

St Sylvester's Juvenile Boys Section Update 2018

Walking around Malahide Castle, Bridgefield and/or Broomfield on any given Saturday or Sunday and seeing the amount of young people playing ball in a Sylvesters jersey is always an uplifting experience.

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.

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.

We are extremely fortunate to have a large and growing number of top class people involved at juvenile level in this club who are constantly striving towards excellence and ensuring that we have the resources to take on the challenges in front of us in that strive for excellence.

Our profound thanks to all those mentors and other volunteers who freely give of their time, energy, and expertise each year to further the development of the juvenile players of the club. Your work and dedication has undoubtedly greatly enhanced the positive experience of all the kids coming through our ranks.

Coaching, and the quality of it, is a fundamental component to making the interaction of our young players with the club an enjoyable one. We will focus on Coaching the Coaches this year and work closely with both the Football committee and Hurling committee to put the right structural programs in place.

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 2018

William Rooney (Chairman); Maria Hughes (Secretary); Aidan Lillis; Mick Byrne; Traolach O'Donnell, Paul Lynch, Declan Sheerin, fergal MacLochlainn, Paul Waugh and Pdraig McCarthy.

This report sets out some of the activities within the Juvenile Boys Section. We have thanked only a small number of people in this report – we'd love to name them all but space inhibits. The fact you might not be mentioned doesn't lessen how grateful we are for the contribution you make.

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 under Killian and Paula Kirrane really blossoming this year. Our deep appreciation to all volunteers there every Saturday, from lead and assistant coaches, to Carole & Derek Morris and Jennifer Keogh in 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 2018.

Refereeing: Aidan Lillis continued his role of juvenile referee co-ordinator in 2018 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

Discipline We did have a handful of incidences arising during the year where we had people stepping out of line. 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.

Fundraising & Sponsorship: There were two major events organised by our Fund Raising Committee this year, The OsKaRs in April and The Gala Night in November. Between them we raised over €60,000.

In September we had our annual All-Ireland Football Final Score Forecast; a draw for 2 All Ireland Football Final tickets and for the third year in a row we ran the Know Your Sport prediction competition. Many thanks to all those involved in organising and supporting all those events

We are extremely grateful to all our sponsors, both central sponsors, like Joe Duffy, DAA and Leahy & Co. who again renewed their very generous sponsorship of CCC2, Academy, and Summer Camps respectively, 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.

Child welfare / Garda Vetting procedures: The on-line GV procedure is now well established. In 2017 it became mandatory that all Adults and Children above the age of 16 involved with children do need to be Garda Vetted. With the help of our Children's Officer, Miriam Slattery, we have endeavoured to ensure that every one of our Coaches, Referees and Transition Year Students fulfil this mandatory requirement. The next focus now is to ensure that everyone who needs to renew after their 5 year vetting approval expires is duly renewed again. Everyone's cooperation with this is greatly appreciated.

In addition to GV all mentors/coaches do have to undertake the Child Protection Awareness Training. Miriam is working hard to ensure that all mentors/coaches are compliant. Another date to complete this course will be coming soon (January)

Our thanks indeed to Miriam for all the work she has done this year and allowing the club to benefit from her significant expertise and guidance in this extremely important role for the club.

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 cover 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 Paul Waugh 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 Paul and everyone involved for raising the bar again this year.

The Third Class Blitz did not take place in October this year, however we are looking to maybe schedule this event around the start of the new season in February/March of 2019. We hope to continue to develop these and other events in 2019, to maximise our attractiveness in recruiting even more new players to our club.

There is much more work we can do with the schools – if they are willing, we are willing.

Girls Section: It has been noticeable that the level of co-operation between boys & girls sections has been increasing year-on-year over past few years. This is of course a most welcome development and the results generally prove the old adage that the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. Our thanks to Karen Butler and all the ladies section, too numerous to mention individually, for all their crossover help this year. We're all in this together!

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. I would like to highlight the work they did this year in improving the changing room facilities in Broomfield, which now has a functioning kitchen.

