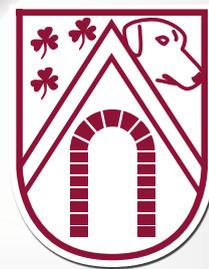


ST. JOSEPH'S DOORA-BAREFIELD GAA Newsletter Nuachtlitir-Naomh Sheosamh



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Issue 15, December 2017

UNDERAGE SUCCESS in 2017



2017 will be remembered for the powerful performances and championship success at underage level. The club secured wins in the Girls U12 & 14 Football, Junior Ladies Football, Boys U10, U14 Football & U16 Hurling. The future of the club depends on retaining and nurturing young talent.





Teachtaireacht an Cathaoirleach

by Martin Coffey

As 2017 comes to an end, it could be summarised as the year when youth came to the fore. A marvellous National Feile football double by the boys and girls was a momentous achievement and provided an opportunity for us to revive our Bonfire building techniques as the traffic was brought to a standstill for a memorable homecoming at Roslevan on a balmy June evening. Huge congratulations to all players, mentors and supporters who made such an impression in Cavan and Monaghan. The boys went on to capture the u14 A Co football championship and later, the u16 hurlers bridged a 22-year gap in bringing the u16A title to the parish after a marvellous replay victory over Clarecastle. A measure of the development and vibrancy of the Minor club is the re-emergence of Doora Barefield clubmen in both football and hurling teams representing Rice College and St. Flannan's College in the various College competitions.

This year heralds major structural changes to the inter county championships from 2018. The stated intention for these changes is to allocate more time for club championship games and hopefully the changes will have the desired effect. From 2018 Minor inter county competition will be for u17s. Inter county u21 football becomes u20 but u21 hurling is unchanged. The changes to the Snr inter Co format will certainly provide a host of, hopefully, competitive games come next May & June.

The impact of the above changes on clubs remains to be seen. One certainty however, in the operation of a club like ours, is the need for more volunteers, especially on the administrative side. The Gurteen facility is now catering for numbers approaching 1,000 if one takes account of activity for boys and girls from under 6's upwards. Thus, the need for more help is acute. I would earnestly appeal to any parent who feels they could give a little of their time and talents on a committee or sub-committee to dispel any pre-conceived notions of 'long boring committee meetings' and give it a go!

In referencing the level of activity at our Gurteen complex I must acknowledge the extraordinary endeavour and commitment of our Minor and Senior executives and the various sub-committees. A multitude of diverse tasks, varying from Finance to grass cutting are accomplished over the course of the year without a whimper of acrimony, ensuring that our facilities remain first class and the envy of clubs in the county and beyond. Our most recent development is the substantial upgrading of the 'Hurling Wall' facility.

Championship or League success eluded us this year at adult level. However, at the time of writing, our u21 footballers remain in contention. Our Senior hurlers consolidated their Snr status and they, along with the Snr footballers should benefit from the emergence of some of the younger talent evident over the past two years. My thanks to all team managers, selectors and coaches who give so willingly and generously in the preparation of all club teams.

Regrettably but inevitably as each year passes we bid a final farewell to some of our stalwarts of a previous time. This year we lost one of our and, one of the entire community's finest. Denis (Dinny) McNamara served as Club secretary for seven years and served his community for a lifetime. To Dinny's family and to all our members who have lost loved ones in the past year, I extend our sincere sympathy.

2018 will bring more change and new challenges for the club. I believe that we are well placed to face all such challenges and perhaps taste some success along the way. Before we face the new year, I would earnestly wish a happy and peaceful Christmas on you and all your families.

Martin Coffey
Chairman

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Secretary's Report

By Tommy Duggan



As 2017 ends it is time to reflect on our years activities and plan for the coming year. While our Senior club did not win any titles this year we did achieve our primary aim of retaining our Senior status in both Hurling and Football and our Junior footballers also maintained their status but unfortunately our Junior hurlers were relegated. Our Under 21 footballers are still in action as I write this report and our under 21 hurlers were eliminated in the first round. Our Junior C hurlers were defeated by a point in their only game in the championship. Our underage had another very successful year with us under 14A footballers winning both the Feile and County championship and their Division title at National level. The under 16A hurlers had a great win after a replay over a hotly fancied Clarecastle side, the Under 16 second team won the Shield competition as did the under 15 second team and the under 13 second team won the Shield Final also. While I acknowledge the winning teams here we must not forget all the great work and effort put in by mentors and players alike of teams in both hurling and football that participated during the year but came up short on this occasion but look forward to seeing their efforts being rewarded next year. The future looks bright for the Club in both codes as there are many talented players coming through. Davy Conroy was involved with the County under 25 side, Conor Tierney, Darragh O'Shea and Conor Kerins who were involved with the Clare Minor hurlers and Niall Duggan who was involved with the Clare Under 21 footballers. Many thanks to the mentors of all our teams for the work and commitment shown and to our players for their efforts this past year.

Club Matters:

I would like to acknowledge all our sponsors of various teams this past year and a special word of thanks must go to the Whelan Family and Clare Civil Engineering who continue to be our Main Sponsor with a very generous

contribution each year for which we are very grateful.

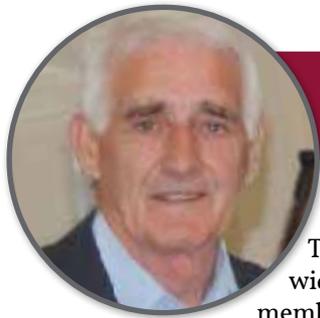
Membership: I must again highlight the importance of membership especially for our playing members as unless you paid your annual membership the GAA Insurance will not cover you in the event you sustain an injury and so the Club's position is that unless membership is paid you cannot play. In football you must wear a gum shield and in hurling a helmet with proper face shield. Membership can be paid directly to Club Officer or team mentor, online through the Website or in conjunction with our Lotto through Direct Debit.

The Lotto has again proved to be a major source of income and many thanks must go to the dedicated teams and individual sellers whose dedication provides much needed funding to run our Club, also to the Business people that allow sales of lotto tickets on their premises and the Publicans that facilitate the weekly draw every Saturday night.

As well as our Lotto committee we have a Finance, Field, Hall and Astro Turf and Minor Committees with very dedicated people working on each. Many thanks to Wayne King our Club Referee, Eugene Moynihan and Cathal O'Sullivan our Physios, Sean Conroy and Morgan Rowland who do such an excellent job in looking after team kits.

Finally, a word of thanks to my fellow officers Martin Coffey and Noel Stapleton for all their help and support this past year and to the members of the Executive Michael McMahon, Dan O'Connor, Joe McNamara, Joe Hallinan, Pat Frawley, Bill Clohessy, David Frawley and Morgan Rowland.

Wishing you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and a successful sporting New Year.



Facilities Committee Report *By Michael McMahon*

The indoor facilities have been widely used during the year by our own members and teams and by the numerous teams and groups who are happy to rent it on an hourly basis.

For our own teams, male and female, there is a great opportunity to entertain our own and visiting teams and supporters. This is especially true for under age teams and it is very encouraging for the future of our club to see the enthusiasm of the young players and the interest and support of their parents at their blitzes. The various catering committees do tremendous work in this context and their support is very much appreciated.

The meeting rooms are available to our own members and to any of the local community organisations who may need them. The gym is confined to our playing members and again is used by many. The hall has been busy again this year. During the winter season our own teams, especially under age, use it regularly. Strength and conditioning, as well as skill training and fitness are facilitated.

Rental to visiting groups provides a significant income to the club. Basketball is the most popular activity but there are many other organisations and groups who avail of the facility, e.g. Clare Sports Partnership, Clare Adult Ed., The Wheelchair assoc. and Bros of Charity all rent it for periods on week days. Doora and Knockanean N.S use it for part of their PE programmes. Children's parties are popular

on weekends and they also contribute to the coffers in a significant way. The astro turf pitches have been busy this year also. There are signs of wear and tear at this stage and we foresee some expense coming if we are to maintain them to a good standard. It would be important to have a contingency fund for the rainy day.

Our Club shop is also an addition to our facilities and great credit to Maria O Driscoll and her assistants, Mgs Duggan and Stephany Nugent. The hall and astro turf contribute handsomely to club funds as can be seen from the treasurer's report. It does require a certain amount of time and effort to manage the facilities, [all on voluntary basis] and if anyone would wish to be involved, even in a small way, he/she would be very welcome indeed.

The indoor facility has been in use now for seven years and despite being treated very carefully by all users, it is showing some signs of wear and tear. We hope to freshen it up with a lick of paint and will welcome a helping hand when the time comes.

Special thanks are due to all who give time generously to manage the facility all year round and John Joe Byrnes, Noel Stapleton, Dan O Connor and Robert Hurley. Finally, a special word of thanks to the members of the C E Scheme, Murty Cunningham, Brian Purcell, Eamonn O Loughlin, and Paul Quinn. without whom it would be very difficult to manage.

me without whom we would find it very difficult to manage.



PR and Editorial Comment *By Morgan Rowland*

In early 2017 I had the honour of being elected PRO and a member of the executive committee of St Joseph's Doora Barefield GAA Club. Since 2011 I have been involved with the club as a footballer and part of the Senior football back-room team. I wish to take this opportunity to thank Cillian Griffey, outgoing PRO, for his commitment and dedication to the club and mentoring me in this new role. What a year 2017 has been for the club. Winning silverware

at various underage competitions thus building a firm foundation for the future of the club and both codes Senior Football and Hurling retaining senior status for 2018 looking forward to busy 2018 round.

In Under 14's football the boys surged to victory in the Garda tournament, were Feile 2017 Champions in Cavan / Monaghan and were crowned winners in the under 14 A championship against Ennistymon, which was a close tense match in Cusack Park. The Under 16's hurlers (boy's) won the Under 16 A championship beating Clarecastle. The girls Under 12

achieved the winning title of Under 12's A champions by a compressive win over the Banner. The Under 14 girls won the Under 14 A Feile Championship and went on to play in the Under 14 A County final narrowly losing to Cooraclare. The Junior ladies secured the championship A tile and went on to play but narrowly losing in the Munster Junior championship quarter final against Fethard, Tipperary. Minor club footballers faced Ennistymon in the championship semi-final narrowly loosing on a score line if 3-10 to 3-12. Doora Barefield showed great resilience on the day. Under 21 footballers are in the championship





Finance Report



By Noel Stapleton

On 12 June 2011 Michael O Muircheartaigh officially opened the magnificent St Joseph's GAA complex at Gurteen. The facilities covering 24 acres comprised of the new building with a hall, gymnasium, meeting rooms, club shop and kitchen area. Outside there are two full size pitches, one with floodlights, two juvenile pitches and a floodlit astro turf. All available to be used by all members in all weathers. The great thing about an official opening is that all the facilities are new.

All club members young and old are fortunate that such facilities are available at minimal annual cost of membership. However, like any new house or new car after many years wear and tear takes its toll and certain items need to be repaired or in some cases replaced. The cost of this repair and maintenance is the responsibility of the senior club executive which oversees and pays for all such maintenance, repairs and replacements, this ensures that all the facilities continue to be available to all teams, male and female, young and old. So, whenever your children go to Gurteen the facilities are available for their use. In addition to the maintenance other developments such as dugouts and astro turf area for the hurling wall are being undertaken.

The senior club executive must manage its finances to ensure that it has sufficient funds to maintain these facilities. The most important revenue stream is the club weekly lotto and I ask everyone where possible to support the lotto. It is now possible to play the lotto every week by signing up a direct debit form. The form is available on the website or from the Treasurer. The weekly direct debit pays

for a weekly lotto ticket and annual membership of the club and gives the chance of winning a five-figure jackpot. By supporting the lotto, you are part of the club and are also ensuring that the facilities are maintained and available to the current generation and future generation.

Our club and everyone that uses the facilities are fortunate that we have 24 acres of excellent facilities of which we can all be proud. These facilities are paid for; the club is debt free. However, the 24 acres and the facilities need to be maintained. Every club member is justifiably proud of the excellent facilities in Gurteen which are available to all our members. Our members young and old can use these facilities and can display them to visiting clubs. Indeed, it is when we go to other clubs that we see how fortunate we are.

We all have a sense of ownership of Gurteen, but as previously stated ownership comes at a price albeit a small price of €2 per week, the cost of a weekly club lotto ticket. This year as in previous years I ask you to take up ownership and responsibility by signing up to the weekly lotto, €2 per week is not a large sum. The executive will continue to maintain the financial position of the club to ensure that we have the funds to finance our activities and capital expenditure. Occasionally fundraising will have to be undertaken at certain times and we ask you to support this where you can.

As you look around Gurteen you can see the destination of these funds. I ask you to support our efforts wherever possible. For €2 per week you can even have some ownership.

semi-final. Senior footballers and hurlers retain championship statuses heading into 2018.

