



# Reeling Back the Year's

1950's and 60's

at St. Josephs Doora-Barefield GAA Club

Doora Hurling Club  
 Meetings Report  
 Year ending 31/12/57 (1957)  
 DATE 22/1/58

A Charade,  
 It is my privilege to report  
 you on the activities and progress of  
 Doora Hurling Club during the year just  
 ended.  
 I am happy to say that my debt for  
 the past year is a considerable one & I  
 have no doubt, but that with the  
 continued support of the youth of the  
 the achievements of last year in the realm  
 of sport will not only be equalled, but  
 even exceeded.

As you all know, the two clubs which  
 hitherto existed in our parish were brought  
 together under one committee at a meeting  
 held on 24/1/57 and we are now  
 to-night to review the successes & failures  
 of 1957 under that united leadership.

I will now deal with our activities  
 under the usual headings—  
 Competitions Four teams—  
 Intermediate, Junior B, Minor & Juveniles—

There may be many successes  
 to me & all I extend my gratitude, with  
 best wishes for their efforts in 1958.  
 In conclusion I tender my sympathy  
 to those bereaved during the year and especially  
 to those stricken by the recent tragedy.

Beannacht de maibh go dtí  
 Domhnall Óh Éanna  
 Ruane



St. Joseph's Doora-Barefield



## GAA Newsletter Nuachtlitir-Naomh Sheosamh

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Issue 17, December 2019

What an amazing year 2019 has been in hurling, camogie and football.  
 Here are some of the highlights!



Junior B Hurling County Champions



U14 A Ladies Football Champions



Intermediate Camogie team reached the Munster Club final



U14 Hurlers Clare Féile A Winners  
 & Clare U14 Championship Finalists



Ladies Minor Football Champions



U14 Football Champions



U16 Football Champions



## CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS



The annual Newsletter is where we take a look back at the year. Congratulations to the Junior B Hurling Team and management on winning their county championship. I have to give a special mention to Bob Mulqueen for the amount of time and effort he has put in over the year's making sure these young players line out for their club.

Naturally it was hugely disappointing for both the intermediate hurling and football teams going out at the semi-final and final stages of the championship. Despite the disappointment there was huge progress made in both codes with a very young panel and the future is bright. Another positive for the club was 20 of the under 21 hurling panel ended up either playing Intermediate or Junior for the club this year and out of this bunch of players 13 have come from the 2012 U14 A shield Team. A huge thanks to both management teams for the time and effort put in to get these teams ready for championship.

The Minor Club, which is the future of our club, has again provided tonnes of reason for optimism such was their outstanding achievements in winning the under 14 & 16 A football titles. In hurling we lost the U14 & 15 A county finals, but we had the unique achievement in representing the county in both codes in the U14 feile competitions, a very proud summer for the club. This doesn't happen by accident and I want to thank all the coaches and mentors who do wonderful work and especially the parents who drive all over the county and country to make sure their children get to training and the matches. Huge credit is due to Paul Mannion and Christy O'Connor for looking after and implementing the coaching structures in the club. I want to welcome our new school's coach Damien Burke into the club who has been tasked with integrating our 3 schools in the parish and teaching the ABC's to our junior Kids. Our main aim is getting as many kids to Gurteen as possible to play for our wonderful club. This will be a three-year programme with Paul and Christy reporting back on its progress.

For all the players that picked up long term injuries during the year I wish for a speedy recovery and hope to see you back training soon.

The greatest off field challenge that we face is the ongoing

management of the Gurteen facility. We are blessed to have our four CES people to cover the ongoing maintenance but even more blessed to have people of the calibre of Michael McMahon & Joe McNamara. The amount of time and effort put into the upkeep of the facilities is second to none and on behalf of the club I would like to thank both of you for looking after the pitches and facilities during the year.

Last year we spoke about the development plan 2020 and I want to thank Martin Coffey and Seamus O'Sullivan for their work in helping set up the IT and Finance committee. This has been successful in bringing new people into the committees and thanks to everyone who has helped out in the running of the club this year. The IT committee have done a lot of work in branding the club and for 2020 have agreed to promote the club under the one banner St Joseph's Doora Barefield GAA Club. This will bring the Adult, Minor, Camogie and Ladies football under the one umbrella for 2020. This will enhance our club and make it more attractive for businesses to invest and sponsor our club in the future. One of the basic tenants of my decision to accept the role of chairman was that 'A house divided falls', we need to ensure that we are strong and united team that all work for each other in the best interests of our club.

The Finance committee worked very well this year also and thanks to all the existing and new members that helped out this year in organising this year's golf classic. For 2020 I would like to see this committee grow and produce a five-year plan for the development and upkeep of our facilities.

While I'm in thanking mode I must mention, yet again, Paul Whelan, Clare Civil Engineering for his continued support of the club. Also, Donagh Vaughan Grove Shibeon & John's; Ken Butler & all at Realprint & Bob Mulqueen for his sponsorship of our Golf Classic. I would also mention Intel for their continued support & all the Business's and families of the parish who continue to respond whenever we put out the call.

Finally, I would like to thank all the people that have helped me during the year and if there is anyone out there that wants to get involved in the club, we would be delighted to hear from you.

I wish everyone a happy Christmas and what I know will be a successful new year for the club.

**Robert Hurley**  
Chairman

**CLARE CIVIL  
ENGINEERING**  
*proudly supporting*  
**St. Joseph's Doora Barefield GAA Club**



## Reeling Back the Year's

1950's and 60's

at St. Josephs Doora-Barefield GAA Club

ST JOSEPHS HURLING CLUB	
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 1965	
EXPENDITURE	£ S D
RENTAL OF FACILITY	10-14-0
HURLAYS	37-7-8
HURLING BALLS	12-5-2
CAR HIRE	11-15-0
PLAYERS TRAV. ETC.	7-10-0
PRESENTATION TO MARIAN A.C.	6-0-0
SUNDRIES [PAID CURE, PAIN OINT, ETC.]	8-3-0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>93-14-10</b>
INCOME	
PROCEEDS FROM CUB [CONTRIBUTION COSTS]	130-6-4
" " CARNIVAL	147-10-0
" " DANCE [26/11/65]	50-0-3
REPRESENTATION FROM COUNTY BOARD	6-16-3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>334-12-10</b>
TOTAL CASH IN BANK	
CURRENT ACCOUNT	143-14-3
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT	265-8-0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>409-2-3</b>
TOTAL ASSETS OF CLUB	
£409-2-3 + 2 PRIZE BONDS [20]	

## DOORA HURLING CLUB

Doora,  
Ennis,  
28/3/56.

A Chara,  
Please attend with full hurling outfit at \_\_\_\_\_  
on Sunday 1/4/56. at \_\_\_\_\_ p.m., where a car will call to take members of the minor selection of the above club to Newmarket-on-Fergus.

Is mise, le meas,

D. Hogan.

Hon. Secretary.

## DOORA HURLING CLUB.

26th January, 1957.

I wish to inform you that in accordance with the instructions given to me at the Annual General Meeting of the above Club, I wrote to the Secretary of the Barefield Hurling Club stating that we were prepared to consider amalgamation with them in order to field a Junior A team for the 1957 competitions. I further informed him that we wished to explore the possibility of fielding a Junior B team also if a sufficient number of players was available afterwards.

I have since been informed that it is their intention to field an Intermediate team and they would welcome an opportunity of discussing amalgamation with us and for this purpose a general meeting of both Clubs will be held at the Queen's Hotel, on

31 JAN 1957

at 8.30 p.m.

All members are requested to attend this meeting at which other matters affecting both sides may also be considered.

DAN. HOGAN.

Hon. Secretary.



# My Home Place in Stonepark

By Joe Queally

*I will take you on a ramble now through  
a beautiful place of peace. It is where I was bred and born  
it is where my heart is at ease. It is here as children, we grew up,  
and rose up with the lark It is a townland in Doora Barefield  
My homeplace in Stonepark.*

*My rambles they have taken me, over hill, and vale  
and glen, but no matter where they take me I make  
it home again. It is here where the spirit lies and the root  
it draws you back, to the green fields around my own place  
My home place in Stonepark.*

*I have hurled in the hills and fields, through rock, fern and stone  
I have hurled with the best of men, and in there too are my own.  
It is the heart and soul of the home place that oftentimes bring you through,  
and old friendships and old memories of the hurlers that I once knew*

*My youth was spent in merriment here, we hurled night and day  
It was after dark when the light didn't spark that we were called in to pray.  
As we knelt down by the fireside with the turf fire burning bright  
there was no place else on Gods great earth there was such a beautiful sight*

*I now sit at length with hearts content at my fireside burning bright  
the memories they come flooding back I hear the ash cracking in full flight  
I see Buddy Purcells slashers and Paddy Coms babes, what memories to have  
those were the happy days. My dreams they take me to where I played in  
the mecca that is Broke Park, When I wake up from my slumber I find myself in  
My Home place in Stonepark.*

*The twilight years are here with me and I hope I have made some mark  
the last request I will ask for now, is that when it's time to park,  
that the good lord will take me aside and say 'Paddy Com Malone you have played  
your part' and leave me gently down to rest near  
My home place in Stonepark. with Paddy Coms Babes and Buddy Purcells slashers.*

## Secretary's Report



As another busy year draws to a close it is time to reflect on our activities both on and off the field and to plan for 2020. After the disappointment of suffering relegation to the Intermediate ranks for both our hurlers and footballers last year we looked forward to a better outcome for both in 2019. Our first team in championship action were our under 21 hurlers and after a good win in our opening game against Clarecastle by 2 points after extra time, disappointment was to be our fate in the semi-final losing narrowly to Crusheen/Tubber. Our Intermediate hurlers had a slow start in Division 1B of the Clare Cup losing our early games but our fortunes turned dramatically when a much weakened and very young team played the Mills in Gurteen and after a great performance emerged worthy winners. Further wins against Tubber and Scariff ensured we would again be playing senior league hurling for 2020. In the Intermediate Championship we beat Cratloe in the first round and lost to Broadford by a point in our next game, there followed wins over Bodyke, Tubber and Scariff with extra time being required in both the Tubber and Scariff games. We met Broadford again in the Final and lost out narrowly again by one point which was hugely disappointing. Our Intermediate footballers had a good run in the Garry Cup reaching the semi-final where we lost by three points to Doonbeg. In the Championship we drew our first game with Kiladysart and beat Naomh Eoin by 11pts to top the group. We overcame Wolfe Tone in the quarter final to set up a semi-final meeting with St. Breckens who on the day proved to be the stronger team and went on to win the Intermediate title. Our Junior A footballers reached the semi-final in the league but endured a difficult run in the Championship but at least we maintained our status by beating Kilrush but lost our other two games and so maintained our Junior A status. Our Junior B hurlers played in the Junior A league winning enough games to maintain our position in this league for next year. We competed in the Junior B championship in a Group that included Tulla, Smith O'Brien's, Parteen and Clonlara. We had good wins against Tulla, Clonlara and Parteen and lost by a point to Smith O'Brien's which meant we qualified for a quarter final meeting with Scariff which we won comfortably in the end. We then met Smith O'Brien's again in the semi-final and after a hard fought game we emerged winners by a single point. In the final we met Newmarket on Fergus and emerged easy winners after a very one sided game. This result was just reward for all the hard work put in by the players and management. This result means we will be competing in the Munster Junior B championship where we will play Garryspillane of Limerick in the first round. Our Under 21 footballers played St. Breckans in the first round and lost out on the day to the better team. I would like to take this opportunity to thank mentors of all teams and players for their efforts throughout the year and while our success was not what we hoped for at the start of the year the future looks bright I believe. Again this year our underage enjoyed great success with the Under 14A and 16A footballers winning County Championships, Under 14s winning both hurling and football County Feile Titles and the footballers winning the Feile National Division 3 title. The Under 13A hurlers winning another County title and Academy wins for the Under 14 footballers and hurlers also. This continued success reflects the good structures that are in place and the dedication and commitment of all those coaches and mentors who give of their time in promoting and nurturing our games with our young people. On behalf of St. Joseph's Doora Barefield GAA I thank all these people sincerely for their efforts. The Club was very well represented on the County Minor teams with Tony Butler in Hurling and Alan Killeen, Darragh Nagle, Eoin Talty and Fionn Kelleher in Football.

### Club Matters

I would like to thank our main sponsor Paul Whelan and Clare Civil Engineering for their continued support. Bob Mulqueen and Dec. Ireland Ltd. our Golf Classic main sponsor and all sponsors of this event too many to mention here. To all our underage teams sponsors thank you your support it is greatly appreciated and a special word of thanks to Intel for their generous contribution to our underage through worker participation scheme. Insurance continues to be highlighted in all aspects of everyday life and the GAA is no different to ensure players are covered by insurance they must have their membership paid and be officially registered by the Club Registrar before they are covered by insurance in the event of an injury so it is vital that players pay their membership before they commence training for the new year as if an injury occurs before a player is registered the GAA Insurance will not cover them. The Lotto continues to be a vital source of income to help defray the high running costs associated with a big complex such as Gurteen and I would appeal to all to support it. We have a very attractive adult Membership/Lotto option available of 120 euro per year. I would like to thank the Business people that sell our lotto tickets on their premises and the Publicans that facilitate our draw every Saturday night and of course all our dedicated Lotto teams and individuals who work throughout the year promoting the Lotto. We also have a number of dedicated sub committees in Finance, Field, Hall and Astro Turf, Website/IT, and our Minor Committee who all do great work and I wish to thank and acknowledge them for their continued commitment to St. Joseph's Doora Barefield and the goal of providing and maintaining our top class facilities for our young people of today and the future.

### Healthy Club

Last year we applied to become part of the Healthy Club initiative and were successful in being accepted into Phase 3 of this programme. We had to undertake a number of initiatives with the emphasis being on Health and Wellbeing with Gaelic 4 Mothers and others and Fun and Run being the two key elements we focused on. Both of these were very well supported and were very enjoyable. We were awarded Healthy Club status and presented with our award at the National Healthy Club Conference in Croke Park on October 5th last. We also held a Cardiac Screening Clinic in Gurteen on September 6th and 7th with over 60 people availing of the Clinic and Ruth McNerney has completed a number of Defrillator training courses with more planned for the New Year. I would like to thank Ruth and her colleague Mary Kelly for their excellent training programme.

Finally a word of thanks to my fellow officers Robert Hurley and Noel Stapleton for all their help and support during the year and the members of the Executive Martin Coffey, Dan O'Connor, Michael McMahon, Joe McNamara, Pat Frawley, Morgan Rowland, Bill Clohessy (Minor Comm. Chairman) Enda O'Flaherty (Ladies Football Chairperson) Caroline O'Connor (Camoige Chairperson) Michelle O'Brien (Children's Officer) and Seamus O'Sullivan for their continued work and support.

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

**Tom Duggan**  
Secretary.





by Morgan Rowland

St Joseph's Doora Barefield GAA club grows from strength to strength each year. At grass roots level both players past and present, mentors, parents, guardians, teachers, principals, club members and sponsors work together as a collective to ensure that St Joseph's Doora Barefield GAA club continues to grow and flourish. This year for the first time in club history the Junior Camogie team reached the Munster Club. The Ladies Football teams retained their U14 A, U16 A and Minor A Championship titles 2nd year in a row. The U12 Ladies Football won the Shield Final, the U14 A and U16 A Footballers retained their "A" Championship titles; while 2019 saw the U14 Hurlers and Footballers crowned Clare Féile Champions. Winning club and school titles at underage level creates a strong foundation in securing the future of hurling, football and camogie in the club.

At the 2018 AGM a decision was made to create a number of sub-committees to progress the vision of the club. The structure of the sub-committees are as follows: Facilities, Field, Coaching, Finance, PRO/Social and Welfare Liaison. It is the intention of the

club to utilise these six sub-committees to create the structure and governance to enable St Joseph's Doora Barefield GAA to become 'One Club One Name'. This is a very positive step forward for the club both on the field and online. By amalgamating the Ladies Camogie, Ladies Football, Hurling and Football under the one Facebook and Twitter accounts it creates an inclusive social media presence. This in turn will be of huge benefit in promoting all aspects of the club at home and abroad. Over the past two years the number of club members registering through the club website has increased dramatically, proving the importance of an active online presence.

A special thanks to the Michael McMahon and Joe McNamara for their continued diligence, hard work and commitment to the upkeep of the grounds and club house.

