

# Galbally Pearses GFC

## Youth Report 2020



2020 was year that will live long in the memory for the people across our land. The impact of Covid-19 continues to challenge our community and makes us appreciate even more deeply the importance of our family and friends.

It was in the background of Covid-19 and post lockdown that the GAA gave a guarded recommendation that clubs could begin training again at the beginning of July. We embarked on a new regime of Covid-19 regulations, online Covid-19 modules, health questionnaires, no changing rooms, controlled numbers at training, infection controls and many more. I would like to thank the people who volunteered on the club's Covid-19 sub-committee, Noel McKeown, Plunket Nugent, Paddy Corrigan, Gavin McVeigh, Declan Quinn, Sean Hurson, Paul Kerr, Conor Brannigan, Paul Allen and Michelle McCaul this important work ensured that our club implemented the rigorous Covid-19 regulation set out by the GAA in Croke Park.

Although 2020 did not replicate the trophy success of 2019 for our youth teams, there can be no doubt that the spirit in which our young people and parents approached our shortened season was something to be truly proud of. I would like to thank the Galbally GAC committee and members of Galbally Pearses in their support of youth football in 2020, it was very encouraging to see the level of effort which our volunteers are willing to give including coaching, the setting out of pitches and helping on match day, all these tasks are very significant and matter greatly in allowing our teams succeed. I would like to thank our Chairman Noel McKeown, Vice-Chairperson Pauline Bowman, treasurer Dominic Rafferty and secretary Plunket Nugent who are unwavering in their support of youth football in our club. Can I also thank Gareth and Marie Rafferty for their work with equipment and club registration, Carla Murphy for the excellent promotion of our teams, children's officer Kevin McVeigh for the important child protection and safeguarding work he carries out and Michelle McCaul who continue to lead the ladies' youth football with such passion and commitment. Can I thank our parents for their tremendous support in 2020 and look forward to their continued help in 2021. To our youth coaches who so willingly give up their time to guide and support our youth teams. You are fantastic!



## Great moment for Marcus

Galbally Under10 player Marcus McLaughlin meeting one of his heroes David Clifford while visiting Fossa Co. Kerry during the summer of 2020

### Under8 Boys

Our Under 8 boys were coached by Aidy Pat McCrory, Eugene Carberry, Sean Hurson and Aidan Quinn (Crosscavanagh). The Under 8's commenced on 18<sup>th</sup> Feb '20 and trained until they were forced to stop with Covid-19 restrictions on 12<sup>th</sup> March. They recommenced on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> July and continued to train and complete an extensive programme of matches. Matches were as follows;

Donaghmore away on 8<sup>th</sup> Aug

Killeeshil home on 14<sup>th</sup> Aug

Edendork home on 26<sup>th</sup> Aug

Errigal Ciaran away on 29<sup>th</sup> Aug

Eglish home on 5<sup>th</sup> Sept

Clonoe home on 9<sup>th</sup> Sept

Dungannon home 12<sup>th</sup> Sept

Carrickmore away 17<sup>th</sup> Sept

Donaghmore home 21<sup>st</sup> Sept

Errigal Ciaran home 27<sup>th</sup> Sept.



There were great numbers throughout the year with over 30 boys available for all matches with a maximum turnout of 35 boys which included three Under6's. It was a great finish to the year on a sunny Sunday in September when the boys played Errigal Ciaran and rounded things off with some delicious pizza.

### Under10 Boys



**Coaches, Eamon McElroy, Paddy Kelly, Maurice McCloskey, Joe Cassidy, Kevin McVeigh with parents helping out regularly including Sean Rafferty.**

The U10 season commenced at the start of February 2020 with a number of indoor training sessions in the Community Centre. Due to the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic in the middle of March, training was suspended until the start of July when GAA central guidelines were put in place to ensure training reconvened in a safe environment. Training recommenced on Wednesday evenings and also on Sunday mornings. Parents were required to complete the GAA Covid questionnaire before all training or games and to sign their child in to training sessions undertaking their child had no Covid-19 symptoms.

Go Games were severely curtailed due to the pandemic however we organised weekly friendly games which were played home and away against Carrickmore, Donaghmore, Kildress, Eglish and Clonoe. There were Go Games which we hosted and we also travelled to Errigal, Donaghmore and Eglish.

