

2020

Pandemic brings World to a halt.

First 'A' Hurling Title

Club Officers

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| President: | Fr Joe Delaney P.P. |
| Vice Presidents: | Fr John O'Keeffe P.P., Michael Collins, Ned Ryan (Óg), Harry Ryan, Michael O'Mahony, Noel O'Gorman |
| Chairman: | James Collins |
| Vice Chairman: | Ollie Kennedy |
| Secretary: | Majella Coffey |
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| Health & Well Being: | Martin Guilfoyle |
| Health & Safety: | James Flanagan |
| Players' Rep: | Odhran Floyd |
| Committee: | Cecil Ryan, Pat Brennan, Pdraig Tobin, Phelim Ryan, Mary Bourke, Keith McIntyre, Dave Noone, Hugh McLoughlin. |

Juvenile Committee

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|-------------|-------------------|
| Chairman: | Ollie Kennedy |
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Secretary: Ray Meaney
Treasurer: Maria Collins
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Team Management

Senior Hurling: Tom Moylan (Manager), Michael Coffey (Shower), David Hickey, Phelim Ryan, Joe Quaid (Coach)

Junior Hurling: Ian Mellerick, Connie McGrath

Junior Football: Padraig Tobin (Manager), Tom McGlinchey, Eoin Bonfield, Ailbe Coffey

Under 21 H & F:

Minor H & F: Padraic Hogan (Manager), Dinny Ryan Cooper, Odhran Floyd, Jordan Young.

Under 16: Paudge Tobin (Manager), Padraic Hogan, Diarmuid Collins, Kealan Floyd, James Nolan

Under 14: Padraig Kennedy (Manager), Tom Fogarty, Declan Poole, Ollie Kennedy, Ray Meaney, Shane Gavin, Larry McGrath, Paddy Ryan Blondie, Pa Ryan.

Under 12: Hugh McLoughlin (Manager), Dave Roche, Dave Noone, Keith McIntyre, James McKeogh.

Under 11: Alfie O'Brien (Manager), Declan Carrig, Richie Ryan (coach), Tom Ryan Bawn

Under 10: Mike Coffey Red (Manager), David Troy, Brian Healy, John O'Mahony, John Landers, Mike Coffey Shower, John Berkery, Conor Gleeson, Ger Gaffney, Mike Boland, Aidan O'Gorman, Ross McGrath, Daniel Maher, Pat Byrne, Paulie Ryan, John Mooney.

Under 9: Mark Fitzgerald & Brian Heffernan (Managers), James Coffey, Chris Ryan, Kevin Coffey, AnnMarie Kennedy, Paul Hogan, Moira Moylan, Conor Hickey

Under 8: Joe Hogan (Manager), Padraig Malone, Mary Coffey, Mike Coffey, Rosemary Casey, John McBride, Ronan Grimes, Dermot Duggan, Ed Earle, John O'Mahony and Mark Brassil.

Under 7 Richie Butler (Manager), Barry Coleman, Bryan Ringrose, Karen Moloney, Maureen Coffey, Laura Guiney, Val Kennedy, Fergal Jordan, Paul O'Donoghue.

Under 6: Graham Ryan (Manager), Aidan Moloney, Conor O'Mahony, David O'Brien, Jackie English, Cian O'Toole, Emmet Maher, John Savage.

Covid-19

The year 2020 began just like any other with the usual planning and preparations for GAA activities taking place in January and February. However, news of a new virus in China began to hit the airwaves. Very soon a pandemic was declared as the coronavirus (Covid-19) took hold throughout the world. The first case arrived in Ireland at the end of February and the virus quickly spread to all counties. The pandemic affected all aspects of society. Schools, colleges, childcare facilities and cultural institutions were shut. All large gatherings were cancelled. Almost all businesses, venues and amenities were closed and non-essential travel and contact with other people were prohibited. The elderly and those with serious illnesses were advised to cocoon. Travel restrictions were imposed and 'Lockdown' became the 'new normal' for everyone, as daily cases and deaths from the virus were reported on news bulletins. The impact on social and economic life was huge. Unemployment soared as retail and hospitality were severely restricted. School exams were cancelled. Social events and activities were banned.

GAA activities came to a standstill, with pitches and premises closed. No meetings, no training, no matches! The Newport club endeavoured to keep in touch with players through the organising of activities online. Training drills were made available for players to practise on their own. Videos were compiled. Fundraisers were organised for various charities. WhatsApp and Facebook were overrun with competitions and nostalgic recalling of past games and personalities.