Finally, I wish to thank all fellow committee members for their continued patience, support and direction. This club would not exist were it not for the volunteers, parents, guardians, members and sponsors. I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and peaceful and sporting 2020.

by Noel Stapleton



Money makes the world go around. Money is needed to successfully run every business, household, large and small organizations and every local sports club. Our GAA club is no different and we need sufficient funds every year to run our club and to maintain and develop the facilities.

The Club Treasurer's role is taking responsibility for all finance aspects of the club. This includes maintaining the club's income streams, developing new income streams, safeguarding the funds and paying for all expenses incurred.

Where does the money go? Funds are spent on fielding hurling and football teams and maintaining the club's facilities at Gurteen. These facilities covering 24 acres comprise of the new building with a hall, gymnasium, meeting rooms, and club shop and kitchen area. Outside there are two full size pitches, one with floodlights, two juvenile pitches and a floodlit astro turf pitch and an astro turf hurling wall. All available to be used by all members in all weathers.

All club members young and old are fortunate that such facilities are available at minimal annual cost of membership. On 12 June 2011 Michael O Muircheartaigh officially opened the St Joseph's GAA complex at Gurteen. The great thing about an official opening is that all the facilities are new.

Now over eight years later like any new house or new car after a number of year's wear and tear takes its toll and certain items need to be repaired or in some cases replaced. The sheer volume of the number of people using the facilities meant that nothing remains new forever.

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 of 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 every year we try to improve the complex. In recent years new additions have included dugouts, astro turf area for the hurling wall, tarmac in the car park, general lighting of the complex

The senior club executive has to manage its finances to ensure that it has sufficient funds to maintain and develop further 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 also 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 of 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.

## Bothar na Imaointhe with Paddy Tom Malone Stonepark, Barefield "I'll be honest with you I cried that day"

by Joe Queally

I was born in Stonepark, Barefield. My father was Michael Malone and My Mother was Mary Malone (nee Griffin) from Glenbeigh, Co. Kerry. I went to School to Barefield National School. My teachers were Mary Hogan and Mrs O'Riordan, in later years Frank Burns was the teacher, he became the principal teacher in the school. Frank had a great love for sports, and it was here we all started to hurl. There wouldn't be much training that time we'd be playing up around the fields there around the house. I remember well getting my first hurley. I had to save up a half a crown and that wasn't easy to do because there was no money around that time but doing bits of work with farmers saving hay and turf and cutting timber, I had the price of my hurley.

Jimmy Conway in Larchill up the road was a master hurley maker they came from all over the County and beyond to get hurley's from him and it was there I got my first hurley, 'to me it was like a nugget of gold that you would get up from the ground' I had that much value in it. I played a lot of juvenile hurling with the parish and we had two teams going that time. 'Paddy Toms Babes' and 'Buddy Purcells Slashers' it was many the good games we had and tough games too for sure. The first serious games at underage level were in 1957, 58 and 59. We won the minor final in Corofin in 59 against Ruan. We got to the Clare Champion Cup final in 1963 against Newmarket On Fergus. Newmarket had a great team that time the best in the Country. I was working with Mc Inerneys building contractors at the time as a carpenter and I moved to Dublin and started playing with Saint Columbus, but I came home and played with the parish as well. I don't think it was too legal at the time, but communications weren't as good then as they are now but as long as I was hurling, I didn't mind too much about the rules. I won the championship With Saint Columbus in 1963. Pat O'Donnell from Crusheen was on that team at corner back. In 1965 I transferred to Faughs in Dublin.

We had an inter firm team with Mc Inerneys and we won the All Ireland inter firm in 1963, Mick Burns from Tipperary and Jimmy Cullinan were playing that day, two of the best that ever caught the ash. We had a great game in 1967 against Ruan in the Clare Champion Cup played in Cusack Park, we won that one by two points 3-4 to 3-2. The Clare Champion reported 'Paddy Tom Malones journey from Dublin was worthwhile as he was the only player in the full forward line that looked like scoring. His first two goals in the first half, when he pulled first time on high lobbing balls were the best seen in Cusack Park for some time. Frank Custy the Ruan goalkeeper hadn't an opportunity of seeing them, not alone saving them ' We won the senior league with the Faughs in 1966 and won the senior championship in 1970. We beat Saint Vincents in the 1970 final, that final was played in Croke Park. I got an injury to my back that day that finished my hurling at senior level. I was brought into the mater Hospital for repairs and put in a plaster, the boys came and collected

me, and the first stop was at Ryans pub in Camden Street in Dublin.

The next stop was at Kellys pub in Carmody street in Ennis and the third stop was in the Kincora Hotel in Lisdoonvarna where I stayed for a week, the boys had me booked in. I'm not sure did that hasten or slow down recovery. Paddy Hasset he was on the 59 team and he was going to UCD studying Veterinary at the time and he collected me to take me back to Dublin, we stopped off at a pub in Castletroy outside Limerick City and he asked the owner for a blade and didn't he cut off the plaster now he said you are right for work tis a miracle how I survived at all. Ah sure there were great hurling memories in my time. The Munster final of 1997 in Cork when we beat Tipperary was for me one of the best memories 'I'll be honest with you I cried that day' coming out of Pairc ui Chaoimh. To beat Tipperary was something very special in Munster. The 95 All Ireland sure was great too, I ran out of fags that day the pressure was so great and Brendan Hassett up in Barefield was smoking woodbine cigarettes and he gave me some, twasnt easy to smoke the woodbine they were strong. The All Ireland club with the parish was very special and the County final wins at the time were special too. I had the honour of playing with great hurlers, they were all great men different styles, different skills all with great courage and strength and fleet of foot. It would be impossible to pick out any single player as the best. Matt Nugent comes into my mind he was a very special hurler. I coached camogie for a while and got involved as a selector in the parish. The memories are great it is when you start to think back fresh memories come back to you. Hurling and sport was my life.







## GAA 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 weekly and we have approximately 30 pupils attending each session. The GAA year kicks off with the Indoor Hurling and Camogie competition which takes place in February. While all the pupils involved gave it their all, we did not progress beyond the group stages.

Next up on the calendar were the 7 a-side competitions. Knockanean entered teams in hurling, camogie and both boys' and girls' football. All the children who participated thoroughly enjoyed this competition.

From Easter to June, the interschool hurling and camogie competitions take place. While the pupils appreciated the opportunity to compete, we did not make it to the knockout stages. In June, our girls' football team were runners up in the Clare Ladies Football Board Divisional 1 competition 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 privilege.

Throughout the year those that wished took part in a hurling and football league during lunchtime, the middle classes took part in all the various hurling and football blitzes organised by Clare GAA. In June our senior infant classes got to partake in wheelchair hurling in Gurteen organised by John Carey coach for the Clare/Connaught Wheelchair Hurling Team.

In June this year we achieved the GAA 5 Star Centre award. The GAA 5 Star initiative aims to support and recognise Primary Schools that provide pupils with 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous Gaelic Games activity per week in a manner that ensures the children will experience fun, friendship and ultimately improve their fitness. Recognition as a "GAA 5 Star Centre" is awarded to schools that undertake to deliver a programme of Gaelic Games activity that is age-appropriate and meets the developmental needs of children within the school.

On an individual level congratulations to Éabha O Driscoll who was chosen to represent Clare in the Primary Game. Éabha played at half time in the Clare v Waterford football semi-final in Cusack Park on Sat May 11th

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 number of years and wish him all the best in his new role. A special thank you to the teachers -Joe O Reilly, Colm Forde, Colm Mullen, Jamie Ryan, Aisling Reynolds 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. A sincere thank you to the St Joseph's Doorra Barefield club for the continued use of their facilities both for training and for matches.



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. In 2019 a Finance committee was formed with members from all four clubs with the brief to review the

various revenue streams available. Their efforts will be seen in 2020 and if fundraising is undertaken, 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.

In conclusion I thank all those who have supported all of our clubs during 2019, it is greatly appreciated.

## Facilities Committee Report



by Michael McMahon



The members of the facilities committee are J.J Burns, Siobhan Hoey, Martin Lillis, Dan O Connor, Peadar O Loughlin and Ml Mc Mahon. 2019 has been a busy year in all areas. The catering facilities have been used very extensively and it's a great to see so many teams of young people being entertained in the clubhouse after their games. Great credit is due to mentors and parents who give of their time and effort to

make it possible.

The sports hall and gym have been busy again this year. Hall rental gives a significant boost to our coffers every year. There have been very little maintenance costs to date but there is need to renew the floor linings now, but this is the first time since opening in 2012. A big clean-up of the facility indoors was done during the off season and many thanks are due to all the volunteers who answered the call for help. A special word to Siobhan Hoey who organised it. Hopefully it will become an annual event. Siobhan also manages the Club shop, and this is much appreciated. The astro turf pitches continue to be used and contribute well to the funds. Again, there

will be needed to refurbish soon, as the surface has taken a lot of hardship over the last 12 years.

Members will have noticed improvements in the surroundings, most noticeably in the car park surfaces since last year. Also, most of the outdoor lighting was replaced with LED fittings which should bring a saving in electricity charges. It is important that we continue to invest in maintenance and upgrades on an ongoing basis. We now have a CCTV system in operation within the building and outside, many thanks to Mark Reidy.

I would like especially, to acknowledge the members of our Community Employment Scheme who deserve great credit for their work inside and out, and without them we would be in dire straits.

Thanks again to all members of our committee, and to the club executive who have been very supportive of whatever we wanted to do. Finally, our committee is not a closed shop and we would very much welcome anyone who would be happy to be involved with us, in any capacity, in managing our facilities.

## One Club One Name



By Michael O'Sullivan

One of the objectives of the club was to implement the one club model. The one club model was officially launched in 2017 when the Camogie association the GAA and the LGFA launched official guidelines on club implementation. One of the key aspects of the one club is to integrate GAA, LGFA and Camogie and promote one brand one message for the club.

The one club initiative covers many aspects of the club

- Club executive
- Membership
- Finance
- Coaching and games development
- Code of conduct
- PR/ IT social media

One of the key aspects of the one club approach is to promote the brand with a one club message the IT/PR committee have worked on this aspect throughout the year.

The committee have presented a proposal to the senior executive in recent weeks which has being accepted and supported as the way forward.

This proposal seeks to develop the brand of the club through one media platform populated by the Senior/Minor Ladies Football and Camogie. The proposal also seeks to have only one official Facebook page and one twitter account. The objective is to provide online resource for players, supporters, mentors, and members. The next step to seek agreement from all stakeholders within the club.

I would like to thank the members of the committed who have worked throughout the year to develop the proposal. The committee members are Michael O Sullivan, Morgan Rowland, Aiden Bohannon, Paul Mockler, and Sharon Meaney. ( )



# Heroes of Renown- Laochra an Pharoiste

By Seamus O'Sullivan

Since our last newsletter the club and parish has seen the passing of many greats and remembers them at this time.

Notable club players who have gone to their eternal reward include 3 outstanding performers who played a key role in establishing St Josephs as one of the leading and most successful clubs in Clare. A brief summary of their contributions is as follows;

**Gerry Browne** by any standard was one of the most outstanding and skilful hurlers to wear maroon and white. This Bodyke native and Our lady's Hospital employee was one the founders of St. Josephs in 1949. He along with Dr Loughnane, John O'Connell, Paddy McNerney, John Moran and Fr. Maxwell saw the opportunity to unite the hurlers of the Hospital, Barefield and Doora. Gerry credits the head of the hospital, Nicholas McMahon with choosing the name St. Josephs. It was a source of great joy and pride for him that the club he helped found went on to not only win county titles but to achieve the highest honours with a senior all Ireland club title. Indeed, St Joseph's players contributed to Clare's greatest successes in the 50s and 90s including Senior, U21 and Minor All Irelands. The club became a household name with its 3 outstanding All Star winners in Jamesie, Seanie and Ollie.

His biggest disappointment was 1955 as he felt St. Joseph's were the outstanding team of the championship and favourites for the title. The team were leading Eire Og by 12 points with just 10 minutes to go when referee Mick Quaine abandoned the game due to a row on the side-line. Gerry felt this was overreaction but when the county board ordered a replay, he was in favour of playing but the club refused and conceded the championship.

He returned to play with Bodyke in 1961 but was back in the St. Joseph's colours when they won the Junior A League in 1970

Gerry was a most versatile player and was noted for his outstanding ground hurling prowess. He won county senior titles in 1954 and 1958, senior cup medals in 1953 and 1957 together with numerous tournament medals. These were some achievements for the club just 6 years after he helped found it. His prowess as a hurler saw him wear the saffron and blue of Clare for many years and such was his versatility that he played for Clare at corner back, wing back, centre back, centre field and wing forward. He always felt that the losses to Limerick in the 1955 Munster Final and to London in the 1949 Junior Final were opportunities missed.

Gerry went on to be part of the county management team in 1977 and 1978 as Clare at last added coveted national league titles and were as he says, so unlucky not to win a Munster Title.

Gerry was always a proud Bodyke man, a stalwart St. Joseph's performer and an outstanding Clare man.

## Fr Jerry Report

### Gratitude for The Club and what it brings to Community

Another year has come and gone and so much has happened in the Club. And in association with the Club in Gurteen. Now that Winter has descended and no longer have the light or weather. And competitions have been concluded, there is so much to look back with pride and satisfaction and gratitude to so many.

From early Spring right up to the end of October all roads from the most northerly to the most southerly ends of Doora Barefield led to Gurteen. From the youngest Juvenile to the most senior Club Official and every age between has had the touch of St Joseph's firmly placed upon them.

Yes, a week hardly passed since late summer that some team from the club was contesting finals in their category as well as representing Club at this year's Feile in both codes.

**Pat Hynes** was also a native of Bodyke and employee of our Lady's. This saw him join the St. Josephs club and contribute to many of its successes. He was a key player particularly in the 1957 and 1958 campaigns that saw them win the cup and add a second senior title in 1958 by beating Feakle 3-6 to 2-2. Pat was proud of his achievements and the St. Joseph's club and took part in the reunions and social events where he loved to chat with his hurling comrades and recount great games and tournaments. He was proud to recall the games against Clooney and Newmarket enroot to the 1958 final. Both were easily won. He was spared a huge conflict of loyalty in the 1st round of the 1958 championship as Bodyke conceded a walk over to the eventual champions. Pat was recognised as a wholehearted player with excellent ability to hold a ball and support his fellow forwards.

**Tom Purcell.** Tom Purcell was one of the brightest young stars of the new St Joseph's club. He helped establish the club as a force at underage level when he starred and captained the juvenile team to county honours with victory over Johns in 1957. This

Group went on to add 3 minor titles winning the B title in 1957 and the A titles of 1958 and 1959.

Tom Purcell was recognised as a skilful forward and was called up to the Clare panel in 1958 and 1959. He was a member of the senior panel in the 1960 and 1961 playing a number of challenges, league and championship games. His hurling prowess saw him create a unique record in that he played minor for Clare and a senior challenge for Galway in 1959. He also played minor for his adopted county in 1960 and of course senior for Clare in 1961.

On leaving Barefield School he took up employment with Griffins Drapers and this led him to finding a more senior position with Hogan Drapers of Ballinasloe. After some years he was appointed a rep for a Beecham subsidiary serving the farming sector.

He settled in Ballinasloe and joined the local club and recorded 3-13 in a championship game against Carnmore. He loved his rugby and was active with Ballinasloe where he captained them for 3 years. He coached the U18 side to Connacht Cup glory. He was a key figure in the establishment of the Buccaneers.

As teammate Tom Garvey said to me, "Tom Purcell was a huge talent and a great loss to the Parish. He was one of the best"

We salute and remember these three Laochras of St. Josephs where their skills and abilities made lasting impressions. We extend sympathy to their families on their sad losses. May Gerry, Pat and Tom rest in peace.

Lest we forget, the flourishing club we have would not be as it is without so many who volunteer their time, passion and talent to make it the vibrant place it is. As well as the Club coaching our teams, this year we saw the end of an era in Gurteen with the final leg of the Hurley Hoey, Run, Walk and Cycle in which the club's facilities and members were at the heart of what can only be claimed to

Be a most incredible vehicle to keep memory and raise much needed funds for Charities.

As the year was coming to a close the Club again came out in force in organizing a brilliant Sunday afternoon of family fun in support for three of our young parishioners and club members who will be travelling to Kolkata, formerly Calcutta, next Spring with the Hope foundation.

After a very busy year I wish everyone associated with the Club a Happy Christmas and the blessing of winter's fallow time to renew and rekindle the spirit and passion that drives the Club for the year ahead.



## GAA in Doora National School

by Ross Darmody

While silverware eluded the pupils of Doora NS, it was still another enjoyable year on the playing field. For the first time ever, pupils from 1st and 2nd class were invited to take part in afterschool GAA training.

