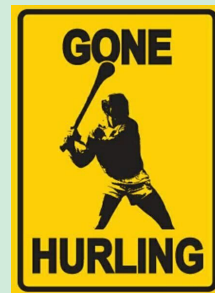


# Milltown Sarsfields Hurling

So, the difficult second season!!! Fresh from our first year competing as Milltown Sarsfields, our players, coaches and parents reconvened in 2023 to add what was hopefully a step up from our already successful 2022 season. Our playing group was expanded to include U10, U11, U12 (two teams), U14 (two teams), U15 (Feile) and U16 age groups, with a key emphasis on the preparation and fielding of two teams where feasible to ensure maximum game time for all. How did we fare out? Well, read on for details..... We think they did OK!!!

## U10—A YEAR IN REVIEW

In 2023, Milltown Sarsfields fielded an U10 team a year earlier than originally planned and we hit the ground running. We had two teams in the Spring league playing 14 of their 18 games and were competitive in all with 22 kids getting game time. With the extra games came an increase in practice and a love of developing hurling amongst a number of the group. This was evident in a Blitz in Kilcullen where the kids positive attitude and improved skill level was great to see. Our year finished with a trip to Moneygall for our final game another great success !!! We are always open to new players and remember we will supply a hurl and helmet initially until your sure your child will stick at it. Many thanks to the coaching group of Muireann Skerrit, Charlie McGirl, Marcus Looney, Gordon Stewart, Matt O'Shea and Derek Crampton.



**Back (L—R):** Danny, James, Jack, Sean, Aaron, Emils, Emer, Cian  
**Front (L—R):** Charlie, Rory, Ben, Brendan



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## U11 HURLERS REPORT

Training resumed early in February with some good indoor sessions taking place in Newbridge college which was welcomed by coaches and kids as weather was quite inclement for outdoor hurling.

Focus was placed on integration of players and coaches from both clubs, and huge emphasis was placed on the basic skills of the game by all coaches involved. The use of Newbridge college hall was a great asset to have and special mention to John Joyce for making this available to us whenever needed.

Our first game was against the hurling strong hold of Ardclough, and all players gave a great account of themselves considering the poor under foot conditions that had to be dealt with. Our next league games were against Clane, Coill Dubh, Broadford and Leixlip twice which saw a vast improvement by all players involved against tough opposition.

Training had been progressing well on Friday evenings with numbers being steady and skill level improving all the time, but when the U12 hurling, and football fixtures started taking place on a Friday evening we had to move training to a Tuesday evening from 18.30 – 19.30.

On May 27th Milltown/Sarsfields travelled to Ballyraggett in Kilkenny for the U11 Phelan/Stone Tournament. In the group stage we beat Lisdowney of Kilkenny, Cuala of Dublin and Na Piarasigh of Cork to top their group. Unfortunately, we lost narrowly to Patrickswell of Limerick in the semi-final on a scoreline of Patrickswell 5-00 Milltown/Sarsfields 3-05

To date in the Autumn league, we have played 3 very competitive games against Clane, Leixlip and Broadford where all players showed great displays of skill and commitment. Due to bad weather and pitch availability we did not get to play Confey or Coill Dubh.

We will look forward to competing in the U12 hurling league in 2024 where the standard has been set by this year's very successful U12 team.



**Back (L–R):** Eabha Delahunty, Éanna Aherne, Billy Campbell, Matthew Joyce, Adam Barrett, Joe Byrne, Filip Szondziak  
**Front (L–R):** Olivia Condon, Muireann Somers, Liam Colgan, Leigh Gavin, Diarmaid Colgan, Tommy Lawless, Tadhg Quinn

## U15 - FEILE NA GAEL 2023

History was made on the 29th of April 2023 as the first ever hurling team of Milltown/Sarsfields took part in the Feile Hurling in Division 03 which was held at a well organised Leixlip club. Other teams in our group were Celbridge, Leixlip and Round Towers.

In our first game we beat Celbridge on a scoreline of 1-06 to 1-03 which set us up nicely for our second game against a good Leixlip outfit.

In a close and well contested game Milltown/Sarsfields lost on a scoreline of Leixlip 2-03 Milltown/Sarsfields 1-04. By losing that game it meant we had to beat our old rivals Round Towers to qualify for the semi-finals.

