



Kinvara United FC

Annual General Meeting & Annual Report 2025/26

Chairperson's Message

The Annual General Meeting provides an opportunity not only to review the past season, but also to reflect on the people, achievements and challenges that continue to shape Kinvara United FC.

Before commencing the formal business of the meeting, members paused to remember those connected with the club and community who passed away during the year. In particular, tribute was paid to James Hastings, a long-standing supporter, member and advocate of Kinvara United. James cared deeply about both the club and the wider community, and his loss has been felt by many.

The Chairperson acknowledged the many individuals who supported the Hastings family and thanked everyone who contributed during a difficult period. Special recognition was given to Jamie Warrick for the significant work undertaken in coordinating transport and organising buses. The response from members and the wider community reflected the very best qualities of Kinvara United and reinforced the fact that the club is about much more than football.

This season the club recorded 532 registered players, representing an overall increase of 12% on the previous year. Particularly encouraging was the continued growth in female participation, which increased by 23%, while male participation increased by 8%.

While there is much to celebrate, growth also creates challenges. Volunteer recruitment and facilities remain the two strategic priorities that will shape the next chapter of the club's development. Despite these challenges, the outlook for Kinvara United remains extremely positive and the club is well positioned for continued growth in the years ahead.

Season Snapshot

- 532 Registered Players
- 12% Overall Membership Growth
- 23% Growth in Female Participation
- 8% Growth in Male Participation
- Ten New Academy Coaches Recruited
- Continued Growth in Girls' Football
- Progress Towards FAI Club Mark Accreditation
- Ongoing Facilities Development Planning

Participation & Growth

The continued growth of Kinvara United FC remains one of the club's most significant achievements.

With 532 registered players participating across Academy, underage and adult football, the club continues to play an increasingly important role within the Kinvara community. This represents an increase of 12% on the previous season and reflects the continued growth of football participation locally.

The most notable growth has been within the female game. Female participation increased by 23% during the season, significantly exceeding overall membership growth and providing strong evidence that the club's efforts to increase opportunities for girls and women are having a meaningful impact.

The Academy, increasing team numbers and strong player retention across age groups all point towards a healthy and sustainable future for the club.

People & Volunteers

If participation is the club's greatest success, people remain its greatest requirement.

The AGM recognised that a relatively small group of volunteers continue to carry a significant workload on behalf of the club. Coaches, committee members and volunteers contribute countless hours to player development, administration, safeguarding, registrations, facilities management and governance.

Particular thanks were extended to Jamie Fenning for stepping into the role of Club Secretary and to Noel McCormack for leading the Club Mark initiative. The AGM also recognised the contribution of Olivier Guillot, who stepped down following many years of dedicated service as Registrar. Members welcomed David Walsh into the role and thanked him for taking on this important responsibility. The Club also welcomes Lily Johnston who has volunteered to be Fund Raising manager for the season ahead. This is such a critical role

for the club and has remained vacant for some time. Thank you Lily and really looking forward to supporting your fund raising efforts.

The club continues to seek a Treasurer, Chairperson, and additional volunteer coaches. These roles are critical to ensuring that the club can continue to operate effectively and support future growth.

Academy Report

The Academy enjoyed another highly successful season, operating from mid-September through to late May. Across the U6 to U9 age groups, players participated in 29 football sessions, with attendance levels remaining consistently strong throughout the year.

A key factor in the Academy's success continues to be the leadership and guidance of Gary Traynor. His coaching programme provides a clear and consistent approach focused on ball mastery, athletic development and individual decision-making through enjoyable, age-appropriate activities.

A significant highlight of the season was the recruitment of ten new volunteer coaches, strengthening the Academy and ensuring continued support for growing participation levels. Gary also delivered a coach development workshop during the season, helping new coaches understand the club's player development philosophy.

U8 Boys and U8/U9 Girls participated in the Oranmore Invitational Tournament, while U9 players gained valuable experience supporting the U10 Development League programme. Parent feedback remained overwhelmingly positive throughout the season.

The AGM acknowledged and thanked Gary Traynor, Catherine Hawkins, Aisling Sammon and the Academy coaching team for their commitment and contribution throughout the year.

Facilities & Future Development

Facilities remain one of the most important strategic priorities facing Kinvara United FC.

The club continues to pursue opportunities to secure a permanent home capable of supporting pitches, parking, clubhouse facilities and future development. Alongside this work, the committee continues to explore wider community development opportunities that may help deliver a sustainable long-term facilities solution.

Members acknowledged that while the club continues to achieve success both on and off the pitch, the absence of a permanent home remains one of the biggest constraints on future development. Ownership of facilities would provide greater certainty, unlock funding

opportunities and create a focal point for the club and wider community.

In the meantime, the club remains committed to improving existing facilities, strengthening winter training arrangements and planning for future growth.

Club Mark & Governance

Progress towards achieving FAI Club Mark accreditation continued throughout the year. The programme focuses on governance, coaching standards and safeguarding, helping clubs establish strong foundations for sustainable development.

The AGM acknowledged the leadership and commitment shown by Noel McCormack in driving this initiative. Significant progress has been made and the club remains committed to achieving full accreditation in line with FAI requirements.

Child Welfare & Safeguarding

The Children's Officer reported that safeguarding, welfare and player wellbeing remain central to all club activities.

The club continues to maintain high safeguarding standards, with coaches and volunteers operating in accordance with FAI safeguarding policies and best practice guidelines. Garda Vetting and safeguarding training requirements continue to be monitored and maintained where required.

The AGM was pleased to note that no major safeguarding concerns arose during the season. One concern was brought to the attention of the Children's Officer and was managed promptly and appropriately in accordance with club procedures.

Thanks were extended to coaches, volunteers, committee members and parents for their ongoing commitment to creating a safe, inclusive and positive environment for all young players.

Acknowledgements

The AGM formally recognised the commitment and contribution of coaches, volunteers, committee members, parents, sponsors and supporters.

The continued success of Kinvara United AFC is built upon the generosity, commitment and community spirit of those who give their time to support the club and its players.

Appendix – AGM Attendance & Apologies

Present: Paul O'Donnell, David Noone, Jamie Fenning, Olivier Guillot, Clare McGinty Ryan, Aisling Sammon, Catherine Hawkins, Paul Madden, Nora Cassidy, Eoin Sammon, Nuala Cooper, Paul Nicholson, Martin Machaba, Michael English, Pádraig Ó Máirtín, Iain McTigue, Mike Waters, Robert Wainwright, John Madden, Philip McKernan and Paul Nicholas.

Apologies: Ger Ryan, Ian Griffith, Noel McCormack, David Walsh, Jamie Warrick and Jimmy Green.