

St. Joseph's Doora Barefield GAA Club Newsletter



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1 DECEMBER 2025



Naomh Sheosamh, Dúbraith-Gort Lomán

Fáilte ón Oifigeach Gaeilge agus Cultúir an Chlub

The role of the Club Irish Language and Cultural Officer is to provide advice to the Club's officers in supporting the National Language and Culture as well as actively promoting the Irish language within the Club.

A chairde, fáilte roimh gach duine anocht go dtí cruinniú cinn bhliana Naomh Sheosamh Gort Liomán. Tá sé deacair a chreidiúint go bhfuil 2025 beagnach thart. Nach iontach an bhliain a bhí againn sa chlub. Bhíomar go léir tógtha le hiarrachtaí foireann shinsir na peile a shroich cluiche ceannais an chontae den chéad uair ó 2012. Throid siad go fíochmhar ag léiriú a gcarachtar agus a spiorad. Faraor, ní raibh an t-ádh linn ach beidh lá eile ag an bpaorach. Léirigh ár n-iománaithe a ndíograis agus a misneach chun stádas sinsir a choimeád do 2026, ag críochnú na bliana le bua tábhachtach in aghaidh Cora Finne.

Caithfimid comhghairdeas a ghábháil le foireann míonúir sa pheil a bhuaigh craobh an chontae i mí Dheireadh Fómhair. Thaispeáin siad a scileanna agus a ndiongbháilteacht le sárthaispeantas sa dara leath den chluiche. Imríodh cúigear dár bhfoireann míonúir ar fhoireann an chontae agus ba mhór an chúis bhródúil é go raibh Graham Ball roghnaithe mar chaptaen na foirne. Ar an drochuair, chaill siad amach i gcluiche ceannais na hÉireann in aghaidh Port Láirge.

Ag féachaint ar aghaidh go 2026, tá a lán féidearachtaí againn sa chlub. Tá cóitseálaithe den chéad scoth againn. Spreagann siad an chéad ghlúin eile ag múineadh na scileanna dóibh agus ag cur comhairle orthu. Tá suíomh ceannaithe againn chun na háiseanna a leathnú anseo i nGoirtín. Beimid ag iomaíocht ar na léibhéil is airde san iománaíocht agus sa pheil i 2026 agus tá ár mbaill ag méadú an t-am ar fad. Guímid gach rath oraibhse go léir.

Nollaig shona agus athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh go léir.

Eamon Clohessy, Club Irish Language and Cultural Officer / Oifigeach Gaeilge agus Cultúir an Chlub

Healthy Club Updates

Gold Healthy Club Award Achievement; We are proud to share that our club was honoured with the **Gold Healthy Club Award** in October. This recognition celebrates the commitment of our members, volunteers, and community to promoting health and wellbeing through sport and inclusion. Receiving this award is a testament to the hard work and dedication of everyone involved, and we look forward to building on this success in the year ahead.

Dermot Earley Youth Leadership Initiative; On Saturday November 22nd, our 2025 Dermot Earley Leaders were formally awarded their **Level 6 Certificate in Youth Leadership and Community Action** by the **University of Galway**, marking the culmination of a transformative journey in leadership, teamwork, and community impact. We're incredibly proud of their achievements and the positive energy they've brought to our club and community.

A word of thanks needs to go to all the volunteers who are facilitating this Programme in the club. June Harte, Sinead Lahiffe, Michelle Nolan, Owen O'Connor, Mark Flood, Angela O'Halloran, Margaret Lahiffe, Triona O'Meara, Ed Corry, Roseanne Healy, Lianda McGuire, Barry McGuire. We are extremely grateful for the generous funding provided last year. Your support played a vital role in helping our young leaders thrive through the Dermot Earley Youth Leadership Initiative. As we welcome our largest-ever group for 2025/2026 (27 young people), we would be equally delighted to receive your support again this year—if possible. Continued funding would allow us to expand opportunities, enhance resources, and ensure every participant benefits fully from this transformative experience.

Movember Ahead of the Game; We held a Movember Ahead of the Game workshop in October with the U15 Boys Hurling/Football team. Delivered by past and present intercounty players, the workshop helps young athletes: Understand mental health and emotional wellbeing; Build mental fitness to handle challenges in sport and life, Strengthen team bonds through open, supportive conversations. It's part of a nationwide effort by the GAA, GPA, and Movember to empower players, coaches, and parents with the tools to support themselves and each other.

Concussion Awareness: Vital Guidelines for All Coaches; Our club recently shared updated **Concussion Guidelines** on social media, and we want to emphasize how crucial it is that **all coaches** take the time to read and understand this information thoroughly. These guidelines are now available under the **Resources section** of our club website and outline best practices for: Recognizing signs and symptoms of concussion; Responding appropriately during training and matches; Ensuring safe return-to-play protocols; Concussion is a serious issue, and following these guidelines is essential to protect the health and safety of our players. We ask every coach to review the material and apply it consistently across all age groups and teams.

