



**CUALA JUVENILE BOYS
SECTION**

AGM

11th November 2014

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AGENDA

1. Juvenile Chairman's Report
2. Secretary's Report
3. Age Group Reports
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Proposals & Nominations
6. Any Other Business

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It has been another busy year for the Juvenile Boys section in Cuala - one of the largest in the County and indeed the country.

First and foremost we pay tribute to and thank the mentors and coaches who train and manage the 7 age groups in our section. Every one of these volunteers gives of their free time and energy for no reward other than the satisfaction of seeing each of our players benefit from playing the world's two finest sports. The GAA is founded on a culture of volunteerism and we - club officers, mentors, parents and players - must all remember this when dealing with the inevitable moments of tension and important decisions which our teams, section and club face during the year.

We also pay tribute here to our young players who represent the club and their families with pride and honour. Their attitude and discipline are generally excellent and there's no better sight than to see groups of young lads with a hurl or football, proudly wearing their Cuala gear, at their own matches, in Parnell Park or O'Toole Park supporting Cuala teams, or simply walking down the streets in our locality.

Thanks also are due to our hard working Juvenile Boys committee - especially my fellow officers: Conor Molloy for his quietly reliable commitment to the crucial role of Secretary; Denise Flavin for stepping in to the role of Treasurer and fulfilling this task so diligently and efficiently. Mary O Gorman for expertly co-ordinating the major task of Section Registrar: Gerry Byrne for co-ordinating our referees; our Coiste and CCC2 Rep Damian McKeown. We bid farewell to Gerry and Damian who are heading off to the minor section - thanks for their brilliant contributions to this section and we trust the minor section will have important roles waiting for them to ensure the club still benefits from their talents!

Thanks also to the Age Group reps who have made a great contribution to the smooth running of the section and also to those who attended CCC1 meetings or fulfilled any other roles. Also to our Coaching team - to Ken Fitz for all of his work and support to our players and coaches and also to Willie Braine who moved on to pastures new in September. Willie has made an everlasting mark on the JB section and perhaps his greatest legacy will be the positive memories so many young players will have of their time under Willie's care in various teams and of course on the summer and Easter camps. Willie has not moved far and I am sure we will continue to see plenty of him around the place. We welcome the new GPO Barry Burke and look forward to working with Barry.

For our older age groups (Under 13 to 15) highlights of the year just gone have included the following:

- Our "B" Feile Footballers (2000s) reaching the final in their Feile - with a great comeback they nearly toppled Vincents but it was not to be. This team also finished second in their league.
- Our "B" Feile Hurlers qualifying from their group to reach a final in Parnell Park, where once again Vincents came out on top in another close game;
- Our "A" Feile Footballers reaching the semi final in their competition with some epic games in Thomastown - unfortunately one kick of the ball meant the run ended there;
- Brave performances from our "A" Feile hurlers who finished joint second in the "group of death" only to lose out on a semi final and a place in Divisional Feile on the narrowest of score differences

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- the Feile hosting efforts at Thomastown due to great work from the 2001 group, the Feile fundraising efforts, and the overall contribution of the 99 group, at A and B level, in their Feile preparations and on the two Feile weekends;
- the 1999 Hurlers reaching the top 4 semi finals in Division 1 hurling – a really excellent level of performance from this group through the year;
- And of course the 1999 B Footballers winning their Shield competition, a great reward for this group after all their years of effort – and a special word for Eamonn McGurk who has soldiered with them all the way

Competitions from Under 12 and downwards are broadly non competitive and therefore no silverware to compete for. However each of the age group reports show the strength of numbers from Under 9 to 12, the volume of training and games that are taking place and also the wide range of other activities and trips in which these age groups took part this year – all part of building the social and team bonds that will last right through to minor and adult teams.

Last year I set out 3 broad goals for the section as follows:

1. Coaching and Games Development

We continue to make great strides under the guidance of the Coaching Team – however it is fair to say that there remains much work to be done in this regard. We continue to be too dependent on the parents in each age group for coaching and as a result we do not have enough consistency of approach and quality coaching to ensure our teams are playing at the highest level in each age group. Fantastic work and effort is being put in and the “coaching of coaches” being carried out by the Coaching section is second to none – however as a Club we do need to continue to improve the support and experienced coaching resources available to our juvenile teams. In particular we need to continue focussing on recycling experienced coaches back into the juvenile teams when they are not already fully committed to older / adult teams.

