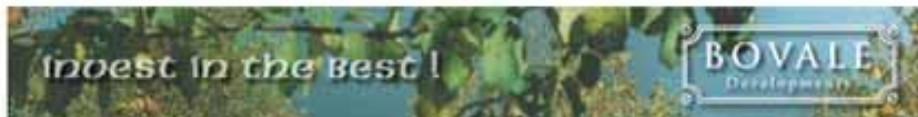


Blackball Gaels

Juvenile Report 2009



Secretary's Report

A Cháirde Gael go leir, welcome to yet another End of Year Report from the underage section of Blackhall Gaels, our first 'on-line' report.

Over the following pages the reports from each of the teams at both hurling and football are available, and each report reflects the wonderful enthusiasm and effort invested by all our mentors in the various teams. The enjoyment and 'sense of club' experienced by every player in Blackhall Gaels luckily seems to be mirrored in the adults involved with each team.

We are blessed in Blackhall to have so many interested and motivated parents and mentors involved with the club, and of course it makes the job of the committee so much easier when the attention is focused on matters arising on the pitch rather than the meeting room.

Matters affecting underage teams are determined by the various committees of the Meath County Board, and the greatest impact this year was in terms of the introduction of the 'Fixtures Master Plan'. This plan affected the club in so far as the schedule did not allow for either the running of our own tournaments, like the P & L Cup, nor competing in other tournaments, like the Derek Brady Cup run by St. Cuthbert's. It is my hope that all the internal club tournaments – the P & L and the Paddy McHugh and Jarlath Carty Cups will all be successfully arranged in 2010.

Success can be measured in many ways; and while titles and silverware are very tangible reflections of success in sport; the fact that so many of our young people are involved in the club, participate in club events, wear the club colours with pride and are themselves great ambassadors of the club is the ultimate indicator of success.

My term as Secretary is coming to a close, and I wish the incoming secretary all the best with the position and trust that he or she will enjoy their time with the underage section as much as I have done.

I cannot retire without paying tribute to the many people who have helped me over the years and I won't fall into the trap of naming any, least I overlook someone, but to those of you who have assisted in any way, however small you might think it was, please accept my grateful thanks. All that said though, the past few years would not have been easy but for the unstinting support and work rate of our Chairman, Gerry Stenson. Gerry is a person who epitomises the phrase 'team player' and while his election as Club Chairman is a loss to the Underage section, it can only be to the overall advantage of the club as a whole.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the many people who assist the club through sponsorship and other forms of support. The benefits to the club, and particularly to the underage players in Blackhall Gaels are immeasurable, but fully appreciated.

Máire Keane

The Blackhall Gaels Nursery

Coaching & Development of players can never start too early, and the introduction of the Blackhall Gaels Nursery in 2008 proved such a success that the nursery continued and flourished in 2009. The strength of the club depends not alone on the players coming through, but on the enthusiasm and willingness of the parents and mentors. The success of the Nursery is that it encourages both parents and children in equal measure.

The very successful 'La na gClub 125' was proof of this, with members of the club at every age represented in the activities on the day.

Many thanks to all the parents, mentors and children who continue to support the nursery and who are, in every sense, the future of the club.



U8/U9 Football

A successful season for the boys involved in the U8 and U9 football teams. The teams were entered in a league and played their matches on Saturday mornings and acquitted themselves well in all matches.

A number of the boys on the U8 team participated in a match in Croke Park in June. The team travelled by train to Croke Park and played **excellent football in** a match against Naomh Mearnog of Portmarnock. The team was well supported by family and friends who came out in force.

The **Autumn league for U8 and U9 teams** commenced in September **but unfortunately** Blackhall Gaels **could** only enter a team in the U9 league as there are not sufficient numbers to enter **both** an U8 and **an** U9 team.

One bright point is that the majority of the boys **eligible for U9 football in 09** will be eligible **again** for this grade in 2010.