Nutrition Workshop Update – February 2025; Earlier this year, the club arranged a nutrition workshop with **Gráinne Travers** for our U16 Girls and Boys teams. While the boys' side showed strong interest, unfortunately, the response from the girls' side was quite limited, and we had to postpone the session. We want to acknowledge this and ensure it's taken into account as we plan future wellbeing initiatives. Nutrition plays a vital role in athletic development, and we remain committed to providing equal opportunities for all players to benefit from expert guidance.

GAA Inclusive All Stars Update; The GAA Inclusive All Stars programme has just wrapped up a fantastic 9-week run. We are delighted to share that **15 children** took part, supported by our **wonderful team of volunteers** whose dedication made the programme such a success. The energy, teamwork, and smiles over the past weeks have been inspiring, and we're already looking forward to welcoming everyone back when the programme resumes in **Spring 2026**. Thank you to all the families and volunteers who continue to make Inclusive All Stars such a special part of our community!

Summary—Our website hosts a range of essential resources and policies that every coach and parent should be familiar with to help foster a safe, healthy, and inclusive sporting environment. Topics include guidance on gambling and substance use, practical tips for promoting healthy eating habits, and clear standards around inclusion and respectful behaviour. These materials are designed to support adults in creating positive experiences for young athletes—on and off the field—and we encourage everyone involved to take a few moments to explore and understand them.

U6 & u7 Hurling & Football

The boys participated in the St Patricks Day Parade on the 17th March, which for some of the boys was their first experience of being part of our club. They thoroughly enjoyed marching with their teammates and wore their parish colours proudly. Our season began on pitch 4 on the 2nd April. Athletic activities develop the basic skills of human movement, without which it is impossible to excel at any sport. It is important that children build up a good aerobic base during their early years and on this basis we focussed our session plans on producing the athlete first and the player second. Our hurling and football sessions complimented each other and had a consistent approach to fundamental movements while also developing various skill techniques in line with club player pathway. Every four weeks we sent out a summary of what was covered at the sessions along with a correct technique document on practice tips and videos to encourage parents to help the boys with their practice at home. In week 9 in line with current guidance on giving the boys variety we had a "sports day" themed week, which allowed the boys and coaches to have a bit of fun with some races and games. Throughout the season again in line with our club ethos, we had various activities to provide the boys with a good introduction to our club and a sense of grass roots and community. In our first session we provided the boys with our club values sheet "courage, respect, honesty" for themselves and their parents to sign and display proudly in their home. Each week the boys who displayed these values were given a player of the week trophy. It was lovely to see the excitement and pride in their faces. To provide the boys with the history of our club crest we held talks hosted by Joe Queally at the Bunnow in Inner Doora where the arch and the head of the Irish wolfhound reside. Given that we had 85 registered members we needed to hold the talks over a number of mornings/evenings. A big thank you to Joe for giving his free time to pass on his knowledge and passion of the Club history to the boys. It was a lovely community event which both parents and boys enjoyed. We also stamped the boys hurleys with the club crest so they could have a visual of it at all times. We held a club crest colouring competition which was very popular with the boys and they displayed their colourings proudly in the kitchen of our club house. The prizes which were kindly donated by our club shop were presented by Peter Duggan at our end of season party. In an effort for the boys to become familiar with our Senior team players we were delighted to welcome at different points during the season some of our Senior Football and Hurling players to coach the boys. The boys really enjoyed meeting the players and hopefully we can encourage this even more across other age groups for next season. The boys participated in a number of football and hurling go games blitzes during the season. It was great to see them all developing their skills and enjoying playing with their teammates and we can't leave out mentioning the extremely popular orange slices. We were invited to Clarecastle in August and Craughwell in September for a hurling blitz who were very hospitable to us and the boys thoroughly enjoyed the blitz. There was great excitement for our 7s boys who had the honour of playing at half time in round 3 of the Senior Football Championship in Clarecastle v Cratloe and in Zimmer Biomet Páirc Chiosog for round 3 of the Senior Hurling Championship v Sixmilebridge. The boys did the parish proud with great displays of club values. It was lovely to see them all cheering on their Senior team with great enthusiasm. We finished the season with an internal hurling and football blitz. We were delighted to have the Junior B Hurlers, the U13 Boys footballers and hurlers come to the pitch with their winning trophies and meet and chat with the boys. Peter Duggan was also at the pitch and the boys were very excited to get his autograph and chat with him. 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 athletically, skillfully and socially. Also thank you to those coaches who invested their time to attend training courses and workshops during the season. It will definitely benefit the boys going forward and we could encourage you during the off season to attend more. Thank you to the club officials for your support during the season. It is very much appreciated. Thank you to the parents who sponsored end of season keyrings, compiled playlists, gave generous donations for treats etc. for the boys. Thank you to all the parents that made the effort to bring the to training and were always willing to give a hand when asked. It is 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 2026. U6 &

