

# **Roscommon Gaels Underage Team Reports Year 2014**

## **U8 Camogie Report 2014**

Our U8's Camogie training sessions started indoors in the Convent Gym last January 2014. We had 38 girls register with the club following our usual marketing campaign in the local schools. A lot of these girls are eligible for U10's next year. There was a drop out over the summer break as it appeared that lots of children went away for weeks or on holidays. By the time the children were ready to return to school, numbers reduced to about 25 children.

The first U8 blitz was held in May in St Dominics followed by another four blitzes every four weeks. The final blitz was in the Roscommon Gaels club in September. This blitz was a major success with the children, the parents and the clubs. We also held an U8 Camogie/Hurling Blitz for our club where over 50 children participated. This was also followed by a get together of parents, coaches and children. The evening was a great success.

Thanks to Jason Connaughton, Joan Kiernan, Caoimhe Shanagher, Amy Dolan, Jessica McDermott, Orla Quinn, Leanne Connolly, Martina Fallon. Thanks also to all the parents who helped out on blitz evenings. It was great to receive support from parents who are new to the club.

## **U10 Camogie Report 2014**

### **Mentors**

Una Ni Chuinn                  Paula Connaughton                  Louise Mc Conn

Bernie Mulry                  Tom O Farrell

U10 Camogie started at the end of January 2014 when over 30 girls attended the indoor camogie sessions in the Convent Gym. The indoor training continued until March and then training moved outdoors to our pitch in Lisnamult. Every week training continued from January 2014 through to October 2014 and we had various numbers of attendees at training sessions. The panel consisted of 26 girls.

The U10 camogie girls were scheduled to take part in 5 blitz. Four blitz took place in Padraig Pearses, Oran, Knockgrochrey and Tulsk. The U10 Gaels Camogie team also participated in a half time game at the County Hurling final in October. There girls were disappointed with the few games they had compared to the amount of time they put in training. This will have to be rectified in the future.

The club won 50 free train tickets in a competition run by Iarnrod Eireann and the U10 and U12 camogie girls were taken by train to the Camogie All Ireland final in Croke Park in September. This was a great day out.

The U10 Camogie girls were a pleasure to work with and we looked forward to meeting them every Friday. Moving forward we have about 26 girls who have had a great grounding in Camogie and we look forward to them joining the Gaels again for the 2015 season.

### **Issues**

In order to keep the interest from the girls in the game we need more games. There is huge enthusiasm at U10 level but we cannot maintain this unless we have more games, challenges or visits to and from other clubs.

## **U12 Camogie Report 2014**

Coaches: Bridget Giblin, Mary McNeill, Tricia Torpey. Assisted throughout the season by John Casey.

There were 28 players on the U12 panel in 2014 and for the third year running two teams competed in 3 Go Games blitzes and also in the U12 League.

The 'Hawks' were all U11 and this team was regarded as the U12 development squad for 2014. These girls improved greatly throughout the year and reached the U12 'D' final which was their best game of the year, putting in an enormous performance against a much older Tulsk team.

The 'Eagles' were U12 proper and this team showed increasing levels of skill and fitness as the season progressed. The absence of some girls during the August holiday period was unfortunate as this team was worthy of an 'A' final place. However, they ran out easy winners in the 'B' final against neighbours Oran.

The entire panel put in a huge effort at training throughout the year beginning indoor in February and moving outdoors in March til September. They represented the Club, their families and themselves proudly.

## **U14 Camogie Report 2014**

Coaches: Tom Killion, Sean Mahon, Tricia Torpey

There were 28 girls on the U14 panel in 2014 and they began training indoors in January. Their first outing in the Feile Championship was in March and they reached the Co Semi-Final which they narrowly lost to Padraig Pearses. The opportunity to represent Roscommon as a second Feile team arose later with a playoff against St Dominics. The first half of this match was very tense and exciting and at half time the teams were level. However, the excitement proved too much in the second half and the girls were unlucky to lose out to a gutsy Dominics performance.

Our U14 girls later reached the Co League final against Four Roads and this was easily their best match of the season. At half time the girls were down by a single point with all to play for and it was tit-for-tat throughout the second half. However, the last 5 minutes proved fateful as Four Roads got the rub of the green and sent home a couple of soft goals to seal the game. This was a great team effort by the Gaels gals and we look forward to another exciting U14 season in 2015.

