# BLACKHALL GAELS
# UNDERAGE REPORT 2000

**Meath Under 14 Football Champions**

Chairman: Tom Meyler
Secretary: Gerry Stenson

January 2001

# BLACKHALL GAELS ANNUAL REPORT for YEAR 2000

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# Secretary's Report

It was always going to be difficult – nigh impossible – to match the silverware count achieved in 1999. Nevertheless we had our successes in 2000. The thrilling victory of the U – 14 footballers in the championship final against O Mahony's, only days after competing in the Feile, will be a long held and pleasant memory for players, mentors and supporters alike. The U – 11 hurlers also brought glory to the club by winning the county U – 11 Ground Hurling competition and their successful year augurs well for the future of our hurling.

Other successes in 2000 by under age club members which I am delighted to acknowledge and to congratulate are Jonathan Meyler's winning of the Leinster U – 14 Poc Fada competition, the success of the Junior ladies football team and the recent win by the Mulhussey N.S. footballers in their schools final against Coole. All but three of the panel play for Blackhall Gaels. I hope that wearing their club jerseys in both the drawn game and the replay inspired them.

While cups, trophies or medals may have eluded the other club sides which competed during 2000, all of the players and mentors of these teams deserve thanks and praise for their commitment and endeavours.

Commitment as well as talent was rewarded when again, many of our club players were selected for county panels and teams. All of these players are named in the team reports that follow. I am sure however that no one would object if I single out for special mention, those who represented their county at minor level. This is always a noteworthy achievement. All the more so if you have the honour of captaining the team. George Beirne achieved this success when he captained the Meath minor football team in Croke Park and elsewhere. George and his fellow 'Royal' footballing colleagues and club mates, John O Brien, Tadhg Brosnan and Ciaran Kennedy and their families, can all be justifiably proud of their achievements. Likewise for 'Royal' hurlers Shane and David O Loughlin and their family, for the part played by the lads in their team's march to the All-Ireland Minor Hurling B final.

Internally, club activity continued to be successful and enjoyable, through competitions such as the Jarlath Carty Cup (now a hurling only tournament) and the Paddy McHugh Cup. The P & L tournament for U – 11 football was another success and it is appropriate to thank P & L Developments for the new cup which is a fitting trophy to present to the winners of this popular tournament. The 2001 tournament will be the 10th and I look forward to a particularly united effort by both club members and the sponsors, to ensure a suitable success.

There were two new coaching activities at underage level this year. One was a 6 week (dare I say intensive) coaching course which was held during the Spring for all juvenile football teams – boys and girls. This course was co-ordinated by John Keane. He was ably assisted by coaches from the various teams, some new coaches and senior player Paul Nestor who attended on a number of weekends. A pleasant development during the six weeks was the active participation of 30 enthusiastic new players ranging in age from 6 to 9 years. It certainly gives us encouragement to keep up the effort. The other event was the hosting of the Leinster GAA / Playstation Hurling Camp which was held in August and in which 45 boys and girls from the club catchment area partook.

Of great assistance to us in attracting the new players was the visit to the National Schools by Christine O Brien who was accompanied by a club representative. Following these visits a section of the school notice boards was set aside for club notices, news items etc.. While this is not an earth shattering move, it is a simple but effective medium for transmitting information to players / pupils, teachers and parents alike. I look forward to another coaching course this Spring and a revamping / renewal of communication with the schools. We made a start on this latter item recently when a size 4 ball was donated to each of the primary schools.

While it may be stating the obvious that none of these events will happen of their own accord, it is important to remind everyone of the need to **make** them happen.

Also off the field, 8 club members successfully completed the foundation level coaching course which is organised annually by the county board. All eight made their coaching debut at the Spring course mentioned above. While we might not be in a position to put forward people in these numbers every year it is imperative that we "blood" new coaches each year. It is also important that some of the more experienced coaches / selectors who might not have got around to doing the foundation level course, would now do so. This would be an ideal way for them to help the new "recruits" in taking their first coaching steps. It would also help us to achieve the modest ambition that each selector at underage level will be a fully qualified "Foundation Level" coach.

# Secretary's Report (continued)

Three underage selectors also successfully completed a 6 week first aid course which was organised by the Co Board in the run up to Christmas. Three others are currently attending a similar course. Now that we have made a start on this road it is an achievable short term goal for us, to have a qualified first aider as a mentor of each of our teams.

The pursuit of the objectives just mentioned are admirable. They are even necessary for the development of the club. However there are other matters which must be taken into account when we are considering what the future might hold for us. Probably the most critical is "numbers" – the number of children in the club catchment area and the percentage of those who will get actively involved in our activities. The stark reality is that any objective analysis of the current primary school numbers casts a large question mark over this club's capacity to survive in the long term. The numbers of boys from the parish who are going to school in the parish, indicates that **we may not have a full panel for an under 10 team in 2002 - next year.** This would in turn seriously question our capacity to have an under 12 panel for 2004 and a minor side six years later. **That is how serious it is.** Unless we plan imaginatively and plan now then at best, our club is in for many barren years.

The incoming juvenile committee or a sub committee should seriously consider an imaginative but achievable 3 – 5 year plan based on ambition, foresight and a strong work ethic. These criteria will surely ensure that the club as a whole will provide the necessary support.

Issues which will have to be addressed are the continuation of involving new coaches, who will have as a minimum, successfully completed the Foundation Level coaching course. A high priority must be given to an emphasis on skills training even at the risk of playing in less tournaments. We must ensure the safety of our players through the continuation of training first aiders, and we must ensure variety and enjoyment in all activities we organise.

Another issue which will have to be addressed even if it is not within the remit of this section of the club, is facilities. We should be under no illusions. This issue will have an enormous bearing on our ability to maintain existing numbers let alone attract new underage members. The underage section has no direct involvement in the planning and development of facilities. It is nevertheless incumbent on us to speak on behalf of the players of the future. It is not my wish to reawaken controversy regarding the development of facilities, but rather to awaken our thoughts to the realities that face us. We cannot bury our heads in the sand and ignore basic facts such as the following:

1. Currently we have one pitch which is playable during wet weather.
2. We have changing and toilet facilities which are away below par for own boys and girls let alone for visiting players. The toilets in particular indicate a distinct lack of respect for our own children, without ever considering other people's children.
3. We have no social facilities.

No review of the year would be complete without acknowledging and thanking everyone whose efforts count – players, parents, coaches, selectors, those who prepared pitches for home games and internal competitions (and helped when the matches were over), those who organised and provided transport, those who submitted match reports and results, those who published notices, reports and results, those who sponsored competitions and prizes, and those who refereed and officiated at matches during the year. A special thanks to all who contributed to this report through their commentary and photos. Thanks in particular to Patsy Callanan for all the photocopying. I sincerely thank all those who helped me during my year as underage secretary and in particular a few wise "heads" who have been round the course before and whose words of advice and helpful deeds were invaluable to me.