Interest in the club's social media platforms Facebook, Twitter and the Official club web site have increased dramatically since 2016; with hits to the site from Saudi Arabia, Australia, New Zealand, Northern Europe and the UK. Throughout the club's calendar year, the club's Facebook posts have reached over 2,500 hits and 1,300 likes. The club's Twitter profile has to date 2,200 followers, both Social Media platforms providing match updates and results. Online Membership (My Club Finances) through the club website has seen a steady increase over the past 12 months with total

online membership up to 645. These increases have occurred in all areas such as; Families, Youth, Student, Adult Players and the club revenue reflects this. Online membership in the club is a highly efficient means of increasing membership. Text and email updates enables members to keep up to date with club news and remains a very efficient means of communication.

There are ongoing improvements in the club infrastructure. New dugouts have been constructed on pitch one. The playing fields have been sanded thus increasing the drainage and improving the conditions of the pitches. There are plans to extend the Hurling/Football wall to include an astro turf surface to facilitate

training during winter months and protect the surface quality of the pitches.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all those who contributed to this year's edition and the dedication show by players, mentors, managers, executives, supporters, sponsors, the parish and community to the running and growth of the club. I would also wish the very best to Declan Hannan Minor committee secretary who is stepping down from his post of 8 years who has brought a lot to the club in the underage structure, also would like to thank Anthony O Halloran who is stepping down from his post of minor registrar. Here's to a successful 2018.

Denis McNamara 1925-2017 and Club Secretary 1986 -1992

Compiled by; Seamus O'Sullivan with thanks to Sally McNamara



The passing of Dinny McNamara marked that of an outstanding secretary and organiser. He was not only a great GAA man but was a noted historian and his many contributions to parish publications are a rich testimony to his research and knowledge.

His book collection ran to over 2500 volumes and he was the authority on all things Parish. The centenary publication for Barefield NS in 1995 was a scholarly and comprehensive volume of research that will stand the test of time. Dinny, as he was known to many of us, was born on Dec 12th, 1925 in Drumquin and was the youngest son of Nora and Patrick McNamara. He had 3 brothers Patrick, Jackie and Francie. His sisters were Peggy and Kitty.

He was educated at Barefield NS, CBS Ennis and pursued his teacher training at St Patricks, Dublin graduating in 1948. He was a noted scholar achieving honour levels and other recognitions.

His teaching career saw him serve until 1952 as assistant teacher in Ballyjamesduff, Co. Cavan. He was the youngest principal in Ireland when appointed to Fermoy NS in Longford in 1952. He returned to Clare in 1954 as principal of Fanore National school and in 1960 became principal of Willbrook NS in Corofin. He served there with distinction

until his retirement in 1988.

He was a fluent Irish speaker and maintained a great love of the language throughout his long life. To all that knew him he was a gentleman who was quiet and efficient and whose every task was marked with professionalism and quality.

He loved his beagles and took great pleasure not only in rearing them but in his weekly hunts around East Clare during the season.

He took a great interest in all things GAA including Camogie, Scor, Juvenile and Adult activities. He became club secretary in 1986 and the next 7 years were marked with his professionalism, organisational ability and vision for the club. He put great emphasis on the development of Roslevan and he ensured the financing of same through his very successful door to door appeal for funds. His Chairmen during his term were Michael Lahiffe, Mikie McNamara, Fr. MJ Neylon and Ger Hogan. He enjoyed the successes of teams during his term of office that included Junior and U21 B hurling awards plus Junior B and minor football titles.

Numerous underage titles were also won. His greatest satisfaction was the contribution of so many parish players to Clare Senior, U21 and Minor successes. This great Gael and Parish stalwart is laid to rest in Templemaley, but his memory will live forever in the Parish that he loved and served so well. May he rest in peace.

It is fitting to close this piece with an extract from Oliver Goldsmith's "Village Schoolmaster"

*Yet he was kind or, if severe in aught,
The love he bore to learning was in fault;
The village all declared how much he knew:
That certain he could write and cipher too:
And still they gazed and still the wonder grew,
That one small head could carry all he knew,"*

Sean Baker who worked closely with Dinny over many years described him "as a great club man who loved everything about St Josephs and his parish. He was meticulous and efficient. His attention to detail was renowned and he had little patience with time wasters. He loved Irish and his beagles. You were always the better for knowing Dinny".

Liam Duggan who served with him as a club officer described Dinny as "well organised Secretary who had magnificent

writing and great richness of language.

His attention to detail was exceptional and he was a pleasure to work with. His love of the GAA and his parish was inspirational. He made his mark and the club is the better for it.”

Gerard Hogan who was club Chairman and had Denis as his Secretary described him as “an exceptional man who never sought the limelight. His great characteristics were attention to detail, well prepared agendas, accurate and detailed minutes and punctuality. Meetings were always well structured, run strictly to the agreed agenda and rarely exceeded 90 minutes. He loved the GAA and was particularly interested in the youth of the parish. His ability as a fund raiser was outstanding and he energetically pursued the developments at Roslevan. He loved his books, history and his beagles. He enriched all who met him. He took great delight in the successes of St Joseph’s players at intercounty level and in the winning of county titles. A great mind a proven historian and a great Barefield man is gone to his eternal reward. May he rest in peace.”

Michael McMahon who served as minor club chairman during Dinny’s time as senior club secretary said of him “He was a most astute person and his attention to detail made him a very safe pair of hands. He was very knowledgeable and was steadfast in his views. He was a great communicator and before mobile phones and texts he made a habit of posting

all GAA fixtures in the club house. He always encouraged the youth and took great pleasure in bringing them to matches in his blue beetle. He was very generous and usually treated his passengers to a bar of chocolate or an ice cream. Simply put, Dinny was an outstanding historian and great club man”

John Burns Principal of Barefield NS said “It was with the deepest regret that I learned of the death of retired teacher, Principal and local Historian, Mr. Denis McNamara R.I.P. Not only was Denis meticulous in his role as a Principal Teacher, he also had a love of History, especially local History that was both inspirational and infectious. I was fascinated by the quality of his mind, the precision of his words and the soundness of his opinions. I learned of his great love for the G.A.A., his dogs, poetry, nature, his country walks, hunting, his library of books etc. In 1995, when I asked him to edit the centenary book of Barefield N.S., he undertook this role with a deep passion that resulted in a scholarly publication. His opinion on local historical matters was always practical and matter of fact. In Denis’ passing, Barefield has lost a great scholar and a true gentleman”.

Ní bheidh a leithéid ann arís. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam uasal.



Senior Club Report

by Morgan Rowland

Senior Football

Manager - Ciaran O'Neill

Selectors /Trainers -Michael Roughan, Eddie Killeen, Martin Sexton, Morgan Rowland & Pat Nugent.

Cusack Cup Division I

Date	Venue	Win/Loss	Team 1	Score	Team 2	Score
12-Mar	Doonbeg	Loss	St. Joseph's	1-05	Doonbeg	5-18
08-Apr	Gurteen	Loss	St. Joseph's	0-06	Lissycasey	3-04
15-Apr	Miltown	Loss	St. Joseph's	0-06	Miltown	1-15
22-Apr	KIB	Loss	St. Joseph's	1-02	KIB	1-13
30-Apr	Gurteen	Loss	St. Joseph's	1-06	Clondegad	4-07
05-May	Cratloe	Loss	St. Joseph's	0-09	Cratloe	0-09
05-Aug	Gurteen	Loss	St. Joseph's	1-07	O'Curry's	1-08

Overall, we were very disappointed with results, but we weren't good enough for Div I. Missing a lot of players for big games in this division.

Championship 2017

Date	Venue	Win/Loss	Team 1	Score	Team 2	Score
18 - June	Cusack Park	Loss	St. Joseph's	1-06	Lissycasey	1-12
19-Aug	Corofin	Won	St. Joseph's	2-12	Kilfenora	1-09
02-Sept	Miltown	Loss	St. Joseph's	2-06	Doonbeg	2-12

Senior B

Date	Venue	Win/Loss	Team 1	Score	Team 2	Score
16 - June	Eire Og	Win	St. Joseph's	2-08	Corofin	0-09
30-Aug	Corofin	Loss	St. Joseph's	1-09	Lissycasey	2-20

Training started mid-January and dual sessions with hurlers. Including matches and training we met 96 times. Overall, we were disappointed with league results and I feel we could have done a lot better in championship if our fitness levels were up to the required standards. We were in total control of Doonbeg match; but for the last 10min in 1st half and 2nd half we just couldn't finish out the game. Much the same pattern against Lissycasey. The best football we played was the first half V Kilfenora; a game in which the players stood up; a game we had to win, which we finished out the game well.

I would like to thank, Michael, Eddie, Martin, Morgan and Pat for time, effort and commitment they put in throughout the year. Also I would like to thank Peadar McMahon for the couple of high quality training sessions he did with, Physios Eugene and Cathal; they were always available; Seanie McMahon and his hurling management team for their corporation during the year, Tommy Duggans hard work trying to mediate with all, Joe Hallinans corporation with the access to the fields for training and matches, the club officers for all their kind assistance, Stephanie and Margaret for all the fabulous food they laid on after training sessions, Donagh Vaughan for the delicious food he put together, for our training sessions in Portlaoise, probably the best training sessions we had all year, the Junior, Minor players and Senior players. A lot to come from these players if they get themselves into the physical conditioning that is required to be the best.

Ciaran O'Neill

Senior Football Manager

Senior Hurling

Senior Hurling Championship

Date	Venue	Win/Loss	Team 1	Score	Team 2	Score
14-June	Sixmilebridge	Win	St. Joseph's	1-22	Tulla	3-13
12-Aug	Sixmilebridge	Loss	St. Joseph's	0-14	Newmarket	1-18
26-Aug	Sixmilebridge	Loss	St. Joseph's	0-11	Cratloe	0-27

Senior B Semi Final

Date	Venue	Win/Loss	Team 1	Score	Team 2	Score
09-Sept	Eire Og	Loss	St. Joseph's	4-12	Inagh Kilnamona	5-15

After a very successful 2016 campaign in which the club regained Senior Hurling status, Eamon Corry the then manager stepped down and I was honoured to have been given the role of Senior Hurling Manager. Replacing Eamon was a tough task, but it was great that there was continuity from the previous year in the form of David Hoey, David Honan and Sean Conroy staying on as part of the management team. Darragh Corcoran joined the group as hurling coach replacing David McCormack who also stepped down with Eamon.

The year commenced in mid-January with field sessions and some S&C work. At this stage of the year there was 3 field sessions a week and these were conducted in tandem with the footballers as most of these sessions were dual sessions. The aim of this was to try and cater for the dual player to ensure they were not overloaded. This worked well and there was good communication and cooperation between football and hurling groups.

The key goals for the year were advancement from Division 2 of the Clare cup and initially to secure a win in the first round of the senior championship (V Tulla) which would secure our senior status and allow us then to have a real go at getting to at least a quarter final.

The Clare Cup started in April and wins were achieved versus Ogonolloe and Bodyke, while Scarriff defeated us by 2 points. A number of other challenge matches were played against Newport, Crusheen, Liam Mellows, our own U21's. These games were good preparation for us in advance of the first round of the championship versus Tulla.

Preparations went very well for the Tulla game and we were in good shape for this game which was played in Sixmilebridge on May 14th. It was probably the team's best performance of the year and the team showed great character to get the win in the end by 3 points on a score of 1-22 to 3-13. We lead at one stage by 9 points but Tulla turned it around in a 10-minute spell to lead by 1 with 10 minutes. We scored the last 4 points to secure a 3-point win.

After this there was a long gap to the next round of the championship. This is a challenge (for all clubs) as its very hard to plan as the date of the next round is unknown. At this stage, we played many Clare cup games which were close affairs but ended up losing three to Smith O Briens, Corofin and Parteen, drawing against Cratloe and beating Inagh Kilnamona. It

was difficult at this stage as we had many players away but at the same time we should have won some of these games. As a result, we were out of contention for promotion from this division and this was a real disappointment.

We were drawn to play Newmarket in the next round of the championship and this took place in Sixmilebridge on August 12th. At half time the score was 0-7 each and we were obviously well in the game, but a very poor second half performance saw us lose on a score line of 0-14 to 1-18.

Our last chance of making the quarter finals was against Cratloe, this was played on August 26th and again in Sixmilebridge. Again, like Newmarket we were well in the game at half time with only 4 points in the game and 6 in it with 15 to go but a very disappointing last quarter saw us lose heavily on a score line of 0-11 to 0-27.

In summary the year was one of 2 halves, the first half was very positive, a good start to the Clare Cup, bleeding of some new young players and a great win over Tulla guaranteeing senior status. The second half was disappointing, not gaining promotion out of Division 2 and a tame exit from the championship.

Finally, I would like to thank in particular David Hoey and David Honan for their huge work over the last number of years, they will not be continuing in 2018 and they will be missed. Also, Sean Conroy for the huge amount of work he does behind the scenes with no fuss but still gets it all done. Also to Darragh Corcoran for his work and commitment throughout the year. To the club as well and the executive for their support and help throughout the year. It is difficult having a dual club, but I want to thank Ciaran O'Neill (Football Manager), the lines of communication were always open, and we worked well together. Finally, I'd like to thank the players for all their efforts throughout the year. The second half did not go as we hoped, there are lessons there for us all, these must be learnt, and improvements made but I believe with the right attitude and commitment the future for this team will be very positive.