## **Camogie U16.**

We now have 24 players involved with varying degrees of skill. All of them, without exception were and are a credit to their families. It was a most enjoyable season for the mentors because of the attitude and friendly manner of everyone.

Imelda Quinn, Jacinta Johnson and Brigid Giblin saw to it that the girls were well looked after and received every assistance.

A trainer was appointed who was brilliant for a while but then walked, without explanation.

Our results were disappointing but only because the players were genuine and didn't get their deserved rewards. Our matches were played as per the schedule and no player came to the adverse notice of referees. We just missed out on a semi final spot due to one bad result. Sport and luck can be unkind.

Peter Mullen

## U8 Boys Football 2014

### Training

The year commenced on March 29<sup>th</sup> with an indoor session in the Hyde Centre and we had our final session in Lisnamult on Oct 11<sup>th</sup>. In between we had approx. 25 – 30 training sessions each Saturday morning between 10.30 & 11.30am. We took two Saturdays off during the year at points where we felt the lads needed a break. Each training session (or match details) were communicated to parents each Thursday by text.

We worked off a list of 66 lads aged between 5 & 8 (approx. breakdown; 20 8yr olds, 20 7yr olds, 20 6yr olds & 6 5yr olds). The average turnout each Saturday was between 35-40 lads). There was only 7/8 of the total list that failed to turn up for any session.

We split each session into two groups of the older and younger lads and based each session on teaching the basic skills followed by a game to finish. Any lads that were seen to be struggling with certain skills on occasion were given some extra coaching and encouragement/ praise. The games at the end of each session were used to put the skills into practice and to give an understanding of the different positions on the field.

We had a great turnout of adults to help each morning and a big thank you must go to the following; Seamus Carthy, Jason Hoare, Joe Biesty, Derek Dolan, Gary Dunne, Gareth Carroll, Paul Staunton, Declan Hussey, Marty Rodgers, Ollie McGuinness, Padraig Gubbins, Mark Gilleran, Rob Hoey, Liam Corcoran. We quickly discovered that a group of this size makes the job a lot easier, as at this age you tend to need 1 adult per 5/6 lads.

### Games

We attended 6 blitz days during the year including the county blitz in the Connaught GAA centre and one hosted by ourselves in Lisnamult. We usually had 3 teams playing at each of these days ensuring that a lot of the lads each had some game time. We restricted playing in the blitz games to the 7 & 8 year olds. Performance wise we were usually more than competitive at all these games.

We also played some one off games against Oran, Kilbride, St Dominic's, Tusk and St.Faithleachs. These games were usually played mid-week. The game against St. Dominic's also involved a chance for the 6 year olds in the group to play and wear the Gaels jersey for the first time, which proved to be a highlight for these lads.

In September we played The Bernie Hoare Tournament which involved four teams from our own lads and was eventually won by Conor Grogan's team.

Overall we feel the year was a success. One of the aims at the outset was to try and get as many games / training sessions in place and with over 40 of these we believe this target was achieved. The improvement in the lads from where we started was very visible by the end of the year but perhaps more importantly was the appetite and enjoyment shown by the lads to play in all types of weather and we hope this continues in 2015.

## **Boy's Football U 10**

Started to train indoors at the Hyde for 7 weeks on a thurs even beginning 1<sup>st</sup> week in March. All the kids really enjoyed the time indoor and towards the end were bursting to get going outdoors.

We started to train sat mornings and once the evening got longer we also had an extra session on Thurs evening.

County Blitz's started in Frenchpark where ourselves, boyle, western gaels & m galvey's played together on a wet day on a very wet pitch

Next blitz was held in clan where we played brigid's, clan & Padraig pearses. These games brought the fellas on great & thrived on the battle with other teams.

The county blitz was held in the Connaught centre of excellence where we played Kilbride, strokestown and Michael galveys'.

Throughout these entire blitzes every child got a game & were well taken take off.

