

**Ballinamere/Durrow**

**Secretaries Report 2018**

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 2018 reaching an “A” boy’s football final for the first time in the history of BD. Our U18 ladies also competed & won the clubs first ever title at this level. Registration numbers are at the highest ever recorded with over 370 boys & girls playing & training this year. Hopefully in the years to come we continue to break more records.

A brief note to start my report:

As my 6th year as secretary concludes, one item is evident. That is attendance at training. Our attendance levels are excellent for all boys & girl’s teams. The players & teams with the highest attendance records are deservedly reaping the rewards. For the few players with low attendance records for various reasons, (some of which cannot be helped), let’s make it a priority for 2019. Players missing training causes many struggles, with lapses in fitness, skill development, confidence and decreases the players ability to play with a team. It also creates pressure for our coaches who are working to improve every player. Please encourage Your players to always attend all training. Our coaches plan & prepare every session throughout the year to include each & every skill. Please don’t put development in jeopardy by missing trainings. Please note that trainings at an underage level from U12 down are far more important than blitzes.

For all boys in our club, football & hurling trainings work in tandem. Coaches divide up hours at the beginning of each week & sometimes prepare joint sessions. As a **dual club** we encourage every boy to participate in hurling & football. A boy who only selects one code essentially misses out on half a year’s training, team work, hand – eye coordination, transfer of ball skills & fitness. We are one of the best underage clubs in Offaly but for advances on the field we need training attendance to continue to be the highest priority of the club. As You will read from our individual team reports attendance is promoted & noted by all coaches. Thanks in advance!

**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 for ladies & U7, U9 & U11 for boys 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 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. 62 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, Carina Haverty, Stephen Ravenhill, Pat Cleary, Aidan Doyle & 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 Dermot Cunningham, Jason Henshaw, Aidan Doyle & Gabriel Keyes. 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. 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 2018**

**Registration**

* Our Registration started with our new online system on January 1st. In conjunction with both senior clubs our online system catered for all underage & senior players plus social membership for all adults. This system is GDR complaint. Thanks to “My club finances” for all their help & Sinead who helped set it all up. Thanks to Patrick Fox, Dermot Cunningham & Colette Waters our club registrars & our clubs treasurers Kevin Ward, Donal Molloy, Stephen Ravenhill & Jason Henshaw. Thanks to both senior committees who promoted & supported this move to online. Thanks to all parents & families who used the app and registered on time for 2018. 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 starting each year.

**Sponsorship**

* Once again, my most sincere thanks to all our sponsors, especially our main sponsors Ravenhill Couriers, 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.
1. Shane Coyne who provided bus hire free of charge.
2. Adrian Flynn who sponsored U9 skills.
3. Esker Hills Bistro for refreshments after our finals.
4. Buggy foods for all their with our club BBQ.
5. Guy Clothing for their contribution to our registration system
6. Martin Og Buggy for his kind sponsorship of jerseys.
7. Martin Og Buggy & Ronan Spollen for sponsoring U7/U9 refreshments.
8. Stephen Healy for his contribution from Intel.
9. Tom Doyle for his sponsorship of baked goods for our BBQ
10. **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**

* 5th year of our own Cul Camp. A huge success with Ballinamere/Durrow Club having the 2nd largest camp in Offaly 183 children.Thanks to Offaly Gaa for their help & support. Thanks to all in Durrow Gaa for their excellent camp preparations & traffic management. 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 8 clubs competing in 49 games. A sincere thanks to our referees. 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. Thanks to our own JW management team, the players improved immensely over the tournament. Thanks to Durrow & Ballinamere National schools & Cumann ns mbunscol who facilitate this tournament during a busy season. Special thanks to the parents who supported every game.

**Club Gear**

* All BD gear is available in Guy clothing. Thanks to Anthony for all his help.
* **Physio & Medical**

Thanks to Yvonne Galvin for all our professional assistance & generosity throughout the year with our boys & girls team.

**BBQ**

* The club held a very successful BBQ. Thanks to all who catered for it: Deidre, Patricia, Estella, Sheila, Esther, Trisha & Caroline. Thanks to Pat, Stephen & Aidan for all the setup. Thanks to all who helped with fun & games for the children. Thanks to Eoghan Buggy & Tom Doyle for meat & buns.

**Young Whistlers**

* Thanks to our young referees who attended our host blitzes in both codes. Sean Duignan, Diarmuid Woods, Barry Cleary, Ronan Cleary, Darragh Drea, John Murphy, Ross Ravenhill, Hannah Drea, Niamh Lydon & James Troy. Offaly fixtured our club for 7 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 also to our 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 U11 down as the U13 & U15’s were training in Ballinamere on the same night, the U17 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, Alan Scully, Stephen Ravenhill, Sean Guinan. Michael Duignan, Daithi Reegan, Derek Wyer & 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 & Joe 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. 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.

**Development Squads & Offaly Minor**

1. Ballinamere/Durrow were very well represented in our development squads for hurling & football & Ladies Football from 12’s to 16’s. 24 players in total. Congratulations to all, hopefully we will see them continue to progress and represent Offaly at minor level.
2. This year Andrew Walsh represented Offaly at Minor Hurling Level.

**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 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 & Caroline Thornton for all the photos. They attend all games and records great memories for all families. 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 Trips**.

