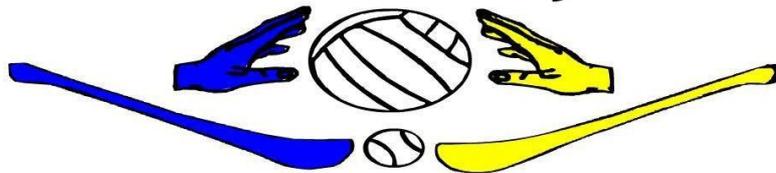


Gaelic Athletic Association  
**Blackhall Gaels**



Football, Hurling and Camogie

## **Underage Report 2013**

## **U-21 "A" Hurling**

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2012 the amalgamated team of Blackhall Gaels - Drumree beat Dunderry in the U-21B hurling final, 2:11 to 1:07. This win meant promotion to the top grade. We would be competing in the "A" grade in 2013. Drawn against Kildalkey in the first round and with Kildalkey fielding nine of their senior hurling panel we were not expected to progress. We went on to win this contest Blackhall Gaels / Drumree 2-13 Kildalkey 1-13 with outstanding performances from Shane Whitty, Stephen Morris & James Reilly to book a place in the semi-final against Killyon.

On 10<sup>th</sup> November we met a strong and hardened Killyon team, we had to dig deep to come away with the victory. Killyon pushed us right to the final whistle but once again we found another gear and secured the win with a spirited performance from all and progressed to our first ever U-21 A Hurling final. On the other side of the group Kiltale beat Trim so a showdown with Kiltale was now fixed for Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November at 2pm, in Trim.

In what can only be described as farcical scenes on the appointed day in Trim Blackhall Drumree were the only team to show up to decide the destination of the title.

It appears from media reports that Kiltale had sought to have the game postponed because two of their players who were also members of the Summerhill senior football panel would be involved in the Leinster Club SFC semi-final against St Vincent's at Parnells Park the next day. The Meath CCC apparently refused this as it had been confirmed to us that the final should go ahead. As we had received official notification for the game we had no option but to honour this scheduled fixture. Blackhall Gaels-Drumree showed up as did the referee Gerry O'Brien and his four umpires and a sizeable number of supporters. We lined out for the game but there was no opposing team

At the appointed time of 2pm the match official threw in the ball. Blackhall Gaels-Drumree worked the sliotar downfield with their captain Stephen Morris firing it over the bar. With no-one to puck the ball out the referee brought a halt to proceedings. No trophy was presented with the issue to be dealt with by the CCC.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> December we received written communication from the CCC confirming their decision that Blackhall Gaels / Drumree have being awarded the U-21A Hurling Final. At the time of compiling this report Kiltale are appealing that decision.

### ***Richard Morris***

#### **Panel:**

R Connolly, D Christie, K Rooney, G Byrne ©, G Rooney, S Whitty, N Kelly, J Wall, J Kelly, D Reilly, S Morris ©,  
L Carey, P Carey, N Mangan, J Reilly, P Kelly, D Lawless, S Gallogly, C Gavin, S Gavin, P Smith, A Doolan, D Walsh, D Baggot, K Donohue.

**Selectors:** Brian Coughlan, Christy Mangan, Ronan Curley, Richard Morris.

## Minor Football: Jenkinstown Gaels



**Winners of The Leinster Cup**

### **The Squad**

33 players made up the Minor squad for 2013, however it was only once we had a full turn out in the week leading up to championship. The squad contained some exceptional young talented, committed and interested players. 6 players in the squad played u16 this year also.

### **The Management Team**

Aran O'Dowd, Frank O Sullivan, Thomas Coyle, Tom Mc Cabe and Leo Mitchell.

### **The League Campaign**

The League campaign started on Saturday the 8th of February with only a meeting held the night before the first game against Dunshaughlin in which we were beaten by 19points.

The teams form was up and down from game to game and during play was very patchy. I found that a change in mentality was needed: that players were playing at a lower division and felt they were good enough to show up and win and that they rarely needed to train. Luckily a 6 week break happened during the campaign and this allowed us time to change the mentality. We began training twice a week and this raised the team's fitness, skill and tactical levels, we improved dramatically from here on and ended up playing Dunshaughlin in the Semi Final who beat us by 3 points. With a full strength team (no Brian Harnan) we could have closed the gap. Dunshaughlin went on to the Division 1 championship semi-final.

Everyone believed that we were all going together and in the right direction.

### **The Summer Break (Development period for U17s)**

With a long break on the cards, I felt it was a good idea to make use of the time to get the best out of the players. It was clear; there was a gap in quality between the U18 players and U17 players; this gap was fitness, skill and attitude. It was over the next few months we played several challenge matches against lower division teams and had lots of intense training sessions. With players away on holidays etc numbers were low on some occasions but we still had enough to train.

### **The Championship**

It was clear the summer period stood to us and helped the squad; players developed and improved and felt if they could play well they could get into the team. Training increased a level and players stated how they were enjoying football. We beat Skyrne in the first round with ease despite missing our county players. Then grinded out a result against Scenehlestown again not at full strength, this was a match we were beaten in at the start of the year by 6 points and won this time by 6. I don't think we would have won this match and battled as we did at the start of the year.

Trim awaited us in the semi-final. On the night key injuries to our only midfield player Eamon Walsh along with Mark Foy and sickness to Niall Kelly, Robert Lawless, Connor Sheerin and James Kelly left us short on the night. Despite not playing well and a few decisions going against us, we still had enough chances to win the game. Trim went on to win the final by 14 points.

### **Conclusion**

An average of 22.3 players attended training

The team trained 64 times

Played 23 on matches including challenge games

The players really bonded and blended as a team- no divide

Players on average improved and developed as individuals and as a team/

The team won the Cup competition beating all teams in division 2.

