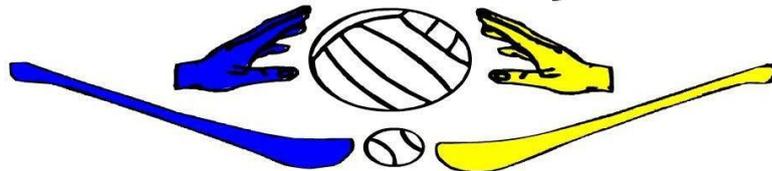


Gaelic Athletic Association
Blackhall Gaels



Football, Hurling and Camogie

Underage Report 2015

Under 21 Football

The under 21 panel in the club was extremely light we used 17 players and a further 2 were injured. It was difficult to train with such small numbers (players working, in college and with college teams). We played several friendly matches as preparations. We beat Drumbarragh in the 1/4 final by a point followed by an easy win against Slane in the semi-final.

We then beat Carnaoss in the final by 10 points. I feel the team could have been entered into a higher level as we played St Ultans in a friendly and beat them with a weakened team, they won the division above. We are losing 4 players from this age group and will only be replacing them with maximum of 2 if any at all.

Looking Forward

It was great to see the club winning a championship again and get such good support from the club along the way To continue the development of these player (not all are playing adult football) it would suggest Jenkinstown project at U21 Division 1 level be considered.

I would like/request to remain in my role as U21 manager this year 2016 (Blackhall/Jenkinstown either project) to continue to develop the players I have worked with as minors since 2013.

I would like to thank the club and players for the opportunity to work with the two teams (U18 and U21), it was a great experience to work with such a motivated group.



Back row- Stephen Corcoran, paddy Smith, Hugh Smith, Michael o Neill, Paul Kelly, Shane McGuinness, Shane Whitty, Colin Farrell, Charlie Staunton, Colin Farrell, Niall Kelly

Front row- Sean Healy, James Kelly, Donnacha Healy, Paddy Connell, Darren McHugh, Philp Carey

U18 Report

I became involved with the minor team at the start of August, no real management structure was put in place until now where we had a joint management team. Moral in the group was low as it had only won one match in the U17 and U18 leagues. However it was clear to see that the players were highly motivated to get fit knowing they were not achieving their potential. The group was a technically gifted, it was easy to bring them up to championship speed compared to previous years, and I feel this was due to playing at a higher level for longer.

After several challenge matches we started our championship beating Navan O Mahonys by 6 points in the first round. The team really showed how tactically flexible they were in this match, the quarter final against St Vincent's Currageha was another game we showed some great glimpses of football and were able to use some players who were returning from injury. We then played St Oliver's in the semi-final and although we didn't play to our ability we

still won with some serious team grit, great character was shown here.

The Final was in PT against Oldcastle I feel this game was lost for 2 reasons.

1) A lack of fitness (hadn't the year to build up that extra bit of fitness that would of seen us get over the line, some key players had played 8 matches in 21 days before hand, lack of scores in the second half - tired players)

2) As no one manager (50/50 half BHG half moynalvey) was in place team substitutions changed the match in a negative way and some happened without all members of management team knowing before it was too late.

Looking Forward

Blackhall Gaels had 7 players in the last year at minor and while some were injured, I feel most of those player could develop into senior footballers with a great mentality

I would suggest that a manager is appointed and not a joint management team at the start of the year

Under 16 Football Report

In the Spring League, we got to the semi-final in Division 4. Unfortunately we were beaten by Dunboyne in the final minutes of that game.

In the summer league we also got to the semi-final against Gaeil Colmcille. The match was abandoned by the referee because he was abused by the Kells players after he red carded two of their players due to thuggery, where they kicked one of our players in the Head and kidneys while he lay on the ground, when another one of our players went to his aid he was hit on the head from behind and had his nose broken.