2. Finances and Fundraising

Whilst our fundraising number held up well this year, the majority of our fundraising tends to be age group specific and does just enough to ensure each age group covers its costs. The section wide fundraising we completed last year did allow us to contribute to improvement works at Thomastown but we do need to re-focus on this area in 2015 to ensure that the financial strength of the section is more than the sum of its individual parts.

3. The “bigger picture”

Under this heading I will repeat my words from last year – as they equally apply a year later... Each of our age groups has a small number of parents and mentors who are active in the club outside of their own age group. However, relative to the size of our section, we have only a small number of people active in the running of the club as a whole and supporting club teams and events. We need to encourage more of our parents to each give some of their time and skills in some small way to broader club activities (The Stradbrook project has been a great example this year of engagement and the JB

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section has produced a number of key contributors to this initiative). Likewise we need to see more of our young players supporting other club team – boys and girls teams, ladies and mens' teams - such that all of us in the Juvenile Boys section can truly live up to the Cuala motto of “**More than a Club... a way of life**”.

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Secretary's Reports

Juvenile games in Dublin are organised by two committees in Dublin, CCC1 which for for players born in 2006(U-8) to 2002(U-12) and CCC2 which takes care of 2001 (U-13) to 1998 (U-16).

CCC1 set nearly 9000 fixtures across Dublin over approximately 30 weekends. This is comprised mostly of Go Games matches that are non competitive from U-8 to U-11. There no results and the emphasis is on skill development whilst steadily increasing the pitch size and numbers on each time. At U-12 there are first introduction to competitive fixtures with players playing competitive leagues but still not on full sized pitches.

When players reach U-13 they play fully competitive matches with 15 aside. CCC2 sets approximately 3700 fixtures across county in about 100 competitions. Nearly every weekend from February to early November has fixtures. There is a break in summer but even that now has a number fixtures.

Another notable feature is the large percentage of dual players playing both hurling football and hurling. Also year on year there has been a steady increase in the numbers participating.

Taken all together there are nearly 14,000 fixtures each year for Juvenile Boys across all ge groups and all levels. Whilst there are some hiccups along the way our players can look forward each year to a hectic, competitive and enjoyable year. This is all enabled by many volunteers like ourselves across the county putting many hours in to make all this happen with support of players and parents alike.

It is something to be proud of particularly as we keep to the community based ideals of the GAA where success is not just measured in medals and results but in seeing players develop and reach their full potential and doing this whilst in the company of the many friends they make along the way.

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Age Group Reports

2004 (U10)

We have 66 players registered this year in 2004 boys. We're now fielding 5 teams every weekend in the hurling Go Games. A 3 team group and a 2 team group. In the football we're down to 4 teams, but this is only because there was no 3 team football group on the south side this year.

3 of our mentors, Ronan, Patrick and Dermot attended the level 1 Coaching course at the end of last year. This was very good and we would very much recommend to any group that they should try to get as many of their coaches through the level 1 coaching course as they can.

We also had a few skills coaching nights run by Ken Fitzgerald for as many parents as we could muster up. Thanks to Ken for these, all those who attended them thought they were very good and gave us ideas for training sessions.

In general we find that the group is more competitive in Football then we are in hurling, and this is something we will be trying to work on. We certainly think that getting a facility like Stradbrook would hugely benefit us in this area, as the hockey pitches used for Winter training are not ideal for Hurling in particular.

We have been training 2 nights a week for the year, and we also made a greater effort this year to train in August while we had reasonable weather and the chance to train on grass. Many thanks to all our mentors/parents that help with the training and matches.

Highlights of the year would definitely include the tournaments we played in. In August we sent a team to Carlow to play in the Carlow Town U-10 Leinster Hurling tournament. This was a great occasion for all the players and mentors that made the trip, and it was our first trip this far afield. Recently we also played in the Dermot McNulty Hurling Tournament, hosted by Na Fianna. This was also a great event with a wide range of clubs from Dublin and outside Dublin in attendance. There were also quite a few C Football tournaments throughout the year hosted by Crokes, Na Fianna and Naomh Olafs. These were a great opportunity for the weaker players to get more game time against competition at a similar level and we would plan for Cuala to host one early in the new year. In December we will be taking part in the John Humphreys Cup, organised by James Gaels.

