



ST. JOSEPHS DOORA BAREFIELD GAA CLUB



Intermediate Hurling Champions 2022



Junior A Hurling Champions 2022

NEWSLETTER 2023



ST JOSEPHS DOORA BAREFIELD GAA

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3 generations of the Hannon family celebrating in Cusack Park



U16 Hurling County Champions



SECRETARY'S REPORT 2022

2022 was a great year for the club, especially on the field, winning the intermediate and junior hurling championships, runners up in the minor hurling final, semi-finalist in the minor football, winners in U15 football championship, runners up in U14 hurling championship and at the time of writing this report the U16 hurling team are playing a County final replay in the U16 hurling championship. The Secretary extends his congratulations to the management, coaches and players of all competing teams and especially to the teams and management who reached county finals and won.

Over the past 20 years, Michael Guilfoyle has given allot of time to the club managing and coaching underage teams and in recent times managing the successful intermediate hurling team. Michael will be stepping down from the post of hurling manager. I congratulate Michael in managing the winning intermediate hurling team. The club will be seeking nominations for the post of Senior Hurling Manager.

At the Committee meeting on the 17th of November, Michael McMahon announced that he will be stepping down from his role as Facilities Manager. Michael has held this role since the Gurteen facility was built. The committee acknowledged Michael's excellent work, which is demonstrated by the excellent level of upkeep and maintenance in the facilities. Michael also managed the roster for both the Astro and the Hall, which required keeping records of cash receipts. Michael will continue to sit on the Club Executive Committee and will co-ordinate the space reconfiguration for the Coffee Shop. The Chairman and the entire committee expressed its gratitude to Michael for all the years of voluntary service that he has given to the Club. The club is seeking nominations for the post of facilities manager.

Congratulations to the Clare Senior Hurlers in reaching the All Ireland Hurling Semi-Final. The success of the Clare team was mirrored by a corresponding increase in the workload of all club secretaries as there was a change in the process for allocating tickets to members. This required collating requests, allocating codes and at times purchasing tickets using the Chairman's credit card. Eventually with the assistance of Aiden Bohannon we came up with a process, whereby members could purchase the tickets themselves using codes distributed by the secretary. Both Robert Hurley and Vinnie Sheedy provided allot of assistance in the code allocation process.

This was my first year as secretary of the club. St. Josephs Doora Barefield is a big club, membership of 761 excluding the Camogie and Ladies Football. At adult level including U21s, there are 7 teams, 4 hurling teams and 3 football. Next year it is planned to have an additional hurling team at Junior B level. At underage, the number of competitive teams in both codes is in the region of 18. The management of these teams requires allot of co-ordination, with club officers having to attend games, coordinate team sheets etc. At adult level, Denis Maher provided allot of assistance, providing secretarial support to the junior and U21 in both codes.

At minor level, the minor committee coordinated all activities, and I would like to acknowledge the work of Bill Clohessey (Chairman), Olive Harvey (Secretary), and Raymond Power (Treasurer) for leading the minor committee. The minor committee do allot of excellent work and rather than mentioning each member of this committee, I collectively thank them for all their support. Without this committee, the role of secretary would be untenable. Also, collectively without mentioning any names, the secretary sincerely thanks and acknowledges all the coaches and managers of teams who give their time freely, the club sincerely thanks you all for all the voluntary time you put into teams.

In addition to the above the outgoing secretary Tom Duggan continues to provide allot of secretarial support, which is much appreciated. The club has very experienced officers sitting on committees at Co. Board level, including Tom Duggan, Anthony O' Halloran and Dan O Connor. I relied on all three for advice and assistance during the year. The Executive Committee met on 6 occasions during the year. There are also several sub committees who meet regularly, either formally or informally. The sub-committees are Finance, Facilities, Field, Development, and Minor Committee.

The various committee meetings are very pro-active in furthering the goals of the club. While it is not feasible to outline all the minutes and actions of the Executive Committee and sub-committees, it is reasonable to conclude that there is allot discussed, agreed, and actioned, mainly around finance, organising team management and coaches, field upkeep, facilities maintenance, new developments.

Declan Hannon
Secretary



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2022

As we come to the end of 2022 which was one of the busiest seasons on record because of the split season. Our teams have played every weekend since April to date.

This year has been a huge success on the playing front with our intermediate hurlers joining the footballers in senior ranks after winning the intermediate hurling championship. We also had the added bonus of winning the junior A which was a huge achievement considering the amount of young players moving up to the first team in the last 2 years. Credit to Shane O Grady and his efficient management team for looking after both junior teams. They nearly pulled off a famous double in Tulla with the Junior C team narrowly losing out in the final to an experienced Sixmilebridge side before the Junior A Final.

I would like to thank Donagh Vaughan and his team who retained our senior status and just missing out on a quarter final spot in the championship.

The club owes a huge debt of gratitude to Michael Guilfoyle and his management team for getting us back up to senior hurling especially after last year's final loss. The amount of time and effort he has put in along with his experience and knowledge is second to none.

Many thanks to all the coaches and trainers that took charge of u19 and u21 teams for the club. Your time and efforts are very much appreciated, you are a credit to the club.

Now that we are a dual senior club the hard work starts now. The players have taken the initiative and are currently upgrading the gym which will be ready to go for 2023. We are delighted to welcome Evan Hennessy on board this year to implement a strength and conditioning academy at underage which will set up the club for the future. Thanks to Seanie Mc Mahon and Pdraig Duddy for implementing the underage academy.

We are now competing in A grades in both hurling and football underage, this doesn't happen by accident. The club is very fortunate to have an excellent Minor Committee led by Bill Clohossey, Olive Harvey and Raymond Power. There is great work been done here with coaching and structures been put in place which are now coming to fruition. We are also blessed to have an excellent schools coach in Damien Burke who is doing an excellent job.

This leads us to our facilities and fields which are the envy of the county. The hours of unseen work that is put in by Michael Mc Mahon, Joe Mc Namara and their team is second to none. A special mention to our CES men Vinnie Paul and Rory for keeping the grounds in pristine condition. Michael is taking a step back from the bookings of the facilities after many years of doing a very professional job. Michael has served in every role in the club and continues to help out with the facilities committee. I would like to thank Michael for all his help during my time and I will still be calling you for your advice and expertise.

Our Club shop continues to grow under the guidance of Siobhan Hoey with a turnover of 36K this year. The shop now has a very strong online presence and also opens every Wednesday from 6.30 pm to 8 pm. Thanks to Siobhan and her team for the hours put in during the year.

Our Lotto Committee under the guidance of Martin Coffey continues to do a wonderful job and is an important cog in the running of the club. Thanks to everyone on this committee, without you we would have to do a lot more fundraising. To our loyal sponsors Clare Civil Engineering and DEC Ireland, a sincere thank you for your tremendous support. Also thank you to the many businesses and individuals in the parish who gave generous donations throughout the year.

Condolences to all our members who have lost loved ones during the year. May they rest in peace.

As I said earlier the hard work starts now. We are currently upgrading the gym, opening a new coffee shop and extending the Astro turf. These developments are essential to drive the club forward and can only happen with your assistance. The club is made up of a lot of new families coming into the parish myself included. If there is anyone that wants to get involved in helping out in any way no matter how big or small please contact me or any of the committees. All help is welcome and together we will grow the club and bring it to the next level.

Finally, a word of thanks to my fellow officers Declan Hanon (Secretary) Noel Stapleton (Treasurer) Vinny Sheedy (PRO), Glen Monaghan (Assistant PRO) and Aiden Bohannon Registrar for all their work and support during the year and also the members of the Executive, Bill Clohessey (Minor Committee Chairman), Olive Harvey (Minor Committee Secretary) Enda Flaherty (Ladies Football Chairperson), Niall Burke (Camoige), Michelle O'Brien (Children's Officer), Martin Coffey, Dan O'Connor, Michael McMahon, Joe McNamara, Michael O'Sullivan Pat Frawley and all the people that served on our sub committees.

I wish everyone a happy Christmas and a successful new year.

Robert Hurley
Chairperson



CLUB LOTTO

The Corona pandemic gradually released it's choking hold on every aspect of daily life over the course of the past year. The impact on our club Lotto mirrored the general recovery. From a modest start last November, a tangible recovery came with the Spring and from February our Lotto sales achieved incremental weekly growth as if reflecting the restoration of a nation's confidence. (Of course, Peadar O'Loughlin also, had a fair bit to do with the recovery)

Our conversion to the Online option continued apace and when this was supplemented by the resumption of ticket sales in our ever loyal shop and pub outlets, we were on course to restore our Lotto sales figures to pre-Covid levels. The importance of our Lotto net profit is hugely significant to the financial well-being of the club as indicated in the Financial Accounts. It's worth mentioning that, though our jackpot has not been won since May 2021 (€14.6K) we must make provision in the Accounts for the pending/potential Jackpot payout.

The Club owes a huge debt of gratitude to Carole Frawley for looking after the technical aspects of our Online operation. In this she is supported by Aine Brooks and Aidan Bohannon. As already mentioned, Peadar, single-handedly has re-established our ticket sale presence. It would be remiss if I did not mention another stalwart in the sales arena, Jimmy McNamara and wish him a full and speedy recovery.

These are exciting times for the Club after some marvellous on-field performances over the past few weeks. Success, of course, comes at a price and the club is embarking on what hopefully will be an era of further achievement and development. Finance will be a critical element of this and our Lotto fundraising is the most critical element of the club's financial structure. Thank you all for your loyal support.

That Jackpot is there to be claimed, so please, spread the word!

Martin Coffey,
Lotto Chairman





TEAM REPORTS

U-21 HURLERS SHOW HUGE BRAVERY AND RESILIENCE

By Christy O'Connor

Just seven days after the Intermediates won the county title, the huge feelgood vibes from that win continued to course through the club as the U-21A team defeated Sixmilebridge (in Sixmilebridge) in the opening round of the championship. Just two days later, on the October Bank Holiday Monday, the U21 second team comprehensively beat Scarriff-Ogonnelloe in their first match.

The squad had only met for the first time the previous Tuesday as players from the minor, U-19, Junior and Intermediate squads came together to form an U-21 group that initially comprised 46 players. With priority given to the Intermediates for their subsequent Munster club Intermediate championship, and with both U-21 teams not in action again until late November, the majority of the group continued to diligently train until the next matches eventually rolled into view.

With the U21A quarter-final taking place just eight days after the Munster Intermediate semi-final, the full squad could only hold one collective training session before we met Inagh-Kilnamona in Gurteen on November 27th. In a titanic battle, Inagh-Kilnamona eventually won by one point after extra-time on a scoreline of 2-22 to 3-18. It was a really resilient and brave performance, especially when we trailed by five points with two minutes of normal time remaining, before eventually going down to a late free. Every player on the squad played their part, with eight different scorers on the day, but special mention has to go to the outstanding Eoin Burke, who finished the match with 2-10.

An elongated and drawn out saga after an objection on the other side of the draw meant that the second team didn't play their semi-final until December 17th. It was difficult to organise training by then with exams and the weather, but the lads delivered another brilliant performance to come from eight points down in the second half and win by one.

The final against Scarriff-Ogonnelloe wasn't played until December 30th and, after another epic battle, we lost after extra-time to a side that had the benefit of having trained with their A team, which had impressively won the final against Corofin-Ruan the previous week. It would have been a great way to finish what was a really positive campaign for both U-21 squads, but it was still a highly productive and enjoyable experience for everyone involved. Both teams were brilliantly led by excellent captains and leaders, Adam Mungovan (A team) and Ciaran O'Halloran and David McNicholas (joint captains of the second team).

I would sincerely like to thank all the members of the management and backroom team – Ken Kennedy, Denis Maher, Fintan Lahiffe, Aaron Landy and Shane O'Grady, along with Seán Conroy and Eugene Moynihan. The group also greatly appreciated the help of Joe McNamara, who always made the pitches in Gurteen available to us during trying times with the weather. The help and assistance of Robert Hurley and Noel Stapleton was also always greatly appreciated.

All the players involved were a credit to themselves and the jersey, while it was extremely comforting for everyone in the club to realise that there are so many talented and dedicated players, ranging from 17 to 21, which will play such an important part in the Senior, Intermediate and Junior squads going forward.

FANTASTIC SEASON FOR ST JOSEPH'S DOORA-BAREFIELD U-16S

By Christy O'Connor

The first night that the Doora-Barefield U-16 squad met collectively in 2022 was in mid-October, just a few days after a number of those players had played in the Minor A final, which they had agonisingly lost to Clooney-Quin after extra-time. Although there was very little said that night in Gurteen, there was definitely a sense of optimism that the U-16 championship could offer some form of compensation for that disappointing defeat. Preparations had already begun for those championships – A and Academy – at the end of August when the U15s who weren't part of the minor squad began training. They continued to train two days a week until the minor campaign concluded, and the full U-16 squad was formed. However, the team played its first challenge game against Ennistymon (which included a handful of players from the Minor Academy squad) in late September. Further challenge games followed against Clooney-Quin, Tulla, St Munchin's and Newtownshandrum.

The championships kicked off for both teams in early November, with the A team defeating Sixmilebridge, while the Academy team beat Inagh-Kilnamona in Inagh the following day. A week later, both teams delivered outstanding performances on successive days, with the A team defeating Inagh-Kilnamona in Gurteen, before the Academy team beat Corofin-Ruan in Corofin to advance to the final.

On a wet Saturday morning in Eire Óg the following week, the Academy team beat the home team to secure the title. A day later in Gurteen, the A team also beat Eire Óg to advance to the final. After two epic matches against Inagh-Kilnamona, which included extra-time on both days, St Joseph's were crowned U-16A champions in early December, winning of a scoreline of 1-25 to 1-23.

It was a great sense of pride to all involved in the club that the players could produce such a high standard of skill and quality, especially in the replay which was considered one of the best underage finals played in Clare in years. That high quality was also a testament to all the great coaching work done with those players with coaches right across the club from when those players were U-6.

The most satisfying aspect of both campaigns was that 39 players played throughout the championships, with 22 players getting game-time in the A competition. The players were a credit to themselves and their families for their honesty, commitment and dedication, while they were led by two outstanding captains in Mark O'Connor and Charlie Lenihan.

I would also like to pay a special word of thanks to the management team, Paul Mannion, John Hoey, John Mescall and Eamonn Clohessy, while Brian Hoey was a fantastic addition on the sideline during both A finals. I would also like to thank Eugene Moynihan for his work with us, while the group would like to say a huge thanks to Joe McNamara, who was always extremely helpful in consistently making the pitches in Gurteen available to us during a really difficult time of the year regarding the weather.

The group also really appreciate the assistance given us by Olive Harvey, Raymond Power and Robert Hurley, along with everyone else in the club who helped us along the way of a brilliant journey for such a talented bunch of players.



SENIOR FOOTBALL 2022



INTERMEDIATE HURLING 2022





INTERMEDIATE HURLING REPORT.

Intermediate team annual report by Michael Guilfoyle, Manager.