U8/U9 Team: Brendan Kennedy, Cael Timmons, Cameron Gallagher, Cathal Keaveney, Cillian O Sullivan, Evan Smith, Michael Ward, Sean Kelly, Adam Tighe, Dylan Cranley, Eoin Kealy, Fergal Kiernan, Fionn Timmons, Jack Tobin, James Greaney, Joshua Mardone, Patrick Sheerin, Rory O Mahony, Sean Berry, Thomas Coakley, Conor Duffy, Cormac Nolan, Tony O Connor.

Mentors: Roger Tobin, Declan Keaveney

U10 Football

The u10s got together back in early March. At the beginning of the season we struggled to make up a team, sometimes relying on some of the u8s to make up the numbers. We trained on Friday evenings for one hour, and played our matches on Tuesday evenings.

This year again we were involved in the Summerhill Tournament. We won most of our matches and were well able to mix it with the stronger clubs.

On the 7th June we organised a bus to bring 40 children to Croke Park to see Meath v Dublin. **Every one** of them enjoyed the day, (except the result).

We had two teams involved in the "Go Games" in Walterstown. We won all **our** matches in both u10's and u8's.

We also hosted the "Go Games" in Batterstown with great success. Thanks to all the parents who helped out on the day making sandwiches, tea etc. Again the lads won all their matches.

We finished our season on Saturday 19th September in Summerhill playing two hard-fought matches which we won. All the lads that were involved received medals. We also had a Trophy for the most improved player of the year, this went to Conor Moyles. Paddy Conway and Ciaran Nally shared the player's 'Player Trophy' of the year.

The progress of the lads on the team over the year has been enormous **and** the athleticism and never-say-die attitude of our Captain Rian Kealy has been an inspiration to all the lads.

U10's Team : Rian Kealy, Jack Foley, Ciaran Nally, Paddy Conway, John Morris, Cian Doyle, Cian Greenwood, Conor Moyles, Tommy Lee O'Carroll, Mark Nicholson, Paul Gilmartin, Rory Keenan, Sean Kelly, Johnathan Pearl, Matthew O'Meara, Adam McHugh, Eoin Kealy, Colum Grant, Cameron Gallagher, Oran Fitzpatrick, John Coakley, Kevin Conway, Niall Bermingham, Gearoid Solan and Hugh Ruane.

Mentors: Gerry Nally, Dermot Kealy and Pdraig Pearl.

U12 Football

League Div 3

Our first game in the league was played on Wed. April 8th, away to Moynalvey. BHG 2.12 Moynalvey 0.06. Sean Healy scored 1.07 on the day. He had a **statement to make**. His 1st cousin was playing **for** the opposition **and** his uncle was a mentor. On the following **Wednesday** week, April 22nd we were away to Na Fianna. **The home team won 3.09 to 1.05.**

Our next match was at home in Kilcloon on a very wet and windy day against Clann Na nGael. BHG played by far the better football and won the match on a score of BHG 4.13 Clann Na Gael 1.08. Probably our best u 12 game all year was away to St Michaels on Wed 13th May. We left Batterstown with only 12 players hoping that a few might go directly **to the St Michaels pitch**. **They did and we** ended up with 15 players, each of **whom** played their heart out. BHG went on to win **by** 5.14 to St Michaels 2.06. Curraha were our next opposition. Played in Batterstown on the 30 May, we needed to win this match to get to the knock out stages. Unfortunately Curraha proved to be too strong for us **on the day and** they ended up beating us by double scores 4.08 **to** 2.04.

A special thanks to Katie Flattery who held her own with the lads.

U12 Football Summer League

We kicked off this competition on the 7th July with a good win over Oldcastle, BHG 3.09 Oldcastle 3 .07. Our next match was away to Rathkenny who had **a** lucky win against **us**. **A last** minute goal **for us was** disallowed.

