

**CUMANN LUTHCHLEAS GAEL**

**Baile Mhic Ealagoid**

**Cruinniú Cinn Bhliana**

**Coiste na nÓg**

**De Domhnaigh 10 Eanair 2021**

## **CLÁR**

1. Minutes Silence for Deceased Members
2. Minutes of 2019 AGM
3. Matters Arising from Minutes
4. Secretary's Report
5. Chairman's Address
6. Election of Officers
7. Correspondence
8. AOB

## **Coiste Na nÓg Officers 2020.**

Chairman : Declan O Connell

Vice Chairman: Kieran Savage

Secretary: Gerard Collins

Assistant Secretary: Barry Lyons

PRO: Maureen O Shea

Children's Officer: Joanne Long

Coaching Officer: Stephen O Brien

## **Tuarascáil An Runaí 2020**

Ta fáilte roimh go leir anseo inniu. Is é seo thíos mo chur síos ar príomh imeachtaí Coiste na nÓg Cumann Luthcleas Gael I mBaile Mhic Ealagoid i rith na bliana 2020.

2020 will live long in the memory as a year which many activities previously taken for granted were severely curtailed or cancelled.

The underage footballers of Ballymac were no exception as while the Co. Board did organise games Central Region, Coiste TraLi and Castleisland District Competition were unable to take place due to COVID 19. Unfortunately the Eric Mason blitz, Cul Camps, Scor Competitions, St. Patrick's Day Parade, Presentation Evenings and our Club players taking part in County Development Squads were some of the other events that did not happen in the past Year..

Throughout the year many necessary guidelines and rules were put in place to ensure the safety of our members. Our Club was fortunate that we got great co-operation from coaches, parents, players and supporters in the enforcement of these.

With the development of a vaccine the hope is that some semblance of normality can return to life and this will hopefully extend to our playing fields again beginning a hive of activity for our young footballers.

Below is a summary of the various age groups. Many thanks to the co-ordinators of each team who compiled the reports and also for the time and commitment they gave as co-ordinators of their age group.

### **U6 BOYS**

When compiling this report, I had a read over our 2019 report and what a contrast it was! However, the bright side is we took on the challenge at Ballymac Coiste na nÓg and got our U6s up and training in 2020.

This year was a challenging one, for everyone. Initially at the beginning of what would be the start of our U6 training we had lockdown and our club rooms were closed.

Once things began to open up we did our best as a club to start slowly and safely. This involved a lot of training on COVID-19 precautions and protocols for our administrators and coaches. Some coaches could not return to coach because of vulnerable relatives so we got started later in the Summer. A big effort was put in by Declan O'Connell and Stephen O'Brien to get our U6s up and running.

Once we started it was absolutely great and to hear the laughter and enthusiasm of our U6s every Sunday morning was a tonic for everyone.

They learned new skills, played Games and really enjoyed their U6 training. I think everyone appreciated it more after the long lockdown.

At the end of the season we had to stop abruptly in early October when COVID-19 began to rise and it was felt safer to not meet for training. The following week all GAA Coiste na nÓg Clubs were asked not to train and play for Health & Safety reasons.

It was short and enjoyable season for the U6s who got plenty of exercise and picked up a lot of new skills.

We wish to thank the players, their parents & grandparents who ferried them to training every Sunday.

A big thanks to all our coaches who trained the kids every Sunday.

Finally, a final word of thanks to Coiste na nÓg Secretary Ger Collins; Chairman Declan O Connell and Stephen O Brien Coaching Officer for their support and help all year.

## **U8 BOYS**

U8 academy for boys started back in February on Sunday mornings at the Kerry Sports Academy. We had a few weeks of both indoor and outdoor training with an average of 18 boys each week.

Our season was cut short due to Covid but when we were able to return to training, we were back in Ballymac football field on Sunday mornings.

Every week we did the basic skills whilst adhering to Covid guidelines.

Our first game of the season was a friendly against Austin Stacks inside at Connolly Park. Then the County Board organised a series of Go Games which included ourselves, Spa (Killarney), Kilcummin and Dr Crokes.

