



Minor Camogie Report 2018

The Roscommon Gaels minor panel in 2018 consisted of 21 dedicated camogie players, 6 of whom were still U16 in 2018. The older girls in this bunch of minors were the group of players who participated when Roscommon Gaels first entered two U12 teams in 2012 as a mechanism of maximising participation and maximising game time for young camogie players. These minor players also made up the majority of the Roscommon Gaels 2018 Junior (adult) camogie panel and competed well for their club throughout the summer of 2018.

The minor championship is the only competition for minor camogie players in Roscommon and it is normally fixed for October and is to be finished before 24th October each year, according to a Roscommon Co Camogie Board bye-law. All Junior and Senior camogie clubs in Roscommon play minor players at adult level. Some do this because they need minor players in order to field at adult level, e.g. Roscommon Gaels. Other clubs appear to play only their best players even if that means playing minors instead of adults. The result is that minor players involved in Junior and Senior camogie are playing adult camogie throughout the summer and autumn and are deemed not to be available to play in a minor competition with their peer group. In addition, there is anecdotal evidence to suggest that adult players fall away from camogie in some clubs because their places on the teams are increasingly taken up by minor players.

Since the minor competition is then fixed when all adult competitions are finished by which time it is getting late in the year, the Co Board splits the six minor clubs into two groups of three. In 2018, Roscommon Gaels were in Group 1 with Pádraig Pearses and St Dominics, whilst Group 2 comprised Four Roads, Oran and Athleague.

What all this means is that minor players who don't play adult camogie or only play Junior and not Senior camogie, train from early in the year right into October and November with no guarantee of any more than two minor games. Players who are not available for one or both of those matches, get less. Invariably in October and November, the weather is deteriorating, dark winter nights are setting in, and school and college commitments make it difficult for minor teams to train during the week; and matches can only be held at weekends. It is difficult to keep players and managers motivated under these circumstances as one can imagine. This current approach to the minor competition is flawed and does not serve the camogie needs of minor players in County Roscommon adequately.



In early 2018, Roscommon Gaels club put forward proposals to change the minor competition to (a) a round robin challenge so that each club would be guaranteed a minimum of five games with their peer group, and (b) an earlier time in the year. Roscommon Gaels put forward dates in the fixtures calendar when additional matches could be played in August and September. However, none of these proposals were successful at Co Board level. Roscommon Gaels will make similar proposals for the 2019 minor competition.

Roscommon Gaels played St Dominics on Sunday 28th October in Lisnamult and although played a good game, lost by four points on a scoreline of 4:3 to 1:8. St Dominics were awarded their first goal early in the game by the referee when the St Dominics umpire declared a goal. Despite the protestations of the Gaels umpire that the ball had not crossed the goal-line and despite the admission by the St Dominics umpire to the referee and Gaels umpire at half time that the ball had in fact not crossed the goal-line, the goal stood.

Roscommon Gaels played away to Pádraig Pearses on Friday 2nd November at 3pm as fixed by the Co Board Fixtures Committee. The weather was atrocious, bitterly cold, windy and wet. The girls put up a great battle but unfortunately bowed out on a scoreline of 2:7 to 1:1.

The minor camogie team management and coaching group consisted of Jimmy Brennan, John Casey, Ríona McGuinness, Tom Killion and Patricia Torpey. The management would like to thank all of these players for their great commitment to camogie and to Roscommon Gaels during 2018. We very much appreciate the sacrifices all the players made to be at matches with the team and we also very much appreciate the support which parents gave us during the year.

That concludes the minor camogie report for 2018.

Patricia Torpey



Under 12 Hurling 2018

Management: Sean Mulry, Diarmuid Mulry, Fergal Cormican, Tommy Mulry, Pat Glancy, Noel Egan, Killian Egan, Garoid Egan and Michael King.

Panel: We started with low numbers and ended up with a panel of 31 strong players. We gained additional players half way through the year from the U10 panel.

Training schedule: Thirty four training sessions were held between February and September.

Matches: Challenges : (8) Competitive : (9) Roscommon hurling league.

Comments: We won the county shield final over coming Padraig Peares on the day with a fantastic score line 1:8 points to 1:1 Eoghan Keaveny received the Man of the Match award. This was a memorable day for all players, parents and coaches.

Four players Eoghan Keavney, Conor Grogan, Liam Naughton and Aaron Bracken represented Roscommon Gaels in the county skills competition. They finished third in the final.

Two teams played in the Under 11 Tain league over three weekends in April and May. This competition gave players the opportunity to play teams outside Roscommon and also allowed for greater game time.

