

2021

THE YEAR IN REVIEW



CREST HISTORY



CLUB MARK



TEAM NEWS

CASTLEBAR CELTIC F.C. NEWSLETTER



WELCOME

The year may be coming to a close but we will keep bringing you all the latest news about Castlebar Celtic through 2022 and beyond.

A Word from the Chairperson

Dear Reader,

Welcome to our new quarterly newsletter. I have the privilege of writing this address and keeping you up-to-date with the ongoing events in Castlebar Celtic. By now you are aware that Mr. Stevie Gavin has been appointed as our new senior A team manager. I would like to wish Stevie, Declan Flynn, Barry McLoughlin, the entire management team and all the players our best wishes. Hopefully silverware and plenty of enjoyment on and off the pitch are on the cards in the coming years. I would also like to thank interim boss Bryan Mannion for his amazing professionalism in looking after the senior A team. Along with this, I would like to extend a warm thanks to Steven Moran as he steps down as the Senior B team manager after the McDonnell Cup Final on December 19th. Regarding the final, I hope to see plenty of you in Solar 21 Park next Sunday supporting the second team in the Division cup final. Steven has done an amazing job and we would like to wish him and his family the best in the future. The u21 team had a very strong year, just falling short at the semi-final stage. I wish to thank the management team of Barry McLoughlin, Bryan Mannion, Pdraig Cresham and Michael Robinson, along with a super bunch of players, for a great effort in the newly formed u21 league.

Our Youths provided us with great success stories throughout 2021. Our academies, with nearly 80 boys on a Saturday, and 30 girls on a Sunday, from ages 6 to 10, indicate a strong and bright future. Seeing so many smiles and enjoyment on these little faces makes it such a fun and enjoyable experience. A special mention goes to all the coaches for their dedication. Those who gave up their free time to coach these future stars will hopefully see some of these players in an Ireland jersey in the coming years. We have had brilliant success at various youth levels including our u11 boys league and cup winners, u12 girls league winners, u13 boys cup winners and the U17 boys league winners. With external cups still on-going and with the u18s through to the semi-final of Quigley Cup, there is still plenty of football going on over the Christmas period .

Alongside the football, we have so much else going on off the pitch. We are still working behind the scenes to get the old five-aside turned into a state-of-art seven-aside training venue. The funding and deposit have been secured, with only the legal side holding up the start of the revamp. The clubhouse has reopened to groups using our hall from various activities including Irish Dancing, arts classes and dance classes. We are so grateful that you have chosen Celtic clubhouse as your venue. We have ran fundraisers to raise much needed monies for the day-to-day running off our club and recently bought a VEO camera for match days so we may broadcast through social media platforms to our many supporters living abroad. We want to thank Amy Robinson for driving this programme.

With the Christmas break upon us, I would personally like to thank the following: The newly-formed Club Committee who work tirelessly behind the scenes for both Senior and Youths. The management of all teams for giving up your time and bringing your experience and professionalism to the various groups. Plus, the Academy players and our golden oldies in the Masters. Without you we wouldn't have a club. I must also thank the councillors for your continued support towards Castlebar Celtic, along with South West Mayo Development, Tus, RSS and Tom Jennings and his terrific team for the upkeep of Celtic Park. Finally, to our loyal supporters, lotto sellers, lotto supporters, and sponsors who generously support the club 52 weeks of the year, along with the Mayo Youths, Mayo Senior committees, and the Referees' Association who make it possible for football to run over a full 12 months, a massive thank you.

Wishing you and yours a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2022.

Joe McDonald

Chairperson



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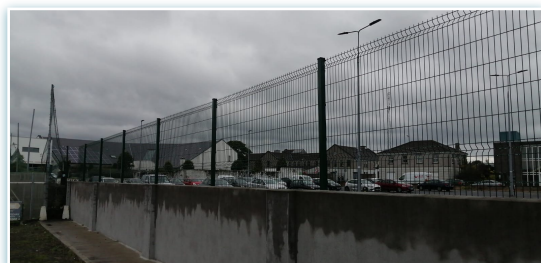
News off the Pitch

A lot of work goes on behind the scenes thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and the revenue from our weekly lotto. Here is where your money goes when you support our lotto!

This year we replaced the clubhouse guttering, installed new security fencing and upgraded the spectator railing.

We are grateful for the support we get from Tom Jennings and his Community Employment team of workers. They guarantee our grounds and pitches are maintained to a high standard in all weathers.