The panel of boys consisted of Dara Leen, Seán Kelly, Gearóid Jones, Michael Scanlon, Tadhg Brick, Scott Fitzmaurice, Mikey Brosnan, Jayden Roche, Jack O'Connell, Conor Mc Carthy, Conor Browne, Conor Mangan, Daithí O'Connor, Daniel Maher, Kian O' Connor, Sam Leen, Taylor Brosnan and Tom O'Neill.

Many thanks to our coaches John Leen, Donal Rahilly, Andrew Scanlon, Eddie O'Connell and Shane Brosnan. A special thanks to a young Ballymac footballer, Maurice O'Connell who turned up every Sunday morning to give us a hand and who is a great role model for the boys.

## **U10 BOYS**

Our U10 Boys began at the start of February in the astro pitch in the IT Tralee, we had five weeks of training until we were stopped with the lock down just before St Patrick's Day. We started up again at the end of June and we went twice a week with training, we had a few challenge games against Milltown/Castlemaine , St Senans and Na Gaeil,

We also took part in the U10 Go Games , where we played Kilcummin, Spa and Dr Crokes , and all the boys played some great football and were a match for all the teams. Many thanks to all the parents who brought the boys to training and to the games and to all the boys for turning up for training in all weather conditions.

**Panel ::** Adrian O Connor, Rory O Connor, Daniel Moriarty, Harvey Leen, Gearoid Joy, Jack Lynch, Jamie Harrington, Gearoid O Connor, Patrick Leen, Eric Quirke, Ciaran Brosnan, Tadhg O Connor, Evan Horgan, Diarmuid Scanlon, Blake Leen, Kelan Burke, David Fealy, Dylan Scanlon, Finn Hannah, Jack Hobbert, Jack Stack, Aiden O Connor, Regan Zhang Flynn Boyle ,Darragh Lyons.

**Coaches** : Neilus O Connor, Thomas Lyons, Kieran Boyle, John Moriarty, Ciaran Burke, Kieran O Connor, Francie Hobbert.

### **U12 Boys Blue& Gold Teams**

Our training this year began in early February with sessions once a week on the Astro Turf in Castleisland. Numbers were good from the start with 22-25 players toging out each week. Our competitive season began on 8 March with the first round of the Tralee town league vs John Mitchels on their Astro turf pitch. Weather conditions were brutal with high winds and driving rain . The boys showed great grit and determination despite the conditions. The Blue team endured their first taste of defeat for the season while the Gold team were worthy winners of the second game. It was no mean feat as this team went on to win the Division 1 B county Championship.

We continued to train weekly until the Government imposed Coronavirus lockdown in mid March.

We got the green light to resume training at the end of June and held our sessions twice a week on the training pitch. The boys were rearing to go after a very tough time in their young lives. Each night we had over 20 players training and we split them into 2 groups Blue and Gold so they would be both training and playing with their respective team mates .

Our first game back was a challenge match against St Pats of Blennerville where both Blue and Gold teams registered impressive wins. The U12 County League Phase 1 was our first taste of competitive football after returning and we got drawn in group D against Na Gaeil, An Ghaeltacht and Kerins O Rahillys. The Blue team registered significant wins over An Ghaeltacht and Kerins O Rahillys and were unlucky to concede a draw away to Na Gaeil to finish the group in joint top position. The Gold team had wins over An Ghaeltacht and Kerins O Rahillys with a defeat to Na Gael saw them finish in 2nd place in the group.

Phase 2 of the County league saw us drawn in Division 2 against Austin Stacks, Killarney Legion, Listowel Emmets, Na Gaeil and Listry. Almost all top quality Town sides capable of fielding 2 or 3 teams each week. Our first outing was away to Austin Stacks where the Blue team took on Stacks A team. Both teams played some great football in a fantastic game that was tight throughout. Our Boys showed tremendous fighting spirit to come from behind in the last quarter and out score their opponents to win by 4 points. The Gold team were less fortunate and suffered their first defeat of the campaign. The Blue team then picked up defeats to Listry, Listowel Emmets and a cruel one point defeat to Killarney Legion at home. We then had a good win over Na Gaeil which saw us finish mid table with Legion winning the division.