After the disappointment of losing the final in October 2021, it was quickly followed by the resignation of Shane Dowling as he wanted to go back hurling after his knee injury. We started immediately to look for a coach and are so lucky to have met and interviewed Oisín O'Brien of Clonlara who had been with Parteen that season. Quickly worked out that he was the right man to go forward with as his theory and philosophy on coaching was exactly what we needed. Darragh Droog had agreed to come forward with us but after the pre-season his time was not available to us, and we

unofficially parted ways in the middle of the championship due to his other commitments. Early in the season, we were also rocked by the resignation of a great club man, Vinnie Sheedy for his own personal reasons.

Pre-season was very tough, and I came close to resigning as there was a lack of commitment and we had to have a meeting to get things sorted out urgently. Some players had not committed, and others were slow to get their pre-season done and get in shape for the season after the Covid lockdown was finished. We got no chance to play a challenge game before our first Clare cup game against Scariff which we won on a Friday night in Gurteen.

Clare Cup results for 2022.

Doora Barefield 1-15 Scariff 0-15 in Gurteen
Doora Barefield 3-20 Eire Og 1-15 in Ennis
Doora Barefield 2-20 Tulla 2-12 in Tulla
Doora Barefield 0-15 O'Callaghans Mills 2-22 in Gurteen
Doora Barefield 1-17 Newmarket on Fergus 1-22 in Gurteen
Doora Barefield 1-17 Clarecastle 2-24 in Clarecastle
Doora Barefield 3-19 Wolfe Tones 2-15 in Gurteen
Doora Barefield 1-16 Smith O'Briens 0-19 in Gurteen
Doora Barefield lost to Whitegate in Whitegate-unofficial game as per county board
Challenge game Doora Barefield 6-27 Oggennelloe 1-15 in Oggennelloe
Challenge game Doora Barefield beat Ragoon Newcastle in Gurteen

Championship

Doora Barefield 2-22 O'Callaghans Mills 3-13 in Newmarket on Fergus
Doora Barefield 2-14 Killanena 0-7 in Tulla
Doora Barefield 3-10 Tubber 1-19 in Newmarket on Fergus
Doora Barefield 2-23 Newmarket on Fergus 1-7 in Shannon
Challenge game Doora Barefield beat Clonlara in Clonlara
Challenge game Doora Barefield 1-26 Inagh Kilnamona 3-15 in Gurteen
Championship quarter final Doora Barefield 2-22 Oggennelloe 1-7 in Sixmilebridge
Championship semi-final Doora Barefield 3-16 Corofin 2-15 in Clarecastle after extra time
Championship final Doora Barefield 0-23 Tulla 1-15 in Cusack Park after extra time
Munster club first round Doora Barefield 1-23 Causeway 1-15 in Cusack Park
Munster club semi-final Doora Barefield 0-16 Monaleen 2-13 in Kilmallock



So, after spending a few years down in intermediate hurling, the club are finally back in the senior ranks for 2023. I must thank many people for their support during the two years I was in charge.

Shane Dowling - set the precedent of what was required in the modern game- sincere thanks.
Oisín O'Brien - a young modern coach who needs to be retained-he has the right attitude.
Vinnie Sheedy – a great club man and a good friend- you epitomise what a great club man is.
Sean Conroy- kit man supreme- another great club man who gives it all in his role.
Conor Hurley- video man for us and for a young lad, does a great job for us all the time.
Frank Landy- for his 'jungle juice' and protein balls after training- credit is due to him and Siobhan.
Darragh Droog- though he did not finish this year- I can see why Limerick are at the top.
Shane O'Grady and Fintan Lahiffe & rest of junior management- great co-operation all year.
Liam Clohessy- for his work in 2021- but was unable to complete the year for us for personal reasons.

To the club top table. Robert Hurley who brought me in and leads this club with great effort, heart, knowledge, and drive. Noel Stapleton- minds the money but never saw us needing anything. Tommy Duggan- in his role last year as secretary and this year in the county board role and his successor Declan Hannan who is another great club man. Cathal O'Sullivan and later Eugene Moynihan- great support for all the players. To Joe McNamara- the fields were always available and in great shape- sincere thanks. Others like Alan Duggan and Pdraig Duddy who were great people to talk to before and after games. To my own son Barry and to Brian Dilleen (2022) and John Hoey (2021) for their stats support. To many others in the club for their support when times were tough, especially after last year's final result- there are some out there who need to show continued support and not continued criticism in order to keep this club up senior in 2023 and beyond. Also want to acknowledge the support of the football management teams of the last two years- Kevin Frehill and Donogh Vaughan.

It was a very hard call to go out but after 6.5 years of adult coaching and management with Feakle and Doora Barefield, mingled with under 21 and minor teams in between too- I need the break and hope that everyone respects that. I will be out there at most games and will be heard encouraging these lads to greater things. The club are well set to compete at the top in all levels and need to retain more players so the club can have four adult teams next year- well within reach.

Thanks- I have enjoyed the journey, though difficult at times, and we have achieved what was the real goal at the start- senior status for Doora Barefield in hurling. The character shown in the matches later this year- the standards and way the team played was brilliant to see- credit to Oisín and the panel for embracing his work and instructions. Best of luck in 2023 to all teams in all codes and to their management teams.

Michael Guilfoyle



JUNIOR HURLING 2022 UPDATE

What a year!

After reaching the semi final of both championships in 2021, the goal was to improve on that and ensure that we got as many players hurling and enjoying it. It turned out to be a year of amazing performances by this group and 'a never give up' attitude which meant a lot of drama for the great supporters that followed us this year.

Junior hurling is important for young lads coming through from minor ranks, more mature hurlers who want to continue to enjoy their hurling and for those that might just need to build their confidence to realise their potential. It is also important that it is a positive and enjoyable environment while challenging the panel members to improve their skills.

The management team from 2021 were delighted to continue working with this group. Shane O'Grady continued as manager and his team was made up of Dave Morrissey, Sean Williams, Dara O'Driscoll, Denis Maher, Sean Conroy and Fintan Lahiffe. As always, we had Cathal O'Sullivan and Eugene Moynihan supporting as physios but also providing great assistance on match days.

There was a number of changes in the panel, with a some players stepping up from Junior to being contributors to the intermediate hurling journey. We had a number of important regrades, a few retirees and a few more coming back from travels and retirement, plus a new bunch of young lads just out of minor that bring a lot of energy and freshness to the older members of the panel.

We started training at the start of March and first challenge match on 10th March against Clarecastle in Gurteen. Hard to beat a challenge match against our neighbours to dust off the cobwebs of the winter and see who we would have for the year ahead. Our training days for the year were Tuesdays at 6.30pm, Thursdays at 7.30pm and the occasional training session on Sunday mornings as needed.

The Junior As were competing in Division 4 which commenced in March with a win over Wolfe Tones. We progressed unbeaten through the league with further wins over Ennistymon, Inagh-Kilnamona, Ballyea, Newmarket and Scariff. A special mention must go to the Ennistymon game where Ennistymon Hurling club had organised buses and an event for the people of Ukraine who had recently moved to North Clare. This was their first experience of hurling and created a nice day which was a welcome distraction for these families. We topped the division which means that we are promoted to Division 3 and qualified for the league semi-final. This was played in late June and

Scariff imposed our first defeat of the year on us on a day when we just struggled to play our normal game. We knew we would meet Scariff again as the Junior A championship draw had us in a group with Broadford, Ennistymon and Scariff. So the Junior A league run ended on a flat note but we had a month to prepare for the first round of championship.

The Junior Cs were competing in Division 5B which was largely made up of Junior B teams. We commenced with a victory over Wolfe Tones and had some great games with Corofin, Ruan, Tubber, Killanena and Tulla. The team battled hard and played some great hurling on these games but we came out just on the wrong side in these games but great learning to bring into the championship.

This brings us up to July and start of the championship for these two teams. Will start with the Junior Cs who had Smith O'Briens, Tulla and Newmarket in our group. The reality was the other side which had Cratloe, Scariff and Sixmilebridge looked to be the tougher side and this was how it played out. We had comfortable wins over the three teams in our group with the team playing great hurling, supporting each other, movement and intensity. We qualified for the semi final to take on Cratloe who had beaten the Bridge in their group and were highly fancied to progress. This match was played under lights in Sixmilebridge on 10th of September and this was one of the highlights of the year for this team. This was a great game, physically tough, some great scores but unbelievable commitment from both sides. It was point for point all through the games and with the physical nature of the game, some of our younger lads stood up and showed what they are made of to drive us to a two point victory and place in the final against a very experienced Sixmilebridge team.

Meanwhile, the Junior As had a very poor start to the championship on the last day of July. We played Ennistymon in Inagh and despite being in control at half time, we just could not match the energy and intensity that Ennistymon brought in the second half and ended up losing on a scoreline of 1.10 to 1.17. This was a body blow as we now had lost two matches on the trot and just needed to find our best selves ahead of must win group games against Broadford and Scariff to stay in the championship. The lads responded, dug deep in two physical games where we outworked both of the east clare teams and took key scores to drive on and secure a place in the quarter final. However, Kevin Dilleen who had been outstanding at centre back in both games, unfortunately broke his hand in training ahead of the Cratloe quarter final game.

One of the great things about the Juniors this year is that when dealt with injuries, tough positions etc, the panel



responded and it was a case of next man up and we go again. This is what the team did facing into quarter final against Cratloe who were just relegated from Intermediate and were focused on winning the Junior A to get back up to where they were. We played really well in first half and were unfortunate to be a few points down at half time. In what turned out to be a sensational second half, we were three points down with a minute to go. However, the team never gave up and scored 1-2 in injury time with the last minute goal resulting from a long delivery from Conor Kearns to the edge of the square where a combination of Emmet Whelan and Eoin Burke put ball and everyone else in front of the goal into the back of the net!

The reward for this was to get to play the favourites Ballyea in the semi final. Worth noting that the last four teams in the Junior A were Eire Og, Clarecastle, Ballyea and ourselves so you can imagine the excitement around the draw and plenty local rivalries at play. We took on Ballyea at the Banner pitch with a place in the final at stake. We knew that Ballyea were a really strong hurling team and the challenge for us was how we could make this game a real battle to give us a chance. It was point for point all the way through and we managed to eke out a two point lead in the dying minutes of the game. But as with the nature of this team, can't win without some drama! Ballyea got a penalty in injury time and so our year came down to this shot. Brendan Cleland stood tall in the goal, challenging the forward to put in the corner and..... Wide! Puckout taken and final whistle blew. Tough one for Ballyea but the run of their seniors later on would make up for it. Unfortunately, Michael Nash picked up a serious injury during this game and this was another blow as he had been picking off great scores through the last few games. We were now in a final after losing our first game in the championship and ready to take on anyone. Eire Og came through over Clarecastle in the other semi final so the build up was going to be good fun!

With both teams now into the finals, a double header was scheduled for 8th October in Tulla. Same management team for the two teams was going to be a challenge and with some overlap of players that were playing on the Junior C and potentially being available as a sub for the junior A etc, it was going to take a lot of organising and plenty energy! The benefit however was that we knew we would have a big crowd to support us in Tulla which we felt would overcome some of the challenges.

It proved to be a great day for the club with nearly 50 players togged at some stage in Tulla on that day and a larger crowd cheering on the two teams. The Junior Cs were first up against a very experienced Sixmilebridge team who could boast a number of players with senior cham-

pionship experience and medals. In what was an excellent game and fantastic scores, we were level at half time and even though we went two points ahead in the second half, we could just not stop the wave of Sixmilebridge attacks and their greater experience was decisive as they won in the end 0-14 to 0-17. A super effort by this group and just came up a little bit short. The C players gave their Junior A teammates a guard of honour from the dressing room in readiness for their battle with Eire Og. Regardless of A or C, this is one panel and every player shares in the success or pain of the team and so could we rally once more and bring home a victory from Tulla pitch?

For those that were in Tulla, they saw at first hand what it means to never give up. While we got off to a great start in first half with an Emmet Whelan goal, Eire Og came back into it and led at half time on a scoreline of 1-6 to 1-4. We felt there was more in us and we knew if we could be there with them in the last 10 minutes, we could do it. With ten minutes to go we were 3 points down and Eire Og were dealing with whatever we threw at them. With 5 minutes to go, we were two down and battling for everything. We pushed up on Eire Og and levelled it just as we moved into injury time. With the last few seconds, Dotsy O'Callaghan who had some on sub, caught a puck out and burst out to deliver a ball to Emmet Whelan just inside the 45m line. Emmet as he had been doing all game turned and ran at Eire Og and as he neared the goal, put the ball over the bar. Literally, Eire Og had one puckout and we secured possession and ref Ger Hoey blew the whistle and cue massive celebrations from players and supporters.

A special moment for our captain fantastic Darragh Murphy, was receiving the Junior A cup with long standing club member and club president Mikey MacNamara.

A great year for everyone involved with this great bunch of lads and looking forward to next year where we hope we can continue to improve and create a few more shocks!

A word of thanks to the club leadership for all their support through the year. We were never short for anything that we needed, always accommodating with requests that we made and special word of thanks to the field committee who ensured that we have one of the best surfaces to train on in the county. We would like to acknowledge our sponsors and supporter alike for making it a year to remember for this great bunch of players.



U17 MINOR FOOTBALL

The under17 football season started in February with the league format. Doora/Barefield had a very strong panel of 35 players with most being involved in the hurling also. Both codes worked very closely to ensure that or players were not overworked.

Our campaign was a very successful one with the team winning all five games and making it to the final. The opponents on the day were a very fancied Lissycasey team. The game took place in Lissycasey on the 10/04/22. It was a titanic battle with Doora/ Barefield coming out on top on a score line of 2-9 to 0-12. Captain Eoghan Boyle accepted the shield on behalf of the team. The championship started in June after examinations and our players started the campaign really well winning our first 4 games.

Unfortunately, we had a number of injuries and players on holiday approaching the final 2 games. We lost both games by a point and the players worked extremely hard for our club. We qualified for the semi finals against Lissycasey again. Our players were exhausted after a fantastic run in both codes. The game was fixed 3 days after the hurling quarter final. Our players didn't complain and fought hard to the final whistle, losing out to the eventual winners by 1 point. It was a brilliant performance and the squad need to be complimented on how they worked so hard for our club.

We can look forward to seeing some great times in the future with this crop of players. Thanks to everyone, both players and parents for all the efforts during this season. On behalf of the football management team, we would like to wish you a happy Christmas and successful 2023!



U 17 league football champions 2022

U21 FOOTBALL

The under21 campaign commenced in November 2022 with the parish being drawn against Wolfe Tones in the first round at Gurteen.

It was a physically contested game that tested all our players before winning the game by 3 points. We now had to face Milltown Malbay in the quarter finals with home advantage. Doora/ Barefield won the game comprehensively and we're now drawn against Ennistymon in the semi final. The game took place in Cooraclare in late December under dreadful conditions.

The parish lads took to the task on hand and were excellent in the tackle, forcing a number of turnovers. 1 point separated

the teams at halftime. Doora/Barefield exerted themselves in the second half and scored 4 points in difficult conditions. There was no more scores during normal time and as the added time ticked away Ennistymon kicked a point to force a grandstand finish.