Clubs were permitted to return to training at the end of June in preparation for championships commencing a month later. Inter-county championships did not start until late October with All Ireland finals played just before Christmas. Changing rooms remained closed to teams and attendances at games were prohibited, although reduced numbers were allowed attend club games up to September. Water breaks became a new feature in all games.

Miscellaneous

- The Club Lotto was suspended but resumed by selling tickets online in July and the weekly draw was relayed live on Facebook.
- Newport GAA joined with Newport AFC to run Online Bingo hosted in the Community Hall. The venture proved very successful.
- The GAA Club set up a support group where members were available to help anyone in need due to Covid restrictions.
- A competition, hosted on Twitter by Nenagh Guardian, asking people to vote for their favourite club jersey in Tipperary was won by Newport, garnering more than 2,000 votes in the final against Borrisoleigh, having earlier seen off Silvermines, Toomevara and Roscrea.
- Newport/Ballinahinch camogie team won the County Intermediate Shield.
- Rockvale Rovers LGF won the county Junior 'C' Plate competition.
- The Club held a Drug & Alcohol Awareness Evening in St Mary's Secondary School in February. Speakers included addiction counsellor, Tipperary hurling legend John Leahy.

- Newport GAA Healthy Club Committee organised ‘Ireland Lights Up’ walking initiative in January and later in the year promoted Irish Life’s ‘Every Step Counts’ virtual challenge, with Newport representatives clocking up huge mileage.
- The Annual Golf Classic was held at Nenagh Golf Club in August
- The senior hurlers organised ‘The Road to Croke’, an online GoFund Me page, as a fundraiser for Newport Day Centre. All the players combined to clock up the miles in their individual training programmes, equivalent to the distance in travelling to MacDonagh Park Nenagh, Semple Stadium, Páirc Uí Chaoimh and Croke Park. At the end of the campaign, €5,000 was presented to the Day Centre



Treasurer Martin Kennedy, Chairman James Collins and Senior Hurling Captain Conor Floyd present the proceeds of the ‘Road to Croke’ fundraiser to Carol O’Hora of the Day Care Centre

Representative Teams

- Sean O’Brien played in all of Tipperary’s senior hurling championship games.
- Niall Duffy was a panel member with Tipp’s minor footballers in their only championship outing against Clare. Daniel Egan and Jack Ryan also donned the colours in early challenge games.
- Shane Flanagan and Damien O’Brien were members of the North Tipp Under 14 Panel in the Peadar Cummins Tournament.
- James and Brian Tobin were on the North Under 15 Panel in the Roger Ryan Tournament.
- Lee Ryan was on the North Under 16 team that played in the Garda Cup.
- Tom McGlinchey continued as manager of the Tipperary Under 20 Football team. They won the Andrew Corden Cup (South East League) but exited in the first round of the Munster Championship to Limerick.

- Former Newport player and club secretary, Brian Coffey (now resident in Ennis), took on the role of Clare minor hurling manager, having spent 3 years as part of the backroom team. He vacated the role after the championship.

Senior Hurling

County League

8th March in Newport: Drom-Inch 1-13 Newport 1-12

County Championship

25th July in Templederry: Newport 3-21 Clonakenny 0-13

8th August in Golden: Newport 4-13 Mullinahone 2-15

16th August in Dolla: Newport 2-15 Sean Treacys 1-14

30th August in Nenagh: Newport 1-29 Silvermines 0-9 (Séamus O'Riain Cup Quarter Final)

5th Sept in Semple Stadium: Mullinahone 1-22 Newport 1-21 (Séamus O'Riain Cup semi-final)

The seniors made a less than auspicious start to their year when failing to Drom-Inch's second team in the league. Conor O'Mahony and Sean O'Brien were absentees. Mikey Gorman and Brendan Coffey made their senior debuts when introduced from the subs bench. Covid-19 then intervened and no further games were played in the league.