From the start the Milltown/Sarsfields team got stuck in and dominated the game from start to finish running out comfortable winners Milltown/Sarsfields 2-04 Round Towers 1-00. We had a long break to the semi-final as we awaited the arrival of our opponents Broadford who had 3 convincing wins in their group fixtures.

From the start Milltown/Sarsfields found the going tough against well organised and skilful outfit in Broadford. On the day Broadford ran out deserving winners. Broadford 3-07 Milltown/Sarsfields 1-04.

Overall, it was a superb display by all team players who took to the field that day, and as it turned out that Broadford team went on to win the division 3 final the next day in Clane.

One point of note, there is a large number of this panel who are eligible to play again in this competition in 2024 so we wish them the very best of luck.



## U15— THE RESULTS (FEILE)

U15 - FEILE na GAEL 2023

Celbridge 1-3 1-6 Mill Sars

Mill Sars 1-4 2-3 Leixlip

Mill Sars 2-4 1-0 Round Towers

Broadford 3-7 1-4 Mill Sars (S/F)



**Feile 2023**

**Back (L–R):** Dylan Buckley, Dara Fogarty, Daniel Grogan, Robert Gleeson, Myles D'Arcy, Daithí DeLasa, Kyle Carter, Jack McGrane, Charlie Ray Lyons, Fionn Kinsella, Jayden Donoghue, Conor Lawless

**Back (L–R):** Michael Mullins, Liam Mountaine, Eoghan Delahunty, Jack Sex, Fionn Clandillon, Jayden Walsh, Micheál Óg Aherne, Senan Clandillon, Thomas Croke, Rory Woods



**U12 DIVISION 1  
LEAGUE FINAL,  
26/11/23**

There was no way we were going to be happy losers again to our neighbours, and the panel applied themselves brilliantly in the weeks leading up to the league final. When we had waterlogged pitches, we got great numbers in the astro. When we played St.Judes and Commercials in challenge games to try and vary the style we were used to playing against, the lads stood up and adjusted to the new players they faced. All the new info was put in the back pocket to be produced on final day.

While I'd love to write a blow by blow account of the final match, to be honest I don't remember a lot of the detail. It was intense, with both sides doing their clubs proud. The ground was wet and muddy, the temperature and rain no fun. But they fought through it. They did not relent. They did not allow the champions of Dublin to show their impressive skillset. They were roared on by the families in the stands. When it was extremely difficult to get a clean connection on the sliotar, no heads were dropped, they kept hammering at the door. Due to that, they got frees. Réiltín was imperious and got 0-6 from them. Oisín jumped into full forward and picked off a goal. They got over the line.

They are now all heroes to our club.

**Division 1 league Final .  
Milltown Sarsfields 1-6 ,  
Naas 1-3**

**FÉ 12 IOMÁNAÍOCHT -  
NA SÁIRSÉALAIGH  
BAILE AN MHUILINN**

What a year. What a group of players. 2023 will forever hold a special place in the roll of honour on our clubhouse walls - the first team from either club that has ever won a division 1 title. But let's step back to...2017...when we first got a look at the kids as u6s on a Friday evening at our new hurling academy up in Sarsfields.

Holy God. Chaos and madness. And that was just the parents behaviour after getting rid of their kids for an hour. Little did we know the same scene was playing out up the road in Milltown. What a happy coincidence that has turned out to be for this crew.

We've gone from u6s playing games of chasing to u12s playing highly skilled games of hurling in the blink of an eye. From enthusiastic but too nice to determined and ruthless. From pulling on the ground only to one touch control. From not knowing the rules to imagining themselves on county teams. From happy with all results coaches to ones that daydream of tactics. From coaches with full heads of hair to wizened owl lads (Céire is not old she says).

The past year was the first we attempted to run 2 teams at this age in order to try and get all players sufficient game time. While we had some particularly tricky conflicts when the 2 teams were on at the same time, especially over the summer when we had many players away, we were delighted to be able to bring many new players on board with the D4 team, and with the ability to give full games to many players, and develop in new positions. In total the D4 team played 10 matches, which was a fantastic addition to our hurling landscape. The lads lost out in a very close Cup semi final to Sallins on a tricky day , as the opposition played the minimum number of players leaving us with 7 substitutes to try and give game time to. All the players that day gave a great account of themselves and showed how determined they were against well organised opposition. And they realise they should have won, which is a hard lesson but one not to be forgotten. The skills and match day ability of this squad has grown game on game , and the coaches ( mainly Céire, Rob and Dennis earlier in the year) were very satisfied that each player was improving game on game. It was particularly notable to see the ownership and responsibility shown by the players during the team talks before, during and after games. They are growing into fine young men and will be at the heart of hurling teams for years.

