



ST. JOSEPHS DOORA BAREFIELD GAA CLUB WHAT A YEAR!



Intermediate County & Munster Junior Winners 2023



Junior C Premiere Hurling Champions 2023

NEWSLETTER 2024

ST JOSEPHS DOORA BAREFIELD GAA

WOULD LIKE TO THANK

ALL THE

SPONSORS

WHO HAVE SUPPORTED

THE CLUB

OVER THE LAST YEAR!



Mark Conor Paudie and Ogie with the all Ireland cup



**98/99 County Champions, Munster Champions and All Ireland Champions
been honoured in Cusack Park at this year's county final**



SECRETARY'S REPORT 2023

2023 was a year of consolidating our position on the field and implementing the facilities upgrade and developments agreed in 2022 that commenced during 2023. Both objectives were successfully achieved, our senior and intermediate hurlers maintained their senior and intermediate status, our senior footballers were narrowly knocked out of the senior football championship at the quarter final stage by our neighbours Eire-Og, a match that went to extra time, and the junior footballers were knocked out at the semi-final stage by the eventually winners Kilmier. The Junior C hurlers won the championship and I congratulate the panel and management on their success. At underage, we competed very well, got to the minor A hurling final but defeated by a very strong Inagh Kilnamona side, semi-finalist in minor A football, at the time of writing this report in the U16A hurling and football final. At U13 and U15, we got to the latter stages of the championship. I would like to thank all coaches and players and especially to the teams and management who managed teams during the season.

On the development front the club opened the coffee shop, that is now trading successfully under the management of Siobhan Hoey, Carmel Kelly, and Collette Bohannon and re-configured and upgraded the Gym facility. The Astro is nearly complete, fencing and advertising boards are constructed and the walkway around the facility has commenced. These projects were managed by the Finance and Development sub-committee, led by Caroline O'Connor, with extensive work done by Anthony O Halloran (Astro) Michael McMahon (Shop) Robert Hurley (Gym) and the Walkway (Joe McNamara). Sean Lenihan also provided his expertise in securing a grant for the walkway and in drawing down grants for the Astro. On the PRO side, Robert has led the development of a new web site, that includes camogie and ladies' football. As our facilities have expanded, we are also in the process of introducing an on-line booking portal so that our members can book facilities remotely online. We also replaced the schools coach, with a full-time strength and conditioning coach, Evan Hennessy, with an additional remit of both schools coaching and a strength and conditioning programme for adult and underage hurling and football squads.

A special word of thanks to the outgoing Schools coach Damien Burke who did an excellent job. The ticket allocation process has bedded down, this being attributable to the IT skills of Adien Bohannon, organisational skills of both Robert Hurley and Vinny Sheedy. Despite all the IT configuration, the process can still be very difficult as demand for tickets

was very high. Congratulations to the Clare Senior Hurlers in reaching the All-Ireland Hurling Semi-Final for a second year in a row. In 2023, the club introduced a development levy of €30 for an adult player, €20 for a student and a youth (U18). This levy will be required to pay down the deficit in funding Astro Turf, and the Gym.

All the above work would not be achieved without strong leadership, provided by Robert Hurley, solid financial control provided by Noel Stapleton, excellent Pro service provided by Vinnie Sheedy and the hard-working sub committees. The Executive Committee met on 6 occasions during the year. The sub-committees meet regularly, either formally or informally, 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 alloted discussed, agreed, and actioned, mainly around finance, organising team management and coaches, field upkeep, facilities maintenance, and new developments.

I was also very active in the field committee, and I would like to acknowledge the leadership of Joe McNamara in managing both the pitches and in co-ordinate parking. The fields in Gurteen are in good condition, well maintained. Joe as always has a programme of work organised, for instance in December there will be work done on the goals, and I'm certain he has a list of tasks up his sleeve for the 2024 season. Denis Maher deserves a mention as assistant secretary. Denis did a great job in managing team sheets for all senior hurling teams, I did the football and the U21 teams. Without Denis,

I would not have a free weekend. Olive Harvey as secretary of the minor committee does a tremendous amount of work, so thank you Olive. The leadership of Bill Clohessy in the role of Chairman of the minor committee also deserves a special mention. Finally, thanks to everyone involved in running the club in 2023, the members of all committees, delegates to county board committees, club sponsors, team managers, coaches, the players and to community for their support.

*To the Committee and all club members,
Have a nice and peaceful Christmas,*

Declan Hannan
Secretary



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2023

As the curtain comes down on another busy season after the success of last year I am delighted to report all our goals for the year were achieved on the field.

Getting to the quarter final of the Senior football championship narrowly losing out by the slimmest of margins in extra time. We also got to the quarter final of the Junior A Football only to be defeated by the eventual winners. Thanks to Donagh Vaughan, Ger Kelly, Paudie o Callaghan, Glen Monaghan and all their management teams for the huge efforts put in all year.

We retained our Senior and Intermediate status this year in hurling and managed to field two Junior Teams and winning the Junior C Premier championship was a great achievement.

The club owes a huge debt of gratitude to Shane O Grady Fintan Lahiffe Denis Maher Sean Conroy and David Morrissey who were involved in all hurling teams this year. They stepped up and did a wonderful job when the club needed them. The amount of time and effort they have put in is second to none. I would also like to thank Oisin O'Brien, Liam Clohossey and Vinnie Sheedy for their work with the Senior Hurlers.

I would like to congratulate our camogie team in winning the County and Munster championships this year. We are now the only club in Clare with four senior teams for 2024 and one of the few in the country.

Thanks to Pdraig Duddy, Seanie Mc Mahon and Peadar mc Mahon and their team for implementing the underage academy structures. I am delighted to welcome Evan Hennessy to the club. This is a big step for the club and shows the ambitions we have for the future. Evan will be responsible for the schools coaching and implementing the Strength and conditioning for the club.

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. Thank you and your team for the hard work all year.

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 and Paul for keeping the grounds in pristine condition.

Our Club shop continues to grow under the guidance of Siobhan Hoey with a turnover of 37K this year. The shop now has a very strong online presence. The shop opens every Wednesday from 6.30 pm to 8 pm. Thanks to Siobhan and Colette 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 ye we would have to do a lot more

fundraising. To our loyal sponsors Clare Civil Engineering DEC Ireland, the Grove Bar and Restaurant, a sincere thank you for your tremendous support. Also, thanks to the many businesses and individuals in the parish who gave generous donations throughout the year. Many of you have taken out signs which will be in place shortly.

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

Off the field the club has also been busy with over 120 people involved in committees. Since last year the gym has been upgraded, New astro pitch will be finished this week and we are currently working on the walkway and lighting. These projects are costing over 300k and without these committees they would not be possible to complete. Special thanks to Caroline and Colette for driving on the Development and finance committee all year. Also to Anthony O Halloran and Sean Lenihan for their expertise and help with the grants. We also intend to draw up another 5 year development plan this year.

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 Hannon (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 Clohessy (Minor Committee Chairman), Olive Harvey (Minor Committee Secretary) Enda Flaherty (Ladies Football), Niall Burke (Camoige), Michelle O'Brien (Children's Officer), Martin Coffey, Dan O'Connor, Michael McMahan, Joe McNamara, Pat Frawley and all the people that served on our sub committees. I would like to welcome Colm Ryan and Siobhan Hoey to the executive committee.

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

Robert Hurley
Chairperson



CLUB LOTTO

2023 saw our Club lotto consolidate it's improved sales performance of the previous year and this is reflected in our Lotto profit figure of €34.7k, full details of which are in the Financial accounts. Alongside that very healthy contribution to the Club's coffers, we also managed to make two of our Lotto subscribers very happy; our jackpot winners: Louise Guilfoyle, €15k in August and Michael Neylon, €12.2k in

October. Both were long term subscribers to the Lotto and we send them our heartiest congratulations.

Several major development projects are currently underway at Gurteen, all of which will enhance the club's prospects of success in the future. All such developments come with a serious price tag and it is in this context that the annual contribution from the 'Club lotto' is absolutely vital. Of course apart from such capital outlay, the day to day expenditure of the club is now in excess of €100k annually, emphasising the importance of all income streams.

Our Online option continues to be the mainstay of our weekly sales effort and this is supplemented by Direct Debit and annual cash subscribers. The latter group have been diligently looked after by Jimmy McNamara for the last 27 years and we are deeply indebted to Jimmy for his service to the cause over the years. Jimmy has indicated a wish to retire but we

sense he will remain ready to 'answer the call' if needed in the future.

Our weekly draw normally takes place each Monday at 7pm in Gurteen. Peadar O'Loughlin co-ordinates our ticket sales in the pub and shop outlets in the parish and beyond. Carole Frawley (Clubforce) is our 'controller of programmes' and in a highly efficient process, we are generally done and dusted by 7.30 pm, a far cry from our Sat. night manual draws of yesteryear.

Finally I would thank all our Lotto players for the marvellous support in the past year but as the old political slogan put it – 'A lot done, more to do' – I would urge your continued support especially in the recruitment of new lotto subscribers.

Martin Coffey,
Lotto Chairman



Peadar O Loughlain and club treasurer Noel Stapleton presented a cheque for €12,200 to our latest lotto winner Michael Neylon



2023 SENIOR HURLING REPORT

Manager: Shane O'Grady

Coach: Oisín O'Brien

Assistant Coach: Liam Clohessy

S&C: Eimhin Hennessy

Selectors: Vinnie Sheedy, David Morrissey, Fintan Lahiffe, Denis Maher

Kitman: Sean Conroy

Stats: Killian Murphy and Rory O'Connor

Video: Conor Hurley

After a successful 2022 intermediate season which culminated in a return to the senior ranks in Clare, and the team reaching the Munster Intermediate final, the 2023 season got under way a little later than usual in February. 2023 saw newly appointed manager Shane O'Grady stepping up from his successful Junior A role in 2022 to take over from Michael Guilfoyle who stepped down at the end of the 2022 season.

While the manager changed, continuity was provided by Oisín O'Brien as coach, assisted by Liam Clohessy and Vinnie Sheedy as selector. Fintan Lahiffe, David Morrissey and Denis Maher also joined the senior backroom team having been part of the junior management set up for the previous number of years.

Training began in February with a relatively short time span to the Future Ticketing sponsored Clare Cup where the team were competing in Division 1B. The league began on the 11th March and finished on June 18th. Overall, it was a successful league campaign with six wins and three losses resulting in Doora-Barefield finishing in 3rd place.

What added to the success of the campaign was the integration of many of the previous year's minor players into the squad. As it turned out these players were going to be a great addition given the number players who, unfortunately, were out with long term injuries. With such injuries, allied to having been drawn in the now infamous 'group of death', the TUS sponsored Senior Hurling championship was going to be a serious challenge for a team in their first season out of intermediate.

This was a challenge the players rose to admirably and in each of the group championship games against Scariff, Kilmaley, Ballyea and Inagh-Kilnamona they played some superb hurling, despite eventually coming out on the wrong side of the results. It was a hard ask for players but time and again the resilience and character of the squad was demonstrated in bouncing back after each game and working even harder in training. These results left the squad in the relegation play offs to maintain their senior status.

With two teams to be relegated the relegation draw saw St. Joseph's paired against a Wolfe Tones outfit with several senior county hurlers and The Parish going in as underdogs

to maintain their senior status. There was a large crowd of Parish supporters in Newmarket for the play off and they were witness to a fantastic display of character, fitness, teamwork and skill as Joseph's took the game to Wolfe Tones from the start. In what was their best display of the season the Parish ran out victorious and in so doing kept their senior status for the 2024 season.

A huge thanks goes to all the players for the commitment and effort they gave, to our club chairman: Robert Hurley, club secretary: Declan Hannan, club treasurer: Noel Stapelton, physios Cathal O'Sullivan, Eugene Moynihan and Aishling McMahan, Killian Murphy and Rory O'Connor on stats and Conor Hurley for looking after video and to all of the many volunteers in the club who give freely of their time to ensure the club runs smoothly and the great facilities we have are funded, maintained and available. Finally, a massive thanks to all the supporters who followed the team throughout the season. It really could not happen without all of you.

Finally, a huge thanks to all of the 2023 senior management team for their commitment and enthusiasm across the season, particularly Shane, Fintan and David who are stepping back from the role for the 2024 season. They can do this knowing they have put in great foundations for the 2024 season and we all look forward to 2024 with great anticipation.



INTERMEDIATE UPDATE 2023

With two teams fielded in 2022, winning the Junior A championship and being beaten in the Junior C Final, we decided we had sufficient players to field a third team in 2023. Fifteen players coming through from minor and a few additional players returning, we were confident that it was the right thing to do to create a pipeline of talent transitioning into adult hurling with guidance from the existing players. So, for 2023, we would have an intermediate, junior B and Junior C entered in the championship.

With a number of the previous year's management team stepping in to support the Senior team as well as their role with the intermediate and junior panel. Sean Williams, Dave Morrissey, Denis Maher, Shane O'Grady, Dara O'Driscoll, Sean Conroy and Fintan Lahiffe all stayed on from previous year and were joined by Sean Duggan who was a welcome addition to the management team.

The goal for the year was simple, make sure we stay in intermediate, be competitive in junior B and win the Junior C championship.

The lads started S&C sessions in Feb and Dave K did a great job leading, motivating and encouraging attendance to get the year up and running.

With one or two challenges and training sessions under the belt, our first Intermediate Div 3 league game was against Kilmaley on 14th March, which we drew. After that, we had wins over Crusheen, Broadford and Ballyea, drew with Clooney Quin and losses to Cratloe and Clonlara. Our last game was against Killanena at 9.30am on Munster Hurling final day, a win would put us into the semi-final. Unfortunately, we didn't get the result we wanted as well as picking up a serious injury for Emmett Whelan which ruled him out of the year.

The draw for the intermediate championship put us in a group of five with Whitegate who were just relegated, Corofin who would go on to win the championship, Ruan and O'Callaghan's Mills. It is a big step up from Junior A to meet Whitegate and Corofin, despite trying hard and not giving up, we were convincingly beaten. We put in a strong performance against Ruan but they proved too strong for us and so it was between the Mills and ourselves to see who would go into relegation battle. A draw would be sufficient for us to stay up, in what was a nerve wracking last 5 minutes of that match, that was exactly how it ended up... a draw. Relief all around and great to keep our newly acquired intermediate status. It was great to see some of the younger lads progressing through the rank and ended up on the senior team and one or two other key players called up to support the senior effort. It is key that we are

competitive and have a pathway for players both up and down as they progress their hurling careers.

We had one team entered for the Junior League, playing in Junior Division 5B. First game on 26th March, with a win over Sixmilebridge who had beaten us in the Junior C final the previous year. We had subsequent wins over Cratloe, Clonlara and Wolfe Tones, drew with Ballyea and lost to Tubber and Bodyke. There was only one team progressing to the knockout stages, we had a good campaign but not enough to go through.

Fintan Lahiffe



Our Intermediate Team coming out of retirement



MINOR HURLING REPORT 2023

After losing the minor final last year, but winning the U16 championship afterwards, there was a real sense of mission in trying to win this year's minor championship and end a 33-year wait without a title.

