



Cumann Pheadair Naofa C.L.G.

St. Peter's GAA Club, Warrenpoint



2022 Football Committee Report – Shane Carr

A Chara,

It was great to get the football section back toward some sort of normality in 2022.

We thank all the mentors, parents and kids were involved in any way with the football section this year.

We had 12 teams providing football for the boys and girls in our club from U7 to minor level. At the start of the year we were delighted to have some experienced coaches return to underage boys management as well as a number of former senior players working with underage players. We hope this will be further enhanced going forward with Ryan Boyle coming onboards as the Games Coaching and Development Officer

The coaching within our club will only improve by senior players continuing to coach in the club after they finish their playing for the club.

In addition to the new coaches we had a large percentage of our existing coaches who needed to refresh their Access NI and Child Protection certification and the football section did well to ensure the appropriate certification was in place, even if it involved virtual courses or similar. We recognise the work of Anne McCormack in arranging the courses and validating the documentation to ensure all coaches within the club are compliant with the GAA regulations and our own clubs governance policies.

In terms of competition it we congratulate the U15's and Minors in reaching finals at their levels, hopefully they will be able to get over the line in the not too distant future.

The pressure for space from all of our teams across codes makes the allocation of training one of the most difficult jobs within the club and we thank Mike Barnett for his diligence in carryout out this role.

I would like to thank all members of the football committee for their efforts throughout the year.

Football Committee

Cathaoirleach (Chairman) – Shane Carr

Rúnaí (Secretary) - Paul McKibben

Coiste (Additional members) – Steve Robinson, Johnny Rooney, Colm Rice, Brendan Rice, Mike Barnett, Noreen Kelly and Larry Byrne.



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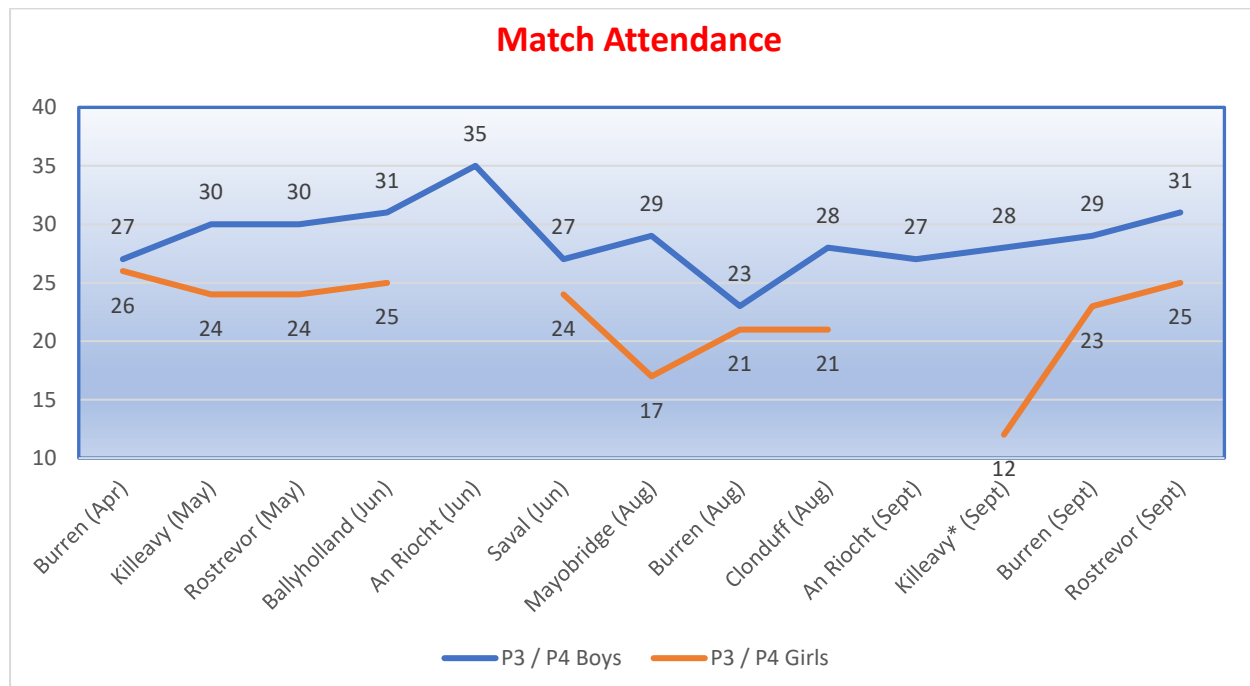
2022 U7 (Nursery to P3) Report – Stephen Robinson

