



# Cumann Pheadair Naofa C.L.G.

## St. Peter's GAA Club, Warrenpoint



### 2024 U8 Boys Football Report – Stephen Robinson

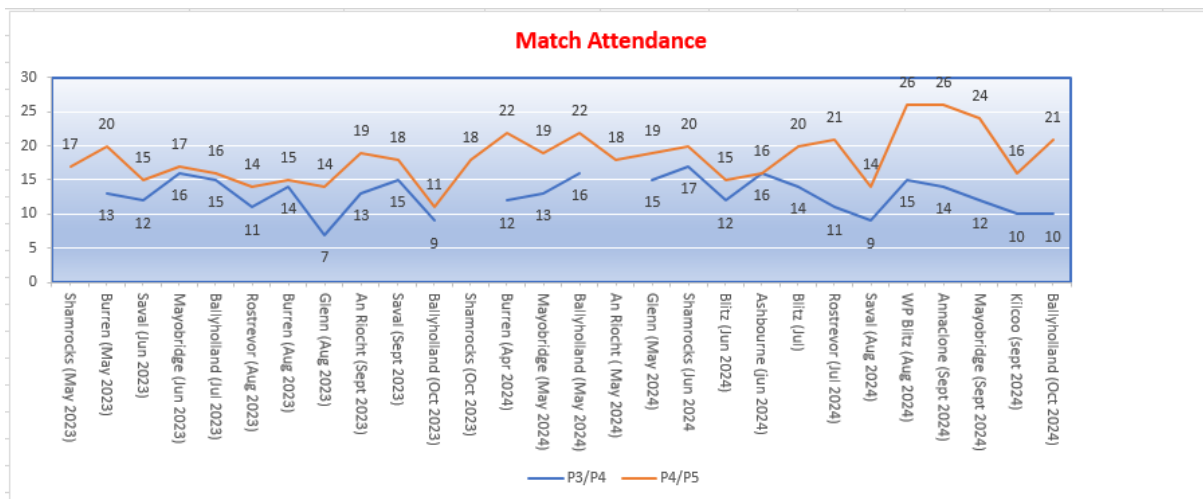
Managers : Stephen Robinson

Coaches : Brendan Curtis, Kevin Owens, Leann O'Neill, Matthew Chillingworth, Nial McShane, Chris Byrne & Riaan Fourie, Natasha Dodds, Melissa Morgan, Olivia McClory, Paul Crilly & Wayne Kennedy.

A Chara,

The main goal for the U8 management group for the year was to make sure we maintained high levels of attendance throughout the year for the P5 and to encourage more P4 to come along. This can only be achieved by ensuring the kids are enjoying themselves at training and matches. From a P5 perspective this has continued to be met and indeed we have increased attendance during 2024 with consistently higher numbers in 2024 than 2023 as can be seen below in the chart. We had a high of 26 P5 players turning out for the blues in Aug/Sept. To note this is just one school year. P4 wise we haven't been as successful in increasing the numbers but have been consistent throughout the year but did reach a high of 16/17 players early in the year before holidays. We need to try keep these players and try increase again next year although there is a low number of boys at that age.

The benefit of the move in age group from U7 to U8 is that we had the exact same years so could track attendance properly across the years.



We're not overly focused on winning matches at the U8 age grade but more ensuring that the kids are getting to touch the ball as many times as possible be it in training or at the matches. For this reason we will generally only play 7 a side matches of mixed ability, all kids get a chance to get involved. While winning isn't the priority, we are still very determined to improve the skills of all our players, both strong and weaker players. I believe we have a number of strong players in the group and this was shown throughout the year against all the usual top clubs, including a ding dong battle



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against Kilcoo ! There are a number of clubs who are stronger than us but I do believe we have closed the gap to these somewhat during 2024. However, it is evident, from never playing the stronger ones together, that they don't really know how to compete as a team. They are too use to having to try do too much themselves. It's a challenge ahead for next year in how we maintain the amazing numbers we have, which have come about by trying to include every single kid as much as possible, while still challenging and improving the stronger players as a group and teaching them to play together.