With the new S&C programme up and running in February, the lads had already completed seven of those sessions before the new management met all of the group for the first time on February 28th, where we outlined our plans for the season. We had our first collective hurling session the following week, on March 2nd at the wall ball.

We only had two minor league games before our season began to gather pace. Before we played Clooney-Quin in our first championship game in early July, we did 46 sessions, between S&C and field, while we also played challenge games against Monaleen, Murroe-Boher and Oranmore.

After losing our first two group games to Clooney-Quin and Inagh-Kilnamona, we recovered to win our next two matches against Sixmilebridge and Éire Óg. However, a one-point defeat to Clonlara in Clonlara, really backed us into a corner, which meant we had to beat Kilmaley and Cratloe in our last two matches, and hope that other results went our way, to ensure qualification.

Wins against Kilmaley and Cratloe, combined with other results meant we qualified in third spot, which ensured a semi-final against Clooney-Quin in Clarecastle in late September. Our preparation was really good beforehand, which included a mini-training-bonding camp in west Clare in mid-September. An impressive second half performance in the semi-final, which saw us eventually win by 12 points, secured our passage back to the final.

Unfortunately, we didn't play as well as we hoped, and needed to, in the decider, where we went down to an excellent Inagh-Kilnamona team by four points. It was a huge disappointment but it was still a massive occasion for the lads to be involved in, especially as the match was played before a huge crowd on a fine day in early October. It was very heartening to see so many young boys and girls in Doora-Barefield jerseys supporting the team that afternoon, but the squad received great support throughout the season.

As a management, we have always felt that our academy team is just as important as the first team and the academy squad also had a fine season. We played six matches to reach the final, defeating Sixmilebridge, Inagh-Kilnamona, Corofin-Ruan and Clooney-Quin, while we lost to Éire Óg by one point before coming back to beat Éire Óg in the semi-final on their pitch. Unfortunately, we lost the final to Inagh-Kilnamona, in Inagh.

Both squads were superbly captained by Mark O'Connor and Charlie Lenihan but the commitment of the players was

first class all season. It was also a fantastic honour for the squad to have four players who won Munster and All-Ireland minor medals with Clare over the summer – Padraic O'Donovan, Conor Nash, Ógie Fanning and Mark O'Connor. All of the squad took great pride in that achievement.

I'd also like to extend our appreciation to all of the parents for bringing the lads to and from training throughout the year. In total, we had 72 collective sessions, between pitch and S&C, while we played 24 matches in total, between A, academy, league and challenge games.

Finally, I'd like to pay a special note of thanks to the rest of the management – Ciarán O'Halloran, Brian Hoey, Mark Hallinan and Seán McMahon. The commitment, dedication and hard work of the four lads was outstanding throughout the year.

Christy O'Connor



Ogie Fanning with his grandfather Matt who also won an all Ireland minor in 1952



Ogie Fanning with his grandfather Matt who also won an all Ireland minor in 1952



JUNIOR HURLING UPDATE 2023

For the championship, the Junior B team were in a 6 team group with Broadford, Ballyea, Parteen, Eire Og and Clonlara. This team had a lot of the younger lads coming through and they had excellent moments, battled hard and competed in every game. We were very unlucky not to win a few of the games but the experience will stand to this group as they progress.

The Junior C group were on a mission to make up for getting beaten in the previous year's final. We were drawn in the harder group with Cratloe, Scariff, Tulla and ourselves. We had a number of battles with Scariff and Cratloe over the previous two years and one of us was not going to get out of the group.

We played Cratloe first, and it ended up as a draw, a game that we felt we left behind us. We had a convincing win over Tulla in next match and this left a must win final group game against Scariff. This team had an amazing gift to make things hard for themselves and test the nerves of their management team, we came out on top on a scoreline of St. Josephs 1.15 to Scariff's 1.12.

Progressing to the semi-final where we drew Wolfe Tones who were the top team on the other side of the draw. Again, making it hard for ourselves, we go through on a scoreline of 3.8 to 2.9.

Cratloe made it through to the final and what was now becoming a strong healthy rivalry between the two panels, would have one more day out with the winner taking it all. Final set for Sunday 8th October in Newmarket and a great Doorra Barefield crowd present to see us eventually winning in convincing fashion on a scoreline of St. Joseph's 1.20 to Cratloe's 1.12. However, the half time scoreline has us 1.9 to 0.7 down at half time and we had not really shown up in the first half. As this team have done all year, they found a way to get on the front foot and turn it around.

Special mention to Dara O'Driscoll who flew home from the Rugby World Cup that morning so that he could tog and rolled back the years in the second half after coming on at half time. Shane O'Grady deserves mention for going up and collecting him at the airport and still manage to come on at full forward to see the match out. It was fitting that we had Sean Flynn and Dara O'Driscoll collect the Junior C trophy for us and pay tribute to our friend and clubman, Noel Purcell who had passed away the previous week.

On behalf on the management team, we want to thank our physios, Aisling McMahon, Eugene Moynihan and Cathal O'Sullivan for all their excellent support through the year. Joe McNamara and the field committee for doing a great job in having slots for us and accommodating us all year.

The Club Leadership for ensuring that we had everything we needed to compete. The supporters who again showed up all year to encourage and support these teams. Finally, to a wonderful bunch of hard working and honest players that we have had the privilege of working with over the past three years. They showed fantastic spirit, never say die attitude, commitment and backed each other up at all times. We have had a great journey with these lads including the younger lads coming through over the past three years, lots of fun along the way and hopefully reminding us all that the GAA is about people coming together to enjoy their hurling at what ever level they are at and being there for each other.

A number of the management team will be staying on but a few of us are stepping away to let others have the opportunity to put their stamp on it. Best wishes to the incoming management teams and hopefully they will get as much enjoyment from it as we did.

Fintan Lahiffe



Junior C Premier Champions 2023



SENIOR FOOTBALL 2023

Donagh Vaughan, Manager's Report

On St. Patrick's morning 2023, we played our first league game against Wolfe Tones in Gurteen. Further Garry cup wins came against Eire Óg, O'Currys and Miltown. While we drew with Kilmihil and Cratloe, we qualified for a semi-final against Cooraclare and got revenge for our only league loss.

The final was played against Miltown, and while we were defeated after extra time at a scoreline of 2.13 to 1.11, we were delighted with (A) a good competitive game before championship and (B) we had achieved our first goal of the year which was promotion to Cusack cup (division 1 Football in 2024). In hindsight the league served us well and gave some invaluable game time to some of our emerging players as the nucleus of the team is still very young.

On the 5th of August, we won the first round of the championship against Corofin. After a very tight battle, we won by 2 points. Our next match against St. Breckans was a bad loss. We never turned up on the day and suffered a heavy defeat. As a group, we felt very disappointed with our performance. The next match was against Kilmurry Ibrickane and while we lost by 5 points, it was an improved performance and many positives were taken from that match.

As there were 2 seeded teams in our group, we qualified in 3rd place for the ¼ finals which was our 2nd goal of the year.

Our opposition in the final was Eire Óg, who were big favourites and were chasing a three in a row, unfortunately we lost out by a point after extra time on a score of 1.11 to 15

points. This was our performance of the year and hopefully it instilled belief in our young players that we can be competitive and successful against any of the other 11 teams in the Senior Football Championship.

Firstly, I would like to thank the players for all the efforts they put in during the season. Travelling home long distances for training and for matches and making plenty of other sacrifices to play Senior football. As a group, they were a pleasure to work with all year.

Secondly, I would like to thank the senior football management team of Ger Kelly, (Coach/Selector), Davy O'Brien, Maurice Walsh (Selectors), Morgan Rowland (Kit Man) and Eugene Moynihan and Cathal O'Sullivan (Physios).

Thirdly the Senior Hurling management team. I feel we worked well together all year, in pitch management, training schedules and dealing with our dual players.

I would also like to thank the Senior Club executive for dealing with all County board issues throughout the year and supporting all our efforts in all senior football matters.

I would like to thank Joe Mc and the field committee.

Going forward I think this group of Footballers are open to further improvement and can be very successful in the future. The club's investment in the area of strength and conditioning will greatly benefit all players going forward.

Donagh Vaughan



Back L-R Jack Scahill, Tom McDonald, Cian Moloney, Paddy Bugler, Oisín O'Donnell, Conal Kelliher, Odhrán O'Conaill, Nikii Hardinan, Eoin Talty, Cian McDonough, Cathal O'Brien, Darragh O'Shea, Darragh Whelan, Conor O'Brien, Jack Hannon, Kevin Sharkey, Eoin Thynne
 Front L-R. Dara Nagle, Conal Dorgan, Peter Collins, Joseph Rafferty, Tom O'Brien, Tom Curran, James Curran, Sam Costello, Kieran Thynne, Davey Conroy, Darragh O'Callaghan



JUNIOR FOOTBALL 2023



Back LR Johnny O'Brien, Eoin Monaghan, Joseph Keane, Kevin Sharkey, Eoin Clune, Ronan Foley, Darragh Hurley, Darragh O'Callaghan, Odhran O'Conaill, Front LR. Alan Woods, Chris O'Brien, Philip Ryan, Davy O'Brien, Paddy Bugler, Gearóid Neylon, Darragh McNulty, David Costello, Caomhán Ó Braonáin.

Our Junior Footballers trained along with the Seniors early on in the season and the attendance was very encouraging. They also trained on their own later on in the season before the championship.

Entered into Div 7 in the league it was hoped the lads could acquit themselves well and after 5 rounds they found themselves top of the group. Four wins over Moy, Kildysart, St Josephs Miltown and Eire og, a walk over in the first match over St Breckans and a 4pt loss on 30th April to Michael Cusacks was the breakdown. Top spot ensured automatic qualification to the final.

Kildysart were the opponents and the game was played on 7th July in Shannon Gaels. A tough match and a win on a final score line of 16 pts to 1.04 was greeted with delight at full time and Captain Paddy Bugler accepted the cup on behalf of the team. It was just reward for a team who in the group scored 8 goals and 44 pts on the way to the final.

The Championship commenced on 7th Aug where we played Lissycasey in Eire og. Leading 5 pts to 1 at half time in a tough encounter lissycasey threw everything at us in the second half and the sides were level coming into the final quarter. A goal from Odhran O'Conaill and fresh legs from the bench saw the lads get over the line by 3 pts. 1.08(11) to 1.05(8)

Scorers Paddy Bugler Spts Odhran O'Conaill 1 Goal. Johnny O'Brien, Davy O'Brien, Darragh Duggan 1 pt each.

Second round v Clarecastle in Eire og finished level 7pts each. A well deserved draw after Clarecastle went 2pts clear in the closing stages after Kevin Sharkey was black carded.

Scorers P Buggier 5 Pts, David Costello, Kevin Sharkey 1 pt each.

3rd Round was played on 1st Sept where Kilmurray Ibrickane were the opponents in Lissycasey. A loss on a scoreline of 17 pts to 9 in a game where the lads never really got going.

Quarter final was played on 1st Oct in Lissycasey against the eventual winners of the Junior A Championship and it was here we saw Killimer pull away in the closing 10 mins kicking 2 goals and as many points to win on a scoreline of 3.12 to 1.09.

A massive thank you to this dedicated group of 29 players who put in a massive effort all year. From our youngest to our not so young players there was a sense of purpose in every match and a longing to bring Junior Championship Honours to the club! It wasn't to be but there's always next year

Thanks to our mentors

Paudie O'Callaghan

Glen Monaghan

Philly Ryan

Vinny McMahon

Davy O'Brien

Chris O'Brien

Morgan Rowland

Junior Panel 2023

Caomhán Ó Braonáin, Eoin Clune, Gearóid Neylon, Philly Ryan, Ronan Foley, Alan Woods, Ciaran Browne, Darragh O'Callaghan, Barry Galvin, Joseph Keane, Kevin Sharkey, Eoin Monaghan, Davy O'Brien, Paddy Bugler, Odhran O'Conaill, Cian Moloney, Tom Curran, Chris O'Brien, Johnny O'Brien, Darragh Duggan, David Costello, Jack Scahill, Alex Colleran, Darragh McNulty, Gillian Flanagan, Darragh Hurley, Cian Roughan, Martin Frawley, Eoghan Boyle.



MINOR SECRETARY REPORT 2023

The fixtures and draws of competitions kicked off in January and by February and March the minor Club season was off with training for all underage players. Throughout the year this packed schedule minor club has hosted/supported u7, u8, u9, hurling and football blitzes, challenge matches and an invitation to U11 National Hurling and football League Half-Time Go Games, Go Games Activity days hosting visiting Clubs to Gurteen and GAA Cul Camps were among many of the highlights for our Clubs future stars. The feedback was both of enjoyment and improving of skill. Once the fixtures and gradings were discussed, the u13, u14, u15, u17 & u16 hurling and football league and championships followed suit. Over the past year this Club never slept. Packed with challenges at home and away, league and championship the pitches were always in use. Congratulations to all the underage players who trained and played as part of our minor club underage panels this year and well done to all players who represented our Club at county level in all codes. Thank you to all the parents/guardians who make it happen for our underage players to get to training, pay the membership and keep work/school/home/other commitments and Club going. To all the underage players win/lose or draw you played heroically and the Club is proud of all of your performances.

Thank you to everyone who continues to contribute monthly to our Club development fund. Please continue to support and buy into the current and future development of our facilities and the new strength and conditioning programme

from which everyone will benefit. Thank you also to the Club members who arranged for Tony Kelly, Samaritans, Gardai and Bushy Park to come to Gurteen to talk to our Club about the misuse of drugs, alcohol and gambling. Thank you to the families and players who supported the talk on the night and made it a meaningful success.

Thank you to both Bord na nOg for the good communication with our minor Club. Our minor Club recognises the huge workload of organising almost 1,000 underage inter club games each year with pitches and officials to co-ordinate in order to reach the deadlines for competitions.

The minor Club and community were deeply saddened by the deaths of Club members and family members of Club members this year and prior and we extend support at all times to them.

Finally I would like to thank the minor, senior and the various committees as well as all club members and coaches for your contribution in whatever manner you helped in the Club over the past year. Thank you to our local sponsors and all sponsors who support the Club in our Parish. You are all much appreciated.

Happy Healthy Christmas and New Year to everyone. Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi Mhaise Daoibh

Runaí, Naomh Seosamh Dubhrath Gort Lomán Club Mionúir



Congratulations to Louise Guilfoyle winning €15,000 club lotto jackpot



Under 15's:

Naomh Seosamh Dubhraith Faoi 15Peil Ghaelach 2023 Seasur

The U14/U15 group of footballers took part in Championship Games, Day Tournaments, Friendly games both home and away this season representing their Club team and some for the County team.

We were delighted with U15's reaching the Division 1 Championship Final, with U15 Academy topping the group and U14's reaching the county Division 1 Championship final.

With a heavy schedule for both codes early and late this season as well as commitments to county panels, our 14- and 15-year-olds are to be commended and congratulated for their efforts all season. Players have worked with mentors on skills, fitness levels and game plays consistently through the season with a great attitude, and a willingness to contribute. They have represented the club very well all season both on and off the pitch.

