



# **Milltown Ladies AGM 2020**

## **Agenda**

1. Chairpersons Report
2. Secretary's Report
3. Treasurers Report
4. Registrars Report
5. Election of Officers
6. Election of Managers
7. AOB

## **Secretary's Report**

This year has been a very different year than was anticipated, not only from a football point of view. We started the year back in mid-January with our first committee meeting taking place with the topic of trying to find a management team for our U6, U7 and U8 teams. Our 2019 awards night took place on the 17<sup>th</sup> January in the Milltown Inn which was a great night and was enjoyed all, I would like to thank the Inn at Milltown for their support. We had the runamuck event in Coill Dubh on the 7<sup>th</sup> March where we had 20 volunteers who marshalled on the day raising €1250. A big thank you to all who volunteered and a special thanks to Shane Shannon for organising it again.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> March, we were hit with our first guidance from the HSE about Covid 19 and on the 12<sup>th</sup> March, all GAA/LGFA activities were suspended. During this time, there was many activities to keep us all sane such as the Family Quiz in aid of Temple Street Hospital in memory of Kenneth Condon. This was a very enjoyable event and showed true Milltown Club spirit during this global pandemic. On the 29<sup>th</sup> June, we were given the go ahead to return the field of play but not with ease. I want to thank all coaches and committee members for their cooperating in ensuring that we got back playing football in a safe manner. Also, thanks to Michelle O'Hara, our Covid officer for her guidance throughout the year.

In June, we seen the start of our fantastic second pitch and it gave people some good news to talk about. In September, we came out of another lockdown and matches could resume, we seen our nursery groups take part in many challenge matches, many of our underage competitions take place as well as our senior ladies competitions. This year we seen huge numbers of girls from U6-U8, this is testament to Anne Field, Julie Field, Janette Kennedy, James Whelan and Mick Smith. We look forward to what the future holds for these young girls.

This year we also seen our senior ladies getting to a championship final, losing to Celbridge by a narrow margin. I would like to congratulate our U15 girls and management team on winning their division 4 league. Also, to our U13 girls who competed in division 2 league this

year and held their own as a young team. I would like to congratulate our own girls who represented our club with Kildare this year. Katelyn Brophy and Francesca Smith with the U14 county panel and Lara Curran, Lauren Murtagh and Clodhna Malone with the Kildare Senior Ladies.

I want to thank all our Covid supervisors who stepped up for their teams to ensure health questionnaires were completed and made sure that all equipment was sanitised before and after training session and match.

I would like to thank every person who helped myself in any way this year. It has not been an easy year with completing health questionnaires, ensuring our parents have completed them for their kids, cleaning all equipment to ensure we are keeping our members safe and health and myself asking our supporters (nicely) to remain in their cars during matches. I want to thank our coaches, without your dedication and patience, we would not have been able to provide football for our girls this year. It was wonderful to see the large numbers at training each Wednesday night and it was a great outlet for them during these strange times. I would like to give a special thanks to Johnny Murtagh and Liz Buckley, who are not continuing in their roles next year, for their tireless commitment to Milltown LGFA. They have given a huge amount of their time to help develop Milltown LGFA. I look forward to what 2021 has to hold for Milltown LGFA and I hope everyone has a Happy and Healthy 2021.

Hayley Mulpeter

Milltown Ladies Secretary

## Treasurers Report

Expenditure	2020 €	Income	
Affiliation Fee	100		
Registration Fees (Note 3)	3,994	Membership Received (Note 1)	4,020
Costs Associated with Registrations	82	Run-A-Muck (Note 5)	1,250
Competition Fees (Note 2)	500	Donations	230
Referee Fees	580	County Board Draw (Note 2)	425
All Ireland Ticket Levy (Note 2 & 3)	150	County Final	500
Public Liability Insurance (Note 3)	250	O' Neills Rebate (Note 4)	365
2019 Awards and Presentations	275		
2020 Awards and Presentations	199		
Footballs and Equipment (Note 4)	554		
County Final	500		
Bags and End of Season Treats (Note 4)	244		
Bank Charges	80	<b>Excess Expenditure over Income</b>	<b>733</b>
Disinfectant	15		
<b>Total</b>	<u><u>7,523</u></u>	<b>Total</b>	<u><u>7,523</u></u>

