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Photographed at the launch of The St Patricks Festival were, Madeline Doyle, Bernadette Randles, Mary Cussan, Ciara Brosnan, Jamie Power, Stella Maloney, Shane O Driscoll, Jason Clifford, Ciara Austin, Grainne O Sullivan. Front: Sean Kelliher, David Rae, Naomi and Mia Edelmayer Keating along with ambassadors Louise Ni Mhuircheartaigh, Kerry Footballer & Paralympian Jordan Lee. Photo: Sally MacMonagle

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A Note from the **E** DITOR



As we enjoy a grand stretch in the evenings, we have a jam packed magazine for you this week. All eyes are on St. Patrick's Day as the festival has been launched in Killarney this week with lots of events happening over the five days, dedicated followers of fashion will be descending on Killarney for the Fashion event of the year and there were celebrations at the Lake Hotel as their Head Chef was named Ireland's Best Chef!

The Fossa Sustainability Fair was a great success, Kerry Tourism Businesses were honoured at the CIE Awards, Killarney Legion held their club awards, Killarney Musical Society are looking for your help and Dochas are preparing to thread the boards.

St. Brendan's College is set to roll out the red carpet for former President of Ireland Mary Robinson, who will be special guest at the annual Liam O'Connor concert, ALONE were the winners in the Christmas In Killarney charity drive and schools in Killarney are uniting to launch the smart pledge project.

All eyes will be on St. Brendan's footballers tomorrow, Saturday, as they take on Mercy Mounthawk, in the Corn Ui Mhuire Final at Dr. Crokes Pitch, Kerry senior footballers are taking on Donegal in the Fitzgerald Stadium in the National League and Kerry Ladies recorded their first win of 2025.

Hope you all enjoy this week's Killarney Outlook!

Aisling Crosbie

*That Pot of gold must be in
the Friary!
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KILLARNEY PREPARES TO GO GREEN FOR THIS YEAR'S THEME...

'Echoes of Killarney Present'

Preparations for this year's St. Patrick's Day Festival are well underway in Killarney, promising a magical five days, full of festivities and fun for everyone as the town goes green and embraces this year's theme - 'Echoes of Killarney Present'. The theme part of the Echoes Trilogy follows 2024's "Echoes of Killarney Past" which spotlighted some of Killarney's rich history. In contrast, this year's festival will showcase all that Killarney has to offer in the present day, from its stunning landscapes, dynamic culture, bustling streets, and the warm welcoming spirit of its community. The festival will run over five days and is jam-packed with entertainment for everyone, kicking off on Thursday 13 th March with 'An Evening of Artistic Performance with West End House School of Arts.

Some of this year's festival highlights will also include 'The Charity Duck Dash' fundraiser in aid of Down Syndrome Kerry, 'Plunge for Palliative' Dunk tank in aid of Kerry Hospice featuring a variety of local faces including Brendan Fuller, Niall 'Botty' O' Callaghan, John O' Donoghue, Roisin Moore, Jason Clifford, Martin Grady, Niall Kelliher, Gillian O' Donoghue, Louise Ni Mhuircheartaigh, Gavin White, Mary Lyne, DJ Gavin O'

Leary, Grainne O' Sullivan and Maura Healy Rae our very own Town Mayor!

And of course, the main event will be the dazzling Parade through Killarney town on St Patrick's Day followed by music and entertainment in the festival hub at Beech Road.

Three very familiar sporting heroes have been carefully chosen as this year's Grand Marshalls, including Ireland Paralympian Hero Jordan Lee, All-Ireland winning, Kerry Ladies football All-Star Louise Ni Mhuircheartaigh and this year's Kerry Senior Men's football Captain, Gavin White. With a wealth of sporting achievements at the highest level under each of their belts, this year's Grand Marshalls encompass all that it is to be Irish and proud!

St. Patrick's Festival Killarney is very excited to welcome AbleFest on March 16 th .

Ablefest is more than just a festival—it's a movement that champions inclusion and celebrates diversity. It provides a platform for people with additional needs to shine, participate fully, and feel valued in a space designed with their needs in mind. This one-day festival celebrates inclusivity and, brings attention to the importance of creating spaces where everyone can thrive. An array of engaging activities will be on offer include yoga, an interactive

drumming workshop, arts session, animal roadshow, dedicated sensory friendly zone and food stalls to name but a few. Families are invited from all over Ireland to join in this unique celebration, which promises to be a highlight of this year's festival with a headline performance by renowned country singer Jake Carter followed by a meet and greet opportunity!

Another exciting addition to this year's festival will be the first ever live streaming of both St. Patrick's Day and AbleFest, meaning accessibility for all. Friends and family from near and far who can't attend in person, are invited to tune in and join in the celebration of our patron Saint of Ireland and witness Killarney in all its vibrant, green glory.

Commenting on this year's festival, Jason Clifford, St. Patrick's Festival Chairperson said, "Killarney is one Ireland's top tourist destinations and each year we strive to bring a bigger and better festival to the community and to our visitors. This year is no different and we have a magnificent line up of events and entertainment from the 13-17 th March which will be elevated even further this year with our first ever live streaming of the festival, bringing Killarney to family and friends around the world. We are especially excited

to have AbleFest this year for the first time. Here in Killarney, we are continuously striving to increase and promote inclusivity, and this event is uniquely designed to create a safe and inclusive environment with lots of fun, interactive activities planned for people with diverse needs and their families'.

The Killarney St. Patrick's Festival is organised by Killarney Chamber of Tourism and Commerce in partnership with Kerry County Council and Fáilte Ireland.

Further details on the festival and a full list of events are available on the festival's website.

Festival website www.spatricksfestivalkillarney.ie



Photographed at the launch of the St Patrick's Festival Killarney were Kerry Footballer Louise Ni Mhuircheartaigh, festival chairperson Jason Clifford and Irish Paralympian Jordan Lee. Photograph by Sally MacMonagle.



Photographed at the launch of the St Patrick's Festival in Killarney are Ciara Austin, chairperson Jason Clifford, musicians David Rae & Sean Kelliher, along with Naomi & Mia Edelmayer. Ambassadors for this years festival are Kerry footballer Louise Ni Mhuircheartaigh & paralympian Jordan Lee. Picture: Sally MacMonagle



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John & Mary Murphy, Killorglin.

KILLARNEY TO HOST DESIGNER FASHION SHOW

In aid of Recovery Haven



Pictured at the launch of this year's Recovery Haven Designer Fashion Showcase in the INEC on Thursday from l-r were: Marisa Reidy (Recovery Haven), entertainer Jack Patrick Healy, Fiona O'Connor (INEC), fashion designer Don O'Neill who is hosting the event, Norma O'Donoghue (Model Agency), Linda O'Mahony Logan (Special Guest), Jacinta Bradley (Recovery Haven) and Kieran Sommers (INEC). The event is due to take place on April 3rd and will also include special guests Thalia Heffernan, Derval O'Rourke, and Tadhg and Derry Fleming. Photo: Michelle Breen Crean Photography

Dedicated followers of fashion take note! Killarney is set to welcome some of Ireland's top designers, a world-renowned host, a superb line-up of celebrity guests and a state-of-the-art production – sounds like all the makings of the fashion event of 2025 in Kerry this April!

Cancer support charity Recovery Haven Kerry has once again teamed up with the renowned Norma O'Donoghue Model Agency for their second annual Designer Fashion Showcase at the Gleneagle INEC Arena on Thursday, April 3rd and are pulling out all the stops to make this one even better than last time.

Producer Norma has secured renowned designers such as Synan O'Mahony, Catriona Hanly, Marion Murphy Cooney, Claire Garvey, Cathy Troth and Tina Griffin among others to add the glitz and glamour of the night, while the show will also feature a number of top boutiques including MacBees, Scarlett, Hannons, Pheonix V and Lily Mais.

Celebrity designer to the stars, Don O'Neill, will host this year's event, and in a slight change from 2024, organisers will combine the fashion element of the show with a wellbeing/wellness theme, where Don will host a very special fireside chat with some incredible guests, including top professional model Thalia Heffernan, three-time Olympian and health and fitness expert, Derval O'Rourke and leadership coach and former Network Ireland Kerry President, Linda O'Mahony Logan.

And if that wasn't enough, organisers are thrilled to confirm that online sensations Tadhg & Derry Fleming and fashion influencer Helen Murphy (@daily_divadiary) have also come on board to judge the best dressed lady on the night, with some stunning prizes up for grabs for both winners.

Kicking off with a drinks reception at 7pm, with the show at 8pm sharp, other highlights of the evening will include a special pre-show performance by Jack Patrick Healy; a bumper raffle with some incredible prizes, and an after-party at the Gleneagle's Backstage Bar.

Recovery Haven Kerry PR & Marketing Officer, Marisa Reidy, said that there is a real sense of excitement surrounding this year's event, and everyone involved is really looking forward to an even bigger and better event than last year. "We were genuinely blown away by the success of last year's event, with over 1,200 guests in attendance, all of whom seemed to absolutely love the show. But there is a universal feeling among all of us behind the scenes that this one is going to be even better, if that's possible" she

said.

"We are so grateful to everyone who has been so busy planning this event, from the amazing team at the INEC, to producer Norma, to our fabulous host Don, to our own team here Recovery Haven, all of whom are working round the clock to ensure this event is one to remember. We have been overwhelmed by the goodwill and enthusiasm of everyone, including our amazing sponsors and our special guests who are so excited to be involved - so we genuinely cannot wait for the night brings. It is going to be very special."

Tickets, priced at just €35, are available now from Recovery Haven, the INEC and online at: <https://register.enthuse.com/ps/event/>



Pictured at the launch of this year's Recovery Haven Designer Fashion Showcase in the INEC on Thursday from l-r were: Marisa Reidy (Recovery Haven), entertainer Jack Patrick Healy, Fiona O'Connor (INEC), fashion designer Don O'Neill who is hosting the event, Norma O'Donoghue (Model Agency), Linda O'Mahony Logan (Special Guest), Jacinta Bradley (Recovery Haven) and Kieran Sommers (INEC). The event is due to take place on April 3rd and will also include special guests Thalia Heffernan, Derval O'Rourke, and Tadhg and Derry Fleming. Photo: Michelle Breen Crean Photography



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Award winning chef Noel Enright.

The Lake Hotel team have great cause for celebration this week as Executive Chef Noel Enright has been named Ireland's Best Chef at the Irish Hotel & Catering Gold Medal Awards. The awards ceremony took place in the Galmont Hotel & Spa in Galway on Tuesday the 28th of January, hosted by Anton Savage and sponsored by Virgin Media. Now in their 35th year, these prestigious awards are recognised as the leading independent awards programme for the Irish hospitality industry. As The Lake Hotel prepared to reopen for the 2025 season, Chef Noel Enright taking home the coveted title of Ireland's Best Chef was a wonderful start to the year for the luxury, four-star, family run hotel.

Executive Chef Noel Enright has led the culinary team at The Lake Hotel since 2014, managing the kitchen teams for The Castlough Restaurant, The Lakeside Bistro, and The Lounge. Under Noel's leadership, The Lake Hotel has won a whole host of dining accolades including Irish Hotel Awards, Yes Chef, AA Rosettes and Hotel & Catering Gold Medal awards. Chef Noel Enright takes great pride in delivering culinary excellence with delectable, seasonally attuned dishes. With a passion for ingredients, Noel & his team have created a garden on the grounds of the hotel for growing vegetables and herbs and, beehives to produce Lake Hotel Honey. This award is a testament to the hard work and dedication of Noel Enright, his team of chefs and the hotel's restaurant team who are committed to providing an exemplary dining experience and establishing The Lake Hotel as a multi-award-winning gourmet destination.

As they reopen for the 2025 season....

The Lake Hotel Killarney celebrates Ireland's Best Chef, Noel Enright



Some of The Lake Hotel team celebrating on the grounds of the hotel. Back row left-right: Aleks Blasev, Sally McMahon, Catherine Burke, Pauline Brosnan, Stanislav Gnjatovic, Megan Brosnan, Alan Jones, Sheila O'Callaghan and Anthony Barber. Front Jordan O'Sullivan pictured with award-winning chef Noel Enright. Photographed by Sally MacMonagle:

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES for Local Festivals and Participative Events in Kerry

Last week, the Festival & Participative Events Funding Programme 2025 was officially launched by Cllr. Breandán Fitzgerald, Cathaoirleach of Kerry County Council, along with Helen O'Connor Barry, A/Senior Executive Officer for Economic Development and Tourism at Kerry County Council, and Declan Murphy, Project Officer for the Wild Atlantic Way at Fáilte Ireland. This funding initiative is designed to support festivals and events that enhance tourism in County Kerry. The aim is to attract both domestic and international visitors, promote longer stays, stimulate local economic development, and improve the overall experience for visitors.

Festivals and events play a crucial role in Kerry's tourism landscape, providing an excellent opportunity for community groups, chambers of commerce, and tourism alliances to draw in new visitors and generate additional revenue for their communities. Kerry County Council is now accepting

applications for the Regional Festival & Participative Events Funding Programme 2025. More information about the program, including application forms, is available on the Kerry County Council website at <https://www.kerrycoco.ie/festival-participative-events-kerry-2025/>

"With an expanded budget and broader focus, the Festival & Participative Events Funding Programme 2025 now encompasses a diverse range of events, including sports events. Last year over 32 festivals and events were supported through the fund, these events are vital to our community's economy, providing unique experiences that attract visitors from near and far. We encourage as many local groups and communities to apply." – Cllr. Breandán Fitzgerald, Cathaoirleach of Kerry County Council

The deadline for submitting completed applications is 5 PM on Monday, February 17, 2025.



Last week, the Festival & Participative Events Funding Programme 2025 was officially launched by Cllr. Breandán Fitzgerald, Cathaoirleach of Kerry County Council, along with Declan Murphy, Project Officer for the Wild Atlantic Way at Fáilte Ireland, and Helen O'Connor Barry, A/Senior Executive Officer for Economic Development and Tourism at Kerry County Council. Photo By: Domnick Walsh © Eye Focus LTD.

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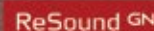
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Great Turnout for **ANNUAL SUSTAINABILITY FAIR**

'To heal our wounds and green our Earth again'

These lyrics from a hymn invoking St. Brigid were brought to mind over the bank holiday weekend in Fossa, with the return of the annual sustainability fair. Sixteen local Exhibitors set up stalls last Sunday to spark interest, learning, and action, on a weekend that marked the beginning of Spring in the Celtic calendar.

This year's line up included KSEC, The Dingle Hub, The Nature Hub, Pro Solar, Killarney Credit Union, Sarah O' Brien, Killarney Mountain Meitheal, KWD Recycling, Killarney National Park Education Centre, Local Roots, Verdance (clothes upcycling), Kerry County Council, Beaufort Beekeepers, Wild Weeds, Tralee Bay Wetlands and Mary Walsh from Little Black Hill Farm.

A warm and friendly atmosphere was created in Fossa Community Hall on Sunday last, with young and old coming to learn about greening sustainability in our local community. Topics such as food, Nature, energy, wildlife conservation, and beekeeping were discussed throughout the dry and sunny February afternoon.

'I would like to thank our Exhibitors who provided a wealth of information on the day' says Paul O' Raw, Chairman of Fossa Climate Action Group.

'We filled the hall again this year with some new organisations and small business owners' he concluded.

'This is our second year of the community sustainability fair' says Mary Fitzgerald of



The Fossa Sustainability Fair Committee (L to R): Anthony Dennehy, Mary Murphy, Diarmaid Griffin, Theresa Kissane, Paul O' Raw, Mary Fitzgerald, and Angela Lynch.

the climate action group 'we made this year different without losing the core principles of the eco fair'.

'It is always humbling to see what can be done at a community level and the positivity such an event can bring especially when the global news is full of doom and gloom' says Diarmaid Griffin, PRO.

'If we continue to think globally and act locally, the future looks bright'.

Special thanks go to the public for their generous donations. €331.40 was raised on the day and will cover future the cost of running further public events throughout 2025.



A host of fabulous stalls were on show on the day.

ALONE THE WINNER IN CHRISTMAS CHARITY PARTNERSHIP

The Christmas In Killarney Charity Drive which saw the Killarney Coffee Cup Project partner with ALONE was a resounding success.

The idea was very simple. Any 2GoCups were donated with the value of the cup going to the charity.

Not only did the charity benefit financially, Cian Lenihan from Alone said that they had approx. 50% increase in volunteers this Christmas from the previous year after their presence at Christmas in Killarney with the Killarney Coffee Cup Project charity drive to return your cups.

"Christmas in Killarney committee were proud to support both the coffee cup initiative and Alone with this project. Our festival volunteers were supported by Kevin the minion each weekend at the Christmas markets where shoppers donated their stores of coffee cups from their cars, kitchens and offices to the charity." Events Manager at Killarney Chamber or Tourism & Commerce Katy Jacobi, told Killarney Outlook.

ALONE is a national organisation that offer services that support older people to age safely and securely at home.

IT is a vital service to the elderly and one of their services, among others, is a volunteer befriending service in which they organise a volunteer to call to the older person once a week for a cup of tea and a chat.

They can also offer older people support in addressing challenging issues and finding solutions in a number of areas including housing, finance, assistive technology and healthcare needs.



Katy Jacobi Events Manager at Killarney Chamber or Tourism & Commerce pictured with Ciara Brosnan, Social Media (Killarney Chamber of Tourism and Commerce) and Cian Lenihan from ALONE. Photo by Anastasia Garbera



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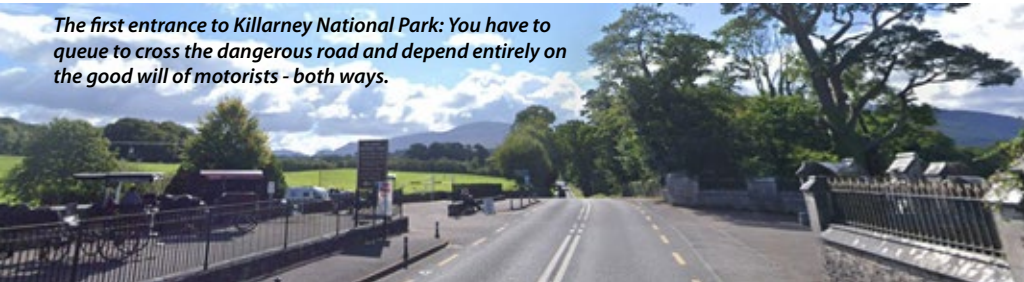


It's the talk of the town...



With Anne Lucey

Anne Lucey looks at the positive news happening in the town of Killarney



The first entrance to Killarney National Park: You have to queue to cross the dangerous road and depend entirely on the good will of motorists - both ways.

Have we passed up on our underpasses?

Is it time we had underpasses in Killarney to access Killarney National Park for walkers and cyclists. The green wave of cycling and walking which gave a spurt to walking infrastructure has passed. This new Government will not be so keen and are already committed to reversing - in the words of minister Michael Healy-Rae - the two to one public to road transport. This will be in favour of the car.

Alas. Let us hope there is still room for safety for walkers and cyclists.

The first or New Entrance to Killarney National Park, much loved by people coming from town because of the handy car park, is a case in point. The traffic on the N71 to and from Muckross on a Sunday or a bank holiday has to be experienced to be appreciated.

You have to queue to cross the dangerous road and depend entirely on the good will of motorists - both ways.

Last Sunday saw lines of people, some with buggies, some with bikes and small children. All waiting for ages to cross the road.

Another blind spot on the N71 is crossing from Muckross Park Hotel to the Abbey.

Then to the north of the town away from the leisure areas are the crossings at the Lidl and the Reeks which are little respected by

motorists even when people have feet on the pedestrian crossings.

Is it time then we had underpasses in and around Killarney? Much safer than pedestrian crossings, these could be pursued in the interests of safety and of encouraging walking and cycling. Perhaps our four Government TDs and myriad Government councillors will see to it.

Old manners for new politics wanted

Old manners are needed for his new political era - at home and abroad, it strikes me.

Certainly there was an element of speaking truth to power in the way Episcopalian Bishop Mariann Budd lectured newly elected President Trump at the National Prayer Service in Washington. I might agree with much of what she said about sympathy for vulnerable minorities. But surely there is a time and a place; her emotional pleas for mercy were embarrassing and hard to stomach on the occasion. It felt uncomfortable. And to be fair to the Trump entourage they held their dignity apart from a raised eyebrow.

Our President Higgins caused great offence at the annual memorial to the Holocaust in the Mansion House bringing up Gaza. Worse, at such an occasion security literally

dragged people out. The international press had a field day about the Irish president. I hear despite his cuddly image, Michael D is a stickler for protocol. Cross your Ts the wrong way with him and you'll hear about it! Of course, manners and etiquette and protocol are not the same thing at all. Manners is much older and stems from a deeper, more personal well. It has much to do with grace, and takes second place to vain self-assertion.

People might think of Jane Austen and Shakespeare when musing on manners, writers who captured the delicate sensitive nature of proper manners for the occasion. But I also think of the women of Lismongane, Lakeview and Killalee. Like the Greek chorus, they had a take comedy and tragedy and would have summed it up saying Michael D and the Bishop "went too far" .

Locally, Michael Healy-Rae chose to drop a call live on air on Drive Time because he didn't like the question and this wasn't his finest hour . He is an experienced media performer - but always as an opponent. Being a member of Government will require a different, more delicate attitude. It was anyway ungracious of him to remind Sarah McInerney it was she and her producer who had invited him onto the programme. That need not have been said.

Meanwhile the art of keeping silent is holding sway over brother Danny who is not only sitting away from his brother in the Dáil but is saying nothing at all - on and off air. Most unusually, Danny had no comment for Radio Kerry this week on being muzzled when they asked him to discuss the matter of not having opposition speaking time.

We are indeed entering a new political era.

No smoke without fire

Last week we spoke of the need for several sources of power, not least chimneys. Chimneys are actually being taken off houses by the council it emerged since. Two houses in Kilgarvan, a village with three councillors and two TDs, are having roofs removed by the council to take out the chimneys, a council meeting was told on Friday.

The chimneys were being removed to make the house more airtight to achieve higher energy efficiency in line with national guidelines, the Kenmare MD meeting in Killorglin was told.

What Kerry County Council were doing was "the talk of the parish and beyond" Councillor Johnny Healy-Rae said.

Whoever would be allocated those two houses now would have "no gas ring, way to boil a kettle and no open fire and no way of heating themselves" in the event of future massive weather events and power outages.

He also questioned the policy of total dependence on electricity especially when weather knocked out the power.

To make matters worse, the houses where the chimneys were being removed in Kilgarvan were directly opposite the local power station.

"These two houses are facing the (ESB) substation in Kilgarvan and they will be looking at the substation and they will have no heat and not be able to boil a kettle. It's nonsensical," he said.

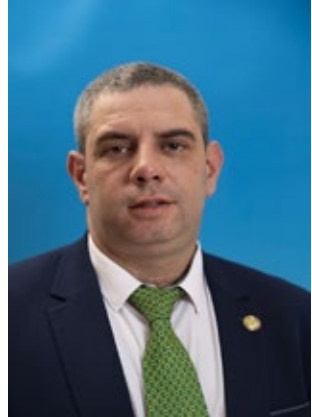
Johnny was right too in questioning all this craze for insulation to a degree it is unhealthy.

Fresh air was good for people.

"I can't understand the obsession with sealing the house to the 'nth degree," he said.

Teddy O'Sullivan Casey said surely there were other ways to make chimneys airtight than taking them off houses.

We will have to guard our chimneys in Killarney.



What Kerry County Council were doing was "the talk of the parish and beyond" Councillor Johnny Healy-Rae said.

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Killorglin Company Earns Major National Recognition

Retrofit Design Named Business All-Star Retrofit Company of the Year 2025

Killorglin company Retrofit Design Ltd has been named Business All-Star Retrofit Company of the Year 2025 by the All-Ireland Business Foundation (AIBF). Founded in 2012 to create healthy, comfortable environments for families, Retrofit Design Ltd has grown exponentially over the years. What began as a focus on cavity wall insulation has transformed into one of Ireland's leading providers of comprehensive deep retrofit services.