The D1 side ( which must be noted nearly all the D4 lads played on at some point this year) had a very interesting year. We started off super sluggish back in late February, and it took quite a few weeks to get the guys back to a level where it looked like they had at least seen a hurley before. By the time of our first game in late March we were still very unsure of what to expect, as no one had played a D1 game before. Turns out, the team were more than able to play at that level, and shocked us all by coming within a point of Clane , whom we had assumed were in the top 2 teams. We were able to beat the other blueblood teams of kildare hurling, until we came across Naas for the first time. They won fairly handy on the scoreboard, but we could see that we could reach



their level and beyond, if we work on several areas - most notably self confidence. One coach after that hammering told the team that with work they would be the best team ever to come out of our clubs - that nameless person is now commonly called Nostradamus.

By the time the Spring league final came around, we were in it. And none of us knew what to expect really, players or coaches. The team put up a huge fight against very strong opposition, And in front of a huge crowd. They did themselves proud with their determination but we hadn't got enough know how to get over the challenge... yet.

After a short break of a few weeks in the summer we were launched into the Autumn league. We came away from Clane with a point, but really should have won easily. Lesson learnt, and the team marched on against Celbridge, Cocas, Ardcrough, the only blip against Naas, but by 3 points only. The team were beginning to believe in themselves , and got through to a league final again.

But we had to play a championship as well, and could see a path to a final. Until it turned out we had Naas in the semi, in a magically unique fixture calculation that was honestly not one bit dodgy. Rightly peeved, the team played a ferocious game in the host club grounds, and were inches from getting a goal to draw the game right at the death. And we moved on....

They are now all heroes to our club.

**Division 1 league Final . Milltown Sarsfields 1-6 , Naas 1-3**



*Ón finscéal Chú Chulainn go dtí finscéalta nua ó Na Sáirséalaigh Baile an Mhuilinn...tá an tóirse curtha ar aghaidh...*





## U14 – A TALE OF TWO TEAMS, ONE PANEL

After a successful first season in the amalgamated ranks, our 2009 born lads along with their colleagues born in 2010 and 2011 regathered for their first training session on the 11th February in Milltown. We decided (perhaps somewhat optimistically) to enter two teams, one in Division 2 and one in Division 4. What started out as a slow burn gathered momentum throughout the season.

Our Division 2 team started the year slowly and were without some key players. However, we qualified for a semi-final after a P5 W3 L2 campaign, where we were beaten by a strong Maynooth team. The D4 team struggled in many of their games in the first half of the year, finishing the league campaign with a P8 W0 L8 record, and the experiment at this stage looked questionable.

A refocussing of the coaching and management arrangements for the summer / autumn league was undertaken with both teams brought back under one communications group and a rebalancing of players to the D4 team to increase their competitiveness. This coincided with the addition of a number of new players, recruited from our U14 football colleagues, some new incoming talent, some returning D2 players and some additional 2011 born lads. The players and parents responded brilliantly and the results followed. In the summer / autumn league, the D2 team won all of their group games (P5 W5 L0) and finished top of the league. After an initial slow start, the D4 team followed suit with 5 wins on the bounce to also finish top of the league with a record of P8 W5 L3. Both teams won their respective semi-finals and prepped for league finals, which was a great improvement from the spring league. Both teams also had favourable championship draws and won their respective semi-finals against Celbridge and Rathangan, respectively.

The stage was set for four finals!!!! The D4 team went on to lift the B championship after a nail biting win against St Cocas. The D2 team were beaten by a strong Maynooth team despite showing huge courage in a brilliant performance while down a player for a full 50 minutes of their final.



