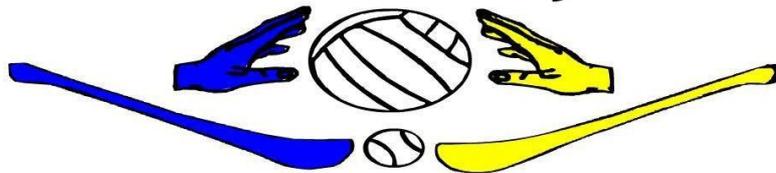


Gaelic Athletic Association  
**Blackhall Gaels**



Football, Hurling and Camogie

## **Underage Report 2012**

## **U21 'C' Football Championship**

**Management Team: Paddy Snee, Aran O'Dowd, Vinny Nestor**

Our 2012 U21's were graded in the 'C' Section of the Championship on request of the club taking into account the results at minor level over the last 3 years:

- **Minor 2010:** Defeated semi-finalists in lowest league division
- **Minor 2011:** Withdrew from the lowest division of the minor league as we could not field a team. Played 3 games in the lowest division of the minor championship and also in a minor shield championship final. Defeated heavily in all of the games.
- **Minor 2012:** Amalgamated with Moynalvey to form Jenkinstown Gaels who were runners up in the Div. 2 league final and beaten semi finalists in the Div. 2 Championship. Four Blackhall Gaels players were consistent starters on the team.

In addition only one U-21 player (Stephen Morris) played on the first adult team in the current championship. Another, John Kelly, made a cameo appearance in just one game, as an injury substitute.

Preparations for the championship started with training on Friday 14th September. On the first night we had 8 players present and attendance varied between a low of 5 at a midweek session to a high of 11. In total the squad consisted of 17 players, 4 of whom are minors. Of the remaining 13, five had played no adult football during 2012. Our focus in training was to improve the players' fitness and basic skills, while maintaining a high intensity with lads working with the ball and at speed at all times.

Obviously with the minor football and Hurling competitions running into November this hampered preparations; however we were very happy with the attitude of the players to work during training. Minor fixtures also prevented us from organising any challenge matches so the only match preparation we had prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> round was the last round of the B League where we used 14 of the U 21 squad in beating St. Colmcille's.

### **U21 C FC 1st Round Vs St Vincents in Curraha 28<sup>th</sup> October**

We commenced the campaign with a battling win against St Vincent's in difficult playing conditions in Curraha on 28th October. Playing against the elements in the first half the lads defended resolutely and despite a slow start went in at half time leading by the minimum 1-03 to 0-05. This lead could have been greater had it not been for some excellent saves by the St Vincent's goalkeeper including a penalty save.

St Vincent's hit two goals in quick succession at the start of the 2<sup>nd</sup> half leaving us 6 points down with 20 minutes to play. However the lads upped their workrate from then on and showed great attitude and belief to overturn the deficit and run out winners on a final score of Blackhall Gaels 3-07 St Vincent's 2-08.

### **U21 C FC Quarter Final Vs Ballivor in Summerhill 4<sup>th</sup> November**

The quarter final draw resulted in us playing Ballivor who had beaten Moynalty in the first round.

Once again we played against the elements in the first half and initially we struggled to compete with incessant Ballivor pressure resulting in 4 points on the board within 10 minutes. However Paul Kelly then struck for an opportunistic goal and this spurred the lads on to hit 3 points in a row. Unfortunately Ballivor regained the upper hand just before half time and a goal and two quick points left them 6 points to the good at the break: 2-06 to 1-03.

The second half had barely started when Ballivor hit us for two quick goals opening up a considerable gap between the teams. To their credit our lads battled on to the end but the game was over as a contest from a long way out with a physically stronger Ballivor outfit well worth their semi final place on a final score of Blackhall Gaels 1-08 Ballivor 5-12.

### **Summary**

While we were obviously very disappointed with the magnitude of the defeat to Ballivor, we were nonetheless very encouraged by the enthusiasm, attitude and ability shown by the 17 players who were part of the squad. It is now vital to ensure every effort is made to keep as many of these lads as possible playing adult football for the club in the coming years.