The club encourage an away trip for each of our teams. Our championship ladies’ teams headed to Croke Park. Our U10 ladies attended Leinster blitz in Portlaoise. Our U8 ladies hosted Rhode in a fun morning in Durrow. Our U18 ladies panel played a challenge match in Salthill as preparation for their championship. Our U7 & U9 boys travelled to Dicksboro & Mullingar. Our U8 boys received an invite to play in Croke Park. Our U11, U13 & U15 boys travelled to Hurling for Cancer charity match in Nolan park. Teams all travelled to Ballinamere’s away matches in the Leinster championship. Many thanks to Shane & all at K Buggy coaches for a very professional service. Many buses were provided this year, a lot at short notice.

**Acknowledgements**

**Thanks to...**

1. Sean Boland & Adrian Waters for all their help in Ballinamere Gaa.
2. Pat Fleming for all his help in Durrow Gaa.
3. All who helped with catering parking at matches & blitzes.
4. Fr Rory O Brien for all his support.
5. Claire & Conor in Centra.
6. Emer, Caroline, Sinead, Marie & Trish for all their help in every way.
7. Leinster GAA for providing passes for all boys & girls.
8. To visiting coaches Dave Haare, Liam O’Reilly, Conor Clancy, Michael Cleary, Peter Healion & Neil Carnew
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. Marie O Brien as PRO, Cultural & Irish & Scor Officer.
13. Members of both senior committee’s thanks for your continuous support.
14. The parents who travelled to and from Holidays & Gaeltacht for championship matches.
15. To Michael, Jack, Joe & Hughie for all their support.
16. Thanks to managers Alan Scully (U15 Hrl), Pat Fulton (U15 Ftb) & John Lydon (U16/U18 Ladies) for working training schedules to help me.
17. To all the parents who receive endless texts and support our club so well.
18. Finally, the biggest thanks to all our team coaches listed below:

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| --- | --- |
| **Team** | **Coaches 2018** |
| U6 Nursery | Ray Bell, David Mannion, Emma Hatton, Maree Moore, Daniel Minnock, James Hensey, Stephen Healy, Kieran McLoughlin, Declan Thornton, Lisa Molloy, David Gillespie. |
| U7 Boys | Martin Og Buggy, Ronan Spollen, Declan Garvey |
| U8 Girls | Stacey Lambe, Daniel Minnock, Declan Thornton, Kieran Mcloughlin, Martin Donnellan |
| U9 Boys | Simon Byrne, John Duncan, David Conway, Sean Murtagh, David Flanagan, Christian Brennan, Shane Coyne, Kai Meyer. |
| U10 Girls | Claire Waters, Martina Lydon, Liam Walsh, Keith Mealiffe. |
| U11 Boys | Padraig Redmond, Joe Gaffey, Damian Spollen, Eugene O’Dea, Adrian Waters, Shane Buggy. |
| U12 Girls | Dermot Cunningham, Gabriel Keyes, Declan Garvey. |
| U13 Boys | Ken Gorman, Lee Tomas, Eddie Buggy, Stephen Ravenhill, Peter Leonard, Kevin Cleary |
| U14 Girls | Barney O’Brien, Michael McDermott & Jason Henshaw. |
| U15 Boys | Alan Scully, Jim Troy, Pat Fulton, Andy Bourke, Dom Daly, Colin Boland & Carina. |
| U16 Girls | John Lydon, Gay McNally, Carina, Michelle Crowley, Alan Scully. |
| U17 Boys | John Hughes, Ciaran Buggy, Kevin Wyer, Liam Fogarty. |
| U18 Girls | John Lydon, Gay McNally, Carina, Michelle Crowley, Alan Scully. |

Please find our coaches 2018 reports attached.

**“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 2018

**Please Scroll down for:**

**ALL Ballinamere Durrow Team Coaches Reports 2018 Boys & Girls**

**Ballinamere/Durrow U6 Nursery Boys & Girls Report 2018**

The under 6’s nursery was a great success again this year. There were large numbers of between 20 – 30 children to begin but this dwindled to a steady cohort of 15 - 20 during the summer months when for various reasons families were away. The nursery concentrated on basic skills in both hurling and football. This meant that as well as SAQ’s the children made progress with bouncing, catching and kicking in football while the emphasis was on catching and grabbing, soloing (with beanbags) and ground striking in Hurling.

On most evenings the sessions were organised into four stations to allow the children an opportunity to practice each skill and then towards the end of the summer and into September those children who were closer to 6 in age played in mini games of no more than 4 a side to give them plenty of touches of the ball and some match practice.

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

 Ray Bell

**Ballinamere/Durrow Under 7 Boys Report 2018**

**Coaching Team**

* Martin Óg Buggy, Ronan Spollen, Declan Garvey, David Gillespie (earlier in year)

**Player Details**

* A total of 37 different kids either trained or played in Blitzes during the year
* Average of 24-28 player per Training
* 90% approx. dual players (Present @ Hurling & Football activities).
* 40% eligible for Under 7 in 2019. Remaining 60% will move to Under 9.