A huge thanks to Shane Nerney and the Under 10 coaching team for allowing the old players join us for the Roscommon League.

Sincere thanks to all the parents for their invaluable support throughout the year.

Goals for 2019: (1) Improve skills (2) Build a stronger panel and bring more enjoyment into the game of hurling. (3) To win an under 12 A Final. (4) Play hurling in the Galway league.





U 10 Boys Football

Panel of 25 players born in 2008 began indoor training in the Hyde Centre on 20th February. Players enjoyed the indoor training and got the basic skills up to standard after the winter break.

We went out doors training on the 27th March in Lisnamult, training every Tuesday evening until our final training session on the 2nd October with the exception of 4/5 evenings where we called off training due to weather and we took a short break in August due to holidays.

The main aim for the year at this age group was to expose all players to as many football games as possible. With this in mind we had a number of internal blitzes which included our u9 panel and played 16 Go Games and challenge matches over the season.

A few highlights of the year was our own Go Games blitz hosted in Lisnamult and tournaments in Celbridge and Rochfortbridge where we competed very well and the boys enjoyed the occasion.

We are currently doing 7 weeks of Pella in the Convent Gym with this group which will finish on the 7th December.

A number of players on this panel are very talented and have a great footballing future but what was more satisfying was that all players steadily improved their skills and confidence over the season.

Thanks to all who assisted with coaching and parents for supporting us by traveling to away games in great numbers and assisting with providing tea, coffee etc for our home games in Lisnamult.

Coaches - Joe Biesty, Gerry Donohue, Declan Hussey, Mick Byrne, John Connelly & Peter Gilleran



U10 Hurling

At the 'end of season review' in November 2017, the management and coaches of the outgoing U8 hurling group set ourselves a number of goals for the move up to the 2018 U10 group. These goals included coaching, skills development and an increased number of games (outside of organised blitzes).

Our #1 priority for the year was to increase participation and game time for all club members. We achieved this with our U10's, from the start of season indoors in the Convent Gym in February, by fielding an incredible 54 teams against opponents in blitzes / challenges / tournaments, traveling on 14 different occasions across 5 counties (Roscommon, Mayo, Westmeath, Longford, Galway).

The progress our U10s have made this year is incredible. This would not be possible without the strong support of our Management team including: Shane Nerney / Adrian Tully / Stephanie Walshe / Jer O'Connor / Peter Gilleran / Noel Egan / Tommy Mulry and our TY student this year, Richard Walshe! Thanks also to Philip Fleming who stepped in during the year to help out at training and blitzes when needed.

We recognise that the break between end of Sept to early Feb is considerable and believe this contributes to the fall-off in hurling year-on-year. To address this, we have commenced indoor 'fun-hurling' sessions to run over a 6 week period from early Nov to mid-December.

This is not coaching / drills etc, but will be structured for our hurlers to play games amongst each others and practice their skills with some competitions. The first session was last Monday with a turn out of 24 kids matching our largest turn out during the year.

We started 2018 with 31 U10 players

* 3 U8 hurlers from 2017 did not progress to U10

* 3 new hurlers joined the panel this year



* 3 hurlers dropped hurling during the year

* 2 hurler who gave-up in 2017 returned to playing hurling in 2018

Overall, we finished the season with 31 players. We are increasing our panel of coaches for U10 2019 and will commence planning the 2019 season in the weeks ahead.



U12 Boys Football 2018

Our year started indoors with Pella on Feb 1st. This ran for 6 nights during the Spring (we lost March 1st due to 'Storm Emma') as we embarked on extending the playing season. The lads enjoyed it and we had strong numbers (average was 24 each Thursday over the 6 weeks). We look upon it as a fun outlet once a week, gaining exercise, building on the continuity of team work from during the year, whilst all the time improving the skills of movement, passing, shooting, defending and ball handling. We are at present in our Autumn Pella nights and are due to have our last night for 2018 on Nov 29th. We believe that the improvements achieved through Pella have transferred to the pitch for a lot of the players.

Training

The year commenced outside in Lisnamult on March 29th from 18.45 – 20.00 each Thursday. This was extended to 20.15 later in the year. All sessions started promptly with coaches arriving 15 - 30 mins early to set up each session. We worked off a list of 35 registered players with 14 of these turning 12 during the year and the other 21 being available for U12 again in 2019. The average turnout each Thursday was approx. 26/27. As is normal attendance did drop in July and August due to holidays.

