



Ballinamere/Durrow

Secretaries Report 2017

Fellow members it is once again my privilege as runai of Ballinamere/Durrow to present to you my report on the activities of the underage club, both on and off the field during the past year. We completed a fantastic 2016 with accolades of **“Underage Boys Club of the year 2016 & Underage Ladies Club of the year 2016”**. With 2017 now finished we are again in the mix to receive the above honours again.

An appreciation to start my report,

“Special thanks to all coaches & parents who contacted me in Sept/Oct with such kind messages, offers of help and support. Thanks to all who visited me. Thanks to the parents of the club working in Tullamore hospital who help me so much during my stay. Thanks to Sinead & Emer who managed the secretaries’ role in my absence. All your actions proved to me what great a club BD is and that we all stick together.”

Ballinamere/Durrow Underage Player Pathway.

A small explanation of our games/training programme. The demand for training at all ages means our programme is now yearlong with a short break in December & January.

Our player pathway - U6 To U11 - Boys & Girls

All players play in fun blitzes & leagues. Participant needs are catered for, where possible, on the basis of two-year age cohorts i.e. U.6, U.8 & U.10 in a manner consistent with the ethos of Go Games.

Activities are structured in a manner which optimises the level of fun, friendship, fair play and achievement derived by participants.

Our player pathway - U12 To U18 - Boys & Girls

Winning, scoring & evaluation of performance begins as championship matches start. Please note our ladies have championship at U12 & our U12 boys begin their championship years with the Jack Wyer memorial tournament.

This is generally where parents & players find the transition hard. From approximately 11/12 years of age, team selection/substitutions and competition for places is a new factor for players and generally new for the coach.

Anytime a problem needs to be addressed by a parent, make an appointment to see the coach personally. Find out the coach's view of the situation. Parents and coaches can then act together to help in the development of the player. Quitting is generally not the answer, the process of quitting whenever a player is challenged becomes a habit that gets easier and easier to repeat.

In my experience, players develop at different stages. It is best if parents reinforce the coach's/club's philosophy and encourage your son/daughter to get involved in all team activities & attend all trainings where possible. I believe that success during the season comes easier with successful promotion of GAA at home. Encourage your child to practice at home, read books, watch videos and attend the games of the sport they love playing. Encourage them to always be learning.

Hopefully this brief synopsis will help players & parents progress successfully through the age groups and transition to competitive action.

Volunteers

Without volunteers, clubs and the GAA cannot function. Volunteers are the life and soul of every GAA club. Ballinamere/Durrow is unrivalled in terms of the number of volunteers that provide endless hours of service to the clubs. It is important to be mindful that the role of the volunteer in all forms should be respected, encouraged and supported. Ballinamere/Durrow is a small but very progressive club with a tremendous community spirit.

Our clubs most valid asset is our coaches. 52 coaches who volunteer endless hours. Sincere thanks to all dedicated coaches who took the responsibility of training teams this year. This is a massive undertaking, committing on average 6 hours every week. In addition to this, coaches made themselves available for meetings, phone calls and willingly participated in coaching programmes & workshops. Our coaches are all active on email & What's App, where they receive minutes of all meetings, events & plan for the week ahead. Thanks for all the work!... without great coaches a club cannot progress.

Ballinamere/Durrow Underage Executive

Our committee: Eoin O'Ceilleachair, Michael Duignan, Carina Haverty, Stephen Ravenhill, Pat Cleary, John Lydon & Ken Gorman. Our Ladies football has grown from strength to strength. Numbers show that we are one of the fastest growing ladies clubs in the county. Thanks to John Lydon who is retiring as chairperson. John built the foundations for a fantastic club. Thanks to Dermot Cunningham, Jason Henshaw, Declan Garvey & Caroline O'Brien. Best of luck to Aidan Doyle as new ladies' chairperson. Both committees worked closely throughout the year, where I found each member always accommodating and

helpful and were always on the end of the phone. Huge work is going on daily. The amount of work sometimes doesn't necessarily correlate to success on the pitch but the value of the work is evident from the numbers at underage. It is only when you get involved in something like the executive that you see the huge amount of work going on behind the scenes. Best of luck to Michael as he retires from the underage club work after 10 plus years. Welcome to John Hughes who takes over the role of football & Go Games coordinator. Being one of the largest DUAL underage clubs in the county is a great achievement but it doesn't happen by accident. Thanks for all your work.