Overall we felt we were unlucky - a dip in form in the middle of our campaign cost us dearly. The Gold team had a tougher campaign, due to our limited numbers we had to bring up 5 or 6 of our U10 players for each match to enable us to put a team and a few subs together. Despite putting in spirited performances each week they had a few narrow defeats and ended up losing all their games and finishing bottom of Div 2 B. As coaches we don't feel like this was a true reflection of their abilities and effort. Being selected in the same group as the Blues with so many Town teams was always going to be a big ask. In reality this team should have been playing in div 5 or lower.

Towards the end of phase 2 we faced into another government lockdown which cut our training once more for a few weeks. No Blitz's went ahead this year or regional competitions and even our own Eric

Mason Blitz was cancelled. Many clubs finished up at this stage of the season rather than play on over the possibility of picking up a case of Covid-19. Indeed this was a nervous time for both players and coaches with the schools back open again. The lads were still mad for Football so we organised some challenge games to round the season off.

First up we took on Austin Stacks at home on our training pitch with the blue team putting in great effort and taking the victory. There is a great rivalry between both teams with our boys on top again. Our gold team were defeated by Stacks C team. Next up we had a trip to Cordal where our Blue team out classed the home side and the Gold team suffered a narrow loss. Our Blue team really started to make great progress at this late stage of the season and showed fantastic team spirit.

Our last game of the season was a trip to Churchill to take on the Division 1 A 2020 champions. The game was held in very blustery conditions with the ref changing the direction of play each quarter. Our boys dug deep and put in their best performance of season and won comfortably by 5 points.

Again our Gold team were out classed by the division 1B champions but tried their best nevertheless.

We had intended to carry on training through the winter on the Astro turf once a week however Covid 19 had other ideas and we got locked down again. And that was that for the year.

Great thanks is due to Michael Quirke, Patrick Reidy and Maureen O Shea for their excellent PRO work all year. It's not an easy gig and a certain amount of flack has to be taken but they handled it admirably.

To the management team of Denis McMahon, Liam Joy, Shane Brosnan, Frank Donovan, Patrick Reidy and Ted McCarthy, many thanks is due for all the effort to make things happen this year despite all the obstacles in our way. It says a lot about dedication when no coach missed a single training session or match all year.

We would like to thank the boys for their outstanding effort all year. Their enthusiasm for the game and willingness to work hard on the training pitch was admirable given the difficult year that it was.

You have raised your standards again and we look forward to seeing you back again next year.

U12 2020 Panel :John Leen, Ray Horgan, Eoghan Joy, Jamie Tarrant, Michael Quirke, Cian Gilroy, Sam Boyle, Sean Martin, Padraig Reidy, Matthew O Connor, Ryan Burke, Darragh McMahon, Conor Lynch, Shane Cassidy, Fionn Enright, Jackson Brosnan, Kyran Boyle, Conor McCarthy, Jack Collins , Cathal Carr, Jimmy Healy, Graham West, Seadhna O Brian, Liam Brennan, Liam Rahilly, Tommy Walsh.

We would also like to give thanks to the U10 coaches and players who helped us fill our teams during the year.

## **U14 Boys**

The Under 14 panel consisted of 25 active players. With the help of some under 12 players we were in a position to field two teams for the season, to make sure all players had meaningful game time on the pitch to develop, learn and hone their skills in a games environment as much as possible.

Training commenced on the 4th February in the IT Tralee astro pitch for all players. Seven sessions were completed in total until Covid kicked in, and all games were suspended until July 1st when we resumed training on home ground.

With the games programme for the year turned on its head the good news was that a County League would be completed at the very least.

Due to Covid and the short season we took the full panel to all the Blue teams games.

## **Blue Team**

The boys played in Division One Group A in Phase One against Austin Stacks, Ardferf and Laune Rangers.

Playing against boys physically much bigger, the team struggled to gain a foothold in their three games.

Challenge games were played against Na Gaeil, Kilcummin and Firies with all the boys really showing us their capabilities and great satisfaction achieved in the process.