**Training Details**

* Schedule
	+ Jan – March : Ballykilmurray Hall & Ballinamere School – Once weekly. Indoor SAQ for Jan & Feb initially, then indoor Hurling in March.
	+ April-September: Durrow: Three times weekly. Monday, Thursday and Saturday morning when there was no scheduled Blitz.
	+ October : Ballykilmurray Hall: Indoor SAQ
	+ Training sessions were allocated evenly between Hurling & Football. Alternated every night
	+ Sessions were mapped out in advance to cater for no-training days and holidays.
	+ Due to adverse weather, 5-6 sessions were cancelled.
* Routine
	+ Warm-up
	+ Fun Activity
	+ Drills or skill session
	+ Group divided up and rotated around different skill stations
	+ Concluding with conditioned games and/or standard match.
* Average Player Attendance months trained
	+ April: 61%
	+ May: 75%
	+ June: 60%
	+ July: 54%
	+ Aug: 68%
	+ Sept: 80%
* Offaly G.D.A u9 & Nursery Workshops
	+ Nursery Workshop Daniel Minnock, Stacey Lambe, Martin Óg Buggy, James Hensey, Marie Moore & Ronan Spollen attended in Rath, October 2018
	+ U9 Workshop. David Conway, John Duncan & Martin Og. Attended in Clara, February 2018
* Comments
	+ While the players would perform the warm-ups and drills without issue, their main focus was the “match” which concluded the training session.
	Matches with a large number of players (>7) did not prove of any benefit, smaller players were lost and bored, and the larger more accomplished players dominated. Therefore, we aimed for matches with smaller numbers, special rules (e.g. hand-pass only, zoned play, ground strikes only etc), and age classification (to a point).
	+ The visit by Conor Clancy to a training session during the year proved beneficial to all involved
	+ The visit of Ger Healion from K/K during the year with the Offaly Senior Hurling trophy was well received. Thanks to David Conway for organising this.
	+ The One-Off Blitz’s with one opposition and organised outside of the Go Games structure were very successful. Attendances for these blitzes is better than County Go Games Blitzes.
	+ To summarise our performances against other clubs, we can say that our teams were more than competitive against the opposition, the kids show great enthusiasm in all their blitzes. If there was a stage where they would be showing weakness (in Football v Rhode & Dicksboro in Hurling) would be only early on in games, they would struggle initially but as the match went on our skill levels and competitiveness increased. They are not a group that throw in the towel when things aren’t going their way, which is a great thing.
	+ The change of age groups from u8 to u7 proved tricky in relation to it being closer to the Nursery age group age of u6. Compared to years before this the gap was too wide and you may have had an exceptional child that may make the leap up from 6-8 but generally it didn’t cause an issue. The start of the year showed us with an average of around 18-20 kids but as the year progressed a lot of the kids from the Nursery came up to join us to bring it to an average of 28-30 kids. This was due to a gulf in age & skills that these kids had over other kids. Now on some levels this was not a problem but at one stage of the year we had to ask the Nursery Coaches to take back some of the kids to Nursery as their attention levels were disrupting the sessions. This might have upset kids or parents but we felt it had to be done as it was affecting the larger group dynamic. You can’t blame the kids as in most cases they wanted to be playing with the kids they are going to school with. We would suggest that the Minor Club Officers & coaches take a look at the Under 4-5 year-old age group in particular & see if there is a possibility where this issue can be discussed.
	+ Offaly Hurling workshop was a good exercise back a few years ago and some ideas for age appropriate drills can be obtained. Hopefully the County underage set up might look towards doing this again in the near future.

**Go Games / Blitz Details**

* Under 8 Hurling Trip to Croke Park
	+ Held in Croke Park on April 3rd
	+ B/D got a 45 min slot with u7 & u8 team playing 1 x 40 minute game each v Sallins of Kildare
	+ Player Attendance: 31 Kids In Total (13 players u7’s)
	+ Great day out for Players, Parents & Coaches
	+ Huge thanks to Carina for organising & GAA/Littlewoods for this setting it up.
	+ Stopped for food in Applegreen on the way Home
* Official Football Go-Games
	+ Participated in 5/6
	+ Did not attend St Broughans blitz in July as clashed with Cul Camp
	+ Average player attendance: 70%
* Official Hurling Go-Games
	+ Participated in 3/5
	+ Did not attend Lusmagh Blitz in July as clashed with Cul Camp
	+ Gracefield Blitz in September was cancelled
	+ Average player attendance: 79%
* All County Football Blitz
	+ Held in Faithful Fields on August 14th
	+ B/D got a 1 hour slot with each team playing 3 x 20 minute games
	+ Player attendance: 18 Players attended
* All County Hurling Blitz
	+ Held in Faithful Fields on August 21st
	+ B/D got a 1 hour slot with each team playing 3 x 20 minute games
	+ Player attendance: 15 Players attended
* In House Blitz’s
	+ B/D hosted a hurling Blitz in Durrow with Na Fianna on May 12th. Teams were divided evenly with each team playing 2 x 20 minute games. Player refreshments were provided afterwards on the pitch.

24 Players Attended

* + Na Fianna returned the favour in 19th June in Killeigh where the same team & game format applied.

22 Players Attended

* + Dicksboro of Kilkenny hosted our u7 & u9 teams in a very successful hurling Blitz on September the 29th. Player refreshments were provided afterwards in Supermacs Portlaoise.

27 Players attended

* Hurling Coaching Notes

During one of the Coaching workshops earlier this year, Offaly Coaching Development Officer Michael Cleary made the next 2 comments below his most critical points to the development if a hurler & we would certainly agree with him.