Club Year 2017

Registration

- Our Registration night was held on 27th of February. This night was a huge success with coaches taking tables for their own team, gear sales, texting system and family membership table. (Please note winter training under lights never really stopped, thanks to those coaches who trained all year round). Players were training & participating in SAQ while registration took place. In addition to underage membership, parents also joined as social members to each of our senior clubs. Membership of Durrow's new walking track was also available. I must stress how important the collection of membership fees is to the finances of the club. It is also very important from a player & coaches protection point of view that all have their membership paid before March each year. Thanks to Sinead & Emer who helped on the night & add all data to both senior data bases. Thanks to senior registrars Patrick Fox & Colette Waters. Our local Parish agreement documentation was signed by new club members.

Feile

- Our U14 footballers qualified for the John West National Feile Football finals in Cavan in June. Thanks to our hosts St Josephs of Arva who took great care of all our players. Thanks to the U14 parents who helped with the fundraising drive and who supported all efforts of the club to make it an enjoyable weekend for our players. Remarks from Cavan identified the great support from our parents & other club members who also travelled up to support. 26 players travelled with all but one family also staying for a weekend never to be forgotten. Our club look forward to hosting St Josephs in 2018. Thanks to Caroline who baked for our hosts and to Sinead who organised the itinerary for the weekend. Thanks to team management of Pat Fulton, Colin Boland & Alan Scully. Local businesses who provided for host hampers... Linda O'Brien, Esker Hills, Glenisk, Cul Heros, Tullamore Meats, ESB (c/o Colm Condron) and Rose Finaly.

Sponsorship

- Once again, my most sincere thanks to all our sponsors, especially our main sponsors, without who's generous support our club could not survive financially. I wish them every success in the future and I

would urge all our members to support our sponsors whenever possible. Many thanks to Emer who organised a great social fundraising night in Esker Hills with Best Foot Forward.

- I. Johnny McDonald contributed towards U18 final.
- II. Shane Buggy who contributed towards U12 ladies' final tops.
- III. Hugh Doran help for catering after finals.
- IV. Buggy foods help with our club BBQ.
- V. Durrow & Ballinamere senior clubs contributed to Feile & Registration.
- VI. Guy Clothing have kindly agreed to sponsor our online registration for 2018.
- VII. All our sponsors & individuals who donated to Feile.
- VIII. Ballinamere & Durrow Nations Schools who contributed to Feile.
- IX. **Special thanks to Ravenhill Couriers for their main club sponsorship.**

SAQ & Club Fitness

- Our ethos of healthy & fit players with each team is helping in every way. Players & families are working hard. 160 + players (U6 to U16 Boys & Girls) completed programmes concentrating on their own fitness levels. Most clubs and coaches concentrate too early on the team and not player development in a player's career. In Ballinamere/Durrow, our underage aim is developing the players. We develop players who are very athletic, fit and with good ball/sliotar skills. The development of the team for championship years (U14 +) will then become automatic. Our club has a clear pathway of coaching - starting with introductory athletic & skill development through fun (4 to 7), athletic & skill development (8 to 11), competitive skill & game development (12 to 17). Obviously young players need to play the game as well and this is part of the process - not THE process itself. Thanks to all who help with our fitness testing, SAQ evenings and all the coaches who incorporate S & C /SAQ & most importantly quality running into team trainings.

Garda Clearance & Child Protection

- Club coaches, volunteers & committee members are now Garda Cleared & have completed the Child Safeguarding course. Coaches cannot participate without these. This certification ends in 2020. Thanks to Emer & Sinead for their help in inputting all data.

Cul Camp

- 4th year of our own Cul Camp. A huge success with Ballinamere/Durrow Club having the 2nd largest camp in Offaly 183 children. Thanks to all in Durrow Gaa for their excellent camp preparations & traffic management. Thanks to our U18 players Brian Duignan & Ross Ravenhill who helped each day. Thanks to all parents who supported the camp & our senior footballers & hurlers who attended on Friday. Thanks to Caroline Thornton who organised ice-creams for all the players.

Jack Wyer Memorial Tournament

- The Jack Wyer U12 Memorial Tournament organised by Ballinamere/Durrow was again a tremendous success with 7 clubs competing in 24 games. A sincere thanks to referees Marius Stones, Adam Kinahan, Pat Fleming & Shane Guinan. KK were eventual winners. Thanks to Kilmurray Sand & Gravel for sponsoring the tournament T shirts. Thanks to Derek, Ruth & all the Wyer family who attended & supported every game.

