

Ballinamere Durrow Team Coaches Reports 2017

Boys & Girls



Ballinamere U6 Nursery Boys & Girls

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 8 Boys

Under 8 boys had a very successful year this year making great progress in their skills in both hurling and football. There was an average of 30 boys training at every session with numbers twindling towards the end of the season when the weather began to get colder. The year began with a trip to Croke Park and this was one of the highlights of the year.

An emphasis was placed at each County Blitzes on giving each child an opportunity to play regardless of ability. The knock on effect was that we did not win many matches but what was more importantly for the coaches was that we didn't lose players throughout the year.

Indoor training in Mucklagh Community Centre has been suggested as a way of keeping skill levels up during the winter if possible as it would be more spacious than Ballinamere hall. Other suggestions include attempting to incorporate some skills development into the SAQs if possible in particular for 6 – 8 year olds who find it difficult to master the solo being given an opportunity to practice with a balloon at a station. Similarly soloing with a beam bag would be another good hurling skill based station. A number of extra pieces of equipment such as the Cultec poles for general hurling training would also be of benefit to improve hand eye coordination if funds allow.

Giving each coach the opportunity to take coaching sessions really worked well and hopefully this will continue. A special thanks to the underage committee for all their support during the year.

Simon Byrne

Ballinamere/Durrow Under 10 Boys Report 2017

Coaching Panel

- Damian Spollen, Eoin O’Ceilleachair, Joe Gaffey, Shane Buggy, Colin Boland, Padraic McRedmond, Eugene O’Dea, Adrian Waters, Pat Cleary.

Player Details

- 31 players on Panel of which 80% dual players

Training Sessions

- Schedule
 - Springtime: Ballinamere – Once weekly
 - Summer: Durrow: Twice weekly (Thursday evening and Saturday morning)
 - Winter: Ballinamere: Once weekly and concluding in same time-frame as Winter SAQ
 - Training sessions were allocated evenly between Hurling & Football
 - There were no session cancellations due to weather or coach unavailability
- Routine
 - Warm-up and/or SAQ
 - Drills and/or skill session
 - Concluding with conditioned games and/or standard game.
 - Each coach took turns in having responsibility for a session: planning session, publishing plan to other coaches in advance, setting up the equipment and executing the plan.
- Average Player Attendance for peak months
 - April: 65%
 - May: 66%
 - June: 55%
 - July: 54%
 - August: 41%

Go Games/Blitz’s

- Official Football Go-Games
 - Participated in 7/7 Rounds
 - Organized and Hosted 3 Rounds in Durrow
- Official Hurling Go-Games
 - Participated in 7/7 Rounds
 - Organized and Hosted 2 Rounds in Durrow
- All County Football Blitz - O’Connor Park June 19th
 - B/D fielded two teams. Each team played 1 match with 20 min halves, both games against Shamrocks
- All County Hurling Blitz - O’Connor Park June 26th
 - B/D fielded two teams. Each team played 1 match with 20 min halves, both games against K/K. Due to small numbers (inclement weather), K/K had to supply us with some players.
- All County Football Blitz – Faithful Fields September 23rd
 - B/D fielded one team (clashed with Clarinbridge Hurling Blitz). The team played 2 matches with 10 min halves.
- All County Hurling Blitz – Faithful Fields September 30th
 - B/D fielded one team. The team played 2 matches with 10 min halves.
- Clarinbridge Hurling Blitz – Clarinbridge GAA September 23rd

- B/D were invited to the Annual Clarinbridge Hurling club Blitz to participate with teams from Galway, Limerick and Clare. B/D fielded one team. The team played 3 rounds of matches with 10 min halves, concluding with a 'final' game based on finishing position after the 3 rounds.
- One-Off Hurling Blitz 1
 - B/D hosted Shamrocks on September 11th in Ballinamere under lights
 - Two team were fielded. Both team played 2 matches with 10 min halves
- One-Off Hurling Blitz 2
 - B/D hosted Na Fianna on October 16th in Ballinamere under lights
 - Two team were fielded. Both team played 2 matches with 10 min halves

