

Youth Officer Report 2023

I would like to thank the Galbally GAC committee and members of Galbally Pearses in their support of youth football in 2023. It was very encouraging to see the level of effort that 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 to succeed.

I would like to thank our Chairperson Noel McKeown, Vice Chairperson Pauline Bowman, Treasurer Dwayne Mulgrew and Secretary Plunket Nugent who are unwavering in their support of youth football in our club. I would like to thank Carla McAuley for the excellent promotion of our teams, and children's officer Kevin McVeigh for the important child protection and safeguarding work he carries out.

In the 2023 season I had the help of Hayley Gormley, Paddy Corrigan, John Moylan, Joe Donnelly, Kieran Quinn and Noel Donaghy who were on the Youth sub committee. They were good to work with and a great soundboard to bounce ideas off.

In April, we ran our Pearse Og's programme (U6.5's) which was headed by Aidan O'Hagan. This proved very successful and is something that we are going to extend the length of time that it is run this coming year. Thanks to all the volunteers and youth players that helped out with this programme.

In May we ran our annual Martin McCaughey Tournament. As usual the tournament is one of the best run in Ulster with many teams looking to be entered in it. I would like to thank the many volunteers that helped out leading up to and during the day itself. The standard of the football was very good and the highlight of the day was the Pearses winning the cup, well done to all involved.

We had our youth presentation in December, which was well attended.

Awards were given out to Joseph Corrigan, Eoghan O'Neill, Leo Quinn, Darragh Donaghy and James Rafferty for winning the MacLarnon cup then they went onto winning the Paddy Drummond cup with St. Joseph's Donaghmore.

Adding to their achievements James and Darragh played for the Tyrone minors during the season with James also getting recognised as a Queens GAA future star.

With the new season ahead the club is proud to have Leo Quinn and Enda Cush on the Tyrone minor panel and Cathy Ann McCrory on the U14 Tyrone ladies panel, congratulations to all.

Thanks to all the youth that represented the club in the Scor this year. Congratulations goes to Maeve Donnelly, Sarah Donnelly, Cara Ferguson, Ella Rose Donnelly, Cathy Ann McCrory, Sarah Louise Kelly, Cassie McCrory and Zara Burke who participated in the Rince Foirne going onto become county champions and then heading to Monaghan for the Ulsters.

Also representing the club were the Instrumental group consisting of Grainne Mullin, Tres Quinn, Caitlin McElhone, Aislinn Rafferty and Ciaran Mullan. Then we had Emily Kane (solo singing), Sinead McVeigh (recitation) and we had the Trath na gceist (Quiz team) consisting of Leo Quinn, Darragh Donaghy, Dualtach McKeown and James Rafferty. Well done to all, and great to see the club so well represented in the Scor.

On a weekly basis AB coaching delivers a Physical literacy programme (Key Stage one) and Gaelic skills programme (Key Stage two) to the pupils of St Joseph's primary school in conjunction with Galbally Pearses.

Monday mornings over a three hour period - Conall Devlin delivers a 40 min session to all key stage two classes with the main focus being Gaelic football skills. Children participate in a variety of themed small sided games - fun based.

On Thursday mornings all key stage one pupils participate in a 30 min physical literacy programme with Aiden Fullerton which is linked to the National Curriculum. To date children have been working on the theme of Handling where they are taught all the skills of passing and receiving using their hands. In term two the focus will now change to Kicking.

We are seeing the benefits of running these programs within the primary school with both girls and boys teams representing the school in various tournaments and being successful.

Also I would like to mention the work that has been done by Aidan Quinn and Eugene Carberry. The work that these two men have done in this past season has not gone unnoticed and are always available to help out.

Can I thank the parents for their tremendous support in 2023 and look forward to their continued help in 2024 and finally to our youth coaches who so willingly give up their time to guide and support our youth teams.

U8.5 Boys

Management team consisted of the following:

- Noel Donaghy
- Larry McVeigh
- Paul Tally
- Barry Burke
- Gabriel Kelly
- Shane McCrory

Panel of 27 players – basically all boys available from P3 & P4 in Galbally Primary School + 2 from Castlecaulfield.

One of the biggest squads in Tyrone at that age group.

First training session 15th March.

We started with friendly matches v Coalisland & Cookstown.

Go-games (1v1 due to size of panels) started on 1 April v Kildress.

