

# Football Focus Group Report to AGM

## By Larry Byrne

### Club Chairman



#### Football Focus Group

The FFG saw new personnel this year with Shane Carr, Paul Grant and Colm Carty joining Paul McKibben and myself.

#### Under 19

The under 19 team under the management of Christy Carr, Conor McGarry, Darren Rice and Paul T successfully took the boys to a championship final vrs Loughlinisland in St Johns and won a tight game.

#### Under 20

Still on-going with the same management as above. As of 27/10/22 playing castlewellan in the knockout stages of championship.

#### Reserves

Again Conor McGarry, Darren Rice, Paul T and Christy Carr took this team. Discussions held at the start of the year to build for the future and have players develop for seniors rather than lads play every match to win a league and or championship. Successful year in terms of development with a number of players getting senior debuts this year and improve as players. Reserve championship semi final and staying up in PRFL D1.

#### Seniors

Tough year this year with 4 teams going down from division 1. League split in Top 4 and bottom 8. We had plenty of injuries at the start of the year and after a slow start started picking up points. When the league was split we finished top of the bottom 8 with 22 points. Championship started with a favourable draw vrs Saul which was a good victory. Defeat against Loughlinisland in the second round and a match against Saul again in the 3rd round playoff. The heavily fancied Burren came next in the 1/4 final followed in a tense penalty shoot out win which Gary McMahan saved and scored a penalty to take us through. Next up came Loughlinisland again and for the second time in a row it took penalties to win and progress to the championship final. With Gary McMahan forced off after saving the first penalty he faced, Up steps The Man, The Myth, The LEGEND, John Boyle. Like in the previous round the hero was a goal scorer and penalty saver. We reached the final for the second time since 2019 and unfortunately again like 2019 we lost by a single point. Like the previous 2 games normal time couldn't separate the teams and extra time prevailed. Niall Rice, David Ruddy, Ben Lynch, Jamie Powell, Jack Howlett and Conor madden all made their senior debuts this year with 2 of the lads making it on the field in the championship final.

This has shown lads there is a pathway from under 19 & reserve to the senior panel.

The FFG would like to place on record our thanks to the Senior committee for the ongoing support throughout 2022.