Life Credit Union U14 Hurling League Div2

Pos.	Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
1	Milltown Sarsfields	5	5	0	0			10
2	Maynooth	5	4	1	0			8
3	Sallins GAA Club	5	3	2	0			6
4	Broadford	5	2	3	0			4
5	St Cocas	5	1	4	0			2
6	Rathangan	5	0	5	0			0

Life Credit Union U14 Hurling League Div4

Pos.	Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
1	Milltown Sarsfields	8	5	3	0			10
2	Maynooth	8	5	3	0			10
3	St Cocas	8	5	3	0			10
4	Kill	8	3	5	0			6
5	Celbridge	8	2	6	0			4

### U14— THE RESULTS (SUMMER—AUTUMN)

#### Division 2 League

Broadford 1-7 3-10 Mill Sars

Mill Sars 12-14 1-2 Rathangan

Maynooth 1-8 5-13 Mill Sars

Mill Sars 2-10 1-4 Sallins

St cocas CON 0-0 Mill Sars

Mill Sars 2-14 0-10 Broadford (S/F)

**Mill Sars 3-7 2-9 Maynooth (F)**

#### B Championship

Mill Sars 3-13 0-2 Rathangan (S/F)

Maynooth 5-10 3-7 Mill Sars (F)

#### Division 4 League

Mill Sars 1-3 9-7 Maynooth

Maynooth 0-8 0-5 Mill Sars

Kill 7-2 1-3 Mill Sars

Mill Sars 3-12 3-2 Kill

Mill Sars 6-11 1-3 St Cocas

St Cocas 2-0 4-12 Mill Sars

Celbridge 1-0 6-8 Mill Sars

Mill Sars 4-4 1-2 Celbridge

Mill Sars 6-5 1-1 St Cocas (S/F)

Mill Sars 1-8 2-5 Maynooth (F)

#### D Championship

Celbridge 0-2 5-4 Mill Sars (S/F)

**Mill Sars 2-7 1-7 St Cocas (F)**

### LEAGUE FINALS, 22/11/23

**Oh What a Night!** The scene was then set for a huge night on Wednesday 22nd November where both league finals were played at Milltown under lights. The D4 team got the ball rolling and, despite a huge performance, lost a nail-biter in a penalty shootout, the lads showing huge dignity in defeat with heads held high after a massive season of improvement, achievement and silverware. The D2 lads saved their best performance of the year against their championship bogey team Maynooth – while a single point separated the teams, Mill Sars were the better and hungrier team on the night, winning a deserved league title to elevate them to Division 1 hurling in the future.

The season comprised 56 training sessions and 27 matches (including friendlies) with 38 players involved, and the teams scored a total of 104 goals and 254 points!!!

The Milltown Sarsfields culture continues to grow and with the support of a wonderful set of young men and parents, will continue to compete at the highest levels. Thanks to the parents for their support all season, particularly with late changes to match venues and the like during the autumn months. **Roll on Season 2024!!!**



### U14— THE SCORERS

Aidan McCabe (1-19)

Ben Crampton (1-3)

Charlie Lyons (6-15)

Cillian Breslin (4-0)

Conor Gavin (3-7)

Conor Roche (1-0)

Daithi De Lasa (6-16)

Daniel Gorey (1-3)

Dara Fogarty (1-2)

Donal Larkin (5-18)

Eoghan Delahunty (7-24)

Evan Dunne (4-0)

Fionn Clandillon (10-23)

Freddie Houlihan (4-3)

Gary Malone (6-4)

Jack Sex (1-0)

Jayden Donoghue (0-1)

Jayden Walsh (1-0)

Kyle Carter (8-13)

Logan Ryan (3-0)

Luca O'Brien (5-15)

Matthew Grogan (1-1)

Myles D'Arcy (6-63)

Nathan Doyle (3-4)

Oisín Moore (2-3)

Robert Gleeson (2-8)

Ronan Lacey (2-1)

Rory Tobin (5-3)

Senan Clandillon (1-1)

Thomas Croke (3-3)

Tomas Carroll (1-1)

*(apologies if we didn't get this 100% correct!!!)*

## EOCC U9 TOURNAMENT

Highlight of the year undoubtedly the Eire Og tournament where U9 teams from all over the country participated. We won our group (which included Naas and Durlas Og and narrowly lost out in the Semi-finals to Monaleen of Limerick. It was a great experience for all our boys to compete and excel against such good opposition.

