

Milltown Sarsfields Hurling

MILLTOWN SARFIELD'S (2021 -)

In October 2021, a phone call between Senan Clandillon and Paul Delahunty was where it began. Milltown had been on the lookout for a club to amalgamate with. Unbeknownst to them, Sarsfields were also looking at doing something similar. Destiny awaited....

Amalgamations aren't easy things to set up, and there is a huge amount of trust needed from both clubs for it to be successful. Having hurled together on a championship winning Sarsfields team a decade earlier (and having knocked several lumps of the proverbial out of each other during weekly "friendly" 5-a-side soccer matches in the intervening years), there was plenty of trust and friendship built up. Once permission to proceed from both club executives was given, a sub committee was formed, with 2 members from each club – Senan and Paul were joined by Gabhán de Lasa and Céire Cash...a Dream Team!

First on the agenda was "What do we call ourselves"? A number of suggestions were thrown in the ring, such as Hawkfield, St. Conleths, and Curragh Gaels, but none quite hit the mark. In a moment of inspiration (which each committee member now claims as their own), "Milltown Sarsfields" was settled upon. With this name, every other club would know where we were from, and each club would have its own identity preserved. There was also a precedent, with the likes of Lucan Sarsfields, and others such as Thurles Sarsfields - "Milltown Sarsfields" it is so.

So....we had a name. But what would we wear? Again, we had a bit of luck in that both clubs wear green jerseys with a sash. The only difference was Sarsfields wear a white sash, and Milltown a red one. So, we decided to split down the middle....literally....and have half the sash white, and the other half red. In another nod to both identities, the Sarsfields crest would appear on one shoulder and the Milltown one on the other.

But what about a Milltown Sarsfields crest? This one probably took the most time. None of us are artists! But we knew we wanted a hurling theme (we are a hurling amalgamation after all), with an element from each of the clubs. Eugene Donovan of Donovan Printing

to the rescue. Eugene got out the crayons and came up with the crest we have today. The hurling element dominating the main body with the Sarsfields Fleur de Lis and Milltowns Brigid's cross on top.

A key element of any successful amalgamation is



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stability and a common approach. With this in mind, both clubs set out a Memorandum of Understanding in which we wrote down the key agreements between both clubs. Two key elements were that everything (costs, pitch usage, etc.) would be split down the middle, and that both clubs would commit to a 5-year amalgamation, with a review at the end of each year. This put key structures in place and gave a solid foundation to our hurlers.

And so, with all the hard work in place, all we had to do now was hurl. On Sunday 6th Feb 2022, at 9am, the first Milltown Sarsfields training sessions were held in Milltown for our U11 and U13 hurlers. It was early February, so the grass was a bit “wintery”, but, as you can see from the photo taken that morning, it was smiles all ‘round. **Tús maith leath na hoibre.**

So....were we successful? Well, at the end of our first year, we had won an U11 invitational tournament in Kilkenny (taking a

few notable scalps along the way too), reached an U12 Div 2 semi-final, were very unlucky not to reach the U13 Div 2 final and got to an U14 B Championship semi-final. I think, by any measure, it was a successful 2022.

While initially starting with U11, U12, U13 and U14 age groups, we have since expanded to U15s and U10s. U10s is envisaged as being the youngest group to play together, but year on year, the oldest age group will grow with the players....i.e., next year will be U16, then U17, then Minor, etc.

If the first 18 months or so are anything to go by, Milltown Sarsfields will soon be one of the big powerhouses of Kildare hurling. From tiny acorns spring might y oaks.....remember where you heard it first.....

Na Sairséalaigh Baile an Mhuilinn abú!

BALLYRAGGET BLITZ 2023

One of the formative experiences of the newly-formed Milltown Sarsfields club in 2022 was the U11s victory in Roinn 3 of the St Patricks Ballyragget blitz.

Our U11 class of 2023 looked to follow up this result on another great day in Kilkenny.



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MATCH REPORT—BALLYRAGGET BLITZ 2023

The preparation was good, but the weather was even better. Clocks were set for an unusual early start for a Saturday, but by 7am, cars were on the road, heading out through the Curragh on the way to Kilkenny.

We knew it would be tough, but we also got inspiration from last year, where our Milltown Sarsfields team stunned the hurling world with a terrific victory. If they could do it, why couldn't we?!

First up was Lisdowney from Kilkenny. Any team from Kilkenny is going to be tough, but our team wasn't fazed, and got off to a flying start, with a 5-02 to 1-01 win. We were up and running.