There were 2 new initiatives added for the U8's this year:

- We ran an U8 tournament in St. Marks at the end of August. It was a fantastic day with 28 teams playing on a beautiful sunny morning on the weekend before going back to school. It was great to see so many U8's in our club all trying their best throughout the day.
- The money raised from the U8 event and money donated by parents paid for a end of year event in Airtastic where the boys got to do some laser tag and bowling. And of course got to go on a big bus ! It was a brilliant day out for the kids to end the year after all their efforts

We're very lucky that we have a very dedicated bunch of coaches and all the credit for the high numbers and enjoyment goes to them. They manage to thread the line between improving the kids ability and having a bit of craic with the kids very well. There is always a bit of fun to be had and the environment is really good.

Finally, robbed from last years notes but it still holds through, I think it is great to have the nursery, U6, U8, U10 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.

Thank you to all those who volunteer throughout the year – the club would not function without you and the kids in our community would be so much worse off. Thank you.

Steve



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## **2024 U8 Girls Football Report – Colm Rice**

Managers : Colm Rice

Coaches : Bronagh O'Hare, Paul Stokes & Gavin Poland.

A Chara,

Following on from continued growth in girls' participation, the 2024 season saw us continue with a dedicated U8 girls' football team. This team is made up of girls in Primary 4 and 3 for the 2023–24 school year.

The year's focus remained on maintaining the high attendance from last season—and we saw a wonderful turnout all year. Our first indoor session brought in over 40 girls, and attendance remained strong throughout the season. The club's efforts at St. Dallan's have also been key in retaining and drawing in new members at this age group.

As with previous years, we began our training indoors on Sunday mornings at St. Marks, transitioning outdoors in late March. A second weekly session on Wednesday evenings was added in June, carrying through to September. This extra midweek practice has been valuable for skill development and team bonding, and we extended Sunday training through to October.

Our club is fortunate to have strong girls' section, though this did mean that a lot of our neighbouring clubs could not matching our numbers for matches. However, Down LGFA provided a schedule of mini blitzes to be played throughout the summer months and from this we were able to coordinate to maximise game time for all our girls. From these mini blitzes our U8 girls had great matchups against a wide range of Clubs - Mayobridge, Burren, Rostrevor, An Riocht, Ballymartin, Saul, Clonduff, Clan na Banna, Ballyholland, Shamrocks and Saval. Our girls showed exceptional skill levels compared to most clubs they played at the blitzes this year.

The U8 girls also got to play at a joint blitz alongside side our U10 and G4MO teams. With so many of our underage girls having mothers playing, this was a special event for our club.

Creating an inclusive and welcoming environment for all skill levels remains our priority. With a large group in our U8 team, we have a wide range of abilities, and we're committed to ensuring all players enjoy training and matches. This season, we focused on small-sided, mixed-ability games, which opposing clubs also supported as it encouraged participation across skill levels.

Looking ahead to 2025, one of our goals is to support the more experienced players in challenging themselves further, while also raising the average skill level across the team. We must do this without losing sight of the friendships and fun that are central to the team experience. We also aim



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to bring in more Primary 4 girls to create a more balanced age distribution as these school groups progress through the team groups in the seasons ahead.

A special mention has to go to the coaches, without whom none of this would be possible. Each of them brings exceptional patience and positivity, helping to create an environment where the girls feel encouraged and eager to learn and play. The younger players especially benefit from this approach, and each training session remains focused on fun and learning. We've seen notable skill improvements over the past year and look forward to continuing this progress into 2025. In 2025, we hope to bring on additional female coaches to support our growing numbers and these teams as they progress into competitive LGFA games.

We're also very grateful for the supportive parent and family who have been extremely encouraging at every match. Their support has been instrumental in creating the positive team culture we enjoy.