U7 hurling and football
Managements

Some photos of our year



U8 & u9 Hurling & Football

Our season commenced on the 16th of February with Astro Turf sessions weekly until we moved to grass pitches on 23rd March. As a combined Hurling & Football coaching group, with an ethos of working collaboratively our aim was to utilize the latest science and research informed approaches to optimize our training sessions. These were delivered through 4-week training blocks, focusing on developmental and age-appropriate skills and competencies for both codes, in line with identified player pathways, incorporating fundamental movements as the key foundation to all Gaelic Games. At the end of each block there was a review conducted to assess and plan the next block of training. Our first blitz of the season was Football, on the 05th of April, where we welcomed the Footballers from nearby neighbours Clarecastle and The Banner. The excitement was palpable as the boys pulled on the parish jersey with pride and got an opportunity to show off their Football skills. On April 12th our first Hurling Blitz took place against Broadford, Bodyke and Whitegate in Broadford. There was a fantastic display of club values of Honesty, Courage and Respect on display in addition to the hurling skills on show. The Go Games schedule progressed weekly from there with a Go Games blitz taking place on alternate weekends for Hurling and Football from 05th April up until 18th July. On 24th May our U9 boys travelled to neighboring Clarenbridge in Galway where they participated in an U9 festival of hurling, where they received a fantastic welcome and outstanding hospitality. The boys faced teams from James Stephens (Kilkenny), Clarenbridge, Moycullen and Rahoon/Newcastle (Galway) and Kiladangan (Tipperary). The committed and skillful hurling on display while enduring tough weather conditions by the boys was reminiscent of some of the great battles had between our county teams over the years. July saw our U9 boys grace the pitch in Páirc Chiosóg attending the Zimmer Biomet monster blitzes in both hurling and football. In this the hurlers faced Newmarket on Fergus, Tubber, Scarriff and O'Callaghan's Mills (Clare) as well as Oranmore Maree (Galway), while the footballers faced Na Píarsaigh (Limerick), Tuam Stars (Galway) and St Joseph's Milltown (Clare). In these our boys gave a very strong account of themselves and had great fun throughout representing themselves and the club with distinction while thoroughly enjoying getting an outing in the county grounds. Later in July saw the commencement of the senior club championships, which offered the boys the opportunity to display their wares at half time games in the Senior Hurling championship game versus Crusheen, in Páirc Chiosóg, and during the Senior Football championship game against Kildysart, in Clarecastle. In these the boys showed their significant progression in their playing and athletic skills as well as adding their significant contribution to cheering on our senior teams with vigor from the sidelines. Our final blitz for the group saw our U8 boys play Kilmihil, in a football blitz in Kilmihil, where the younger boys showed impressive football skills acquitting themselves admirably. Our season as a group wound down with Athenry U9 hurlers visiting Gurteen on Sunday 31st August with a Clare V's Galway themed duel displaying all that is good from our game from a skill and commitment perspective. The 13th of September saw our boys travel to Athenry where they joined teams from Monaleen (Limerick), Sixmilebridge as well as Athenry and Killimordaly (Galway) for an U9 festival of Hurling. Our boys were treated with fantastic hospitality from the hosts with all teams exiting the dressing rooms to the Sunday Game Theme tune before lining up for Amhrán na bhFiann. From there the hurling was helter skelter with no quarter given by any team with games played in a very competitive and sporting manner. With 75 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 blitzes were run in an enjoyable and efficient manner. Heartfelt thanks to all the coaches who gave their time tirelessly throughout the season. A word of thanks also to the parents who continued to bring the lads to training sessions and travel the length and breadth of the county and beyond for matches. Thanks to the club for their continued support by making facilities accessible for training while also ensuring sufficient gear was always available. Lastly, as a coaching group it is very rewarding to witness the development in confidence and skill level of the boys, so a special word of thanks and well done to every boy.

