

# BLUE & WHITE

Coolaney/Mullinabreena  
GAA Newsletter  
SUMMER 2016

# Times



## Nace O'Dowd Park Progress Report

# Nace O'Dowd Park Development

*The project of constructing our brand new, modern sports pitch began in June of 2015. Works were forced to be postponed due to the unfavourable weather of last year and we then recommenced the project in early May 2016.*

After a long, but worthwhile wait, the grass seed was finally sown on June 12th and the results are now for all to see. The next phase includes perimeter fencing, walk path, goal posts, ball stops, dugouts, scoreboard, car park, new sand training area and all ancillary works. We once again thank all of our members and supporters for your continued patience and support during this period of development. Our new facility is expected to be ready by late Spring 2017. Good things are worth waiting for!

### Park Sponsors

We invite sponsors to come on board at this exciting stage of the development. Opportunities exist to sponsor a new electronic scoreboard, two new dugouts and our new perimeter fence sponsor signs. All enquiries through any committee member or email secretary. [coolaneymullinabreena.sligo@gaa.ie](mailto:coolaneymullinabreena.sligo@gaa.ie).

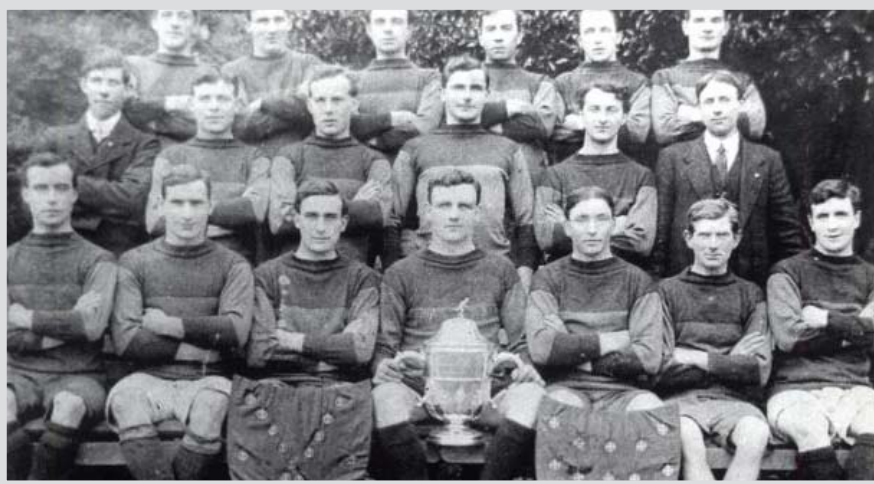
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### Upcoming Fundraising Events

Further important fundraisers are being planned for the remainder of the year. Watch out for our upcoming exciting Prize Draw 'Hotel Getaway Breaks' during August and September. With over €1,000 worth of prizes, it promises to be a great offering. Tickets at €10 each will be available from club committee members and all coaches. All proceeds go towards annual club expenses and the development fund.

Other events will include **Car Wash**, **Coffee Morning/Cake Sale**, **Card Game**, a **Table Quiz** this Autumn and our Annual **Christmas Concert** in December. Your support is greatly appreciated.



## History Corner From Wexford to Sligo

**Current U-16 and Minor club footballer Kevin O’Kennedy has an intriguing link, not many might know of, to the great Wexford All Ireland football winning legends of the early 20th century.**

Kevin’s Great Grandfather Gus O’Kennedy and Gus’s brother Sean were part of the all conquering Wexford footballers to win four in a row titles from 1915 to 1918, a first for any county. Only Kerry have managed the feat since but Wexford were there first.

The O’Kennedy brothers, from the New Ross Geraldine O’Hanrahans club, were central figures on these teams. Sean captained the sides in 1915, 1916 and 1917, a three in a row which has never been replicated by any captain. Gus played in seven All Ireland finals in a row, one being a replay. He won seven Leinster medals including six in a row, 1913 to 1918 and remarkably, all this by the age of 26. He was forced to retire early due to a knee injury. Startling statistics by any standards.

Gus was recognised as one of the fastest, most elusive and most accurate forwards the game has ever known. He had a wonderful pair of feet and his ball control on the ground was

the facet of his play that immediately attracted attention. The corner forward never missed a game for his county during this golden era for Wexford football. Sean also won an All Ireland Hurling medal in 1910. O’Kennedy Park in New Ross is named after Sean.