We played (home & away)

Kildress Clonoe Moy Dungannon Donaghmore Eglisnash Cookstown

Blitz in Donaghmore on 10th June with 4 teams participating (Galbally, Eglisnash, Dungannon & Donaghmore).

Various friendly matches throughout the year with Killeeshil, Loughmacrory, Carrickmore

Played St. Agnes from Belfast on 17 June.

Competed in tournaments in Moy (9 Sept), Tullysaran (23 Sept) & Carrickmore which ended the season (30 Sept).





U10.5 Boys

Management team consisted of the following:

- Aidan Quinn
- Martin Donnelly
- Seamus Mullin
- Fergal O'Donnell

March was the beginning of training out on the field after our winter training. Training was twice a week with over 26 lads attending.

Go games started in April

Numbers of lads have increased with a few boys coming back that have not been out these last few years which is great to see.

Lads have improved week on week with ball skills and teamwork, which can be seen every day they go out.

We have been balancing training schedules with a busy school football season to avoid burnout.

In June St Agnes Belfast came to Galbally with over 80 children in the age groups of U8-U10 boys and girls which was a very successful day for all children and the club.

This is the team Brendan Grieve and Paul Jordan played for before moving to greener pastures in Galbally.

June was a busy month with go games and the boys showed off their skills during the half time of the senior match in Carrickmore.

July is always a quiet month with a break of 2 weeks. When we returned a second day's training was added to help lads get fitness back for a busy second half of the season with go games to finish and tournaments coming soon

August continuing with training and matches every week and keeping numbers good.

September was a busy month with the Donaghmore, Dromore, Moy and Carrickmore tournaments being run. The lads did well in these tournaments and won the shield in the Carrickmore Tournament.

The lads took October off before we ran Pilates for 6 weeks which started in November.



U12.5 Boys

Management team consisted of the following:

- Eamon McElroy
- Paddy Kelly
- Eugene Carberry
- Paul Jordan
- Pdraig Kelly

Training commenced at the end of February for under 12.5's which was boys in P7 and boys in first year. Some of the players for 12.5's were involved in under 14's too. Training for the under 12.5 took place on Tuesday evenings with friendly fixtures normally at the weekend. Over the course of the season there were a plenty of friendly games arranged by management which ensured plenty of interest for players who developed skills learnt from training sessions. As the season progressed there were Go-Games and Tournaments which all players took part in. There was consistently high attendance of players throughout the season from 30–35 which was really encouraging to see. Special thanks to Ronan McGeary, Mark Donnelly and Paddy Tally for assisting with various training sessions throughout the year. The season wrapped up on the 25 November 2023.

2. P7 tournament details

- Bertie Foley Cup, Ardboe 7 a side, **winner**
- St Patricks Academy, **Cup winner**
- Canavan Cup, (St. Ciaráns), **winner**
- Roan Eglis, **cup winner**
- Donaghmore **shield winner**
- Killeeshil, **shield winner**
- Tyrone indoor Cumman na mBunscoil, **winner**
- Ulster indoor, **finalist**
- Tyrone big schools, **finalist**
- Simon McAleer, **finalist**

3. Go Games Schedule

Tir Eoghain U12.5

Football Development League Fixtures 2023.pdf

4. Club Tournaments wins

The u12.5s reached semi-finals and finals of most tournaments they entered and were victorious in the below tournaments.

- Martin McCaughey Tournaments winners, 20 May 2023
- Loughmacrory Cup Winners 3 June 2023
- Rock Tournament, Liam Heaney Cup 7 July 2023

5. Conclusion

The boys had a fantastic season with a lot of football played as well as plenty of tournaments won for the club and the school.

The U12.5 season was very successful due to the hard work of the coaches, and the excellent commitment of parents and players. The boys continue to improve as players and as an overall team. This bunch of players continue to be a very exciting prospect going forward.

6. Season photographs.

Below are some of the season photographs, which captures key moments.



P7, Cummann Na Bunscol, Winners, 7 March 2023



Friendly v Moy, 12 March



Friendly v Ardboe, 11 May



Martin McCaughey Tournament winners, 20 May



P7, Canavan Cup Winners, Ballygawley, 26 May



Loughmacrory Cup Winners, 3 June



P7, Shield Winners, Cabragh Tournament, 13 June



End of season friendly v Omagh, 15 November

U14 Boys

Management team consisted of the following:

- Mark Donnelly
- Dylan McVeigh
- Oisin McCaughey
- Barry Carberry
- John Moylan

The U14 panel of 2023 stepped up a Grade to Division 1 for the season and on reflection gave a very good account of themselves.