Finally on the occasion of his "retirement from the chair" I wish to formally thank Tom Meyler for all his efforts during the past two years. I can honestly say that I have never met anyone who has a greater passion for all things GAA, or who has a stronger belief, that one can achieve whatever you want, provide you want it enough.

Gerry Stenson
January 2001

# Under 10 Football

**Team which took part in U 10 Blitz in June, with selectors Jimmy Burke, JJ Whitty and Tom Conneally**

Training commenced at the beginning of February. Due to the wide variation in ages we divided the players into 3 age categories: 6 – 7 year olds, 8 – 9 year olds and the 10 year olds. Jimmy Burke, Tom Conneally and JJ Whitty took overall responsibility for the under 10s. Some new and some older 'hands' took charge of the other two groups. These coaches included Noel Farrell, John Keane, Peter Garrad, Edmund Hegarty, J.P. Kelly, Noel Kelly, Sean Kelly, Christy Mangan and Richard Morris. When things settled down after a few weeks a six week coaching course was organised for all juvenile players in the club. During the course, which was co-ordinated by John Keane, we concentrated on the development of one particular skill each week. One very pleasing aspect of this course was the turnout of 30 players whose ages ranged from 6 – 9 year. As a group they were probably the most enthusiastic and hopefully we can maintain their interest. These 30 players were:

Niall Collins, Darragh Corcoran, Ian Crehan, Conor Delany, Stephen Donegan, Colin Farrell, Jamie Fitzhenry, Thomas Flynn, Barry Forrest, Colm Hughes, Darragh Keane, John Kelly, Niall Kelly, Oisin Kelly, Paul Kelly, Stephen Lillis, Niall Mangan, Edmund McCabe, Stephen Morris, Ultan O' Cinneide, Brendan O' Malley, Michael O' Neill, Darragh Smyth, Brian Staunton, Joseph Staunton, Conor Stenson, David Taaffe, Cian Tolan, Colm Whitty, and Shane Whitty.

To further encourage their enthusiasm and to keep them involved a number of the "older" or "stronger" players from the group were included in the under 10 squad. Furthermore before the Summer two challenge matches against Moynalvey were organized for the younger lads. Moynalvey who fielded a strong under 10 side beat us the first day. We avenged this defeat in the second outing when the two teams were more compatible in ability and experience. During the Summer many of these players attended and enjoyed the Leinster GAA / Sony Playstation Summer Camp for football which was held in Dunboyne, and the hurling camp which we hosted in Batterstown. Most if not all of them also played in the Paddy McHugh Cup and indeed many of them acquitted themselves very well. We are looking forward to them all coming back this year so we ask all club members to give these players the support that they deserve.

# Under 10 Football (continued)

**Panel** (in alphabetical order) for this year's various tournaments was: Daniel Carty, Dermot Carty, Eric Carty, Sean Carty, Don Colgan, Paul Conneally, Conor Delany, Stephen Donegan, Thomas Flynn, Barry Forrest, Andrew Garrad, Ciaran Hegarty, Ronan Jennings, John Kelly, Lisa Kelly, Enda Lynam, Niall Mangan, Niall McCann, Thomas Meyler, Stephen Morris, John Mulligan, Kevin O Connor, Brendan O Malley, Robert Reilly, Conor Smith, Joseph Staunton, David Taaffe, Donnacha Tobin, Martin Walker, Tom Walsh and Colm Whitty.

After the coaching course was finished and before any tournaments started we played two challenges against Maynooth, both of which we won. We also played a game between a team made up of our U-10s and the stronger U9s, against a team from the U-11s and the not-so-strong U-9s. This turned out to be a very useful exercise.

Our first competitive football was in an **East Meath District Tournament**. Next in our schedule was an enjoyable trip to Eire Og in Carlow along with the under 11s and Under 12s. This was chosen to coincide with the Meath v Kildare National League game in Newbridge which we took in on our way home. After the Summer holidays we had our own **Paddy McHugh Cup**, followed by the **Brady Shield.**

## The East Meath District Tournament

This came about from a proposal at a meeting of Meath Bord na nOg. The intention was to organise a tournament in each of the areas of the county, based on a format similar to the Brady Shield. The winners and runners up from each area would then come together for a blitz type final day in Pairc Tailteann at which county footballers would present prizes. Bord na nOg asked the areas to get their competitions organised and come back to discuss a "Finals Day" etc.. Unfortunately those who were most vocal about the need for this type of tournament to ensure "that the 8, 9 and 10 year olds are not lost to rugby and soccer" went missing as it were, when the time came to do the organising. Fortunately in our area this did not happen and we played in a Div 1 tournament along with Donaghmore-Ashbourne, Na Fianna, St Colmcilles, St Martins and St Peters and Pauls. It transpired that this was the only area which went ahead with the idea.

Our form in the tournament was inconsistent. We lost our first match in Kilcloon to a very strong St Peters and Pauls side. This was followed by an easy away win against Na Fianna and a home game loss to Donaghmore-Ashbourne on a scoreline of 4 - 05 to 1 – 07. In our next game we beat St Martins by 2 points in Dunshaughlin and in our final game St Colmcilles beat us by 3 – 10 to 2 – 07 in Mornington. As a "Finals Day" blitz on a county wide basis did not materialise our area organised one in St Colmcilles on Saturday the 17th June. Each of the teams in a particular division played one another, with the emphasis on the players enjoying themselves. At the end of the day Cormac O Sullivan presented a pin bearing the Co Meath crest to each participant followed by the mandatory minerals and crisps.

## The Brady Shield

This tournament is normally organised in May. This year however the Dunboyne organisers "forgot about it" until October. Four teams participated – Blackhall Gaels, Ratoath, St Martins and St Peters and Pauls. Our first match was a first in every sense – **it was played under lights**. The lights may have dazzled our lads a bit – but only a bit, as we lost by the narrowest of margins: 3 – 02 to 3 – 01. Our next game against St Peters and Pauls was played in daylight but we were again beaten by a point when the Dunboyne side scored a last minute goal. The score was 5 – 02 to 4 – 04. As playing Ratoath would not make any difference to the teams playing in the final we did not play them until the 3rd and 4th place playoff which we won on the scoreline 5 – 01 to 1 – 01. For the record St Martins beat St Peters and Pauls in the final. Following the presentation of prizes the players downed the usual refreshments with relish.