### Current Financial Position/Bank Reconciliation

	€
Opening Balance	2924
Less Expenditure over Income	<u>(733)</u>
Closing Balance	<u><u>2,191</u></u>

<b>Bank Reconciliation</b>	€
Balance per bank statement as at 01/12/2020	2,883
<i>Less items o/s</i>	
County Final Tickets	(500)
Membership Refund	(40)
Paypal Error (Note 3)	(597)
Awards	<u>(99)</u>
Amended Balance	1,646
Cash In hand	<u>545</u>
Balance per accounts	<u><u>2,191</u></u>

Notes:

1. 2020 was the first year to use Klubfunder as a method to collect club memberships and it was hugely successful. Approximately 98% of all our memberships were paid using the App. I would like to thank Siobhan Gunning who always responded to information requests and transferred all requested funds promptly.
2. I believe that we are in credit on both our competition fees (€100) and the All Ireland Ticket levy (€150) and that these will roll over into 2021. The competition fee relates to the minor championship which was not played and as you know the All Ireland Final was played behind closed doors. But we await confirmation on this. Also, the county board draw originally proposed for last Spring and subsequently for the Autumn/Winter has still not taken place, but tickets sold remain valid.
3. In February of this year we paid our Public Liability Insurance, All Ireland Ticket Levy, Servasport Fee and Membership fees for three of our senior ladies players. The total involved was €597. While the transactions were completed using our debit card through Paypal the money was never deducted from our bank account....
4. The club received a rebate from O' Neills in July 2020 which they split evenly between the three sections of the club. We used our portion to buy each underage player a small bag at a cost of €200 and the balance was used to purchase footballs. We have also recently received word that Cllr Anne Connolly nominated Milltown GFC underage for €500 from Kildare County Councils discretionary fund. This was approved so we will have €250 to spend on equipment in the new year.
5. A huge thank you to everyone who helped with our run-a-muck fundraiser and particularly to Shane who co-ordinated the volunteers and liaised with the organisers. Thanks also to Johnny who donated €200 to Milltown Ladies GFC which he received for a motivational talk.

Liz Buckley

Treasurer, Milltown LGFC

## **Registrars Report**

This year was a very different year in terms of registrations. Normally our registration year runs from 1<sup>st</sup> June to 31<sup>st</sup> May but due to the Covid 19, the window of registration was extended until 1<sup>st</sup> August this year. This year we registered a total of 104 members. We had 11 girls under 9 and 10, 58 girls between U12 and U18 and 17 adult players registered this year, along with 18 admin and coaches. For 2021, the registration deadline is 1<sup>st</sup> July, for 2022, the registration deadline is 1<sup>st</sup> June and for 2023, the registration deadline is 1<sup>st</sup> April. Overall, the registration numbers are down as the Gaelic 4 Mothers and Others did not return due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Big thanks to Liz Buckley for her continued support with registrations and to all who was involved with Klubfunder as this has helped hugely with membership and the registration process.

## **Managers Reports 2020**

### **U6/U7/U8**

Our youngest group got into action as soon as restrictions were lifted as it was felt that they were too important a group to leave with a later start. Many thanks to Leona Hughes, Julie Somers, Ciara Buckley and Aoife Buckley for helping to get the group started before being taken over and trained by Julie Field, Janette Kennedy, Mick Smith and James Whelan. This ended up being a large group with 26 girls under 8. We were able to continue training each week until November. We played a blitz in Moorefield in August and it was great to see so many of our girls to turn up and play on the day.

### **U9/U10**

Our u9 season was wiped out with the Covid19 restrictions in early 2020. This meant that from June 2020 we started with our U10 ladies. We had very strong numbers with 15/16 ladies training every Wednesday. We managed before new restrictions set in to get games against Robertstown, St. Kevins, Nurney & Na Fianna.

We went through the season undefeated. The group of girls in this age group are an fantastic group of players and I have no doubt that they will be back stronger than ever in 2021. We also were due to attend a Blitz in Passage west in Cork on the first weekend in September which had to be cancelled Due to the restrictions from Covid19. This will hopefully go ahead on the same weekend in 2021 and we hope to bring our great group of girls away to do the club proud.

I would like to acknowledge the support from all the coaches with the u9's and 10's. Joan Walshe, Julie Somers & Paul Delahunty.