We started the season with a panel of 45. Most were available for scheduled match's during the season, we also benefited from strong attendance at training sessions thanks to great support from parents and players.

The Club announcement of a S&C Programme for the season was welcome and we feel this benefited players with a noticeable reduction on injuries through the season. We encourage continued attendance to S&C sessions by all.

We Kicked off January 19 on Astro sessions with 7 Mentors following our mentor's meeting the week before. February came and we got on the grass for sessions from the 18th onward.

The season was affected hugely by weather conditions that made the planning of training sessions and matches a challenging task.

26th February we were delighted to get our first games going with a visit to UI Sports Complex where we played a mini-tournament with Monaleen and Ballina followed by a Home challenge match against Mungret on March 5th.

Our Division 1 Competitive action kicked off on March 27th with a victory away to Kilrush/Kilimer with a score line of 2-12 to 7-12.

April 10th Academy Doora Barefield 8-9 Clooney Quinn 2-1

April 14th Div 1 Doora Barefield 2-6 Clondgead 1-9

April 26th Div1 Doora Barefield 3-11 Ennistymon 3-5

April 24th Academy Doora Barefield 5-5 Coolmeen 3-2

May 4th Feile Away V Clondgead Loss

May 8th Academy Doora Barefield 5-5 Eire Og 4-5

May 10th Div 1 Doora Barefield 6-6 Lissycasey 1-5

May 22nd Academy Doora Barefield 8-10 Clarecastle 3-4

May 24th Div 1 Doora Barefield 6-14 Doonbeg 2-12

June 5th Div 1 Doora Barefield 1-5 Crathloe 0-7 tough Match on the day

June 7th Away Academy Doora Barefield 8-11 Kilrush/Kilimer 3-6

June 09th Div1 Away Doora Barefield 2-3 Eire Og 3-14

June 12th Academy Home Doora Barefield 3-11 Crathloe 5-3

June 19th Div 1 Semi Final at Home Doora Barefield 6-20 Kilrush/Kilimer 2-05

June 20th Academy Away Doora Barefield 5-7 Lissycasey 1-7

June 26th Div 1 Final Doora Barefield 1-9 V Eire Og 3-10

Training sessions continued with the u14's and u15's together through August. September the 2008 players joined the u17/16's and the 2010 Players joined the 2009's forming the U 14 Panel. U14 Games started on October 1st with attendance at the David Canney Memorial cup In Corofin Galway. There they played Micheál Breathnach's and Corofin. Next it was on to the U 14 Div 1 County Semi Final v Kildysert/Coolmeen 3-9 to 1-9 with the final V Crathloe 2-6 to 2-7. Missing out by the minimum.

As of 24-11-23 the U 16 Panel are through to the division 1 County semi-final with a strong challenge ahead V Lissycasey. Acknowledgements: To everyone who helped out. We thank you very much for all your Support.

Kit sponsors Dermot Daly Key 2 Requitement, Lorcan Coll, Tony McInerney, Martin Lillis, Trevor Moore and Roadstone we send a huge thank you for your very generous contributions that kitted out the Players with Togs and Socks. To Specsavers Bryan O'Connor and Carmel Forde who liaised with Bryan regarding the sponsorship and presentation to the club of a Fabolous set of Jerseys on July 11th. Finally to the mentors Martin Lillis, Vinny McMahan, Aidan Moynihan, Trevor Moore, Tony McInerney, Bob Dunne, Colm Ryan, B Heneghan all left no stone unturned in coaching these lads all year. To all the parents for your support throughout the year. To our minor committee especially Secretary Olive Harvey, for her support and always keeping us up to date this season, she along with Peadar O'Loughlin also looked after us in Gurteen with refreshments etc. To Joe McNamara and all involved in Gurteen House and Grounds who for facilities all year round. To You all thanks very much. Finally, to wish you all a Great Christmas and hope 2024 brings more sporting participation and fun to all.

Niall Thornton



July 11th 2023 Jersey Presentation By SpecSavers H O Connor

Baks Row LTR; Bryan O'Connor Specsavers, L Guerin, F O'Donoghue, D Fahy, S McMahon, O O'Gara, C Sheehan, C Thornton, M Kelly, D Kelly, A Dunne Front row LTR; A Moynihan, N O'Grady, S Dilleen, S Coll, C McDonagh, L O'Sullivan, H O'Connor, M Cotter, S McGuire, Z Ihsan, T O'Halloran, N Thornton



U 14 Div1 County Final Clarecastle October 2023

Back Row LTR; J Laverick, S McGuire, K Lillis, F O'Donoghue, B Talty, H Leahy, C Sheehan, S O'Callaghan, P Mc Inerney, M Kelly, C Daly, G Leahy, D Kelly, J McMahon, Front Row LTR; H O'Connor, O Heneghan, L O Sullivan, C Sheehan, J Cahill, C Ryan, P Ryan, Z Ihsan, S Dilleen, S Coll, M Cotter



Under 11's Football Report:

Naomh Seosamh Dubhraith Faoi 15Peil

Ghaelach 2023 Seasur

This group of players continue to develop in all aspects of their skills and their teamplay. The boys returned to playing hurling and football in March and they showed an eager willingness to learn and they really enjoyed coming down to Gurteen every week. On Wednesday's, the session was typically split between hurling and football, with Friday's focused on football and the boys played hurling on Sunday morning. With more than sixty boys registered to play, training sessions with around between forty and fifty boys each week. Managing such a large group of players was made easy and enjoyable by the involvement of so many parents who contributed at training sessions and helped to manage the administrative load. Training sessions focused on some of the basic skills and then giving the boys time to practice those skills in a game-setting.

From June to October, GoGames in football were scheduled for every second weekend. As the weeks passed, the boys showed a steady development in their skill level and their communication and teamwork on the field. The coaches also organised one-off games where the boys had the opportunity to play against clubs from outside the county.

They journeyed to Monaleen in Limerick where they played exceptionally well and they had very successful days in two tournaments, one in Dublin's O'Dwyers GAA Club, where they played, O'Dwyers GAA Dublin, St Colmcille's GAA Meath, Man Of War GAA Dublin, Craobh Chiarain GAA Dublin, Whitehall Colmcilles GAA Dublin and Monaleen from Limerick.

They also participated in a tournament in Roscommon where they played, St Brigid's GAA Roscommon, Carras GAA Mayo and GarryCastle GAA Westmeath.

The players are a very competitive and cohesive group and should be commended for the way they approach training and games and the respect they show to their coaches, teammates and opposing teams.

Declan Lannon & John Garvey





Under 13's Boys Football:

This year our U13 footballers began training in early February. We began with a panel of over 60 players. Our primary aim was to give each player lots of game time to help them reach their sporting potential. As a result of these huge numbers we decided to enter a third U13 team. Consequently we had one team in Division 1, one team in division 2 and one academy team. We began on February 19th with a challenge game against two Corofin teams. We trained each Monday evening and on Friday evenings when we didn't have a game. We worked closely with the U13 hurling management in ensuring games and training sessions didn't clash as there was an overlap with both hurling and football competitions for a number of weeks. Overall we were very happy with the amount of games played. Each panel participated in approximately ten games throughout the year. Our U13 Division one team lost out to eventual champions Éire Óg at the semi-final stage, while our Division two team lost out to Doonbeg at the quarter final stage. Our academy team were very competitive in all games and the improvement in players at this level was fantastic to see. A very committed coaching team ensured that sessions were extremely enjoyable and ran smoothly. This year's U13 coaches were Tom Maleady, Ivens Zambrano, Enda Price, John Leahy, Colm Ryan, Albert Hardiman, Brian Heneghan and Peadar McMahon.

Under 12's Boys Football:

Our U12 football campaign kicked off on September 2nd of this year with games against Éire Óg and Ennistymon. We had a quick turnaround from the U13 competition which only finished at the end of August, so coaches from the U11s moved up to assist while some coaches from the U13's moved on to assist with the U14 squad. We trained on Monday evenings, with games taking place at weekends. We entered three teams and each team played 4 organised games. We played our final game on October 14th against O'Callaghan Mills and Kildysart/Coolmeen. These players showed tremendous commitment to training and they played superb football in all games. These are a very talented group and will hopefully do very well next year in the U13 competition. Again we had a very knowledgeable, committed group of coaches with this group and as a result great progress was made. The coaching team consisted of Tom Maleady, Ivens Zambrano, Enda Price, John Leahy, Kieran Cosgrove, Albert Hardiman, Declan Lahiff and Peadar McMahon.

Under 16's Hurling:

After the minor championship finished, the group took a week off before beginning preparations for the U16 championship, which was a knockout system. With 20 of the group having been part of the minor panel, and with all of those players having trained hard all season, we were confident of giving the competition a real go.

The panel also included a raft of U15s that hadn't been part of the minor panel but which had been training away with the U14s towards the latter end of the minor championship. When the U14 championship concluded, six players from the U14 squad were included in the final panel.

With limited time to prepare because of such a narrow window, especially with the evenings getting shorter in October and November, we aimed to focus on challenge games. Having originally planned to play four games, the weather and pitch unavailability restricted that to two, against Tulla and Clonlara.

Our first championship was away to Sixmilebridge in early November, which we won well. Two weeks later, we played Clooney-Quin in the semi-final in Gurteen, under lights on a Saturday evening before a fine crowd. Ahead by seven points with 12 minutes remaining, the concession of two goals put us under huge pressure late on but the lads showed impressive composure to get over the line.

The final against Cratloe was played in Clooney on the first weekend in December. Chasing the game early, the lads tried extremely hard to make up that ground but our radar was just off, having only nailed 4 of 16 scoring chances in the first half. Yet we were still only behind by four points at half-time and the lads gave it a real go in the second half. Although we could never get ahead, the lads showed admirable resilience and spirit to keep going but the clock eventually ran out of us as we lost by one point.

In a knockout championship, and with us having got a bye in the quarter-final, our academy team unfortunately only got one game, which was a narrow semi-final defeat to Kilmaley. Still, 36 players played championship hurling, either at A or academy.

Although it was a disappointing end to the season, especially for those players who lost a Minor A, Minor academy and U16A final, all the lads got great experience and received huge learnings from the year. With the S&C programme in place, and with the Winter Hurling programme having kicked off in mid-December, the lads on the U16 squad have shown in recent weeks their desire to drive on in preparation for next year's minor championship.



Similar to the immense support we received with the minors, I'd like to express our thanks to the minor club executive for all their help, particularly Olive Nash and Raymond Power. I'd also like to pay a special word of thanks to Joe McNamara, who was always very accommodating to us with the pitches in Gurteen, particularly at such a late stage of the year. Throughout the season, with the minors, U16s and U21s, Joe was always very helpful.

Once again, I'd like to thank the rest of the U16 management, which was the minor management – Ciarán O'Halloran, Mark Hallinan, Brian Hoey and Seán McMahon – for their brilliant dedication and commitment throughout 2023.

Christy O'Connor

Under 21's Hurling:

In recent years, the timing of the U21 championships has made it very difficult for every club to prepare properly for the competitions but those are the challenges that every club must still overcome. It was no different for us this season, especially with the Junior Bs, Junior Cs and minors, along with the Junior footballers, still involved in their championships less than two weeks before the U21 campaign begun.

We only started training on October 3rd, 11 days out from our opening championship game against Sixmilebridge, which meant we could only fit in four sessions before that match. We were unable to organise a challenge game, while trying to prepare properly was all the more challenging again with so many players playing Dr Harty Cup with St Flannan's and Rice College, with that competition beginning three days before the Sixmilebridge match.

Still, every team was in a similar boat and we certainly weren't using excuses beforehand. Playing Sixmilebridge in their own pitch was always going to be a difficult task, especially when the majority of their team was made up of their Intermediate side, which were playing Corofin in the Intermediate final the following weekend.

The concession of a goal straight from the throw-in always left us chasing the game, but the lads still dug in. We were only two points down with a couple of minutes remaining when we missed a chance to shave the deficit back to one. Sixmilebridge scored directly from the puckout and they got a run on us in the closing moments to win by six points.

In a group of three, where scoring difference was going to come into play, losing that first game put us in a very difficult position, especially when some teams had bulked up their

scoring difference against teams which had fielded weakened U21 teams because their main adult side were still involved in the championship.

Still, we really targeted beating Clooney-Quin in our second match, which was played in Gurteen under lights on November 2nd. After a terrible start, when we were nine points down after 20 minutes, we finished the half strongly and made a number of structural changes to the team at half-time. With a much better performance in the second half, we were level with time almost up before Clooney-Quin tagged on a couple of late points. We had a close-in free with the last play to try and win the match but it was saved.

Two days later, our season concluded as our second team was well beaten by a Cratloe team that went on to win the competition. We had gone into that final group game with serious ambitions of qualifying for the semi-finals after our two previous matches, which included a draw against Clarecastle and a win against Scariff-Ogonnelloe.

It was a disappointing end to the season but 41 players played championship across the two teams, which was very important from a developmental perspective. Eight minors started our last U21C game against Cratloe.

I'd like to thank the senior club for all their support, particularly Robert Hurley, Declan Hannon and Noel Stapleton. I'd also like to commend the club, particularly the foresight of Robert Hurley, for how well the club are trying to facilitate, grow and develop the coaching and player pathway right through the underage system. We are extremely lucky now to have an excellent full-time S&C coach in Eimhin Hennessy, while the new Astroturf is a fantastic facility that should help to develop all players in the club.

Finally, I'd like to thank the rest of the U21 management – Ken Kennedy, Ciarán O'Halloran and Padraic Duddy. Padraic joined the set up this year and his coaching input and experience was massive with the group. Having coached the Galway minors in 2022 and 2023, and with him now coaching the Galway U20s in 2024, St Joseph's Doora-Barefield are extremely lucky to have someone with Padraic's expertise so actively engaged in the club.

Christy O'Connor



Under 6's & 7's Boys Football:

Our season commenced with first training session held on the 28th of March, with significant benefits and improvements evident in the boys having participated in the many blitzes at the end of the 2022. At the beginning of the season our coaching group put significant thought into the structure of our training sessions so the boys could get best the benefit from these sessions as possible. The aim in doing so was to prepare the boys for best development opportunities and enjoyment for blitzes and matches though out the season. Having 65 and 70 players registered across both football and hurling codes, significant participation was seen at training throughout the season. Thankfully having such a committed and enthusiastic coaching group ensured sessions and blitz were able to be ran in an efficient and structured manner.

Our first blitz of the season in hurling was at home in Gurteen on 30th of June, where we welcomed the hurlers from Inagh Kilnamona, Ballyea and Clooney Quin for a monster blitz. It was the first time many our Under 6 boys got to pull on the Parish jersey and the excitement was palpable with a fantastic display of hurling and fun had by all.