Finally, you can now book our fully LED lit astro turf pitch online. Find us on bookapitch.com



The History of the Crest

By Fergie Mc Ellin

Until 1980, Castlebar Celtic, like many other amateur clubs, did not have a crest or logo on their jerseys. On purchasing a new set of gear during the 1979/80 season, it was decided that we must get a crest. The decision was taken to go with a replica of the Glasgow Celtic crest with our club name. The process was difficult as there was no clothing machines, email or Google in those days. We found a company in Dublin who made badges and we had to physically go to the shop to agree the design, eventually bringing them back to Castlebar to get them individually sewn onto the jerseys.

In the mid-80s, after agreeing a sponsorship deal with Staunton Sports (now Elverys), they had a machine that could print a black version of the Castlebar Municipal crest on the playing gear and the club used this logo for a few seasons. When we joined the Connacht senior league in 87/88, the club wanted a logo of our own. Artist Frank O'Reilly from Newport Road was brought on board to help. After many changes the crest that was used from 1990 to 2018 was decided upon. However, with the club being such a big part of the Castlebar community for nearly 100 years, it was always hoped that a crest could be designed that could show the town's place in the heart of our club and the club's place in the heart of the community. To achieve this, we again partnered with Elverys who very generously put a design artist at our disposal. We gave him our thoughts on combining the club crest with the Castlebar Municipal crest and we eventually agreed on the logo which was unveiled in 2019.



When our club was founded in 1924 it was known as Castlebar FC. Members then decided to add 'Celtic' to the name in honour of the Glasgow Celtic club. At the time, Glasgow Celtic was a relatively new club with a big interest and relevance in Ireland. The club was founded by a Marist Christian brother called Brother Walfrid who came from Ballymote in Co. Sligo. The first patron of the club was Michael Davitt from Straide who of course founded the Land League in Daly's Hotel in Castlebar (Daly's Hotel would later be known as the Imperial Hotel). In the 1970s and 80s, Castlebar Celtic often used the hotel to change before our clubhouse was opened. On the crest, the Glasgow Celtic connection is represented by the shamrock and the founded-date at the bottom. The castle on the crest is a representation of Barry's Castle from which Castlebar gets its name. The castle is said to have stood on the north-western side of the military barracks overlooking the town of Castlebar.

The block step look on the top of the crest also gives the look of the castle walls. The crossed pike on the crest is a reminder of the 1798 Races of Castlebar which is one of the most historic events to have happened in the town. The two yew trees on the crest represents the fact that Castlebar is the capital town of County Mayo. The Irish word Maigh Eo translates in English as 'The plain of the Yew Tree.'

Senior Team News

Castlebar Celtic F.C. is delighted to announce the appointment of Mr. Stevie Gavin as the Clubs' Senior Manager. Stevie returns to the role, which he held from 2013-2015, with an impressive playing CV, having played with many leading Irish Football Clubs, including Bohemians, Longford and Athlone Town. Stevie has played more than 100 league games with Athlone as well as playing in a FAI Senior Cup Final with Longford Town.

Stevie's family has a long and distinguished history with the club. His father Sean is a past Chairman of Castlebar Celtic while his Grand Uncle, Liam Gavin, captained the first Celtic Connacht Youth winning side in the 1946/47 season.

Club Chairperson Mr. Joe McDonald was delighted that Stevie agreed to take on the role as Senior Men's manager and paid tribute to Bryan Mannion for all his work and dedication to the senior team and the club over the last several years.



Stevie Gavin added:

“I am delighted to add Barry McLaughlin and Declan Flynn to the management team for the coming season. Having played alongside and managed both players I know that the level of dedication, knowledge and professionalism these guys will bring to the set-up will be of huge benefit in maximising the potential of the squad we are currently assembling.”

Everyone at the club wishes the trio all the best for the upcoming Connaught Cup Round 4 fixture against Loughrea Rams.

It's Cup Final Weekend!



Well done to our senior B team who progressed to the final of the McDonnell Cup after an impressive win over Westport United 'C' in Celtic Park last October. A brace from Zac Collins and one from Mark Rattigan sealed a 3-2 win for Celtic. We will now face Ballinrobe Town in the final on Sunday 19th December.

Come join us this Sunday, kick-off 1.30 pm, in Solar 21 Park.



THE MASTERS

This year we have two masters teams who started their season earlier last month! We look forward to following their progress and wish the managers and players all the best for the season.



Under 21

Castlebar Celtic were delighted to be part of the Mayo football league's inaugural U21 league this year.

They had a successful season getting to the league semi-final where they were defeated by Ballyheane FC. They played against Conn Rangers, Ballyheane, Claremorris, Manulla, Glenhest & Kiltimagh/Knock.