In the league they had wins against Clonoe, Errigal Ciaran and Cookstown. They had draws against Killyclogher, Carrickmore and Trillick and had losses against Loughmacrory, Ardboe, Eglisk and Dungannon.

While competing really well for most of their games this was not enough to achieve a top 4 league position for a semi-final spot. Although it did give the squad belief that they could compete with any team in the championship.

In the championship they first faced Clonoe in the quarter final which was a repeat of the U13 league and championship finals from the previous year where Clonoe defeated the Pearses on both occasions. The tables were turned this year. After an incredibly tight game Galbally finished the stronger and finally overcame this Clonoe team in a knockout game.

Killyclogher, who had accounted for a highly fancied Loughmacrory team in the previous round awaited Galbally in the semi-final. Again a late flurry of goals in the second half saw Galbally upset the odds and book their place in the Grade 1 U14 final.

A very strong Eglisk team faced Galbally in the final. While Galbally gave a brilliant account of themselves in the opening half, the physical strength of the Eglisk team told in the second half and they ended up comfortable winners before they also went on to lift the league title.

The Galbally players should be incredibly proud of how they performed following their step up to this level. With continued support and development, it is only a matter of time before this squad of players lift the silverware they richly deserve.

An enormous thank you to all the parents for their support throughout the year.



U16 Boys

Management team consisted of the following:

- Martin Brannigan
- Peadar McCaughey
- Hugh Quinn

We started training on Sunday 12th February and since then we done 3 training sessions a week until games began. Hugh and Peadar had been in from the beginning and then Martin Brannigan joined them.

We usually trained on Tuesday and Thursday and played games on the weekend. We played 2 friendly matches against Killeeshil and Donaghmore, where we beat Killeeshil and lost to Donaghmore.

Every training session we did not have a full panel but we averaged 22-24 players a session which was great. We had some distractions with School and County football with lads trying to balance both responsibilities but we worked around it so that it did not affect the team too much.

We lost our first league game against Carrickmore. A poor first half against the wind cost us as we went 11-0 down at half time. However our boys showed fight in the second half and we lost by 4 points on a scoreline of 3.14-3.10. It was a good lesson for the lads about Grade One football and what level they have to reach if they want to compete. Our under 16 season finished against Cookstown in the Championship where we were beaten by 20 points. This was not a true reflection of the hard work team put in since February. Unfortunately we were unable to make the league quarter finals either finishing 11/13. There had been great moments particularly beating Loughmacrory away and Cookstown in the league at home. We had a good evening on Saturday going through game plans etc before the championship game and getting them pizza and watching the Tyrone game together. Overall this year was a great development for the lads stepping up into Grade One and whilst we didn't win a lot of games there is plenty to take away from this season for their futures in football.

The only issue we had was we were not able to get enough football for the entire squad due to the highly competitive nature of Grade One football but we tried to supplement this with challenge games against development squads from the county to help develop those lads who trained hard but didn't play in the league or championship games. To conclude it was a good learning curve that will no doubt benefit these players in the next few years.







U18 Boys

Management team consisted of the following:

- Aidan O'Hagan
- Martin Ferguson
- Paddy Corrigan

Our training started with S+C training twice a week run by Seanie Murphy in November and ended in January due to the season not starting till July.

We resumed training at the start of June with two outdoor sessions and a S+C session once a week.

Our league season began on 23rd July with an away win against Cappagh and a home win against Carrickmore. We then suffered defeats away to Errigal Ciaran, Eglishe and Dromore. Then we had two home wins against Cookstown and Omagh and a draw with Ardboe.

We had an away defeat against Trillick and to finish off our league season we secured a victory against Donaghmore at home.

We came fourth in the league table which left us with an away fixture against Dromore in the league semi-final on Sunday 19th November which we unfortunately lost.

Our championship campaign ended in the preliminary round with an away defeat against Eglishe. The game was on Friday, the 25th of August. Playing the championship after three rounds of the league is not good enough. This is something that all clubs have complained about. We are glad to see that the county board has listened to the clubs and have changed the minor structure to run the championship after the league fixtures for this forthcoming season.

We would like to thank all the players who put in a tremendous effort through what has been a long season and wish them all the best in their future development as footballers for this club.