Next we travelled to Sixmilebridge in July, at this there was fantastic improvement seen in the boys with true display of club values of Honesty, Courage and Respect on display. In August our boys travelled to neighboring Galway to play Athenry where we received a fantastic welcome and outstanding hospitality. In this blitz the boys got great excitement from it as it was billed as "Clare versus Galway" with our boys donning the county colors to prevent clash of jerseys. The committed hurling on display from both sets of boys was reminiscent of some of the great battles had between our two clubs in years gone by. September saw our U6 boys travel to Craughwell to attend a monster blitz with clubs such as Craughwell, Kilnadeema Leitrim, Abbeyknockmoy and Loughrea and in attendance. Again in this our U6's gave a very strong account of themselves and had great fun throughout representing themselves and the club with distinction.

The boys first football blitz of the season saw them welcome our good friends from Lissycasey to Gurteen on 16th June. Given both clubs similarity in jerseys the St Joseph boys kitted out in their Clare gear. This along with the excitement of a blitz saw great skill, teamwork and club values on display. End of match party bags proved a big hit. Our next blitz saw us travel into Ennis to meet our friendly rivals Eire Og on 12th August. The boys were on fire on this sunny Monday evening. They showed off all their impressive skills and their never give up spirit. After five months of training, it was evident to all there how skillful and competitive the boys had become. Our final football blitz was also our last evening together as a group, so it seemed fitting to sign off with an internal blitz.

With lots of experience and focused training under their belts the boys were in confident mood as we prepared for the Co Board organized monster blitzes in Caherlohan and Clarecastle in September for both Football and Hurling. 7 teams were entered in the Football and 7 in the Hurling blitz's in which it was fantastic to see such a competitive showing from all our teams from the Parish against such a vast array of opposition from across the County.

Throughout the season coaches awarded player of the week awards in both hurling & football for the players who best demonstrated the core values of the club of Honesty, Courage, and Respect during the previous week in training and matches. With the boys learning about the club values all season the awards helped put the focus on what these values looked like when they took the field and represented the club and brought an air of anticipation and excitement to the end of each training session at which they were awarded. Additional award categories were also considered such as skill of the week to ensure as many of the boys as possible got to receive an award.

The end of September saw our U6 boys finish training after a long and productive season in which significant development in the skills of both codes were evident across all the boys. With our U7 boys joining the U8's in training for the upcoming blitz's. For all the season finished with an end of season party for the boys on 16th September in Gurteen at which a great fun afternoon was had by all with fun games played and a few treats along the way. This proved a great social event for kids and parents alike.

A special word of thanks to all the coaches who gave their time tirelessly throughout the season. With such large numbers and a big crossover between both codes which meant many of the coaches give up 3 days a week to keep the show on the road. It can be seen though the continued development of the boys throughout the year the profound effect the coaches have had on developing their skills in Gaelic games. Lastly, we would like to thank the club for their continued support from making facilities available for training to ensuring sufficient gear was always available without this support the boys would not have progressed to the level they had done.





Under 11s Boys Hurling:



The U11 hurling group started their season in March, comprising boys born in 2012 and 2013. Once again, the boys displayed great enthusiasm for training and matches and attendance remained high during the season with training numbers holding in the mid-40's on a regular basis. As a management team, we continued to place emphasis on developing essential hurling skills, the boys' movement and teamwork and making it a fun and positive environment.

We were keen to give the lads some new hurling experiences this year and organised several 'away' trips and outings. The first opportunity to do so arose early in the season when we got to field a team in Cusack Park at half time in the Clare v Galway hurling league match on 12th March as part of Clare GAA's initiative to host U11 teams during league matches. Given the restriction on numbers we decided, in co-operation with the football management, that all 2012 boys would be given the chance to play in either the hurling or football half time matches in Cusack Park.

The Go Games schedule commenced on 2nd April when we hosted Clonlara in Gurteen and arranged internal blitzes to give game time to the 46 DB lads who togged out on the day. More Go Games followed against Cratloe, Scarriff-Ogonnelloe, Crusheen-Tubber and Bodyke and Broadford with all the lads getting equal game time in evenly balanced teams. At the end of April, we were invited by Clarinbridge GAA Club to bring 2 teams to a hurling tournament they organised hosting clubs from Clare, Limerick, Tipperary, Dublin, Kildare & Mayo. The standard of hurling on the day was excellent and both DB teams performed exceptionally well with one team going through the tournament undefeated, underlining the competitive spirit and potential in this group.

Go Games continued with further matches against Ballyea, Newmarket-on-Fergus, Smith O'Briens and Sixmilebridge with the lads performing very well and enjoying their time hurling together. We were invited by Cuala GAA Club in Dublin to partake in a tournament on 1st July where they hosted teams from Dublin, Kildare, Kilkenny, Galway and ourselves. It was another smashing day out for the lads, having the craic

on the bus journey up and down and playing superb hurling in between and representing the club with distinction.

We finished the Go Games schedule with a blitz v Kilmaley on 23rd July before the transition to U12 (for 2012's) and U10 (for 2013's) in August. We managed to get 3 further outings for the U11's 'post-season' with our 2012's having a very enjoyable 60 minutes of hurling on a fine day in Semple stadium, Thurles against Lattin-Cullen, Holycross-Ballycahill and Sixmilebridge. We then played a tournament organised by Michael Cusacks in South Galway on the 4th Nov. Despite challenging conditions the boys performed well on the day playing good, close games against Mungret, Monaleen and Bishopstown. The final outing of the year was to the Air Dome at the Connaught GAA Centre of Excellence in Ballyhaunis on 18th Nov where we played Abbey-Duniry from Galway and Toureen from Mayo. The lads loved playing in the indoor arena and are keen to get back there in the new year!

Overall, it was a very enjoyable and successful season with the U11's. In particular, the players loved the trips away making great memories and great bonds with their teammates. They appear to be really enjoying their hurling and, as a management team, we are delighted with their progress as hurlers and as teammates.

I would like to thank my fellow coaches for their time and effort during the year. A big thanks to Marie O'Halloran, Sinead McCormick, Sinead McMahon, Ken Kennedy, Mike Cullinan, Brian Moroney, Ian Ryan, Simon Kelleher, Brian Carmody, Ian Carolan, Michael Fitzpatrick and Declan Lannon. We continued to work well with U11 football management managing a busy schedule of U11 Go Games and trips away. I'd like to give a big thanks to John Garvey and Declan Lannon for their co-operation during the year.

Thanks also to Raymond Power and the Minor Club for their support during the year with equipment and financial support for trips away. To Joe McMamara, thanks for making the pitches available to us. And finally, thanks to the players for creating a really positive team environment and to their parents for encouraging and supporting the boys' participation in the group.

Happy Christmas to all and best wishes for 2024!

Darragh O'Driscoll
U11 Hurling Manager



Under 13's Hurling:

The U13 hurling squad commenced training in early February with Wall Ball and Astro sessions on Sunday mornings before moving onto the pitches in March. We had a squad of 40 players with 19 born in 2010 and 21 born in 2011. The squad got match fit with challenge games against Michael Cusacks, Craughwell, Kilmaley, Gort and Newport. These challenge matches were a great preparation for the U13A and Academy hurling championships which began in May.

Round 1 of the U13A championship started on Saturday morning the 13th May with a home match against Sixmilebridge. The boys dug in deep to come back from behind and win what was a very entertaining and tough match against a strong Sixmilebridge team. The team continued this winning start with victories over Cratloe, Ballyea, and Clonlara before sustaining a 1 point defeat at the hands of a very resilient Newmarket side. A strong response from the team the following week resulting in a win over Eire Og led to a top of the group decider against our neighbours Clooney Quin. In what was a closely fought encounter in Gurteen, and very much a game of 2 halves, the red and green of Clooney Quin were victorious by 1 point in the end. Our reward for an excellent campaign was a home semi-final against Similebridge. Unfortunately, on this occasion Sixmilebridge got the better of us converting their goal opportunities at the opportune moments, and they were deserving winners on the day.

The U13 Academy championship started on Thursday evening the 25th May with a home match against Inagh Kilnamona. This was the first championship outing for a number of our Academy players and the excitement and nerves in the dressing room was palpable. A solid display by the boys wasn't enough and Inagh Kilnamona were victorious on the day. Defeats to Cratloe, Sixmilebridge, Newmarket and Eire Og followed but with each match the margins got closer and closer and a confidence and resilience was building in the squad. Our first victory came with a home game against a tough Ogonnelloe/Scariff side and followed with an excellent win away to group toppers Ballyea. That victory put us into a play off match against Inagh Kilnamona away for a place in the B Cup semi final, which we won with a brilliant well balanced team display. Crusheen/Tubber were our opponents in the semi final and just proved to be too strong on the day.

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.

U13 Management Team: Mervyn Dixon, Donal Murphy, Donal Cahill, Christy O' Connor, John Corry, Brian Dilleen, Eamon O' Gairbhith, Owen O' Connor, Bernard MacOscair.

Under 14' & 15's Hurling:

The 2023 underage hurling season was a memorable one for the young hurlers in Doora-Barefield. The club contested a number of finals at A and Academy level. Several players represented their school and county with distinction. At club level, for many of the u14-u15 group, a season which began on the old astro turf on the 19th of January finally concluded on the 2nd of December with the u16A final in Clooney.

Bord na nÓg Iomaint an Chláir introduced a new structure for the u15 competitions this season, with the football and hurling competitions being run off on alternate weekends. This presented our players with a busy schedule of games from March to June, in both codes. We acknowledge the tremendous enthusiasm of the boys as they worked through a period of games every few days in April.

Following a number of challenge games against Craughwell, Ardahan, St. Paul's, Belfast and Murroe Boher, the u15 championship started with a great game against Inagh Kilnamona. A number of games followed in quick succession, with Inagh Kilnamona avenging their opening day defeat in the Féile completion, followed by great games against Kilmaley, Ballyea, Scarriff Ogonnelloe, Sixmilebridge and our neighbours, Clooney.

After a few narrow defeats in the group games, we had to play Scarriff Ogonnelloe in a playoff. The boys started off slowly but the game soon developed into an excellent spectacle, with some fantastic hurling from both sides. Unfortunately, we couldn't narrow the gap sufficiently and bowed out of the U15 championship having given our all.

We are very fortunate to have so many young and committed players in our underage system and all players want to play games. Unfortunately, at u15 level, we did not have as many opportunities to play academy games this year. The academy team played three championship games against Clarecastle, Ballyea and Inagh Kilnamona. During the summer, the academy team played Ennistymon in a challenge game and also played Ballyea twice in a very enjoyable tournament. These games were very important for many of our u14 players as they moved onto the u14 championship.

The u-14 season started in mid-August with a pair of hotly contested friendlies against Inagh- Kilnamona and Ballyea. With such a large panel we were able to play two matches against both teams and all players were able to get a good run out before the championship. It was notable the high standard that had been achieved by the boys over the summer and they were all eager to get started on the competitive games.

The draw for the U14 A competition saw us placed in a challenging group with Clooney Quin and Clarecastle. The Academy draw saw us facing Sixmilebridge and Inagh-Kilnamona.



One win and one loss in the A pool was enough for us to go forward to face a fancied Inagh Kilnamona team in Gurteen. In fast fading light the Parish boys fought hard to win a tight encounter.

A win in the pool stages of the academy competition was sufficient for the team to progress to the 'A' shield Final and we were fortunate to have home advantage. The Bridge boys came to Gurteen bright and early and very soon made it clear they were not just here to make up the numbers. Barefield were up to the challenge and we prevailed after an engaging contest. It was a lovely occasion for the boys and their parents to receive the shield on their home pitch.

Our next challenge was to play a fancied Tulla team away from home in Dr. Daly Park. The match was incredibly tight for the first 20 minutes with both teams trading scores but St. Joseph's pulled away with a flurry of goals just before and after half time. We were able to maintain a lead for the rest of the game and eventually ran out comfortable winners.

The final was fixed for Saturday 4th November with Tulla again a fitting venue for the contest. Cratloe were to be our opponents in the final and the game took on an added significance after the u14 footballers lost by the bare minimum to the same team in the football final the week before. The game was nip and tuck for a long time and it took a goal in the closing minutes to finally settle the affair. It was heart-breaking for the lads to come so close over two weekends. All the parish supporters and the mentors present that day were immensely proud of the heart and positive attitude shown by the boys. There can be no doubt that great things await this group as they continue their hurling journey.

U15 HURLING MANAGEMENT

Alan Ball, James Breslin, Eamonn Clohessy, Edward Corry, Seán Duggan, Wayne Laverick, James O'Connor

U14 HURLING MANAGEMENT

James Breslin, Donal Cahill, Edward Corry, John Corry, Wayne Laverick, Conor Nash, James O'Connor, Padraic O'Donovan

U5 NURSERY HURLING AND FOOTBALL SEASON REVIEW 2023

We started our season for the U5 nursery just after Easter. The training sessions were one hour in duration held on the astro turf pitch every Wednesday evening.

It was lovely to see some familiar faces from last year and great to welcome all the new members to the club.

Early on we focused on the ABC (agility, balance and coordination) fundamental movements with the boys along with playing some fun games.

The boys showed great enthusiasm. We progressed then to introduce some of the basic hurling skills (the c-swing,

ground strike, dribbling, soloing) and basic football skills (bounce, hand pass, the punt kick). The boys loved showing their coaches the practicing they were doing at home.

It was great to see the commitment shown by the boys and the wonderful smiles when they received their player of the week trophy. The management team appreciated hearing the lovely stories of how the boys were excited to show off their trophies to parents, siblings, grandparents and friends which for a lot of the boys would have been their first trophy. Early on it was evident that we would need more trophies and we appreciated Jim Casey's commitment to having them ready for us in a short time frame.

During the season the astro turf pitch commenced renovation and we would like to thank Michael McMahon for accommodating us with the use of the hall and also to the U7 boys' management team for allowing us to use some of their pitch allocation. It will be a very welcome addition next year to have such a lovely new astro.

The season finished up with a Halloween themed party in the club house with face painting, art and crafts, bingo, halloween games along with some nice treats in the kitchen. The highlight of the party was definitely when a few members of the Junior C winning panel presented the boys with their achievement certificates and each boy got a chance to hold the cup.

We would like to thank all the coaches for their time, dedication and enthusiasm each week. It really made a difference to the boys and was lovely to see the progression that the boys made throughout the season both skilfully and socially.

A big thank you to Raymond Power for his support during the year facilitating our equipment requests.

Thank you also to the Junior C Panel members for giving of their time to come to see the boys for their end of season party.

And finally a big thank you to all the parents that made the effort to bring the boys to training and were always willing to give a hand when asked. It was greatly appreciated and the boys are very lucky to have such committed parents.

We hope you all have a lovely Christmas. Please encourage the boys to keep practicing over the winter break and we look forward to seeing all the boys back in 2024.

U5 Nursery Management Team





LADIES GAELIC FOOTBALL

Under 6's:

Review of the Year:

The U6 GAA Football training sessions ran from March and concluded in October with great success, providing a fun and enjoyable experience for all 43 participating girls. Throughout the season, the young players acquired essential skills such as hand passing, kicking, and tackling, fostering their development in the sport. The highlight, however, was the craic shared among the mentors and the girls, emphasizing the significance of fun and friendships in sports. This was evident when the players all got to enjoy a fun blitz organised on Saturday September 23rd v Clooney Quin & Newmarket on Fergus u6's in Gurteen. Big thanks to Catriona from O'Keeffe's Shop, Roslevan for donating the goodies afterwards for both teams and to DB LGFA for ending the season on a high with the ice-cream van at the last session! Great memories made from the season ensuring a positive and memorable introduction to GAA Football for these budding athletes.

