

Hurling AGM Report 2023

Under 5&7

By Anthony O Brien

The U7s have had a great year this year participating regularly in regional and county blitzes. In all blitzes the U7s have fielded multiple teams and have been very competitive across the year. Training has been done regularly on Friday evenings but we also included a second session this year in the summer in cooperation with the camogs. We have really focussed on core skills this year and several of the boys can do the advanced skills of catching, soloing and hitting from the air. Numbers have been steady throughout the year and our summer week did bring extra players to the group. The group have been well supported with coaches and mentors and wish to express our gratitude to the hurling committee for their continued support both in terms of coaching but also equipment and the organisation shown in terms of equipment and pitch organisation.

The U7s will continue to train over the winter months to ensure the boys are very well prepared for next season continuing to develop the core skills of hurling.

The nursery or U5s ran nearly every Friday evening in St Marks. Having amalgamated with the Camogs, numbers grew to a steady core throughout the year

The U5's were very focused on age-appropriate training and most importantly having fun and leaving with a smile on their faces.

Under 9

By Sean Mallon

The Under 9 hurling year started off as always with pre-season training on Friday evenings in the sports halls of St Marks school. Attendance from the off was encouraging with great numbers regularly practising the basics skills in anticipation of the coming spring/summer outdoor season. In preparation for the outdoor season, we participated in a number of Ulster council led indoor blitzes. These were held at the DIT facility in Dundalk on Saturday mornings which were well attended. Many thanks to the parents for their support and travelling.

The outdoor season started after Easter this year and a change of venue with St Marks being the regular hive of hurling and camogie activity on Friday evenings. The county blitz's this year had a change in format where all-county events were held on the first Saturday of the month and a regional blitz held on the third Saturday.

We started the year off away to Clann Mhurn for the first all-county blitz, and then attended blitz's hosted by Castlewellan, Portaferry, Shamrocks, Carryduff, Bredagh, & Clonduff.

Then it was our turn to host the regional blitz on Saturday 19th August, which was a good warm up for what was to be the biggest (and best) blitz of the 2023 calendar hosted by CPN in St Marks on Saturday 2nd September.

With 12 pitches playing simultaneously a total of 84 games were played and refereed by our juvenile volunteers, with approximately 300 children taking part from all over the county and Antrim.

Over the course of this year our u9.5 hurlers played teams from the Ards, Antrim, Armagh, Monaghan, Louth, Belfast, Saul, Kilclief, Liatroim, and our near neighbours Shamrocks, Clann Mhurn and Clonduff. Despite scores not being recorded, it was noted by coaches, players and parents alike that the number of games that finished in disappointment could have been counted on one hand.

The progress made by the boys from 2022 was very evident for all to see and their skill levels have increased to the extent that several u9's were given the opportunity to play up with the U11 teams, whilst the rest have shown marked improvement and will be available for playing up if required in 2024.

The U9 Management (Sean & Kieran) would like to thank the Hurling Committee for their continued support during the year, but most importantly, we would like to extend our thanks to the players and parents for their commitment throughout the year. We would also especially like to thank all who helped with the organising, officiating and smooth operation of the blitz in St Marks on 2nd September and those who provided the catering on the day.

CPN Abu

Hurling AGM Report 2023

Under 11

By Damien McConville

The U11 hurling team have been developing throughout the year. This is an extremely gifted and hard-working group of players who deserve great credit for their performances and progress made throughout the season. The season started with most of the team winning a first ever Cumann na Bunscoil competition, with Carrick Primary School, and this form continued throughout the season for CPN. U11 hurling in Co Down is very competitive and the lads played great games against local clubs Liatroim, Shamrocks and Clonduff as well as taking on Kilclief and the Ards clubs, Portaferry, Ballycran and Ballygalget. These matches showed off our skill and determination in great matches, our lads winning some notable victories, particularly against the Ards sides. To further develop the skill level of the players the management team sought out matches against teams from Antrim with CPN participating in a non-competitive tournament in Belfast and further games Vs St Pauls of Antrim.

As a lot of the lads move into post primary schools a key measure of success will be getting the lads into school teams and ensuring local schools, such as St Marks are able to provide competitive hurling.