Squads

At the start of the year we split the 35 players into 2 squads; the Div. 1 squad (18 players) was referred to as the Yellow Squad and the Div. 5 squad (17 players) as the Purple Squad. Parents were made aware of this process at the outset which we believed was important.

The Div1 squad had 13 players 'named' that could only play in Div. 1 games, the other 5 players in this squad played matches with both teams as needed. Each player was positioned in a squad based on where the coaches collectively agreed was best for their stage of development. During the year 3 of the Div. 5 squad were brought into the Div. 1 squad for certain games.

Games



Division 1 Squad;

- Spring league matches x 5 (Lost to Dominic's; Beat Perases; Beat Clann; Beat Glaveys; Beat Boyle;)
- Spring League Semi Final (Lost by 1 point to Clann)
- Summer League matches x 5 (Lost to Dominic's; Beat Western Gaels; Beat Clann; Beat Glaveys; Drew with Shannon Gaels;)
- Summer League Semi Final (Lost by 4 points to Shannon Gaels)
- Challenge matches x 6
- Corofin Tournament x 1
- Castlerea Pitch Opening x 1

St. Dominic's deservedly won both the Spring and the Summer league. Our lads had some big wins during the year and lost out in both semi finals by small margins.

Division 5 Squad;

- Spring league matches x 3 (Lost to Western Gaels & Boyle; Beat St. Michaels)
- Spring League Shield Semi Final (Lost to St. Brigids)
- Summer League matches x 4 (Lost to Western Gaels & Boyle; Beat St. Michaels and St. Ronans)
- Summer Shield League Semi Final (Lost to St. Dominics)
- Challenge matches x 4
- Corofin Tournament x 1

Our Division 5 squad performed well during the year and with assistance from the 'unnamed' 5 players from the Div. 1 squad, made great strides. The big plus for a lot of these players was being exposed to plenty of game time that would not have been necessarily available if we only had 1 team.

In total between both squads we had 34 matches, 22 training sessions and 13 indoor Pella sessions. Details of each training session was communicated to parents early each week by text. We had a group of 9 coaches involved, the group included Gary Dunne, Garreth Carroll, Trevor Finneran, Ollie McGuinness, David Fallon, Marty Rodgers, Derek Dolan, Paul Beisty and Seamus Carthy. All coaches gave up a huge amount of time to



commit to the development of these players and deserve thanks for doing so.

Finally, we plan to take the group away to an indoor go karting centre during Christmas to bring the curtain finally down on 2018.



Roscommon Gaels Minor Report 2018

Management Team

Shane O'Donnell (manager) Hugh Murphy, Andy Hession, Declan Hynes

Panel 27 Twenty two minors, five U16s

Matches Played

League Div.2 Played 4, Won 1, Lost 3

Championship Div.2 Played 7, Won 5, Drew 1, Lost 1

Challenges Played 7, Won 4, Drew 1, Lost 2

Training Schedule: 59 sessions (7 of these were joint sessions with the minor hurlers in Full Body Workout)

The minor team got together in late January. We did a 7-week block of training in Full Body Workout. This was a joint venture with the hurlers and it proved to be very worthwhile. Firstly, it reduced the demands on the players and secondly it was nice to be indoors given the very poor weather conditions. We were understrength for a lot of our league games but were competitive except for our opening game against Kilmore.

League

Sun 25/2/18 Kilmore1-16 Roscommon Gaels 0-5

This was our first game of the season and an understrength team were comprehensively beaten.

Fri 9/3/18 Roscommon Gaels 4-10 St. Faithleachs 3-7

A much-improved performance saw us record our only league victory. The game was close all through, but a strong final 10 minutes saw us emerge victorious by 6 points.

Sat 17/3/18 Roscommon Gaels 1-8 St. Aidans 2-11

This was a sluggish performance where we never got going. We eventually lost by 6 points



April League semi-final v Kilmore

This was a great game of football and we were somewhat unlucky to lose. A very slow start saw us down by 6 points at half time despite having played with a very strong wind. However, a spirited second half saw us take the game to Kilmore and we almost snatched it at the end. While we lost the game, the performance gave us great confidence heading into the championship.

The ending of the rugby season and the addition of a few U16s meant that numbers training improved considerably from June onwards. We trained hard during the summer and went on a great unbeaten run reaching the championship final. Unfortunately, we were defeated by a point in the final in an excellent game of football.