Throughout the year we played Kilbride & Oran as least 3 times both home and away – Played Tulsk – St Mary's carrick on Shannon & travelled to my club in cavan, crosserlough as part of a 3 team trip along with U-12's and U-14's. We travelled on a bus & afterwards enjoyed a bar-b-q in glorious sunshine

Towards the end of the year we hosted our own tournament where we invited Oran and Oranmore from galway. 2 teams played with the Older lads winning the TS o Dolan Cup.

Lastly we travelled to claregalway at the end of Oct where we played Salthill, claregalway, knockmore and Kilmessa also from Mayo. This was a great tournament organised very well and great determination from our lads showed that there is a good future for the club.

Overall we had 33 boys registered and I have to say each 1 of them behaved very well throughout the year & I was very proud of them all.

## **Boy's Football U12**

U12 boys training started on 21st February 2014. We had a panel of 27 players. We entered 2 teams in the spring league. Our A team started off well in Division 1 and we won our first game against Pearses. This was followed by 2 close games against St. Ciarans and St. Brigids. Although we could have won both games we were narrowly defeated. We lost our final 2 games to much stronger opposition in Clan na Gael and Boyle. Our second team were in Division 5 where we did extremely well. Due to a shortage in numbers we had to field 1 or 2 U10s. We won 4 out of our 5 games. This was enough to qualify us for the final where we played St. Dominics. After a tremendous display we were victorious and we won the cup.

Our A team were in Division 2 of the Autumn league and we won our 4 group games. We were defeated in the semi final by a team we had previously beaten, Padraig Pearses. We didn't perform to our level on the day and unfortunately we suffered defeat as a result.

Our second team once again did extremely well as they qualified for the semi-final in Division 4. Both our semi-finals were on at the same time in different venues and unfortunately our Division 4 team lost out to a strong Clann na Gael. They deserve huge credit for the performances they put in during both league campaigns.

We played a number of challenge games against teams from both within and outside the County. We played against teams from Longford, Galway. Sligo, Leitrim and Cavan. We had a very successful trip to Croke Park to play in a Connaught blitz. All the boys got plenty of game time on the famous pitch and it was an occasion that will never be forgotten by both the boys and their parents.

We finished the year with a skills test and by playing the Jackie Brennan Memorial Trophy.

Conclusion - We are of the opinion that it would be a good idea to use the skills test more frequently. This is a great way of analysing both the strengths and weaknesses of each individual player.

We wish to thank the Minor Board for all their help. We would also like to thank all the coaches, John Donnellan, Mike Dwyer, Deckie Hynes and Steve Gregory. Lastly we wish to thank all the players and their parents for their hard work and dedication.

Paul and Jason Hoare

## **Roscommon Gaels U-14 Football:**

Roscommon Gaels fielded two under 14 football grades in 2014, playing in divisions 1 and 4 in the league and championship respectively.

### **U-14 League Division 1:**

The under 14 Division 1 league was a highly competitive division and Roscommon Gaels produced good winning performances against Padraig Pearses and St. Ciarans. However the strength of this division showed with defeats to Clann na Gael, St. Bridgits, Oran and Castlerea.

### **U-14 Championship Division 1:**

Similar to the league campaign, the under 14 Division 1 championship was a highly competitive division with St. Bridgits, Clann na Gael, Castlerea, Oran, St. Ciarans and Strokestown participating. Heavy defeats to St. Bridgits, Castlerea and Clann na Gael were offset by a good victory over St. Ciarans and an outstanding winning performance against Oran in Lisnamult. With a walkover received from Strokestown, Roscommon Gaels finished just outside the playoff places in 4<sup>th</sup> place.

### **U-14 League Division 4:**

The under 14 Division 4 league was an opportunity to have all players involved participate and compete throughout the year and many of our younger players gained huge benefit from taking part in this competition. The main highlights of the Div 4 league was a great win over St. Michaels away and a narrow 1 point defeat away to Padraig Pearses.

### **U-14 Championship Division 4:**

The under 14 Division 4 championship was highly competitive and some strong performances from Roscommon Gaels unfortunately did not result in a victory. With a lower number of teams taking part compared to the league competition, every game was a significant challenge for the Gaels but participation in this competition ensured regular football throughout the summer for all players involved.