For fund-raising we had the "predict the score" for the football final. We will need to look at running a main fund-raiser for our group in the new year.

Thanks to Donal (chair), Conor (secretary), Denise (treasurer) and Mary (group registrar and our year registrar) and all the Juvenile committee who helped during the year giving advice on what to expect as well as keeping the Juvenile section well organised. Thanks to Gerry for keeping refs organised for the matches. Thanks to Ken for coaching workshops and also to Ken and Willie for the Level 1 coaching course. We look forward to working with Cuala's new GPO Barry in the

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year ahead. We've already seen Barry at some of our matches which is great, and many of the boys have already had him training them in their schools.

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Age Group Reports

2003 (U11)

Overview

We started the year with circa 64 registered players. The squad was divided into 2 x 2 team groups for Go Games. Teams were then streamed within their squad. Generally speaking we lost significantly more than we won with the less strong teams struggling more regularly. In recent months we have worked harder to address their competitiveness and believe that a fighting spirit has been created that will serve the boys well. We are finishing the year with 52 active players.

We are greatly looking forward to our Under 12 year where the boys will be in Divisions for the first time. We are hopeful that this will result in consistently competitive matches with more boys playing at a level which will challenge them but that also allows them to develop.

Training and Coaching

The squad trains on a Tuesday and Thursday evening. An average of 30 players attend training. Our Coaches through 2014 were Colmán O Drisceoil, Vinny Smith and John Bailey. At a recent mentors meeting it was decided to trial Head Coach of Hurling and Head Coach of Football roles. Colmán and Vinny will fill these roles respectively, helped by John. Tuesdays will become a dedicated hurling session and Thursdays a football session.

In addition to the regular coaching outlined above Robert Flavin has initiated wall ball hurling training on occasional Friday evenings. Thus far this has been limited to half the squad but it is hoped that these sessions can be offered to the entire squad in due course.

Between November and Christmas we are embarking on a skills assessment and development process for all the boys. The purpose of this is to help the boys identify areas that they can work on. This initiative was developed by Philip Mangan and has been endorsed – as a development tool – by Ken Fitz and new GPO Barry.

Managers and Mentors

The 2003 group has a great cohort of parents who contribute as team managers and mentors and who also participate as assistants to the Coaches at training. Circa 15 parents fulfil these functions. However, as we head into more streamed divisions in 2015 we will need even more parents to help out.

Challenge Matches

Beyond Go Games various teams played challenge matches at different times of the year. Teams have travelled to Waterford and Tipperary to take on local opposition. We also hosted Meath team Skryne in June where enough food was supplied by parents to feed two armies. A team also played in the Camaint tournament through the Summer months managed by Seamus Mac Giolla Phadraig with help from Alan Mahon. This was deemed an unqualified success.

Fundraising

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We have had some modest fundraisers this year – bag packing in Dunnes and also a recent recycling initiative. We remain very grateful to one generous parent who has supported the group over the last few years, and continued that support this year. His contributions allowed the supply of a personal football to every player as well as other equipment for the squad.

Our Thanks

On behalf of the Group we would like to thank Colmán, Vinny and John in particular. We are also grateful to Donal Murphy for his guidance and Conor Molloy for the steady flow of information. And of course to the cohort of parents who help out at different levels – Managers, Assistant Coaches, Administrators, Goalpost Putter Uppers and occasional Hospitality Consultants.

Conor Moloney & Sheila Carey

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Age Group Reports

2002 (U12)

The 2002 boys have had a great year. We have 51 hurlers & 54 footballers. We have successfully fielded 3 hurling and 3 football teams competing in our first year of competitive CCC1 games.

Overall the large group has progressed during the year, the skill levels have increased significantly and they are now developing from a group of individual players into 3 teams that are realising the importance of working as a team and supporting one another.

Hopefully we will be able to maintain three teams in 2015 but this may be challenging with the matches moving to 15 aside but will we endeavour to do so all players can get as much game time as possible in 2015

Training has been going well all year we have a great group of mentors that look after training. We have noticed a great improvement in the players this year. We have focused on fitness this year and have really noticed a difference at the matches. We introduced Sunday training for hurling and this has been a great success. There has been a huge improvement in the players making both hurling training sessions. We are also very lucky to have Kevina Malone come on board for 2015 to do fitness with the players. So we are looking forward to some great fitness sessions for the players.