The last 12 months has thankfully seen a major increase in the number of girls taking part in GAA games. The girls took part in the camogie championship and had an extremely enjoyable day out but unfortunately did not progress to the semi-final. On the football front, they played two games in Éire Óg and while performing to a high standard, they didn't advance to the next round.

The boys hurling team proved very competitive again this year. A win in round one set up a "winner takes all" match against Clooney in the group stage. Despite a heroic performance from the team they were unable to get the better of Clooney, who went on to win the division.

However, in the Hurling Mini 7's series, they again progressed to the final's day in Sixmilebridge. A win and loss weren't enough

to progress to the final, but it was great to witness the great skill, desire and comradeship amongst the team on the day.

On the football front, a great day was had in Corofin where the boys progressed to the semi-final against Clonmoney NS. A great encounter resulted in both teams facing off for 10 minutes of extra time. Despite a valiant battle from an extremely young team, they didn't reach the final.

Continuing our great tradition of being representing on the primary game team, Caoimhín Enright was selected to play at half time against Tipperary of the Munster hurling championship games.

Doora NS would like to take this opportunity to thank the club for their continuous support in promoting Gaelic Games. We really appreciate the continued access to a coach on a weekly basis and the use of the playing fields and indoor hall.

We hope to continue fostering a "grá" of Gaelic Games going forward.





There was great interest in senior girl's camogie with our girls also participating in the Mini-7s and Cumann na mBunscol competitions. The girls showed great determination in all matches and were wonderful representatives for our school. Well done to their mentors, Brid Baker and Shauna Woods.



Junior Girls Camogie team with their mentors Zelma Power, Aisling Daly and Rena McMahon, Barefield NS



Our Junior Boys' Hurling Team with their mentors Adrian Frawley and Jim Chambers Barefield NS



Our Junior Boys Football team with their mentors Adrian Frawley and Seán Burns Barefield NS



Our Junior Girls Football Team with their mentor Zelma Power (Absent: Sarah Raftery) Barefield NS

Junior Football training commenced for the girls of Rang I, II, agus III in early October. Training took place on Mondays from 3.00p.m. to 4.00p.m. Ms. Sarah Raftery and Ms. Zelma Power enjoyed passing on and developing the wonderful skills of football to the pupils. The teachers organised an inter-school blitz in November in which the pupils took part. Participation was very impressive with more than thirty girls attending each session. All players achieved a medal for their excellent commitment in training. We encouraged the girls to join local clubs to continue to develop their skills further, to make friends and learn to play as a team in their local environment. Well done to all the girls involved.

### Conclusion

We have to acknowledge the support we receive from our local G.A.A. Club, St. Joseph's, our Doora-Barefield Minor Club, our school community and especially our parents. We are very fortunate to have an excellent Active Schools Committee consisting of Mary O'Connor, Leo Duggan and Seán Burns with Peadar McMahon co-ordinating team activities within our school. A special 'thank you' to all our teachers who voluntarily give of their time to train teams after school hours.

Many thanks to St. Joseph's G.A.A. Club for organising a coach to visit our school. As Principal, I am grateful to Tommy Duggan for the kind invitation to a meeting to discuss the role of the coach in our Parish schools and to welcome Damian Burke as our new school's coach for the coming school year.

### Congratulations to:

- all our past pupils who excelled on G.A.A. pitches at Club level, especially in the recent Munster Junior Camogie Final, Intermediate Hurling Final and many other games at Minor and Intermediate Level.
- our teacher, Leo Duggan, who represented the Parish in the Intermediate Hurling Final and in the Intermediate Football Semi-Final.
- our teachers, Leo Duggan and Seán Burns, who mentored the Clare Hurling team in the Primary Game for Hurling.
- Conor Daly who represented our school on the Co. Clare Primary Game Hurling Team.

Míle buíochas do gach múinteoir a thugann oiliúint deonach do na foirne scoile go léir atá againn sa scoil. Táimid ana-bhuíoch dóibh. Arís, táimid ag súil le bliain spóirtúil iontach sa scoil-bhlain 2019-2020.

*Is mise, le fíor-mheas,*

*Seán Ó Broin  
(Príomh-Oide)*

## St. Joseph's Doora Barefield GAA



As we look forward to the new season off GAA ahead. We as a Club would like to thank all sponsors and all the mentors, coaches and parents for all there help this past season.

### MINOR SECRETARY'S COMMITTEE REPORT

*by Pat O'Shea*

As we approach the end of another year it is an opportunity to look back and reflect on our achievements and the challenges during the year. 2019 was another successful year for our underage teams on the field and the club continues to grow in terms of playing numbers. Our registrar Aiden Bohannon reports that registrations for 2019 are slightly up on 2018 at 367 members. This year there was a noticeable change in that most registrations are now being completed on-line, which makes administration easier for everyone.

With regard to fundraising we held a very successful flag day in February, and we had a Church gate collection at all churches in Barefield and Ennis in June. Both fundraisers went very well, and our thanks go to organiser, Peadar O'Loughlin and to all the club members who helped out on the days of the collections. We were very fortunate to have two teams qualify for the national Feile finals this year which is a very expensive undertaking. A fundraising committee was put together and thanks to their hard work, both teams were fully funded without having to resort to club reserves. Many thanks to all involved.

On the playing front it was a very successful year for our underage teams who brought home cups in eight different competitions. Our U14's were definitely the stars this year. Both the hurlers and the footballers were crowned champions in the Clare Feile and while both performed very well on the All-Ireland stage the footballers managed to defeat St Dominic's of Roscommon to win the Div. 3 Shield final. When it came to the local championship the U14 footballers were the "A" Championship winners and our second football team were the Academy "A" champions. Our U14 hurlers were unfortunately beaten in the final of the "A" Championship after a very short turnaround from the semi-final while the second team were the Academy "A" champions.

Our U16 footballers won the "A" championship comfortably, beating Ennistymon in the final for the second year in a row. The U13 hurlers also had a great year when they won the Plate final and the second team lost in the Academy final. More detailed reports are available in the newsletter from the various team managers.

Again, this year the Club had a number of players who represented Clare, Eoin Talty, Dara Nagle, Fionn Kelleher and Alan Killeen were part of the Clare minor football squad while Tony Butler was on the minor hurling team. Adam Mungovan was part of the Clare U20 hurling team. There were many others who were part of the Clare under-age development squads. Well done to all.

Towards the end of the year we have been informed that two of our long-standing committee members and mentors are taking a break from Club activities. After 20 years of training teams and various roles on the committee Anthony O'Halloran is stepping down. The vast majority of the intermediate hurling squad that was on duty this year were trained by Anthony in their formative

years. Jim Curran has also spent many years training teams and contributing to the committee. He leaves after having possibly one of the most successful U14 football seasons ever! The Club owes a big debt to Jim and Anthony for all their hard work.

The ongoing success of our under-age teams is due in no small way to the large group of mentors who freely give of their time to coach the teams and patiently develop their skills, we are deeply grateful to them. A special thank you also, to all the parents who bring their young boys to training and to matches all over the county.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the hard work of the Minor Committee under the chairmanship of Bill Clohessy. We had a few new members joining this year which has helped to freshen up the discussions. Welcome to Sean Corey, Gerry Lynam, Kieran Ryan, Noel Nagle and Peadar McMahon.

*Pat O'Shea  
Secretary*

### JUNIOR HURLING REPORT

*by Vinny Sheedy & Bob Mulqueen*

Our year started with competing in the Junior A League with the team finishing mid table and were competitive throughout the campaign.

Younger players were given opportunities to integrate with the panel and in each game the full complement of substitutions was used.

#### Junior A League Results

St Joseph's 0-17 Meelick 3-9, St Joseph's 1-14 Scariff 1-7, St Joseph's 1-14 O'Callaghan Mills 2-14, St Joseph's 1-17 Inagh- Kilnamona 1-11, St Joseph's 1-12 Newmarket 0-9, St Joseph's 0-14 Crusheen 1-21, St Joseph's 0-8 Ennistymon 3-18.

We eventually opened our Championship campaign in Crusheen with our first clash against a physical Tulla side. As the group games progressed our team became more settled finishing second in the table and progressing to the quarter finals.

Possibly the Junior game of the year was against Smith O'Brien's in the semi-final with a hard-fought battle in Kilkishen with the Parish coming out with a one-point victory.

The final, held in Tulla, against Newmarket was a one-sided affair, for the most part, with the result meaning the panel compete in Junior A in 2020.

#### Junior B Championship Results

St Joseph's 1-15 Tulla 0-10, St Joseph's 0-10 Smith O'Briens 1-8, St Joseph's 3-28 Parteen 1-6, St Joseph's 5-21 Clonlara 2-3, Joseph's 2-22 Scariff 1-13, St Joseph's 2-14 Smith O'Brien's 3-10, Joseph's 4-11 Newmarket 1-5.

#### Junior C

With this grade being straight knockout, we travelled to Kilkishen where we won on a score line of Broadford 1- 120-14 St Joseph's 3-10. The team advanced to the semi-final but were beaten by Bodyke 3-11 to 0-7.



Between Junior B and C over fifty players donned the St Joseph's jersey over the year in either league or championship. Several of those who played Junior C also played in the Junior B championship.

The goal at the start of the year was to win to maintain our Junior A status and win the Junior B championship. Both goals were achieved and the team competed in the Munster Junior Hurling Championship semi-final losing out in a Munster final spot to Garryspillane 1-16 to 1-11. The long layoff after the county final coupled with a significant number of injuries to panellists meant that the team could not perform to the best of their ability.

Finally, we would like to thank the club officers, senior hurling management and minor hurling management, Declan Hannan, Sean Conroy, David Morrissey, Robert Hurley and Cathal O'Sullivan for all the support and encouragement throughout the year and to the players who showed great commitment from February until November.

## MINOR HURLING REPORT

by Anthony O'Halloran

2019 was a busy year for the U18 Hurling squad. Expectations were high going into the 2019 season as this bunch of players had won the 16 A competition in 2017. We had good numbers and as a result it was decided to enter a second Minor Hurling Team in the Minor C championship. On paper, including 5 Under 16 players we had a panel of 39 players at the start of the year. In reality we fielded 34 players between both teams and as a result fielding a second team was a struggle at times. As the manager I would have been disappointed with a number of players that were on the Minor A panel at the start of the year but on realizing they might struggle to get on the A team, decided to pack it in, instead of giving their all with the second team and trying to play their way onto the first team. Like last year we had a player with a long-term injury and a few players had committed other codes for season. Having said this we had a few good Under 16 which strengthened the panel and made up for the players that were missing.

We started training in mid-March with wall sessions and Astro turf sessions under lights in Gurteen before moving to the field in early April. Numbers were good at training even though a number of players had commitments with county Minor Hurling, Minor Football, U17 Celtic League Hurling and U 20 County Hurling teams. This meant we had up to seven players at any given time with county teams. Training continued on Mondays with a number of challenge matches on Fridays. Eight challenges matches took place prior to the start of the championship with teams from outside the county and within the county. Most of the challenge matches were played without the county players and as a result all players were given a chance to stake a place in the starting line-up for both teams. For the weeks leading up to and over the duration of leaving cert training was restricted to non-contact and the numbers at training slightly dipped. However, the numbers picked up again once the leaving certificate finished.

### U18 A Championship

During the course of the championship we played five games. The first game was against a Ruan/Corofin amalgamation which we lost at home. We were missing 2 players due to holidays and 2 players who committed other codes for season. As a result, we had to use a number of second team players in this game and this meant they

could not field for the second team going forward. We were well in the game until one of our players got sent off in the second half. However, we played very well and battled all the way to the end. For our second game against Clonlara we did not perform at all and were well beaten. Our third game was the best we played all season and came away with a victory over Sixmilebridge. This set up a do or die game with Inagh/Kilnamona in Inagh. Even though we played reasonably well we conceded too many soft goals and eventually lost which ended our season. Given the expectations and ability of this team it was disappointing to exit the Minor A championship early. This bunch of players showed great heart and commitment down through the years that we have had them. Their attitude will bode well going up to adult Hurling and we look forward to seeing them preform for the club at the highest level in the future.

### U18 C Championship

During the course of the championship we played 5 games. Fielding a second team at Minor level was a struggle. We had 10 or 11 very dedicated players throughout the year but trying to get a few more players to make up 13 to field a team was difficult at times. We would like to thank a few of the U16 players who helped out and without them we would have struggled big time. In this competition we were very competitive. We were beaten in our first game against a Ruan/Corofin amalgamation. We beat Kilmaley well in our second game. We lost to Smith O Briens and Ennistymon first teams in very competitive games and were unlucky to lose to Ennistymon. The game of the championship was against Whitegate first team. In a very high scoring game, we were beaten by one point in Whitegate. When one looks back at this championship, we were very competitive and if a few more players had committed to the team we could have done very well.

Finally, big thanks to my fellow coaches and Selectors, Billy Piggott, Peadar O'Loughlin, and Tom Geraghty for all their help and commitment throughout the year. 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.

Regards  
Anthony O'Halloran

## U21 HURLING REPORT

by Declan Hannan

For 2019, the club entered the U21A competition. Training for the 2019 championship commenced in January, on a Wednesday evening with a further session on a Friday, followed by a challenge match (weather permitting) on a Sunday.

There is a very unforgiving competition, with knockout championship games. To compete effectively in A, players are required to commit to training in very difficult conditions and in general all the players who represented the club at championship trained diligently. The first championship match was against local rivals Clarecastle, a game we won after extra-time on a score line of 2-18 to 2-16. The semi-final was next, and this fixture was against amalgamation side Crusheen/Tubber, assisted by players from North Clare. We were narrowly defeated by a score-line of 14 points to 15 points. This was a bitter pill for the players and management as it was general felt it was a fixture, we left behind us. Kilmaley won out the A competition beating Crusheen/Tubber in the final.

N.S. led at half time on a scoreline of 2-2 to 1-1. We came out stronger in the second half and the game ended 3-04 to 2-04. We are very proud of all that these girls have achieved this year. They have showed great commitment, determination and skill throughout the year. We hope that they continue to play football with their clubs and their new schools next year. Congratulations to their mentors, Mary O'Connor and Goretta Quinn.

### Senior Boys Hurling

Our senior hurlers showed incredible commitment throughout their Cumann na mBunscol Competition and always played with great spirit and determination. Having won promotion to Division 1 in June 2018, last year they had to play very strong and more experienced teams. It was a great campaign for the boys from which they gained invaluable experience. Congratulations to Sean Frawley's team for winning the Frank Burns Memorial Trophy. Well done to their mentors, Mr. Robert Murray and Mr. Seán Burns.



Barefield NS Frank Burns Memorial League Hurling Champions

### Visit of Peter Duggan

We were delighted to welcome Clare hurling All-Star to speak to our pupils about his life, hurling career and also to present medals and certificates. It was a most enjoyable occasion. Many thanks to Seán Burns for organising this event. We wish Peter every success in Australia.



Peter Duggan addressing pupils at Assembly at Barefield National School



Peter Duggan with Seán Burns and Rang III Barefield NS

### Indoor Hurling

The boys of Barefield N.S. had a wonderful year in Indoor hurling. Boys from Rang III and Rang IV took part in the annual competition. The first round in Gurteen Hall resulted in 3 victories over Tulla N.S., Clarecastle N.S. and Crusheen N.S. The second round was another group stage in Gurteen where the boys had very hard-fought wins over Quin N.S., Ennis N.S. and CBS. This meant that the boys qualified for the final round in Cratloe N.S. Three of the winning teams from all over the county came together. The boys had a brilliant win in the final stages over Clonmoney N.S. and this meant that the winners of the last match against Ballyea N.S. would be the champions of Co. Clare. Unfortunately, a bad start in the final meant Ballyea N.S. raced into a 10-2 lead at half time. Our boys didn't give up and a tremendous fight back in the second half had the score at 10-7 at the final whistle. Credit has to go to the courage the boys showed in never giving up and congratulations to them for reaching the final. This team was coached by Robert Murray. Well done to all who took part in this fantastic hurling competition.



Our indoor hurlers with their mentor, Robert Murray Barefield NS

### Senior Camogie



Senior Girls Camogie team with their mentors Shauna Woods and Brid Baker Barefield NS



Hopes were high, that we had a team capable of getting to the business end of this year's Minor A camogie championship. However, those same hopes were dealt an early blow, when Meadhbh O Connor suffered a torn ACL playing with the Clare minors in March which would rule her out for the rest of the year.