* + We would wish the club to emphasise to Parents of u7 kids and younger that before they purchase a Hurl for their child that they contact the relevant coaches in charge of the age group to check for size of hurl for their Child. Having the incorrect size hurl has a huge bearing on the development of the skills of Hurling & we more so than any other age group seen this with the u7’s kids. It showed us that when we corrected the size of the hurl their skill level and development increased. A size 24 hurl is the maximum required by a child playing in u7 hurling or nursery & we would encourage the club to have this enforced as a Club Directive when kids are registering at the start of the year.
	+ Pointing out to parents that when practicing at home to notice that the child is holding their hurl with the same hand they write with would be of huge benefit to their development.
	+ We had 6-7 kids at the start of the year that had a high level of skills in hurling. The remaining kids could strike from the ground but were limited in other areas. Throughout the year all the kids showed huge Improvement in terms of correct hold of hurl /Catching/ ground strike/Block/dribble/roll-jab lift/Striking from Hands/solo/hook. We finished up the year with all the players with a more balanced skill base and we have huge confidence in this group that they go onto improve even more with older age groups in the coming years.

* Football Coaching Notes
	+ The kid’s levels of skills in Football Increased dramatically throughout the year. We emphasise team play all the time and in particular to keep their head up and always support your team mates.
	+ We had over 10 kids at the start of the year that had a high level of skills in Football. We pushed for the kids to learn the basics, catching/ pick up/bounce/solo/ Kicking/ hand pass. Once this was achieved, we then challenged them to learn with solo and kick with both feet. To hand pass with both hands and learned how to side step your opponent. We finished up the year with all the players having a more balanced skill base and we have huge confidence in this group that they go onto improve even more with older age groups in the coming years.
* Coaches Comments
	+ We owe a lot of gratitude towards the B/D Minor Club Officers. The workload in organising availability of Pitches and sending out group texts every week etc is huge. We never were short of equipment and when trips away were buses were required all that work was done for us. You leave Coaching the kids to the coaches and everything else is done for us. That is very much appreciated by us

I cannot express the amount of thanks in particular to Carina & her role in the club is unmatched by any other person we have known in the GAA. We are all delighted to see you back to near full health. Thanks also to Chairman Eoin, Coaching Development officers Pat & John for your support throughout the year and also to Stephen for making finance available to us for equipment when required.

Kind Regards
**Martin og Buggy, Ronan Spollen & Declan Garvey**

**Ballinamere/Durrow Under 9 Boys** **report 2018**

**U9 Football Report**

Arrangements were similar for under 9 football with the emphasis being on the core skills of catching, kicking with both feet, solo and hop on the move along with some simple one-handed tackling drills. A lot of great progress was made during the year particularly by those boys who attended on a regular basis. As John alluded to, numbers are low during the summer which begs the question as to whether a break during this period is warranted as it can seem fruitless at times.

We participated in two blitzes each month and considering the fact that a large proportion of our group are under 9 again next year we were able to hold our own in most games.

The pleasing thing as a group is that we have managed to keep most of the players we had in the nursery while we are obviously hopeful that one or two, we didn’t see as much of last year may return.

What proved very useful from a coaching perspective were 3 v 3 and 4 v 4 conditioned games as these allowed those boys who are developing at a slower pace more time on the ball along with more touches and more kicks. Some of the boys moving to under 11 may benefit from these kinds of games initially as they get used to match situations.

We finished with an enjoyable trip to Shandonagh outside Mullingar (complete with Garda escort) where we played a mixture of an under 8 and under 10 team.

Finally a huge thanks to John Duncan, Sean Murtagh, David Conway, David Flanagan, Shayne Coyne and Christian Brennan for their input during the year.

It makes a big difference when you have a good number of coaches working together.

**U9 Hurling Report**

We started the year training indoors in Ballinamere school along with the u7s. Attendance was very good with very large numbers participating.

We moved outside in March, training with one football and one hurling session on Mondays and Thursdays, with a blitz normally on the Saturday.

Attendance varied during the year ranging from approximately 26 in April/May, dropping to an around 18 during the summer months, and back up to mid 20s in September/October.

The core hurling skills covered this year were roll/jab lift, catching (low and high), ground strike and strike from the hand. We covered these particular skills regularly with repetition in most sessions. Other skills covered were handpass, blocking a high ball, controlling the ball from the hurl into the hand, and blocking a low ball. The sessions were organised to cater for different skill levels, incorporating lots of small sided 3v3 or 4v4 conditioned games to ensure all players were involved and getting plenty of touches on the ball.

Pat Cleary gave us some advice and direction at the start of the year, and we followed the guidelines for 'Player Pathway' ages 7-9, with some of the coaches attending the hurling Player Pathway workshop earlier in the year run by Offaly GDA Conor Clancy. Conor also visited us in Durrow during the year, giving us feedback on the work we were doing and giving other ideas for skill development. At the end of the year we ran a skills test developed by Conor, which gave good feedback to players and coaches.

We played 2 hurling and 2 football blitz every month, including the Offaly blitzes at Faithful Fields with all players given equal playing time. We competed well with all clubs, winning and losing some, but improved as the year went on especially as the striking from the hand improved.

