**Coaching Section**

**Easter, Summer & Advanced Camps 2016.**

This year the Coaching Dept & SSIP organised and managed the Easter, Summer and Advanced Camps. The Camps this year were very successful from both a coaching standard and numbers perspective. In designing the Camps the Coaching Dept this year took in consideration the circumstances affecting families in this economic climate and has endeavored to keep the cost of the camps reasonable. The camps offer our young players the chance to develop their skills, as it is the equivalent of attending 25 training sessions over one week. The Camps were revamped this year to increase skill levels, conditioned games and match play. We would foresee increased planning and evaluation of the camps in the coming years as a vital part of improving the camps. The camps employed 24 teenagers on average per week. While the camps would like to give all our members a position in the camps, due to numbers this can prove very difficult. Preference for positions will be given to those applicants who meet the criteria set down by the Coaching Dept. This includes coaching qualification, coaching ability, attending the camp coordination day and due consideration will be shown to those applicants who have partaken in the ‘Give an hour back’ programme of helping younger teams with their coaching needs.

As mentioned the camps on a numbers perspective were very positive. There were over 600 participants who attended the Summer and Easter Camps. In the current climate the camps have proven that organizing and coaching at a high standard, while paying due consideration to the financial needs of our members, is the way forward for the coming years. We would like to thank all the coaching staff who took part in this year’s camps as well as Mairead in the Office, people who help out on registration day, the caretakers for all their help and good humour and anybody who gave us a hand.

An especially huge thanks to all of our county players, both minor and senior who are always willing to present medals, certificates and prizes, and are always engaging and patient with even the youngest of kids.

We are all very proud of all of your achievements this and every year…THANKS LADS!!

We look forward to seeing you at next year’s camps.

**Schools Leagues/ Blitzes:**

The annual Cuala/SSIP schools leagues started at the beginning of September and ran on Wednesdays and Thursdays culminating with six marvelous finals on afternoons in October November. Over 400 children took part in the school leagues and 10 Transition year students refereed the games. Thanks to Adrian for taking time out to come and present medals at the boys finals.

We will run class based blitzes in Football, Camogie and Hurling and a local hurling development league in the spring.

**Coaching Committee**

Cuala vice Chairman Damian McKeown, this year undertook a series of consultation exercises with the various sub committees with a view to establishing a new coaching structure with a view to boosting standards of both play and coaching. This process is ongoing and has been positively received so far.

Damian meets twice monthly with the coaching staff to assist with implementation of a series of three month plans which the coaches use to implement their programmes.

Following from these meetings the coaching staff have implemented a calendar of workshops, team specific coaching sessions and courses.

The coaches have engaged in a daily reporting system which helps to track their hours and make sure they are getting to as many groups as possible.

This includes Foundation and Award 1 coaching courses, coaching workshops by age group and specific skills training for Mentors.

The expertise provided is continuous and ongoing and changes depending on the needs of the sections at any particular time.

Both adult football and hurling sections have highlighted a need for adult players to become involved in coaching underage teams as a way to regularize playing styles across the club.

We would ask all adult players to consider giving one hour a week to coaching at juvenile or minor level.

To assist with this it is proposed to run a coaching course for any players interested.

Adult players will be contacted directly regarding this over the next weeks.

**Coach Education**

The Coaching Dept has increased and delivered a number of workshops and Coaching Courses throughout the year which has proven invaluable to the development of our players and mentors alike. During the year the Coaching Dept organized over 40 workshops from the Academy upward.

57 Juvenile coaches, some of them still in their teens have completed our latest foundation award course in September with 36 Transition year coaches helping out with various academy teams both during the week and on Saturdays.

We had planned to run an Award 1 Child course in Cuala in October but unfortunately we had to cancel due to lack of numbers. We agreed to co-host an Award 1 Youth & Adult course with Bray Emmetts during November however despite 11 or 12 Cuala people expressing interest in the course only 3 actually completed it.

The GAA plan to introduce mandatory coaching standards at the end of 2017 and under these new rules the lead coach of every team must be qualified to Award 1 level. The optimum time for doing and running these courses is in the winter when matches are few and far between.

Cuala Coaching will be running only one of these courses in 2017 as we plan to run an Award1 Youth & Adult course in Autumn/Winter 2017.

We will be running Foundation and Child Protection courses early in January. Anyone working with players under the age of 18 should have Child Protection done and anyone coaching under 8 and older should have Foundation.

The Department has always looked to deliver the very latest developments in Coaching for the club and our players.

Our full time coaching staff continue to upgrade their skills by attending GAA In-service Training Days and are currently continuing to work on Advanced Coach Tutor qualifications.

We would like to thank all the sections for the continued support and cooperation and we look forward to working with you in 2017

**Transition Year Group.**

This year’s group number 36 in total with a great mix between male & female and from A & B teams.

They have bonded really well and have carried themselves excellently both whilst coaching in the Academy at the weekends and when cheering on the senior team as part of the Ultra group.

Their next outing will be to ‘Sing for Simon’ next Saturday, 17th December in Dún Laoghaire..all club members are welcome to join us…keep an eye on the website for details.