The team finished off the season in style by winning The Leinster cup by beating St kenvins of Kildare in the final.

***Aran O'Dowd***

## Under 16 Football: Jenkinstown Gaels



**Meath U16 Div 2 League Champions**

Final: Jenkinstown Gaels 3-8 : St Vincents Curraha 1-9

*“ A ten minute scoring spree at the beginning of the second half proved crucial as Jenkinstown Gaels (Blackhall and Moynalvey) defeated St Vincents Curraha in the Under 16 Division 2 football championship decider at a well appointed Kilbride.*

*The Vincents Curraha combination had the better of the exchanges in the opening half at the end of which they held a two point lead 0-7 to 1-2. A brace of points from the very impressive Andrew Battersby and a free from Sean Keogh had the Vincent's three up after ten minutes. Jenkinstown had been out of the game up until this bounced back with a goal and a point from Hughie O'Sullivan. Brian O'Reilly made it 1-2 to 0-4 for the winners after twenty minutes but Vincent Curraha finished the half with a flourish. Brian Murphy and two great efforts from Ciaran Phelan gave them a two point cushion at the break.*

*Jenkinstown had this match won after ten minutes of the second half scoring 2-4 without reply. Two pointed frees from O'Sullivan along with a fine effort from Sean Healy gave them the lead. Substitute Adam Murphy got another before Vincent Curraha were rocked with two quick fire goals from Patrick Kelly and Healy. The Curraha combination replied with scores from Murphy and Phelan but O'Sullivan kept the gap at eight, 3-8 to 0-9, with two points. Battersby pulled a goal back for Vincents Curraha with two minutes remaining. After the game Tommy McMahon presented the U16FC Division 2 Cup to Jenkinstown Gaels joint captains James Kelly and Robert Lawless.*

*Jenkinstown scorers: Hughie O'Sullivan 1-5, Sean Healy 1-1, Patrick Kelly 1-0, Brian O'Reilly and Adam Murphy 0-1 each*

*St Vincents scorers: A. Battersby 1-2, Ciaran Phelan 0-3, Sean Keogh and Brian Murphy 0-2 each,*

*Jenkinstown Gaels: A Ennis, C O'Connor, C Harnan, D Fitzgerald, F Ryan, J Kelly, H Smith, R Lawless, V. O'Brien, B O'Reilly, S Healy, H O'Sullivan, P Kelly, R McGuinness, S Duggan. Sub: A. Murphy”*

## **U 14 Football – Blackhall Gaels**

We had a very good year with the u 14 Blackhall Gaels getting to three finals.

To ensure that we had a panel we had to enlist u12 and u13 players as we had only 10 u-14 players.

In the spring League we played Dunsany in the final in Pairc Tailteann.

Dunsany had a great start putting seven points on the board before we got our first score.

The lads fought hard and drew level with ten minutes to go unfortunately we came up short at the end. The effort in pulling themselves back into contention obviously had taken its toll.

In the championship, we played Boardsmill in the final of Division Five.

That match was in Kiltale. This time we were well beaten. Nothing went right for us that evening and the lads were very disappointed.

For the first time this year we had a full squad of players with no injuries for the Summer league. It showed and we got to the semi-final in which we played Dunsany.

It turned out to be the best performance from all the players we had seen all year and we ended up beating the same Dunsany team which had won the spring league by 10 points. We were pitched against Dunderry in the final of Division 6, in Trim.

It was a very tight match. We were two points down at half time but the lads put in a great second half and we won by seven points in the end.

Overall it was very satisfying to see these group of player develop there footballing skills and been able to compete with the best throughout the year.

Congratulations to Rian Kealy who made the u 14 Meath development squad. This was due recognition of how exceptionally well he had been all year. We look forward to his continuing development for both club and county.

Panel: Mark Nicholson, John Morris, Sean Kelly, Connor Moyles, Ciaran Nally, Kevin Conway, Rian Kealy, Eoin Kealy, Jack Strickland, Paul Gilmartin, Tommy Lee O Carrol, Cameran Gallagher, Fergal Kiernan, Jonathan Pearl, Adam McHugh, Daniel Byrne, Matthew O Mara and Jack Finnegan.

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

***Gerry Nally***

## **Under 15 Football: Jenkinstown Gaels**

Blackhall Gaels u15 joined forces with Moynalvey in September under the already established name of Jenkinstown Gaels.

Both set of players gelled instantly.

Tadhg Brosnan trained the lads on Wednesday evenings, and we played our matches on Saturdays.

Our training sessions alternated between Kilcloon and Moynalyey pitches.

We were graded in Division 3 along with Walterstown, Seneschalstown, Ratoath, St Olivers and Ballivor.

We won three matches out of the five and succeeded in getting to the semi-final, where we beat Seneschalstown by 7 points.

Our final against Ratoath was a tightly fought contest, with the lead changing hands on numerous occasions.

The sides were level with two minutes to go, but unfortunately they banged in 2 late goals and we lost by five points in the end.

It was very encouraging to see both sets of players respect and motivate each other on the field of play.

We would hope to see this arrangement to continue for the foreseeable future as it gave the players a higher grade of football, and this is essential for any player who wants to improve.

We had thirteen players from Blackhall Gaels, but only eight at any one time for match days.

Blackhall Gaels players were Jack Foley, Dessie Fitzgerald, Jack Strickland, Rian Kealy, Ciaran Nally, Mark Nicholson, John Morris, Connor Moyles, Tommy Lee O Carroll, Paul Gilmartin ,Marcus Haden, Cian Doyle, and Cian Greenwood.

Mentors : Dermot Kealy, Gerry Nally from B.H.G. and Paddy Reilly, and Mick Murray from Moynalvey.

***Gerry Nally***