

## **Ladies Youth Report 2023**

**U8s:** Coaches Donal salmon, Joanne Kelly, Ger Donnelly, Shane Malone, and Denise McCann.

The girls started training on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023, for u8(p.3 and p.4), numbers were high at each training session. And we focused on the basic skills of Gaelic football at training sessions.

For the go games we had been placed into Group 1 with Carrickmore, Loughmacrory, Errigal Ciaran, Cappagh, and Omagh St Enda's. We had 10 rounds consisting of home and away, all rounds were played bar the last fixture against Omagh, as this clashed with camogie.

Aswell as a few organised friendlies the girls got loads of football for the season and the improvement in these girls was 2<sup>nd</sup> to known. We were invited to the festival of football in Ardboe which was a great day of football playing teams outside the county.

We then hosted St Agnes in Belfast and organised our own Football fun day to end the year!

As our last year's p.4s will move into u10s for the 2024 season, we wish the new management all the best for the year ahead!



## **U10s**

**Coaches: Cathal O'Neill and Siobhan McVeigh**

**Parent helpers: Pauline McKeever, Kieran McCrory, Peter Gillespie, Dorinda McLaughlin, Orla Nugent, Mairead McKane and Gareth Hetherington.**

Training commenced on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2023 for the under 10s, which was for girls in P.5 and P.6, and training took place on Wednesday evenings! Over the course of the season there were several games along with the Go Games programme, which ensured plenty of interest for players and they developed skills learnt from training sessions. There was consistently high attendance of players for training and games throughout the season, which was really encouraging to see.

### **Go Games Programme...**

Galbally v Errigal Ciaran, 15<sup>th</sup> April

Galbally v Loughmacrory 18<sup>th</sup> May

Carrickmore v Galbally 25<sup>th</sup> May

Killyclogher v Galbally 6<sup>th</sup> June

Galbally v omagh 21<sup>st</sup> June

Loughmacrcory v Galbally 29<sup>th</sup> July

Errigal Ciaran v Galbally 2<sup>nd</sup> August

Galbally v killyclogher 16<sup>th</sup> September

Unable to arrange return visit to Omagh due to camogie clashes.

### **Other Games**

Friendly Galbally v Killeeshil 5<sup>th</sup> April

Festival of football in Ardboe 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2 teams entered and games against Ardboe, Ballinderry, Magherafelt, Errrigal Ciaran, Desertmartin, Loup and Clonoe.

Friendly Donaghmore v Galbally 12<sup>th</sup> June.

Friendly galbally v st Agnes Belfast 17<sup>th</sup> June.

Friendly Moy v Galbally 28<sup>th</sup> June.

Friendly Galbally v Cookstown 5<sup>th</sup> July

Friendly Galbally v Kildress 10<sup>th</sup> August.

Friendly galbally v Killeeshil 1st August.

We organised a Football fun day on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September, to mark the end of the season. We had teams from Ardboe, Killeeshil, Moy, Cookstown, Carrickmore and Glenelly and 2 Galbally teams. Despite challenging weather all the girls played their best and enjoyed the games.

We would like to thank all the parents who donated either financially and/or by giving their time in person to make the day a massive success.

The girls had a fantastic 2023 season with a lot of football played and they continue to improve as players. We are already looking forward to the u10 2024 season.



## **U14s**

**Coaches: Kelly, Damien McCrory, Gavin McVeigh, Kieran Quinn, Aileen Hurson and Oliver Murphy.**

The training commenced for the U14s in January, with the girls doing indoor training for 6 weeks every Wednesday night and on Monday's nights they were out running with Aileen and Oliver which was great for their fitness. The running for the girls carried on for the whole season leading into when the U16 season was ready to begin. The

U14 girls participated in the Grade 3 league and had a competitive season, finishing third in the league table and the season ended with a defeat in a competitive championship game versus Killeeshil in June.

Over the season there were up to 30 girls at training and games. This shows that the girls were keen on learning football skills plus enhancing their fitness.

I have no doubt that this team will be successful in future seasons and am looking forward to seeing them develop into a top team, thanks to all the parents for encouraging them and being a pleasure to work with.