Next up was the famous Na Piarsaigh from Cork. With their black and amber rig out, the lads quickly christened them “the bumble bees”. The coaches were hoping there wouldn't be a sting in the tail!! This one proved to be a titanic battle, but an inspired second half saw us knock off a string of unanswered scores, and we ran out 1-07 to 0-05 winners.

Even with 2 wins from 2 under our belts, a loss to Cuala in our last game may have meant us missing out on a semi final spot. For the second game in a row, we were behind at half time. And for the second game in a row, the lads came out fighting in the second half. In the end, it was 2-07 to 2-01 to Milltown Sarsfields, and we were into the semi-finals as group winners.

Looking across at the other group, Patrickwell (another hurling stronghold) of Limerick would be our opponents. We knew they'd be tough, but we were confident we would prevail. A few minutes in, we were 2 points to no score up, and all looked good. Then...disaster. Patrickwell got 3 goals in a row. One was superb, but the other two were pure misfortunate. Nine times out of ten, we'd have cleared them. But, this never-say-die team fought back, and by half time we were just 5 points behind. We had been behind in other games, so we knew we could do it. Bang in a goal and the game was right back in the melting pot. Unfortunately, it was Patrickwell who got the first goal, and we were 8 behind. With just a few minutes left it looked like all was lost. But this team doesn't understand the meaning of

Pitch 1 Main pitch beside the clubhouse
Pitch 2 Outside pitch nearest the road

Roinn C - M&A Coaches

Group 1

	Patrickswell (Limerick)	
	Eire Óg Carrickmore (Tyrone)	
	O'Loughlin Gaels (Kilkenny)	
	St Patricks/Fenians (Kilkenny)	

Group 2

	Milltown Sarsfields (Kildare)	
	Lisdowney (Kilkenny)	
	Cuala (Dublin)	
	Na Piarasigh (Cork)	

Saturday May 27th 2023

All group 1 games will be on pitch 1

Round 1					
09:00	St Patricks/Fenians (Kilkenny)	0-0	vs	5-7	O'Loughlin Gaels (Kilkenny)
09:30	Patrickswell (Limerick)	0-3	vs	1-1	Eire Óg Carrickmore (Tyrone)
Round 2					
10:00	O'Loughlin Gaels (Kilkenny)	2-6	vs	0-1	Patrickswell (Limerick)
10:30	St Patricks/Fenians (Kilkenny)	2-3	vs	0-6	Eire Óg Carrickmore (Tyrone)
Round 3					
11:00	Patrickswell (Limerick)	2-6	vs	1-4	St Patricks/Fenians (Kilkenny)
11:30	O'Loughlin Gaels (Kilkenny)	4-2	vs	2-2	Eire Óg Carrickmore (Tyrone)
Semi Final 1 (Pitch 1)					
12:20	O'Loughlin Gaels (Kilkenny)	4-4	vs	2-2	Na Piarasigh (Cork)
Semi Final 2 (Pitch 2)					
12:20	Milltown Sarsfields (Kildare)	3-5	vs	5-0	Patrickswell (Limerick)
Final (Pitch 1)					
13:20	O'Loughlin Gaels (Kilkenny)	6-2	vs	0-0	Patrickswell (Limerick)

All group 2 games will be on pitch 2

Round 1					
09:00	Milltown Sarsfields (Kildare)	5-2	vs	1-1	Lisdowney (Kilkenny)
09:30	Na Piarasigh (Cork)	2-3	vs	1-5	Cuala (Dublin)
Round 2					
10:00	Na Piarasigh (Cork)	0-5	vs	1-7	Milltown Sarsfields (Kildare)
10:30	Cuala (Dublin)	3-4	vs	2-4	Lisdowney (Kilkenny)
Round 3					
11:00	Lisdowney (Kilkenny)	1-3	vs	3-6	Na Piarasigh (Cork)
11:30	Cuala (Dublin)	2-1	vs	2-7	Milltown Sarsfields (Kildare)
7th/8th playoff (Pitch 2)					
12:50	St Patricks/Fenians (Kilkenny)	1-4	vs	1-5	Lisdowney (Kilkenny)
5th/6th playoff (Pitch 1)					
12:50	Eire Óg Carrickmore (Tyrone)	3-7	vs	3-1	Cuala (Dublin)

Player of the Tournament: Matthew Joyce (Sarsfield Milltown)



"give up". With time almost up, we had pulled it back to just one point. Then....drama....it looked like a Milltown Sarsfields man had been fouled and we had a definite free right in front of goals. However, instead of blowing for a free, the ref blew the full-time whistle and that was that.