Sunday morning training sessions, with U6, U8, U10 boys/girls, and GAA for All all happening simultaneously at St. Marks, has strengthened the community atmosphere. More than ever, we see families gathering during these sessions, creating a joyful environment that celebrates kids simply being active, having fun, and forming lasting friendships. We would also like to thank the volunteers that helped with the tea and coffee that was introduced this year as this really added to families staying to watch training and matches.

Looking forward to another wonderful season!

Colm



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## **2024 U10 Boys Football Report – Paul Rafferty**

Manager : Paul Rafferty

Coaches: Colin McGivern, Mark Toal, Paschal McErlan, Declan McGrath, Sean Doherty, Paul Stokes & Kieran Grant.

A Chara,

Start of year was great to see so many children attending training with a highest attendance of 28 kids.

Our Season kicked off indoors in St Marks hall with some great skills on display and kids settled back in very quickly having plenty of fun. Having the indoor facility at the start of the year was great to get the kids up and running for the first 5 Sunday mornings at the time of 11am-12am. We moved outside in March and had our first challenge match at home to Rostrevor. All the boys loved getting back out and competing with others. Midweek training ran from April to October on Tuesday evenings 6.30-7.30.

We had 2/3 teams for every match which was great to have a such big numbers to choose from. We tried to keep the teams the same as often as we could helping the players gel better together. This worked well allowing all the boys plenty of game time throughout the year. We struggled at parts of the year to keep our target of at least 4 coaches to every training/match, so if we could get a couple more it would be a great help.

We also attending a number of tournaments throughout the season which the boys really enjoyed and got plenty of game time from. Some of the matches and tournaments meant we had a distance to travel and was great to see so many children attend with great commitment.

As the U9 manager I would like to thank the committee for organising everything for us throughout the year from the footballs to the pitch allocation to coach the coaches session .None of this would be possible without all these things going on in the background. Thanks

I would also like to thank all the Coaches for giving up their time to help me give what we think was a great season of football for all these young men. The difference of skill level and team work from the start of season to the end was unbelievable which was lovely to see.

Finally. I would like to thank all the parents for travelling and coming to training every week. Id also like to say that these boys are a great bunch of boys always getting stuck in and doing whatever task was put in front of them even when some of it was hard fitness training they get knuckled down and didn't complain (much!!) throughout the entire year.

Paul



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**2024 U10 Girls Football Report – Nigel O'Rourke**

Manager : Nigel O'Rourke, Brendan Curtis

Coaches : Ciaran Rice , Kevin Fitzpatrick, Stephen Clarke, Marion O'Hare, Suzanne Curtis and Lisa Leddy

A Chara,

U10 LGFA started on last week of January inside in St Marks , first few weeks numbers were 35 plus and we kept going all year with 30 plus , fantastic numbers. Our games were played in a blitz format all year and it worked pretty well and offered plenty of football and the chance to play against teams that we normally wouldn't off played . The girls are an excellent bunch with some very good players but the great thing for us coaches is the development of girls maybe not as strong at start of year and seeing the difference in them at the end . We had a good balance of male and female coaches and I'd like to thank them all for their commitment all season . We also took Triona Boyle in on a few occasions during the season and the girls really enjoyed it we as coaches would like to thank Triona for her help it was well appreciated. We would like to thank everyone who organise pitch slots and the running of all things during the year ... all in all future looking bright for ladies football and long may it continue thanks again

Nigel



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## **2024 U12 Boys Football Report – Kieran Grant**

Manager : Kieran Grant

Coaches: James Keenan, Chris McShane, Paul Rafferty

A Chara,

The highest attendance for the season in total was 20 boys. One boy dropped out during the season.

Our season started on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2024 in the St. Mark's where our boys were trained on the pitch by the coaches in a "Coach the coaches" training session. This is a great initiative and should be done at the start of every season if possible. Thanks to those who organised this.

We trained indoors on Thursdays and Sundays for several weeks in St Marks and managed to have a friendly match vs Carryduff on Saturday 23<sup>Rd</sup> February in Milltown. We also played challenge match vs Rostrevor and Ballyholland in March.