Our 1st Hurling team haven't quite finished yet, they have their last league game next week which is a Div 3 playoff.

We had 1 team in this year's Camaint; The Camaint team made up of a combination of the A's, B's and C's enjoyed a successful run of games over the month of July only losing a few and winning and performing well in most. They made it to the final in their group winning two games along the way only to lose to a last minute goal in a full blooded and exciting final. They have certainly put down a marker for the future.

Football

Following the grading blitz in early 2014 Cuala's three teams were allocated to Division 2, 4 & 9.

Division 2 team competed very well throughout the year and finished runners up after a play off with Fingallians. They played 10 matches and won 8, losing out narrowly to the eventual winners Clontarf. They are now positioned well to compete in the Division 1 grading Blitz in 2015.

Division 4 team have developed into a strong unit however they were unfortunate to be placed in Division 4 which contains the first team for 7 clubs. They also competed well throughout the year but only secured one victory from 9 matches. Next year they will be repositioned and will benefit having played from a higher level this year under the guidance of Keith Nevin & Liam Breathnach.

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Division 9 team have grown into another cohesive group and played 9 matches with 3 wins but had many more matches that went down to the last 5 minutes. A big thanks to Paul Scully & Domhnall O'hAonghusa for their efforts in building the confidence within this group on a weekly basis.

Hurling

The 2002 Hurling group have had a good year reflected in the improvement in their overall skill levels and the performances in their matches to-date.

The A team have played 7 matches to-date, winning 5 and losing 2. They are in a Division 3 second place playoff next week. This match will give them the opportunity to challenge for Division 2 status if they do well in their grading games in the spring. They just fell short of reaching the top spot in the Division after fading in the second half of their final league game.

Both the B and C teams have competed well in their respective divisions. The B team playing in Division 7 have finished mid table winning half their games and should remain competitive their next season. The C team have battled well and on their day have had some great results. The challenge in Division 9 is coming up against the B teams from other clubs however they have shown great spirit and commitment and after grading should come up against more evenly matched teams next year.

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Age Group Reports

2001 (U13)

At the moment we have 46 footballers and 43 hurlers. We have gained two players this year and At the moment we have 42 footballers and 36 hurlers. We have gained one player from out of county this year but unfortunately have lost 3. With the transition to secondary school and other sports infringing on the lads time. The hope is that once they are settled in they will return with the lure of Feile and miss being part of the 2001 Boys Group. Our numbers are really tight so we are very reliant on the playing lads up from the 2002 group which is helped a lot with the support of Lorraine Hayes. However with CCC2 being so rigid on the rescheduling of matches some weeks we have had to send out the bare minimum so as not to concede matches which is never ideal and has resulted in poor match results.

Training numbers were really positive in the earlier part of the year but again with the transition into Secondary School we have seen a slight fall off in numbers. We intend to implement a comprehensive training plan, with support from Barry Burke, for the first quarter of 2015 and will be putting extra effort to encourage full attendance at weekly training sessions. Winter training has seen us bringing the lads in from the cold on a Tuesday night for conditioning sessions in the Cuala hall which is of massive benefit as we had noticed that a lot of the lads were lacking in stamina, endurance and overall fitness levels. Throughout the year we have benefited hugely from the support of Senior Football players and an experienced hurling coach who have given their time to come and assist with training sessions and we hope to be able to further tap into these resources again in 2015.

Along with the loss of players we also lost of one of our dedicated mentors Aengus Tansey during the year which has had a negative effect especially the B Football team who were coming together well under the management of himself and Aidan Boyle. We had hoped that his son and himself would return after a bit of a break and once the school routine had kicked in but unfortunately to date this has not been the case. Aengus has been a huge resource to the group over many years so it has been a massive loss to the 2001 Boys.

The A Footballers will play in a 1st/2nd place play off having had a superb year in Division 4 which we hope will see them promoted to a league which will allow them more competitive matches and to grow and develop further. The B team had really shown promise in the mid part of the year with them climbing up third place, unfortunately as the season progressed they lost shape and have had some big losses which has had a negative impact on confidence levels.