Training sessions were always very well attended regardless of how results went in Phase One of the County League.

Phase Two of the County League saw us in a group with An Ghaeltacht, Cordal/Scart and Moyvane. Three really competitive games were played out, winning against Cordal, losing by a point to Moyvane and losing out by 5 to An Ghaeltacht. The standard was very good with all players showing some great potential and spirit in all games.

Eventhough the year was short we managed to have 12 games in total and 27 odd training sessions for both panels. Our local Kerry Gaa Games Development Administrator Tom Joy also took a session which was much appreciated.

Evan O'Brien, Micheal Savage, Shane Gilroy, Cathal White, William O'Donoghue, Jack Slattery, Tom Long, Jamie Burke, Thomas Leen, Conor Martin, Mark O'Connor, Maurice Harrington, Luke Silles, Jack Joy, Eoin Moriarty, Conal Savage, Mairtin McKivergan, Stephen Turner, Donnacha Enright, Micheal O'Connor, Gearoid Healy, Luke Griffin, Ciaran O'Connell, Shane Brosnan, Cian Harris.

The Ballymac U14B Boys had a short but very enjoyable campaign in 2020, in what was a stop start season for all involved. Our first fixtures were set for early August and we were grouped with Austin Stacks B, Laune Rangers, Kilcummin and Firies. Our first game was against familiar rivals, Austin Stacks in Connolly Park. Due to a number of late dropouts and injuries we started the game with 13 players. Austin Stacks had a few challenge games under their belts but our boys were competitive throughout against a physically bigger team. Tom Leen played very well at full back and Michael Quirke and Sean Martin scored 3 fine goals on the night.

Next up was a home game against a young Firies team that were full of running. Gearoid Healy, Eoghan Joy and Donnacha Enright put in great displays on the night, with Gearoid scoring a number of superb goals to help us run out winners on a scoreline of 5-11 to 3-8.

On 24th August we played the Laune Rangers B at home on a wet and windy evening. Laune Rangers were physically bigger and dominated kick outs and possession in the first half and should have been



out of reach but for some poor shooting. We scored 3 quick goals in the second half with two coming from Gearoid Healy who was superb on the night, to put us up by 3 points with 10 mins to go. A late goal by Laune Rangers saw the draw this game on a scoreline of 2-10 to 4-4. The fighting spirit of this group on the night was a pleasure to witness.

Our last match in the group was away to Kilcummin on 28th August. The team were really starting to gel having had a few games together under their belts and in this game there were some wonderful passages of play with excellent defending from the likes of Micheal O'Connor, Shane Brosnan and Cian Gilroy, while Luke Silles was outstanding as full forward. We won this game on a scoreline of 5-11 to 9 pts.

After a break in competitive games of a few weeks we had our last game of this short season in a B final on 22nd September against Laune Rangers in Killorglin in what was a very wet night. Killorglin had a very large squad for the match and we unfortunately had a few of our older boys missing. We started strongly, thanks to great work in midfield from Eoghan Joy and we had two great goal chances in the first 5 mins. However that was as good as it got, and when Laune Rangers struck for 2 quick goals midway through the first half, they had opened up a sizable lead by halftime. Laune Rangers were physically stronger and were able to use their full bench and ran out convincing winners on the night.

Our B team was made up of six u12s, nine u13s and three u14s. The aim was to give the u13s and u14s more game time and give the u12s experience of playing on the full sized pitch. While our age profile and limited numbers came against us in some matches, overall it was an enjoyable and positive experience for the boys who showed great heart in all their matches and were a pleasure for myself and Robbie to coach.

#### U14 B Squad 2020

U14 Tom Leen

U14 Tom Long

U14 Evan O'Brien

U13 Cian Harris

U13 Donncha Enright

U13 Shane Brosnan

U13 Ciarán O'Connell

U13 Micheal O'Connor

U13 Maurice Harrington

U13 Gearoid Healy

U13 Luke Silles

U13 Luke Griffen

U12 Eoghan Joy

U12 Mike Quirke

U12 Cian Gilroy

U12 Sean Martin

U12 Jamie Harrington

U12 John Leen

We would like to thank all the players, parents, under 12 management and all club officers who supported us in this very difficult time for everyone. We all look forward to 2021 with great hope that normal life is not too far away again.