**Dayo**

Damian Byrne was named the Friends of Dublin Hurling Hall of Fame winner for 2016.

At an early age Dayo began his hurling career with St Michaels CBS in Dun Laoghaire, winning the then premier schools competitions of Education and Herald Cups, but it was the keen eye of Kevin Kirwan of Cuala who spotted Dayo’s talent as a goalkeeper.

With Cuala, from juvenile to Senior and despite having one of the shortest puckouts in the country, Dayo excelled in goals, winning county leagues and championships which included 3 Senior C’Ship Titles, 2 Senior leagues, U21 league and 2 Junior C’Ships and it wasn’t long before the county’s no.1 jersey was handed to Dayo under Lar Foley’s and Jimmy Boggan’s tenures as Dublin Managers.

Dayo was a true servant of the Dublin Hurling cause during that period, holding the no.1 position for almost 8 years, awarded Man-of-the-Match in the 1991 Leinster Final against Kilkenny when he put in one of the most memorable goalkeeping performances seen in Croke Park.

Given that Dublin lost out to Kilkenny by the narrowest of margins that day and that the award went to a goalkeeper, is an indication of his superb performance that day (for which he was awarded a beautiful gold watch, which he happened to lose shortly afterwards and hasn’t been on time for anything since)

More recently, Dayo gave back some of his experience as a selector and coach with the County side alongside Tommy Naughton.

So while Dayo has had an illustrious playing career for both Cuala and Dublin, perhaps his greatest contribution the GAA and Dublin has been his tireless dedication to the promotion of our games to generations of young players throughout the Cuala catchment area.

For over 25 years, Damien has worked closely with many schools in that locality, organising competitions, leagues and camps.

His patience and friendly understanding, endearing him to countless youngsters who went on to develop a love for hurling and football and who now themselves, actively contribute to their club at all levels.

Many of these youngsters who first learned the craft of hurling through Dayo have gone on to wear the Blue jersey of Dublin and the red of Cuala with such distinction of late.

**The Sports and Social Integration Project.**

The Cuala Sports and Social Integration project is funded by the Young People’s Facilities and Service Fund and administered by the Dun Laoghaire V.E.C. The objective of the Fund is to attract "at risk" young people in disadvantaged areas into sport facilities and activities and divert them away from the dangers of substance abuse. The target group for the Fund is 10-21 year olds who are marginalised through a combination of risk factors relating to family background, environmental circumstances, educational disadvantage, involvement in crime and/or drugs, etc. The Project Manager, Damian Byrne works closely with the Games Promotion Officer and Youth Development Officer in delivering all the school and project programmes.

The Objectives of the Project are as follows:

* To maximise the number of boys and girls (age 6-18) involved in sport and related activities in the targeted areas.
* To focus on children not already involved in Sport.
* To provide leadership training and personal development skills for older children (13-18).
* To provide opportunities for socialising with peers from different socio-economic backgrounds.
* To introduce and build relationships with locally based positive role models (players, coaches, administrators, leaders etc.) for younger people.
* To integrate an anti-drugs and anti-crime theme into everyday activities.
* To provide a community orientated sports programme based around established local management structures including G.A.A. clubs, schools and colleges, community and residents associations and local Youth Services.

The Primary Schools involved in the project are:

St. Columbanus. - Scoil Cholmcille. - St. Johns - Scoil Mhuire - Scoil Phadraig - St. Kevins - St. Josephs - Holy Family.

Second Level schools involved are:

Clonkeen College – Holy Child Community – Cabinteely Community School-St. Laurences College-CBC Monstown

The SSIP / Coaching Dept. achieve its objectives by introducing the following programmes into the above schools and club.

* Coaching Blocks for schools.
* Indoor Hurling and Football Blitzes.
* Astroturf Football and Hurling Blitzes.
* School Competitions.
* After School Clubs.
* Lectures on Smoking and the Sports performance. (Primary School)
* Lectures on Alcohol Advertisement in Sport. (2nd Level Schools)
* Leadership Courses. (2nd Level Schools)
* Midterm Training Sessions.
* Camp Scholarships.
* Coaching Courses. (Foundation and Transition Year Levels)
* Community Projects.
* Easter Camps.
* Summer Camps.
* Transition Year work experience.
* Placement of Transition Year coaching participants.
* Social Placements
* Employment for students in Summer Camps.
* Social Inclusion Programme (Southide Travelers Group, DLRD and Bray Community Addiction Teams, DL Outreach Project Oasis Youth Project and Sportsreach)

**Community Education:**

The Project with the VEC Community Education section has introduced a computer course in Cuala for those who are unemployed or are on work placement schemes. It is hoped that this initiative will grow and that Cuala will be a center for future community education courses.

The Project would like to thank all the schools for their co operation. We would also like to thank the Drug Task Force (Dun Laoghaire), Eastern Health Board, Dun Laoghaire / Rathdown County Council, Irish Sports Council, The Lucena Clinic, The Youth Service (Dun Laoghaire), the Dun Laoghaire V.E.C, Dept. of Children and Youth Affairs, Southside Partnership, Tus, DROP, BCAT, DLCAT, Sportsreach and all the School Completion Officers.