Lead Mentors: Patricia Malone, Mark O'Dea, Sinead McCormack, Ian Ryan & Bernie O'Driscoll, with fantastic support throughout the season from Garrett Greene, Theresa Lannon, Siobhan Dee, Dymphna Callinan, Aine Byrnes & Anthony Buckley.

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

Under 8's:

Mentors: 11 mentors

No of Girls: 50+

Training Sessions: Mondays March - October

Review of the Year:

The U8 girls had a fantastic year this year. Huge thanks to the

11 coaches who dedicated their time and energy to the development and welfare of the girls. We had over 50 girls on the role with an average of 35 turning up for training. We trained from mid-March to mid-October with 2 weeks off a summer. We missed about 5 training sessions due to weather, lack of availability of mentors and as a mark of respect for a Mum and Dad in our community that had passed away. We played 4 blitz that were arranged through the club. We also had 2 friendlies. We usually fielded 4 teams of 7or8 for these events. Lidl sponsored party bags for us on one occasion. Parents were fantastic to come on-board and support us and the girls.

Under 10's:

Mentors: 10 mentors

No. Of Girls: 63

Training sessions:

2 per week: Monday and Thursday

Blitz Schedule:

Review of the Year:

We played a few friendlies with Banner and Clooney Quin during some training sessions.

Attendance was between 40 -50 at each training session. Overall, the U10 Go games were a great success this year with every girl getting to play. The host clubs we visited were fantastic and subs were able to be rotated quickly and fairly. Our highlight of the year was attending the Passage West Football Festival on 9th September.

First time taking a bus full of U10s all the way to Passage West, and they thoroughly enjoyed it, and we hope to do it again next year. Challenge as always are our huge numbers and sometimes insufficient mentors especially over the summer period.

Overall, though a very successful year with the U10s who a joy to coach and a great bunch of talented girls.

Under 12's:

Mentors: 9 mentors

No of Girls: 39

Training Sessions: March - October



LADIES GAELIC FOOTBALL

Review of the Year:

Last November 2022 we gathered the 2011 & 2012 girls for some pre-season training and team bonding in the hall in Gurteen. This finished on the run up to Christmas after 5 weeks of fun which saw each girl going home that night with a well-deserved Christmas selection box!

We began our 2023 season in earnest back in March. We had 39 girls registered with an average attendance of 30 each night throughout the year. We focused our training on basis skills development with the emphasis always to execute these skills during our matches. We also worked hard to develop a style of play which encourages the players to move the ball at speed and into space. We also worked very hard at developing character within the group through close contact drills and games.

This is a key characteristic we feel will benefit them going forward. During this time challenge matches were arranged which the girls benefited greatly from. Our U12 Tournament Peile na gCailini began in May with matches being played regularly throughout the summer. Due to our numbers and county board restrictions with named players on each team, it was decided to enter 3 teams.

Team 1 consisted of 2011 born players playing in Division 1. These girls got to the final in this tournament and the semi-final in the Marian Keane tournament. Narrowly missing out in both. Team 2 consisted of 2011/2012 born players playing in Division 2. They came up against stiff competition, playing a lot of clubs' 1st team. Our girls showed extreme confidence on the ball in all matches and learned a lot from them.



U13 DIV C team



LADIES GAELIC FOOTBALL

Academy Team 2012 born girls played in the Academy Division. With each match these girls grew in confidence and the quality of football played by them was excellent.

A final Fun Surf Day in Lahinch was arranged for October which saw practically all the girls attend. This heartened us as Mentors as it showed the comradeship which has developed within this group. As was always said at training "we train together, we play together, we stay together". The quality of football played by this group throughout the year has been excellent.

They have learnt new principles of play during training and have demonstrated these to a high standard in their matches. A high standard has been set and the challenge now is not only to maintain it but to progress on to the next level. A special word of thanks to the parents for continuing to bring their daughters to football each week. Your support both on and off the pitch is immeasurable. Finally thank you to all the coaches involved this year.

Under 14's:

Mentors: 9 mentors

No of Girls: 49

Training Sessions: February - October

Lead Mentors: Patricia Malone, Mark O'Dea, Sinead McCormack, Ian Ryan & Bernie O'Driscoll, with fantastic support throughout the season from Garrett Greene, Theresa Lannon, Siobhan Dee, Dymphna Callinan, Aine Byrnes & Anthony Buckley.

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.

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Mentors: 11 mentors

No of Girls: 50+

Training Sessions: Mondays March - October

Review of the Year:

The U8 girls had a fantastic year this year. Huge thanks to the 11 coaches who dedicated their time and energy to the development and welfare of the girls. We had over 50 girls on the role with an average of 35 turning up for training. We trained from mid-March to mid-October with 2 weeks off a summer. We missed about 5 training sessions due to weather, lack of availability of mentors and as a mark of respect for a Mum and Dad in our community that had passed away. We played 4 blitz that were arranged through the club. We also had 2 friendlies. We usually fielded 4 teams of 7 or 8 for these events. Lidl sponsored party bags for us on one occasion. Parents were fantastic to come on-board and support us and the girls.

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Mentors: 10 mentors

No. Of Girls: 63

Training sessions:

2 per week: Monday and Thursday

Blitz Schedule:

Review of the Year:

We played a few friendlies with Banner and Clooney Quin during some training sessions. Attendance was between 40 -50 at each training session. Overall, the U10 Go games were a great success this year with every girl getting to play. The host clubs we visited were fantastic and subs were able to be rotated quickly and fairly. Our highlight of the year was attending the Passage West Football Festival on 9th September. First time taking a bus full of U10s all the way to Passage West, and they thoroughly enjoyed it, and we hope to do it again next year. Challenge as always are our huge numbers and sometimes insufficient mentors especially over the summer period. Overall, though a very successful year with the U10s who a joy to coach and a great bunch of talented girls.



LADIES GAELIC FOOTBALL

Under 12's:

Mentors: 9 mentors

No of Girls: 39

Training Sessions: March - October

Review of the Year:

Training began in February on the all-weather pitch at Gurteen. It moved to pitch 1 in March when the fields became available. Training was held on Monday and Thursday nights at 6.00pm. We entered three teams in the League and two teams in the Championship.

The league began in April and ran until early June. All teams played well and had some good victories and some losses. All three teams exited the league at the semi-final stage, but all players got substantial game time. On the 13th of August, the U 14 panel travelled to Croke Park to the All-Ireland Intermediate Ladies Football final to support Clare and the four Doora-Barefield members on the panel. The day was very enjoyable, despite the result and was a useful team-building exercise.

The championship began mid-August with the U14A division divided in two groups. Our group contained West Clare Gaels and Doonbeg. The U14C division was also divided with our group containing Banner and Corofin. Both teams played well, the U14A won their quarter final but exited at the semi-final stage following defeat to Fergus Rovers and the U14C were beaten by Burren Gaels in their quarter final. The U14 A team defeated Clooney in the U14A shield final and the U14C team was narrowly beaten by Corofin in their plate final. We would recommend that the second team at U14 be regraded to Division D for 2024 as its difficult for a team of mostly 13-year-olds to compete with the first teams of other clubs, who in some cases had girls who were of Division A if not county standard.

The number of players remained steady at around forty-nine through the season. This number is like the numbers in 2022. We finished on Thursday 10th October with a fun training session and a small party at the Clubhouse. The mentors involved all worked extremely hard throughout the year keeping three teams active. We would like to thank the parents who were on hand to ferry children to the various locations and help when needed, the U14 and U13 camogie mentors with whom we worked closely to avoid fixture clashes and the officers of the Ladies Football Club who were always helpful to us.

Under 16's:

Mentors: 5 mentors

No of Girls: 26

Match Schedule:

- 8th March v Clooney Quin, result Clooney Quin 4-9 DB 3-7 (DB 20 available, 6 not available, all girls played)
- 18th March v Banner, result DB 9-12 Banner 1pt (DB 19 available, 7 not available, all girls played a minimum of half a match)

Championship

- 27th March v Fergus Rovers, result 5-25 Fergus Rovers DB 3pts (DB 24 available, 2 not available)
- 3rd April v Miltown, result Miltown 7-10 DB 3-5 (DB 23 available, 3 not available)
- 13th April v Kilrush, result Kilrush 9-16 DB 1-3 (DB 21 available, 5 not available)
- 18th April v WCG, result WCG 8-9 DB 1-4 (DB 16 available, 10, not available)





LADIES GAELIC FOOTBALL

Review of the Year:

The U16 season is short, there is no League, the Championship started in March and was finished by the 9th of May. Management team consisted of Caroline Keane, Sheila O'Rourke, Martin Keavey, Brendan Mc Gann and John Paul McGrath. We had 26 girls with us this year, 7 U-16 and 19 U-15. We started with this group on the 14th of November 2022 and ran a six-week Winter training session until the 19th of Dec. This took place in the Astro in Gurteen on Monday nights. Our objective here was to bring the girls together as a group and get to know each other again and some football fitness and fun over the winter. Attendance was great and on our last night all the girls were presented with gear bags and footbags kindly sponsored by KV Tech. The preparation for the Championship started the 13th of February in the Astro. The Astro was Monday nights and we trained on the pitch Mondays and Thursdays.

For Championship we were in Div A this year and unfortunately the results don't paint a good story. We appealed the decision to be placed in Div A at the start of the year but were unsuccessful in our appeal. We also lost some key players from U16 for 2023. We took this on board and the girls always performed to the best of their abilities showing great commitment and resilience. A credit to them!

In the middle of Championship, we had Feile, this was a highlight for all girls. It was a fun and frantic day. 15 girls took part in Feile, and all received ample game time. We played in Div 2, starting off in Gurteen, then on to Clondegad for the semi-final and final. It was super football by the girls, and they all adapted so quickly to the quick turnaround of games. We made it to the final, playing 4 games in total, losing out to Kilmurry Ibrickane in the final.

CHAMPIONSHIP

All girls got game time this year, this was key for the management team and formed part of the girls development this year. We wrapped up the Championship with a pizza evening in Gurteen where we discussed the season. We took a two-week break and the girls continued to play football over the Summer. 13 girls have just completed the U15 PDP development program with Clare which ran over 9 weeks finishing the 30th of October. S&C for 6 weeks started the first week of November and the U16 Trials for Clare started the 12th of November. Plenty of footballing opportunities available

MINOR LADIES:

Mentors: 5 mentors

No of Girls: 41

Match Schedule:

Divisional Games Minor C

- Doora Barefield 1-13 Vs Fergus Rovers 1-08
- Cooraclare 4-17 Vs Doora Barefield 1-07
- Eire Og 3-6 Vs Doora Barefield 1-06
- Doora Barefield 4-10 Vs Corofin 1-12
- Doora Barefield 4-12 Vs Clarecastle 3-13

Divisional Games Minor A

- Doora Barefield 3-08 Vs Miltown 0-03
- Doora Barefield 2-12 Vs The Banner 0-11
- Fergus Rovers 3-06 Vs Doora Barefield 1-09

Review of the Year:

The mentors were John Torrey, John Power, Martin Lillis, Trysha Barry and Enda O'Flaherty.

We entered 2 teams in Minor A and Minor C and played 41 girls between the 2 teams. We trained both squads together on Monday's and Thursday's. The numbers at training averaged from high teens to high 20's with 8 of our minor girls training with the senior squad for 30 minutes prior to joining out sessions. A lot of the older girls had work commitments earlier in the summer and some had exams also. We had a mix of 7 fifteen-year-olds, 15 no sixteen-year-olds, 13 no seventeen-year-olds and 6 girls who are now overage for minor this year.

Minor C-We finished 2nd in our group and qualified to play Doonbeg in the cup semifinal. We unfortunately lost by 5 points in a cracking game but it's worth noting that this team was made up of 7 fifteen-year-olds and 5 sixteen-year-olds with one U14 who came on as a sub and was well able to perform this level. We would think that the future is very bright for this group as 4 of them came through to play in the minor A playoffs and we have 17 of the panel eligible to play minor for the next few years.

Minor A-We finished 2nd in the group and qualified to play Miltown in the semi-Final. In a game we dominated for 55 minutes we led by 8 points with 5 minutes remaining. Unfortunately, Miltown scored 3 goals in the last 5 minutes to beat us by a point. We as a result qualified for a shield semifinal against The Banner. Missing 7 of our starters due to injury and holidays some of the younger girls really came of age that evening in Clareabbey. The older girls led by example and in a great team display we came out on top by a 5-08 to 2-12 score.

On reflection we feel the younger girls got some valuable experience in this completion and they now have the confidence in themselves to push on and improve their skills and knowledge of the game, knowing that they can play and succeed at this level. We probably should have got a few sessions for just the older girls together to work on kick outs and tactics before the semifinal. We feel that we let one get away



LADIES GAELIC FOOTBALL

from us regarding Minor A but hope that the management and the older girls will learn from this, and that the experience will give the girls an appetite at junior and senior level to compete. Finally, I would like to thank the 2 John's, Martin, and Trysha for all the time and efforts with the girls this year.

JUNIOR LADIES:

Mentors: 4 mentors

No of Girls: 41

Match Schedule:

Challenge:

- Feb 25th Clooney Quin Vs Doora Barefield

League Fixtures:

- March 5th Vs Cul Gaels
- April 2nd Vs The Banner
- May 1st Vs Doonbeg

Championship:

- July 23rd Wolfe Tones Vs Doora Barefield
- August 20th Doora Barefield Vs Cul Gaels
- August 31st Fergus Rovers Vs Doora Barefield
- Sept 18th Doora Barefield Vs Kildysart
- October 14th Doora Barefield Vs

Review of the Year:

The junior season kicked off early in the year with a challenge match against Clooney Quin on Feb 25th. It was our first official gathering of the year and it was great to get the run out. This instigated a return to training twice a week behind the goals as our adult league 1st round match was fixed for March 5th. Some of the girls had already been attending open training with our senior ladies.

We had our 1st league fixture against Cul Gaels. This was a wonderful game of football which was really closely contested, Cul Gaels came out winners by the narrowest of margins. Our 2nd round league match was against The Banner in Lees Rd. This was another great match, and we came out worthy winners, which meant we got through to a league semifinal against Doonbeg. Unfortunately, Doonbeg were a much stronger side, and we took a tough beating. Doonbeg went on the win the Division 3 league final.

Championship commenced July 23rd against Wolfe Tones in Shannon. Struggling with numbers that evening we were narrowly beaten by a stronger side. Our 2nd round match was against Cul Gaels in Gurteen, this for me was the Junior Match of the season, it was constant up and down the pitch and really showed how talented the girls were. It finished with a score

line of 4-15 to 6-11. It was great to see the girls grow in confidence throughout the match.