With time almost up Ennistymon threw everyone into the square and kicked in a high ball. An Ennistymon player managed to flick the ball into the Barefield net to the dismay of all the supporters. The final whistle was blown and it was heart-breaking for all involved.

We have nothing but praise for this group of players and management. We look forward to watching all these talented players in the seasons ahead. Thanks to you all !!!



U11 FOOTBALL

We had a very enjoyable year with our U11 footballers. We began training in March and our official blitzes started on April 9th. We had 7 Go-Games blitzes between then and July as well as a number of other challenge games. We had a huge number of players registered for U11 football and regularly had over 50 boys training in Gurteen. Players were divided up into 4 even teams and we headed off all over the county every second weekend to participate. The boys made huge strides throughout the year and their skill and commitment to the club was a joy to behold. We also had a tremendous group of mentors who coached, encouraged and cajoled these boys along throughout the year. A special thanks to Albert Hardiman, Declan Lahiffe, Enda Price, Ivens Zambrano, James Cosgrove, John Leahy, Tom Maleady, Mervyn Dixon and Donie Murphy for all their time and effort.

Peadar McMahon



U12 FOOTBALL

We began training for the U12 football season in early August after the U11 competition had finished. Our season officially kicked off on Sept. 3rd with our first blitz and ended with our final game on Oct 29th. In between we played 5 blitzes and we also organised a number of games with other teams around the county. We had a total of 62 boys registered for U12 football and it was certainly a challenge catering for such large numbers. We entered 3 teams and regularly had over 50 boys in attendance. The boys trained very well throughout the year and showed tremendous spirit in all games. They mixed very well as a group and we had great fun along the way. Next year many of these boys will play in the U13 competition and will carry great hopes with them. We are very lucky in that we have a fantastic group of coaches at this age group. A huge thank you must go to Albert Hardiman, Colm Ryan, Enda Price, Ivens Zambrano, Brian Heneghan, John Leahy, Tom Maleady, Owen O'Connor, Eamon O' Gáirbhith, Mervyn Dixon and Donie Murphy.

Regards

Peadar McMahon



U21 HURLING



U21 c county hurling finalists 2022



MINOR HURLING 2022

The Minor Hurling squad commenced training in November 2021. The first phase of training was a Strength & Conditioning Program for the players which was run by Donal O'Halloran. We then commenced hurling training in February and the Co Board ran a Minor League competition where we played Clarecastle, Ballyea & Clooney Quin winning all three games. We then played Inagh Kilnamona in the League final in early April and we had a comprehensive victory. The Minor league was very beneficial as we were able to give game time to all panel members in all 4 games.

The Minor championship commenced in July and over a two month period we played seven championship games at the end of which we finished 2nd in the table behind Clooney Quin. This meant we qualified for the semi-final against Clarecastle and this game was played in Newmarket in late September. This was an excellent game of hurling with the lads playing really well to win by 5 points. We then met Clooney Quin in the Minor Championship final which was played on 9th October in Cusack Park. The weather was miserable on the day as it rained persistently all through the match and conditions were really difficult. However both teams put in a tremendous battle and the game was level at full time which meant extra time.

U17 minor a hurling county finalist



UNDER 15 HURLING 2022

U15 training begun behind pitch 2 in mid February. We had 2 panels and 37 players training.

The pre season proved more difficult than normal with dual development squads at u14 and u15 operating across the weekend and u15 schools competitions ongoing. We did manage to play Parteen, Carnmore, Ahane and Toomevara in pre-season challenge games. We started the competition slowly with narrow losses to Sixmilebridge and Cratloe before then breaking into the feile competition. The panel pulled together very well and morale building wins v Eire Og and an 8 point deficit swing v Sixmilebridge took us to the A final v Clooney. Clooney beat us 2-12 to 2-10 in a great game.

We just came up short in extra time and finished up losing by 2 points on a scoreline of 1.14 to 1.12. We were really proud of the team's performance that day as they never gave up and showed unbelievable character which the experience will no doubt stand to these players in their upcoming adult hurling careers. Our 2nd Minor team participated in the Minor Academy A competition and we played 4 games winning 3 games and losing only to Sixmilebridge. This meant we played Sixmilebridge again in the final and this game was played in Newmarket in mid September. The team really played well on the day and were comprehensive winners.

In summary, it was a very successful year for the Minors winning The League and Academy Competition and playing in the club's first Minor Championship final in many years. We would like to thank all the players for their efforts both in training and games this year which was excellent. We would also like to thank Donal O'Halloran for his expert guidance during the Strength & Conditioning phase of the season. Thanks also to Joe McNamara and the field committee for the excellent condition of the pitches in Gurteen. 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.

Minor Hurling Management 2022

Raymond Power, Eamonn Corry, Sean McMahon, Sean Meaney and Alan O'Neill.

On resumption of the A competition the momentum continued with a draw v Ballyea and wins over Kilmaley and Eire Og. Qualification came down to another game v Clooney. With 4 players ruled out on the day due to covid it proved a step too far with Clooney winning out. The 15A academy side also had a fine year winning 4 of their 5 group games and a semi final v Corofin-Ruan. This took them to a final v Sixmilebridge and despite a spirited come back a first half deficit proved too much to overcome.

Management were certainly left with a feeling there is much more to come from this group and would like to thank u15 football Manager Glen Monaghan for his excellent collaboration, the field committee, Intel for sponsorship and bord na NoG for the excellent competition structures.

John Hoey, James O'Connor, Eamon Clohessy, Ed Corry, Paul Mannion, Ed Corry, Sean Duggan, John Mescall



U12 / U13 FOOTBALL

After a limited season last year due to COVID the U12/U13 group of footballers went back to training in the 2nd week of January in the Gurteen Astro. We started the sessions with 50 Players available for selection and a great turnout was had for the first session. The management team of Aidan Moynihan, Martin Lillis, Colm Ryan, John Corry & Brian Heneghan had a plan in place from the start to get this great group of players developing their football skills and fitness levels consistently. All the squad came to training with a great attitude, a willingness to contribute.

We were training Mondays & Wednesday evenings all the way up to the start of the championship.

They have represented the club very well all season both on and off the pitch. Of the 50 players most were always available for most scheduled match's during the season both at Div 1 level and Academy level. As usual with a strong attendance at training sessions there is always the great support from Parents.

Challenge matches against Oranmore, Kildysart, Adare and Clooney Quin preceded the scheduled start of the championship. This gave us a chance to assess the big squad and determine our teams for Div 1 championship and academy

It was March 28th when the first Div 1 game threw out in Lissycasey. After an even 1st half, we eventually succumbed to a 5-10 to 2-8 defeat.

Our second Division 1 game was v Ennistymon in Gurteen and we came away with our first win of the championship.

Round 3 of Div 1 was in Kilrush and we won this game on a score line of 7:08 to 5:04

Our final Game of the division was against Clonegad in Gurteen and we came away with a win on a scoreline of 3:08 to 1:04.

So after all group games were finished we ended up in a three way tie but topped the group on points difference.

This meant that we had a semi final date v Clonegad in Gurteen on May 9th. This was a game we dominated from start to finish and again won comprehensively. It was great to see all the training pay off in this game as we played some wonderful football to win this game.

So it was onto the final on May 16th in Clareabbey. The lads gave it everything and with a bit of luck we could have got a result but it was not to be as Lissycasey prevailed on a score line of 0:13 to 1:07. We were all disappointed but proud as we played some great football all year.

The U13 Academics first game was in Clarecastle and we came away with a comprehensive win.

Our second game was against Clooney quin where we lost by a single point in a game we should have won.

Our 3rd game ended in a close defeat to Lissycasey in Gurteen

Game 4 v Ennistymon was won by us in a tight game in Lahinch.

Game 5 v Corofin was won in Gurteen.

Game 6 v Eire Og ended in a defeat in a very close tight game.

We ended up finishing fourth in the 9 team group which meant another game v Eire Og in the semi final of the U13 academy on Tuesday May 17th.

The first half was a close game but Eire Og eventually took control in the second half to win the game. This was a game in which we brought 27 players and everyone got game time.





U15 FOOTBALL

Our u15 Football panel commenced training on the 14th Feb behind the goals on pitch 2. Having a panel of 58 players registered it was hoped that a strong turn out at training could be maintained. At our first session we had 48 players and whilst this was the largest attendance we were delighted with the turn out at all our sessions all year. Having both our Div 1 and Academy panel train together brought great unity to the squad and also kept competition between both panels at a very high level.

Our first competitive action was the County Feile which took place in Gurteen on 15th April where we played Lissycasey, Clooney-Quin and Ennistymon in the group stages. Winning 2 out of 3 (losing out to a rampant Clooney-Quin side) saw us qualify for the final against Clooney-Quin in Clare Abbey on 18th April. In glorious sunshine both teams entertained the large attendance where the parish boys came out on top on a final scoreline of St Josephs 4.03 (15) Clooney-Quin 1.09 (12). After the victory speech from our Captain Liam Clune it was off to the Grove for some well earned chicken and chips!! Our eyes after the Feile victory were firmly set on the Div 1 Championship which was to commence 14th June. Losing out to the Townies, Lissycasey and Ennistymon in the group stages give us a mountain to climb if we were to reach the semi finals. Needing a win against Clooney Quin and hoping that Cooraclare (who were without a win) would beat Ennistymon was our only chance of getting that golden ticket through to the semi final! Winning 3.16 to 1.04 there was no celebrations on the pitch as the group were assuming Ennistymon would be the 4th and final team into the semis! With phones out and limited coverage, texts were sent and calls were made to see could we establish who was winning ... Cooraclare won and just like Charlie and the golden ticket In Willy Wonkas chocolate factory we were into the semi final. We got the toughest draw available and were up against championship favourites Lissycasey on 20th July. Having put 4 goals past us in the group stages we were under no illusion who the favourites were in this tie. With the shackles off and a newfound confidence gained the lads came away from Lissycasey winning 8.07 (31) to 3.08 (17). This was the win that these boys deserved and a final against Clooney Quin awaited them on the 2nd Aug in Cusack Park.

The day of the final the lads were well prepared and in the first half they produced some fantastic football. Going in 1.07 to 3 pts up at half time they anticipated that Clooney Quin would come at them and have a purple patch, and that they did and when they came within a single point midway through the second half it was game on! Again St Josephs scored goals and won on a scoreline of St Josephs 4.09 (25) to Clooney Quins 1.08 (11). The ups and downs of a season had brought these boys to the summit! Div 1 County Champions '22! Our Academy Team also had a very successful year. Led by Rory Lynam they were victorious over Lissycasey, Clooney Quin in the semi final and over Eire Og in the final in Gurteen on the 4th Aug on a score line of St Josephs 5.06 (21) Eire Og (17).

In between all of this we also had the Regional Feile competition that took place in the Kildare centre of excellence in Hawkfield on 2nd July. We played St Iomans (Westmeath) Blessington (Wicklow) and St Patrick's Droimintee

(Armagh) narrowly losing 2 of our 3 matches we then went into the shield competition where we had victories over Castlerea (Roscommon) in the semi final and Blessington (Wicklow) in the final!

What a year! What a bunch of lads! Always willing to keep going when things were going against them, always fought for each other and played as a team and always give 100%.

Sept 10th saw our u14s in Championship action and first up in division 1 was an away trip to Lisdoonvarna where they recorded a good win against St Breckans. Final score St Josephs 4.10 (22) to St Breckans 1.07 (10) A home semi final was their reward against none other than Lissycasey where again a win was recorded but just about! 3.07 (16) to 2.07 (13). Oct 16th saw them play Eire Og in the final. After what was an epic year with ups and downs the lads really never got going on the day and Eire Og deservedly won on a score line of Eire Og 3.08 (17) to St Josephs 2.03 (9). The team that day was captained by TJ Moore. The Grove once more was the venue for after match well earned food!

Acknowledgements:

To everyone who helped out at our Feile fundraisers. We had a table quiz in the Grove and a car wash in Gurteen. We thank you very much for all your support!

To our Sponsors we send a huge thank you for your very generous contributions that kitted the Players and Mentors out for Feile followed by a meal in Kildare afterwards.

Williams Concrete Ltd.

Mid West Consultant Engineers.

Martins Construction Ltd.

Big Macs Barbers Kellys corner Ennis.

Ken and all in Real Print Quin Rd Ennis.

Paudie & Sinead The Peppermill Restaurant Quin Rd. Ennis.

Also to **those who contributed** who wish to remain anonymous, many thanks!!

Finally to the **mentors**

Larry Whelan who has been with this group of lads since u6s! **Niall Thornton, Vinny McMahon** and **Tom O'Brien** who left no stone unturned in coaching these lads all year "Thank you very much for all your great work"

To all the parents for your support throughout the year, thank you!

To our minor committee especially secretary **Olive Harvey** who always kept us up to date with fixtures etc we also say thanks very much! **To all in Gurteen** who presented us with top class playing facilities all year round, *Mile Buiochas!*

Finally to wish each and every one of you a happy and peaceful Christmas and hope 2023 brings more sporting happiness to these brilliant lads!

Glen Monaghan



U14 DIV 1 Finalists 2022

Back row left to right: A Dunne, TJ Moore (C), C Breslin, S McMahon, L Talty, J Rafferty, D Ball, D Fahy, M Daly, L Boyle, S Corry, C Frawley, C Thornton.
Front row left to right: L Guerin, O O Gara, S Dilleen, C Price, L McAllistar, B Corkery, A Tariq, T O Halloran, O Ryan, F Corry.



Regional Fiele Shield Winners

Back row left to right: M Ó Cuileann, J Mannion, J Kelly, L Talty, D Bohannon, D Monaghan, D Ball, M Corey, S Mescell, C Breslin, R Murphy, R Whelan, R Lynam, TJ Moore.
Front row left to right: G Ball, C Byrne, J Rafferty, C Lenihan, G Barry, L Clune (C), C McMahon, J Mcallistar, K Thornton, C Foley, S McMahon.



U15 DIV 1 Champions 2022

Back row left to right: D Ball, R Murphy, J Rafferty, J Mannion, G Barry, D Monaghan, J Kelly, K Foley, TJ Moore, D Fitzpartick, L Talty, D Bohannon, J McAllistar, S Mescell, L Clune (C).
Front row left to right: B Corkery, D Boyle, M ó Cuileann, C Lenihan, S McMahon, M Corey, C Price, D Fahy, R Whelan, R Lynam, G Ball.



U15 Football Academy Winners 2022

Back row left to right: N Thornton, A Dunne, D Fahy, R Clarke, TJ Moore (C), R Whelan, G Ball, M Daly, S McMahon, C Lenihan, D Fitzpatrick, J McAllister, L Guerin, L Boyle, R Murphy, J Mannion, V McMahon.
Front row left to right: G Monaghan, O O Gara, L McAllister, K Thornton, B Corkery, A Tariq, R Lynam, M Corey, J Rafferty, T O Halloran, C Price, M Corry, O O Sullivan, F Corry, T O Brien.





