

Secretary's Report to AGM

A Chairde, first of all, I would like to thank you for your continued membership of the club and hopefully you will also be in attendance at the AGM on Sunday.

Team Reports

U7 Boys & Girls

At the U7 age group we have seen the number of children attending training increasing as the year went on, averaging 70-80 on Wednesday evenings and between 100-110 on Saturday mornings. We attended 10 out of 11 Go Games fixtures, sending 2-3 teams to each fixture and were competitive at all games. We have established good relationships with both Muff and Slaughtmanus clubs at this age group and have attended a number of individual sessions at these clubs for friendly games. This was particularly beneficial to the girls in this age group as they had fewer opportunities for Go Games organised by LGFA this year.

We were particularly fortunate to have had an U5.5 game session organised by Slaughtmanus, which was a great opportunity for the youngest players to get their first game.

This age group goes from strength to strength and for this to continue we need large numbers of coaches at all training sessions.

U9 Boys

I have been coaching with the club now for around 6 years and this is one of the best behaved boys groups that I have had the pleasure of coaching.

We had around 38 boys in the group with an overall attendance of around 58%. There was a core of 5/6 players in the team who had 85% attendance

There were only 9 p5 players and the rest were made up of p4 boys and a few p 3 players. We trained twice per week on Wednesdays at the main pitch and on Saturdays. In the winter we trained in Carnhill and in Oakgrove.

They attended 12 go games over the season and also participated in 2 competitions in Greenlough and Glenullin

Additionally I used my contacts in Donegal and the boys played challenge matches in Merville, Bunrana, Mac Cumhailis, Burt, Muff and Newtown.

Some of the more experienced players also stepped up and played with under 11 and won 2 tournaments in Magherafelt and Ballybofey(I organised a game in the county ground)

There are challenges for this group mostly among parental support with no parents willing to help out and over the summer months we tend to lose a large percentage of them to the caravans, but all in all a good year.

U11 Boys

This was a fantastic year for our U11.5 boys with 42 registered players and 5 coaches in place. They took part in 20 Go Games between January and September and also attended tournaments in Slaughtmanus, Greenlough, Glenullin, Magherafelt, Sean Dolans, Muff and Ballybofey. The highlights were winning the shield in Magherafelt and Ballybofey and a trip to Croke Park in August to take part in a special Go Games where 32 very lucky boys (and 5 coaches that were like boys again) got to play on the hallowed turf wearing the Blue & Gold and created memories for life. The most pleasing part has been the development of the

squad over the past year, this is a great group that all love their football and will be strong again next year with the majority still in P7.

U13 Boys

Our U13 boys played in all county B2 league, a total of 14 games (home and away), finishing midway in league and played 6 challenge games mainly in Inishowen clubs. They were also invited to tournaments in Dolans, Doire Trasna, Craighane and Greenlough. We had approximately 20 in this age group but numbers were well down on this in summer months for training and matches and had to use at least 5 P7 boys for most games. We also do not have a regular keeper and had to rotate outfield players in this role.

U15 Boys

We started training mid-November last year. Our Sunday morning training session was tough as it involved a lot of heavy running. However, the lads kept turning up in good numbers and put in the hard yards over the winter. We told the lads that it would reap rewards for them later in the season and it did. We, the coaches, were very happy with the commitment they gave us with regard to improving their fitness levels. We maintained a squad of around 35 players for the entire year and we had continuous good numbers at training 3 times per week. We created a development team to make sure everyone in the squad got meaningful, competitive matches and also to give players a chance to try different positions. Our development team played 17 matches throughout the season including 5 matches in the C2 league. Our senior team played 24 matches (18 competitive and 6 friendlies).

Feile

We were in good shape heading into feile and we were hopeful of doing well in Banagher. Unfortunately the short games didn't suit us and we lost two of our three games and were eliminated. This was a major setback so early in the season. We challenged the boys to put things right.