We were entered into the South Down A league with 10 teams. A schedule of 18 games were set out for our team with a game almost every Sunday. We were up against some very strong teams, but the competition definitely helped with the skills levels and fitness throughout the year.

From Mid-April through to September we trained 2 times per week on Tuesdays and Thursdays in St. Marks with our home matches played in Milltown at 11AM on Sudays. The twice weekly training was needed to focus on skills and games.

There was another "coach the coaches" session organised with u12 boys during the season. This was taken by Mark Poland and was very informative for the coaches and a great boost for the kids. All coaches should try to get to that session if it happens. The additional week for kids over and above the Cul Camp week was brilliant (speaking as a parent and coach). It would be great if that can be carried on in future. Again well done to all involved in this. At the end of the season we organised several more friendly matches vs Rostrevor, Kilcoo and Shamrocks. Hopefully these matches showed how much the children had improved over the season.

I would like to thank the junior football committee for their assistance throughout the year. In particular thanks to Paul McKibben, Johnny Rooney and Steve Robinson (and anyone else involved) for sourcing some much needed footballs. The stock levels went down after cul camp and most balls will definitely need to be replaced next year. Thanks to Mike Barnett & Collett Locke for organising the pitches and for contacting the care takers at St marks to get the gates opened when required!



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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 coaches and I are kept informed of any coaching sessions available over winter as this is very beneficial for organising training sessions.

Finally, I would conclude by saying that on behalf of all the coaches it was 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.

Kieran





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### **2024 U12 Girls Football Report – Shane Carr**

Manager : Shane Carr

Coaches : Paul McClorey, Kieran Loughran, Stephen Clarke, Sean Doherty and Lillie McClorey

A Chara,

The U12's played or trained twice a week on Monday and Wednesday throughout the year.

As in previous years this age group played go-games with their neighbouring clubs of Burren, Rostrevor, Clonduff, Mayobridge, Newry Shamrocks, Bosco and Ballyholland. The games were played home and away from April to the end of July.

Numbers were very tight at this age group. We had a maximum of 16 girls available, but with other commitments we struggled to get them all out on the pitch all the time.

Despite this we were competitive throughout most of the games and the management team are happy that there is a good core of girls in this group, with many of them playing for the younger U14 team.

I would like to thank Paul, Sean, Kieran, Stevie and Lillie for their help and commitment throughout year.

Le Mise

Shane Carr



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## **2024 U14 Boys Football Report – Shane McClory**

Manager : Shane McClory

Coaches: Gabi Smith & Dan Armstrong.

A Chara,

The U14 boys started back training late January with indoor sessions in St Marks which mainly focused on Strength and conditioning as we felt that was what needed at this stage of the boys development.

We had a squad of 25 boys who quickly bought into what we were trying to achieve and attendances at training were excellent throughout the year. Started the season with a few challenge games in preparation for the upcoming league campaign.

Once the league commenced we started to see the progress we had hoped for and had a good run of performance's culminating in an outstanding winning performance away to the eventual league winners An Riocht. We made sure all players got sufficient playing time in the league matches which at times was not easy as using 10 substitutes in any game can become challenging.

Championship fixtures arrived and we won all 3 qualifying games to progress to a home ¼ final tie against St Micheal's. After overcoming this tie we were drawn against a strong Clann Na Banna side but unfortunately it wasn't to be our days as we lost out by 4 points.

Overall it was a very positive year and we were delighted with the progress made as a group. The commitment the boys have shown to the club and to each other throughout the year was exemplary.

I know that I speak for the management team when I say it was a pleasure to work with this bunch of lads who if they stick together have a bright future in the game.

Also would like to thank all the parents for all the help during the year as it was greatly appreciated.

Shane



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## **2024 U14 Girls Football Report – Kevin Fitzpatrick**

Manager : Damian Doyle

Coaches : Triona McCarthy, Damian Doyle, Julie Blair, Helen Carvill, Paschal McErlean & Johnny Rooney.