Sean McMahon

Senior Hurling Manager

Minor Secretary's Committee Report

The Minor Committee

by Declan Hannan

Name	Position
Chairman	Bill Clohessey
SECRETARY	Declan Hannan
Treasurer	Denis Maher
Registrar	Anthony O'Halloran
Child Protection Officer	Michelle O'Brien
Bord Delegates Hurling	Peadar O'Loughlin Anthony O'Halloran
Bord Delegates Football	
Coaching Officer Hurling	Sean McMahon
Committee Member	Paul Mannion
Committee Member	Jim Curran
Committee Member	Micheal O'Coilean
Committee Member	Sean Duggan

Christy O'Connor and Peadar O'Loughlin again organised the summer camps which are run on a self-funding basis. The camps have proven to be very successful and provide an outlet for kids during the holiday period to play and to develop their hurling and football skills. Liam Clancy took up the role of Schools Development Officer for 2017 and it is appropriate to acknowledge Liam's work and the financial support from the Senior club in funding and supporting this initiative

Registration The registration evening has proven to be a very successful method of registering underage players. The number of players registered for the years 2009 to 2017 is outlined below.

NO. Of players on GAA Registrar									
Age Group	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Minor	21	26	32	28	26	30	31	35	24
U16 & U15	25	27	32	36	44	46	38	40	46
U14 & U13	24	40	48	57	47	47	52	49	51
U12 & U11	45	53	55	48	52	58	83	59	60
U10 & U9	42	56	51	60	59	63	60	65	57
U8, U7 & U6	70	97	97	111	91	87	79	98	98
TOTAL	227	272	315	340	319	331	313	346	336

On the Field

Player numbers are holding up well and the U6 to U8 category is experiencing a further surge which puts demands on the number of mentors required. At U6 Therese Wall is continuing to give fantastic service. This is not an easy group to manage and Therese has been working diligently with no fuss managing this age group for the last 10 years. The club attended all of GO games and a sincere thanks to the mentors and parents for committing time to these events as they usually take up a half day usually on a Saturday morning.

At the competitive age groups, the 2017 season was one of our better years. In hurling the club won the U16 A hurling championship and in football the highlight was the under 14 feile and U14 County Championship. Details of these two teams' seasons are outlined in the team reports. The U13 hurlers contested the U13A final and the minor footballers are currently in a semi-final.

Well done to Anthony O'Halloran and his fellow mentors who lead the U16 hurlers and to Jim Curran and his colleagues who managed the U14 footballers. The list of mentors is outlined in the following Table

The participation at go games and the championship victories would not have occurred without the great commitment and work of mentors in hurling and football.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow officers, the senior club, the committee, mentors, parents and the players for their support throughout the year. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate all underage players who represented the county during 2017.

Declan Hannan Runai,

St. Josephs Doora Barefield Minor Committee

Junior Football

by Kevin Frehill

Doora Barefield Junior A footballers started the season in division 6 this year. After an initial loss against Shannon Gaels Barefield recovered to record a comprehensive win against Kildysart. This was followed by a loss against Kilmihil, but this turned out to be the last defeat of this league campaign. Clarecastle were the opponents in the next fixture and Barefield recorded a large win.

This was followed up with a draw against eventual finalists the Banner. Barefield then recorded victories against St.Breckans and Coolmeen. These results ensured qualification for the league semi-final with the winner being promoted to division 5 and getting to play against the Banner in the final. Barefield recorded a 3-09 to 0-12 victory to secure promotion. Next up was a final meeting with the Banner where after a hard-fought close Battle Barefield emerged victorious on a score line of 1-11 to 1-10.

In the Junior A championship Barefield endured a frustrating season. After losing to both Clonegad and Kilrush by narrow margins qualification from the group stages were impossible. Defeat to Michael Cusacks followed. All that was left for the season was to avoid relegation and Barefield ensured this by defeating Cooraclare on a score line of 1-15 to 1-10.

Under 21's Football

By Alan O'Neill Kieran Ryan Aaron Landy & Donal O'Halloran

The u/21 Football season started on Friday 27th of October under lights in Gurteen versus Kilrush/Kilimer. Prior to this first round the boys trained with the club's minor team for four weeks. As there is a huge number of minors playing 21s this was a natural decision and it has worked very well for both squads. The older lads greatly improved as the weeks went on and the commitment to training was exceptional. The 21s greatly improved the football of the minors also. Lads traveling from Cork, Galway and Limerick from college to be present.

This group of players, including the minors, are a credit to the club. We had a good win over Kilrush Kilimer, with our panel strength really coming to the fore as the game progressed. With this win we faced the amalgamation of Liscannor Kilfenora Michael Cusacks (Clann Lir) in Corofin on Sunday the fifth of November in the quarter final. The pitch had a combination of soft underfoot and long grass. So quality football was hard to produce. After a tight first half where we struggled for forward momentum. More direct play in the second half and again our strength in depth made a huge difference to the result. Finally winning out 10 - 07.

The semi-final versus Eire Og will hopefully be postponed a week or so as the minors now take precedence as they play Ennistymon back in Corofin.

Minor Football

By Kieran Ryan/ Alan O'Neill/ Stephen Horgan / Jack Hannan

The minor football season is at the semi-final stage at present (end of October). We play Ennistymon on November 11. The season has been a broken one. Due to having players on both county squads and they are having progressed to play in August the season has been tough on the players.

We started training in March hoping to start the championship after the Leaving cert. The boys gave superb commitment from day one. We trained indoor for 7 weeks as the boys did some strength and conditioning with Stephen. We had some craic during the sessions and we looked forward to getting on the field. Out on the pitch we continued to train and play challenge games waiting on dates of games. As a dual club we are always conscious of over doing it. Every player is different and needs rest at different times.

To date we have played Cooraclare, Eire Og , Cratloe and Ennistymon and a quarter final v Kilrush which we won 4 11 to 0 17. Results were varied, and games were tough. But the boys available on each day gave their all and commitment has never been an issue.

I think we should be aware this is, at the end of the day, about the players. We can only do our best as coaches to facilitate their personalities, their talent, their other interests and their education. If the boys enjoy playing and want to get out there and play. Then the club will be fine. In my opinion it's not what sport they play it's that they play sport. Obviously playing games in November is not ideal. But I will guarantee when we play our semi-final we will be ready and willing, and the boys will give it their best shot. It will not be from the lack of effort on their part. Huge thanks to the parents for travelling to games and being there for the boys. Thanks to the lads looking after the pitches. Hopefully there is a bit left in the season yet!!

So as of now (November 7) the club is both the Minor and u21 semi-finals and hope by the time you read this we have progressed at least one step further.

Huge thanks to the players and parents, to the ground staff for the quality of the pitch. And to all who have the young players best interest in mind. Always remember it is about the players. Sport brings out the best in people. Builds character and is a great social outlet.

Junior Hurling Report

By Kevin Kennedy (A Manager) Bob Mulqueen (C Manager)

We began the season with the knowledge that we had a lot of work to do. Our Junior A panel had been relegated to Jun B at the end of the previous season and it was only through an appeal by our delegates to the county board that we could compete in Junior A. Our squad trained with the Senior hurlers throughout the season with some advancing to senior level on merit. We held our own relatively ok throughout the league with younger players being given opportunities and veterans being tried in different positions with us ultimately finishing mid table and maintain status for 2018.

Junior A League Results

St Joseph's 0-18 Feakle 1-10,

Ballyea 3-23 St Joseph's 1-7,

St Joseph's 2-11 Wolfe Tones 1-12,

Newmarket 0-13 St Joseph's 1-6,

O'Callaghan Mills 0-15 St Joseph's 1-9

Clooney Quin 1-17 St Joseph's 0-15

St Joseph's 1-21 Tuber 0-7,

Meelick giving us a walkover.

Championship proved very difficult for us and from the off with the first round against Ennistymon. The players heads never dropped and each one battled throughout the whole campaign giving every ounce of energy and commitment. At the end of the group stages we finished bottom of the table and had a relegation final against Wolfe Tones. Having lead from the off it was in the third minute of injury time that saw Wolfe Tones sneak a goal to finish one-point victors.

Junior A Championship Results

Ennistymon 4-19 St Joseph's 2-11

Clooney Quin 1-9 St Joseph's 0-7

Broadford 2-15 St Joseph's 0-13

Kilmaley 0-23 St Joseph's 1-7

Wolfe Tones 2-11 St Joseph's 2-10 (Relegation Final).

It was agreed that we would not request the county board to have us stay in Junior A for 2018 and will play Junior B Championship and Junior A League.

Junior C

With this grade being straight knockout, we had one game against of near neighbours, Ruan in Crusheen, where we lost on a score line of Ruan 0-9 St Joseph's 0-8.

Between Junior A and C fifty-eight players donned the St Joseph's jersey over the year in either league or championship but on occasion we struggled with numbers having to recall retired players including our physio for which we are grateful for toggging out at short notice. Nobody can question the players commitments and they put their lives on hold waiting for the championship to commence after the senior first round in May till August, unfortunately as a result player decided to take holidays, subsequently missing championship matches which could have been played several months earlier.

Finally, we would to thank the club officers, our physios, senior hurling management and minor hurling management for all the support and encouragement throughout the year and to the players who showed great commitment from January until October.

Your Team = Your Club

We need your help...

Minor and Senior committees
urgently need assistance in club
administration

A little help would make a huge difference.

If you feel you have even a little to offer please
contact:

Martin Coffey or Bill Clohessy
(086 2320744) (086 3580074)

U21 Hurling

By Michael Guilfoyle

The U21 hurling championship commenced in March and can be classified as a winter hurling knock out competition. To get a squad of players up to a level of match fitness requires training to commence in December. At an age group when teenagers are becoming men!, off to college, part-time working commitments and participating in other curricular activities, this can be a difficult age group to transition from minor to senior hurling.

The 2017 season at U21 hurling presented the above challenges and every effort was undertaken by management to encourage and facilitate training. A number of players were based in NUIG and training for those players was organised midweek in Galway. For the home based players training was held on a Wednesday predominately behind the goals under lights in Gurteen, with further training scheduled either on a Saturday or on a Sunday. In total there was 27 training sessions held in Gurteen. The response rate to training by the majority of players was very good but there will always be some players that will or cannot give the level of commitment required. This has been identified as an issue in the club and it can further manifests itself by the participation levels in

Junior and Senior hurling. This is a matter that needs to be addressed in the club as the attrition levels are too high.

Prior to the championship, we competed in 8 challenge matches with some very impressive wins and performances by individual players which provided some of the selection criteria for the starting 15 players for the championship match against Scarrif.

Despite the success in the challenge matches, we fell short in our championship match against Scariff. This game was held in very wet and blustery conditions and in the first half we struggled to get the ball outside of defence playing into a windstorm. In the second half we battled hard but we lost narrowly by a point on a score-line of Doorabarefiled 0-11 to Scariff 1-9

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Kieran O Neill and Declan Hannan who helped in coaching and mentoring the team, the club for providing facilities and the players who competed gallantly during the short U21 hurling season.

Minor Hurling

By Michael Guilfoyle

Very disappointing year for our minor hurlers. After just failing by one point in 2015 under sixteen semi-final to eventual winners Kilmaley, hopes were high with this group. Major difficulties arose with having a few inter county minor hurlers which made them unavailable for training and challenge games plus injuries to key players. Both county minor squads got to their respective Munster finals which caused a delayed start to this championship which should

have started in late June after exams. Postponing of minor football games didn't help The time we could train with them was restricted and several were playing junior and senior all year also. As long as the minor hurling and football championships go on at the same time, there is going to be major difficulties with injuries, time available to train and freshness of the players.

Date	Win/Loss	Team 1	Score	Team 2	Score
28-JULY	Win	St. Joseph's	2-13	Kilmaley	1-20
18-AUG	Loss	St. Joseph's	2-14	mils/bodyke	1-18
01-Sept	Loss	St. Joseph's	2-12	Inagh/Kil	0-27
18-Sept	Win	St. Joseph's	3-15	Wolfe Tones	2-11
30-Sept	Loss	St. Joseph's	1-09	Clarecastle	3-11
13-Oct	Loss	St. Joseph's	1-09	Sixmilebridge	0-18

Challenge games took place versus Ballyea, Scarrif Ogonelloe, Cratloe, Saint Thomas, Clarinbridge. Many thanks to my selectors this year of Pdraig Duddy, Vinnie Sheedy and Robert Hurley. Thanks to the club for their support in providing equipment and gear and for the use of the fields

also to the medical people of Eugene Moynihan, Cathal O'Sullivan and Fiona Casey. Sincere thanks to the parents and guardians of the players who took them to training and games all year too.

Juvenile Club Report

U6 Football

What fun it is to see up to forty boys smiling and running around learning to kick catch and throw. Every Friday evening from March to October at 6pm we had this to look forward to. With the help of numerous parents and under the guidance of Peadar, Kieran and Tom, the boys improved massively over the season. Watching them get better and see them start to bond as teammates was a great way to spend a Friday evening.

