**St Sylvester’s Juvenile Boys Section Update 2019**

The numbers coming through the juvenile ranks in St. Sylvesters is growing rapidly each year. This can be seen in the individual team updates that are below.

This presents particular challenges for us, particularly in terms of having sufficient mentors to coach the players and in terms of resources such as equipment, playing & training facilities – we can never have enough, nor enough money to finance them!

It is incumbent on us all to work together to put these resources in place – our young players need and deserve them.

As I said above the Juvenile Boys section is continuing to develop and grow and at the heart of the Juvenile boy’s section is a small army of volunteers.

These people are the fabric and glue that hold the Juvenile boy’s section together. Thanks to all those mentors and other volunteers who freely give of their time, energy, and expertise last year to the further development of the juvenile players of the club.

Your work and dedication have undoubtedly greatly enhanced the positive experience of all the kids coming through our ranks.

THANK YOU

I would like to give you an update on our Objectives, the work we have done and what we are continuing to do.

* **Discipline – Give Respect , Get Respect .**
* **Child welfare / Garda Vetting procedures**
* **Facilities**
* **Football & Hurling Development Committees**
* **Disconnect between Juvenile & Adult**
* **Academy**
* **Refereeing**
* **Fundraising & Sponsorship**
* **Schools/Camps/Mini All Irelands**

**Discipline – Give Respect , Get Respect .**

We did have a significant reduction of incidents Year over Year.

However, we continue to see regular incidents therefore this continues to be a key focus for us as a Committee and a club. When it arises, the County Board have shown their expected intolerance towards bad behaviour, especially where it involves abuse of referees.

We strongly encourage all stakeholders – players, mentors, and spectators – to be mindful of the need to be respectful to all fellow participants in our matches. As a club, we strongly advocate compliance with GAA Code of Conduct and related initiatives around that.

We will therefore again circulate the GAA Code of Conduct to all Juvenile players , mentors and spectator to stamp this out of our game.

**Child welfare / Garda Vetting procedures**

The on-line GV procedure is now well established. It is now mandatory that all Adults and Children above the age of 16 involved with children do need to be Garda Vetted.

We have endeavoured to ensure that every one of our Coaches, Referees and Transition Year Students fulfil this mandatory requirement.

We implemented a new club policy that any coach moving from CCC1 to CCC2 ie now is required to renew their Garda vetting to ensure that everyone who needs to renew after their 5 year vetting approval expires Everyone’s cooperation with this is greatly appreciated.

Our thanks to Miriam for all the work done this year in her role as Child Welfare Officer role and allowing the club to benefit from her significant expertise and guidance in this extremely important role for the club.

**Facilities**

Our thanks to Eoin Farquharson and Aidan Lillis who do such a wonderful, often times thankless job in managing the maintenance of our pitches and other playing areas and the facilities around same.

We do appreciate and acknowledge their efforts too in trying to manage the training slots, which is an ever growing challenge to get everyone accommodated given the numbers of juvenile players and teams coming through the club now.

I would also like to thank the club, Broomfield development committee and the many people who supported and donated towards the Broomfield All Weather pitch. I think you can all agree that we are maximising this space which can be demonstrated by the 100’s of kids who are on it every day of the week. It is a massive asset for the club and Juvenile boys section.

**Football & Hurling Development Committees**

Coaching, and the quality of it, is a fundamental component to making the interaction of our young players with the club an enjoyable one. club have empowered two committees to look at the development of our games in both football and Hurling and put the right structural programs in place for continued success and participation.

I would like to thank each committee for their efforts to date and reiterate our continued support from a juvenile committee for next year.

**Disconnect between Juvenile & Adult**

A club survives by regeneration and the young players of today are the adult games stars of tomorrow - and then they’re the coaches after that for the next generation again. The link between juvenile and adult teams in the club is something that needs constant fostering, as is the understanding that the club at the core is what joins us all together.

This year we have strived to break down this barrier by organising specific events to mix the two different sections of the club together.

* Mini All Ireland & Super 8 Football competition, at both events we got huge support from both the Snr Football & Hurling players who coached and manage juvenile at both events This was very successful and feedback from both groups weas very positive.
* Increased attendance at all Senior Football & Hurling matches. We have been somewhat successful in getting more juvenile players to matches. This is something we will continue to support and drive next year.