In hurling our A Team competed well winning and losing matches in equal quantities but have made a serious improvement. A lot was learned along the way and there was a massive improvement on the year previous in terms of skills and ability. In hurling our B team will be in a playoff for second place which is a massive triumph for a team who previously struggled to compete.

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As a team and morale building exercise earlier in the year the B Team Footballers had a day down in Avondale Forest Park for some lazertag. The day was massive success and the matches that followed reaped the benefits as there was more team cohesion and motivation from all the lads. The greatest lesson taken from this was that there is a need to incorporate more social elements into group activities that will enhance friendships across the group and teams as this will play out to our benefit on the pitch. Due to the success of this event we are heading back down, as a group, on December 13th for more Lazertag as our annual Christmas/end of year party.

Fundraising has been an active part of all activities for 2014. We have setup our own mini cafe selling teas, coffees and treats in Thomastown on a Saturday morning and in recent months have brought left over buns etc to Hyde Road so as to have no waste. This has given us a regular income to help build up funds. We hosted a tuck shop at the Mini All Ireland which brought us in more funds, it was a lot of effort and with some tweaking would be a good fundraiser for future Feile groups. We have participated in two bag packs so far and have two more in November and December and hope to pull together some more in new year.

We were the beneficiaries of the Super Valu Kits for Club promotion and received a training kit which included training bags, equipment and bibs. This enabled us get much needed new equipment with no cost to the group.

Our main priorities for 2015 are retention of members. As stated in last year's report it is vital for us to not only hold on to our numbers but to add to them if possible unfortunately so far this year the opposite has occurred. We plan to focus, for the remainder of the year, to try entice those lads back who have left during the year, work on retaining those we have and encourage them to be advocates on behalf of the group in the hope that they will encourage new friends to join. We plan to fundraise to make the group more financially stable moving towards feile and beyond. Encourage more volunteer support and active engagement of parents to assist in group coordination, training and development of all teams. We have identified a gap in communication within the group so wish to focus on this so as to improve how we communicate across the group so we can work better together to meet the needs of all four teams as a collective and finally we will endeavour to build strong cohesive teams that can compete at the highest level within their league divisions in 2015.

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2000 (U14)

This time last year we finished off our report with the following comment:

“We are now looking forward to our “Feile Year” with the emphasis on using Feile and everything that goes with it to drive on the development of the 2000s lads, as players and individuals, which should hopefully serve them and the club well as they continue to move through the age groups.”

So, after a very busy year can we say we achieved that goal? I would like to say we really did and whilst there was no silverware to show for our Feile exploits there is no doubt we can confirm that the 2000s lads, mentors and parents can declare the year to have been a brilliant Feile year.

We managed to maintain our numbers and we now have 35 hurlers and 46 footballers – our football numbers are comfortable for fielding both A and B squads, but the hurling numbers are tight – we have been dependent on the 2001 and 2002 groups to field both A and B hurling teams regularly during the year. In terms of Feile performances, the following is a brief summary:

- Our “B” Footballers (2000s) reached the final in their Feile – with a great comeback they nearly toppled Vincents but it was not to be.
- Our “B” Feile Hurlers qualified from their group to reach a final in Parnell Park, where once again Vincents came out on top in another close game;
- Our “A” Feile Footballers reached the semi final in their competition with some epic games in Thomastown – unfortunately one kick of the ball meant the run ended there;
- Brave performances from our “A” Feile hurlers meant they finished joint second in the “group of death” only to lose out on a semi final and a place in Divisional Feile on the narrowest of score differences

We put a great effort into getting the lads involved in the pre Feile fundraising and they did us proud. We also salute our hardworking fundraising group capably led by John Conroy who also organised the Feile gear ordering with great precision. We would certainly recommend to other groups to maximise the involvement of the players in the fundraising and also to spread the workload across the parental group and away from the lead mentors as much as possible

The “home” Feile at Thomastown was a brilliant experience for all involved – the crowd at the semi final and the atmosphere at that game was incredible. Thanks to the 2001s group who put in a really great effort to make the day work seamlessly and a great memory for all involved. The other highlights were the two B squads playing their finals in front of big crowds and the support from across the club for the Bs at Peregrines and Parnell Park – including 2000s parents and most importantly all of the A squad players too!