Our next match was against St Michaels **who** won the game, **on a scoreline of** 4.12 to 2.10. **It was no disgrace to lose to them as** they went on to win this competition outright. Our **last** game in this competition was against Curraha who at this stage **had become a kind of a bogey team for us**. **Despite playing** some very good football we ended up in the losers enclosure. **That said we can have no complaints after kicking 27 wides in the game.**

To conclude, "Thanks" to all the parents for your support to the team and mentors **for the effort put in during** the year.

Panel: Alan Ennis, Mark Boucher, Ciaran Nally, Cian Greenwood, Des Fitzgerald, Jack Foley, Charlie Staunton, Joe Doherty, Jake Brennan, Vincent O'Brien, Patrick Kelly, Katie Flattery Hugh Smith, James Kelly, Fergus Ryan, Darragh Walsh, Pádraic Keane, Luke O Malley, Cormac Kinsella, Robbie McGuinness, Marcus Hayden, Paul Gilmartin, Rian Kealy, Sean Healy.

Mentors: Sean Kelly, Ambrose O'Brien, Paddy Kelly.

U13 Football



The team which played St Pats in the league game in Batterstown on Sat 17 October

Panel: Sean Healy, John O'Brien, Sean Walsh, Darren McHugh, James Kelly, Liam Farrell, Jake Brennan, James Brennan, Aaron Cunningham, Pádraic Keane, Darragh Walsh, Connell Cuning, Charlie Staunton, Fergus Ryan, Hugh Smith, Eoghain Kiernan, Conal Keaveney, Des Fitzgerald, Joe Doherty, Luke O Malley, Michael Solan, Robbie Mc Guinness, Vincent O'Brien, Patrick Kelly.

Mentors: Ambrose O'Brien, Sean Kelly, Paddy Kelly.

The U13 League kicked off on the 20-9-09 with a great win against Simonstown played on a full pitch in Batterstown. BHG 2.18 – Simonstown 2.04.

Next **up** was an away match to Round towers which BHG won by 5 points. **The gloss of victory was tarnished by injury to two players one of whom received** a bad blow into the back which resulted him missing school on the Monday and Tuesday.

The next game was away to Inny Gaels. Both teams were very evenly matched **and** a draw was a fair result. Inny Gaels 0.09 BHG 1.06.

Back to Kilcloon for our next match against Navan O Mahony's. **We** were well ahead at half time but Navan O Mahony's fought back. **Nevertheless we** held on to win by **2 goals**. BHG 2.09, **O Mahonys** 0.09.

At this point in the competition we were **assured of** a place in the play-offs even though we still had a game **left to play (against St Pats)**. **However** the boys wanted to top the group and have home advantage **for the semi final**. This **last** match was played in Batterstown. The **team achieved their objective by** beating Pats by 4 points. **Ironically the result of the game set up a repeat match against Pats in the semi final**.

The semi-final pairings were:

BHG v St Pats

Inny Gaels v Simonstown.

For **this** semi-final we had to line out without two of our regular **players** - corner back Charlie Staunton **who** had a knee injury and **wing back** Fergus Ryan who had his appendix removed. This was a different St Pats team to the one that we beat in the **previous game**. **The** game was level 4 times and at the end of ordinary time it was **still level**. So extra time **had** to be played. Just before extra time commenced "captain fantastic" Sean Walsh rallied the boys around and put it on the line to them that we needed to start playing and that they did. We out-scored St Pats in **that** extra time and went on to win by 7 points.

The other semi final **resulted in a win for** Inny Gaels **on a score of** 1.12 to 3.05. The final was fixed for Sunday 15th in Dunganny against Inny Gaels.