## COMING SOON TO A PITCH NEAR YOU - OUR 2014 LADS, NEXT GEN MILL SARS

The 2014 group played 5 games in the Spring League and 4 in the Autumn League this year and competed very well in all their games. We also travelled outside the county on a couple of occasions where we also competed very well. Highlight of the year undoubtedly the Eire Og tournament where U9 teams from all over the country participated. We won our group (which included Naas and Durlas Og and narrowly lost out in the Semi-finals to Monaleen of Limerick. It was a great experience for all our boys to compete and excel against such good opposition.

We had approx. 20 players available and our Coaching group is now 4 and the relationship between the players and coaches is developing well. Numbers at training have been great. In our games we have been competitive with a focus on Skills development and teamwork a priority. Much improved levels of skill from pick-ups, tackling blocking catching and striking were seen in the games and confidence levels are growing.

We finished our season off by travelling to Ballyboden St.Endas for a challenge game followed by hot chocolate's, Bowling & food at K-Bowl, a great day was had by all. We are already looking forward to 2024!

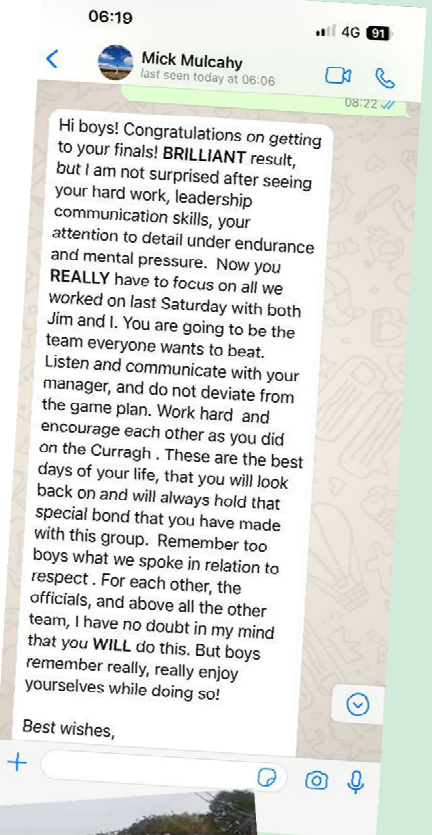


**Back (L—R):** Ruairc Fitzpatrick, Aodh DeLasa, James Dooley, Sonny O'Brien, Nathan Hynes, Daniel Sex, Theo Houlihan, Marcas Carroll

**Front (L—R):** Zach Rainbow, Michael Byrne, Harry Hyland, Henry Butler, Eoin Clandillon, Jack Worrell, Peter Walsh

## MIXING IT UP—GUEST COACHING SESSIONS

So, after 50+ training sessions / matches per year per team, we're sure that the kids get sick of listening to us coaches. With that in mind, we'd like to thank a number of guest coaches who came in over the year to give a dig out (and a new voice). **Thanks to Fintan Clandillon, Marty Morris and Mick Mulcahy for their work with the teams over the year - they were a great help.**



## COACH PROFILE

We asked our awesome Milltown Sarsfields Coaches the important questions—here is what they had to say!!!

Second of our victims is none other than Shane Mick “Mr Motivator” Croke, Sergeant of everything and coach of the U14 Division 4 team.

## MICK CROKE (YES SIR)

**Coaches' Name:** Mick Croke

**Coaches county:** Waterford

**What did you want to be growing up, and what do you do now?** :Join An Garda Siochana. 26 years done.

**Nickname:** None that I know of.

**Is it a Hurley or a Hurl?** Hurley

**Unknown / interesting fact about you?** I I never show emotion on the sideline.

**Three Dream Dinner Guests?** Ay wife and 2 boys.

**Favourite Food, Band, Music & TV Show?** Chicken wings, Andrea Bocelli , Garda Patrol

**If you could have a superpower, what would it be?** Speed

**Favourite drill?** Blocking

**Favourite GAA player?** Ken McGrath

**Favourite sporting moment (any sport)?** Winning Munster Colleges with Lismore CBS.

**Favourite skill in hurling?** Striking direct from hurley on the run.

**Funniest/worst excuse you've ever received or given for missing training?** I can't recall. I used too many.

**Best advice to any young hurler?** Always train with people better than you.

**What do you enjoy most about coaching?** Making kids do laps!!!!

**What position did you play?** Full Back

**Most difficult opponent?** Jimmy Beresford

**Favourite playing memory?** Playing Munster Colleges Hurling.

**Lovely Hurler or Hardman?** Neither. Just get the job done.

**What you enjoyed most when playing?** Being better than my opponent.



## GO RAIBH MAITH AGAT RÉILTÍN

Once upon a time there was a girl called Réiltín who really liked playing hurling with the boys - the boys on the team liked Réiltín to play with them too because she was an awesome hurler. While Réiltín also starred on the camogie teams in Sarsfields, she has since a very young age been a key player on Sarsfields and now, Milltown Sarsfields, hurling teams. Its very much in the blood with dad Mick and mum Linda representing the Glen in Cork before starring for Sarsfields in Kildare and siblings Mícheál Óg and Éanna following suit.