In the Leagues our A teams in both football and hurling put in some great performances in Division 1 in both codes and showed they were a match for most teams in the division. However

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wins were hard to come by and we will end up playing Division 2 football next year. In Hurling there will be no relegation so we will play Division 1 hurling and in both competitions we will be in A Championship action next Autumn. The coaches realise there is another level now to push on to having focused mainly on skills development to date and we are really focused on getting the two A teams to not only compete with but now also start beating more of the top hurling and football teams in the county.

Our B footballers had a very strong league season finishing second in a competitive Division 7 league, The structure meant they had to play a top four semi final which they were unfortunate to lose. However they are well placed to be nominated for promotion for next year and this is well deserved. In hurling our team was very dependent on support from the younger age groups, in particular the 02s as our games clashed with the 01s. Despite short numbers the lads hurled well to end up in the top 4 in Division 5. We are reviewing how we manage these small numbers for next year at under 15

Other points of note are:

- At the time of writing we have 4 players with the Dublin Development Hurling Squad and 8 players with the Football Development Squad. The lads have been involved in various tournaments and blitzes and have represented the club very well. We have another group of players at the fringes and we give them an opportunity at trials whenever the process allows;
- This year we asked Shay Hayes to help out with our B hurlers and Shay has been a really inspirational coach and a great contributor to the group as a whole. We thank Shay and salute him for his efforts. Recently we asked Pat Dolphin to help out with the coaching of our A footballers and the lads are really benefitting from Pat's experience and knowledge. Thanks to Pat also.
- We have also focussed on core and general physical fitness for the lads – this is for their long term benefit and is being carried out consistent with best practice for players of their age who are still growing
- Our A footballers took part in the Nemo Rangers tournament in February where we beat St Vincents of Dublin in the Shield final after a great weekend of football and Craic;
- Our B footballers went to Carlingford for a weekend of social bonding to ensure that any lad who was not on the Nemo trip still had an overnight opportunity with the 2000s;
- We also took part in a hurling tournament in Carlow and are currently playing in the Wicklow winter hurling league;
- We receive great support from the 2001s and 2002s players and mentors, especially for hurling - thanks to Alan Doran and Ken Fitz in particular for their ongoing support, and of course to the '01 players. Also to Lorraine Hayes for the support from the 02 group with hurling games and to the committed 02 players who help us regularly;
- Thanks also to Gerry Byrne, Mick Kirwan, Michael Jackson, Eamon McGurk and Damian McKeown of the 1999s for the opportunities they have given to our players to play up in the Under 15 hurling and football competitions. "Playing up" means a lot to the lads and is a great development opportunity;

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- We have a very supportive group of mentors and parents- we ask for their continued support for the lads –encouraging attendance at training, supporting the games and other group activities/ fundraising;
- Thanks to Willie Braine and Ken Fitz for their support for our coaching activities.

Looking forward we know need to re-group and move on to the next level to get the lads ready for the first taste of championship action in 2015.

Donal Murphy, 2000s Group

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Age Group Reports

1999 (U15)

U15A Hurling

It has been terrific year so far for the U15 A hurlers. February saw us winning the inaugural Garden of Ireland U14 hurling tournament run by Sean Hayes (former Cuala man) of the Wicklow hurling development squad. The competition was run on Friday nights (Nov - Feb) under floodlights. It is a great idea and kept us in competitive action during the 'off' season and certainly benefitted us in our league Division 1 campaign which commenced shortly afterwards. We have been invited back to defend our title as reigning champions for 2014/2015 which we'll be delighted to do so.

Our league (single round) action saw us taking the honours over, Ballyboden, Crokes, Whitehall, Naomh Barrog, Finbarrs and Naomh Mearnóg and finishing out in the top four of a group of 10 teams. As we report we will be playing Lucan Sarsfields at home Sunday Nov 9th in the replay of our drawn semi final. Ballyboden are waiting in the wings to play the victors in the final the following Sunday.

All those who witnessed our championship 1/4 final match against St. Vincents in August will agree that we were hard done by in that game with us narrowly losing out in the dying moments by a single point. We would have been extremely confident going into the semi final to play Whitehall Colmcilles whom we'd beaten earlier in the league. But that's sport!

The highlight of our year so far must be the winning of the 'A' shield competition last month in Barróg's own back garden. A fantastic team/squad effort here saw the lads deservedly take home the trophy to Dalkey. Hats off to a gallant Barróg outfit who gave us a tight contest on the day.