At the end of the season we played two blitz. One when we welcomed the Banner to Gurteen. Teams of seven competed gamely and with much talent on show. The weather brought an abrupt end to the games, but we still got to see the boys perform superbly. The following week we welcomed Cratloe to Gurteen. Again, we witnessed boundless energy and enthusiasm and no little skill. We had a few treats after to wind up the season. So, smiles all round and we are looking forward to seeing the boys progress through the ranks with their new friends made.

Thanks again to all the parents and guardians that came and were more than willing to help out. See ye all next year!!

To say this bunch of lads have come on this season would be an un-derstatement, they are a great bunch who have really started to play for each other and have a very bright future. As mentors we hope ye had fun and we would like to thank all the parents and guardians who travelled far and away to support the lads

Best of luck to the lads moving up to U12's and the lads playing U10 next year.

Mark, Sean, Larry, Cathal, Dermot and Enda



U10 Football

2016/17 season started with great enthusiasm with numbers close on 50 ready and eager young footballers of mixed ability but with a common drive showing up for training every Tuesday and Friday evening. It's always a great sign when you see kids running from their parent's cars to the training field no matter what the weather. The lads took to Blitz season like senior players in search of county glory. They went up against the best the county had to offer and on every occasion played in a manner that their parents and club can be very proud of. Challenge games were organised outside of the regular blitz season which included a visit to Gurteen by Austin Stacks, honestly, we were given a lesson in football. Heads low walking off the pitch, but quickly raised when they saw the spread laid on by the ever-generous parents in the club house. The bar had been raised and the lads rose to the challenge with the prospect of an end of season trip to Austin Stacks and Mungret. We travelled to Tralee with 2 teams on the 29th of October to play the best of Cork and Kerry, again the lads played like heroes and were within 3 points of reaching the A final. Finally, our extended season ended on the 5th of November in the annual Stephan Cahill tournament in Mungret. This tournament has been well represented by DB teams since it started, and this year was no exception.



U13 Football

The St Joseph's Doora Barefield u13 footballers commenced training in early January in preparation for the year ahead alongside the u14s who were getting ready for their county Feile competition. Before our competitive season begun we travelled to Corofin in Galway to play them in a challenge match in testing conditions with driving wind and rain making it very difficult for both sides. We also travelled to portlaoise and played them in a challenge in much better conditions coming away with a win with a couple of scores to spare.

We commenced our u13s championship division 3 in early June with wins over Cratloe, Ennistymon, Eire

og and Feakle Killenana. Those wins saw us reach the semi-final where we were pitted against St breckans. We were very unfortunate to lose out by just the minimum in a game that was played at a blistering pace in tubber and where we lead by 3 coming into the closing stages. It was a brilliant game and had everything and the boys were gutted to come out on the losing end.

We then entered the shield semi-final against Naomh Eoin/ o Currys/ Kilkee and again we lost out by the minimum to the peninsula amalgamation in a game where both teams played some fine football.

We took a short break in mid-summer and then resumed late August in preparation for the Annual Garda Tournament. Group matches were played 27th Aug where we had good wins over Clondegad and parteen meelick but we suffered a defeat to kilrush who went on to deservedly claim the division 1 title. The parish boys claimed the division 3 title with a convincing win over the banner in Cusack park on the 1st sept.

To Wrap up the season we were invited to a tournament in Clann na Gael Roscommon where we went up against teams from Galway , Westmeath and Roscommon. We qualified for the plate final where we defeated a team from Offaly to finally claim some silverware at the end of a long but enjoyable season.

So much football played and so much learned by all, this group of boys have 2018 to look forward to and the first challenge facing them will be to try and retain the county and All Ireland Feile titles won by this year's brilliant u14s footballers, a challenge that hopefully will lead them on the memorable experience that the Feile competition brings.

Finally, to the players and parents a massive thank you for your continued support and dedication shown all year. To the mentors Paudie dorgan, Paul Guilfoyle and Jim Curran your commitment and dedication is second to none and we thank you all for the tireless work that you continue to do at underage level.

Let's hope that 2018 brings enjoyment to this bunch of boys and that memories will be made to last a lifetime.

Yours in football

Glen Monaghan

U14 Football



All Ireland F-éile boys winners 2017

2017 was an extremely busy year for the U14 football squad. We began training in early January in preparation for Féile. In the run in to the county competition we played a series of challenge matches against Mungret, Monaleen, Corofin (Galway) and Claregalway. We also hosted Castlebar Mitchells, Portlaoise and Austin Stacks in a tournament in Gurteen, we then travelled to Portlaoise for a return tournament where we played the host club, Coralstown/ Kinnegad and St Broughans (Offaly). In the group stages of the county competition we defeated Clondegad and Corofin and in a very tight final we defeated Ennistymon.

We then took a break from training until the end of May, when we resumed in preparation for the National Finals of Féile in Cavan/ Monaghan and our own U14 championship. Our host club for Féile were Killygarry GAA club in Cavan. Their professionalism, hospitality and kindness towards the panel, mentors and parents added to a most memorable and magical weekend, both on and off the field. In the group stages we defeated Killygarry, Killenkere (Both Cavan) and Gaultier (Waterford). In the quarter final we overcame Newtownbutler (Fermanagh). In the semi-final we defeated Greystones (Wicklow) and in a tense and nerve wracking final we had two points to spare over O' Raghallaigh's (Louth). This victory was no more than this group of players deserved and we returned that night to great celebrations in The Grove.

In our championship we went undefeated in our group matches. We defeated Clondegad in the semi-final to set up a meeting in the final once more with Ennistymon. Like all previous encounters between the two teams, this again went right to the end with Doora Barefield eventually coming out on top. This was the perfect end, to a perfect year!

Our U14 B team reached the semi-final of their competition, losing out to St Breckan's and in the semi-final of the shield they lost out to Naomh Eoin /O Curry's. Most of these players are again underage next year and hopefully can build on their experience from this year.

Thanks to all the parents who took the time to bring the boys to training, to the various matches and in particular for the huge support at Feile in Cavan. Without your support they

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wouldn't have the opportunity to partake in or enjoy Gaelic games in the way they did this year. Sincere thanks also to the other coaches involved with this group - John Power, Eoin Hanrahan, Glen Monahan, Albert Hardiman, Paudi Dorgan and Paul Guilfoyle.

This group of U14 footballers were a joy to work with all year long. On behalf of all the U14 management I'd like to thank them for their commitment to training and to matches during the year and for their excellent behaviour and attitude, both in Gurteen at training and when they represented the club at various matches and tournaments throughout the country. If they continue to make progress like they did this year, then we have a lot to look forward to over the coming years.

Jim Curran



U14 Div I Champions

U16 Football

Training commenced in early January with a squad of 20 to 23. We competed in A level with our opponents Corofin, Ennistymon, Eir Og, Clarecastle, St Breckans, and Doora Barefield. Training was difficult with the weather but as we progressed we improved. We qualified for the semi-final against Ennistymon but unfortunately, we were narrowly beaten. I would like to thank all who helped and the players that gave total commitment.

Paudie O'Callaghan

U16 Mentors

U6 Hurling

We started back training at the end of March with 45 players, we did an indoor session for 6 weeks focusing on ABC. After the 6 weeks were up we moved out to the astro pitch and started on the basics of hurling, how to hold the hurley properly, swing, throwing etc and of course playing games. We trained two days a week Wednesday evening and Sunday mornings. We hosted a few blitz at the end of the year so the children could show off the skills they had learned, first up was Ballyea at the end of September this was a great morning and the children got a lot match experience from it, Next up was Clooney-Quinn again this was a great morning, due to our large numbers we had a lot more players than Clooney but our boys were mad to play games that some of our players volunteered to help out this was lovely to see, last up was New-Market some great games played that morning against a very strong Newmarket teams.

We ended our season with a Medal presentation and a party which everyone enjoyed. I would like to thank all the coaches that gave up their time to help me over the year without them I would not be able to function.

Theresa Wall

U10 Hurlers

The U10 hurlers had a very enjoyable and busy year. It started back in February and completed Nov 5th with a blitz under lights v Cratloe and hospital Herbertstown (Limerick). We had 42 boys attend training all year and the average attendance was 30/session.

As well as competing in all the county blitzes we had additional challenge games v Ruan, Parteen, Kilmaley, Ina-Kilnamona, Sixmilebridge, Clooney, Newmarket, Ballyea and Corofin. The boys competed well, and the standard was high.

In addition, we also had 2 road trips, one to Hospital in Limerick where we were beaten in the final of a multi county tournament and the other to Clarinbridge in Galway where we had 42 boys play their Galway counterparts.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the parents, and more importantly the volunteer coaches, John Mescall, Larry Whelan, Adrian Frawley, Brian Noone, John Byrne, Olga O'Sullivan, Enda O'Gara, Christy Brigdale, Michael O'Coileán, Niall Thornton, James Breslin, Aidan Bohannon and Ed Corry who each helped throughout the year.

We would also like to especially thank Joe Hallinan for his patience throughout the year when we needed additional pitch times and hosting slots.

Paul Mannion

U13 Hurling

With over 40 players to pick from DB were fortunate to be in a position to enter two teams in the Coiste Na nOg U13 Hurling competitions.

Our Under 13A side opened their campaign with a Home tie against Sixmilebridge, and despite leading at half time we lost by 4 points. Next up was an away match against a much less experienced Crusheen, this victory followed by wins over Ballyea and Inagh Kilnamona meant the Doora Barefield topped the Under 13A group. Next was an away Semi Final against Clarecastle, a team that had beaten us in a challenge match earlier in the year. After a very strong start where the Doora Barefield forwards dominated play, it was the turn of the backs in the second half when Clarecastle mounted a spirited come back but Doora Barefield held out for a well-deserved victory.

Next up was the Final, a repeat of an earlier encounter against Inagh Kilnamona in Six Mile Bridge, and despite holding Inagh Kilnamona level with 3 minutes to half time, an unanswered goal and two points just before the whistle meant that we were on the back foot going into the second half. Following a number of injuries to Doora Barefield players early on in the second half Inagh Kilnamona pushed on and went on to dominate, and ran out deserved winners.



Our very talented Under 13A BNOG team started their road to the final with a dominant display against a young Clooney Quin. This, followed by victories over Six Mile Bridge and Clare Castle, put our team top of the table with an unbelievable 88 Points scored and just 21 conceded, outstanding displays by our forwards, were matched by the meanest defence in the U13 league. We faced Scariff Ogonnoloe in the semi-final and again with home advantage and encouraging support from our parents we went on to win comfortably. In the final we faced a familiar foe in a talented undefeated Ballyea side with an impressive scoring pedigree. This was a final where true hurling talent was on display from both sides, and where in each half both sides had their period of dominance, but despite being 6 points down late into the second half a dogged display by our defense and some opportune scores by our forwards meant that Doora Barefield prevailed.

Thanks very much to all our parents, mentors and coaches without whom no club can succeed.

Emmett Moran

U14 Hurling

The u14 hurlers began last December with wall sessions each Saturday. In mid-January we moved to the astro turf and trained there. We played challenge games against Mungret, Na Pairsaigh, Doon and Turloughmore.

In the championship we won four games beating Corofin, Clarecastle, Inagh/Kilnamona and Scarrif/Ogonelloe. We lost two games to Feakle/Kilanena and Clooney/Quin. This gave us a quarter final place. We beat Clooney/Quin after losing to them a week earlier. We met Sixmilebridge in the semi-final where we came up short.

The second U14 team played in the u14 shield. We played Sixmilebridge, Ballyea and Scariff/Ogonelloe home and away. We only won two of these games.

We the coaches would like to thank the players for their commitment & dedication, also the parents who bring them to training and matches. A special thanks to Paul Madden who helps coach our goalkeepers. Finally, thanks to our mentors Donal Lahiffe, Leo Duggan, Eugene Foodie, Fintan Lahiffe and Raymond Power.

Sean Duggan



Ciarán O' Driscoll and Hannah Doyle Knockanean

U15/16 Hurling

2017 was an exceptionally busy year for the U16 Hurling squad. U16 Hurlers commenced training third week in February under the watchful eye of strength and conditioning coach, Donal O Halloran. We decided to concentrate on flexibility and agility work for the first 6 in the hall before moving to the field in early April. A very dedicated and talented bunch of players with 34 on the panel decided from an early stage that they would put in a serious effort and in the long run this paid off winning both the U16 A and U16 shield competitions.

Doora Barefield entered two U16 Hurling teams in the championship competing in the U16 A and with the second team competing in a shield competition for teams with numbers to accommodate 2 teams.

U 16 A Competition.

The U16 A championship was run in a league basis with 12 teams competing in two groups. The first 4 teams from each group were to qualify for the quarter finals.



We also had a number of challenge matches for the second team. For the weeks leading up to and over the duration of junior cert training was restricted to non-contact. After the junior cert we got in a few other challenges prior to the start of the championship.