Championship

Wed 1/8/18 Kilmore 2-12 Roscommon Gaels 4-9

This was a great game of football and victory here gave the lads great belief and confidence. Kilmore started well and went into an early lead, however we settled down to play some great football and led by 6 points as half time approached. However, Kilmore rallied and reduced the deficit to 1 point by half time. We started very strongly in the second half and dominated possession but could never really pull away. A 3-point victory was a deserved result following a gutsy performance.

Thurs 9/8/18 St. Ciarans 3-4 Roscommon Gaels 2-17

This was a great performance by the lads and the game was won at half time when we led by 14 points

Thurs 16/8/18 Roscommon Gaels 3-17 Tulsk 0-10

Another good performance saw us emerge comprehensive victors



Mon 20/8/18 St. Faithleachs 3-19 Roscommon Gaels 1-16

We played some great attacking football in this game but were sloppy at times allowing Faithleachs rack up a big score

Thurs 6/9/18 Roscommon Gaels 1-11 St. Dominics 2-8

This was the classic game of two halves. Dominics started very well and were all over us in the first half. They deservedly led by 5 points at half time despite having kicked a number of easy wides. The lads were staring down a heavy defeat as they emerged for the second half. However, they raised their game considerably in the second half and were unlucky not to win. A draw was probably a fair result in the end.

Thur 13/9/18 Roscommon Gaels 3-13 Elphin/Ballinameen 2-10

A good victory here after a tough game saw us qualify for the final.

Sat 20/9/18 Roscommon Gaels 2-10 St. Dominics 0-17

This was a great game of football which went down to the wire. Dominics started well and raced into an early lead. However, the Gaels settled and soon started to notch some impressive scores. A brilliant Conor Mc Namara goal saw us lead by two points at half time. Dominics enjoyed more possession in the second half but never managed to get that far ahead. A superb individual goal by Daire Mc Donnell saw us lead with time almost up. However, Dominics weren't to be denied and a free deep into injury time saw them secure victory. This was a difficult way to lose a game, but the lads can be proud of the way they played.

The team put in a huge effort and can be proud of their achievements. While we finished the year without a trophy there are loads of positives to be taken from the season. I would like to thank the lads themselves for the huge effort they put in. I would also like to thank their parents for their help and support. Special thanks also to Philip Mullen pitch co ordinator who did his best to facilitate us at all times. Thanks also to Finbar Reilly minor secretary for his help with fixtures. I must also thank our sponsors (Johnny Horan and John McNamara) who kindly sponsored hoodies for the final. Lastly, I would like to thank Hugh, Decie and Andy for the huge amount of time and effort they invested in the team.



U14 Boys Football 2018

Panel :

We had 30 boys registered.



U14 Football Panel at end of season Presentation by Kevin McStay

(missing from photo are Daragh Ward, Brian O'Connor, Zawyal Khan, Edimar Filho, Ciaran Purcell, Ryan Conlon)

Management Team :

The management team comprised John Donnellan, Finbar O'Reilly, Gary Kelly, Chris Grogan.

Training :

Training started in mid-February. Over the season, we held 29 Training Sessions.

Fixtures :

- Spring League : We fielded a team in Div 1 and Div 4.
- Championship : We fielded a team in Div 1 and the "Reserve Championship".



League

Div 1 Team :

We competed against Clann Na Gael, Pdraig Pearses, St Brigids, Boyle, Strokestown and Kilbride.

We played well in most of the league matches. In the best game of the League, a play-off against Boyle in Stokestown, our lads played tremendous football to edge a fantastic win. In the League Final we played Clann na Gael. After a sluggish opening, the lads expressed themselves in the second half, and playing some open free-flowing football they ran out comfortable winners to secure the League Title for Roscommon Gaels.



U14 Football 2018 : Div 1 League Winners

Div 4 Team :

We competed against Clann Na nGael, Pdraig Pearses, St Dominicss, St Brigids and Shannon Gaels/St Ronans/Kilmore.

We played good football in fits-and-starts in our games but struggled to compete physically against some teams. We had wins against St Brigids, St Dominics, Pdraig Pearses and Shannon Gaels/St Ronans/Kilmore before losing out to St Dominics in a play-off game to reach the final.



Championship

Div 1 Team :

We competed in Div 1 against Clann Na nGael, Padraig Pearses, St Brigids, Boyle, Strokestown and Shannon Gaels/St Ronans/Kilmore.

We had two very tough group matches against Strokestown and Shannon Gaels/St Ronans/Kilmore. We played Strokestown in the semi final and ground out a hard earned victory.

In the county final against Boyle, played in Elphin, the lads played some fine football in the first half and showed great resilience in the second half to secure a win.