I would also like to acknowledge the support from the parents in travelling to all the matches and training and continued support to the girls throughout the season.

### **U11/U12**

Our season like all other teams was badly affected by this years upheaval but the heart of this team is unbelievably dedicated and even when we lost our older girls to the U13 group, we still had the same girls turning up week after week to train even without the prospect of competitive games. By the end of the year we were maxed out with the numbers turning up and with the promise of more girls looking to return to play.

We ended the year with three 'friendlies' against Ellistown, Nurney and culminating with a true derby against Na Fianna where the value of all the training seemed to just come to the fore with a passing games that would have been worthy of the county grounds where every team member had part to play in the many scoring opportunities that we created and converted. Numbers are low in this age group so whatever effort from parents and mentors that can be made to hold on to and to hopefully increase the numbers next year would be greatly appreciated.

### **U13**

It was a strange year for underage LGFA club football this year. As such our focus was getting the girls back playing football. U13 team were playing in Division 2 this year and we needed to take 7 girls from the U12 team. This left the U12 team without any U12 girls as



girls were only allowed to play with one age group. The U12 league was eventually cancelled but we were able to get them two U12 matches against Sarsfields and Ellistown. Our U13s had a very solid performance against Raheens, Kill and Naas and were in contention right to the end. They had a comprehensive win over Carbury and the game against Rathcoffey was called off due to weather conditions. Many of these matches were played with less than 15 players due to injury and illness. The U13 girls also got to play a number of challenge matches in July and August before the league started. This group are due to play Feile this year if it goes ahead but we will have to address shortage of players to do so. It was great to see so many girls training week after week well into November until the pitch was unable to cope anymore.

### U14

Coaching Team: Catriona Kaye, Dave O'Brien, Noel Shannon, Frank Sheerin, Eugene Donovan

As was the story of the first half of the year for many, it was very much heartbreak for the under 14's. The year started well with the under 14 girls very much focused, driven and quietly confident to have a good craic at the under 14 Feile B title. Right from the start the girls were very focused and you could see it in the training sessions. We were lucky to have on average about 21 girls at training. We were drawn in a preliminary group with Ballykelly and Naas. We managed to have 2 friendlies and, in both games, showed a hunger and desire for the competitive games ahead. Unfortunately, the Pandemic kicked off the first lockdown and as we came to realise how serious the virus was the Feile competition was cancelled. It was definitely heart-breaking for the girls and a couple of parents reported tears from their daughters as they were distraught that their last chance at a Feile title had gone. And so, ended a season full of promise and potential.

However, on the plus side a number of our girls took part in the County under 14 trials and they all performed really well with 4 of our girls making it to the final trial: Michelle Curran, Katelyn Brophy Casey, Francesca Smyth & Niamh Murphy. It was heartbreak for Michelle and Niamh but both Katelyn and Francesca were chosen and by all accounts represented our club brilliantly for the county before Covid stopped the county team too.

## U15

Coaching Team: Catriona Kaye, Dave O'Brien, Noel Shannon, Frank Sheerin, Eugene Donovan

Thankfully it was a more successful season for the under 15's. We were drawn in Division 4 of our league along with Celbridge, Castlemitchell, Cappagh, Ballymore and Leixlip 2.

On paper it was looking like a very competitive division but in the end, it really came down to the second last game in the league. Both ourselves and Castlemitchell had won our 3 previous games with the Milltown girls dispatching Celbridge, Ballymore and Cappagh with some brilliant displays but they definitely saved their best football for the winner takes all match with Castlemitchell. Castlemitchell had notched up some impressive score lines so having to travel away to them wasn't going to be easy. The preparation was good, and the girls looked well up for it in the pre match warm up and so it proved to be the case! The Milltown girls ripped into the Castlemitchell girls from the start and never looked back, it was a superb all-round team performance and in the end beat Castlemitchell by an impressive 19 points. The league was well and truly wrapped up with 1 game to spare, away to Leixlip 2, but in the end a new government Covid lock down meant that we couldn't fulfil our final fixture, however we were awarded the league title as we couldn't be caught. In all the girls racked up an impressive 31 goals and 36 points in their 4 matches.

