key players being absent due to injury and work abroad at a vital stage of the year. The team had to field without 5 players who had worn the green and gold jersey at either Minor, U21 or Junior level over a prolonged period of the year. One has to wonder what the senior squad could have achieved if these players had been available for selection.

Critical to the successful League campaign was the willingness of the extended squad to shoulder greater responsibility. The players had set themselves a goal, "That we would not be beaten in Spa". This was a challenging ambition and would have been fully achieved but for the two Championship defeats.

As we vacate our roles Tom, Mike and I would like to pay special thanks to Ger and Deirdre who gave us every support possible. No task in preparing the team was too big and was always delivered.

To the backroom team consisting of PJ Galvin (Physio), Tomas Griffin (Fitness/Running coach), Gary Stack (Doctor), Tom and Mike, your commitment to the task and desire to see Spa succeed knew no bounds. Thank you for your support to the players, in particular for the immense effort and sacrifices you made.

We wish you and the new Management Team every success in the year ahead. With the facilities and talent available, the Spa Senior Team will ultimately reach the "Holy Grail" of being Intermediate Champions.

*Joe Shannon, Tom Tobin & Mike Brosnan*



Front L-R: Joey McCarthy (mascot), Eoin Fitzgerald, Conor Stack, James Devane, Evan Cronin, Niall McCarthy, Aidan Mulvaney, Brian Lynch, Michael McCarthy, Eoin Cronin, Eoghan Cronin, Dara Moynihan, David Spillane. Back L-R: Paul Cahill, Brendan Lynch, Eric O'Donoghue, Ciarán Spillane, Shane Cronin, Dan O'Donoghue, Michael O'Donoghue, Andrew Garnett, Shane Lynch, Mikey Moynihan, Liam Kearney, Shane Fenton, Cormac Cronin



# Ladies Football

## U6 AND U8

Train on Saturday mornings along with ABC. Thanks to the coaches Kerry Holland, Niamh Clifford, Aoife Cronin and Erin Holland for committing each Saturday morning. The numbers aren't great for U8s but hopefully this will change.



## U10 AND U12

Trained by Emma Daly and Susan O'Sullivan but we didn't compete in any official competitions in 2017 due to numbers. 2018 is another year and we will be competing in County and East Kerry Competitions.



## U14

We had 17 registered for this age group and lost two players to Legion by Transfer. We finished out the County fixtures but we rarely had a full fifteen. As a result, we didn't compete in East Kerry fixtures at the end of year. A great bunch of players and it was disheartening for them. Thanks to coaches Tim O'Connor, Des Spillane and Kieran McCarthy.



U15 Girls played against Beaufort in the knockout championship. Very unlucky on the day going into extra time but to lose by the narrowest of margins"



East Kerry U16 Division 3 Champions

## SENIOR LADIES

Had a great year winning East Kerry, Co League Div 3 and Junior B Championship titles. For 2018 we will be competing in Division 2 of the Co. League and in the Junior Championship. A huge promotion for our senior ladies. We also competed in the Senior Championship with Kilcummin and Dr Crokes under Killarney team. We lost to Rathmore in the final. It was great to see familiar faces back again, Mairead Finnegan and Loretta Maher and playing brilliantly.

Our younger players are making the transition to senior with great confidence and a great addition to the senior ranks. Linda Bruggener lined out with Kerry Senior team and did us proud. Congrats to Katie Purtill, Liadh Tobin and Lynn Jones on their new arrivals.

Thanks to coaches Donal O'Doherty and Tim O'Connor.

I would like to thank coaches Tim O'Connor, Kieran McCarthy and Des Spillane as they are stepping down this year after many years of coaching various underage teams. Also to Coiste na nÓg officers especially Bernie Courtney who was a great help and a brilliant secretary.

*Anne Holland, Secretary Spa LGFC*



Spa Senior Ladies 2017: Front L-R Ciara Moynihan, Aoife Cronin, Ciara Moynihan, Niamh Clifford, Sinead Cronin, Claire Moynihan, Niamh Kearney, Sarah Fleming, Emily Cronin, Cassandra Buckley. Back L-R: Liadh Tobin, Alma O'Mahony, Mags Cronin, Meghann Cronin, Karol Fleming, Katie O'Brien, Joanne Lynch, Linda Bruggener, Roisin Kearney, Mairead Finnegan, Loretta Maher, Micaela O'Connor, Aoife Hickey, Caoimhe Claffey





## SCÓR

### Scór na nÓg 2016/2017

The highlight of the year was our set dancers winning another All Ireland title in the Waterfront in Belfast on 11th Feb 2017. This was a great achievement, bringing home a 6th All Ireland Scór na nÓg title in 4 years.

Our Tráth na gCeist team were Kerry champions and went on to represent the County at All Ireland. The All Ireland proved to be a close contest, with Spa finishing joint 4th, just 2 points behind the winners with a total of 56 points.

Figure dancers were East Kerry and County Champions. Spa received the best overall club award at the Kerry County Final. Quiz Team: James Lynch, Daniel O Sullivan, Kianan O Doherty and Louise Fleming.

Set dancers: Aine Brosnan, Meghann Cronin, Orlaith Spillane, Erin Holland, Liam Spillane, Kianan O'Doherty, Gary O'Sullivan and Cian O'Sullivan.

Figure dancers: Alice O'Donoghue, Aislinn O'Donovan, Leah Murphy, Ailbhe Gallagher, Erin Holland, Meghann Cronin, Aine Brosnan and Kate Lawlor.

### SCÓR NA BPAISTÍ 2017

Our Figure, set dancers and music group all took 2nd place in East Kerry.

We were also well represented in solo singing by Laura Fleming. Figure dancers: Ellen Carroll, Aoibhe O'Donoghue, Roisin O'Sullivan, Grace O'Connor, Aoife O'Donoghue, Ciara O'Donoghue, Laura O'Carroll, Laura Fleming and Sinead Greene (sub)

Solo Singing: Laura Fleming Music: Laura O'Carroll, Laura Fleming, Roisin O'Sullivan, Grace O'Connor and Dara Brosnan

Set dancers: Siofra Brosnan, Jess O'Sullivan, Aine O'Sullivan, Ciara O'Donoghue, Dara Brosnan, Diarmuid O'Donovan, Oisín O'Sullivan and Colm O'Connor. Our quiz team of Laura Fleming, Aoibhinn Claffey, Emer O'Keeffe and Donal Hickey did well in the County final scoring 19 points out of 30.



Scór na bPáistí Set Dancers: Included in Photo are Ciara O'Donoghue, Diarmuid O'Donovan, Dara Brosnan, Aine O'Sullivan, Siofra Brosnan, Colm O'Connor, Oisín O'Sullivan and Jess O'Sullivan



Scór na bPáistí Tráth na gCeist team members Laura Fleming, Sean Hickey, Dara Lawlor and Daniel O'Sullivan with Kerry Scór Officer Christy Killeen



All Ireland Scór na nÓg Set Dancing Champions with coaches Ann, Triona and Mairead Mangan with Spa Scór Officer Eileen Aherne and Munster Scór Chairman Tom Herlihy.

### SCÓR SINSEAR 2017

Our quiz team – Seamus Clifford, John O'Donoghue, Jimmy O'Sullivan Darcy and Thomas Fleming – took 4th place in the County Final.

### SCÓR NA NÓG 2017/2018

The 2017/2018 competition is in progress. East Kerry final took place on 28th Oct 2017. We were represented in Figure dancing, set dancing and solo singing.

Figure: Alice O'Donoghue, Aislinn O'Donovan, Leah Murphy, Ailbhe Gallagher, Erin Holland, Kate Lawlor, Laura O'Carroll and Orlaith Spillane.

Set dancers: Erin Holland, Meghann Cronin, Siona Moynihan, Orlaith Spillane, Liam Spillane, Gary O'Sullivan, Cian O'Sullivan and Eoghan Mulvaney. Solo Singing: Laura Fleming

Our figure and set dancers won East Kerry. Laura also did us proud with a lovely version of 'Grace' but unfortunately wasn't placed.