In the league section won 3 of our 5 matches, beating Sixmilebridge, Newmarket and Clonlara and losing to Kilmaley and Clarecastle. In the Kilmaley match we were well on top at half time but a lack of concentration in the second half meant we lost by a point. The Clarecastle league game turned out to be one of three exceptional games with Clarecastle in the course of the season, in which we lost by 3 points having missed a penalty and had a ball off the cross bar. At this stage of the competition we had performed exceptionally well and knew with a bit of luck we could at least make the final.

We qualified for the quarter final against Scarriff/Ogonnelloe in Scarriff. This game turned out to be close in the first half but the introduction of Tony Butler, who had been injured, before half time turned the game in our favour and we won on a score line of 2.13 to 2.06. This set up a semi-final meeting with Broadford/Killaloe in Sixmilebridge. This game was played in wet conditions and turned out to be physical and very close. It took extra time to separate the two teams but in the end, we won by 2 points on a score line of 3.15 to 4.10

This set up a final with favourites Clarecastle who had gone through the campaign without losing a game. The final was played in Cusack Park on Friday the 15th September 2017. Clarecastle made the brighter start scoring a number of goals early on and took a commanding lead. However, Doora/Barefield settled and over the next 15 minutes, hurled well, took some good scores and found ourselves only 2 points down coming to the end of the first half. Clarecastle struck for another goal just before half time and went in leading by 5 points, 1.08 to 4.04. The second half was evenly contested with both teams giving their all. With ten minutes remaining Clarecastle hit a purple patch and scored a number of long range points. With two minutes of normal time and 3 minutes of additional time remaining we found ourselves 7 points



5 challenges match took place prior to the start of the championship with teams from the other group and teams from Galway and Limerick. All players were given a chance to stake a place in the starting line-up.

down. It was then the true character of this team showed. An outstanding goal from Adam Mongovan and a point from Bruce Pigott left one goal between the teams. A well worked move through the forwards led to Fionn O'Brien crashing to the back of the net from the edge of the square to level the match on 4.13 apiece. One aspect of the game was the bravery of Oisín Brennan who, unknown to himself and the selectors, broke his thumb during the course of the game and continued to play on, putting in a tremendous second half.

The replay was played in Cusack Park as a curtain raised to the County Hurling semi-final. Oisín Brennan's loss meant the back line had to be restructured. The objective going into this replay was to prevent goals and mark the key players for Clarecastle. This the players did to perfection and at the end of the first half we lead by 2.06 to 0.05. The goals came from Ethan Coughlan and Bruce Pigott. It must be noted that Ethan Coughlan's goal of outstanding quality and he also laid on the second goal for Bruce Pigott. At the start of the second half we stretched our lead to nine points. Like all good teams Clarecastle fought back and reduced our lead to 3 points by the 24th minute. Doora/Barefield were not going to let this one slip and finished strongly scoring 1.02 in the remaining time to win on a score line of 3.11 to 1.10. There were some outstanding individual displays on the day but it was the display of the team as a unit which led to this victory.

U 16 Competition Shield for Clubs with Second Teams.

U16 Shield Hurlers commenced training with the A panel in late February. This U16 championship was run in a league basis with 7 teams competing and the top two teams going to the final. In the league section we won all our games to finish top of the group. Along the way we had some tight games against Sixmilebridge, Kilmaley and Inagh/Kilnamona. Inagh/Kilnamona qualified for the final which was played in Gurteen on Tuesday 19th September. Inagh/Kilnamona were going for three in a row in this particular completion. This was a very close game with Doora/Barefield eventually coming out on top on a score line of 4.09 to 2.09.

We place great value on the shield competition as it gives games for all the players on the panel regardless of their ability. Based on the numbers available to us we try not to bring players up from the teams below as it gives all players on the age game time and an opportunity to improve.

U 15 A Competition.

The U15 A championship was run on a knockout basis with 10 teams competing. This completion started immediately after the U16 was finished. We had a quarter final game against Bodyke/Mills on Sunday 8th October 2017 in Bodyke. The condition of the pitch was extremely poor on the day and we did not adapt to the conditions as well as the opposition did. Having said this we did not play well and lost this game by one point on a score line of 0.12 to 1.08. We missed a considerable amount of scoring chances from play and from frees to make a draw of the game or win this game. This was a disappointing end to this competition as we the management had high hopes for this team and know they should have gone further.

U 15 Competition Shield for Clubs with Second Teams.

The U15 shield championship was run on a knockout basis with 4 teams competing. This team was backboned by a number of 14-year olds who had got to the U14 A semi-final and as a result we had a strong team. The semi-final was against Sixmilebridge in the Bridge under lights. We had a very poor first half with the Bridge totally dominating and going in at half time leading by 13 points. At this stage the chances of advancing to the final did not look good. However we knew that the team had underperformed and with a bit of restructuring and a change of attitude a different Doora/Barefield team took to the field for the second half. Bit by bit we clawed away into the lead and entering the final stages we found ourselves one point up. The Bridge secured the final point to force the game to extra time. In extra time the game was tight but we came out on top by 2 points to reach the final on a score line of 3.14 to 3.12.

Due to bad weather the other semi-final was delayed. We now know that Ballyea are our opponents in the final which is due to be played in Gurteen on Wednesday 8th November 2017.

Overall the year has been a big success winning the U16 A and Shield hurling competitions and currently in the U15 Shield final. There is a very talented and dedicated bunch of players from 14 to 16 and they will have to be nurtured going forward to get the best out of them. I would like to thank the Club for their help throughout the year and especially the field committee for the manner in which the facilities were kept.

Finally big thanks to my fellow coaches and Selectors, Billy Pigott, Peadar O'Loughlin, Seosamh O'Riordain, and Pdraig Geraghty for all their help and commitment throughout the year. Thanks to Sean Duggan, Raymond Power, Donal Lahiffe and Fintan Lahiffe with their help with the U15s. Thanks to Donal O'Halloran for his work early in the year with strength and conditioning in the hall. Thanks to all the parents who helped with transport, etc and a special thanks to all the players whose behaviour and attitude made our job easier.

Anthony O'Halloran

Your Team = Your Club

We need your help...

**Minor and Senior committees
urgently need assistance in club
administration**

A little help would make a huge difference.

**If you feel you have even a little to offer please
contact:**

**Martin Coffey or Bill Clohessy
(086 2320744) (086 3580074)**

2017 was another successful year for the club with our Féile Team winning the Division 3 National title in Cavan in June and our U12's playing at the National Community Games All-Ireland Final in Dublin in August. We also won U12A, U16A and Junior A Championships. Thank you to all our sponsors who supported us during the year.

U6 & U8

The Under 6's and 8's began training in March. They attended several U8 Go Games during the year travelling to Kilmurry Ibrickane, Kildysart, Burren Gaels and we also hosted one in Gurteen in June. All matches in the Go Games were very competitive with all the girls showing great skill. The U8s were mentored by Treas Molloy, Sally Molloy, Sean McCormack, Regina O'Connell, Paudie Dorgan, Sinead White, Shona Power and Niamh McDonagh.

U10's

The U10's also took part in Go Games in April, May, June and September. We hosted a blitz in Gurteen on 17th September and Wolfe Tones, Burren Gaels, West Clare Gaels and Miltown Malbay were the visitors. On the day there were some super skills on display by all the girls. Thanks to Brendan McGann, Caroline Keane, Sheila O'Rourke and

U12s

The Under 12's had 3 teams competing in the League and Championship this year. Their first silverware for the year was winning the County Community Games on April 30th. They represented Clare in the Munsters on 3rd of July in Limerick where they won gold. On 20th August they travelled to Dublin to compete in the National Finals reaching the final on the day and came home with silver.

The U12 Championship commenced in early September with All 3 teams – Tigers, Bears and Lions competing in finals.

The U12 Bears played Kildysart in the Plate final in Clarecastle on 22nd October. They lost on the day but put in a huge performance against a strong Kildysart team.

Next up were the Lions who were playing in the U12 A Cup final against the Banner. The teams were level on 2 points each at half time. However Doora Barefield edged in front with 2 points and then with 10 minutes to go they scored the only goal of the match. Doora Barefield added another 2 points to finish winners on a score line of 1-6 to 0-2.

The U12 Tigers have yet to play the Division D Shield Final v Wolfe Tones.

Huge credit goes to the Management Team of James McNamara, John Torpey, Martin Lillis, Breda O'Driscoll and Enda O'Flaherty for the achievements of the U12 this year.

U14's

The Under 14s also had 3 teams competing in both league and championship in 2017. The teams were mentored by Michael Meaney, Treas Molloy, Paul Conway, Seamus Mulligan and Iomhair Daly.



U14 Girls Feile Champs



U12 A Girls Football Champs



Under 14 Grils Feile Front Page

The Féile Team made history for the Club this year by winning the first National Title for the Club when they win the John West Féile na nÓg Division 3 Cup in Cavan in June. The semi-finals and final of the competition were played on 9th April in Kilmihil. First up was a semi-final against Kilrush which the girls won after extra-time. The final against Cooraclare also went to extra time and a point shoot-out but nothing separated the teams and it was back to Kilmihil on the 14th April where the girls won on a score line of 0-3 to Cooraclare 0-1.

Doora Barefield were hosted by Lavey Ladies Football on the weekend of 24th June. They came through their group on the Friday and Saturday morning playing teams from Cavan and Leitrim and of course their hosts Lavey. Next was a Cup quarter final where they met a strong Ballymacarbry Ladies team from Waterford. Final score Doora Barefield 0:5 to Ballymacarbry 0:3.

The semi-final opponents were, Clonee from Co. Wexford. Doora Barefield win on a score line of 2-4 to 1-5. The Division 3 National Final was held in Kingscourt and it was Fr. Caseys of Abbyfeale from Limerick who stood in the way of the Doora Barefield girls bringing home the cup. The Girls led by 7 points at half-time time 3:0 to 0:2. Fr Caseys were not going to give up the game and scored 1:1 in the second half, however the Doora Barefield girls were resolute and were rewarded with a well-deserved victory, DB 3:1 Fr Caseys 1-4.

U14 C Championship Team

This young U14C Team played Shannon Gaels/Coolmeen, Liscannor and Eire Óg in the group games of the championship, They reached the U14D Championship Shield Final on the 18th June. The girls showed great heart and determination but were beaten by a strong Shannon Gaels/Coolmeen on the day.

U14 B Championship Team

The U14 B Team reached the U14C Shield Final against Kildysart on the 21st June in Clooney Quin, and it was the last kick of the game from Kildysart that ensured a share of the spoils and another day out.

It was back to Clooney Quin for the Replay on 6th of July where the Parish came out on top on a score line of 3-18 to Kildysart 0-2.

U14 A Championship Team

The U14 A Team played the A Cup Final against Cooraclare on the 18th June in Kilmihil having played Cooraclare, Banner, Kilrush and Burren Gaels in the group stages. The final was played in sweltering heat and it ended in a draw on a score line of Doora Barefield 2-7 Cooraclare 1-10. The replay was not played until 7th October in Kilmihil where unfortunately the girls lost on a score line of Doora Barefield 2-1 Cooraclare 2-5.

This team put in huge performances all year and also win the Division 1 League Final on 3rd October beating Kilrush 4-11 to 1-06.

Community Games

The U14s entered 2 teams in the County Community Games and both teams ended up in the Final with the Doora Barefield Maroon Team winning on the day and representing Clare in the Munster Finals on the 3rd of July in Limerick. They narrowly lost the Munster Final by the Waterford Champions.

With such a large group of girls, great credit is due to the management and mentors for keeping the girls motivated and focused throughout the year. Well done to all on the achievements of the U14 Teams.

U16 Championship

The U16 A Team mentored by Noel Nagle, Annete Reidy and Gerry Clarke met the Banner in the Final on 9th May in Clooney Quin. On their 3rd time of meeting there was nothing between these 2 teams before the final so this fixture was always going to be a competitive game and that is exactly what the supporters got.

The Banner net was rattled within a minute of throw in and the girls kept the pressure on registered another goal before the Banner got on the score board. The Banner registered 2 goals of their own to draw the game but Barefield came straight back into it registering another goal and point going in at half time 3-2 to 2-1.

The Banner girls never got ahead of the Parish girls on the night and Barefield scored another 2-4 to Banner's 2-1 in the second half. It was a fantastic performance on the night by the team with Barefield running out winners on a score line of 5-06 to 4-02.

Siofra Ní Chonnaill accepted the cup on behalf of the team and acknowledged the commitment and hard work of the team and mentors.

Minor Team

The Minors started off their campaign against Atlantic Gaels (amalgamation of Kilmurry Ibickane and Miltown Malbay) and were beaten on the night by a stronger outfit with Barefield missing some key players due to injuries.

They won their next two matches against the Banner and West Clare Gaels. They met Atlantic Gaels again in the Semi-final in Miltown Malbay on 17th October and lost by 4 points on the night. Final Score Doora Barefield 5-5 Atlantic Gaels 5-9.

6 of the minors represented the club on the Clare team who won the Minor B All-Ireland final on 5th August in Ballinasloe. The six were Kate Dillon (captain on the day) Hannah Meaney, Ciara Guilfoyle, Shona Power and Amanda Mulcaire and Anna Courtney who also represented the club on the Clare Senior team.