U14 Football 2018 : Div 1 Championship Winners

Reserve Team :

We competed in against Clann Na nGael, Padraig Pearses, St Brigids, Shannon Gaels/St Ronans/Kilmore and St Dominics. We bowed at the semi final stage to St Dominics.



Challenge Games

Due a number of reasons we did not have the opportunity to arrange as many challenge games as we would have liked and played only one game against Cashel GAA.

Conclusions :

Between Spring League and Championship we played 27 games across the season. Added to the 29 Training Sessions, the lads got plenty of exercise and the opportunity to play lots of football.

Overall, across the season, the turnout for training and the attitude of the lads was good. A Training Participation Record was maintained and the poor attendance by a few players was noted.

Notwithstanding the above, the progression of the group was good, with the skill level and tactical knowledge improving over the season.

There is no doubt there are some very good footballers in the group.

To try and match the physicality of other teams within the county, the lads who are moving up to U16 for 2019 will need to commence a S&C Programme (along with the lads who will be in the second year at U16 in 2019). In addition, it is my strong view the group need at least one session/week focused on ball skills over the winter months.

It is important that every effort is made to run two teams at U16 in 2019.

Appreciation :

A BIG THANK YOU to the following :-

- Ross Shannon who took a training session with the lads.
 - Pitch co-ordinator Philip Mullen for his assistance through the season.
 - Shane Hoare for continuing to retrieve "lost" footballs.
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U 9 Football Panel 2018

Season ran from 1st February – 2nd October (1 Two week break during July)

Coaches: Seamus Carthy, Derek Dolan, Mark Keaveney, Shane Killeen, Phillip Fleming, Markus Hone

27 Registered Players as Follows:

Vansh	Malhotra	Conor	Keaveney
Daniel	Nerney	Laurence	O Connor
Liam	Connolly	Ben	Dolan
Andrej	Anic	Darragh	Killeen
Rian	Grogan	Ashish	Sriniwasan
Cormac	Fleming	Ben	Hone
Eoin	Ryan	Ruairi	Kerr
David	Fetherston	Seamus Jnr	Carthy
William	Godfrey	Joseph	Mc Sharry
Sam	Walsh	Dean	Hoare
Aj	Tully	Sean	Hoare
Cahal	Mulry	Matthew	Donnelly
Eoin	Naughten	Michael	O Brien
Daithi	Kelly		

Structure of Season.

Pella Started Feb 1st and ran for 7 weeks until Mar 15th

Outdoor training started Mar 27th and finished on Oct 2nd with Training taking place every Tuesday evening 6.45pm – 8 pm.

Played 8 blitzes .

Our Blitz Group comprised of the U 10 Teams form Oran, St. Aidans, St Ciarans

We also partook in Blitz's in Rochfortbridge, Centre of Excellence in Ballyhaunis, inhouse blitz with Ballyshannon.

Attendance Level and Attitude of the Lads was excellent.

“the majority of training sessions comprised of 22 plus in attendance. The bigger the Challenge the more they liked it – winning the Rochfordbridge tournament emphasied this.”



Trained on the same night as U 10's – Really Important to keep the connection with the older lads.

"We trained separately whilst still maintaining a strong connection with the u 10 lads. U 9's Warmed up with U 10's frequently and we also had some internal games between the 2 age groups. We also trained on same pitch weekly as the u 10's and would feel its very important to keep the connection over the 1 year age gap.

Competition

"Lads love competition - be it a race, a game, penalty shoot out" . More competitive games for these lads at u 10 level next year will really bring them on as a panel and also fitness wise. This year we concentrated on Training and a small taste of competitive action.

Overall, a very enjoyable year. Thanks to Derek Dolan for acting as head of commuications and also special words of thanks to Joe Biesty and his u 10 coaches whom we worked alongside to great effectiveness.

Exciting times ahead!!!



U16 Football

Thanks

My sincerest thanks to Shane Kelly for his commitment to this team all the way through the year. He was a huge help and made a vital contribution to the success of this year. I would also like to thank Pat Hoey for his contribution and help especially in the latter part of the year. My thanks to the club for their support and backing of this team, Philip for his help with the pitches, other team managers for their cooperation in a tight schedule and finally, Shane for finding our missing footballs. A special mention to Jason Hoare, Francie Hoare and Cathal Mahon for standing in when they were asked (sometimes at very short notice), your help was very much appreciated.

I would like to thank Edward Donnellan for his generous sponsorship of the tops for the boys and I am sure they will be worn with pride.