A Chara,

After a couple of disrupted years due to Covid it was great to get back to a full year's fun with the U7s. The main aim of the year was to keep all the kids coming back during the year. If the kids keep coming back we're doing ok. As you can see from the grid below, attendance towards the end of the year was on a par with the start of the year. Indeed, towards the end of the year we got a few additional P3 & P4 boys attending training.

The general structure of the year was to have a couple of months training on the Sunday morning in St. Marks at the start of the year. Then from the end of Apr to end of June play a good few matches while training on Wednesday nights. We planned no matches for July with holidays and just arranged training on both Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. Then go back to playing matches from Aug to the end of the year outside. For October, we went indoors playing fun games such as dodge ball to keep the kids training together.

The matches for the boys were against teams with similar numbers and generally all worked out well and, as the year progressed, we could see the kids progress skills wise throughout. While we are lucky within Warrenpoint to have such a strong girls section, it was a little more challenging in that some of the teams we were playing didn't have the same numbers so we did have the situation where we had numerous subs and had to play additional matches amongst ourselves.



*Killeavy match clashed with an Irish dancing Feis for the girls

An Ríocht did not have any girls teams



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The goal is always to make it a welcoming environment for all skills levels. At U7 we have a complete range of abilities, and we always aim to ensure that all kids enjoy the training and playing matches. The preference this year was that all matches would be small sided mixed ability games to promote the games to all abilities and most, if not all, opposing clubs were open to that.

A key aim for next year will be to try to challenge the stronger players to improve while still trying to bring the average skill-levels up without sacrificing those friendships and general fun that take place across the differing abilities.

That leaves us with the coaches – it goes without saying that nothing would be possible without having coaches willing to give up their free time to coach the kids. They are all a credit to the club and have been great with the kids all year. The younger age groups can lack concentration and really all they want to do is run out and have fun. The coaches always facilitated that, have great patience with the kids and encourage them positively. Each training session was made fun first and foremost, and each match was treated as an opportunity for the kids to go out and enjoy playing the games we all love. No shouting at kids in the U7s groups in Warrenpoint ! While fun comes first, the coaches were still very focused on developing the players skills throughout the year and we have seen some great improvements throughout 2022 which we hope to continue into 2023.

A special mention of thanks to Aaron Gregory, who helped with the girl's teams throughout the year and trained both boys and girls in St. Dallans.

We're lucky that the parent groups are very supportive of the coaches and very respectful of all teams when at matches so a big thanks to all the support there too.

Finally, robbed from last years notes but it still holds through, I think it is great to have the U5, U7, U9 and GAA for all all training at the same time on a Sunday morning. It creates such a good atmosphere in St. Marks on those Sunday mornings. A personal goal has always been to just have kids out exercising in the fresh air, having fun and building friendships for life. The Sunday mornings are a joy in this regard.

To finish, thanks to all those coaches that gave their time in 2022, looking forward to getting onto the pitch again in 2023, and best of luck to those moving on to U9.

1, 2, 3,SUPERBLUES

Stephen

U7 Management Team

Managers – Stephen Robinson, Colm Rice

Coaches- Bronagh O'Hare, Paul Rafferty, Sean Doherty, Declan McGrath, Paschal McElearn, Niall McShane, Colin McGivern, Danny O'Neill, Philip Sloan



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2022 U9 (P5-6) Report – Kieran Grant

Kieran Grant - Manager

Mark Toal - Coach

James Keenan - Coach

Ruari McCartney - Coach

Paul Rafferty - Coach

Thanks also to Declan McGrath and Aaron Gregory for helping in training when they could.

A decision was made at the start of the season to split the girls and boys training into separate groups. We coordinated closely with Nigel, Ciaran and Brendan particularly at the start of the season (as well as the U7 coaches) as we got up and running but that was definitely the correct decision given the number of boys and girls of this age group who were keen to play.