Kerry County final took place on Sat 18th Nov. Our figure and set were crowned Kerry Champions and represented Kerry in the Munster semi-final on the 10th Dec. They now progress to the Munster Final on 7th Jan in Ovens. Our Tráth Na gCeist team of Daniel O'Sullivan, Dara Lawlor, Laura Fleming and Sean Hickey lost the Kerry final to Dr Crokes by one point.

In February 2017 Spa GAA Club competed yet again in the All Ireland Finals of Scór na nÓg and our Set Dancing team were crowned All Ireland champions for a second year in a row.

I would like to thank all participants who represented the Club in the various disciplines in 2017, also their parents for their co-operation and support. Mentors – a huge thank you for your time, dedication and commitment.

Thanks to the Executive Committee for their support throughout the year ... very much appreciated.

*Regards, Eileen Aherne*



# Spa Muckross Community Games 2017

**BASKETBALL (BOYS AND GIRLS):** U13 boys, coached by Tim O'Sullivan and Emir Coffey, competed in the county competition in Duagh on 15th January. U16 girls, coached by Jean Courtney, participated in the county competition on 23rd January. They played Currow/Currans first, and then Castleisland. There was only a basket between the teams after the final game against Killarney, so the day ended well after a tough first two games; Currow/Currans and Castleisland both progressed to the county finals. Team: Ruth Courtney, Treasa O'Sullivan, Caoilinn O'Donoghue, Zena Shine, Lauren O'Connor & Julie Delaney.

**JUDO:** Ali O'Donoghue and Ciara O'Sullivan won gold in their categories at the county competition in February. Ali went on to repeat last year's bronze medal success at the national finals in May.

**ART AND HANDWRITING:** Following a very well attended local competition, the following children went on to win medals at the county competition on 25th February in handwriting: Jeremy Brosnan 2nd u10, Kiera Moynihan 2nd u10, Ali O'Donoghue 3rd u12.

**RECITATION:** Treasa O'Sullivan came 4th in the county competition.

**FUTSAL:** U13 boys, coached by Connie Lynch and Pat O'Neill, competed in Milltown on 19th February. They won all 3 games: Fossa 2-1, Keel 3-1 and Kenmare 4-2. They were runners up in the county final held on 25th February in Milltown. The boys had a 2-1 win against Duagh/Lyre in the semi-final. The final against Glenflesk went into extra time, but unfortunately for our lads, our near neighbours emerged as the winners on that occasion.

Team: Conaill Gallagher, Sam Benson, Oran Daly, Cian Lynch, Jack O'Sullivan, Luke O'Neill, Timothy Moynihan and Maidhcí Lynch. Huge thanks to coaches Con Lynch, Pat O'Neill and Tim O'Sullivan.

**SPIKEBALL:** U14 girls, coached by Donal O'Doherty, participated in the county finals on 27th February in Glenbeigh. The girls played brilliantly with victories over Rathmore/Gneeveguilla, Listowel and Glenbeigh/Glencar. The final was extremely close for the most of the game, but Fossa gained the momentum in the last few minutes to claim the county title.

**SWIMMING:** The following children won medals at the county competition held on 5th March in Tralee: Caolan Mitchell 3rd u10 freestyle, Aisling Coffey 3rd u16 freestyle, Colm Looney 2nd u14 50m freestyle, Niall Coffey 3rd u14 backstroke, Faye O'Neill 2nd u12 backstroke, Cathal Coffey 4th u14 backstroke, Treasa O'Sullivan 1st u16 backstroke. Treasa represented Kerry at the national finals in May.

**CROSS COUNTRY:** The county competition was held on 19th March, and the following children secured places on teams going forward to represent Kerry in the national finals in May: Jason O Reilly 1st U12 400m, Oisín Lynch 1st place U12 600m, Jack O Sullivan 2nd U14 700m and Eoghan O Reilly finished 6th U14 700m.

Both the U12 and U14 teams qualified for the finals at the national competitions.

**U13 INDOOR SOCCER:** U13 boys, coached by Connie Lynch and Pat O'Neill, competed in Milltown on 26th March. They won their first game 2-0 against Valentia. Their second game against Currow-Currans also gave cause for celebration, with a 1-0 final score. Unfortunately, the lads suffered a very narrow 1-0 defeat to Fossa in their third game. They dusted themselves off, and gave their all to win 2-0 against Killorglin. Fossa went through from this group, as they won all their games, but our boys definitely did themselves proud that day. Team: Timothy Moynihan, Conal Gallagher, Cian Lynch, Sam Benson, Luke O'Neill, Calvin O'Sullivan, Jack O'Sullivan.



Bronze Medal Winners at the U16 Relay National Finals. Included in photo are Elizabeth Stack, Grace Courtney, Marie Courtney, Ruth Courtney

**U10 INDOOR SOCCER:** 17 areas competed in the boys U10 indoor soccer competitions held in Milltown and Duagh on 9th April, and our U10 boys, coached by Adrian McCarthy and Diarmuid O'Carroll, qualified for the county finals, along with Duagh/Lyre, Kenmare and Knocknagoshel. They won gold in the county final held on 23rd April in Duagh.

They beat a young Knocknagoshel team comfortably in the semi-final and ran out 6 to 1 winners against Duagh/Lyre in the final, securing their place in the Munster competition scheduled for 1st July. All the boys listed below were also on the U10 Gaelic team, who were also successful at county level. Due to Community Games rules, a decision was reached to proceed with the Gaelic team to Munster level. Team: Mark O'Carroll, Joey McCarthy, Nathan Cronin, Jake Downing, Shane Doolan, Luke Doolan, Caoilean Mitchell, Maurice Joy.

**U12 SOCCER:** On 30th April, our U12 boys emerged as county champions. The lads started with a 1-0 win against Kilcummin in a very tight game. The next two games against Killorglin and Kenmare ended with nil all draws, in two extremely exciting games that could have gone either way. Finally, the boys had a clear win against a young Fossa team. They progressed to the Munster competition, and gave eventual champions, Tipperary, a run for their money in their semi-final clash.

**U10 GAELIC:** The team, coached by Adrian McCarthy and Diarmuid O'Carroll, won gold in the county competition on 5th June. They played in a group of 5 in Connolly Park defeating Kenmare, Listowel, Glenflesk and Keel to top their group. In the semi-final in Na Gaeil GAA grounds, they defeated Moyvane, and then went on to defeat Rathmore/Gneeveguilla in the final.

The boys progressed to the Munster quarter final against Fethard (Tipperary) on 20th June and had a fantastic win of 3-12 to 4-06. They met Monaleen (Limerick) in their semi-final on 1st July in University of Limerick, and Limerick went on to become overall winners, so they were up against the best of the best.

**ATHLETICS – Track and Field:** Our local competition was held on 12th May. The first 4 qualifiers in each event progressed to the county competition held in June. Results from the county competition: Boys u12 600m 1st - Maidhci Lynch, Boys u12 relay 2nd - Mark Daly, Cian Russell, Oisín Lynch, Timothy Moynihan, Maidhci Lynch, Boys u14 relay 4th - Cian Lynch, Oscar McCarthy, Jack O'Sullivan, Cian McMahon, Brian Doody, Girls u14 hurdles 4th - Aoibhe O'Doherty, Girls u14 Long Jump 3rd - Aoibhe O'Doherty,

Girls u16 100m 1st - Ruth Courtney, 2nd - Elizabeth Stack, Girls u16 High Jump 2nd - Elizabeth Stack, Girls u16 relay 1st - Elizabeth Stack, Grace Courtney, Marie Courtney and Ruth Courtney. Reaching finals were Jack O'Sullivan u14 800m, Anna O'Shea u10 hurdles, Ali O'Donoghue u12 600m and the u12 relay of Grace O'Connor, Ali O'Donoghue, Beth Lucey, Leah McMahon, Angelina Kenny and Áine Devlin. Also returning for semi-finals on day 2, were Cian Russell u12 100m and Grace O'Connor u12 200m.