**Academy**
Our academy numbers continue to grow year-on-year, as does the level of commitment & effort from all volunteers involved. This is across both girls and boys, with new initiatives like camogie continuing to blossom this year.

Our deep appreciation to all volunteers there every Saturday, from lead and assistant coaches, to running the shops, and the many more who contribute to such a positive experience for our youngest members every Saturday.

The Academy is constantly evolving and resourcing it adequately to deal with the growing numbers, both in terms of equipment, but more importantly personnel, is a key priority again for 2019.

**Refereeing**

Aidan Lillis continued his role of juvenile referee co-ordinator this year and as always, he has done an exceptional job in managing and developing this programme for the club and our team of juvenile referees. The feedback on standards of our referees continues to be positive with Aidan regularly at games to provide support and counselling

**Fundraising & Sponsorship**

We are extremely grateful to all our sponsors, both central sponsors, like Joe Duff and Jones Engineering.

Leahy& Co. who continue to support the Academy, and Summer Camps, and the many individual team sponsors, listed in the individual team reports below, without whom we just could not function. Our profound thanks for your generosity to us.

**Schools/Camps/Mini All Irelands**

Panner McCarthy of course continues to be out main link with the schools and the organiser of the Easter and Summer Camps. His own report will deal with some of the specifics here around these. Thanks to him as always for his work with the club and leading our engagement with the kids in the community which he is always to the forefront of.

Congratulations to Ian McCafferty and his large army of volunteers, from both boys & girls’ sections, who organised both the hugely successful, essentially relaunched, Mini All Irelands earlier in the year, this event is getting bigger and bigger each year. Well done to everyone involved for raising the bar again this year.

The juvenile section is an open door. We welcome all new and existing members who are willing and able to get on board to help with the work that needs to be done. And on the whole, it’s immensely satisfying – just take that walk around on a Saturday or Sunday and see for yourself!

Mol an Óige agus tiocfaidh siad.

**Juvenile Committee 2019**

William Rooney (Chairman); Maria Hughes (Secretary);

Summary of each age groups performance in the competitive divisions is shown below.

**Football League/Feile/Championship Performance**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| U12 | Div 1 – 1st Place | Div 4 – Mid Table | Div 9 – Bottom Half of the Table |  |
| U13 | Div 1 – 1st Place | Div 5 – 1st Place | Div 8 – Runners Up |  |
| U14 | Div 1 – Bottom Half of the Table | Div 7 – Bottom Half of the Table | Feile | Div 2 – Round 1 Div 8 – Winners |
| U15 | Div 1 – Bottom Half of the Table | Div 6 – Mid Table | A ChampionshipD Championship | Lost in the Semi to the eventual winnersGot to the Semi-Final |
| U16 | Div 1 – Mid Table | Div 6 – Mid Table | A ChampionshipD Championship | Quarter FinalQuarter Final |

**Hurling League/Feile/Championship Performance**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| U12 | Div 2 – Mid Table | Div 6 – 3rd Place | Div 11 – Bottom Half |
| U13 | Div 2 – Mid Table |  |  |
| U14 | Div 2 - 3rd Place |  | Feile – Group Stages |
| U15 | Div 3 – Mid Table |  | C Championship - Winners |
| U16 | Div 4 – Bottom Half |  | C Shield – Final (Result outstanding) |

**U8 Boys Teams – 2011**

Fresh from the nursery and after a hectic training schedule the 2011 boys started Go Games in mid-February fielding six teams in both football and hurling. Since then we have played 27 GoGames or Challenge matches up to November 16th. We now have 71 boys on the books and regularly average a turn-out in the 50s each Saturday. While the GoGames have ended until February we’ll keep busy by fielding two teams in the annual Gormanstown indoor hurling tournament in the new year.

Logistically the numbers present a real challenge for both training and match days, so we are lucky to have a lot of buy-in from parents. Today we have a bigger back-room than Jim Gavin with 24 coaches helping each week. That brings a great mix of GAA backgrounds to the coaching team which should be a real benefit to the boys over time. Our next priority is to improve the coaching skills across the group, so we have 16 coaches undertaking the GAA’s Award 1 coaching course in January.