Finally, I would like to thank the players for the effort and commitment for the year. They stood up to the tests and when the chips were down showed the character and desire needed to be successful. I feel there is lots more to come from this group and with continued effort and commitment they can go on to achieve a lot more success.

Overview

While a successful year in terms of progression and appearing in both league and championship finals, winning the latter, it also presented some difficult challenges and dilemmas which should be noted. I will address these later but the main and overriding feeling I am taking from the year is one of satisfaction and delight that these talented young footballers have achieved our goal of winning a title and securing our return to division one at this grade. They have showed that when we are committed and focused we can be a match for any team. The success of this year will give them confidence moving forward and the belief, that only winning brings, will stand the boys in good stead as they move up the grades.

All of our lads played at least one full match in the championship which is a testament to the depth in our panel. To have every single lad on the panel make such a contribution means they can all truly enjoy the rewards that their hard work has earned.

Training

We started training at the end of January and had our last training session on the 5th October which makes it a long year. We were out together on 74 occasions over the year between matches and training. We had an average attendance at training of 54%.

We had 9 lads with attendance over 80%, a further 8 lads between 50%-79% and finally 9 lads under 50%. These figures are based on attendance post league and exam break but are very close to the overall yearly figures in each section: them being 8 >80%, 9 50%-79% and 9 <50%. As you can see from these figures it is hard to prepare and plan training with such erratic numbers, especially on the tactical side.

Along with the usual illness, injury and holiday absences we, at times, paid the price for having a talented group. With a number of our panel being involved with other sports at a high level we missed them from number of training sessions. It was difficult to manage and meant we had lads at different stages of fitness and tactical awareness in the panel. While we wish them every success in their other ventures it is something we will have to manage better as a club. While, it is a difficult task I feel we will need to try and improve this aspect for the betterment of the team.



When in attendance they trained well and their commitment was whole hearted. When challenged and pushed their limits with some tough sessions and they responded well. They rose to these challenges which stood to them in the later stages of the championship.

Moving forward I feel the attendance levels will need to be higher if we are going to continue our progress and be a force in Division 1 football.

The League

It was nice to welcome back a number of players who had not played football in a couple of years to what was a small panel and we started to train in late January. We started the league with a good win against Oran with a few stand out performances. We had a weak performance against St Ciaran's in the next round losing by eight points. We then lost to Elphin/Ballinameen and while the performance was much better the result put us in a precarious position. We were then missing a number of key players for the next game away to Strokestown. The lads that took the field that morning played with an intensity and skill that was a joy to watch. That was a huge belief builder as the boys proved that we could win games even missing a large number of players. This also was the case when we played St Michaels away (again), a number of lads stuck there hands up for a place in the first fifteen with a very controlled performance to win a tricky match and secure our position in the semi-final. The semi-final against St Ciaran's was a tense affair and one in which we needed to prove to ourselves that we could compete with them and reverse the result from the league stages. This we did which was a huge shot in the arm. In the final against Elphin/Ballinameen we needed to show the improvement that we had made as individuals and as a unit. This proved to be a bridge too far on the day and we put in a very flat performance. While acknowledging the progress that was made I made it plain to the group that the effort and desire shown in the match was short of what was needed if we harboured ambitions of winning a title. I told them we needed improved a few aspects of our game by a small amount and if we did we would be hard to beat.

Overall the league laid a number of important foundations for the championship. We had a number of lads make key positions their own, our team work was improving all the time and our intensity was improving.

There was some very impressive individual and team displays in the league and we felt that we were in good shape going into the championship.

Championship

After the exam break we had several boys away and a few in the thick of things in other sports. This made for a difficult period, both in training and meeting fixtures.

We played Strokestown in the first round and we needed to supplement our team with three U14 players and we had 16 players togged out. Everybody that played showed their commitment and talent to prevail by a point, 3-09 to 3-08.

We then played St Aidan's away with only 15 togged out. We played some lovely football at times but let them back in the game winning by 4 points, 5-09 to 4-08 (Contrary to the official score).

Our third game was St Ciaran's at home. With some of our lads back we fielded a strong team. We played well in what was a close game until they had a player sent off before half time. We took full advantage and ended up running out comfortable winners by 2-10 to 0-05.

We then went down to St Michael's again with only 16 togged out (One of which was injured) and won comfortably with a solid performance in a low scoring game, 1-09 to 0-05.

In our last game against Michael Glavey's/Eire Óg we turned in a very good performance and after some early pressure ran out easy winners on a score line of 6-13 to 0-08. This put us straight into the county final. We were in the dark as to when the fixture would be played and ended up waiting ten weeks before we played the final.