We do appreciate and acknowledge their efforts too in trying to manage the training and playing slots, which was an even bigger challenge this year with the loss of Pitch 2 in Broomfield. Getting everyone accommodated, given the numbers of juvenile players and teams coming through the club is no easy task. Thankfully this job will hopefully become easier when the new All Weather facilities become available later this year.

Referee Co-Ordinator Report: I managed to secure an additional 5 spots for Level 1 referee course next year (2019), so this will mean an extra 10 L1 referees available to the Juvenile section from early next year.

4 Referees progressed from L1 to L2 in 2018.

In general, there has been good feed back from mentors in relation to St Sylvester's Referees, both home and away. However, there have been some complaints about referees not turning up on time. This has been addressed, however I would encourage all lead mentors to notify me on the day of the match if a referee turns up late. Also, if they are not happy with the performance of the referee, please inform me of the name of the referee and I will approach him.

Unfortunately I have received some complaints from the referees about mentors (home and away) questioning their decisions in a inappropriate manner. This is not the right message to be given to young players on the pitch and I would encourage all lead mentors to address this issue.

Aidan Lillis

A Fond Farewell: We would like to thank Carole Morris who worked tirelessly for many many years running the shop on Saturdays at the Nursery. She could be seen every Saturday rain, hail or shine up at the academy in Broomfield, getting to know all the kids, mums and dads. Thank you Carole for all your years of service.

Communications: Thanks Elaine Rooney, Club PRO, for providing endless match reports and photographs across the whole juvenile section. juvenile games and activities far and wide. The club is presently putting a big effort behind the scenes into improving how we communicate to each other. Please support Elaine's efforts in 2019 and get content to her to put out there about our teams and our players and how they are doing – we need content, people!

Club: Thanks to the club officers – Paddy Miskelly, Fergal McStay & Richard Aslett for their unstinting support of juvenile activities this year. Their heart never left us! Thanks also to David Potts and the bar staff, Joe Duffy & Martin Morton and the clubhouse committee for facilitating juvenile teams' events and activities throughout the year. And finally thanks to the our CCC1 and CCC2 delegates, Will Rooney and

Mick Byrne – for undertaking the somewhat joyless task of attending County Board meetings on our behalf.

The Journey: This year again the group leaving the academy, our 2011 Group, head off to CCC1 with large numbers of players and mentors, all kitted out and ready for action and playing challenge matches as they prepare for next year. Our best wishes to them, Bob Gardiner and all their mentors starting out their juvenile journey.

They start small but they grow big. A note of recognition too to the outgoing U16 mentors who have brought their teams through the ranks for the best part of a decade. Your (mostly!) good example is a legacy now for others to follow as you move on to hopefully continued involvement in the club in other areas. And to the U16 players – stay with it lads, you're only getting started now!

Summary of each age groups performance in the competitive divisions. Football League/Feile/Championship

| | | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|---|
| U12 | Div 1 – 5 th Place | Div 5 – 3 rd Place | Div 10 – 3 rd Place | |
| U13 | Div 1 – 6 th Place | Div 7 – 4 th Place | | |
| U14 | Div 1 – 4 th Place | Changed Division – All Matches non competitive | Feile | Div 1 Got to Semi-Final Div 6 – 1 st Round |
| U15 | Div 1 – 6 th Place | Div 6 – 6 th Place | A Championship D Championship | Got to A Championship Semi-Final Got to D Championship Semi-Final |
| U16 | Div 1 – 10 th Place | Div 6 – 6 th Place | A Championship D Championship | Got to 1 st Round A Shield Got to D Shield Final – Match still to be played Suls B v St Finians (N) |

Hurling League/Feile/Championship Performance

| | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| U12 | Div 3 – 3 rd Place | Div 10 – 1 st Place | |
| U13 | Div 2 – 5 th Place | Div 5 – 8 th Place | |
| U14 | Div 3 – 6 th Place | Feile – Div 3 | Got to Semi-Final |
| U15 | Div 4 – 5 th Place | C Championship | Won C Shield Final |
| U16 | Div 3 – 3 rd Place | B Championship | Got to B Shield |

U8 Boys Annual Report (2010)

St. Sylvester's u8s (2010s born) enjoyed a fantastic first year out of the nursery competing every Saturday in the Dublin Go Games Northside Hurling & Football league. Despite a weather-affected start to the season, we played over 25 Hurling and Football games in 2018, with 60+ players active across the group. We entered the Gormanstown indoor Hurling competition in January, and had 6 teams in the Go-Games with 2 Groups of 30+ players in 2 venues every week (split into Greens and Blues). In addition to the Go-Games, we participated in the Kilmacud Crokes intercounty summer blitz, travelled to St. Colmcilles in Meath and hosted Kilconieron from Galway.