Inny gaels came to Trim intent on bringing home the silverware but our boys had **not read that script**. **There were some strange decisions in the game particularly an** Inny Gaels **goal** early in the second half. **The ball was** clearly wide but **was allowed stand**. **The lack of a net in the goals of this Duganny "centre of excellence" which is something any club hosting a game can be fined for, did not help**. This "**score**" was a real blow to our lads but **they battled back** and went on to lead by a point with full time **almost upon us**. **Additional time amounting to 5 mins was mysteriously played**. Inny got an **equaliser**. **We were into extra time again**. **Fortunately for the club this BHG team and losing are not bedfellows and just as in the semi against St Pats ,BHG** outscored **the opposition** and went on to win **to secure a famous victory on a** score line of 4 .19 to 3.17. **It was** probably one of the best u 13 games that was played all year **in any division and got special mention in the juvenile county secretary's annual report**.

Everybody from 1 to 24 played their heart out but **I don't think anyone will complain if** special mention **is** made of **the contribution of team captain** Sean Walsh and **scorer in chief** Arron Cunningham who bagged 2.11 on the day. **If the 2 lads and the rest of the team keep up this type of gutsy performance** the future of BHG is **on a sound footing**.

Thanks to a magnificent bunch of players – all 24 of them – who gave all they had during the season. Thanks also the players, parents and club supporters who contributed to a most enjoyable u 13 season of football.

U14 Football Div 3B (13 a side)



Back L to R.: K.Brennan J.O'Brien, P.Kelly, N.Kelly, S.McGuinness, D.McHugh, S.Walsh, D.Keaveney.(Mentor)

Front L to R.: J Kelly, R.McGuinness, A.Cunnigham, L.Farrell, C.Keaveney, F.Ryan, J.Brennan.

Blackhall Gaels U14 had a good league campaign in 2009. The first match on the 7th March was at home to a weak Boardsmill team. We won on a score line of 4-6 to 1-1.

The next match **one week later** and away Ballivor was a very different affair. The score line here was 4-6 to 3-5 **in favour of** Ballivor. **It** was a tough match but Blackhall put up a very good show, losing by a margin of only 4 points.

Our next **outing** was against St Cuthbert's on the 28th. The scoreline here was 4-6 to 3-11 in favour of Blackhall.

The last match in the league was an away game **in** Drumconrath. **Despite the home team winning** by a margin of 5 points **we** were **still** through to the play-offs. The first of **these** games in the playoffs was against Drumconrath in Castletown. The neutral venue seemed to favour Blackhall this time and after a thrilling game of excellent football we were victorious on a scoreline of 3-14 to 0 4-4.

The final was played in Trim against Ballivor who had beaten us in the earlier round and **unfortunately they repeated their dominance over us winning** by 5 points.

Panel: E.Kiernan. D.Healy. N. Kelly. P.Kelly. S.McGuinness. J.O'Brien. C.Cunning. L.Farrell. C.Keaveney. M.Solan. J.Brennan. K.Brennan. J.O'Brien. D.McHugh. S.Walsh. R.McGuinness. S.Healy. P.Kelly. H.Smith. F.Ryan. A.Cunnigham.

U14 Championship.

In the championship we played our first round match at home in Batterstown on the 9th May. The opposition was St.Vincents of Ardcath. They proved much too strong on the day for a weakened Blackhall team which was short many of the first choice players who were not available.

Panel: E.Kiernan. D.Healy. N. Kelly. P.Kelly. S.McGuinness. J O,'Brien. C.Cunning. L.Farrell. C.Keaveney. M.Solan. J.Brennan. K.Brennan. J.O'Brien. D.McHugh. S.Walsh. R.McGuinness. S.Healy. P.Kelly. H.Smith. F.Ryan. A.Cunnigham.

U14 -Summer League.

In the Summer League Blackhall Gaels were pitted against the following teams : Oldcastle, Ballinabrackey, Skyrne and Drumconrath/Meath Hill. Due to some excellent performances against all of these teams we progressed to the final to play Skyrne. The match was scheduled for our oppositions home pitch for the 1st July. It was a very exciting game in which at times we appeared to be comfortable but then Skyrne would come good for a while and threaten our chances of success. We finished stronger than them and deservedly won. The margin at the end was an apparently comfortable 5 points. It is debateable whether this reflects the closeness of the encounter. No matter, BHG came home with the spoils of victory.