With its headquarters in Killorglin, Co. Kerry, Retrofit Design delivers innovative solutions in both private and public sectors. The company's commitment to cutting-edge technology and customer satisfaction has been integral to its success, ensuring exceptional results for clients across Ireland. Business All-Star Accreditation recognises Retrofit Design's exceptional contribution to deep retrofit construction and energy upgrades across Ireland. Reacting to the news of her company's achievement, Senior Business Administrator, Mairead Sheahan said:

"We are incredibly honoured to receive this prestigious recognition from the All-Ireland Business Foundation. It reflects the hard work, expertise, and dedication of our entire team in delivering sustainable and innovative solutions. We are committed to continuing our mission to provide healthier, more energy-efficient homes and workplaces across Ireland."



Announcing the news of Retrofit Design Ltd's achievement, Deputy Chair of AIBF's Adjudication Board, Kieran Ring, said:

"The All-Ireland Business Foundation proudly accredits Retrofit Design Ltd the title of Business All-Star Retrofit Company Of The Year 2025, recognising its outstanding dedication to energy efficiency, quality, and sustainable construction solutions. This prestigious accolade celebrates Retrofit Design leadership in delivering high-performance Retrofitting Services that enhance comfort, energy savings, and environmental responsibility for Irish homes and businesses. Congratulations to Retrofit Design Ltd on this distinguished achievement, solidifying its position as a trusted innovator in Ireland's Retrofit Industry."

Managing Director of the All-Ireland Business Foundation, Kapil Khanna, said: "Retrofit Design has demonstrated remarkable innovation and dedication to delivering world-class retrofit solutions. Their efforts not only enhance living environments but also contribute significantly to www.aibf.ie | media@aibf.ie

Ireland's energy efficiency goals. We are proud to award them the title of Business All-Star Retrofit Company of the Year 2025." He said:

"We evaluate a company's background, trustworthiness and performance, and we speak to customers, employees and vendors. We also anonymously approach the company as a customer and report back on the experience. The business goes through at least two interviews and is scored on every part of the process against set metrics."

About The All-Ireland Business Foundation

The All-Ireland Business Foundation is an autonomous national accreditation body tasked with enterprise development and the promotion of Best-in-Class Irish businesses.

As the accreditation body for the Business All-Star mark, the AIBF recognises Best-In-Class Irish businesses. Companies that merit recognition based on an independent audit of their performance, reputation, and customer-centricity.

Business All-Star Accreditation Is The Nation's Symbol Of Trust. Currently, there are over 650 companies that are accredited by AIBF. Since 2014, over 5000 companies have participated in our programs.

The AIBF also hosts the annual All-Ireland Summit and monthly gatherings to promote peer learning and collaboration among its accredited companies.

For more information please visit www.aibf.ie



Mairead Sheahan (Senior Business Administrator & Project Financial Analyst) with Margaret Considine (Outgoing AIBF President) as Retrofit Design Ltd. are honoured as Business All-Star Retrofit Company of the Year 2025 by the All-Ireland Business Foundation (AIBF).

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KERRY TOURISM BUSINESSES HONoured

at CIE Tours Annual Awards of Excellence

Thirteen Kerry tourism businesses were recognised at CIE Tours Awards of Excellence. CIE Tours, the largest carrier of US visitors to Ireland every year, held its annual awards of excellence celebrating Irish hoteliers and tourist experience operators who have been singled out by the 30,000 visitors who came to Ireland with CIE Tours in 2024.

Now in their 33rd year, and an annual highlight within the tourism industry, each year, the prestigious accolades are awarded based on post-stay feedback received by CIE Tours from their customers.

Moriarty's Authentic Irish Gift Store was highly commended and achieved the 'national heritage award'. What began as a small souvenir shop that opened in 1964, is now one of Ireland's leading gift stores selling and showcasing traditional items like handmade tweeds, knits and symbolic jewellery.

The luxurious Ballygarry Estate Hotel & Spa was awarded gold for 'best hotel dinner'. Offering guests an enjoyable dining experience, Ballygarry Estate Hotel & Spa takes great pride in sourcing local produce to create an array of dishes for any occasion.

Additionally, The Rose Hotel, Great Southern Killarney, International Hotel Killarney, Killarney Avenue Hotel, Killarney Plaza Hotel and Killarney Towers Hotel received Merit awards in



National Heritage Award – Moriarty's Authentic Irish Gift Store. Pictured (L-R): Stephen Cotter, Managing Director, CIE Tours, Aidan Murphy, Chairman of CIE Tours with Ailish and Denis Pío Moriarty, Moriarty's Authentic Irish Gift Store. Photography by John Ohle.

the hotel category.

Tangney Tours Jaunting Car, Killarney Horse & Carriage Tours, Tom Crean South Pole Inn, John B Keanes Pub and the Blasket Centre were also recognised and received Merit awards in the visitor experience category.

The CIE Tours Awards of Excellence were presented by Chairman of CIE Tours, Aidan

Murphy and Stephen Cotter, Managing Director, CIE Tours.

CIE Tours is the leading inbound tour operator for North American visitors to Ireland for over 90 years and in that time has brought over 3 million visitors from North America to Ireland.



Munster Merit winners in the visitor experience category. Pictured with Stephen Cotter, Managing Director, CIE Tours and Aidan Murphy, Chairman of CIE Tours



Munster Merit winners in the visitor experience category. Pictured with Stephen Cotter, Managing Director, CIE Tours and Aidan Murphy, Chairman of CIE Tours

SCHOOLS IN KILLARNEY UNITE TO LAUNCH THE SMART PLEDGE PROJECT

with Minister Norma Foley

A coalition of national schools in the Killarney area is set to launch the Smart Pledge Project, an initiative aimed at encouraging parents to delay purchasing smartphones for young children and to keep children under 13 years of age safe on social media platforms. The project will be officially launched by Minister for Education Norma Foley and Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth at 11:00 AM in St. Oliver's National School, Killarney, today Friday the 7th of February.

The Smart Pledge Project is a school-driven initiative supported by policy guidance from the Department of Education and is rooted in growing concerns about the negative impact that early smartphone use and social media exposure can have on young children. Schools in the Killarney area have come together to take a proactive approach in fostering healthier childhood development, reducing peer pressure on parents to provide

smartphones, and creating safer learning environments for children.

Key objectives of the Smart Pledge Project:

- Encourage parents to delay smartphone purchases for young children.
 - Promote offline childhood experiences and social interactions.
 - Reduce the pressure on parents to conform to early smartphone adoption.
 - Foster safer school environments with reduced distractions.
 - Support mental well-being and development in young children by limiting social media exposure.
- The participating schools believe that collective action is key to reducing the societal pressure surrounding early smartphone ownership. Parents are invited to join the pledge and work together to build a healthier and more mindful digital culture for children.

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Senior B Player of the Year
Colm O Cuiv receives the
Jackie Lyne Cup from Mark
O Leary and Nuala Lyne



Daire Murphy,
the Senior B
Young Player
of the Year
receives his
Award from
Mark O Leary

A Legion of Honours as Club Hold Awards Ceremony



Martin O Grady
presents the John O
Grady Cup to Senior
Player of the Year
Jonathan Lyne



Conor Gammell, the Young Player of the Year,
receives the Jim Trant Award from Paul Trant
and Enda Walshe.



Club Hall of Famer Mike Murphy receives the Vincent Doyle Cup from
Club Chairman Dave Randles. Also in photo is son in law Chris Lynam,
daughter Sandra and wife Mary.



Keri Ann Hanrahan, the
Senior Ladies Player of
the Year, receives the
Larry Horgan Shield
from Cathy.



Young Ladies Player of the Year Amy Walshe with sister Rebecca,
father Enda and grandfather Cathal.



Michelle Cooper Galvin presenting the Cooper Cup to Clubperson of
the Year John Foran. To the left is Deirdre Foran and to the right is
Club Chairman Dave Randles.



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Paul's Passing Leaves A Void in Killarney



The late Paul O'Shea

The death of Killarney man Paul O'Shea just months after the passing of his son Paul Jnr. and almost two years to the day that his beloved wife Margaret passed away, was met with sadness in the town.

Paul was a proud member of the Cathedral Choir for over 25 years and the family requested that past and present members gathered to sing for his funeral.

His daughter Jennifer, who lives in Australia and who has travelled home twice in the past five months, in September for the funeral of her brother Paul Jnr. and in January 2025 for her dad's funeral, said that the family were very grateful to the people of Killarney.

"Thank you Killarney for honouring my father Paul O'Shea RIP. We felt very supported by family, friends and neighbours. Thank you to MD O'Sheas, and special mention to members past and present of the Cathedral Choir who on request of the family gathered to sing for his funeral. Everyone remarked on how special & talented they were. Dad was a proud member for over 25 years and would have enjoyed it", Jen said.

Paul was also a very proud member of Killarney Musical Society and the Gleneagle Brass Band and he spent many memorable years performing with both groups. Formerly of Dalton's Avenue, Killarney, Paul

passed away peacefully on the 27th of January in the wonderful care of the staff of Ashborough Lodge Nursing Home.

The celebrant at the funeral mass, Fr. Begley, accompanied by Fr. Looney invited Jennifer and her brother Simon to give a short eulogy. As his remains were brought down the aisle, Paul's former colleagues in the Cathedral Choir sang one of his favourite songs "How Great Thou Art".

Following Paul's Requiem Mass, he was cremated at the Island Crematorium, Cork.

Predeceased by his wife Margaret, and his son Paul Jnr, Paul will be sadly missed by his son Simon, daughter Jennifer, his son-in-law Andy, daughters-in-law Margaret and Marie, his grandchildren Simone, Michael, Ciarán, Bryan, Bharragh, Fionn, Sineád, Zoe and Kayden, sisters Eileen, Una and Josephine, brothers



Happier times: Paul and Margaret O'Shea.

Brendan and Vincent, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces, relatives, neighbours and many friends. Paul is pre-deceased by brothers Seán, Donie, Teddy, Gerard and Greg and sisters Bridie and Patricia.

"May His Gentle Soul Rest In Peace"



Past and Present Members of the St. Mary's Cathedral Choir who gathered to sing for the Requiem Mass of Paul O'Shea.

CASTLEISLAND STUDENTS MARK THE HOLOCAUST

The students of Presentation Secondary School marked the 80th anniversary of the Holocaust last Monday, one of the darkest chapters in human history. Eighty years ago, the concentration camp of Auschwitz was liberated by the Soviet Troops but not before over one million Jewish people perished there.

The students planted crocuses in remembrance of six million Jews who were forced to wear the Star of David. These flowers symbolise hope and resilience, reminding us that even in the face of unimaginable darkness, new life begins again.

'We remember them not only to honour their memory but to remind ourselves of the devastating hatred, prejudice and discrimination that the Jewish people endured during World War Two', said Saoirse Collins.

Planting the crocuses is a symbolic way of remembering those who had died, not just in Auschwitz. It made us realise the importance of equality and standing up against injustice in the world.

One of the students explained that an estimated 1.1 million people, mostly Jews were killed in Auschwitz-Birkenau. Just 220,000 are still alive

with more than 20pc over 90 years of age. It is up to us all to continue their story and learn from the lessons of the past', said Faith Bradley of Presentation Secondary School.



Pictured are: Front L-R – Saoirse Collins, Alesha Fitzgerald, Dominika Oliwnick, Emma Mullane.

Back L-R – Asie Bekirova, Muireann Hickey, Ola Nowosielska, Aibhlinn Matthews, Chloe Collins, Faith Bradley, Alana Kelliher, Jessie O'Keefe, Emily Heffernan, Leah Griffin, Ella Greaney, Nel Hartnett.

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Evita:

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Killarney Musical Society has gone from strength to strength during the past 39 years. The dedication and commitment from every member, cast and crew has brought the society to the standard that it is today.

Each year our productions bring the community together, showcasing incredible local talent and providing top tier entertainment to our audience.

This year, we're all about bringing a near-professional and most spectacular production of Evita to the stage of the Gleneagle INEC Arena, on March 11th, 12th & 13th however a show of this scale comes with significant costs, namely a Professional Production Team which includes Director, Musical Director, choreographer, lighting director, sound engineers. This professional team alone are at a cost of €43,000. Performing Rights, Sets, Costumes and Insurance are coming in at a cost of €41,900. This is only a portion of the projected costs of €130,000 for this year's production, Evita. We need your support to ensure this production is the spectacle our audiences have come to love from KMS and truly deserve.

Becoming a patron of Killarney Musical society is about supporting local talented performers, contributing to the cultural vibrancy of Killarney. We also offer sponsorship and advertising opportunities, For anyone interested, businesses or individuals in either Patronage, Sponsorship or Advertising, or need any further information or have any queries, please contact Pam Brosnan on 086 3344345 or by email at pambrosnan49@gmail.com

Keep up to date with us on our Social Media Platforms. If you wish to purchase tickets you may do so right now..... tickets available on Ticketmaster or by contacting the Gleneagle INEC Arena Box Office. Join us in bringing Evita to life and making this year's show the most spectacular one yet.



ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE....

DOCHAS READY TO TREAD THE BOARDS



Dóchas Drama Group will present two plays at Killarney Avenue Hotel for four performances.

The plays will run from Tuesday February 25th -Friday 28th February at 8pm nightly. Doors open at 7.15pm. Tickets are available on EventBrite.

The quest for family harmony and the many conflicts therein, are themes throughout both plays. The plays were written years apart. The lives of the characters could not be more different but emotions, relationships and responsibilities never change.

"The Tinker's Wedding by J.M.Synge was published in 1909. It is described as an unruly farce and is a glimpse into the life of travelling tinsmiths. In order to gain respectability Sarah Casey wants a church wedding. Her "Beau" Michael Byrne is not keen on marriage and neither is his mother

Mary Byrne. Add to the mix a priest who is conflicted about his decisions. These four well defined characters give us a glimpse into their busy lives. Highly entertaining the "Tinker's Wedding" is performed in two short acts. "Alternative Accommodation" by Pam Valentine was published in 2005. Pam Valentine has said that she feels it is essential to give an audience a situation with which they can identify and so, surprise or even shock them!

It looks at a contemporary family, where the three adult children decide to plan for their mother's future. Anna is getting older but still want to have a good life. Can she deal with their plans?

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THUR 20TH MAR MENOPAUSE THE MUSICAL 2 - CRUISING THROUGH MENOPAUSE
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Killarney Community College Raises €520 for My Canine Companion

Killarney Community College has proudly raised €520 in support of My Canine Companion, a national charity that provides highly trained service and therapy dogs to children and adults living with autism and other disabilities. The funds were generated through the sale of beautifully designed Christmas cards, created by the school's own talented students.

This donation holds special meaning for the Killarney Community College community, as My Canine Companion is affiliated with the school's beloved therapy dog, Jet. Since joining the school, Jet has become an invaluable source of comfort and support for students and staff alike. His calming presence helps reduce stress and anxiety, creating a more positive learning environment for everyone. Whether providing companionship to students who may be struggling, offering emotional reassurance during exams, or simply bringing a smile to the faces of those he meets, Jet plays a vital role in daily school life.

My Canine Companion is dedicated to improving the lives of individuals with autism and their families by providing specially trained service dogs that offer companionship, emotional support, and increased independence. The charity also places therapy dogs in schools, hospitals, and other community settings to provide comfort and assistance to those in need.

The school's initiative to raise funds through student-designed Christmas card sales was met with enthusiasm and generosity, showcasing the kindness and creativity of Killarney Community College students. The €520 raised will go towards helping My Canine Companion continue its vital work, training more dogs like Jet to support individuals and families across the country. Killarney Community College is incredibly proud of its students for their efforts and is delighted to give back to a charity that has made such a meaningful impact on the school community. The success of this fundraiser is a testament to the positive influence of Jet and the incredible work done by @mycaninecompanion #therapydog#killarney#lovekcc



Killarney Community College students who raised €520 in support of My Canine Companion



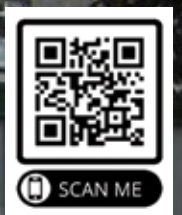
Last week in the Killarney Community College, the school welcomed Lena and her dog Ruby from Animal Haven. As part of the school's plastic bottle recycling initiative, Liz Elbel and her dedicated team of students presented Lena with a hamper of dog treats and a cheque for €243, all of which was raised by weekly trips to Dunnes Stores recycling machine. Funds raised will go towards animals in need in Kerry.

Exciting News for the future of CASTLEISLAND

Kerry County Council has announced the appointment of Arup Consultants to deliver a Town Centre First Masterplan for Castleisland, setting out a clear and ambitious strategy for the future development and revitalisation of Castleisland Town. This Masterplan will include a comprehensive Public Realm Plan, establishing the foundation for a vibrant, accessible, and sustainable town centre. The Masterplan will explore social, economic, cultural and environmental opportunities and challenges facing the town. These will be integrated into a cohesive strategy of interventions, proposals, and projects aimed at supporting the revitalisation of the town centre. The ultimate goal is to make Castleisland an even more attractive place to live, work,

visit, shop and socialise while fostering a strong sense of community and pride in the town's unique character and heritage at the heart of Sliabh Luachra and at the Gateway to Kerry. Kerry County Council recognises the importance of local input in shaping Castleisland's future. The Council looks forward to working with the Castleisland Town Team and the wider community over the coming months to deliver this transformative Masterplan. The development of a Town Centre First Masterplan has been welcomed by Michael John Kearney, chairperson of the overseeing Town Team saying that "the process will open up Castleisland to transformative opportunities that will drive its development as a Town of the future. It will assist in attracting and catering for

an expanding population and as a strong centre of economic growth for the Region, playing on its strategic location and its deep association with the cultural richness of Sliabh Luachra and other attractions of the Castleisland District". You can help shape Castleisland's future by participating in a pre-draft public consultation questionnaire. Paper copies of the questionnaire are available at Castleisland library. Alternatively, you can share your ideas by emailing us at tcf@kerrycoco.ie. To participate online, visit <https://www.kerrycoco.ie/castleisland-masterplan/> or alternatively scan the QR code below and complete the questionnaire. Your feedback is invaluable. Submissions should be submitted before 5pm Friday 28th February.





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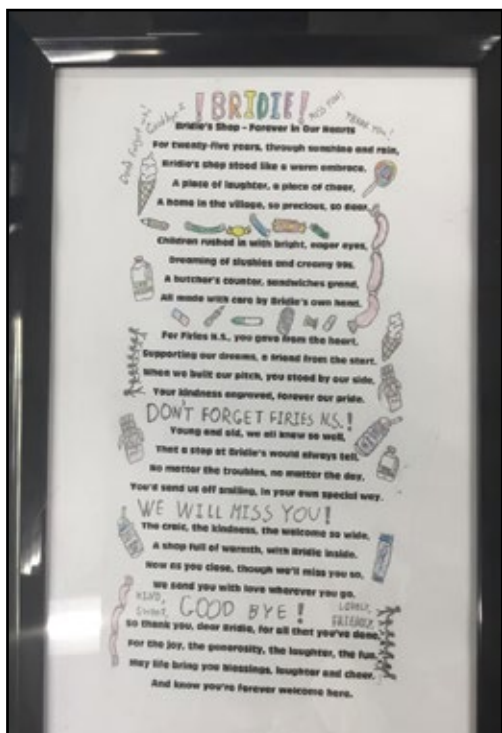
END OF AN ERA AS BRIDIE'S CLOSSES IN FIRIES



Children from Furies National School make a presentation to Bridie.



Ballyhar Dynamos FC make a presentation to Bridie Grady of Bridie's Right Buy, Furies to mark the end of an era & her contribution to the community & the club over the past 25 years. Included are Donal Groves, John Joe Dowd, Anthony Mckenna, Bridie Grady, Danny Cronin, Alan Finn & Donal O'Donoghue.



The closing of the hugely popular Bridie's Shop in Furies Village has been met with sadness by the community there.

Bridie's Shop was a great meeting place for people who popped in to pick up their daily groceries and have a chat with Bridie.

In the past week, in a beautiful tribute, the children from Furies National School walked down to the shop to present Bridie with a gift, balloons and a poem which they wrote to say thank you to her for everything. On the school's facebook page they said:

"Today, we walked together from our school, to say goodbye to Bridie Grady Bridie's Right Buy Furies . Bridie has been there for as long as a lot

of our children can remember. Often they ran excitedly in the door for sweet treats. Some places are special, not because of what they sell, but because of who is inside. Bridie knew many of the children by name, asked about their day and made time for a little chat".

Members of Ballyhar Dynamos FC also paid tribute to Bridie, thanking her for all her support over the years. Bridie was a sponsor and also sold the weekly Ballyhar Dynamo Lotto Tickets.

Bridie's was always a popular spot to pick up the Killarney Outlook every Friday morning and we wish Bridie every happiness in the future, along with everyone in the Furies parish and beyond.

FAMILY GATHER FROM ACROSS THE WORLD FOR STUNNING WEDDING

The stunning resort of Sandos Caracol in Mexico was the venue for the recent wedding of Luke O'Reilly and Shanelle Staples and it also turned out to be a family reunion for Killarney native Sheila McGough, daughter of Terence and Maura who were originally from St. Brendan's Terrace, now living in Woodlawn.

Sheila lives in the UK and along with her family travelled to Mexico for the wedding. "Luke lives in Canada and not only was it their wedding it was also some of my families first time meeting with Shanelle's family and also Tiernan's first time meeting his aunt uncles and cousins on my side as he is only one year old - the baby of the clan", Sheila told Killarney Outlook.



The happy couple: Luke O'Reilly and Shanelle Staples.



Sheila McGough, centre pictured with her family, Stephanie, James, Luke (groom), Dylan and Curtis; Grandkids Coleen, Toby, Dalton, Elyza, Kean and Tiernan before the wedding in Mexico.

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MARY ROBINSON TO BE GUEST OF HONOUR FOR SEM CONCERT

St. Brendan's College is set to roll out the red carpet for former President Mary Robinson who will be Special Guest of Honour at the annual Liam O'Connor Show with St. Brendan's College choir and music group at St Brendan's College Chapel in Killarney, Co Kerry, on Thursday, March 27th, 2025 at 8pm.

Tickets for the show will be available for purchase from www.ticketstop.ie

As an enthusiastic Liam states, "This is truly a great honour for us all. Mary Robinson was Ireland's first female President and later served as the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. She has been a tireless seeker after justice on behalf of the abused and downtrodden, and I'm so looking forward to welcoming her to Killarney for this very special event."

Among countless achievements, Mary Robinson also co-founded the Council of Women World Leaders to encourage women at the highest levels to promote democracy and gender equality.

"We are delighted to welcome Ms Mary Robinson, our past president and international human rights advocate, to our school community.

In 1990 her election to the presidency signalled the birth of a new vision and a new more diverse and inclusive Ireland. As our President she heralded that change both nationally and internationally. Her leadership through



the UN and the Elders continues that theme .Our chapel Concerts are a highlight of our school year and we are honoured to have Mary Robinson as our keynote speaker", Principal of St. Brendan's College, Seán Coffey said.

Commenting on the announcement, Music teacher at St. Brendan's College - Niamh O'Connell said "It is such an honour to welcome former president and UN High Commissioner for

Human Rights Mary Robinson to St Brendan's as our special guest this year. Her visit offers our students a unique opportunity to learn from this hugely influential international figure who has been a transformative force for gender equality, climate justice, and global peace.

The event is being held in association with Killarney Credit Union.

PRESENTATION TO MARK

SERGEANT BILL'S SERVICE

A presentation was made recently by members of the UN Veterans Association to retired Sergeant Bill Blake, marking his service with the 32nd Infantry Battalion, Congo 1961.

The Cloyne Co.Cork native now resides in Tomies, Beaufort. Bill joined the 4th Infantry Battalion, Collins Barracks and following his promotion to Corporal, he was posted to Killarney as training NCO with D Company 15th Battalion FCA.

Certainly the FCA community will know him as a dedicated and committed instructor and have very fond memories of the good fun shared.