Training attendance was also excellent throughout the year thanks to the dedication and flexibility from both the kids and parents alike. The entire U8s Group trained together every Thursday, participating in both Hurling and Football, where the focus was on skills development and fun. Training continues to the end of November and we are focusing on skills step-up needed for 2019 Go-Games. We were blessed to have over 20 parent coaches that helped on a regular basis, with additional volunteers helping with training drills and match day set-up. A parents Social Committee was also formed, and the hospitality put on show for the recent Kilconieron visiting teams was a credit to all.

During the season we had a social gathering to present training tops to the players. Our sponsors are both parents from within our Group (Ciaran Reilly at Aquatech and Seamus Moriarty at Revaero) with special thanks to their support. We also raised significant monies throughout the year from parents to pay for NZone indoor training, refs expenses and equipment, so we thank them for their support.

We look forward to an equally successful 2019 with the Group and are always keen to recruit new players ... it is never too late to join! We use TEAMER app to communicate with the Group and to register to join our team, click and register here <http://tinyurl.com/yahaoluv>.

Kieran Canny

U9 Boys Annual Report (2009)

2018 has been an encouraging year for the 2009 team, with the move to graded Go Games leading to a much more challenging environment for players and coaches alike. The benefits of grading have been huge, allowing players to develop at the correct level, and in a more inclusive environment.

We have a regular squad of 65 players helped by a team of 22 coaches. We are currently training twice a week and sessions have been well attended. Nearly all the boys play both codes, with a small number football or hurling only.

We fielded 6 teams and at 9/10 a side we have got all the boys playing with 100% game time, as opposed to U8 when we used to have a lot of subs on the lines.

Football:

All teams have competed well throughout the season, we are learning as we go and training has become more streamlined. We are still working on the basics and raising the overall standard across all the teams. We were invited to a multi Club blitz in Naas at the end of the summer and found it be a great learning benefit to the boys; we plan to host a blitz in one of the codes ourselves in 2019. One team recently competed at a football blitz hosted in Manchester by the Lancashire GAA Board.

The highlight of the year was the visit of Jim Gavin in April, who ran a 2 hour training session for the boys. This was well attended by parents and siblings and a great family night was had.

Hurling:

Again the teams have competed well, and the skill levels are improving all the time. We entered two teams into the Gormanstown Indoor Hurling league in January/February 2018, which again was thoroughly enjoyed by the players and coaches. We found that the boys who attended the hurling camps at Easter and in the summer benefitted significantly.

In June two teams travelled to the Liatroim Fontenoy Club in the Mourne Mountains for a blitz attended by clubs from all over Ulster. These experiences are crucial for the boys and we have been invited back for the 2019 edition.

The biggest challenge facing the group again has been the poor winter training facility options. We look forward to 2019 optimistically with the improved facilities available.

After a busy 2017 on the social side with events for parents and players organised, we didn't hold as many events this year and look to get more active on this side of things in 2019, with a team fundraiser to be held in Q1 2019

Coach development is an area we will target in 2019. We had 4 coaches attending the Child Award 1 training course early in the season, and this brought some fresh ideas to the training ground.

Donnybrook Fair kindly sponsored training tops for the boys and coaches at the end of 2017 and these have been proudly worn by the group throughout 2018.

I'd also like to thank Aidan Lillis and his team of referees who have been terrific throughout the year, and also thanks to the coaches from the older age groups and Will Rooney who are always on hand when advice is needed. We look forward to U10 level when we go All County and the new challenges that will bring.