Panel: E.Kiernan. D.Healy. N. Kelly. P.Kelly. S.McGuinness. J.O,'Brien. C.Cunning. L.Farrell. C.Keaveney. M.Solan. J.Brennan. K.Brennan. J.O'Brien. D.McHugh. S.Walsh. R.McGuinness. S.Healy. P.Kelly. H.Smith. F.Ryan. A.Cunnigham.

Under 14, (7-aside)125th Anniversary Tournament.

Blackhall Gaels agreed to a request from Coiste na nOg to host an Under 14, 7-aside tournament on the 15th August. The participating teams were:

Blackhall Gaels, Kilbride, Moynalvey, Skyrne, Slane and St Vincents.

Panel: Niall Kelly, Paul Kelly, E.Kiernan, J.O'Brien, C.Keaveney, D.McHugh, F.Ryan, H.Smith.

2009 U-14 Mentors: Declan Keaveney, JP Kelly, Geraldine Farrell, Tommy Kelly and Donal Healy

In conclusion, a big "Thank You" from the club and mentors to all the players who turned up for training and matches and to their parents and to anyone else who assisted during the year.

U15 Football

The U-15 football season kicked off on the 18th July which is much earlier than we had been accustomed to in the past. Blackhall travelled to Bohermeen to play St Cuthberts. Unfortunately due to a very small panel and the fact that we had to depend on a significant number of the clubs u-13's to play at this level, St Cuthberts were far too strong and subjected us to an embarrassing defeat. We managed to garnish some pride in the second half by scoring a few points.

Due to the Summer holidays it was almost impossible to get a team together which would do itself justice and would not be continuously be humiliated. The mentors withdrew the u-15 team from the competition. BHG were not alone in this as many clubs had to do likewise and for the same reasons as us. This is something which puts a serious question mark over the grading of clubs in this competition.

Panel: Michael O'Neill, Conor Walsh(Walshy), Patrick Smith, Darren McHugh, Colin Farrell, Shane Whitty, Stephen Corcoran, Niall Kelly, Paul Kelly, Liam Farrell, Aaron Cunningham, Hugh Smith

Mentors: Jimmy McGovern, Noel Farrell

U16 Football

Blackhall Gaels u-16 campaign started with a home match to Bective in Kilcloon on the 14th of April. The two teams were evenly balanced teams throughout game until Bective pulled away. Up to that time Blackhall had enough opportunities to at least ensure a share of the spoils. However, we were unable to convert these chances and Bective ended up winning by 4pts.

One week later Rathkenny were our next opponents and they proved too strong on their home patch and won comprehensively.

One week on again on the 28th April Kilmainhamwood travelled to Batterstown and after a closely fought game a draw resulted.

Inny Gaels were our final opponents in the group stages. We played them away - in Moylough. At the end of a very exciting and good game of football Blackhall won by 2pts to gain themselves a semi-final place against Rathkenny.

That semi-final game was played in Dunganny on the 12th of May but unfortunately things didn't go well for us on the evening and Rathkenny progressed to the final by a narrow margin.

Panel: Michael O'Neill, Colin Farrell, Niall Kelly, Shane McGuinness, Patrick Smith, Shane Whitty, Paddy Connell, Ciaran Cunningham, Dillon O'Neill, Diarmuid Ryan, Stephen Corcoran, Brian Staunton, Paul Kelly, Aaron Cunningham, Donnacha Healy, Conor Walsh, Craig Malone, Liam Farrell, Hugh Smith.

Mentors: Jimmy McGovern, Mark Ferris, Tom Staunton, Donal Healy, Maura McHugh and Noel Farrell

U17 Football



The team which played Moynalty in Batterstown on the 17th October.