Orla O’Donnell and Aine O’Neill have done a super job organizing social events for the boys. The year ended with a trip to Croke Park to tour the stadium and museum which proved a great day out for all. The ladies also ran a very successful raffle during the year to raise much-needed funds. Our parents dug deep to secure prizes and sell tickets which provided for referee’s fees for much of the season.

We are indebted to John Shiel of Shiel’s Londis, Yellow Walls for sponsoring the team. John has been very generous providing jerseys and training tops for the coaches. More recently John provided the refreshments for the kids after a challenge match against Templeogue Synge Street. We also secured sponsorship from EirGrid (courtesy of Peter Lantry) which we used to part-subsidize the boy’s trip to Croke Park.

Finally, two important acknowledgements. Our new all-weather pitch is a super resource for the team and we regularly receive compliments on it from visiting teams. All involved have done a great job to get us to the point that we can train year-round. It can’t be easy organizing pitches and referees each week, so we also thank Aidan Lillis for his efforts in this regard.

Many thanks to all involved with the 2011 squad and we look forward with excitement to the year ahead.

Bob Gardiner.

**U10 Boys Teams – (2009)**

2019 has been another encouraging year for the 2009 team, with the boys competing very well across all grades. The improved training facilities have contributed to the boys’ development and their individual skills are improving all the time. The next challenge is to improve team play at U11 level in 2020 and get them prepared for U12 competitive leagues in 2021.

We have a regular squad of 70 players (football) and 60 players (hurling), helped by a team of 21 coaches. We are currently training twice a week and sessions have been well attended.

**Football:** Paul Lynch was appointed Director of Football and has brought new ideas and intensity to training sessions, which has been well received by players and coaches. Our attacking play is strong but defending as a team is an area we need to work on next year.

Both A teams performed well and have been a match for all opposition throughout the year. The B teams have also performed well; each game is a battle which is great for development, although we need to start games more quickly. The standard of the C teams has improved significantly since last year, and we hope to see further progress here. We entered a combined 2009/2010 team into the Community Games football competition, winning the Dublin tournament and going on to represent Dublin in the Leinster Championship in a memorable weekend in Carlow, where we beat Newbridge in the Leinster Final. The team also competed in the National Finals in UL, losing the semi-final to eventual winners Cavan Town team before beating Ballincollig in the Bronze Medal match after extra time. The boys learnt a huge amount from these experiences over the summer.

We also entered teams in a tournament in Moy, Co. Tyrone in September, and as always, these one-off blitzes are great learning experiences for the boys.

We aspire to field 6 teams of 11 a side in 2020, hopefully we can get the squad numbers turning out each week.

**Hurling**: Ronan Dempsey was appointed Director of Hurling and has also freshened up our training sessions, which has been well received by players and coaches. Focusing on improving the basic skills is still to the fore for the group.

Again, the teams have competed well, and the skill levels are improving all the time. We found that the boys who attended the hurling camps at Easter and in the summer benefitted significantly.

The A teams have performed well, a definite match for all opposition, although we are starting to see the standard at A level improve significantly, the gap from A to B is more pronounced in hurling than football. The B and C teams still need to work on the basics, lifting the ball at a faster pace is a real focus in training.

We entered 5 teams in the league for the Jan-June period, and the standard in the 2-team league wasn’t as strong as the 3-team league. We had some new players join in September and have moved back to 6 teams but will have no option but to drop back to 5 teams in Jan 2010 when it goes to 11 a side.

In June two teams travelled to the Liatroim Fontenoy Club in the Mourne Mountains for a blitz attended by clubs from all over Ulster.

Coach development is an area we will target in 2020 and look forward to sessions being held by the Football and Hurling development committees.

A big thanks to:

- Aidan Lillis and his team of referees

- The Facilities Team for all their hard work

- Will Rooney/Miriam Slattery/older CCC1 coaches for their help when needed.

We look forward to U11 when the games will become more physical as the boys get older, the performances of the older CCC1 teams in 2019 will hopefully spur the squad on to better things.

Seamas Early

**U11 Boys Teams – (2008)**

Playing numbers are currently approximately 60 for football and 35 for hurling. We have had a couple of boys returning this year and have had several new boys join. We have approx. 16 coaches across the age group. Our teams are split 1X3 and 1X2 in Football (5 Teams) and 1X3 in Hurling (3 Teams)

**High points:**

Continued player (skills and game management) development, across all levels, in both codes.