# The Paddy McHugh Cup

**Maura Smith presents the Paddy McHugh Cup to John Kelly**

This tournament again provided us with good entertaining games. It finished off with a cracker of a final in which Armagh who were captained by John Kelly, and Kildare who were gallantly lead by Martin Walker, could not be separated even after extra time. And so it went to a replay in which Armagh had much the better of the exchanges and avenged their opening round defeat. Maura Smith presented a very pleased John Kelly with the cup. In the 3rd / 4th place play off Galway who had not won a game up to then beat Kerry when their captain on the day Tom Walsh slotted over a point in the dying moments to win by that very margin. While disappointed, Kerry played their part in another enjoyable tournament. The teams were as follows:

| | ARMAGH | KILDARE | GALWAY | KERRY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | |
| Captains: | **John Kelly** | **Martin Walker** | **Donnacha Tobin** | **Paul Conneally** |
| | **Dermot Carty** | **Daniel Carty** | **Tom Walsh** | **Kevin O'Connor** |
| | Niall McCann | Robert Reilly | Ronan Jennings | Thomas Meyler |
| | Don Colgan | Andrew Garrad | Conor Smith | Emily Mangan |
| | Stephen Morris | Colm Whitty | John Mulligan | Conor Delany |
| | Ciaran Hegarty | Seán Carty | Niall Mangan | Barry Forrest |
| | Patrick O Loughlin | Enda Lynam | Eric Carty | Lisa Kelly |
| | John Kelly | Thomas Flynn | Stephen Donegan | Seán O'Keane |
| | Brendan O'Malley | David Taaffe | Donal Cox | Joseph Staunton |
| | Jamie Fitzhenry | Darragh Keane | Shane Whitty | Oisín Kelly |
| | Pierce Rafter | Paul Kelly | Brian Staunton | Ruth Garrad |
| | Colin Farrell | Daragh Smith | Conor Stenson | Daragh Corcoran |
| | | | | Colm Hughes |
| | | | | |
| Mentors: | **Noel Farrell** | **Edmund Hegerty** | **J.P Kelly** | **Tom Conneally** |
| | **Seán Kelly** | **John Keane** | **Christy Mangan** | **Paul Corcoran** |
| | **Richard Morris** | **Peter Garrad** | **Tom Cox** | **John O'Connor** |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

# Under 11 Football

**U 11s and U 10s who played Eire Óg along with mentors Jimmy Burke, Tom Conneally and J P Kelly**

**U 11 Panel for 2000 (in alphabetical order):** Peter Burke, Daniel Carty, Dermot Carty, Ciaran Collins, Paul Connealy, Eoin Corcoran, Kevin Coyle, James Delaney, Chris Hodge, Enda Kelly, John Kelly, Niall McCann, Robert McGuinness, Thomas Meyler, David Mulligan, Kevin O'Connor, John O'Malley, Robert Reilly, Donnacha Tobin, Martin Walker,Tom Walsh, Daniel Whitty.

**Selectors:** Jimmy Burke, Paul Corcoran and Ollie Mulligan

This years activities kicked off with a 6 week coaching course which is mentioned elsewhere in this report. During this course and before any competitive football was played, the under 11s along with some of their under 12 and under 10 club mates had an enjoyable day out at the Eire Og club in Carlow. An under 11 selection comprising a selection of 11s and 10s played an exciting draw against the host club. After the second game in which our 12s also played the host club we had burgers, chips and minerals in the Eire Og clubhouse and then headed for Newbridge to see Meath clinch a place in the quarter-finals of the league by beating Kildare.

## The P & L Cup

The first serious football which we played was in the P & L Cup, where we had a chance of progressing to the semi finals when heading into our last game. Alas we were well beaten in the third round game by a well organised Clane team and so we will have to wait for another year to see if we can achieve again some success in this competition. Liam Reilly of P & L Developments and Nigel Nestor presented the winning and losing finalists with their prizes which included for the first time a "player of the Tournament" award. This was deservedly won by Ronan Devine of Kilcock.

## "Simonstown" Tournament

This tournament was jointly organised by St. Colmcilles and Dunboyne who took on the organising and running from Simonstown Gaels who had initiated the tournament in 1999. Due to inclement weather the competition was not completed at year end. In the league series we had wins against St. Martins and Simonstown, a walkover from Skryne, and losses against Dunboyne and St. Colmcilles. It is hoped that the final stages will be played off in Spring 2001 with Blackhall due to meet Simonstown in the play-off for 3rd and 4th place. This tournament is very beneficial in that it gives valuable match practice in advance of the following year's Under 12 league.

# Under 12 Football

**The U 12 team which travelled to Carlow and played Eire Óg in a challenge match in the Spring**

**Panel of players** (in alphabetical order): Peter Burke, Stephen Carty, Graham Coldrick, Ciaran Collins, Eoin Corcoran, Kevin Coyle, Matthew Crehan, Ciaran Cummins, James Delaney, Thomas Delaney, Dara Finnegan, Edmund Garvey, Chris Hodge, Enda Kelly, Conor Leahy, John McCabe, Robert McGuinness, Brian Mullaney, David Mulligan, Alan Nestor, Niall O'Carroll, Aindreas O'Cinneide, Kevin O'Keane, John O'Malley, Barry Stenson, Luke Walsh and Daniel Whitty.

**Selectors**: Paul Corcoran, Paul Cummins, Ann Nestor and Ollie Mulligan.

Training commenced on Sat. 12 February and continued every Saturday at 11.00 a.m. until the commencement of the league on the 15th April. During this time we participated in the club's 6 week coaching course. As part of our preparation for the league 3 challenge matches were organised, one against each of St. Brigids (Blanchardstown), Moynalvey, and Eire Og. The latter game was part of the trip mentioned in the under 11 report. Having played our game we enjoyed wonderful hospitality and attended the Meath v Kildare match on the way home.

## Division 1 League

The team recorded wins against Summerhill, Navan O'Mahony's, and Trim but lost to Round Towers (Kells), Dunboyne and Simonstown. Unfortunately, these results left us just 1 point short of qualifying for the semi-final stages. This represents a major improvement for this panel which before the league had started, would have been expected (by others), to finish in the bottom two places of the league. Therefore the panel are to be complimented for facing up to the stiff competition in Division 1 and for their improved performances from the previous season. The match results were:

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Summerhill | 3 –13 : | 4 – 11 | Blackhall Gaels | (H/T 0-09 : 3-07) |
| Round Towers | 7 –14 : | 1 – 06 | Blackhall Gaels | (H/T 3-06 : 1-05) |
| Blackhall Gaels | 3 –16 : | 3 – 06 | Trim | (H/T 0-13 : 1-03) |
| Navan O Mahonys | 1 – 08 : | 2 – 09 | Blackhall Gaels | (H/T 0-04 : 0-04) |
| Blackhall Gaels | 2 – 03 : | 2 – 10 | St Peters & Pauls | (H/T 2-02 : 0-04) |
| Blackhall Gaels | 1 – 08 : | 5 – 13 | Simonstown | (H/T 1-05 : 3-02) |

# Under 13 Football – Div. 1 League

**Team which played Summerhill, with mentors Niall Brosnan, Ann Nestor, Paul Cummins & Willie Murphy**

**Panel** (in alphabetical order): Liam Brosnan, Stephen Carty, Graham Coldrick, Ulick Colgan, Ciaran Cummins, Thomas Delany, Paul Ennis, Liam Fagan, Dara Finnegan, Edmund Garvey, Darren Larkin, Conor Leahy, Damian Lucas, John McCabe, Brian Mullaney, Tom Murphy, Alan Nestor, Patrick O Brien, Niall O Carroll, Aindreas O Cinneide, Kevin O Keane, Jonathan Reilly, Barry Stenson, Patrick Townsend, David Walker, Luke Walsh, Sean Whelan and Kevin Whitty.