Comments

- Training Sessions
 - Appointment of 'lead' coach to plan and run the sessions proved successful. Sessions were well organized and tightly ran. It was also a learning experience for the other coaches present who saw new drills and new approaches. Feedback on the session was provided, and suggestions were made on the spot if tweaks were needed.
 - On the Saturday morning sessions, SAQ was shared between the U10s and the U12s. This was an efficient use of equipment and coaching resources and should be continued in 2018.
 - We had a few "guest" coaches from within the club take some training sessions. It was found to be beneficial to both players and the coaching panel, and should also be continued in 2018.
- Go Games
 - In the football Blitz's, we struggled sometimes against some of the "traditional" football teams but on average we were more than competitive. In the hurling Blitz's we fared better, and often beat the "traditional" hurling teams well.
 - Although it was good for the players to experience playing in O'Connor Park, the event itself was a bit flat. In both the Football and Hurling games, B/D ended up playing the same teams twice.
 - The Faithful Fields events contrasted sharply to the O'Connor Park games. The event had a better atmosphere and we got to play different teams.
 - The Ball wall at Faithful Fields proved very popular with the playing panel. Maybe we should request some time at Faithful Fields for a training session in 2018.
 - In the Clarinbridge Blitz, we met strong hurling teams who had 2-3 outstanding players which drove the tempo of the game. Nonetheless, we were competitive and performed particularly well against the eventual winners. As the games were hard and physical, players were visibly tired in the later games.
- General Comments
 - This is a great group of players. If this group apply themselves to training hard and continue to improve they will be challenging for county titles in the years to come.

Padraic McRedmond.

Under 12 Boys Hurling and Football.

Started out with 25 players. 25 footballers and 21 hurlers.

At the end of the year we were up to 24 Hurling through inclusion of all during all training session.

Trained on a Monday, Thursday and Saturday. Lost a lot of players during the summer, average sessions in the summer months was down to about 15 which was disappointing but with hols rev couldn't be helped. Moved to a Friday later in year to improve attendance.

Training during the year was fixed that both hurling and football got equal amounts for sessions. Good sessions were planned and trainers ensured all sessions were prepared well and in time for all sessions.

Football blitzes during the year normally had good attendances. BD were very strong in football and won all blitzes bar 1. This loss was on a bad wet evening. Beat some strong footballing clubs. All children were given a fair chance and game time during the year.

Hurling blitzes too were well attended and it was good to see some players that didn't train hurling were playing towards End of year. BD were probably 50/50 win loss but with hurling you need your strong players and we would have missed players during these games.

U12s played in the Jack Wyer tournament this year getting to the semi-final. Beaten by Tullamore and Kk in groups. Loss Tullamore game by a point. They scored a goal in last puck. KK game was good strong game but they pulled away from us in second half. Tullamore beat us in SF but unfortunately, we were missing 1 or 2 of our strongest players and I believe with those players we could have reached the final. KK beat Tullamore in final. One thing to note was the improvement of players during the JW tournament. Skill level and team play improved immensely.

Lost ¾ children at end of September and never came to JW tournament. Left us with about 20 for matches. Suspect that children only started hurling this year and didn't want to play yet.

Currently some of the children are training on a Monday evening with next year's u13 and u15. Over 20 still at it. I feel it's very important for kids as some are not playing rugby or soccer so at least this keeps them sharp. Thanks to Alan for coordinating this.

Next year this same team will be the u13 team and will be playing championship. I believe they are well capable of progressing to the late stages of the championship.

It has been a pleasure to train the u12 BD team this year and they are a great bunch of boys and girls.

Huge thanks to Stephen, Lee, Ed, Peter, Kevin and Aidan for all their help and support during the year.

Kenneth Gorman

Under 14 Hurling

(Mentors Alan Scully, Andy Bourke, Jim Troy)

Ballinamere/Durrow contested the A hurling final for the first time. The games were of a very high standard and often there was only a puck of the ball between Ballinamere/Durrow and their opponents. Many of the present players are eligible for next year and the experience gained will certainly stand to them. The hurling season started in February when Ballinamere/Durrow entered the Féile competition which was played in Kinnitty. The U14 championship was played on a home and away basis. Our boys finished third in the group stages beating KK in a super semi-final by 1 point. Our opponents in the final were CRC and after a great contest and a highly skilful game CRC got the upper hand in the final 10 minutes to win their first county title. The experience of playing and competing at this will certainly prove fruitful in the years ahead, as they always provide top quality opposition. All in all, underage hurling has progressed greatly at this age group. The efforts of the dedicated co mentors and parents are bearing fruit. It is vitally important that attendance stays high and that the younger players all aim to represent Ballinamere/Durrow in their teenage and adult years and we must do everything to support them to reach that objective.

I would also like to acknowledge the great achievement of our u-14 football team on winning Feile and championship, and to the mentors Pat, Colin and Carina for their co-operation during the year.

