

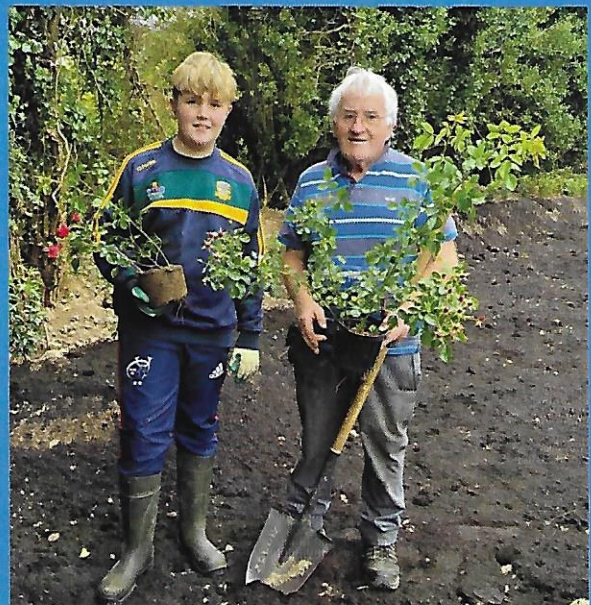


SKRYNE GFC



Unveiling of Memorial Plaque and Blessing of Memorial Garden at Fr. McManus Park, Skryne

Sunday 15th September, 2024
by Fr Thomas O'Mahony PP



Jimmy Gibbons and Grandson Jimmy Shorten begin the groundworks for our Garden in September 2021.

Welcome

On behalf of Skryne GFC I would like to welcome you to our Unveiling and Blessing of our Memorial Garden.

This Garden is dedicated to all the people we lost over the years at a young age - some of them at a very young age. The caption on the Plaque says - "Dedicated to those who left us far too soon" and is our way of remembering them respectfully. It also emphasises what they could have achieved for our Club had they been given the opportunity.

I would like to thank all the people who made this possible particularly Dermot Carty and Joseph O'Brien and their Committee who eventually got this project completed. I hope you enjoy the day and all are welcome to visit this Memorial Garden at any time in the future.

Mile buíochas

Stephen Naughton

Chairman Skryne GFC

The idea of a Garden of Remembrance came about after we lost one of our star young players in 2010. That incident affected everybody connected with the Club and reminded me - as Chairperson of Skryne GFC at that time (2009 to 2012) - that we need to remember all our young people taken from us way too early.

It was brought to my attention that Ashbourne Community College had a little Garden of Remembrance within their Grounds. So I paid a visit to the College and was given a lot of sound advice as to how to go about creating the same in Skryne. Their Monument colour etc faded after a time so they advised us to erect a stone Plaque with lettering which would withstand all types of our Irish weather. Therefore this is what we have today.

We endured lots of hiccups along the way since 2010. Many different Committees with many different opinions as to what format our Garden should take. Delays in acquiring and purchasing the Granite Stone, delays in

agreeing an inscription on the stone and the long delay in getting it erected in the proper position etc etc.

Before all that the trees had to be removed and the groundwork completed. All the above takes time followed by getting the smaller plaques designed and made up including a new sign for our 'Lá Na gClub' oak tree which is now 40 years old.

So after a long drawn out process we have a fitting monument here today to remind us of the young people we lost. I would like to thank all who helped in any way to see this to completion. To our present Committee for allowing us the opportunity to finish the Garden.

Like Stephen in his address above I would like to thank Joseph O'Brien for all his help throughout this journey. Without Joe's input and encouragement this project would never have been completed.

Dermot Carty.

Chairperson of Garden of Remembrance Committee

Skryne 1984 - 2024

Forty years ago in 1984 Skryne GFC had a very successful year right across all sections of the Club.

Fast forward to 2024 and comparisons can be made pointing towards another successful year.

Our Senior team have already finished top of League Division one table - without actually bringing home the Mooney Cup as the top four play out a semi final and final.

They have now also reached the quarter Final of the Championship. The Feis Cup (like other Cup competitions) has lost its appeal and sadly has dropped down the order of importance.

Our Underage teams are all doing well. Our Minors reached the League Final and are now in the Championship semi final.

Our Under 15s also reached their League Final but were short some key players when losing that Final.