**Selectors:** Willie Murphy, Ann Nestor and Niall Brosnan.

Early September saw the commencement of the Under-13 Football league. Blackhall Gaels found themselves in Division One with several other teams. Games were to be played on Sunday mornings. Rarely had we our full panel on duty due to soccer and injuries. The panel boasts some fine footballers and there was a great spirit in the camp. However, due to no fault of their own, this panel of players were out of their depth in Division One. As a result, we suffered some heavy defeats. This situation does nothing for the competition itself, or for the morale of our own players. Great credit is due to the players who continued to turn up to training and games. They gave it their all in each game and played with great heart right up to the final whistle though often it was all too evident that the game was well out of reach. Regretfully, if this situation continues up through the ranks of their under-age football, one cannot blame the players if they lose heart and become frustrated to constant defeats. There is a real danger that some of them might drift away from football and turn to other codes. Consequently, the management are of the opinion that this team should be regraded for the Under-14 competition of 2001. This would provide them with the opportunity of competing against teams of their own calibre and of avoiding constant demoralising defeats. The team's record was as follows:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Blackhall Gaels | 5-11 | 6-08 | Donaghmore Ashbourne |
| Simonstown Gaels | 5-10 | 0-03 | Blackhall Gaels |
| Blackhall Gaels | 5-03 | 3-16 | Navan O Mahonys |
| Blackhall Gaels | 0-06 | 6-09 | Round Towers |
| St Peter & Pauls | 4-10 | 3-07 | Blackhall Gaels |
| Blackhall Gaels | 3-04 | 4-18 | St Martins |
| Summerhill | 4-09 | 2-02 | Blackhall Gaels |

The selectors thank the club for it's support throughout the campaign and all those who helped out with transport, etc.

# Under 14 Football

**Panel:** (in alphabetical order) Jeff Bailey, Erik Broad, Conor Burke, Thomas Corrigan, Thomas Coyle, Declan Dalton, Kieran Devaney, Patrick Duffy, Paul Ennis, Lester Garvey, Robert Graham, Stephen Hughes, Anthony Kelly, Darragh Keogh, Ciaran McDermott, Jonathan Meyler, Mark Mullally, Ian Mulreid, Alan Nestor, Patrick O'Brien, David O'Hanlon, Martin O'Neill, Sean Rattigan, Michael Snee, Michael Whelan and Sean Whelan.

**Selectors:** Tom Meyler, Frank Broad, Michael Mullally

## Challenge Matches

| | |
|---|---|
| 26/02/2000 | v Maynooth (in Batterstown) |
| 04/03/2000 | V Celbrdge (in Celbridge) |
| 12/03/2000 | V Lucan Sarsfields (in Lucan) |
| 19/03/2000 | V Ballyboden, St Endas (in Batterstown) |
| 10/06/2000 | V St James Gaels (in Crumlin) |
| 17/06/2000 | V St James Gaels (in Batterstown) |
| 25/06/2000 | V Lucan Sarsfields (in Batterstown) |

## League (Division 1)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 25/03/2000 | Blackhall Gaels | 3 – 15 : 1 – 02 | St Martins | (in Batterstown) |
| 05/04/2000 | Blackhall Gaels | 4 – 10 : 0 – 04 | Donoghmore Ashbourne | (in Donoghmore) |
| 08/04/2000 | Blackhall Gaels | 7 – 21 : 2 – 06 | Dunboyne | (in Batterstown) |
| 12/04/2000 | Blackhall Gaels | 5 – 07 : 2 – 05 | Simonstown | (in Simonstown) |
| 21/04/2000 | Blackhall Gaels | 3 – 16 : 2 – 07 | Summerhill | (in Summerhill) |
| 03/05/2000 | Blackhall Gaels | 5 – 16 : 1 – 02 | Round Towers | (in Batterstown) |
| 10/05/2000 | Blackhall Gaels | 0 – 09 : 0 – 05 | Navan O'Mahonys | (in Batterstown) |

17/05/2000 (Semi-Final) : Blackhall Gaels 1 – 13 : 1 – 05 Donoghmore Ashbourne (in Kilbride)

24/05/2000 (Final): Blackhall Gaels 0 – 03 : 2 – 09 Navan O'Mahonys (in Dunsany)

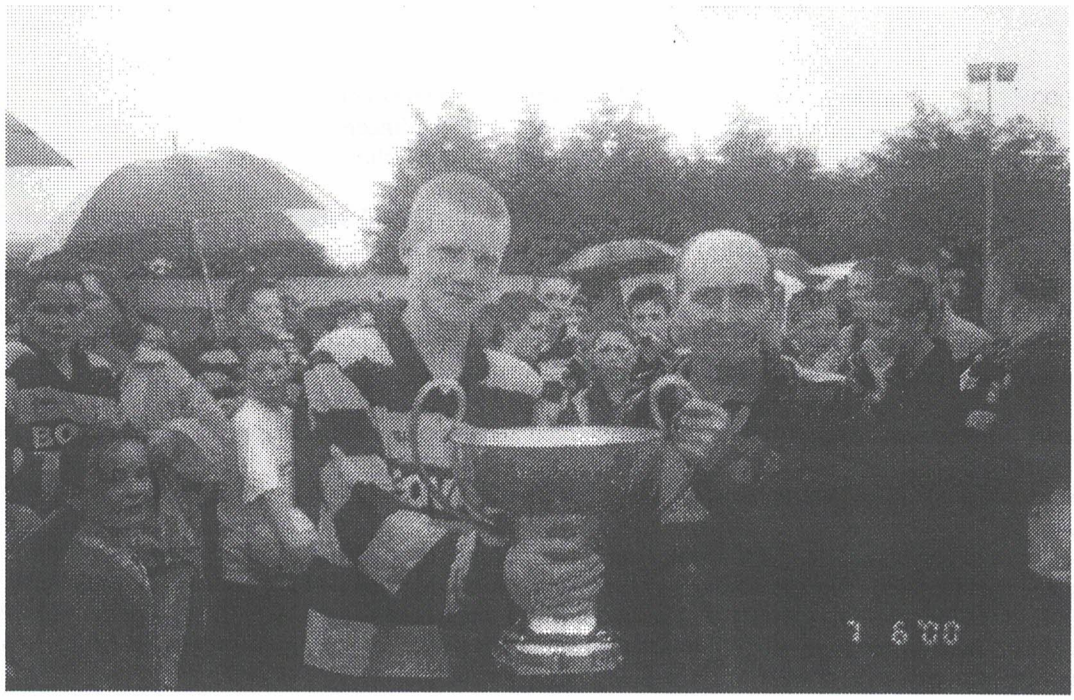
The U-14's played 4 challenge matches before we opened our League campaign on 25th March against St Martins. Comfortable victories were recorded in the first six games. Old rivals, O'Mahonys were next in line. This game proved to be a thriller in front of a big crowd in Batterstown. We were 1 point in arrears (0-03 : 0-04) at half-time, but a great second half performance saw Blackhall victorious on a score of 9 points to 5 points.
The game was marred by a serious injury to Robert Graham. We are glad to report that Robert has made a full recovery and is ready for action in 2001.