After a bye in round one, we opened our campaign with a 4-11 to 2-5 victory away to the Clooney/Banner amalgamation. However, a combination of factors – the leaving cert, club and county football commitments, at U-16, minor and senior level, as well as intermediate and junior camogie with the club, - made it virtually impossible to get the girls together collectively, ahead of the subsequent rounds which took place after the state exams had concluded. It wasn't that training sessions weren't held; they were, but attendance by the minor girls was sporadic to say the least. In their defence, many of them were playing or training with other teams, but it certainly meant that our preparations fell far short of where they needed to be.

Compounding matters, with some of our key players on holiday the week after the Leaving Cert ended, when round three was scheduled, we had no choice but to play the key third and fourth round games within three days of each other.

We certainly had our chances in round three at home to Scariff/Ogonnelloe, where we dominated possession in the opening period but failed to make it count on the scoreboard. We were in the game to the very end, but a second Scariff/Ogonnelloe goal late on, eased their nerves, and saw us go down by 2-6 to 0-6. That left us with no

margin for error, and a must win tie with pre-competition favourites Feakle/Killlanena three days later.

With Sadhbh O'Brien injured, Emma Towey playing football with the county, and Aisling Reidy also unavailable, we were really up against it. Behind at half time, a spirited second half comeback, saw us make a real battle of it, and we had reduced the deficit to three points with ten minutes left. Unfortunately, the oppositions county players finished strongly and we could have no complaints, finally losing by eight, on a 2-15 to 2-7 scoreline.

As expected, we went on to beat Truagh/Clonlara in our final game by 3-11 to 1-12, but it left us out of the semi-final places, and with plenty of regrets, as to what might have been. There are no excuses. We simply didn't have the work done on the training field, and can't expect to be able to compete with the top sides in those circumstances.

Our third place finish, left us in the semi-final of the Shield competition, where we had a comprehensive 5-16 to 2-5 win over Clarecastle/Ballyea. We subsequently defeated Kilmaley to win the Shield beating them by 5-12 to 2-4, to salvage something from a year that promised more than management was able to deliver.

Thanks to the players, parents and club officers for all the support, and to Anne Marie McGann, Louise Woods, Erinn Hennessy and Sarah Hoey for helping out over the year.

*Jamesie O'Connor.*

The management team was Kieran O'Neill, Patsy Fahy, Vinnie Sheedy with the coach being Michael Coen and a special thanks to these lads for committing to managing the U21's in very difficult weather conditions. Well done to the panel of players, they trained hard and this was borne out for the rest of the season as 17 of the U21 panel represented their club at Junior and Intermediate level.

I also want to thank the senior committee for their support, providing the resources to cover player travel expenses and for funding the coach Michael Coen, Michael McMahon for providing Astro\Hall facilities and Joe McNamara the Field Officer.

*Declan Hannan  
Manager*

## INTERMEDIATE HURLING REPORT

*by Sean McMahon*

After the disappointment of relegation in 2018 the year started again for us in February 2019. The initial focus at this stage of the year was in developing fitness so as to be ready for the Clare Cup campaign starting around St Patrick's weekend.

This year we were in Division 1B of the Clare Cup (after promotion the previous year). There was a big step up in the quality of the matches as most of the teams in this division were senior teams. We looked at this as a big plus as it is the best way for players to learn, by playing competitive games against quality opposition. The target for us was to at least maintain our status in 1B. We played a number of challenge matches in advance of the Clare Cup and played Broadford in Gurteen in our first cup game. By the halfway point of the Cup we had played 5 (Broadford, Clarecastle, Ballyea, Eire Og & Smith O'Brien's) and only won 1 so we were under pressure to maintain our status. However, we won 3 of our last 4 games (Whitegate, Tubber, O Callaghan's Mills, Scariff) to comfortably maintain our status in 1B. The pleasing thing for us in management was the heart and spirit the players displayed throughout the cup campaign and in particular the last few matches when the pressure was on to survive.

At this stage our attention turned to the championship which was beginning in August. Our first-round game was against Cratloe in Tulla and we won on a score line of 1-16 to 0-09. Our second-round game was against Broadford in Shannon and we lost this on a score line of 1-13 to 0-17. This put us into a loser's round where we played Bodyke in Tulla and won comfortably on a score of 1-19 to 0-11. We were now through to a quarter final and we played Tubber in Ruan. This proved to be a really tough and exciting contest which we won after extra time on a score of 5-20 to 4-21. Now in a semi-final we were drawn against Scariff with the game being played in Tulla. Similar to the quarter final we had a huge battle. We didn't play well in the first 40 minutes and Scariff scored 2-3 without reply straight after half time to leave us 10 points down with 20 minutes remaining. From here on we took over and the lads really played well, eventually drawing the match in injury time, therefore taking the game to extra time. We really kicked in extra time and ended up winning the game 3-23 to 2-17. We were in the final, a place we targeted being all year, facing Broadford again. We knew we would have a huge battle ahead as we had met Broadford twice earlier in the year and knew of their quality. It was a very tight match with defences dominating but things looked good for us when Conor Tierney scored a great goal with about 10 minutes left.

However, Broadford took over for the remaining time and scored 5 points without reply. Despite our best efforts we could not get an equaliser and lost the game on a score line of 0-15 to 1-11. A very disappointing way to end the year.

**I would like to thank the following:**

- Donal Cahill and Fintan Lahiffe for their work and commitment throughout the year.
- Dave McCormack for his excellent coaching of the team throughout the year.
- Trevor Slattery was involved particularly early in the year and ran an excellent S&C program.
- Eugene Moynihan and in particular Cathal O Sullivan and for their help and availability in dealing with medical issues throughout the year.
- A special mention to Sean Conroy for the huge amount of work he does behind the scenes with no fuss but still gets it all done.
- Denis Maher, Paul Mannion, Alan Ball, John Hoey, Darragh McMahon and Cian Lahiffe for their help with video and stats throughout the year.
- To the club and in particular the executive for their support and help throughout the year.
- I want also to thank Kevin Frehill, Cathal O Sullivan, Mike Millane, Morgan Rowland and Donagh Vaughan from the football side of the house. There was very good communication and collaboration between both sides and as a result it made things easier for all sides.
- Finally, I'd like to thank the players, their efforts from February to the county final were excellent.

Although the final didn't go our way the players showed great heart and spirit throughout the year. They displayed a real pride in playing for the club and I firmly believe there is a great future for the club with these lads leading the way. We need to be better next year and need to improve but if we do then hopefully, we can go that step further in 2020.

*Sean McMahon Intermediate Hurling Manager*

## JUVENILE HURLING REPORT

### U6 Hurlers Report

Well it's that time of the year again for us to sit down and look back on the past year and the achievements of our youngest hurlers,

It was another busy year for our under 6 boys who started the year off in the gym doing some pre-season training and having fun learning how to hop, skip and jump and also learning how to use all their muscles. Once this was achieved the boys moved out to the astro turf where they worked on their hurling skills, this was done by lots of different game based drills which broke down each skill to a basic level and then they got to put it into practice with a match at the end of the session. The young hurlers of the parish got the chance to show what they had learned over the year with two blitz, first up was Clooney Quinn on a lovely Sunday morning in Gurteen the boys showed off their skills to their families and friends and a great morning was had by all,



## GAA in Barefield National School

*by John Burns*

### Gaelic Games 2018-2019

#### Introduction

We actively promote and impart the skills of Gaelic Games in camogie, hurling and football in our school for both girls and boys. We participate in all Cumann na mBunscol competitions together with our own internal Leagues, culminating in the Frank Burns Memorial League finals. Weekly training commences every year in September with teachers allocated to certain teams. The hard work of our Active School Committee, teachers and of course the commitment of our pupils to training and staying active has resulted in a wonderful sporting year. Our aim is not only to allow our pupils play sport with local clubs but also to facilitate our pupils who may not be members of clubs to access the wide choice of team sports within our school.

#### Boys Football

In October 2019, Barefield N.S. and Cratloe N.S. met once again and played a thrilling final in Cusack Park, with Barefield pupils eventually emerging victorious by 3 points in a hard-fought contest, the final scoreline of 0-07 to 0-04. The pupils from Cratloe N.S. are to be congratulated for their brilliant performance. This was an historic occasion with Barefield N.S. winning three Division 1 Cumann na mBunscol titles in a row. Congratulations to our mentors, Peadar McMahon and Leo Duggan. It was a brilliant day for our school community.

#### Senior Girls Football

Congratulations to our Rang VI girls who showed unbelievable determination and skill during a hard-fought battle against our neighbours, Knockanean NS, in winning the Division 1 Clare Ladies Football Final. The match took place in a sun-drenched

Cusack Park and was a nail-biting encounter from beginning to end. Knockanean



*Barefield NS Co. Clare Division 1 Football Champions 2019*



*Clare Ladies Division 1 Champions Barefield NS*



Next up was Killmaley this blitz was a great one to watch the skill and determination of each child was fantastic to see and everyone gave it their all, this was the last game of the season, so it was a great way to end the year.

I would like to thank each and every one of the children for putting in such a great effort over the year and best of luck to all the boys who are moving up next year. I would also like to say a big thank you to all the coaches who gave up their time to teach the boys all year without ye the club could not run.



U6 Hurling

### U8 Hurlers Report

Another busy but thoroughly enjoyable year for the U8 hurlers in 2019. We had excellent numbers again with over 60 registered players and great participation rates at training each week.

During the course of the year, the boys played in six Go-Game scheduled blitzes competing against teams from around the county. We visited Ballyea, Ennistymon, Clooney Quin, Corofin, Crusheen and Sixmilebridge and hosted the first of these blitzes in Gurteen. We also had very competitive home and away blitzes with Athenry, Galway and a very enjoyable trip down to Newtownshandrum, Cork to play the hosts and teams from Ballybrown, Limerick. The Banner Roar is still ringing in the coach's ears after that bus trip!

This year saw a change to the Go-Games schedule of previous years due to the large number of players in Doora Barefield, Sixmilebridge and Clooney Quin. To facilitate the smaller host clubs, it was agreed that for each of the Go-Games blitzes, the bigger clubs would send teams to two separate host clubs. Also, another change that worked well this year, teams of U7 and U8 year old boys competed separately at blitzes between Doora Barefield, Sixmilebridge, Clooney Quin.



U8 Hurlers

For some of the boys it was the first time they were exposed to underage county blitzes and there was a great sense of excitement in wearing the parish colours and lining out with their teammates. The boys performed very well in all the blitzes and as the year went on the improvement in their skill levels was evident. The behaviour of the boys at training and representing the club was exemplary at all times.

The season ended with a series of fun competitions incorporating the basic skills of the game practised throughout the year. These included the Poc Fada, first past the post jab lift challenge and a ground strike relay race. The boys had been practicing hard for this competition for a number of weeks and it showed in some excellent individual and team performances. The winners each got a quick touch sliotar signed by some of the Clare Senior Hurlers and every player received a quick touch sliotar for their effort. Well done to all!

The U8 management would like to thank all the boys for their commitment, dedication and enthusiasm throughout the year and to the parents for their continuous support. Keep practicing over the winter break and we look forward to seeing all the boys back in 2020!

U8 Coaches.

### U10 Hurlers Report

WOW – What a year!!! These boys are on a great journey. They have given their coaches, parents and family a year to remember. Great memories of fun and laughter encapsulated the 2019 year. 2019 was a very busy year for our U10 hurlers. There are approximately 42 young boys playing hurling U10 with a key focus on enjoyment and the basic skills of the game. The year proved to be very successful with participation rates very high at training and the turnout for the blitzes was very strong. The future for our club is very promising and it is great to observe the development of our youth into excellent young boys. Their behaviour both at training and representing the club is exemplary and the club take great pride in their behaviour. It is a great sense of pride and achievement to wear the parish jersey. The boys wore it with distinction at every match or blitz.

The boys played in approximately 50 sessions between training sessions, matches, blitzes and tournaments. They competed very strongly in all events throughout the year. During the course of the year, the boys competed in over 12 organised blitzes and matches. A special highlight was the bus trip to Kilmacud Crokes in Dublin where we received a hearty welcome. Both Doora Barefield teams did very well and reached their respective finals which is an outstanding achievement. Other highlights included, a trip to the Tommy Burchaell tournament in na Piarasigh, the superb battles

On 24-March, we entered the Feila competition - loosing both our games by single scores.

The U14B Championship commenced on 3-April with games weekly.

St. Josephs had wins over Ballyhea, Eire Og, Feakle/Kilaneana and losses to Ruan, Kilkishen/Bodyke and Kilmaley. This meant we reached the Plate final, where we recorded a very hard earned one point win over a strong Ballyhea team in Shannon on 28-May.

After this, the girls took a few weeks off before returning to separately train with the U13s and U15/16s.

There was a noticeable improvement in skill level and competitiveness, particularly among those attending training most regularly. Also heartening was the fact that almost all the girls training in 2018 returned in 2019.

Coaches: Emmet Moran, Feilim Collins, John O'Connor, Pauline Butler, Aiden Bohannon

Aiden Bohannon

### U15 Camogie

This years U-15B league comprised of ten teams divided into two groups of five and commenced on the 24th of June. The format guaranteed us a minimum of four matches against Ballyea, Newmarket, Eire Og and Crusheen, with the top team in each section going forward to contest the final.

Our campaign began with a tough away assignment against a strong and well balanced Ballyea side. Minus a couple of our starting players, they were simply too good for us, and beat us on a 6-12 to 2-5 scoreline.

Two successive home wins followed, where we defeated Newmarket by 2-9 to 3-3, and Eire Og a week later by 5-9 to 3-3, to put us back in the shake-up if other results went our way.

However, our final match on Thursday July 11th away to Crusheen saw us defeated on a 8-6 to 1-6 scoreline that didn't accurately reflect the gap between the two sides. Had the girls' minds been on the match and not the following nights Queens disco, the outcome might very well have been different, but they didn't seem to be too disappointed. Nonetheless, it ended our interest in the competition, and with a relatively small panel at this age group, is important that all the current panel members continue to participate next year

Jamesie O'Connor.

### U16 Camogie



After defeat by the narrowest of margins in last years' final, hopes were high that the U-16 team could go one better in 2019, and annex silverware. With a large crossover of players on both the minor and U-15 panels, training began in early March, but this competition didn't actually begin until early August.

We were seriously depleted for our opening fixture away to Clooney, with over ten players unavailable for various reasons. The girls battled hard on the night, but unsurprisingly, we were beaten well on a 2-12 to 1-5 scoreline.

Next up was a home tie with Broadford/Parteen in Gurteen, where we emerged with a hard fought 0-12 to 1-6, three point win. Round three saw us play out a 0-11 to 1-8 draw, away to a strong Sixmilebridge side. This game could have gone either way, but after a really good first half performance, we needed a late Katie Callaghan free to secure the draw. Two successive victories away to Feakle/Killaneana by 2-6 to 1-0, and at home to Ruan by 2-8 to 0-7, in a game that was a lot closer than the scoreline suggests, left us in joint second place after the round robin stage, and safely through to the last four.

That second place finish saw us pitted against Sixmilebridge in a semi-final which we always knew would be a tough encounter. Played in very soft underfoot conditions in Fr. McNamara Park, we had to dig deep, but goals at crucial stages saw us over the line by 4-6 to 3-7, and back in the final against Clooney.

Unfortunately, the three week gap to the final, which was pencilled in for Saturday Oct 19th, meant we would have to play without our first choice goalie, Caoilfhionn Ni Chonaill, who was away on a school tour. Caoilfhionn had been outstanding all year, for both the U-16's and minors, but our efforts to bring the game forward couldn't be accommodated. Fortunately, the U-14 custodian Avril Creaven stepped up to the plate, and proved to be an able deputy on the day.

The final itself took place in Eire Og, and again, underfoot conditions were far from ideal. Despite not playing anywhere close to our full potential in attack, our defence was outstanding, and kept us in the match. Still, it took a goal from heroic team captain Sadhbh O'Brien with virtually the last puck of the game to secure the draw, that on balance our efforts probably deserved.

With last years' final loss still fresh in the memory, the girls weren't going to be denied in extra time, and the three points we managed, while keeping Clooney scoreless, saw us atone for the disappointment of twelve months ago with a 2-5 to 1-5 victory.

The girls did themselves and the club proud, and the courage and fight they showed to stay in the match, made the win all the more pleasing.

I would like to thank the players, and especially their parents for all the support – jersey washing, first aid, words of encouragement etc - and commitment during what was another long but enjoyable campaign. It was great to finally get our hands on some silverware and I would hope that all the girls will be back playing camogie in the club colours in 2019.