Members of the UN Veterans Association pictured with retired Sergeant Bill Blake as they marked his service with the 32nd Infantry Battalion, Congo 1961.

Spring in Their Step as KILLARNEY PLAYER CELEBRATES €155,382 LOTTO WIN

Celebrations were in full bloom in Kerry as a player won €155,382 after matching 5 numbers and the bonus in Saturday night's main Lotto draw. Their winning Quick Pick ticket was purchased on Thursday, 30th January, from C. Healy's, 86 New Street, Killarney. The winning numbers in last night's main Lotto draw were 24, 26, 30, 35, 36, 40 and the bonus was 16.



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NEWS BITES...

RAMBLING HOUSE

Rambling House at Heritage Centre Scartaglen Monday February 10th at 8 pm. Refreshments served. All are welcome.

KWOTE THANK YOU

Killarney Women's Organisation for training and empowerment.

Kwote members wish to acknowledge the financial assistance provided by Kerry Co. Council Support Community funding 2024. The funding enabled our Group to participate in keep fit classes including mindfulness and meditation. These classes benefitted us greatly socially and physically. Thank you Kerry Co. Council.

KERRY SCHOOLS REMINDER

Kerry teachers in primary and second level schools, whose pupils take part in the annual Texaco Children's Art Competition, are reminded that the closing date for receipt of entries this year is Friday, 28th February next.

Details are available at www.texacochildrensart.com or at Texaco service stations throughout the county.

DESERVING AWARD FOR CATHAL



Congratulations to Cathal Walshe who, this week, was honoured to receive a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of his loyalty, commitment and support to the Garda Síochána Retired Members Association.

Not only is Cathal loyal to the Garda Síochána Retired Members Association, he is an integral part of Killarney Town in many different roles, including the Kerry Branch of the Hospice Foundation. Cathal is always ready to help out in any occasion and truly deserves this award.

Kerry FC Kits Touch Down At Kerry Airport

On Schedule For 2025 League Of Ireland Season



Kerry FC 2025 Kits Land Safely At Kerry Airport. Kerry FC's new Home and Away kits have touched down at Kerry Airport in time for the 2025 SSE Airtricity First Division Season which kicks-off at home to Finn Harps on Valentine's Day. More details from www.KerryFC.com. Pictured at Kerry Airport for the kit launch were l-r: Ryan Kelliher, Kerry FC Forward; Conor McCarthy, Kerry FC Head Coach; John Mulhern, CEO Kerry Airport; Daniel Okwute, Kerry FC Forward. Photo By: Domnick Walsh © Eye Focus LTD

THE Kerry FC Home and Away kits have touched down at Kerry Airport in time for the new SSE Airtricity First Division Season which kicks off at home to Finn Harps on Valentine's Day.

Lovers of soccer throughout the Kingdom can proudly support their team by wearing the green jersey for home games at Mounthawk Park or vibrant yellow when on the road.

The CEO of Kerry Airport Ireland, John Mulhern, said, "It's remarkable to believe that we are entering the third year as the lead sponsor of Kerry FC. The club is going from strength to strength with an ever-increasing level of performance from the players with wonderful support from fans of all ages. Kerry Airport recognises the crucial role that sport plays in bringing communities together either through playing, coaching or attending matches. We are proud to play our part and we are looking forward to working closely with Kerry FC in the months ahead."

Kerry FC General Manager, Sean O'Keeffe, said, "We are delighted to once again have Kerry Airport on the front of our brand new 2025 Kerry FC First Team kits ahead of the upcoming season. Kerry Airport have been first-class supporters of our club for the last two seasons, and we are delighted to have them on board once again in 2025. While this year will be exciting for Kerry FC on the field, we are also eagerly awaiting the grand opening of the new look Kerry Airport Arrivals Hall and Departures Lounge this year, and we wish John Mulhern and his team every success with the ongoing redevelopment of one of Kerry's most important assets."

Kerry FC recently announced an exciting new

partnership with MACRON who become the club's new Technical Kit Partner from the 2025 season.

Supporters will be able to purchase the new Kerry FC Home and Away shirts shortly as the club is soon to receive the jerseys for retail sale. Keep up to date with the release date of the retail offerings on Kerry FC's social media platforms and www.KerryFC.com.

Kerry FC will play 36 games in next season's SSE Airtricity Men's First Division with details of all fixtures and how to purchase Season Tickets available from www.KerryFC.com.

Coinciding with the new domestic soccer season, Kerry Airport has announced details of increased frequency on Ryanair routes to Spain and Portugal from April and with Chalair to France from June.

Passengers can choose from five flights a week to Alicante in Spain in June, July and August with three flights a week in April, May, September and October.

Ryanair flights to Costa Blanca sunshine will commence on Wednesday 2nd April, a day after the return of the twice-weekly route to Faro on Portugal's Algarve which also runs to the end of October.

Chalair have announced the return of their popular weekly peak-summer routes to France from June to September serving Brest in Brittany, Caen in Normandy and Pau near the Pyrenees with the addition of a route to Brive in the stunning Dordogne Valley.

Bookings for the sun routes to Spain and Portugal can be made at Ryanair.com and for the flights to France which commence on Saturday 28th June, visit en.Chalair.com.



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Senior cycle subject choice is very important – Buyer Beware!



By Billy Ryle

LEAVING CERT OPTIONS

Students study one of three Leaving Cert programs at senior cycle. The majority prefer the traditional Leaving Cert (LC). The Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP) is similar to the traditional Leaving Cert, except that students also take three Link Modules (Enterprise Education, Preparation for Work and Work Experience). The Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) is strongly vocational, meaning that its job and employment focused. The subject areas are more practical than academic.

SELECTION

Subject selection for Leaving Cert is very important because the subjects you choose will influence your further study and career. Give this process serious consideration and decide what senior cycle subjects suit you best. Leaving Cert students usually take seven subjects. Mathematics, Irish and English are compulsory. It's advisable to study a modern language, which many third level courses have as an entry requirement.

OPTIONAL

Your task is to select three optional subjects – four if not taking a third language. Make sure that your subjects fulfil the entry requirements for your courses of interest. Many colleges also impose additional subject requirements which are course specific. It's also worth knowing that a number of third level courses use criteria of selection, such as art portfolio, interview, audition and suitability test, in addition to Leaving Cert exam points.



Huge congratulations to Andrea Murphy and Blanka Simhadri from St. Brigid's Presentation Secondary School Killarney on receiving the prestigious Fergal Quinn Award for their outstanding 2024 LCA exam results.

The Fergal Quinn Award is presented annually to LCA students across the country who achieve exceptional results in their exams. This recognition celebrates their dedication, perseverance, and academic excellence. Pictured is Blanka Simhadri with her award.

POINTS TOTAL

Six subjects are used from any one sitting of the Leaving Cert exam to calculate total points' score. The potential maximum points' score in the Leaving Cert points' scale is 600 or 625 if Higher Level Maths is one of the six subjects counted, as 25 bonus points are awarded for Higher Level Maths for H6 or above.

LCVP

Students studying the LCVP may include the points awarded for the Link Modules as one of the six subjects used for calculating points - 66 points for a Distinction (80% to 100%), 46 points for a Merit (65% to < 80%) and 28 points for a Pass (50% to < 65%).

FLAIR

Keep the following criteria of subject selection in mind when making your choice. Firstly, if you have a flair for - a special ability in, an aptitude for - a particular subject, you will get tremendous personal satisfaction from studying that subject.

ACHIEVEMENT

Secondly, note the subjects in which you are achieving good grades. The Leaving Cert exam is a test of achievement. Grades and points determine entry to higher education. There is little benefit to you in taking a subject which you find difficult and are unlikely to do well in. Points' potential at higher (H) level is far greater than at ordinary (O) level. For example, H3 is worth 77 points while O3 is worth only 37 points. Study as many of your subjects at higher level as you can cope with.

INTEREST

Thirdly, select subjects you are interested in because you will work harder at those. Of all the variables that determine success at school, at college and in your career, interest is the most critical. It's likely that the subjects that interest you at school will influence your college course choices in two years' time.

REQUIRED

Fourthly, be aware of subjects that are required for any particular career interests you may have. Each college has a system of general and specific entry requirements which you must satisfy before you are considered for a place in a particular course. For example, the minimum general entry requirements for UCC are 2H5 and 4H7/O6. An O6/H7 in a laboratory science subject in the Leaving Cert exam is a specific entry requirement for a degree course in Nursing.

CRITERIA

The task facing you, therefore, is to select a subject grouping that will satisfy the four

criteria of Flair (aptitude), Achievement, Interest and Required. It may help you to remember that you need to make a FAIR choice of subjects. Study the information carefully, give careful consideration to your subject choice, think about your course options and the related careers. In the end choose wisely as subject choice is the first step on your road to college.

CHECKLIST

- Senior cycle students take the LC, LCVP or LCA
- LCVP students also take three Link Modules
- Subject selection at senior cycle is an extremely important issue
- Leaving Cert students normally take seven subjects
- Mathematics, Irish and English are compulsory subjects
- Each college has a system of general and specific entry requirements
- When calculating points, use six subjects from one sitting of the Leaving Cert exam
- You will get satisfaction from studying a subject for which you have a flair
- The Leaving Cert exam is a test of achievement
- Take note of the subjects in which you are achieving good grades
- Points' potential at higher level is far greater than at ordinary level
- Select subjects in which you are interested
- Be aware of subjects that are required for your course interests
- Make a FAIR choice of subjects - Flair, Achievement, Interest, Required
- 1st March: closing date, at 5pm, for amending course choices
- 1st March: completed online HEAR/DARE forms must be submitted by 5pm
- 1st March: closing date, at 5pm, for completion of mature student application form
- 5th March: late application facility opens at 12.00 noon (€60 fee)
- 15th March: HEAR/DARE supporting documentation must arrive in CAO by 5pm
- 1st May: closing date, at 5pm, for late CAO applications
- 6th May: online change of mind facility (free) opens at 12.00 noon
- 31st May: Statement of Application Record sent to all applicants before this date

Billy Ryle is a Career Guidance Counsellor and Educational Commentator
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 Monday April 21stMaths H (Paper 2)
 Tuesday April 22nd.....Business H
 Wednesday April 23rd.....Physics H
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 Saturday April 26th.....Biology H
 Saturday May 3th.....Maths L (Paper 1)
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Written by: Helen Moynihan

ICA

The I.C.A. has returned for their weekly gathering at 8pm in the Rural Dev. Office, for more information please contact Eileen on 086 3689343.

SCOR NA BPAISTI

Anyone from 5th and 6th class interested in the following, Figure Dancing, Solo Singing, Music Group, Ballad Group, Novelty Act, Quiz and Set Dancing, please contact Maria O'Leary on 087-4619954.

2025/2026 ENROLMENT: KILCUMMIN NATIONAL SCHOOL

2025/2026 Enrolment: Kilcummin National School is currently accepting enrolment application forms for September 2025. Please contact the school by email at kill43163@gmail.com or 0646643163. Enrolment application forms are now available on our school website www.kilcumminns.com. Kilcummin Open Day for new Junior Infants will take place on Thursday, 10th April from 2.15-4pm.

KILCUMMIN GAA

EAST KERRY SUPER LEAGUE

Kilcummin opened up their East Kerry Super League campaign with a 2-point win on Sunday over Rathmore. In a very entertaining encounter, which featured the new FRC rules for the first time, It was Kilcummin that opened the quicker with a brace of Cian Foley points before Rathmore hit for a goal but the home side would reel off the next five scores and took a 0-7 to 1-2 lead with them to the break. The visitors dominated the third quarter as they powered into a five-point lead (1-9 to 0-7) hitting 7 unanswered points as Kilcummin struggled to get a foothold. All that would change in the final quarter. Mark O Shea would hit the first ever two pointer scored by a home player in Kilcummin and he would repeat the trick along with brother Paul as the scores finally began to flow a lot easier. Further scores by Matt Keane, Cian Foley and James Williams secured the win.

Next up for the Seniors is a short trip to Glenflesk for Round 2 in Div 1B.

AWARDS NIGHT

Last Friday evening a packed clubhouse played host to the annual GAA Club Awards as we looked back at 2024 to recognise those who went the extra mile in what was a memorable year for the club. The top award of Senior player of the year went to Sean O'Leary who has been inspirational both on and off the field in recent times. The Junior player of the award went to veteran Shane McSweeney who picked up the award for a second time in his career but was undone by son Tyler who picked up an Award for Mascot of the year. Cian Foley and James Williams both shared Young player of the year in a very competitive category with six of the starting 15 in the O'Donoghue Cup Final all under 20.

Kerry Under 20 player Dara O' Callaghan received a special recognition award for the unique honour of being a 3-year Kerry under 20 player in which he made 10 appearances winning 3 Munster championships.

Mike O' Riordan was given the recognition of service award for a lifetime involvement in Kilcummin GAA while Elaine Coffey was deserved winner of club person of the year. Elaine is a driving force behind the clubs Lotto. East Kerry Junior League and O' Sullivan Cup Medals were presented by East Kerry vice chairperson Garry O' Halloran to our junior players while Conn O'Sullivan on behalf of the O'Sullivan family presented the man

of the match award from the O' Sullivan Cup final to Mark O'Shea. Conn gave a great speech remembering his late father Owen of which the competition was dedicated.

COISTE NA NOG

With the new season quickly approaching we wish the new Coiste na nÓg Committee all the best of luck under the guidance of new Chairperson Phillip O' Connor, Secretary Julieann Lane, Treasurer Maureen Fleming, Assistant Treasurer Karen Sheahan and PRO Donal Barry

CONDOLENCES

The Club would like to extend their condolences to our U16 player Mark McSharry and the extended McSharry and Morrissey families on the sad passing of Jack McSharry. May he rest in peace.

The death took place recently in London of Jerry Teahan formerly of Cockhill, Kilcummin. Jerry played in the 1960 defeat by St Finians Hospital in the East Kerry County League final and missed out on the 1961 victory against the same opposition in the same competition as he immigrated to England. Kilcummin GAA extend their sympathies to his family in London and to his relatives in Kilcummin.

MEMBERSHIP

Club Membership is now due for Adults and Juveniles as well as Track Membership and Gym Membership. You can do this on the Foireann App, or you can contact club registrar John Purcell with any queries.

KILCUMMIN GAA SHOP

Keep up to date on all your Kilcummin GAA Club gear by following the link: www.oneills.com/shop-by-team/gaa/ireland/kilcummin-gaa-club.html

KILCUMMIN COMMUNITY GAMES

Well done to our U13 indoor soccer boys team, after some fabulous performances, Kilcummin finished with two wins against Dingle and Castlegregory and a loss in their final game to Kenmare. Well done boys on a great day. Thanks to Paul and James for coaching the team.

MASTERGEEHA FC

Mastergeeha FC were delighted to welcome Brian McCarthy to Kilbrean Park for a 1 hour coaches workshop and 2 hour coached session with our U11 Boys followed by a healthy brunch, Q&A session with Brian with 40 of our players. Brian former FAI RDO in Kerry and Technical Analyst to the Republic of Ireland Senior Men's International team produced an excellent training session for our u11 players this morning with great emphasis on dribbling, passing, creating space, movement and our coaches/ players really enjoyed the coach education.

LOTTO

There was no winner on Friday 31st January 2025 of the Jackpot €4,200. Numbers drawn were 04,10,13, 21. Consolation prizes of €50 went to Tom Meehan c/o Jimmy's; Tina Lyne Healy, Knocklebede; Claire Lenihan c/o John Lenihan; David Jr. Pigott. The next draw will be on Friday 7th February for Jackpot of €4,400.

NOTES

If anyone has anything they want to add to our club notes please contact Donal by emailing pro.kilcummin.kerry@gaa.ie or Text/WhatsApp 087-7023681 before 8pm on Sundays.



Kilcummin GAA Club Person of the Year Elaine Coffey (Centre) with her Award. Also Included Left to Right, Nessa McCarthy (Secretary), Ciara Kelly (Chairperson), Gerry Coffey and Niamh Dwyer (Vice Chair)

Kilcummin GAA Senior Player of the year Sean O Leary with family.

U13 indoor soccer



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GLENFLESK

Written by: Sean Daly

AWARDS NIGHT

Glenflesk GAA held their Awards Night in The Kerry Way last Friday evening. Club Chairman Jerry Mullane presented the Player of the Year awards to Eoin Moynihan (Senior), Danny Lucey (Junior) and Michael Mullane (Young). Congratulations to all 3 on their well deserved recognition.

SCOR SINSEAR

Any club member over 17 that would be interested in taking part in Scór Sinsear, please contact Micheal MacGillicuddy on 087 2884507. County Final to take place on the 1st of March. Entries to be submitted by the 8th of February.

CORN UÍ MHIURI

Best of luck to St Brendan's College and Glenflesk players Jamie Moynihan (captain), Diarmuid Furlong, Jack Rudden, John Merry O'Sullivan and Liam O'Brien in the final against Mercy Mounthawk this Saturday at 12pm in Dr Crokes GAA Grounds.

FITNESS CLASS

Womens 35+ Masters Fitness Classes. Due to popular demand a new Thursday evening class is now opening. 6pm to 6:45pm €50 for 6 classes. These fun, social fitness sessions are designed specifically for women aged 35+, focusing on improving your strength, stamina, and overall fitness in a welcoming, supportive environment. Contact Gearóid at 087 9011322 or Micheal at 087 6411587 to secure your place.

TRACTOR RUN

Date for your diary. Barraduff Tractor Run will take place on 9th March in aid of Kerry/Cork Link Bus & Recovery Haven, Tralee. Registration from 10am with a start time of 12pm.

NOTES

If you would like anything added in the notes please email to pro.glenflesk.kerry@gaa.ie

BEAUFORT

By Bridget Hartnett

FIXTURE

Good luck to Beaufort senior men and management as they will begin their playing season away to Laune Rangers B on Sunday, 9th February. Time to be decided.

LOTTO

There was no winner of Beaufort G.A.A. Club lotto jackpot of €4,400 on Sunday, 2nd February. Numbers: 5, 13, 16, 23. Consolation Prizes: €80 Katie Hobbins c/o Ian, €50 Anne Kelly, Beaufort, Anthony Corboy, Beaufort Valley, Patrick Patch O'Sullivan, Killorglin. The next draw for a jackpot of €4,600 will be on Sunday, 16th February. Thank you for supporting our lotto.

Tickets are available from usual sellers, shops, and public houses and online at www.beaufortgaa.com. Please note that the online lotto closes at 7pm on the night of the draw and tickets sold after 7pm are entered into the following draw.

BEAUFORT FILM NIGHT will hold a screening night on Friday 7th February at 8.30pm at Kilgobnet National School, Beaufort.

The feature film on the night is I'm Your Man, a German romantic comedy-drama (with English subtitles). Baps and Buns, an award-winning Irish

short film, will be also be shown on the night. Cert 15A for I'm Your Man. Admission €7 cash (No card payment available).

IRELAND LIGHTS UP

Ireland Lights Up is continuing from 6.30pm to 8.30pm week nights in the G.A.A. pitch.

MEMBERSHIP

Club membership for 2025 is now open. Prices are: Family with 2 Adult family members using gym is €100. Individual gym and Club is €100. Senior player €100. Student €60. OAP couple from same family €60. Ladies LGFA membership prices will be available shortly.

For more information, please contact Patie AT 087 2515311

SOCIAL DANCING In Spa G.A.A. Clubhouse, Killarney on Tuesdays for four weeks from 7.45pm to 9pm. For bookings, please call/text 087 7541631

LISTRY

Written by: Colette Leslie

LOTTO

Jackpot €7,050. Winning Numbers 6, 10, 20, 21. Not Won. €100 Cathriona O'Donoghue, Lissivane. €50 Neilloagdh Kennedy, Lahard. €50 John Rice, Kilbonane (annual). €25 Lorraine Kennedy, Ballymalis (online). €25 Lorraine Kennedy,

Ballymalis (online). Jackpot next week : €7,200. Next Draw: February 9th

AWARDS NIGHT

Listry annual awards night takes place Friday February 14th at 9.30pm in Faha court Pavilion.

SPA

email pro.spa.kerry@gaa.ie

SPA AWARDS NIGHT

Our Annual Awards Night takes place on Saturday 8th February in Hilliards from 7pm. Enjoy a night spent celebrating our honourable members, good food and entertainment.

SCOR

Scór na bpaisti (primary school age children) and Scór sinsir (over 17) competitions will be commencing shortly. If anyone is interested please contact the scór officer Michael Aherne at 087 1877091 before the 16th February

2025 REGISTRATION IS

NOW OPEN

Registration is available on the Spa website via Clubforce or on foireann.ie

Deirdre and Ger will also be in Spa every Monday night for the next few weeks from 7.30-8.30pm to assist with registration for the coming year

NOTE all gym fobs will be deactivated as of 31st January. These will be reactivated after membership for the coming year is confirmed.

DANCE! DANCE! DANCE!

COMMUNITY HALL, MILLTOWN, KILLARNEY V93ET62

SUNDAY AFTERNOON 9TH FEBRUARY

Eddie Lee Band



SUNDAY AFTERNOON 16TH FEBRUARY



Peter Burke

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John Joe Dance

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41 NEW STREET, KILLARNEY

Wonderful opportunity to purchase a traditional town centre townhouse with five bedrooms within walking distance of all town centre amenities. Rare opportunity to purchase a residence on New Street with a large garden.

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BER: D1

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Contact Donal Culloty
064 6631274/087 2354790

RATHMORE GNEEVEGUILLA

By Michael O' Mahony

MARIAN PLAYERS RATHMORE PANTO presented Snow White and the 7 Dwarfs at Rathmore Community Centre. All proceeds to Kerry Parents & Friend Association. It was great success great credit to everyone involved held last week.

SHARE THE BUCKET

Gneeveguilla Community Facility Group reminds you that Share the Bucket takes place weekly. The draw is every Friday evening in Teach Fáilte @8.30 pm and can be viewed live on our Gneeveguilla Community Facility Group Facebook Page. This week's jackpot was €209 and the winner was Sheila O'Donoghue. Tickets cost €2 each or 3 for €5. They are available at Teach Fáilte and can be bought online at <https://tinyurl.com/y2ade5om>. or in local businesses where you see the Green Share the bucket.

DIVINE MERCY

The Divine Mercy will be celebrated in the Church of the Holy Rosary Gneeveguilla on this Friday Feb 7th @3pm

DIOCESAN COLLECTION

The annual collection for the Lourdes Helpers will take place this weekend 8th/9th February. Your support appreciated

TUREENCAHILL ACTIVE RETIREMENT

We are delighted to recommence our meetings on 31st January. We currently have 47 members and encourage anyone retired or with time on your hands to join. We meet every Friday in Tureencahill Community Centre at 12.30 to 1.30pm and enjoy different activities every Friday ranging from Art, Knitting, Singing, Exercises, card playing and always having the cuppa, etc. We also enjoy many day tours during the year and sometimes an overnight stay. We also avail of the Local Link Bus who will collect you at your house and drop you home again. A fantastic service. Membership for the year is €23 and €5 each Friday to cover rent and other expenses. We would encourage anyone especially people living on their own to come along and enjoy the fun atmosphere and wonderful friendship being part of this group. Do come along any Friday and join. Us your welcome

MEENTOGUES NS

Enrolment of New Pupils Enrolment Application Forms for September 2025 are available from the School and on the School website www.meentoguesns.ie | (064) 7754500 | meentogues@gmail.com

GNEEVEGUILLA LADIES GAA COMMITTEE

Celebrating 40 years of History, Heritage & Success. Mass of Thanksgiving for the past four decades will be celebrated on Friday February 28th at 7p.m. in The Church of the Holy Rosary, Gneeveguilla. Followed by refreshments and entertainment in The Club Bar. Everybody welcome to celebrate and honour this huge milestone and share in the memories of the past 40 years

NOTES

If you would like to add to the notes please email Michael O'Mahony (momahony14@gmail.com) or ring or text 087-6676817 before 6pm Sunday



Sumamah Haider, Leaving Cert 2024 student in Scoil Phobail Sliabh Luachra was selected for an Entrance Exhibition Award from Trinity College Dublin in recognition of his exceptional performance in his Leaving Certificate State Examinations. Sumamah is studying Computers and Business and received his award on Thursday 23rd January 2025. The school community is very proud of Sumamah on this academic success and congratulate him on this remarkable achievement. He is pictured here with principal, Mairéad Lucey and deputy principal, Maria Hanrahan.