The semi-final against Donoghmore/Ashbourne was the usual tough tense encounter but the Gaels prevailed to play O'Mahonys in the League final in Dunsany.

The final turned out to be a damp squib from a Blackhall viewpoint. The players held their own in the first-half and were just two points in arrears at the interval (HT 0-04 : 0-02). Two goals early in the second half killed off the game and the Gaels were unable to save the day. This result, in hindsight, may have proved to be a catalyst for a great victory later in the season!

# Under 14 Football (continued)

## The Championship



**Sean Rattigan receives the U 14 FC Cup from Juvenile Board Secretary Paul Halligan**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 31/05/2000 | Blackhall Gaels | 5 – 05 : 1 – 04 | St Colmcilles | (in Piltown) |
| 07/06/2000 | Blackhall Gaels | 3 – 13 : 5 – 06 | Round Towers | (Quarter-Final in Dunsany) |
| 14/06/2000 | Blackhall Gaels | 4 – 11 : 1 – 05 | Donoghmore Ashbourne | (Semi-Final in Kilbride) |
| **05/07/2000** | **Blackhall Gaels** | **2 – 05 : 1 – 04** | **Navan O'Mahonys** | **(Final in Skryne)** |

The Championship started against St Colmcilles on 31st May. While this encounter turned out to be a very difficult game a battling performance ensured a relieving victory at the end of the day. This was followed by a nail biting quarter-final in Dunsany against Round Towers. Ahead by 6 points at the break (HT 2-7 : 2-1) we appeared to be in control. We even increased our lead early in the second half. Three goals however from an excellent Round Towers team set up a gripping finish. Blackhall survived by the minimum margin and went into the semi-final which was a repeat pairing of the League semi-final. Kilbride was the venue again. Blackhall were well up for the game. The first half was fairly competitive (HT 1-5 : 0-2). The Gaels won out comfortable winners in the end. A Championship final against O'Mahonys loomed. (Payback time for the League final)!
The final was played on a wet Wednesday evening (July 5th) in Skryne. While the game was preceded by much off-field debate about venue, dates etc, a highly motivated Blackhall squad and mentors remained totally focused. The winning of this final would be considered to be the sweetest victory yet for this group of players. Every player from 1 to 15, with massive encouragement from their colleagues in the subs, achieved a great victory. O'Mahonys lead 1-3 to 0-3 at half time. The Blackhall lads couldn't wait to get out for the second half. A great game of football, in heavy conditions, was played by both teams. To beat O'Mahonys in a final, you have to be at your best and our team knew that. They dug as deep as they have ever done in the past and surged forward at every opportunity to get the scores. O'Mahonys were held to a single point in the second-half. Blackhall were ahead by a point going into injury-time. Victory was sealed with a goal in injury time. Final Score of Blackhall 2-5, O'Mahonys 1-4 was an excellent achievement for these players. Individual performances have been well documented previously in the Newsletter.

# Under 14 Football (continued)

## Feile 2000

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 01/07/2000 | Blackhall Gaels | 2 – 04 : 1 – 07 | Fingallians |
| | Blackhall Gaels | 1 – 00 : 3 – 05 | St Vincents |
| | Blackhall Gaels | 1 – 02 : 2 – 04 | Churchill |

Blackhall Gaels represented Meath in Feile Peil na nOg in Dublin (30th June - 3rd July). Our group included Fingallians (Dublin), St Vincents (Dublin) and Churchill (Kerry). The parade took place from Parnell Square through O'Connell St and on to Croke Park on Friday evening. The first game against Fingallians on Saturday morning ended in a draw. St Vincents beat us comprehensively in the second game. Blackhall needed to defeat Churchill in the 3rd game in order to advance to the second phase. Despite a valiant effort, Churchill won on the score 2-4 to 1-2. Blackhall gave it everything, particularly in the second half, but it wasn't to be.

Alan Nestor represented the Club in the skills competition and put up a commendable performance.

The players attended Croke Park on Sunday for the Leinster S.F.C. semi-final. A great weekend was had by all despite the results.
The selectors and players would like to thank Tom Bailey for his generosity in providing a meal in Swords on Saturday evening and also for all his support leading up to the Feile. A very special thank you also to Eugene Ferris who put in a huge effort in the months before the Feile. He spent many a lunch hour dealing with the provision of playing gear etc.. He was always most supportive and the whole squad is most grateful. Thanks is also due to the Club and to everybody else who helped in any way, in what was a huge organisational effort.

**Players on Meath U-14 Football Panel: Erik Broad, Patrick Duffy, Darragh Keogh, Sean Rattigan, Michael Snee**

# Under 15 Football – Division 3

**Panel** (in alphabetical order)**:** Jeff Bailey, Eoin Bennett, Erik Broad, Liam Brosnan, Thomas Corrigan Thomas Coyle, Thomas Delany, Kieran Devaney, Paul Ennis, Stephen Hughes, Anthony Kelly, Ciaran McDermott, Jonathan Meyler, Mark Mullally, Ian Mulreid, Alan Nestor, Patrick O'Brien, David O'Hanlon, Martin O'Neill, Michael Snee, Michael Whelan and Sean Whelan

**Team Selectors:** Tom Meyler, Frank Broad, Michael Mullally

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 15/08/2000 | Blackhall Gaels | 2 – 09 : 4 – 13 Nobber | (in Kilcloon) |
| 22/08/2000 | Blackhall Gaels | 0 – 05 : 3 – 10 Walterstown | (in Walterstown) |
| 29/08/2000 | Blackhall Gaels | 3 – 06 : 9 – 08 St Vincents/Curraha | (in Batterstown) |

v St Patrick's - not played; v St Peters & Paul - not played

The first game was played on 15th August in Kilcloon against Nobber. Our subsequent games were against Walterstown and St Vincents/Curraha. The three games resulted in comprehensive victories for the opposition. The games against St Patricks and St Peters/Paul were not played. All the opposition teams were much too big and strong and our players were young and light. This competition does nothing for football for the clubs with 'B'teams. A solution would be to organise a round-robin competition (home and away) between the 'B' teams only. The players made every effort to win the games but they were coming up against some players who were as big as minors.

# Under 15 Football – Division 1

**Back L to R**: Eoin Bennett, Michael Dowd, Darragh Keogh, Patrick Dunne, Patrick Duffy, John McCarthy, Sean Rattigan, Martin O'Neill, Conor Callanan, Gary Fitzpatrick.
**Front L to R**: Lester Garvey, Ricky Moore, Tomás Corrigan, Aidan Ferris, Declan Dalton, Jonathan Kerins, Thomas Clarke, Donal Keane, David Leddy.
**Insert:** Brian O'Connor, David Carty, Micheal Snee, Ronan McGowan, Michael Whelan, Liam Rattigan.