Thanks too to the club officers, especially Secretary Anne, and Chairwoman Mao, for their support and encouragement. Finally, special kudos to my co-manager Ronan Dillon, whose energy, positivity, patience and support was a massive help. Ronan was a breath of fresh air, and an invaluable addition to the set-up.

Jamesie O'Connor.

### Minor Camogie



Minor A Shield champions.



We had consistent attendance at all the training sessions and although our win rate wasn't great.. we could see that the players were enjoying the training and the games and we did see solid progression of skill levels and their ability to handle the competitive games.

The league finished at the end of July and after the two week August break, the 2007 players ( 11 in all ) moved up to the U13 league and we continued to work with the 15 remaining U11 players.

We played 3 games in an U11 Blitz in Kilkishen on Sept 8th.

In order to continue progressing these U11 players, we teamed up with Crusheen and 4 other clubs [ Ruan, Banner, Corofin & Eire Og ] to form a short league which was run over 3 Sundays during September. We played five group games [ two on one Sunday and three on the other ] . We introduced five of the strong U10 players into the panel for this league. We won three games and lost two. Crusheen hosted the final where we played Eire Og... the Townies ....and won !

This U11 tournament was a great success for us for a number of reasons. The most important reason was that the 2008s blossomed from being fringe players generally, to being a fantastic group of spirited characters that made us very proud. Their confidence, skill levels and ability to fight for a win , improved immeasurably.

We have no doubt that without this additional U11 league opportunity some of these players might have drifted away. However, they ended their season full of confidence, happy and standing on the steps of Crusheen stand receiving medals and a round of applause from a group of excited parents. So, we would hope that this informal and fun U11 event is continued next year.

We finished our season on Oct 7th on a high with the win in Crusheen. Overall, the coaching team are happy with the season. We feel we made reasonable progress in terms of skills development. Two areas we focussed on with additional drills was in the area of striking and physicality. We found that there was a significant variation in striking abilities across the group and we feel that this might be an area of particular attention for the club. We focussed drills on physicality to ensure we didn't continue to be bullied off the ball and to improve our ability to gain possession from ruck situations.

We feel we got the balance right in terms of having a fun approach to training and games. We received very specific positive feedback from a number of parents on this. This is noteworthy given that one of the three main reasons girls participation drops off significantly after age 12 is because of the lack of a fun element to the sport. As a coaching team we fulfilled our commitment to giving all players equal playing time which reaped dividends also ( from both players and parents ).

Niall Burke

### U13 Camogie



U13 Plate Champions

The U13 panel started back training in early August ahead of the U13A campaign. A lot of the girls had been involved in the U14 B campaign earlier in the year where we were victorious in the shield final against Ballyea in Shannon. Our first match took place on the 26th August away against Inagh Kilnamona. Despite a brave performance by the girls we were well beaten by a physically stronger and well drilled Inagh Kilnamona side who would eventually go on to win the competition outright. Our next game was again away against Clooney Quin and in a close game we just lost out by 4 points. This was definitely a game we could have won had we taken our chances. Our third match was against Scarriff Ogonnolle at home and again we lost to a very good side. Our second last group match was against Feakle Killeana away and in a close and exciting match we secured a draw with literally the last puck of the ball when Aoibheann Creaven scored a great point to level the match. Our final group game took place at home against Newmarket on Fergus. In awful conditions the girls gave one of their best displays and despite losing three players to injury Newmarket finished stronger and won by 3 points. We now faced a rematch against Feakle/Killeana in the Plate Final. This took place in Meelick on the 6th of October after the county Intermediate final. In a very close and tense match the girls fought their hearts out and hung on to a well-deserved one-point win on a final score line of 0-4 to 0-3. Even though it was the girls first actual win in the competition it was fantastic to win a final particularly in front of a big crowd and on the same day the clubs intermediate team had a great win against the same opposition. Hopefully this will in some small way inspire some of the girls to continue on up the ranks and one day play senior camogie with the club in the future.

We had a panel of 25 girls who put in a great effort all year and all of the panel got a run at some stage during the campaign. We did struggle against some of the top teams particularly from a physical viewpoint as we are not the biggest team. However, we can't fault either the commitment or the effort from this bunch of girls who are a pleasure to train and be involved with. Already we are looking forward to next years U14 campaign and to prepare we plan to train for one hour every Sunday evening for a number of weeks either side of Christmas on the Astroturf/wallball. This is to ensure that the girls can continue to improve their touch, striking and basic skills so we can hit the ground running in early March. I would like to thank the other members of the management team: Felim Collins, Emmet Moran and Laura Garvey for all the effort and commitment they put in all year in both the U14 and particularly the U13 campaigns. It was great to finish the year with silverware in both competitions.

John O'Connor

### U14 Camogie



U14 B Shield Champions

Training for the St. Josephs U14 camogie commenced on 3-February. The panel consisted of 24 players including 3 stronger U12s. From February to the end of May, the panel had 36 training sessions or games.



U10 Hurling

in Gurteen between Inagh Kilnamona and Sixmilebridge. We also hosted a fantastic end of year event where naPiarasigh from Limerick, Clarenbridge from Galway and Parteen showcased their skills against the mighty Doora Barefield men.

Great credit must go to the coaching staff and parents. Without the parents providing constant encouragement and practicing with their boys at home, the boys would not have taken as great enjoyment this year. The coaches truly get a great sense of enjoyment and it is fantastic to see all the boys develop the hurling and social skills. There is always help required and we are very appreciative of it. The coaches involved are Brian Dilleen, Ed Corry, John Corry, Fergus O'Sullivan, James Breslin, Wayne Laverick, Tony McInerney.

### Under 12 Hurling Report

U12 panel did some agility and movement work over the winter months and hurling training resumed in March. We had some early season April challenges v Carnmore, Oranmore and The Banner and in early May were invited to an intercounty tournament in Cork versus Douglas, Na Piarasigh (Limerick) and Lismore (Waterford). The panel of 21 competed well and the focus was on panel participation. For the season itself we entered 3 sides in the Cusack league, the Vaughan league and the Bennett league ensuring there was plenty of games for all the 11 and 12-year-old parish hurlers. This competition finished with Finals day in July where the Cusack side defeated Inagh Kilnamona in the final, the Vaughan side defeated Eire Og and the Bennett side defeated Sixmilebridge. We had between 35 and 40 kids getting regular game time. The team also attended the Munster league competition in the Gaelic ground where we played teams from Kerry, Cork and Limerick.

The final activity was in October where we attended the Clarinbridge annual invitational. That was a great day and a nice finish to the year, we played Ballygar, Monaleen, Kilruane McDonaghs and Clonmel on route to winning the shield section.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the coaches, Eamonn Clohessy, Aiden Bohannon, John Mescall, Ed Corry, John Corry, Alan Ball, Micheal O'Coilean, Brian Dillen and Enda O'Gara for all the help. The U12 football management (Sean Corry) and the club grounds and facilities team for all their co-operation.



U12 Hurling

### U13 Hurling Report

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 defence 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.



U13 Hurling

## U14 Hurling Report

After a short break following a successful U13 campaign, the U14 hurlers returned to training at beginning of November with indoor circuit & stretching sessions and outdoor wall sessions to practice their hurling skills. After a short break over the Christmas period the players and coaches took to the pitches in February and March with a number of challenge matches against U14 teams from Limerick & Galway.

## U14 Championship A Championship

### April 4th - round 1

The first A championship match saw Doora Barefield take on Inagh Kilnamona in a tough opener at home in Gurteen on April 4th. In a tense game, The Parish lads eventually got to grip with their formidable opponents. Scoring 2.2 before half-time it just about proved enough in a very low scoring game in which both defences dominated. In the end Doora Barefield hung on for a win with a score line of 2-4 to 1-4.

### April 11th - round 2

Next up for U14A team in round 2 was Kilmaley at home: After a slow start this was another excellent performance from the lads against a strong Kilmaley outfit. On a fine evening for hurling, in a game well refereed by Paul Howard, Kilmaley started brilliantly to lead by 6 points to 1 after the first quarter. However, Doora Barefield upped their game considerably in the second half. Final score was Doora-Barefield 3.16 Kilmaley 0.12.

### April 29th - round 3

A strong performance by the U14 squad away to a Clarecastle team who battled to the end. Game was refereed by Damian Fox. Final Result Clarecastle 0.8 Doora-Barefield 4.15.

### May 10th - round 4

U14A hurlers lost out to Clooney Quin in Gurteen on a score line of 3.5 to 5.19. This game was always going to be tough task for the lads coming less than 24 hours after most of the players had performed so well in winning the county football Feile finals the previous evening.

### May 17th - round 5

Great performance by the Doora-Barefield U14 A hurlers against a very good Cratloe side in Cratloe saw Doora Barefield come out on top with a score line of Cratloe 3.08 Doora Barefield 4.16.

### May 24th - round 6

Another solid performance from the U14 hurlers saw them win against Ballyea on the newly reopened pitch in Ballyea to qualify as 2nd placed team in the Group stages and ensure a home quarter final. Final score Ballyea 1.05 Doora Barefield 6.14

### May 31st - U14A Quarter Final

After securing a home quarter final, Doora Barefield had to face old foes Inagh Kilnamona to secure a semi-final spot. Another tough encounter was expected. An excellent performance on the day from a highly motivated Doora Barefield resulted in a big win over a very competitive Inagh Kilnamona side 2.21 to 1.08

### June 18th - U14A Semi-Final in Clarecastle

A week on from their trip to Cork for the National Feile na nGael competition, Doora-Barefield had to come through an incredible test from an excellent Kilmaley team to qualify, after extra time, for the 2019 U14A final. After drawing the game in normal time 3.12 to 3.12 Doora Barefield had to dig deep to go again for another 20 minutes coming out on top eventually on a score line of 4.13 to 3.13

### June 22nd - U14A Final in Cusack Park

Old rivals Clooney Quin provided the opposition in the U14 A final. In a game coming just four days after the tough semi-final win over Kilmaley, our lads unfortunately just couldn't match the energy and hunger of a fantastic Clooney Quin side that ran out easy winners in the end. After losing to Doora Barefield in the previous year's U13A final and this year's Feile A final it was always going to be a difficult task to win but our players did us proud battling all the way to the final whistle. Final score Clooney Quin 2.16 Doora Barefield 1.05



Doora Barefield U14A team, Clare Feile A Winners and Clare U14A Championship Finalists

## U14A Academy Championship

The U14A Academy championship provided excellent opportunity for the U14 second team to get competitive games against their equivalent from other U14A clubs in Clare. In a competition that saw teams from Doora Barefield, Sixmilebridge, Ballyea, Clarecastle, Inagh Kilnamona and Clooney Quin take part, the Doora Barefield team came out on top in all their matches to top the table. Doora



The Moloney Family celebrate the Intermediate Final win.

"The Parish" met "The Town" in the home of "The Magpies" in a semi-final refereed by a Galwayman, which went to extra time. Tensions were elevated by the closeness of the encounter but we emerged victorious after extra time in a game in which I learned it was against camogie association rules for camogie mentors to carry a hurley on the sideline. Our victory set up a final meeting with Feakle/Kilanena. This was a final pairing we as management had envisaged and worked towards from the start of the year.

Two quick goals in the opening quarter of the county final left us stunned. At this point our never say die attitude and immense work rate paid dividends as we muscled our way back in to the game. A deserved sending off proved a catalyst for us to take control and power to victory in what was a character building and hard-fought encounter. The sheer joy and delight of players and management alike was visible to all on the final whistle. We had achieved our objective of winning the Intermediate title.

Celebrations and match analysis continued afterwards but our focus quickly turned to our Munster semi-final meeting with the Limerick intermediate Champions, Crecora. On the day victory was achieved with a clinical first half display and our journey continued to a Munster final meeting with Clanmaurice of Kerry.

Creating history by being the first St. Joseph's Doora-Barefield Camogie Club team to reach a Munster Club Final is an achievement both players and management are justifiably proud of. Going in at half time with a two-point lead and scoring the opening point of the second half it looked as if our journey was going to continue, however this was not to be. Clanmaurice outscored and out played us in the second half. The pain of the loss was compounded by the fact that we, as a team, didn't do ourselves justice by playing to our full potential in the second half.

The strength of our camogie club community was evident in Newport in the large numbers who travelled to support our team. Thank you to all the committee members, underage coaches, players, former players, siblings, parents and parishioners who made the effort to travel in such numbers. A special word of thanks to all those who were kind enough to offer words of support and encouragement to management and players in our defeat.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to my fellow management team members, Michael, Tomás, Martin, Siobhan and Mary for their efforts and involvement. Our collective and individual input led to many protracted debates, deliberations and discussions throughout the year all of which were focussed on providing the best opportunities possible for our teams. Our work as a management team was, for the most part, visible to all and sundry, however, we would not have been able to carry out our management role without the fantastic support afforded to us by our club committee. A large percentage of the work of the committee is undertaken outside of public view. The tireless work of committee members is greatly appreciated and must not be taken for granted or undervalued.

A fantastic season has come to an end. It was a tremendous year in which we were crowned Intermediate Champions and defeated

the best that Limerick could produce. I hope girls enjoyed playing camogie and representing "The Parish". On a personal note it was a privilege to be involved in such a wonderful Together Everyone Achieves More.

Martin Moloney

## Under 10 Camogie Report



The under ten camogie panel met up on Wednesdays and Sundays for training. In the training sessions the coaches focused on the skills of striking, hooking, blocking, jab lifting and defending. The girls had plenty of opportunities to demonstrate these skills in the games at training and at the blitzes in Clarecastle, Tulla, The Burren, Cratloe, Corofin, Whitegate and at home in St Joseph's Doora Barefield.

The panel also participated in two practice matches during the season, one against Newmarket and one against Clooney Quin. In both matches the girls showed their determination and skill levels to strong opponents.

We would like to see more parents getting involved in the coaching next year as we had huge numbers at training and at times it was challenging when some coaches weren't available. We would also recommend asking the County Board to put us in 2 separate venues for next years blitzes as we had 3 and 4 teams for every blitz and no club could accommodate us. We then contacted other host clubs to ask if they could accommodate us and this way every girl played a game.

Under the watchful eye of Carmel Duggan, Bernard Murphy, Eamon Whelan, Orla and Aine Maloney, Sheila O'Connor and Roseanne Healy the girls improved and developed their skills in all areas.

Thank you to the parents who encouraged and supported all the players during the year.

We wish the best of luck to our girls moving up to under 12. We look forward to meeting the under 10 back in Gurteen in 2020 for another season.

Sheila O'Connor

## Under 12 Camogie Report

Coaches: Carole Frawley, Ivan Kerins, Keith Reynolds, Orla O'Neill, Orla Moloney, Niall Burke.

We started our season with twice weekly training sessions on March 24th. We had a panel of 26 registered and as the season progressed we had on average about 18 players training. We played two challenge games ahead of the league [ Clooney Quin and Wolfe Tones ]. Due to the numbers training, we only entered 1 team in the U12 League during which we played four games with one win and three losses [ opposing teams were Truagh/Clonlara, Inagh/Kilnamona, Clooney Quin & Kilkishen/Bodyke ] The last game was a final in Fr McNamara Park against a very strong Newmarket side. The sides were poorly matched ..... and it was our toughest defeat of the league.





Intermediate Champions



Junior A

The securing of the Division Two League title in 2018 saw us catapulted into Senior League for 2019 where we faced Scarriff/Ogonolloe, Newmarket-on-Fergus, Sixmilebridge and Truagh/Clonlara. In all our games we competed for long periods of time with our seasoned opponents but failed to secure a win. The craft and experience of our opponents, garnered from playing senior camogie for successive years, was evident. The challenge facing next year's management team and players is how best to ensure that we are competitive with these Senior teams for the full duration of games.

The month of August saw the commencement of the adult championships. Player management was essential as we faced into our first intermediate championship game against Clarecastle/Ballyea with sixteen intermediate graded players to choose from. After a hard-fought contest, we secured our first competitive win of the season. The following day we struggled to field against Tulla in Junior A, but, with the help of several under 16 players, whose contribution proved pivotal, "The Parish" exacted revenge for the league final defeat with a performance that was to prove to be the benchmark for both our adult teams for the remainder of the year. It was a performance to be proud of, characterised by immense work rate and commitment, characteristics that were to be evident in performances of both intermediate and junior teams for the remainder of the season.