Back (L to R): Ian Cassidy, Ciaran Cunningham, Conor Walsh, Stephen Morris, Conor Stenson, Darragh Keane, Dillon O'Neill, Michael O'Neill.

Front (L to R): Paul Kelly, Andrew Creagh, Diarmuid Ryan, Patrick Connell, Niall Kelly.

Panel: Andrew Creagh, Ciarán Cunningham, Colin Farrell, Conor Stenson, Conor Walsh, Craig Malone, Daniel Sharkey, Darragh Corcoran, Darragh Keane, Diarmuid Ryan, Dillon O'Neill, Ian Cassidy, John Kelly, Michael O'Neill, Niall Kelly, Niall Mangan, Patrick Connell, Paul Kelly, Stephen Morris.

Mentors: Paul Nestor, Liam Keane, John Keane, Peadar Creagh, Sean Kelly and Gerry Stenson

This year's u-17 football league was much the same as least years - a farce. It was scheduled to commence in mid September and be completed 1 month later. **Some divisions just started in mid October.** We played our first game away to Drumconrath Meath Hill under lights on Friday 9th October. It is a game best forgotten for many reasons apart from the result. Things seemed to be getting back on track when a week later Moynalty travelled to Batterstown but alas they won the 2 points in a closely contested game which was level at half time. The 3rd game which was scheduled as a home game v Wolfe Tones was postponed time and again because of various other fixtures in which they were involved and because of the horrendous weather. It was never subsequently played as we ran into conflict with the u-21 championship and the result of the game would be irrelevant to the outcome of the competition. We also played Bective in a challenge which we won.

DIV. 3 B LEAGUE

09/10/2009: Drumconrath/Meath Hill 2-18 : 1-08 Blackhall Gaels (HT: 0-09 : 1-05)
17/10/2009: Blackhall Gaels 3-08 : 4-09 Moynalty (HT: 1-04 : 1-04)

Minor Football – Championship Shield Winners



BHG minor team and coaches - winners of the Div 3b Minor Championship Shield.

Back (L-R): Liam Keane, Conor Delany, John Mulligan, Sean Carty, Ciaran Hegarty, Niall Mangan, Darragh Corcoran, Danny Byrne, Darragh Keane, Joseph Staunton, Ian Cassidy, Steven Donegan, Paul Nestor

Front (L-R): John Kelly, Stephen Morris, Dan Sharkey, Joe Stanley, Ciaran Cunningham, Conor Stenson, Chris Sharkey, Andrew Creagh.

Panel member Conor Walsh (Kilcloon) is missing from this photo.

There was a sea change in the minor football schedule this year. The championship was played over 3 weekends. It started on Sunday March 8th and finished on Sunday 5th April. There was no further minor football until early July when the league commenced.

It would be an understatement to say that clubs right throughout the county were more than dissatisfied with this new fixtures schedule which had been presented to the Co minor football committee by the Co Board as "fait accompli" last January. Mind you some of them don't help their own cause by the way they dodge fixtures to ensure that they have every last player available for every match thereby causing a log jam of fixtures later on.

The championship which was divided into 4 divisions of eight teams and 1 division of 7 teams was relatively successful for BHG. We were drawn in Div 3B and were unlucky to be beaten by Dunderry in Bective in the 1st round. We atoned for this in the next game which was a Shield semi-final when we defeated a fancied Moynalty side in Trim. It took our players a while to realise that they had the beating of our opponents and when they did we ran out relatively easy winners to progress to a in final v Blackfort Gaels in Skyrne on Sunday 5th April.