A Chara,

With great anticipation our U14 Ladies season commenced indoors at St Marks on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024 with 32 girls in attendance at our first session, we could tell by the noise levels that the girls were certainly enjoying being together again and relishing the opportunity to develop their skills.

We started outdoors and moved to twice weekly training sessions from 4<sup>th</sup> April. With a panel of 38 girls to begin with we entered 2 teams in to the U14 League for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year running.

With having 2 teams there was a few different ways we could have split the girls/teams, for example there isn't that many other clubs who have enough girls for 2 teams though those clubs that do tend to split their teams in to A and B teams based on ability. Whilst there was some discussions and debate on how best to do it we decided to split the teams by age and have older & younger teams, the older team was called the Blue team and the younger team was called the White team. We decided to split the teams this way for a number of reasons including 1) this was the way we split the teams the previous season and it worked well & 2) it made sense from a longer term succession planning perspective given that the majority of the older Blue team had played together the previous season and would all have to move up to U16s together next season and all the younger White team had played together the previous season at U12 and they would all be together again at U14 next season.

Our U14 league games started on the 14<sup>th</sup> April playing normally fortnightly on a Sunday alternating with the U16s.

### *BLUES (Older Team)*

- The Blues were placed in a tough section C after the older team had won the section D league the previous season but only 5 players remained from that team this season as the others had to move on to U16s.
- Despite having a panel of 39 (18 Blues & 21 Whites) during the season fielding 2 teams on the same dates & times was challenging particularly during the summer months so that meant that a high number of the younger White team also played regularly with the Blues during the league but of course weren't allowed to play for the older team during the championship and vis versa.
- Section C was challenging for the girls as most teams we came up against had a couple of County players and we unfortunately don't have anyone at that level yet so it was difficult but it showed us the standard that we need to get to and we competed



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very well, the way that the girls didn't give up and fought back in a number of games was particularly pleasing.

- We did make the case at the start of the year and during the season for a Split Spring/Summer League which had been the case in previous seasons and which had always worked well though we weren't successful in our lobbying, the split Spring/Summer league would have worked for both our teams as it always meant the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the league and therefore the championship was always more competitive & fairer.
- The Blues won 4 out of their 14 league games, there was some great wins which were highlights including beating Downpatrick in Milltown after a heavy defeat away, beating Bosco at home after a heavy defeat in Newry and beating Mayobridge in Mayobridge who then went on to win the Championship.
- Over the years we've had some difficult games and heavy defeats against the likes of Bosco & Mayobridge so it was positive to see how much the girls are developing that we were able to beat the likes of them.
- The Blues finished their playing season losing away to Tullylish in the championship quarterfinal.

### *WHITES (Younger Team)*

- There was quite a bit of discussion and debates at the start of the year and during the season about what section was the correct one to play the Whites in but ultimately it was decided to play them in section E. The reasons being that a number of the older girls in this team had played in section E the previous season and it was at the right competitive level for them last year and that there was a number of younger girls in the Whites team who were new to U14 football from U12s and hadn't played full pitch & rules before so it was felt that section E would be a good introduction for them to build their confidence and then after having built the experience & success of U14s this year they will be well capable of playing in a significantly higher section at U14s next season and should do very well.
- The cons of section E is that it is a development league and some of the teams in the section have just started LGFA so there was 2 very comfortable wins and also unfortunately 3 teams conceded against us unable to field.
- From the games played the Whites won 6 out 8 games.
- One of the most pleasing things was that despite having the setbacks with a couple of defeats the girls didn't let that knock them or deflate them in fact they got back up again and worked even harder to finish out the season very strongly.
- The league finished with a league final play-off on 3<sup>rd</sup> November vs Drumaness in Annaclone, the girls played brilliant and got a well deserved win.
- In the championship the Whites won the preliminary round game at home to East Belfast, the quarter-final away to Burren B, semi-final at home to Drumaness and then won the final comfortably vs St Michael's in Aghaderg.