There were standout performances by all the girls over the 4 competitive matches, which was very heartening to see, every girl significantly contributing to the league win, however there were some contributions of note that really impressed the management team. Firstly, Kerry Behan in goals was a fantastic surprise and between her kickouts and her assurance under the high ball it contributed massively to the success. Also, a mention must go to Leah Walker who stepped up like never before to become a focal point in full forward for the team, scoring impressively in every game. We were delighted to have one new addition to our squad this season, Ava Coyne from Kildare town, she came in midway through the campaign but she has shown massive potential and if she keeps playing she could be a star of the future, we were delighted to see her score her first point in the final game against Castlemitchell.

It was a good campaign for the 15's, just disappointed not to get a chance to play the final game and get our hands on the trophy but at least we got to play as many games as we did!

### **U16/Minors**

Our u16 team competed in the Division 4 Championship. We returned training in January and played our first match on Feb 15<sup>th</sup> during storm Dennis. Very tough conditions but we came away with a well-earned victory. The following week, we played Clane and were heavily defeated and on March 7<sup>th</sup>, we played our final game of the 2020 championship against Sallins returning to winning ways.

The Minor championship fell foul to our third Covid 19 lockdown of the year.

Overall, it was a very disappointing year for this group of players with many of the girls getting little or no game time. The girls have to be commended for their dedication and commitment as they turned out for training each week and indeed two or more training sessions some weeks without the reward of a competition at the end of it. We have submitted a proposal to the county board requesting they consider an U19 championship for the Spring of 2021 and hopefully we will hear from them on this issue soon.

Johnny, Nicola, Shane and Liz.

### **Senior Ladies**

In a year dominated by the spread of the COVID 19 virus it was a great achievement by our senior ladies to contest yet another Junior B final.

We take this opportunity to thank the ladies for their continued commitment, hard work and positivity in a year that was filled with such uncertainty. This group of ladies are a credit to themselves, their families and the wider Milltown community.

The year started with the ladies competing in the 'Rathangan Tournament' which was to be a warm-up for the forthcoming county league.

The ladies were playing some very good football and with a drawn game against Na Fianna and an excellent win against Rathangan the ladies secured a final spot in the tournament. Unfortunately, with the onset of COVID 19 the final was cancelled as was the county league.

Due to COVID restrictions there was no training allowed in club grounds from early March until the end of June. Our ladies resumed training in the club field on the 28<sup>th</sup> of June having had a few weeks of non-contact training on the Curragh.

The county board decided to go ahead with championship football only in 2020.

In preparation for Junior B championship the ladies played a number of challenge games against Trinity Gaels, Suncroft, NaFianna and St. Josephs from Laois.

Championship began on July 28<sup>th</sup> with away wins against Raheens in round 1 and Athy in round 2.

Due to further restrictions round 3 at home against Round Towers was postponed by three weeks and was not played until the 8<sup>th</sup> September, the ladies were again successful in making it 3 out of 3.

Round 4 was at home again and in a game the ladies should have won they lost by the narrowest of margins against Ballymore.

With no semi-finals in the championship it was imperative that the ladies win their last two matches.

In a brilliant display of football our ladies were back on track when they beat Celbridge convincingly at home in round 5.

To ensure a spot in the final our ladies needed to beat Castlemitchell away in round 6. They did not disappoint with another very convincing win leading to their fourth consecutive Junior B final.

The final was played in Hawkfield on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October against Celbridge with limited spectators allowed as was the case from round 3. I take this opportunity to thank Roisin Malone for recording the games and putting them on facebook to allow supporters watch, also to Cian Buckley for the final as Roisin was away.

In a nail-biting encounter it was all level after 60 minutes resulting in extra time.

The ladies never gave up and displayed great determination and hard work throughout the game and right up to the final whistle. Unfortunately, it wasn't to be their day and at the end of extra time it was Celbridge who came out of the intense battle victorious, by 1 point.

We wish the ladies all the best going forward and hope to see them lifting that Junior B title in 2021.

It was a pleasure to work with them for the past two years and we thank them for their commitment especially in 2020.

We would also like to wish Chloe Byrne all the best in her recovery after her knee surgery and hope she will be back with the team in the near future.

It was also a great achievement to see Clodhna Malone, Lara Curran and Lauren Murtagh represent the club on the County team in 2020, continued success to them in 2021.

Ken, Liz & Eddie.