

The year started off with a draw to Mayobridge before we were all put into lockdown. Post lockdown seen an increase in numbers and the reserves had 28+ at most of our games. The premier reserve league was split into four groups and we were put in what could only be described as the group of death which included the likes of Burren, Loughinisland, Mayobridge, Kilcoo and Rostrevor.

The league campaign was compact running from the beginning of July to mid-August. The boys have improved this year and had some very good performances in the league, beating burren by 2 points in the first game after lockdown. They had to work hard for this victory but the win over our close rivals gave us confidence and started what was to be an invincible season.

We topped the group, and it was on to the semis. We drew Breadagh at home, the conditions were horrendous, and it was tight going in at half time. The boys picked themselves up as they always have when needed this year and were unstoppable in the second half and we won the game comfortably 2-11 to 0-7.

It was then on to the final in Drumgath against Castlewellan. The pitch was very heavy and took our boys a while to get used to the conditions. Had the shooting been a bit better this game would have been over after 20 minutes. This wasn't the case but as always the boys work rate off the ball was phenomenal keeping Castlewellan to only 3 scores in the entire game, this allowed us to continue to create chances, in the second half we started to take these chances and pulled away to win with a score line of 2-8 to 0-3, bringing the Felix Darby Premier Reserve cup to Warrenpoint for the first time.

The championship didn't begin until the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October, we drew Breadagh away in the first game, a place we have historically struggled going. Again, it was a tight game but the boys came away with a well deserved 1-13 to 1-7 Victory. Unfortunately due to covid 19 the championship is currently suspended but the target all year was to challenge for the championship and that remains the target.

Overall it was a great year for the reserves with a lot of positives, obviously it was great to get silverware but the main positives is that the reserves have now got a good squad in terms of numbers, we have established a training night solely for reserves (something we hope keeps going next year) and getting a place on the team is now competitive. It was also encouraging to see a lot of new young faces this year with a few boys making their debuts, all this contributed to not only a successful year but a very enjoyable year for the reserve footballers.

As a management team I'd like to thank Liam and the U19 management team for their support throughout the year and for never having a problem with the U19 players coming to play with us

We'd also like to thank Sean O'Hare, Stephen Robertson and Paul Mckibben for all their help throughout the year, it really made our jobs a lot easier and we really appreciated everything you done.

Lastly we'd like to thank every single player who attended either a training session or a match day with us this year. A great bunch of lads who have shown us a tremendous amount of respect and have been a pleasure to manage all year.

Michael Morgan, Conor McGarry and Daniel Bird