With no disrespect to either team this was an eminently forgettable game but they say that finals are all about winning as opposed to providing entertainment. That's what our lads did after a game in which Blackfort could have been home and hosed at half time had they taken their first half chances. **They didn't and we did.**

Minor Football (continued)

Team captain Sean Carty was delighted to accept the Shield from minor football committee secretary Bea O Reilly after the match **and thanked players, coaches and mentors alike for their part in the success.**

The league games which were scheduled to be played on Monday nights did nothing for our club and whatever **momentum might have resulted from the Shield win in the first week of April was totally lost when the league started 3 months later.**

At times we even struggled to get teams out due to players being on holidays or working or **for** other reasons. **Thanks to** players such as Colin Farrell, Cormac Meyler, Craig Malone, Diarmuid Ryan, Michael O'Neill and Patrick Connell stepped up to the plate and enabled us to fulfil our fixtures when all looked lost at times.

Minor Championship: Div 3B

In Bective: 08/03/2009: Blackhall Gaels 2-04 : 2-08 Dunderry

Minor Championship Shield: Div 3B

In Trim: 22 /03/2009: Blackhall Gaels 2-15 : 1-12 Moynalty

In Skyrne: 05/04/2009: Blackhall Gaels 1-07 : 0-09 Blackfort Gaels

League Div Results

| | | | | |
|-------------|---------------------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 29/06/2009: | Blackhall Gaels | 4-07 : 4-14 | Dunderry | (HT: 2-03 : 1-06) |
| 06/07/2009: | Rathkenny | 4-10 : 1-05 | Blackhall Gaels | (HT: 2-05 : 0-02) |
| 20/07/2009: | Trim | 3-15 : 0-07 | Blackhall Gaels | (HT: 0-07 : 0-03) |
| 30/07/2009: | Blackhall Gaels | 1-13 : 2-08 | Blackfort Gaels | (HT: 1-06 : 0-04) |
| 28/08/2009: | Moynalty | 4-12 : 1-09 | Blackhall Gaels | |
| Not played: | Bective v Blackhall Gaels | | | |

Finally, thank you to coaches Liam Keane and Paul Nestor and their support group of Edmund Hegarty, Gerry Stenson, John Keane, Peadar Creagh, Sean Kelly, and other parents of players who provided transport and officiated at games among other assistance provided during the season.



Minor team, coaches and Co. players Joe Sheridan & Conor Burke after **the** presentation of medals in Batterstown on 3rd September

Underage Hurling

Indoor Hurling – as usual the younger players from the club were introduced to the basics of hurling over a number of weeks in the spring time and as is the tradition a great time was had by all:



U14 Hurling:



Michael O Neil (???) and Fergus Ryan are missing from photo,

The number of players available to play at this age level within the club is **limited**. We debated long and hard whether it was viable to even enter a team, our full panel only consisted of 15 players total, so any absenteeism would leave us short. **Player pressure came to bear on us and** the fact that it's a Fair Play competition we decided to bite the bullet.

We hosted Moylough/Kilskyre on Sun Aug 16 for our first outing, training together with the U-15 team was going well and the player's first touch was getting sharper. Paul Kelly had a man of the match performance at full back with Shane McGuinness going well in the forwards. We ran out easy winners **at the** finish.

Our next game was away to Trim **and** while the players were in awe of the facilities they were by no means overwhelmed by the opposition. We got off to a good start and held our own for **the** first 10mins. Then Trim got the ball down field and got a lucky bounce **of the ball and it ended up in** the corner of the net. BHG battled hard and with a great point from play by Shane McGuinness, then another from Niall Kelly, followed by **another by** Shane and **not to be outdone,** his younger brother Robbie got a great individual **score** from play. A great spell from the BHG boys. Trim replied with a point from a free and 2 others from play **and we** went into the break trailing by 2 points. A strong wind assisted Trim in the second half and again we gave away another soft goal. To our credit we responded **magnificently. Excellent** defending by Marcus Hayden sent a long clearance downfield where it was volleyed to the net by Joe Walshe. We continued to defend and were under constant pressure but again we replied to a Trim onslaught with great tenacity, working extremely hard throughout to stay within reach. **Our overall** performance was excellent **and we ended up** with just the narrowest of defeats.