Subsequent rounds of the Junior A championship saw a well-deserved win over Ruan and a walkover from Wolfe Tones, who, despite the best efforts of their player/manager, failed to field at short notice. Broadford were next up, and we lost out narrowly in a game that should never have taken place if both county football and camogie boards had any regard for dual players.

The position of dual players and the demands forced upon them by respective county boards and fixtures is an issue we as a GAA Community in Doora-Barefield need to address in a unified manner. All any team wants is that their players be available in peak condition for crucial matches and that they not be placed at a disadvantage by county boards by having to play two games in the one day. While extenuating circumstances may arise from time to time it is not fair on players and we as a GAA Community in Doora-Barefield are obliged to address it internally and externally in the interests of player welfare.

We secured another victory against Corofin, our final Junior A round robin opponents. The sides locked horns again in Fr. McNamara Park in the semi-final, Corofin emerging victorious on this occasion despite the valiant efforts of the parish ladies. Next up was a shield final against Broadford, a game which epitomised the character of the panel all year and one in which even extra time could not separate the teams. The replay proved to be equally competitive with Broadford emerging victorious. Our Junior season ended under lights in Gurteen, defeated, but proud of our players and their efforts.

Our narrow defeat to Feakle/Kilana in the second round of the Intermediate Championship hurt players and management equally. As their mentors saddled up the hill by the scoreboard after the game my parting shot to them of "We will see ye again" was met with "we know we will". The subsequent round saw us defeat Éire Óg, an occasion on which both teams were under strength. This victory was followed by comprehensive wins over Whitegate and Inagh/Kilnamona in our final round games to set up a semi final showdown with our neighbours "The Townies".

Barefield went on to success winning the final in Clareabbey against a skilful Ballyea outfit with the trophy being presented afterwards to joint captains Oran Kelly and Michael Sheehan.

### U14A Academy Competition Results:

- 14.04.19 Doora Barefield 4-07 Clarecastle 2-00 (away)
- 28.04.19 Doora Barefield 4-08 Clooney Quin 1-05 (home)
- 13.05.19 Doora Barefield 5-07 Ballyea 0-11 (away)
- 19.05.19 Doora Barefield 3-15 Sixmilebridge 0-03 (home)
- 26.05.19 Doora Barefield 2-07 Inagh Kilnamona 2-03 (away)
- 06.06.19 Doora Barefield 4-11 Clarecastle 3-05 (home semi-final)
- 13.03.19 Doora Barefield 4-08 Ballyea 0-08 (FINAL)



U14A Academy Team Champions

### U14 Feile A Competition

Coming out of a very tough group containing Inagh Kilnamona, Ballyea and Éire Og, Doora Barefield had to battle all the way to qualify out of their group to grab a semi-final spot. The short games (10 mins a side) and quick turnaround times between games meant there was little margin for error. The group games took place Easter weekend on Friday April 19th in Gurteen. Results were:

- Doora Barefield 0-04 Ballyea 0-01
- Doora Barefield 2-03 Inagh-Kilnamona 0-06
- Doora Barefield 2-01 Éire Og 1-03

On Easter Monday Doora Barefield travelled to Clonlara to take on a strong Sixmilebridge team in the semi-final. After a slow start which saw Sixmilebridge race into a 4 point lead a tremendous second half performance with some tremendous last-ditch defending saw Doora Barefield scrape out a single point win. Final score 0-06 to 1-02.

In the final, Doora Barefield came up against old rivals Clooney Quin who had accounted for Éire Og in the other semi-final. This time a strong first half performance saw Doora Barefield lead at half time by 0-5 to 0-2. In the second half it was a back to the wall affair with a great defensive effort to hold out on a final score line of 1-05 to 0-05. After the match the Brendan Keane Feile A Cup was presented to Doora Barefield captain Ian Williams.



U14 Clare Feile A Champions



Winning captain Ian Williams receiving the Feile A cup

### National Feile na nGael competition Cork.

After winning the Clare Feile A competition the U14s travelled to compete in the National Feile na nGael completion in Cork over the weekend of 14th-16th June. The team was hosted by Ballincollig GAA club on the outskirts of Cork city who were very generous hosts. The squad of 24 players were hosted by local families for the weekend. On the field of play the team performed well coming out of the group as the second placed team behind hosts Ballincollig in a group that also contained Iniscarra from Cork and Down champions Ballygalget. In the quarter finals the boys came up against a strong Valley Rovers team from Cork and were just pushed out after a titanic battle at Nemo Rangers GAA grounds. Going in at half time down 1.4 to 0.2 the Parish lads rallied and gave everything before they finally lost out to a very strong Valley Rovers side on the final score of 1.5 to 0.6. The Joseph's players represented their club and county so well and were unlucky not to make the semi-final.



Doora Barefield U14 Feile Squad with host club Ballincollig GAA Club, Cork

### Mentors

The U14 teams were managed and trained in 2019 by Denis Maher, Padraig Kelly, David Frawley, John Hoey, Sean Duggan, Ciaran O'Neill and Emmett Moran. A huge thanks is due to the families and supporters who travelled to all the matches and training session in what was a long but very enjoyable year. A special thanks also to the sponsors who supported the squad during 2019. And finally, best of luck to all the players involved as they move on up the age grades in the coming years.



## Under 15 Hurling

This years under 15 hurling championship was brought forward from its usual start date of late September to the first week in July with clubs only given 2 weeks' notice of this change. This sudden change meant that preparations for this championship were severely curtailed as this group of players were at the time training with Under 14 football and under 16 hurling championship teams. A decision was made not to train collectively for this championship as it would have a knock-on effect for the other teams these players were involved in and there were player welfare issues regarding over training. Having said that it was a level playing field as all the clubs in this competition faced the same issues.

Our first game was on the 9/7/2019 in a quarter final in Gurteen against a young Kilmaley team where we were successful on score line of 5-17 to 2-11.

Next up came an epic semi-final against Sixmilebridge when a last-minute goal for the Bridge brought the game to extra time in sweltering O'Garney Park. Down by a point going into the second half of extra time with tired and sore bodies the boys played with huge heart and determination to pull off a 2-point victory.

The final against our neighbours Clooney Quin was a disappointment in terms of the result going down by a score line of 2-15 to 1-13 but from a hurling and a development point of view was a success. This group although unsuccessful so far in winning a championship have now reached the U-13, U-14 and U 15A finals. There day will come.

As always, we entered a second Academy team to ensure that all the boys in the group get games and after some great results went down to a very good Clarecastle team in the Academy A final.

This fantastic group of young men have always taken great pride in wearing the club jersey and are a credit to their parents and our Club.

Special thanks to the Under 16 hurling management who trained the boys in this squad who were not involved in the Under 14 Football championship.

Thanks to the Under 14 hurling coaches and mentors who helped look after this group for the Under 15 campaign.



## Under 16 Hurling Report

The Under 16 Hurling squad commenced training in January. The championship was due to commence in early July but this was delayed due to the progress of the Clare Minor Hurlers in the Munster Championship and All Ireland series.

The U16A championship finally commenced in September and we had good wins over Tulla, Bodyke/Mills and Eire Og. We played a hard fought draw against Corofin Ruan and we lost by 3 points to Sixmilebridge. These results meant that we qualified to play Feakle/Killanena in the quarter final. This game was played in Tulia at the end of September and the lads played really well to win on a score line of 2.13 to 1.12.

We were then drawn to play Corofin/Ruan in the semi final. This game was played in Clarecastle on Saturday October 5th. This was an excellent game and the lads played really well and scored some excellent points. We scored 14 points from play in this game but the concession of 4 goals proved very costly and Corofin/Ruan ran out winners on a score line of 4.08 to 17 points. Management and players alike were very disappointed to lose at the semi final stage as we felt we would have been more than a match for eventual winners Sixmilebridge. However this group of players still have a very bright future as long as they continue to put in the hard work in training and continue to develop the skills they undoubtedly possess.

Our 2nd Under 16 team played in the U1 6A Bord naOg Shield competition and we played a total of six games in this competition and we had 2 wins, a draw and lost 3. We gave all players not on the first U16 team game time in these matches and all players really improved as the competition went on.

We would like to thank all the players for their efforts both in training and games this year which was excellent. Also a huge thanks to the parents for giving of their time to bring players to games and training. This bunch of players are a credit to their families and their club.

U16 management 2019: Raymond Power, Eamonn Corry, Donal Lahiffe, Sean Meaney, Caimin O'Connor and Alan O'Neill

## INTERMEDIATE FOOTBALL CLUB REPORT

by Kevin Frehill

Our Intermediate footballers started their season playing league football in the Garry Cup. They had a successful start to this campaign with a one-point win over O'Currys in very difficult conditions. This was followed up with a defeat to Doonbeg on a score line of 1-14 to 0-9. They bounced back quickly with a 2-point win over Kilfenora. Next up was Kilmihil away which proved to be a tough fixture with a narrow 1-point defeat. After this result improved dramatically and wins were recorded against Cratloe, Kiladysert and Corofin which secured qualification for a semi-final spot against Doonbeg. Unfortunately for the second time this year they were to come up short against Doonbeg in what a thrilling and high scoring game with Doonbeg was running out eventual 3-point winners on a score line of 4-12 to 4-9. A lot of encouragement was taken from league performances heading into Championship. First up in the Championship were eventual beaten finalists Kiladysert. St. Joseph's looked in control of this match when late in the second half a flurry of scores and an opportunist goal left them suddenly chasing the match heading into the final minutes. The team showed great character to record two late scores to salvage a draw. This left them in the position of needing a win in the final group match to guarantee qualification for the knockout phase of the competition. Naomh Eoin were the opponents and a ten-point win ensured they would finish top of the group. Next up was an encounter with Wolfe Tones in the quarter final. This game turned out to be a tight affair but a strong second half performance from St. Joseph's delivered a 5-point win. Their semi-final opponent was St. Breckans from Lisdoonvarna. The first half was extremely tight and coming to half time St. Josephs pounced for a goal through Conor Brannock. This left them 2 points up. St. Breckans responded strongly with 4 rapid fire scores to leave a 2-point deficit at half time. In the second half St. Breckans struck for two decisive goals. St. Josephs responded but never fully recovered and it was score for score for the rest of the game. That left a 7-point gap at the conclusion.

## Camogie Report

by Caroline O'Connor



### Under 6 Camogie

What a fantastic season our youngest players at U6 camogie level have had. We have had little girls who have never held a hurley before to ones who were born with one in their hand. It has been an absolute pleasure coaching these 30-40 young girls every Sunday morning at 10am. We focus a lot on FMS (Fundamental Movement Skills) at this level and the improvements in all the girls is evident when they got to play their all important match at the end of their session. From hurley hand, ready position, c swing and pucking the ball all to the tune of Baby Shark...smiles were there throughout. Our U6s broke into smaller groups for the drills where they learned the essential skills of camogie through rope drill, beanbag relays, bombs, partner pass, backs and forwards and take the dog for a walk to name just a few. We hope your little ones have enjoyed the season as much as us and for those moving up to U8 we hope you will like the challenge and for those remaining at U6 we hope you will continue to practice those skills with the enthusiasm shown all year.

As always none of our coaching sessions would be possible without the dedication and commitment of our U6 mentors/coaches. Can I sincerely thank each and everyone of you for helping out every Sunday and to all the parents for committing to bring their child to training each week.

Enjoy the break from your U6 coaches: Sandra, Tara, Dan, Darragh, Bernard and everyone else who helped out when we were short staffed

Sandra Flood

### Under 8 Camogie

The Under 8 girls began training at the start of April, with training taking place on Sunday mornings at 10 am and Wednesday evenings at 18:30. There were over 50 girls registered to play under 8 camogie this year, which are brilliant numbers for the club to have. At almost every training session, there was in the region of 30-40 players present and therefore it was essential that this age group had a sufficient number of coaches available to always ensure that sessions ran smoothly. Thankfully, a large number of dedicated people stepped forward to coach which always ensured that there were at least 4 or 5 coaches at each session.

Immediately it was apparent that this group are hugely enthusiastic and committed girls who yearn to learn the skills of the game whilst also having a fun, enjoyable time with their friends. It is lovely to see girls from the different parts of the parish all coming together to play and get to know each other.

Our first blitz of the year was hosted by Kilmaley on Saturday April 27th, where over 30 girls braved the aftermath of Storm Hannah, on a cold wet morning, to take on the hosts and Cratloe in three games. Further blitzes followed in May and June, hosted by Eire Og and Feakle-Killanena respectively.

We hosted a blitz in Gurteen on Saturday 27th July with teams from Whitegate, Kilmaley and Kilkee-Bealaha welcomed to our grounds. It was great to see 5 Doora-Barefield teams taking part in 5 matches simultaneously. Many thanks to the respective committees for making the super Gurteen facilities available. It is also important to acknowledge the contribution of some of the parents who helped out with teams on the day and also the parents who facilitated in providing refreshments etc for all that were present and it is safe to say that the visiting teams were suitably impressed.

Further blitzes took place in August, hosted by the Burren Club, with Inagh-Kilnamona hosting the final blitz of the year on



September 28th on a very wet morning.

In each and every blitz, the coaching team endeavoured to ensure that all girls got equal playing time in all positions and that each team was as even as possible. We finished training on Wednesday October 7th where each player was presented with a commemorative cert and some goodies.

From a coach's viewpoint, it was heartening to see the excellent progress that each of the girls made from the start of the year to the end. Hopefully the girls that are now moving on to Under 10's will be ready for the step up and the girls who are entering into their second year at under 8's should be looking forward to another great year of camogie!

It was a pleasure to work with these girls and we look forward to watching them play as they progress up through the age groups.

Noel Brodie

### Under 8 Coaching Team

Aisling Daly, Beatrice Kerins, Diane Hassett, Noel Purcell, Brian Flannery, Paul Mockler, Derek Quinn, Cathal O'Reilly & Noel Brodie

## ADULT CAMOGIE

This year has been a hugely successful year for adult camogie in our club with our Intermediate team capturing the Fr. Liam Murray Cup and subsequently progressing to a first ever Junior Munster Club Final while our Junior A team, having secured promotion in 2018, competed in the Division 5 League Final and Junior A Championship semi-final and then went on to play two stand out games in the Junior A Shield Final and Shield Final replay.

The year commenced with combined (Camogie and Football) physical training in the Fairgreen under the watchful eye of Frank Landy. Unfortunately, due to college and other commitments, not many of the adult camogie players got to benefit from Frank's expertise as, on occasion, there were more camogie mentors present in "The Green" than players. Challenge matches against Eire Og and Granagh/Ballingarry helped dust off the cobwebs of winter and set us up for the start of the adult League on St. Patrick's Weekend.

The adult league ran from mid-March to May. Our Junior team secured an opening round win against Ruan and narrowly lost out to Tulla in the second round. Further wins against Clooney, Whitegate and Feakle/Killanena saw us facing the ladies from "The Windswept Hill" in the League Final, a game in which Tulla ran out comfortable winners.



A close, physical match saw the girl's determination and great teamwork, edge out a win on a score line of DB 1-7, Kilrush 1-3. The previous week saw an equally determined, very young team take on Wolfe Tones in the U16C Shield final. Only four points separated the teams at half time, but again the second half saw a stronger performance by all on the field to finish DB 6-15 Wolfe Tones 5-2.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mike Roughan, Paula Byrne and Frank Landy for their enthusiasm, energy and commitment this year. The mentors would also like to acknowledge the U16 girls. It was a pleasure working with each and every one of the girls who displayed a great attitude and team spirit all year. We hope that they continue to believe in themselves and continue playing football well into the future.

*Michael Meaney*

## JUNIOR AND MINOR REPORT

### Junior

We had two Junior teams for League and Championship. In the league we played in Division 3 and Division 4. We got to the Division 3 final but unfortunately on the day we lost to Eire Og.

### Minor

Minor A – Our last match of the 2019 season was the Minor A Final played against the Banner in Cooraclare on Sunday 17th November at 7.00pm. If it was the last match of the year it was certainly worth waiting for where the supporters were treated to a super game of Football. Only 2 points separated the teams at half time. Banner drew level with the first few points in the second half but within minutes the parish girls went ahead with a goal and from then on Barefield were on top finishing on a score line of 4-13 to Banner's 2-08. Aisling Reidy captained the team on the night and also presented with player of the match.

In minor B, we played Doonbeg, Fergus Rovers and Kilmihil. We qualified for the Shield Semi-final, where we beat Eire Og setting up a final with Doonbeg. We played Doonbeg in Doonbeg as Cooraclare pitch where it was originally fixed was unplayable. In the final we produced a thrilling performance to win 3-07 to 1-06. A great performance by the girls considering that all the panel are u16s and u15s. The future is bright for these girls. I would like to thank all the individuals that helped this year in running the teams they include Debbie Lenihan, Mhairi Barron, Noel Nagle, and Michelle O'Brien.