The Bridge Bar Rathmore New Years Day walk. Presentation to Kerry Hospice and Recovery Haven Kerry. Thanks to everyone who supported the walk.

BEAUFORT

By Bridget Hartnett

FIXTURES

Good luck to Beaufort senior men and management as they will begin their playing season away to Laune Rangers B on Sunday, 9th February. Time to be decided.

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MONEY MATTERS.....

By Dermot Cronin,
Financial Advisor



DO YOU HAVE AN EXISTING PENSION?

If so, there is some very important information that you need to know about your pension, such as...

- What is the present value of your pension?
- What funds is your pension invested in and what is the risk level of these funds?
- Who manages your pension and how much are you being charged to manage your pension?
- When can you access your pension?

These are just some of the important questions you need to know the answers to. You need this information in order to check and compare your pension to what is available in the market place today from pension companies who may be able to get you a better return for your money and therefore getting you a higher lump sum and income on retirement. So whether your pension is from your present employment, an ex employer, you were self employed in the past or are self employed now it is very important that you have your pension reviewed and assessed by a financial advisor.

For more information or to make an appointment to discuss the above or any other query you have contact Dermot Cronin QFA, at 064 6622775, or dermotcroninifa@gmail.com

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was €16.99/kg

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- SuperValu Granny Smith Apple Tray 6pc was €1.89 - **79c EACH**
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- SuperValu Signature Tastes Sweet Pointed Red Pepper 2pc - **€1.49**
- SuperValu Mild Onions Net 3pc was €1.49
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€3

Dairygold Original/Lighter Spread 454g - €6.61/kg was €3.59

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Pot Noodle Selected Range 90g
Non Real Rewards Price: €16.67/kg

€3.25
NON REAL REWARDS PRICE

3 FOR €5
REAL REWARDS PRICE

+ 26c Deposit Each

Coca-Cola Original Bottle 2ltr
Non Real Rewards Price: €1.63/ltr

€3
NON REAL REWARDS PRICE

was €5.99

€2.50
REAL REWARDS PRICE

Cadbury Chocolate/Raspberry Mini Rolls
10 Pack 265g - 275g
Non Real Rewards Price: €11.32/kg - €10.91/kg
Real Rewards Price: €9.43/kg - €9.09/kg

2 FOR €5
MIX & MATCH

+ 25c Deposit Each

Pepsi/7Up/Club Selected Range 1.75ltr - 2ltr
(Details In-store or Online)

€3
EACH

Cadbury 4 - 5 Pack Bars Selected Range
80g - 152g, €37.50/kg - €19.74/kg

ONLY €3

Barry's Original Blend 80s Teabags
250g - €12/kg

€4
EACH

Hellmann's Light/Real
Mayonnaise Selected Range
580ml - 600g, €6.90/ltr - €6.67/kg

€4.50
EACH

L'Oréal Elvive Shampoo &
Conditioner Selected Range
300ml - 400ml,
€15/ltr - €11.25/ltr

€2.50
EACH

Batchelors Selected Range
800g - 840g, €3.13/kg - €2.98/kg

2 FOR €2.50
MIX & MATCH

€1.89 Each
Knorr Multipack Packet Soups
Selected Range 43g - 78g,
€43.95/kg - €24.23/kg

FROM €2

€2 Ben's Original Ready To
Heat Selected Range 220g -
€9.09/kg, €3 Ben's Original
Jars Selected Range 400g -
450g, €7.50/kg - €6.67/kg

2 FOR €1.50
MIX & MATCH

€1.30 Each
Blue Dragon Stir Fry Sauce
Selected Range 120g - €10.83/kg



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Noreen

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When you sleep on your side or stomach your face stretches against your pillow causing the skin to fold and crease. These disappear quickly on young skin. Over time this stretching break collagen and elastin fibres in the skin causing lines that become permanent wrinkles. Some models and actors sleep on their back to maintain their looks.

If you find it difficult to sleep on your back do not sacrifice a good night's sleep as this will be more damaging to your skin. Explore different sleeping positions and invest in a silk pillowcase




to allow your skin slide instead of stretching against the pillow. There are special pillows and masks to support your face while you sleep.

Try to massage your face when you wake up and exercise to increase blood flow to your face and body. Apply a cold compress or tea bags to the eyes to stimulate and plump your skin.

Noreen Mangan

Tel: 0646630712

www.whatwomenwant.ie



ASTRID LONGHURST
Life, Inspiration & Body Confidence Coach/Author

GET THAT SPRING FEELING

I always love it when there is a stretch to the days. There is a bubble of excitement that Spring is on her way, bringing more light, more hope and a renewed sense of wonder. We have come through the winter and we can now look forward to more possibilities and new beginnings. How we feel is important to our health and wellbeing and the Spring months are vital to our renewed sense of vitality. The key is to be able to cultivate these positive feelings every day of our life. Here are some lovely ideas to keep that Spring feeling alive each and every day.

- If you can, get outside in the morning in the early light of day. This is fabulous to boost your levels of Vitamin D.
- Spend more time in nature. This has been shown to have a healing effect.
- Spend time observing the flowers and new buds that are beginning to open. Rejoice in the sense of new life returning to the land.
- Clear out anything that does not serve you or make you feel light, free or joyous.
- Add more colourful foods to your plate.
- Wear brighter colours. Colour has a powerful impact on the way that we feel.


Happy Spring everyone! Follow me on Instagram @romancingyourbody

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DEBUNKING MYTHS ABOUT WOMEN AND STRENGTH TRAINING

For far too long, women have been discouraged from lifting weights due to common stereotypes and misconceptions. Many believe that strength training is only for men, or that it will make women look bulky and unfeminine. However, these myths couldn't be further from the truth. In this blog post, we'll break down the most common myths surrounding women and strength training, and provide encouragement for women of all ages and body types to start their strength training journey.

Myth 1: Lifting Weights Makes Women Bulky

One of the most pervasive myths about women and strength training is that lifting weights will make them bulky. This couldn't be further from the truth. Women naturally have lower levels of testosterone, which makes it much harder for them to build significant amounts of muscle mass. In fact, women who strength train regularly often experience a more toned and lean physique, rather than a bulky one. With a well-structured workout routine and a balanced diet, women can achieve a strong and toned body without the fear of becoming too muscular.

Myth 2: Cardio is Better for Weight Loss Than Strength Training

Another myth that needs to be debunked is that cardio is better for weight loss than strength training. While cardio exercises such as running, cycling, and swimming are great for burning calories, they don't provide the same long-term benefits as strength training. Strength training not only helps build muscle mass, but it also increases metabolism, which can lead to sustained weight loss over time. Additionally, strength training can help improve bone density, which is especially important for women as they age. (Continued next week)

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GLAUCOMA

WHAT IS GLAUCOMA?
 Glaucoma is the name given to a group of eye conditions where the optic nerve at the back of the eye is damaged. It is often linked with raised pressure within the eye, although the eye pressure can sometimes be normal. When the nerve is damaged, it can start to cause problems with the peripheral vision (side vision) and, if left untreated, can cause permanent damage. With early treatment, further damage to vision can be prevented. Glaucoma may not have symptoms and this is why it is very important to have regular sight tests.


Risk factors
 Age is the biggest risk factor for glaucoma. However, your risk also increases if you have family members with glaucoma

Symptoms
 The danger with open-angle or chronic glaucoma (slow onset)

is that, in the early stages, your eyesight may seem perfectly normal. There is no pain, but your peripheral vision (side vision) is being damaged. Eventually your central vision can be affected. This can be described as tunnel vision because it feels like looking down a long tube. It's important to have regular sight tests as open angle glaucoma often does not have symptoms.

TREATMENT
 Open-angle glaucoma is usually treated with eye drops which reduce the pressure in the eye. You will need to use these daily. Occasionally people with open-angle glaucoma need surgery to control the pressure.

For more information and honest advice contact us for an appointment.



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Students from Furies National School pictured with their tributes to Bridie O'Grady as she closes her shop in Furies Village.


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BEAUFORT PROJECTS

Kerry's newest County Councillor, Fianna Fáil's Tommy Cahill, was today delighted to announce that the long awaited repair and refurbishment of the road from Beaufort Bridge to just beyond the junction with the Beaufort Bar, has now been completed. This is a top tarmacadam finish partially funded by Uisce Éireann.

"I'm delighted that my first welcome as Councillor is for the refurbishment of the road from the Beaufort Bridge to the Beaufort Bar junction. This is a project that my father, Deputy Michael Cahill as a Councillor pushed hard for the people of Beaufort as the road was left in a terrible state following pipe replacement work there" stated

Councillor Tommy Cahill.

"I am delighted as well that works have already commenced on the extension to Churchtown Burial Ground, also in Beaufort and are currently ongoing. Another project that my Dad was deeply involved in, facilitating mediation meetings between the landowner and Kerry County Council, etc, which ensured that the people of Beaufort can continue to have the remains of their deceased loved ones buried in their home parish. This is a huge relief to all residents in Beaufort" said Councillor Cahill.

"All in all, this is great news for Beaufort" added the local Councillor.

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 **FIANNA FÁIL**
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MEP Kelly: Storm Éowyn Highlights Need for Reform of Forestry Licensing for Windblown Trees

Seán Kelly, MEP for Ireland South and Leader of the Fine Gael Delegation in the European Parliament, has called for urgent reforms to Ireland's forestry licensing system to ensure a more reactive approach to dealing with windblown trees.

"Ireland's forestry sector is already facing significant challenges, and the slow licensing process for clearing windblown trees is not helping matters," Kelly stated.

"Storms like Éowyn have caused widespread damage to forests across the country, but current regulations are preventing forest owners from acting swiftly to salvage valuable timber and protect their woodlands."

Under the current system, a felling licence is required to clear windblown trees, a process that can take years to secure. Additionally, if a forest road is needed to extract the fallen trees, another licence is required, further delaying recovery efforts. "This is unworkable" Kelly stressed. "By the time a licence is granted, much of the fallen timber has already rotted, leading to unnecessary economic losses for forest owners."

Kelly warned that delays in removing windblown trees could have serious consequences beyond financial loss. "When trees are uprooted and left in place, they create a domino effect, pulling down surrounding trees and causing further destruction. On top

of that, precariously positioned trees pose a real danger to people walking in or working around these forests," he said.

To address these issues, Kelly is calling for an expedited licensing process that allows for the rapid felling and removal of windblown trees. "We need a fast-track system that enables forest owners to act quickly after a storm," he said. "Other European countries take immediate action to clear fallen trees – Ireland needs to do the same."

Kelly also emphasised the importance of a streamlined process for replanting. "Forests play a crucial role in our fight against climate change, and when trees are lost due to storms, they must be replaced as soon as possible. A more efficient planting licensing system is essential."

As extreme weather events become more frequent due to climate change, Kelly insists that action is needed now. "If we're serious about supporting forestry in Ireland, we must reform the licensing system to allow forest owners to react when disaster strikes. We have a new government in place, who have committed to reviewing the forestry appeals process. As part of this, the procedures for licensing of windblown trees should also be updated. We should not let the opportunity go to waste."

Killarney Primary Care Centre

The Minister for Health has responded to Kerry Fianna Fáil TD, Michael Cahill's query on what progress has been made on the delivery of a Primary Care Health Centre in Killarney, stating that the Health Service Executive (HSE) and Kerry County Council (KCC) have a joint venture planning application for the development of the Áras Pádraig site in the town. The Minister also states that construction should be completed within 3 years, if planning is obtained.

"This will be a major step forward for the people of Killarney and the surrounding hinterland of East and Mid Kerry. The Minister also expects to have an interim facility in place in 10 to 12 months, in the grounds of the old St Finan's Hospital" said Deputy Cahill.

"I am delighted to see this progress and I believe that its delivery will have the knock-on affect of easing pressure of overcrowding and queues in University Hospital Kerry and will bring a more efficient Health service to the people of Kerry" added Michael Cahill TD.



DANNY HEALY-RAE TD



Cllr MAURA
HEALY-RAE

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Danny Healy Rae TD - Monthly Clinics

1st Monday

8:15 PM
8:30 PM
9:00 PM
9:30 PM

Rathmore & Gneeveguilla

Top of the Hill, Rathmore
Bridge Bar, Rathmore
Dennehy's Bar, Rathmore
Richie McAuliffe's, Gneeveguilla

3rd Friday

7:30 PM
8:00 PM
8:15 PM
9:00 PM
9:30 PM

Castleisland Area

River Island Hotel, Castleisland
The Kingdom Bar, Castleisland
The Crown Hotel, Castleisland
Hughes Bar, Cordal
Lyon's Bar, Scartaglen

1st Wednesday

8:00 PM
8:30 PM
9:00 PM
9:30 PM

Killarney Area

Torc Hotel, Lissivigeen
The Village Inn, Kilcummin
Old Killarney Inn, Aghadoe
The Golden Nugget, Fossa

4th Thursday

7:00 PM
7:30 PM
8:15 PM
8:45 PM
9:15 PM
9:45 PM

Killorglin Area

Golden Nugget, Fossa
Galvin's Bar, Beaufort
O'Grady's Bar, Killorglin
Larkin's Bar, Milltown
Griffins Bar, Castlemaine
Anvil Bar, Boolteens

1st Thursday

8:30 PM
9:00 PM
9:30 PM
10:00 PM

Glenflesk & Barraduff

The Kerry Way, Glenflesk
Spillane's Headford
Murphy's Bar, Barraduff
Sweeney's Bar, Barraduff

4th Friday

8:30 PM
9:30 PM
10:00 PM
10:45 PM

Kenmare & Sneem Area

The Roughty bar, Kenmare
Riney's Bar, Sneem
Blackwater Tavern
O'Connor's Bar Kenmare

1st Friday

9:30 PM
10:00 PM
10:30 PM

Tuosist & Lauragh

Sailors Bar, Killaha West
Helen's Bar Kilmacalogue
The Lake House Tuosist

Last Monday

8:00 PM
8:30 PM
9:00 PM
10:00 PM

Farranfore Area

Ulick's Bar, Farranfore
James Daly's Bar, Farranfore
Cunniffe's Bar, Currow
John Hendersons, Furies

3rd Monday

8:30 PM
9:00 PM
9:30 PM
9:45 PM

Knocknagoshel & Brosna

O'Connor's Bar, Knocknagoshel
Walsh's Bar, Knocknagoshel
Kate Pat's Bar, Brosna
Sportsfield Bar, Brosna

PASSPORTS

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PLEASE CONTACT

Danny 087 2316055 Office 064 6685315

Maura 087 7816432 Johnny 087 2354793 Eileen 087 9975419

Email: danny.healyrae@oireachtas.ie | johnnyhealyrae@gmail.com | maurahealyrae@gmail.com

KILLARNEY COUGARS BASKETBALL**JUVENILE NEWS**

A busy week of games saw road trips to Dingle, Tralee, Rathmore, Farranfore and Miltown.

Our young Academy Boys & Girls were in Miltown on Saturday afternoon, Thanks to St Colman's for hosting us we look forward to the return games later this month.

U14 GIRLS KERRY LEAGUE**St Anne's 20 Killarney Cougars 50**

A confident U13 girls travelled to Farranfore and produced another win to go too of the league with a strong team performance by Maria Avila, Aoife Coffey, Mia Cox, Avery Lemass, Elisa Mosca, Emma Moynihan, Doireann O'Connor and Regan O'Shea.

U18 BOYS KERRY LEAGUE**Killarney Cougars 57 Kenmare Kestrels 51**

An important win in the league last Thursday in a good contest. Dylan Bowler and Evan Cox contributed the majority of the scores between them. Jack Spillane got countless rebounds and AC Padrillon had some superb assists to secure the win.

U14 BOYS DIV 1 CUP**Killarney cougars 50 St Brendans 36**

The U14 boys continued there impressive run of form in what was doubled up League and Cup game at the Presentation Gym.

The first half belonged to the visitors and at halftime St Brendans led 23-17.

As the third started Cougars found themselves down 9 points early on and facing a massive fight, and the Cougars did respond and started to take control, the defence tightened and the scores came with a massive performances from Ryan Lynch, Mark O'Connor, James Rooney and Dara O'Sullivan

Another win and although not at their best the team produced plenty of fight to come back.

SENIOR NEWS**Basketball Ireland National League Division 1****Killarney Cougars 82 Tipp Talons 90**

Top scorers

Cougars: Ben Todd 20, Joshua Strongman 20, Iyan Hristov 20, Nathan Cox 11, Andrew Fitzgerald 8

Talons: Joshua Reynolds 35, Niall Walsh 26, Justin Wickham 9, Miles Felletti O'Donnell 8

Killarney Cougars 66 Portlaoise Panthers 105

Top scorers

Cougars: Joshua Strongman 27, Ben Todd 13,



Killarney Swimming Club Members Aideen Casey, bronze medal, and Cora Sheehan, bronze medal.

Adam Linehan 8

Panthers: Eric Anderson 21, James Phelan 17, Davin McEvoy 16

FIXTURE

Basketball Ireland National League Division 1, Saturday February 8th

Killarney Cougars v Tolka Rovers

7.30pm at the Presentation Gym.

WORKMENS ROWING CLUB

Our annual Church gate collection was held last weekend in all Killarney town churches. We would like to thank all for their contributions for the club.

This is a very important fundraiser for the club as it's our main funding source for the year. All contributions gratefully appreciated.

A big congratulations and well done to Aoibhinn Coffey who received her Gold Gaisce Award in November 2024 from our President Michael D Higgins at Áras an Uachtaráin.

Having worked her way through Bronze and Silver awards since Transition Year in Killorglin Community College, her chosen physical recreation was rowing.

Workmen's Rowing Club helped and supported her to achieve her 3 awards. Since receiving her Gold Award, Aoibhinn has become one of the first Gaisce Youth Ambassadors in Kerry. Aoibhinn hopes to encourage and guide other young people to partake in the Gaisce by sharing her experience.

Training continues as usual for all members.

KILLARNEY SWIMMING CLUB

Members of the Development and Junior Squads travelled to Ennis at the weekend to compete in the Future Challenger Gala. The club came home with 4 medals, personal bests and future challenger bands.

Results: Nina O'Mahony 1st 50 Back, Aideen Casey 3rd 100IM, Derbhla Kiely 3rd 50 Back, Cora Sheehan 3rd 100 IM.

Aiden Casey, Cora Sheehan and Juan Avila received bands for achieving specific times in their events.

Well done to our young swimmers on a fantastic day of racing.

FOSSA BRIDGE CLUB

We held our annual fundraiser event on the



Killarney Cougars U13 Girls in Farranfore

30th January and President Pauline choice the very worthy "First Responders" as her chosen charity.

The Killarney Cardiac Response Unit (KCRU) is a voluntary Community First Responder Scheme of approximately 40 volunteers, from all sectors of society, who respond to 999/112 emergency incidents in conjunction with and under the direction of the National Ambulance Service.

We had a very large turnout for this event and all proceeds will go directly to this charity. Well done to the following winners on the day.

N/S

1st: Pauline Lyne & Phyllis O'Regan

2nd: Finola Spillane & Ger Foley

3rd: Maureen Culloty & Mary Murray

E/W

1st: Joan King & Maura G Moynihan

2nd: Peggy Barrett & Maire O'Sullivan

3rd: Ann Wrenn & Michael McHugh

Bridge continues every Thursday morning at 10am at The Killarney Golf & Fishing Club

KILLARNEY VALLEY AC

Last weekend Killarney valley ac had provincial and international successes from members!

From New Mexico with Oisín Lynch in the medley relay with Adam's state college in Colorado, to Boston with Mollie O'Riordan in the 400m in a time of 59.63 and finished 2nd in her race in a packed Boston university stadium where she set a new PB, to Ghent in Belgium with Sarah Leahy




Killarney Swimming Club Members Derbhla Kiely, Aideen Casey, Nina O'Mahony, Aoibhinn Creedon, Cora Sheehan, Ronan O'Leary, Kyrylo Lutchenko.



Aoibhinn Coffey who received her Gold Gaisce Award in November 2024 from our President Michael D Higgins at Áras an Uachtaráin.

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in the 60m in 7.42 seconds on the Grand Prix circuit and to Nenagh with the team at the junior senior and Master's Munster championships. Some great achievements from the team at the provincial indoor championships with a notable double success for Keelie O'Connor winning both the 60m and 200m in the senior women's achieving a sprint double success.

All eyes this Saturday are on Athlone indoor arena where both the women's senior team and men's senior team compete in the national indoor league. Both teams are doing exceptionally well verses the top clubs in the country.

On the weekend of the 22nd of February Sarah Leahy will be at the national indoor senior championships competing in the 60m. Sarah won in 2023 and was on the podium in 2024 also.

In one of the hottest races at these championships, Sarah will be attempting to win the event for a 2nd time in two years an incredible feat if she can achieve her ambition.

KILLARNEY RUGBY CLUB

STRONG PERFORMANCES ACROSS THE CLUB

Killarney RFC teams were in action across multiple age groups last weekend, delivering impressive results on the pitch.

The Senior Men's team put on a dominant display at Aghadoe, securing a comprehensive 76-0 victory over Douglas RFC in the Munster Junior League Division 3. The squad showcased an outstanding attacking performance, running in multiple tries while maintaining a rock-solid defensive effort to keep their opponents scoreless.

On Saturday, the U14 Boys continued their Munster Bowl campaign with a well-earned 22-5 win over Thomond-Richmond in Group 2. Playing in Aghadoe, the young side put in a spirited performance, showing great teamwork and determination to claim the victory.

On Monday, the U16 Boys faced a tough challenge in the Munster Cup Group 1 clash against Kilrush RFC at the University of Limerick. After one of the fastest tries in Killarney RFC (scored after 12 seconds), they built on that to a deserved 26-10 victory.

MINI RUGBY CONTINUES TO GROW

Killarney RFC's mini rugby program continues to go from strength to strength, with fantastic numbers at training on Saturday mornings. The club is delighted to see so many young players enjoying their rugby, developing their skills, and making new friends. New players are always welcome – training takes place at 9:45am at Aghadoe.

U16/U18 GIRLS PREPARING FOR TOUR

Preparations are well underway for the U16/U18 Girls' Easter Tour. Fundraising efforts continue, and a big thank you goes out to all who supported recent events. More details on upcoming fundraisers will be shared soon—stay tuned!

With plenty of action on the pitch and exciting events off it, Killarney RFC continues to build momentum across all levels. Best of luck to all teams in the coming weeks!



Mollie O'Riordan, Oisín Lynch and Sarah Leahy Killarney Valley AC



Double Munster Indoor Senior Sprint champion 60m and 200m Keelie O'Connor



Killarney U16S Boys Rugby Team after Victory over Kilrush at UL 4G pitch



Kerry Badminton inter county team

KILLARNEY BADMINTON CLUB

Division 1, 3 and 5 Kerry singles championship finals took place last Friday night in Trale.

Great competitive games but Killarney lost out in both div1 and div3 finals after hard fought games. Well done to Rahad Rahman and Sinead Galvin and to all from our club who competed on the night.

On Sunday all eyes turned to Cappoquin where some of our members represented Kerry in Munster inter county. With 4 teams competing it was a long day and Kerry ended up with silver medals on the day narrowly losing out to Cork. Well done Jennifer Keane, Niamh Hickey and

Sinead Galvin.

While senior competition championships started on Fri as did the juveniles also in Killarney on Saturday... a few notable performances for Killarney club on the day

UPCOMING COMPETITIONS

This Sunday the inter county grade h&g and ds are on, we have numerous players competing in all these competitions, good luck to all.

Irish national Masters also taking part this weekend in Baldoye Dublin... good luck to Sinead Galvin and all Kerry players competing. Numerous mixed league matches taking place this week results to follow.