### **2012 Squad List**

<u>Last Year U21</u>	<u>U21 2013</u>	<u>2012 Minor</u>
Conor Delany	Darragh Corcoran	Paddy Connell
Ciaran Hegarty	Conor Stenson	Shane Whitty
Sean Carty	Andrew Creagh	Niall Kelly
John Mulligan	Niall Mangan	Paul Kelly
Joe Staunton	Stephen Morris	
Danny Byrne	John Kelly	
	Ian Cassidy	

## **U-21 Hurling**

Blackhall Gaels joined up with Drumree to enter the U-21 Hurling Championship, drawn against Rathmolyon who subsequently withdrew from the competition we went on to beat Longwood in the semi-final 2:12 to 2:07. The final will be against Derry (provisionally fixed for 16<sup>th</sup> Dec)

### **U-21 Panel:**

Paul Kelly, Brendan O' Malley, Conor Delany, Gavin Byrne, Gareth Rooney, Shane Whitty, Conor O' Sullivan, Stephen Morris, James Rattigan, Stephen Doyle, Keith Rooney, Colm Whitty, Niall Mangan, Philip Carey, James Reilly, Niall Kelly, Robert Connolly, Andrew Kiernan, Colin Farrell, Sean Gavin, Charlie Doolan, James Doolan.

As well as congratulations to Stephen Morris for his county exploits but also for being selected to play on the U-21 International Shinty panel and to Shane Whitty who was awarded Meath Young Hurler of the year 2012.

## Drumree/BHG Minor Hurling Div 2 Championship & League



We opened our season with a game against Donaghmore/Ashbourne in Batterstown, the result was very impressive given that it was our debut match playing as Blackhall/Drumree in the team's first season together. We had some hard battles along the way, but what really brought the team on was the semi-final against Kilmessan which ended in a draw first time out and was pushed to extra time on the second outing, but the lads dug deep and came out on top. We now faced a long awaited final with a level of confidence, which was against Rathmoylon, the only team who had beaten us in the league and championship qualification rounds. This match proved to be the battle that was anticipated. At the end of normal time the sides were level and our lads went into extra time with a level of determination that proved too hard to beat. Final Score: BHG/Drumree 1-16 Rathmoylon/Na Fianna 1-13. All the hard training and commitment from every member of the team and management really paid off and provided a great days entertainment. We are now looking forward to the League Final which will also be against Rathmoylon/Na Fianna. You never know we might pull off the double!



09-12-12	12.30pm/Dunboyne	Drumree/BHG	vs	Rathmoylon	Minor B Championship Final
16-11-12	7.30pm/ Dunganny	Drumree/BHG <b>3-11</b>	vs	Kilmessan <b>2-12</b>	Minor 'B' Championship Semi Final Replay
09-11-12	7.30pm/ Dunganny	Drumree/BHG <b>3-17</b>	vs	Kilmessan <b>5-11</b>	Minor 'B' Championship Semi Final
29-10-12	2.30pm/ Dunboyne	Drumree/BHG <b>4-16</b>	vs	Dunboyne <b>2-06</b>	Minor Hurling League Semi Final
19-10-12	7.30pm/Dunganny	Drumree/BHG <b>7-12</b>	vs	Bordsmill <b>2-05</b>	Minor Hurling League Rd5
06-09-12	6.30pm/ Ashbourne	Drumree/BHG <b>1-14</b>	vs	Donaghmore/Ashbourne <b>1-08</b>	Minor 'B' Championship Quarter Final
14-08-12	7.15pm/ Rathmoylon	Drumree/BHG <b>5-07</b>	vs	Rathmoylon <b>1-22</b>	Minor Hurling League Rd4
01-08-12	7.30pm/Batterstown	Drumree/BHG <b>2-11</b>	vs	Dunboyne <b>2-08</b>	Minor Hurling League Rd3
17-07-12	7.30pm/Batterstown	Drumree/BHG <b>4-18</b>	vs	Navan O'Mahonys <b>2-08</b>	Minor Hurling League Rd2
03-07-12	7.30pm/Batterstown	Drumree/BHG <b>6-15</b>	vs	Donaghmore/Ashbourn <b>0-04</b>	Minor Hurling League Rd1

## Minor Football

There was a sense of déjà vu for the minor footballers of Blackhall Gaels this year or maybe more correctly, for their coach Paul Nestor, when Moynalvey and Blackhall Gaels joined forces. Paul was part of the last coming together of the clubs at minor in the early 90s. This time the two teams played under the name Jenkinstown Gaels and while there was no silverware won there were positives to be taken from the union.



The first Jenkinstown Gaels team which played St Mary's Leixlip (in borrowed jerseys) in a challenge.