At the national finals in August, Maidhci Lynch, qualified for the final of his U12 600m race, and our U16 relay of Elizabeth, Grace, Marie and Ruth, came 3rd in their final, to bring bronze national medals back to Killarney.

*Bernie Courtney, PRO Spa Muckross Community Games*



Community Games Awards Night 2017.



# LISSIVIGEEN COMMUNITY ALERT

Lissivigeen and District Community Alert was set up in 1996 by the late Pat Corcoran. The association has twenty six members and have been very active for the past twenty two years. The group have taken part in many St. Patrick's Day parades with Lissivigeen School as well as staging a Rambling House with Radio Kerry in the Torc Hotel. In 2012 one hundred years after the Titanic sunk the committee travelled to Cobh with relatives of those who survived and died on that never forgotten day on April 15th 1912.

### TEXT ALERT

Six years ago the group set up Text Alert in partnership with Killarney Garda Station. Two hundred and twenty have signed up. Increased communication between An Garda Siochana and our community is essential for crime prevention.

### BUS TRIP

On the first Thursday of June each year a bus trip is organised with O'Callaghan's Tours. This year we plan to visit the whiskey distillery in Midleton and Spike Island on the 7th.June.

### CHRISTMAS PARTY

This year our Christmas Party will take place at the Torc Hotel on the 30th.November. The function is preceded by mass and the event acts as a fundraiser for events that the association holds throughout the year.

### SOCIALLY MONITORED ALARMS

Twenty four socially monitored alarms have been installed within the geographical area of the association. The alarm can be worn as a pendant or around the wrist like a watch. When pressed it connects wirelessly to a base unit usually attached to a phone. The base unit immediately sends a message to a twenty four hour monitoring centre.

### NEWSLETTER

Watch out for Newsletter in December 2018. Great articles, moments in time schools competition etc.



Members of Lissivigeen Community Alert at the annual Christmas Party. Front L-R: Fr. Michael O'Doherty, Annmarie Casey, Pat Kelliher, Theresa Tancred, Christy Lehane, Superintendent Flor McCarthy. Middle L-R: Margaret Doyle, Margaret Kelliher, Kitty O'Sullivan, Eileen Aherne, Shirley Murphy, Siobhan O'Keeffe, Denis Russell. Back L-R: Patsy Kelleher, Kathleen Gleeson, Danny Cahill, Neil O'Sullivan, Mike McCarthy, Brian Horgan.

# SPA Ladies Committee

The Lily of Killarney is an annual event run on behalf of Spa GAA club by its ladies committee ably guided by the current chairperson Geraldine O'Neill. The event is a popular social occasion in Killarney. It attracts support from across the town and beyond and the generosity of the many sponsors every year is unwavering.

On May 19th 2017 the 44th Lily of Killarney was selected at a dinner dance in the Gleneagle Hotel. The 2017 Lily of Killarney, representing Jimmy Brien's Bar, was Mary T Moynihan from Gneeveguilla. She was selected from a panel of 29 finalists by a trio of independent judges headed up by TV personality Sile Seoige. The evening started with a buffet dinner followed by introduction of the finalists by MC Ray O'Sullivan. This was followed by a very enjoyable night of music and dancing before the winner was announced at midnight. Among a host of other prizes Mary was presented with The Healy/Cronin Perpetual Trophy. The trophy is named for Steve Healy and Denis Cronin, two Killarney men living in the US who made Spa's 1973 tour of New York and Boston possible. Mary represented Spa GAA at a number of events during the year including the Killarney Regatta, The London Killarney Reunion and the St Patricks Day Parade.

This year saw the sad passing of John Kelly of Coolcaslagh, a former chairman of the club. He was a founding member of the Lily of Killarney and, along with his wife Sheila, was a lifelong supporter of the event rarely missing the occasion. The ladies committee extend our sympathies to Sheila and her family on his passing.

### Ladies Committee



2017 Lily of Killarney Mary T Moynihan with Spa Ladies Chairperson Geraldine O'Neill and Spa Ladies Committee members Denise Gleeson, Marie O'Keeffe, Sheila Cronin, Gerard Mangan (Club Chairperson), Sheila Curtin, Marguerite Brosnan, Claire O'Mahony and Breda Hickey



# Handball

A new club, Spa Killarney Handball Club, was officially launched on April 13th 2018 at Spa sports hall by Minister of State for Sport Brendan Griffin. The Glenbeigh senior handballers played an exhibition handball match to entertain the large attendance. The facilities consist of two one wall courts.

The club has already successfully hosted its first tournament the Munster One Wall Championships, on May 19th 2018. Players competed from all over Munster from Under 15 to Masters and expressed great satisfaction with the event and the facilities.

One wall handball is a great aerobic agility sport working both sides of the body and is the fastest-growing form of handball played in over 20 countries worldwide.

The group play every Friday evening from 7pm to 9pm and the club is open to everybody over 18 from beginner to advanced levels. They hope to facilitate and start coaching under 18 players next year.

So: if you have not played handball since your youth – why not rekindle that flame? If you retired from the football fields – why not attain or retain fitness levels by playing our GAA court game. Even if you never played a game, it's never too late – don't be shy and just give it a try! Contact Tadhg 0872890522 or Pa 0852210132



Minister of State for Sport and Tourism Brendan Griffin TD joined club members and officers from Spa GAA Club and guests from Glenbeigh Handball Club at the official launch of Spa Killarney Handball Club



Chairman of Spa GAA Club Gerard Mangan, Minister of State for Sport and Tourism Brendan Griffin TD and Chairman of Spa Killarney Handball Club Tadhg O'Sullivan

# SPA LOTTO

2017 was the sixth year of the Club Lotto and another successful year of fundraising and committed club participation. There was one jackpot winner during the year. Since launching in 2012 there have been 8 jackpot winners and over €130,000 of prizes awarded as well as much more being raised to fund club initiatives.

2017 was a year where we were all delighted to welcome back James Cahill as his recovery progressed.

It was also a year where the lotto committee got behind fellow committee member Michael O'Connell and the O'Connell family to lead a fundraising initiative to support Ian's recovery following his accident in August 2017. The special lotto fundraiser was led by Jim Gleeson ably assisted by Paudie Horgan and Deirdre O'Sullivan Darcy along with the entire lotto committee. As successful as the club lotto has been to date the three-week period between announcing the special lotto draw and the night itself highlighted the commitment by all involved in the Spa lotto to get behind a fellow committee member when really needed. It epitomised all the positive qualities of the GAA, community and volunteerism. We wish Ian well in his recovery.

I would like to thank all committee members and volunteers for their efforts throughout the year and all those who help with the on-going administration of weekly draws. Thanks also to the host venues and other outlets where tickets are sold weekly. Special thanks also to the regular sellers of tickets whose efforts make the lotto the success it is and especially all those who support the lotto through the purchase of weekly or annual tickets.

The lotto is a key fundraising activity for the club and its continuing success relies on the on-going support of all members.

Once again mile Buíochas to everybody involved.

*Tadhg O Hici, Lotto Committee Chairman*



Tadhg Hickey & Jim Gleeson, Spa Lotto Committee, with Spa lotto winner Lorena O'Connor



# John Kelly - A Tribute



The unexpected death of John Kelly in Kerry University Hospital, Tralee, on February 5th, 2018, caused much shock and sorrow, not only in the Spa GAA catchment but also much further afield. He was aged 82.

To describe John as a 'colossus' in GAA terms would not be an exaggeration. He held many positions within the club, both as player and administrator, being chairman for several years, over two terms, and PRO for decades.

He was one of the handful of people to receive the club's Lifetime Achievement Award.

John, from Coolcaslagh, was an inspirational figure and an example to many because of his unselfish commitment and service. His active range of sporting interests also included rowing, golf and pitch and putt (Deer Park).

For much of his professional life, he was a community psychiatric nurse who helped many people, often above and beyond duty's call. A community activist in the broadest sense of the term, he was particularly active in the promotion of rural Ireland.