Seamas Early

U10 Boys Annual Report (2008)

Playing numbers are currently 60. We tidied up our registrations/administration/database during the summer, to only include players who actually turn up for training and out for matches. 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. Prior to the summer we had 2x3 (6 teams) entered in Football and 1X3 and 1X2 (5 teams) entered in Hurling. Since September we have had 1X3 and 1X2 in Football (5 Teams) and 1X3 in Hurling (3 Teams)

Highpoints:

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

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

Mini All-Ireland's participation rates.

Gormanstown Indoor Hurling participation rates.

We organised away fixtures in Mullingar Shamrocks (Football) and home fixtures against St. Martin's Wexford and Kilconieron Galway (Hurling)

Victory in All-Dublin U10s Football Invitational Tournament organised by Parnell's, to celebrate their Centenary.

An excellent players Christmas party with table-quiz, where children were presented with new personalised training tops, thanks to our sponsor Allcare Pharmacy (Dermot Ryan)

The children are shortly to receive personalised marley tops, thanks to our sponsor Corcoran Chemicals (Andy Byrne)

Major Challenges during the season:

Problematic time-slot for winter hurling training (1700hrs.)

The biggest challenge of all was fulfilling playing numbers for matches (9 a side) across 6 teams in Football and 5 teams in Hurling. We had flagged the challenge in last year's report and the issue became particularly problematic coming towards the summer months, and especially in hurling. This is what prompted our re-calibration of numbers.

When we went to three teams hurling, we had too many players for most fixtures. We couldn't go four teams, as there is no one team Northside league and we didn't

want to go 2X2 teams as it would compromise on the quality of opposition we faced. As it stands at present the numbers are perfect for next year, with a 3 team league where we have enough hurlers (approximately 40) to fulfil the 11 a side stipulation.

Challenges for 2019:

Securing favourable time slots for training. The All-Weather pitch will not solve all training scheduling issues. We can have upwards of 15 coaches at football training, given a 19.30hrs time slot. That drops to a maximum of 4 coaches, at the 1700 to 1800hrs hurling session

Maintaining strong player attendance numbers, especially coming towards the summer.

Upskilling players, so as to remain highly competitive in both codes.

Improve player fitness levels

Committing to player retention rather than new player recruitment

Upskilling coaching team (5 are currently undertaking Level 1 course)

Organising team self-funding events

Feargal Maclochlainn and Dec Sheerin

U11 Boys Annual Report (2007)

Our Go Games season officially ended on Saturday 3rd November and for the latter part of the season, we had 51 boys playing Gaelic Football regularly and 38 boys playing hurling. That represents a net loss of seven players for Gaelic football and a loss of four players for hurling in the last 12 months.

For the first part of the season we fielded 5 Gaelic football teams and 4 hurling teams. However, our average weekend attendance did not merit fielding so many teams. Therefore, for the second part of the season approximately 8 of the 2007 Girls played on our football teams regularly and this enabled us to maintain 5 football teams. We did reduce our hurling teams to three for the latter part of the season.

We have 20 parents that coach and mentor the kids on a weekly basis at training and matches. Daniel Murphy also coaches one of our hurling teams This group is working very well together. 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 kids.

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

Our teams competed well with all other clubs and our overall standard of performances were on par with the best of our opposition in hurling in particular; while in football we only lagged behind the bigger clubs, Kilmacud and Ballyboden for example.

The hurling camps in the Easter and summer holidays worked well for this group in 2018. We would like hurling played in our primary schools to take some pressure off our coaching needs and would appreciate if our club was proactive in making this happen.

This group fielded two teams in the Under 11 Camaint hurling competition in July and August. Both teams enjoyed playing in the Camaint finals in Parnell Park. We hosted St. Martin's of Wexford in hurling this summer and in return they invited us down to their prestigious hurling tournament where our lads gave a good account of themselves against Wexford, Kilkenny and Waterford opposition.

Our limited winter training facilities have held back the progress of this group of players and we look forward to training on our new all-weather pitch!

Looking ahead we have a challenge in providing a consistent high standard of coaching in Gaelic football across a large group (50+) players. As a club we are lacking a 'Syls way of playing' and a team of coaches that can provide "coach the coaches" sessions as well as occasional coaching the kids sessions. Areas we would like help in include tackling and winning possession from our own kick-outs.

We are looking forward to another year of progressive development in 2019 (which will be our final year in CCC1) 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.