The Team were mentored by Paul Conway, Gerry Clarke and Annette Reidy.

Junior Team

Division 3 League

The Junior team played in the Division 3 League earlier in the year and played Clooney-Quin, Eire-Óg, Doonbeg, and Wolfe Tones. The girls played the final on 22nd May beating Doonbeg on the night with final score of Doora Barefield 3-6 Doonbeg 0-5.

Junior A Championship

The Juniors played the County Final on 3rd September in Cooraclare against Kilrush who had already beaten this team in the first round of the Championship. It was a competitive con-test with Doora Barefield leading at half time 0-6 to 0-3 having also had a penalty saved.

Kilrush came out strong in the second half hitting 1-4 without reply and were with 10 minutes gone in the second half Kilrush were leading 1-7 to 0-7. Doora Barefield upped their

game in the last 20 with a goal coming from Amy Lenihan on 15 minutes and points scored by Chloe Towey and Amanda Mulcaire. Doora Barefield were the better team on the day and finished the game as champions on a score-line of 1-10 to 1-07. The player of the game was Aisling Reidy, Chloe Towey, Erin Hennessy, Amanda Mulcaire and Aisling McMahon also played very well. Kate Dillon accepted the cup on behalf of the team and thanked the girls and the management Paul Conway, Gerry Clarke, Annette Reidy, Denise Clerkin and Kate Harrington for their hard work and commitment throughout the year.

Next up was the Tipperary Champions Fethard in the first round of the Munster Minor A championship. The girls had a nervous start and were down 9 points at the break. The team were not going to give up and came back into the game drawing it with 5 minutes to go. Fethard got one more score and the Parish were beaten by the narrowest of margins on a score line of 4-8 to Fethard's 2-15. The club will now play Intermediate Football next year.



Camogie Report



By Siobhan Hoey

As another year ends, we take the opportunity to look back at the years activities both on and off the field.

Firstly, Congratulations to Orla Moloney recipient of Clare Camogie Minor B Club Star Award for 2016 and to Seamus O'Sullivan on receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award to a standing ovation in acknowledgement of his enormous contribution to all things camogie in Treacy's West County Hotel in January. Seamus was a visionary Chairman of Clare Camogie and served as PRO for the Munster and Clare Camogie Boards. On the fundraising front we had a very successful flag day and a big thank you to everyone who volunteered at the Annual Great Limerick Run while in turn raising funds for the club. We had a very enjoyable minor & senior team bonding day out in Shannon at Foot Golf during the summer. Meanwhile on the playing field....

Our Minor, Junior and Senior teams commenced training the end of January with junior b and senior league competitions getting underway mid-April. The U14, U15 & U16 team competitions got under way in March, July and September respectively while the U6, U8, U10, U11, U12 and U13 underage teams took to the training pitch the end of March with blitzes starting in April through to October.

Under 6 and Under 8

Our U6 girls trained every Wednesday 6.30-7.30pm. We had great numbers at every training session. The girls really developed the basic skills of camogie but more importantly they had fun getting to know all their new friends and enjoying being part of a team. The future is

definitely bright for our camogie club and we look forward to seeing all the girls back at training in the new year. As always, we welcome new players too - so come along. Thank you to Aisling Daly, Noel Brodie, Beatrice Kerins and Sandra Flood for looking after the girls during the year.



Registration numbers for the U8 girls proved to be very strong. They trained twice weekly Wednesdays 6.30-7.30pm and Sundays 11-12 from April to September with large numbers attending all training sessions. The girls participated in five blitzes over the summer period playing in Wolf Tones, Kilmaley, Bodyke, St. Josephs (hosting) and back to Kilmaley for the final blitz in September. The club fielded three and four teams at each blitz with both girls and parents enjoying the experience. The year concluded



with a get together in Gurteen at the beginning of October with a presentation of medals to the girls. The girls were managed by Carmel Duggan, Sheila O'Connor, Josephine Howard, Niall Burke, Paul Mannion, Paul Kennedy, Eamon Whelan and Keith Reynolds.

Under 10

The U10's year began with us hosting the first of the Go Games blitzes on the 22nd April, with visiting teams from Burren, The Banner and Inagh/Kilnamona. In total the team played in 5 County Board blitzes. We travelled to Clooney/Quin, Ballyea and The Banner over the summer months before hosting once again in mid-September. The level of skill and spirit shown by the girls in all their matches augurs well for the future. Two of the girls Lauren Fox and Katie King represented Doora Barefield at the official opening of the new Clare Camogie County Grounds - Fr. McNamara Park on October 10th.

Huge thanks to the parents who helped out on blitz days and to mentors Donal Cahill, Ivan Kerins, Aiden Murphy, Orla O'Neill and Orla Moloney for putting so much effort into this group of girls. Well done U10s, keep practicing!

Under 11, Under 12 & Under 13

The U11, U12 & U13 teams were in action from the end of March through to mid-October. The U11 girls competed in the Sharon Walsh Memorial Tournament in Tulla in June, reaching the final against Clooney/Quin. Both teams played excellently in this ground hurling only tournament and could not be separated even after extra time. Huge excitement was followed by disappointment after losing out on a penalty shootout. Well done to all the girls for their hard work and effort.

St. Josephs entered two teams in the U12 league in a non-competitive format running from June into July. This provided

plenty of games for all concerned, with both teams winning three out of six games. After a few weeks break during the summer, training resumed in mid-August.

From here onwards, the U11/U12s trained with the U13 girls who entered into their championship in September. The U13 team won three of their five games before losing out to Crusheen in a tightly fought semi-final. Huge praise must be given to all players with considerable improvements made throughout the year. Keep up the good work!

Under 14

Training for a busy and eventful U14 camogie season began the end of February. We were one of just five teams competing in the 'A' grade with Scariff/Ogonnelloe, Inagh/Kilnamona, Kilkishen/Bodyke and Truagh/Clonlara. The girls improved as the season progressed, and they competed well in every match. We suffered a narrow defeat to Truagh/Clonlara in our final match and missed out on a place in the semi-final, after conceding a last minute goal.

In the Feile Na Gael competition, both ourselves and Truagh/Clonlara went into our last match against each other needing a win to progress to the semi-final. After the match ended in a draw, it necessitated a playoff which we won later that week, with the match going to extra time.

In the Clare Feile semi-final, we had a narrow defeat after giving a really good account of ourselves against Kilkishen/Bodyke. We subsequently lost the third and fourth place playoff to Inagh/Kilnamona. This resulted in us traveling later that month to Ballindereen in Co. Galway for the Regional Feile competition. After a great win over Ballyagran, Limerick on a score line 2-1 to 1-0, we were defeated by a strong St. Jude's side from Dublin. That left us facing a difficult semi-final tie against a rampant Shamrocks from Galway who had easily topped the other section and went on to win out the competition. The girls put in a super performance pushing the Galway girls all the way, before losing narrowly. We were

immensely proud of how well they played and how hard they competed.

Finally, the girls played in the Clare Community Games competition in Clarecastle, they won their quarter final game against Sixmilebridge/ Kilmurry by three points , this put them through to the semi-final against Derg. However, Derg proved too strong for the girls on the day, they then went on to play Clooney/Quin in 3rd/4th place playoff and secured the bronze medals. Thanks to Jamesie O'Connor, Aiden Bohannon, Felim O'Coileáin, John O'Connor and Pauline Butler for all their hard work during the year looking after the girls, they were a pleasure to work with all year, and the courage and bravery they showed is to be commended. Thank you to Orla, Trish, Paula, Mhairi, Tony, Ronan and all the parents who helped out at various stages throughout what was an enjoyable and entertaining year.

Under 15

The U14 competitions are normally over by the time U15 starts and as the U16 competition does not commence 'til September it's a great opportunity for girls to play camogie while waiting for championship to start. It's played on a blitz basis, 13 aside teams on a juvenile pitch. Our girls commenced on May 6th against Inagh/Kilnamona and continued through July and into August meeting Broadford, Sixmilebridge, Clooney/Quin, Clarecastle and Tulla before finally overcoming Kilmaley in the semi-final and losing out to a strong Scariff/Ogonelloe side in the final in Gurteen. League finalists was a super achievement. Great camogie was played throughout and this competition should be encouraged year on year to keep girls playing during the summer. Thanks to the girls themselves, their parents, Jamesie O'Connor, Orla Daly and Trish Towey for their support and encouragement all season.

U16A

Training for the U16 camogie panel followed on from the U15 league final with a championship start date of the 6th September. With the structure of the championship a quarter final place was guaranteed.

Our first game was against Kilmaley with an away venue we performed well but faded in the latter end of the game and lost on a score line of D/B 2:5 Kilmaley 3:8

Our second game, again an away fixture was against Inagh – Kilnamona . Our first half performance was excellent only trailing Inagh/ Kilnamona by 2 points. In the first 10 minutes of the second half we struggled to get the ball past centre field and Inagh/ Killnamona racked up a significant lead. Doora Barefield rallied and dominated the rest of the proceedings but lost on a score line of D/B 3:2 I/K 4:14. But the attitude of the players after this game was very positive.

Our 3rd game was against Feakle/ Killanena. Doora Barefield gave a good performance but the dominance of two Feakle/ Killanena players proved the difference the final score was D/B 3:3 F/K 6:5

With confidence growing in the panel our next game was

against Scariff / Ogonelloe with a home venue a game we targeted as a match that we would look to get a result. The girls gave everything on the field and if it wasn't for a few refereeing decisions it was a game we felt that we should have won, but again the management and players were very happy with the team's progress and stayed focused on a quarter final game.

The fifth round game against Kilkishen / Bodyke was not played due to weather conditions.

Quarter final game was fixed against Kilmaley on Saturday 28th October in Kilmaley. This was a must win game. Whilst we dominated proceedings in the first half we failed to put up a score in the opening half with Kilmaley leading by a goal and one point. Doora Barefield continued to dominate in the second half and were eventual winners on a score line of D/B 3:2 KM 2:3

Doora Barefield were now into an U16A semi-final and pitched against Inagh Kilnamona and probably the best team in the competition (and eventual winners) but with our confidence high we did not fear them.

In probably the best game of the U16A championship Doora Barefield proved to be up for the task, our work rate, our support play and commitment to each other asked serious questions of Inagh Kilnamona. In a game that some commentators felt we should have won we finally lost out on a score line of D/B 2:5 I/K 2:8 , But Doora Barefield were now considered to be serious contenders in the A division.

This defeat guaranteed us a place in the U16A shield final against Scariff / Ogonelloe this game was played under lights in Gurteen on Friday 3rd November. The first half was played at a moderate pace (maybe a consequence to the mammoth performance the previous week) but they picked it up for the second half and went into a 2 point lead with 3 minutes to go. Sport can be so cruel, in this time Scariff/Ogonelloe were awarded two frees inside the 40m line and whilst we defended so well a ground ball was pulled on in the middle of a melee ended up in the back of the Doora Barefield net. With the clock ticking we had no time to get back up the field and the game ended on a score line of D/B 2:9 S/O 4:4.

Whilst we did not achieve our ultimate goal the level of improvement in our performance in each game was immense and was driven by the players themselves. This desire to succeed by the players bodes well for the future of Doora Barefield camogie.

Thank you to the management team of Mark Reidy, Trish Towey and Orla Daly for their hard work and commitment throughout the campaign and while the journey was enjoyable we were disappointed for the players that they did not achieve their just reward.

But that's sport!

Minor

The Minor A Camogie season got underway with a comprehensive 11-11 to 3-7 win over Clooney/Quin in Clooney on the 28th June which was our best all round performance of the year. The half time score read 3-6 to 1-4 in favour of the parish. Ciara Guilfoyle was top scorer with a tally of 5-1. Our second round game was a loss to Feakle/ Killanena on a score line 2-11 to 2-5 in a hard fought contest in Gurteen the end of July. With only a point separating the teams at the interval 0-5 to 0-4 to St. Josephs. But, Feakle Killanena kept the pressure on and got vital scores in the closing minutes to secure a win. On placings the girls subsequently qualified for a semi-final place against Kilkishen/Bodyke in Bodyke on 23rd August, It was, as the saying goes a game of two halves, with a strong first half performance from the home side, the half time score read 0-8 to 0-1 to Kilkishen/Bodyke, but the girls battled hard with strong second half performances from Chloe Towey, Siofra Ní Chonaill, Ciara Whelan(2-0), and Ciara Duggan between the posts, but time ran out and Kilkishen/Bodyke took the spoils 0-13 to 2-2 and eventually went on to win the Minor A Cup final against Feakle/ Killanena. Great credit is due to both the girls and mentors Martin Moloney, Liam Clancy, Tony McGrath and Eamon O'Loughlin for their hard work and commitment during the year having won Minor B last year to reach this year's Minor 'A' semi-final.

U'21s

The U21 team won their semi-final game against Newmarket On Fergus in Newmarket On Fergus on 5th November on a score line 1-11 to 0-7. Strong performances on the day from Eimear Casey, Aisling McMahon and Vanessa Meaney. The half time score read 1-3 to 0-3 in favour of the parish. Newmarket kept the pressure on and levelled matters midway through the second half, but from here on in, the girls upped their performance and went on to secure a place in the Cup final. Date for same has yet to be confirmed at time of printing. Best of luck girls.