U11 / U12 HURLERS

It was a thoroughly enjoyable year for the U11 & U12 hurlers in 2022. Starting back on the 13th March we had over 50 training sessions before finishing on 19th November with great participation rates at training each week.

The U11 season started early this year with our first scheduled fixture taking place on the 2nd April and matches every fortnight until it finished on the 25th June. This year the U11 boys played in matches competing against Sixmilebridge, Newmarket on Fergus, Kilmaley, Tulla and Tubber/ Crusheen. We had very competitive intercountry matches against Rahoon Newcastle, Newtownshandrum and Oranmore while also competing in tournaments in St. Mary's Clonmel and Ardahan.

On Sunday 14th August we represented the parish in the Clare U11 Community Games finals which were held in Sixmilebridge. We put in a spirited display on the day but were beaten by the hosts Sixmilebridge. Newmarket on Fergus were eventual winners beating Sixmilebridge in the final.

One of the highlights of the year was our participation in the St. Mary GAA Club 11th annual U11 Frank Maher Tournament where we were invited to enter one team consisting of a squad of 15 players. The tournament was held on Saturday 3rd September in Clonmel where clubs from around the country came to showcase their skills. In the group stage we played Mount Leinster Rangers, St. Mary's Clonmel and Valley Rovers winning all three matches to top our group and qualify for the Tom Maher Cup semi-finals. In the semi-final we played Lismore in a very competitive match but they just had too much for us on the day and won on a score line of 2-3 to 1-1. Lismore went on to beat Drom-Inch in a very closely contested final. It was an excellent day out by all accounts and one that will live long in the memories of the boys.

At the end of August the U12 fixtures commenced with scheduled matches every fortnight through September and October. The U12 boys played in local matches competing against Sixmilebridge, Newmarket on Fergus and Ballyea. We also had very competitive challenge matches against Newport, Na Piersaigh (Limerick) and Craughwell.

On Sunday 7th October our U12 teams competed in the Stephen Coen and Mike Dillon memorial blitz in Clarinbridge GAA where we played against Clarinbridge, Newport, Kilmacud Crokes and Na Piersaigh (Limerick). In what was a very wet day the boys gave a very good account of themselves against strong opposition. The blitz was well organised and it was a very enjoyable day for all.

The standard of hurling on display in the matches at the U11 & U12 age groups this year has been exceptional at times and as the year went on the improvement in skill levels has been very evident. Great credit must go to the coaches and parents for providing constant encouragement to the boys to practice at home the skills they learn at training. The difference this makes can be seen on the pitch!

Finally, we would like to thank all the boys for their commitment, dedication and enthusiasm throughout the year and to the parents for their continued support. Keep practicing over the winter break and we look forward to seeing all the boys back in 2023!

U11/U12 Coaches

Mervyn Dixon, Donal Murphy, Donal Cahill, Christy O' Connor, John Corry, Brian Dilleen, Eamon O' Gairbhith, Owen O' Connor, Ivens Zambrano, Darragh O' Driscoll, Brian Moroney.



U13 AND U14 HURLING

The year 2023 was a thoroughly enjoyable season for underage hurling in St. Joseph's Doora-Barefield, not least for our u13 & u14 squads. As one of the three primary under-age championships, the u13 competition ran on a weekly basis throughout the summer months. At the conclusion of the U13 championship, our u12 panel members joined with the u11 group, and our u13 squad linked up with our u14 players to contest the u14 championship in the autumn.

In SJDB, we are very fortunate to have so many young and committed players in our underage system. At u13 level, we had a wonderful and enthusiastic panel of 42 players, who competed in both the u13 A and U13 A Academy competitions. All young players want to play as many games as possible, and Bord na nÓg Iomaint an Chláir did not disappoint. Over the course of the summer, we played 18 U13A and U13A Academy matches, together with several challenge games along the way.

For many of our players, this was their first experience of 15 a-side championship hurling matches. Over the season, we travelled to several of the hurling strongholds throughout the county. Many of our games came down to the proverbial puck of a ball, sometimes we came out on top, other times, we weren't so lucky.

On each occasion though, our players learned a little bit more about themselves as hurlers and improved. Players always looked forward to the next game and our training sessions often ran over-time as the boys didn't want the game to end. On a fine evening in July, our U13 Academy team overcame our friends from Sixmilebridge in an epic 8 goal thriller Shield final in Gurteen.

As the evenings grew shorter, the end of season competitions came into focus. Our u12 players left to join up with the u11 group and we welcomed the u14 group. With a panel of 38 players, we competed in the U14 A and U14 A Academy competitions. All told, we played 7 games across both competitions, reaching two finals.

That just tells part of the story though. Over the course of the season, all our panel members grew and developed significantly as hurlers. It was noticeable that at any SJDB game or indeed any evening over in Gurteen, the majority of our squad were there, hurley in hand. We generally had excellent attendances at training, and we could see the evidence of practice at home as boys progressed throughout the year.

Hurling is almost a year round activity at this stage. Some of our older players started training with the u15 squad at the beginning of the year, while second level squad members are still involved in post-primary hurling. It is important to take time to thank those who contribute so much over the year. The field committee who are always so supportive of our efforts. The parents and supporters who travel and encourage us on our journey. We were also so fortunate to have such wonderful sponsors in Lorcan Coll, of Coll Suspended Ceilings, who supplied our panel with a set of training tops, and Sinead and Paudie Guerin, from the Peppermill restaurant. Your support is valued and appreciated.

Thank you,

U13 & U14 Hurling Coaches

James Breslin, Donal Cahill, Edward Corry, John Corry, Seán Duggan, Wayne Laverick and Fergal O'Sullivan



U13 A Academy Shield Winners



U13 A Finalists

REVIEW OF U9 FOOTBALL 2022

The players and coaches had a very enjoyable football season that began in March and ended with a blitz against Galway's Corofin. In that blitz both Doora-Barefield and Corofin fielded sixty players and each team comprised between seven and nine players and the games were played at a high tempo with good levels of skill and teamwork on show. The season ended as it began, with a highly motivated group of players that enjoy playing football and want to improve how they play as a team.

From the very beginning of the season, attendance at training was very high with many sessions attracting fifty players born between 2013 and 2014. Training sessions typically involved players developing the basic skills of kicking, catching and passing in short drills and then breaking into teams to play small sided games. The coaches were very happy with the players enthusiasm, attention and development as a group.



From left, Hugh Garvey, Daniel Kelleher, Ben Keneally's sister, Ben Keneally, Cillian Crowley, Cillian Fahy, Shane McCarthy

From the beginning of April to the end of June, the boys played against other Clare clubs every second weekend (alternative with hurling blitzes). These games were 15 minutes-a-half and all players got the same playing time in each game. From August the group switched to U10 level to prepare for the 2023 season and comprised players born in 2012 and 2013. A second series of games got underway and St. Joseph's played clubs including; Kilmurry In., Miltown, Lissycasey, Clarecastle, Clooney and Eire Og. In all matches, the St. Joseph's players showed great attitude and their decision making as well as the range of skills from the boys continued to improve.

The coaches are looking forward to the upcoming year and will continue to encourage the boys to show up, listen and try their best in every training session and every game.

U9/10 Football Coaches



From left St. Joseph's players are Sean Lannon, Ciaran Ryan, Joseph Kennedy, Bobby Fitzgerald, Diarmuid McLoughlin, Callan Rynne, David Lahiffe, Joe Fennell



U10 HURLING REPORT

The U10 Hurling Group resumed training in August after the Summer break and the change in Go Games age groups for the latter half of the year. The group comprised our 2013 born boys who started the year with the U9 group and our 2012 born boys who were part of the U11 age group for the first part of the year. Playing numbers remained high with attendance at training regularly in the mid to high 40's during the u10 season. As a management team, we continued our focus on developing the boys' hurling skills, movement and team work in a positive and fun environment.

The U10 Go Games commenced on the weekend of 4th Sept when we hosted Sixmilebridge in Gurteen. We fielded 6 teams on the day, comprising over 50 players. Over the following weeks we played Go Games against Kilmaley, Scarriff-Ogonnelloe and Ballyea before finishing the schedule of games against teams from Clarecastle and O'Callaghan's Mills on 29th Oct. The boys displayed a great sense of teamwork again this year, bringing a positive attitude and encouraging their team-mates throughout all

their games. Their hurling skills are developing nicely too with good improvements noted in striking on the move, passing and ball handling.

There were many highlights during the campaign. In addition to some great performances during the Go Games schedule, we were also kindly invited to bring 3 teams of u10's to play Na Piarasigh in Limerick on 1st Oct. The lads showed great pride in representing the parish and treated the games as a rematch of the Munster Hurling Final between Clare and Limerick!

I noted last year that there is a great energy and bond amongst the players in this group and it's something that should be fostered further as they move up the age grades.

I would like to thank my fellow coaches for their time and effort during the year. To Marie O'Halloran, Sinead McCormick, Sinead McMahon, Ken Kennedy, Mike Cullinan, Brian Carmody, Ian Carolan, Brian Moroney, Kevin Currid, Kieran Cosgrove, Michael Fitzpatrick, Simon Kelleher, Ian Ryan, Declan Lannon and John Garvey, thank you. I would also like to thank other parents who stepped in at different times to help out during the year.

As a dual club, the demands of 2 concurrent Go Games schedules calls for a high level of cooperation between hurling and football management teams. To this end, I would like to thank John Garvey, Declan Lannon and their coaching team for a smooth working relationship during the year.

Thanks also to Raymond Power, Paul Mannion and the Minor Club for their support during the year with sliotars and equipment. To Joe McMamara, thanks for making the pitches available to us and for accommodating our larger fixtures with additional pitch space. And finally, thanks to the players for building a great team environment and to their parents for encouraging and supporting the boys' participation in the group. Keep up the practice during the winter!

Happy Christmas and all the best for 2023!



Buff Egan Shane o Grady and Barry Guilfoyle with the intermediate and junior A Cups. To the moon



U7 HURLING & FOOTBALL SEASON REVIEW 2022

We started the season in the last week of March and after seeing the obvious benefits to the boys of participating in the blitzes at the end of the previous season the coaches set our stall out early on to try and play as many games as possible throughout the summer. With 66 players registered, all of whom participated at some point during the season, it was also obvious that we'd need more coaches and the call was put out to see who was available. Thankfully there was a fantastic response and we had plenty of help at every training session and blitz for the remainder of the year.

Our first blitz of the season was in hurling away to a tough and well coached Ballyea outfit on a Friday evening in early May. It was the first time the U6 boys got to pull on the Parish jersey and the excitement was palpable even though it was past their bedtime when the final whistle blew. Next we travelled to a very welcoming Na Piersaigh in Limerick for a mixed blitz, playing two games in each code in what was a well organized and enjoyable outing. We were on the road again for blitzes in Lissycasey (Football), on a scorching hot Saturday morning, and Ardahan (Hurling) before back to back fixtures at home and away to Sixmilebridge. We rounded off a busy couple of months with a return fixture against Lissycasey in Gurteen in mid-July. There was lots of skill on show on a lovely Summer evening and there's no doubt this group will cross paths with the Lissycasey boys again in the coming years.

With lots of experience under their belts the boys were in a confident mood as we prepared for the Co Board organized Monster Blitzes in Caherlohan at the end of July. 8 teams were entered in the hurling blitz and 7 in the football equivalent and it was fantastic to see such a competitive showing from all the Parish teams against an array of opposition from all sides of the County.

Following our usual break over the August bank holiday the coaches introduced player of the week awards in hurling & football for the players who best demonstrated the core

values of the club; Honesty, Courage and Respect during the previous week in training and matches. The boys had been learning about the club values since the start of the season but the awards helped put the focus on what these values looked like when they took the field and represented the club. The awards proved extremely popular and it soon became apparent that we would have to extend the season into the New Year or include some additional categories to ensure as many of the boys as possible got to receive an award. After a long debate about the merits of training through the Winter the coaches decided to introduce additional awards for skill of the week and score of the week and thankfully every boy got the opportunity to collect a trophy before the end of the season.

September and October saw the commencement of U8 Go Games for the older boys and while it was initially a bit of a culture shock playing in the older grade the games are an excellent way of bridging the gap from U7 and will prove beneficial to the boys when they step up to U9 next Spring. The U6 boys continued their season with blitzes away to Craughwell and Inagh/Kilnamona in hurling and with a football blitz against our near neighbours Eire Og.

The season finished with a party for the boys in Gurteen where the highlight of the day was a surprise visit from Mike Guilfoyle and the Senior hurling panel fresh from their convincing win in the Munster Quarter Final in Cusack Park. It was very noticeable how excited the boys were in getting to support our Adult teams in Co Finals this year and to see them achieve success. That they had the opportunity to meet their heroes in person will undoubtedly leave a lasting impression on this group of boys.

A special word of thanks to all the coaches who helped out during the season. With such large numbers there is a huge crossover between both codes which means many of the coaches are giving up 3 days a week to keep the show on the road. We would also like to thank the club for their continued support and to Niall Considine who did an excellent job again this year as official team photographer.

U7 Hurling & Football Management





U7 PHOTOS





SCHOOLS COACHING PROGRAMME THRIVING UNDER DAMIAN BURKE

On the last day of the school year on December 21st, Damian Burke was in Doora NS completing his final coaching session of a very productive year for the St Joseph's Doora-Barefield schools coaching programme. The weather was perfect, but Damian's consistent presence on the schoolyards across the parish has always been a highlight of the schoolkids' day. The club are lucky to have such an enthusiastic and excellent coach in Damian, who is extremely popular with the kids. His coaching expertise is evident on the ground as he primarily seeks to develop fundamental skills for children at all ages from junior infants to sixth class. Damian worked extremely hard on helping children to develop speed over the last year, which is invaluable to their development, while also incorporating those drills into helping and enhancing the kids' hurling and football skills. The technical detail is very important as Damian plans different sessions for each class, ranging from holding the hurley correctly in junior infants from being able to strike the ball on the front foot in sixth class. "I always question myself on how I can get better drills so as to be able to develop the kids more as a footballer and hurler with games specific coaching," said Damian.

It was also a productive year for the school hurling, football, ladies football and camogie teams. Back in June, Doora won a camogie title, while Knockanaen won the Division 3 hurling title. Barefield reached the Division 1 semi-final while the Doora boys also reached their semi-final. In football, Knockanaen reached the Division 2 final but lost to Kildysart. Barefield lost the Division 1 football semi-final to Ballyea but the girls won the Division 1 football title, defeating Ballyea in the final. As always, 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. The schools are so accommodating that it was extremely rare that any class group missed their slot in the weekly timetable. The great work being done in the programme is evidently transferring to the pitches in Gurteen as it was a great year for underage hurling and football in the club. 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 – Gerard Ruan, Jim Curran and Ross Darmody. The club are also indebted to the teachers for their continued support of the programme.

And the programme continues to grow from strength to strength.