We gathered the players after words and we praised the way they kept their composure during the fracas, also Dermot Kealy iterated the importance of players behaviour on the field of play, that there was no place for thugs on a football pitch, he praised their effort and instilled in them that we would win the replay.

We waited for a report, nothing, no communication , The replay we were expecting never happened, and Kells went on to win the competition with their full complement of players.

The powers that be took no action. It sends out the wrong message to young players, (that Thugs win medals)

There is something radical wrong here? And needs to be put right, even I am disillusioned.

In the winter League we played three matches winning one and losing the other two.

The lads trained and worked hard all year, and really gelled together and put in some fantastic displays. It was a pleasure to working with them,

Hopefully they will stick together as a team, as they can achieve bigger and better things in the future.

Players from Black Hall : Rian Kealy ,John Morris , Ciaran Nally, Mark Nicholson, Tommy Lee O Carroll, Paul Gilmartin, Eoin Kealy Sean Kelly, Danial Byrne, John Coakley, Cameron Gallagher, Cillian O Sullivan.

Mentors: Dermot Kealy, Paddy Kelly, Gerry Nally.

Under 12 Boys Football Report



Our U12 boys had a successful year. Participation was high with 20+ boys training and competing and training at this level. Training started early in the year with competition starting in early March. We came second in our league with a record of 4 wins, 1 draw and one loss. Our wins were generally strong, by a score of 3 points or more. Our loss was to the eventual winners, Balinabrackey, while the draw was to a Clonard team in bluster conditions. Our league position put us into the knockout phase of the competition but Longwood learned lessons from us in the league campaign and turned us over in the semi-final.

Cillian Garland Gleeson - 45 and free kick specialist with a strong shot from short and long range.

Oran O'Mahony - Great attitude, team player that has versatility to play forwards or backs.

Luke Jennings - Midfield, play maker with a great engine and work rate. Able to take score.

James Ruddy - Strong back that dominates the back row and powers over forwards.

James Daly - A tenacious forward that hustles gives 100%.

Colin Byrne - Our defensive rock in goal, consistent every game with saves that keep us in the game and kick outs that start attacks.

Paul Codd - A skilful forward with the ability to dance around defenders and open defences with accurate passes.

Kealan Forde - Half strong back with the ability to turn defence into an instant attack. Ability to take score when the push is required.

Paul Ross Thornton - The typical full forward, strong target man the worries defences with options to pass it off or take a score.

Podge Clarke - "The Bomber Clarke" - He's the target man that, receives, turns and places the ball over the bar with herons left foot.

Mark O'Leary - Another tenacious half back that put his body on the line every time. All in, against any forward with the skills to distribute.

Micheal McIver - Versatile. A great sense of positioning that seems to always be in the right place and with the hands to make it look easy.

Charlie Mulligan - A talented forward, with speed, skill and the natural ability to take his score.

Davy Sheeran - A great engine with the talent and skill to go far. Can play in forwards and back and always has a super passion for the game.

Alan O'Toole - Another rock in defence. Natural defender that seems to win more 50/50 balls than he is meant to.

Barry O'Toole - Skilful player with a natural ability to take the right option, even under pressure.

Sean Gerard Walsh - Attitude, powerful and skills. A rare balance with an unyielding passion to win.

Charlie Barker - A classy defender that can turn defence into attack by choosing the right pass and delivering it.

Killian Mangan - The battler of the team. The kind of back forwards hate to play against because he doesn't give them time or space, ever.

Peter Coakley - A forward that is also the first line of defence, forces defenders into errors and takes his score.

Mathew Leonard - New man to the squad. Has fit in very well and has the touch and attitude to do well in football.

Mentors - Robert Jennings, Brian Byrne, Gary O'Mahony, Padraic O'Leary, David Barker, Bobby Mulligan, Jim Ruddy & PJ Sheeran - A team effort.

Blackhall Academy 2015 Report

The BHG nursery team caters for the youngest players and aims to teach ball skills, hand-eye coordination, basic rules and fun and games in a friendly environment. The players are boys and girls from 4-6 years old.

