

Historic Day for Brigids as Senior Footballers Claim Dublin Title for First Time

19TH October 2003, DUBLIN SFC FINAL

ST BRIGIDS 0-17, KILMACUD CROKES 1-7

The News : WE ARE SENIOR COUNTY CHAMPS



St Brigid's Senior Football Squad 2003

The Game. Brigid's went into the contest as underdogs, but in front of an estimated 6,500 crowd, we belied that tag with a swashbuckling display that was crowned by some brilliantly executed points.

The influence of former Meath All-Ireland winner Gerry McEntee and ex-Louth boss Paddy Clarke was very much apparent as they carried the game to their opponents from the outset. Playing with the breeze, Crokes opened the scoring with a point from Paraic McDonald in the fourth minute, but they failed to maintain their momentum and trailed by 0-3 to 0-2 midway through the half. St Brigid's midfield pair Ken Darcy and Wardie had the better of their counterparts, Darren Magee and Liam McBarron, while the Crokes' full-back line had great difficulty coping with the sublime cross field passes of Rory Gallagher.

Rory fashioned a goal chance for Kevin Bonner in the 23rd minute, but the St Brigid's corner-forward injured himself as he caught the ball and decided to fist over the bar to put his side 0-5 to 0-3 ahead.

Bonner was immediately replaced by former Dublin/Leitrim veteran Declan Darcy, but the enforced substitution only strengthened St Brigid's hand. Inspired by Dec & Marty Cahill, the Gallagher cousins and the forceful running of

Declan Lally, the C'nock and Blanch side went into overdrive and kicked six unanswered points - from all angles and distances - to gain a 0-11 to 0-3 interval advantage.

Against the wind this was the best display of football seen in Parnell Park for a long while. Crokes, however, were awoken from their slumber by the half-time team talk and started the second half with all guns blazing. Helped by the switch of the tenacious Paul Griffin to wingback and the ball-winning ability of Conor Murphy, they got to within five points after seven minutes of the re-start. Murphy threw the game wide open when he found the net to cut the deficit to two and the pressure was suddenly back on the Reds.

Brigid's responded in great fashion with a brace of points from Lally and Gallagher, while at the other end, their unquenchable thirst for victory was best epitomised by Mick Galvin's flying block down on Murphy in the 49th minute. From thereon, the issue was never in doubt and it was left to An Taoiseach Bertie Ahern to present the cup to an ecstatic Wardie after the final whistle.

The Aftermath: Amid scenes reminiscent of an Italian Serie A game the team was welcomed back to Russell Park on board a very wet open top Bus. They were welcomed home by a huge crowd (Including the Blanch Brass Band and many local councillors and Politicians). Amid great ballads from the Eastern Harps lads Wardie was literally carried through the crowd with the cup.

He later paid tribute to the strength of the Panel in his speech later on that night every one of them including Hello Caller joined him on stage. A few other speeches followed (Fred Lynams being the most amusing). Some nice grub was served up and then the Party really kicked in. Willie O'Donnell showed he was as good a DJ as footballer, and the Hall rocked into the early hours of the morning with plenty of pints and Fat Frogs. An epidemic of Red Flu struck large parts of Blanchardstown and Castleknock on Monday with lots of patients seeking medical advice. There are simply too many people to name to thank for organising and helping all year so a **BIG Thanks to ALL who helped make this a great night.**

HURLERS : Hard luck to our Senior Hurlers who were beaten by hot favourites Craobh Chiaran in the Dublin County Final on October 12th. Chiarans had too much experience for the Barry Sullivan led Brigids team but

with the Junior and Minors winning League and Championships this year the future for Hurling looks bright at St Brigid's.

Action from County Hurling Final



Leinster Club Championships

Next up for the Senior Footballers is an away game in on Saturday November 8th in Drogheda against St Patrick's from Louth.

BRIGIDS ALL IRELAND WINNING DUBS

DUBLIN 0-12 TYRONE 0-7

The Dublin U21 footballers won the first All-Ireland U21 Football Title in Dublin's History and what a place to do it, in Navan, on the turf of our archrivals Meath.

Leading by 0-6 to 0-3 at the break having played with the aid of the considerable breeze, the Dubs batted down the hatches in the second half and picked off six more points to earn a sweet victory against U21 specialists Tyrone. Sublime efforts by captain Alan Brogan, Declan Lally and Graham Cullen gave Dublin the required cushion at half time. The opening period of the second half proved crucial for the Dubs. A fine effort from team captain Alan Brogan in the fourth minute gave Dublin a four-point cushion, which they would never relinquish.

A Declan Lally point in the 18th minute of the second half left the scores at 0-10 to 0-5. Then came the killer blow for Tyrone. Another spillage of possession presented Alan Brogan with the ball. He soloed towards goal and calmly right footed the ball between the posts with seven minutes on the clock.

Lally in particular was everywhere and contributed handsomely to this victory (2 points from play). John Noonan was as elusive as ever up front contributing 3 points (2 points from frees). There is no doubt that Declan Lally and John Noonan will progress further in the Dublin Jersey based on their performances in the U21 Championship and the Dublin Senior Football Championship. Great Dav for the club!