He was also the de facto club historian whose recall stretched to the 1940's. He often recounted seeing seven-a-side games, in the late 1940's, between the Legion and the Dick Fitzgeralds in Owen O'Keeffe's field, Lissivigeen, as well as the exploits of the local Lissivigeen team which played in Major McGillicuddy's field at White Bridge.

In 1948, he saw the formation of the new Spa GAA club with which he played minor football at the tender age of 14 years, in 1950. He was chairman of the club when its history, Cumann Spa - 50 Blian Ag Fas, was published in 1998.

Writing an introduction to the publication, he remembered life in those grim post-war years, made worse by a terrible winter in 1947 with snow drifts covering the Kerry hills for many months. There was a severe depression in the local economy and emigration was reaching high levels. Times were hard.

"As Christmas passed, the sad news filtered through that, due to retirements and emigration, the Lissivigeen football club had become defunct," he wrote.

"It was against this background that a group of football enthusiasts from the Spa area assembled in Casey's farmhouse (Knockmanagh), in the spring of 1948, to form a unit of the GAA that was to carve for itself a special niche in the annals of the GAA in this county."

He joined St Finan's Hospital in 1955 and his entry coincided with the formation of the St Finan's club with which he won an All-Ireland Hospitals title (Connolly Cup) in 1959, and later, in 1964, he played in an O'Donoghue Cup final when the St Finan's were defeated by a star-studded Dr Crokes team.

One of John's proudest achievements was winning a coveted O'Donoghue Cup medal with the revived Spa club, in 1966, and he clinched victory in the inaugural East Kerry Championship of that year with the decisive goal in the final against Gneeveguilla. Having retired from playing, he served as a senior selector for seven years. Thereafter, he immersed himself in the administrative side of the club serving as chairman for a number of years, over two terms (mid 1980's and late '90's). He also held a host of other positions including that of County Board delegate, a forum where he was never slow to give an opinion and contribute to debate.

Having grown up in an age when The Kerryman and Kerry Champion were the main bearers of news – both sporting and otherwise – John had an outstanding relationship with the local press while serving as club PRO for over 40 years.

Indeed, he was one of a handful of people who pioneered the role of the GAA club PRO in the 1960's and '70's. John did not confine his administrative talents to his own club; he also served as PRO of the East Kerry Board for a five-year period before taking over as board chairman, in 1990.

While at the helm in East Kerry, John worked tirelessly to establish a strong East Kerry County Championship team. His endeavours bore fruit when East Kerry went on to win three, successive county titles between 1997 and 1999, propelling a host of players to the forefront of Kerry football in the process.

For good measure, John acted as a selector and masseur in all their victories.



Sheila & John Kelly



East Kerry Minor League Champions 1990 Spa GAA Club being presented with the Cup from Chairperson of the East Kerry Board John Kelly. Front L-R Roddy O'Donoghue, Kieran Dennehy, Peter Wickham, Robert Cremin, Donal O'Doherty. Middle L-R Fergus McAuliffe, Johnny Brosnan, Garrett Doolan, Donal Kelly, Anthony Morris, Martin O'Riordan, Paul O'Sullivan, John Doyle (RIP), Tadhg Kelly. Back L-R Johnny Doolan (Trainer), Pat Cronin (Selector), Jeremy Kenny, Tom O'Sullivan, Aidan Moynihan, Peter O'Sullivan, John Kelly, John Fleming, Denis Doolan, Maurice Coffey, Sean Lynch

His talents as a masseur were also recognised by legendary Kerry supremo, the late Paidí Ó Sé, and John enjoyed a very successful period as a member of the Kerry backroom team. As well as making excellent contributions as an individual, John was also a team player, as long-time Spa GAA activist Andrew O'Sullivan recalled.

"He put his heart and soul into the club and was also a hugely valued member of other sporting organisations. It was never about himself – always for someone else – and he had no hidden agendas," said Andrew, also a former treasurer of the East Kerry Board.

"He was instrumental in organising the East Kerry team that won three county championships in the late 1990's. Getting all the clubs to work together can be a challenging task, but John achieved that co-operation and showed great perseverance in so doing.

"He was always in good from and telling jokes. A very likeable man, he could rally a community and get people united behind a cause or a project. But he also called a spade a spade when necessary. He was one of the people who got Commercial Rowing Club up and running again."

Golf was a relaxing past-time for John who enjoyed a regular four ball with Seamus O'Donoghue, Sean Counihan and Frank Doyle.

"It was supposed to be serious golf but it often turned into a debate about matters like football and politics, especially between John and Sean," said Seamus, of the Castle.

"Often after a big match on television, he might call to me around five o'clock on a Sunday evening to go and play nine or ten holes. We'd have a pint on the way home and a big discussion on farming or other topics of the day."

As a community activist, John supported many causes. He was, for instance, a dedicated member of the Irish Rural Dwellers Association. He campaigned for the retention of essential services in rural Ireland and believed passionately that people should be allowed live in rural areas so as to build up strong rural communities.

He often voiced concerns about growing urbanisation and the drift of people into towns and cities. In the week prior to his death, Kerry's Eye newspaper published an article in which John expressed his views on rural issues and the importance of having close-knit rural communities. Outlining his views clearly, he stressed the close bonds which people forge in rural areas in contrast to the anonymity which often faces people in urban environments.

Tributes poured in following his passing. Former GAA President and Fine Gael MEP, Sean Kelly, who knew his namesake extremely well, said he was a colossus in the GAA, rowing and community life. "He was a man with a great head, a man who brought maturity and sense to so many issues and debates. John Kelly was an authority on many things. Above all, he was a great friend to so many people," Sean said.

Spa club chairman Michael Cronin summed up feelings in the locality when he described John as an icon.

"No matter what was going on, picking stones or writing a Spa history, he was involved...Apart from his involvement in the GAA, John was a friend to everyone. He was a man of information, somebody we could all go to for advice or knowledge about anything. He is a massive loss to the club," Michael continued. With a spirit that belied his years, this livewire octogenarian was active to the very end. Throughout his life, he made every day count and always worked for the betterment of others and his community.

The many tributes paid to him were richly deserved. Large crowds attended his funeral and he was given a send-off befitting his standing as a leading sports and community activist. He was, of course, also a devoted family man, survived by his widow Sheila; daughters Joan, Catherine and Bernie; sons Patrick and Denis.

Ar dheis lamh De go raibh a anam dilis.

*Donal Hickey and John O'Leary*



Realisation of a Dream- John Kelly who always campaigned for a Divisional Side and was a Selector and Physio with the East Kerry 3-in-a-row winning team from 1997-1999. Front L-R: Dan Favier (EKB Treasurer), John Kelly (Selector/Physio), Denis Moynihan, Timmy O'Sullivan, Sean Counihan (Trainer), John Crowley, Pat Sweeney (EKB Chairman), Charlie McCarthy, Seamus Moynihan, Andrew O'Sullivan (EKB Treasurer), Dermot O'Mahony (Selector). Middle L-R Paud O'Donoghue, Stephen Flynn, Kenneth O'Keefe, Donal Daly, Ger Cremin, Declan O'Keefe, Tony Murphy, Owen Doherty, Michael D Cahill, Tom O'Sullivan, Jerh O'Sullivan. Back L-R Jerry Murphy, Sean Moynihan, Michael O'Donoghue, Niall Mangan, Con O'Connor, Anthony Morris, Mossie Cronin, Tom O'Sullivan, Sean Óg O'Leary



# Arthur 'Owen' O'Keeffe

## RECALLING FOOTBALL AND OTHER MEMORIES IN LISSIVIGEEN

The Lissivigeen club was active through the 1940's; took part in the East Kerry League and defeated Glenbeigh in the final one memorable year, but got no medals. They played in MacGillicuddy's field and in O'Keeffe's big field.

Arthur's family has a long history in the area. His grandfather, also Arthur, was born in Reanasup, Gneeveguilla, close to the Moving Bog, and emigrated to Australia as a young man.