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DEERPARK PITCH AND PUTT

ST BRIGID'S BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND RESULTS

Sunday - Two Ball Scramble - First Nett: Robbie O'Brien & Niall O'Loughlin 35½
Gross: Gearóid Cronin & Sean O'Brien 43
Second Nett: John Looney & Denis Duggan 36 and Hole-In-One: James Foley (15th Hole).
Monday - Two Ball Betterball- First Nett: Niall O'Loughlin & Dan Kiely 38½
Gross: Ger Casey & John Looney 47
Second Nett: Ger Casey & James Foley 39 and Hole-In-One: Sean Ashe (8th Hole).

SATURDAY ACCESS

We wish to advise everyone that due to the staging of both the Corn Ui Mhuiri final in Dr Crokes on Saturday at 12pm followed by the staging of the refixed Kerry v Donegal game in Fitzgerald Stadium afterwards that access to the course may be restricted on the day.

MEMBERSHIP

Please note that membership for 2025 will be due as of March 1st next. Prices the same as last year: Single Adult - €150, OAP - €100, Juvenile-€80, Family - €300. Club Registrar Bobby Kelly will be available over the coming weeks after the Sunday morning Fourballs for anyone wishing to sign up for the year.

DEEPEST SYMPATHIES to our Chairman Sean Kelly, his wife Anne and family on the death of Anne's brother John in London in the past week. May he Rest in Peace.

ROSS GOLF CLUB

RESULTS

On February 3rd our Captains Elaine Casey and Peter Wickham and President Betty Farrell held their Drive-in and this was followed by a mixed scramble.

We had a very large turnout for the scramble in fairly good weather conditions and this was followed by the prizegiving and some food in the Clubhouse. It was a great social event with lots of golf analysis, talk and banter so a good time was enjoyed by all.

The scramble winners were :-

- 1st: Michael J O'Sullivan, Lucas Cronin, Kathleen Fitzgerald, Seamus McCarthy.
- 2nd: John Cuskelly, Mary McCarrick, Maurice Coffey, Ger Scott.
- 3rd: Alan Flynn, Therese O'Keeffe, Andy Cole, Ned Buckley.
- 4th: Terence Mulcahy, Peg Wickham, Michael Barrett, Jim Delaney
- 5th: Jordanas Jonikaitis, Daniel Murphy, Bridie Brosnan, Dermot O'Connor.

On February 2nd we held a 12 hole stableford competition

The winners were :-

- 1st: DJ Hayes 28 (9)
- 2nd: John Cuskelly 25 (9)
- 3rd: Dan Cronin 24 (7)
- 4th: Seamus McCarthy 24 (13)
- 5th: Brendan Collins 24 (14)

On Thursday Jan 30th our Seniors held their weekly 9 hole competition.

The winners were :-

- 1st: John Hurley 21 pts
- 2nd: Denis Desmond 19 pts
- 3rd: MJ Casey 16pts



President Betty Farrell, Captain Peter Wickham and Lady Captain Elaine Casey accompanied by a large group of Ross GC members at the Drive-in on Monday last.



The Drive-in Scramble winners :-

Back (l to r) M J O'Sullivan, Lucas Cronin, Ivo O'Sullivan, Fexco- Sponsor.

Front (l to r) Gents Captain Peter Wickham, Lady Captain Elaine Casey, Seamus McCarthy, Kathleen Fitzgerald, Betty Farrell, President



Pictured from left to right Mary Moynihan, Elaine Casey & Jennifer Nash winners of Ross Ladies scramble Saturday 1st February.

4th: Ned Buckley 16 pts

ROSS LADIES GOLF CLUB

RESULTS

LADIES SCRAMBLE 1ST FEBRUARY 2025

The weather was on our side for our first scramble of the year. Congratulations to the winning team Mary Moynihan, Jennifer Nash & Elaine Casey.

COMPETITIONS

Saturday 8th February 2025, 9 & 18 hole Single Stableford Competition

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS MEET & PLAY

Meet and play every Wednesday morning. Meet in the Club House 10.00am tee off 10.30am. All members welcome.

GOLF LESSONS

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SCOTTS LAKERS VS MOYCULLEN REPORT
MENS BASKETBALL LEAGUE
MONDAY FEBRUARY 3RD
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY KINGFISHER
GYM

MOYCULLEN 65 SCOTTS LAKERS 47

Report by Enda Walshe

There is no way of sugar coating this result. It was a tough day in the office for Scotts Lakers. Minus the services of Darnell Snyers due to an injury picked up the Saturday night previous against the Carrick Cruisers, his contribution was certainly missed and one hopes he'll be fit and ready as soon as possible. What was always going to be a tricky assignment against a team who had served their time in the Superleague was made all the harder by a "quartam horribilis" where anything that could go wrong did in the second period.

Leading by 20-19 early in the second quarter, having weathered an early Moycullen storm, things started to go pear shaped when Mikah Blackwell, Abdul Oladipupo and Jack O Sullivan were all on three fouls, which of course necessitated a sit down. The next five minutes saw Moycullen embark on a 19-0 scoring run with Aitor Perez being the tormentor in chief. By the time Eoin Carroll had registered the Lakers first basket in what seemed like an eternity they were 38-22 in arrears.

It was a disappointing end to a half where the Lakers recovered from a poor start to get themselves back in the contest. Aitor Perez and Grant Ollson made a bright start for the hosts, drawing fouls from the Lakers defence but not capitalising on it from the free throw line. They led 10-2 but Oladipupo and Blackwell reeled them in to close the gap to 14-12. Rui Saravia, Jamie O Sullivan and Oisin Spring were all sprung from the bench during the quarter and when Rui Saravia weaved in for a score it left the Lakers only in arrears due to an Ollson three. Oladipupo and Blackwell started the second quarter on the front foot but everything started to fall into a black hole thereafter and the subsequent minutes saw them head for the locker rooms with a mountain to climb.

To be fair the Lakers dusted themselves down with Mark Sheehan, Jack O Sullivan, Blackwell and Oladipupo netting and with the defence getting some joy the lead was whittled down to 12, 42-30. One of the byproducts of the foul trouble the Lakers found themselves in is they had to walk a tightrope and this was reflected in the fact that they gave up no foul in the third quarter. Moycullen were doing just enough to mind the gap with Ollson,

Cian Walsh and Perez helping to make it a 52-37 scoreline at the three quarters stage.

Jamie O Sullivan hit an early three but Moycullen young gun Cian Walsh put the game to bed with two of his own and in a low scoring quarter that really put the tin hat on it. Eoin Carroll and Mark Sheehan battled away in the absence of Blackwell who now had four fouls and a hand injury to compound matters. The game petered out with Moycullen running out 65-47 winners.

At this stage of the season with nine wins from their fifteen games the Lakers find themselves exactly where they would want to be in the race for the playoffs.

Its probably best to shelve this weekend and concentrate on their remaining fixtures starting with an away trip to Donegal to face Team North West. They sit with six wins, highlighted by a 90-81 win over the Dublin Lions, and so will provide the Lakers with a stern test for a bounce back. Tip off this Saturday February 5th in ATU Donegal is at 5pm.

Scorers: Mikah Blackwell 13, Abdul Oladipupo 12, Eoin Carroll 8, Mark Sheehan 5, Jack O Sullivan 4, Jamie O Sullivan 3, Rui Saravia 2, Oisin Spring.

Moycullen were best served by Grant Ollson with 24, Aitor Perez 17 and Cian Walsh with 10.

SCOTTS LAKERS VS CARRICK CRUISERS
REPORT

**MEN'S BASKETBALL LEAGUE
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 1ST
KILLARNEY SPORTS AND LEISURE CENTRE**

SCOTTS LAKERS 73 CARRICK CRUISERS 80

Report by Enda Walshe

Carrick Cruisers made their first visit to Killarney a memorable one as they travelled back north with the points after a hard fought win over Scotts Lakers. Although light on wins the Cruisers have proved themselves to be obdurate opponents, a fact the Lakers can now attest to. The Monaghan side had some outstanding performances, none more so than Benyi Gomez who ran the show from the point guard position. Martin Provizors and Danas Smigelskis were towers of strength with Shamus Kahl finding the most opportune times to contribute.

Coach Manuel Suarez will be disappointed with the Lakers display which never really got going. You could argue that an early injury to Darnell Snyers didn't help the cause. The Belgian limped out early in the game, did return but you could see the injury was curtailing him. At various stages it looked like

the Lakers would take control of the game but anytime they took the initiative they failed to drive home the advantage against a dogged opponent. The tone was set in the first quarter as the concession of 28 points meant they spent the majority of the game chasing it.

Gustas Pocevicus had the honour of scoring the Cruisers first ever points in Killarney but that was immediately answered by Mikah Blackwell. Abdul Oladipupo lively throughout, threw in a three, quickly followed by a Snyers bucket. It was in the act of scoring that Snyers landed awkwardly and Gomez and Killian McAdam soon had their side back on terms. Blackwell showed his prowess from beyond the arc twice in quick succession and when Eoin Carroll nipped in for a basket it gave the Lakers a 15-9 advantage. McAdam was at it again and the imposing Smigelskis followed suit to tighten up the game. The Lakers were starting to struggle on offence with the Cruisers prospering they led 28-20 at the end of the first.

The Lakers needed a good start to the second quarter and Mark Sheehan supplied that with a three. But the Cruisers were punching holes in their defence with Smigelskis and Pocevicus reaping the rewards. Snyers was still contributing but it was Oladipupo who was providing the inspiration with some great work. Sheehan gave him good support and together they squeezed up the game to 42-37 at the end of the half.

The Lakers emerged from the changing rooms a different beast with Eoin Carroll particularly effective. Alongside Sheehan and Snyers they helped to put the Lakers 47-44 clear. It was at this stage that the home side looked to take control but they were burdened by some offensive deficiencies. They succeeded in getting some good stops in but the lack of reward at the other end had the effect of keeping the Cruisers in the game. Provizors and Pocevicus got the encouragement to push the Cruisers clear and when Gomez stole in for a three point play they were now seven clear. Oladipupo and Blackwell got the Lakers back within touching distance with Jack O Sullivan temporarily tying up the game. Carroll and Provizors swapped points from the free throw line but it was a basket from Danas Smigelskis that was the difference at the three quarters stage.

The visitors made a fast start to the final period with Pocevicus, Kahl and Gomez pushing them eight clear, 66-58. Again the Lakers roused themselves with Oladipupo and Snyers netting. Blackwell raced in to stuff it home with an unsportsmanlike foul called on Gomez. He subsequently sank the resultant free throw and with possession back Carroll wriggled in to level the game at



66 each. Kahl and Snyers exchanged points before Blackwell again put the Lakers in front, 70-68 and four minutes to go. But the Cruisers sensing an upset clicked through the gears and the game was in the melting pot with parity at 73 apiece and 1.44 to go. But the Lakers would fail to find the target again with Kahl stepping forward as the Carrick hero. He supplied the final and decisive seven points of the clash and helped his team to an 80-73 win.

No time for the Lakers to be licking their wounds they head west on Bank Holiday Monday to face Moycullen. The Galway side recorded a 75-61 win over Team North West on Saturday night and will prove to be a tricky assignment.

Mikah Blackwell netted a game high 24 points, Abdul Oladipupo 15, Eoin Carroll 14, Darnell Snyers 11, Mark Sheehan 7, Jack O Sullivan 2, Oisin Spring, Jamie O Sullivan, Darragh O Callaghan, John Hughes.

For the winners Benyi Gomez had 19, Shamus Kahl 18, Martin Provizors 14, Gustas Pocevicus 13, Danas Smigelskis 10, Killian McAdam 6.

UTILITY TRUST ST PAULS VS KILLESTER
MATCH REPORT
WOMEN'S SUPERLEAGUE BASKETBALL
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 1ST
IWA CLONTARF

KILLESTER 72
UTILITY TRUST ST PAULS 76

Report by Enda Walshe

For the second week running Utility Trust St Pauls rolled up their sleeves when it mattered most and dug out a win with a superb final quarter performance. They added the scalp of Killester to that of Brunell and on successive weekends they have now defeated the 2024 League champions and 2024 National Cup winners. Earlier in the season these games were slipping through the grasp of James Fleming's side but the experience of those defeats have obviously rubbed off on them. It is something team captain Denise Dunlea, outstanding again, feels they've learned from. The Scartaglen native was content after the win. "We definitely have learned a lot from the two defeats to Killester. They have great shooters who were dangerous today but we regrouped and shut them down in the second half. We've had a lot of close games and I think we've learned from those. We stayed calm and picked our chances well." It was in the first half of this game played in the Irish Wheelchair Association Gym in Clontarf that Killester really had their eye in. Irish International Michelle Clarke was

clinical, hitting five from beyond the arc and alongside Hannah Thornton they tormented the Pauls defence. But that change in the defensive approach that St Pauls adopted really bore fruit in the second half as they held Killester to just nine points in the final quarter. That was the foundation for the late charge which yielded 21 points and saw them run out 76-72 winners.

With Lynn Jones starting at point guard she was joined on court by Gracen Kerr, Alex Wittinger, Mathilde Diop and Lorraine Scanlon. Hannah Thornton made her presence felt early with Michelle Clarke also signalling danger from the off. They combined for fourteen points between them and it took points from Wittinger, Diop and Rheaanne O'Shea to keep their side in the game. Denise Dunlea was also introduced off the bench to net but Killester still held the advantage at 18-10. Scanlon got the score of the quarter after a beautiful team movement and Kerr followed that up with a three. Meabh Barry added her presence to the effort but just as St Pauls were starting to get a sight of Killester Clarke hit another boomer to leave Killester 23-15 ahead.

Clarke repeated the dose at the start of the second quarter but Wittinger was now starting to get into the game, making her signature shots with ease. Clarke hit another three which was immediately answered by Kerr. Sensing Pauls were getting momentum in the game Killester called a time out and the ghost of games past Samantha Haiby, quiet upto now stole in for a basket. But St Pauls put in a strong finish to the half thanks in the main to the efforts of Dunlea who went on a 7-0 scoring run. Destiny Strother got in on the act for Killester but Killesters lead was only two at half time, with Kerr hitting a late three.

The third quarter threatened to get away from St Pauls with Killester opening up a ten point lead at one stage 61-51. This was due to a combination of play from Irish internationals Clarke and Thornton and the incisive play of Haiby. It was at this stage that Fleming switched the defensive playbook as they were relying on Kerr, Diop and Wittinger to keep them afloat. The score of the game



Mathilde Diop (No.20) and Lorraine Scanlon (No.14) with Michelle Clarke from Killester

from Rheaanne O'Shea following an incisive passing movement seemed to act as a spur and even though Killester held a 63-55 lead it felt like the worm was turning.

A strong start to the final quarter certainly enforced that theory as Kerr(3), Diop and Wittinger(3) all struck. Meanwhile down the other end St Pauls were executing some strong stops and that cut the lead to three, 67-64. With 4.20 to go Dunlea cut that to one, that being the cue for Wittinger to give St Pauls the lead. But some good defensive play from Strother and Haiby led to breakaway scores which put Killester back in the driving seat with 2.18 on the clock. Not to be derailed, St Pauls stuck to the task, Dunlea and Diop cutting the gap to one. Killesters' offence had all but dried up now and Wittinger put her side ahead again from the free throw line. With Killester now in team fouls St Pauls could afford to up the ante and the winning points came from the free throw line. Dunlea added to her total and Diop stole the ball to clinch the win. At the third time of asking St Pauls had eventually got the number of Killester.

Speaking on her own form Captain Dunlea was keen to play it all down. "I'm just happy to be able to play with the team and try to enjoy it. The team makes it easy when everyone is working so hard and playing for each other. It's always about the group effort so I'm just delighted to get the win and push on for the rest of the season."

Alex Wittinger hit 21, Gracen Kerr netted 20, Denise Dunlea 14, Mathilde Diop 13, Rheaanne O'Shea 4, Lorraine Scanlon 4, Lynn Jones, Meabh Barry.

For Killester Michelle Clarke shot 21, Hannah Thornton 17, Destiny Strother and Samantha Haiby 16 each.

Utility Trust St Pauls have a free weekend and the Galway Mystics will be the next visitors to Killarney on Saturday February 15th. A third win in a row would give them serious momentum in the race for a playoff berth.

KILLARNEY CELTIC

CELTIC LOTTO

Numbers drawn 2, 8, 9, 28. No jackpot winner. Match 3 winners received €75. Next jackpot €15,000 on Monday February 10th. Jackpot is capped at €15,000 with the additional €200 going on to the 1st jackpot after the next jackpot win. Tickets available from The Dungeon Bookshop, Amber Shop (Top of Ross Road), club members and online through clubzap.

CHARLEVILLE CHEESE PREMIER B

AC Athletic 4-0 Killarney Celtic B

U14 DIV 2

Killarney Celtic B 4-1 Killorglin AFC

Sean Doyle 2, Jace Flynn, Eoin Murphy

Celtic started brightly and Sean Doyle put Celtic in the driving seat with a brace before Killorglin hit back. Celtic regrouped and Jace Flynn put Celtic back on track. Eoin Murphy finished out the scoring to seal the win.

U13 DIV 1

Inter Kenmare 6-2 Killarney Celtic B

Eoin Murphy 2

Celtic battled hard but Inter took the win.

U12 PREMIER

Killarney Celtic Green 0-0 Castleisland

Despite an improved 2nd half performance Celtic could not find the breakthrough. Castleisland almost opened the scoring late on but in the end both teams had to settle for a point.

U12 DIV 1

Killarney Celtic White 3-1 Tralee Dynamos

Fionn Murphy, Maksym Opala, Erik Dominguez.

Celtic opened the scoring when Maksym Opala set up Fionn Murphy who slotted home. Dynamos came back to level before Maksym Opala restored Celtic's lead. Erik Dominguez sealed the win with a late free kick.

GIRLS

U16 NATIONAL TROPHY

Killeshin 0-3 Killarney Celtic

After a fine performance Celtic advanced to the last 16. 0-0 at half time, Celtic broke through to gain control. Celtic struck 3 goals and finished out the game in a very solid manner.

U14 NATIONAL TROPHY

Killarney Celtic 1-3 Tulla Utd Blue

Celtic exited the National Trophy to a stronger Tulla side. Celtic with only U13 players in their side came back to level at half time after Leah Mannix fired home a free kick. However Tulla gained the advantage early in the 2nd half and

as hard as Celtic tried they could not come back to parity.

MEK UNITED

U14 GIRLS NATIONAL CUP (LAST 32)

Carrick Rovers 0 - MEK Galaxy 3

A long journey for the girls last Saturday but well worth the trip, as these amazing bunch of young ladies march on the last 16 in the National cup. Each of the girls made us very proud by putting on a great display of football through out the game.

Carrick Rovers never made it easy for us and they kept fighting until the final whistle, but it was our MEK girls day.

Well done to Saorise for keeping a clean sheet with some great saves, also to Tara for scoring the second goal, which some professional football players wouldn't have scored. Thank you to all the hardcore supporters that travelled up. Thank you to Carrick Rovers for a very sporting game and lovely food afterwards.

Goals: : Tara, Alannah

POM Tara & Aoibh

BALLYHAR DYNAMOS FC

LOTTO

No.s 16, 20, 22, 26. No winner of the jackpot. 5 x €25 Killian Quirke, Tralee. Jerry O Donoghue, Killarney. Eileen O Shea, Boherbue. Margaret Hickey, Furies & Con Moynihan, Kilcummin. Next draw for a jackpot of €16,600 will take place on Sunday next 9th February at Butlers Bar, Furies. Tickets available from Committee members, Sheehan's Fuel Store, Farranfore, Spar, Hendersons Shops & Butlers Bar, Furies. Thanks to all who support & help out with the club lotto. Many thanks to Bridie Grady for her commitment to the area & the club over the past 25 years as the shutters came down on Bridie's Right Buy shop last weekend.

TEAMS

The u7s boys had a run out at home to Castlemaine Utd on Saturday last with both squads enjoying the occasion & getting to grips with the rules. Thanks to the coaches & parents for facilitating.

The U13 girls secured a well deserved draw away to Tralee Dynamos in a 1-1 draw thanks to a Niamh O Sullivan goal following a Roisin Mannix free kick. Ela Mitchell, Emma Callaghan,

Faye O'Brien, Anna Fitzgerald, Maisy O'Sullivan & Anna Kate Daly were among those who impressed on the day.

The U12 B squad welcomed St Brendans Park D to Murt Scott Park on Saturday last where the visitors took the win on a 0-6 scoreline. The squad were short a few regulars which but six u11s made their competitive debuts in the blue of Ballyhar & all 15 who were tagged out acquitted themselves well with Adam Czimor, Fionn Curtin, Fiacchra Mccarron, Shane Collins, Oisín Moynihan, Adam Bradley & Patrick Brosnan working hard for the squad.

The U16s travelled to Camp FC where Camp emerged winners on a 2-0 scoreline with two goals inside the first 15 minutes. Daniel Duggan, Fabian Mrotek, Jack Kelly, Conor Edwards, Sean Brosnan were impressive throughout the game. The Youths had no joy away to Inter Kenmare in Division 1 on Saturday evening being defeated on a scoreline 6-2. Luke Courtney with the two Ballyhar goals with Eoin Walshe, Tony Daly, Ross Lally, Jack O'Donoghue & Shane Doolan giving it their all during the game.

KERRY SCHOOL BOY/GIRLS

NATIONAL

U13 Blitz attracts big crowd as Shamrock Rovers, Galway and Mallow Town visit Killarney Sunday was a busy day in Celtic Park, the sunshine added to the spectacle as the Kerry U13 Boys Invitational Blitz delivered a feast of action for the spectators at the home of Killarney Celtic.

Seven games were played in total over a six hour period, the first for the KSBGL U13 side was against League Of Ireland heavyweights Shamrock Rovers. Rovers won the tie 2-0 in the end, with the other game of the Group seeing The Galway Football Association and Mallow Town FC drawing 0-0.

Game 2 for Kerry was against Mallow, but again that 2-0 scoreline remained in place for a second defeat. While Galway picked up a second point, holding Rovers to a 1-1 draw.

In the final game of the Group Stage, Kerry and Galway had a five goal thriller on the Astro. Despite going behind, strikes from Sean Quill and TJ Hanafin helped our Boys into a 2-1 lead. Credit to Galway who fought back to equalise and then snatch the winner with time almost up for a 3-2 win.



Ballyhar Dynamos FC u7s who had a series of home friendly games v Castlemaine FC on Saturday last. Thanks to the coaches & parents for facilitating.



Killarney Celtic U10 Girls

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That ensured they would play the final, with Shamrock Rovers booking their place with a 4-0 win over Mallow Town. Rovers remained unbeaten as they took the spoils in the final with a 3-1 win.

Mixed weekend for Kerry Girls in National Cup and Trophy

It was a busy and competitive weekend for Kerry teams in the National Cup and National Trophy competitions, with some advancing into the next round, while for others it was the end of the road.

In the U12 Girls National Cup Last 32, St. Brendan's Park edged out Highview Athletic with a narrow 1-0 win, thanks to a decisive goal from Caoimhe Field. Castleisland AFC put up a strong fight against Swords Celtic, but after extra time, they fell just short in a 3-2 defeat, with Bella Clifford and Ava McCarthy getting on the scoresheet.

The U14 Girls National Cup again saw mixed fortunes for Kerry sides. Killorglin bowed out in Round 4 after a tough 6-2 loss to BT Harps, despite goals from Anna Mangan and Niamh Murphy. However, MEK Galaxy put in a commanding performance in the Last 32, securing a 3-0 victory over Carrick Rovers, with Tara O'Connell netting twice and Alannah Daly adding another. Killarney Athletic fought hard against Bearnna na Forbachtá Aontaithe but were narrowly defeated 2-1, with Aoife Kelleher scoring their only goal.

In the U14 Girls National Trophy Last 32, Killarney Celtic suffered a 3-1 loss to Tulla United, with Leah Mannix providing their lone goal.