In the final we played St Ciaran's in Ballyforan. After a great game that went to and fro we held on to win by the minimum, 2-10 to 3-06. We had the better start during which we played some lovely football and but for a fine performance from their goalkeeper we would have been out of sight. To their credit St Ciaran's fought



back and we led by 2 at the break. In the second half we again started the better and again St Ciaran's fought back putting us under extreme pressure. While we looked nervous near the end we held on to win, the character they showed pleased me as much as the quality of some of our football. It was the great to get over the line in such a close game, albeit not very good for the blood pressure or fingernails.

Conclusions

Firstly it was a very important year for the lads in which they were rewarded for the improvement they have made as individuals and as a team. It was great to see them get what they deserved - the football medal that has eluded them to date. They worked hard, and at times were hard work but in the end I could not be prouder of them. Some of team and individual performances they produced this year will live long in my memory. They have showed that when they get it right they play a very attractive brand of football that's a joy to watch. They quality of some of our play this year was of the highest order and that coupled with our work ethic and determination made us a hard team to beat. I hope they continue to work and improve as they move forward which will make them a formidable opponent for any team in the county.

While the overwhelming feeling after the year in a positive one, there are a number of issues we encountered during the year that I feel worthy of bringing to light. They are as follows:

- Fixtures – We played our five championship league matches in five weeks and then had a huge break of ten weeks before we played the final. We didn't know officially until a week before the final when we were going to play. This simply is a farce and makes it hugely difficult to prepare and plan training and challenge matches when you have no idea when you are playing. I would like the club to raise this issue with the county board and request that the master fixture spreadsheet be made available to avoid this situation in future.
- We started the championship league section on 15th July 2018. During this time we had five lads away at the Gaeltacht. Perhaps we could propose that championship is started later (25th July) to avoid this double hit as it is also bang in the middle of holiday season.
- I would also like you to note my objection to the disregard for club teams shown by the county U15 and U16 panels. For nearly every round of the championship we had young boys playing in blitzes, matches or even on adventure activity trips around the country on the Saturday before championship games on a Sunday morning. I feel that this is hugely unfair to the young lads involved and shows little or no concern for their welfare or their clubs.



U12 Camogie Report 2018

Mentors

Sinead Killeen Una Ni Chuinn

Teresa Hession

Paula Connaughton

U12 Camogie training began in February 2018 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. Training continued every week from January 2014 through to October 2014 and we had various numbers of attendees at training sessions. The panel consisted of 35 girls. Two teams were formed, the Eagles and the Hawks to ensure that every girl got the maximum playing time.

Trip to Croke Park – Camán to Croker

- In April all the girls boarded the bus for a trip to Croke Park where they all participated in the Camán to Croker event and everyone got a chance to play on the pitch.

Blitz

- The U12 camogie girls took part in six blitz all over the county

Féile

- Roscommon Gaels club played host to visiting teams for Féile on the weekend of 7,8,9th June 2018. The U12's were asked to make up a second camogie team for Féile to accommodate an extra visiting club. They participated that weekend in matches with their host team Fermanagh camogie. Participation in Féile brought on the girls camogie this year and it was a great experience for them all.

Games

- The Eagles and Hawks took part in the U12 League competition playing the 7 other teams in the County. The Eagles fought hard to secure their place in the A final against St. Domnicks, for the first time in years and the final finished in a draw. The replay which took place in Tremane where the girls displayed the finest camogie of the year and sadly lost by one point in the end. The Hawks secured a place in the C Final against Tulsk and won following a great display of camogie. Medals will be given out at the Gaels family night later in the year.

A lot of work was put into the two U12 camogie teams and we hope that all the girls will continue to play camogie into 2019 and beyond. We look forward to seeing all the girls again next year.



U 8 Camogie2018

U8 camogie enjoyed a great year. The girls skills really improved and they all really enjoyed themselves. Our WhatsApp group with the parents worked really well for communication re weekly training reminder , blitzes etc Blitzes went great, we had 5 in total. The girls were very strong and showed great skill at matches. We finished up the last weekend of September. We started and finished with 33 girls. We had 6 coaches. Very positive feedback from parents and children & coaches were happy too.

Concerns for next year-

* all coaches moving up, 2 texts sent to parents & some approached with regard to helping next year, no volunteers !!!

*U8 need separate set of jerseys to u10's

(hard to share when both groups out)

U10 Hurling

At the 'end of season review' in November 2017, the management and coaches of the outgoing U8 hurling group set ourselves a number of goals for the move up to the 2018 U10 group. These goals included coaching, skills development and an increased number of games (outside of organised blitzes).