B1 League We had started the league really well but we were concerned that the unexpected early elimination from feile would affect our confidence especially when we had to return to Banagher in our next league match. However, the boys dug deep, and pinched the winner in the final minutes of the game after being behind the whole match. This was a defining moment for this group of players and possibly changed their season. It created a strong group bond and gave them great belief and resilience. We ended up winning 5 from our first 7 league games. We lost away to Glenullin, who were the eventual league and feile champions, and a narrow defeat to Greenlough at home. Our team was still a work in progress at this point with plenty of room for improvement.

A2 League

The league was restructured at the half way point. Ourselves, Glenullin, Greenlough and Banagher moved up to A2 and were joined by Ballinderry and St Patricks who dropped down from A1. We won 4 from 5 games in A2 including a really good performance in Greenlough where we corrected a lot of errors that were made when they beat us earlier in the season. By the time we played the final game of the league against Glenullin we were 2 points clear at the top of the table. Unfortunately, this match was played in mid-July and our team was depleted due to holidays. A full strength Glenullin beat us and also finished above us in the league on point difference only.

We played Banagher in the A2 league semi-final and this match was fixed for the week of the Foyle Cup, a competition in which we had 10 players participating. After numerous unsuccessful attempts to move the match we were forced to play 2 hours after 7 of our

starting 15 had played in the Foyle Cup. Credit to the lads, they still put on a decent performance and were only beaten by the last kick of the game in added time.

C2 League

We entered our development team in the C2 league where they played 5 matches and were very unfortunate not to pick up points as they competed really well. The development team was also weakened due to injuries and holidays. An extra player or two available would have made all the difference but the lads battled hard and got some great scores. We are very proud that we had two teams out competing in the Derry league. Ballinscreen were the only other club to match that. We assumed that our development team would then be entered in the C2 championship automatically but unfortunately they gave our place to Dungiven's development team without consulting us. That was very disappointing for the lads as they had trained and worked as hard as anyone in the squad.

B1 Championship

There was a 6 week break before the championship where we had drawn Banagher again in the quarter final. The lads were very easy to motivate for this game as they wanted revenge for the disappointment of narrowly losing to Banagher in the league semi. During the 6 week break, we reintroduced the hard running which they had done during the winter and they responded really well to it. In the quarter final, they blew Banagher away in front of a good crowd in Celtic Park. Revenge was sweet! Superior fitness levels were starting to pay dividends. We headed away to Ballinderry for the semi-final and in front of a very large hostile home crowd our lads came away with a 3 point victory. Ballinderry were probably favourites to win the championship after beating early favourites Glenullin. Fitness levels, belief and mental resilience were now coming to the fore. We headed into the final slight favourites against a Newbridge side who had the county's best player in their ranks. However, we managed to contain their best players with a very disciplined performance and won the championship. This was a just reward for their efforts during the year.

Conclusion

We are very pleased with the U15 boys. They showed great commitment during the year. We are also very happy with how the development team performed and also the level of commitment to this team was brilliant. We would also like to thank the parents for their amazing commitment to this group especially driving to all the away matches when fuel prices were sky high.

U17 Boys

Played in League & Championship Grade: B1

Coaches: Emmett Wray, Adrian Deery, Shane McFadden, Stephen Lomas, Paul Murphy

Strength & Conditioning Coach Dermot McBride

No of players: 25

Total number of matches played in 2022: 22

9 League

4 Championship

9 Challenge

Minor boys began training in early January in preparation for the upcoming league which began in April. We played Challenge games against Malin, Muff, Bunrana, Slaughtneil & Dungiven during February & March. The league began at the end of April and the team started brightly winning 3 of our first 4 games but we were disrupted badly when GCSE & A Level exams began with a drop in attendance at training and league matches.

Despite this the boys continued to play well and we dug deep into the squad with all players on the panel getting plenty of game time during the league finishing in 3rd position.