We were disappointed to lose that last match, when we felt (and other neutrals watching said the same) that we were the better team. However, that was the only disappointment on what was a wonderful day.

The weather played a large part, but St. Pats in Ballyragget have to be commended for running such a well-run event. Every little detail was thought of. With murmurs of tournaments for kids younger than 12 being banned, this one is certainly a valid argument against such moves.

The largest appreciation is reserved for the team itself who were superb from start to finish. They are a wonderful group of young boys and girls who gave everything. A special mention to Matthew Joyce who won player of the tournament. Considering the number of other players to choose from, to be selected as the outstanding player was a huge achievement, and well deserved.

Hopefully we'll be back next year.

Na Sairséalaigh Baile an Mhuilinn abú!

PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT

Well done to Matthew Joyce who was selected as Player of the Tournament.



U11 HURLERS INTER-IM REPORT

Again, like last year the U11 hurlers of Milltown and Sarsfields joined forces for the greater good of both clubs.

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 two league games were against Clane and Leixlip which saw a vast improvement by all players involved against tough opposition.

Training has been progressing well on Friday evenings with numbers being steady and skill level improving all the time. Training takes place every Friday from 19.00 – 20.00 on pitch 03.

We still have a number of fixtures to be played in the spring league which everyone is looking forward to..

U11 HURLERS



Back (L–R): Matthew Joyce, Liam Gough, Robert Stewart, Filip Szondziak, Billy Campbell, Eabha Delahunty, Tommy Lawless

Back (L–R): Leigh Gavin, Aidan Keyes, Colin Gaine, Isabel Mulchrone, Tadhg Quinn

MILL SARS' KILDARE REPRESENTATION

Well done to Myles Darcy on his inclusion in Kildare u14 development squad. Myles lined out against Meath and Antrim and picked up scores in both games.

We expect to see many more of our lads and ladies in Kildare colours over the coming years.



CLUB GEAR



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

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

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

L/SLEEVE DETAIL: R/SLEEVE DETAIL:



U16 LEAGUE WIN

While technically our U16s entered as Sarsfields, there was Milltown Sarsfield representation throughout. The team commenced their league campaign with an away fixture against Sallins. In what was a competitive game on a very cold and blustery February afternoon Sarsfields came home with a good victory on a score line of Sarsfields 1-12 Sallins 2-06.

The month of March was a wash out and our next two games were cancelled due to weather. It was April the 6th before our next game which was a game to forget as we lost to Round towers on a score line of Round Towers 0-10 Sarsfields 0-06.

Round three saw us take on a strong Maynooth side on a rare sunny Sunday evening in Sarsfields. Too many missed scoring chances in the first half was costly in the end as Maynooth ran out winners. Final score Maynooth 2-12 Sarsfields 0-10.

In our last league game, we had to win against Naas to qualify for a semi-final spot. At half time this did not look good as we trailed Naas, and in general had not hurled well. A rousing half time team talk worked wonders as it looked like a different team had taken to the pitch for the second half. Sarsfields dominated the second half and were comfortable winners in the end. Sarsfields 4-08 Naas 2-04.

In the semi-final we locked horns with our rivals Round Towers. Early exchanges were tight and tense, but a couple of early goals settles the Sash and we ran out eventual winners. Sarsfields 5-05 Round Towers 1-05

The league final took place in Allenwood against a Sallins team who had a great win against Maynooth in their semi-final. It is rare that a team saves its best performance of the season for a final, but that is what we got from the U16 Hurlers. Having won the toss and electing to play into the wind, the lads knew a strong half of hurling was required and they got out of the blocks very quickly with our forwards showing well for ball and taking on their players. Even though Sarsfields did most of the hurling in the first half, this was not reflected on the score board as there was only three points separating the sides.

The second half was a different story as the Sash men started to convert their chances and pull away from their opponents. Overall, this was a wonderful team performance and management were delighted with the attitude of the entire panel throughout this campaign.

Final score Sarsfields 3-13 Sallins 0-02

Well done to the team and coaches.



The only bad training session is the one you didn't go to.....

COACH PROFILE

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

First up is none other than Shane Dunne, Postmaster extraordinaire and coach of the U12s and U14 Division 4 team.

SHANE DUNNE (LEGEND)

Coaches' Name: Shane Dunne

Coaches county: Kildare

What did you want to be growing up, and what do you do now? : I wanted to be a pilot. I'm a postmaster now.

Nickname: None

Is it a Hurley or a Hurl? Hurl

Unknown / interesting fact about you? I won a gold medal for art in the community games.