We had our hurling trip away in Kilkenny where we played 3 matches against Dicksboro, who were very strong. We competed well enough at the start but they proved too strong over the 3 games. It was a good learning experience, and enjoyable trip for all the players.

All players have shown good progression and improvement over the year, with those who practise more at home showing most improvement.

**Ballinamere/Durrow Under 11 Boys Report 2018**

**Coaching Panel**

* Damian Spollen, Joe Gaffey, Shane Buggy, Adrian Waters, Padraig McRedmond, Eugene O’Dea.

**Player Details**

* 24 players registered
	+ 100% participation in Football
	+ 85% participation in hurling

**Training Sessions**

* Schedule
	+ Summer: Durrow: Twice weekly (Monday evening & Saturday morning)
	+ Training sessions were allocated evenly between Hurling & Football
* Standard Routine
	+ Warm-up and/or SAQ
	+ Drills and/or skill session
	+ Concluding with conditioned/standard game

**Go Games**

* Football
	+ Unlike previous years, only two clubs involved in the fixture (Home & Visiting team).
	+ All games held on a Thursday evening
	+ Game time 40 mins approx. with half-time break
	+ Participated in **7/8** Rounds, of which **4** Rounds were organized and hosted in Ballinamere
	+ Teams played: **Clara**, **K/K**, **Ferbane/Belmont**, **St. Rynaghs**, **Tullamore**, **Gracefield**, **Edenderry**
	+ Depending on numbers we played with either 1 or 2 B/D teams, with focus on everyone getting equal game time.
* Hurling
	+ Unlike previous years, only two clubs involved in the fixture (Home and Visiting team)
	+ All games held on a Thursday evening
	+ Game time 40 mins approx. with half-time break
	+ Participated in **7/8** Rounds, of which **5** Rounds were organized and hosted in Ballinamere
	+ Teams played: **K/K**, **Na Fíanna**, **Brosna Gaels**, **Shamrocks**, **Clara**, **Gracefield**, **St. Rynaghs**
	+ Depending on numbers we played with either 1 or 2 B/D teams, with focus on everyone getting equal game time.

**Faithful Fields**

* Hurling Blitz at Faithful Fields Kilcormac, September 22nd
	+ B/D fielded two teams. Each team played 2 games of 15 min halves
* Football Blitz at Faithful Fields Kilcormac, September 29th
	+ B/D fielded one team and played two games of 15 min halves

**General Comments**

* While it must be remembered that this group are still kids who love a bit of craic etc, when they attend training they are expected to apply themselves, and work hard and honestly for the hour.
* The emphasis in training is on doing the simple things and doing them right. This will hopefully prepare them for the challenges that lay ahead as they progress through the age-groups.
* In the Go-Games series at this level, there is no score recorded – emphasis is on participation and development. That said, we took careful note of the performances and attempted to address observed weakness at the training sessions which followed.
* When we fielded more than one team, the team strength was naturally diluted and sometimes the teams struggled. However, this meant that weaker individuals needed to step up - which they generally did.
* When we fielded one team, we more than held our own, but at times, it was frustrating that on-field dominance was not converted into scores.
* This is a good group of players. If they apply themselves to training hard and practice at home, they will be challenging for titles in the coming years.
* Thanks to Carina and Pat for their help and support throughout the year.

Padraig McRedmond

**Ballinamere/Durrow Under 13 Boys Report 2018**

**U13 Hurling Report**

The Year started with Training concentrated on Skills development, through Basic Drills and conditioned Games.

Striking on the move was identified as a particular weakness, and to improve in this area we agreed as coaches to have it central to our weekly training plan, improvement was evident as the year progressed.

Coaches encouraged players to continue to work on their weaknesses between training sessions. As most players play Football and Hurling, the additional work players do on honing their skills between sessions is of particular importance and the improvement is quite evident in those players who do make the extra effort ,as they develop through underage.

The Fitness levels of some players was challenged early on, with the adjustment to full width playing pitches, but players largely adapted quite well. The S & Q element of training sessions helped to address this.

Our League campaign was successfull which saw us win our division in a hard fought game against Drumcullen Seir Kieran.

The results from early games in the Championship dictated that we compete in the B Competition, and we progressed to a semi final spot against CRC Gaels, CRC who had a physically stronger panel finished winning by 6 points.

The panel of 22 all seem to have enjoyed their Training, are mostly dedicated, and have demonstrated a willingness to Improve their hurling skillset. I found it a rewarding year working with them, The panel was at times supplemented by players from the U11 age group who need to be acknowledged also.

Thanks to Peter Ken Eddie and Lee for their assistance during the Year, Pat Cleary and Michael Duignan require a mention for assisting at Training sessions also

Stephen Ravenhill

**U13 Football Report 2018**.

Started SAQ and training from February onwards.

Panel of 22. One player left the panel during the year.

Also 2 players who had previously registered never turned up at all.

Training was mixed with both disciplines’ getting equal amount of sessions.

Also, during hurling sessions there was an option for football practice, this effected 2 players with one who opted to practice hurling.

Initially numbers were good for training but once summer holidays started numbers were down by at least 40% all the time. This hugely effected training sessions and matches. For most of the league and championship we were always missing players.

Parents submitted their holiday plans but unfortunately, we were unable work around them.