Under 18

Managed by Pat Ahern, our U18s took part in two external cup competitions.

In the FAI cup, they were recently knocked out by a strong Mervue United side, however, they progressed to the quarter final of the Connacht Cup on 12th December, beating Athenry 5-2.

This squad consists of many talented players including a number of those that have featured in our Super League squad this season. We wish them all the best in their Connacht Cup campaign.

Under 17

Our U17s were Red division winners this season, topping the table with 24 points.

Included in this division were, Iorras Aontaithe, Ballinrobe, Kilrray, Ballyvary BB & Westport United C. Well done to manager Pat Ahern and to a fantastic squad of footballers.

Under 16

An U16 selection hosted the touring Phoenix Athletic from Derry on 28th August.

We were delighted to host Phoenix FC for a friendly U15 game of football in a sunny Celtic Park. Both teams were treated to a Roccos feast after 😊 We wish the players, parents and coaches all the best for the rest of the year.



Club Mark News

In May 2021 we were delighted to officially receive our Club Mark award from FAI Development officer Nigel Naughton.

This award meant so much to the club as it brought together many years of hard work and development both on and off the pitch.

We hope to build on this in 2022, with exciting new projects planned that will develop our club further, increasing participation and work with more groups, who like Castlebar Celtic, are based in the heart of the Castlebar Community.

Clubhouse News

This year we were again supported by South West Mayo Development. Thanks to Supervisors Brian & Niamh for all their help. We now have two brilliant TUS indoor workers keeping everything behind the scenes afloat and are delighted that the talented RSS staff supported us in the refurb of our tired porta cabin.

Community groups would be lost without this type of support and we look forward to working on more exciting projects in 2022.

Earlier this year we were fortunate to receive a grant towards the cost of new windows and doors for our clubhouse from Mayo County Council. With our clubhouse now draft free, combined with our new heating system, these windows make our clubhouse a cosy place for friends to meet and watch a match.

A Year of Progress



Under 15

Castlebar Celtic were runners-up in a cup final played on the 15th Sept. Final Score: Kiltimagh/Knock 3 Celtic 2. Tiernan Brady and Conor Kavanagh took the goals. Man of the Match was Eoin Enright. This team also played in the SFAI cup, reaching round 3, ultimately defeated by Claremorris 2-1 after extra time. Thanks to Johnny Rodgers & Cillian McNeela for their efforts throughout the year.

Under 15 B

This squad was made up of 2007/2008 born players who competed in the U15 Blue league alongside Killalla, Kilmurry, Claremorris, Ballina Town and Westport. This group of players also made the trophy cup semi-final after a narrow loss to Snugboro in the last kick off the game. Over half this squad will now play in the U14 Connacht Cup and SFAI competitions. This squad of players have now reached the last 16 in the Connacht Shield, after recently beating Galway Bohs 3-1 in a well matched affair. They await their last 16 draw, due to played on the weekend of 30 Jan 2022.

Under 13 Girls

A much improved U13 girls had a very good league campaign with only 2 defeats, which saw them finish 3rd in the league. The main highlight of the season saw Sarah Jane Kilcawley and Sadhbh O Donnell picked to represent Mayo for the U13's in the Gaynor Cup.

Under 13A

This team played in the Boys Blue Division, finishing 3rd in the league. They went on to win the U13 Trophy playing Swinford A, Ballyheane A, Partry Athletic A, Westport United B, Ballinrobe B & Bangor Hibs A, on the long road to an exceptional trophy victory.

Under 13B

U13B boys had a strong league campaign with only one defeat, narrowly missing out on winning the league, finishing a point behind Westport B. This was a great achievement for the boys who were playing against teams a year older. They are back playing at U12 and the season is not over yet with 2 up-coming cup games. They remain in both the Connacht cup & SFAI, awaiting both draws, with the ties to be played in Jan 2022.