Both our School teams did really well with Skryne NS reaching both boys and girls finals. Rathfeigh girls went one better winning their very first Primary Schools Girls Final.

Considering Skryne lost five, six if you count a Replay, (81, 84,

85, 87 and 89) Finals in the 1980s maybe we can improve that statistic in the 2020s. Hopefully this year we can at least emulate the team of 1984 and go one better. The comparisons are favourable - so why not.



Team	P	W	D	L	For	Against	Pts
1 Skryne	11	7	1	3	151	133	15
2 Summerhill	11	7	1	3	168	155	15
3 Ballinabrackey	11	5	4	2	147	120	14
4 Donaghmore/Ashbourne	11	6	2	3	153	127	14
5 Ratoath	11	5	3	3	136	128	13
6 St. Peter's Dunboyne	11	5	1	5	171	159	11
7 St. Colmcille's	11	4	2	5	138	139	10
8 Na Fianna	11	4	2	5	152	161	10
9 Gaeil Colmcille	11	4	2	5	145	162	10
10 Bhulf Tón	11	4	2	5	122	141	8
11 Simonstown Gaels	11	3	1	7	137	154	7
12 Navan O'Mahony's	11	1	1	9	122	163	2



Lá na gClub 29 July 1984, an oak sapling was planted in McManus Park by Jim Hayes, Chairman Skryne FC assisted by Paddy Mooney, President Skryne GFC.

Skryne Club Officials present were, from left: Sean Smyth (Macetown) Senior Selector; Dermot Carty, treasurer & assistant secretary; Maurice Daly, Underage Secretary; Paddy Cromwell, PRO; Brian Smith (Dunboyne), Meath Co. Board Chairman; Tony Whyte, Secretary and Sean Russell, Junior Selector.

Skryne GFC - 1984 GAA Centenary Year

- **Mr. Jim Hayes** elected Chairperson of the club succeeding Mr. Sean Smyth (Skryne) while Mr. Tony Whyte replaced Mr. Ken Mooney as Secretary.
- **Liam Hayes is Senior Football team Captain Cyril Farrell All Ireland** Senior and Minor Hurling winning manager of Galway selected as Skryne Senior football team manager. Cyril's advisors were: **Sean Smyth (Painstown), Michael Lynch, Eamon Giles and Brian Smyth (Skryne).**
- **Skryne reach the finals of all three major competitions in Meath.**
 - (a) Walterstown defeat the Blues in the Senior Championship Final.
 - (b) Skryne beat Summerhill by double scores in a Replay of the Feis cup Final.
 - (c) There was a major upset in the Senior League Final when Castletown beat the Holders Skryne by 2 points
- Skryne schoolgirl **Emer Carty** (Skryne NS) won the competition to design the cover of the programme for the Meath Centenary Championship Final. She received her award at half time of the Senior Final from Colm Cromwell Vice-Chairman Meath Co. Board
- Rathkenny defeat Skryne's second team in the Semi-Final of the Junior Championship
- Skryne defeat Yellow Furze (Seneschalstown) in the Final of the Under 12 Football Championship
- Simonstown Gaels beat Skryne in the Quarter Final of the Under 14 Championship.
- A strong Skryne NS team hammer Culmullen NS in the Final of the Primary Schools Championship
- **Meath defeat Monaghan in the Senior Football Centenary Cup Final.**
- Skryne are represented on the team by **Colm O'Rourke, Liam Hayes, Pdraig Finnerty and Willie Rogan.**
- Dublin once again beat Meath in the Leinster Final.
- **Liam Hayes** won **Personality of Month** for his displays during the month of May.
- **Colm O'Rourke** was chosen as the winner in the Gaelic Stars Yearbook annual awards for every County in Ireland as well as London and Australia.