Our #1 priority for the year was to increase participation and game time for all club members. We achieved this with our U10's, from the start of season indoors in the Convent Gym in February, by fielding an incredible 54 teams against opponents in blitzes / challenges / tournaments, traveling on 14 different occasions across 5 counties (Roscommon, Mayo, Westmeath, Longford, Galway).



The progress our U10s have made this year is incredible. This would not be possible without the strong support of our Management team including: Shane Nerney / Adrian Tully / Stephanie Walshe / Jer O'Connor / Peter Gilleran / Noel Egan / Tommy Mulry and our TY student this year, Richard Walshe! Thanks also to Philip Fleming who stepped in during the year to help out at training and blitzes when needed.

We recognise that the break between end of Sept to early Feb is considerable and believe this contributes to the fall-off in hurling year-on-year. To address this, we have commenced indoor 'fun-hurling' sessions to run over a 6 week period from early Nov to mid-December.

This is **not** coaching / drills etc, but will be structured for our hurlers to play games amongst each others and practice their skills with some competitions. The first session was last Monday with a turn out of 24 kids matching our largest turn out during the year.

We started 2018 with 31 U10 players

- 3 U8 hurlers from 2017 did not progress to U10
- 3 new hurlers joined the panel this year
- 3 hurlers dropped hurling during the year
- 2 hurler who gave-up in 2017 returned to playing hurling in 2018

Overall, we finished the season with 31 players. We are increasing our panel of coaches for U10 2019 and will commence planning the 2019 season in the weeks ahead.



Report from Roscommon Gaels U14 Girls for 2018

Following on from our Div 3 championship win in 2017 the U14 girls enjoyed a great year in 2018.

4 of our girls played U14 County Football with Roscommon in the earlier part of 2018 & represented the club well.

Our club year started with the Division 2 League & we won most league matches to qualify for the League final against Shannon Gaels. On the day we were soundly beaten but on reflection we were short a few key players and didn't play to our full potential.

Our appearance in the League final meant we were promoted to Division 1 for the championship – this involved playing 7 competitive matches of which we were victorious in 5 (including a sweet victory over Shannon Gaels!). We beat Clan na Gael in the championship semi final to set up a meeting with kingpins St Brigids in the Final. We were in full control of the final leading by 5 pts after 25 mins but Brigids hit us for a raft of scores pre half time which left us down 6 pts at the break. True to form our girls rallied in the second half kicking 5 unanswered points before St Brigids again found their rhythm in the closing minutes to tag on a few scores against the run of play giving them victory in a game that we controlled for long periods. Many St Brigids & neutral onlookers expressed a view that the Gaels were the better team & that the best team had lost...

During 2018 Roscommon Gaels hosted the local U14 Summer League in which our girls also took part winning games to qualify for the A Final against Oran. This game was scheduled for mid Sept but had to be deferred to mid October on request from Oran. On the day our girls played extremely well & led by 8 pts with 7mins to go but Oran won a brace of questionable frees to narrow the gap & managed to draw level on full time. Due to the long U14 season Oran expressed a wish that the game be left as a draw & that victory be shared by both teams which the Gaels agreed to.

Throughout the year the girls trained hard twice & often three times a week with Mgt working & managing training in conjunction with our Camogie counterparts. We worked hard on fitness & skill levels, ball handling, score taking, etc. & brought in some outside expertise to assist in certain areas. We had a panel of 26 and numbers at training rarely dropped below 20.

Mgt organised a Bonding Day for the u14 girls pre the Championship final and the entire panel plus mentors/coaches took part in Zip-It at Forest Park, Boyle, before travelling on to Carrick (on the Club Rossie bus!) for a training session & refreshments. This training session was taken by MI Finneran (Co Ladies Mgr) & Sinead Kenny (Co Ladies Capt). Everybody enjoyed a great day out. Sincere thanks to Roscommon Gaels & our generous sponsors for enabling this Bonding Day to take place.

On the mention of sponsors we also offer sincere thanks to the O' Connor family/OCW Waste Management for the sponsorship of a set of training tops for the U14 girls.

Towards the end of our year the Co U15 & U13 development squads commenced and 8-10 of our girls are taking part at U15 level & 5 are taking part at U13 level. This, in itself, signifies the strength & potential of this group of players.



Most memorable moment/event – coming from 8 pts down at half time against Clan to win by 3 in a C’ship match in Johnstown – a rare & enjoyable event for any Gaels team!.