The highest attendance for the season in total was 31 boys with a weekly average of 25+ kids. The number split between P5s and P6s was approximately 50/50. The P6s will be moving up to the U11s next season. It is still not too late for kids of that age to pick up the game so it would be great if there was a drive (possibly through the school and as well as through the club) to create interest amongst this age group.

Our season started on Sunday 6th March 2022 on the St. Mark's pitches (most Sundays at 11:15AM) and increased training to twice weekly from 30th March 2022 and did so every Wednesday evening in St Marks until the end of the September. At the time of writing this report we are carrying on with a few more Sunday trainings weather permitting to work on ball skills. There was no indoor training this year. If allowed, next season it would be beneficial to start early indoors and get out onto the football pitch as soon as is practical. The twice weekly training is an obvious benefit and should continue going forwards at a time suitable to both coaches and players.

This group had on average 4 coaches per session. This is the minimum number required to ensure players are getting effective coaching. Thanks to those in the club who initiated Aaron Gregory coming in to help the groups. He took a few sessions for us at the start of our season that provided some variety for the kids. Hopefully something similar can happen every year.

The county board arranged scheduled 6 friendlies with other teams with similar numbers in the area. Other friendly matches were organised with Burren (2 times), Rostrevor (twice) & Mayobridge. We also organised a mini tournament with ourselves, Burren Rostrevor and Bryansford. All of the matches had at least two teams per occasion and in some cases, we were able to field 3 teams. This ensured every footballer got plenty of match time.



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We also entered several tournaments including Ballyholland, Atticall, Bransford, Savel & Clonduff. All teams performed very well and came up against really strong teams from all over Ulster. It has to be noted that our Ogs team (P5) won all their 6 matches at the Clonduff tournament to win the Shield.

There is no doubt however that the highlight of the season was being invited to play at half time of the Senior County Championship final. We had 27 kids (having two pitches was critical) on the pitch that day and it was a brilliant opportunity for them. This will be something they remember for the rest of their lives. Unfortunately, the main result did not go our way but hopefully there will be more opportunities like that for our kids in the future!

I would like to thank the junior football committee for their assistance throughout the year. In particular thanks to Paul McKibben & Brendan Leicester for sourcing some much needed footballs (Don't know where they have all gone though!). We will require more balls for next year. Thanks to Mike Barnett for organising the pitches and for contacting the care takers at St Marks to get the gates opened when required!

One request would be that one more set of nets on wheels is required for St Marks. Another ask is can football be taught for 1 hour per week in schools?

I would like to thank all coaches who were a great help throughout the year as it would be impossible to do anything worthwhile without their help.

I would ask that myself and coaches are kept informed of any coaching sessions available over winter as this is very beneficial for organising training sessions. Most of the coaches have expressed an interest in carrying on next year (moving up to U11). I think a man coach for U9.5 Boys will need to be identified.

Finally, I would conclude by saying that I'm sure all the coaches would agree that it was a privilege to coach such a great bunch of kids who displayed a high level of enthusiasm, as well as good manners (most of the time!) throughout the year.



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2022 U11 (P6-7) Report – Dermot Mathers

A Chara,

Training Overview

Training for the u11's, which began in March this season focused on preparation for the league campaign. We went straight into outdoor activity. This year numbers were slightly down on the previous season with 26 dependable turnouts.

Training initially focused on fundamental skills with basic drills on toe pickups, catching, fist passing, overhead catching, soloing etc. before stepping it up to more technical passing and shooting drills, small pressured and ball orientated games along with training matches concentrating on off-the-ball movement, tracking players and an emphasis on focused passing throughout the team. Positive development of players individually and as a team has been evident throughout the season and a good groundwork is in place moving forward.

During the summer months, training participation dropped significantly and that added to difficulty in planning sessions/matches, match participation and the continued development of the players. A couple of matches and one day tournament's had to be postponed due to lack of numbers.

League Season

The Under 11 league format started back in April with the Gael team placed in Div1 and the Og's team placed in Div4.

The Og's team started with some poor performances but due to some hard work in training and an improvement in attitude from some, the boys improved their performances and thus their improvement from mid-season on. The weekly games were very competitive and enjoyable matches that showcased team-based progression throughout. The standout game was a great home display against a very good Longstone team. Turning around 5 points behind at the break, the boys rolled up their sleeves and played their best football of the season to prevail by 2 points. Great heart and no little ability was showcased that night in St. Marks.