An impressive championship run began with a comprehensive win over Clonakenny. Sean O'Brien was still absent, but O'Mahony starred at centre back with Odhran Floyd wearing No. 3. Conor Floyd worked tirelessly, distributing good ball to the lively forwards from his midfield position. Darragh Carroll (0-9, 8f), Daniel Carew (1-3) and Colin Floyd (2-2) took the scoring honours. Newport announced themselves as championship contenders when they recorded a deserved win over Mullinahone. Four first half goals (Aaron O'Neill, Colin Floyd, Pa Ryan and Darragh Carroll) set them up for victory, although they had to withstand a strong second half comeback from the Southsiders. O'Mahony was an absentee, but Sean O'Brien took his place. Paul Hogan made his first championship start in goals. Eoin Kelly converted two penalties but Newport's defence stood strong in the closing stages as Mullinahone sought to reduce the gap.

Newport made hard work of beating Sean Treacys. Sean O'Brien was now at centre forward and helped himself to 1-2 as did Colin Floyd. Cian Flanagan stood out in defence.

Newport dominated Silvermines in the quarter final and registered an impressive tally on the scoreboard. Darragh Carroll was very accurate, accounting for 0-12 (2 from play), while Colin Floyd chipped in with 1-3. A downside was a serious knee injury to Conor Hickey which kept him out of the remainder of the campaign.

In the semi-final, Newport opened in great style and had raced into a seven point lead by the 20th minute, with the full forward line causing many problems for the Mullinahone defence. However, the experience of Eoin Kelly and the Curran brothers was a big factor in making up the deficit. A goal in the 53rd minute was the turning point, bringing them level. Both sides swapped scores from there to the end, but Mullinahone held out for the narrowest of wins. Colin Floyd maintained his good scoring form and ended up top scorer from play across all games in the county championship. Mike Flannery made some brilliant saves. Mullinahone went on to defeat Lorrha in the final and Newport were left wondering what might have been.

Team in the semi-final: Mike Flannery, Rob Houlihan, Odhran Floyd, Aidan Ryan; Cian Flanagan, Conor O'Mahony, Andrew Hickey; Conor Floyd, Capt (0-2), Peter O'Sullivan (0-2); Aaron O'Neill (0-1), Sean O'Brien, Darragh Carroll (0-8, 6f); Daniel Carew (0-3), Colin Floyd (1-2), Pa Ryan (0-3).

Subs: Martin Carey for A O'Neill; Eoin Shinnors for Carey; Jack Delahunty for D Carew.

Other subs included Paul Hogan, Kealan Floyd, Ben Wixted, Brendan Coffey, Jordan Young, Conor Keating, Conor Hickey (inj).

The North Tipp senior hurling championship was not played in 2020.

Junior Hurling 'B'

31st July in Newport: Newport 0-20 Shannon Rovers 1-14
9th August in Lorrha: Newport 2-16 Lorrha 0-16
23rd August in Puckane: Newport 1-14 Kiladangan 0-17
28th August in Moneygall: Newport 1-21 Moneygall 1-14
4th Sept in Newport: Portroe 2-11 Newport 0-12
19th Sept in Kilcoleman: Silvermines 1-18 Newport 0-19 (semi-final)

The following team lined out in the opening round against Shannon Rovers:

Paul Hogan, Jack Delahunty, Darragh Ryan, Jordan Young; Mike Coffey, Aidan Ryan, Ben Wixted; Thomas Floyd (0-2), Mike McKeogh (0-1); Brendan Coffey, Eoin Shinnars (0-3), Conor Keating (0-2); Kealan Floyd (0-5 f), Mikey Gorman (0-2), Padraic Hogan (0-3).

Subs used Liam Duffy and Kieran McCabe.

Also togged were Emmet Floyd, Brian Healy, James Jones, Mark Harrington, Colin Coleman, Mike Bergin.

Vinny Moloney stood suspended since the previous year. Shannon Rovers scored 0-11 from frees. Jack Delahunty, Mike Coffey and Thomas Floyd were the standout players for Newport.

Kevin O'Brien, Mark Harrington, Mike Bergin, Liam Duffy and Nigel Jones were starters against Lorrha replacing Paul Hogan, Jack Delahunty and Eoin Shinnars who had been promoted to the senior team and Mike McKeogh and Mikey Gorman who were Covid tied.

The same fifteen started again versus Kiladangan but Newport did not impress. A Nigel Jones goal gave them a three point lead entering the final ten minutes, but they were unable to hold on. Many scorable frees were missed, including a late opportunity to win the game. Veterans Mike Coffey and Mark Harrington were best.

An improved performance brought a comfortable victory over Moneygall. Conor Keating (1-2) and Ben Wixted played very well, while Liam Duffy and Jordan Young formed an industrious midfield partnership. Kealan Floyd accounted for 0-10, 7f.