The boys reached the Quarter final of the Championship and were drawn to play Slaughtneil away from home. The Quarter Final was a fantastic game of football, a real Championship game with big tackles and no margin for error. We opened the scoring in the first 30 seconds of the match and led from then until the 55th minute when we conceded a goal to go behind for the first time in the match. The last 5 minutes the lads threw everything they had at Slaughtneil in the hope of scoring a goal to take the game to extra time but ultimately fell short losing by 1 goal. We are so proud of the effort the lads put in against Slaughtneil in a game we didn't deserve to lose. Slaughtneil went on to win the Championship fairly comfortably after beating us by 1 kick of the ball which shows how close we were this year.

Most of the boys in the U17 squad also played for the U19s this year on a regular basis helping them win their League & Championship.

We had 3 players that represented Derry U16s Odhran Campbell, Joseph Feeney & Caoimhin Wray winning the Bunrana Shield beating Down in the final.

Congratulations to Odhran Campbell who has been selected on the Derry Minor Squad for 2023.

Thanks to all the parents & extended family members of the u17 squad that supported the team all year and helped with lifts and hospitality at home games. Thanks to the committee for their support throughout the year.

U19 Boys

Overall the U19 2022 season can be judged as a success not just because of trophies won (although that helps) but to assemble the players and keep this small group together from wet cold November training nights to July championship final night is a credit to the lads who participated. This group of players most of whom have been playing in the club since they were 4/5 years old have weathered success and some set back over their playing careers so far but have stuck with this team throughout and to finish out their underage playing careers with both a league and championship win is truly deserved, as they start their journey into senior football.

The panel in total of players who are eligible to play u19 is 19 players, 2 players made themselves unavailable this year (Donnacha Gilmore through commitments to Derry and injury & Plunket Roarty through Injury) thus reducing the player panel to 17 players for league, Luke o Neill (Work Commitments) and Fintan Coyle (underage Soccer referee) now reducing the player panel to 15 players for the championship . The commitment of the remaining players mostly doing A level exams this year could not be questioned, occasional trainings were missed due to study or exams but matches were fully attended. Those not studying A level were at AS level or on placement (apprenticeship) in Belfast, training was a challenge to get too at times and when the Belfast Brigade couldn't attend Parc Bhrid they trained as a group in Belfast.

Over the league and championship campaign the u17 management made available 14 players at various stages for various games and for this support we would like to take this

opportunity to recognise this support and thank Emmet, Adrian, Stephen and Shane and invite them to share in the league and championship success achieved this year.

Pros

Retained almost full playing Panel

We won the League

We Won the Championship

Excellent support from the Senior Mens Panel at most games

Great support from the u17 Management and players

7 of the 2022 panel are still available in 2023 + addition of Fabian Flood.

Areas for improvement / challenges

Structured pathway to senior teams

Flexibility with regard to league playoff fixtures (league playoff Friday night, league final following Monday)

Managing player welfare, u19 players used to fulfil senior games on Sundays, u19 games on Monday evening.

** New management team required for 2023 season for the u19

League

Faughanvale 0-7 3-09 Steelstown Brian Ogs

Steelstown Brian Ogs 11-14 0-5 Doire Trasna

Steelstown Brian Ogs 3-05 1-11 Kilrea

St Patricks 1-08 3-10 Steelstown Brian Ogs

League Playoff – (Banagher)

Steelstown Brian Ogs 3-11 1-13 Kilrea

League Final – (Celtic Park)

Steelstown Brian Ogs 3-12 2-09 Craigbane

Championship

Craigbane 0-5 1-12 Steelstown Brian Ogs

Steelstown Brian Ogs 1-14 1-08 Faughanvale

Championship Final - (Doire Trasna)

Steelstown Brian Ogs 2-12 4-03 Slaughtmanus

Total 9 Games or 540 minutes +/- unbeaten in both League and Championship for 2022.