**Back (L-R): Joe Munnelly (inj.), Brian Harnan, Paddy Connell, Neil Culen, Mark Foy, Conor Egan, Conor Sheerin, Shane McGuinness, Colin Farrell, Paul Kelly, Michael O'Neill (inj.), Donnacha Healy (inj.)**  
**Front: David McLoughlin (inj.), Shaun Deering, Chris O'Malley, Niall Kelly, Fergal McCabe, Philip Carey, Eoin Mitchell.**

Other challenges were played against Confey, Walterstown, Curraha and Na Fianna.

## Minor Football Championship Division 2



**Squad which played First Championship match v Summerhill**

**Back (L-R): Conor Egan, Brian Harnan, Michael Burke, Conor Sheerin, Chris O' Dea, Eamonn McLoughlin, Colin Farrell, Eoin Mitchell, Donnacha Healy**  
**Front (L-R): Darren McHugh, Niall Kelly, Darragh Brannigan, Pdraig Harnan, Paul Kelly, Shaun Deering, Joe Munnelly, Darragh Walsh, Fergal McCabe. P Connell missing from photo.**

14 Oct: Jenkinstown Gaels 1-8 : 0-12 Summerhill

21 Oct: Jenkinstown Gaels 3-14 : 1-12 Dunderry

02 Nov: Semi Final (Dunganny): Jenkinstown Gaels 0-10 : 1-10

## Minor Football League Division 2



Jenkinstown Gaels squad which played first league game v Trim in 11<sup>th</sup> February

**Back (L-R) Paul Nestor, Liam Farrell, AN Other, Paddy Connell, Brian Harnan, Shaun Deering, Colin Farrell, Eoin Kiernan, Conor Sheerin, Darragh Brannigan, Mark Foy, Joe Munnelly, Frank O'Sullivan**  
**Front (L-R): Sean T Kiernan, Darragh Walsh, Padraic Harnan, Niall Kelly, Chris O Dea, David McLoughlin, Eoin Mitchell, Michael Burke, Cillian O'Sullivan, Paul Kelly**

11 Feb: Trim 1-9 : 2-12 Jenkinstown Gaels  
8 Feb: Jenkinstown Gaels 4-09 : 2-4 Dunsany  
18 Mar: Jenkinstown Gaels 3-15 : 2-15 Skyrne  
02 April: Jenkinstown Gaels 1-10 : 1-08 Summerhill  
23 April: Dunshaughlin Scr v Jenkinstown Gaels WO  
07 May: Semi Final (Batterstown): Jenkinstown Gael s 0-12 : 1-7 Summerhill  
26 May: Final (Pairc Tailteann): Jenkinstown Gaels 1-12 : 1-15 Skyrne

## **U16 Football Report**

This year's under sixteen team had a great victory in the championship. A thrilling victory over Oldcastle in the final was the culmination of a very enjoyable campaign. Early defeats by Slane and St. Michaels were followed by a vital home win over Nobber in Kilcloon.

Padraig Keane scored the winning point that night and that ensured the team qualified for a play off. Revenge for an earlier defeat was gained as Slane were defeated in the play-off with James Kelly, Liam Farrell and Conal Cunning outstanding.

For the semi-final the team had to do without Sean Healy who would unfortunately miss the final as well. Despite this the lads gave a memorable display of controlled, determined football to defeat St. Michaels in Carlanstown. Due to the one sided nature of their previous victory St. Michaels were stunned by the Blackhall performance.

The final against Oldcastle was a brilliant game with a thrilling finish. Led by their superb captain Hugh Smith and with Fergus Ryan in great form Blackhall made a good start and led at half time. Oldcastle rallied in the second half and a crucial goal with ten minutes left seemed to be enough for them to prevail. Blackhall didn't give up and Vincent O' Brien scored a late goal to force extra time.

With substitute Rian Kealy in fine form and Patrick Kelly scoring freely Blackhall went well ahead in the first half of extra time. It looked all over only for Oldcastle to rally in a extraordinary second period. Blackhall held on with a great display of determination and spirit to win by two. Great credit is due to all the players who improved with each game and showed great commitment to the Blackhall Gaels cause. Long may it continue.

## **U 14 Football Report**

Panel:

John Coakley, Paddy Conway, Cian Doyle, Jack Foley, Dessie Fitzgerald, Cameron Gallagher, Paul Gilmartin, Marcus Haden, Rian Kealy, Sean Kelly, John Morris, Conor Moyles, Ciaran Nally, Mark Nicholson, Tommy Lee O Carroll and Jack Strickland.