All in all, this group of players are a pleasure to work with and a credit to their families and club

Under 13 & 15

By Peter McCreesh

The u13 team had an incredibly positive season this year. Whilst results may have not gone our way, there is no doubt in my mind the character shown by every player in Blue & White.

The u13s were under the banner of Patrick Rankins (CPN/Newry Shamrocks) and with the exception of the summer months, the amalgamation allowed us to field with a full 15 to every game. With CPN roughly providing two-thirds of the panel, this gave our lads plenty of exposure to competitive hurling. With such a young panel, we will expect to see the results for this team improving again next year, as most of the panel have at least one more year at this age group.

Whilst the season got off to a difficult start with a heavy defeat to Kilclief, the team grew week in week out, putting in many solid performances against much bigger and older opponents. This level of skill and determination paid off with an extremely impressive win against Castlewellan in St Marks In the shield championship (a team that consisted of a couple of players that had won the A championship the year prior). Current county senior hurling manager Ronan Sheehan has been involved from the shamrocks end and has regularly sang the lads praises and has been very impressed. He believes that this team can go onto compete for great things in the next few years. I believe the amalgamation with Shamrocks this year has been a major success as it has allowed many boys to have regular competitive hurling matches which was our main target at the start of the season. We did however plan to enter the u13 tain og league, however due to the majority of the panel being dual players, it proved difficult to find suitable nights to get games played.

On a personal note, this has been my first year in a management role with an underage team. I would like to thank Damien McConville, Peadar Loughlin, Fiona McBride & Ronan Sheehan for all their help and support this year.

This year we did not field at u15 as between Newry Shamrocks and ourselves numbers were too tight to renew the amalgamation at this age group. In the end we have several lads who made the short trip up to Hilltown to continue playing hurling with Clonduff. We would like to thank them for travelling up and hopefully we will see them back in Blue very soon.

Hurling AGM Report 2023

Under 17

By Dermot Donnelly

This is the second season in a row that Iveagh Gaels has competed at this grade. Last year the amalgamation with Craobh Rua worked well and so it was decided to keep it going so as many of the lads as possible could play hurling, that otherwise would not have been an option had we went on our own at this grade.

Training initially started indoors on a Wednesday night at St. Mark's with the help of some of the senior hurlers, where we were getting good attendances.

The team competed in Down U17 Division Two and in the Down Minor Hurling Shield competitions, as well as Táin League Group 5. The league started at the end of April and consisted of four teams, O'Rahilly's, Carryduff, Kilclief & ourselves (Iveagh Gaels) and was played on a home/away basis.

We had wins against Kilclief & Clonduff. O'Rahilly's proved to be extremely strong in this division and given that they too were an amalgamation of four clubs, had a very large pick and ultimately won the league at a canter. Carryduff were also very good but their talent and experience was just a bit too much for us to compete with.

By this stage training reverted to Sunday morning in Camlough, due to pitch availability and clashes with other teams/sections.

The Táin Óg fixtures started in July, we had wins at home against Naomh Moninne, Clonduff & St. Fechins, but lost our away fixtures to Castleblaney & Carrickmacross. Again, for the second year we failed to progress to the next stage, having finished third in the group.

By this stage the focus had switched to championship & a home game against Kilclief resulted in a seven-point win in an extremely competitive game. Unfortunately, we lost away to Clonduff, which ultimately gave us a semi-final spot at home to Carryduff.

In probably our best performance all year, we led the game at half time and with five minutes to go were seven points up, but ultimately it was Carryduff's County & Ulster star, Liam Blaney who punished us with four goals in the remaining minutes to beat us by five points and end our season. We had Mikey Keohane represent us on the county minor team this year and with run outs against both Donegal & Derry the experience stood to him throughout the season.

I'd like to thank Loughlinn, Paul & Lee from the management team for their commitment and effort put into the team. John & Matt for the preseason training and to the coaches & mentors from Camlough who helped out at various times throughout the season, your help was greatly appreciated and especially to Micheal Bradley of CRC in helping with tactics & team play at the later part of the league & championship. To Sean & Declan on the Hurling committee for your help & guidance at certain times during the year.