Ciarán Mollahan

U12 Boys Annual Report (2006)

The U12 squad of 2006 continues to grow and develop. This year our Football panel numbers increased to around 45 for each Saturday with up to 54 in Squad and we have a consistent Hurling panel of 26 players. As with last year we continue to field 3 Football and 2 Hurling teams each week for 2018 season. We will continue to work with the parish schools through Panner, to increase and develop our numbers.

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 2 Hurling Teams in Training and have excelled this year finishing 3rd in Division 3 and Winning Division 10,(Winning all their games)

Thursday is football training and this session 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 15 competitive Football matches in each Division

Our Division 1 Football Team finished joint 3rd in their league.

Division 5 Football Team finished Runners up.

Division 10 Football Team finished Runners up.

In June of this year we visited Ardara ,Co. Donegal for a weekend of competitive Football matches where teams from all over Ireland took part. We had a full compliment of players and entered 3 Teams. All 3 Teams ended up in Finals where Team 1 won Cup final and Teams 2 and 3 played each other in their Shield Final. Also in October St Oliver Plunket's were also Victorious with a convincing win in the Final of Cumann Na mBun Scoil in Croke Park where the majority of children participating came from within our under 12 Group.

The squad is growing in confidence and their efforts are being reflected in the scores within each game. This year especially it has to 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 each and every game they play together.

In moving forward into the next season, We are mindful of the importance of moving into under 13 Season with Grading Games and moving to 15 aside from 13 .With numbers per Team increasing ,we will be deciding at a later date how many teams we will enter for year 2019 in both Hurling and Football.

Finally we would also like to thank our Sponsor " Mc Cartan Phamacy", "Alucraft" and" Mc Keevers Solicitors" and " One for All" for their kind and generous sponsorship throughout 2018.

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

Mick McGahan

U13 Boys Annual Report (2005)

Overall we had a steady & successful year, fielding 2 teams in both football and hurling. Our squad numbers are at 48 down 5 from last year. We continued to have strong numbers playing dual Football & hurling – 31 players.

Special thanks to all the coaches, organizers, donators and sponsors throughout the year for their support. It's really appreciated.

Football – We entered 2 Football teams this year. After playing the Grading League matches, our two teams were put into Divisions 1 and 5.

A team competed in Division 1 and finished 5th. We had a shaky start of the season but rallied in the second half of the season. Overall it was a good season with some outstanding performances. We had some bad luck with injury and sickness that affected some results, but we finished the league well.

A couple of players have developed well this year, putting us in a very strong position going into Feile next year.

B team competed in Division 7 and finished 4th. Finished in 4th place but unlucky not to finish higher. Big improvement on last year, played good football all season and great numbers at training. Coaches and players all looking forward to next season.

Hurling – We entered 2 hurling teams this year. At the start of the year we submitted our Grading and completed in our Grading leagues. We achieved Division 2 and 5. All teams competed very well details as follows:

A team competed in Division 2 and finished 3rd and finished 5th. We got promoted last year from Division 3 and competed very well. We were well in contention coming up to the end of season but lost a couple of matches to end up in 5th position. Overall, very positive and the standard and commitment from the players continue to develop. Looking forward to Feile next year.

B team competed in Division 5 and finished in 8th place. They were competitive all year and developed as a team. Special Thanks to U12's for their support during the year.

On behalf of all teams, thank you to ALL coaches involved in both hurling and football at under 13. You have put in so much time and energy and you can see the results every Saturday in Bridgefield. Thank you also to the parents who are always available to help. Well done to all the players, we are all very proud of you individually and as a group. Role on Feile.

William Rooney

U14 Boys Football Annual Report (2004)

U14 A Team Division 1,

We had a mixed year, with some injuries and we lost a couple of key players. We

came fourth in the league but probably should have finished higher, with some very close matches that finished in draws or narrow defeats.

We played some really good football and brought through a couple of players from our B team. Feile was a great experience for all, we topped our group and were beaten by eventual winners Kilmacud in the semi-final.

12 players in total had some involvement in the Dublin Development Squad.

Both Shay and myself are finished with this group. They are a fantastic group of players and I wish the new management every success next season.