We then played Fergus Rovers in the Cup quarter final. We did absolutely everything right on the night, but Fergus Rovers snatched defeat from us in the dying seconds and won by 1pt. While we were knocked out of the cup, we qualified for a shield semifinal against Kildysart. After a super performance we came out worthy winners and qualified for Junior Shield Final. After winning the toss the Final was fixed for Gurteen on the Saturday morning October 14th. This was another great match, unfortunately we had no luck on the day. Yes, it was disappointing not to win in the end, but I think we all agreed that we had an unreal season. We had a number of highlights in the year - Trysh playing in goals in our match in Wolfe Tones and our S&C programme in VR Fitness from March to April. I think the girls really enjoyed the 6-week programme and also our Party bus to the Clare Intermediate Final.

SENIOR LADIES:

Mentors: 4 mentors

No of Girls: 33

Review of the year:

Management worked on fitness and timings throughout the pre season, with each girl improving their timings from the hard work put in. Although the season didn't end as positively as the girls and management had hoped the girls all agreed they had fantastic season and cannot wait to get going in the 2024 season.





LADIES GAELIC FOOTBALL



U13 DIV C team



LADIES GAELIC FOOTBALL





LADIES GAELIC FOOTBALL





Doora Barefield Ladies Gaelic Football





Doora Barefield Ladies Gaelic Football



St. Josephs Doora Barefield Camogie



I ♥ Camogie!



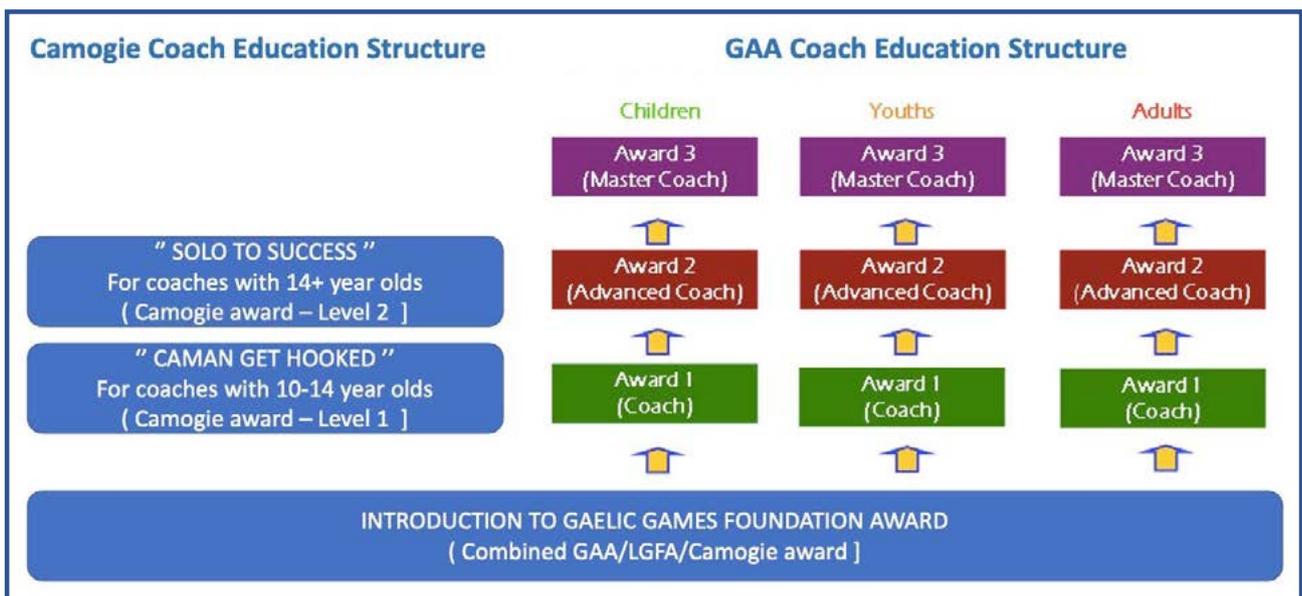
What a Year!



CHAIRPERSONS REPORT :



CHAIRPERSONS REPORT :



Above: A comparison of Camogie Coach Development levels with those of the GAA..... can be confusing, but the process of streamlining coach education across the codes has started with the " Introduction to Gaelic Games Foundation Award "



COUNTY CAMOGIE REPRESENTATIVES:

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

St Josephs County participants 2023										
U13 Dev	Cait McCarthy	Aoife Reynolds	Liagh Duddy	Emily Frawley	Sally Fennell	Siofra Lahiffe	Alicia Boyle	Laoise Moore	Sarah Corey	Siofra Burke
U14	Amy Duggan	Rachel Kerins	Faye Mannion	Lauren Shannon	Aisling O'Connor					
U15	Amy Reynolds	Aimee Conroy								
U16	Aoibhinn Creaven	Eabha O'Driscoll								
U18	Sophie Torpy									
Junior	Karen McMahon									

Karen, Aoibhinn and Eabha distinguished themselves this season with the county. Eabha and Aoibhinn lifted an U16 All Ireland Trophy while Karen brought home another All Ireland with the Clare Juniors. Sophie Torpy was hugely impressive with the Clare Minors.



Eabha and Aoibhinn with the trophy.



Under 6's:

The 2023 U6 camogie season kicked off on the 2nd of April with over 24 girls registered for the 2023 season. The basic objective of the coaching team this year was to teach fundamental movement skills as well as an introduction to the skills of camogie in a fun and engaging way. 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.

As the year progressed, we introduced a number of mini games to the training sessions. The highlight of the year saw the girls taking part in their first ever blitz with Kilmaley in Gurteen with plenty of ice cream after.

The final day of the season was on the 21st of October which saw the running of a mini blitz on the main pitch along with the U8s. This brought the end to a great season with the girls receiving a medal and sliotar to allow them to practice at home over the winter months. These medals were present-

ed on the day by the various winning team members from our Club, who generously gave their time for photos with the trophies and autographs. This will further strengthen the relationship between the underage and our senior teams. I believe the highlight for the girls was the after party where the treats were made and brought by the parents in the hall showcasing community spirit in the club – many thanks to all who contributed and assisted on the day.

The under 6s have grown in strength over the season with 20 girls regularly attending training on a Sunday morning, this is a reflection of the commitment and efforts given by our volunteer coaches.

The coaches ensure that each week, our young girls are enthused by the game while having fun and we thank you for your time and energy. The time and commitment that is required from parents in order for their daughters to play is appreciated and the massive improvement in the girl's camogie skills, especially in the final weeks was evident.

The coaching team was Mary Ryan, Kevin Healy, Enda Garvey, Caroline Kenneally, Mark O'Dea, Kiva Byrne, Brian Frehill & Emmet Whelan.

On behalf of the coaching team, we wish you a merry Christ-



U6s with some of the Coaches.



U6 & U8s at their last day of Camogie with some of the older players and their Trophies

Under 13's:

Our training for the under 13's resumed in February 2023. The under 13 championship was brought forward to earlier in the year with the first game due to begin in March. We had 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. There was also focus put on fitness and we did a lot of running with the girls as they now had to get used to playing on a full size pitch.

We were entered into the A competition so we organised a few challenge matches for the girls. We played Inagh Kilnamona and Cratloe in Gurteen and the girls displayed huge determination in winning both games in poor conditions. Our first championship game was against a very strong Newmarket On Fergus side which we lost. Next up were Kilmaley which were a very physical and skillful side, and we were defeated again. Our third game was against Kilkishen Bodyke and the girls put in a huge performance and were narrowly beaten by a point.

In mid-April we played Scarriff Ogonnelloe and the girls played brilliantly and had a comprehensive win over them. We had to travel to Sixmilebridge next, and we came up against a very strong side but the girls showed great spirit on the day. Our final game of the group was against Inagh Kilnamona in Inagh and we won the game by a point in a very exciting game.

When the group games were over we found ourselves in a plate semi-final against Inagh Kilnamona. We had home advantage, and we won the game. The girls then had a plate final to look forward to in Fr MacNamara Park. We played Kilkishen Bodyke on the 3rd of June and we came up against a very strong team on the day. It was a great experience for

the younger girls to play in Fr MacNamara Park and it will only bring them on as they move up to under 14 next year.

The under 13A competition was a big step up from the under 12 go games and the girls gave 100% every time they took to the field and were always willing to learn and develop. In June the group split into the Under 12s and under 14s where they had their own competitions and did very well. 11 of the girls were on the panel that played and won the under 14B County final.

The Clare under 13/14 development squad training started in June and we have 11 girls involved in the panel. They are Cait McCarthy, Sally Fennell, Liagh Duddy, Siofra Lahiff, Aoife Reynolds, Sarah Corey, Emily Frawley, Roisin Murphy, Laoise Moore, Alicia Boyle and Siofra Burke.

Finally we would like to thank the parents for bringing the girls to Gurteen every week. The future of camogie is very bright in Doora Barefield.

U13 Coaches: Noel Brody, Sheila O Connor, Dermot Daly, Padraic Duddy, Orla Daly & Karen McMahan

Sheila O'Connor



U13's

Under 14's:

Our training for the under 14's resumed in June after the under 13 and 15 competitions ended. After winning the 15B title there was great confidence among the girls. We began training twice a week as the under 14 championship was due to start at the end of June. We had over 30 girls coming to training so we had 2 teams, a B team and an academy team. We wanted to make sure the girls got to play as many matches as possible so we arranged numerous challenge games for them.

After one of the training sessions we had a bonding session with the girls upstairs in Gurteen where we introduced the girls to our principles of play and spoke about the culture of the club. This was a very positive and fun exercise for the girls where they bonded and elected leaders for the year. The coaches then focused on improving the girls 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 at a faster pace.

We played Kilmaley and Inagh Kilnamona in challenge games before the championship and we won both games. Our first

B game was against Smith O'Briens in Gurteen which was won comprehensively on a scoreline of 4.7 to 1.0. Our next championship game was against a very spirited Whitegate side in Whitegate. It was a very competitive game with great scores on both side and we won on a scoreline of 3.4 to 1.4. Our third game was against Clarecastle who were a very physical and skilful side. The girls showed tremendous spirit in a fantastic game and eventually won out on a scoreline of 4.3 to 3.3. Our final group game was against Ballyea and we won 6.7 to 4.2.

As we topped the group winning all our games we then faced Truagh Clonlara in a semi-final. This was played in Fr McNamara Park on the 2nd September. This was a fantastic match which went down to the wire. The game was level after full time and the girls showed unbelievable composure under pressure and managed to win the game by a single point in extra time.

Our opponents for the final were Whitegate and it was played in Fr McNamara Park on the 16th September. The girls displayed huge character and determination on the day to continue their unbeaten run. On their second meeting with Whitegate the girls maintained an impressive level of efficiency in front of the posts with goals by Amy Duggan, Faye Mannion, Aoife Murphy, Aoife Reynolds, Lauren Shannon and Sally Fennell proving decisive. Whitegate battled hard on the day but the girls were too strong for them and won out on a score-



line of 6.4 to 4 points. The under 14B cup was presented to captain Aisling O'Connor to huge cheers from the supporters.

The academy team played numerous games also against Kilmaley, Scarriff Ogonnelloe, Kilkishen Bodyke and Inagh Kilnamona. The girls showed great determination and effort and developed their skills during these games. Since we met as a group in June the girls attended 28 training sessions and we had numerous challenge games for everyone against Kilmaley, Inagh Kilnamona, Kilkishen Bodyke, St Colmans Gort and Sixmilebridge.

We really enjoyed working with these girls and they are an ambitious bunch who love playing camogie. We hope to see them all in Gurteen in 2024 and we wish them all the best with the Under 14 and under 16 competitions next year.

Finally we would like to thank the parents for bringing the girls to Gurteen every week. The future of camogie is very bright in Doorra Barefield.

U14 Coaches: Paul Mannion, Roseanne Healy, Ivan Kerins, Sheila O Connor and Keith Reynolds.

Sheila O'Connor

Under 15's:

The U15 camogie girls began their training for the 2023 season on the astro turf in Gurteen. There the skills of striking, catching, tackling and free taking were developed. In our championship games wins over Feakle Killanena, Parteen Meelick, Smith O Briens , Cratloe and Ballyea guaranteed the girls a spot in the semi finals against rivals Eire Og. The girls fought hard and put up a fine display of camogie skills earning a place in the final against Clooney Quin.

The final was set for Fr Mac Namara Park and all the hard work paid off with the parish girls coming out comfortable winners of the Inaugural Jimmy Kenny Cup. This was a very emotional day for Jimmy Kennys family as there are many fond memories of Jimmy's dedication and involvement with Saint Joseph's Doorra Barefield.

During the year this particular group had two bonding sessions. The first was held in Gurteen where the girls engaged in thought provoking activities about the values they would identify and practice for the remainder of the season.



The team focussing before the game



The team relaxing after the game



U14's Captain Aisling O'Connor



After the game with the Cup



In June the girls swapped their camogie sticks for surf boards and took to the Atlantic Ocean for some fun on the waves.

An invitation to play in a Feile blitz in Mallow in July was another enjoyable and successful day for this group where we played three games against clubs from Cork, Tipperary and Limerick.

Coaches who worked with this group included Roseanne Healy, Paul Mannion, Ivan Kerins and Keith Reynolds. We are very grateful to the club and parents for their continued support during the year and look forward to another fruitful year in 2024.



Joint Captains Ruth Nagle and Amy Reynolds receiving the Cup



Joint Captains Ruth Nagle and Amy Reynolds receiving the Cup

Under 8's:
The 2023 U8 camogie season commenced on the 26th of March with over 40 girls registered for the 2023 season. The season continued until our last session on the 22nd of October with an average of 30 girls attending U8 camogie training each Sunday morning and Tuesday evening at our wonderful Gurteen facility. 2023 saw a number of new members some of which will be underage next year and some who after spending 2 with the under 8's will now move up to U10's for 2024.

The basic objective of the coaching team this year was to integrate the newer U8s with those who had played U8 in 2022, continue teaching the basic skills, improve fundamental 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 improving the basic skills.

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, 2023 also saw a number of 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, and in preparation for the Go Games blitzes, we introduced a number of mini games to the training sessions. During the course of the year, the girls played against the following teams which were organised through Go Games and also through the relationships established with other clubs where we were invited to play at their club grounds and vice versa; Parteen, Corofin, Inagh-Kilnamona, Bodyke, Kilkishen, Ruan, Clarecastle, Kilkee, Smith O'Briens, Ballyea, Cratloe, Kilmaley, Eire Og, Broadford, Newmarket and Crusheen.

The final day of the season saw the running of a mini blitz which brought the end to a great season with the girls receiv-



ing 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 all the parents who brought goodies on the morning. The morning proved to be a huge success with families mingling and talking on what turned out to be a very social morning in Gurteen.

A big thank you to the girls who arrived early on a Sunday morning and Tuesday evening 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 John O'Loughlin, Glenda Cullinan, Shamus Howard, Kevin Healy, Mary Ryan, Ian Ryan, Derek Quinn, Aoibheann Ruane, Sean Mullins, Ken Kennedy, Barry Sheerin, Siobhan Rynne, Mary Sanders and Pat Fitzgerald.

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 U8 girls in Gurteen in March.