U 14 Management

Kieran Savage  
Mossy Brosnan  
Tony Silles  
Aidan Savage  
Rob Harris  
David Long

## **U16 BOYS**

Our U16 s began training on the Astro pitch in Castleisland in late January with a panel of 21 players. The effort put in by the players was impressive and this was reflected by a near full turn out at all training sessions on those cold windy nights . Football was suspended due to COVID 19 and didn't resume until July. Due to restrictions on traveling Ballymac were placed in Block A of the County League against near neighbours Ardfert Austin Stacks & Kerins o Rahilly's.

On the 20th of July, Ardfert came to Ballymac and really proved what a formidable force they have become with an impressive display of attacking football.

However our boys showed much improvement with a great display against Austin Stacks in the second round , the game being in the melting pot right down to the final whistle.

Our third game against Kerins O Rahilly's was a game of two halves , we played with the wind in the first half and were losing at half time . However a heroic display in the second half put us in a great position in the last Quarter. The post denied us a score or two but we were very unfortunate to come out on the losing end .

We played several challenge games in the break between Round one and Round 2 of the county league , against Firies (2) Keel and Knock/Brosna. The emphasis of these games was to give our younger players valuable game time to develop their football skills and to try and maximise the strength of our team .

In Round 2 of the County League we were up against Legion Moyvane and Kilcummin. In a brilliant display of football and determination we beat a fancied Legion side in Ballymac on the 31st of August . We played Moyvane in our second game in Moyvane and lead at half time having played with the wind. We were very unlucky to lose on the night , having played most of the game missing our two midfielders due to injuries.

Our last game against Kilcummin in Kilcummin proved a difficult assignment. We started well and after 20 mins were ahead having played some fine attacking football. However luck deserted us again with injuries and Kilcummin ran out deserving winners on the night .

Having finished 3rd in our group we played Austin Stacks in our final game, and the Rockies were deserving winners on the day .

We would like to thank all the players for their huge effort in training and complement them on their progress during the year .

We would like to thank Coaches Roland Rogers Martin Lowe John Rice & Eddie o Connell for giving up their free time and doing a fantastic job in an extraordinary year .

We would like to thank all parents for their support and for obeying all GAA Guidelines during the year . Without your support it would not be possible for the kids to enjoy the game they love .

We would like to thank all officers of the club who assisted us in our adventure this year and for making it a safe environment for our players to play football.

Our panel was Kieran Slattery, Luke Horgan, Aidan Horgan, Luke O Connell, Eoin Creedon, Raymond Lowe, Maurice o Connell, Mossie Brennan,, Gary Lynch, Andy Rogers, Sam Mansfield, Niall Collins, Skye Lynch, Tommy Palmer, Diarmaid Galvin, Dylan Roome, Adam Wharton, Michael Prendergast, Donal Daly, Sean Rice, and James Kenny .

## **REFEREES**

Ballymac are most fortunate to have a number of referees to officiate at underage games.

Jer Lynch, Roland Rogers, Barry Lyons, Kieran Boyle and Daire Keane all refereed throughout the year. Kieran and Daire took the whistle for our U12 home games as part of a County Board initiative which saw the home team appoint a referee from within the Club. Thanks to all the lads for this important job they volunteer to do on behalf of the Club.

## **SYMPATHY**

Ballymac Coiste na nOg would like to express our sympathy to all who experienced bereavement in their families in the past Year.

Many thanks to the Senior Club Executive especially Chairman and Secretary Mike Sweeney and Fionnan Fitzgerald for their continued support of the Coiste nOg section of the Club.

Finally, I would like to thank all my fellow officers in Ballymac Coiste na nÓg who dedicated their time to the improvement of the Club and look forward to working with them all in 2021.

Is mise

Gearoid O Coileain

Runai– Cosite na nÓg Baile Mhic Ealagoid