The U16 Girls National Cup Last 32 saw Listowel Celtic come up just short in a thrilling contest against Salthill Devon, losing 3-2 despite efforts from Eadaoin Larkin and Laura Meehan. Meanwhile, in the U16 Girls National Trophy Last 32, Killarney Celtic delivered a strong 3-0 victory over Killeslin FC, with Lan O'Connor netting twice and Niamh Brosnan also finding the net.

GIRLS

Breen proves the difference as Dynamos pick up the points

In the only game of the U12 Division North, a decisive strike from Faith Breen proved the match-winner, scoring the only goal of the game to earn Dynamos all three points, in a narrow 1-0 victory over LB Rovers in a closely

contested match.

Mastergeeha pull further ahead in 12's South

Another big win for Mastergeeha has put them in a strong position in the 12's South, as they sit six points clear at the summit.

Mastergeeha delivered a sparkling display with a 6-0 win over Killarney Athletic B. Gracie Maher led the charge with a hat-trick, while Lily O'Donoghue, Lucy Devane, and Sophie Moynihan also got on the scoresheet in a clinical performance.

Killorglin put in a strong performance to defeat Inter Kenmare A 4-1. Sienna Boyle and Chloe O'Sullivan both found the net twice, delivering a clinical attacking display. Despite Inter Kenmare's efforts, they couldn't overturn the deficit.

Inter Kenmare B had their clash days after their A's, delivering a clinical performance to win 6-0 at home to Killarney Athletic A. Ally Cremin netted a hat trick for Inter, while Sarah O'Sullivan, Aideen O'Sullivan and Anna O'Sullivan also found the net.

Celtic pick up second win of 13's Premier campaign

For just the second time this season, Listowel Celtic took home three points, the latest secured with a 2-0 victory over Dingle. Katelyn Joy and Olivia Kissane provided the crucial goals, ensuring their side took all three points.

Three goals deliver three points for Athletic

Killarney Athletic claimed a well-earned 3-0 victory over Inter Kenmare in the U14 Girls Premier Division. Rose Lenihan, Ella Crowley, and Ada O'Leary all found the net in a strong showing by Athletic.

BOYS

Park continue strong start to 12's Premier season

St Brendan's Park have really set the tempo in the 12's Premier this season, with another win keeping them on track to lift silverware by the end of the season.

Park secured another three points with 3-0 victory over Camp in mid-week. Michael Broughton opened the scoring before Tadhg Gilligan added a brace to seal the win.

Inter Kenmare picked up three points on the road with a 2-0 victory against Mastergeeha. Sergej Arsenic and Jamie Noonan were on target as they ensured their side left with a well-earned win. Meanwhile, Killarney Athletic produced an impressive attacking display to

defeat Fenit 5-1. Goals from Alex Kissane, Rian Reilly, Trey Hurley, Harry Randles, and Darragh O'Toole secured a convincing victory, with Aron Keating grabbing a consolation goal for Fenit.

Goalfest in 14's Premier as Park and Celtic strike seven goals

Park produced an emphatic 7-1 victory over Castleisland, with Kian Cronin leading the charge with a hat-trick. Rory O'Connor added two goals, while Luca Fusco and Shea Horan also found the net in a commanding display. Liam Quirke grabbed the lone goal for Castleisland, but it wasn't enough to trouble the hosts.

Listowel Celtic also put in a clinical attacking performance, securing a 7-2 win over Inter Kenmare. Joe Joy was the standout performer with four goals, while Simon Russell bagged a brace and Luke Walsh added another. It was a tough outing for Inter Kenmare, who found the net twice but couldn't keep up with Listowel's firepower.

Mastergeeha and Fenit close the gap in Division 1 title race

The U14 Boys Division 1 title race saw strong performances from Mastergeeha and Fenit, both securing important wins on the road.

Mastergeeha were clinical against Tralee Dynamos, coming away with a 4-0 victory. Colm Kelly, Killian Moynihan, and David O'Mahony were all on target, while an own goal added extra gloss to their win. Fenit also claimed three points with a solid 2-0 win over Camp. Jack Corridan and Evan Diggins provided the decisive goals.

Camp pull ahead in 16's Division 1

Another big three points for Camp Juniors furthered their lead in the 16's Division 1, while elsewhere LB Rovers delivered another strong showing to pick up a second three points of the campaign.

Camp Juniors earned a 2-0 win over Ballyhar, with Killian Crean proving to be the difference, scoring both goals in an impressive individual performance.

Meanwhile, LB Rovers edged out Castleisland in a thrilling 3-2 encounter. Paul O'Mahony, Brody Mulvihill, and Conor O'Reilly were on target for the visitors, while Byron Culhane and Jamie Murphy kept Castleisland in contention with a goal each. Despite their efforts, the home side fell just short as LB Rovers claimed all three points.

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MEK U14's girls who are in the last 16 of the National Cup



Killarney Celtic U16 Girls National Trophy



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JIMMY O'SULLIVAN-DARCY

takes a look at all things sport...

LATE GOALS SEE KERRY WIN A THRILLER

National League Round 2: Kerry 5-15 Derry 1-24

I didn't make it up to it. I did consider it, I had a friend driving up on the Saturday. I could have gotten the train from Dublin and met him up there, but overnighing in Dublin and then an early start to make Celtic Park by 12.30? Ah no. I actually like an early game; I like to be on the road home early enough. But frankly, I was at the last Kerry Derry match, last year's quarter-final, and I don't care what anybody says. It was hideous to watch. Kerry actually won fairly well and controlled the game, but it was slow, negative football. I could not be watching that again. You could hear the players talking to each other in Croke Park, that's how dead the atmosphere was. A week later Cork played Limerick in the hurling – a friend brought his son and they were sitting beside each other in the Hogan, and they couldn't even hear each other, such was the atmosphere. Spot the difference. The fact that the hurling was so good in comparison was the death knell for what was being passed off as football.

I'm done with debates on the new rules. In my opinion we all owe Jim Gavin, Eamonn Fitzmaurice et al a huge debt. Sure, there's tinkering to be done, but the comparison between Kerry and Derry in this year's league to last year's championship? A brave new world and I loved it. I'm not going back to the old games, the blanket defence, the fear of kicking it, handpass after handpass.....it was chronic. I didn't go to the Kerry Armagh game last year and if I had, I would have brought a book to read.

This one? This was excitement from start to finish. Real attacking football.

Let's not paper over any cracks at the same time. It definitely wasn't a perfect showing by Kerry. In fact, I thought Derry looked more dangerous for most of it and deserved to win overall. Kerry have plenty to work on. One on one defending would be a priority – some of our top guns had tough outings, but they are just back into action so I'd give a lot of leeway.

But first week of February? Frankly, I don't want Kerry to be throwing any hatchet and

handle at a game like this. Our first outing in the National League, and I have always believed that the National League has no great bearing on the Championship. There was a correlation previously, but that was because there was a less prolonged (unnecessarily) schedule and based more on the fact of elite teams than causation. I also do know that both Dublin and Armagh won the Championship after emerging from Division Two, which only reinforces my belief that you are only burning energy too soon to tear into the National League.

Jason Foley was one of those who found it hard going, but there aren't many out there who have ever contained Shane McGuigan, and the wily frontman soon had his team on the board. Brendan Rogers – I thought himself and Ethan Rafferty were both up there as man of the match contenders – boomed over a two pointer.

Back came Kerry. My first look at real speed in attack, and that's what I love most about the new rules. Fantastic move, Paudie Clifford laying off to Conor Geaney for a confident finish. I was very impressed with Paudie as the driver in our engine room, while Diarmuid O'Connor did a lot of the heavy lifting. I would still say that Glass and Anton Tohill edged midfield, but they got a much harder battle of it than I had expected.

Seán O'Shea with a free that was brought forward (the sanction may seem harsh, but too many teams have developed a tactic of deliberately slowing down frees), Ethan Doherty with a good reply. This is nice fast football.

Very good defending by Kerry. Damien Bourke is already catching the eye, more so than bigger names. McGuigan narrowly wide. A let off.

Barry Dan O'Sullivan with a fine point. Niall Toner in reply from a free.

Great turnover by Paudie Clifford, that was very good pressure by Kerry. A year ago that would have been a massed defence. A fast counter-attack sees Conor Geaney nudge Kerry in front 1-3 to 0-5. Barry Dan stretches

the lead to two.

Derry with a surge. Paul Cassidy with a point. Shane McGuigan angles over beautifully with his left leg.

Seán O'Shea isn't having the best of days but that's another bread and butter free – by his standards anyway. Derry drop a ball short before Niall Toner squares things up again. The crowd are loving this; so am I. 1-5 to 0-8. Kerry coming at pace again. Direct and straight for the jugular, and again Derry aren't sharp enough to deal with it as Dylan Geaney lays off to his cousin for another green flag. Ben McCarron with a great two pointer. Derry are more willing to go for those than Kerry, which surprised me a little bit. Niall Toner with a point and we are level again, 1-8 to 0-11.

Mighty fetch by Anton Tohill. Namely son of a namely father and his Da would have been proud of that one, which leads to a point for Diarmuid Baker. Donncha Gilmore takes a mark and nudges Derry further in front.

I'm happy enough with Kerry's first half display. Truth be told, I wasn't really expecting Kerry to win away against Derry with an experimental team. Glad to see new players getting a run – despite the three late changes to the starting team. It happens, sometimes a player can tweak something in the warm-up, but three? I dunno. Like I keep saying, I want the likes of Jason, Tom, Paudie, and Seanie taking it handy enough at the moment and storing up for the hard and more important yards later on. This is the time for new faces to get their chance, I would feel that several of them seized their opportunities. It'll be tougher to get jerseys with the likes of the Crokes and Stacks lads in harness.

Half-time Derry 0-13 Kerry 2-5

Conor Glass is his usual trojan self for Derry, covering some amount of ground, and he puts his side three points in front at the start of the second half. Paul Cassidy astutely notches another. Derry look a little bit too fast and direct for Kerry to contain at the moment. They also have a slight edge in midfield and are running a good press. We might be in a little bit of trouble here, not because Kerry are playing bad, but Derry look good. That's eight points on the trot.

Conor Geaney looks very assured here and opens Kerry's second half account. We need it, but Donncha Gilmore calmly cancels it out straightaway. 0-17 to 2-6.

Five points. It almost feels to me like 'next score wins', as we used to play as kids while Mammy while calling us in for dinner. Jack O'Connor will admit after the match that he would have been quite happy to take a draw in the closing minutes. I'd be more of a pessimist (remember, I hadn't been expecting too much out of this game anyway). If Derry

Action from the Kerry V Derry Game. Photos: Orla Coyne, Kerry GAA Fans



pushed it out to six, I couldn't see us getting any draw.

Dylan Geaney. I've watched three generations of Geaneys play football now and I've no doubt it goes a lot further back in their DNA. Dylan steadies himself and fires over a confident and glorious score. That's the kind of thing that will make spectators gasp. A two pointer, and a gorgeous bit of skill. Even if he had missed, I like that he had the self-belief to take it on. I want more of that in Kerry football long term. Enough of playing with what I will generously call 'caution'.

Ethan Doherty with a point. Great burst of pace and well-timed by both the passer and receiver, but he'll actually be disappointed that he didn't keep it down and test Shane Ryan. Incidentally, Shane played somewhat conservatively, mostly concentrating on his primary duties, and I liked it. Derry gambled on Neil McNicholl as a bit of arover. Mind you, suggestions afterwards that it had cost them goals is nonsense. Those were close-range, well-worked finishes where the keeper was helpless. He wasn't caught out of position for them; his rearguard was and that was because of the pace. They do say that everything is confirmatory of a prejudice. Kerry hanging on a bit again. Seán O'Shea with a free from outside the two point arc. Small bit of luck about that one; I would say that Kerry got small and unintentional breaks a few times from the referee. Yes, sometimes that actually happens. That should actually have been a free to Derry, their player was just pointing out our mistake in keeping three in the half. But I only saw that in a replay afterwards, criticising the ref would only be hurling from the ditch. Like I say, it happens to every team, it's how you react that matters. Brendan Rogers and Diarmuid O'Connor are key players for their respective teams (Diarmuid has been having a really immense second half) and both work the scoreboard. Niall Toner with a tap-over free, Seán O'Shea with a reply from play. Derry aren't pulling away, but we are huffing and puffing a bit to stay with them. Kerry's subs are beginning to have an impact, though. Did Jack keep a bit

in reserve? I don't really think so (not that I'd be in any hurry to second guess Jack!), I think it's just an energy-sapping game now. And I'm fine with that, by the way, albeit the idea of five or six weeks in a row at this intensity? I'll be curious about that long-term toll at a time of year where most teams are building muscle and stamina for later on. Too much, in my opinion, but I'm no expert.

Two points in it. Donal Down O'Sullivan is on by now and he straightaway has added a physical strength and even more hungry directness to Kerry's attack. He isn't afraid to take it on and that's a very good score. His second is even better, and not too far from the arc. Level pegging. We could actually take something from this yet, and a draw from a long away game would be a big result for us.

Kaboom. It's Derry's turn to string together a great move and their ruthlessness in finishing, which they won't have been thrilled about for the most part, is fully evident. Ethan Doherty slips it off to Shane McGuigan, and McGuigan is never going to spurn a chance like that. Great goal – although those are not the first words that came to my mind! I'll never make a radio commentator; let's just leave it at that.....

The game is gone now. No question. Lachlan Murray and McGuigan tack on points to make the gap five. They have been better than us, if only fractionally, in the past while and the clock is squeezing now.

Maybe the fact that I think in terms like that is why I never made a top class competitor (no, wait, it might be because I'm utterly useless at every other aspect of the game as well). Inter-county footballers have a different mindset. Last year there was some grumbling that Kerry weren't scoring enough goals. It was a recurring theme throughout the year, and an unnecessary one. Play good football at pace and the goal chances will come. 'At pace' are the key words, not 'goal chances'. It was an easy stick to thrash out soft headlines. Mind you, once Kerry strung together another superb move for Paul Geaney to knock it to the net – one of those finishes that the great

predators make look simple, but that took timing by every Kerry player.

Paul and Donal Down are making Kerry look at least as dangerous as they have been all game, arguably more so. But McGuigan, in fairness, is a pure terror to deal with and he splits the posts again. Back to a three point game. Two minutes left – and remember, the injury time is no longer subjective with the new timing system.

One small slip by a Derry defender. Could and should have gathered that one. The crathur, I'm not naming him. But Kerry are in hunting mode now. This is a Kerry I haven't seen in a long time – maybe having nothing left to lose with so little time left is giving them a bit of freedom. Once again they pounce instantly, almost telepathically, and Donal Down fists it home.

Level pegging. I'm thinking we need to close them down; I'm sure every Derry supporter is thinking the exact same thing. Final minute, a draw is a grand result, don't let them kirk a winner. Except that, in adjusting to all the new rules, soeting I hadn't factored in is that you can't actually shut the game down. You can't take the short kick-out; you can't funnel everybody back and play keep-ball. It's like a colossal extra bonus, to be honest. I want games going down to the wire.

That's not a great kick-out by McNicholl, and once again Kerry hawks are swooping. Paul Geaney.....arrah, don't ever worry about taking that horse to water. He'll drink his fill every chance he gets and the net is bulging once more.

Kerry, somehow, have snatched a win. Cruel on Derry, but I'm not sure that 'snatched' is actually the right word. Derry did a lot right, but Kerry were absolutely clinical in the key moments.

You'd have to be happy with this one as a Kerry supporter. Remember that we have a lot of footballers to come back in, but lads really put their hands up for me. Barry Dan showed really well, Damien Bourke was superb, the two Geaneys and Donal Down.....there are definitely hands up for jerseys. Again, a small caveat, looking good in early February is no

LGFA NATIONAL LEAGUE ROUND TWO

Kerry 2-6 Waterford 0-9

Good result – great result in the circumstances, especially after the late defeat to Armagh in the opening round – but certainly not a great performance. In my opinion, Waterford played most of the good football in this game. That's okay, as with the men, it's very early in the year, and Kerry weren't at full strength. I'll not be worrying for a long time yet. That said, there is clearly a learning curve to be navigated.

It was tough weather. I'm told there was a savage breeze, worse than it looked on television. The pitch held up really well – no surprise there. I've only been at the SETU Arena in Waterford IT a few times and the last was for PS Sliabh Luachra in 2019, a fantastic All Ireland semi-final win over Ashbourne of Meath in a cracking contest. That was up there among the best games I have seen and it was in one of the best venues as well.

Waterford were straight into the attack and Bríd Mcmaugh had them on the board in the opening minute before setting up Clare Walsh for another that could well have been a goal chance. Kerry were dropping deep, maybe a little too deep to suit me, and Waterford were quite rightly pushing up and pressing our kick-out.

Niamh Ní Conchúir has scored some truly fabulous goals for Kerry. Her sixth minute green flag her was....not that. The plain truth is that it was a pure fluke, a point effort that dropped sort and 16 year old Waterford debutante Gemma Corcoran was caught off her line. A lucky break, especially considering that Corcoran gave an absolutely flawless display otherwise.

We were labouring, to say the least. Struggling on our own kick-out and getting caught under pressure in our own defence, with no obvious outlet.

Lauren McGregor with a free. Great massed defending by Kerry but eventually a free conceded and Kellyann Hogan obliged to put her team deservedly in front.

Anna Galvin relieved the pressure with a fine score. All of the Murray sisters were playing well (no surprise there) and Emma was basically running the show, well assisted by McMaugh and Hogan. Emma nudged her team ahead but a great catch by Rachel Dwyer won a free converted by Siofra O'Shea. Kellyann Hogan notched her second to give Waterford a 0-6 to 1-2 lead after a low-scoring first half. It wasn't any kind of fair reflection of the play. Waterford will have been disappointed to only lead by a single point. Even take out the lucky goal, and a four point margin wouldn't have particularly flattered them.

Kerry looked in trouble here, but credit to Mark Bourke, he was already bringing on players, rejigging a few things, and implementing changes. I won't say that the

second half was a transformation, Kerry certainly didn't turn into world beaters by any means, but they did look more assured and purposeful.

Rachel Dwyer levelled matters. Danielle O'Leary brought a sharper edge to Kerry's attack and wasn't long getting on the scoreboard. Mary Ellen Bolger did well to palm away a McMaugh goal effort – contrast that with our goal chance early in the first half – some days luck is with you. It was Kerry who struck for the vital goal, Siofra O'Shea doing what she does best. A very clever flick home ahead of the advancing keeper. Cira McCarty with a Kerry point. 2-5 to 0-6 and Waterford scoreless for the second half.

Except that the Deise promptly took over proceedings. Did we let them back into it or did they rise a gear? A little of column A, a little of column B. Lessons learnt on both sides, I suspect.

Emma Murray, Lauren McGregor (f), and Bríd McMaugh on target. Corcoran made very good saves to deny Danielle O'Leary. Just a goal in it.

Anna Galvin, rock solid throughout as always, sealed an important win for Kerry. Losing this one, and we most certainly could have lost, would have put us under real pressure facing Kildare next week.

Waterford will be disappointed, but that's the third time in a row that they have given Kerry a tough game and come away with nothing. Getting closer all the time, and I'd be absolutely certain that we will be seeing them again later on.

Kerry: Mary Ellen Bolger, Roisín Smith, Deirdre Kearney, Roisín Rahilly, Aisling O'Connell, Kayleigh Cronin, Anna Galvin (0-2), Katie Sugrue, Aoife Dillane, Niamh Carmody, Caoimhe Evans, Niamh Ní Conchúir (1-0), Siofra O'Shea (1-1), Rachel Dwyer (0-1), Katie Brosnan. Subs: Mary O'Connell (for Niamh Ní Conchúir, 23 mins), Ciara McCarthy (0-1) (for Katie Sugrue, half-time), Eilís Lynch (for Roisín Rahilly, half-time), Danielle O'Leary 0-1 (for Katie Brosnan, half-time), Jacyne Lucey (for Rachel Dwyer, 40 mins), Leah Boyle (for Niamh Carmody, 47 mins), Melanie Higgins (for Aisling O'Connell, 57 mins), Niamh Quinn (for Caoimhe Evans, 58 mins).

Waterford: Gemma Corcoran; Cora Murray, Rebecca Casey, Maeve Ryan, Karen McGrath, Emma Murray (0-2), Áine O'Neill, Eve Power, Hannah Power, Bríd McMaugh (0-2), Kellyann Hogan (0-2, 2f), Kate Murray; Lauren McGregor (0-2, 2f), Clare Walsh (0-1), Chloe Fennell. Subs: Áine Power (for Chloe Fennell, 44 mins), Lia Ni hArta (for Chloe Walsh, 57 mins).

Referee: B Redmond (Wexford)

NATIONAL LEAGUE ROUND TWO

Kildare 2-28 Kerry 0-17

We aren't going to dwell on it. The simple truth is that this was a young Kerry side, arguably too young. I'm all for throwing young players

guarantee about May. And five goals, all well taken, is a definite positive but not a reliable statistic just yet. Score ten in our next two games, and I'll pay attention. Actually, score two against DonegalAs teams get used to the new rules, goal chances like that, no matter how well executed, will dry up. C'est la vie. Five swallows in the first week of February is as much a guarantee of a good summer as that weird rodent in Punxutawney (great film starring Bill Murray, strange superstition). But maybe I'm over-cautious. Kerry's forwards certainly weren't. Midfield were a lot more competitive against that fantastic Derry diamond in the middle. And early points in the bag is like manna from heaven. It takes the pressure off and gives Kerry a little bit of precious wriggle room. If we can't celebrate a high-octane roller-coaster win like his, why are we watching sport at all?

Just on a personal note, an uncle of mine, Seán Moynihan, was one of the people who gave me a grá for watching sport. It wasn't just with his own people that he inculcated that grá, far from it. He taught for many years in St. Columbs in Derry, and was a key part of management as Fr. Ignatius McQuillan guided them to a Hogan Cup in 1965. Charlie Gallagher and Raymond Gallagher were on that sideline as well, no bad company to keep! Seán was a selector with the Derry minors as well as they won the Tom Markham Cup. They were his most successful teams, but he laid a gentle fingerprint upon many a Derry club and team. At last Saturday's game, a tribute to him was generously paid by Derry GAA before the game. That may sound like a small thing, but it doesn't feel like that to his own people and it is hugely appreciated by his family. GAA communities, any sporting community, is not defined by scorelines. Those are mere trivia laid over bedrock.

Kerry: Shane Ryan, Damien Bourke, Jason Foley, Tom O'Sullivan, Graham O'Sullivan, Tadhg Morley, Sean O'Brien (0-1), Diarmuid O'Connor (0-1), Barry Dan O'Sullivan (0-2), Paudie Clifford, Sean O'Shea (0-5, 1 tpf, 2f), Ruairi Murphy, Conor Geaney (2-2), Killian Spillane, Dylan Geaney (0-2, tp). Subs: Donal O'Sullivan 1-1 (for Ruairi Murphy, 46 mins); Keith Evans (for Killian Spillane, 50 mins); Paul Geaney 2-0 (for Conor Geaney, 55 mins); Cathal O Beagaioch (for Barry Dan O'Sullivan, 58 mins); Eddie Healy (for Seán O'Brien, 67 mins)

Derry: Neil McNicholl, Diarmuid Baker (0-1), Eoin McEvoy, Mark Doherty, Conor Doherty, Brendan Rogers (0-3, 1tp), Donncha Gilmore (0-2, 1m), Conor Glass (0-2, 1 45), Anton Tohill, Cormac Murphy, Paul Cassidy (0-2), Ethan Doherty (0-2), Niall Toner (0-4, 2f), Shane McGuigan (1-4, 1f), Ben McCarron (0-2, tp). Subs: Lachlan Murray 0-1 (for Cormac Murphy, 47 mins), Patrick McQuirk (for Ben McCarron, 54 mins), Dan Higgins (for Anton Tohill, 60 mins), Declan Cassidy (for Donncha Gilmore, 61 mins), Jody McDermott (for Diarmuid Baker, bs, 65-69 mins)

Referee: Martin McNally (Monaghan)



Kayleigh Cronin of Kerry warms-up before the 2025 Lidl Ladies National Football League Division 1 match between Waterford and Kerry at SETU Waterford in Carriganore, Waterford. Photo by Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile



Kerry players, from left, Caoimhe Evans, Aishling O'Connell, Anna Galvin, Katie Brosnan and Róisín Smith stand for the playing of Amhrán na bhFiann before the 2025 Lidl Ladies National Football League Division 1 match between Waterford and Kerry at SETU Waterford in Carriganore, Waterford. Photo by Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile

in at the deep end, but not all at once. But it's not like new manager John Griffin has a lot of choice. Pádraig Boyle, Daniel Collins, Paudie O'Connor, Maurice O'Connor, Mikey Boyle, Seán Weir, Dan Goggin, Gavin Dooley, Evan Murphy, Fionán Mackessy, Rob Wharton, Luke Crowley, county championship phenomenon Michael O'Leary....two years ago we were just inches away from a Joe McDonagh title, but the turnover since then.....it's like getting despatches home from the front lines in World War I sometimes. If we had a full panel to select from....but if wishes were horses, we'd all be entering the Grand National.