Podge Bannon

U14 B Team Div 7

Due to a poor start to the season (B team placed in a division too high: Div 5), a request was put in to the County Board to be moved to a more competitive division. The C team amalgamated with the B team because they had to concede matches due to poor player numbers.

Two teams became one team and they were placed into Div 7 which suited them because their matches became far more competitive.

Numbers have stayed good for us this year with around 21 to 23 player most weeks. Because they moved divisions after the start of the season all their matches were non-competitive.

Nick Manson, Barry Mahon, Andrew Goulding

U14 Boys Hurling Annual Report (2004)

We have one hurling team at U14 level with a squad of 17 players. Team coaches are Marc Whitney, Dan McDonnell and Colm de Búrca. At the start of the season we set a number of goals; improve the consistency of our match performances, increased level of intensity at training, to reach the semi-finals (or better) of Feile na nGael, perform well in Division 3 and to develop the fun and enjoyment of the game!

We are delighted to report that we reached all of these objectives.

We had a very good year in Division 3 of the league (despite our small squad) finishing in 6th place with 6 wins, 1 draw and 6 losses. A real highlight this year was our performance at Feile na nGael which was a fantastic experience for all of the players. After a hard fought group stage in the morning with matches against Good Counsel, O'Tooles and Skerries we qualified for the Division 3 semi-final against eventual group winners Commercials. Although beaten in the semi-final the team put in a great performance in the competition.

Overall, the team has improved vastly in a number 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 a

stand-out win against Naomh Olaf (coming from 12 points behind to win by a whopping 2-19 to 5-8). This season, we had 3 new players join us and another player return which bolstered our squad and injected additional strength and depth. In addition the ongoing support from the U13s for players (when required) has been fantastic !

A massive thanks to all the players for their commitment during the year and for the support we get from parents both home and away.

We look forward to U15 next year with first taste of juvenile championship hurling and to further improvement in 2019!

Marc, Dan & Colm

U15 Boys Football Annual Report (2003)

A Squad – 21 Players. Current B Squad - 23 Players

Having had a successful league in 2017, U15B were promoted to division 6. This division proved to be a trying and growing experience for the squad as the competition was of a higher standard notably against single team clubs with some very high scores conceded. Early in 2018, the B squad also saw 4 players put forward to join the A panel and these players are now are regular A team members.

Before the Summer, the B team played in the U15 D championship and made the semi-final stage only to be narrowly beaten by 2 points.

Over the course of the year the team was much more competitive against fellow B teams in the league with some very strong performances in the second half of the season. It was also unfortunate that the Division was reduced to only six teams shortly into the season which lead to prolonged periods with no competitive matches. It is our hope that the team will find itself in a more competitive division in 2019.

Our U15A Football team again competed in a highly competitive Division 1 in 2018. A long season got off to a slow start and, hampered by the absence of a number of players due to injury, we had one league win before Championship in May.

The team played in the A Championship which produced undoubtedly our game of the season. A memorable quarter final victory in extra time against Na Fianna demonstrated the skill, spirit and resilience of the team. We were unable to overcome Kilmacud in the semi-final who went on to win the Championship, and subsequently the League.

The team built on the momentum from Championship with some great subsequent performances, and recorded four wins in the remainder of the league matches to eventually finish in 6th place.

It has once again been extremely encouraging to see the development of players and this will continue to be a focus in 2019. Regarding the Dublin Development Squad, we have 3 players currently involved and we hope that a number of other players will have opportunities next year.

Thanks to all involved but in particular to a great group of players for their hard work, performance and commitment. Our thanks also to the parents and families who continue to support us in great numbers, and to Brian Talty for his support and coaching input throughout the year.

Mick Byrne, Nicky Cleere, Richard Lyons, Darragh McGrath, Fergal McStay, Diarmaid McStay, Kevin Tobin

U15 Boys Hurling Annual Report (2003)

U15 Hurling currently has a panel of 16 players, numbers remaining relatively stable since last year. We have however had to heavily depend on the assistance of both U16 and U14 players during the year. We fielded one team this year in League Division 4.