Junior B

The Junior league campaign commenced on 7th May with a comprehensive win over Clarecastle/Ballyea. In Round 2 we got a walkover from Newmarket On Fergus. Round 3 the end of May was a very competitive draw against Inagh/ Kilnamona in Kilnamona on a score line 1-11 to 2-8.

A strong finish ensured the girls edged their junior derby with Clooney/Quin in Gurteen in Round 4. There was little between the sides throughout with Clooney/Quin finishing the half on the front foot to take a 1-5 to 1-2 advantage at the break. It took St. Josephs a while to hit the target but were soon back on level terms with a goal from Keira McGrath. Both sides exchanged points before Clooney/Quin goaled in the 54th minute to gain parity, but ultimately it was not enough as the parish closed out the encounter scoring 1-3 without reply in the final minutes of the game to secure a win. Laura Hayes, Keira McGrath and Ciara Whelan had strong performances on the day.

Our final game against Kilmaley saw hosts Kilmaley snatch

victory in an entertaining 13 goal thriller. Again, little separating the sides with the home side ahead at the break 2-5 to 2-2 with goals from Amy Lenihan. The parish opened the second half with a brace of points from Keira McGrath, but from that point on, the contest turned into a goal fest. Kilmaley scored two within six minutes, with Laura Hayes, Ciara Duggan and the hard working Amy Lenihan scoring four more going into the final quarter. St. Josephs were two points ahead with four minutes remaining, but Kilmaley replied with 1-1 in the final minute to take the spoils. Amy Lenihan, Chloe Towey and Meadhbh O'Connor worked hard throughout.

Having won two games, lost one and drawn one we were beaten on scoring difference for a place in the league final. Unfortunately due to player unavailability we were unable to enter a team in the junior b championship.

Senior



Chloe Towey Puc Fada (Burren Eye)

Our senior league competition got off to a winning start with a comprehensive win against Clarecastle/Ballyea on a score line 6-19 to 1-5. The points were shared in Gurteen in Round

2 against Feakle/Killanena 2-8 to 1-11. The parish led at half time 1-3 to 0-5 with scores from Erin Hennessy, Ciara Whelan and Caoimhe Hoey, but Feakle/Killanena rallied and went one ahead before Louise Woods split the post to level matters. Round 3 was an away game to Corofin the end of April in winter like conditions. St. Josephs had a 0-7 to 0-3 lead at the break, and extended their cushion to seven with a goal from Ciara Whelan. Corofin pulled a goal back to leave four between the sides. However, St. Josephs matched their hosts for the remainder with a brace of points from Louise Woods to secure a win. We had a tough encounter against Kilkishen/Bodyke losing out 4-10 to 1-12. A dominant opening half by the home side secured a win in wet conditions in Bodyke, leading 3-7 to 0-6 at half time. Erin Hennessy was the main scorer on the day for the parish with a tally of 1-9. However the east Clare side had the final say adding 1-3 to merit a win. In the final round game

we lost out to Scariff/Ogonnelloe in Gurteen on a score line 2-7 to 0-7. The half time score read 0-5 to 0-3 in favour of the parish. Scariff/Ogonnelloe dominated much of the second half scoring two goals to clench the win and subsequently went on to win the Div. 2 league final.



The championship campaign got underway mid-August with a tough encounter with aforementioned league winners Scariff/Ogonnelloe who came out on top on a score line 1-12 to 1-4. St. Josephs started well and were 1-2 to 0-3 up at half time. But, Scariff/Ogonnelloe dominated much of the second half scoring six points without reply in the closing minutes of the game. Shannon camogie pitch was the venue for round 2 against a strong Newmarket On Fergus side. The winning margin did not appear likely in the opening 20 mins. However Newmarket On Fergus took a grip on proceedings and led 1-11 to 0-3 at the interval. They played well as a unit, and were the better team in the day. St. Josephs had a couple of players who were playing at senior level for the first time and did well first day out. But, Newmarket kept the pressure on to seal a comfortable win. The final group game v Kilkishen/Bodyke was played in very wet conditions in Shannon Camogie pitch in mid-September. St. Josephs were 1-4 to 0-6 up at the interval. It was nip and tuck throughout the half with points exchanged on numerous occasions, but as the final whistle sounded the parish held on to secure victory. We played Sixmilebridge in the Shield semi-final in Clarecastle early October and unfortunately came out on the wrong

side of the result; the bridge had done enough over the hour to see off the parish challenge on a score line of 4-8 to 1-6 which saw us in a relegation game against Kilkishen/Bodyke a week later. Unfortunately we lost out by the narrowest of margins 2-12 to 3-8, Kilkishen Bodyke subsequently lost out to Kilmaley in their relegation game, both teams are now relegated to Intermediate for the 2018 season. Thank you to Martin Moloney, Michéal McMahon, Liam Clancy, and Mary Whelan for their hard work and commitment to the girls all year.

We had numerous girls donning the county jersey this year.

U14 Development Squad: Sinead O'Connor, Ava Lenihan, Emma Towey, Roisín Dillon and Kate Montwell.

U16A Squad: Well done to Siofra Ní Chonaill, Chloe Towey, and Aisling Hannon with team manager Ann Marie McGann on winning the Munster Shield Final v Waterford.

County Minor Team: Congratulations to Kate Dillon, Karen McMahon and Management on winning the Munster Minor A Final.

Katie Callaghan represented Doora Barefield at the Clare Camogie Feile Skills competition while Chloe Towey was our representative at the Clare Puc Fada, well done girls, you did your club proud.

The St. Joseph's Doora Barefield Camogie Facebook page continues to post regular updates, photos and match results and we would encourage you to like and share our page.

Outgoing chairperson Siobhan Hoey thanked everyone who played their part and helped out in whatever capacity in the club over the last five years since been involved as Chairperson. A special thank you to the hardworking and committed mentors, committee members and their families, and to our sponsors for their continued support. It is vitally important that we continue to encourage new volunteers to get involved in the club and continue to grow club membership going forward. I want to finish by wishing the incoming committee and the club every success in the future. Wishing everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas.





Schools Coach

By Christy O'Connor

Throughout the year, one of the central sporting themes in the three National schools in the parish is the St. Joseph's Doora Barefield Primary School's Coaching Programme, which continues to go from strength to strength. With the ongoing support of both the principals and teachers of our schools, students are receiving the majority of their P.E Curriculum through Gaelic Games on a weekly basis. The in-school sessions are generating a link between the classroom and Gurteen which is plain to be seen on our pitches throughout the season.

"The sessions are forty minutes in duration and are broken up into three separate parts", says Liam Clancy, the Schools Coach. "Fundamental movements are practiced first. These are the core movements upon which the Irish Physical Education Curriculum are based. Skills coaching and game based exercises make up the remaining two parts of the sessions."

The programme is focused on the younger classes within the three schools. Students of Junior/Senior Infants, First and Second Class are given priority throughout the school year as it is here where good habits are achieved which will provide a solid foundation for the boy/girl to build their love for Gaelic Games in future years.

On a weekly basis, just over 450 students take part in the programme. "Skills-wise, I try and focus on the areas of the games which take longest to master," says Liam Clancy. "For example, young boys and girls generally need extra time in practicing the jab/roll lift with the hurley. Similarly, when considering Gaelic Football, the younger player initially finds the solo difficult. I feel the time in the schools is best spent giving the children an extra opportunity to practice these tricky skills before returning to Gurteen for their next session."

St. Joseph's Doora Barefield was well represented across both Hurling/Camogie and Gaelic Football throughout the Cumann na mBunscoil calendar in 2017 with a number of our school's teams reaching Cusack Park on County Finals Day.

As part of the Primary Schools Coaching Programme in 2017, Liam was involved in each of the three school's Active Schools Week in June, providing the GAA element to each of the busy timetables. The Coaching Programme was also very active at Gurteen through our Easter and Summer Camps. Those camps continue to go from strength to strength each year, just like the entire School's Coaching Programme.





G.A.A. in Barefield National School

By John Burns, Principal.

Bhí an téarma seo an-ghnóthach sa pheil agus san iománaíocht inár scoil. Gach seachtain tar éis a trí a chlog bíonn na múinteoirí scoile amuigh sna páirceanna scoile ag traenáil buachaillí agus cailíní ó seacht mbliana d'aois go dtí dhá bhliain déag d'aois i scileanna iománaíochta agus peile. Táimid an-bhuíoch do na múinteoirí seo. Freisin, tá áthas orm a rá gur shroicheamar i mbliana na cluichí ceannais do chailíní agus do bhuaicailí sna comór-taisí peile do Chumann na mBunscol.

What a term it has been for the boys and girls of our school! Our Autumn term focuses on football, while our Spring and Summer terms concentrate on hurling and camogie skills. In our Junior Leagues for Rang I, Rang II and Rang III pupils, boys trained very hard every Thursday from 3.00p.m. to 4.00p.m. under their mentors Mr. Seán Burns and Mr. Adrian Frawley. During these sessions, they developed their hand passing, catching and kicking skills. They are a highly motivated group of players and will finish their football training with an internal league. Medals will be presented at Christmas Assembly. This League provides our young stars of the future with experience of some friendly highly competitive games. It will also give them the opportunity of further developing their footballing skills while providing a chance of playing in a team.

Senior Girls Footballers 2017



Back Row L-R: Goretta Quinn, Lucy Power, Aysha Ishan, Lauren Newman, Megan Barry, Victoria Burns, Eimear Clune, Ciara Noone, Áine Moynihan, Katie Hardiman, Mary O Connor.

Middle Row L-R: Alysha Casey Hanrahan, Molly Kelly, Orla Ryan, Elisha Rowland, Ellen Mannion, Jodie Watts, Niamh McNamee, Emily Browne.

Front Row L-R: Molly Cahill, Sheena Kerins, Honor Murphy, Ruth Nagle, Ciara Frawley, Lyndsay Clarke, Ella Casey, Norah Ryan, Alisha Fogarty O'Neill, Aoife Cahill.

Junior Girls Football



Junior Boys Football



Senior boys Football



Back row: Peadar McMahon (coach), Diarmuid Boyle, Evan Feely, David Costelloe, Paddy Nagle, Francis Meaney, Daire Connolly, William Bello, Darragh Finn, George Quinn, Leo Duggan (coach).

Standing Middle row: Shane Mescall, Aaron Malone, Cillian McElroy, Cian Lynch, Cain Guilfoyle, Conor Daly, Tom Curran, John Carey, Eoin Kilcawley.

Sitting middle row: Oscar Reynolds, Eric McDonnell, Darragh Ball, Niall Talty, Eoin Lahiffe, Liam Clune, Sean Breen, Cormac Lynam.

Front row: Jack Dillon, Dean Fitzpatrick, Matthew Corey, Joe Mannion, Robbie Whelan, Brian Corkery Ashton Glynn, Harris Ihsan, Ali Ijaz Ghazi



G.A.A. in Barefield National School

Girls from Rang I, Rang II and Rang III have been enjoying football training every Wednesday since September from 3.00pm to 4.00pm. Ms. Zelma Power and Ms. Sarah Raftery train this group of over 30 girls and emphasis has been placed on movement skills, catching, hand passing, and kicking. Small-sided games and fun activities are also enjoyed by the girls. A fun League is currently being organised. These girls have made great progress to date and have grown in confidence and fitness. They will receive their medals at our Christmas Assembly.

Our senior boys' football team had a very successful term reaching the Division 1 Football Final in Cusack Park on November 7th. On the journey to the Final, we had exciting victories over Ennis CBS, Ennis N.S., Gaelscoil Mhichíl Ciosóg and Ballyea N.S. We accounted for Clarecastle N.S. in the semi-final. Quin N.S. were our opponents in the Final and after a fantastic team performance, we emerged victorious on a score line of 5.11 to 1.01. This team was joint captained by Eoin Lahiffe and Francis Meaney. In total, 36 boys from Rang IV to Rang VI represented our school this year. Training was twice weekly and great credit is due to the boys and to their trainers, Mr. Peadar McMahon & Mr. Leo Duggan, for all their wonderful efforts.

Training for our senior girls' football team commenced in early September with a large number in attendance each week. The first round of the Cumann na mBunscol competition was hosted by Clarecastle N.S. This was organised as a blitz, with three other schools participating. Barefield N.S. came second place, with a win against Kilnamona N.S. and a draw with Clarecastle N.S. Our success on the day qualified us for a place in the semi-final. The semi-final took place in Clonlara on October 26th. Our girls showed great skill and determination and overcame a very strong Clonlara N.S. team by the narrowest of margins. The final score was 2-2 to 1-4. Barefield N.S. then faced Bansha/Clohanes N.S. at Cusack Park on November 7th in the Cumann na mBunscol Finals. Our girls put on a fantastic display and played with sheer determination against this very strong West Clare team. We were very unlucky not to be victorious on the day with the game finishing on a score of 1-9 to 2-4.