The Gael's team played a two-part league and after winning 6 of their first 8 games and playing some excellent football in the process, they qualified in the top half of Division 1 and played the remainder of the season against the other top 6 teams in South Down. The boys acquitted themselves well during this largely holiday interrupted part of the season and although the struggle with numbers was an issue, the improvement continued.

Both teams continued to participate in further matches post league, with trips to An Ríocht and Shamrocks included.



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Summary

It has been a busy year with regards training and fixtures. The players have significantly improved in the basic skills of gaelic football with a clear direction of what needs further improvement moving forward to next year. Numbers still need to be improved on and a player drive in the school to unearth new interest should happen.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the coaches for their help, support, and dedication throughout the season and indeed the last number of years.

U7 Management Team

Managers – Dermot Mathers

Coaches-Damian Ryan, Christy McShane, Alan Binks, Gerard Leddy and Nigel O'Rourke



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2022 U13(born after 1 Jan 2009) Report – Shane McClory

The under 13 boys pre season training started early this year with indoor sessions in St Marks. We started off with average numbers but as the weeks went by we had 20 players turning up every week. The training was based on what we felt needed the most attention which was building confidence in the players and as a group.

As the games came and went the players improved in all aspects, teamwork commitment fitness and ball skills.

We finished the year with a 1/4 final tie against a very strong Bosco side but unfortunately it wasn't to be our day.

In summary this squad has some exceptional talent but the marked improvement in the less gifted players was evident for all to see.

Overall a very enjoyable year and on behalf of all the mentors it was a pleasure coaching these lads this past year.

Shane McClory



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2022 U15(born after 1 Jan 2007) Report – Sean O'Hare

A Chara,

Following on from last year we made a specific issue to try to increase the numbers in the squad. We were very much encouraged by the increase in numbers this year, with numbers at training regularly over 20.

We would like to thank all parents for their support during the year and their encouragement for keeping our numbers high.

This year we entered the Down Division 2 and we struggled at times in the league, with some very strong teams in our division. We ended up in the U15 C Championship and after the group stages had a couple of strong performances against Drumgath and Tullylish to reach the final.

We faced a very strong Glenn team in the final and on a very wet day in Newry we were beat by the better team. It was great for this squad to reach a championship final and we were very proud of how the boys carried themselves in the lead up to the final. Hopefully it is an experience they will all learn from and experience again in the future.

Overall the season was a positive one, although some of the results in the league were disappointing we did get a good championship run and training numbers were good throughout the year.

The players are getting to that age where there is a natural drop-off, but we would urge all parents to encourage their kids to keep playing.

We are continuing training until mid-December and have invited all players who are still eligible to play u15s next year to attend to try and keep the fitness & skill levels up with no competitive games it is a chance for the players to try and develop their own game.

I would like to thank Johnny Rooney, Peter Shannon, Shane Carr and Rowlands for their help and commitment again this year.

U15 Management Team

Manager – Sean O'Hare (Sho)

Coaches–Johnny Rooney, Peter Shannon and Shane Carr



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2022 Minors(born after 1 Jan 2005) Report – Brian Powell

The Minors began the season competing in the All-County Division Two with 10 teams competing.

The minors had an excellent campaign winning 7 games and losing two. There were some great performances including a derby win by 7 points against Rostrevor and a 9 point winning margin against Attical.

We qualified for the league final against Ballyholland on 20 June. Unfortunately, the young Blues lost the final by 5 points despite scoring 1-18. It was a fantastic game but concession of late goals pushed Ballyholland over the line in a brilliant game.

The championship campaign was spread over 6 weeks from July to August. We won the first round game v Dromara/Drumaness by 3 points keeping up the high standards set in the league campaign. The team eventually advanced to the quarter final against Liatroim.

Unfortunately the team had several injuries to key players and other players were unavailable due to holidays for this game and came up short losing the quarter final by 6 points.

Overall it was a positive year for the Minors. It is very encouraging for the 2023 minors as 12 players are still underage for next year from this years panel.

Paul Grant, Chris McCann and myself would like to thank the players for all their hard workthroughout the year.

U15 Management Team

Manager – Brian Powell

Coaches–Paul Grant and Chris McCann