Scored 30-99

Conceded 10-69

Season duration:

Mid-March to Mid-August (5 Months)

Coaches

Anthony "Cody" Breslin

Andy Barr "Jnr"

Barry "Harte" Mc Laughlin

Austin Cutliffe

Senior Men

When we held our AGM last year our senior men had won their first county championship but we could not have dreamt how much more they would achieve in the following months. A massive thanks to the senior squad for their hard work and commitment over the winter period to give us great days out in the Ulster and All Ireland campaigns. History was made in Croke Park in February when we became the first club from Derry to win an All Ireland Intermediate championship. The team were then promoted to senior football in league and championship for the 2022 season, they will remain in senior league for 2023.

Hugh McGrath, Dermot McBride and Raymond Tracey stepped down from management of seniors at end of 2022 campaign (Paul McMenamin had stepped down at start of 2022 season) and we extend massive thanks to them for their commitment throughout the past years, we have great memories that will stay with us forever.

Ladies Football

U9.5 Girls

This was Steelstown's first full year fielding an U9.5 girls only team and the first year of LGFA organised Go Games. We had one round of U10 Go Games plus 4 rounds of LGFA Go Games with an additional end of season tournament at Owenbeg where we had 3 teams and 31 players.

Prioritising development we selected teams accordingly, reaching a final and 2 semi-finals at Owenbeg. In addition we had games against Dungiven (30 players), Faughanvale (31 players), Strabane (30 players), Muff (17 players 2013/14 DOB only and Bunrana twice (33 & 32 Players). We also attended a blitz at Doire Trasna with 24 players and 6 of our girls played at the Greenlough tournament along with 9.5 boys.

After a false start in May our Go Games finally got under way in August - whilst it was very welcome to get them up and running, the timing affected our numbers because of holidays. We had 22 players at Round 1 in Owenbeg, 17 at Round 2 in Dungiven and 19 at Round 3 in Coleraine, we regularly take around 20 to Go Games. Our average number at training is around 30, the highest attendance was 46.

Arranging matches was fairly challenging as we struggled with finding opponents that could match our numbers. The solution would have been for us to host blitzes but the demand on our pitch is an impediment to us hosting, unfortunately the girls only got to play one game on home turf.

U13 Girls

With the first league match throwing in to Ballymaguigan on the 29th of April, the girls faced a testing league campaign as they were placed in the A division. We set our focus to development, both of individual skill and working together as a team. We went to work keeping enjoyment central and ensuring all players felt part of the team. We increased our numbers from 19 to 28. As well as league games a number of challenge games were arranged meaning girls had 20 games of football over the course of the year.

Average attendance for training was 55% Some individuals achieved over 80% attendance and this helped skill progression.

There was help from coaches: Sarah, Kevin, Paul and James and also help from members of the ladies senior panel Sarah Mooney, Kate Harkin and Emma Connelly which was top class.

The main achievement the girls achieved in the coaches eyes wasn't winning the Derry U13 B Cup which was an amazing achievement in itself, but the development individually and more important including everyone as the part of a Steelstown Brian Ogs u13 girls team .

U15 Girls

Our U15 girls had a mixed year with some great results in League, Championship and Feile, however the greatest success was the continued increase in numbers right up until our final week of training.

We started training back in January with a number of 28, however by the start of the league we had 40+ girls attending training twice weekly and with the continued numbers allowed us to field 2 teams in the Derry league. Our Blue team played in Div 1 and played 7, won 5 and lost 2 and finished the league joint 3rd. Our Gold team played in Div 2 which we found difficult due to the high numbers of new girls, however our girls give it their all in every game and were fully committed to the final whistle

Championship saw our girls play in Div 1 however after a great win in the 1st round, unfortunately our girls got eliminated at the semi-final. We also had a great showing at this year's Feile where our girls played 3, won 3 which got us to the Div1 final only to narrowly miss out by 3 points after taking the game to extra time.