Shane Coway was, as always, our main threat and opened the scoring. Cathal Dowling quickly levelled. Oisín Maunsell, who previously captained the Kerry minor footballers, captains this team and was narrowly denied an early goal. Was that a turning point? Not a prayer, we were basically outclassed from start to finish. It was a tough day at the office. A game but limited Kerry did their best.

Dowling was involved again as Daire Guerin cut in for a goal. Kerry buckled but didn't break and actually stayed more or less with Kildare, Maunsell and Griffin at either end showing their class and Tom Doyle right in the thick of the trenches. Kildare always had that bit of an edge, though, nudging the lead out to 1-5 to 0-2.

Shane Conway and Shane Nolan kept us in touch. In fact, with eight minutes to go in the first half, there was just three points in it. But then Kildare hit a purple patch with five points on the trot and there was nine between us at 1-14 to 0-6 by the half-time whistle.

Kerry actually got the opening two scores of the second half, but David Qualter then struck for a Lilywhite goal. With Kildare bringing experience off the bench and Kerry bringing on four debutants....well, we shall draw a discreet veil over the second half, save to mention that the scoreline would have been a lot worse without some great saves by Louis Dee.

We need some of those injured players back as soon as possible. I'm not giving up on the young players, most definitely not, but these walls need to be built on a foundation. This

isn't any quick fix.

Kildare: Paddy McKenna, Cormac Byrne, Simon Leacy (0-1), Rian Boran, Paul Dolan (0-1), Cathal McCabe, Jack Travers, Daire Guerin (0-2), Dan O'Meara (0-1), Cian Boran (0-1), Cathal Dowling (1-2), Muiris Curtin (0-1), James Burke (0-2), David Qualter, (1-12, 9f, 2'65) Darragh Melville. Subs: Gerry Keegan 0-1 (for Muiris Curtin (45), Jack Sheridan 0-3 (for Jack Travers, 53 mins), Conn Kehoe (for Darragh Melville, 59 mins), Ritchie Hogan (for Cathal McCabe, 62 mins), James Dolan (for James Burke, 65 mins).

Kerry: Louis Dee, Kyle O'Connor, Dara Kearney, Darragh Shanahan, Daithí Griffin, Ronan Donovan, Ronan Walsh, Killian Hayes, Rory O'Mahony (0-2), Tom Doyle (0-1), Adam Segal (0-1), Jack Sheehan, Shane Conway (0-11, 9f), Shane Nolan (0-1), Oisín Maunsell. Subs: Seán Brosnan 0-1 (for Jack Sheehan, half-time), Seanie McGrath (for Shanahan (47), Jeremy McKenna (for Adam Segal, 50 mins), Niall Mulcahy (for Shane Nolan, 57 mins), Darragh Conway (for Killian Hayes, 65 mins).

Referee: Caymon Flynn (Westmeath).

SIX NATIONS

Ireland 27 England 22

I have to say that I wasn't comfortable with a lot of the predictive analysis. Irish rugby is on a high these days, and that's absolutely great. But too many pundits seem to suddenly feel that we are high on unbeatable, and you'd get as much fertilizer and of better quality if you put nappies on horses. I actually happened to be on a train up to Dublin on Saturday morning, and I got talking to several Irish rugby supporters, and the general consensus I got from supporters on the road as it were is the same as when Kerry are facing into Cork in football. England are England, any time you look down on them they will rise. They still have plenty of numbers and muscle. Don't ever be fooled. The only time those sweet chariots really swing low is when they are strafing enemy trenches. Wheels always turn and I have an uncomfortable feeling that our increasing

reliance on Leinster for club success is going to cost us eventually.

Actually, I almost thought it had on Saturday. Quite simply, England came out of the traps hunting Ireland and we were slow, very slow, to establish ourselves. Nothing hugely off kilter, but just small and stuttery mistakes. It felt to me like it was energising England early on.

Good tackle Hansen but he picks up a knock and Robbie Henshaw is called into action. England are pushing and Ireland can't hold them. Good break Lawrence and a bread and butter finish for Caden Murley. Nice conversion by Marcus Smith as well. This isn't good. England are growing in confidence and I....am not.

James Lowe is our one spark of light for me. Great break and we have a chance. England cough up a penalty and then another one. Ronan Kelleher gets over but I'm not sure he touches down. I'm absolutely sure – and so is everybody else – that Tadhg Beirne fouled in the build-up. Kind of obviously, to be truthful. That isn't "the dog ate my homework" kind of bluff. That's an "I'll impose tariffs on our biggest foreign market to stimulate our economy" effort. The referee disallows it; let's move on.

Great turnover by Beirne after sustained English pressure. Marcus Smith gets a yellow card. This is old school rugby, combative stuff. England aren't contesting the lineouts much but winning the breakdowns. Not much subtlety on either side. Not much width by Ireland, and that's been a key part of our game in recent years.

Lowe with another great burst. Off to Gibson Park, who sprints and makes it to the line. England will be disgusted with themselves, but what a break by Lowe.

Good effort by Sam Prendergast, but it's just wide of the post. I'll be honest. I'm far from an expert, pretty much the exact opposite, but I can't really see the hype about Prendergast. Decent at club level? Definitely. O'Gara or Sexton? I don't have him on a par with Jack Crowley. The Irish media used to have conniptions about Ward or Campbell. That felt childish to me even then, and I was literally a child. I get the impression that they

would love to rehash that tired nonsense for a new generation. Well, I know Crowley can be dodgy, but I am not playing that clichéd game. Penalty for England. Bread and butter stuff. 10-5 at half-time. Could have been worse. England won that first half well and Ireland have been at sixes and sevens for the most part. England make the better start to the second half as well, but Ireland hold them out. Great defending by Finlay Bealham. Jack Conan and Dan Sheehan are on now. Conan I can understand, but Sheehan? Surely he can't be fit? Didn't he do his cruciate? Ah, my boy, you speak as if he were a mortal man. As far as I can tell, Dan Sheehan might not be. This is Greek mythology kind of stuff. Nice spread of play by Ireland for the first real time in the game. Bundee Aki gathering on the left flank but England have three defenders closing him down. My money ain't on Connaught's favourite adoptee in that situation.... Wow. It should have been. That was more dolphin than human. Absolutely fabulous by Bundee, and a stunning try. Another good but fruitless effort at a conversion. Level pegging, 10 apiece. But Ireland are starting to move here. Penalty for Ireland. Massive kick by Prendergast. I'll need to see more before I

change my mind about him but fair enough, that was top class. Crowley on. Iain Henderson on for James Ryan soon after. S o m e t i m e s we can forget exactly how much power Ireland can draw from the bench. It's England who are starting to gasp now. Gibson Park to Lowe, and another great burst, and Tadhg Beirne is there to dart over. England are definitely crumbling. Jack Crowley converts – it was easier than Prendergast's chances. Good defending by Ireland. England have heart, but it's they who are looking that little bit ragged. Lowe again (Gibson Park got the man of the match and he was excellent, but it was Lowe all the way for me) and this time it is Dan Sheehan who goes over. All of Ireland's



Ireland Captain Caelan Doris pictured at the The Colosseum in Rome where Captains and Head Coaches from all Six Unions and Federations gathered to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Six Nations Championship

substitutes have impressed; Sheehan has been magnificent. Crowley converts again. Bonus point secured. Sighs of relief more than ecstasy, but the job is done and beating England is a massive step on this road. Little blip at the finish. Tom Curry gets over and Tommy Freeman adds another. That was too easy and that's a bonus point for England. That could play a big role yet. Far from perfect, but we have had worse days.

CORN UÍ MHUIRÍ FINAL PREVIEW

Mercy Mounthawk v St. Brendans, Killarney

Saturday February 8th, 12 noon at the Dr. Crokes Pitch

By: Jimmy O'Sullivan Darcy

FOCUS ON MERCY MOUNTHAWK

Path to the Final
 Group Stage: Mercy Mounthawk 4-26 Abbey CBS 0-8
 Group Stage: Mercy Mounthawk 5-14 Skibbereen 1-6
 Group Stage: Mercy Mounthawk 1-14 St. Pats Castleisland 0-5
 Quarter-Final: Mercy Mounthawk 5-23 St. Franis Rochestown 5-6
 Semi-Final: Mercy Mounthawk 2-19 Hamilton HS, Bandon 0-5

This is a game that is about contrast in many ways. The Sem have the strongest tradition of Corn uí Mhuirí success and have amassed four Hogan Cups along the way. Their first Corn uí Mhuirí title goes all the way back to 1929 and they won their first Hogan in 1969. Mercy Mounthawk, on the other hand, only won their first ever Corn uí Mhuirí title just last year. In fact, it was their first time reaching the final. You could argue that they 'burst onto the

scene' – except that you would be very much wrong. The school isn't yet a quarter of a century old, but they have already established a brilliant sporting reputation in several sporting codes and have won All Irelands in both boys and girls competitions consistently over the past decade. Ask the likes of the great Buddy O'Grady, that great Mitchels stalwart, who was there from the very start, about the work put in by teachers and students along the way to get to last year's success. The school, including the players on this team, took absolutely no shortcuts along the way. It started with their first ever Frewen success in 2022. Last year most of the players from that Frewen team helped Mounthawk to see off the Sem and win their first ever O'Sullivan Cup. That, a huge achievement in its own right, was just a stepping stone, and a few months later they affirmed their place in story by seeing off Tralee rivals Tralee CBS in a thriller to win their first ever Corn uí Mhuirí Final. In fact, they actually went all the way to the Hogan Cup final and only lost out in a great battle against a superb Omagh CBS.



A lot of that team, of course, have moved on, but a lot of the bones are still there and, in a positive way, the ethos remains. So do some very serious talents, while other players have held their hands up for selection. There is no dressing up the simple fact that no team has really laid a glove on Mounthawk so far this year. They have been favourites from a long way out, and with good reason.

They retained the O'Sullivan Cup with relative ease, dismissing the Sem's semi-final challenge easier than the 0-23 to 3-8 scoreline made it seem. The group stage of the Corn uí Mhuirí held absolutely no bumps along the road. In fact, Mounthawk could have freewheeled all the way. No game could remotely be described as a real contest. The toughest game that they had was against a brave but outclassed St. Pats Castleisland who could only muster 0-5. Mounthawk won by a 'mere' 12 points. That was their tightest game.

The quarter-final did throw up a bit of a blip, with Mounthawk losing focus a little bit and coughing up four late goals. Given that the Sem also scored three goals against them in the O'Sullivan Cup Final, that might be a little chink in the armour. Except that Mounthawk had effectively been well out of sight before those goals went in, and they kept it tight all the way to the wire in a very one-sided semi-final against Hamilton HS of Bandon.

Mercy Mounthawk may be beatable, deep down every team is, but they certainly will not be beaten easily.

FOCUS ON ST. BRENDANS

St. Brendans Path to the Final

Group Stage: St. Brendans 3-4 Coláiste Choilm Ballincollig 0-4

Group Stage: St. Brendans 2-12 St. Francis Rochestown 1-4

Group Stage: St. Brendans 2-12 St. Flannans Ennis 1-2

Quarter-Final: St. Brendans 1-18 Tralee CBS 1-9

Semi-Final: St. Brendans 1-13 SP Inbhearr Scéine 1-10

St. Brendans have a younger side than Mounthawk, including a number of the successful Frewen team, and wouldn't quite have the same experience in their ranks, but they certainly aren't coming in cold either. In fact, that may be one of the advantages they possess. They are a more battle-hardened outfit. They have had to win a few metaphorical scraps along the way and frankly, that's no bad thing for any young team. They had very little training done when they met Mounthawk in the O'Sullivan Cup semi-final and I suspect that, while the final result was of course disappointing, the Sem showed real steel in their resistance. It was Jamie Moynihan who led that fightback, and he is the midfield mainstay of this team.

In fact, the Sem might not have put up the same scorelines as Mounthawk along the way, but they faced a slightly steeper incline and have answered every question along the way. I would feel myself that they are the most improved side from their first outings and are now a very formidable team in their own right.

It's not disrespecting Mounthawk's outstanding attack to say that they haven't run into a defence like this one. Kacper Robak was the Electric Ireland Minor Keeper

St. Brendan's Killarney Captain Jamie Moynihan and Mercy Mounthawk Captain Paddy Lane with the Corn Uí Mhuirí



of the Year in 2024. Literally the best in the country. Outside him Dara Stack has been snuffing out top guns all year and making it look easy. I'm not saying even he can shackle Paddy Lane, but I guarantee he will relish the chance to try. Cian Fleming and Darragh Brosnan on either side of him are tasty footballers as well. Adam Byrne is flanked by pacy Jack Rudden on one side and Cian Mulcahy on the other. The half back line is one of the Sem's main strengths. They were better in their second game against Rochestown, notching 2-12, and appeared to be finding their rhythm.

As I said, Jamie Moynihan for me is the only rival to Kirby and Murphy in terms of midfielders this year – that's no disrespect to the likes Oisín Gillain or the O'Sullivans of Inbhearr Sceine or Killian Dennehy, but Moynihan has been a powerhouse all year for club and county. Oran O'Neill beside him captained the Sem to a Dunloe Cup and won't be taking any backward steps either.

The Sem attack has improved in leaps and bounds. The individual talent was always obvious but the cohesion took a bit of time. Their defending was top class against Ballincollig in their opening game – the harsh truth is that Ballincollig coughed up two soft enough goal opportunities and the Sem could only muster four points.

They were better against Rochestown, clocking up 2-12. Their third game against St. Flannans can, unfortunately, be effectively discounted. The Sem had already qualified and the Clare side were already eliminated, and that showed in an easy victory.

That set them up for the big one. The Sem against Tralee was one of the most anticipated games of the whole competition. There's no dressing it up; that was a huge challenge and I wasn't the only one slightly tipping the Green. Instead, though, the Sem showed everybody how could they can be. That was almost textbook perfection. There were highlights, young Ben Kelliher's five points, Joey McCarthy's goal, but that

was about a team display more than any individuals.

Inbhearr Scéine were dark horses coming into the semi-final, but they had proven themselves as thoroughbreds long before. It was another convincing Sem display. A tough battle, but they did have the edge, even though they had just three points in hand after an exciting finish.

Joey McCarthy on the forty pulls the main strings. Mark Carroll on his left can take his scores but he is likely to supplement midfield – if the Sem can break even there, that's a huge swing in their favour. Ted O'Gorman on the right wing is a quality footballer. Inside, the Sem have three obvious predators in Ben Kelliher, Josh Bowler, and Oisín Fleming. All three are natural scorers, and Liam O'Brien was hugely impressive off the bench as well. Mounthawk are obvious favourites going into this game. And any suggestion about ambushes or complacency runs straight into the managerial experience of Aidan O'Shea and Luke Mulligan – you won't snare operator's like that into making that kind of miscalculation.

But this is far from any foregone conclusion. This isn't Kieran Herlihy's first time on the sideline at any Munster Final, far from it, and the Sem bring a lot themselves to the table. Home ground and home support won't hurt either.

I do expect a massive crowd and parking will be very tight. I wouldn't be surprised if a fair few of the Donegal supporters heading into the Fitzgerald Stadium for the National League game call in to Lewis Rd. first (McLarnon Cup holders Abbey CBS from Donegal Town will play St. Pats Maghera in the Ulster McRory Cup Final). Certainly two Kerry schools in a Corn uí Mhuirí Final will attract a fair crowd in its own right.

Mercy Mounthawk will be fancied by most and with good reason. But there will be a lot of good football played before either Paddy lane or Jamie Moynihan lift that coveted trophy.



DR CROKES

MEMBERSHIP

Membership for the 2025 season is now due! Follow the link below https://member.clubforce.com/memberships_cart_m.asp?LL_ID=734&intMF_ID=14394#topp

LOTTO took place February 3rd. Numbers drawn were 1, 3, 13, 24 Jackpot of €8,600 was NOT WON. 16 patrons matched 3 numbers and received €25 each. Jackpot for draw on February 10th will be €8,900. Play online by following the link below and follow instructions attached [https://play.clubforce.com/play_newa.asp?ll_id=734#Anchor\(https://play.clubforce.com/play_newa.asp?ll_id=734#Anchor\)](https://play.clubforce.com/play_newa.asp?ll_id=734#Anchor(https://play.clubforce.com/play_newa.asp?ll_id=734#Anchor))

SOCIAL will take place on February 14th in the Gleneagle Hotel. Tickets have sold out and will not be available to purchase on the night.

FR. PADDY'S CARDS NIGHT will continue every Wednesday from 8pm in the clubhouse.

KATHLEEN'S GENTLE MOVEMENT CLASS will resume on Tuesday February 4th at 11am in the clubhouse. You do not need to be a member to join. All Welcome.

GENTLE YOGA for men and woman returns on Thursday January 16th until February 6th from 6:15pm-7pm. It is €40 for 4 weeks.

NATIONAL CLUB DRAW

All proceeds of the ticket sales will go to Dr Crokes. There are fantastic prizes to be won. https://member.clubforce.com/tickets_m.asp?LL_ID=734&intTE_ID=3400

DR. CROKES SHOP

You can shop worldwide on our online shop. Follow the link: <https://www.oneills.com/shop-by-team/gaa/ireland/dr-crokes-gaa.html?p=2>

BINGO

Dr Crokes Bingo continues every second Sunday in St. Mary's Parish Hall. Doors will open at 7pm with the first game commencing at 8pm. Dates for February are the 9th and 23rd.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Stephen Brosnan who celebrated over the weekend.

SPEEDY RECOVERY

Wishing Silva Kovacevic a speedy recover as she recovers from a recent surgery.

CONDOLENCES to the Hartnett and Ryan Families on the recent passing of Catherine Hartnett and to the family of Joan Murphy. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha.

NOTES

If anyone has anything they want to add to our club notes please email pro.dcrokes.kerry@gaa.ie

FOSSA

LOTTO

The numbers drawn on 02/02/2025 for a jackpot of €8,100 were 3, 9, 13, 17. There was no jackpot winner. The €40 consolation prize winners were; Brenda Murphy; Online, Eilis Myers; Online, John McCarthy, Leanne Daly, Donie Foley. Tickets are available from our sellers and can also be bought online with the following link: <https://fossagaa.clubforce.com/products/lotto/fossagaa-club-lotto>

MOTHERS AND OTHERS

Our Mothers & Others team are recruiting for

new members. The new group have had a great start with weekly fun interactive training sessions learning GAA skills and working on their fitness and great social nights out too! It's great to see women who have never played before learning new skills as well as many who are returning to GAA after an extended break! We encourage anyone who is interested in joining the team to contact Róisín on 087 9925312 or Niamh on 087 7125634.

BEAUFORT FILM NIGHT

Beaufort Film Night will hold a screening night on Friday 7th February at 8.30pm at Kilgobnet National School, Beaufort. The feature film on the night is I'm Your Man, a German romantic comedy-drama (with English subtitles). Baps and Buns, an award-winning Irish short film, will also be shown on the night. Cert 15A for I'm Your Man. Admission €7 cash (No card payment available).

KILLARNEY LEGION

CLUB SOCIAL

A bumper crowd attended our Club social last Friday night in the Killarney Heights Hotel. The hospitality and food served was of the highest quality and we would like to thank the management and staff for a superb night. The Awards got underway with the presentation of the Jackie Lyne Cup to Senior B Player of the Year Colm O Cuiv. Daire Murphy was rewarded for his breakout year with the Senior B Young Player of the year. One of the most prestigious awards is the Senior Men's Player of the Year and Jonathan Lyne was a most deserving recipient of the John O Grady Cup. Onto the Ladies awards and Amy Walshe was honoured with the Young Player of the Year with Keri Ann Hanrahans power packed displays earning her the Larry Horgan Cup for Senior Player of the Year. Of course not all the action is on the pitch and John Foran was a most deserving winner of the Clubperson of the Year. Mike Murphy gave a heartfelt and wonderful speech as he spoke of the humbling honour of being inducted into the Clubs Hall of Fame. After listening to Mike's speech everyone was in no doubt what the club meant to the affable Rock Road man. The East Kerry Superleague champions were honoured following their success over Glenflesk last March while the Senior Ladies team received their medals for an honour laden year. The night did not end there as Truly Diverse delved into their catalogue of music to get the night really rocking while DJ Jack Enright spun the discs into the wee hours. All in all a great night and tributes must be paid to Brita Hegarty and her team who ensured the night ran as smooth as possible, aided no doubt by MC Paddy Osbornes string pulling.

Hall of Fame, recipient of Vincent Doyle Cup: Mike Murphy

Club Person of the Year, recipient of the Cooper Cup: John Foran

Senior Men's Player of the Year, recipient of the John O Grady Cup: Jonathan Lyne

Young Player of the Year, recipient of the Jim Trant Trophy: Conor Gammell

Senior Ladies Player of the Year, recipient of the Larry Horgan Cup: Keri Ann Hanrahan

Senior Ladies Young Player of the Year: Amy Walshe

Senior B Player of the Year, recipient of the Jackie Lyne Cup: Colm O Cuiv

Senior B Young Player of the Year: Daire Murphy

SENIOR COUNTY LEAGUE FIXTURES

The Senior County League fixtures have been confirmed. Nigel Shevlin and his team will have an opening round date against Munster Intermediate Champions Austin Stacks in Connolly Park. Round two will see Glenbeigh Glencar visit Direen with a short trip to Kilcummin on the agenda in Round three. There are further home games against Spa, Beaufort, Laune Rangers and Rathmore. Road trips to Glenflesk, Strand Road, Lewis Road and Ballymacelligott complete the programme.

Fixtures: Austin Stacks (A) March 16, Glenbeigh/Glencar (H) March 29/30, Kilcummin (A) April 6, Spa (H) April 20, Glenflesk (A) April 27, Beaufort (H) May 11, Kerins O Rahillys (A) May 18, Laune Rangers (H) May 25, Dr Crokes (A) June 8, Ballymac (A) June 22, Rathmore(H) July 6.

The Senior B will compete in Division 6 and the following are their fixtures: Milltown/Castlemaine (H) March 16, Kerins O Rahillys (A) March 29, Glenflesk (H) April 6, Finuge (A) April 20, Ballylongford (H) April 27, Beaufort (A) May 11, Dr Crokes (H) May 18, Furies (A) May 25, Kenmare (H) June 8, Tuosist (H) June 22, Rathmore (A) July 6.

WEDDING BELLS

Congratulations to senior player David O Sullivan and Tara O'Shea who celebrated their wedding day last Thursday. We wish the new couple the very best of luck for the future.

CORN UI MHUIRI

The very best of luck to St Brendans College as they look to capture their 25th Munster Colleges title this Saturday against favourites Mercy Mounthawk of Tralee. The game throws in at 12 noon in Lewis Road.

GET WELL SOON

Everyone in the club would like to wish popular senior player Sean McCarthy a speedy recovery from a recent illness. The Mill Road man spent a few days in the care of the HSE but glad to report he is now at home and on the mend.