Some photos of our year

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U11 Football

The U11's enjoyed a progressive season in 2025. The group joined up in Sept 2024 and played Go Games together right through to August 2025. This group being made up of 2015 & 2014 born boys. Training focused on developing the players mobility and movement along with various skills drills. Coaches and players worked hard on building a respectful environment where the focus went into ourselves. We enjoyed some great away days with trips to Ballinasloe, Miltown, Monaleen, Salt-hill & a rainy Corofin. Along with all our home matches it allowed the boys grow as footballers. We concluded in 2025 with an away blitz against a strong Lissycasey team where the DB boys showed what a great team they had become with a gritty and skillful display which made all the coaches proud. We look forward to joining up together again in Sept 2026. *Peter Hennessy*



U13 Football

The 2025 football season was very enjoyable for the U13 footballers. This was reflected in the almost 90% turnout for training and challenge matches across the season. With fifty footballers in this age category, St. Joseph's were able to field teams in the Division A, Division C and Academy levels. The coaching group enjoyed supporting the players' development in our many high energy training sessions - which often ended in fading light with the boys demanding 'one more ball'. The players' commitment to advancing their skills and learning how to play as a team in competitive games was admirable. They ended the season as winners of Division A, Division C and the Academy is Shield. Our final training session with the 2013 and 2014 cohort was under lights on the Astro on the 29th October. ***Declan Lannon & John Garvey***



U13 Hurling

The U13 hurling season kicked off with training on Sat 8th Feb as the Astro winter hurling programme came to an end. With 55 active players, we entered 3 teams in the U13 competitions in 2025 which commenced in early April.

We played our first challenge games on Sat 1st March and, over the course of the season, we played challenge games against Tynagh Abbey-Duniry, Monaleen, Michael Cusacks, Craughwell, Crusheen-Tubber, Clarecastle, Clarinbridge and Newport. Competition got underway in the 'A' championship on the 12th April with a comprehensive win against Clarecastle. Further wins followed against Kilmaley, Cratloe and Newmarket to book a home quarter-final spot against Inagh-Kilnamona. The lads put in a magnificent performance against the combo and recorded a big win to set up a semi-final clash against Ballyea. The semi-final was played in Clarecastle on 5th July. The boys put in a spirited performance and rebounded from several sucker punch goals, showing plenty of grit and skill, but, ultimately, went down to a physically powerful and talented Ballyea team who went on to win the final comfortably.

The Academy teams also performed really well throughout their campaigns. The Academy A team recorded wins against Kilmaley, Clooney-Quin, Newmarket and Ballyea. We were pitted against Ballyea again in the final in Gurteen on 1st July and recorded a big win to secure the Academy A competition with some excellent hurling played throughout the campaign. The Academy B had a great run as well, recording wins over Inagh-Kilnamona and Cratloe, sandwiched by an away defeat to Crusheen-Tubber. We met Crusheen-Tubber again in the final on 2nd July, also in Gurteen, and, despite a gutsy display, we went down to a very strong CT outfit.

Attendance throughout the season was high, the group continues to gel well and, as a coaching group, we were very pleased with their effort and development during the season. They are a talented and committed bunch of players with a bright future in the game. Later in the year we were invited to participate in the Brother Cunningham Memorial tournament in Middleton on the October bank holiday Monday. A native of Doon, Br. Cunningham spent time coaching underage teams in our own club and in Middleton. We travelled with our 2012 born boys and they performed brilliantly with wins over Doon and 2 teams from Middleton to clinch the tournament title which was a nice way to bookend the season.

I would like to thank Ken Kennedy and the entire U13 coaching group for your great support and effort during the season, Thank you also to the Underage Hurling Committee for your support and to Joe McNamara and the field committee for making the pitches available during the season. We also appreciate the strong co-operation we enjoyed with Declan Lannon and John Garvey during the season, it was logistically challenging at times with the number of games coming at us in both codes! Thanks to John O'Loughlin and PWC for sponsoring jerseys for the season, the feedback from the players was that the jerseys were "class"! Finally, thank you to the parents for your encouragement of the boys, your support and your willingness to travel where necessary for training and matches.

Darragh O'Driscoll

Some photos of our year



Fionn O'Brien Festival Of Hurling

U12 Hurling Report

The U12 Hurlers returned to training in August after the summer break. The group included 2013 born boys who had taken part in academy and u13 championship earlier in the year and 2014 born boys who graduated from the U11 Go Games. Panel numbers have remained high with 60 boys consistently available for Go Games and training. As a management group we are very fortunate to have so many young committed and talented players.

The U12 Go Games commenced on the weekend of 11th September when we were away to Clooney/Quin with 2 teams and home to Corofin and Ennistymon with another 2 teams. Over the following weeks we played Go Games against Clarecastle, Cratloe, Banner and Crusheen. We finished the schedule of Go Games on weekend of 25th October against Feakle/Kilanea, Whitegate and Sixmilebridge. The boys hurling skills including striking and ball handling are consistently developing.