Seeking his fortune in the goldfields of Ballarat, he clearly did well there and returned to Ireland, in 1879, with the intention of farming. He took over 99 acres in Lissivigeen which he eventually purchased following legislation which allowed tenants to buy their farms. And it was there he raised his family.

His sons, Denis and Thado, were members of the Dr Crokes team that won the first county championship for the club in 1901. Emigration, however, cut short their football careers. Arthur's father, Owen, who took over the farm, also played with Dr Crokes.

Arthur's brother, Eugie, was also a promising player. However, a serious ligament injury sustained in a challenge game in Castletownbere, Co Cork prematurely ended his playing career. Brothers Gerald and Ted O'Sullivan were among other talented players from the area. They played with Legion and won All-Ireland medals with Kerry.

The Lissivigeen club became defunct around 1946, with retirements and emigration being factors and many of the local lads, including the O'Keeffe's, then began to play with Dr Crokes. It was against this background that the Spa club was formed in 1948.

There's also an amazing story concerning the 1901 county championship medal won by Denis O'Keeffe. Around the start of the Second World War, a person from Killarney came upon the medal in a pawnbroker's shop in South Africa. This person bought the medal which is currently in the possession of Dr Crokes.

As if the underline the family's football tradition, our conversation took place beneath a photograph of Arthur's grandson and Kerry footballer, Jonathon Lyne, standing beside the Sam Maguire Cup in 2014.

A group water scheme in Lissivigeen – the first of its kind in the country – is a source of great pride to Arthur. The year 1959 is remembered for a scorching dry summer which served to highlight chronic water shortages in the area. A large pond on the O'Keeffe farm, which watered cattle, dried up and, in the early 1960's, it was decided to start a group scheme.

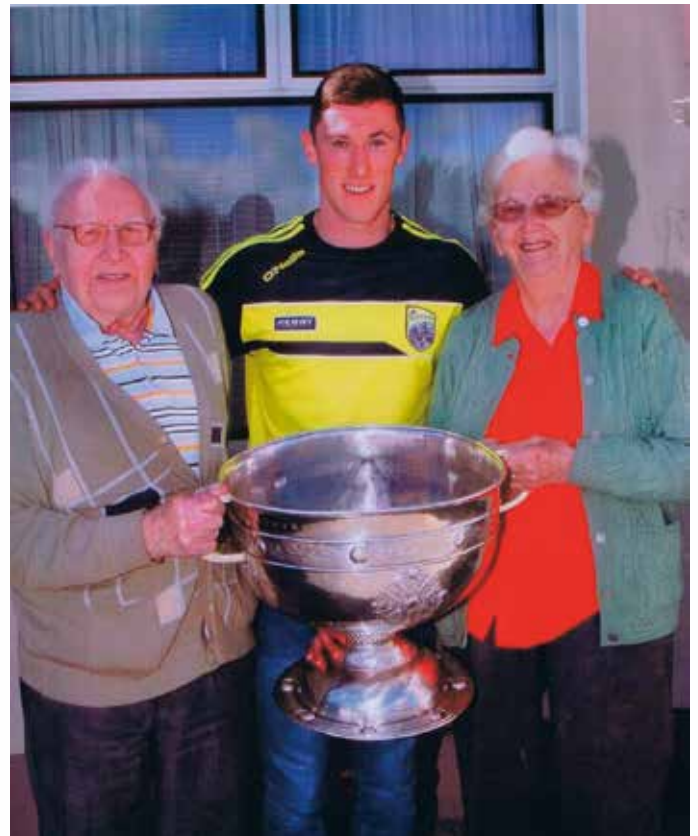
Johnny Kelly, of Ardaneanig, was a water diviner and his expertise was called on. He found up to seven underground streams, close to the railway line and river Flesk, a short distance in front of the house where Arthur and his wife, Kit, now live.

Work began on digging a well in this relatively small site. One day, they set a fire on a rock and when they returned after dinner, Owen O'Keeffe, hit the rock with a sledge and water came up through a crack.

"There's water in Lissivigeen at last," was his pronouncement. Work on the scheme, spearheaded by local teachers, Tadhg O'Sullivan and John O'Reilly and Muintir na Tire, was voluntary. The water was pumped to reservoir in Eugie Scannell's field (it can still be seen from The Torc Hotel) and water reached various houses and farms through gravity flow.

"The scheme was of huge benefit to everyone, providing high quality water on a consistent basis," Arthur said. Being people of the land, the O'Keeffe's had a close association with Macra na Feirme and dances and social nights were held in Lissivigeen Macra na Feirme hall in the 1940's and '50's.

*In conversation with Donal Hickey and Dave Herlihy*



Arthur and Kit O'Keeffe with their grandson and Kerry GAA player Jonathan Lyne



# FLEMINGS OF MUCKROSS

## A NOBLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE SPORTING LIFE OF SPA-MUCKROSS

The scene was an August evening in 1920 in Flesk Castle where a group of young men from the district were assembled for the purpose of forming a rowing club to be known as Flesk Valley Rowing club.

The minutes of that first meeting reads as follows" That there being a strong desire for the formation of a rowing club and a strong hope that the fine physique of the young men of the district and the noticeably temperate habits therein will lead to distinguished success at the local regatta, Two years later July 6th 1924 John Fleming stroked the Flesk Valley senior crew to victory - a crew that also included Patie O'Leary from The Quarry Lissivigeen who was later went on to assist the Spa Tug-O-War team to Munster honours.

25 years later on a November evening in Fitzgerald Stadium Spa GAA club defeated Headford in the East Kerry senior league and a member of that panel was 19 year old Patrick Fleming from Scartlea and it was on that November evening that the sporting link involving the Fleming family with Spa-Muckross was created and which was to continue right through the intervening seventy years. Patrick who also assisted Spa to win the junior East Kerry league in 1952 was soon joined by his brothers Michael and Jimmy. Michael played a starring role during the 1952 senior campaign scoring a memorable goal against Listry in a final in which Spa were narrowly defeated by Listry.

Younger brother Jimmy played in all grades for the club until it became temporarily defunct in 1958 and then joined Killarney Legion.

When his playing days came to an end Michael filled the role of club secretary and East Kerry Board delegate for a number of years.

When the Spa Muckross-Community games club was formed in 1974 Michael again became deeply immersed in all aspects of the club and was ever present with his wife Eileen, son Gerry and daughter Breda (both of who were talented athletes) at sports meetings all over Kerry and at Mosney where the finals were held each year.

The links with Flesk Valley also continued and here we find all three brothers rowing in all grades with the club and in 1959 Patrick emulated the feat of his father in 1924 when he stroked the Flesk Valley crew to win the Senior sixes race at Killarney regatta while Michael trained and coxed various club crews and his son Garry and daughter Breda. also rowed in various grades for the club.

The sporting link has endured with both the GAA club and Community Games club down through the decades and Michael. Garry, and Breda were soon joined by Patrick's son John Fleming who as well as being an oarsman of note with "The Valley" also turned in many sterling performances with Spa GAA club in various grades.

*John Kelly*



Senior Sixes Mens Winners 1984. Front L-R: Pat Tangney, Patrick Fleming, Danny Lucey. Back L-R: Kieran O'Callaghan, Tommy Cronin, Michael Fleming, Pat O'Donoghue, Freddie Murphy



Flesk Valley Winners of 5-in-a-row Senior Sixes at Killarney Regatta on Sunday June 30th 1981 – Front L-R Tom Cronin, Patrick Fleming (Cox), Johnny Lyne (captain), Michael Fleming (Trainer, Kieran O'Callaghan. Back L-R: Danny Lucey, Pat Tangney, Denis Courtney, Pat O'Donoghue



Members of the 1948-52 Spa team. Front L-R James Mulligan, Willie Cronin, Maurice Casey, Donie O'Leary, Denis Gallivan. Back L-R: Patrick Fleming, Jerry Mahony, Johnny Looney, Denis O'Keefe



# Spa Awards Night

The Annual Awards Night was an initiative undertaken in 2014 in order to commemorate three Spa men who were taken too soon from us and also to celebrate and acknowledge the many wonderful contributions of our members, both young and old. Furthermore, it was seen as a way of enabling Spa people to come together and share in a night of celebration and conversation, regardless of what was or wasn't won during the course of the year.