Under 11

We were joined in a league with Ballinrobe, Ballyglass, Partry and Manulla. The season started off with an away fixture in Ballinrobe. Mark, Shane or myself didn't know what to expect from our boys, but we needn't have worried as the lads played their hearts out in a 7-2 victory. This was followed by wins against Ballyglass and Manulla. Next the boys really showed their heart when 6-2 down at home to Partry, with 8 minutes to play, they came back to earn a 6-6 draw. Adam Milloy scored a 4-minute hat-trick, including the equaliser with the last kick of the ball. Next, we had an away match against Manulla which we had to play with a vastly under-strength team. Somehow we were beaten 3-2, with the bar and the post not ranking among our friends that day. A win in the next fixture with Partry left us with a winner-takes-all match with Ballinrobe. The nerves were jangling before the tie but 2 early settlers helped us win 5-2. Nathan Gill scored the league winning goal to the ecstasy of the players, coaches and fans. From there it was on to the cup, with a tough away-tie to Charlestown in the quarters which we ended running out comfortable winners in. It was the performance where everything clicked, with every boy playing their part. In the semi-final were drawn against Swinford at Celtic Park. 3 first-half goals seemed to put us on easy street. However, Swinford fought back bringing the score back to 4-2 before Anthony Slabik scored to give us breathing space. We ran out 5-2 winners in the end. In the final we met Straide and Foxford at Celtic Park on a rain-soaked day. An early goal from Anthony Slabik set us off nicely, but S & F weren't there just to make up the numbers. For the next 40 minutes they threw everything at us and we were camped in our penalty box. Only for heroic goalkeeping by Sam Brobbey and last ditch defending, we managed to hold out until Patrick Kennedy added a second. The rest of the match was like Custer's Last Stand with the Celtic boys bravely holding out for a 2-0 victory. The joy on the boy's faces is something that will live with us forever. A fantastic season was had and now it's onto next season were hopefully we can carry on in the same vain.



Ryan Nyland pictured with the U11 Mayo cup won by Ryan and his Castlebar Celtic mates recently. The Future is bright.

Young Hoops

Boys Academy

What a great day to celebrate the end of our boys' academy for 2021! Thanks to our coaches, parents and players for making it such an enjoyable season. We are looking forward to next year already!



Girls Academy

Our girls academy enjoyed their end of season presentation party in October. ❤️ It has been a pleasure to have such a great bunch of players every Sunday for the past 6 months. We look forward to welcoming you all back next year with a few new players joining us too. The future of girls football is bright. 😊





Well done to Sadhbh O Donnell & Sarah Jane Kilcawley who represented Castlebar Celtic at Mayo U13 level in the Gaynor Cup. We look forward to watching you progress further again next year.

Well done to all our U15 girls who played some lovely football this season. Congratulations to Grace McHale (coaches player of the year) Kayla Redmond (most improved player) and Casie Corrigan (player's player of the year). A special thanks to our U15 female coaches, we would be lost without you!



Well done to all our U13 girls who represented the club so well this year. Congratulations to Louise Walsh (coaches' player), Sadhbh O Donnell (most improved player) & Sarah Jane Kilcawley (player's player). Many thanks to our coaches for their commitment and dedication.



A big shout out to our U12 Girls league winners. Congratulations to Riona Moynihan (player's player) Juliet Rawson (most improved player) & Kaitlyn Morahan (Coaches player). Thanks to the players, parents and coaches for their dedication this season. We are looking forward to welcoming you all back next year.

The Lotto

We are grateful to everyone who continues to support our weekly lotto. Our jackpot now stands at 11,600 euro. Tickets are only €2 each or 3 for €5. Find us on smartlotto.ie.

Coaches

We are always looking for more coaches. Come join us! Contact 087 1924100 for more information. We have a number of exciting programmes planned for 2022. Only 1 hour per week commitment. Child safeguarding & PDP1 provided. All coaches must be Garda vetted. Many thanks to all coaches who give their time each week to coach our boys and girls teams. We really appreciate everything you do. A special mention to our academy coaches who started our Young Hoops on their Castlebar Celtic journey.

Social Inclusion Week

We were delighted to connect with our neighbours and host a brilliant session with 26 students from St. Brid's School as part of Mayo Social Inclusion Awareness Week. Thanks to Ray from Mayo Sport Partnership & Nigel from FAI Mayo for all their support on the day.

The Newsletter

If anyone would like to contribute an article or photos to forthcoming editions of the newsletter, please contact officecastlebarceltic@gmail.com.



Volunteer to Coach
Give a little. Get a lot!





We are lucky to have such great pictures taken by so many people over the years that captured crucial moments in Celtic history. Many thanks to Amy Robinson for videoing games in all weathers this season.



We are especially grateful to Mike Staunton for capturing some great moments. Here's hoping that there is silverware at the end of that rainbow!



And Finally...

Pitch signs are a great way to support our club and get your business advertised to the wider community. Our signs are 24ft long and represent great value for money. Contact 087 1924100 for more information.



Lastly, if you would like to reach us, you will find us here...

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**Merry Christmas,
Castlebar Celtic F.C.**