Our League performance was very mixed. Our league season started in March, however we had several of these early games re-fixed due to the poor weather in March & April, which meant that we only played our first game in mid-April. This also resulted in quite a number of back matches played during the summer months, a period when we struggled to get enough players to field, due to Gaeltacht, holidays etc. We finished in 5th place recording 7 wins and 1 draw from our 14 games. The lack of overall numbers in the panel is a restricting factor and in many games we were operating with the minimum number of players and with a heavy reliance on the U14 panel.

We were drawn in the C Championship in a very strong group comprising mostly Division 3 teams. Our first round fixture was away against Erin's Isle, who beat us pretty well and who went on to win the Championship. Our defeat in the first round of the Championship however, gave us a good opportunity in the C Shield. We beat Ballyboden away by just 2 points in the Quarter Final with a goal in the final minute. We had a home victory against St Catherines in the Semi-Final and went on to win the Shield Final against St Patricks Palmerstown in a tough and competitive match which brought out the best team performance of the year. Big thanks to all our players and also to the U14 players who participated.

It would be good if we could reduce the number of fixtures next year. We had a total of 18 hurling fixtures this year with no real break, and this put pressure on

everyone, not least the dual players who had a similar number of football fixtures and also some players who were assisting the U16 hurlers. Combined with other sports and weekly training sessions, fatigue was very likely a factor at times during the year. Next season we hope we can build on our Shield success from this year but we will again be heavily dependent on the incoming U15 squad for numbers.

Dave McCarthy

U16 Boys Football Annual Report (2002)

U16 Football Division One

It was a tough year in terms of both results and numbers. We lost a couple of key players prior to the commencement of the year and as a result we were consistently up against it. There were some really positive performances, particularly through the first few months of the year including some narrow loses to Pats of Donabate, Cuala, St Oliver Plunketts and a tough draw away to Fingalians. There was also a loss to Ballyboden by 9 that was probably one of our best performances of the year as well as a couple of heavy losses to some of the stronger teams in the league. The first match of the year against St Pats of Donabate probably reflected the season as a whole. On the morning of the match it looked like we might have to concede the game as we only had 13 players and had to bring in 2 lads who hadn't played with the team before leaving us with 15 bodies and no subs and leaving the second team struggling badly for numbers. Despite this the performance of the lads was excellent, but it wasn't enough to keep us from going down to St Pats of Donabate by 4.

The championship was a mixed bag including a narrow lose to Na Fianna, a heavy defeat to Lucan and an excellent win against a strong Tomas Davis side who subsequently made the semi finals of the championship.

In terms of player development, it was hampered both by numbers and by having won promotion the prior year reducing the scope for giving some players as much game time as we would have liked. That withstanding there was some excellent results and there were huge improvements in some of the players that largely mirrored their commitment to training.

I'd like to thank Seamus, Keith, Ronan and Paul for all their commitment and dedication over the last two years and wish all of the lads best of luck as they move into Minor.

Under 16B football

League performance this year was badly impacted by numbers – we had a small panel and 2/3 marginal players were needed to support the A team during the league. As a result, it proved very difficult to field a consistent team. Without

support of 15B's (thanks Richard) we would not have played all the games. As the league was a single round, we only got 6 league games in up to June and all teams in Division 6 struggled to play with more than 11/12 players.

Those that did train during the year have come on though and that has resulted in a better run in the Championship with the team making it to the Shield final with good performances in all the games since Sept. A bit of success also helped numbers. Really important that the club ensures B teams at this age group are supported, to ensure lads who want to play can and to provide a pool of players that can be used by A teams when they are ready. We hope that most of them continue into minor football and find their level.

U16 Boys Hurling Annual Report (2002)

We played Division 3 league in a group of ten teams. It was a very competitive league and we ended up in the top four.

We were placed in the B championship, it was always going to be difficult but we battled out each game to the end losing to Raheny, Mearnogs and Olafs. We lost our shield match to eventual winners Commercial's.

Eleven of our players played Minor B throughout the season. This gave us extra hurling as we had a small number of games in the league. We worked from a panel of 13 very dedicated hurlers and were supported by the u15 team throughout the season. Thanks to Phonsie and Dave for their continuous help over the years.

Eddie & Ronan