Continued competitiveness in all fixtures, across all levels, in both codes.

Hosting fixtures and being able to train on the AWP

Mini All-Ireland’s participation rates.

Victory in All-Dublin U11s Football Invitational Tournament organised by Parnell’s in early January.

Beaten Finalists (to K. Crokes) in national U11 tournament organised by Newbridge Sarsfields

Unbeaten in all Camáint matches during July (4 weeks x 2 teams X 3 matches per evening). Won and Drew on Finals Day in Parnell Park.

**Major Challenges during the season:**

Decline in our hurling numbers

Accommodating boys playing and training in other sports (e.g. Malahide Utd. clashing with hurling training)

Accommodating mid-50 in numbers at football training with only one third of the AWP.

Challenges for 2020:

Securing favourable time slots for training.

Confirming lead and support mentors for 3/4 graded football teams and 2 graded hurling teams

Improve player fitness levels

Committing to player retention rather than new player recruitment

Upskilling coaching team

Organising team self-funding events

Organising annual U12 trip to Ardara.

In September 2020 a significant number of our players will enrol in secondary school. This may provide additional challenges.

**U12 Boys Teams - (2007)**

Our season officially ended on Saturday 9th November and for the latter part of the season, we had 54 boys playing Gaelic Football regularly and 41 boys playing hurling. That represents a net gain of four players for Gaelic football and a gain of three players for hurling in the last 12 months.

Being able to train on the All-Weather Pitch this year was a great boost and we greatly appreciated it! The programme of Coach the Coaches sessions also benefitted this group and we welcome this development.

For the U12 grading games we fielded 4 Gaelic football teams and 3 hurling teams. However, our average weekend attendance for Gaelic football was approximately 46 players so we reduced our number of football teams to three for the divisional games.

Our Gaelic football teams participated in Division 1, 4 and 9. They finished ranked 1st, 6th and 8th respectively in ten-team divisions. Our hurling teams participated in Division 2, 6 and 11. They finished ranked 4th, 3rd and 7th respectively in eight – team divisions.

We have 17 parents that coach and mentor the kids on a weekly basis at training and matches. Daniel Murphy and Fergal McStay also play leading coaching roles within the group. Our Social Committee that is made up of 5 parents has been active throughout the year and organised some great team-building events for the kids and nights out for the parents. The work of the coaching group and the Social Committee is key to successful participation of a large number of the kids.

The children are enjoying their time playing GAA and there is a good fun atmosphere around training and matches.

The hurling camps in the Easter and summer holidays worked well for this group in 2019. We would like hurling played in our primary schools to take some pressure off our coaching needs and to enable the boys to compete with the stronger hurling clubs.

This group travelled to Ardara in June for the annual U-12 Gaelic football tournament. Ahead of the trip the boys raised money to fund some new club gear. They raised €3,500+. Dean Rock and Michael Shiel presented them with their new kit before they departed for Donegal. Thirty-seven players travelled with their parents and luckily, we could enter three teams. It was a successful trip and all the boys enjoyed the experience.

This group fielded one team in the Division 2 U12 Camaint hurling competition in July and August and ultimately won the competition.

We are looking forward to another year of progressive development in 2020 as we transition to CCC2 and we remain committed to our goal of maintaining our participation numbers through their teenage years.

We are grateful to our Juvenile and Adult committees for their ongoing support. Furthermore, we are grateful to our sponsors and the parents of this group of boys with whose support the group is financially self-sufficient.

Ciarán Mollahan

**U13 Boys Teams – (2006)**

The U13 squad of 2006 continues to grow and develop. This year our Football panel numbers increased to around 52 for each Saturday with up to 58 in Squad and we have a consistent Hurling panel of 26 players. As with last year we continue to field 3 Football but only 1 Hurling team. We have increased our numbers by about 5 in Football and 3 in Hurling.

As with last year training is divided over 2 nights with Hurling on a Tuesday led again by Derek Morris and Donal Hayes, two members of the St. Sylvester’s Senior panels. We currently have only 1 Hurling Team in Training and have again excelled this year finishing 4th in Div 2. Our hope is to try for 2 hurling teams for 2020 season with the help of some of this years under 12’s

Thursday is football training and this season as with last year, this squads’ training attendance is almost perfect and we have to commend all the young players for their commitment to training in all weathers and conditions. As the squad develops and grows, we have seen an enormous improvement in the quality of skills on display on the pitch. This can be seen in their results to date. In total this season the 2006 squad competed in 16 competitive Football matches (including Grading games) in each division.