CLUB DEVELOPMENT 2023

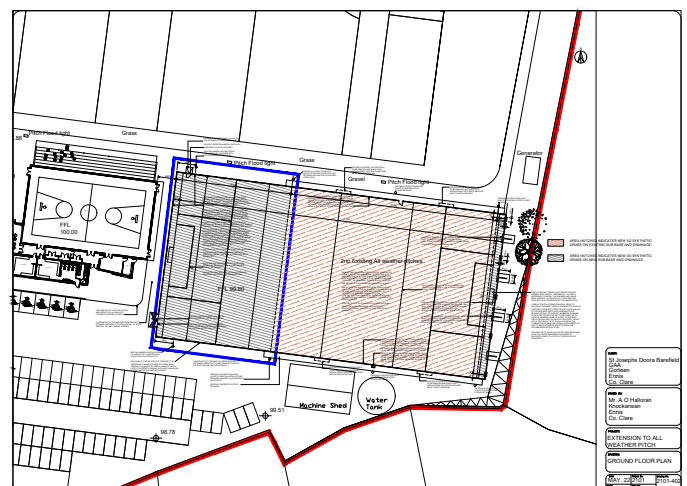
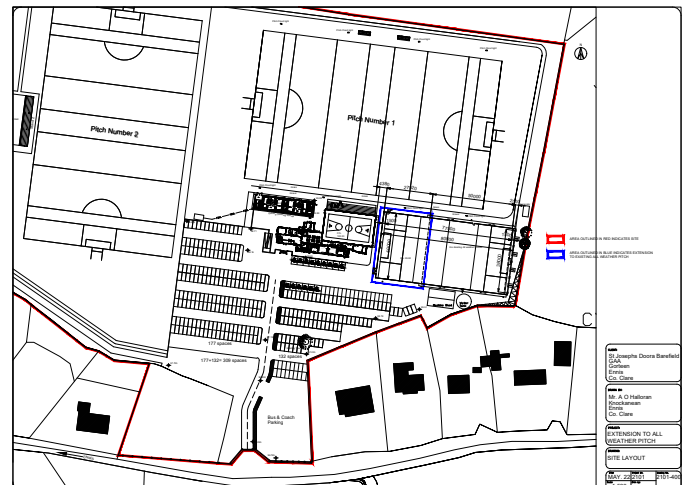
This year has been a very successful year for the club. The executives are still busy planning and preparing for the season ahead. Currently the Gym is getting a full revamp and been upgraded to a standard which is needed for our players. Thanks to all the players that were involved in painting and clearing out of the gym. This will be ready in the next couple of weeks.

We have also secured funding and planning for a new Astro and ball wall. Thanks to Sean Lenihan, Anthony O Halloran and the other members of this committee for bringing this over the line. This is due to commence shortly. The Facilities committee are also converting the shed at pitch one to a shop which will benefit the club and provide refreshments to people attending matches and training.

The club is spending in the region of 300K this year so the development committee will be organizing some fundraising activities during the year. If there is anyone interested in joining this committee please contact me. All support welcome. Finally I would like to welcome Evan Hennessy to the club who will be implementing an S & C 5 year Strength and Conditioning Academy. Evan is also looking after the S & C for the Adult Club.

Looking forward to meeting everyone in the Gurteen during the year. Up the Parish

Robert Hurley
(Chairperson)





St. Josephs Doora Barefield Camogie



I ♥ Camogie!





Camogie Chairpersons AGM Note

Hi All, I'd like to thank all of you for coming out tonight to attend the AGM. We are closing out on another hugely enjoyable season for all our players, coaches and club members. As always, there were highs points, plenty of drama, and also some disappointments. There is lots we can improve on, but we always need to remind ourselves that we are part of a great club, with a deep history, envious facilities, envious membership numbers, a large cohort of committed coaches and most importantly, lots of young camogie players who are having fun playing camogie week in week out in Gurteen.

Firstly, I would like to mention those connected with the club who are no longer with us since this time last year. Kitty McNichols who was a trailblazer for women in sport and a huge figure in Clare Camogie who passed away in August. She was a joint president and a key member of the county board for many years. She played on the Clare Junior team that brought silverware to Clare in '74 and part of the Clare all Ireland winning Intermediate management team in '93.

Her singular drive and leadership over a long period, ensured that Clare Camogie got its own county grounds at Fr McNamara Park in Oct 2012. A number of our camogie teams had the opportunity to play this this season. So on behalf of the Club, I would like to extend our sincere sympathy to the McNicholas family.

Jimmy Kenny passed away unexpectedly in October. Jimmy was another huge servant to Clare Camogie. Like Kitty, Jimmy epitomised what you might call the GAA 'super volunteer'. He was the Clare Camogie Development Officer and Field Manager for Fr Mc Namara park. He joined St Josephs GAA in the 90s and was involved successfully in Junior A Management. He coached and managed a number of St Josephs teams during his time in the club including Camogie teams.

I would also like to offer our condolences to Anne McNamara, from the U8 Coaching team whose brother and father both passed away within a short space of each other earlier this year.

Also our condolences to Marcus Creaven, one of our sponsors and supporter and to Aoibhinn and Avril Creaven our players on the passing of their Aunt and Marcus's sister Maev in August.

Our condolences also to Sean Duggan and family, whose father Michael and mother Meta passed away during this year.

Our membership continues to be strong and reached 280 this year, 239 Players and 41 Non Players (coaches). Thankfully, we have some very strong coaches and we have a lot of new coaches that are learning. I am thrilled by the quality of the people I meet on the pitches, their enthusiasm and commitment is energising and I feel very positive about the players coming through from U6 up.

We have super work being done with all the age groups.

Our U16s are the only group flying the flag for the club at A Level. They competed very well and reached the Semi-final of the A Cup. Our U13/14 group are also a strong group and reached a final again this year.

There is huge work being done with the 6s/8s/10s/11s/12s. If you head over to Gurteen on a Sunday morning, you couldn't be but impressed by the high levels of activity and endeavour. We have strong lead coaches right across these groups and a good percentage of ex-players in there as well. As always, we do need some more coaches to help.

On the adult side, I want to congratulate the junior adult team for reaching the League final again this year. It was a difficult championship for the Senior players, and we are all disappointed for both them and the Mgmt team that we will be playing Intermediate next year. However we should view it as an opportunity to reset and to focus on the prospect of winning out at Intermediate level again.

Club Management felt that our senior team should be managed at a level on a par with those applied to a senior men's setup and we achieved that.

We did reach a new standard of management for this group this year in terms of quality, resourcing, and organisation for a senior setup. We invested significantly in physio support both at training and at matches and the co-operation generally with the senior football group was good this year. Both of these helped to optimise player welfare.

The adults management team who were providing their time and expertise free of charge, brought a high level of technical and organisational standards to the setup. I know from my long conversations with each of them that they cared a great deal for both teams and cared a great deal about the results and I know that the season result bothered them.. Our Adult teams are the lead teams in the club, we want the rest of the club to follow them being successful so we will continue to focus on them, resource them properly, build upon the high standards applied this year and support the hard work being done by the players on the pitch.

On the Juvenile side, the CAMAN to CROKER event was definitely a highlight. It was a huge day for the U12 group that went along. It had everything a 12 year old would ask for... A bus Trip, playing in a huge arena and of course a Supermacs at the end! The Adults had a great day as well.... and we enjoyed the Supermacs too !

It's a reminder to us as coaches and club administrators that we do need to enrich the experience of our younger players. There needs to be variety and a change sometimes from the routine of training and matches. The club will always support initiatives that enrich the experience of the players.

Another highlight was our U14 community games team who had a great day out in Kilmaley to win Clare and then in UL at the Munster finals. I was in UL to see them and I was proud for the club to see them battle against a very strong team in the final. This was another enriching and valu-



able experience for this group of players under the care of coaches Roseanne, Paul and Keith. They got to play in a final in a novel environment against strong opposition. I'd like to thank Barefield Community Games for their work and help with this.

I want to commend the coaches who are continuing to provide opportunity to our players to play through the winter. All players from 10s to 18s can now train weekly through the winter, which is fantastic and will pay dividends down the line. These coaches are essentially committing to year round involvement and the club really appreciated this.

In the context of player welfare, I want to note our co-operation with the LGFA. I mentioned already that it seemed to go well this year at senior team level, where it's a must as up to 80% of the players are dual players.

We were also co-operating around training with our U10/11s and our U10 winter training is alternating between LGFA and Camogie. Generally, both codes have their own challenges and goals, so considering the needs of each other is always going to be difficult. It requires giving from both sides and success can often be dependent on individual personalities. However, player welfare is important, so we must keep considering it and we will review again ahead of next year.

In terms of developing the club, and as I mentioned at our preseason meet earlier this year, we need to deepen our management structure in the club in order to have the resources to get more work done. We have a six person committee.... But that's not sufficient. We need more PRO help, we urgently need more resources at secretary We need someone focussed on fundraising and there are other roles.... We have lots of small projects that we can't start..... We need to reach out and draw in more help. To this end, we have been using the volunteering guidelines that the GAA have developed and we have created a list of roles and also kicked off a callout directly to each member to get more people on board to help with the various initiatives.

Coaching Quality and Standards is obviously always a critical area for us and we will continue to focus on it. One item in relation to this which we managed to progress is to get the schools coach more involved with our Juvenile Coaches to support them and guide their development. Damien Burke is a full time coach and he has already been working on the GAA side of the club. He led three sit-down sessions with some of the U6/8/10 coaches and will follow this with time on the pitch helping them develop next year. He is also connecting with them on their indoor winter sessions.

One other area of concern for us is the relatively low levels of match support we get for our adult teams. We are determined to improve this. We met to discuss it earlier in the year and took some specific actions ahead of and during the championship, however while there seemed to be an improvement, it wasn't significant. We will have to under-

stand the reasons for this and take some more targeted actions to bring about an improvement.

I wanted to mention two important ongoing projects. Firstly, the ONE CLUB project will bring together all three codes under ONE CLUB. All three codes in St Josephs have committed to form ONE CLUB and this is a live project. There is a separate committee working on it under Robert Hurley's leadership. The Camogie Club is represented on this committee by Ivan Kerins and Caroline O'Connor. The work is progressing under 3 work streams – 1- Branding, 2-Social Media and 3-Finance/ Online shop.

Currently the committee are focussing on the upgrade of the club website in readiness for One Club. The Social Media strand is already complete. The key element relating to streamlining registration is a priority but does not yet have a schedule, but we would envisage that it may be in place for the 2024 season. The camogie management are very conscious that the registration process for families is frustrating and moving to a ONE CLUB model will streamline this. However, Insurance structures at national level will restrict our ability to align registration fees in the short term.

I wanted to mention the Development Draw also. Its up and running and two draws have been completed. This draw will fund the ASTRO pitch expansion which will see the ASTRO pitch double in size and provide us with a 2nd Ball Wall. No start date locked down yet, but planning permission has been granted and it will happen sometime in 2023. The draw will also provide funds to extend & upgrade the walking track.

The Camogie club currently is in a good place financially, thanks mainly to the foresight of previous management. We are grateful to all the fundraisers and the sponsors who enable us to stay ahead financially and give us the opportunity to invest for future growth and success. I want to thank those who have given up their time during this past year to fundraise for the club. Twenty of you travelled into Limerick in May to steward at the great Limerick Run and raised €1200 for the club in a few hours. Thanks to those who gave their time to the BEST EVER Flag day event last December in terms of revenue. We are targeting to have more player involvement this year to build on last year's success. While the flag day is a fundraiser, its also an opportunity to present and promote ourselves as a Camogie Club out there in the community.

Also thanks again to the LOTTO team who work tirelessly week in week out running the lotto and raising funds which the camogie club members benefits from.

I want to mention the people and business that helped us with sponsorship during the last year. Both them and previous sponsors are listed in the AGM booklet. Drumquin Construction stepped forward and offered to purchase tops for the U14 Group. Liddy's Eurospar purchased tops for the Community games team ahead of the finals in UL. AGC



Instruments have just sponsored club tops for the U16/18 players. Club tops are really valued by the players and they play an important role in promoting the club in terms of the logo and colours, so its brilliant that most of the players now have these tops to wear.

The Grove has as always been a great support to the camogie club during this year gone. I want to also thank Frank Landy from Sweet and Green for going above and beyond this season to provide those valued and tasty smoothies at adult training right through from January to October.

Thanks to Joe McNamara and his pitch management team who make it possible for us to play and train there in Gurteen all year, and to Michael McMahon in the clubhouse and of course Siobhan Hoey in the shop who also was a great help for the Jersey and Zip Top orders.

I'd like to thank Helen McQuillan for giving her time so generously during this season to produce top quality photographs of the Senior Team. Its time consuming work but very important in terms of promotion.

I want to say thanks to the Club Management team here for their hard work this year managing the club. I want to thank the coaches once again for giving their time and consider-

able effort to the club and players. The coaches and team managements are our ' Front Line Workers ' and while its rewarding work , we all know it can be very challenging, so your hard work is very much appreciated.

I would also like to say thanks to both Robert Hurley and Enda Flaherty for working so constructively and respectfully with the Camogie club during the year. I want to congratulate both the Hurling and LGFA on successful seasons and particularly the Intermediate Team who are now flying the flag for the club at Munster level.

Finally, I just wanted to mention that Aine Brooks our Club Management member is finishing up this year She passed the registration baton over to Carole last year but agreed to stay on for the 12 months to support the transition and we are very grateful that she agreed to do that. Aine did a top job as registrar for five years. She was suited to the role as she is highly diligent, very organised, has high integrity and a no nonsense style. Outside of the Registrar duties, Aine was and is a big contributor generally within the management team in terms of providing valuable opinion, advice and particularly creative ideas. We are not losing out entirely as Aine will continue to help out with Juvenile Coaching.

Thanks, Niall Burke. Chairperson

2022 COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES:

CONGRATULATIONS to the following players from our club that have represented us so well on county panels this season.

St Josephs DB County representatives 2022			
U14	Amy Reynolds	Maeve Barry	Aimee Conroy
U15	Aoibhinn Creaven	Eabha O'Driscoll	
U16	Emily Kelly	Ciara Hegarthy	Sophie Torpy



"CAMAN TO CROKER"



Report by Alicia Boyle
[Age 12]

When I was told I was going to Croke Park, I was so excited. I was looking forward to it so much for days. When I went to bed the night before going to Croke Park, I was so excited. In the morning I had to get up

at 6am to ensure I had a great breakfast of porridge and eggs and to make sure all my gear was ready. We left at 6:40am to make sure we got there on time. When I got on the bus it was all chatter and excitement. After about 20 minutes one of the coaches gave us a speaker and all the way up to Croke Park was wild and CRAZY. (One of the highlights of the day).

Once we got there, there was so many teams and clubs,. The coaches brought us to the place where we would leave our kit. We were sitting at our seats watching some matches, the skills were fantastic. When it was our turn to play, I was nervous but that quickly disappeared when I started playing with my teammates on the pitch. We played a team from Armagh, a team from Galway and a team from Cork

Playing on the pitch felt spectacular and playing a few teams across Ireland was brilliant. Each team bought their own set of skills and challenges to the games, which we managed to

overcome. After the games we had a bit of lunch and went around the museum, the museum was really cool with lots of interesting stuff. After the museum we meet our tour guide and had the whole tour of Croke Park, Croke Park is a fantastic stadium, and we were so lucky to play there. My favourite part of the tour was the players' lounge, which was so different and cool because it had this light with all the colours of the counties of Ireland (apart from Kilkenny). I also liked the changing rooms with all the jerseys.