A good start against Portroe put Newport in the driving seat, but Port had drawn level by the interval when the score stood at 0-8 to 1-5. The forwards were poor overall and scores were limited in the second half. Aidan Ryan had gone to the senior team, so Thomas Floyd wore No.6. Padraic Hogan, Mike Quigley and Mikey Gorman were absentees and many of the subs got a run out. Three wins, one defeat and a draw put Newport into the semi-final. There was little between the sides for the entire game, but a Silvermines goal in the first half was to prove decisive. Newport drew level in the closing stages but the 'Mines edged in front again for a narrow victory. Jordan Young and Ben Wixted were most prominent for Newport.

Team v Silvermines: Kevin O'Brien, Jordan Young, Darragh Ryan, Mark Harrington; Ben Wixted, Mike Coffey, Thomas Floyd (0-4); Mike Quigley, Mike McKeogh; Liam Duffy (0-3), Padraic Hogan (0-1), Brendan Coffey; Kealan Floyd (0-7), Conor Keating, Nigel Jones (0-1).
Subs used: Vinny Moloney (0-3), Kieran McCabe, Mike Bergin, Oran Connors.

Junior Football

27th September in Portroe: Ballina 3-14 Newport 3-6

Ballina 'owned' the ball from the start, yet Newport led 1-2 to 0-0 after 10 minutes. They still had a one point lead at the interval (1-3 to 0-5), but Ballina had a goal soon after the resumption. Newport were unable to cope with Ballina's running game, but the wayward shooting of the Shannonsiders ensured that the score remained close. A Colin Floyd goal after twenty minutes reduced the deficit to one point, before Ballina took over with a flurry of scores. A Jack Delahunty goal from a penalty in added time concluded the scoring.

Team: Brendan Coffey, Rob Houlihan, Conor Floyd, Paul Hogan; Cian Flanagan, Damien O'Grady, Odhran Floyd; Martin Carey, Paul Ryan; Darragh Carroll, Peter O'Sullivan, Aaron O'Neill; Jack Delahunty (1-4, 1-2f), Colin Floyd (2-1) Liam Duffy.

Subs: Conor O'Mahony (0-1), for D Carroll; Pa Ryan for L Duffy; Colin Coleman for P O'Sullivan; Kealan Floyd for P Ryan.

Also Jordan Young, Dave Collins, Aidan King.

Under 21

Due to scarcity of playing numbers, Newport tried, unsuccessfully, to amalgamate with neighbouring clubs to field teams in the Under 21 grade. Consequently teams were not affiliated by the club, but as things turned out, only a limited number of games were played in the Under 21 hurling and football championships

Minor

Newport lost at home to Silvermines (4-9 to 1-11) in March in Minor Football ('B'), before Covid struck. Efforts were made to restart the competition in the autumn, but the championship was not completed.

Hurling 'B'

15th July in Borrisokane: Borrisokane 2-16 Newport 0-7

22nd July in Newport: Burgess 1-20 Newport 3-12

29th July in Borrisoleigh: Borrisoleigh 5-15 Newport 2-11

Despite the best efforts of Lee Ryan, Diarmuid O'Riordan and John Ryan in the opening round, Newport were well beaten by Borrisokane, for whom county minor, Conor Ryan was the stand out player.

They started slowly against Burgess, but two Oran Connors goals brought them level at the interval. Jack Ryan (1-6) added a second half goal in a cracking contest. Some wonderful saves (including a penalty) by the Burgess goalie denied Newport victory.

Newport were on the back foot straight from the throw-in when Borrisoleigh scored an early goal. However, they rallied to be just 2-5 to 1-6 behind at the interval. They trailed by a goal (3-10 to 2-10) at the second water break, but Borrisoleigh upped the ante to run out easy winners, with Eddie Ryan in top scoring form.

Team: Oisín Kennedy, Shane Murray, Thomas Byrnes, John Lee; Aidan Ryan, Niall Duffy, Jay Ryan; Daniel Egan, Jack Ryan (Cooper); Stephen McCormack, Diarmuid O'Riordan, John Ryan; Lee Ryan, Stephen Coffey, Oran Connors.

Subs: Colm O'Malley, Darragh Kennedy, Brian Tobin, James Tobin, Adam Moloney, Jamie Moloney, Rory O'Connor, Darren Coffey, Tom Allen, Gavin Mellerick, Conor McHugo, Kevin O'Brien, Luke Collins, Diarmuid Cantillon, Darragh Cantillon, Daniel Ryan, Robbie Murray.