**Selectors:** Patsy Callanan, Jimmy Leddy and John Keane.

There was little margin for error in the Under 15 Division 1 Competition as there were no semi-final places on offer with only the top two teams from the league rounds qualifying directly to contest the final. The early start to the competition meant that the promising panel had only one challenge match played before a crucial first round clash with O'Mahonys. In a closely contested match Blackhall Gaels lost out to a couple of late O'Mahonys points. But the most costly defeat came in Round five in dropping two home points to a strong Summerhill side. A semi-final round could certainly have been played in this competition as there was very little between the top four teams.

We started our match preparations with a challenge match against Clane on the 10th August which ended in a draw

## Division 1 League

| | |
|---|---|
| 15th August in Batterstown: | Blackhall Gaels 2 – 03 : 1 – 08 Navan O' Mahonys |
| 22nd August in Drumconrath: | Blackhall Gaels W/O Drumconrath/Meath Hill Scr - could not field a team |
| 29th August in Dunboyne: | St. Peters beat Blackhall by 6 points |
| 5th September in Batterstown: | Blackhall Gaels 0 – 14 : 0 – 02 Donoghmore/Ashbourne |
| 27th September in Kilcloon: | Blackhall Gaels 2 – 09 : 0 – 05 Summerhill |
| 23rd September in Batterstown: | Blackhall Gaels W / O Simonstown Scr - could not field a team |
| 30th September in Kells: | Blackhall Gaels 4 – 09 : 0 – 04 Round Towers |

# Under – 16 Football

**Panel** (in alphabetical order): Conor Callanan, David Carty, Thomas Clarke, John Corrigan, Robert Cox, Aidan Dalton, Michael Dowd, Lorcan Fagan, Aidan Ferris, Gary Fitzpatrick, Daniel Gannon, Ronan Glynn, Liam Howlett, John Jennings, Donal Keane, Jonathan Kerins, David Leddy, Colm McElligott, John McCarthy, Cathal McDermott, Ronan McGowan, Ricky Moore, David Nelson, Brian O' Connor, Darren O' Loughlin, Daniel O' Neill, Liam Rattigan and Kevin Sweeney.

**Selectors:** Patsy Callanan, Mick Dalton, Jimmy Leddy and John Keane.

The Under 16 panel commenced training in early February and played 5 challenge matches before the Division 1 competition began in April.The results of the challenges looked promising and,having picked up 7 points from a possible 8 in the first four rounds of the league, hopes were high at the beginning of May. However, the big guns of the division lay in ambush for us in the last three rounds. The loss of a point to Trim in the second round proved very costly in terms of gaining a semi-final place.

## Challenge Matches (Results where Recorded)

| | |
|---|---|
| 26/2/2000: | Blackhall Gaels 2-6 : 1-7 Skryne |
| 11/3/2000: | Blackhall Gaels 3-8 : 2-12 Dunsany |
| 18/3/2000: | Blackhall Gaels 1-7 : 2-11 Summerhill |
| 03/4/2000: | Blackhall Gaels v St. Martins |
| 09/4/2000: | Blackhall Gaels v Moorefield |

## Benny Caffrey Cup – Division 1

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Round 1 – Tuesday 11th April in Martry: | St. Cuthberts | 1-09 : 3-08 Blackhall Gaels |
| Round 2 – Tuesday 18th April in Batterstown: | Blackhall Gaels | 2-08 : 1-11 Trim |
| Round 3 – Tuesday 25th April in Batterstown: | Blackhall Gaels | 1-13 : 1-04 Ratoath |
| Round 4 – Tuesday 2nd May in Drumconrath: | Drumconrath/Meath Hill | 2-09 : 3-13 Blackhall Gaels |
| Round 5 – Tuesday 9th May in Navan: | O' Mahonys | 0-17 : 2-05 Blackhall Gaels |
| Replay Abandoned Match (Adverse Weather) in Batterstown | Blackhall | 1-5 : 6-5 Round Towers |
| Round 7 – Tuesday 23rd May in Batterstown: | Blackhall v St. Peters ( St. Peters won) | |

# Under 17 Football

**Panel:** Denis Beirne, Eoin Byrne, David Carty, Tommy Clarke, Joseph Conneally, Robert Cox, Mark Creevey, Aidan Dalton, Lorcan Fagan, Aidan Ferris, David Ferris, John Jennings, James Larkin, David Leddy, John McCarthy, Colm McElligot, Ricky Moore, Dermot O Brien, Darren O Loughlin, David O Loughlin, Daniel O Neill, Liam Rattigan and Kevin Sweeney

**Selectors:** Mel Beirne & Michael Dalton

## League Div. 1

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Blackhall Gaels | 0 – 04 | : | 2 – 12 St Peters & Pauls |
| Trim | 3 – 10 | : | 1 – 11 Blackhall Gaels |
| Blackhall Gaels | 0 – 06 | : | 3 – 14 Donaghmore Ashbourne |
| Simonstown W/O v Blackhall Gaels Scr. | | | |

# Minor Football

**The Blackhall Gaels Minor Team which contested the Championship Semi-Final**

The Blackhall Gaels minor football team set out to successfully defend their minor football crown. It was always going to be a very difficult task. A new team comprising of six under-16's had to be forged and fashioned to achieve our objective. Noel Farrell, the manager, immediately set to work and as a result of his intense, astute coaching quickly had the team playing to their strength with an exciting brand of open, fast, combined football. Team morale was at an all-time high with each player willing to give it his all in the cause of victory. In late February-early March, three useful challenge matches against St.Mary's of Leixlip, Maynooth and St. Brigid's of Blanchardstown. These games afforded a valuable insight into the strengths and weaknesses of the panel. Changes were made accordingly. The results here under show how we fared in the competition:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 19/03/00 – Yellow Furze | 3-02 : | 1-09 | Blackhall Gaels |
| 26/03/00 – Blackhall Gaels | 2-05 : | 0-15 | Navan O' Mahony's |
| 07/04/00 – Dunboyne | 1-04 : | 0-08 | Blackhall Gaels |
| 12/04/00 – Blackhall Gaels | 1-06 : | 0-09 | Summerhill |
| 19/04/00 – *Walkover from Ballivor* | | | |
| 28/04/00 – Blackhall Gaels | 4-10 : | 1-07 | St Cuthberts |
| 07/05/00 – Walterstown | 4-09 : | 3-12 | Blackhall Gaels |
| 19/05/00 – St. Colmcilles | 2-11 : | 3-10 | Blackhall Gaels |

The above results meant that Blackhall finished second in the competition behind O' Mahony's. The top four teams qualified for the semi-finals, (1) versus (4), and (2) versus (3). This set up a semi-final clash with St. Colmcilles, while O' Mahony's and Yellow Furze contested the other semi-final spot. In a thrilling encounter played in sun-drenched Pairc Tailteann, St. Colmcilles won on a scoreline of 0-20 to 2-11. Were it not for the absence of four key players due to vacation and injury, the result may well have been different. O' Mahony's went on to win the Delaney Cup.