When it was time to get back on the bus I didn't want to leave because I had enjoyed the visit so much! When we got back onto the bus one of the girls got another speaker as the first speaker had died! After an hour or two we stopped at Super Macs and had a bite to eat, some of us had a look around The Barrack Obama Museum. I found the museum very interesting. A few of us bought sweets for the journey home. When the coaches finally managed to get us out of there, we got back on the bus and headed for home. If I thought, it was wild going up it was even wilder going home, the atmosphere on the bus was crazy! It is a day I will never ever forget. It was fantastic being on the coach driving home victorious with my friends, teammates and coaches all together. I really enjoyed the brilliant visit to Croke Park. I want to say a huge thank you to all the coaches who organised the wonderful visit to Croke Park, Sheila, Niall, Dermot, Noel, Roseanne, Bernard and Anne. It was a day my teammates and I will never forget.



(Great picture of the players at the pitch with Croke Park backdrop in all its glory)



Some of the Coaches (Right) and Supervisors (Left) who organised the trip and managed everything so well on the day.



Hopefully, these great players will be back at this spot some day in the future collecting a cup !



The bus up and down to Dublin was just the best craic !



Happy Camogie Players !



Big thanks to Amy Reynolds for Platting EVERYBODYs hair on the way up !



COMMUNITY GAMES



Report by Kate Howard
[Age 14]

This year, I was lucky enough to be part of the u14 team competing in the Camogie Community Games Competition. It was a great opportunity to get to play with this special bunch of girls and we had great fun and some good laughs along the way.

Our first outing was in Kilmaley on the 4th of June, where we came out with a great victory which brought us through to the Munster round of the competition. On the day in Kilmaley we played Kilmaley first with a great win. We then played Smith O'Brien's in the Semi-final and then went on to play Cratloe in the final which we won 5:2 to 0:1. We were presented with our medals by the county chairperson Paula Byrne O'Connell.

We were delighted with our win and went back to the Grove to celebrate after, kindly organised by our trainers, Paul Mannion, Roseanne Murphy and Keith Reynolds.

We had some great training sessions before the Munster round to prepare ourselves, thanks to the dedication of our trainers and team mates. We were also very fortunate to get community games tops kindly supported by Tom Liddy at Liddy's Eurospar in Roslevan.

The Munster community games was held in the UL sports grounds and it was a great opportunity to get to play in UL. There we played Ahane representing Limerick who we had a great victory against. We finally went on to play Boharlahan Dualla representing Tipperary in the final but after a great team effort we weren't able to come out with a win. We were all very proud of everyone's performances with our trainers and captain Aimee Conroy keeping our spirits up as we received our second-place medals. We went back to the Grove afterwards for food to celebrate getting so far.

Even though the results didn't go our way in the final, we were very proud to be representing our club and county in the Munster Community Games.



Team Picture at the Finals in UL
[Manager Roseanne Healy missing... Taking the photo !]



Medal Ceremony after the final
[Aimee Conroy (Captain) is missing from this picture]



U6s with some of their coaches

Team Reports: U6

The 2022 U6 camogie season commenced on the 20th of March with over 40 girls registered for the 2022 season. The season continued until our last session on the 16th of October with an average of 24 girls attending U6 camogie training each Sunday morning at our wonderful Gurteen facility. 2022 saw a number of new members some of which will be underage next year and some who after spending 2 (if not 3 years) with the under 6's will now move up to U8's for 2023.

The basic objective of the coaching team this year was to teach the basic skills, improve movement but importantly to ensure all girls had fun and wanted to come training back week on week. The large coaching team allowed us to break up sessions into smaller groups where we worked on basic skills such as hurling grip and striking but we also had a big focus this year on fundamental movement.

This year saw an introduction of a number of new members to the club, but also their extended families. The coaches would like to thank all parents who brought their children to Gurteen in all weather and contributed to the community atmosphere at our fantastic club grounds. In addition, 2022 also saw new coaches give their time and be willing to get involved and to contribute to the introduction of camogie to the girls.

As the year progressed, we introduced a number of mini games to the training sessions. Highlights of the year saw a combined blitz with U8's which was topped off by an ice cream van which was a delight to the kids, coaches and parents.

The final day of the season saw the running of a mini blitz which brought the end to a great season with the girls receiving a medal and sliotar which will allow the girls to practice at home over the winter months and the girls also received the mandatory goodie bag.

A big thank you to the girls who arrived early on a Sunday morning with such enthusiasm and energy and to the parents who gave their time to ensure that the girls were there each week. To enable the above to happen it was facilitated by a dedicated team of coaches, some who are coaching camogie for the first time and not an easy job when dealing with such a group. Each coach gave their time, commitment and love for the game every Sunday morning to ensure the girls came back week on week. The coaching team was Kevin Healy, John O'Loughlin, Glenda Cullinan, Mary Ryan, Enda Garvey, Derek Quinn, Aoibheann Ruane, Shamus Howard, Enda Kenna, and Sean Mullins.

Have a great Christmas and New Year. Please continue to encourage the girls to practice their skills over the Winter months and we will look forward to seeing the girls in Gurteen in March.

John O'Loughlin



U11 Camogie

With the Under 12 competition finishing in early July, it was great that the under 11 competition took place again this year and credit must go to Kilmaley GAA Club for leading this initiative. This gave valuable game time and an incentive for training to all 2011 & 2012 born players.

With a panel of excess of 35 players, we continued to train on Sunday mornings at 09:30 and Thursday evenings at 06:30 with dual players accommodated on those evenings.

Initially, training focused on reinforcing the skills each player would have practiced early in the year at either u12 or u10 level with an emphasis on firstly doing the skills correctly and then doing them with added pace. Time was spent on ground hurling, jab lifting, soloing, striking, batting, hooking, catching, handpassing etc and steadily each player showed improvement. There was also an emphasis placed on tackling and ability to win ball and this was done through small sided games. Some fun elements were also incorporated with games such as large style "x's" and "o's" played which the players loved and they also got some sprint work completed!

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Clooney Quin and fielded two mixed teams of 2011 & 2012 girls on each of these occasions. The first league match took place on August 20th versus Cratloe and we played Clooney Quin in the last match on October 22nd so the players had almost

4 months of training together which is great preparation for the 2023 Under 12 camogie season. Inagh Kilnamona are particularly strong at this age group but apart from that match, we competed excellently in the remainder of the fixtures. The most pleasing aspect was to see how much each girl improved from our first match to the last. They are a lovely group of players and are a pleasure to coach and we look forward to seeing them back on the pitches in Gurteen in early 2023.

It is also planned to complete some astroturf sessions during November and December to ensure that camogie is never far from the mind.

Under 11 Camogie Mentors: Dermot Daly, Paul Mockler, Shane Speake, Derek Quinn, Bernard Murphy & Noel Brodie.

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U13 / U14 Camogie

A Winter Training Programme for this particular group provided the girls with much coaching in the areas of striking, catching, tackling, jab lifting and scoring. In the B competition we had comfortable wins over Truagh Clonlara, Broadford, Crusheen, Whitegate and Cratloe. Such victories earned us a place in a semi final against Parteen. Despite a very good performance from the girls, Parteen proved too strong for us.

Our Academy team had victories over Cratloe and Sixmilebridge in all their games. Overall, we saw fantastic improvements in all the girls' skills as the season progressed.



U13 DIV C team



U14 team picture



U14 team picture

Coaches with this team were Paul Mannion, Ivan Kerins, Keith Reynolds, Carmel Duggan and Roseanne Healy. In the U13 competitions, we also had two teams, one in Div B and another in Div C. Our Div B team had victories over Clooney Quin, Clarecastle, Ruan and Whitegate which meant a place in the final against Eire Og. This provided the girls with an opportunity to play in Fr Mac Namara Park.

This game was a closely fought battle against two teams who knew each other very well. The girls mounted a courageous come back in the second half but fell short at the final whistle.

Our Div C team played Cratloe, Smith O Briens, Wolf Tones and Broadford. Their hard work earned them a

place in a semi-final against Kilkee Bealaha. In wet and windy conditions our girls battled right to the end but were unsuccessful against a very strong Kilkee Bealaha side.

It was a long season for the U13 but their commitment and drive are to be admired, We will see these girls on the field again very soon.

Coaches with this team were Paul Mannion, Padraic Duddy, Ivan Kerins, Keith Reynolds, Carmel Duggan, Sheila O Connor, Bernard Murphy and Roseanne Healy



SENIOR CAMOGIE REPORT:

2022 Management, under the professional eye of Martin Moloney, met with all interested camogie players in Gurteen on Sunday December 12th 2021 to ascertain the interest level of the girls for the upcoming season. Great enthusiasm was recorded, and training commenced in earnest on Friday January 28th 2022.

In what can only be described as sheer commitment, girls trained week in and week out at the back of a muddy goals under flood lights in all weathers dancing to the tunes of expert coaches Ciarán O'Neill and Frank Landy. The drills that were introduced in these preseason sessions were beneficial to the girls not only in their technique and fitness but in their mental strength and endeavours to the seasons bitter end. Nutritionist Frank ensured each girl received a supply of his very own smoothies and protein ball concoction after each session which was especially appreciated by girls travelling from colleges midweek and Friday evenings.

March kicked off the start of both Junior and Senior League. Captained by Ann Foudy, our Junior girls had comprehensive wins over The Banner, Parteen and Whitegate and just about beating Tulla by the narrowest of margins to clinch a spot in the final against Cratloe. This was always going to be a mammoth task as Cratloe was in this division with their first team and unfortunately it wasn't to be for our brave warriors on a dirty wet evening in June. Losing by six points in a very competitive final was no mean feat and great credit and utmost respect goes to all girls who contributed but none more so than our young underage girls who stepped up when asked, to ensure St. Joseph's could field a team in this Division Six League campaign. Without these girls this Junior team would not have made it to a league final so great credit and appreciation to them and their parents as well as the whole Junior Panel.

Our Senior League had a false start when the rain put a halt to our gallop in Kilmaley on March 12th. Toggled and ready to go, our girls had to reverse back out of the club house as heavy rains created a waterlogged pitch. However this postponement was only for a week and didn't deter the commitment of the group as they ran out winners subsequently while repeating the same results against

Clooney/Quin, Clarecastle/Ballyea, Kilkishen/Bodyke and finally Eire Og to ensure a league final spot. Unfortunately, the opposition couldn't field a team and County Board saw no alternative but to award St. Joseph's the League Title. Not the finish we had hoped for but alas.....

After careful deliberation it was decided we could only field one team in the 2022 Championship. Losing girls to work commitments, injuries, J1's, county teams and other functions that Covid had put a halt to over the past two years, it was deemed we really only had sufficient players to only compete in the Senior Championship. Fitting in two friendly games against local Intermediate Team Corofin, and gaining great momentum from both games we then arranged for a challenge outside the county and Athenry obliged and travelled to Gurteen.

A week later our girls made the journey to Sarsfield of Galway and both challenges gave great food for thought as our first championship round game loomed.

Finally it was D-day, and captained by stalwart Aisling McMahon, St. Joseph's made the journey to Killanena on Friday August 19th to play county and Munster Champions Scarriff/Ogonnelloe. Having to play this game without our five county ladies footballers didn't deter these St. Joseph's girls in the least as they battled it out with the East Clare amalgamation to just drop short by a mere four points at the final whistle. Heads were high and attitude positive having pushed the county and Munster champions to such a close encounter but unfortunately our next game two weeks later saw us lose out to Sixmilebridge by a single goal.

It was more of the same for the next two subsequent games against New Market On Fergus and Kilmaley, try as they might, our girls despite their best efforts could not secure a win and unfortunately found themselves in the unfortunate position of a relegation play off against Clooney/Quin. This game as a last grasp of the straw in turn could not swing things around and St. Joseph's find themselves contesting at Intermediate Level for 2023!

Losses and wins aside, this year was an especially sad one for camogie. A young player from Waterford was killed in a car accident on her way home from night duty. Shauna McGrath had friends in St. Joseph's Camogie club and we were very saddened at the tragedy. However, it was the untimely death of young Kate Moran from the Athenry club in Galway from a fatal head injury during a club game



on Easter Monday last that put sport into perspective for us all. To this end we should all be grateful to finish the season with all our teammates alongside us, regardless of silverware.

We also lost our Clare Camogie President Kitty McNicolas in August and more recently Kilkenny native but adopted son of Clare and St. Joseph's Doora Barefield Jimmy Kenny we pay special tribute. Jimmy was involved in managing these very bunch of girls as recent as 2018 and never lost touch with their progress right up to the very end only a few short weeks ago. To all those we lost, we offer our club's deepest condolences and thank their memory for their contribution to our unique national sport.

Special thanks to our Chairman Niall Burke for his unreserved support to these senior girls when no stone was left unturned for their betterment. To Joe Mac for always having pitches in immaculate condition for us. To PRO's Sinéad Ryan and Sharon Meaney, photographer Helen McQuillan and First Aid Stalwart Mary Lordan a massive thank you. To all our physios on match day but especially our Captain Aisling McMahon míle buíochas.

Finally to our President Bríd Baker and our Number One Fan Mikie Mac for always supporting the girls on and off the pitch we most sincerely thank you and hope 2023 will see the girls progress back up to Senior status again.

Senior Management Team: Martin Moloney, Ciarán O'Neill, Frank Landy, Siobhán Hoey, Órla Daly



Junior Finalists



Full Adult Panel 2022



Top Camogie supporter – Micky Mac

U8 CAMOGIE

It was great to get back to a normal season of camogie post pandemic. We started back six weeks early than 2021 and held our first U8 camogie training session on the 27th of March. We spent the first few sessions integrating our U7 into the U8 set-up and went back to basics for the whole group focusing on the basics, getting the c-swing right, jab and roll lifting and ground hurling and of course having fun in every drill. We put a huge emphasis on making sure the girls always had a hurley in their hand, whether striking, dribbling or rising, and decided to increase the number of blitzes to give each girl as much gametime as possible during the year.

We welcomed several new coaches into the coaching team this year and they ensured each drill had a purpose and was fun. Each of our sessions was finished with a 15 min game which really allowed the girls to bring their skills to the fore and express themselves in a live game environment.

Trying to blend the skills development and live game environment was a challenge and ultimately aimed at building resilience among the girls. There was bite and passion in every game as the girls challenged each other to improve.

This was further enhanced through our blitzes. In total we took part in 10 blitzes with every girls getting as much gametime as possible. With blitzes coming thick and fast the girls excelled and showed great determination. Our under 7's took time to get up to the more physical level of U8 but did brilliantly and have really developed over the season. Our U8s took off from the year before with some really strong skills progress such as jab lifting and striking in the air, again the girls loved the challenge and were keen to show off the skills. We finished the season with an internal U6/U7 & U8/ U9 blitz followed with an Ice Cream Van feeding the masses, a lovely after match reception in the club house and a skills competition between the girls.