John O'Loughlin





Under 10's:

What a season, 20 blitzes, over 40 training sessions, trips to Kilmacud Crokes in Dublin, St. Mary's in Clonmel, and finished off with a team building day out in the UL climbing wall. We started back with S&C training in the Halla with Damien in the end of January, focusing on core strength, agility and basic ball control. This is the first time we have run an U10 girls winter program which kept the girls active right through the year.

We were back out on the fields on the 26th of March with two (1 hour and 15 mins) sessions a week, Tuesdays and Sundays. Before starting back, we met as a coaching team to set out our goals and objectives for the year, focusing on the development of 7 core skills. The biggest challenge was transitioning from ground hurling to striking in the air, and we spent a lot of time with the girls in the ball wall practicing the right technique - hurley up, legs balanced, pop the ball up, and a wristy strike. The progress was brilliant to watch, with early blitzes against Ballyea, Clooney Quin and Eire Og giving the girls the opportunity to really express themselves.

Our first really big challenge was on the 23rd of April, when we hosted Parteen and St. Mary's from Clonmel. It was an eye opener to see the standard of Tipp camogie, and our first loss of the year.

After some tough training sessions, the blitzes came thick and fast with visits from Ballyea, Ardrahan, Eire Og, SMB and Parteen.

There was a constant improvement from the girls, especially with their striking in the air, and tackling. As the girls' confidence grew, we focused more on tackle techniques, especially blocking and hooking, critical skills as the games moved from the ground to the air, especially in terms of protecting yourself and learning to use the hurley as a shield. In June we hosted Ragoon from Galway in Gurteen, and then represented the Club at half time in Cusack Park for the All-Ireland Camogie Senior Game between Clare and Galway. What an experience! We took the opportunity to play in the Clare colours and the girls had an absolute blast, cheering on the seniors and playing a tight game at halftime. We followed this with trips to Oranmore, and then a bus trip to play in a tournament in Kilmacud Crokes in Dublin.

The girls played brilliantly, winning one game, drawing one, and losing one against opposition from Wexford, Wicklow and Kilkenny.

Three more blitzes followed against Kilmaley, Bodyke, Kilkishen and Ballyea, before our next trip to the Frank Meagher Tournament in Clonmel. Again, the girls battled hard but found tough opposition in Cahir and Clonmel, but Supermac's on the way home made all the difference!

Towards the end of the year we developed a tailored training plan focused specifically on the U9 girls' developmental needs, with each girl graded and matched with others of similar strength and ability, therefore allowing them to excel and focus on the developmental skills that they needed individually.

We continued training and playing blitzes with the U9 girls right up until the end of October and finished out the season with a skills competition and a trip to the UL climbing wall as a reward for all the effort and commitment put in by the girls.

As a coaching team we have tried to keep the training interesting and fun, ensuring each drill had a purpose and was progressive. 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 the blitz game environment was a deliberate objective 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.

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 U10 coaching team for giving their time, dedication, and enthusiasm each and every Sunday morning and Tuesday evening. Thanks to Damien, who helped us to be creative and ambitious in our coaching skills. 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 and Louise for supporting the team any time we needed anything to support the girls, especially paying for buses and food. I'd also like to recognize the generous sponsorship we received from Sinead in the Peppermill and from Berka Solutions.

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, Louise, Adrian, Shane, Tara, Eamonn, Maggie, Brian, and Derek. I would encourage more parents to get involved as we need as much support around these girls as they 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



Nice food after the Climbing Wall trip



U10s at their Wall Climbing day out in UL



Under 11's:

U11 camogie training started in mid August for 2012 and 2013 girls. With 40+ girls registered to play, there was great turn out for training and matches. The u11 league is a non-competitive league organised by Kilmaley Camogie Club. The emphasis of this league is to give everyone playing time in non-competitive matches. Doora Barefield entered two teams into the league and both teams played at each fixture.

The u11 league started with away games against Sixmilebridge. This was followed by 2 home games against Newmarket on Fergus and Smith OBriens. The last matches were away against Cratloe. The girls improved with every game and showed great spirit, determination and skill in each match. We look forward to watching the girl's skills develop in u12 in 2024.

Special thanks to Áine Nagle and Joe McNamara who helped with numerous pitch changes due to the wet weather.

Coaches: Adrian Brooks, Shane Speake, Derek Quinn, Mark Mc Namara, Edwina Bastic, Louise Laverick, Áine Brooks, Damian Burke

correctly and then doing them at speed and under pressure.

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" and Rounders played which the players loved and they also got some sprint work completed!

During the league, we played Inagh Kilnamona, Kilkishen-Boddyke, Newmarket on Fergus, Kilmaley, Eire Og and Sixmilebridge and fielded two mixed teams of 2011 & 2012 girls on each of these occasions. The matches were scheduled to take place one week after the next from Mid June to Mid July but it was decided, in conjunction with the other teams, to spread the matches out over June, July and August so that there were always a game to look forward to. During the matches we competed well against all teams but the likes of Inagh Kilnamona and Sixmilebridge are very strong at this age group.

All that can be asked is that each girl gives their all when training or playing and that was certainly the case. However, it was clear the girls that were practising their skills at home, outside of training and this is what is required going forward for girls to progress.

The season finished up with a trip to Gort to take on a strong Gort side. Following the match, the girls had a well deserved trip to McDonald's to refuel! At the moment, the girls are taking part in a S & C programme under the guidance of Clare camogie star, Chloe Morey, which will take us to Mid December.

Under 12's:

The County Executive decided to change the running order of the underage camogie competitions for 2023 which resulted in the U13 competition taking place from March to May and then the 2011 born girls joining up with the 2012 born girls for the U12 competitions. It was felt that the running order for 2022 was preferred as girls moved from smart touch balls to size 4 sliothars and blitz size pitches to larger pitches whereas in 2023, it was the opposite way. It also left the 2012 born girls in somewhat of a limbo situation, which will need to be looked at if the same format is followed for 2024.

The first blitz of the year took place on April 10th when we hosted Inagh Kilnamona and Ballyea in Gurteen where we fielded two evenly mixed teams. Both teams completed well during the matches. This was followed up by another blitz on May 1st when we travelled to Kilmaley to play both Kilmaley and Cratloe. In both these blitz, the girls acquitted themselves well. The U11s then travelled to Gort to take part in the Cathal Forde u11 memorial tournament on a wet windy Saturday morning where they showed great battling qualities against strong opposition.

Once the u13 competition finished, the full u12 panel of over 30 girls trained together on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. Emphasis was placed on doing the basic skills



Under 12 Camogie Mentors: Dermot Daly, Paul Mockler, Shane Speake, Derek Quinn & Noel Brodie





Under 16's:

The U16s team competed in the B championship this year which was split into two groups starting in September. Doora-Barefield were drawn in Group B with Clooney Quin, Smith O'Briens and the eventual championship winners Crusheen. Despite having a small panel of players on the age the Doora Barefield girls put in some excellent performances culminating in a narrow defeat in the semi final at the beginning of November against a Clarecastle side who finished top of Group A.

Despite the defeat, the parish girls did themselves proud and were very unlucky on the day to lose out with a late goal in injury time from the Clarecastle full forward finally settling the contest. It was a great display of heart and determination from a young Doora Barefield team with a number of u14 girls stepping up and making their mark on the team.

The campaign started with a great victory against a strong Clooney Quin side with the parish girls dominating in possession but finding it difficult to shake off the opposition. Going into the last few minutes Doora Barefield found themselves two points down but a wonderful 21 yard free from Eabha O'Driscoll through a wall of defence from Clooney Quin grabbed a well deserved and exciting victory for the parish girls. It was a great display of grit and persistence to get the win and really set the tone for the rest of the championship.

In their next game, Doora Barefield played a spirited Smith O'Briens team and came away with a comprehensive victory after a strong second half performance. In the final group match, Doora Barefield came up against a very strong Crusheen team and struggled to rise to the heights of previous performances. As both teams were already thought to the semi final the match didn't have the edge it might otherwise have had.

As we head towards a new season we wish the girls moving up to minors and next year's U16s every success in their respective 2024 championships. Also, it's important to acknowledge a great year for two of our U16 county stars Aoibhinn Creaven and Eabha O'Driscoll who helped Clare u16s to the All Ireland A Sheild title in July against Antrim. In what has been a great year for Camogie in the parish, it's very encouraging to see more talent coming through the ranks and representing the club on a national stage. Thanks also to the coaches who gave their time and effort to coaching and managing the team in 2023. The management team were Dave Frawley, Roseanne Murphy, Paul Mannion, Ivan Kerins, Anne Reynolds and Anette Conroy.

David Frawley

Under 18's:

As the year draws to a close, it is with great pride and admiration that we, as a management, reflect upon the incredible journey of our Minor Camogie Team. This year has been a testament to the unwavering dedication and remarkable character displayed by each member of our talented squad. Since the beginning of November 2022, the girls can only be commended for their dedication to begin training on the astroturf every Sunday evening, regardless of the conditions.

This cold, winter training was extremely beneficial to the team when their season started in late, sunny July. They faced the east Clare amalgamation of Broadford/Parteen/Meelick in a home fixture. While the results did not favour the Parish girl, the character and determination that was shown on this warm summer's evening set the tone for this fantastic group of players for the remainder of the year. The second game saw us travelling to Kilkishen to face Kilkishen/Bodyke. This game saw tremendous defensive skills from all corners of the field. In addition to this, the team showcased exceptional offensive capabilities throughout the sixty minutes. This incredible effort saw the Parish girls record their first win the season. A week later saw us host Feakle Kilanena in the final round game. It evolved into a back-and-forth contest where the teams could not be separated after the full time whistle.

Having recorded a win, loss and a draw in the round games, we made the journey to Whitegate to play the hosts in the shield semi-final. This exhilarating match saw the minor team score from every angle on the field, while numbers one to nine put on an incredible defensive display. Having recorded a marvellous win, the girls began preparations for the shield final, where they faced Kilmaley in the county camogie grounds. While the conditions were less than ideal, this did not hinder the Parish girls' morale. They battled with unwavering determination for over sixty minutes and while the result did not go St Joseph Doora Barefield's way on the day, the result does not define the year.

As we close the chapter on another memorable year, let us celebrate the achievements of our Minor Camogie Team – not just the goals scored and matches won, but the camaraderie and indomitable spirit that have become the hallmarks of this exceptional group of players. We would like to thank all of the players for their efforts throughout the year, their parents and the club for their continuous support. We would also like to thank AGC Instruments for their generous sponsorship of half zips for the u16 and minor camogie teams.

Minor Camogie Management: Emmett Moran, John O'Connor, Feilim Collins, Orla Moloney and Dave Frawley



U18 Team Photo ahead of the Shield Semi Final V Whitegate



U18 Team Photo ahead of the Shield Final V Kilmaley



INTERMEDIATE & JUNIOR REPORT:

What a Year! 2023 has been historic year for the club having won the Intermediate League, County and Munster Championships... A thoroughly enjoyable year for all involved under new management of John Hoey, John O'Connor, Felim Ó Coileáin, Emmett Moran, Damien Bourke and Siobhán Hoey.

Training commenced in earnest the start of March for both the Junior and intermediate teams and with successive intermediate league wins v Éire Og, Kilmaley, KK/Bodyke, a loss to CC/Ballyea and a comprehensive win v Clooney/Quin in Rd.5 ensured a league final spot v CC/Ballyea in Fr. McNamara Park on Sat. 20th May.

Sheer commitment and determination on the day in very wet conditions and after a nerve wracking extra time (a feature of our year!) on a 14pts to 1-10 scoreline, a jubilant captain Eimear Casey lifted the Cup for the Parish side.

The Junior girls captained by Ann Foudy had an opening draw against Smith O'Briens in Gurteen. A strong final ten minute performance from the girls on the day to tie up matters. They followed up with a Round 2 away win v Broadford on a 3-11 to 2-2 scoreline. Round 3 and a bye from Kilkishen/Bodyke resulted in us topping the group and through to the league semi final against Parteen Meelick, but unfortunately the result did not go our way on the day and it was back to the training ground in preparation for championship.

It was great to have a second adult team competing in this year's championship and although we didn't make it to the knockout stages of the competition it bodes well for this side with several of the younger girls making up the Junior panel, which is vital to the Camogie club going forward.

Our Intermediate Championship campaign kicked off with a 2 point loss away to Tulla in a hard fought game, and subsequently followed up with two comprehensive wins over Whitegate and Éire Og, and it was more of the same in the Q/F with a 3-17 to 0-3 win over Corofin. Our semi-final championship fixture v Éire Og fell foul to the very wet weather conditions, the pitch was deemed unplayable and subsequently was rescheduled for the following weekend in Tulla. A really tough encounter ensued and with sixty minutes on the clock, it looked like Éire Og's day, but with eight minutes of additional time, the Parish landed four frees without reply and we were off to extra time (for the 2nd time this year!). With all the momentum now the Parish completely dominated, picking off scores to secure a 1-15 to 2-6 win and a place in the County Final v Tulla scheduled for Saturday 7th October in Cusack Park.

County Final Day... A cracking contest, and a first for many of the girls to play "in the Park". It was another tight battle against last years finalists in front of a great crowd with just the narrowest of margins 1-5 to 0-9 separating the sides at the half time whistle. It was an epic game of camogie and either side could have come away with the spoils. But, with great character, patience and ability to pick off scores at vital times, corner forward Katie Callaghan provided the last of the three

scores heading into injury time to secure a 2-11 to 0-13 victory for the Parish. Captain Aisling McMahon lifted the Fr. Liam Murray Cup and the celebrations began...

But it was back to training on Wednesday night, and in preparation for Munster we played Clanmaurice Kerry in Gurteen in a challenge two weeks before the Munster Junior Championship semi final on November 18th away to Kerry champions, Cillard in Kilmoyley, North Kerry. A truly gale force wind greeted both sides as Cillard elected to play with the aid of a mini storm. Louise Woods, Siobhan Flynn and Chloe Towey accounted for the halftime score line 1-2 to Cillard's 0-1. Aisling McMahon, Siobhan Flynn, Caoimhe Hoey, Amy Lenihan, Siofra Ni Chonail, and Sophie Torpey also added to their sides final tally of 3-7 to 0-3 win and a place in the Munster Final v Monaleen in

The Ragg, Thurles the following Saturday.

Munster Final Day... Never did the saying that "goals win matches" ring true as in this truly epic Munster Final clash. At the halftime break the Parish were in the driving seat with a lead of six points. They had weathered the early Monaleen avalanche of attacks with keeper Karen McMahon unquestionably the hero, producing several saves including a penalty stop, a point blank save and deserved player of the match display. The parish regrouped and responded with two majors from top scorer Siobhan Flynn.

But Monaleen looked a different side at the start of the second half, and started to run at the parish rearguard drawing fouls raising white flag after white flag. But once again we showed patience and determination having been dealt a blow when Aisling Hannan was dismissed for a second yellow card offence, and their never say die attitude lit up the Thurles venue. Heroic tackle after tackle, the tension was now palpable. They still managed to lead by the minimum approaching the 60th minute. Deep into added time Monaleen levelled matters and it's extra time for the 3rd time this year!