**The Panel:** M.Creevey, S.O'Loughlin, N.O'Hora, C.O'Brien, K.Sweeney, D. Beirne, J.Leddy, G.Beirne, J.O'Brien, S.McGovern, C.Kennedy, D.Ferris, D.O'Loughlin, R.Cox, T.Brosnan, A.Dalton, D.O'Brien, R.Moore, L.Rattigan, J.McCarthy, J.Conneally, J.Larkin, D.O'Neill, J.Jennings.

**Manager:** Noel Farrell. **Selectors:** Noel Farrell, Jim McGovern, N.Brosnan.

**On the county front, George Beirne, John O'Brien, Tadhg Brosnan and Ciaran Kennedy all played on the Meath Minor Football Team. George Beirne had the honour of captaining them.**

# U-11 Hurling

The following tournaments tell the story of a hectic year for the under 11 hurlers. The Gormanstown Indoor Tournaments, the 2nd and 3rd Annual Indoor Tournaments (for years 1999 & 2000), The Jarlath Carty Cup, The Hurling Championship and last but not least The Ground Hurling Competition.

## Gormanstown Indoor Tournaments

We pucked off early (8th January) and successfully, in an indoor hurling tournament in Gormanstown in which we won all our games. A month or so later we were back in Gormanstown for the county tournament. We again won all our games.

## Second Annual Indoor Tournament

Our next action was our own internal indoor hurling tournament – the second of it's kind which was again very kindly sponsored by Gerry O Malley. Thanks, Gerry.

**Some of the players who took part in one of the two indoor tournaments played in 2000**

This increasingly popular tournament was played in Batterstown hall during March and was in fact the delayed 1999 one. Each team played 15 games. We divided up teams into age categories of 7 to 9 years and 10 to 12 years. The competing teams in each age section were 4 or 5-a-side. The final for the older group was played on the 24h March. The final for the 7 – 9 year group was played on the following day. In the younger section the winning Offaly team was captained by Dermot Carty. His trusty team-mates were Stephen Morris, Niall Mangan and Patrick O Loughlin. Antrim who were the runners-up were captained by Colm Whitty whose teammates were Barry Forrest, Thomas Flynn and Shane Whitty. Shane received the man-of-the-match award. In the older age group Antrim took the honours, beating Cork in a thrilling final. Their captain Jane Dolan proudly lead her team of Peter Burke, Thomas Meyler, Conor Healy and Kate Morris. Cork were captained by Johanna Collins and consisted of Niamh Brady, Kevin Coyle, Thomas Delany and Chris Hodge. John O' Malley won the most improved player award.

## Third Annual Indoor Tournament

In November we ran off the third annual tournament – the 2000 one. This was again sponsored by Gerry O Malley to whom we are again sincerely grateful. Colm Whitty's Tipperary team of Niall Collins, Eva Delany, Ciaran Hegarty, John Kelly (Longtown), Leanne Rafter, David Taaffe and of course Colm himself won the younger age group competition. Peter Burke lead his Cork team of Ciaran Collins, Donnacha Tobin, Sarah Delany, Don Colgan and Martin Walker to victory in the final of the older category.

# The Jarlath Carty Cup

**A happy Daniel Whitty in the centre with from left to right Ciaran Hegarty, Shane Whitty and Barry Forrest in the front. John Smith, Donnacha Tobin, Niamh Brady, Enda Kelly and Stephen Morris at the back**

For the first time ever the Jarlath Carty Cup was played for hurling solely. Four teams from the 9 – 11 year group were picked. The first round was arranged for Batterstown on the last Sunday in April. Subsequent rounds were played on Friday 5th May and Sunday 7th May. After the league stage of the competition two teams emerged at the top of the table - Waterford captained by Daniel Whitty and Offaly who were lead by Kevin Coyle. Waterford won the final on a scoreline of 3 – 01 to 1 – 01. The winning cup along with trophies for the winning team members and plaques for the runners – up were presented by Jarlath Carty's family. His wife Patricia and their son Stephen did the honours. Their other son Daniel who was on the Offaly team and has now finished in the runners up side in this competition for two the last two years has vowed that he will turn the tables next year. The teams were as follows:

| Cork | Waterford | Kilkenny | Offaly |
|---|---|---|---|
| R McGuinness | D Whitty | P Burke | K Coyle |
| C Collins | E Kelly | J O Malley | T Meyler |
| D Carty | D Tobin | J Delany | J Kelly |
| E Mangan | J Smith | C Hodge | D Colgan |
| K O Connor | N Brady | M Walker | S Delany |
| R Jennings | E Lynam | K Morris | C Delany |
| N Mangan | C Whitty | C Hegarty | J Kelly |
| P O Loughlin | S Morris | J Kelly | J Staunton |
| D Keane | B Forrest | S Carty | E Delany |
| B O Malley | N Collins | T Flynn | C Smith |
| S Whitty | A Twomey | S Donegan | Eva Delany |
| B Staunton | O Kelly | N Kealy | |
| **Mentors:** | | | |
| Christy Mangan | JJ Whitty | Jimmy Burke | Paul Coyle |
| Shane O Loughlin | Barney Brady | Edmund Delany | John Delany |
| Gerry Collins | Richie Morris | Noel Kelly | Tom Taaffe |

## Under – 11 Hurling Championship: Section 2B

With the improvement in the weather at the end of April it was time to go outdoors. Our good form indoors early on was carried on when we beat Donaghmore-Ashbourne, Moylough, Rathoath, Simonstown, Wolfe Tones, and Athboy. This left us in in a semi-final against Na Fianna in Kiltale, which we won. The scene was set for a showdown with Kiltale in Rathmolyon. It was a tremendous game with each side giving their all. We were leading by 2 points with 2 minutes remaining when unfortunately, Kiltale got a goal which left us defeated at the final whistle on a scoreline of 2-01 to 2-00. Heartbreaking.

## Ground Hurling

Following a well deserved Summer break for both players and mentors the ground hurling competition commenced on September 3rd. While we were hopeful from the outset little did we know what was in store for us at the end of this campaign. In the first match we beat Donaghmore by 3 – 01 to 1 – 00. We followed this with a 4 – 01 to 0 – 00 win against Rathoath. There followed further victories over St Martins, St Peters & Pauls, Kilmessan, Athboy, Dunderry and Boardsmill. All of this set us up for (at worst) a semi-final in Trim on the 7th October. Who should we meet in that semi-final but our old adversaries Kiltale. Another great match ensued ending in a draw with each side scoring 1 goal. And so it was to a shoot out – not strictly penalties but the next best thing. One player from each side had to attempt to score from the 21yard line. Was it going to be another heartbreak? **DEFINITELY NOT**. We won by 2 scores to 1 and marched proudly into the final against Killyon at 5 o clock that same evening. While we knew that Killyon would have a good side, we had beaten teams from clubs with a strong hurling pedigree en route to the final and we were determined not to go home empty handed on this occasion. And so it proved to be. We won a thrilling game after a titanic struggle by 2 – 02 to 2 – 00.