The one thing that has really started to become obvious this year is the strength and depth of this U8 team and their potential to compete together at the highest level. We are lucky to have such a great bunch of girls and the future is very bright for them!

Personally, I'd like to thank the U8 coaching team for giving their time, dedication and enthusiasm each and every Sunday morning and Tuesday



U8s



evening. Thanks to Joe McNamara for being on the end of the phone every time we had to rejig blitz times and fields, and to Niall Burke for supporting the team any time we needed equipment for our training sessions.

With such a big number of girls, having a strong coaching team is essential and we are really lucky to have an exceptional team in Orla, Tony, Anne, Siobhan, Rena, Mike, Sean, Pat, Christy, Kevin, Maggie, Brian, and Derek. I would encourage more parents to get involved as we need as much support around these girls as the progress through the years.

Thanks to all the parents that made the effort to bring the girls to training and blitzes, and were always willing to give a hand when necessary. Without you there would be no club

Bernard MacOscair



U8s... just before they got the ice-cream cones!



U8s



U8s

U10 Camogie

After a long winter we were happy to be back on the field for the camogie season. We have over 40 young aspiring camogie player's all eager to learn new skills. Training took place twice a week on Sundays at 9.30 am and Thursdays. We had a dual training session on Thursday evening with footballers and camogie player's starting at 6.15pm, 45 mins for football and 45 mins for camogie.

We carried on from last year's work, enhancing their skills in jab lift, soloing, tackling in groups, striking ball out of the hand. We always played a small game at the end of training so all players could have a bit of fun.

We had about 6 blitz over the course of the year and we saw big improvements after each game as the season progressed.



U10s



U10s

There was great numbers and dedication from all player's and parents.

I would like to thank all the other coaches, Louise Loughnane, Derek Quinn, Aine Brooks, Adrian Brooks, Mark McNamara, Bernard Murphy, Sandra Flood, David Bourke, Tara Brodie and Eamon Garvey. A big thanks to Noel Brodie for refereeing the blitz's and to Ciara Brooks for helping out also.

A big thanks to Paudie Guerin for providing ice pops to the players after the Gurteen blitzs.

We are off now to work on skills development in the indoor court every Monday during the winter.



U10s



U10s



U10s



U10s



U10s



U10s



U12 CAMOGIE

Our training for the under 12s resumed in March 2022 with 2 sessions a week, Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings. There were over 30 girls registered and we focused on striking, jab lifting, hooking and blocking. We also did sessions in the ball wall where the girls learned how to strike, catch and control the ball and we tried to make these sessions as fun as possible. Following a discussion in relation to player welfare we moved our training to Thursdays where we had dual sessions with the footballers.

Due to our large numbers we entered 2 teams in the Under 12 league. Our first game was in May against 2 very competitive Kilmaley teams and there was great skill displayed on both sides which we narrowly lost. We then played Inagh Kilnamona in Gurteen in a challenge game which we won. In June we played Cratloe, Wolfe Tones and Ruan and the girls displayed huge skill and determination in winning all games. Our final game was against Scariff Ogonnelloe which we lost.

Kilkishen Bodyke invited us to Bodyke on the June bank holiday weekend to participate in a challenge game as part of their local festival. It was a lovely event where they presented our girls

with medals and goodie bags and all the parents were treated to tea and cakes.

In August Tesco held a fun day in Gurteen where 7 clubs participated in 3 mini games each. We had 2 teams playing against Truagh-Clonlara, Scariff-Ogonnelloe, Crusheen, Feakle-Killanena, The Banner and Corofin. This was a fun event and afterwards all the girls received a certificate from the County Board/Tesco.

In September the group split into the Under 11s and under 13s where they had their own competitions and did very well. Some of the girls were on the team that played in the under 13B County final.

We would like to thank all the girls for their efforts this year and wish them well as they go up to Under 14 next year.

Finally we would like to thank the parents for bringing the girls to Gurteen every week, it has been lovely to get to know and coach your daughters. The future of camogie is very bright in Doora Barefield.

UNDER 12 Coaches: Noel Brody, Sheila O Connor, Dermot Daly, Padraic Duddy, Karen McMahon, Paul Mockler, Bernard Murphy and Josephine Howard.

Sheila O'Connor



U12s with their Participation Certs at the TESCO Fun Day



U16 / U18 CAMOGIE

Our U16 2022 Camogie season started in August 2021, with the introduction of players born in 2007 into our 2021 U16 Panel. Along with two well attended training sessions each week, we had challenge matches vs. Granagh/Ballingarry from Limerick and our neighbours Clooney/Quin. With the evening light fading we switched back to one training session per week on Sundays for November & December. Even though a number of our panel were involved in camogie county panels and playing numerous other sports these Sunday morning training sessions were well attended, and all players continued to show improvement in all the skills.

Come January with the start of the New Year our players were eager to get back training and we started back on the Hurling wall each Wednesday, these well attended training sessions continued all the way through to the end of April, and then for May and June our U16s had the opportunity to train with our Adult Camogie Panel.

With the end of the Junior league in May, we commenced specific U16 Championship training on Sunday mornings, players born in 2008 were asked to join these sessions and to strengthen our panel numbers. Challenge matches vs.

Clarecastle and Clooney Quin set us up for our opening U16A Championship vs. Inagh-Kilnamona, where despite being just a couple of scores down at HT, we just ran out of steam in the second and a better Inagh-Kilnamona side prevailed on the day. Next up was previous A champions Scarriff Ogonnoelloe, and on a night where we just underperformed and Scarriff, were run away winners.

Next up was a must win Quarter Final vs. near neighbours Clooney Quin, a team who we had played twice in the past six months in challenge matches, and in near perfect conditions our girls delivered the performance of the season, hooking and blocking their way to a 4 point victory with some outstanding score taking. Our reward for victory over Clooney Quin was a home semi-final vs. our earlier round opponents Inagh Kilnamona.

In a match where scores were hard to come by and where we led 0:5 to 0:4 at half time, and despite hitting the post and the crossbar in the last 5 minutes of the game, we lost by 1 score, 0:6 to 1:6 for IK, but that's sport and our marvellous girls battled to the very end and left everything on the pitch and showed tremendous improvement in their performance vs. the same opposition earlier in the season.



U16 Panel:



U16 A Championship

Round 1:

Doora Barefield 0:6 To 4:9 Inagh Killnamona

Round 2:

Scarriff Ogonolloe 7:12 To 0:5 Doora Barefield

Quarter Final:

Clooney Quin 2:9 To 4:7 Doora Barefield

Semi Final:

Doora Barefield 0:6 To 1:6 Inagh Killnamona

The work ethic and commitment of this panel of players could never be questioned, and there were numerous training sessions in December/January/February/March, where they were the only group out training in Gurteen.

There was significant improvement in skill levels and competitiveness as the season progressed, and special thanks must also go out to the 2008 & 2009 players who helped strengthen the panel as the season progressed. These are an exceptional group of girls who are an absolute pleasure to work with and with the continued support of Parents and Club, they have a substantial contribution to make to the future of this Club and Parish.

From April through to June a number of our U16 players were involved with our DB Junior Camogie Adult Team, and with wins over Parteen, Tulla, and Whitegate in the Semi-Final, where our U16 players demonstrated all their determination and grit vs. much older teams, we progressed all the way to the Final, where we just came up short to a stronger Cratloe Team.

Coaching Team: Feilim Collins, Dave Frawley, Laura Garvey, John O'Connor, Emmett Moran.

U18 CAMOGIE

With the majority of our U18 panel involved with our Adult Camogie Teams or sitting state exams, the U18 competition is run off over a short number of weeks in August and September. First up was Kilmaley, where on the night we were just a little rusty, and despite battling to the end we just came up short losing by a couple of scores.

Next up was a must win home match vrs Tulla, and this time we were ready from the start and the team delivered on all the promise shown in training, putting in an outstanding performance in both halves of the match, and keeping a determined Tulla at bay.

Next up was an U18 semi-final vrs the Parteen/Broadford amalgamation. And despite a very slow start to the first half, we really battled back in the second half and giving ourselves every chance to win, we just came up short in the end and lost by 2 points.

The girls showed great determination in what was a very physical encounter and can be very proud of how they played throughout the season.

U18 Championship.

Round 1: Kilmaley 1:13 To 2:6 Doora Barefield

Round 2: Doora Barefield 3:14 To 1:6 Tulla

U18 Semi Final Broadford/Parteen 4:7 To 3:8

Doora Barefield



PLAYERS

Respect your opponent, play by the rules, accept the decisions of officials & be a Role Model

YOUR CLUB & COUNTY

Accept responsibility to ensure that Players, Coaches, Spectators & Referees "Give Respect - Get Respect" from each other

GIVE RESPECT GET RESPECT

Our games. Our choice.

PARENTS, GUARDIANS & SUPPORTERS

Show approval for how the game is played and do not criticise officials or harass your own team or the opposition

COACHES

Lead by example and treat everybody equally regardless of ability

REFEREES

Apply the rules of the game impartially and gain the respect of all players, officials and spectators



www.gaa.ie/respect





LGFA Mentors Report 2022

DOORA BAREFIELD LADIES

2022 was another successful year for the club; our highlight was winning the Minor A championship for the third time in a row. There was success across the age groups in the club and that of course is down to the great work been done by all our hard working management teams and mentors who volunteer to train children from the U6's up the Senior Ladies. Thanks to all the volunteers and mentors for giving their time to train and to represent us on various county board committees.

Well done to all players who played their part on the county squads of all ages, especially those who were part of the Clare Minor C winning championship team.

Congrats to Aisling Reidy on being named on the 2022 Intermediate team of the Championship. Aisling is a credit to the club and plays a big role in influencing our younger players. A special thank you to the parents, family & supporters of the girls who brought them to training & matches during the year and gave their support from the side-lines or stands, without you the girls would not be able to participate.

Thanks to all our sponsors who supported us through the year.



U8

The U8's had a great season in 2022. They returned to training at the end of March, full of enthusiasm and energy for the year ahead. Training sessions were held on a Monday evening at 6pm with numbers often over 45 girls. We started the season off with a FUN Day blitz held on Saturday 23rd April with Éire Óg, Banner & Clooney Quin clubs joining us for some fun football game practise for the girls. Big thanks to O'Keeffe's shop, Roslevan for supplying drinks & crisps for all the girls who took part on the day.

Our first Go Game Blitzes were held on the 4th June where we hosted teams from Fergus Rovers & Kilrush. Special thanks to Lidl who were so kind to sponsor us goodie bags for all the teams involved.

The numbers were so big we had our team split into 5 different groups, with 3 attending our home blitz and the other 2 teams heading off to Éire Óg to play Éire Óg, Clarecastle & Newmarket on Fergus.

To finish the season off, we held a mixed age fun evening blitz session where players played against u6, 8's, 10's & 12's age groups to get to know each other better for next year, celebrating with ice-creams for everyone at the end! Fantastic year where we couldn't have done it without the superb coaching mentors of Colm Ryan, Bernie O'Driscoll, Anne Reynolds, Michael Cullinan, Kieran Cosgrove, Imelda Doolarty, Siobhan Rynne, Rena McMahon, Tara Donnellan, Brian Carmody & Marianne Casey. Big thanks to Joe McNamara for facilitating us with Pitch times for our games. It was much appreciated.





U6

Congratulations to the U6 girls at the end of a great season and a huge thanks to all the mentors who volunteered their time and to the parents who committed to bringing the girls to training. We had 30 girls most sessions. The girls developed their fundamental movement skills in fun

ways. Their ball skills improved greatly through drills and games. Most importantly of all their confidence grew. They had great fun and made lots of new friends.

Mentors - Seamus Howard, Maurette Crowley, Eilis Noonan, Theresa Roseingrave, Thomas O'Hara, Mary Ryan, Karen McInerney and Sinead Collopy

U10 GIRLS FOOTBALL REPORT

Well done to all our U10s who showed up to training throughout the year and continue to play in the Hall for Winter Training. We as your mentors are super impressed with your progression and dedication to the sport. We played many blitzes throughout the summer and the girls improved with each game they played. The ice-cream cones in October were a big hit. We bid fare

well to our 2012 girls and hope that you will continue to love the game and we will meet you all again once our 2013 girls move up.

Don't forget what we always saypick up a ball and practice. Our sessions on a Monday night to our dual sessions on a Thursday night couldn't have gone ahead so flawlessly without the selfless dedication of our mentor team, so huge thanks goes to Sean, Trevor, Dave, Adrian, Beatrice, Caroline, Louise and Sandra.



U12 LADIES FOOTBALL REPORT

U12 football training began in February this year with a combination of indoor training at Ennis C.B.S. and outdoor training at the Astro pitch in Gurteen.

The training session on Thursday was a combined session with the camogie club in the interest of player welfare. This proved very successful and took some pressure off parents and players. The goal for 2022 was to provide lots of matches, ensure that every player got plenty game time to foster interest in ladies football and develop the skills required to play the game. We had fifty-one players involved this year which is great for the continuing development of Ladies football in the Parish.

Matches began in April 2022 with trips to Corrofin, Eire Óg and Newmarket on Fergus among others and games at home against the likes of Fergus Rovers and Miltown Malbay. We fielded two teams during this time.





CLARE COMMUNITY GAMES

The team took part in Clare Community Games where they reached the final and lost to Lissycasey

The panel for the year was in excess of 45 girls and was split to field 2 teams in both the League & Championship for the club.



U12 PEIL NA GCAILINI

Peil na gCailini began in July and we fielded three teams in this event. This was a vehicle designed by the County Board to develop the skill level in young players by providing games rather than the old championship system. It involved a round robin series of matches culminating in a final's day at Eire Óg and St Flannan's College. All U12 players in the County had a final and all received a medal. An enjoyable day was had by all, and we appreciate the work of the County Board and in particular Claire Queally in organising this event.

Training concluded in mid-October with a fun night for players at the Planet in Drumbiggle, Ennis. Thanks to all the parents who ferried the players all over the county, the referees who helped us out, the field committee for keeping the grounds in such good condition and the mentors for their time and commitment to this bunch of players. U12 mentors were M. Casey, A. Cordon, D. Corkery, D. Frawley, D. Lahiffe, S. Lahiffe, F. Landy, L. McCarthy, R. O Doherty and M. Rowland.

U14



U14 League Division 4 winners

The membership during the year was in excess of 45 members and training in the year commenced in January 2022.

During the year the girls U-14 Football panel took part in a number of challenge matches including a trip by Corofin in Galway to Gurteen.



LEAGUE

The league was played out in Spring 2022 with the Championship taking place in late- Summer. It was a challenging year with both teams playing in two strong divisions against strong teams from Fergus Rovers, Kilrush, West Clare Gaels, Clarecastle, Liscannor & Miltown.