League: B/D, Clara, St Manchans and F/B

Results: Drew with Clara 3.09 to 3.09

 Lost to St Manchans 2.10 to 1.06

 Beat F/B 1.02 to 1.04

Finished 2nd in group, played Rhode in semi in a very hot day and half time there was little between teams but as happened in a few games in both football and hurling we let teams get away from us early in 2nd half. Lost 6.15 to 3.08.

Championship: St Manchans, Edenderry, Clara, Na Fianna, St Rynaghs and Clara.

Results: Beat Clara 2.15 to 1.08

 Drew Na Fianna 3.11 to 4.08

 Lost to St Rynaghs 10.11 to 1.04

 Lost Edenderry 1.06 to 4.13

 Lost St Manchans 6.11 to 0.05

Finished 4th in Group. Lost to KK in Shield Semi by 3pts in a game we could have won.

We were in a very tough group against the best and the finalists in the A championship although it was noted that the lack of training and players missing for the matches did not help, although this is the same for all clubs.

Overall the start of the season was good with decent numbers at training and good competitive games in League and early championship, but it went downhill from there with low numbers, this was disheartening for coaches as some sessions were in the low single digits. Coaches also moved around nights to see if it would improve but no luck.

Numbers came back up once school restarted but unfortunately there was too many trainings missing and we were way of the pace.

Not sure what we can do here, open to suggestions and other coaches experiences.

5 of the panel were eligible for the Jack Wyer tournament, all players showed great improvement throughout the year and it was noted in the JW tournament. B/D were defeated by K/K in Semi.

On the plus side, we have 3 players in with Offaly football U13s. Reports from the Offaly camp is that all 3 players are impressing well. Fingers crossed they get to stay with the panel for the year.

Finally thanks to all the coaches, football and hurling as many trainings were shared with all coaches, also the parents for getting children to training and matches on time and then the players for their commitment and respect during the year.

Best of luck to all the players moving up to u15 and the boys who will staying at u13 for another year.

Regards,

Kenneth

**Ballinamere/Durrow Under 15 Boys Report 2018**

**U-15 Football Report**

Following a very successful 2017 we entered this year with three main goals:

1. To continue the development and improve the basic skills of each player.
2. Build further on the style of play developed in 2017.
3. To win the U-15 Championship.

Training began in February with strength and conditioning for the older members of the panel while younger members focused on SAQ sessions before joining together for outdoor training. Although the year turned out to be a long one it was good to have the extra work done which again proved very beneficial as the year progressed.

The step up to U-15A football was one of many firsts for the squad during the year, our progress was gradual and as the players found their feet, results began to improve. A real sign of that progress was defeating Tullamore in the league which was a first for the club in underage competition and marked a significant development in the confidence and belief of the group. By 24th June we had completed our league fixtures and contested the final losing narrowly to Edenderry.

Our focus then turned to the championship and after stop start schedule of games we secured a quarter final place against Ferbane who we defeated with an assured performance in Clara. A semifinal then awaited where St Manchans provided the opposition and again the lads put in a commanding performance to earn a final place against St. Broughans and with that created another bit of history and a first for the club in football.

The final against St. Broughans in Mucklagh was a keenly contested game and on another day could have proved different but unfortunately, we came up short after a courageous effort and one of which we are very proud. Congratulations to St. Broughans on their win but I am convinced we have closed the gap and made real progress towards our goals and objectives for the future.

Thank you to Alan, Andy and Jim for the cooperation during the year in trying to schedule training and games in line with the Hurling commitments.

We would like to thank the parents and families of all the guys for your help and support during the year.

To the minor and senior clubs, thank you for providing the structures, facilities and encouragement for us to keep moving forward.

To Carina, Colin, Dominic, Alan & Michelle, thank you for everything during the year, and especially to Carina in her dual role as coach & secretary and for all the organizing that goes with schedules, pitches etc.

As always, the most important thank you goes to each and every member of our squad who contributed to a great year, and one which has laid the foundations for better things to come.

Pat

**U15 Hurling**.

The boys competed well in the A league, loosing out to CRC in the league semi final. The quarter final of this league gave the players some great confidence for the championship ahead after turning around an 11 point deficit. This group of players have great attendance records and generally love to come to the pitch to practice. In our championship campaign we defeated Shinrone and Na Fianna setting up an A quarter final with Fer/Bel in which we won comfortably. Unfortunately, the boys came up short against Birr following a five minute laps in concentration after a poor refereeing decision. Thanks to the football management football Pat, Colin Dominic & Carina for their help in preparing the lads throughout the year and for the ease of working schedules. The football training gave our players a great fitness base. Thanks to U13 management Ken & Stephen for aiding us in playing U13 players. Also, to Jim and Andy for all there work over the past couple of years with this group thanks very much.

Alan

**Ballinamere/Durrow Under 17 Boys Report 2018**

**U17 hurling report**.

A real mixed bag of a year, started out so promising, to having a major lull in the middle part of the season. Also throwing in a lost League Final to the mix, only then to finish strong performance wise.

The decision was made in Offaly that every team was to play in the A grade and the losers would qualify for the B grade. Unfortunately, in our first two championship matches we came up against two of the strongest teams in the championship and we lost our way confidence wise.

We had to wait almost three months from being knocked out of the A Championship to play our Quarter final in the B. During this wait, the lads focus never wavered and despite losing three key players, they showed great fight and gave a huge performance, only to finally lose and bow out of the competition.