To finish off a hectic year and to appropriately celebrate the great win in the ground hurling we organised an outing to Naas GAA Club on the 17th December. This included an afternoon of indoor hurling – what else – in the CBS hall and a visit to McDonalds in Naas. Well done and thanks to everyone for a marvellous year.

This report on hurling would be incomplete without mentioning the very successful Leinster GAA / Playstation Hurling Camp which the club hosted in Batterstown from the 14th to 17th August (inclusive). About 55 boys and girls between the ages of 9 and 13 attended – 45 of whom were from our own club catchment area.

# Under-13 Hurling

**Panel of players:** P. Burke, U. Colgan, G. Coldrick, J. Collins, K. Coyle, J. Delany, T. Delany, J. Dolan, E. Garvey, E. Kelly, D. Larkin, A. McEvoy, R. McGuinness, T. Meyler, B. Mullanny, T. Murphy, A. Nestor, N. O Carroll, R. Smith, P. Townsend, D.Whitty and K.Whitty.

**Selectors:** Gerry Delany and Ann Nestor

Blackhall Gaels played a total of 6 games in this competition, winning three against Dunboyne, Moylough and Killyon, but losing narrowly against eventual winners, St. Martins and by last minute goals against both Kiltale and Na Fianna.

Despite the best efforts of all, the team did not qualify for the coveted semi-final spot, but are more hopeful for next year, as most of the players will still be under 13.

# Under 14 Hurling

**Panel:** Alan Nestor, Kieran Devaney, Mark Mullally, Stephen Hughes, Edmund Garvey, Sean Rattigan, Thomas Delany, Jonathan Meyler, Kevin Whitty, Ulick Colgan, Thomas Coyle, Darren Larkin, Ian Mulreid, Erik Broad, Kevin Coyle, Jeff Bailey, Tom Murphy, Daniel Whitty, Thomas Meyler.

**Selectors:** Tom Meyler, Michael Mullally, Frank Broad

## Championship

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 13/04/2000 | Blackhall Gaels | 6 – 16 : 0 – 02 | Gaeil Colmcille | (in Batterstown) |
| 04/05/2000 | Blackhall Gaels | 1 – 03 : 5 – 05 | Kilmessan | (in Kilmessan) |
| 11/05/2000 | Blackhall Gaels | 6 – 09 : 0 – 01 | Trim | (in Batterstown) |
| 18/05/2000 | Blackhall Gaels | 1 – 04 : 4 – 09 | Navan O'Mahonys | (in Batterstown) |

Blackhall Gaels opened their campaign on Thursday, 13th April against Gaeil Colmcille by winning against weak opposition. It was a great start. The next game in Kilmessan was won easily by the home team. We defeated Trim in Batterstown very comprehensively. The last game was won by O'Mahonys but our much younger team turned in a brave performance. Won 2, Lost 2 was a great effort in Division 1. We were constrained by lack of numbers, very young players and also football demands for some players. Thanks is due to all the squad for their efforts.

Congratulations to **Jonathan Meyler** on winning the **Leinster Under 14 Poc Fada** in Croke Park, on Sunday July 9th.

**Players on County U-14 Hurling Panel: Thomas Coyle, Jonathan Meyler, Mark Mullally.**

# Under 15 Hurling

**Players on County U-15 Hurling Panel: Ciaran Delany and Jonathan Meyler**

# Under 16 Hurling (13 A-Side)

**Panel:** Donal Keane, Daniel Gannon, Eoin Heaney, Michael Dowd, Ciaran Delany, Stephen Hughes, Darren O'Loughlin, Kieran Devaney, Jonathan Meyler, Mark Forrest, Thomas Coyle, Brian O'Connor, Michael Meyler, Ronan McGowan, David Carty, Aidan Ferris, Erik Broad, John Twomey, Thomas Delany, Alan Nestor.

**Selectors:** Gerry Delany, Tom Meyler, Michael Mullally, Michael Heaney, Frank Broad

## The Championship

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 09/04/2000 | Blackhall Gaels | 0 – 02 : 5 – 11 | Kildalkey | (in Kildalkey) |
| 16/04/2000 | Blackhall Gaels | 2 – 01 : 5 – 06 | Ratoath | (in Ratoath) |
| 30/04/2000 | Blackhall Gaels | 3 – 04: 1 – 04 | Kiltale | (in Batterstown) |
| 07/05/2000 | Blackhall Gaels | 1 – 03 : 2 – 08 | St Martin's | (in Batterstown) |
| 14/05/2000 | Blackhall Gaels | 7 – 05 : 0 – 06 | Moylough | (in Batterstown) |
| 21/05/2000 | Blackhall Gaels | 1 – 01: 3 – 12 | Killyon | (in Ballivor) |

The Under-16 Campaign opened on Sunday, 9th April in Kildalkey. Kildalkey won this game easily despite our best efforts. The Ratoath match was a game in which we should have done better. The spirits were lifted with a good win over Kiltale in Batterstown. The team were then defeated by St Martins in Batterstown. The game with Moylough provided a good victory. The last game in Killyon proved a very difficult game against a strong Killyon team. The players are to be thanked for their efforts in difficult situations.

**The problem with Under-16 Hurling is the lack of numbers.** Every Sunday, the Selectors were trying to 'scrape' a team together. The following breakdown of the numbers will indicate the problem:
**9th April:** 13 + 1 Sub, **16th April:** 13 + 1 Sub, **30th April:** 13 + 2 Subs,
**7th May:** 13 + 0 Subs, **14th May:** 13 + 1 Sub, **21st May:** 13 + 2 Subs (2 X 12 year olds)

There are other good players eligible to play but the problem is Sunday morning soccer and work commitments. Planning for the coming season should start immediately. **There is good potential for a Championship victory this season.** We will have to be more pro-active in our efforts early in the season. The victory in the Under-14 Rural 1999 should be a good selling tool in our efforts to put together a panel of strong players.
A list of players should be drawn up now and each player should be approached immediately and asked about their availability (while pointing out at the same time what the possibilities are, with good effort). The main point in approaching players is that we should ask for a definite response not 'mights' or 'maybes'.

**Players on County Under-16 Hurling Panel:** **Ciaran Delany**

# PHOTO ALBUM

**All the 1999 Champions with a Legendary 2000 Champion**

**Front (L/R): Gerry Delany, Nigel Nestor, John Callanan, DJ Carey, Frank Broad**

**Middle (L/R): Darragh Keogh, Ciaran Delany, Martin O Neill, Thomas Delany, Mark Mullally, Jimmy Burke**

**Back (L/R): Michael Heaney, Tom Meyler, Michael Mullally, JJ Whitty**

**2000 Leinster Poc Fada Champion**

**Jonathan Meyler and Nicky Brennan in Croke Park**

**2000 Primary Schools Champions**

**F(L/R): T Flynn, B Forrest, L Kelly, C Hegarty, D Smith, D Cox, P Burke**

**B(L/R): K O Connor, D Byrne, T Murphy, G Byrne, T Walsh, J Kelly, E Kelly, M Walker, L Walsh, R McGuinness**