Thanks to Paddy Kelly's dual role with the senior team, senior players and coaches helped with training throughout the year which was very much appreciated. There were regularly 25 – 30 boys who attended training, friendly and Go Games throughout the 2020 season.

Overall the Covid 19 pandemic did interrupt the U10 season but thanks to great efforts from coaches, players and parents a lot of training and games was condensed into a 10-week period which served to benefit the players in overall GAA skills development.







Our Under10 Boys enjoying a coaching session with Galbally' s Tyrone stars Liam, Conor and Daniel



The Under10 Boys enjoying a coaching session with Galbally Senior player Enda McGarrity

## Under12 boys

Coaches-Joe Donnelly, Hugh Quinn, Peter O'Neill

Over 20 boys relished the opportunity to get back playing football with their friends in June, many of which they had not seen in months. The power of GAA in enhancing the physical and mental wellbeing of our youth (and not so young) was evidenced this year more than most, with no one taking a single second for granted. The fixture schedule was reduced to neighbouring clubs to minimise travelling and we were paired against Donaghmore, Errigal Ciaran, Kileeshil and Eglish with additional challenge games arranged with Kildress and Carrickmore to ensure the boys got as much game time as possible. Unfortunately, due to the year that was in it, we only got the chance to attend one tournament but the boys seized the single opportunity for silverware to take home the Cormac McAnallen Shield in September. We would like to thank Eglish St Patrick's GAC for the invite and congratulate them for running a successful tournament, when it would have been easier to postpone given the circumstances.



Under12 Boys winners of the Cormac McAnallen Shield in Eglish



Matthew Hughes receiving the winning shield at the English tournament



### Under14 Boys

A squad of 25 boys represented the club in Grade 1 of the Tyrone league this year under the management of Colm Rafferty, Brian Donaghy, Conor Donaghy, Peter Tally and Hugh Quinn. Grade 1A included Arboe, English, Donaghmore, Cookstown and Dungannon. The team competed very well to win against Dungannon before the lockdown due to Covid-19. On the resumption of games, all games played before the lockdown were void. We then played 3 home and 2 away league games resulting in 2 wins against Dungannon and Cookstown and 3 defeats to Arboe, English and Donaghmore. We had home advantage for our preliminary round championship game against Errigal Ciaran and in a hard fought battle played in terrible weather ran out winners on a score line of 4-5 to 2-8. Next up was Trillick in the quarter-final at home and despite our best efforts we were beaten 4-4 to 5-13 by the team which would eventually go on to win the Grade1 championship.

All parents and players should be commended for their cooperation with the Covid-19 regulations this year.



Under14 Boys 2020

### Under16 Boys

Our Under16 boys were managed by Paddy Corrigan, Gussey Ferguson and Caoimhin Quinn. This young squad began training in July and four weeks later commenced their league with a home defeat against Kildress, this was followed by a win away to Stewartstown a team which we had suffered a very heavy defeat against, two years previously at Under14 level, this was followed by an away defeat to Moy, a home win against Errigal Ciaran and rounding of our league with a defeat away to a very strong English team. During this time the boys were working well on their game and were in a good frame of mind when they travelled to Dunmoyle to take on Errigal Ciaran in the first round of the championship, the boys turned in an excellent performance to come away with an excellent victory. For the quarter-final the team was on the road again as they travelled to Dromore and again some brilliant team play saw the boys through to set up a semi-final against English. In a tight contest the young Galbally team battled and gave everything they had in their performance, but unfortunately came out on the wrong end of the score line suffering a one-point defeat to the team that went





on to win the championship title. Many thanks to the players and parents who completed all Covid-19 regulations and supported the team so well.

### Boys Under16 2020



### Minor Boys 2020

Management: Ronan McGeary, Peadar McCaughey, Colin Hetherington, Sean Carberry  
Galbally Minors began their league strongly when they won away to Clonoe in the first round of the league post- lockdown. The next game was a parish derby where Donaghmore ran out easy winners against a Galbally side missing a few key players. League matches against Edendork, Cookstown and Moy were much tighter games but unfortunately Galbally couldn't gain the points needed to qualify for the league final.

Galbally Minors' season ended with a loss away to Moy in the championship which again was a very close contest with points from Senan Morgan and Conall Quinn keeping Galbally in the game but unfortunately they couldn't take any of the various goal chances they created and Moy were eventual winners 1-11 to 0-11.