U17 Girls

The u17 squad would like to thank Anglo Beef Processors (ABP) for their continued and generous sponsorship throughout the 2022 season. On the pitch, the 2022 u17 League boasted only 8 teams this year in the North Derry section. With only 7 games to play the girls enjoyed 3 wins, 2 losses, and had to eventually share the points for 2 home fixtures that could not be played due to camogie clashes. The squad finished 2nd , sharing the spot with 2 other teams, but did have an opportunity to win the league if the unfulfilled fixtures could have been played. Not to be in 2022 again for this talented group of young players.

The squad also had a decent run in the Championship, losing narrowly in their 1st knockout game to the eventual winners, Ballymaguigan, but taking the u17 Shield competition in style, with a cracking final against Dungiven.

Captained by Kate Harkin and Caoimhe O'Kane, our squad for this season had a great mix of experience and youth, with a significant number of players transitioning from u15's, as well as u15 squad players also holding their own in the team, offering the club important player progression pathways.

A number of our players represented Doire during this year, including Kate Harkin, Eva Ferguson and Tara Burns, which we were super proud of. Tara also made the Doire camogie squad for this season, a busy woman! The u17 Squad were winners off the pitch this year too, with lots of them notching up volunteer hours helping out around the club, especially with our Steelstown kids programme. This programme works so well due to their on-going and high levels of commitment. Team work on and off the pitch is so important for the smooth running of our club.

Finally, we would like to congratulate our captain Kate on her wonderful player progression into the Senior Squad for this year, and for her Derry winners medals in both League and Championship. Super well done Kate, what a great role model you are to our underage players.

Here's to 2023 and the beginnings of another new chapter for the u17 Og's girls

Martina, Greg and Danny, u17 Mgt Team 2022

U19 Girls

U19 girls team is made up of 22 players most of whom are actually U17 girls. They played 5 games in the league this year, winning one and drawing one. They also played a number of challenge matches in the buildup to the championship. With less than 6 weeks training in the run up to the championship the U19s beat Desertmartin and Dungiven to reach the county 'A' final. Trailing by nine points at halftime in the final to last year's winners, the girls gave a great account of themselves taking the game to extra time. Unfortunately the girls lost out in the end, but they all put in the type of team performance that makes everyone at the Steelstown Brian Ogs proud. All 10 of the older U19 players have played for our senior ladies this year and have all given a very good account of themselves at this level. They are now an integral part of the senior squad. This surely will guarantee that our senior team becomes stronger in the future.

Senior Ladies

It has been another good year for our senior ladies which was unjustly cut short in the Ulster Championship. On the pitch they remain unbeaten in Derry, winning the league and championship for the third year in a row. The attacking football they play got them many plaudits throughout Derry and Ulster. Again challenge games were difficult to arrange, having to travel to Tyrone, Antrim and Donegal to get competitive games. This year also saw some younger players making their senior debuts during the year. As a team we have bonded and have become much closer.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee for all they have done for us this year and for the support given to us by the entire club - we are looking forward to the 2023 season.

Coaching

I thank the coaches/management of all teams and our coaching officer, Neil Forester, who have given so much of their time over the past year. From the team reports it is clear the level of commitment from our coaches at all age groups, the future's looking bright.

The countless hours of planning and organisation that goes into managing a team is recognised and appreciated by everyone in the club. Neil is stepping down from this role this year and we thank him sincerely for everything that he has done for the promotion of our games.

Governance

2022 has been another busy year for the club. There have been 26 new coaches/helpers vetted, also 12 coaches have had their vetting updated as is required every 3 years. Face to face safeguarding training has resumed again, we organised 3 safeguarding training with approximately 60 people attending. The numbers attending are reflective of people who have never had face to face training due to covid restrictions.

We have continued to liaise with and support coaches, players and parents throughout the year. We have also worked with Derry and Ulster GAA when needed on matters arising.

We have also had our 2 defibrillators checked and batteries and pads renewed and have installed a new outside box for our defibrillator.

I thank Brendan Doherty and Maria Forester for their diligence in this area throughout the year. Maria is stepping down from the role this year and we are indebted to her for all the help given in this area.