The brothers were known for their modest yet popular and jovial character. One great story came from the 1915 final. Kerry had a few new players and at that time, every player used to walk to the centre of the field to contest the throw-in. One of the Kerry lads asked Gus, which of his lads was Gus O’Kennedy. Gus was playing very well that year and he pointed at Dick Reynolds of Wexford. The ball was thrown in and poor Dick was flattened straight away. It wasn’t enough to alter the result and that marked the start of four perfect seasons!

The O’Kennedys are heavily involved in GAA circles locally with Kevin playing for Coolaney/Mullinabreena and Sligo underage. Sisters Mary Ann, Louise and Helen all play for St. Nathys. With a family pedigree like this, we can expect great things to come. One All Ireland would do nicely thank you!

## CLUB LOTTO 2016

**Current Jackpot is €4000**

We now have over 200 members in our club lotto. This is our main fundraiser for the year, raising in excess of €20,000 annually and includes 12 monthly draws. We are very grateful to all members for their continued support, as the annual cost of running the club exceeds €35,000, this does not include the development or maintenance of Nace O’Dowd Park. The following are recent winners.

**2015:** \_\_\_\_\_

**September:** Eileen Brennan, Chaffpool and Gerry Mullen, Lavagh

**October:** Pat McDermott, Coolaney and Gerry Mullen, Lavagh

**November:** Ollie Lee, Lavagh and Pat O’Donnell, Lavagh

**December:** David Gormally, Dublin

**2016:** \_\_\_\_\_

**January:** Gerry McCormack, James McDonagh, Mary Kate O’Donnell, Thomas A Kilcoyne, Michael McDonagh, Pierce and Emma Maloney

**February:** Frank Gallagher, Noel Henry

**March:** Leo and Caroline Coleman

**April:** Noreen Hanley

**May:** Kathleen Conlon and Bridgie Johnson

CLUB WEBSITE

[www.coolaneymullinabreena.com](http://www.coolaneymullinabreena.com)

We encourage all club supporters to log on to our dedicated club website to keep up to date with the latest news, fixtures, reports and event updates. Check out our extensive gallery section with lots of photos old and new.

### Facebook

We now have over **680** people who are keeping up to date with all the news on our official Club Facebook page. Log on and “like” our page to keep posted on all the news, events and goings on about the club.



### Twitter

Since joining the world of Tweets and Retweets three years ago, the club has over 1,350 followers keeping up to date with all things Coolaney/Mullinabreena GAA.

Log on and start following us at [@CoolMbreenaGAA](https://twitter.com/CoolMbreenaGAA) for all the latest and up to date fixtures, results and news.



## U-16 League D2 Shield Final: C/M 5.11 St. Marys 0.12

Our U16 Team saved their best team performance this year to win the U16 B shield final against St Marys at the County Centre of Excellence at Scarden on Monday July 18th. Playing in very hot conditions, we started well and went into a four point lead in the first ten minutes but St Marys responded with three unanswered points half way through the first half. We finished the half well with two well taken goals by Cathal Davey and Kieran Gorman to lead by seven points at the interval. St Marys started the second half strongly but our defence played well with Kevin O'Kennedy, Tony Healy and Eamonn Thornton rising to the occasion and holding them to a single point for the first ten minutes. Goals from David Barrett, Gavin Gorman and Michael O Dowd put the game beyond St Marys who, to be fair, battled right to the end. Overall this was a good team performance by all the players. Final Score; C/M 5:11. St Marys 0:12



**Team:** Ryan Mc Cauley, Eamon Thornton, Kevin O'Kennedy, Oisin O Slattara, Brian Marren, Tony Healy, Sean McGuinness, Gavin Gorman (1:3) Conor Feely(0:1), Kevin Gorman, David Barrett(1:5), Michael O Dowd(1:0), Gerard Mullen, Cathal Davey(1:0), Kieran Gorman(1:2), James Gannon, Shane Touhy.



## Coolaney 8K 2016

The 2016 Coolaney 8k run/walk organized by Coolaney/Mullinabreena GAA created a festival atmosphere on Wednesday the 6th of July last. The rain didn't dampen the spirits as over 100 runners took the streets of Coolaney. Fifty children kicked off proceedings with a 600 meter dash up and down the main street. All were delighted to be presented with their goodies as they crossed the finish line. Walkers were next up, followed closely by the dedicated athletes. The course was reversed this year, a few rolling hills in the first half not helped by the head on wind. Everybody was glad of the last 4k as it was flat, downhill and wind on the back.

Andrew Duffy, Sligo AC was first male home in a time of 28.59, 2nd male Anthony Devaney(29.53) and 3rd was local man Sean Murtagh South Sligo AC in a time of 30.41. The ladies were out in force, 1st was Lucy Brennan Sligo AC 31.38, 2nd was Shirley Mitchell(Civil Service harriers) on holidays from Dublin in time of 32.29 and 3rd also on holidays all the way from Australia was Katie Slater 33.08.

