

AFL1/Senior (Cathal O'Donnell)

League

With the loss of approximately 20 players from the 2017 panel the 2018 season was always going to be a struggle. This wasn't helped with 3 teams being relegated as opposed to 2 from previous years. We also lost several players at key points of the season through injury which further weakened the playing squad. Ultimately several narrow defeats proved very costly and we were relegated to AFL 2 after over 10 seasons in the top flight.

Championship

Many of the highlights for this year came in the SFC. The comeback win over Ballinteer St John's, the win over St Jude's and the quarter final against eventual winners Kilmacud Croke's proved that there is real potential in this squad. On the back of our championship performances we had 5 players (John Peacock, Gavin McArdle, Jack Hazley, Ed Walsh and Michael McCarthy) nominated for Dubstar awards.

While 2018 was a very testing season the management would like to thank all the players for their efforts and the club for their support throughout the year. We all know the work that everyone put in this year and we have full confidence that the team will be challenging for promotion in 2019.

AFL3/Inters (Ross Hazley)

Similar to seniors it was clear at the start of the year that we needed to pull together an entirely new team.

League campaign didn't start great based on having a new team and everyone finding their feet.

We had 5 losses by a point or two in the first half of the season to Finbars, Trinity gaels, Ballymun, Ballyboden and St peregrines in very competitive games.

All the above games we had support of 2/3 hurlers and 2/3 senior players on the day.

The leaving cert in June affected us tremendously based on 7/8 players being involved in same. We went out to play St Marks with 7 inter players, 5 minors and 4 juniors.

One draw in the league came when we got the leaving cert lads back in July and luckily the seniors' game had been moved which freed up three eligible seniors to play.

After the above we started to struggle for numbers with summer holidays, we grabbed 4/5 minors and played a competitive game vs Garda where we lost by 3 points.

With four games remaining, we had two big losses and gave two walkovers.

At the beginning of the year, we instilled a focus in the lads that the newly structured inter All-County championship was a hugely winnable championship for us and that focus got us through the first round by a point vs Ballyboden (AET).

The second-round win by 12 points vs St Oliver Plunkett's (Away) showed the strength that exists with this youthful team.

The quarter final loss by a point vs eventual finalist St Vincent's was a tight affair through to the end. However we lost Dave Sexton to injury (5mins), Kev O'Flynn to a second yellow card on 35mins and Mark Reilly to injury (45mins) This was the difference in the end.

Management feel this team needs to find its purpose within Syls as once this team finds its focus it is more than capable of winning silverware and developing great senior footballers.

We wish the team and new management the best of luck in 2019.

AFL 7 Team 2018 (Shay Byrne)

The Junior 1 team struggled a bit in 2018 and didn't kick on from the previous season. After promotion in 2017 it was hoped we would be competing for promotion again in division 7, both teams we came up with last year actually went on to be promoted again this year to division 6, but after losing a number of key players the team struggled and in the end we finished between mid table and the relegation playoffs.

We lost 8 key players from 2017 , mostly lads who moved up to the inters and that made a huge difference to the competitiveness of the team this year. Like every other team in the club we also struggled badly during the summer months with players away and just about fielded teams in June & July when the bulk of the league was played. We had a good run in the championship this year winning our three games in the group stages to top our group. Unfortunately in the open draw for the quarter finals we managed to be drawn against another team who also won their group as well. We lost by two points against a good Cuala team who went on to win the final last Sunday.

Although it was a very challenging year it was also a very enjoyable one and the management would like to thank all the players for their commitment and hard work throughout the season.

AFL 10 Season (Keith Galvin)

A combination of young and old came together for our very first game of the season against a decent Trinity Gales side. We managed to win the game after a very poor first half which set us on our way to go on an unbeaten run and positional ourselves at the top end of the table at mid season. Our biggest test of the year would be away to a very strong Cuala side where we produced our best football of the season. This victory ensured that if we kept our heads we

would win the league which we managed to do. Championship was not so successful, however we played teams that were divisions above us and we were very competitive in both games. Overall the 4th team was a very positive experience for the older players and also for some of the younger guys getting a very important first taste of adult football.

Many thanks to everyone involved from players to mentors and roll on next season!!

Thanks Keith

Minor Football 2018: (Ernie Brenner)

We fielded 2 teams in Minor football Leagues and Championships, our A team in Division 1 and A Championship and our B team in Division 3 and E Championship.

In November 2017 we met with all players and set down our goals for the year, we also engaged Evolution Fitness to analyse each player and provide them with a Strength & Conditioning programme.

With 5 players included in the Dublin Football Development squad and 1 in the hurling and so unavailable to us, along with the leaving Cert, the Leagues were used to try players. Indeed every second year minor played at least one game in Division 1. Both teams performed satisfactorily.

Early in 2018 we ran a fundraising Race night and got great support. This meant we were able to provide all players (hurling and football) with tracksuits and we were able to fund our own activities for the year.

A number of our second year minors gained valuable experience playing with the adult teams during the summer, AFL1, 3, 7 and 10.

We trained hard through the summer and entered the Championships with high expectations. In the first Group game the A's narrowly lost to Whitehall

but subsequent to that went on the record big wins over Ballymun at home and Na Fianna and Cuala away. Unfortunately we lost a close game to Ballyboden in the last group game and they went through to the semi final instead of us. Thanks to the huge crowd who came along to support us that day. If any comfort is to be taken it's that 11 first year minors started A Championship games this year and that there are a number of excellent second years who now go on to Adult Panels.

At the time of writing the B team are preparing for a semi final in their Championship and we hope that they will go on to retain the trophy we won last year.

Preparations for next year have already started with S&C programmes being handed out and we look forward to a successful 2019.