Under 16

Hurling 'B'

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|--------------------------------------|--|
| 20 th July in Lorrha: | Newport 4-11 Lorrha 1-8 |
| 27 th July in Newport: | Newport 6-12 Borrisokane 0-12 |
| 3 rd August in Newport: | Newport 2-10 Burgess 2-10 |
| 10 th August in Shallee: | Newport 2-13 Ballinahinch/Templederry 2-10 |
| 17 th August in Lorrha: | Lorrha 1-9 Newport 2-5 (Qr Final) |
| 24 th August in Puckane: | Newport 3-12 Kiladangan 2-10 (Plate) |
| 7 th Sept in Templederry: | Newport 3-18 Ballinahinch/Templederry 3-11 (Plate Final) |

Newport had an impressive run through the round robin series of games. Diarmuid O'Riordan (1-5) and Luke Collins (2-1) took the scoring honours in the opening victory over Lorrha. Star of the big win over Borrisokane was Bryan Nolan who helped himself to 4-2. They found themselves 5 points in arrears (1-8 to 0-6) at the interval against Burgess. However, a spirited fight back secured a draw, with the defence outstanding and Lee Ryan accounting for 0-7 (4f) and Brian Tobin 1-2. Goals from Gavin Mellerick and Brian Tobin, allied to 0-8 (7f) by Lee Ryan got them over the line against Ballinahinch/Templederry, putting Newport through to a quarter final meeting with Lorrha. Newport missed many scoring opportunities, including frees, in their second joust with Lorrha on a horribly wet evening at their opponents' Lower Ormond venue. They were over-reliant on Diarmuid O'Riordan (2-0) and Lee Ryan (0-5, 4f) for scores and lost by the narrowest of margins.

They recovered quickly, however, and compensated with a deserved win in the Plate competition. Newport started brightly in the final and had built up a 3-10 to 1-4 lead by half time. Ballinahinch/Templederry reduced the deficit to 4 points but Newport finished strongly for a convincing victory. John Lee and Aidan Ryan stood out at the centre of the defence, while Lee Ryan was scorer in chief.

Team in Plate Final: Bryan Nolan, Sean Nolan, Aidan Ryan, Kevin O'Brien (0-1); Mark Forde, John Lee, Aaron Coleman; Stephen McCormack, Lee Ryan (2-6, 4f); Dan Ryan (0-2), Diarmuid O'Riordan (0-4), James Tobin; Brian Tobin (0-2), Dara Kennedy (0-1), Luke Collins; Gavin Mellerick (1-2), Keith Hogan, Michael Hewitt, Diarmuid Cantillon, Dara Cantillon, Eoghan Browne, Chris Egan, Robbie Murray, Conor McHugo, Damien O'Brien, Christopher Moloney.



Under 16 Hurlers, winners of the North Tipp 'B' Plate competition

Under 14

Hurling 'B'

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|---------------------------------------|--|
| 23 rd July in Newport: | Newport 6-9 Kiladangan 2-5 |
| 30 th July in Ballinderry: | Newport 1-12 Shannon Rovers Gaels 0-5 |
| 6 th August in Newport: | Newport 1-12 Roscrea 2-7 |
| 13 th August in Lorrha: | Newport 2-12 Lorrha 2-7 |
| 27 th August in Shallee: | Newport 4-12 Ballinahinch/Templederry 0-4 (Qr Final) |
| 3 rd Sept in Moneygall: | Lorrha 2-12 Newport 1-10 AET (semi-final) |

Hurling 'D'

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|--|-------------------------------------|
| 23 rd July in Solohead: | Newport 5-17 Fr Sheehys 1-2 |
| 30 th July in Thurles: | Newport 3-6 Carrick Davins 0-2 |
| 13 th August: | Emly conceded |
| 23 rd August in Newport: | JK Brackens 4-5 Newport 2-6. |
| 27 th August in Cloughjordan: | Kilruane MacDonaghs 6-3 Newport 1-3 |
| 3 rd Sept | Mullinahone conceded |

The Under 14s started their year in January with S&C sessions and training at the Hurling Wall. They had played hurling challenges v Clonlara and Broadford and a Féile football ('A') against Kilruane MacDonaghs, before Covid called a halt to activities. During the lockdown period, sessions were held online with coach Shane Gavin. Two teams were affiliated in the Under 14 grade. The second team participated in a newly-established county competition and acquitted themselves well. The first team won all their games in the round robin section of the North 'B' grade. They put in some impressive performances but had the misfortune to lose to Lorrha after extra time in the quarter final. One of their best showings was against Roscrea, the eventual winners of the competition. They led 1-11 to 0-2 at the interval, but did well to hold on for a win following a determined Roscrea fightback. Damien O'Brien, Cathal Hannon, Callum Poole, Martin McCabe and Killian Collins were most prominent for Newport.