Club Gear

- New Ballinamere/Durrow zip top was introduced from O'Neills. Guy Clothing will introduce a polo shirt, round neck & new club togs in February. Thanks to Anthony for all his help.

BBQ

- The club held a very successful BBQ. Thanks to all who catered for it. Thanks to all who helped with fun & games for the children. Thanks to Eoghan Buggy & Tom Doyle for meat & buns. The crowd was 300 +. Ballinamere Senior Club turned the sod for the development of the New Jack Wyer Field.

Nursery

- The U6 nursery started in February with SAQ indoor training. In March; trainings changed to Durrow each Wednesday night (followed by Saturdays); where football/hurling alternated each week. A group of ten coaches provided great coaching all year. This group played a “friendly“ match against Shamrocks. Parents were delighted to see great action shots in the Club Jersey from Claire Waters. Thanks to Nursery Coaches & Coordinator Ray Bell.

Young Whistlers

- Thanks to our young referees who attended our host blitzes in both codes. Sean Duignan, Brian Cleary, Barry Cleary, Ronan Cleary, Billy Fogarty, John Murphy, Ross Ravenhill, Jack O'Brien & Ciaran Burke. Offaly fixtured our club for 11 Go Game blitzes at home in total. This shows the respect Offaly have for Ballinamere/Durrow, knowing that our coaches & referee's co-ordinate extremely organised blitzes for all.

Senior Clubs

- Thanks to Ballinamere GAA and Durrow GAA for all their help and support. Thanks to Vincent, Donal, Alan, Charlie, Tony, Paddy & Kevin on the interclub committee, which helped to bond our clubs even further. The extra pitch is a great bonus in Durrow; where on one busy underage training night, we had 149 children and 22 coaches in action. This was only U12 down as the U14 & U16's had training in Ballinamere on the same night, the U18 boys had a match. The Ladies club also fill the pitch on a Wednesday night. With the new U18 team for the ladies our club now has 20 teams under its umbrella. Thanks to Shane Hand, Michael Ennis, Alan Scully, Daithi Reegan & John Hughes who managed our senior & U21 teams. Their support was evident.

Our senior teams trained late to facilitate our big numbers and also attended sessions for us. Thanks to senior secretaries Tony Hensey & Vincent Molloy for helping each week with fixtures & training slots. Thanks to Ballinamere for the use of pitch lights which enables our teams to train all year.

National Schools

- Thanks to both schools: Ballinamere & Durrow for keeping the GAA active. Thanks to the principals (Frank & Deidre) for allowing us to use their communication system. The U18 boys received a fabulous reception from all pupils & staff. Thanks to teachers (Claire O Sullivan, Mike Forde, Mary Guest, Brid Murphy, Helen Kinahan, Bernie Kelly Adrian Kelly & Niall Larkin) for all their work in promoting Gaa in our schools. Thanks to both schools for their support with Feile 2017.

Development Squads & Offaly Minor

1. Ballinamere/Durrow were very well represented in our development squads for hurling & football & Ladies Football from 13's to 16's. Congratulations to all, hopefully we will see them continue to progress and represent Offaly at minor level.
2. This year Luke Nolan, Brian Duignan, Kevin McDermott, Ross Ravenhill, Barry Cleary & Aaron Maher represented Offaly at U17/U18 championship hurling while Billy Fogarty, John Mooney & Jack O'Brien represented Offaly at U18 championship Football.

Parents & Catering

- Special thanks to the mums of the club, who are always there to help out with catering and set up for all our events in Durrow & Ballinamere. One text results in our club games, blitzes & BBQ'S instantly catered at a professional level. All visiting teams were very thankful of the generosity of all our parents. Thanks to Esker Hills for making their venue available for functions and to Sheila Doran who co-ordinates all in Ballinamere & Freda Ward in Durrow. Thanks to the committees of Ballykilmurray & Durrow Hall for the use of their facilities.