In such a diverse club, there are many people and areas that need to be acknowledged. To this end, an award in memory of Aidan Cronin is presented to the Young Player of the Year, the Junior Player of the Year receives the Pat Corcoran Award and the Senior Player of the Year is the recipient of the John Doyle Cup. There are also awards presented to the Senior Lady of the Year and those who have contributed in the areas of Scór and in a Social and Cultural capacity are also recognised. The centrepiece of the night is the Lifetime Achievement Award which acknowledges someone for outstanding work in the club over a long period of time, they receive the Fr. Tim O'Sullivan Cup.

Since the inception of the Awards Night some truly great Spa people have been recognised, none more so than our inaugural recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award, John Kelly, whose untimely passing just recently, resonated through the local community and beyond. The Awards Night gives us the chance to acknowledge people like John, who have done Trojan work over a long number of years and in doing so ensuring the continued vibrancy of Spa GAA. What a travesty it would have been had John gone to his eternal rest without being toasted by his own.

Thankfully, we have seen attendances on the night go from strength to strength and it seems it's now a date that people have pencilled into their diaries as it gives them a chance to shake off the winter cobwebs. Each year we have held a draw on the night with all proceeds going to charity.



Spa Awards Committee Front L-R: Anne Holland, Seanie Kelliher, Mathilda McCarthy. Back L-R: Andrew Garnett, Ivor Flynn, Adrian O'Sullivan.

To date, over €3,000 has been raised with the money going to the Irish Cancer Society, the Anthony Morris Fund and this year the Ian O'Connell Fund. A sincere thank you to everyone who has donated so generously to these causes, a fitting testament to all involved in the club.

February 2018 saw the Torc Hotel full to capacity as Spa people came together to celebrate and recognise the achievements of a variety of people. The All-Ireland winning Scór na nÓg Set performed on the night to great applause. As well as the individual player of the year awards, the five lads involved with the Sem when winning two Hogan Cups were honoured. **David Carroll, David Spillane, Evan Cronin, Niall McCarthy and Dara Moynihan.** **Eileen Casey** was a most deserving recipient of the Social & Cultural Award. It was fitting that **Jim Gleeson** found himself accepting the Lifetime Achievement Award to a standing ovation. He of course now joins **Johnny Cronin, Cáit Darcy** and the aforementioned **John Kelly** on an illustrious list of former winners. Mick Gleeson once again acted as MC on the night and captured everyone's imagination with his beautifully crafted words.

Finally, these kind of occasions would not be possible were it not for the support of our sponsors. In this regard, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Club Vitae of Hotel Killarney, Dr Michael O'Doherty in Killarney Medical Centre and Brendan Downes in the Torc Hotel, all of whom have been on board in their support of the Awards Night from the beginning.

We are hopeful that the many endeavours of those involved in Spa GAA in 2018 will bear fruit and that we find ourselves toasting their successes when we gather again in the Torc Hotel in early 2019.

Míle Buíochas, *Andrew Garnett,*  
*Awards Committee Chairperson*



2017 Awards Winners – Front L-R: **Katie O'Brien** (Senior Ladies Player), **Jim Gleeson** (Lifetime Achievement Award), **Eileen Casey** (Social & Cultural Award). Back L-R: **Niall McCarthy** (Young Player of the Year), **Evan Cronin** (Senior Player of the Year), **Hugh O'Donoghue** (Junior Player of the Year)



Spa members and neighbours celebrating Fr Tim's birthday celebrations at the clubhouse

## FR TIM'S 80TH

On a visit to Derby in January 2017 Brian and I, as usual, enjoyed the hospitality of the Irish Centre. A chat with the manager Steve Gallagher led to a discussion about Fr Tim's upcoming 80th birthday. "Leave it to me" said Steve, "His birthday is on March 31st and the party will be on that night here in the club". We volunteered to organise a group from Spa to travel for the occasion.

The response in Spa was enthusiastic. Thus it was that an advance party left Dublin Airport at dawn on the 31st to ensure that the hot water bottles were in place for the aged troops that followed from Cork Airport in the afternoon. Our base was Jury's Inn where we enjoyed their usual standard of comfort and hospitality.

At 8 o'clock taxis ferried us to the Irish Centre, though misinterpretation of our Kerry accents led to one of the group being brought initially to the Polish Centre. Fr Tim, of course, was still unaware of our presence.

Steve then introduced the various groups. When the Spa party entered the room led by John and Sheila Kelly, the surprise and delight were obvious on Fr Tim's face. In a remarkable tribute to Fr Tim, 200 people were in attendance from all over the diocese. It was marvellous to also meet Fr Michael O'Donoghue who came from Newark to celebrate with his neighbour.

A delicious buffet dinner was served. There followed an evening of marvellous entertainment – dancing, song and story, Séan Ó Sé and John White travelled to pay a musical tribute to their friend of many years. Their performance seemed to exceed even their own remarkable high standards. A highlight, especially for Fr Tim, was Séan's introduction to and rendition of Seán Ó Duibhir A' Ghleanna.

Saturday was a day for relaxation and exploration around the beautiful city of Derby. John Kelly and Johnny Cronin were a picture of resigned patience on a bench in the shopping centre, while Sheila and Margaret attacked the shops with vigour.

The younger people we presumed were visiting the museums and churches. A more informal night followed in the Irish Centre. On Sunday morning we attended mass in St Mary's. Sr Raphael, a Mercy nun and native of Roundwood, Co. Wicklow, greeted us at the door.

Maureen Casey, daughter of Spa GAA founder member Maurice and now resident in Nottingham, has been a loyal friend of Fr Tim's. She proved a most hospitable host to us and arranged a farewell lunch in Jury's which was attended by her husband Richard and son Conor. Fr Tim has sent all the money given to him as presents to his favourite charity in Erusha in Africa.

Memories of our great weekend are of course now tinged with sadness. John Kelly led us with great dignity and pride in his native place. He was particularly proud of the Spa man who has dedicated his life to the people of God in various parishes in the diocese of Nottingham. Sheila can take comfort from the outstanding influence for good John and herself have had on yet another generation of Spa people.

Solas na bhflaitheas ar d'anam, John *Jim Gleeson*



Birthday celebrations in Derby for Fr Tim. Front L-R, Maureen Casey, Margaret Cronin, Mary O'Connor, Sheila Kelly, Catherine Gleeson, Denise Gleeson. Back L-R Eugene O'Connor, Fr Tim, John Kelly, Jim Gleeson, Fr Michael O'Donoghue, Donagh Cronin, Conor Gleeson, Brian Gleeson, Johnny Cronin.



# SEM RETAIN HOGAN CUP



A welcome reception in Spa with the traditional bonfires for the victorious Sem team and management.

For a long time the 1969 win by St. Brendan's was a benchmark that no-one was able to reach. In 1992, John Doyle (RIP) and Seamus Moynihan were part of the squad that repeated the feat. In fact it took from 1946 to 2009 for Kerry schools to amass four Hogan Cups (St Brendan's (2), ISK Killorglin (1), Colaiste na Sceilige (1) and it took just four years, 2014-17, to amass our next four. PS Chorca Dhuibhne led the way with back to back titles in 2014/15, while in 2016 the Sem blazed all the way to the title.

A year later a lot of eyes were focused on Killarney's famous football nursery, with our own Dara Moynihan wearing the captain's armband. Their first Corn Uí Mhuirí outing saw a young ISK Killorglin side swept away by 2-23 to 1-8, with both Dara Moynihan and Niall McCarthy helping earn the victory.



Spa members Dara Moynihan and Niall McCarthy celebrating their Corn Uí Mhuirí Munster Title.