I would also like to thank Carina, Michelle and Yvonne for all their help with physio and injuries all year. Alan.

U-14 Boys Football Report

Our preparations began last November hosting an invitational blitz with teams from Meath, Roscommon, Leitrim, Kildare & Westmeath taking part. The idea behind the blitz was to aid the transition of our under 12's who were moving up to competitive championship games, their first exposure to a full size pitch and an early opportunity to integrate everyone in the group. The day ran smoothly with games played simultaneously in Durrow & Ballinamere culminating in the final between BD and Coralstown Kinnegad, where we proved victorious. It was clear even at this early stage that we had the basis of a very good group and little did we know that the character they showed that evening to secure a narrow win would be called on many times during the year.

Training began in January which was due to the proposed early start of Féile in February and although it was much later when it eventually began it was good to have the extra work done with the squad which proved vital later in the year. We had a specific focus for each training session which was geared towards improving the basic skills of each player and implementing the style of football we planned to play during the year.

Féile was to play a big part in our year and after defeating Gracefield in the semi final we had a quick turnaround to face St Manchán's the following day in Clara. In a keenly contested game the guys again proved victorious and became the first team in the club's history to win a county Féile.

Shortly after the win our minds switched to the beginning of our championship and preparations for the Féile weekend which was held in Cavan & Fermanagh in June.

To send a team to Féile is no small feat and we would like to thank everyone for all the help and support with the fundraising activities which allowed us to go and represent our club and county. Our hosts in Cavan were St Joseph's of Arva who welcomed us into their families and lives for the weekend and left no stone unturned in the organisation of our visit. On the football side we topped our group defeating teams from Cavan & Donegal before moving on to Fermanagh to face a local team Kinawely in the quarter final.

The game itself was a tight affair and ended all square at the end of normal time, however it was not to be our day and we lost by a point in extra time. The disappointment was evident but also was the determination to win our championship when we got back home.

We had played three championship games before heading to Féile and were undefeated when we met Ferbane in a top of the table clash on their home pitch. In what was probably our best display of the year we pulled away at the end to clinch a vital win and more importantly the belief for the squad that they were as good as any team in the county.

Further wins saw us finish top of our group and face St Manchán's in the semi final on a damp evening in Clara where the guys work rate saw them through. The final against Ferbane in Mucklagh proved to be a tense and tight affair where again the character of the squad shone through and helped them become champions.

All of the above was achieved by practically the same group that competed in the U14 A hurling final and we would like to thank Alan, Andy and Jim for the excellent cooperation received during the year which helped the guys be successful.

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, thanks for providing the structures, facilities and encouragement for us to keep moving forward.

To Carina, Colin & Alan, thank you for everything during the year, and especially to Carina in her dual role as coach & secretary, who gave endless time & commitment to the club.

Finally a very special thank you to the each and every member of our squad who all contributed to a very successful year, well done lads you deserve it.

Pat Fulton.

Ballinamere/Durrow U-16 Boys Football Report 2017

Coaches: Michelle Crowley; Pdraig Corcoran

We started 2017 with of a squad 18 for the U-16 football panel. One more was added at later date. I would consider 14 of the panel to have attended training on a regular basis. Up to 7 U-14 players played with the squad at different times throughout the year.

We were due to play two league games in our group but having lost the first we then had to concede the second, as we were unable to field a team. This was down to issues such as rugby, U-14 matches, etc.

Our aim for the championship was to get to the semi finals. In order to achieve this and looking at the strength of the championship the target was 3 wins.

We wanted to increase fitness levels and we wanted to bring a tactical awareness of certain sides of the game to the players. I believe regards the fitness side of things that most certainly improved.

The U-16 B Championship was of a high standard and it would have to be asked why a couple of those teams were in the B and not the A championship. We won 2 games and lost 4. The game that we targeted a win was St Manchan's, which we lost by 2 points. Had we won this we most certainly would have qualified for the later stages.

Overall, it was a positive year from the point of view of the further development of players. It was challenging from the point of view of planning and organising training sessions given the commitments of lads to other sports and age grades.

Targets with this group for next year should include fitness work, skills and tactical awareness. One huge area of weakness all year was the ability to kick the ball accurately for a pass or for a score.

I would like to thank Carina for her organisational skills and her patience throughout the year.

Finally the management and players would like to express how immensely proud we are of all the club has achieved in this past year.

Padraig Corcoran.