Social Media & Photos

- Ballinamere/Durrow is live on facebook & twitter. Thanks to Claire Waters for all the photos. Claire attends all games and records great memories for all families. Thanks to Caroline Thornton & Ray Bell who helped at extra events etc. Thanks to Marie O'Brien who entered our underage notes each week as her role as Ballinamere PRO. Thanks to Martin Og Buggy & Paddy Fox in our senior clubs for their help with twitter & facebook. Thanks to Eileen O'Ceilleachair who established and underage portal on the new Ballinamere website. Ballinamere/Durrow also entered Scor na Nog under the guidance of Marie O'Brien.

Club Mass

- Thanks to Fr Rory O'Brien, Linda O'Brien and Connie Molly for organising the Mass on behalf of the club. Thanks to Deidre Cusack for organising servers. Thanks to our U14 parents who took part in the liturgy & catered for all. Thanks to all who donated to Feile.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to...

1. Sean Boland for all his help in Ballinamere Gaa.
2. Pat Fleming for all his help in Durrow Gaa.
3. All who helped with parking at matches & blitzes.
4. Fr Rory O'Brien for all his support.
5. Claire & Conor in Centra.
6. Eddie for all his help with Buggy Foods.
7. Leinster GAA for providing passes for all boys & girls.
8. To visiting coaches John Leahy, Liam O'Reilly, Conor Clancy, Keith Begley, Anton Sullivan, Ken Molloy, Gerry Spollen & Eoin Carroll.
9. Buggys Coaches who give a great professional service
10. Yvonne Galvin as club physio & Michelle Crowley for all their work.
11. All the staff in Edgewater who work with all club players.
12. The committee who organised & mums who helped with the Halloween party.
13. Marie O'Brien as PRO, Cultural & Irish & Scor Officer.
14. Members of both senior committee's thanks for your continuous support.
15. The parents who travelled to and from Holidays & Gaeltacht for championship matches.
16. To Michael, Jack, Joe & Hughie for all their support.
17. Thanks to managers Alan Scully (U14 Hrl), Pat Fulton (U14 Ftb) & John Lydon (U16 Ladies) for working training schedules to help me.
18. To all the parents who receive endless texts and support our club so well.

Congratulations to our U18 hurlers as A champions, our U14 boys as Feile & championship winners & our U12 girls as shield champions.

"Go raibh maith agat ag obair go mór go léir le chéile."

Finally, I sympathise with all members who suffered bereavements during the year and extend to them our deepest sympathy.

Carina Haverty, Underage Secretary 2017

Underage Boys Team Structures

UNDER 8 BOYS

Our **Under 8** group did extremely well in both codes. Thanks to Coaches (Simon, John, Martin Og, Sean, Christian, David, Shane & Kai) Thanks to Parents & Players

Set Training Plan

- **U8 Hurling - Mon Nights in Durrow**
- **U8 Football – Thurs nights in Durrow**
- **Blitzes – Alternate each Saturday. (14 Blitzes in total)**
- **Winter training continued in Ballinamere under lights & Indoor (SAQ)**

UNDER 10 BOYS

Our **Under 10** group did extremely well in both codes. Thanks to Coaches (Padraig, Eoin, Eugene, Joe, Adrian & Colin) Thanks to Parents & Players

Set Training Plan

- **U10 Football - Monday Nights in Durrow**
- **U10 Hurling – Thurs nights in Durrow**
- **Blitzes – Alternate each Monday. (14 Blitzes in total)**
- **Winter training continues in Ballinamere under lights & Indoor (SAQ)**

Our U10's also had an outing to Clarenbridge U10 blitz & challenges matches vs Na Fianna & Shamrocks.

UNDER 12 BOYS

Our **Under 12** group did extremely well in both codes. Thanks to Coaches (Ken, Stephen, Kevin, Eddie, Lee & Aidan)

Thanks to Parents & Players

Set Training Plan

- **U12 Football - Mon Nights in Durrow**
- **U12 Hurling/Football Leagues alternate each week in Ballinamere (12 Double team Matches in Total)**
- **U12 Hurling/Football alternate – Thurs nights in Durrow**
- **Winter training continues in Ballinamere Indoor (SAQ)**

U12's also had day blitz in Roscrea.

They also played in the Jack Wyer Tournament where KK were eventual winners. Thanks to Kilmurray Sand & Gravel for sponsoring the tournament T shirts. Thanks to Derek, Ruth & all the Wyer family who attended & supported every game.