On Saturday 20th September for the second year running we held The Fionn O'Brien Festival Of Hurling. We had Michael Cusacks GAA Galway, Oranmore/Maree GAA Galway and O'Loughlin Gaels GAA Kilkenny. join us in Gurteen. Again it was a brilliant occasion with some great displays of hurling from four very talented hurling clubs. We were very fortunate that the weather held up well on the day and a big thank you must go to Joe Mac and the field committee for how well the fields and facilities looked on the day. Also a big thank you to Enda @ Galvin Construction who sponsored the entire panel with half-zips for the festival. While some of the results didn't go our way on the day, we had 60 boys get very valuable game time against strong opposition which can only benefit their development in the long term. We would like to thank Pat, Michelle, Sadhbh, Conor and Niall O'Brien family for kindly sponsoring a cup for the festival and also to thank Sadhbh for presenting the cup to O'Loughlin Gaels who were victorious on the day. The Club will continue to carry on with this festival and develop it as the years go on.

Finally, we would like to thank all the boys for their commitment, dedication and enthusiasm during the year and to the parents for their continued support. Enjoy the break over the Xmas and we look forward to returning back to training in 2026 with the boys.

U12 Hurling Coaches Ken Kennedy, Brian Carmody, Simon Kelleher, Ian Ryan, Michael Fitzpatrick, James Clune, Morgan Lahiffe, Anthony Considine, John O'Loughlin, Gerard Mockler, Ian Carolan and Robert Kilkenny

Photo from our year



U14 & u15 Hurling

U15 Hurling

The 2025 season was a very good year for our U15 hurling squads. From February through July, the panel demonstrated remarkable commitment and passion for the game, clocking up nearly 60 sessions between training and competitive fixtures. This level of dedication speaks volumes about the character of these young athletes. Two teams proudly represented the club this year: U15A and Academy A. Both groups carried the club's colours with pride, resilience, and an unwavering determination to succeed. The U15A team delivered a thrilling championship campaign, securing impressive victories over Ballyea, Newmarket-on-Fergus, Scariff, and Clonlara. Their journey culminated in an A Championship semi-final, where they faced a formidable Sixmilebridge side—the eventual champions. Despite a valiant effort, the boys narrowly missed out on a final berth. Along the way, they tested their mettle against top-class opposition from both within and beyond Clare, including Na Piarsaigh, Michael Cusacks, Ballinora, Ballybrown, and Kilruane. Our Academy team also enjoyed a stellar season, advancing all the way to the county final. Once again, Sixmilebridge proved to be the hurdle, but not before the Academy boys recorded notable wins over Éire Óg, Ballyea, and Newmarket-on-Fergus. These experiences were invaluable for player development and will undoubtedly shape future success. What truly stood out this season was the players' attitude. Attendance remained consistently high, and every challenge was met with enthusiasm. Their dedication to strength and conditioning was evident, laying a solid foundation for years to come. Leadership qualities began to shine through, and the sense of camaraderie within the group was exceptional. Both teams have shown they are not only talented but also hardworking and resilient. With the skills, mindset, and experience gained this year, these young hurlers have a bright future ahead—and the club can look forward to continued success at underage level.

U14 Hurling

The U14 campaign kicked off in early August, with the group meeting 30 times for training and matches. Numbers were strong, with up to 40 players attending some sessions—a testament to the growing interest in hurling within the club. This level of participation is fantastic, but it also highlights the need to plan for adequate resources and capacity in the future. Three teams represented the club in U14 competitions, and the standard proved high:

U14A: Battled bravely in the A Championship but came up short against Newmarket-on-Fergus and Corofin/Ruan.

Academy 1 Team: Claimed a memorable victory over Sixmilebridge in the Shield Final—a result that will give the boys great confidence moving forward.

Academy 2: Another Academy team reached a county final but narrowly lost to Smith O'Brien's after a spirited performance. Despite a slow start, the group showed tremendous improvement as the season progressed. They had memorable wins over O'Callaghan Mills, Kilkee/Bealaha and Ballyea.

Their commitment to learning, combined with a growing focus on strength and conditioning, promises exciting times ahead. This is a talented and determined bunch, and the future looks bright.

A huge thank you to the parents, club officers, and our dedicated coaching team—Padraig Duddy, Anthony O'Halloran, Barry Millane, Senan Crosbie, Darragh McMahon, Matthew Power, Peadar O'Loughlin, and James O'Connor—for their tireless efforts throughout the season. Their support and commitment make all the difference.