Handball commenced in our school after the Halloween break. Training is on Mondays at lunchtime and it is open to all boys and girls from Rang III to Rang VI inclusive. We have had great numbers participating in the last few weeks and a number of pupils have represented the school at various handball competitions throughout the county. We have an excellent one wall handball wall in our halla and the future is bright for the sport in Barefield NS. Many thanks to our Handball coaches, Mr. Leo Duggan and Mr. Robert Murray.

I am delighted to acknowledge the successes of various teams in our Minor Club which included many past pupils of our school, namely U14 Boys Football Champions, U14 Girls League, U16A Hurling, Minor Footballers, U21 Camogie and U21 Boys Football. Congratulations and a big 'bualadh bos' to all the players, their club mentors and coaches.

Once again, I am most appreciative of the tremendous coaching support provided by St Joseph's Club and club coach Liam Clancy who does such fantastic work. Our pupils benefit greatly from his weekly coaching visits.

On behalf of Barefield N.S., may I wish all in our Parish and Club an enjoyable, relaxing and peaceful Christmas.

Guím Beannachtaí na Nollag agus Síocháin san Ath Bhliain oraibh go léir.



G.A.A. in Knockanean National School

By Jim Curran.

Gaelic games play a huge part in the life of both pupils and teachers at Knockanean National School. The school participates in all Cumann na mBunscol competitions which leads to a very busy year in terms of training and matches. Pupils from 4th, 5th & 6th who wish to play Gaelic games are invited to training sessions held twice weekly and we have approximately 30 pupils attending each session.

The first competition of the year is the Indoor Hurling and Camogie which takes place in February. Our 5th class girls reached the semi – finals and were very unlucky to lose out to a very strong Crusheen team, our boys lost out at the group stages.

Next up were the 7 a-side competitions. Knockanean NS entered teams in hurling, camogie and both boys and girls football. All the pupils involved thoroughly enjoyed this competition and our girls' football team reached the final where they narrowly lost to Annagh / Mullagh for the second year in a row.

In June, our girl's football team won the Clare Ladies Football Board Divisional 1 Final which was played in Cusack Park. This was a fantastic experience for the girls as it was the first time many of them had played in the park and they considered it to be a great honour and really enjoyed the occasion.

Our girls reached the semi-final of schools' camogie competition where they were beaten by Tulla and in November our girls football team reached the final of the Div 1 competition where they lost out on the day to a much stronger Quin team.

On an individual level two of our 6th class pupils were chosen to represent Clare in Primary Games. Congratulations to Hannah Doyle (Girls football) and Ciarán O Driscoll (Boys Football) who played at half time in the Clare v Limerick football semi-final in Cusack Park on Sun May 28th

We wish continued sporting success, participation, and most importantly enjoyment, to all our 6th class pupils who have moved on to secondary school.

Many thanks to Liam Clancy for all his invaluable work with the classes over the past two years. A special thank you to the teachers - Kathleen Horgan, Joe O Reilly, Colm Forde, Colm Mullen and John Corbett for giving freely of their time, energy and expertise in an effort to nourish and promote the involvement and enhancement of Gaelic games in the school.

Finally, I'd like to congratulate St. Joseph's Doorra Barefield Club on winning the U 16 A Hurling Championship, U 14

A Football Championship, both the U 14 boys and girls football teams on their success in the All Ireland Feile competition in Cavan/ Monaghan in June and the U12 A girl's football team on their championship success, many of whom are pupils in the school. A sincere thank you to the club for the continued use of their facilities both for training and for matches.



7 a side runners up Knockanean School



Div 1 Girls Finalists Knockanean School



LGFA Div 1 champions Knockanean School

G.A.A. in Doora National School

By Mary Curley



2017 has proved to be another successful year for the children of Doora NS on the GAA front. While titles may have avoided us, we had children who represented their school and GAA club in the Primary Game and Munster Skills Competition and most importantly, more and more children had the opportunity display the skills they have learned with their school and club.

Mini 7's

The girls played a blitz on Wednesday 15th March in Gurteen. They played four matches, winning two and losing two. They won their matches against Scoil Christ Ri and Toonagh and lost to Barefield and the Gaelscoil. Despite their fantastic effort on the day, they were unsuccessful in their search of medals.

The boys participated in a blitz in Gurteen on Thursday 16th of March. All matches proved to be extremely close and there were some excellent skills displayed during the games. A narrow loss to Knockanean was followed by a great win against Gaelscoil MC. Despite winning their final game, against Cloghleigh, the boys didn't progress from their group.

In the hurling competition, the boys from 3rd to 6th played two competitive matches on Friday 31st of March. Despite playing some great hurling they lost to Knockanean and Quin in the group stages.

Cumann na mBunscol

The boys' hurling team were drawn in a tough group against Clonmoney, Tuamgraney & Inch. A win and two losses, despite playing some excellent hurling, saw them miss out on a place in the semi-finals on goal difference. It was a bitter pill for them to swallow but one they vowed to learn from.

On the football front, 2017 has proven to be another

successful year with the boys reaching their third final in four years. An opening day draw against Corofin in Gurteen, followed by wins against Kilnaboy, Kilnamona and Crusheen in Corofin saw them top their group. Next up was the semi-final against Clooney in Éire Óg. A tense opening half left Doora ahead by the minimum but some great scores early in the 2nd half put the game to bed. On Tuesday, 07 November, the boys played the final in Cusack Park, Ennis against a very strong team from Killaloe Boys National School. Despite playing brilliantly, the Killaloe boys proved too strong, and were deserving winners of the Division 3 Shield.

The girls played four matches in Gurteen in October but didn't manage to qualify from their group. Despite this, it was fantastic to see so many younger girls decide to play for the school this year. Keep it up girls.



Munster Championships

Evan Creaven and Orla Rafferty, 6th class students, were selected to play in the Primary Games hurling and football matches during half-time in the Munster Senior Championships. Evan played in goal against Limerick in Semple Stadium and Orla played in forwards in the football match against Kerry in Cusack Park. It was a fantastic achievement for both Evan and Orla to represent their school and club on such a big occasion. They both got to keep a jersey, shorts and socks as a memento of their achievement.

Munster Skills Competition

In a first for the school, Evan Creaven, Séamus Óg and Óisín Enright represented the school and club in the Munster Hurling Skills Competition in Mallow. Despite their huge effort they were unlucky to come away with the trophy. Skills included striking for distance, left & right, striking on the run, soloing and side line cuts.

Strength and Conditioning Visit

On Thursday 22nd of June 4th, 5th and 6th classes had strength and conditioning coach, Kelvin Harron, come to visit them. He works for the Clare Senior squad and underage teams. He talked to them about what they should eat and drink to be healthy. He showed them how to make homemade Lucozade, explained the importance of drinking enough water every day and why you should not eat too many cereal bars because they are high in sugar. Sugar is the cause of diabetes, a major problem in Ireland today. He said you should sleep in a dark, cool room and you shouldn't use electronic devices one hour before bed because of blue lights.

Finally, we are very grateful to the club for our continued access to the fantastic facilities and development coach, Liam.



Fr. Jerry Carey

St Joseph's Doora Barefield At the heart of the Parish.

No matter where I go, am asked where are you from?

When I say, Doora Barefield, invariably the Club is mentioned.

It is a known name in GAA circles.

Closer to home, from the top of Larchill to the borders of Quin,

The Club, singularly, tells a story of community.

This past summer alone, it has been a marvel to hear of and see

The success of successive underage teams, this the result of so many

Involved at Gurteen on countless evenings and weekends, transporting and looking

After the hundreds of youngsters who wear 'The Jersey' with pride,

Also tells a beautiful tale of the three schools in the Parish who do so much

Feeding fabulous youngsters into the Parish Club.

May the Club grow from strength to strength, continue to be a hive of Industry

On countless evenings and weekends, continue to be the envy of the country

With the facilities at Gurteen, as often spoken of on great days like the annual Hurley

Hoey Run, walk and Cycle.

For now, in the depths of winter, can I wish a Happy Christmas to everyone.

After the slumbers of Winter, may renewed action and enthusiasm begin.

Bothair Na Smaointhe

TOMMY SHEEDY'S STORY

By Joe Queally



Tommy Sheedy was born in Bunnow in Inner Doora and played for Saint Joseph's Doora Barefield winning many honours playing the game of hurling. He also played a big part in club development been treasurer of the club for sixteen years.

His Story

Around Bunnow we started playing hurling at a very young age, we used spocks as we called them, rough pieces of ash or sally, shaped like shinty sticks. At First we used sponge balls, but as time went by we picked up hurling balls. As we lived just out the road from Cusack Park, I attended every match there from 1946 onwards we climbed over the wall and standing behind the goal area we picked up the odd stray ball by using our ingenuity. It was all ground hurling we played in Jimo Macks field above in Creggaun, nobody from our area was a member of any team but we used to play matches against Killoo from Clarecastle which was at the other end of the bog road from us. In 1952 Jimmy Corry and Michael O'Halloran of Roslevan started a parish league, it was ten a side and open to all ages the games were played in Jimo's field. I remember playing the final and Kruger Brooks was a member of one of the teams and he was then over sixty years of age. It was then decided to form a team in Doora. A collection was made, half a crown a house and a set of jerseys was purchased. The colour red and white was adapted something to do with the Red Branch Knights and the football team of 1898. Doora entered the Junior "B" Championship a revival after nearly thirty years. The first time Doora were registered as a hurling club was in 1915. Barefield was always the hurling stronghold in the parish. The curate at the time Fr Crowe arranged a match between

an emerging Doora team and ageing Barefield team. This match was played in Lynch's field in Kilbreckan, Doora on Easter Sunday 1915 which Doora won very easily, this was told to me by Frank Linnane who played in that match and later was one of the Doora Volunteers. Doora then became the stronghold of hurling in the parish and this lasted well into the 1920's I started playing with Saint Joseph's in 1956 which was huge for me, we won a Clare Cup medal in 1957 and a championship medal in 1958. We played Feakle in the senior final in Cusack Park. Fr Harry Bohan was on that Feakle team the score was 3-6 to 2-2. I became treasurer of the club in 1958 which continued up to 1974. During those years the field in Roslevan was purchased and developed. To raise funds a dancing marquee was erected in Barefield on an annual basis during the Showband craze of the sixties and the early seventies. We also ran several dances at the Queens Hotel thanks to our excellent club secretary Flan Hynes who seemed to have a way with the owners of the Queens the Mc Kaigney family. I played up to around 1962 and it would be hard to single out any one player who was the greatest. Matt Nugent had superb strength and skill a great hurler. I could name more but I'd leave out someone they were all superb hurlers. I thought outside of the County that Liam Devanney from Tipperary was the best I had ever seen to play hurling.

Note

The Sheedy family in Bunnow contributed a lot of the history that has gone into the make-up of the poem/song about "The Fields around Bunnow"

THE FIELDS AROUND BUNNOW

(Lowlands by the river Bank)

By Joe Queally

*I must sit down now and think hard and long, of how,
I'm going to capture, these places, in poetry or in song.*

*There's a little place that's dear to me, that's true
inside my heart, where ever I roam, even across the foam
from it I never will part. It nestles to the river bank
that flows through Ennis Town, it is in the parish of Doora Barefield
its the townland of Bunnow*

*The old Church ruins are guarded, by the wolfhound over the door
the people who are gone before us sleep beneath its earthly floor
The splendour of this oldest Church is a place that is so serene
The parish crest on the parish shirt its craft work can be seen*

*Gods own choir of nature's birds guard this heavenly place
As people come from all around to kneel at this holy space.
The call of the Cuckoo and the Corncrake, in beautiful chorus they sing
through the meadows and vales and fields of Bunnow their glorious voice it did ring*

*On a fine Summers evening, we strolled through the meadows a musical note
it did sound, twas the mowers true hand on the scythe that he edged, I remember the blade was half round.
On a mossy green bank it was built underground, was the hive of the honeybee, oftentimes w
e drank from the honeycomb grand, my brothers, my sisters and me.*

*Johnno's pub it still stands proud and has stood the test of time
Stories are told when time was up, the old alarm clock did chime
When twa's time to clear the house, Johnno took the floor, "Time is up, 'I'm saying', get out of my
house, 'I'm saying', this is my house, 'I'm saying'. It was everyone out the door.*

*Then there is the blessed well, beyond the boundary wall, where in the days of old we were told,
ther'e were cures for one and all. On a three legged stool, down by the river brow, we sat and milked the
cow, while the peace of God reigned down on us, in the fields around Bunnow*

*The harvest moons up in the sky danced in the river bed, its silvery beams
shone through our homes as the rosary we said. It was with the curlews call, the hurling ball,
we left to rest for the night, off we did stroll to a happy home our hearts content and light.
Through the back door and up the floor to a fireside burning bright, our parents sitting on the hobs,
it was such a beautiful sight.*

*The candle bright on a Christmas night, flickered on the window sill
I have walked over stiles and travelled many miles, that memory is with me still.
When the time will come and the journey is over, the good lord he
will shout "Time is up 'I'm saying' I can tell you here and now
Will you leave me gently down to rest near the fields around Bunnow.*

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US WHOLESALERS

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