UNDER 14 BOYS

Our **Under 14** panels. (Alan, Pat, Jim, Andy, Colin & Carina)

Excellent season for this group of players. A lot experience championship for the first time. This group have great attendances at training. U14 A hurling finalists, U14 B football Feile & Championship winners.

The U14's entered:

- **U14 Football/Hurling Feile.**
- **U14 Football/Hurling Championships.**
- **This group also played many challenge matches in both codes.**

- **Training switched between Ballinamere & Durrow.**

UNDER 16 BOYS

- Our **Under 16** panels had a great year. Thanks to coaches (Ciaran, Ronan, Padraig & Michelle)

Our footballers had some great wins but unfortunately did not reach knockout stages.

Our hurling panel reached the B Hurling semi-final. Unfortunately losing out to Shamrocks.

The U16's entered:

- **U16 Football/ Hurling leagues.**
- **U16 Football/Hurling Championships.**
- **This group also played many challenge matches in both codes.**
- **Training switched between Ballinamere & Durrow**
- **Indoor (SAQ) training continues.**

UNDER 18 BOYS

- Our **Under 18** panels also had a great year. Thanks to coaches (Michael, John, Derek, Daithi, Liam, Tom & Hugh)

Our footballers reached the County A Football semi final losing out to Edenderry. Players and management were very disappointed as this game was very close but reaching this stage in Offaly is historic. Congratulations.

Our hurlers won the A final making history again with 2 in a row. Congratulations.

The U18's entered:

- **U18 Football/Hurling Championships.**
- **This group also played challenge matches in both codes.**
- **Training switched between Ballinamere & Durrow**
- **Individual players will receive their own programmes for winter strength & conditioning**

Ladies Football Team Structures

Nursery:

They train with the boys twice a week, with football one week and hurling the next. Some of the girls have been in Nursery for three years, so coaches moved them on to U 8's. The training is based on their age and ability, with emphasis being involvement and having fun. Well done to all involved.

U8's and 10's:

Girls participate in Blitz days in this age group. They had 8 Blitz days, with three to five matches in each, where all these talented, skilful young girls were amazing to watch. Well done to all involved.

U 12's:

The U 12 championship got underway on the 29/3/17. They had 6 games, winning 5 out of the 6, only losing to Edenderry by just 2 pts. This left them top of their group, but ended up third because of unregistered player in first two games. They played St Rynaghs in the semi-final and won. They played Edenderry in the final on 11/6/17, where they played their hearts out. But lost out to a strong Edenderry side.

The U 12 league got underway on 28/6/17. Here the girls played 5 games, winning two out of the five, with only a single point each in another two. This left them playing Edenderry in the semi, which they lost.

Ending up playing Naomh Molaoise in the 'A' Shield, which they won. Well done to all involved.

U 14's:

U14 Feile was held in Clara on the 15/4/17, where the girls had a win over St Manchan's and drew against Shamrocks and Edenderry. Leaving it down to the last game between Shamrock's and Edenderry to be the decider. It was all very exciting. Edenderry came out the overall winners after defeating Naomh Ciarán to become Feile champions.

U14 championship started on the 26th of May. They had 5 games winning one out of the five, with all their other games very close. Leaving them fifth in their group. A step up from last year. They played Naomh Molaoise in the 'A' Plate final which they won. The games vs Naomh Ciarán in the first round where the girls lost out by a single point, was a cracker of a game. As was the game vs Shamrock's in the last round, where Shamrock's said it was their most challenging game of the year.

U14 league started on the 26/4/17. They had five games, won two out of the five. Edenderry and Naomh Ciarán. Finishing up fourth in their group. They played Shamrock's in the semi-final. They lost. Overall a very close competitive competition. Well done to all involved.

U 16's

It was the girls first time in A championship at this age group. Their first game on 23/5/17 was against Naomh Ciarán. It was a great game, only losing out by 4 pts. They went on to win two games, with only a day between them, against St. Rynaghs and Naomh Molaoise, to leave them third in their group. they played Naomh Ciarán in the semi-final and what an incredible game that was, after a huge come back, to losing by just 7 pts. They went on to play Naomh Molaoise in the 'A' Shield final, which they lost. Again, a great competition, with very little between these 6 clubs. Well done to all involved.

U 18's

It was the first time for ourselves and St. Manchan's to enter into Minor. So with only the two clubs in group C meant it went straight to the 'C' Cup final on the 10th of August, where our U 18 ladies were victorious. Well done to all involved.