Some Photos from our year



U14 Football

This year's U14 competition began in August. We entered 3 teams at this level namely a Div. 1 team, a Div. 3 team and an academy team. In total we played 17 matches between challenges and competitive games. We also held 17 training sessions between August 11th and October 29th. A total of 58 players represented the club at U14 level and we had some great fun along the way. Our academy team won their competition, defeating Wolfe Tones in the final by a point in a thrilling game of football. Our Div. 1 squad won the Clare Super 10's competition in Caherlohan and went on to represent Clare in Rathkeale on Nov. 1st. Our Div. 3 squad defeated O'Callaghan Mills in the Shield final while our Div. 1 team defeated Shannon Gaels/Kilmihil in their shield final. These footballers are a fantastic bunch and have a very bright future ahead. **Peadar McMahon**

Photos of U14 Academy Champions and U14 Div. 1 Shield Winners



U15 Football

This year we entered 3 teams at U15 Level. We had a Div. 1 team, a Div. 3 team and an Academy Team. We started training in February and had early challenge games against Monaleen and Corofin. We also travelled to Miltown in Kerry for a match in February. We gave game time to 51 boys this year in what was a very busy year. Féile competitions began in early May and we entered two teams in this competition. We made a decision this year to play all players on the age in Div. 1 competitions and the younger players in the Div. 3 and academy competitions. The aim was to ensure players on the age got as much time on the field as possible. Overall, while we didn't make the later stages of the U15 competition we had an enjoyable year and many players made great progress. A sincere thanks to all our coaches, Albert Hardiman, Colm Ryan, Tom Maleady, Ivens Zambrano, John Leahy, Michael Nash and Brian Heneghan. A sincere thanks also to the parents who made great sacrifices to ensure that the boys arrived on time for all training sessions and matches. **Peadar McMahon**

Photos of U15 Academy Final Squad for and Munster Super 10's Squad



U16 Hurling

The U16 Hurling Championship was a straight knock out competition starting in early November. Training commenced in early October following the conclusion of the Minor Hurling Championship, two challenge games were played against Whitegate and Clonlara in preparation for the first round against Cratloe. Played in ideal conditions in Gurteen for the time of year, the lads produced an excellent performance with some brilliant defending and great scores, prevailing in the end on a scoreline of 1.18 to 1.14. We were then drawn to play Corofin / Ruan in the quarter final, which was played in Corofin. In a tough battle, we came out the wrong side of a 15 point to 1.9 score against a very physical Corofin / Ruan side. Unfortunately, we didn't produce our best performance, but the group will learn a lot from it going forward to next years minor championship. The Academy competition is also a straight knock out competition. The team has produced two strong performances against Kilmaley in the quarter final (winning 1.14 to 1.9) and against Newmarket in the semi final (winning 5.14 to 1.12). At the time of writing the squad is currently preparing for the Academy final against Clonlara which is due to be played on the 30th of November. **Mark Hallinan**

Minor Hurling Report

The Minor hurlers reached the Quarter Final of the A championship, and while coming up short against a quality Inagh / Kilnamona team, the players acquitted themselves well and can be very proud of their performances not only in that game but throughout the year. The Academy Team performed brilliantly throughout their campaign also, reaching the final against Sixmilebridge where we just fell short by the minimum, losing on a scoreline of 1.15 to 2.11.

The season started on the 4th of February with a challenge game against Ballyea in cold conditions at Clarecastle's Astro turf. In preparation for championship a total of seven challenge games were played against teams from Clare, Galway and Tipperary. The U18 Hurling League was also used to develop and prepare players for the upcoming Minor Championship. For the championship, we were drawn in a group with 5 other teams, wins were recorded against Ballyea (6.17 to 2.16), Cratloe (4.30 to 0.10), Tulla (3.18 to 0.11) and Kilmaley (2.17 to 1.10), we lost to Clarecastle (5.17 to 1.17), which meant we finished 2nd in the group and were drawn at home against Inagh / Kilnamona in the Quarter Final, a strong finish from Inagh / Kilnamona resulted in a single point defeat on a scoreline of 2.15 to 1.17. While it was a tough defeat to take, the players fought to the end and can be very proud of their effort. A total of 29 players played in the Minor A Championship.

I want to particularly thank Mervyn Dixon, Donal Murphy, Ciaran O'Halloran, Dylan O'Shea and Brendan Cleland for their tireless work throughout the year, a lot of good work was done with a key focus on development and enjoyment for the players. I also want to acknowledge the incredible support from parents, sponsors, the club executive, pitch committees etc. In particular, I want to thank Joe McNamara for his assistance throughout the year and Martins Construction for generously sponsoring training tops for the panel. I would also like to thank Tom O'Brien and the Minor Football Management for their co-operation throughout the year. Finally, I want to thank all the players for their commitment and dedication throughout the season. It was a pleasure to work with them all. There is a brilliant bond in the group, and I have no doubt that they will contribute handsomely to the club's adult teams in the years to come. **Mark Hallinan**

Photo of our Year



Minor Panel Prior to Academy Final v Sixmilebridge (missing from photo Martin Daly & Sean McMahon)