Under 16 Hurling (Mentors Ciarán Buggy and Ronan Lally)

Ballinamere/Durrow Under 16 Hurling – A lot of work was done throughout the year, with this group of dedicated players.

After a promising start, and finishing second in the group, qualifying directly into a semi-final, we faced Shamrocks who qualified first in the group.

Unfortunately, we ultimately came up short, due to a variety of reasons.

At the start of the year, not much was made of our chances, but due to the lad's work ethic and improvement, we became genuine contenders and were bitterly disappointed to lose out to the eventual comfortable winners.

Anyone who was at the semi-final witnessed a high standard of hurling by both teams. They gained valuable experience along the way that will stand to them in their future careers.

Overall, we played ten games, including challenge matches and only lost two of these. A special mention to Pádraig and Michelle, the football management, as their training in particular, was a huge advantage as the year progressed.

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, who were always on hand.

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

Ciarán and Ronan.

U18 Hurling 2017

We were disappointed that there was no u18 league held in Offaly in 2017 as it meant we had no preparation like all other clubs for the championship. The GAA recommend that u18 players have a minimum of 9 competitive matches in hurling & football each year, that was not the case in 2017.

We won the county final in 2016 on October 22nd and we didn't play another match until July 5th 2017!

We won our group matches against Na Fianna, Birr, Kilcormac Killoughey and it meant that we had already qualified for the semi final two weeks before we played our final group game against Coolderry on August 17th which we also won.

We qualified straight to the semi final and we had a long wait until early October before we played Ferbane/Belmont. We got on top late on after a hard fought game and showed good determination to gain the win despite being a bit rusty.

We played St Rynaghs in the County Final and eventually came out on top after a replay. The players deserve massive credit for coming back from 8 points down in the drawn game and then 7 points down in the replay to eventually win by 5. They showed all the attributes necessary to succeed in sport, heart, determination, discipline, skill, calmness and exemplary team work. We were all very proud to retain the Minor A title in the last year ever of the U18 grade.

We had a small panel this year and to overcome the loss of two great young players in Aaron & Luke & still win the championship is to me a massive achievement.

I would like to thank a few people.

Firstly, a big thanks to my 2 selectors Daithi Regan & Derek Wyer. We have been together for the past 2 years and the lads have brought a freshness and a massive interest and work ethic to the job and have been a hugely important part of our success. I would also like to thank Aisling for her excellent work as medic and Yvonne for her continued professionalism & help.

I would like to thank the Minor club executive for the tremendous amount of work which they continue to do, especially Carina who we were very sorry to see falling so sick during the year. We are all delighted that you are now slowly recovering and we hope that you return to full health in the coming months.

Thanks also to both senior clubs for your support and for the use of your facilities at all times and congratulations on your great successes this year.

Finally I would like to congratulate all the other coaches who are putting in such a big effort throughout the club. Seeing the club win the U14 football and reach the U14A hurling final is very encouraging as we continue to build towards winning senior championships in years to come. The Jack Wyer team also provided us with great entertainment and the nursery is going from strength to strength. Also a big well done to our Ladies club on your continued success & emergence as a major force in Offaly football.

Best wishes to you all in the future.

Michael Duignan
Minor Hurling Manager

Unfortunately, we have no U18 Boys Football report for 2017

Ladies U8 Girls Football

We had a most enjoyable year in the Ladies u8 Football section of the club. Numbers registered were very good and most Wednesdays we had a very good turnout and enjoyable sessions. We went to blitzes in Edenderry, Shamrocks, Ferbane and our own in Durrow. The girls performed really well in these non-competitive games and were a pleasure to be associated with. The Year finished with a county blitz in Cloghan which was a great day out.

Coaches Martin Donnellan, Keith Mealiffe, Aisling Lydon, Ray Bell and Kevin Cleary put in great work and a huge thanks to them. For the first time this year we held some of the sessions in Ballinamere and they worked very well.

John Lydon

Ladies U10 Girls Football

32 girls on attendance sheet.

On average 24 girls at training every Wednesday night.

Blitzes: We attended blitzes in Edenderry, Shamrocks, Rhode, Naomh Ciaran and St. Rynaghs during the year. The club hosted an U10 blitz in Durrow on 29th July, which was a great success.

The girls had 2 challenge matches against Clara during the year.

On Pattern Day the U10 girls also played Clara, both teams received medals and treats.

We ended the year by playing at the official opening of Faithful Fields on Saturday 23rd Sept, an enjoyable day had by all.

I would like to thank all the players, coaches, volunteers and parents who helped make 2017 a very successful year.