Three Dream Dinner Guests? Alex Ferguson-
Manchán Magan- Dave Chappelle

Favourite Food, Band, Music & TV Show? Thai- Otis
Reading- Soul/blues- Band of Brothers "

If you could have a superpower, what would it be?
or sight

Favourite drill? Black and Decker

Favourite GAA player? Maurice Fitzgerald

Favourite sporting moment (any sport)? Leinster beating Leicester in Heineken cup 2012

Favourite skill in hurling? Catching a high ball

Funniest/worst excuse you've ever received or given for missing training?
Worst excuse- my boots were wet.

Best advice to any young hurler? Tenacity

What do you enjoy most about coaching? Seeing players get better and more confident.

What position did you play? Corner forward

Most difficult opponent? My lack of talent

Favourite playing memory? Every summer, every day morning to evening playing every sport with 20 a side.

Lovely Hurler or Hardman? Hardman

What you enjoyed most when playing? First touch and good pass/ score.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Please keep an eye out for upcoming events in Milltown and Sarsfields;

Football Golf—Sarsfields, 13th August 2023—DETAILS TO FOLLOW FROM COACHES

Milltown Canal Festival , 20th August 2023 —DETAILS TO FOLLOW FROM COACHES



Classic Hurling Joke: Two Limerick men were giving out about Tipperary at a wedding. Their long-suffering wives, well used to this, asked “is there no time when you could imagine supporting Tipperary?”. The men thought for a second or two, and replied: “Well, maybe if they were playing England.”

MILLTOWN SARSFIELDS—1ST GAME, 13/02/22

An historic day—Milltown Sarsfields first competitive fixture was in the 2022 U13 Division 2 league,

Milltown Sarsfields U13 hurlers commenced their 2022 Division 2 campaign on Sunday morning against a Leixlip team who had competed in Division 1 in 2021. The lads lined out in a first ever competitive game for the combined club in their brand new jerseys. Mill Sars elected to play against the wind after winning the toss, setting the scene for an immense defensive performance in the first half. Brilliant performance from all the backs and goalkeeper Ben left the half score at Leixlip leading 2-1 to 0-2.

The change around saw increased ball moving towards the Leixlip goal. An opportunistic Rob Gleeson goal got Mill Sars back in the hunt and this was followed by two Myles D’arcy points and a Thomas Croke goal, leaving them ahead by 0-2 with a few minutes play. The Leixlip onslaught came then with Cillian, Dylan, Jack and Senan to the fore of repelling it but an unfortunate goal put us a point down with minutes to play. No-one panicked however, and some driving play by

Daithi and Rob and some great forward pressure allowed Myles the final say with a nerveless free to guarantee the draw.

Great first day out for this team. Best for Mill Sash on the day Dylan Buckley, Senan Clandillon, Jayden Donoghue, Cillian Breslin, Daithi DeLasa and Myles D’arcy, but big games from all.

Final Score: Leixlip 3-02 Milltown Sarsfields 2-05

TEAM: Ben Crampton, Cillian Breslin, Daithi De Lasa, Daniel Gorey, Dara Fogarty, Dylan Buckley, Eoghan De-lahunty, Gary Malone, Jack Sex, Jayden Donoghue, Myles D’Arcy, Patrick Shannon, Robert Gleeson, Ronan Lacey, Rory Tobin, Rory Woods, Senan Clandillon, Thomas Croke

SCORERS: Myles D’Arcy (0-5, 0-3f), Robert Gleeson (1-0), Thomas Croke (1-0)



MILLTOWN SARFIELDS TRAINING

The following are the training times for Season 2023—**please check with coaches as changes may occur;**

U10: Fri 6.30pm—7.30pm
(Milltown)

U11: Fri 7pm—8pm (Sarsfields)

U12:

Tues 6.30pm—7.30pm (Sarsfields)

Sat 5pm—7pm (Sarsfields)

U14:

Tues 6.15pm—7.30pm (Milltown)

Sat 10am—11:30am (Milltown)

EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to the first 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. In fact, its rumoured that some of our coaches live their entire lives thinking "how can I be like Davy Fitz or Cody?". Maybe Ger (that great philosopher) said it best.....



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 generosity of our sponsors and those who arranged sponsorship for jerseys, tracksuits and the like - particularly Mossy, Kevin, Shane and Brian.
- ◆ The grounds staff in both clubs for keeping the pitches in such good condition.
- ◆ You the parents for helping us spread the hurling bible.
- ◆ The awesome kids who make it all worthwhile.

MILLTOWN SARFIELDS COMMITTEE

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