Merchandising:

Grainne had a very busy year with club merchandise and 6 new team kits - Senior Men (HiVolt), Senior Ladies (Eurospar), U19 Girls (Hilltop Nursery), U11 Boys (Continuous Solutions), U9 Girls (North West Mechanical), U7 Boys & Girls (MacBlair), U7 Girls, half zips and gloves (ABP).

There was a very large order of commemorative jerseys and half zips in recognition of our Senior Men's All Ireland win. Grainne also ordered any supplies for all teams and summer camp participants - a very busy year all round.

Finance & Fundraising

Club Treasurer Brian Baker and Assistant Treasurer Mark Foley have done an excellent job in ensuring that all financial matters within the club have been managed correctly and efficiently and our new fundraising officer Colette has had a very busy year as seen from the report below.

The first fundraising of the year was the setting up of the Go Fund Me page, prompted by the need to financially support our senior men's team in the run to the All Ireland championship. The initial target was to raise £10,000.00, however we exceeded all expectations by raising in excess of £19,000.00, after deduction of fees from Go Fund Me we had a net sum of £17,000.00. After the dust settled on the incredible achievement our focus changed to investigating the availability of grants. Committee approval was granted to approach Stephen Lowry, an independent advisor. Stephen has assisted our treasurer with applications for 2 x £2,000.00 grants that we are hopeful of obtaining and is working with committee members to secure further funding. We also invested significant time and effort into reviewing and renewing pitch side advertising agreements that had been dormant during covid pandemic. These efforts were greatly assisted by the success of our All Ireland win and many new sponsors were keen to come on board. Pitch side and scoreboard advertising has brought in £17,280.00, less expenses of £1,320.00 to commission the boards. In summary we have had a very successful fundraising year which capitalised on the success and profile of our senior men in particular. I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the sponsors and everyone who has contributed in any way to what has been a lucrative year for the club.

The funds raised are used to benefit teams at all levels in the club and also contribute to projects targeting the further development and promotion of our club and wider GAA ethos.

Grounds Maintenance

We thank the grounds maintenance team for the sterling work they carried out again this year. Declan Lindsay and his team have worked hard throughout the year to keep the clubhouse and grounds in pristine condition. As always Dimac has maintained our pitch to a very high standard.

I ask everyone to continue to play their part in keeping our clubhouse and grounds tidy and secure, particularly by checking the clubhouse and changing rooms after each meeting or training session and ensuring the containers and club premises are locked up before leaving.

Conclusion

I would like to extend my condolences to any club members that have suffered a bereavement this year.

On behalf of the committee I express our sincere thanks to all those who give up their time to carry out roles within the club, we couldn't function without the efforts of all our volunteers. We are always keen to get new people involved, so if this is something you may be interested in, please talk to any of our committee members.

A massive thanks also to our sponsors, their ongoing support allows us to continue providing the best facilities we can for our members and I also ask our members in return to support our sponsors in the community.

It has been a privilege to have held the office of secretary in the club for the past 9 years and the last year in particular has given memories that will last a lifetime. We have attended a reception in the guildhall hosted by Mayor Graham Warke in recognition of our All Ireland victory, have won Club of the Year in Ulster awards and our senior men's team won team of the year at Derry Journal People of the Year awards. The level of support and good luck messages that we received from clubs throughout Ireland and beyond during our All Ireland Campaign reminds us how special the GAA family is.

I want to thank our chairperson Paul O'Hea, vice chairperson Eddie Friel and all the committee members for their assistance and support to me. Our club registrar, Brian McCormick, is stepping down from the committee and I want to acknowledge Brian's sterling work, particularly in getting to grips with the new registration systems - a very important administrative task in preparation for games. Gerry Cleary and James McGurk are also stepping down from their committee positions, I thank both for their help and support.

I wish all our members a peaceful Christmas and health and happiness in 2023.

Ann Lindsay

Runai

20th November 2022