We visited Donaghmore/Ashbourne with our strongest panel and set about our business early on with some nicely taken points from play by Donnacha Healy and Shane McGuinness. A well taken goal by Liam Farrell and we were on the way to

another victory. James Hayden played extremely well with Alan O'Brien showing some lovely touches. Unfortunately our next outing with Rathmolyan was cancelled due to an outbreak of swine flu !

Away to Boardsmill, we were expecting a tough game and were not disappointed. The BHG boys were on their best form of the year and with Niall Kelly excelling at midfield we were not going to be outdone. Sean Healy linked up nicely with James Kelly to get the scoring underway. This was followed shortly a well taken goal by Shane McGuinness. Pádraic Keane got inside the defence and a lovely pass across the 21 was planted in the back on the net by Alan O'Brien. We held onto our half time lead and finished out with a comfortable win.

Disappointingly, our boys lost out narrowly on a semi-final qualification spot with just 1 defeat but it was an absolute pleasure to participate with such a lovely group of players. A real credit to the Club and their parents, they consistently turned up without exception for training and matches alike. The improvement with every outing was obvious and it was so rewarding to watch these boys deliver on their potential.

Finally, congratulations to Shane McGuinness and Donnacha Healy, who represented our Club at Under 14 County Level.

Congratulations and well done also to Shane Whitty and Philip Carey, who represented the Club at Under 15 County Level.

Team management, Paul Carey & Ciaran McGuinness would like to thank all players and parents for their dedication and support throughout the year.

Panel: Niall Kelly, Paul Kelly, Hugh Smith, Fergus Ryan, Alan O'Brien, Shane McGuinness, Robbie McGuinness, Joe Walsh, Donnacha Healy, Sean Healy, James Kelly, James Hayden, Marcus Hayden, Pádraic Keane, Liam Farrell

U15 Hurling

As the Under 14 Title holders from 2008 we were really looking forward to this campaign. We started very well with a win away to Moylough/Kilskyre, thanks to a great team effort. Our next game was against a very strong Kiltale team, in which we were not so lucky, but, gave a very good account of ourselves. We kept up the hard training and eventually got into the semi final which was played in Dunganny against Clann Na nGael. BHG played very strongly in the first half and were only trailing by two points at half time. Unfortunately our second-half performance dipped and we were unable to respond to the constant Clan Na Gael pressure. A little disappointing to lose out to the eventual winners, but there is always next year.

Panel: Niall Kelly, Paul Kelly, Patrick Smith, Hugh Smith, Shane Whitty, Philip Carey, Colin Farrell, Stephen Corcoran, Michael O'Neill, Fergus Ryan, Alan O'Brien, Shane McGuinness, Robbie McGuinness, Joe Walsh, Donnacha Healy, James Kelly

Mentors for U15 & U14 Hurling: Paul Carey & Ciaran McGuinness

County Teams / Development Squads

Minor Hurling



Stephen Morris

U-17 Football



Conor Stenson

U-15 Hurling



Shane Whitty



Philip Carey

U-14 Hurling



Shane McGuinness



Donnacha Healy

2009 Juvenile Committee

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| Chairperson: | Gerry Stenson |
| Secretary: | Máire Keane |
| Children's Officer: | Miriam Mullally |
| Registration Officer: | Miriam Mullally |
| Committee: | Ambrose O'Brien, Paddy Kelly, Ciaran McGuinness, Gerry Nally, Declan Keaveney, Maura Smith, Noel Farrell, Roger Tobin, Paul Carey, Peadar Creagh, Padraig Pearl, and the 3 officers named above |
| Delegates to Coiste Iomána na nÓg: | Ciaran McGuinness, Paul Carey |
| Delegate to Coiste Peil na nÓg: | Gerry Stenson |
| Delegates to Coiste Mionúir na Mí: | Máire Keane and Gerry Stenson |