Team v Roscrea: Charlie Tobin, David Whelton, Damien O'Brien, Conor Sweeney; Luke Kennedy, Cathal Hannon, Adam Power; Callum Poole (0-1), Martin McCabe (0-3, 1f); Darragh Mackey, Killian Collins (0-5, 4f), James Moloney (0-2); Eoghan Flynn, Darragh Gavin (1-1), Jack McCarthy.

The Under 14s stayed training until the end of the year and participated in an internal hurling wall tournament which was very competitive and enjoyable.

Under 12

Hurling 'A'

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| 21 st July in Ballina: | Ballina 4-8 Newport 4-5 |
| 28 th July in Newport: | Newport 5-12 Nenagh 0-6 |
| 5 th August in Borrisoleigh: | Borrisoleigh 3-6 Newport 1-4 |
| 11 th August in Newport: | Toomevara 1-7 Newport 1-6 |
| 18 th August in Newport: | Kilruane concede |
| 29 th August in Nenagh: | Newport 9-7 Nenagh 2-8 (Qr final) |
| 2 nd Sept in Newport: | Newport 3-13 Ballina 2-7 (semi-final) |
| 5 th Sept in Dolla: | Newport 1-7 Borrisoleigh 0-7 (North Final) |
| 26 th Sept in Annacarty: | Dúrlas Óg 5-7 Newport 2-13 AET (Co semi-final) |

Hurling 'B'

21st July in Newport: Portroe 6-5 Newport 1-4
28th July in Templederry: Newport 4-6 Templederry 0-2
4th August in Lorrha: Newport 4-1 Lorrha 0-4
11th August in Newport: Borrisoleigh 3-3 Newport 3-2
18th August in Ballinderry: Newport 2-4 Shannon Rovers 2-1
2nd Sept in Ballina: Ballina 9-10 Newport 2-5 (semi-final)

Hurling 'D'

21st July in Ballina: Ballina 9-2 Newport 4-4
28th July in Newport: Nenagh 3-5 Newport 1-3
4th August in Newport: Newport 4-8 Kiladangan 5-4
18th August in Newport: Kilruane conceded
1st Sept in Ballinderry: Shannon Rovers 2-8 Newport 2-0 (semi-final)

Almost 40 players, under 11 and 12, started back training in January and they managed to get two challenge matches in against Ballyboden and Newtownhandrum before lockdown. During the lockdown they did a series of skills challenges amongst themselves and then went on to take part in a team skills challenge against seven other teams from around the country - Ballyboden, Athenry, Sixmilebridge, Kilmacud, Ballina, Killeagh and De La Salle. The latter were the eventual winners after seven weeks of different online challenges. The Under 11's had a regular online training session each Saturday morning with coach, Richie Ryan, who set weekly challenges to practise. When they finally got back on the field, Newport fielded three Under 12 teams in hurling. After mixed results against all the other teams, the first team went on to win the club's first ever title in a very competitive 'A' grade. The final against Borrisoleigh was tight throughout. The crucial score came midway through the second half when Cormac Shanahan hit the net. Some heroic defending kept the Borris boys at bay in the closing stages. It took extra time to separate the teams in the county semi-final, but Dúrlas Óg's ability to score goals saw them secure victory in a thrilling contest

Team in Final (13 a-side): Luke McIntyre, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Cathal McNamara, Conor McLoughlin, Ryan O'Donnell, Charlie Tobin, Harry Noone, Colm Ryan, Ollie Roche, Cormac Shanahan, Ben Morgan, Micheál Shanahan, Harry McKeogh

The second and third teams, consisting mainly of Under 10 and 11 players, both reached their respective semi-finals and acquitted themselves well.