A big shout out must go to Malahide Utd and Shelbourne who have also facilitated us greatly by rescheduling games to help us out.

This year has been one of the best years for our Under 13’s to date with an excellent season all round as results will testify below,

Dublin Under 13 Division 1 WINNERS

Dublin Under 13 Division 5 WINNERS

Dublin Under 13 Division 8 Runners Up

The squad is growing in confidence and their efforts are being reflected in the scores within each game. This year especially it must be noted that the lads have grown in maturity and are now playing more as a team. This growing sense of team comradery was more than evident in every game they played together and off the pitch.

2020 will see an even bigger challenge with Feile and in trying to defend a League title but with the teams and friendships we have developed within this group we don’t see any reason why we can’t move on from here. I think having 3 Football Teams at under 14 level for next year is a huge achievement by the club and an even bigger reflection on work performed by the coaches over this year and previous years.

I would also like to give a big mention to all parents and supporters for their huge support over year who come out in large numbers to support our teams no matter what the weather is like

Finally, we would like to thank our Sponsors McCartan Pharmacy, Alucraft and McKeevers Solicitors for their kind Sponsorship for 2019 Season.

Many thanks to all involved in the 2006 squad and we look forward to the year ahead.

**U14 Football Boys Annual Report (2005)**

**U14 Football Division 1 & 7**

The U14s Football had two teams with an overall panel of 50 players throughout this year.

Our U14A Football team had an extremely busy and highly competitive season in Division 1. It was a bad start to the season with injuries and players missing so we struggled in the first half of the year. This impacted our confidence and, with the level of competitiveness in all Div 1 teams, our victories were hard earned. We then took a break from league for Feile and competed very well reaching the Semi Final of Division 2 narrowly losing out to Clontarf. The second half of the season showed increased focus and determination and was much more competitive. The results on a number of occasions didn’t go our way but our performance significantly increased. We were disappointed to get relegated but feel we are better than the results tell and we will be ready to go at it with renewed vigour next year.

Our 14B football team competed in Division 7 which, we believed at the start of the year, was the right playing level. Unfortunately, due to injuries and absences in the A team we had to play boys with the As which significantly impacted the B team. They too lost players to injury and soccer and, as a result struggled. They had a brilliant run in Feile and won all their group matches but were beaten in the semi-final by a very strong St Peter’s teams at home in Broomfield.

We currently have 4 players on Dublin Football development squad and it is encouraging to see them progress. We will work to ensure other players get an opportunity in 2020.

The passion and hunger to improve shown by the lads despite the tough year indicate that these young players are not here just to take part and, in the long run, will come back stronger having learnt many lessons from this season. They deserve huge credit for sticking at it through thick and thin as a team !

Thanks to all involved but in particular to a fantastic group of players for their hard work, performance and commitment. Unfortunately, Martin Morton is stepping down from coaching so I would like to thank Martin for all his dedication over the last 10 years . It was really appreciated. He will be missed and is always welcome back!

**U14 Hurling Boys Annual Report (2005)**

U14 Hurling Division 2

We had an excellent season in Hurling. We started off in Division 2 apprehensively as we were previously in Division 3. At the same stage, Killian and Kevin O’Flynn from the adult team agreed to take over our Hurling team coaching. We started off the season against a very strong Erins’ Isle ( who went unbeaten all season)  and only narrowly lost. This set the tempo for the rest of the season. The players lifted their intensity and, with the expertise and coaching from Killian & Kevin, the team continued to progress. We finished 3rd in the division narrowly missing out on promotion.

Feile went very well. The team lost the first two matches narrowly but fought back and beat a fancied Raheny team on their home patch to secure a score difference semi-final spot. We went on to play a strong Castleknock team and were unfortunately beaten.

All in all, the 2005 hurlers had a very strong season and with a panel of 20+ we are well positioned to kick on next year,

We saw three players gain places on Dublin Hurling development squad in 2019 and it is encouraging to still see them involved in the New Year. We will work to ensure other players get an opportunity in 2020.