Monaleen lead for the first time since the sixth minute but substitute Ciara Duggan with determination goaled for their third green flag. The Limerick side replied with the next four points, but in another twist the parish were awarded a penalty and Siobhan Flynn stood up and blasted to the net, only for Monaleen to reply with a late free, and it was looking like extra extra time to decide this Munster title. However, Ciara Duggan gathered possession from the resultant puck out and fired over the winner with the last puck of the game from under the stand. Cue, euphoric scenes as the parish girls made history claiming their first provincial crown. What a day, what a game, what an occasion!

All Ireland Semi Final v Athleague Roscommon, Sunday 3rd Dec. venue Moneygall... From the high of a very first ever Munster title to having just come up short of an All Ireland Final, sport can be cruel. It was evident the tremendous eighty minute effort of the Munster title the previous weekend had taken its toll.



Starting well corner forward Louise Woods scored a point inside the opening minute, followed by a brace from Athleague. Siobhan Flynn raised two white flags but two more frees had the Roscommon club leading by just one 0-6 to 0-5 at the interval. The hopes of a first ever All Ireland final took a blow when Athleague goaled to leave four between the sides. But the parish didn't panic and a brace from Siobhan Flynn frees reduced the arrears making it a two point game at the three quarter mark. Lady Luck wasn't on our side in the fog engulfed venue as a long range Athleague free somehow ended in the net deflecting off keeper Karen McMahon's hurley. It was one of those things, not helped with poor visibility. Flynn pointed once more heading to the final ten minutes. The parish side gave everything they could but just couldn't penetrate the Athleague defence.

Chloe Towe made it a one score game with a fine point, before referee Mike Ryan blew the final whistle bringing an end to quite an incredible and memorable 2023 for this great bunch of players, and not forgetting out young team mascots Donnacha and Roisín! A word of thanks to the club leadership for all their support throughout the year, we were never short of anything, always accommodating with any requests we made, and a word of thanks to the field committee working hard to ensure we have training facilities available to us in difficult weather conditions.

Thank you to Orla Moloney our "Maor Uisce", physio Roisín Cahill, all our match day physios, and Paula Doyle first aid. To Conor Hurley for video analysis & stats and also photographer David Keane. Special thanks to Frank Landy in Sweet and Green for keeping the teams fuelled throughout the year.

Finally, a thank you to our President Mickey Mac for travelling to venues near and far throughout the year, supporting the girls on and off the pitch, and look forward to a successful 2024 in Senior Ranks.

John Hoey, John O'Connor, Felim Ó Coileáin, Emmett Moran, Damien Bourke & Siobhán Hoey.

On behalf of the players, I would like to express our huge gratitude to the club for the support we have received this year. This has been a special season for us and we have enjoyed every minute of it. We have been extremely lucky throughout the years to have so many great people involved with our adult camogie teams, and this year was no different.

John Hoey took on the job of manager in March along with his management team of John O'Connor, Damian Burke, Feilim Collins, Emmet Moran and Siobhan Hoey. From the first session they were enthusiastic, organised and passionate about improving all of us as players and helping us to achieve our potential. We are very grateful for everything they have done for us this year.

The club executive has been a massive support to us this year, as it is every year, and we appreciate everything that has been organised and provided for us throughout the year.

We were touched by the numbers that attended our matches both during the county championship and especially in the Munster campaign and All-Ireland semi final. It was a great honour for us to represent our club outside the county and the crowds that travelled to support us in these matches are very much appreciated.

Overall, this has been a hugely enjoyable year for us as players and we would like to wholeheartedly thank everyone that has helped us along the way.

We look forward to next year and the chance to progress further at the senior level.



Eimear Casey with Mikey MacNamara after the League Final win



The Joy of winning with your Club



Goalie Karen McMahon with the well deserved Player of the Match Trophy



Behind every great player are dedicated parents !



All great teams have great supporters. Some (above) never miss a game ...



A NOTE FROM OUR INTERMEDIATE CAPTAIN , AISLING MCMAHON



Captain, Aisling McMahon



Aisling lifts another cup



Duggan wonder point



KEVIN KENNEDY'S MEMORIES



Above: Kevin & Bridie Kennedy with their two sons, Kenneth (left) and Damian (Right)

BÓTHAR NA SMAOINTE

Memories: Kevin Kennedy tells of his journey to Joe Queally. Christmas, 2023

It was the greatest day of all: Seanie, was the best I have ever seen:

I was born in Ballymaley, Barefield in 1953, my father was Tom Kennedy, from the townland of Knocknahanee in Killanena, my mother was Cecilia Donnellan from Ballymaccona in Barefield, my mothers people, the Donnellans, were all great hurlers. When I was only a few months old my mother got sick, there was an epidemic of TB. When my mother went to hospital I was sent to my fathers people in Killanena to be reared, id be only, maybe, four or five months old at the time. They were great people, my grandparents, it was

such a lovely place to grow up in, wild beautiful countryside, lakes, rivers, meadows, bog lands, the beauty of the bog cotton and the purple heather on the hillsides, we had it all, and a loving home. I went to school in Gortavha and it was here I started to hurl first, that time there was no organising anything in Killanena, we just hurled morning noon and night, My teacher Kathleen Moloney, always encouraged me to hurl, and she kept me at the books as well. The parish next to us was Feakle, there were two Gardai there at the time, Garrett Howard, he had won five All Ireland medals with Limerick and Dublin, and Jimmy Conroy from Galway, Dr Bill Loughnane, from Feakle who had won a senior medal with Dublin in 1938, they were big into hurling, they were giants of men, they came to the school to us, it was them men that coached us how to hurl.

When I finished Primary school I came into Ennis to the CBS for secondary school in 1967, I moved back home then



as my mother had improved a bit. I hurled with the CBS for years, 'ah we had great teams', there were two Christian brothers there, Bro Fitzgerald from Doon, and Bro Hyland, from Garryspillane, they were mad into hurling, we played Harty cup for years, we got on great, we didn't win a lot, but we were always well able to compete with the big guns, St Flannans, North Monastery, St Finbars, and all the strong hurling institutions. Great CBS hurlers Haulie O'Connell, Noel Glynn, from the town, Mike Mc Namara from Tulla, Michael Carmody, Niall Mc Inerney, I was hurling then with the parish from minor level up and we won a lot of championships. We had the greatest of hurlers, Joe Corry, Sean Mahon, Gerard Mack, Francey Mack, James Carolan, you could go on, and on, naming players. Pj Mc Guane was over the team a great man he used to collect me from Killanena and bring me back home again, I'll never forget it for him, Jimmy Mack, Buddy Reddan, great parish men. The call of the wild came to me again from the hills of Knocknahanee and Killanena, and I moved back to them for a few years. In the mean time I had joined an Garda Siochana in 1972 and I remember been delighted in getting my first station in Clifden in County Galway, I said id be near home for the hurling, when I went into Galway city I saw that Clifden was another fifty miles out the coast, when I went out past Maam Cross and the twelve Bens of Conamara 'there was no google that time', I thought that was the end of the hurling, I had no car how was I going to make it home.

There was a man in Galway Garda Barracks at the time Jimmy Gilroy he was the Chief – Superintendent, he had a Garda team playing in the Garda tournament and I joined them and hurled with them. The Garda finals that time were played in Croke Park, and beyond my wildest dreams, didn't we make it to the final, we were beaten by Dublin that year and the following year, but I won five senior Garda championships in, 76,77,82,83,85. Dublin were very good, top class hurlers, Jim O' Donnell was playing with them, he lives in Doora now, in the parish. The football was played too and one man that stood out for me was John Morley from Mayo, he got killed after in the Garda he was outstanding. I had time to get a few pound together and I bought a car that would be able to take me back to train in Clare. I had fully intended in playing with Saint Joseph's in 1975, but I was back in Killanena one evening and

Joe Sammon from Caher, rang me, and said they were playing an Intermediate game in a tournament below in Parteen, and they were short a man, he asked me, was there any hope, that I would play with them. Gordon Wood, he is Keith Woods father, put up a set of trophies for the tournament, sure I thought nothing of it just a tournament game, I must have played well anyway as my name appeared in the Clare Champion and the County board got wind of it, so I had to stay playing with Killanena, if I went back to Joseph's id be suspended. Brian Borus at the time were an amalgamation of Killanena, Bodyke and Tulla, we trained very hard for a year or two at Intermediate and Senior level. No one gave us much of a chance in the 1975 county Senior Championship, we played the Bridge and we won that one, then the big one was Newmarket on Fergus, they were going for five in a row, when we got the better of the blues, I knew we were able to beat anyone; we met Eire Og in the final and we won the county final that day, it was a great win for East Clare, Colm Wiley was the captain, Pat Danagher, Jim Power, Pat Kirby, Sean O'Halloran, Anthony Conlon, Denis and Joe Sammon, Jimmy Rochford, Jimmy Walsh, Paddy Canny, Charles Murphy, Joe Brady, Frankie Mack, Paddy Brody, Mike Mack, all superb hurlers they weren't afraid of anything 'thed face an army with you'. We weren't allowed to compete in Munster as we were an amalgamation.

I captained Brian Borus in 77 to win the Clare cup. I hurled senior with Saint Joseph's and had great memories with the parish. I hurled with the men from the 1958 team and the men from the 1998 team, a span of forty years. I won a junior league with the parish in 1970 I was only sixteen at the time and Seamus Conlon, Joe O' Halloran and Gerry Browne were on that team and in 1991, I hurled with all the lads that hurled in the Championship in 1996 including my own son Kenneth, Seamus Howard, Colm Mullen, all them lads. I hurled with Oliver Clune, John and Tom Garvey, PJ Purcell, Con Haugh, Matt Nugent had retired in 69, if he had played another year 'id have the honour of playing with him as well as all the other great hurlers. I was eighteen when I went back to the roots in Killanena I was on the Clare minor and senior team. I played with Eire Og in 82,83,84, we won the senior championship in 82 the parish had a junior team that time and I got picked



for the county senior team and played with them for a few years. I hurled Intermediate with the parish in 1991, Seanie Mc Mahon, Christy O'Connor, Ollie Baker, Jamsie O' Connor were playing then, we won the junior championship, then we played intermediate, hurling was coming on strong in the parish then, I got involved in coaching in the parish; Fr M.J. Neylon was the curate in the parish at the time, he asked me to get involved and I did, Michael Carmody, Matt O'Connor, Ansilim Brooks, Johnny Flynn were with me, we won every championship from under twelve up to minor.

The county called on me to take on the minor team in 1996 Trixie Twoomey, Brendan Ryan, Davy Fitzgerald were part of the backroom team. In 1997 Clare hurling was on fire after winning the senior all Ireland in 1995 and I took on the challenge of the minor team, the players responded, there was a new belief in the county, we could win, we were entitled to win, and be up there with the best of them. We had a few close shaves on the way to the minor all Ireland; Tipperary beat us in the first round, then we had a game against Antrim which we won, we played Kilkenny in the semi – final, they had all the stars, Henry Sheflin, Michael Cavanagh, Noel Hickey, they had twenty all Ireland medals between them, We met Galway in the final and we won that by two points and the seniors won that day as well, we had the two cups coming down on the plane, Ger Loughnane and myself. We got to the final in 98 and then I took over the U/21 team, and then I went to the Juniors and then in, 2011, I went to the intermediate and we won that one against Kilkenny.

The memory of winning that day in Croke Park was special for me and Clare people all over the world we had lost enough, now we were on winning ways.

When I look back at our time I don't think the players today get the same enjoyments as we did, we had great fun playing hurling, although we took it serious, 'I think its far more serious now, too serious I would say', in our time we had great characters following the teams. You would meet up for a few pints and supporters from both sides would come in and the banter would start.

I played senior football with Eire Og and I remember marking Pauric Howley from Kilfenora when we played them above in

Carron, he had the reputation of been a great footballer and he was a great footballer too, we had a great battle.

In my time there were great hurlers, great parish hurlers, great county hurlers, and great hurlers outside the county. Mick Roche from Tipperary stands out in my mind playing at centre back he was outstanding. Gearoid Considine from Cratloe at underage and minor hurling, another outstanding player, Jimmy Cullinane, Tony Kelly, but I can honestly say that Seanie Mc Mahon from the parish was the finest that I have ever seen, he had it all, he would hold his own in any era.

The journey has brought me down many roads, and cross roads, winning, loosing, coaching, selecting, I think the day the parish won the all Ireland club final in 1999 was for me the greatest day of all. I would put that ahead of anything. I want to wish the club well and to wish everyone that knows me a Happy Christmas and a great New Year.

NOTES;

Townlands in Killanena;

Gortavha; Garden of the Birch

Knocknahanee - cnoc na h-aithne, The hill of Knowledge

Reanahumna - reidh na h-íománá, The mountain land of hurling, 1000 years old



Noel Purcell with Junior A Cup

The club lost a great club man on September 29th with the sad passing of Noel Purcell after a long and courageous battle with cancer .

The Purcell name is synonymous with Hurling in our club and Noel followed in the footsteps of his father Buddy representing the club at all levels primarily as a goalkeeper and he had many memorable displays in a long career.

He played at all levels underage and was a vital member of the All Ireland winning club panel of 1999. His proudest day on the pitch came in 2000 when he captained the club to win the Junior A hurling title with victory over Tulla

On his retirement he moved into various management roles and up until not long before his untimely passing was still supporting the club at all ages on the sidelines .

On county final day this year as our 1998/1999 team were honoured Noel was very much in the thoughts of all those involved and he was sorely missed.

He is survived by his wife Eadoin, daughters Siomha and Siun, mother Bridie , sisters Aine , Melissa and Majella and his extended family and many friends inside the club .

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h'anam dílis'



CLUB DEVELOPMENT 2024

I am delighted that the ball wall and astro turf has now been completed. It is great to see so many of our youth playing and learning the skills of our beloved games during the winter. We also completed the Gym early in the year. The new shop opened in April this year, thanks to everyone involved in bringing those projects over the line.

The work is still going on with the walkway around the two top pitches nearly completed. With the fencing completed over the winter, the next step is to put up the solar lights in January 2024. The walkway will be completed early February. Thanks to James Clune and his team for doing a wonderful job on the fencing.

The Development committee led by Caroline O Connor and Colette Bohannon are doing a wonderful job in selling the signs for around the pitches. There are still a number a space's left so please contact Caroline or any of the committee if you would like to take a sign. Thanks to the many businesses that have already done so.

The re location of Knockanean School is on schedule for September 2024. They will be in Gurteen for 18 months while the

new school is been built. We look forward to welcoming the kids of Knockanean National School to our grounds and facilities.

During the year we will be looking to put another 5 year development plan in place for the future.

We are the envy of many clubs with our facilities. To keep these in pristine order and enhance them every year we need to do some fundraising during the year. A special thanks to Anthony O Halloran for managing the astro turf build and to Sean Lenihan for his expert advice and help in following up the grants available to our club.

Enjoy the Christmas and I look forward to meeting you in Gurteen in 2024.

Robert Hurley
Chairperson



New Gym Gurteen



First Session under lights on the new astro turf