



J9-the Biggest Squad in the Club???



Our Two new coaches, Martin Kennedy & Thomas Broderick have been very busy since they joined earlier in the year as this picture of graduates from their 1st coaching course at he club show.



Handball's champions Present & Future?



A really great year for the ladies football section with the younger teams taking pride of place with the U11 and U12's completing a championship double. The club was well represented on the Dublin senior team again this year with Louise Keegan winning a Ladies all-star award.

Louise Keegan
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Nursery

What a year they are having down in Beechpark, A new team in place, large numbers taking part and lots of fun being had by all.

Roll on the Summer!



Best wishes for a peaceful and a happy Christmas to all our Players, Supporters, Mentors and Sponsors.



Tough luck to the Junior 9's who had the misfortune to lose their final to St Jude's by a single point. Match fitness told at the end and the 3 month lay off while the championship was sorted out was a big factor. Well done to Chris and Keith who kept a squad of over 30 going all year and who also had the initiative to do some fund raising of their own when new kit was needed!

Keep it up in 2005!



Well done to Paula Bruen our Captain on being voted club player of the year. Paula then went on to represent St Brigid's at the Centenary Dublin Camogie Awards where she was voted by her peers Dublin Senior B player of the year. This crowned an historic year for Camogie at St Brigid's where we got to a Senior Championship final for the 1st time ever and where we hosted a Camogie International tournament



This was another fine year for the Juvenile Section at St Brigid's with a host of highlights too many to include here. One team in particular excelled and that was our Feile hurling team who had an outstanding Dublin Feile before going on to the all Ireland Feile in Meath where they put in a great performance to beat the Tipperary representatives and where they were particularly unlucky to draw with the hotly tipped Galway champions. Lots more to come from this team in 2005!

Juvenile Section Season 2004

Nursery: A successful year was had by all in the nursery for 2004. Football nursery sessions were held on Saturday mornings while hurling coaching took place on Friday. Great credit is due to Declan McCarthy who followed the impressive path of Seamus Branagan as leader of the Nursery coaching. Well done to all of the Nursery coaches in football and hurling. Keith O'Neill and Sean Freine have done wonderful work on the hurling side.

U8s,U9s and U10s: turned out for the Dublin football and hurling programme of development games under special playing rules at various venues including Russell Park through the season. The teams also fielded in the indoor hurling programme in DCU. Mentors were delighted with the progress of the teams. Well done and thank you to Tom, Seamus, Frances, Enda, Gerry, Mick and their fellow mentors.

U11's: were also happy with their season. The footballers finished second in Div 2 and gained promotion to Division 1. The hurlers finished mid-table. This group is continuing to develop very well. Credit to Oliver, Martin, Eamon, John and Kevin.

U12's: This team finished mid table in football which was very good as they were struggling at the beginning of the year. In hurling they are improving all the time and the numbers taking up hurling has improved. Great credit to all concerned including Fedhlim Kelly, John and Eamon Dunning. U 11s and U12s also participated in the DCU indoor hurling series.

U13's: The footballers finished just below mid-table in Div 2 while the hurlers finished in the top four in Div 3. John, Mark and Sean are the mentors of this team.

U14's: The footballers finished just below mid-table in Div 1. In the Dublin Feile they found themselves in a very tough group. However having finished second in the group they qualified to meet Crokes Kilmacud in the semi final. Despite a brave performance they failed to outdo Crokes.

The same group of boys with their helmets on had a magnificent year with a terrific performance in the Dublin hurling Feile progressing all the way to the final where they lost narrowly and unluckily to Ballyboden. However they still qualified for the all Ireland Feile where they had a great run defeating Tipperary champions and drawing with the Galway champions. In the end they just failed to qualify for the semi final. A really fine Feile performance by our U 14s and we look forward to continued development by these players.

In Division 1 of the Dublin hurling league the team is deemed to have finished second. There is however an appeal pending on a disputed 2 points which if won would give the team a layoff for the Division 1 title.

U15A's. The footballers finished mid-table in Div 1 and got to the championship quarter final losing by 2 points. Ron, Mel and Paddy are the mentors.

The hurlers got to the championship Semi-Final losing to the outright winners. **U15B's.** finished in the top four. There was an unsatisfactory league as three or four teams dropped out. Great credit to Shane, Richard and the players.

U16's. The footballers won Division 2 of the league and the Hurlers got to the championship (C) Final losing to St Opliver Plunketts/Eoghan Ruadh after a very fighting performance in the second half. Congratulations to Oliver Cussen, Pat Doherty and Jim Brogan.