Newport Under 12 Hurlers, North Tipp 'A' winners 2020

Juvenile Football

The first rounds of the Under-age football competitions were played in September before Covid restrictions called a halt to further activities. Newport's first rounds were as follows:

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|---|-----------------------------|
| Under 16 'A' 20 th September in Newport: | Newport 2-6 Silvermines 0-8 |
| Under 14 'A' 26 th September in Newport: | Ballina 3-9 Newport 3-3 |
| Under 12 'A' | No game played |
| Under 12 'C' 26 th Sept in Newport: | Newport 2-5 Lorrha 1-2 |
| Under 12 'D' 22 nd Sept in Borrisokane: | Newport 3-3 Borrisokane 0-0 |

Lower Age Groups

The Under 10's had 32 players involved, with a number of them helping out the Under 12 teams. They played blitzes against Murroe, Monaleen, Bruff, Ballina, Ballinahinch, Cappawhite and Burgess, They had S&C sessions with Shane Hassett and worked on running movement and skills in both hurling and football. During lockdown, they participated in online training sessions. In September the Under 9's took part in the Mid/North League, playing a Football blitz in Dr Morris Park, a Hurling blitz in Borrisoleigh and hosted a blitz in Newport, fielding 3 teams on each occasion.

The Under 8 group had indoor fundamental movement sessions before taking to the field and then had to go online for training during lockdown. A 50-Touch challenge was run off and won by Sean Coffey. The group played hurling and football blitzes in Thurles, Cappawhite, Upperchurch, JK Brackens, Thurles Gaels, Loughmore and Drom-Inch. They also enjoyed a trek and BBQ on Keeper Hill.

33 Under 7's participated in 30 field training sessions and 12 online sessions during the year. They participated in hurling and football blitzes with Monaleen and Nenagh.

Scór

The County Final of Senior Scór was held in Newport on 7th March. The home club was represented by:

Solo Singing: Siobhán Egan

Léiriú: Pdraig Kennedy, Paraic Kennedy, Tom McCabe, Cathriona O'Brien, Lily O'Grady, Carol O'Hora, John Tuohey, and director Mary Browne-Ryan

Aithriseoireacht: James Collins (reciting his father's composition "Old Cully Bog")

Tráth na gCeist: Pdraig Kennedy, Tom McGlinchey, Rosemary Ryan, Anna O'Riordan.

Siobhan Egan along with the Léiriú group took county honours, but they had to wait until 31st October 2021 for the Munster Final, which was held in Cashel. Both representatives won provincial honours and went on to compete in the All Ireland Final in The Connacht Air Dome, Claremorris. The Léiriú group retained their national crown with their act entitled 'Lisdoonvarna here we come.'

The Area Final of Scór na bPáistí was held in Newport on 1st March, with teams from Ballina, Portroe, Ballinahinch, Burgess, Kiladangan, Kilruane MacDonaghs, Borrisokane, Roscrea and Inane Rovers participating. The following represented Newport:

Solo Singing: Cormac Troy & Jack Landers.

Ballad Groups: Group 1 of Cormac Troy, Jack Landers, Darragh Healy, James Long & Andrew Coffey (qualified for North 'A' Final) and Group 2 of Freya Jones, Chloe McCarthy, Aimee Cusack, Jessica O'Neill & Emily Humphreys (qualified for 'B' Final).

Recitation: Tom McCabe (qualified for 'A' Final) & Leah Molloy.

Instrumental Music Groups: Group 1 of Stephen O'Brien, David Rowland, Liam Coffey, Darragh McGrath & Brian McCabe (qualified for 'A' Final) and Group 2 of Emma Shanahan & Moya McKeogh (qualified for 'B' Final).

Quiz Teams: Team 1 of Andrew Coffey, Jack Landers, Cormac Troy & Sarah Clarke. Team 2 of Aimee Cusack, James Long, Hollie Keane & Cillian Healy (qualified for 'B' Final).

No further rounds were held.



Newport's Léiriú group pictured after the County Final in Newport:

Back: Josephine Cahill (County Scór), John Tuohey, Pdraig Kennedy, Paraic Kennedy, Tom McCabe.

Front: Cathriona O'Brien, Mary Browne-Ryan, Carol O'Hora, Lily O'Grady.



Siobhan Egan performing at the All Ireland Final

End of Year

- Sean O'Brien announced his retirement from inter-county hurling, having amassed a unique collection of All Ireland medals – Under 16, Minor, Under 21, Intermediate and Senior.
- At the AGM, which was deferred until January and held online, outgoing Secretary Majella Coffey made special mention of the efforts of the local schools in promoting Gaelic Games and thanked Cora Moroney, Cecil Ryan and Paudge Tobin for their work in organising coaches at primary level.