### **Féile na nÓg 2014:**

The highlight of the season was the participation of Roscommon Gaels in the All-Ireland Féile na nÓg competition in Ballyhaunis on the weekend of June 27<sup>th</sup>. Roscommon Gaels competed in Division 3 along with our host Club Crosserlough (Cavan), Killoe Young Emmets (Longford) and St. Bridgits (Roscommon). Narrow defeats to St. Bridgits and Killoe saw Roscommon Gaels play Tubbercurry (Sligo) in the shield quarter final. A last minute goal for the Sligo team ended the Gaels participation in the competition. Having come from behind to lead the match, this defeat was a huge disappointment for the panel that had played some tremendous football throughout.

The Feile weekend was a huge success for the club and the organisation of accommodation for our host Club along with the provision of refreshments for teams and family members of Crosserlough was greatly appreciated. Sincere thanks to the parents and club committee for the organisation of the catering and disco on

the Saturday night and for the participation in fundraising activities. As a token of appreciation for the hospitality shown, the Crosserlough club invited Roscommon Gaels U-12s and U-14s to Cavan to take part in a football Blitz in September. A great days football and tremendous hospitality was enjoyed by all who travelled.

The commitment shown by the Division 1 and Div 4 panel (often with limited numbers available), was outstanding throughout the year. Attendance at training and games remained at a consistently high level and sincere thanks to the players, mentors and parents for their support throughout 2014. For 2015, consideration should be given to the most appropriate Divisions for our teams to participate in. A proportion of the Division 1 games played in 2014 resulted in heavy defeats which benefitted neither our own players nor the other teams competing. A division in which we can be consistently competitive would benefit all players involved.

## **Boy's Football U16**

Indoor fitness commences pre-Christmas and continued on through Jan & early Feb with fitness assessments on 2 occasions.

We had 24 players and trained twice per week leading up to the league, which ran from early March to end of April. We played Brigids, Pearses, Clan, Dominics & Ciarans but unfortunately we didn't feature in the semi-finals.

The c/ship ran from end of June to end of August, playing the same teams as above, with the exception of Faithleachs replacing Ciarans. Again, we didn't feature in the shake-up for c/ship honours.

Thanks to Noelly Penny, Paulie Hoare, Frank Nally, Paul Staunton & Anthony McCormack for this hard work, planning & patience throughout the season. Thanks to all the players for their efforts throughout the year and to parents for transport & support.

## **Minor Football**

Training began in January with team mentors Anthony Mc Cormack, Ronan Gleeson and Owen Hoare. I myself got involved late in January and with the above mentioned training got well under way.

We trained every Tuesday and Thursday nights with a good attendance. The League campaign was hard fought and we deservedly earned our place in the final. Unfortunately we were unsuccessful and defeated by a strong St. Dominics team.

The mood was impressive for the upcoming Championship. Training continued through the Leaving and Junior Cert with good numbers and in addition extra Sunday morning sessions were included. The Championship was strongly contested which led to a breathtaking semi -final win by 1 point against Kilmore/Shannon Gaels in Kilmore. The final was played in St. Dominics against Western Gaels in harsh conditions. The final unfortunately did not go our way but the boys put on a committed performance which I was proud of. I was delighted with the support from our club.

I'd like to thank Halcyon for sponsoring training tops for the team.

Many thanks to Anthony McCormack, Johnny Walker, Owen Hoare, Ronan Gleeson, Cathal Mahon, Phillip Mullen, Jamie Roan and James Comiskey .

Yours faithfully,

Darren Burgoyne

(Báinisteoir)

## U8 Hurling

Under 8's boy's trained on a Monday's at 6pm. Training numbers averaged from about 25 to 30. Beginners were about 15 - 20 while older under 8 averaged about the same. More help is needed with beginners as it is at this age , getting the basics right is vital. At times due to lack coaches/ help some children receive very little coaching. Mostly the under 8`s trained on the new training pitch ,it would be more suitable to train on the first training pitch beside the car park as it is nearer for bringing training equipment and also the toilet facilities are closer. The grass needs to be cut a lot shorter and more regularly on this pitch. The under 8`s played 3 blitz's with one of them hosted by Roscommon Gaels. We played two friendlies against Oran and Castlebar. We feel that 3 blitz are not sufficient as the lads love games .Every club should host an under 8 blitz. Thanks to all who helped with under 8`s this year and also thanks to all the officers of the club for their assistance as well.