Possessing bundles of natural skill and capable of being deployed all over the park, Réiltín has soldiered from a young age in the Sash and Mill Sars green. Unfortunately, after four years of savage commitment to our U12s, Réilt will not be able to play with this team next year. We wish her all the best in her further camogie journey with Sarsfields and Kildare and thank her for efforts with the teams she has represented with distinction.

It was fantastic that her last game ended in fitting fashion with her tour de force in the U12 D1 league final contributing massively to Milltown Sarsfields victory.

**Go raibh maith agat Réiltín from your biggest fans!!! We'll leave you with a small selection of memories.....**



# A season of Sundays



Images of the 2020 Gaelic Games year by the Sportsfile photographers



Get this Year's Edition at participating bookstores now.....

## CLUB GEAR

Currently, the club shorts and socks are available at the links below. We hope to work with O'Neills in 2024 to make more club gear available.



L/SLEEVE DETAIL: R/SLEEVE DETAIL:



While club tracksuits are currently only ordered for the teams, club shorts and socks are available.

SHORTS: [Milltown GAA Kildare Kids' Mourné Shorts | oneills.com](#)

SOCKS: [Kids' Koolite Max Midi Socks Green / White | oneills.com](#)

## HURLER ON THE DITCH



MAM, I TOLD YA NOT TO RING ME DURING MY MATCHES



sportsfile.com/775831  
By YES, ILL HAVE BACON AND CABBAGE.....YES, I LOVE YOU TOO..  
BYE BYE BYE BYE BYE BYE BYE



## MILLTOWN SARFIELDS TRAINING TIMES

Training times will be republished for Season 2024 when we get our plan for the new year!!

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to the second issue of the Milltown Sarsfields Newsletter. We hope you like it. Its probably too long in coming out, but we should admit to not being on top of this side of the gig. In reality, we like hurling more than writing stuff down.

But..... We are going to try and be better at the follow-up (reports, newsletters, etc.) but **We Need Your Help!!!** There are no doubt parents out there who would like to be more involved but are not keen on coaching—there is always something for you to do!!! Be great if we could get an editor and some contributors to this newsletter!!! Please message any of the committee below if interested...

## GO RAIBH MAITH AGAIBH

There are lots of people who assist in keeping an amalgamated club like Milltown Sarsfields going. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank;

- ◆ The Executive committees of both clubs for supporting this initiative and allowing are young hurlers and camogie players flourish.
- ◆ The grounds staff in both clubs for keeping the pitches in such good condition.
- ◆ You the parents for helping us spread the hurling bible. Special thanks to those who assisted in the clubhouse for teas, coffees, etc. , Janet for organising the Mill Sars flags and Heather for always being available for "official" photographs.
- ◆ The awesome kids who make it all worthwhile.
- ◆ Anyone who we've forgotten in this list - you know who you are!!!!

## MILLTOWN SARFIELDS TRAINING TIMES

Phone: Ceire Cash (087 228 7954)  
Phone: Gabhan DeLasa (087) 249 1676  
Phone: Paul Delahunty (087 737 1598)  
Phone: Senan Clandillon (086 380 1724)

E-mail:  
Secretary.milltownsarsfields.kildare@gaa.ie



I want a quick, skillful and athletic team. I'd rather have greyhounds than elephants.



Barry Murphy Jimmy  
Cork Hurling Manager

## SPONSORSHIP

- ◆ We'd like to sincerely thank our sponsors and those who arranged sponsorship for jerseys, tracksuits and the like - particularly Mossy, Kevin, Shane and Brian.
- ◆ However, we are always in need of new sponsors. If you are involved in a business who would like to assist by sponsoring jerseys, training gear, and the like, please contact any of the committee members or coaches.



**Rathangan  
Post Office**