We also had 8 players on the Minor Clare Panel – Siofra Ní Chonaill (Capt.) Aisling Reidy, Chloe Towey, Muireann Collins, Amy Lenihan, Aisling Hannon & Aoibheann O'Loughlin. I would also like to thank Marie O'Loughlin, Annette Reidy and Iomhar Daly for coming on board to train the minor teams.

*Gerry Clarke*

## SENIOR LADIES FOOTBALL REPORT 2019

In our 1st year in Senior football we started off with the Senior football league in a group of 5 teams which consisted of Doora Barefield, Banner, Kilmihil, West Clare Gaels and Cuil Gaels. In our 1st league game we played Cuil Gaels in Gurteen where we won, we then went on to play the Banner where we lost. We also played Kilmihil and won that match and in our last group game we got a walk over from West Clare Gaels. We finished 2nd in our group to qualify for the league final. In the league final v Banner, we were beaten by a stronger Banner team.

In the Senior Championship we were in a group of 4 which consisted of West Clare Gaels, Kilmihil, Cuil Gaels and Doora Barefield. We played 2 championship matches on the 25th of June v West Clare Gaels and 30th of June v Kilmihil. We were beaten in both games and in our final group game on the 25th of August we played Cuil Gaels with the winner advancing to the semi-final and the loser relegated to the Intermediate championship for 2020. We beat Cuil Gaels to advance to the Semi-final where we played the Banner. We were beaten by the Banner and as a losing semi-finalist we ended up in a Senior B final against West Clare Gaels. We beat West Clare Gaels to win our 1st senior trophy. In total this year we played 13 games which included 9 competitive games and 4 challenge games.

I would like to thank the players for their effort and commitment this year in what was at times a challenging year. I would also like to thank the parents for bringing the players to training and matches and the support they give to the players and management. The club committee for their help and support and the time and commitment they give to help the club progress and prosper.

Finally, my appreciation to the Senior management team of Mark Rafferty, Annette Reidy, Gerry Clarke, Denise Clerkin and Aidan Moynihan for their commitment and help throughout the year for which I am very grateful for. We had 2 players on the Clare Senior ladies football squad this year, Aisling Reidy and Siofra Ní Chonaill who contributed a lot to the Clare Senior set up this year. We also had 8 players on the county minor football squad this year.

*Paul Conway*



*Ladies Football Minor A Champions*

Small consolation can be taken from being beaten by eventual champions in St. Brecken's, but the team were extremely disappointed to exit at the semi-final stage. There was a lot of standout performances throughout the year. Eoghan Thyne and Conor Brannock were a danger and a handful for all defences throughout both campaigns and contributed plenty of scores this season. There were strong performances throughout from players such as Darragh O'Shea and Brian Guilfoyle. Huge commitment and leadership were shown by players such as Kevin Harrington, Kevin Dilleen and Philip Ryan. Lots of new young players were given their first experience of Adult Football. Cian McDonagh and Aodhan O'Shea are examples of two minors making the breakthrough. With lots of good young talent coming through the future looks bright for this group.

## JUNIOR A FOOTBALL

St. Joseph's Junior A footballers began 2019 in division 6 of the league. They started their campaign with a comfortable victory over Eire Og. They suffered a 4-point defeat to Cooraclare in their next outing but recovered quickly to record an excellent 6-point win over Meelick. This left them in a play-off for the Semi-final against St. Brecken's. This turned out to be an epic three match battle. The sides could not be separated after extra time on the first two occasions. In the third match St. Joseph's finally got the upper hand with a 3-point victory. This put them into a semi-final against Meelick to battle for promotion to division 5. This was to be played much later in the season. Meanwhile the championship got underway with a tough challenge against Ballyvaughan. A dismal first half performance left St. Joseph's trailing heavily at half-time. A much-improved performance was delivered in the second half, but the deficit was too great to overcome but pride was restored. This defeat was followed up with a very good performance against Kilrush. St. Joseph's were free scoring and delivered a victory on a score line of 1-14 to 0-9. This gave them great heart that a result in the final group game would guarantee knock out football. Up next was Meelick. This match was a tight affair but Meelick proved to be the more clinical team and St. Joseph's failed to take their chances. A final result of 0-15 to 0-6 meant that the campaign ended there. All that was left was to compete for promotion to division 5 and Meelick again would be the opponent in the league semi-final. This was not to be St. Joseph's day with Meelick running out comfortable winners. A lot of players performed very well for the Junior A team this year and ended up being needed to make the step up to the intermediate set up which was really pleasing. Great experience was gained for young players and the team was extremely competitive throughout the season. Great commitment to the team was shown from players such as Peter O'Toole, Barry Galvin, Caomhán Ó Braonáin and Ciaran Browne among many more.

## UNDER 21 FOOTBALL

Football Management: Kieran Ryan, Peadar Mc Mahon & Morgan Rowland

The U/21 Championship was an old school straight knockout competition. We were drawn in the quarter final against St. Breckans. The intermediate teams from the same parishes had met the week before in the semi-final of the championship. With Breckans coming out on top.

Going into the game we were hopeful the winning minor team of 2016, would backbone the team for the season. We had high hopes, but as is typical of the u 21s, preparation was limited. Tom Hannnans injury was a terrible blow for both him and the club. We wish him a speedy recovery.

What was sad to see was the loss of so many players from the 2016 panel. We must address the constant loss of talented players when they leave minor. It is a national issue, but it doesn't mean we can't try to address the issue locally.

Playing many current minors, we played Breckans in Corofin. Losing Eoin Thynne early in the first half would derail any team and despite a late goal from captain Cian Barron we lost eventually by four points. The challenge going forward is trying to keep these players from minor to senior. But we still had a large talented panel consisting of seventeen to twenty-one-year olds. It was a disappointing end to the underage careers of some very promising talent. The hope is that they bring their experience now into the intermediate panel and progress the team to senior.

Many thanks to all players for their commitment.

## MINOR FOOTBALL REPORT

*Kieran Ryan/ Albert Hardiman/Paudie O'Callaghan/Paul Scahill*

With high hopes we entered this year's minor championship. Many new players joined the panel from the successful u16 winning team. Giving these boys game time in various different positions hopefully helped them in their future development. We registered league wins against Cooraclare, Breckans, Miltown, and Clooney/Quin.

Our final game in the group brought us to Corofin. This was always going to be the deciding game of the qualifiers. It also highlighted the plight of the dual player and multi age group player. Our u16 hurlers were deep into their hurling championship and were playing three games a week. Going well they were very hopeful of winning their semi-final in a few days' time. We made, what we believe to be, the correct decision to rest all these players to give them every chance to win that game. Although we ended up losing the game it was still the right decision.

Onto a quarter final with Wolfe Tones away in Shannon. Despite the pitch not being lined and a very late start we won easy and progressed to the semi-final against our opponents in last year's final, Ennistymon.

Back in Miltown on a cold wet windy miserable night in October we faced a team that had failed to win the last two county finals at this grade. That hurt and pain was to get them over the line on a night that you would not put any animal out in. The first half was played in a squall. A storm blew into our faces in the first half and also heavy rain cut into the players as they defended gallantly. With four minutes to go to half time we had managed to keep our goal intact. But eventually they breached our line. We were happy at half time how we had defended and maybe but for a few errant and inexperienced passes we may have been closer. It was a time for experience and patience. But unfortunately, we showed a little bit of panic and probably didn't do ourselves justice as the wind died in the second half. But let there be no mistake. The better team won on the night.

We hope that the pain and disappointment stand to our boys going forward. The talent is undeniable in the squad. But as the girl's minor football team showed by winning back to back Minor titles. Only the most dedicated and hardworking teams can retain titles. So, we look forward to some challenging and successful times in the future.

Thank you to all panel members especially those that will move on to 21s and senior hopefully next.

Thank you also to the parents who nearly have to commit as much time as the players do.

*Thanks to all for the support.  
Kieran*



## JUVENILE CLUB REPORT

### U6 Football Report

*Kieran Ryan / John Garvey*

6pm every Friday from March to October we welcomed enthusiastic energetic four five and six-year-old boys to the AstroTurf. It was my pleasure to start these players on their journey. Fundamental movement skills of running, jumping, turning etc., were the order of the day at every session. Game full activities that introduced the basics needed to progress to ball skills. Progression was evident and the emphasis on fun meant the boys (hopefully) looked forward to the hour every week.

We introduced the skills of football into the sessions and come our two blitzes in October we could see the boy's movement and skill levels were a match for anyone. Some of our older boys will move up now to u/8s with John and I am confident they will fit in seamlessly with the u7s. To the four- and five-year olds that will be with a new set of coaches next year we wish them all the very best. I hope you continue to kick ball in some form during the winter because you enjoy it.

The blitz v the Banner and Clondegad were very enjoyable evenings with parents watching full of praise for the boys as they tried to score their first goal or save their first shot. Plenty of game time plenty of touches on the ball and some fun. And in fairness plenty of chatting between players too!! The competitive side in the older boys was starting to come out too!!

Thanks again to all the parents especially John, Ken, James, Morgan, Brian who helped out all year. We will need, and very much will welcome, anyone willing to give a hand next year.

See you all next year!!

### U8 Football Report



We have just completed a fantastic year with our U8 Boy's Footballers. We began training in early March and the numbers grew and grew as the year progressed. Over 60 children played in our football blitzes throughout the year and the enjoyment levels and progress made was truly brilliant. We trained every Wednesday and Friday evening in co-operation with our U8 hurlers. We played in ten blitzes between April and October, culminating in a trip in early October to Athlone, where the children and coaches enjoyed a fantastic day out.

Our coach's enthusiasm and effort shone through during the year and a special thanks to our mentors, Tom, Mervyn, Albert, Ivens, Kieran, Donie, Bernard, Mike, Cian and Christy for all their work throughout the year. A very special thanks also to the wonderful parents who brought their children all over the county to training

and blitzes and who provided teas, sandwiches and other delicious treats at our blitzes in Gurteen.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh ar son gach rud agus tá súil againn go mbeidh gach duine ar ais an bhliain seo chugainn. Peadar McMahon

### Naomh Seosamh Dubhraith faoi 11 Peil Ghaelach 2018/2019 Season



Over 25 games played for the season, 27 names available for selection. Between 24 and 27 players available for most scheduled match's during the season. Strong attendance at most training sessions. Strong performances against all teams for home and away games and great support from parents.

The U11 group of footballers are a great group of young lads. They have developed their football skills and fitness levels consistently through the season with a great attitude, a willingness to contribute. They have represented the club very well all season both on and off the pitch. Sean Corey set the tone for what has been a good year for the U12/U11 football group with well organised winter strength and conditioning sessions that the group benefited greatly from all year. This was followed by training sessions twice weekly. When the first games for the season started on May 19th we were up to the pace from the off.

Games included Clooney Quinn 15th May, Clooney Quinn (Team 2) 29th May, Cooraclare, Miltown Malbay 19th June, followed by the conclusion on a warm evening in Cusack park on June 25th. There we drew with Lissycasey and beat Wolf Tones. The teams then broke into under 11's and under 13's. Training continued, and we had two good challenge games against the U12 Girls one on the 22nd July and another on the 12th Aug. Next up we attended a tournament In Corofin Galway on August 24th. There the All-Ireland Club Champions 2018/19 hosted an enjoyable event. Our club performed well on the day with the u11s winning against Claremorris and Templeogue Synge Street, only to be narrowly beaten by Corofin and then faced the competition overall winners Kilmacud Crokes.

Training then continued with an eye to the October League. We hosted The Banner on October 4th, Éire Óg on 20th October and Wolf Tones on 25th October. Our Lissycasey game fell foul to the Weather. We are now taking a break and are looking forward to re-grouping in the new year with the players coming up from the 10s and forming a strong U12 group.

The group I know benefited from all the help received from a number of people. Sean Corey, Enda O'Gara, Adrian Frawley, Dermot Daly (Martins Dad), Brian Dilleen, Cathal O'Reilly, Larry Whelan, Joe Queally, James Breslin and others.

I also would like to congratulate the Barefield National School on their recent Victory in the school's competition and well done to all involved.

day for u12 girls' football in the Parish. Indeed, I think Marion was looking down on us and kept the rain away. We certainly hope that the club will make this an annual event in Marion's honour and that it will only get bigger and better.

Finally, we would like to thank all that supported us throughout the year and look forward to 2020.

*Yours in Sport,  
Marie O'Loughlin*



*Ladies Football U12*

### U14 Report



*Ladies Football U14A*

For 2019 we had 46 U14 girls signed up for training.

Training started on the 14th January at Lee's road astro-turf.

We played in an U14 Blitz at Staker Wallace GAA complex in Limerick on 23rd March, putting in strong performances in all games.

Training moved back to Mondays and Thursdays on the pitches in Gurteen from the 25th March.

We entered 2 teams in the Clare Feile competition which was played in Mid April. The Div 2 team played Clarecastle and West Clare Gaels on the 14th April in Kilkee and put in a good performance but were up against first teams from other clubs and did not progress to the finals. This team got another opportunity when Clare were allowed bring a 3rd Team to Feile. The girls reached the final vs Clarecastle. Although the gap had closed between the first day they played, Clarecastle were still too strong for us and they went forward to Feile.

The Div 1 team played their Feile matches in Clarecastle on 21st April. They put in a strong showing against Fergus Rovers which put them into a Semifinal vs ClooneyQuin. The girls played some brilliant football and progressed to the final.

In the final we played Banner and were well in the game at half time. In the 2nd half the Banner pulled ahead and even though we got a great goal to put us back in the Banner took the silverware on the day.

The U14 league started towards the end of May. We entered 2 teams in Div A and Div C. Both teams performed well in all matches which meant both teams qualified for the League Finals. The Div A Team played Banner in the Div 1 final on the 11th July. Again a really tight and tough encounter but Banner were too strong for us on the day. The Div C Team played Clarecastle on the 13th July. This was the 3rd time we had played them and it was for sure the girls best performance against them.

Unfortunately we got caught by a late goal which meant Clarecastle won it on the day.

The U14 Championship started in mid August and again we entered 2 teams in Div A and Div C. The Div C team, put in some great performances in this Championship, narrowly losing to Kilmihil, winning against Fergus Rovers and staging a brilliant comeback in Gurteen to win vs Cul Gaels that put them into Div C semifinal. Again they stepped up to the plate to beat Kilmihil and qualify for the Div C Cup Final. In the Div C Cup Final they faced a much stronger opposition vs Kilrush's 1st team on the 12th of October. They battled hard but once Kilrush got on top they pushed on and went on to win it. The Div A team won all their group matches in the 1st stages of the Championship which meant they got a home semifinal where they played ClooneyQuin which they won well to reach the final and once again their opposition was the Banner. This was another tough encounter but was without doubt this team's best performance of the year. They had to work for everything in a game that was end to end with only 1 point between the teams half way through the 2nd half. But their determination really came to the fore and they pushed on to score 6 unanswered points to win the U14A Championship. As enjoyable as the win was, it was the quality of the football they played that was great to see all around the pitch in a fully deserved victory.

We also had a very enjoyable day out at the Ladies Football finals on September 15th and got to play 2 challenge matches vs Lucan Sarsfields in the process.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the girls themselves for all their efforts all year, their parents for getting them to training and matches and for providing hospitality for visiting teams that came to play challenges in Gurteen during the year.

Thank to all the U14 Management team – John Torpey, Trysha Barry, Breda O'Driscoll, Martin Lillis and Enda O'Flaherty.

### U16 Report



*Ladies Football U16*

2019 was a successful year for the U16s, we entered two teams in the A and C division and were successful in winning two finals. The A team reached the cup final on the 16 May against a very strong Kilrush team who had beaten us earlier in the championship.



As another year comes to an end the club has had another successful year with Championship wins in U12 Shield Final, U14A, U16A U16C, Minor A, Minor C Shield, Senior Shield Winners. Our registration numbers were up again this year. We would like to thank all our sponsors for their continued support, to all our parents/grandparents and players who helped with our fundraising activities.

We would also like to thank Aileen Vaughan who has stepped down as Secretary of the Club and Mhairi Barron as Treasurer for their hard work over the last few years.

Finally, a special thanks to all the hard-working team managers, mentors and selectors for promoting Ladies Football within the club and of course the participation of both parents and players. We would also like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a prosperous and healthy New Year.