## **U16s**

**Coaches: Paddy Kelly, Kieran Quinn, Matthew Rafferty, Aileen Hurson, Oliver Murphy, and Gavin McVeigh.**

The U16 season started straight after the U14 season finished, prior to the U14 season ended they were training along together which worked well for the girls that were not ready to train with the minors. There were over 40 girls in this age group, which led to us entering two teams. We have previously entered two teams for the U14's in the 2022 season which worked well, so we believed it was best suited to do this again. The two teams were entered in Grade 3 and 4, respectively. The teams were divided by their ability and

during the season each player played in their grade that they were assigned to at the start of the season. By doing this, players could have more opportunities to develop their skills and gain more time on the ball.

The grade 3 team had a competitive league campaign which was developed into a run in the championship with an away victory against a much-fancied Tattyreagh side, then another away victory against Beragh and then our season ended against Drumragh which was at home. This game was an extremely close affair and the Pearses can count themselves unlucky to not come away with a win. The grade 4 team had a tough season without gaining a victory in the league and then losing out to eventual champions Clonoe "B" away in the county semi-final. It must be noted that it was disappointing to see the idea of entering a "B" team and not allowing players to jump from A to B was not upheld by Clonoe. This is something our team was aware of before we played them in the league and knew it was not going to be a fair fight. That said, it was a character-building season for this group, and the numbers never dwindled at games and training, which is impressive.

As we approached the end of the season, we decided to run a parish league which the girls all enjoyed. We finished up our season at the end of November.

I would like to acknowledge the efforts of Matthew Rafferty for coming on board for his first season as a coach. Hopefully, he can build on this experience and stay at it.

In this coming season again, there will be two teams entered at this age group and will look forward to working with this great bunch of girls.



## U18s

Hopes were high for the Minor Girls in 2023 after the girls had made it to the Grade 3 Championship Final in 2022 where they were defeated by a strong Dromore side now playing in Grade 2.

Management for the 2023 season was Hayley Boyle, Earl Gormley and Michelle McCaul and our Captain for 2023 was Clara McDonald.

At the start of the year the County board had placed the girls into Grade 2 but Galbally appealed that decision based on the head to head results in the league last year and the girls were allowed to stay in Grade 3 where there were 10 teams competing.

Training started indoors in January and the turnouts were excellent with over 20 attending regularly. Challenge games were held before the start of the league against Clonoe and Rock.

The league started on 26th March at home to Castlederg and unfortunately the girls did not perform to the level they were capable of and Castlederg came away victorious.

Galbally defeated Pomeroy in the next round of the league and our match against Strabane was called off due to a waterlogged pitch and was to be refixed later in the year.

The girls defeated St Macartan's in their next league fixture on 18th April with the performance against St Macartan's arguably being our best performance of the year with outstanding displays all over the field.

Points was then picked up from Clann na nGael who conceded the most of their games from there on. Galbally lost the next 2 games to Aghyaran and Killeeshil whilst showing glimpses of what they were capable of.

There then followed an 18-day break without matches due to school exams beginning. The exams seriously hampered preparations as turnouts at training went from regularly being in the twenties to single figures.

Consequently, defeats followed in the league to Fintona, Strabane (refixed) and Drumragh. However, this gave some of the younger



girls who had been turning out to training a chance to shine in matches and some of them seized that opportunity.

Our Championship run was short lived with defeat to Castlederg in the first round on 18th June 6-10 to 1-10 in a match where we dominated the first half.

Proof of the unpredictable nature of football at this grade showed in the Grade 3 Championship final where Pomeroy who didn't win a single league game lost out by a point to league winners Killeeshil after extra time in a thrilling match.

After the 2023 season with the minor girls, I would make a few recommendations going forward.

Some discussion needs to happen in regard to the season being played around the exam period. It was raised by other clubs at the ladies County AGM, but some clubs stated it didn't really affect their attendances, but it had a serious impact on Galbally.

There needs to be an emphasis on the development of the basic skills, and this should happen at all the girls age groups. I feel that some additional help with developing mental strength would benefit the girls in the club and should be considered.

I think that a request to move to Grade 4 should be considered to help the team develop and hopefully build on some of their performances they showed this year.

I wish the girls and their new management every success in 2024.