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- Finishing the season as League & Championship double winners was absolutely fantastic and it was a brilliant way to end the season by the girls being presented with their medals by the senior ladies at our end of season celebration.

We ended the playing season with the U14 E Championship final which took place on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November and then a celebration back in the clubrooms afterwards, a great day was had and it was very pleasing that we could bring home double silverware back to Warrenpoint. A number of girls from the whole panel enjoyed the celebrations which was a lovely way to finish the season and great recognition for the girls' hard work & efforts all season.

We also had an end of season party for the whole U14 panel in the club on the 28<sup>th</sup> November which included the presentation of league & championship winners medals to the Whites by the senior ladies.

Whilst it's fantastic to win silverware and perform well the primary focus of the U14 management team in managing a panel of 39 girls has always been to ensure they all get good playing time, long term success for us was making sure all the girls had fun, developed their skills and that we kept high numbers involved to move up through the age groups in future years. There are many long-term fitness, mental health & community benefits of keeping the girls playing and involved at this key age so finishing the season with a panel of 39 girls was very pleasing and should set the U14s & U16s up well for further success next season.

One of the really positive things about this year was the development and succession that was evident through our panels, for example we had U12 girls play in the U14 younger White double winning team, we had a high number of Whites play with the older Blue U14 team, we had older U14 Blues play in the U16 team during the season which got to a championship semifinal and we also had a number of U14s who played with the minor squad this year which got to a championship final. It was also very pleasing to see a number of U16s that were U14s last year in the Senior panel that reached a historic Ulster Final for the first time.

During the entire season I think it's worth noting some numbers which make positive reading;

- We had a Panel of 38 girls at the start of the season and finished with a total Panel of 39, I think that's a testament for how much you enjoy your football and it's great news for the Club as the girls continue to progress their football careers and move up through the teams with a lot more football & success to come.
- The season started indoors on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February and finished on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November.
- We were training for over 9 months and it was outside twice a week for over 7 months from the 4<sup>th</sup> April.
- We had a total of 62 training sessions during the season and there was a total of 29 matches – 15 matches for the Blues and 14 for the Whites.
- The above numbers include many many hours of voluntary community involvement & contribution.



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It's worth noting that a very enjoyable time was also spent by the U14 panel of girls and coaches at the LGFA Family Fun Day in Moygannon during the summer and we also had coaches & players involved in coaching and assisting at the Club Football Summer Camp week which was also thoroughly enjoyed and a great beneficial experience for those involved.

I would like to acknowledge and pass on my sincere thanks to the U14 management team of Triona McCarthy, Damian Doyle, Julie Blair, Helen Carvill, Paschal McErlean & Johnny Rooney as without them the above many hours of time & dedication to the enjoyment & development of our girls couldn't have taken place.

We had great support from the Club and the Football Committee all year in terms of anything we needed or asked for we got so thank you to Paul, Steve, Johnny and the rest of the Senior & Football Committees.

I have been involved in coaching ladies football for quite a few years now and this was the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row that we've had 2 teams and I have to be honest and say that this was the most difficult year doing it particularly in terms of organising and rescheduling fixtures and fielding both teams despite the 39 players.

I think it goes to show you how hard and a thankless job it is when the County Fixtures Secretary resigned half way through the season so I would like to say thanks to the County board and in particular all the referees because without them and their work we wouldn't have any games.

I've highlighted how hard a year it was in terms of getting matches arranged and played but I can't do that without calling out and saying a special note of thanks to our Club LGFA rep Colette Lock because all the hard work and difficulties that we had Colette had the same if not more, so huge thanks to Colette who was always very helpful with quick responses which was much appreciated and Colette was very much a part of the success of these girls and teams.