A 1-15 to 1-8 win over DLS Macroom meant that St. Brendan's were sure of a knockout stage. Their third game saw Hamilton HS, Bandon, get a tough introduction to the Corn Uí Mhuirí in their first year participating – Niall had 0-5 and man of the match Dara had 0-4 as the Sem won out by 2-24 to 0-8.

The quarter-final against PS Chorca Dhuibhne was always going to be a tougher test, but the Sem ran out comfortable winners in the end. They did have a sizeable injury list for the semi-final against St. Flannans, with all of Dr. Gary Stack's generous expertise vital to the team's success, and dug deep and beat St. Flannans of Ennis by 2-17 to 1-11.

That set up another Corn Uí Mhuirí Final – an all-Kerry affair between traditional rivals the Sem and the Green (Tralee CBS), with the Sem winning out by 2-20 to 0-11, with Dara Moynihan raising the Cup!



The Sem team and management at the homecoming celebrations in Spa clubhouse. Front L-R: Barry Slattery, Darren Looney, Mark Harnett, Dara Moynihan, Donnacha O'Sullivan, Niall O'Donoghue, Mark Fitzgerald, Thomas O'Connor, Michael Devlin. Middle L-R: David Shaw, Chris O'Donoghue, Mark O'Shea, Cian O'Callaghan, Ciaran Flynn, Garry McGrath, Arthur Fitzgerald, Sean O'Leary, Niall McCarthy, Sean Doherty, Evan Cosgrave, Hugh Rudden, Gary Stack. Back L-R: Diarmuid Brosnan, Roan Delaney, Cian Gammell, Billy Courtney, Oran O'Donoghue, Lorcan McMonagle, Michael Potts, Jake Flynn, Jack Griffin, Robert Osborne

St. Colman's of Claremorris were the Hogan Cup semi-final opponents, and proved to be a quality side, and the 3-13 to 1-11 victory margin was slightly flattering to the Sem. St. Peters of Wexford were waiting in the final where Dara kicked the final point of a 0-18 to 0-10 victory before raising the cup in front of a jubilant crowd, the first Spa man ever to do so!

Even better than the celebrations in Croke Park was the homecoming as the victorious captain and team brought the Hogan Cup to Spa the following night – and Dara and Niall taking pride of place.

After being introduced at half time in the Kerry v Tyrone National League game earlier that afternoon, the Sem team and management were welcomed to Spa with the traditional bonfires burning on their arrival. The champions were greeted by a huge crowd as manager Garry McGrath and captain Dara Moynihan introduced their team and management to the families, friends and supporters in attendance.

*Jimmy O Sullivan Darcy*

## SPA CARDS 31 CARD DRIVE

It all began 15 Years ago – when my wife Anne & I dropped into Darby O'Gills Hotel (now the Torc Hotel) for a coffee, we were approached by the great John Wickham who said "I am short one – can you play 31?" I said I will give it a go.

Thus began one of the most enjoyable phases of my life. Every Friday night from October to March is taken up playing cards, a night of fun, enjoyment and camaraderie – of course if you made a mistake playing cards you would be quickly told, but then all is forgotten and it's back to 'hop balls' and community discussions.

There is a fantastic community in Spa, and I am now glad to say that some of my best friends are those I play with on Friday nights. It is great to see the money we generate going to help to fund Spa GAA and I feel confident that over the next couple of years we will be in Croke Park cheering on Spa to al All Ireland win.

Thanks for the friendship and the memories.

*Liam Chute*



Liam Chute, 3rd from left, pictured with fellow "31" Card players; Rob Kerins, Donie Cremin, Tom Moriarty, William Herlihy, Paddy O'Keeffe, Dave Herlihy and Patsy Cremin



# IAN O'CONNELL FUNDRAISER

As word filtered through of a young spa footballer having been involved in a bad cycling accident we all hoped that the rumour machine had gone into overdrive and that the injuries were not as serious as were being reported. Surely a late summers evening cycle with friends in Muckcross on the eve of a long overdue family holiday could not have ended like this. Sadly, as the days passed the news was being confirmed that Ian O'Connell - Spa U16 footballer, Dr. Crokes hurler, pupil of St. Brendan's College, son of Michael and Nora O'Connell and great friend to a wide circle, had indeed a battle ahead.

The feeling of not being able to do anything but wanting to do something led to the formation of a fundraising committee by close family friend and Spa club man Paudie Horgan. Jim Gleeson chaired the group along with Paudie, Deirdre O'Sullivan Darcy and Tadhg Hickey. The Spa GAA Club Lotto Committee formed the rest of the team. At a meeting convened in Spa on Saturday 23rd September it was agreed to run a once-off lotto draw to raise funds. Ian's father Michael is a key member of the Spa lotto committee and this format was selected as a novel fundraiser but also in recognition of the contribution Michael has made to the lotto over the years. It also meant that the lotto team were familiar with distributing, collecting and organising a high volume of tickets which turned out to be very useful. A date was set three weeks hence of Sunday Oct 15th for the fundraiser.

Over the course of the next three weeks an unbelievable fundraising machine kicked into gear. A first print of 10,000 tickets was ordered. After the first open night of distributing tickets in the Torc Hotel it was clear that multiples of that were required. If the demand for tickets surprised everyone on that night the subsequent return of the sold tickets was truly astounding. A designated bank account was opened and every cent was accounted for. A prize fund was sponsored on the night. The committee logged and tracked every ticket handed out. Ian's school St. Brendan's College as well as his former primary school St. Oliver's Ballycasheen, Killarney threw their full resources behind it as did Dr. Crokes hurling led by John Lenihan. There was an incredibly generous response from sporting clubs, charities, other voluntary organisations, businesses and individuals over a wide area well beyond East Kerry.

The night itself saw a full house of over 200 people in the Torc Hotel. Kerry GAA TV broadcast the draw live. Sold tickets flooded in from every corner of Kerry and Duhallow across the Cork border where Ian's relations in Boherbue received huge support from the community. Over €130,000 has been raised to date.

People have asked many times what made the fundraiser so successful. There wasn't one single factor but several. Everyone was touched by how easily the accident happened. It wasn't lost on a single person how easily an accident like this could land at anyone's door.



The Ian O'Connell Fundraising Committee and the family and friends of Ian O'Connell at the announcement of the total amount raised from their special lotto fundraiser.



Ian took part in the 2018 St Patrick's Day parade with his friends Cian Murphy, Ollie Cremin, Connie Cremin and Michael Horgan.

The respect that the O'Connell family are held in Killarney and Boherbue, Co. Cork where Ian's father hails from was evident by how quickly people supported the cause. Likewise, the Cronin's from Knocklebede, Kilcummin where Ian's Mom hails. The effort that Ian's wider family made to support and promote the fundraiser. The integrity and credibility of the group led by Jim Gleeson which gave a level of trust and confidence in the fundraiser that the public embraced and donated towards in huge numbers.



Ian O'Connell welcomed home to Spa by his friends on St Patrick's weekend 2018.



At the special lotto draw for the Ian O'Connell Fund. L-R Jim Gleeson (Fund Chairperson), Fionnán Fitzgerald (Kerry GAA TV), Deirdre O'Sullivan Darcy, Michael O'Connell, Tim Murphy (Kerry Co. Board Chairperson), Paudie Horgan, Ger Mangan (Spa GAA Club Chairperson)

In the wake of the fundraiser a Charitable Trust was established to oversee the distribution of the funds raised. The trustees of the fund are Deirdre O'Sullivan Darcy, Ivor Flynn and Tadhg Hickey whose responsibility it is to ensure that the funds are solely intended for the benefit of Ian and his welfare as his recovery continues. The trustees work closely with Ian's parents to fulfil this duty.

As Ian's rehabilitation continues he has become an inspiring figure for the manner with which he has come to terms with what has happened and the work he is putting in to his recovery. These leadership qualities have been recognised by his team mates who have made him captain of the 2018 Spa minor team.

