

Easter Camp is Huge Success



What an Easter it has been at St Brigid's GAA! The first ever Easter GAA camp has just finished and was a huge success it was with over 200 children taking part.

Full credit must go to the club development officers Thomas Broderick & Martin Kennedy who put in a huge effort to make the event a success.

Thankfully the weather obliged and great fun was had every day. With a team of over 20 mentors running the show and guest appearances from inter county stars there was never a dull moment.

Jerseys and shorts and the club Annual were presented to all participants and the children are already looking forward to the mini-leagues in June and the Summer camps later in the year.

In the evenings the club ran a School of Excellence for hurling and football and again this was a first for St Brigid's. A special thanks to DG Opel who sponsored the Easter Camp.



2004 Under 11 player of the year Ronan McKenna receives his award from Eamon McGrath

Brigid's Draw old rivals Kilmacud in SFC Championship



The last 2 Dublin Senior Football Champions (St Brigid's & Kilmacud Crokes) have been drawn together in the First round of the 2005 Dublin Senior Football Championship.

In one of the ties of the round current Dublin holders Kilmacud Crokes will be tested to the limits as they aim to win back to back titles (last achieved by Na Fianna).

Kilmacud failed to emulate their Northwest Rivals in Leinster in 2004 as they were beaten by eventual All Ireland finalists Portlaoise while Brigid's who won the Leinster title in 2003 eventually fell to Kerry champs An Ghaeltacht at the semi final stage.

This critical match is due to be played week ending May 22nd, with a Sat night show down the likely scenario at this stage.

Both sides enjoyed a mixed campaign last year with the reds exiting at an early stage and Crokes going all the way. In defence of their title Brigid's overcame a gallant Lucan Sarsfields in the first round before losing fair and square to a youthful St Marks.

With Gerry McEntee now being ably assisted by Jim Brogan (Dublin selector in All Ireland winning year of 1995) there appears to be a renewed focus out Russell Park way. All of the County winning side of 2003 are still around and with promising Dublin U-21 stars Dabhach Dineen and James Brogan pushing for starting places, competition for a place on the Championship panel is intense.

Brigid's began their league campaign with a comprehensive defeat of Lucan minus their 5 Inter County stars and by scoring 3-17 laid down a marker. Crokes too have their own promising starlets with Mark Vaughan and Brendan Phelan supplementing the old stalwarts of Jonnie Magee and Mick O'Keeffe so an intriguing battle is on the cards. Kilmacud have lost Dublin midfielder Darren Magee to Australia for a year so a lot will rest on the shoulders of Fermanagh county star Liam McBarron.

New Manager for Senior Hurlers



St Brigid's GAA club recently announced the new hurling manager for their senior squad. Joey Morris will guide the senior panel during the 2005 season with an immediate ambition to take Brigid's back into the senior A Championship, following their unlucky run in the 2004 championship. Brigid's are not short on talent and ability having contested the county final for the first time in the clubs history in 2003, they were unlucky to miss out on capturing the Dublin title, but hurling king-pins Craobh Chiarain were a more experienced side on the day.

Morris is well respected in hurling circles throughout Dublin and beyond. In 2002 he took O'Tooles to their eighth Dublin senior hurling title following their defeat over Chirain's. Previous to that Morris can boast six Championship medals as a player with the renowned Ayrfield academy. During 2004 he managed O'Tooles with his brother Marty Morris, the ex-Dublin boss. It is hoped that Morris's know-how and tremendous achievements in the field will rub-off on the Brigid's team.

The previous management team of Mick Callinan, John Bourke, Jerry Nolan and Michael Healy have left the squad in good shape with plenty of young players available to take a more central role in the senior hurling team. Morris has already begun a strict training regime at the Russell Park club and his own successes including a senior championship medal at just 17, O'Tooles Club person of the year in 1984 and in 1990 he impressed at half-forward as O'Tooles took the title in a replayed final have already inspired the Brigid's hurlers. The hurling team are said to be delighted with the appointment of Morris as manager, and are showing great commitment and enthusiasm in the new regime.

It is hoped that the 2005 season will see Brigid's back in the A Championship and after that has been achieved it is expected they will want to revisit the glory and passion that surrounded their appearance in the 2003 Dublin county final, only this time the silverware will be returning to the Russell Park cabinet.

Double Dutch for Junior 8's



Danny Schroder and Arjan Van Ombergen two new players on the Junior 8 football team are very welcome additions to St Brigid's. Both players work in nearby IBM in Ballycoolin and are living locally. As you might guess from their names they didn't come from around here originally and both are natives of Holland where they played soccer for their local teams. They are now rapidly learning the skills of Gaelic Football under the direction of Chris Lynam and Keith O'Neill and we wish them well a long and fruitful playing career at St Brigid's

Ladies Football News

With just a few weeks to go to the start of the league, all teams are back in training for hopefully another successful season for the ladies in the club.

Seniors are putting in a huge effort this year under the new management of Ray Noonan and Eddie Murphy. They have played a couple of challenge matches in preparation. The first match against rival neighbours St Peregrines which proved to be a good practise run for the girls and an indicator of what they needed to work on. Although they didn't come away with a win, there were some good displays of football and teamwork all around. 6

Recently they took on Garda in their second challenge. Good displays from Fiona Clifford in full back and points from Jaclyn Kilmurray, Joanne Bruen and Caroline Deasy got Brigids off to a good start and a fisted goal from Julie Carbery rapped up the scoring from Brigid's. With a few more challenge matches to play over the next few weeks, the girls should be well prepared and fired up for their first competitive match of the season in April.