Regards  
Sean Mulry

## Roscommon Gaels U10 Hurling

The lads commenced training in the gym in January with very poor numbers. We moved outdoors in April and trained on the same nights as the U12 for a short while. After a few weeks the lads trained separately on Tuesdays. Even though the panel numbers were low attendance at training was very good. Because of this excellent commitment and dedication to training the lads improved their skill level to a high standard. They participated in eight friendly games and blitzes between May and October culminating with victory over Athleague / Tremane in the TS O Dolain tournament and a visit by Castlebar GAA club to Lisnamult. This group won all their matches except one. Well done to the small but very dedicated band of U10 hurlers that played this year.

Many of these hurlers were part of the Roscommon / Kiltveevan Community Games hurling team that won silver in the National Finals at the end of August. Congratulations to all involved in that great achievement.

The positives of the year were

- attendance at training
- the quality of training they received was good as it pushed their abilities on to the extent that all the U10s improved greatly over the season.
- Very competitive and skilful in all their matches

The down side was that

- We only have 17 at this age group and 11 of that 17 are moving up to U12 next season which leaves a very small number of u10s proper next year
- There were not enough organised blitzes or games this year

### **U10 Panel**

<b>1 DJ Hession</b>	<b>2 Ryan Conlon</b>	<b>3 James Connolly</b>
<b>4 Rodhan Dowd</b>	<b>5 Jack Fleming</b>	<b>6 Ben Johnson</b>
<b>7 Senan Lambe</b>	<b>8 Jack O’Gara</b>	<b>9 Ethan O’Reilly</b>
<b>10 Ciaran Purcell</b>	<b>11 Rory Carty</b>	<b>12 Eoin Dillon</b>
<b>13 Liam Og Corcoran</b>	<b>14 Ethan Fallon</b>	<b>15 Nathan Halligan</b>
<b>16 Thomas King</b>	<b>17 Elliot Grealley</b>	

**Mentors:** Pat Clancy, Tom Killion, Pdraig Conlon, Noel Fallon and Teresa Hession

## **U14 Gael Roscomain Hurling Report 2014**

The U14 hurling panel commenced training in the gym late January in preparation for the Feile competition in late February. We moved outside two weeks before Feile began. We played Padraig Pearses (away & lost), Athleague/Tremane (home & won), Dominics (home & lost), Four Roads (away & lost) and Oran (home & lost). Two of these losses was by a margin of a few points. Our one win was not enough to see us further in the competition.

We were then out in the U14 league in May. We played Dominics, Athleague / Tremane and St. Mary's and sadly lost all of these also. We participated in the Connacht regional Club hurling Feile in Ballyhaunis in June and had outstanding wins v clubs from Sligo, Connemara and Mayo.

Our year finished in July with no silverware and very mixed fortunes on the field. This was a very young panel with 85% of the panel U13 and just five U14s proper who put in a good year's work.

**Coaches:** Pat Clancy, Padraic Conlon, Teresa Hession and John Walker.

### **U14 Hurling Panel 2014:**

Conor Mc Namara  
Connaughton Oisin  
Gustavo Rodrigues  
Farrell Tom  
Hanily Coman  
Hoare Orin  
Mooney James  
Walker Simon

Conlon Dean  
Corcoran Michael  
Doyle Leigh  
Feely Diarmuid  
Hanly Dylan  
King Richard  
O'Doherty Eric

Tim Lambe  
Coyle Ciaran  
Farrell Oisin  
Conor Rohan  
Hession Aodha  
McDonald Daire  
Tully Sean

## **U16 Gael Roscomain Hurling Report 2014**

U16 hurlers had no manager assigned to them for 2014.

Myself Noel Egan Sean Mulry and Gearoid Egan got them together for two game in the League. We were competitive.

For the Championship we fielded in all our games and were unlucky not to advance to the Final stages.

It was apparent that this group of players wanted to Play Hurling for Roscommon Gaels Club.

Going forward it reflects badly on the Club to not see team managements in place for all teams.

I want to thank the Minor board for the work they have done in 2014 and I thought the Family Night went off well.

I wish all in the Club a happy Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year too.