The team gained a huge amount of experience by playing in the A Championship that will ultimately stand to them in their future club and county careers.

A big thank you to Andy Burke and Alan Scully who helped out on various occasions throughout the year. Also, I had tremendous support from all the parents and in particular the catering committee, specifically Sinéad and Deirdre Wyer, who were always on hand.

Finally, a very special thank you to Carina and Pat, who were a great support to myself, Kevin and Vinnie throughout the year.

**U17 Boys Football**

A promising year, started poorly with some players away in Gaeltacht and on holidays, but got it together as we went along, we played Shamrocks, Gracefield and beating Na Fianna in a quarter-final to set up a semi-final spot against St Manchan’s only then to loose by 1 point, great heart and determination was shown throughout the match.

We had a short enough season, but made the best of it, while we will loose some of the older lads going up (Best of Luck to them in the future), we will gain some very talented young players coming up from under 15s who we were delighted have to help us out this year as they displayed some fine talent.

The team gained a huge amount of experience this year that will ultimately stand to them in their future club and county careers.

A big thank you to the under 15 coaches who helped out on various occasions throughout the year. Also, we had tremendous support from all the parents and in particular the catering committee.

Finally, a very special thank you to Carina, who was a great support to John and myself throughout the year.

Liam.

**Ballinamere/Durrow Under 8 Girls Report 2018**

**Coaches**

Kieran Mcloughlin, Declan Thornton, Dan Minnock, martin Donnelan, Stacey Lambe.

The under 8 girls made great progress during the year, there were 24 girls that were registered for the year ahead.

Training took place on a Wednesday night and for the best part of the season numbers were very good generally anywhere between 14 to 18 attending,

During the hour training we generally started off with some fun warm up and fun games, for most of the year we worked on the basic skills and we set up our drills around these, hand passing, kicking, solo, catching and shooting at the goals were all incorporated into the training, as the year went on we noticed at the blitzes we needed to work on tackling and blocking, they were introduced into the training along with the other skills as mentioned above.

We competed in four blitzes, the first one in Clonbollogue, we only had 8 girls and most who had not competed in blitzes before but has a coaching group we were delighted with the way they performed and acquitted themselves, we then had our home blitz and we had 17 girls available and they all got to experience the games, we went to Ballinagar and we had 15 girls available, again they all got to experience some games, our final blitz was away to Edenderry and we only had 8 girls but the progress which has been made all year was evident by acquitting themselves very well.

We also took part in the pattern of Durrow with Clara where numbers were again high at 16, we played Rhode under 8 and 6 in a fun day at the end of the year

 To sum up the year I would say it was a very enjoyable year from a coach’s point of view and I think all the girls enjoyed it and by going by our training and attendances I think the girls did as well.

The difference from the start of the year to the end was noticeable, their basic skills had improved and as it was a lot of the girls first time playing blitzes you could see the difference in confidence by the end of the year. They all have potential to improve going forward and there are some very capable footballers if they apply themselves.

One thing we noticed that some of the clubs had one or two girls who were very strong for under 8 and would have been better served under 10 which made it that bit difficult at times for us, also we had disappointing numbers for a couple of the blitzes which we could improve on next year

Kieran Mcloughlin

**Ballinamere/Durrow Under 10 Girls Report 2018**

We had in excess of 20 girls at U 10 this year and the skill level of all girls improved as the year progressed. We had some great training sessions with a good attendance most evenings even during the heat wave. The girls had a number of blitz’s during the year away to St Broughans, Naomh Malaoise and Rhode. The girls were also invited to Clara’s Ladies football club day and played 2 match’s and were really well looked after by all the people in Clara.

Ballinamere/Durrow hosted our own blitz for U 10’s and U8’s on June 16th and as a group of coaches we have to acknowledge all of the great help we received from various people in setting out pitch’s, car parking, referee’s, catering and refreshments. The help extended on the day really showed our club in the best possible light and we received some very positive feedback and appreciation from all the visiting teams and parents.

For the girls the real highlight of the year probably was the Leinster Blitz held in Portlaoise on September 1st. We travelled by bus on the day and the girls played a total of 4 games. As coaches we were really proud of the way girls who were extremely well behaved on the day and with their football skills. As a treat we brought all the girls to Supermac’s in Portlaoise and again these girls were a credit to the club and their parents in their behaviour. We also have to thank Buggy’s coaches for providing the transport on the day.

The finale of our year was the All County Blitz in Edenderry on Sept 22nd. We had a total of 4 games on the day and all of the girls were presented with medals for their participation.

We the coaches were very pleased with the girl’s engagement during the year and their willingness to learn the game. The other big thing we worked on was the importance of team work and playing as a team. By year end all of the girls were working very well as a team. Overall this is a great group of girls that will do Ballinamere/Durrow proud in the years to come.

From all the U 10 Mentors: ***Claire Waters, Martina Lydon, Keith Mealliffe, Liam Walsh.***

**Ballinamere/Durrow Under 12 Girls Report 2018**

At the start of the year, Offaly Ladies Gaelic Football Association decided to scrap the Championship for Under 12 girls and switch to non-competitive games.

