

Camogie Report 2024

Overview of year

We have seen another exceptional year as camogie continues to grow within the club, well over 100 girls are now playing camogie. Since re-establishment, this year has seen our first fully independent team play 15 a side and above Go Games, which is huge achievement for a developing camogie club. We attended and hosted several blitzes over the season, with a lot of effort from our coaching team. We have also had several interventions from the county Development Officer Sean Coulter, and we will continue to utilise this resource next season as much as possible.

We continue to have to both loan out and amalgamate at our older age groups, however, next season we will be fielding both U16 and U14 full sided teams, leaving only a small number of players needing temporary transfers outside of the club. It is still our vision to be to field at senior level in the coming years, target year being 2027. In order to be successful and competitive at these levels it is imperative that we grow our coaching/administrative staff, which currently sits at 14, however, after a successful recruitment meeting, we hope to double this for 2025.

As detailed in the age group reports we, as we do every year, took a bus to the All Ireland Camogie Finals, where our U12s had the privilege of playing at half time, fantastic day out.

We continue to drive the presence of camogie within the club and have had a series of very successful fundraising events, both for players (sponsored walk) and parents (quiz), raising money for both the club and the county. We hope to continue these initiatives next season.

Camogie at county level

The county board has struggled this season, both for volunteers and financially. The county were very thankful for our engagement with the fundraiser and my help with the fundraising committee.

Age Groups

U16

Warrenpoint Coaching Manager: *Yvonne McFerran*

Shamrocks Coaching Manager: *Colette Lamb*

This year we continued to amalgamate with Shamrocks at this age level, as this is where our numbers were low, with only 4 players. This was a difficult year for these girls as they were entered into a small sided league with only one other team. However, they won all matches that they played, and some of our U14s were given the opportunity to play up, giving them some stretch from both a physical and skill perspective. The amalgamation will not continue into next year as we will have a full sided U16 team of our own. We aim to training U14/16 together next year at Milltown (bigger pitch), which will allow us to combine our coaching resources.

U14

Head Coach: *Yvonne McFerran*

Mentor: *Paul McCoy*

This was our first year fielding a full sided U14 team, and it was a challenging one. We were leagued with some very strong teams and the girls had some very tough games, the jump from small sided play to full sided is a stretch and it had taken most of the season for the girls to make that adaptation. We did host a local blitz at the end of the season, and the girls won all their matches, so great progress all round. I also want to add that these are a fantastic bunch of girls, who have a great passion for and commitment to the sport, which will stand by them over the coming years. We had a panel of 20 this season many of these girls will be moving up to U16.

U12

Head Coach: *Sarah Jane Sloan*

Mentors: *Catherine Meehan*

Brigid Carr

Ciara Carr

U12 Camogie section had 15 girls enrolled for the 2024 season. The girls undergone a training plan aimed at developing core camogie skills which the girls stuck too and improved as the season went on.

They attended two scheduled blitz's. One in Clonduff mid-April and the other in Kilcoo mid-September. The girls had the opportunity to play teams who were not scheduled in their league.

The league was split up into two sections- first ran from end May to end of June and the girls had the opportunity to play 4 teams. The second ran from start of Aug to mid-September and we played 5 teams. The girls had exposure to more game time this season which will stand by them as the majority will move to U14 for the upcoming 2025 Season.

The highlight of the year was attending the Camogie finals in Croke Park in August. This was extra special as our U12 Camogs were selected to play at half time Senior Final against Douglas GAA, Cork. With this year being the 120 anniversary of the Camogie association, the atmosphere was electric and both girls and parents had a great day and will definitely be a vivid memory for all.

In June both U12 and U14 girls completed a sponsored walk to Cloughmore Stone in Kilbroney. The Camogie section also hosted a quiz night at this time.

U10

Head coach: *Mary Walsh*

Mentors: *Declan Doyle*

Gemma McGrath

Michael McGrath

Niall Doyle

The U10 Camogs only finished up at the end of October with over 60 training sessions, 10 blitzes and 8 challenge matches, these young Camogs had plenty of opportunities, to learn and put into practice their ever-improving skills. Many of them also participated in our hurling and camogie week, which was followed by another memorable trip to the Camogie All-Ireland in Croke Park.

From early February till late October, our young camogs dedicated themselves to improving their skills and this was evident by competing against all teams in our County Blitz in September. Our focus remained on the skills of lifting, striking, and self-protection.

The commitment and determination displayed by players, coaches, and parents was superb.

We attended multiple blitzes across the county, competing against nearly every club within the county. We played against all the strongest Camogie Clubs within Down and

competed in every game. This is a sign of improvement from these girls as we aim to be as competitive as possible whilst still enjoying our Camogie.

We extend our appreciation to these young girls for their dedication, hard work, and passion for our game. Many thanks also to our coaches for their efforts in nurturing and developing these budding camogie stars.

Furthermore, we would like to express our gratitude to the parents and guardians for their continuous support, from cheering on the sidelines, to providing transport and bagful's of enthusiasm and encouragement. Your involvement is invaluable to the success and growth of these girls.

In 2024, we seen continuous development on our Camogie skills, which was proven by entering 4 teams into our final blitz in St Marks, and remaining competitive across all of our teams.

As we look forward to 2025, and many of our u10s moving up to u12, we are excited about the fresh challenges and hopefully more development and progress.

Also a moment of thanks to all that helped at our County blitz in St Marks in September. We had over 250 girls playing Camogie and this wouldn't be possible without your help. These are the days that our girls will remember as there was an array of colour and skill on show.

Finally we should finish with a moment of thought for our friends in Longstone Camogie who lost their coach, friend and father, Tom Daly. Only the week previous to his passing, he had refereed an U10 game between the two clubs, and had commented on how well we were playing. Our thoughts are with them all.

U8

Head Coach: *Maria Farrell*

Mentors: *Fiona McBride*

Sinead Cunningham

Kelly Rooney

A small group of U8s this year, but great attendance at training all great with a range of camogie skills.

We attended a couple of blitzes and challenge matches and all the girls had the opportunity to play in a range of different positions on the field.

We ended the season with a primary school blitz hosted by ourselves and very much look forward to next season.

U6

Head Coach: *Kelly Mallon*

U6 camogie and hurling trained together this year, starting indoors and moving out in spring time. Great numbers continue to attend training at this age and we have a large number of talented young camógs and hurlers ready to move up to U8 who have been playing since nursery school.

We were invited to attend a number of blitzes this year and had great days out in Clonduff, Newry Shamrocks (3 teams fielded) and at our our camogie blitz in September at St Marks, where we also fielded 3 teams. We have now wrapped after a 10 month season and hope to begin indoor training in the new year.