



Cumann Lúthchleas Gael Naomh Sailbheastair



St. Sylvester's G.A.A. Club

2 Church Road, Malahide Co Dublin

November 2014

## ADULT FOOTBALL 2014

### AFL 1

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2014 was the start of a new era for the senior footballers. After six years Gabriel Bannigan stepped down as manager and former Kilmacud Crokes player and St. Peters Dunboyne manager Robbie Brennan took up the reins. This season was one of rebuilding and readjustment. We had a solid league campaign that saw some very good performances mixed with some not so good.

The Senior Championship saw us drawn against St. Maur's in the first round and in what was probably the team's best performance of the season we came out on top. Unfortunately we came up against eventual winners St. Vincent's in the second round and our run in this year's championship came to an end.

The VdeP Cup saw us reach the final where we came just short against a very strong Ballymun side.

Everybody is already planning for and looking forward 2015. Fingers crossed it will be a successful one.

### AFL 3

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2014 was a tough year for the 2<sup>nd</sup> team. We struggled in the league for most of the season but came good at the end and three wins on the spin in the last three games meant they avoided the relegation play-off and maintained their division 3 status for 2015.

The championship saw the lads produce two excellent performances against Ballymun Kickhams and Clan Mhuire before losing out to eventual winners Castleknock at the quarter final stage.

Just like with the senior team the planning for 2015 has already begun and we are all looking forward to the new season.

### AFL 6

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The real success story for St. Sylvester's this season were the achievements this squad. Several years ago we identified the need to have the then AFL 7 team playing at AFL 5 so the young players coming out of minor can learn to play adult football at a very high level and this year after a long and hard league campaign we eventually achieved promotion from division 6.

The summer saw this squad achieved something that had only one other St. Sylvester's team had managed before when they won the JFC B. Congratulations must go to everybody involved, both players and management.

The Stacy Cup saw our lads reach the final again and hopes were high that they could defend the title they won last year. Unfortunately they lost out to a determined St. Peregrine's side by the narrowest of margins.

Everybody is looking forward to seeing how we get on playing in AFL 5 and in Junior A championship in 2015.

# AFL 9

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Our second junior team had a very good season in AFL 9 and had they had some better luck in some of their league games they could easily have made the promotion play-offs. There was a very good team spirit with this panel and if they can keep this going in 2015 the addition of some of the young lads coming out of minor may see them achieve promotion to division 8.

The championship saw this squad reach the quarter final where they lost out to Oliver Plunkett's in the quarter final. We should be very confident that they will be able to go further next season.

The lads also had a very good run in the cup where they reached the semi-final.

# Minors

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The minor A team had a very good run in MFL 2 and only missed out on the semi-finals after losing out to Rahney in a play-off.

The lads also had a very good run in the Minor B Championship. They reached the semi-final when lost narrowly to St. Brigid's. It was a great achievement for this bunch of players to reach this stage and both players and management should all be proud of their efforts.

The Minor B footballers finished mid table in their league and while they started well in the Championship, they ultimately bowed out at the group stage.

# U21

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Hopes were high that we could have a good run in the U21 championship this year. Unfortunately on a miserable day in appalling conditions we lost out by 2pts to Kilmacud Crokes. The effort put in by all the players on the day was immense and they really didn't get the rewards that their efforts deserved. We all feel that this team are capable of doing very well next season's championship.

The Club would like to thank everybody, both players and management teams for the efforts during 2014 and we all look forward to the 2015 season that will be upon us very soon.