Sean Murtagh

Ladies U12 Girls Football

There were 30 girls registered in the Under 12 Age Group. Out of the group, 2 girls never turned up to any training or games at all. The group was managed & coached by Aiden Doyle, Gabriel Keyes, Michelle Crowley & Dermot Cunningham.

We started training in March and our 1st Championship match was on the 29th March. We went on reach the County Final of the A Championship on the 11th June. We lost on the day to a very strong Edenderry team by 2 points. This was the second year in a row that this age group reached the A Final.

The Under 12 League got underway on 28th June. The league consisted of 5 games and they reached the Semi Final, again playing Edenderry. Unfortunately, they got the better of us again and this resulted in us playing in the A Shield Final against a much-improved Naomh Molaoise team, who had beaten us well, earlier in the league. The game was played under very tough conditions but the girls played with great spirit and commitment and finally saw their hard work rewarded. They ended up winning the final by just few points.

Over the year, the girls made some great progress, and the coaches all felt that the girls who are moving up to under 14's should be a great addition to that group. There should be about 11 girls moving up. The 17 girls that will still be under 12 next year should provide a very strong base and be well able to compete with some of the more established clubs again next year.

Games and training sessions were always well attended. There was never any issue with any of the girls and they did their parents, families and Club proud every time they represented the Club. They played with a great spirit and even in defeat never let their heads go down.

The coaches are also very happy to propose at the County Board Meeting that the League be run before the Championship as it might give bit more time to develop the squad and improve the individual talents throughout the year, without the pressure early on of the major championship.

Submitted by :

U12 Mentors (Aiden, Gabriel, Michelle & Dermot).

Ladies U14 Girls Football

The u14s Girls team competed in the 'A Championship' for the second year in a row. A number of challenge matches against the likes of Kilbeggan and Clara took place during March and helped the squad focus on the challenges that lay ahead of them in the League and Championship. The Feile held in Clara, was up first and the three matches ended in two draws and one win, but it wasn't enough for BD to progress to the play off final. Edenderry prevailed and represented Offaly later in the summer.

Next were the League and Championship campaigns, intertwined with a few challenge matches as well culminating in a busy summer schedule. The SAQ sessions held the previous winter certainly stood to the Girls as the opposition, in nearly every case, proved to be challenging. The coaches were aware of the step for some of the Girls who were playing u14 and on the big pitch for the first time.

The first Championship game v Naomh Chiaran was a cracking contest but BD lost out by the narrowest of margins. We ended up in 5th place but the Girl's never say die attitude earned them a lot of plaudits throughout the campaign. Shamrocks and Edenderry proved to be the strongest with Shamrocks prevailing as worthy winners.

The Girls had a bit more success in the league campaign and finished in 4th place and again Shamrocks came out on top.

All four coaches Barney, Michael, Caroline & I enjoyed working with the squad during the said campaign and a lot of positives can be taken from the performances on the pitch. Indeed, the coaches continued to learn from each other over the last year and the Girls played their part in making the training sessions challenging and worthwhile with a continued focus on working on their basic ball skills and general fitness.

Jason Henshaw

Ladies U16 Girls Football

This was a very important Year for the u16 Ladies Football team as it was our first time to enter the 'A' grade which is a very big step up in competition. The girls began training in February and worked very hard to prepare for the championship which began in March. The opening game was a daunting away game against the powerful Naomh Chiaran club who have been the dominant team at this age group. The girls performed really well and after being ahead at half time lost narrowly in the end. This was followed by great wins against Clara, St Rynaghs and Naomh Maloise and a defeat to eventual winners Edenderry. This put us into the Semi Final where after a fantastic game we lost out narrowly again to Naomh Chiaran. The year finished with a disappointing loss to Naomh Maloise in the A plate final.

Nevertheless this was a very good year and to compete so well in the A division was very satisfying and showed us we can live with the top teams and look forward with confidence to next year.

John, Carina & Gay.

Ladies U18 Girls Football

Due to the timing of the Ladies Minor Championship our Minor girls had to wait until September to finally get a game. As we only had a handful of girls who are not u 16 we entered the C grade at Minor Level. It was also our first time to have a Minor team. There was only one other team at C and ourselves and St Manchans played a very enjoyable C County Final with us coming out on top with an historic win. We hope to develop our Minor team further in 2018 as we will have a good few girls who have now reached that age group.

John, Carina & Gay.

Thanks to all our coaches who have provided reports.

Carina