Other category prize winners were as follows Ladies 0.40 - Annette Scanlon 35.02, 0.45 - Mary Gilmartin Sligo AC 35.36 and 0.50 - Rose Young Sligo AC 41.49. Mens 0.40 - Gerard Dillon 30:53, 0.50 -Brendan Brett Corran AC 31.53.

This was an extremely well organised event and credit must go to Coolaney/Mullinabreena GAA, parents and the community who came together to put on such an event. Stewards were everywhere (one person remarked they thought Joe Biden was back in town). Refreshments were plentiful enough to feed an army. Participants were sent home with plenty of goodies and many watching the Ireland match in the locals were treated also with some left-overs. Coolaney came alive for the few hours and everybody is already looking forward to next year's event.



### GAA SUMMER CAMP

AUGUST 22nd 23rd & 24th  
10 am - 2 pm  
€25

5 - 12 Years of Age  
Coolaney Community Pitch  
Contact Padraig : 086 810 6431  
Or Gerry 086 828 2263  
In association with Sligo GAA Coaching & Games!

## Coolaney/Mullinabreena GAA Summer Camp 2016

Coolaney Mullinabreena GAA Club is holding a 3-day summer camp on August 22nd, 23rd and 24th in conjunction with Sligo GAA Coaching and Games Committee. The camp will run from 10am to 2pm each day and will introduce children to the various aspects and skills of Gaelic Games in a fun and safe environment with fully qualified Coaches. It is open to children from 5 to 12 years old. The cost of the camp will be €25 per child. In order to book a place for your child on the club's summer camp please complete the form below or at the following link by going to [www.coolaneymullinabreena.com](http://www.coolaneymullinabreena.com) for more details.

This form can be returned by post to Padraig McGourty, 12 Woodstream, Coolaney, Co. Sligo or handed to any of our coaches at the U-6/U-8/U-10 coaching sessions on Saturday morning. Please do not return payment for the camp with this form. Payment for the camp will be taken on the first morning of the camp at registration. **Any queries please contact Padraig McGourty at 086-8106431**

## Sligo GAA Update

Club player Eoin McDonagh was part of the Sligo Senior panel for this year's Connacht Championship & All Ireland Qualifier Series. **U-21:** Eoin McDonagh, Stephen Connolly, Niall O'Dowd and Nathan Mullen were part of the 2016 U-21 panel which was defeated by Roscommon earlier in the year. **Minor:** Barry Gorman was part of the minor team that was defeated by Roscommon in the quarter finals of the Connacht Championship.

The **Senior Team** finished their league campaign in 3rd place in Division 1, just missing out on a league final birth. They got their senior championship campaign off to a winning start with a win over Curry on a final score 1-16 to 2-10. They defeated Easkey in the second group game on a score line of 0-12 to 0-5 and have now qualified for the quarter final to be played on Sept 3rd against Tourlestrane.

All our underage teams are preparing for their upcoming championship campaigns over the coming weeks. During their league campaign, the **U-12 Team** have played many blitz games and have performed excellently during their campaign. The **U-14 Team** reached the league semi final where they were defeated by a strong St Patrick's side. Our **U-16 Team** were knocked out of the league at the quarter final stage, but went on to win the Division 2 League shield with an excellent win over St Marys in Scarden last month, final score 5-11 to 0-12. Our **Minor Team** lost out narrowly in the Division 2 League final against St Molaise Gaels on a score line of 1.10 to 1.09.



A2 Hurling Shield Winners



St. Nathys Connacht Champions



Senior Team

## Saturday Morning Blue Kidz Coaching

We encourage all parents & children to come along to our Saturday morning Blue Kidz Coaching sessions for our U-6, U-8 and U-10s from 10-11am in Coolaney Community Park.

### Contact:

Pierce Maloney 086 2375242 or Gerry Lee on 086 8282263 for more details.

Your local GAA Cub wants you!!



## Underage Coaching Contacts...

### Minor Team

Fr Paul Kivlehan 087 3683535

### U-16 Team

Gerry Mullen 087 2214032

### U-14 Team

Eugene Henry 087 2447098

### U-12 Team

Patricia Gorman 087 6640846

### U-10 Team

Pierce Maloney 086 2375242

### U-8 Team

Gerry Lee 086 8282263

### U-6 Team

Francis Brennan 087 2414503

### Nursery Coaching Programme

Padraig McGourty / Gerry Lee  
086 8106431 / 086 8282263