

Cuala GAA

November 2014

Minor A Teams Games reports

Minor As had a very successful year in 2014 with the most notable achievements were the winning of the Division 1 Hurling League and the Minor A Football championship.

Minor League

‘A’ Football League

7 matches;

2 wins; 4 losses; 1 –draw; Final position – 6th

‘B’ Football League

10 Matches

4 wins – 6 losses; Final position – 8th

‘A’ Hurling League

7 League games

5 wins, 2 losses; Final Position – joint 2nd

‘B’ Hurling League

7 League Games

5 wins, 1 draw, 1 loss; Final position – 2nd;

Once again the league campaigns at this level are a bit of a lottery, with draws on players for both Leaving Cert and county squads. This year we had a small but significant representation at county level with Jake Malone and Con O’Callaghan both starters on the Dublin Minor Hurlers, while Con o’Callaghan was also the Dublin Minor football captain.

Minor A-Football Championship

Going in as A-County Champions, we had high hopes for the 2014 Minor A-football championship but in the end injuries were a crucial factor. Young Daragh Spillane suffered a serious leg break in training before the first round and was a big loss.

In the first round, St.Vincent's were easily dealt with and then St.Maurs proved sticky opposition but they too were dispatched. So 2 wins and then the championship favourites were next in the form of Na Fianna. This was a tough game and we didn't have enough to overcome a very strong Na Fianna side. We still had a chance to go through if we could beat or draw with Crokes. But we then lost Con O’Callaghan to injury and ultimately lost the Crokes game by 3 points and so lost out on progress to the semis on score difference.

Minor B Football Championship

Our minor B team was very well supported with a large contingent of players and ultimately did well to compete against several 1-team clubs in their group. Ultimately finished 3rd and did not qualify for the play-off rounds. Many thanks to B-mentor Declan Schutte for taking on the task and pushing the lads all the way.

Minor A-Hurling Championship

We were in the “group of death” in the hurling championship with Na Fianna and Kilmacud Crokes who had contested all the championship finals at this age group through the years. Our first championship game against Crokes came in the first week of September and with many players only returning after the summer- our preparation was nowhere near where it should have been and we were squarely beaten. We beat Naomh Fionnbarra easily and faced a clincher against Na Fianna. Level with 10 minutes to go we ultimately fell short and lost out by 2 points. Na Fianna went on to win the championship beating K.Crokes by 8pts in the final.

Minor B-Hurling Championship

Somewhat unlucky not to qualify for the play-off as we finished 2nd in the group but were beaten by OTooles into 2nd spot due to the fact that we had lost to them in the group stages. Even though our points difference was far superior we lost on the so called “head-to-head “ rule for 2 teams tied on the same points.

Immense credit to Ken Fitzgerald and Finbarr Murphy (An Garda) for putting together a team across 3 age groups and comprised primarily of enthusiastic U16s who put in some great displays playing 2 years above.

Summary

We had a well-populated minor section this year with 95 registered players. A large group and great to see the numbers flowing through from the juvenile section. Well done to Kevina Malone for really driving registration.

Another busy year on the fields of play, I would like to pay tribute to the efforts of managers and mentors; in Hurling - John Twomey, Kevina Malone, Ken Fitzgerald, Finbarr Murphy and Chris Molamphy and in football Maurice O’Callaghan, Declan Murray and Declan Schutte and Seanie McMahan.

I would like to thank the U16s (1998s) for their great support in helping to field 2 minor teams. They could have easily just stuck to the U16 competitions but they ably came up every weekend and made sure we fielded 2 minor hurling and football teams through the year. It was a great example of co-operation and teamwork.

Lastly I would like to thank all the 1996 parents and especially players who this year make the step into Adult ranks. A fine bunch of young men I have had the pleasure of working with over the last 10 years or so. A small group has produced several outstanding players who continue to shine for club, schools, colleges and county. They will be an big asset to the Adult section, to the success of future teams and to their club.

Go raibh maith agaibh go léir

Tadhg Murphy
Minor Chairman