On average 16 kids attended on a weekly basis. A group of about 7-8 moved up to the U8 towards the end of last season. Many of the children have shown talent and a love for the game and a huge improvement was evident as the kids continued to train on the pitch as well as at home.

There has been a fairly steady group of coaches working with the nursery team in 2015 and we are delighted to have been able to recruit a few additional parents to help out. However, the number of coaches can fluctuate at times and a continued effort to recruit more competent and motivated coaches is a focus point for the coming year.

Historically, the number of paid-up members in the nursery has been quite low, as this group can be very transient. However, this year there has been a push to ensure all players were paid-up members of the club for obvious financial as well as insurance reasons. This has been a very successful move in 2015. However, chasing after membership payments is a time consuming effort that will have to be kept up as the new playing season approaches.

Action points for the nursery for 2016:

- Recruitment of kids from local playschools and the 3 primary schools
- Retaining existing players, as they are the future of the club
- Recruitment of additional coaches
- Further educate all coaches in all aspects of coaching and supervising young players
- Push to ensure all players are paid-up members
- Ensure all coaches are garda vetted
- Acquire additional equipment
- First aid assistant at all training sessions



Under 8 Football

- 1. The under 8's attended a number of blitzes throughout the spring and summer months at various clubs as part of Go Games. In addition, we successfully held our own blitz in June. Every player who attended got an opportunity to play and all acquitted themselves very well.
- 2. Throughout the year, our training sessions focused on the basic skills of football. We held training sessions every Saturday without interruption until the end of October and we were only cut short due to the bad weather.

- 3. The number of players attending training grew gradually during the year. We started off initially with 5 or 6 players but with the addition of players promoted from Nursery and others joining we finished the year with 18 players on the list. Average weekly attendance of 14. Malachy Tighe also supported the coaching if either of myself or Phelim were unavailable.

Team

Josh Brannock, Mark Foley, Neal Ledwith, Lorcan Mangan, Liam Dolan, Charlie Sheridan, Tiernan Eviston, Stephen Tighe, Aaron Cranley, Bobby Barker, Charlie Regan, Cillian McIvor, Conor McCarthy, George Comerford, Johnny Hyland, Matthew Wall, Shea Brady, Aoife Neville, Tom Gormley



BHG Girls Teams 2015 AGM report

The girls section in the club went from strength to strength this year, contesting two finals and bringing home a county championship to the club at U12 level.

Success breeds success and by the end of the year we were nearly hitting 50 girls at training from U8 through to U13 level. One lesson we've learned is the importance of having separate girls training from U8 level up, as having joint training with the boys does not facilitate the development of the girl's teams.

The highlight of the year was the success of the U12 team back in June, overcoming Moynalvey in a tight tense final played in Skryne. The huge numbers that travelled to support the team were noticed and very welcome, and in particular we'd like to thank the many members of the club without any connection to any of the players who made their way to Skryne to lend their support that night.

A core team of 13 remained the same throughout the campaign, the highlight of which, apart from the obvious final success, was the semi-final win over Bective, who had been the only team to beat us during the league stages. It was the day this team came of age, and really demonstrated the 'spirit of the Gaels' pulling themselves back from the brink of defeat with a last minute goal and point clinching a narrow win.



The final itself was equally tense, and the celebrations afterwards were memorable, with a cavalcade of cars wending through Batterstown and Kilclon culminating in McDonalds in Maynooth.

The winning team:

Caitlin Berry, Aimee Byrne, Emma Byrne, Kate Clancy, Aoibhe Dolan, Lucy Jennings, Jenny Kneafsey, Beth McHugh, Kate Murray, Roisin O'Connor, Amy O'Leary, Louise Pearl, Lucy Travers

There were 4 other panel members who played a part along the way:

Aveen Byrne, Lauren Byrne, Aisling O'Connor, Olivia O'Mahony



The U12 team then entered the U13 competition in the Autumn. New players arrived and joined the panel, bringing the core team numbers up to 20.