We congratulate each of those 99's players who represented Dublin County in hurling during the year. Mark Tracey, Cormac Quinn, Patrick Byrne, Kevin Kirwan, Diarmaid O'Floinn, George O'Brien. A special congratulation to Diarmaid and Kevin (along with 3 members of the 00's group) who won the Leinster Juvenile Colleges Competition during the year while representing their respective schools.

U15A Football

We sat the lads down in January and asked what their priorities were for the year ahead. They highlighted retaining and strengthening Division 1 status in Division 1 hurling and getting promoted to Division 1 in football. The hurling is covered in the previous paragraph.

With the priorities agreed the lads started training early in January with 8 weeks of a physical program in the hall and in Monkstown Boxing Club. These sessions set the lads up brilliantly for the long season ahead. Division 2 is traditionally the hardest division to get out off and with the likes of Naomh Mearnogs, Erins Isle and Thomas Davies in the group we knew it was going to be tough.

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After a long campaign where the lads were unbeaten from the 6th of May until the 4th of September we came to our last game of the season. We were level on points with Erins Isle who we played in the last game of the season winner take all. In what was one of the best games of the season the lads, as they always do battled tirelessly but unfortunately were beaten by a single score. It was heart-breaking but, we, as a group of mentors are immensely proud of the attitude, behaviour and huge character of this group of lads. The final league lacings are below

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	PD	PTS
Naomh Mearnog	14	9	1	4	261	173	88	19
Erins Isle	14	9	0	5	249	219	30	18
Cuala A	14	7	2	5	278	199	79	16
Thomas Davis	14	7	2	5	251	253	-2	16
Naomh Barrog	14	6	1	7	215	231	-16	13
Castleknock	14	6	1	7	265	289	-24	13
Scoil Ui Chonaill	14	5	0	9	218	248	-30	10
Clontarf A	14	3	1	10	197	322	-125	7

This team, as they always do, dusted themselves down and focused on the upcoming Championship. We faced the inform Naomh Olafs in the first round and in a tough, physical encounter the lads came out on top and went into a quarter final match against St Vincent's. After yet another epic battle, again the gods were against us and went down by a single score.

It would be easy to look back with disappointment on the season losing out by promotion and the Championship by a single score but this has been a hugely successful and positive season. This team excelled in the hardest division to get out off by playing strong attractive football that has garnered praise and admiration from all who have seen them play both within Cuala and from opposing teams. To highlight this fact this team beat Kilmacud twice during the year who ultimately were runners up in Division 1 and this Cuala team has four players in the U15 Dublin development squad. This is the calibre and character of this team and we as mentors know that there is great success in the very near future for this team and we as a group of mentors are so proud of this group and has been a pleasure working with them this year.

U15B Football

The first game of the season was played on the big pitch in Dalkey. The lads had never played in Dalkey before and some had never played together as a team and the opposition was Lucan. The under 14s were there to assist again and we came away with a win- most of the guys that played on that day in February were to be part of a bigger day later in the season.

We played 14 football games.

We won 7

We lost 7.

The league was won by Sylvester's- a team that could not field a team against us in the summer. The lads played some fantastic football throughout the season and it was a pleasure to watch the

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15B guys and the under 14 guys playing together. There is certainly some quality upcoming players in the current under 14 teams. There were two games that “stood out” during the season.

The game against Stars of Erin- the competitiveness of both teams was absolutely outstanding. We were well on top and Stars came thundering back in the closing stages of the 2nd half and went a point ahead with 6 minutes left, its then that we saw what this Cuala team is made of- two goals in the last few minutes and victory was ours. Next up was our old rivals the “Crokes “. This is rivalry at its best- when the guys are actually slagging each other in school, Colaiste Eoin – which club has the most players attending? Again this has to be the “game of the season”, the first half belonged to Crokes but the 2nd half was a different scene, this was the 15B team at their best and was a signal for better things to come later. Crokes won the day but just- well done under 15b guys on the day- to me this was the best performance I have seen since this panel of players came together.

Like our hurling team, we always needed assistance from the under14s.The call often went out to Donal on a Sunday evening /Monday morning and the reply was – “on the case”. I am sure Donal must have been cursing the invention of mobile phones!!

Sunday the 2nd of November 2014.