Both teams gave their all in the games in the year playing a total of 28 matches. The girls improved as the year progressed and it was plain to see that the more games they played the more they improved. They second team won the Division 4 league with a win over Crusheen.

CLARE DEVELOPMENT SQUADS

During the year, a number of the U-14 Girls joined the Clare Development Squads and represented the Club & County. As part of the development squads, Strength & Conditioning was undertaken.

Later in the year the Strength & Conditioning was opened up to all U-14 girls throughout the county and a huge number of the Doora Barefield U-14 girls availed of it through VR Fitness in Ennis. A further session was recently announced bringing the training up to Christmas 2022.

The girls who are taking part have found the training of huge benefit.

TRIP TO CROKE PARK

During the year the girls enjoyed some team bonding and made a trip to Croke Park for the Ladies Football Final in July. They also finished the season with a Paintballing morning in Deerpark Outdoor Centre in Quin where one or two coaches were singled out for special paintball treatment!!!

The coaching team during the year were Caroline Keane, Dave Barry, Shelia O'Rourke, Regina O'Connell, Kieran Ryan, Paudi Dorgan, Martin Keavey, Sean McCormack and Brendan McGann.

SPONSORSHIP

Finally, we wish to acknowledge the fantastic sponsorship of the team by Barbara Keavey, KV Tech Consulting Ltd. It was very much appreciated, loved by the girls and the Club gear has been worn & seen in many different counties and no doubt countries during the year.

U16

We entered 2 teams in the ladies U16 championship this year. At U16 level there is no league just a championship competition.

U16A Championship

Our A division team played Kilrush, Fergus Rovers, West Clare Gaels and Miltown winning 3 out of the 4 games to finish second in the table. We then played Miltown in the semi-final but unfortunately lost out by 2-09 to 2-07. We qualified for a shield final against Fergus Rovers and defeated them by 2 points to win the Shield.



Junior A team

U16C Championship

Our C division side played Fergus Rovers 2, Wolfe Tones, Cuil Gaels, Corofin and Clarecastle in the round robin. We had 6 U14's playing on this team and they helped greatly to boost the strength of the side. Playing against other club's first teams we struggled against most opposition only managing to win one of our games. We didn't qualify for a play-off as only the top 4 teams advanced.

We managed to play 26 girls at u16 level and 7 U14 girls gained some valuable experience also

Many thanks to John Torpey, Breda O'Driscoll, John Carey and John Power for their time and efforts coaching and mentoring the girls throughout the year. Thanks also to the girl's parents for their commitment and time for dropping to training and matches all year.



U16A Shield winners

JUNIOR LEAGUE

Our girls commenced training on Feb 26th and our Junior League campaign started against The Banner in Gurteen March 20th and won by 1 point. Great match.

We then organised a challenge match against Eire Og on March 27th.

We played our 2nd round on April 3rd v Wolfe Tones which was also a win. The 3rd round match was April 10th



V Doonbeg in Gurteen which we needed to win as only the top 2 played each other in the league final. Doonbeg proved stronger and pulled away in the last 15mins of the match April 15th V New Market in New market which was also a loss to us.

Thank You to all who turned out for Junior league campaign.....it was a very successful league in my opinion. The Top two teams who played in the final were intermediate championship teams. So well done to all involve.

OUR MINOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

Our winning Minor A team

We entered two teams in Minor championship this year Minor A(DIV 1) and Minor C (DIV 3).

Minor C Championship

The Minor C Championship was the 1st to kick off and our 1st round was against Cul Gaels on July 3rd which was a

hard with only the narrowest of margins between them at half time but unfortunately Clarecastle were the stronger team in the 2nd half and also had a bit of luck on their side and went on the win on the night. Well done to all the girls and management involved in this squad

Minor A Championship

Our Minor A kicked off on July 5th in Lissycasey GAA against Fergus Rovers. We were very slow to get going which saw Fergus Rovers worthy winners on the night.

We then had to face Kilrush in Kilrush for our 2nd round on July 12th and this was also another loss to us. Our final round was against the Banner in Gurteen on July 26th which saw us record our 1st win.

We then had to knuckle down and put in some serious hard work as we had to face Kilrush again back in Kilrush for the semi-final on August 9th. This was a cracking game of football and when we needed the girls to lift the game and bring home the win they really did. They played with



Minor A

win for us, Thurs July 14th we travelled to Corofin to play an amalgamation of Corofin Crusheen which unfortunately they won on the night. On Aug 9th we travelled to Liscannor which was also loss on the night.

Unfortunately we struggled at the time of year to field teams as a number of the girls were away on holidays and this really affected our last 2 matches. On Aug 29th we played V ECG in Gurteen which was a great win for us.

With 2 wins and 2 losses we qualified for the shield semi-final against Eire OG. This was a fantastic performance and our girls were successful and reached the final. This was played on Nov 10th in Gurteen at 8pm. The girls battled

huge heart and determination which went to see them become worthy winners and qualified us for the final.

The final was fixed for August 23rd in Cusack Park. I have to say from July 5th to August 23rd the improvement in the girls football was phenomenal. I also think this was helped by our video analysis that we had with the girls.....just by pointing out our silly mistakes and encouraging the areas they were good at. After a slow start in the park which saw Fergus Rovers take the lead we settled in to the match and came out worthy winners from Cusack Park. It was a fantastic team performance.

After a fabulous win we have a movie night the following



week Aug 30th in Gurteen. Well done to all.... another successful year for our Minors.

CLARE MINOR C CHAMPIONSHIP

Congrats to Hannah Doyle, Eimear Clune and Katie Callaghan who were part of the Munster and All Ireland winning Clare team.

SENIOR TEAM

The team retained its Senior Status.

desire to win will continue into the New Year. There is no doubting there is huge potential in our players but this needs to translate into performances. The age profile of our team is young 16 to 25 but we need to be ambitious and set out our stall to get some silverware.

A quote by a great sporting hero from another code said "Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do." Pele.



Senior Team

CHAMPIONSHIP

With Championship in mind, the newly appointed management organised training sessions; Monday football only session, Wednesday we agreed to a shortened session for dual players of football and camogie. This was in agreement with the camogie management in the interest of player welfare.

S & C training commenced on Saturday mornings also for a period of time. In addition a number of challenge matches were organised within the County and also outside the county with 2 x Roscommon teams.

Although our involvement in the championship was over, plans were already been drawn up for the 2023 season and at a meeting involving both players and management it was agreed to commence a winters training programme starting on 21st October for a 6 week period including fitness testing carried out by Advanced Sports Performance Ireland.

The Management have been heartened by the turnout so far of the players and hopefully this renewed energy and

As a management team we will endeavour that we leave no stone unturned and help this team transition into what we all know they are capable of.

Finally, our thanks to Paula Doyle for providing First Aid and for Aisling McMahon for providing physio at each game. We would also like to extend our thanks to the Club executive for all the support we received throughout the year.



BÓTHAR NA SMAOINTE

By Joe Queally – Christmas 2022

Seamus Conlon, Ballymaconna, tells his story:

Seamus played centre field on the winning Saint Joseph's Senior hurling team in 1958.

I was born in the townland of Ballymaconna, Barefield in 1937. We were farmers my father was Paddy, my mother was Rose Mc Namara from Ballyogan. There was five of us in the family, three sisters, one brother and myself. I went to School in Barefield, the teacher that time was Mrs Hogan, Master O'Riordan was the Principal, Jimmy Mack brought me to school the first day. We played hurling in the school field, we had to make our own hurleys. We cut out the ash roots and brought them to Daffy's saw mills in Ennis to saw them out. The saw mills were down the market just close to the Kilrush road cross. Jimmy Conway in Larchill was a great hurley maker, we got hurleys from him too, when we had the price of them. They came from all over to get hurleys from him, Tony Reddan the great goalkeeper from Tipperary, and Jimmy Doyle and John Doyle got hurleys from him. Money was scarce that time if you had a half a crown you were a millionaire. It was a sponge ball we played with first, and then we got a hurling ball, it was more like a canon ball if it hit you, it could knock you out. We didn't play any football at all.

I remember a Circus used to come that time to Barefield to show films in the circus tent that they put up. 'Moanes' were their names they were from Monaghan, the children attended Barefield school for the week, or two that they would be around for. They brought a football to school and I remember the row rose over the football and Master O'Riordan came out and took the football and put it into the press and there it stayed, that ended our football careers. That time there was Doora who played on their own and Barefield who played on their own and then there was Our Lady's Hospital who also had a team. We had great parish leagues the best hurling that was ever played. Our team was Ballyogan, this side of the railway, and then across the other side of the railway line you had Larchill. The games that were played will go down in history, the rows would rise too, but they never went too far, we were all friends when the game was over.

You had the Mc Namaras, Denis Henry, Joe O Dea from Ballyogan and then the Feighery's from Larchill sure all great hurlers. My first job was working on the railway line in Crusheen and Tubber. I was barely the age to get work but work was never a bother to me. Then I went on to the line down in Ballycar and stayed there for a while. The rural electrification began in the early fifties and I went working with the ESB putting down the lines. That time all the holes for the poles had to be dug with shovel, hack and crowbar, Seven feet deep, three feet wide and a well hole at the bottom for the end of the pole. If you got soft ground you would dig out a hole in the one day or in a couple of hours, but hard ground, or if you met a stone then it could take you a week. It was one man to every hole there was no help. Sure we were as strong as horses we feared nothing and we had to cycle maybe an hour to work when the work got further away. Two men to the one ESB pole, up on the shoulder and walk away with it,

that was the way. It was around the early 1950's that we got together as a club, the three clubs in the parish amalgamated and Saint Joseph's emerged. There was great hurlers in the parish that time we won three minor championships in the mid fifties. The first senior championship was won in 1954. The players who worked in Our Lady's Hospital were allowed by the county board to play with St Joseph's, Matt Nugent from Tubber, Justin Gleeson, Crusheen, Pat Hynes, Killanena, Gerry Browne, Raymond Greene, great hurlers, we won the senior championship again in 1958. I was playing that day at centre -field, 'twas the worst day that ever came down from the heavens, but we got over the line beating a gallant Feakle team. There were no celebrations only to go away home.

I remember we togged out at the Queens hotel no dressing rooms at Cusack park that time. I was picked for the county and played a few games with them. If the hurlers of today played like we played, every one of them would get the line, fierce rough play a forward could take a run at the goalkeeper and put him out the back of the net, fitness levels were almost nil. I remember running up hills a few weeks before a match and sure you would wonder if we got the training that time, that they get now, wouldn't we move the world with the strength that was inside in us. We purchased new club grounds in Roslevan in the sixties and I was involved in the committee that bought the grounds and I was involved when we sold them in 2000 and moved to our new club grounds in Gurteen. The All Ireland wins of 1995, 1997, and 2013, the Munster final wins of that time were the greatest ever for Clare hurling, we never thought that we would see that in our lifetime.

Watching the club players taking on the might of the country and winning with Clare was special, my own nephew Ollie Baker, Seanie Mc Mahon, Jamesy O'Connor, Lorcan Hassett, It was heaven on earth to watch that and in some small way to be part of it, just to be present to witness that was good for the heart and soul. We had athletics too and this was a big part of our youth, Lott O'Halloran, Michael Feighery, and many more great athletes. There was great sports meetings that time in Spencilhill. When I was in my prime I remember winning the 100 yards, 800 yards, the 3 mile and 4 mile race, we often ran nine miles. We travelled all over the County and the Country to races, it was mostly track and field, we didn't do too much cross - country running. My working life changed ways several times.

I could have stayed in the ESB, but we set up a milking parlour at home, we had sixty cows at the time, we supplied bottled milk to the town, we couldn't keep it supplied, everyone wanted our milk, 'two inches of cream on top of the bottle'. Then we moved from the glass bottle and we got a cardboard carton machine, which we delivered in milk cartons all over the town. Then pasteurization came, and we would have to get in a new plant to move with the times so we got out of the milking. I got married to Rosari Hogan and we ran 'Hogans Shop on the Gort Road right up to the present day.

I hope that my story piece brings back memories to people and I love to be able to share my way of life and my journey with people and I would encourage everyone to write down and pass on their stories as well. Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year to everyone.



My Ballymaconna Home



I was born in a wonderful townland, Ballymaconna is its name
and wherever I travel in this wide world, it enjoys a place of fame.

Our youthful days of freedom, I never will forget,
the memories made down by the pond, still are with me yet.
Out in the fields of buttercups where we ran free and played all day,
until the bells rang out at Barefield church and called us down to pray.

In the Summer time around our house, the woodbine and wild rose did grow,
while in winter time we laughed and played in fields of snow.

Those beautiful memories that were created on our journey all through life
and 'twas often times we called on them to get us over strain and strife.

I remember then we brought the hurling sticks of ash, to a saw mill in Ennis town,
around the green fields of Ballymaconna was where we cut those ash sticks down.

The hurleys they were scarce that time and I remember still,
we got the finest hurleys from Jimmy Conway the 'hurley maker' up there in Larchill.

My early working days I spent upon the railway line,
laying heavy sleepers from Tubber to Ballyline.
Then the ESB called on me and I changed to digging holes
as rural electrification ran through the electric poles.
The beauty of the countryside as I travelled all around,
from Carrahan to Clooney and down by Jasper's Pound.

I played in many hurling games and we played through thick
and thin. I remember one match against Eire Óg where I got
thirteen stitches on the chin. One final I remember still,
played down in 'Jimo Mack's field' where Ballyogan
battled Doora and both refused to yield. The hurleys flew,
the belts went in and the game went to the wire, the row it
rose and the parish priest was called to quench the raging fire.

I sit down by the fireside now with turf and pure ash green
and think of all the hurlers that my eyes have ever seen.
My mind it wonders off, to hurlers of great renown, there was
John Doyle from Holycross and Jimmy Doyle from Thurles town.

I think of great Clare men as I sit and dream and gaze,
I think of the great Matt Nugent or the giant that was Mick Hayes.
I look now upon the current crew of the mighty hurling breed I think,
is there a finer hurler than Kilkenny's T.J. Reid?

I'm sitting very happy now with memories of old
and I love to share them all around so my stories will be told.
My life was a beautiful journey, with some trials along the way,
and I thank the great God almighty for staying with me to this day.

I think of all my travels and wherever I did roam,
but my heart and soul will always come back, to my Ballymaconna home.

A tribute to Seamus Conlon by Joe Queally - FROM THE POETS CORNER





Celebrating 25 years since Clare won the 1997 All Ireland Minor Hurling Championship.
Dan Mc Namara, Darragh O Driscoll, Ken Kennedy, Kevin Kennedy, Martin Brooks and Colm Mullen



Members of the St. Josephs Doora Barefield intermediate winning team visiting the grave of the team mate and club member Fionn O'Brien who tragically passed away last year . Fionn will always be part of this group .
Gone but not forgotten.



Club treasurer Noel Stapleton and club chairman Robert Hurley after the intermediate final in Cusack park



Brian and Deirdre Clancy in Cusack park after the match. The Clancy family have been great supporters of the club over the years .

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*St. Joseph's Doora Barefield
would like to thank their supporters
and sponsors during the year.*