Once again the team made the final, the highlight along the way being a backs against the wall win against a very strong St.Colmcille's team, after which their coach picked out the 'intensity of the tackling' as the difference between the teams.

This time the final took place in Dunganny on a wet and wild November morning. However despite a good start, their opponents Dunsany proved too strong for the girls on the day and ran out relatively easy winners. It was a disappointing end to a great campaign, particularly as the girls didn't do themselves justice on the day, and lacked a little bit of luck that you always need to win finals.



The U13 panel was:

Caitlin Berry, Avril Bowe, Kayla Brady, Paloma Browne, Emma Byrne, Aimee Byrne, Amy Cannon, Kate Clancy, Aoibhe Dolan, Abbie Flynn, Leah Hartigan, Jenny Kneafsey, Kate Murray, Roisin O'Connor, Amy O'Leary, Louise Pearl, Emily Plunkett, Julie Plunkett, Hannah Prendergast

Also during the autumn the U11 girls were in a South Meath league. The prospects of retaining silverware next year must be strong given that the team went unbeaten through the league. There was no formal competition played, but the club got medals for all the girls and had a very well received and enjoyable medals presentation ceremony in early December to recognise and reward all three teams.

The unbeaten Under 11s were:



Caitlin Berry, Aveen Byrne, Lauren Byrne, Aoibhe Dolan, Lucy Jennings, Jenny Kneafsey, Lucy McEntee, Beth McHugh, Kate Murray, Laragh O'Carroll, Aisling O'Connor, Amy O'Leary, Roisin O'Connor, Olivia O'Mahony, Louise Pearl, Leah Prendergast, Emily Walls.

Results from the year:

U13

Final – Dunsany

5-4 Blackhall

Gaels 1-3 Semi-

Final Blackhall

Gaels 1-7 Ballivor

0-3

League Games: Blackhall

Gaels 4-2 St Colmcilles 2-7

Dunsany 1-10 Blackhall

Gaels 2-4

Blackhall Gaels 6-13 Dunboyne 2-0

Blackhall Gaels 4-9 Drumbaragh 1-4

Moynalvey 2-8 Blackhall Gaels 4-11

U11:

Moynalvey 1-1 Blackhall Gaels 5-10

Blackhall Gaels 6-5 Dunboyne 2-1

Blackhall Gaels 7-14 Donaghmore Ashbourne 2-3

Kilbride 0-3 Blackhall Gaels 2-7

U12

Final Blackhall Gaels 2-6 Moynalvey 2-1

Semi-Final Blackhall Gaels 3-6 Bective 3-4

League Stages: Blackhall

Gaels 4-7 Dee Rangers 2-3

Moynalvey 2-6 Blackhall

Gaels 2-6

Blackhall Gaels 3-7 St Marys 1-2

Blackhall Gaels 2-6 Bective 2-9

Reflections on the year and plans for 2016:

We have a great bunch of enthusiastic and skilful girls that will form the backbone of a very strong ladies team in the near future. Credit also goes to the enthusiastic coaching team, with the likes of Barry Prendergast and Brian Byrne in particular deserving huge credit for the work they put in all year, ably assisted by Padraic O'Leary, Gary O'Mahony, Phelim Dolan and Tom O'Connor.

In 2016 we would hope to have teams in both the U12 and U14 championships (which will move onto the U13 and U15 levels in the autumn). We have a good group of girls coming through at U10 level that will be playing at U11 level.

As with many teams in the club, more help is needed with each of the teams, and we would hope to get more Females involved with each of the teams. Perhaps some of the Ladies teams would be available to assist each of the teams next year?

Finally, some additional equipment, particularly training poles, would be welcome and if the club could invest in a new set of juvenile goals, particularly the newer type such as clubs like Skryne have, that can be wheeled on and off a pitch, it would make things a lot easier for all coaches and teams across the club.