

Senior Ladies' Gaelic Football Overview 2020

Ronan Magee (Manager)



Warrenpoint ladies, I believe have improved immensely from the very first training session I took them for. We started mid/late February in Moygannon, where Ciara Downey was nominated captain and Sian Keenan vice-captain by the rest of the team!

Unbelievably high numbers turned out for the first training sessions and this continued pre and post Covid-19.

The girls worked relentlessly to improve themselves on the pitch, especially after the break due to Covid-19. I had asked the girls and they were also very keen themselves to keep active during lockdown which I think was another factor for their success this year.

Post lockdown on our first training session back I had asked the girls to give me everything they had for the next 9/10 weeks and I have to say they all did 100%. I believe this was key to the results they got, as they won all their league matches back to back with amazing results against Saval, Tullylish and East Belfast as well as the amazing performances against Burren and Annaclone in friendlies, both of whom are a league above us.

This year saw new players Alannah McDevitt, Grace Devlin, Aoife Sloan to name but a few and also returning players like Sara Daly, Siofra McAteer, Silin Murphy, Lucia Morgan and Emma Russell.

This year brought along a few injuries. Ciara Downey and Emma Sloan had hamstring issues. Maria Sloan broke fingers and Caoimhe Shannon badly sprained her wrist. Unfortunately, the most serious was Tara Cunningham with a head injury, who needed to be stretchered off the field and attend hospital via paramedic crews by ambulance. I would like to take this opportunity to give a special thanks to Manny Craven and Gingos Quinn for their help and professionalism that evening in Tullylish.

This year saw many of the U16s play with the senior ladies and it was great to see as a manager how the seniors ladies welcomed them. They all played on the same level as one very talented team. I would like to say thank you to the U16 management and coaches Mike Barnett, Paula Howlett, Killian Quinn and Maria Heatley.

As manager, I'd like to thank my team Marty Carr, Declan Carvill and Aileen McAteer. I am forever in their debt for all they have done this year not only for me but for the senior ladies.

Unfortunately the senior ladies could not get past a very tough Bredagh team to reach their first ever championship final and not only the management but the ladies were so disappointed and gutted but have vowed to come back bigger and better next year and I know they will.

Finally to conclude I believe the senior ladies team wouldn't of been so successful this year if it wasn't for their determination, belief and the appetite to win and their ability to take on board what is asked of them. In my opinion this team has not yet reached their full potential and I believe with the guidance of myself over the next few years the ladies could not only win the championship but move up the league.

Sincere thanks to Cumann Pheadair Naofa and the senior committee for allowing me the opportunity to manage the ladies' senior team this year.

Ronan Magee