Minor A: footballers lost in the quarter final of the championship to Round Towers who went on to win outright. They finished in the top three of Division 1 and won their cup competition. The mentors were Kevin Kilmurray and Cormac with assistance from Eamon Dunning and Tom Hanley.

The Minor hurlers having received a bye to the quarter final lost to Round Towers who went on to win the competition. They finished in the lower end of the league and also played in their cup competition. Mick, Tim and Donal were the mentors.

Minor B Footballers are in a playoff for their league (Division 4) and got a good run in their championship. Very well done to the team and Seamus Mc Dermott.

Minor C Footballers finished runners-up in their league and were beaten by Round Towers B team in the championship. Great credit and well done to Tim O'Leary and Donal Smyth for getting this team to field and do so well.

General

This was the first year of the newly restructured Dublin juvenile programme and despite the fact that it meant a very long year indeed for mentors - as the playing season effectively ran from September 2003 until now it has generally been positively received.

At juvenile level arguably the most significant and far reaching development was the appointment of our club coaches- Tom and Martin- during the year. A busy agenda of school and club coaching, foundation level coaching' communications improvement and seminars on important issues for young athletes has been initiated and is ongoing.

St Brigid's juveniles are now being brought the benefit of the very best in coaching and skills development by two highly qualified and personable coaches.

We look forward to the input from Martin and Tom in 2005.

Camogie Round Up

Under 10's Panel

Mgt: Aodh O' Murchu & Anne Hawkshaw

There are no competitive league or championship competitions for the U 10's age group.

At this stage of the girls 'Camogie careers' the emphasis is on fun, taking part and playing to learn the skills and tactics of the game. Once again at the end of the season Dublin County Board held the U 10's Blitz competition in the Phoenix Park over a couple of Saturday's. After reaching the final last year and losing out by a goal in a penalty shoot out our girls went one better this year and won the competition. A big congratulations to the girls!

Under 11's Panel

Mgt: Aodh O'Murchu & Catherine Hayden

The U 11's panel got off to a great start this season by winning the indoor U 11's Blitz. They also did really well in the league finishing mid table, many of the girls playing at under 10 sub up and play matches for the U 11's.

Considering this is the first year that many of the team have played 'competitive camogie' where adult rules are applied, it's a big step, the girls did exceptionally well - at this stage it's still about learning and taking part.

Under 13's Panel

Mgt: Catherine Hayden & Micky O'Sullivan

A solid performance in the league with some fine individual performances was the highlight for this team which is now building for next year. The player of the year award this time going to Aisling Dargan.

Under 16's Panel

Mgt Patsy Powell, Thelma O'Mahony & Declan Powell

This season the U16's panel played in the U16 league and the U 15's championship as the majority of players are under 15 and will still be eligible for u16 next season. They went out to a feile winning St Vincents team in the Championship quarter final and had a great run in the league finishing as runners up. A special mention goes to Niamh Donnelly & Joanne on their level of improvement over the season and congratulations to Grace Peacock on being voted club player of the year.

Senior B Panel Mgt John Peake, Tim O'Mahony and Dymphna O'Hanlon

The Senior B girls got off to a shaky start being well beaten by Portobello in their first league outing. However this defeat only made the girls more determined. John & Tim put the panel through their paces in training and the efforts of the girls paid off. We had some close tough matches in the league only losing once and drawing once and winning the rest leaving us runners up at the end of the season. The team had a fantastic run in the championship going all the way to the final where they were unlucky to lose narrowly to Skerries Harps.

Ladies Football

Under 10

We competed in division 1 of the league which only had 3 teams. Despite league defeats the players battled bravely and cheerfully. Our best run was in the championship where we reached the semi-final where we lost narrowly to Skerries Harps.

Under 11

Our Under 11 team brought proudly to Saint Brigids the first Championship victory in Ladies Gaelic Football for 2004, with a great final victory over Scoil Ui Chonaill.. The team also performed strongly in the League, finishing up joint top with Scoil Ui Chonaill,

Under 12

The Under 12 team played in Division 2, The last match of the league, against Scoil Ui Chonaill was the league decider and was won by St Brigids. The Championship series of games was exhilarating The final against Foxrock gave St Brigids Ladies Footballers their Second Championship cup of 2004.

Under 14

This year the Under 14 team played in Division 2. This team earned a formidable reputation in the league. A defeat in the first round of the Championship meant that we entered the Shield Competition and played the final on November 6th against Ballyboden St Endas. Extra time was needed in an exhilarating final, our team surpassed themselves and emerged shield winners. 5

Under 16

Finished in the league and reached the semi-final of the championship where the St. Brigids girls gave Fingallians a very strong run for their money. They fought to the final whistle but Fingallians took the day and went on to win the Championship.