DEEPEST SYMPATHIES

The Club extends its sympathies to the family of Jack McSharry. Jack spent his younger years playing for the Club and more recently became a very active member of our Club gym where he spent every morning. May he Rest in Peace.

LOTTO

Results Monday January 27th. Numbers were 2, 4, 21, 27. Bonus No 13. No jackpot winner. Match 3s / Lucky Dips: 1. Martin Walsh 2. Tew Melanonth 3. Ann Grimes.

EAST KERRY NEWS

EAST KERRY LEAGUE ROUND 1

Division 1A

Listry 1-14 Kenmare Sunday 2-7

Division 1B

Kilcummin 0-20 Rathmore 1-15

Division 2

Kilgarvan 3-14 Scartaglen 3-04

**EAST KERRY LEAGUE ROUND 2 FIXTURE****Division 1A**

Firies, Kenmare, Legion, Listry, Spa, 9th Feb, 1pm
Spa V Firies, Tuesday 11th Feb, 7-30pm

Listry V Legion, Kenmare Bye

Division 1B

Glenflesk, Gneeveguilla, Dr Crokes, Kilcummin,
Rathmore Round 2, 9th Feb, 1pm

Glenflesk V Kilcummin, Rathmore V Gneeveguilla,

Dr Crokes Bye

Division 2

Fossa, Kilgarvan, Currow, Cordal, Scartaglin
Round 2, 9th Feb, 1pm

Currow V Kilgarvan, Fossa V Cordal, Scartaglin

Bye

CORN UI MHUIRI

Best of luck to St Brendan's College Killarney in
Saturdays Corn Ui Mhuiri final.

CONDOLENCES

Sympathies to the families of Mary O'Brien (née Kerins), Brewsterfield and The Shop, Glenflesk, Kerry and Abbie Dineen (née Kelly), Hollymount, Rathmore, Kerry on their recent deaths.

**KERRY LADIES** | LGFA

KERRY LADIES RECORD THEIR FIRST WIN IN THE LEAGUE

Kerry 2-6 Waterford 0-9

By Tomás McCarthy

Goals in either half from Niamh Ní Chonchúir and Siofra O'Shea gave TG4 All Ireland champions Kerry their first win in Division 1 of the Lidl National Football League at a windswept SETU Arena on Bank Holiday Monday.

These Munster rivals were level on four occasions before O'Shea's punched effort ten minutes into the second half put the Kingdom clear. Captain Anna Galvin came up with two massive points. Two goal saving blocks from sub Mary O'Connell just before the break also proved crucial. Déise captain Emma Murray drove her team forward all evening and struck two points from play.

Sixteen year old Gemma Corcoran made her debut between the sticks for the home side, the first Ballysaggart player to line out for the Waterford seniors. She produced two fantastic second half saves. Kerry took the field with eight of the team that defeated Galway in the All Ireland final last August.

Brid McMaugh struck the opening point for Waterford after just 25 seconds. After pressure on the Kerry kickout, McMaugh set up Clare Walsh for another white flag.

In the sixth minute, a point attempt from Niamh Ní Chonchúir dropped into the corner of the Déise net to make 1-0 to 0-2. The hosts replied immediately. A super solo run from Katie Murray resulted in a free which Lauren McGregor tapped over. The home team kept hold of possession against the elements and a Kellyann Hogan free edged them back in front. Kerry midfielder Anna Galvin levelled matters on the quarter hour.

Emma Murray and O'Shea (free) traded points before Hogan's second dead ball sent the Déise 0-6 to 1-2 ahead at the half time hooter. Two brilliant blocks from Kerry sub Mary O'Connell denied Waterford a goal just before the break.

The Kingdom made a triple substitution during the interval. One of those new arrivals Danielle O'Leary kicked them into the lead four minutes



Rachel Dwyer of Kerry gets away from Katie Murray, left, and Cora Murray, 3, of Waterford during the 2025 Lidl Ladies National Football League Division 1 match between Waterford and Kerry at SETU Waterford in Carriganore, Waterford. Photo by Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile

into the second period after Rachel Dwyer got the leveller. Kerry netminder Mary Ellen Bolger palmed away a point attempt from McMaugh.

On 40 minutes, O'Shea bravely punched the ball to the net just ahead of advancing Déise goalkeeper Corcoran to make it 2-4 to 0-6. Ciara McCarthy added a point.

Emma Murray, Lauren McGregor and McMaugh reduced the deficit to two. Debutant shot-stopper Corcoran made two stunning saves from O'Leary to keep her team in the contest. A late Anna Galvin point sealed a hard earned victory for Kerry.

Scorers

Kerry: S O'Shea 1-1, N Ní Chonchúir 1-0, A Galvin 0-2, C McCarthy, D O'Leary, R Dwyer 0-1 each.
Waterford: B McMaugh, L McGregor (2fs), E Murray, K Hogan (2fs) 0-2 each, C Walsh 0-1.

KERRY: ME Bolger; R Smith, D Kearney, R Rahilly; A O'Connell, K Cronin, A Galvin; K Sugrue; A Dillane; N Carmody, C Evans, N Ní Chonchúir; S O'Shea, R Dwyer, K Brosnan. Subs: M O'Connell for Ní Chonchúir (23), C McCarthy for Sugrue (HT), E Lynch for Rahilly (HT), D O'Leary for Brosnan (HT), J Lucey for Dwyer (40), L Boyle for



Mary O'Connell of Kerry in action against Áine O'Neill, 10, and Cora Murray of Waterford during the 2025 Lidl Ladies National Football League Division 1 match between Waterford and Kerry at SETU Waterford in Carriganore, Waterford. Photo by Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile

Carmody (47), M Higgins for A O'Connell (57), N Quinn for Evans (58).

WATERFORD: G Corcoran; C Murray, R Casey, M Ryan; K McGrath, E Murray, Á O'Neill; E Power, H Power; B McMaugh, K Hogan, K Murray; L McGregor, C Walsh, C Fennell. Subs: A Power for Fennell (44), L Ni Arta for Walsh (57).

Referee: B Redmond (Wexford).

KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL STOPPING HOUSE BUILDING IN KERRY

With the country in the midst of a unprecedented housing crisis and builders are putting the blame for this squarely on the shoulders of senior management staff of Kerry County Council, accusing them of making the problem worse.

Builders have expressed the view that it is easier to build houses in Cork than it is in Kerry. In Cork, for example, builders carry out the work, a snag list of any outstanding issues is created, the builders rectify those issues and any bond funds are promptly returned to the builder. Bond funds are amounts of money held back from the builder by the bank until all work has been completed. If the council delays signing off on the completion of the snag list, the bond funds are not released back to builder and they are left out of pocket. In Cork, once the snag list has been signed off, the maintenance of any new housing development is promptly taken over by Cork County Council.

Builders claim that it is much more problematic dealing with Kerry County Council. It can take years for an official snag list to be created. The saga does not end here. When that list is finally completed, more maintenance issues are added. Builders have claimed that this final stage can take years and can add unnecessary financial stress. In effect, builders are being used to maintain an estate, post-build. In many cases, the builder ends up just forfeiting the bond, as it becomes too costly to continue completing the constant snag lists generated by Kerry County Council. Works are rarely carried out with these bond funds and ultimately the money ends up in the road maintenance programme for the whole county.

While waiting for Kerry County Council to take over the maintenance of their estate, the residents are obliged to pay for that maintenance themselves, and all the while, Kerry County Council continue their delaying tactics. These residents already pay road tax which goes towards



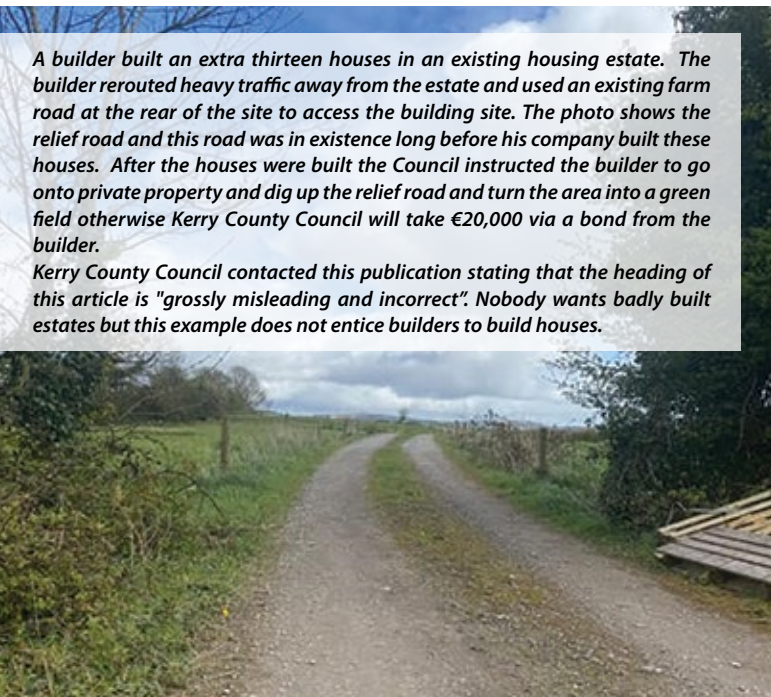
This is a photo of an item on a snag list from a builder. Kerry County Council wants the builder to remove the fence and replace it with a fence that's a few inches taller. Because there is a slope in the green area the fence measures 2 mtrs when measured from the back and 1.85mtrs when measured from the front because of the slope in the green area. Does it really matter if this fence is a few inches shorter. This is an example of the nonsense that builders have to put up with from Kerry County Council.

road maintenance. And they are also paying local property tax. Why are the most pressured group in society being treated so badly? Typically these are young people with young families struggling to pay bills and Kerry County Council has the power to make their lives a little bit easier but unfortunately, the opposite is the case.

A number of County Councillors have said that they do not have the power to change things. They were critical of council management who have just brushed their concerns aside.

A builder built an extra thirteen houses in an existing housing estate. The builder rerouted heavy traffic away from the estate and used an existing farm road at the rear of the site to access the building site. The photo shows the relief road and this road was in existence long before his company built these houses. After the houses were built the Council instructed the builder to go onto private property and dig up the relief road and turn the area into a green field otherwise Kerry County Council will take €20,000 via a bond from the builder.

Kerry County Council contacted this publication stating that the heading of this article is "grossly misleading and incorrect". Nobody wants badly built estates but this example does not entice builders to build houses.

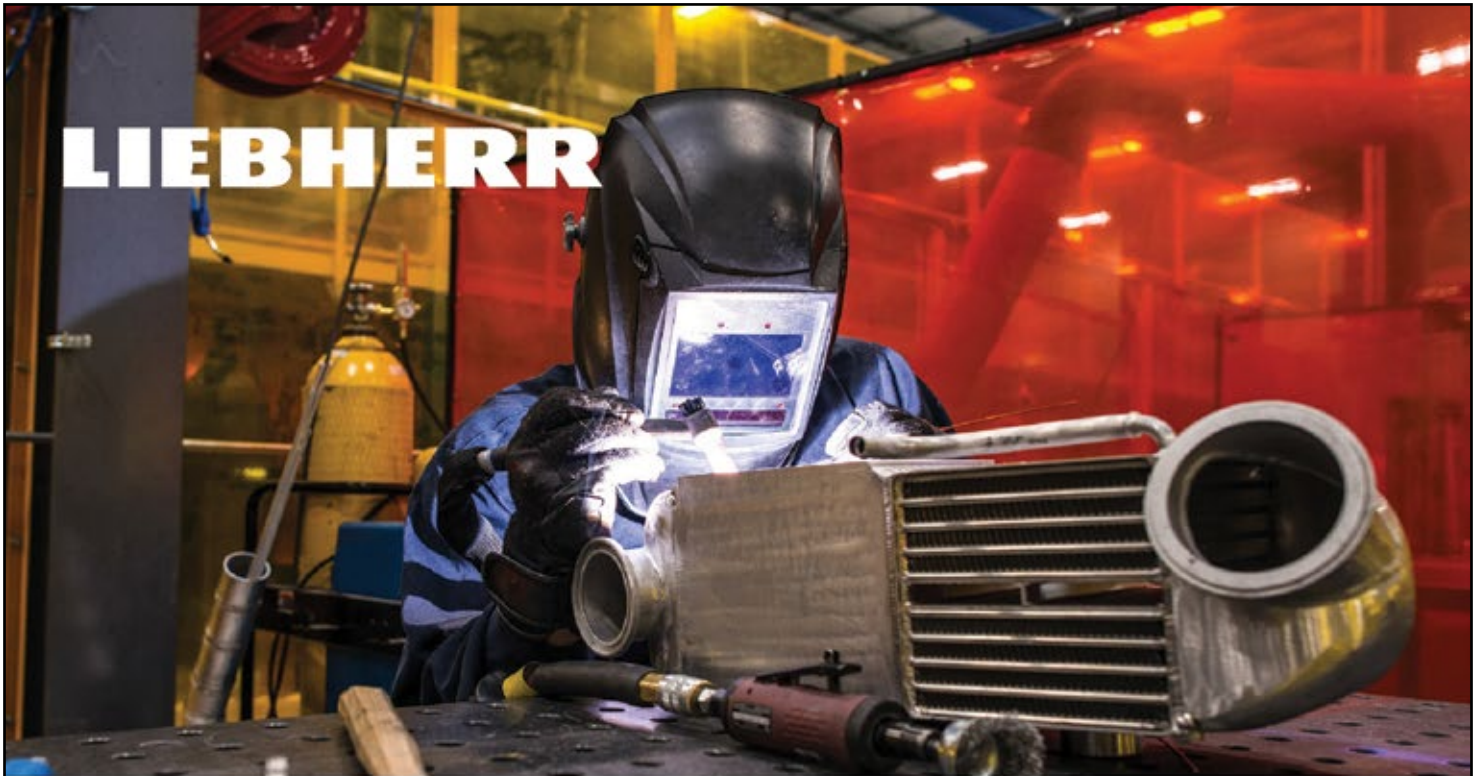


This is a photo of a manhole that was built in 2008. This manhole is in perfect condition after sixteen years.

The specifications on building a manhole has changed recently and Kerry County Council wants all the manholes in the estate dug up and rebuild under the updated specifications and this work will cost the builder €45,000.

Kerry County Council does not accept that this decision is a gross abuse of power. There is no appeal system and no consequence for the decision makers.

**“ERRATIC PLANNING DECISIONS WITHOUT CONSEQUENCES
FOR KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL”**



Senior welding instructor

The role

Reporting to the Steel Construction Manager, the successful applicant will be responsible for the practical and theoretical training of both apprentices and existing employees. This role will also be involved in developing new and innovative ways of improving the welding processes, will work closely with Welding Engineers/Works Dept./Design and Production to problem solve and find new solutions across the factory in a bid to maintain and improve welding quality standards. Researching new technologies and automation developments. Further professional development at third level will be required on an ongoing basis.

Key elements of the role

Responsibilities include but are not limited to the following:

- Ensure all trainees receive training in the various welding skills, basic and advanced - MMA, MAG, TIG to certified standards as required.
- Prepare lesson plans, course notes, presentational material, and handouts as appropriate.
- Supervise trainees and ensure that correct methods, quality standards and safety procedures are observed.
- Presentation of topics to a group of trainees or coaching on a one-to-one basis.
- Assessments and performance reviews for apprentices.
- Coordinating and testing of company weld tests for both new and existing employees.

- Giving constructive feedback to all trainees.
- Carry out welds for testing for new weld procedures.
- Other duties which may arise.

Qualifications & competencies

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- Ability to weld to a high standard and explain different processes (MIG, MAG, TIG, MMA, Gas welding, submerged arc, orbital, soldering and brazing).
- A relevant welding qualification.
- Minimum of 5 years post qualification welding.
- Knowledge of AutoCAD and / or Pro-Engineer is an advantage.
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REQUIEM FOR DICKIE

By Nicky Barry

'Spit on me Dickie,' his female fans used cry,
When Dickie Rock first stood on stage, and in no way shy.
He fronted the Miami, in the days when showbands reigned,
As kings of ballrooms dancing, way back in the day.
Dickie really was a crooner, like Tony Bennet or Sinatra,
And plied his trade for sixty years, with great charisma,
But dancers preferred rock 'n roll, so Dickie obliged,
With his Simple Simon Says, which drove the punters wild.
His biggie was The Candy Store, to which dancers smooched,
And he looked the Rale McCoy, in his mohair suit.
He sang in Eurovision, which was more his style,
With a full backing orchestra, with great Irish pride.
Dickie could curl his upper lip, just like Elvis did,
And Dub fans adored him, as the Cabra King.
They say that he still had, all his First Communion money,
For Dickie was no spendthrift, and quite pecuniary.
He worked out regularly, and was fit as a fiddle,
Even right up to the end, when he died nearly ninety.
He brought joy to generations, as he rocked near and far,
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A Word of Victory

*"Teach me to number my days, so that I may get a heart of wisdom"
 (Psalm 90:12)*

Welcome back dear student, the song 'Time In A Bottle' is a beautiful song whose words ring true '... there never seems to be enough time to do the things you want to do...'. Time gets swallowed up so easily, especially nowadays. It's an interesting exercise to do a 'time inventory'. People examine their finances regularly to see where all the money is going, but how many of us have ever sat down with pen and paper and inspected how we use time? Our time is valuable - it's what we exchange in our workplaces for wages. But much of it is spent aimless and wasted: not always through laziness but squandered on fruitless pursuits. God warns that our lives are like a vapour that vanishes quickly (James 4:14; Isaiah 40:6-7). Think of when you boil the kettle: the steam rises for a while, then it's gone, vanished into thin air! We need God's help to live productive, measured, and intentional lives that bear fruit for His Glory (John 15:5). In the lead Scripture, Moses asks for God's help... 'teach me to realise the brevity of life, so that I may grow in wisdom' (Psalm 90:12 NLT). There is a knock-on effect from yielding to God - we get His Wisdom to navigate through life more smoothly.

Time is a precious commodity that God has entrusted us with here on earth. The devil knows how to make a life unproductive - setting up distractions, dramas, and desires - all aiming to sneakily steal time. God promises His people that He will restore the years the locusts have stolen (Joel 2:25). Locusts are dangerous pests. In swarms they blot out the landscape, devouring acres of hard work in literally no time at all. The comparison here is that whatever the enemy has used to steal from you, God can, and will, turn back. "The eyes of the Lord search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him" (2 Chronicles 16:9). The life of Joseph is a story of stolen time as well as stolen dreams, yet he turned around to his brothers who had sold him into years of misery as a slave, telling them that what they had done for evil, God had turned around for good (Genesis 50:20). The Lord has the same plan for you and me dear friend. As if being sold into slavery wasn't bad enough, Joseph was later lied about and unjustly imprisoned, but he used his time there to make the prison a better place, trusting God with his case (Genesis 39:23). God dwells in eternity - outside of time.

Time has only been given to us here on earth, so what if time is a test? What if God uses time to reveal our hearts, character, and motivation? That's what happened with Joseph; and also, the servants Jesus mentioned in Matthew's Gospel. These three were given a resource and judged on what they accomplished for their Master with it. The two who worked and produced were rewarded, the one who did nothing was rebuked and cast out in anguish (Matthew 25:14-30). Understanding and using time well grows wisdom, "the principle thing" (Proverbs 4:7). Multitudes catalogue their health and fitness, their wealth, and achievements, but how many identify the snares Satan uses to rob time? God's plan for mankind is to 'be fruitful and multiply' (Genesis 1:28) Difficult circumstances or drama created by others can block God's plans, leading to unprofitability and failure. "My times are in Your hands, rescue me from my enemies" (Psalm 31:15). Lord Jesus, help me take stock of my time, and grow in Your Wisdom, amen.

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*We sat beside your bedside,
Our hearts were crushed and sore;
We did our duty to the end,
Till we could do no more.
In tears we watched you sinking,
We watched you fade away;
And though our hearts were breaking,
We knew you could not stay.
You left behind some aching hearts,
That loved you most sincere;
We never shall and never will,
Forget you, mother dear.*

From your Husband John,
Son Michael and daughter-in law Siobhan and kids Oisín, Ciara and Ryan Gerard.
Daughter June and her Husband Daniel.
Daughter Oriana and her Husband Conan and sons Bruce, Max, Benjamin and Conan Jr.

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IN LOVING MEMORY OF
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& HER SON-IN-LAW
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13 and 8 years have passed since ye left us heart broken. Ye always had a smile to share and laugh, a joke, time to care.

Gods garden must be beautiful, he picked the best in ye and has ye in his arms and we have ye in our hearts.

If tears could build a stairway, we'd climb up to heaven and visit ye.

Memories of ye are precious, no one can buy them. Our family chain will link up again when our day is up. We will be reunited again. Two Stars at night, yer lights to say good night.

Sadly missed by your heartbroken loving family and friends.

Mass has been offered for your souls on the 10th February at 6.15pm in St Mary's Cathedral, Killarney.

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To mark the day God called you home,
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*No matter how our lives may change,
No matter what we do,
There's a special place within our hearts,
That's always there for you.*

*To us you were so special,
Loving, kind and true,
You will never be forgotten
because you were you.*

Always remembered your loving husband Charles, daughters Maeve, Triona, Fiona and Neila, son Jeremiah, your sons-in-law, daughter-in-law and grandchildren.

Anniversary Mass in Christ the King Church, Knocknagree on Saturday 8th February at 7.30pm. (can be viewed online).

*'When a loved one becomes a memory
That memory becomes a treasure.'*

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FEBRUARY: Nora O' Shea, Hannah O'Neill, Noreen Dineen, Joanie Buckley, Hazel Fleming

MARCH: Rena Kennelly, Sheila O'Donoghue, Francis Keogh, Elizabeth (Lily) Murphy, Jack Kingston, John Clifford, Elizabeth Marie Barrett

APRIL: Nora O'Sullivan, Patrick (Pat) O'Donoghue, Tim (Timmy) O'Connor, Michael O'Sullivan, Richard Anderson, Desmond (Des) Brennan, Bridie Moynihan Kathleen Sullivan, Patrick

Morgan, Ian Rice, Vasily Riadushenko

MAY: Brian Kiely, John Joseph Carey, Gerard O'Sullivan, Cathal Kelliher, Donal Fleming, Charlotte Casey, Caoimhin O'Donoghue, Anne O'Shea, Kevin Costello, Patrick Walsh, Charlie O'Leary, Grzegorz Maj

JUNE: Maureen Cronin, Anne Culligan, Eoin O'Carra, Violet Hayes, Paddy O'Sullivan, Eugene McCrohan, Neilus O'Connell, Charlie Fleming, Connie McCarthy, Nora Kelly, Josephine O'Connell, Joan McCarthy, Mary Anne O'Leary, Una O'Leary

JULY: Thomas (Bracker) O'Regan, Molly Young, Khloe Herrity O'Connor, Kay Randles, Joan Corkery, Mary Hallissy, John (Sean) O'Connor, John Buckley, Mary Coughlan, Kate Kenny

AUGUST: Pauline Kelly, Thomas (Tommy) O'Connor, Gene(Eugene) Moriarty, Christopher (Chris) Lynch, Bridget Philomena Moynihan, Smith Doncel, Kathleen Corcoran, Teresa Darcy, Michael Joseph O'Sullivan, Daniel (Dan) O'Donovan, Pat Meade, Tim Hickey

SEPTEMBER: Terry (Terance) McMullin, Tomasz Malinowski, Kathleen (Kay) Fleming, P.J. Bruton,

Ann Marie O'Rourke, Frances O'Donoghue, Margaret (Peg) O'Mahony, Liam O'Connell, Anne Peters, Paul O' Shea, David Lawlor, Nellie Boggins, Viteo Maffei, Elizabeth O'Leary

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NOVEMBER: Margaret Walsh O'Donoghue, Andy O'Sullivan, Breda Lynch, Deirdre (Dee) Guerin, Mary O'Donoghue, Hans Molloy, Edward Johnson, Mary Lynch, Donal O'Grady, Mary O'Connor, Oliver Ryan, Thomas Clarke, Fr Cletus Noone

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THEY REST IN PEACE

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