



Cumann Lúthchleas Gael Naomh Sailbheastair



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

2 Church Road, Malahide Co Dublin

November 2014

## Ladies Section 2014

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The 2014 year was an exceptionally successful year. The ladies section continues to grow and registered 196 players with the LGFA. This figure does not include the girls participating in the Nursery on Saturday mornings. Katerina Ryan our new Ladies Registrar has worked exceptionally hard in what was a difficult climate, due to the new registration system and the ongoing challenge of ensuring all players are paid-up club members and registered with the LGFA.

### **Nursery:**

On the nursery front, thanks to Kevin Heery who has taken a lead role on Saturday mornings. Thanks also to Pdraig Furlong who was very helpful and active in the planning and initial stages of the programme. The contributions of the U-16, minor and adult players who coach each week have been immense. Thanks to Aimee Hazley for acting as Communications Secretary. On average, forty girls participate each Saturday and the key thing is the huge enjoyment and skill enhancement on view each week. Thanks to Suzanne and Carol for the tea!

### **U-9s and 10s (Pdraig Furlong):**

These players engage in Blitzes, not in competitive matches. Pdraig has a really good team of parents actively involved in coaching a large number of players and his training sessions also involve U-8s.

### **U-11s/12s (Conor Keogh and Martin Moore):**

This age group play Go Games on a League basis.

### **U-13s (Donal McCarthy and Ian McComish):**

The U-13s won Division 2 and competed at Division 1 level in the Championship.

### **U-14s (Anthony Cooney):**

The U-14s suffered from the non-availability of mentors in the early part of the season. Initially, Des Rainey manfully tried to step into the breach but managing two teams was an impossible task. Thankfully, Anthony Cooney came on board and this team, who play in Division 3, reached the Shield semi-final in the Championship.

### **U-15s (Des Rainey):**

The U-15s, who play in Division 4, reached the Shield semi-final in the Championship. Encouragingly, this team which heretofore struggled with diminished numbers has gone from strength to strength and coped well with being promoted to Division 4 this year.

### **U-16s (Shane Cowley):**

The dreaded attrition rate which characterises this age group in both GAA mens and Ladies saw the temporary demise of this team in the League. However, Shane was not for quitting and succeeded in galvanising the team back into action for the Championship. Augmented by some players from the U-14s and U-15s, his team were gallant losers in the Division 3 Championship Final.

### **Minors (Pat Brennan):**

Pat and Nuala guided the Minors to runners-up position in Division 2. They had a terrific run in the Championship only to lose in the final. A significant number of minor girls were part and parcel of the Adult team throughout the year and Pat and Dave McEvoy enjoyed a most fruitful partnership in this regard.

## **Adult Junior Team (Declan Hetherington, Eddie and Ann Ó Mórdha):**

The establishment of a second Adult Ladies Team was a milestone day for the Ladies Section. The junior team fielded in the Championship while still finding their feet and acquitted itself well.

## **Adult Senior Team (Dave McEvoy):**

The Senior Team swept the boards in Division 2 League and Cup. They were unbeaten in both competitions and Division 1 beckons next year. In their first year in Senior Championship, they put in very creditable performances in the Group stage, reaching the semi-final knock-out stage, where they were defeated. In the Group stage, the team lost to the eventual County Champions, Na Fianna, by just four points. This was a remarkable achievement for a very young side. Anthony Keogh and Declan Barnes also assisted with the Senior team in the course of the year.

## **County Representation:**

**Dublin Minors:** Louise Ryan played midfield for the Dublin Minors. The minors reached the All-Ireland final after a very strong Leinster campaign. Unfortunately they fell at the last hurdle to an exceptionally strong Galway side.

**Dublin U-21s:** Niamh Harney, Nicole Owens and Ciara Lynch were our representatives on the U-21 panel. Unfortunately, Ciara suffered a cruciate ligament injury early in the season but is looking forward to being fully fit for the 2015 season. Nicole and Niamh both had a fine season with the U-21s. Nicole scored a hat-trick when the Jackies defeated a formidable Cork side in the semi-final and she repeated the feat as the Dubs proved far too strong for Meath in the final.

**Dublin Seniors:** Syls had the second highest club representation on the Dublin senior panel this year. Nicole Owens, Niamh McEvoy and Sinead Aherne were our club representatives. The team and the girls were Division 1 National League finalists for the first time and after a terrific Leinster campaign, followed by a hard fought victory against Galway in the semi- final, they suffered the heartbreak of defeat in the All-Ireland final by the narrowest of margins.

## **Player Recognition**

Nicole Owens was chosen as the Croke Park Hotel Ladies Player of the Month for June 2014.

Sinead Aherne received her fourth All-Star Award at the recent All-Stars Awards ceremony.

## **All-Ireland Sevens:**

St. Sylvester's and Naomh Mearnóg jointly hosted the All-Ireland Sevens on 27th September on the eve of the All-Ireland finals. Syls Junior and Senior teams participated. As always the day was a huge success, with well over 80 teams taking part, and was a remarkable tribute to both clubs. The grounds were in pristine condition and were the envy of many participating clubs. Thanks are due to all the volunteers who helped on the day.

## **Medal Presentation:**

Friday 14th November was medal presentation night for the Senior and Minor teams. Mick, Dave and Pat did the honours. It was a packed house. There were many familiar faces past and present. It was lovely to see a truly Syls Ladies night. Carol Hickey was a most deserving Player of the Year. What a remarkable player. The night concluded with a presentation to mark Sinead Aherne's receipt of her fourth All-Star. Thanks to Peter Hickey for his photographic record, not just of this celebration but of so many other club events and matches.

# **Other Activities:**

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## **Meeting with parents:**

All parents were invited to a meeting to discuss all pertinent issues. Attendance at this meeting was very encouraging. The key areas considered were: increased parent involvement at mentor and committee level, increased player membership, player development, fundraising and ongoing costs. Broad issues regarding player welfare, spectator responsibility and parental roles were explored.

### **Meetings with mentors:**

Two meetings of committee members and mentors were held. Again these proved very fruitful. Code of ethics and good practice were covered. It is envisaged that all mentors will complete a code of ethics and good practice session at the commencement of each season.

## **Thanks**

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Finally on behalf of the Ladies Committee I would like to thank my fellow committee members Brian Sullivan, Katerina Ryan and Suzanne Sheils for their ongoing work on behalf of the Ladies section. Thanks to Michael Stuart for stepping in as Ladies Chair for his "second tour of duty". Michael has left no stone unturned in his efforts to support mentors, players and parents. Thanks to a very welcome donation of €2,000, much-needed equipment has been provided. Thank you to our generous donor who wishes to remain anonymous. Thanks also to Aideen Murphy for her sponsorship of First Aid equipment.

**Angela Aherne.**