Minor Team

Started training in the dark and played friendlies before the season. Won the league only dropping one match, and very narrowly pipped for the Championship, losing in added time to Kilmacud Crokes. Gave great support for the summer camps.

Junior

The Juniors didn't do quite as well as last season taking both league and championship titles in 2003. This was mainly due to the fact that they were effectively two divisions higher than in 2003, and struggled on this account. Ray Noonan came on board mid season and gave the girls a great boost

Senior

The Seniors started training at the beginning of January under the guidance of George Brennan. They got off to a great start winning the first few league games however, they weren't as successful as had been hoped and struggled in the later half of the season. George won't be staying on as manager this

Adult Roundup :

2004 was not the headline grabbing year of 2003 for our adult section but underneath the surface things have never looked as good with Junior and Inter teams competing at the top in all leagues. As we headed into the final week of the season, **our Inter footballers** were extremely unlucky to lose to O'Tooles in extra time in the Inter League playoff. Our Inter footballers were beaten in the Championship semi final by eventual winners Parnells, It wasn't all doom and gloom though as they won the Loving Cup with a 4 point win over templeogue Synge Street. Our other mens teams have also done very well with Two Junior League Titles secured by both the **Junior 3's** and the **Junior 9's**.

The 3's under the excellent tutelage of Noel Cassidy and Sean Cunningham have now won back to back league titles and go for a remarkable 3 in a row next year with a very young side. The Junior 9's managed by the dynamic and hardworking duo of Chris Lynam and Keith O'Neill sought a Champo/League double but just missed out as Judes pipped them in the Championship final last weekend. To come away with a League title and just miss out on a Championship in their first year wasn't a half bad return and credit to all the management and players for their dedication and commitment.

Our **Senior** and **Junior 1** footballers both had mixed seasons. Despite promising starts and leading their respective leagues at the mid year both could not make the playoffs and exited Championship at quarter final stage.

Our **Seniors** were surprisingly beaten by a very young Marks side in early June. The long road in search of All Ireland glory seemed to take its toll as the freshness just wasn't there on the day and we could have no complaints as Marks were the better side. With Gerry Mac now being assisted by former Cavan trainer James Lovett the team have already started a fitness training programme for 2005. With the majority of the squad who won Dublin and Leinster titles still on board, new blood will be needed and two names who have been starring for our **U-21's** who could feature next year are James Brogan and Dave Fitzmaurice.

Our Dublin county players have also been back in action with **Peadar Andrews, Declan Lally** and **Johnny Noonan** all playing against Louth in the Dubs first match under Pillar Caffrey. With 4 players still on the squad and with the new management team well aware of the talent out Russell Park way we can hopefully expect to see another familiar face or two don the sky blue jersey early in the new year. Our **Junior 1's** were unlucky to lose to eventual Championship winners Naomh Mearnog in a replay after missing a last minute free to beat them the first time out.

Our **U21's** have also reached the semi final of the championship and captained by Dublin senior Johnny Noonan will not fear anyone at this stage. They will play the winners of UCD/Marks early in the new year and hopefully can go all the way in what would be the team performance of the year.

With **5 adult** teams competing this year there is talk of another Junior team being entered in 2005 as the club sees unprecedented growth in adult numbers with well over 120 wearing the red and white this year. 2 League titles and a Cup would satisfy many a club but with ambitions having been raised out Russell Park way, Championship success will be the milestone for most teams in 2005.

The Hurlers too had an excellent year at Inter and Junior level. The **Inters** were beaten by a last minute goal by Naomh Barrog in the Championship final and will play the league final against St Finnians of swords next Sunday also. Our **Junior** hurlers claimed League honours and were beaten in the Championship semi final. The **Seniors** despite getting knocked out early in the A Championship went all the way to the semi's of the B Championship and lost to eventual winners Lucan.

New Team at the Helm!

A very warm welcome to Ronan Barrett who has just taken up the reins as club chairperson ably assisted by club stalwart Gerry Nolan in the vice - chairperson role. They follow in the footsteps of Pdraig O'Dea and Mike Sweeney who achieved much during their 3 years at the helm. – More on this story next month.



2004 was a vintage year for handball at St Brigid's with Eoin Kennedy leading the way with an all Ireland title. Later, a glittering presentation night was held in his honour at the Club with many famous faces in attendance including the Legendary "Duxie" Walsh. The main alley was given an overhaul for the occasion and it has been dedicated to the memory of Shay O'Reilly. Special thanks is due to Maria McCarthy and Julie Long for all their help in organising everything. Finally at Juvenile level we have a new and lively group of new players under the direction of Enda Timoney.