*Ladies Football Committee*

## U6/U8 Report

We have had up to 50 girls training each Monday night at 6.30. U8s continued training all summer while the U6s took a short break. Our U8 girls amazed us during their blitzes and challenge games showing off all the skills they had learned during training. Their passion for wearing the Doora Barefield jersey was evident throughout as they displayed great teamwork and commitment. Our U6s equally amazed us by mastering the skills of soloing, hand passing and kicking within a few short weeks. The future of Doora Barefield football is bright with these enthusiastic, energetic young girls. Our training session would not have run as smoothly as they did without the dedication and commitment of our coaches and mentors. Can we thank our U6 coaches: Carol, Tara, Louise and Caroline and our U8 coaches: Noel, Dan, Frank, Caimen, Andrew, Beatrice, Therese, and Sandra who have passed on their love of the sport? Keep practicing those skills girls and see you all in March.

*Sandra Flood U6/U8 Mentors*

## U10 Report

Doora Barefield U10 girls started back training twice a week in March, with an average of 29 girls per session. Our decision to introduce a second training session on Saturday mornings was met with great energy and enthusiasm from both the girls and parents. Our girls fulfilled their blitz schedule, hosting two at Gurteen. All the while showing great improvement with each game. We also participated in the Brian Casey Memorial Tournament by way of invitation from Fergus Rovers Ladies. This was a first for ladies' football to be involved in this annual tournament. We also hosted Fergus Rovers and Burren Gaels for five challenge games over July and August.

Over the summer months our girls really grew in confidence with great displays of the basic skills. A real highlight of the season was our trip to Passage West Ladies Football blitz. Thirty-four of our girls travelled with real excitement and wore the Doora Barefield Jersey with pride as they competed against teams from across Ireland.

Overall as we look back on our year with the girls, we can see some very good footballing talent and real leaders emerging that will represent the club with great success in the future. On the back of what was a great season for our girls with great attendances, attitude and commitment to our game, we have welcomed our U10

girls back for indoor training which started on Thursday November 7th. The focus over the next 19 sessions will be to go back to the basic skills and get each of the girls confident in their footballing abilities.

A big thanks to Regina O Connell, Dave Barry and Paudie Dorgan as they move on to the U12'S. Our remaining mentors Marianne Casey, Dave Frawley, Steve Lahiffe, Robert O'Doherty and Sean Morrissey are looking forward to the new season ahead.

*Declan Lahiff, U10 Mentor*

## U12 Report

2019 saw a wonderful year of development within our U12 girls' squad. Under the guidance of Caroline Keane, Shiela O'Rourke, Sean McCormack, Brendan McGann, Paul Prederville and myself we started out back in February. By the end of the year we were extremely proud of how far these girls had progressed throughout the year.

We had big numbers attending training and had two teams in both the league and the championship.

In the Division 1 league our Tigers team had matches West Clare Gaels, Newmarket on Fergus, Kilrush and Fergus Rovers where they reached the Div 1 League Final. In a tough match against Fergus Rovers sadly they were beaten. In the Division 4 league our Lions teams had matches against Kildysart, Eire Og, Fergus Rovers 2, Liscannor and East Clare Gaels. While some of these matches were extremely hard on these girls as they were up against 1st team clubs they all gained huge match experience and they all performed to the best of their ability which saw their confidence growing with each match. The league concluded at the end of May.

In early June Championship commenced. Our Tigers team who were performing in the Div 1 A championship had matches against Kilrush, West Clare Gaels, Fergus Rovers, Newmarket and Corofin. In this championship we reached the Div 1 Shield final against West Clare Gaels. We travelled back to Doonaha mid-August to play a tough West Clare Gaels side and unfortunately West Clare Gaels came out on top that evening. It was a disappointing result for us. Our Lions teams competed in the Div 4 D championship and had matches against Liscannor, Eire Og, East Clare Gaels, Wolfe Tones 2, Kildysart and Corofin 2. The girls reached the Plate Final against Wolfe Tones. This match was played under lights in Shannon where the girls came out worthy winners. This was a huge achievement for these girls as for some of these girls it was their first time ever playing football for their Parish and it was a very proud moment for us as mentors to see how far these girls had developed as lady footballers.

With Championship and League Football finished by Mid-August we felt that the girls would regress if we did not continue with their football development. With that in mind we decided to re-establish the Marion Keane Tournament. Traditionally this tournament was an U14 County Development tournament but had for one reason or another had fallen through the cracks at County Board level. We felt we needed to bring it back to the Club as in reality none of us would be here but for Marion.

It was a tremendous success. We had 16 teams compete in a competitive tournament and all reports have been exceptional. The A tournament saw Kilrush winners when they beat the U12 County Limerick champions Mungret. We were very proud of our Tigers team reaching the semi-final of the A Tournament. It was a fabulous

2019 / 20 season will be on us fast and the U12's will be up for it again. Progress will be assured once we can put a team of 4 together to bring on this enthusiastic group.

*Signed on Behalf of U 11 Football - N Thornton*

## Doora Barefield Under 12 Football

This year started with the same enthusiasm as previous years, not long after finishing their U10 football careers the lads tore into a combined Football / Hurling Winter programme designed to improve their agility, coordination and skills. This continued until the pitches re-opened with their first outdoor training session at the beginning of March. The lads trained twice a week in preparation for the U12 League, with challenge games against The Banner, Oranmore, Mungret and Clondegad. We made the decision early in the season to enter 3 teams into the U12 League, this stretched us at times but gave all the lads loads of competitive game time. Between the three teams we played nearly every team in the county, starting with Lissycasey in the first round on the 24th March. We won some, lost some but at all times played with the hearth and passion that Doora Barefield's underage teams are known for. The U12 League finished with a day out in Cusack Park where the lads took part in four finals! During the League we were lucky enough to be chosen to represent the Club in Croke Park, where the lads were pitted against Newmarket, Ardfinan and Douglas followed by a tour of the stadium. 25 of the U12s travelled and all had a great day out. The competitive season finished up with a trip to Corofin, Co. Galway where we entered three teams into the James Collins Invitational Under 12's Tournament, here we played teams from Dublin, Sligo and Galway and again the lads done the club proud.

On behalf of the U12 mentors we would like to send out a big thank you to Ryans Design Kitchens on the Tulla Road for sponsoring the U12 jerseys this year and to Ryans Centra on Clonroad More for sponsoring training tops for the lads. To all the parents who drove them to training twice a week and to every corner of the county to play matches, thank you. A big thank you to Carmel Kelly for organizing a great day out for the lads. To Joe Mac, the Minor Committee and everyone involved with Doora Barefield for their continued support. Lastly to the U12 Hurling mentors who facilitated us at every request when we needed slots, help, etc our relationship through the year proves what can be achieved.

*U12 Mentors - Larry Whelan, Cathal O Reilly and Sean Corey*



*U12 Football*

## U 14 Football

2019 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, Corofin (Galway) Bearnna and Clann na nGael (Roscommon). We also hosted Kildimo/Pallas (Limerick), Corofin (Galway) and Austin Stacks (Kerry) in a tournament in Gurteen. In the group stages of the county competition we defeated Lissycasey and Clooney/Quin. In the semi-final we overcame Wolfe Tones which set up a final between ourselves and Lissycasey, which we won to jubilant celebrations.

We then took a break from training until the end of May, when we resumed in preparation for the National Finals of Féile in Connaught and our own U14 championship. Our host club for Féile were Killannin GAA club in Galway. 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 CLG Michael Breathnach, lost by 2 points to Killannin and by a point to North London – the eventual Cup winners. This left us in a Sheild Quarter final where we overcame St. Bridgid's (Roscommon). In the semi-final we defeated Arklow Geraldines (Wicklow) and in a tense and nerve-racking final we eventually overcame St Dominic's (Roscommon). This victory was no more than this group of players deserved and we returned that night to great celebrations in The Grove.

In preparation for our championship we again played Kildimo / Pallas and Claregalway in challenge matches. As our championship took place during the summer months, we were hindered by the holiday season, but we managed to make the knockout stages. We defeated Lissycasey in the semi-final to set up a meeting in the final with Kilrush/Killimer. This went right to the end with Doora Barefield eventually coming out on top by four points. This was the perfect end, to a perfect year! Our U14 Academy team went through their competition unbeaten. In a highly entertaining final, they overcame Clooney/Quin.

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 Galway and at the finals in the Connaught Centre of Excellence. Without your support they 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 – Paul Prendeville, Gerry Lynam, Noel Nagle, Michael Flynn and Philip Mc Elroy.

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 Football*



## U 15 Football

Our u15 Footballers commenced training in March in preparation for 2019 season where we played in division 3 of the u16 championship.

The first match took place on 4th April against Clan Lir in Michael Cusacks GAA pitch. In a tough assignment we lost out to a good attacking Clan Lir outfit. Our next match on 10th April we took on the west Clare amalgamation of Niamh Eoin O Currys Killkee. Having come out on the wrong side in 2018 at home in Gurteen we knew if we wanted to get anything from this game, we would have to dig deep and that's what this team did winning on a score line of 2.6 to 1.6.

Our next match mid-May was a trip to Corofin where once again we were victorious. A trip to Lisdoonvarna to take on St Breckans on 14th May was our next outing and it was here we saw out boys play their best football of the campaign. High fielding and some super score taking was the order of the day as we won on a score line of 4.9 to 2.8.

With Parteen and Ennistymon withdrawing from the division 3 competition and with the commencement of the junior cert there was a break taken.

Recommencing in July we were through to the semi-final where we were pitted against St Breckans. Played in neutral Kilfenora on a wet miserable day in late July it was here our campaign came to an end as we were beaten by the eventual winners of the competition. St Breckans beat the Naomh Eoin O Currys Killkee 1.9 to 2.5 in Cusack Park on Aug 7th to lift the u16 division 3 title.

Later on, in November we took part in the u15 football championship where we got a bye into the semi-final after Eire Og withdrew. On a heavy pitch in Wolfe times in Shannon on Fri 15th November we lost to the hosts.

2019 has been a good year for this group of lads and having good numbers at training and being able to enter 2 u16 teams in competition in 2019 was a great achievement and our gratitude is extended to the parents who brought the boys to matches and training all year.

Participation is key to retaining high numbers and interest among this group and our numbers ranged from 18 to 22 players for the u16 division 3 championship and 29 players tagging out for our u15 semi-final against Wolfe tones.

Finally, to our mentors John power, Paudie Dorgan, and Paul Guilfoyle many thanks for the time hard work and dedication you have given and shown to this group of lads all year.

2020 brings more challenges for this group, retaining the u16A football title being one of them the other being the junior cert examination.

Here's hoping they pass both with flying colours!!!

*Yours in sport, Glen Monaghan*

## U 16 Football County Champions

*by Albert Hardiman*

What a year for all the players, mentors and families of the Doora Barefield U16 football squad. Training commenced in February 2019 with 13 players turning up in Gurteen on a very cold night. The numbers grew as the weeks progressed and it was difficult to prepare tactically as our club players were also committed to both hurling and football with their County Minor teams. The Championship was based on a league format which included games against Clonegad, Kilrush, Shannon Gaels, Ennistymon, Corofin

and Lissycasey, respectively. The parish boys were victorious in all games and the battle for team selection was fierce. The panel was now made up of 31 players competing for the starting 15 positions. This provided to be a testing time for the management team who had to deliberate on a team for every game to challenge the opponents. We were fortunate to have used every player available on the quest to retaining the U16 County Championship title. The championship was put on hold for the months of May and June to facilitate all students sitting examinations so that they could concentrate on their studies.

Upon recommencement of the championship Doora Barefield were pitted against a formidable Corofin side that were in a confident mood. The game was played at Éire Óg's grounds. As expected, the game was a very evenly contested encounter between two teams boasting an array of Inter-County players. The skill and honest endeavour were on view for all supporters in attendance with Doora Barefield winning with a score line of 2-13 to 3-5.

The final took place in Cusack Park on 7th August 2019 and Doora Barefield faced a very strong Ennistymon side. The weather conditions were perfect, and the summer sun was kind to both teams that evening. A number of changes were made after the programme was printed and the mind games began as referee Barry Keating threw in the ball. Players from both sides contested every loose ball vigorously and every mistake was punished by ruthless forwards who scored at almost every opportunity. The young men in the maroon and white seemed to relish the big occasion and for 20 minutes hit Ennistymon with 4-4 without reply. The final score 6-9 to 2-12 offers no evidence on how evenly contested this game was throughout. Doora Barefield successfully managed to capture a second U16 Title in a row and a huge amount of credit goes out to all the players and coaching staff of all ages. The evidence is there for all to see and the future looks so bright! A big thank you goes out to all the parents, families and friends who continue with their support. Thank you!

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**ST. JOSEPH'S DOORA/BAREFIELD**

**Fir Ionaid**

1. Eoin Clune  
2. Jack Power  
3. Jack Scahill  
4. Dara McMahon  
5. Samuel Costelloe  
6. Fionn Kelleher  
7. Cian Lahiffe  
8. Eoin Talty  
9. Dara Nagle  
10. James Curran  
11. Oisín O'Donnell  
12. Matthew Power  
13. Nicki Hardiman  
14. Michael Nash  
15. Joseph Rafferty

**Bainistiocht**

Selectors:  
Albert Hardiman  
John Power  
Glen Monaghan  
Paudie Dorgan  
Paul Guilfoyle

Thank you to all our Sponsors  
Parents & Supporters for the Support throughout the year

Under 16 Div 1 Final



U 16 Football County Champions

## School Coach Report



*by Christy O'Connor*

### St Joseph's Schools Coach Programme continues to gain Momentum



Tuesday May 21st was a massive fiesta of GAA in Gurteen as the Senior Infants and First Class students of the three parish schools, Doora, Knockanaen and Barefield came together for a monster blitz across both codes. In total, 237 children were in attendance, along with 15 teachers, staff members and special needs assistants.

Temperatures rose to the low-20s on what was a perfect afternoon for the event. The children took part in 5v5 mini-games in Hurling/Camogie and Gaelic football/Ladies football, with each child receiving a medal at the end of the day. All of the games were refereed by children from the older classes.

The event was a huge success and was one of the main highlights of the St Joseph's Doora Barefield GAA School Coaching Programme for 2018/19, which ran from 10 September 2018 to the end of June 2019. And the programme continues to grow in strength.

Across the academic year, precedence was given to younger class groups in terms of timetabling. September to Easter break saw classes from Senior Infants to Third/Fourth class groups taking part. Junior Infants then joined the timetable from the recommencement of schools in early May.

The opening terms of the academic year saw a focus on Gaelic Football, which was run concurrently with Gaelic/Ladies Football Cumann na mBunscoil competitions. Skills prioritised in the programme included the solo, kick-passing, hand-passing and catching.

January saw the introduction of Hurling/Camogie to the programme with the majority of time given to skills such as grip, ground strike, hand-pass, catch and jab/roll lift. Cumann na mBunscoil within Hurling/Camogie ran across May and June.

Throughout the year, time at the start of each session was given to

Fundamental Movements and ABCs. Each session also included a gameplay element at the end, either in the form of small-sided games and/or fun games.

Once again, the three schools proved to be extremely accommodating by way of timetabling, with the principals and teachers aiming to work around their scheduled time-slot when it came to other extra-curricular activities, plays, musicals, First Communion/Confirmation rehearsals etc. In fact, it was extremely rare that any class group missed their slot in the weekly timetable.

Weather had very little effect on the programme in 2018/2019. Barefield NS was not interrupted at all (through the access of their hall) while Doora and Knockanaen only missed two half days each due to rain/ice.

With the club camps also a part of the programme, the Easter Camp was held between April 23rd-26th, with the Summer Camp taking place between August 6th-9th. Once again, the roster of coaches was filled by club members, most of whom are either in secondary school or college.

The great work being done in the programme is evidently transferring to the pitches in Gurteen. A central aim is to build and strengthen the link and identity between the schools and the club and huge thanks must go to the school principals – John Burns, Jim Curran and Mary Curley. The club are also indebted to the teachers for their continued support of the programme.

After four years in the position as Schools Coach, Liam Clancy stepped away from the role in September. Liam did a brilliant job during his term in developing and shaping the programme, and the club would like to extend their best wishes to Liam in his new role as National Club and Education Officer with the Camogie Association.

After an extensive interview process in September, Damian Burke was selected as Liam's replacement. The club are delighted to have somebody of Damian's caliber and ability. And St Joseph's Doora-Barefield are in no doubt that the coaching programme will continue to get stronger in the future.