While we struggled throughout the year to put a team together our u 14s had a good year reaching the division 5 Championship final against a very good Nobber team.

The lads were very disappointed with their performance, but in fairness they fought hard in true Meath spirit right up to the final whistle .

In the Summer league we got as far as the playoffs.

Again St Michaels beat us by the narrowest of margins, and they went on to win the competition.

As with other underage teams we are suffering from a lack of numbers. It is a struggle to field teams especially with competition for the hearts and minds of players and the parents. Many are attracted to other sports because of the continuity of games and the almost certainty of a schedule of regular fixtures which will be fulfilled.

Mentors: Dermot Kealy, Paddy Kelly, Gerry Nally and David Nolan.

## **U13 Football**

Panel:

Daniel Bourne, Kevin Conway, Paddy Conway, Cameron Gallagher, Paul Gilmartin, Fergal Kiernan, Rian Kealy, Owen Kealy, Sean Kelly, John Morris, Conor Moyles, Ciaran Nally, Mark Nicholson, Tommy Lee O Carroll, Jonathan Pearl and Jack Strickland.

Again we struggled to get numbers together for the same reasons as cited in the u-14 report. It did not help that Rian Kealy who is the spiritual and physical leader of the team was injured and unavailable to play in any of our matches. We also missed our main full forward Paddy Conway. Sometimes with big panels a few players won't be so severely missed. Unfortunately when the big players are missing from a small panel it hurts.

We played all of our matches, but unfortunately did not make the playoffs.

The lads put in a huge effort and were a pleasure to work with.

Mentors: Dermot Kealy, Paddy Kelly, Frank Kiernan, Gerry Nally and Padraig Pearl.

## U12 Football

2012 was a mixed year for the Blackhall Gaels u12 team and the team enjoyed many good games against teams of similar abilities. In the u12 championship we had some great wins and most notably against Summerhill on a sunny evening in Summerhill. This victory ensured the team qualified to play Boardsmill in the semi-final of the championship. Unfortunately, on the day Boardsmill, with superior teamwork had a comfortable victory against us.

We subsequently took part in the u12 summer league and due to the shortage of players during the summer period, we played 7 a side, 10 a side etc. Competing teams were very accommodating and played games based on the number of players that each team had available. After qualifying for the semi-final, the team turned up to fulfill the fixture as notified by the Meath County Board u14 secretary. Unfortunately after travelling to Boardsmill on the August bank holiday weekend, the home team did not turn up. Both parents and the teams mentors agreed on the day that they would not replay the fixture as we had fulfilled the official fixture. One family had delayed their holiday by one day and another family had travelled home early from holiday so that their son could play in the game. There followed a written request to the Juvenile County Board to award the fixture to BHG. However after a lengthy process taking approximately 7 weeks we were told to replay the game which we refused to do and forfeited the game.

While some club members did not agree with the course of action taken by the parents and mentors on this occasion a stand had to be taken. There is an on-going problem in the juvenile section of Meath GAA whereby games are fixed and not fulfilled by clubs. They are then rescheduled often to suit the availability of the “stronger” players rather than playing the game so that all squad members get to play. Likewise, games should be consistently fixed for a certain day of every week, for example u12 play on Saturday afternoon, u16 on Sunday morning etc..

A small squad of players were mentored by Paddy Kelly, Padraig Pearl and Frank Kiernan and even though the team don't have any medals to show for their efforts, it was extremely satisfying for the mentors to see the team progress and improve their football skills throughout the year.

## Nursery/u8/u10



It was another busy year for our youngest underage groups. The nursery numbers continued to swell as more and more children turned up to learn the basic skills being taught so well by Shea and his team every Saturday @ 11. It was also encouraging to see some of them acquit themselves well at an U-7 match recently in Ashbourne, with the levels of skill and commitment both showing their progression and auguring well for the future. Our u-8 and u-10 groups competed well all year, with the traditional Dunganny blitz days in spring and autumn being well attended and hard fought by all our players. During the year, both groups performed strongly at a number of blitzes throughout the county, including one we hosted ourselves in April. The Summerhill tournament finals day in September was another day where a number of our stars shone brightly. However, the highlight for this group was the fabulous day out in Croke Park on 20 August for our u-8 team (match report and team photo attached). To all the children, parents and coaches, many thanks for all your efforts in 2012. We look forward to seeing you all again early in the new year – another year older, possibly wiser and certainly, we hope, as enthusiastic and committed as you have been.