U16/U18s training every Monday at 7pm. Matches starting Monday 4th April.

U14s training every Monday at 5pm. All new players welcome.

U11/U12s are training every Tuesday 5.30-6.30pm in Beech Park. Bring football boots.

U10s are training every Wednesday from 5.30-6.30pm. County Board will be holding a blitz on the 2nd April. More info from mentors Mary O'Connor and Ann Hegarty.

Calling all Mentors & Players

(from Minor to adult)

On the 1st Tuesday of every month there will be a coaching seminar at the Club

8 – 9pm
Russell Park

Upcoming Lectures (all mentors and players >18 welcome)

Tuesday 5th April 8pm - 9:15pm sharp
Fitness for Hurling & Camogie

Wed 20th April 8pm 0 9:15pm sharp
Fitness for Gaelic Football

Coaching Courses

See website (www.stbrigidsgaa.com Coaches Corner) for extensive foundational level training schedule being run during April.

New !!! Club Hurling Shop

The new club hurling shop opens every Monday night from **8:00 – 8:30** under the stage in the main hall. It sells high quality hurling gear and specially subsidised hurling packs are available which include hurley's, grips and sliotháirs. They come in different sizes to cater for all age groups and the hurley's in particular have been hand picked to ensure they are of the highest quality.

The main club shop opens Thursday from 7:30 to 8:30 and at the Nursery on Saturdays from 10 – 11 in Beechpark.

Club Diary

Tue 5th April -- Lecture (see above)

Fri 8th April -- Mentors Night

Sat 16th April -- Fashion show

Wed 20th April-- Lecture (see above)



Club Coaches Martin & Thomás with Derek Lyng and Marty McGrath at the Easter camp.

Camogie News



Congratulations to Catherine King, Emma Sweeney and Aisling Dargan who have been selected for the Dublin U14 Camogie squad.

The Camogie section had very enjoyable presentation evening on 26th Feb starting with crazy bingo followed by presentation of medals to U-16 runners up in league then the juvenile player of the year awards were made to U-11 Ellie Hayden U-13 Aisling Dargan & U-16 Grace Peacock.

The new season is already off to a flying start with our seniors playing their first match in **Senior A** at home to Raheny winning by 2 points. Our new **Junior** team had their first outing also beating Erin's Isle comfortably. It was great to see some of our past players back playing, watched on the sideline by the Granny brigade.

The **U-11's** had a great win over old rivals Ballyboden and the **U-14's** unlucky to have been beaten by Oliver Plunkett's, a team they had beaten in two recent friendly games.

On the county scene we are well represented with players on junior U-16 U-14. Elaine Duncan played in the games against Cork and Tipperary. Katie Murphy and Danielle Powell are on U-16 panel/ Katie played at midfield against Wexford. She got the game off to a flying start by scoring a great goal forty yards out from a free. She went on to score 2 more points. Dublin went on to win this game. Danielle was not playing in this game as she was away on holiday. Best of luck to all of our county players for the coming season

Anyone interested in playing Camogie for St Brigid's, contact our Camogie development officer Martin Kennedy on 087-2505135 he will put you in touch with the appropriate mentor.

Website

Check out our website www.stbrigidsgaa.com for some great new features including clubmail and a new club message board.

Membership Now ...Well Overdue

Membership fees for 2005 are now well overdue. Please pay up as soon as possible. See www.brigidsgaa.com for further information

New !! Juvenile Badminton



Badminton coaching and games will be available for boys and girls (Approx 10-14 yrs) at St Brigid's GAA Club, Navan Road, on Monday and Wednesday evenings at 7-8pm, commencing **Monday 11th April**.

The cost will be €2 per session to cover Shuttles, payable each evening to the mentor. All participants must provide their own Badminton rackets.

Note to parents: Participants must be a member of St. Brigid's GAA club. Due to the number of courts available, the number of participants will be limited to the first twenty four players to arrive each evening. Further details available from **Tom O'Brien at 087-2362923**.

FASHION SHOW Saturday 16th April 2005



A Gala Fundraiser Fashion show for Ladies Football will take place on Saturday 16th April at 8pm in Russell Park. A great night is planned for all. The latest summer fashions from various shops in the Blanchardstown Centre along with a special Debs section will be modelled by lads and lassies from the club. There will be great half time entertainment along with raffles and lots of spot prizes and goodies to be won. Please come along and support. **Tickets available NOW from Imelda Murphy 8224714 or 087 9206348. Adults €20, Students €10.**

2 New Sponsors for Camogie Teams



New Sponsors - Kinvara Pharmacy

At a jam packed evening in Russell Park recently, two new sponsors for some of the St Brigid's Juvenile Camogie teams were unveiled. First up was Justin's the well know local fruit & vegetable shop from Main Street Blanchardstown who are sponsoring both the U11 and U12 Camogie teams. They were followed by Kinvara Pharmacy in Kinvara Park (near the Breffni Inn) who are supporting the U14 team in their feile year.



New Sponsors – Justin's

If you would like to help sponsor a team as St Brigid's please contact the Editor.

Vacancies

We are looking for people to help in all sorts of ways, doing match reports taking photographs, distributing leaflets, helping out with the shop on a Saturday morning, joining the various committees. Now's your chance to put something back into the club....Don't be shy..Don't say you were never asked.. get involved today!!

Suggestion Box

If you have any comments or suggestions on the newsletter please call the Editor Brian Muldoon at 087 2346174 or leave them into the Red Box inside the door of the bar.

Finally, Congratulations to 3 of our members (Colin Murphy & Robert Fitzgerald & Niall Myron) who helped their school Belvedere to a record Senior and Junior Rugby cup double!