A challenging year for our Minor boys, let's hope 2021 sees an upturn in their fortunes. There is undoubted talent in this group and with the strong chance of Under19 football being introduced in 2021 they have an opportunity to improve and gain some better results.





Well done to Barry Carberry who was a member of the Tyrone Minor panel for 2020



## Ladies Youth Football

The underage girls football season was also greatly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic resulting in the disruption of youth fixtures. Although the Tyrone Ladies board had decided not to run any Under8, Under10, Under12 or Under14 competitions our club decided to continue with training, in house and arrange friendly fixtures against neighbouring clubs. On reflection this proved a very good decision and one which the Tyrone ladies board should have followed.

### Under8 Girls

Our Under8 girls were coached this year by Niamh Rafferty, Maire McElhone and Noleen Quinn. Their numbers continued to be high each week with the girls concentrating on introducing the basic skills and fundamental movements.



### Under10 Girls

Our Under10s were coached by Gavin McVeigh, Damian McCrory, John Allan, Cormac Clarke and Sinead Nugent. The coaching team worked hard with the girls in developing skills and good movement. They organised some go game friendlies with neighbouring parishes, and ended their season with a great day of football thanks to Killeavy GFC from Co. Armagh.



Under10 Girls 2020



### Under12 Girls

Under12s continued this year coached by Kieran Quinn, Tanya McKeown, Jacinta Carberry and Declan McKeever. Their numbers have continued to grow year on year and with the enthusiasm of their coaches, they trained twice weekly and also had some great friendlies with neighbouring clubs while building their skills and preparing several members of this squad for the Under14 team in 2021.



Girls Under12 team 2020

### Under14 Girls

The Under14s started at the beginning of the year coached by Brian Carberry, Gavin McVeigh, Michelle McCaul and Maurice McCloskey. After the very successful year they had in 2019 numbers have continued to grow and with the proposed All-Ireland Feile being hosted in Tyrone in 2020 the team were really looking forward to organising and getting things ready to become a host club. Unfortunately, with the onset of Covid-19 in March the Feile was cancelled. Our Under14 girls resumed training with Noel Donaghy, Francie O'Neill and Mairead McKane later in the year. The team had a number of friendlies and their confidence was growing in anticipation of the upcoming league. This was also not meant to be with the cancelling of the league and that ended the 2020 season.



Girls Under14 team 2020

### Under16 Girls

U16 girls began training when GAA announced that training could commence in July, coached by Brian Carberry, Gavin McVeigh and Michelle McCaul. These girls trained hard for several months over the summer and had great potential for the upcoming league, but again this was unfortunately cancelled.

Girls Under16 team 2020





### Under18 Girls

The minor girls were trained by Ronan Nugent, Mark Donnelly and Catherine Walker. Their league had begun before the pandemic took hold with the team playing three games in their group. The girls played Aghaloo in their opening game with the girls suffering a narrow defeat, Pomeroy was their next game and in difficult weather conditions the girls came away with a deserved win. Stewartstown were the teams third and final game but unfortunately the girls were beaten in what was the team's best performance of the season.

The minor league was followed by a first championship game against Stewartstown where the girls were unfortunate to lose by a narrow margin.

### Primary School Coaching

The development of our P1 –P4 pupils has also been greatly assisted by the re-introduction in September of a weekly coaching programme in our local primary school led by abc coaching's Ryan Daly delivering fundamental skills coaching and funded by Galbally Peases. Can I take the opportunity to thank our 2020 committee for their vision in continuing to support this initiative which takes place on a weekly basis throughout the school year. Can I also thank Hugh Meenagh, Sean Quinn, Joe Kelly and any other of our primary school teachers who coach and develop Gaelic football for our children in Galbally Primary school

The Covid-19 pandemic prevented several of our important youth events in 2020, this included our Pearse Og programme, summer camps and our annual Youth Presentation Evening. It was also with great regret that we were unable to run our Campa Casca as well as the Martin McCaughey and Cathy McVeigh tournaments. As we look with optimism into 2021 let's hope that we will be able to return to a full schedule of events in the coming year.

Can I conclude by wishing our youth players and managers all the very best for the coming year in 2021 and hope that they can build on the great resilience and determination shown by our teams in 2020. It is essential that all our club members continue to support our youth players to help them reach their full potential and progress towards the goal of representing our teams at adult level. Progress at youth level is crucial for our club and everyone has a role to play in ensuring we succeed and excel.

*Mo San Oige agus tiocfaidh sí*