Juvenile News:

U-16 reach County Final Sat 15TH Nov v Cuala – 3pm Parnell Park All Supporters Welcome

Under 14 Hurlers top Div 2 league

Minor Hurlers win League (see below)

Nursery: The Nursery continues at Beechpark on Saturday Mornings at 10AM for football and indoors at the club for Hurling on Monday (7-8's) and Friday (5-7's). Hurleys will be provided but bring your helmet!

LADIES FOOTBALL:

Ladies Football welcomes Sponsors DG Opel (on the Navan Rd) have just recently come on board to support St Brigids GAA club with a brand new sponsorship deal. A delighted Breege Carolan from the Ladies Football section is pictured with DG Opel manager Michael Deasy sealing the deal!



Camoige News

Congratulations to all our Camoige teams who reached their finals this year. We reached the final of the U10's, U12's and U14's as well as the adult Senior B final and despite not winning any Silverware this time everyone did their best and we will be back again next year. We have also reached the Semi final of the Open cup which will be played shortly. New players and Mentors always welcome. Just drop down to the club at any time and ask for Patsy.

Handball

Good luck to all our players who are currently representing Ireland in the World Handball championships which is being held in Dublin this year (full report in next edition). Lessons for Juveniles starting shortly. Drop down to the club any evening and take part in this exciting sport...

Junior Football Finals Roundup

Just to show that it wasn't Brigids Seniors who have been working hard all year both the Clubs Junior Football Teams reached their respective County finals this year as the club aimed for an Historic and unique football Treble. Both the junior finals took place in O'Toole Park on Saturday 18th October and a huge Brigids crowd were there including most of the senior panel.

Our Junior 4 Football team kicked off the clubs weekend (week!!!) celebrations with a convincing victory over Liffey Gaels on a score-line of 2-15 to 1-4 Noel (The Beard) Cassidy, Sean Cunningham and the legendary Vinny (Hawaii) Mulvanney and Paddy (pitch unplayable) Duffy had this young side in great fettle.



Right from the off the Reds surged into this and some excellent points from forwards Willie O'Donnell, Mickey Gahan, Willo Corbett and Alan Beirnie put the 4's well ahead before Gahan fed O'Donnell a great pass and Wille finished to the net to leave the lads well ahead at the break. A brief revival from Gaels saw them score a good goal but Willo the wisp Corbett snapped over 3 points from impossible angles and with Alan Hughes and Des Carolan mopping up loose the victory was never in.

The Beards men fitness and ability was evident all over the pitch and the loudest cheers were kept for the introduction of subs Fred "Blood Sub" Lynam and Podge O'Reilly. Well done to the entire panel on a great League and Championship double.

Our Junior Ones were gallantly beaten by favourites Lucan Sarsfields by one point in the Junior A Championship final. Duigo got Brigids off to a great start with a good opening point and Brigids should have capitalised better on some early pressure. Once Lucan settled into the game at midfield they began to exert their dominance and their nippy corner forwards were always a thorn in Mick Melletts side.

Points were exchanged in a tight game and before the half time whistle and against the run of play Lucan broke down the whole field and finished the ball to the net to lead by 3 at the half. Some fresh legs on the Brigids team saw them come back into it in an exciting second half with both subs Kevin Donovan and Micka Walsh getting on the scoreboard.

Lucan were always able to up a gear and should have been much further in front after some bad wides. Brigids trailed by a goal with 10 minutes left but rallied again When Brianie Donovan was fouled in the square and converted the penalty the game was there for the talking. Again Lucan midfielder Duffer won some crucial possession and fed his half forward Nulty who clinched a deserved victory for the club.

Mick Melletts men never really performed to the heights they reached on a great Championship campaign which saw them beat 3 Inter sides and favourites Na Fianna. Well done to all on the panel in what was a great spirited year!

Minor Hurlers Win the Cup and complete the League & Championship Double!



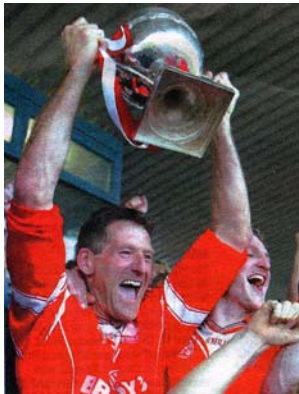
UPCOMING CALENDAR - DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES!!!

- 7th Nov Sr Regina Charity Concert with The Bards
- 9th Nov Leinster Club Championship 1st Round
- 15th Nov Juvenile D'ment Draw for Mercedes
- 15th Nov U 16 Championship County Final

Picture Round Up



**Happy
Fans after
The
Historic
Win!!!**



See These Pictures and many more on the club's website
www.stbrigidscgl.com

WANTED The bunting boyo's who had been very active in the lead up to the county finals are actively seeking new volunteers for the Leinster campaign. Those interested contact: Joe O'Shea or Mick Sweeney

Adult players to help out with Juvenile and Nursery Teams. Give your name to Tom Hanley or Martina Woodgate or to the Editor and we will pass it on.

We're thinking of doing a club Yearbook to mark 2003 but we need someone to help with the layout. Names to the Editor please.

Comments & Feedback Welcome

If you have any suggestions for the newsletter please forward them to the Editor Brian Muldoon **087 2346175** or to chris.lynam@eircom.net Alternatively drop down to the club on a Monday night at 8:30 and you will find one of the marketing group.