Minor Football

On April 2nd of this year we held our first minor football session of the season. A panel of 41 players was assembled to field two teams. Including some lads who had not played football in a few years. We were delighted to see dual players giving everything to both codes and showing that it's very achievable to do so. With that we would like to thank Mark Hallinan and his management team for cooperating all season and always putting player welfare first in order to have a dual side giving its best week in week out. As a management we wanted to give the lads a taste of what it's like playing adult level and we operated with many similar coaching techniques that we would use at senior level to make it somewhat relevant when they make the step up next year. We made a decision to not enter the u18 football league as we felt it drags out the season too much for players. What's important was learning from years gone by that we would give the players the best chance to operate as close to 100% fitness and be fresh as possible coming into the business end of the year with a strong appetite. New rules were in play which was new to everybody. Thankfully the players took to the field willing to learn in every session and match. After a couple of games it was second nature and the new rules definitely suited our lads. We had many different types of games which the players adjusted to excellently. The first real eye opener for the panel was with a one sided result in favour of the boys in Corofin Co. Galway. Fortunately I think this stood to us. We learned a lot that day and both panels kicked on from there to start the championship season. The Division 2/3 team faced a few tough challenges early on in the group but performance levels were excellent and with that came results at the end of the group stage beating two different amalgamations. And going on to beat Lissycasey second team in the knockout stages. Unfortunately our campaign in division 2/3 came to an end with a tough loss to the banner in Clarecastle. We were extremely proud of this team, made up of a lot of younger players eligible for u17 next year. They never gave up pushing to make the 1st division side and always tried to implement what we worked on at training the same way the division 1 team would. The Division 1 team comfortably operated through the group stage winning all but one game. Eire Óg beat us, but similar to the Corofin loss we learned a lot and the team changed around quite a bit after this game. This proved to be a pivotal point in the year. We drew Lissycasey in the semi final and won comfortably on the score line but it didn't feel as comfortable in the moment. A lot of old habits came out and thankfully were put back away about 2 days later in Gurteen. We faced a strong St. Breckans side in the county final in Quilty. They had taken the big scalp beating Eire Óg in the semi final so we probably went in under the radar a touch. A poor / nervy first half with a strong wind left us naturally worried at half time only being up by 1. Fionn Kelleher spoke to the players about relaxing on the ball & doing what they do best by working it wide into the areas we felt we could get at St Breckans. The lads carried this out and dominated the second half. We ran out 7 point deserving winners in the end. We are so happy for this bunch of players but the highlight of the year for the management wasn't winning a minor A. While that was great, we fielded every player tagged against Clondegad in the group. We made 15+ changes and every player got what they deserved all of them played their part in the 2025 championship winning team. We lost a few key players to injury this year Ciaran Sheehan, Shane Dilleen & Darragh Fahy. Losing 3 players of a high calibre shows the strength & depth of this special group of players and we really look forward to seeing them wear the parish colours no matter what the level or code it is. The end of one chapter but the start of another. Best of luck lads. We would like to thank our sponsors who generously donated along the campaign: Martins Construction, Colm Ryan, Williams Concrete Products, Rob Fahy, Dermot Daly & Martin Lillis. **Tom O'Brien**

Photos of our Year



Senior Football

It was quite a successful year for our senior panel. Even though we were beaten in the Cusack Cup League Final and the senior Championship final, our players performed very well in both. In the League campaign, we had good wins over Kilmurry Ibrickane, Corofin, Kildysart, Lissycasey and qualified to play Éire Óg in the final. In normal time, we were unlucky not to win the game, but we were beaten comfortably in extra time. It was still a very good performance by the team. In the Championship, our form was very mixed in the group stages. However, on qualifying for the group stages, we played our best football of the year. We had excellent victories over Kilmurry Ibrickane in the quarter final and Cratloe in the semi final. Éire Óg were our opponents again in the final and while we were defeated by 7 points in the end, it was a game that was in the balance up to the last few minutes. It was an excellent team performance. The players are an ambitious group who have the talent and work ethic to win the Jack Daly. I would like to thank the players for their huge effort and 100% buy in all year. I would like to thank the Club Executive for all their help and guidance during the year. Our County Board Delegates for representing us at fixture meetings and other business during the year. I would like to thank the Management for preparing the panel for league and for championship. Eoin Troy, Head Coach, Declan Malone & Michael O'Dwyer, Selectors and Coaches, Evan Hennessy, S & C. Diarmuid Whelan, Video Analysis. Morgan Rowland, Stats and Kit Man, Martin Brooks, Albert Hardiman and Niall Considine, Match Day Support **Donagh Vaughan**.

U/21 Football Report

St. Josephs Doora Barefield played two games in the u/21A Championship this year. We were beaten by Ennistymon in the first game by 5 points. In the second game we were well beaten by Lissycasey. We played a week after the senior final and hadn't much preparation due to a large crossover of players on both panels. I would like to thank the players for giving their all in both games. Going forward, we feel there should be a separate U/21 Football Management from the Senior Management. This would ensure better preparation for the U/21 Team, if the Senior football team progress to the championship. **Donagh Vaughan**.