- The Treasurer reported a surplus of €26,912 for the year. Main items of expenditure included Field Maintenance €26,912, Team Registration €4,850 and Team Expenses €8,699, while the biggest sources of income were Club Lotto €31,617, County Draw €23,639 and Golf Classic €7,096.
- Chairman, James Collins, said he was proud of how the Club dealt with the Covid 19 situation in 2020. He referred to the great run of the senior hurlers. He set out what he thought were achievable goals for 2021 - win the Seamus O'Riain Cup, win a North Junior 'B' Hurling Championship, be competitive at Under 21 and Under 19 and have a right good go at Junior Football. He had particular thanks for Majella Coffey (outgoing secretary) for her work over the past 4 years and outgoing Development Officer James Flanagan for the unbelievable achievements he had made in the development and maintenance of Lacken Park.
- Juvenile Committee Chairman, Ollie Kennedy, spoke about the biggest challenge presented by Covid - keeping players engaged. He praised the coaches for their hard work and inventiveness. The fact that most kids in each group came back in July when lockdown ended was testament to the success of their efforts. He congratulated the Under 12 team who won the club's first ever North 'A' hurling title. He thanked James Flanagan (stepping down as Development Officer) for always having the field in pristine condition, and Mike Coffey for the passion and drive he brought to the coaching role.
- Juvenile Secretary, Ray Meaney referred to 2020 as a year that will live long in the memory for all the wrong reasons. Instead of training and playing matches, we were confined to our homes in what was an unprecedented and frightening time. However, the true heart of the GAA and our community was never seen in a better light as shopping was collected, meals delivered and the elderly and vulnerable cared for.

Obituaries in 2020

Eamon Rainsford, Murroe, died in January. Eamon transferred from Murroe in 1984 and continued to hurl with Newport until the end of the decade, winning a North Tipp Junior medal in 1988.

Tommy Moylan, Ballymackeogh, who died in January, was a loyal and lifelong supporter of Newport and Tipperary teams. He lined out with Mulcaire Rovers teams in the 1950's and was a committee member of that club.

Martin Bonfield, Tullow and formerly from Ballinahinch, died suddenly in February. He won a North Tipp Junior Hurling Championship with Ballinahinch in 1971. He had a long involvement with Newport Athletic Club. He made a wide and varied contribution to Newport GAA Club as selector and manager of numerous under-age and adult teams, Development Officer and Committee member.

Harry Ryan (Benson), Main St Newport, who died in April, was current Honorary President of Newport GAA Club. He served as a player, selector, club officer and worker since arriving in Newport from Cappamore in 1961. He was widely known due to his work as a building contractor, involvement in the greyhound industry and in running the Post Office in Newport. Harry Ryan received a Sean Ghael award from Tipperary GAA in 2011.

Patricia Carey (nee O'Brien), Rearcross and formerly from Derryleigh died in April. She was a founding member and long-time official of St Mary's Camogie Club, followed by a seven year stint as Secretary of the County Camogie Board. Patricia wrote the section on camogie for Volume One of By The Mulcaire Banks.

Kevin Bourke of Stonehall and formerly from Roscrea died in May following a protracted illness. He won North Tipp championship medals with Newport in Minor Football (2007) and Under 21 football (2010).

Ger Hayes of Ballysimon, Limerick and originally from Freigh, Newport died in July following a protracted illness. Ger lined out with Newport under-age footballers all through the 1970's, culminating in assisting the junior footballers in 1979.

Billy Bradshaw of Tullow, who died in October, was a keen hurling follower and served as a member of the Newport GAA committee in the mid 1970's. He was particularly well known for his association with the Newport Drama Group and helped produce many plays.

Bryan Ringrose of Mulcaire Manor was an active coach with Newport juvenile teams up to his untimely death in November after a short illness. The Limerick native's involvement was with the lower age groups, helping with the introduction of young players to hurling and football.

Charlie Small of Cully, who died suddenly in December, was a popular and widely respected member of the local farming community. He played hurling and football as a sturdy defender with Newport underage teams up to minor level.

Matthias (Thiasy) Allen of Killeen, Newport who died in December was a highly regarded member of the local farming community. He played with Mulcaire Rovers hurling teams during the 1950's.