Thank you to the Club for the opportunity to work with the girls, it has been an absolute privilege to work with such a wonderful & enthusiastic bunch of young ladies. Next year the older Blue team will move up to U16s and the younger White team will continue at U14 we would like to wish them all the very best for next season and hopefully their many more years of enjoyment & playing with Warrenpoint.

Kevin Fitzpatrick & U14 LGFA Coaches



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## **2024 U16 Boys Football Report – Sean O'Hare**

Manager : Sean O'Hare

Coaches: Johnny Rooney, Peter Shannon & Niall Rice.

A Chara,

This year we competed in the all-county 2<sup>nd</sup> division. Our pre-season consisted of a number of very competitive friendlies with south Armagh clubs. Due to poor weather at the start of the league we had a number of league games cancelled due to unplayable pitches. We were dealt a big blow before our league campaign losing our captain Rainers for the season with a cruciate ligament injury.

We had a mixed league campaign and just narrowly missed out on the top 4 playoffs on score difference.

This year the county changed the format for the championship which had us competing in the A championship our first 2 round robin games were against Carryduff (u15 championship winners) and Newry Shamrocks, although we lost both games the guys performed brilliantly with a great attitude and just conceded a couple of avoidable scores at the wrong time. Showing the diff between A and B football.

Our final game in the championship against Drumgath didn't take place, as they conceded, which was very disappointing way to end the season.

We would like to thank the parents for their continued support throughout the year and ensuring the players get to training and helping out with lifts throughout the year.

I couldn't not mention our player injury fund quiz night. The night was a brilliant success. A big thank to all who sold and bought tickets, to everyone who sponsored a prize / quiz round and to all those who attended, it was great nights crack. None of which would have happened without the organization of Johnny Rooney.

Finally I would like to thank Johnny Rooney, Peter Shannon & Niall Rice for their help throughout this year and every year, it's a big commitment from them and is much appreciated.

Sean



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## **2024 U16 Girls Football Report – Damian Doyle**

Manager : Damian Doyle

Coaches : Kate Dinsmore, Ciara Downey, Ciaran Rice & Johnny Rooney

A Chara,

U16 ladies played in section c for this year. Training began in early February with 22 girls on the panel, which included a few U14s. Only 4 sections were allocated for the year, which left a peculiar format of 7 teams in section a, 8 teams in section b, 9 in c and 11 in d. As a consequence of this, section a and section b teams played each other twice in the season while section c and d only met once. Section d at least had 2 more games to play while section c played only 8 league games all year. We believed our league was to be split upon completion in order to facilitate a league playoff to decide a winner, which would have given us the extra few games. That didn't happen. We played our last league game on August 8th and finished exactly mid table with 4 wins and 4 losses.

Aside from a challenge game v bryansford, our next competitive game was 1st round of the championship v newry shamrocks on October 2nd. Almost 8 weeks after the last league game. A number of our u16 ladies were involved at minor level, and these girls at least were kept playing but those not involved saw no football for that entire period. Minor football was Thursday nights and clashed with our 16s training slot which left us with a single session per week for everyone who was available to train together. Obviously the girls involved with minors benefited hugely from the experience, and it helped develop their skills more quickly. The flip side, unfortunately, was that the other 16s missed out on that. Everyone was invited of course, but not everyone wanted to go. We encouraged the remaining girls to join in training with 14s but as expected, none of them seemed to want to and decided to stick with the Tuesday slot only.

Our championship opener against shamrocks was played in Pairc Esler under floodlight, and we managed to come away with a hard fought win against the home side.

It was a great experience for the girls to play there, and the victory set us up for a tough semifinal away to league winners saval. We were definite underdogs for this game but held our own for the most part. With only 10 minutes gone however, we suffered a very harsh red card, which made an already difficult task that much harder. We went in at half time 4 points down but not yet out. In the second half we pulled the game back to within 2 points before savals numerical advantage eventually started to show. Our girls showed great character and determination to fight on to the very last second but eventually lost out to the strongest team in the division who went on to a win the final and secure a league and championship double.