Intermediate Hurling Report

We started our Preparation for the year ahead where there was a huge effort put in. Pre-season training starting in February with the senior panel, we had a great number of players coming up from Minor which was great to see. Our league was used to bed in the new players and after a slow start we won our last three games to retain our league status. In an extremely tough championship group, which included the eventual winners Smith O Briens, who we pushed all the way in our first match, we beat Newmarket in our best performance of the year to keep our championship standing. Our management team of Dermot Daly, Fergal O Sullivan, Michael Cullinan, Mark Sillman, Tony McInerney, Brian Dilleen and Sean Conroy would like to thank our players for their huge effort and wish them the best of luck for next year. **Dermot Daly**

Senior Hurling

Senior Hurling training commenced in November 2024 from a strength and conditioning aspect under S&C coach Eimhin Hennessey. This continued until the first week in February when the panel returned to the back of the goals on pitch two. The panel underwent a ten-week conditioning programme for three days a week where conditioning, hurling and strength training were combined. The commitment from the panel during this block of training was exceptional. Having qualified in 2024 for Division one of the Clare Cup our ambition was to maintain that status for 2026. We were given a tough group in Division One, but wins over Feakle, Cratloe, Broadford and Crusheen ensured us a quarter final spot and secured our status for the year ahead. We played a strong Clonlara team away in the quarter final losing by the minimum of one point in what was a very physical match.

The first round of the Championship kicked off the 27th of July against Crusheen in Cusack Park. We were five points down at half time having played against a stiff breeze. The team rallied in the second half hitting eight points to put us three ahead midway through the second half. The sides were still level on the fifty seventh minute but it would be Crusheen's experience that would see them stretch the lead to five points when the final whistle was blown.

The second round of the Championship was played two weeks later on the 9th of August against a very strong and motivated Clonlara team. The team started well in the first quarter, but the concession of two quick goals gave Clonlara a strong lead at half time. The team fought hard in the second half but the mountain was too high to climb and Clonlara ran out convincing and deserving winners. The third round of the Championship was played on the 23rd of August against a very experienced Sixmilebridge team. The team played well in patches and were a match for Sixmilebridge but again experience would see them emerge by ten points. This result now put us into the relegation semi-final against Newmarket.

The relegation semi-final was played on the 5th of September in Tulla in very windy conditions. The team hurled extremely well in the first half. Unfortunately, in the six minutes of injury time in the first half Newmarket reeled of a goal and two points. The team hurled well again in the second half but would come short by one point. The result now putting us against Corofin in the relegation final.

The relegation final was played in Tulla on the 21st of September in extremely windy conditions. Having gone in two points down at half time against a very strong wind the platform was set to drive on in the second half. The team hurled very well in the second half. Corofin made it difficult with two late goals heading into injury time, but the team battled and won by a point. Due to immigration, retirement and transfers of a number of senior players this year's senior hurling panel was made up of an extremely young group of players. Twenty-three of the group being under the age of twenty-One. I would like to thank the panel of players for the huge effort in what was an extremely challenging year due to injuries and the loss of a number of senior players. I would like to thank the backroom team of Damien Ryan, Sean Duggan, Tommy Lee, Sean Flynn, Eimhin Hennessey, Michelle Caufield, Sean Conroy and Cathal O'Sullivan for their commitment throughout the year. Thanks to Robert Hurley, Declan Hannan, Noel Stapleton, Tom Duggan and Joe Mac for their assistance throughout the year. The management look forward to working with our new Chairman Garreth Greene in the year ahead and all the new incoming members of the executive. ***Many thanks Damien Kennedy On behalf of the Senior Hurling Management Team.***

U21 Hurling

The u21 hurling squad commenced training on 23rd September. The Championship format was changed this year to a two game round robin format and our first game was against Cratloe and we lost this game by 4 points.

We then played Clarecastle and in a tight game we won this by a point after scoring a late goal. Unfortunately we lost on qualification for a semi final on scoring difference.

Our second u21 team played Eire Óg and Inagh Kilnamona in the round robin format and won both games to qualify for a semi final against Clooney Quin which we won convincingly. The final against Scariff Ogonnelloe was only played last Saturday and after a great performance we won on a score of 1:15 to 10 points.

On behalf of the team management I would like to thank all the players for their efforts both in training and games this year which was excellent. Thanks also to Joe McNamraa and the field committee for making the pitches in Gurteen available whenever required.

Raymond Power

Photos of our Year



St. Josephs Doora Barefield GAA club would like to thank their sponsors
for their sponsorship during the year

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