Management: Dermot Donnelly, Paul Elshaw (Craobh Rua), Loughlinn Duffy & Lee McKeown (Craobh Rua)

Adult(Senior & Reserve)

2023 was always going to be a tough year, trying to follow the success of the Junior Championship win in 2022. For the fourth successive season a playing panel of around forty players had enabled us to field two teams. This year saw Sylvester McConnell & Marty Houlahan remain in charge, and alongside their management team brought the team's training to new levels.

They retained their league status in Division 1, as well as qualifying for the Intermediate semi-final. Sylvester and Marty were supported in their management team by Liam Boyle and Dermot Donnelly with special thanks to Gerry O'Neill who worked tirelessly in the back ground covering a lot of the unseen work required. Also, thanks to Adrian McNally who supported the Senior management team and lead the Reserves in their Betsy Grey campaign.

Special mention must go to our Senior & Hurling Committee's, as nothing that was asked for was refused, they went over and above to ensure no stone was left unturned.

We must our sponsor PizzaPoint(Gabriel), our Physios Julie Fegan & Gerard Leddy, Stats/photos & match reporting Dermot Donnelly, and all the other people in the background that helped along the way.

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Chairperson's Address

by Sean Mallon

I would like to start by thanking everyone involved in Warrenpoint hurling who has volunteered and given their time to help drive Warrenpoint hurling on. Our hurling coaches for their commitment each week as its invaluable to the hurling section in the smooth running of training and games. To the hurling committee thanks for their support and dedication to ensure hurling continues and develops.

As chairperson, I'm delighted to see the hurling numbers grow, as the amount of games and training sessions continues to increase as we continue to strive towards more progression.

Many thanks to our players and parent who in 2023 covered the length and breadth of the county for Warrenpoint hurling.

Thanks also to Newry, Mourne and Down District council for their support with our annual summer week, in which this year proved to be one of our most successful. It was filled with fun and laughter led by our club coaches, who gave up their spare time whilst offering our kids, a week of hurling and camogie, whilst being backed up by province wide guest coaches.

Final mention to Sylvester and his senior management team who have helped raise the standards demanded within our Adult hurling. Our Seniors had a good year in div 1 and in the intermediate championship. Heres hoping we can get at least one step further next year.

A final thank you must go to all our volunteers. We cant forget them, from umpires, to those who put the flags out and collect them, to standing at the gate at a senior game, to making tea or coffee at blitzes. Every little bit helps make it work. Thank You

Secretary's Report

by Declan Doyle

Starting with some of the Thanks you's, I would like to thank Sean, Gerry, and the Hurling Committee for their support, throughout the year. Also, thanks go to Paul, Donal, and the Senior Committee for their support to the Hurling Section in 2023. Thanks to all the hurling management and coaching teams for their efforts throughout the year, and to Dermot Donnelly, in his role as Hurling PRO, for his continuous promotion of hurling within the area and well done on his further roles within the County setup. A mention to Mike and Colette, for co-ordinating the fixtures, pitches, and buses. The organisation that goes on in the background cannot be underestimated. Also, thanks to our referees, Kieran Rice and our newly appointed Referee Ben Lock. Most notably Kieran has officiated at multiple championship finals this year at all levels in both Hurling and Camogie. Also, a big thank you to all our sponsors, especially our main Senior sponsor Pizza Point.

Moving onto our Seniors, thanks to Sylvester, Marty and the team. Our Division 1 league status was secured and we made a decent run in the Intermediate Championship. Hopefully 2024 will see more progress again, as our younger members develop and get used to playing at a higher level. The Reserve team again competed in the Betsy Gray Shield and many seen game-time in the Ulster GAA led Cuchullian Cup competition.

From a juvenile perspective, thanks once again to all the management teams for giving their time and care to our kids. It is great to see our numbers growing, and for the whole section to share the common goal of providing a warm environment for our kids to enjoy and develop whilst playing and enjoying hurling. Thanks to the players and their parents for continuing to turn up. You guys are the most important element to keep the show on the road!

Thanks to the Camogie section who have worked with us in combining both sections on a Friday night in St Marks, making it easier for families with kids in both codes

Again this year we had a successful Hurling & Camogie Week, with nearly 200 children in attendance. These are valuable entry points for children into the world of Hurling & Camogie. It is a proud time when we see hurlers, camogs and coaches from all ages within the club coming together.