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Dedicated to those who left us far too soon

Name	Year	Aged
Patrick Crocock	1961	33
Jack Gordon	1962	23
Finian Maguire	1968	19
Brian Bennett	1978	20
James Hughes	1979	29
Mary White	1980	34
Sean Rodgers	1982	18
John Reilly	1982	27
Thomas Tobin	1983	38
Thomas Curran	1983	20
Gerard Hayes	1983	24
Margaret Phillips	1983	35
Anthony Bennett	1984	21
Peter Byrne	1985	30
Mary Byrne	1985	26
Niamh Swan	1986	19
Dolores O'Brien	1988	34
Carmel Ruane	1989	29
Johnny Munnely	1990	20
Noel Neville	1992	29
Ger Critchley	1993	28
Niamh Curry	1996	37
Paddy Browne	1998	36
Aoife Begley	1999	21
Geraldine McAvinney	2000	20
Colin McCann	2002	25
Shane Whyte	2002	19
Ciaran McSorley	2004	34
Matthew Hoban	2005	27
Daire Maxwell	2007	16
Sarah McGoldrick	2008	21
Liam Tolan	2010	18
Noreen O'Reilly	2011	34
Isobel Rooney	2012	6
Oliver McDonnell	2013	37
Sean Lynch	2019	34
Rosemary O'Reilly	2022	35

- **Declan Smyth (Skryne and Gormanston College)** was the only Meath player chosen on the Leinster team for the Colleges Final in which they beat Connacht in Kilkenny by 3-12 to 2-6.
- Three Meath men played for Ireland versus Australia in the International series in Cork - Mick Lyons from Summerhill and the two Skryne men - **Liam Hayes and Colm O'Rourke**.
- **Lá na gClub 29 July 1984**. To celebrate Centenary year the GAA introduced the very first **Lá na gClub** in which every club in the Country was asked to feature some special celebrations for the occasion. Skryne included their Annual Sports day and a Gala Dinner in Skryne Hall that evening. The sports day included a novelty football match between Skryne Finalists 1971 versus Skryne Finalists 1981. No result of the match seems to have been recorded. Five players overlapped on both panels - Pdraig and Aidan O'Rourke, Ken Mooney, Jimmy Finnerty and Dermot Carty. **On Lá na gClub** an oak sapling was planted at McManus Park, Skryne by the Chairman of the Club, Mr Jim Hayes along with the President, Mr Packy Mooney, in the presence of club officials. That oak has now grown into a huge tree, symbolising the growth of the club from "an acorn" to a giant tree.
- **Colm O'Rourke** became the **first Skryne player to receive an all-Star award in 1983** and was honoured for his achievement by the Skryne Club at a function in the Beechmount Hotel in Navan.
- **Skryne win the Centenary Quiz** beating Wolfe Tones in the Final by 94 points to 81 with Oldcastle 3rd on 78 points. The winning team was: **Tommy Callaghan, Paddy Cromwell, Maurice Daly and David Carty**.
- Mr Jimmy Magee of RTE fame was the Quiz Master.
- On a sad note **Very Rev Fr Michael McManus died in 1984** and was laid to rest in his native Multyfarnham Co. Westmeath on June 15th. McManus Park Skryne is named after Fr. Michael. He had received the Meath Hall of fame award from Meath Co. Board in 1976

Dermot Carty & Maurice Daly. July 2020

Skryne panel 2024



Back L-R: James Reeves, Robert Gallagher, Paddy Carpenter, Mark Battersby, Niall Morland, Paddy Fox, Daniel Fitzpatrick, Jack Dardis, Mark Swan, Shane Smyth, Darragh O'Dowd, Harry Rooney, Ian Gillett, Conor O'Donoghue, John O'Regan, James Finnerty, Michael Doherty, John Finnerty, Pdraig Finnerty, Cian O'Donoghue.

Front L-R: Ciaran Quinn, Oisín Keogh, Billy Smyth, Charlie Swan, Niall Lenehan, Niall Finnerty, Ciaran Lenehan, Darragh Campion, Jack Swan, Neil Burke, Stephen O'Brien, Conor O'Brien.

The Skryne panel from the mid 80's



Back L-R: Jim Carolan, Paul McAuley, Ciaran McSorley, Colm O'Rourke, Ivan Lynch, Mick McDonagh, Colin Lynch, John Neville, Sean Whyte, Tom Keague, Willie Rogan, James Pentony, Pdraig Finnerty.

Front L - R: Paddy Ryan, Nigel Fox, Paddy Browne, Gerry Browne, John Rogan, Liam Hayes, Declan Browne, Ronan O'Brien, Declan Smyth, Michael Maguire, Kevin O'Rourke, Dessie Finnerty