We therefore ended up playing Series 1 Group Games and later on there was Series 2 group games. In our group were Edenderry A, St. Rynagh’s, Naomh Molaise, Naomh Ciaran & Clara. Series 2 games were the reverse fixture of Series 1. Series 1 got under way on 10th April and Series 2 finished around the 12th August.

The girls were very competitive throughout and were never outclasses by any of the other teams. The games were all played with a great attitude and because they were non-competitive, we were also asked to provide our own young referees. We asked a few girls from the older age groups and special thanks should go out to them, as they did a great job. It was a great success having these young referees get a chance at non-competitive games and it should help them continue on their own paths to become experienced referees in the future.

There was an All-County Blitz organised in Edenderry and there was an End of Year Blitz also played in Edenderry, on the 11th of August.

8 girls from our panel were successful in playing for Offaly Ladies for the first time and it was a great achievement for the girls to play for Offaly at such a young age. They ended up taking part in 3 Inter County Blitz’s.

During the year, between Series 1 and Series 2, we organised a few challenge matches. These were with St. Josephs Kilbeggan, Sarsfield Mountmellick & Moate. The girls were well able to compete with these teams all of which were still involved in Championship matches in both Laois and Westmeath. In fact, the Westmeath A Championship Final was between St. Josephs Kilbeggaan and Moate. This just goes to show how close the girls are to competing at a very high level.

We finished the year back again in Edenderry on 29th of September, after being invited to a special 4 team event. This was run by Edenderry Club itself and ended up being a great day and a great way to finish the year.

Finally, we would like to thank the Parents of all the Girls involved, especially some of the mothers who were on hand to assist at matches throughout the year.

Gabriel Keyes, Declan Garvey & Dermot Cunningham.

Mentors of Under 12 Ballinamere/Durrow Ladies Group.

**Ballinamere/Durrow Under 14 Girls Report 2018**

* 11th of February, prep for feile
* 11th October, last game
* 35 weeks, 70 training sessions
* 6 championship 1 plate final
* 6 league 1 semi final, 1 shield final
* Kilbeggan: 2
* Mountmellick: 1
* Moate: 1
* Feile: 3

Our u14 ladies started their 2018 season on the 11th February in preparation for feile, where we unfortunately failed to progress, losing 2 and winning 1 game. And with both league championship running alongside each other in the A grade, our girls had some good and bad days. In championship we had 6 games winning 2 and losing 4 although a loss away to Edenderry really showed the heart and spirit of the girls, a game we should have won! Our championship season finished with a heavy loss to Clara in the plate final. In the league, playing the same teams, we qualified for the semi final losing to Naomh Ciaran. Once again meeting Clara in the league shield final, our girls went out determined not to be beaten by Clara again, and came out with a great victory on a score line of 6:10 to 3:07, a fitting end to a long hard season. In total we had roughly 72 training sessions, averaging 20 players per session. On the playing side between feile, league, championship and challenge games we played 23 games, with great dedication showed by our girls.

Thanks to the parents for all their time bringing their girls to trainings and games, to Durrow GAA and Ballinamere GAA for all their help throughout the year, it was very much appreciated. Going forward we know pitches are very busy but perhaps a bigger training area for the u14 ladies would help our new 14 ladies as playing on a full size pitch is a huge step up. On behalf of the management team we would like to thank everyone who helped us this year, the parents, B/D minor club, Carina and apologies to anybody we might have forgot to mention.

Barney, Jason, Michael.

**Ballinamere/Durrow Under 16 Girls Report 2018**

The u16s began their year in early March and prepared well for a tough A championship season. They trained with the Minor team and this worked well as the numbers at training were good and both teams pushed each other.

The campaign got off to a great start with a hard fought win over a strong Shamrocks team, This was followed by a defeat to a physical Edenderry team. Wins against St Rynaghs and Naomh Maloise left the girls in a strong position and despite losing to Naomh Chiaran in the last group game they qualified for the A semi final against Edenderry.

Missing some top players proved to be too much in a disappointing semi final where the girls did not really show how well they can play. However in a memorable A shield final v Naomh Chiaran a week later they showed that they could compete with the best in A football. After extra time the Ballinamere Durrow girls triumphed in a wonderful and very exciting game of football. It was only fitting that the girls finished with silverware as they work extremely hard all year.

**Ballinamere/Durrow Under 18 Girls Report 2018**

Most of the u16 panel again togged out to represent Ballinamere/Durrow in the Minor grade and strengthened by the u18 girls made up a very strong 27 girl panel. The year began with a very enjoyable 7 a side tournament in Ferbane in March. Then the girls had a long wait for their championship to start in late August. They played league and challenge games against Clara, Tullamore and Edenderry to keep them sharp.

As this was our first year with a full Minor team we entered the B championship and again began with a convincing win against Shamrocks. Further impressive wins against St Broughans, Naomh Manchans and St Rynaghs meant they were through to the B County Final where the stiff challenge of Shamrocks awaited. A very enjoyable bonding trip to Salthill, where the girls played and defeated the local team, was an important part of the teams preparation for the final. The team even had a swim in the sea despite it being October.

The final was similar in many ways to the u16 final between the same teams two years earlier. Ballinamere/Durrow played a near flawless first half and were 10 points up by half time. Shamrock predictably make a strong comeback but cool heads and superior fitness meant the girls finished the year as County champions. They are now looking forward with confidence to competing in the A championship in 2019 as the vast majority of the panel are again u 18.