Tom Killion

## **Minor Hurling Report 2014**

We competed against St Dominics, Athleague/Tremane, and Oran. We came close to beating Oran. A number of good players did not make themselves available for the year, and there was a lack of commitment from most players. There was also a lack of support from Club Members with family members on the team.

Regards,

Gary Waldron

## **U8/10 Girls Football**

The u8 and u10 girls had a very successful year this year and fun was had by all players and coaches at every training and matches. On behalf of the management I would like to thank all players for an enjoyable year which will be greatly remembered by all involved. To thank all parents for driving to matches, coming and supporting the kids and helping out with training sessions and organizing matches. For that I am very grateful. To all the coaches I would have been totally lost with all the coaches that helped out during the year Kevin Maher, Amy Dolan, Jessica Mc Dermott, Ethain Hession, Anna Doorly, Karen Touhey, Katie Carr and Tersea Campbell. Unfortunately this was a 1 year deal and the management will not be continuing on with this age group again but whomever takes these bunch of girls will be the best decision they make and will no doubt have a great time with them. The main aim set out from the management this year was that everyone had fun and we always made sure everyone had fun and everyone got as much playing time as possible and it was never about winning.

Regards

David Hoare

## **U12 Girls Football**

Rosc Gaels u12 girls team consisted of a panel of c. 23, many of whom had played u12 in 2013. A no. of u10s also trained with us in the earlier part of the year until an u10 manager was appointed.

We won all games in a blitz played in early 2014 & then competed in the Div 1A championship getting to the quarter final in which we were beaten by Padraig Pearses. We then played Boyle in the Div 1B semi final & we were narrowly beaten.

Both PP & Boyle largely ignored the rules of the competition in terms of ensuring all subs were played for a min of 10 mins i.e. one quarter (Boyle had 10 subs for the Div 1B semi final but only played 3 of them). We submitted a formal objection to the Ladies County Board but it was clear from the start that such objection would not be taken seriously as the final was scheduled for playing some 4/5 days after the semi final. LCB also advised that while this rule does apply at u12 level it is not contained within the Ladies GAA Rule Book & therefore cannot be enforced. LCB had hoped that refs would enforce this rule but refs did not see it as part of their responsibility....the matter concluded in a most unsatisfactory manner.

We then competed in an u12 county development blitz beating oran, st ciarans & faithleachs. We were narrowly beaten by St Brigids & Clan na Gael. The highlight of the year was our second half performance against Clan na Gael in Johnstown where a depleted Gaels team came from 11 pts down at half time to be beaten by a single point at the final whistle. This was a real team performance & one which this group of girls need to remember & learn from if they are to challenge for county honours in the future.

This particular group have the all-round ability to challenge for county titles but while many of the younger & lesser players improved their skills greatly in 2014 I was disappointed with the more established players who failed to progress in terms of skill level, commitment, drive, leadership, etc.

Paul Beisty

## **U14 Girls Football**

There were 22 girls who attended training with the U-14 ladies last year. We participated in the spring league and we were runners up in this competition. We took part in Feile and hosted the New York ladies team. We were beaten in the quarter final stage. We lost in the semi-final of the championship. We also competed in the killmacud Crokes sevens competition. This was a very good year for the girls and I hope they enjoyed it.

Thanks

Anthony

## **U16 & Minor Girls Football**

U16s girls, under mgt of Tommy Grehan, Ann Hanly & Paul McNally, were runners up in Division 3A. They fought a great battle to get to the final, having played 3 games in 7 days to get to the semi-final. The girls were under pressure in all their games resulting in injuries and when it came to the final against Western Gaels we had a hard fight. Fair play to all and well done. Thanks to all management, players and parents. Hope to see all in 2015.

Our minor team played all 3 games. Due to lack of no's it was an uphill battle. We look forward to 2015 and a major recruitment drive for the return of past players.

We had 2 players on county panels, Alanna Hanly on the county U16 panel and Emily Comiskey on the county minor panel. Well done girls and hopefully next year we will have more ladies playing for the county. Sincere thanks to Philip Mullen, Mick Flaheve, Shane Hoare & Harry Hoare for all their assistance and readiness to help and always at the end of the phone. Hope 2015 will be a successful year for all in the club.