

U16 Ladies' Gaelic Football Overview 2020

Mike Barnett (Manager)



Our season started in St. Mark's gym for approximately six weeks of indoor training, following the club wide athletic development plan. The plan was a progression from the plan that was rolled out to the club for the first time in 2019. The plan this year was more games based, incorporating all of the aspects of athletic development into game-based scenarios.

Outdoor training sessions started in February, which proved to be a challenge with weather & pitch conditions. The girls joined in with the senior training, to avail of the opportunity to train at Moygannon during weekday evenings when the light would not allow training at Milltown. I would like to extend my thanks to the senior manager Ronan Magee, for allowing the U16s to join in with these sessions.

The girls had initially been placed in section B, along with Mayobridge, Saul, Rostrevor, Ballymartin, Burren & Kilcoo. The opening match (Mayobridge) had to be called off, due to the condition of Milltown, with Moygannon not available. Before the next match was due to be played, the Covid-19 pandemic struck & all GAA activities were shut down, in mid-March

After almost 4 months of inactivity, action finally resumed in July. Given the time lost due to the pandemic, the format of matches had to be completely restructured, with the aim of getting as much playing time as possible. The solution put forward by the county board was a series of friendly warm-up games, leading into a championship, to be held in a group format. For the warm-up games, Cumann Pheadair Naofa were placed in a group with Bredagh, Mayobridge & Castlewellan. Due to an issue with availability of toilets at Cherryvale in Belfast, the opening match against Bredagh was switched to Milltown, where the girls put in a strong performance to take the win against a section A team. The next match was scheduled to be against Castlewellan, but due to a Covid-19 issue within Castlewellan club, the match had to be called off. A lack of match practice was evident for the next match away to Mayobridge, where the girls suffered a narrow defeat.

The championship draw saw the girls placed in a group of three alongside close neighbours Rostrevor & Burren. With only the group winners progressing to the final & each team just getting two games, both games would prove to be vital. The girls began with a 6-point victory away to Rostrevor, to start off on a positive note. With Burren also defeating Rostrevor two weeks later, the meeting of Warrenpoint & Burren, would decide who progressed to the final. Injury & the effects of Covid-19, reduced the availability of players for what was effectively a semi-final. The match was played in extremely wet conditions & despite the girls giving their all, Burren progressed to the final. This effectively brought the season for the U16s to a close.

There was a small panel of U16 girls this year (15), so older U14s were asked to attend some training sessions & all matches, to ensure that we were able to field. Thanks to U14 manager Declan Carvill, for his support with this.

I'd like to thank coaches Maria, Paula, Aileen & Killian for all of their hard work throughout the season. Working with such knowledgeable & dedicated coaches, makes the job of managing a team, that much easier.

It has been an absolute privilege to work with such a wonderful & enthusiastic bunch of young ladies this season & I wish them all the very best for their endeavours next season.

Le Mise

Mike Barnett & U-16 LGFA Coaches.