**U15 Boys Football Teams - (2004)**

A Team consist of 19 Players, B Team also consists of 19 Players

A “season of change” as we often highlighted to the players from the beginning of the season to the end.

The U15A competed in Division 1.

We finished in a respectable 6th position in Div 1 after a challenging season however, it could have been a few places better.

The A squad lost players from the start of the season which made the season ahead a daunting task. We also had a change to the coaching team which the lads had to get used to.

In addition, we had no less than 2 broken hands, a fractured foot, 3 concussions (that we know about!), along with a host of other long-term injuries which saw us without some of our most established players for large parts of the season.

We played most matches with 15 players, some with 16-17 but never more, which against big Div 1 opponents saw us suffer a few narrow losses or draws against the top teams from a winning position in the 2nd half. The most important thing was to keep the players motivated and hungry and competitive.

We had to take 4 players permanently from the B squad (which is a big jump from Div 6) and we also had to bolster the team numbers with the help of the U14 team which has been a great help this year and much appreciated.

We had a good run in the Championship reaching the Semi-Final.

We had a narrow defeat in the Semi Finals to eventual run-away winners Kilmacud Crokes. The match was at home in front of a great crowd. The lads put in a fantastic performance in a match of the highest standard, we lead for most of the game before eventually losing by a few points.

We have 3 players still involved in Development squads which is great, although the training date is the same night as one of our training nights which affects our preparation for games.

One positive from the fall off in numbers and injuries is that the remaining players and indeed coaches had to figure out a way of raising their own individual performances and knit together as a team rather than relying on a few leaders. They have all developed as a result and we developed new leaders and systems of play. It was also very positive to be able to move some players off the B panel to the A panel and watch them develop and compete at A level and in addition to play other B players on an occasional basis as fixtures allowed.

The U15B team competed in Division 6

Our Under 15B squad moved down a division in 2018 which lead to un-competitive matches and a little loss of momentum.

2019 was much better season

The B squad lost 4 players on a permanent basis to the A squad as mentioned above. This in turn led to a scramble for players on a Sunday. Thankfully the U14s were able to provide players every match and this enabled games to go ahead as scheduled. This was very much appreciated.

After some very heavy loses early in the season, the loss of players really hurt and we questioned the decision of playing Division 6, as opposed to Division 7.

But the coaches and players pulled together, and with the return of some players back to football the team developed and performed better during the latter part of the season.

The team finished mid-table in 5th position after recording some great wins.

The B squad also had a good run in the Championship, also reaching the semi-final stage.

The coaches will meet up over the coming weeks to discuss player commitment in terms of numbers for 2020 as we would really aim to keep 2 teams, but it was a mammoth task in 2019.

Thanks to all the coaches and Parents and all in Syls who helped with players, physios, pitches and training slots.

Paul Lynch , Marc Whitney, Darragh McGrath, Barry Mahon, Brendan Dunne & Nicholas Manson

**U15 Boys Hurling Team – (2004)**

2019 was a fantastic year for the U15 hurling team with a strong league performance in Division 3 and of course winning the Juvenile U15 Hurling C Championship final.

This season, we had another new player join us which bolstered our squad and injected additional strength and depth to increase our player numbers to 17. In addition, the ongoing support from several U14s players has been crucial and we are very appreciated of this.

At the start of the season the players set themselves a few goals; Improve the consistency of performances in matches, Work on improving skills and increasing the level of intensity at training, to compete strongly in our first Juvenile Championship campaign at U15, to finish in top half of Division 3 and to enjoy playing hurling! We are delighted to report that we achieved all these objectives.

We had a good year competing in a strong Division 3 league finishing in 5th place overall with 5 wins, 1 draw and 8 losses. This was achieved with consistent performances throughout the year against some tough teams. While we struggled during games in summer months due to holidays, we came back strongly after the summer and had some great wins against Skerries and Good Counsel Liffey Gaels. A real stand-our performance was against Craobh Chiarain (likely to be in Division 2 next year) at Clonsheagh in June where we played some great hurling to win by 0-20 to 1-09.

However, the highlight of the year was our performance in our first Championship at U15 level. We had a good draw which meant all our games except the final were played in Bridgefield. First up was St Kevin’s who we beat comfortably 5-23 to 3-02. Next match was against Na Fianna B who we beat 5-11 to 4-07 and then a tough semi-final victory against St Catherine’s (4-14 to 2-11) meant we made it through to the final!