Our season ended in saval but we feel it was hard to keep the girls focused with the long gap from league ending to championship beginning. Regardless of that the girls committed well throughout





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the season and aside from the expected exam and holiday absences were keen and driven when matches came around.

It has been an absolute privilege to work with the girls and I wish them all well in their future footballing days.

Special thanks to Ciaran Rice and to Kevin Fitzpatrick who helped when available.

Also a big thank you to Kate, Ciara and Annette for their assistance and help all year.



*Cumann Pheadair Naofa C.L.G.*

**St. Peter's GAA Club, Warrenpoint**



## **2024 U18 Boys Football Report – Larry Byrne**

Manager : Larry Byrne

Coaches: Dermot Mathers.

A Chara,

Training for the Minor team commenced on February 6, 2024, with 14 players attending sessions at St. Mark's, which represented our highest attendance throughout the season. The team competed in Division 2 and, despite some challenges, performed competitively against most teams in the league. Unfortunately, adverse weather conditions and several cancellations of friendly matches due to waterlogged pitches and limited pitch availability impacted our preparation.

Our campaign began with a defeat to Drumgath in the first league fixture. However, the team rallied to finish the league in 5th position. Player availability, compounded by holidays, was a significant factor in our final standing. The Championship followed a similar trajectory, with tough competition from teams such as Castlewellan, Saval, and Byrnsford in our group. We delivered arguably our best performance in the opening game against Castlewellan, but were unable to build on that momentum, ultimately losing the next two fixtures and finishing 3rd in the group.

The season proved to be especially challenging, with limited squad numbers and reliance on Under-16 players stepping up to fill gaps. This situation was further complicated by Under-16 fixtures, which often required players to compete in matches for both age groups on consecutive days.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all players, parents, and the Under-16 management team for their continued support throughout the season

Larry



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## **2024 U18 Girls Football Report – Fergus Bradley**

Manager : Fergus Bradley

Coaches: Mike Barnett, Colette Locke, Caoimhe Shannon, Kate Dinsmore, Ciara Downey.

A Chara,

This years Minor Ladies season was a great improvement on the year before.

With the support of the 16s coaching team led by Damian Doyle there was a much improved turnout from that age group.

The 2023 results were a reflection of a struggle to attract enough players to field strong teams, with only one win and a meek exit from the championship in the first round.

This years league performance was much improved with wins against Bosco, Ballymartin, and Bredagh B and gaining the points against Glen and Dundrum who couldn't field. A narrow defeat by Shamrocks and reverses against Kilcoo and Annaclone left the girls in fourth place level on points with 3rd placed Shamrocks.

There were positive signs going into championship, which was much earlier than last year.

We were paired against a Bredagh B side, in round one, who had defeated the girls last year. In an open and attacking game the girls ran out winners by a goal.

In the semi final the girls faced a much fancied Dundrum team and in what was certainly one of the games of the season, at any grade, the Blues again prevailed in a game which could have gone either way by a goal margin again.

The Championship final would be against a Saul team who had dropped down from the division above. In fairness the girls would have needed their strongest team out and a lot to go their way on the day but it wasn't to be.

Overall this was a very successful season. The improvement of so many players led to results on the pitch. Five minor players made their debuts for the Senior Ladies this year with many of them playing an important part in the winning of the Clubs first Junior A Adult Championship.

The cooperation and overlap between the U16s, Minors and Seniors in terms of training and support this year has undoubtedly contributed to probably the most successful year in the Clubs LGFA history.

Well done to Alicia Jones who played for the Down PDP team this year, and good luck to the girls who have been called up for trials for Down Minors.



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A huge thanks to all the players and their parents and guardians. Thanks also to the Support from Mike and Anne Barnett, Colette and Ben Lock, Damian Doyle, Ciaran Rice, Kate and CD, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Brian Murphy and the many Senior Ladies who helped out.

Thanks also goes to our Chairman, the Senior Committee, the football Committee and anyone else who has made this year such an enjoyable one for all involved.

Fergus