Through his social media postings and Radio Kerry interview Ian has shared updates of his progress in a manner which has set him apart in his ability to communicate with positivity and charisma in the most trying of circumstances imaginable. As he says himself "if you can't stand up, stand out". Be assured Ian that we all stand beside you on your road to recovery.

*Tadhg Hickey*

## Tree of Remembrance



Lighting of the TREE OF REMEMBRANCE at Spa GAA Club on December 9th 2017

The Senior Lady footballers had the idea to set up a Remembrance Tree on the club grounds. The Tree was to remember all our deceased loved ones no longer with us. They didn't just want a memorial tree but wanted to remember all the loved ones that couldn't be in Killarney over the holiday season due to work, illness etc.

This was open to anyone in the Spa community who could buy a remember card for €3. The person's name was displayed in the clubhouse on a special board with a Tree in the middle throughout the season. Councillors Michael Gleeson and John Joe Culloty had the honour of lighting the tree on Saturday December 9th. It stayed lit from 5 to 10pm each night from Dec 9th to January 6th. This went down a treat with everyone and great feedback about this great initiative. We hope this tradition continues each year as we continue to remember our loved ones.



# FIELDS & DEVELOPMENTS



There has been massive progress in both indoor and outdoor developments in the past year. Our new state- of-the-art gym has been completed and furnished to the highest available standard while the outdoor pitches have undergone huge change. The top pitch with floodlights completed in November 2017 has already been a huge asset to the club with the potential to continue training and playing games over the winter months. With two senior size playing pitches and a juvenile/training pitch all seeing constant action, the Field Committee have been kept very busy over the past year. Fortunately, we were again helped by Pat Herlihy, Donie Looney, Charlie McCarthy and Liam Courtney.

Activity was limited mainly to club home games and training. Again, we had great co-operation from players and team mentors. This pitch was verti-drained, sanded and goal areas re-sodded as well as regular grass cutting. This work kept the surface playable throughout the year and appears to be in good shape for the remainder of the year. The addition of the new dugouts has also been a great asset.

The top pitch complete with floodlighting finally became available. Again, grass was cut regularly and fertilised as necessary. The ball stop netting at the lower goal was also completed. The re-alignment of the playing area for the floodlighting makes it necessary for further pole/net to cover off the stream at the lower end of the pitch and also further netting at the top goal. We also commenced the addition of a new irrigation system and installed water pipes which will allow us to irrigate both pitches as necessary. In time this pitch will need dugouts – but subject to the availability of funds.







The Juvenile/training pitch was as ever a very important piece of ground for us. It recovers very quickly from damage in wet weather. The playing surface was extended with surplus topsoil and the permanent juvenile goalposts were erected.

We also received a Sports Capital Grant of €22,000 which will allow us to make a start on the fencing of the spectator areas on the pitches as soon as possible. It is intended to start this process/work as soon as the necessary Club funding becomes available. This will help resolve the safety issue on the bank on the roadside of the main pitch. Thanks to Brendan Griffin – Junior Minister for making the cash available.

A priority in the coming months will be to upgrade the surface of the car park. Unfortunately, since we are unable to benefit from grant funding for this purpose we will need to cover the total cost from our own funds.

Finally, thanks to everyone who helped in any way. Those members for their co-operation and response to our requests for help as needed. Thanks to our Club Officers for their support and assistance with the various projects and to our hardworking Field Committee.

*Paddy O'Keeffe, Paddy B Lynch and Michael Cronin.*



# 50 YEARS ON

## SPA CELEBRATES 1968 UNDER 16 VICTORY

2018 is the 50th anniversary of one of Spa's most famous underage victories - the 1968 East Kerry Under 16 Championship title. The early stages of the competition were played on a League basis with Spa qualifying for the semi-final thanks to a hard earned victory over Glenflesk and Spa had home venue against a very fancied Dr Crokes side in the semi-final.

The victory over the town side was as welcome as it was unexpected and post-match, when club chairman Tadhg O'Sullivan was asked when the final was fixed for his reply was "That's one date I did not mark in my Diary"!

Rathmore were no match for the Spa lads in the final in Fitzgerald Stadium. Spa had to wait all of 43 years for a second Under 16 Championship title in 2011



Seated from left; Noel O'Sullivan (Ballaugh) and Dan O'Leary (Knockeragh).

Front Row L to R: Diarmuid O'Sullivan (Lissivigeen), John O'Mahoney (Woodlawn), Paddy Moynihan (Ardaneanig), Denis Fenton (The Park), Pat Joe O'Leary (Knockeragh), Paudie O'Mahoney (Woodlawn, Captain), Cathal Kelliher (High St), Ger Cronin RIP (Knocknaskeha), Tom Forde (Ballydowney). Back Row L to R: Donie O'Leary (Selector), David Herlihy (Cummeen), John Cahill (Tullig), Neilly Cronin RIP (Knocknaskeha), James Naughton (Tullig), Denis J. Fenton (Selector), Larry Kelly (Gortroe), Tim O'Brien (Aghadoe), Tim Regan (Upr Park Rd), Tadhg O'Sullivan (Cathaoirleach), Sean Looney (Park Road). Missing from the picture which was taken some time after the final were: William Herlihy (Cummeen), Dermot Griffin (Barleymount), Paddy Moynihan (Clasheen).



Spa Senior Team Winners of the 1968 Rathmore Carnival Tournament. Front L-R: Jack Morris, Michael Gleeson, Sean O'Sullivan, Mikey Cronin, John B Cronin, Fr. Michael O'Donoghue, Mick Myers, Denny Doolan, Donie O'Sullivan, Johnny Doolan. Back L-R Donie O'Leary (Selector), Tadhg O'Sullivan (Trainer), Tom Morris, John Kelly, John Joe Foley, Pat Casey, Paddy Casey, Brian Fenton, Connie Doolan, Paddy Dennehy, Jackie Foley, Jim Gleeson, Joe McAuliffe, Denis Fenton



At the official launch of Spa Killarney Handball Club Minister Brendan Griffin TD official cuts the ribbon with some of the Spa members and All Ireland Handball Champions John Joe Quirke, Dominick Lynch, Jack O'Shea and Rory O'Connor from Glenbeigh Handball Club



John Kelly, Hall of Fame recipient at the 2014 East Kerry Board All Stars Awards, with Gerard and Ann Mangan and members of his family Sheila Kelly, Denis Kelly, Bernie Courtney, Marie Courtney, Patrick Kelly and Grace Courtney



Two of the joint winners of the 2017 Know Your Sport competition Eric O'Connor and Pat Cronin with Michael Cronin, Assumpta O'Donoghue and Know Your Sport organiser John O'Donoghue

# MERCHANDISE

**O'Neills** SPA CILL AIRNE

<b>JERSEY</b> 	<b>WASLEY POLO</b> 	<b>BURRER BAG</b> 
<b>MARLON RETRO</b> 	<b>PARNELL T-SHIRT</b> 	<b>GUDA TRAINING PANTS</b> 
<b>PARNELL HALF ZIP</b> 	<b>SOCKS</b> 	<b>SPERRIN SHORTS</b> 



Eamon Whelan, Kerry Co Board Development Officer, presenting Gerard Mangan and John O'Leary with the 2017 Munster Council Grant for Spa GAA Club



Junior Management Team: Neily Kerins, Liam Courtney, Dan Kennedy and John O'Donoghue



Spa members Conor Stack, Niall McCarthy, Gary Vaughan and Aidan Cahill who were part of the East Kerry Minor team that won the 2017 Co. Minor Championship



Halloween Celebrations at Spa clubhouse with Conor Gleeson, Anne Holland and Pa Murphy



Hogan Cup Champions 2017 Dara Moynihan and Niall McCarthy with Dr Gary Stack and Gerard Mangan



Spa Ladies Chairperson Geraldine O'Neill with guest judge for the 2017 Lily of Killarney Gille Seoige



All Ireland Scór na nÓg Set dancing champions with GAA President Aogán Ó Feargháil



U12 coaches David O'Sullivan, Kieran McCarthy, Tim O'Connor and Des Spillane



County champs div 3 senior ladies 2017