The final was played on 3rd November in Abbotstown against our old rivals Good Counsel Liffey Gaels. Although we had beaten GCLF already in the league in both matches we still knew we would be up against it. We found it difficult in the 1st half and were slow to get into the game and were down by 4 points at half-time. However, the players really dug deep in the 2nd half and battled hard to turn things around with a superb overall team performance to win 1-13 to 1-07.

This team has again improved in a number of areas this season, in particular, their ball to hand speed, passing & play variation as well as their ability to perform better as a team. A testament to their hard work at training and team spirit was the way they performed in the Championship Final where they played with pride and passion and were a credit to themselves and to St Sylvester’s GAA Club.

A massive thanks to all the players for their commitment during the year and for the support we get from parents at both home and away matches. Thanks also for the great support from across Sylvester’s at the final in Abbotstown which made a real difference on the day.

We look forward to U16 next year where the pressure will be on for another Championship win!

Team coaches are Marc Whitney, Dan McDonnell, Ray Flannery and Colm de Búrca.

**U16A Boys Football Team – (2003)**

Our U16A Football panel of 24 players competed in a highly competitive ten team Division 1 group in 2019. The league ran from February to May and we started out positively with two draws and a win. Despite competitive and improving performances in a number of subsequent league games results did not go our way, and in a number of instances losing by narrow margins. The final league match was an away draw to St Judes and the team ended the campaign tied for 6th place.

There was great commitment shown by players and coaches to training, from the start of the summer onwards in preparation for Championship in September.  The team played in the A Championship winning all three of its group games with Erins Isle, Cuala and Lucan Sarsfields. Most notable of these was a memorable win away to Isles which demonstrated composure, spirit and resilience.  Our championship journey unfortunately came to end at the quarter final stages with a defeat to Clontarf in the most challenging of weather conditions.

It has been great to see the player improve their skills, fitness and conditioning this year and this augers well as the lads step into Minor. Niall Guiden and Ciaran Meehan came on board in 2019 as Manager and Coach and played an important role is this development.

Regarding representation at County level, Sean Downey, James Cotter and Ross Keogh continue to be an important part of the Dublin Development Squad, and several other players performed very well when called to play over the course of the year. It was also great to see the role that Ross played for the Dublin Minors in 2019 and we hope that a number of our players will have opportunities next year.

Our thanks also to the parents and families who supported us in great number and to the U15 mentors and players for their support and performances.

Thanks, in particular to a fine group of players for their hard work, commitment and skill in 2019.

And finally, from the coaches and mentors (past and present) who have worked with this team since Nursey, it has been a pleasure to be involved with such a great group of lads.

Every success to the “Syls 2003 lads” for the future.

Mick Byrne, Nicky Cleere, Niall Guiden, Fergal McStay, Ciaran Meehan

**U16B Boys Football Team – (2003)**

The B panel competed in the U16 League Div 6 and U16 D championship this year. The panel have trained extremely hard and competed strongly in both competitions.

In a competitive league of 9 matches the team finished mid table with 5 wins and 4 losses recorded. The team were extremely competitive against other B teams in the league and while ‘one team’ clubs beat them, they never stopped playing. Highlight matches include 1 score difference to eventual league toppers St Marks and the matches against Templeogue, St Bridgets and Cuala.

In the championship the team performed very strongly in their group, winning 2 matches with the performance against O'Tooles the stand out match that lead them to a quarter final match v St Catherines. The quarter final was a tight match in weather and a pitch not fit for football. The lads played with great intensity and battled to the end but lost by 5 points to the eventual D championship finalists.

Coaching this year has largely been provided by Ciaran Meehan and Niall Guidan. New voice, insights, drills and intensity was brought to the table which challenged the lads to raise their game which they met and has resulted in improved skills and team performance. Thanks to Ciaran and Niall for that.

Thanks also to the U15 panel and their coaches for facilitating us with players for some games during the year where we needed cover due to unavailability of our own players.

This group of players now finish their juvenile career in CCC2 and move forward to minor grade from 2020. We wish the lads all the very best for the future and thank them for the commitment, work and enjoyment we have had for the past 10 years.

Kevin Tobin and Richard Lyons