This was the day that we all had been waiting for. The result of the guy’s hard work over the years finally paid off. I am a firm believer in “hard work” and having a consistence panel of players who are committed, enthusiastic and give it all, they will achieve in time- that time was on Sunday the 2nd of November 2014 in Thomastown. Guys- thank you for staying together over the last few years- we have had some good days and some not so good days! But that changed on Sunday the 2nd - hope you enjoyed that winning feeling.

Eamonn

U15B Hurling

I take you back to last autumn /winter when a discussion took place as to whether there would be enough players to field a 15B hurling team. The decision was made that we should go ahead and give those players that wished to hurl an opportunity and with the aid of players from the under 14s a team would be very much possible. As we commenced the league games the enthusiasm was showing and with the assistance from the under14s and occasionally from the under 13s it was clear that we would have a team for the season. There is a group of guys on the hurling team that are committed to the training and week in, week out consistently show up, without these guys a 15B team would not exist. The lads reached the play off stages in the league only to be beaten by a very strong Round Towers of Lusk team. There were some excellent performances by the lads, while the lads are very skilful, we came up against very physically stronger teams, perhaps something we may need to review? The under 14 players certainly added speed and pace and we were delighted to have them playing with us. In our championship game we met Trinity Gaels who beat us well and as it turned out the games we lost were to Towers and Gaels, the 2 strongest teams in the division.

We played 9 hurling games:

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We won 6, drew 1 and lost 2.

Round Towers of Lusk won the league with 18 points.

Trinity Gaels came second with 16 points

Cuala came 3rd with 13 points.

One of the highlights of the season is the progress of some of the B team players progressing to the A team. Even though at times it was very difficult to get 15 players, we never conceded a game, there was the odd occasion where even on the Saturday evening, Sunday morning the odd visit was made to our pitches in Shankill to see who we might be able to “snatch” from the under 13s and under 12s.

I never had any intention of conceding any game, a club like Cuala will always find players somewhere!

Thank you to Damien, Brendan and the A mentors for their assistance in 2014. Thank to the parents that supported the team, that gave lifts to the guys, and took the jerseys for the “wash and iron”.

Our appreciation to the 98's (Finbarr and Chris) and 00's (Donal and Kevin) for their cooperation with us during the year. Thanks also to Alan Doran who from time to time gave us some players.

Finally, as we leave the juvenile section of the club behind we wish all the other juvenile teams well in their forthcoming competitions and if we can be of any support in terms of our experiences please do not hesitate to give one of us a shout. There is one thing that we would like to impart to all teams coming behind us and that is to watch out at U15 for a very pressurised and difficult month of August which the county board unnecessarily puts on players, mentors and families. We are not alone in this experience and despite several protestations to the board nothing is ever done about it.

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Treasurer's Report

The Juvenile Boys finished the year with a small deficit of income over expenditure of €824. The player subventions received by the Juvenile Boys from the annual subscriptions paid by the members is for 2014 is €65 per player (reduced from €70). This generates income of circa €18k for the section each year and basically covers the cost of entry fees to the various leagues and championships entered and winter training. All other expenses related to the section have to be raised elsewhere. This covers the cost of equipment (footballs, sliotars, nets, cones, jerseys, bibs etc), referees fees, and the odd social event for the players etc. As a result the total cost of running the section has averaged €49k per year over the last 3 years.

This year Juvenile Boys group raised over 25k through various fundraising activities during the year. The big challenge for the Juvenile Boys group is to continue to organise successful fundraising initiatives to raise sufficient funds to cover the expenses of running the section each year. This requires the continued involvement and support of parents to organise fundraising events and to support the events organised.

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Proposals and Nominations

Nominations for Juvenile Committee

Committee 2013		Nominations for election to 2014 Committee	Proposed	Seconded
Chair	Donal Murphy	Donal Murphy	Gerry Byrne	Conor Molloy
Vice Chair	Gerry Byrne			
Secretary	Conor Molloy	Conor Molloy	Ronan Flavin	Barbara O'Reilly
Treasurer	Denise Flavin	Denise Flavin	Conor Moloney	Colman O'Drisceoil

Other Roles:

Registrar	Mary O'Gorman	Mary O'Gorman
Coiste Delegate	Damian McKeown	
CCC1 Delegate	Lorraine Hayes	
CCC2 Delegate	Damian McKeown	