



CUALA JUVENILE SECTION
AGM

12th November 2009

AGENDA

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Our Club

2009 started for Cuala with the glamour and greasepaint of an appearance on national TV. George Hook was the Celebrity Bainisteoir assigned to Cuala in the popular RTE series and we went in to our opening match against Dromahair of Leitrim with high hopes and the burden of being the bookies favourites.

Two periods of extra time, a dubious call on what was a clear point for Cuala, and masses of support from all around the club meant an exciting day but one that ended in disappointment as the Leitrim boys prevailed by a single point and left our lads to rue missed chances.

There was little time to suffer though as within 48 hours we were playing our biggest match for years in the Division 3 play off against St Peregrines. Mikey Sheanon replaced George on the sidelines and this time the single point margin was in our favour. Cuala thus became one of only five teams in Dublin currently playing at Senior Level in both Football and Hurling.

We were proud to supply players to a variety of Dublin teams through the summer, with David Treacy and Oisín Gough playing a full part in the Dublin hurling progress under new manager Anthony Daly. David capped his fine year with an All Star nomination while Oisín made it a double celebration by joining him in the nominations for the GPA Opel Hurling Team of the Year.

The difficulties of management in 2009 have been for the most part resolved and as was always going to be the case, the club has moved on. The passing of a Part 8 motion for floodlights and other facilities at Hyde Road this week is an important step.

There are clouds, not least in terms of managing, logistically and financially a club that is now easily among the largest in the country, but we as the juvenile section will be fully involved and a major influence over the direction the club takes through these difficult financial times

Juvenile Performance

At Juvenile level it has been a year of major success. Pride of place is difficult to apportion amid so many great efforts, the U14A footballers landing Division 2 of the Dublin Féile and going all the way to the National Final in Kildare. The U14B Hurlers beat Na Fianna in the Division 5 Final of the Dublin Féile na Gael tournament at Hyde Road.

The fourth Sunday in September belonged to the U15 Hurlers who crowned another great year by defeating a spirited and classy Ballyboden team to become the U15 A Champions of Dublin.

At the other end of the Juvenile age scale Cuala was the only team in Dublin to field four teams at U11 in hurling while the same age group footballers landed the Southside A Cup and have just completed the double by landing the Division 1 League title.

At Under 12 we made it to Cup finals in both football and hurling while the U13s will head into their Féile year in Division One.

Our youngest members have turned out in great numbers, played with great conviction and promise an exciting long term future for the red and White of Cuala.

Juvenile Coaching

Our team of Willie Braine, Denis Monaghan and Ken Fitzgerald are perhaps the strongest group of any club in Dublin.

We need to take advantage of the experience and commitment they bring to the club and put our own managerial ego's to one side in giving the very best coaching standards to all our boys.

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We need to work closely with them in developing the boys we have in our care as players as well as young adults, and we also need to challenge them to get the best for our teams.

There will be a major emphasis on coaching standards and programmes in the year ahead so that we enhance the template of the player pathway and continue to best serve our players, and attract sporting talent from schools and other sports.

Player Welfare

There is a great responsibility of care which we take on by becoming involved in any sports club.

Creating the right environment for our own kids and those who join them in our games is the single most important element of what we do. Trophies and medals are great but we should swap them all if they were placed ahead of the well being and involvement of every child that wants to play with us.

The GAA has been progressive in adopting the right codes of practice to put kids welfare first. The Garda Vetting process which has been underway since May is a vital and essential part of managing those of us who manage the kids.

We will propose a motion concerning player welfare to the Club AGM, with your support which seeks to further protect our kids from being pushed too far or asked too much.

Finance and fundraising

These are challenging times. The financial accounts presented to this AGM paint an overall picture of a section which at least has a positive balance but look any deeper than that aggregate figure and you find a number of serious challenges.

Last year the combined funds spent by Juvenile Section exceeded the total funds taken in taken in by over €9,000, resulting in a closing combined bank balance of €25,800. Whilst the closing balances represent a relatively healthy position, the ongoing economic climate dictates the need for careful cost control and budgeting. The costs of training facilities, and Thomastown's new dressing rooms put extra pressure on the ability of the age groups within the section to manage their financial resources.

Expenditure is up, membership income is likely to be similar and fundraising is down. This is not a good cocktail but we need to deal with it.

For 2010, we will work with each age group to formulate a budget, manage the cash balance and organise additional fundraising as may be required. This process will commence with the next meeting of the Juvenile Committee in December where Cormac will issue guidance and an explanation of what costs are likely to arise and how they are to be met.

There will also be a greater discipline enforced with regard to internal invoicing. It is recognised that the gravity of this year's deficit was not fully realised until the presentation of invoices from within the club in the days preceding the AGM, and after the initial accounts for year end had been completed.

We will also appoint a fundraising officer within the Juvenile Committee to co-ordinate and drive collective and individual group efforts in what will be an ever more critical part of running the club and in which a greater number of parents can be brought in to assist with.

Administration

The official opening of the new dressing rooms at Thomastown has been a great boost to those teams who play there and raise the standard of Cuala GAA club.

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The U12 group put huge effort and energy into hosting an U12 Leinster blitz there in September, and we aim to make this an annual celebration of U12 hurling or football over the years to come. We will also investigate the staging of a Féile there this year, so long as we can get some movement on parking.

We put out no less than 47 individual teams from the Juvenile boys section in 2009, an all time high. It is a credit to every bainisteoir, mentor, maor uisce and helper that we do this week in, week out, on time, with success and with a smile.

For some it goes beyond the training ground and the touchline and into the meeting rooms of club and county administration. I want to pay a special thanks to all those who make the games possible and who bring a love of gaelic games to our children. I want to extend that thanks to the families that are unable to get to those sessions but who provide the support at home which allows them to happen. *Unsung but not forgotten.*

And I would like to thank my colleagues on the Juvenile Committee who put in an incredible amount of work to make sure everything works well, to each of the age group representatives who turn out on the first Tuesday night of the month to make things work, and who always turn out in special numbers when pitch allocations are up for discussion. Fortunately I hope this year has seen some progress in that for most.

In particular the contribution of Frank Wolohan and Damian McKeown in making their way to Parnell Park to represent us at County Level; of Tadhg Murphy who does likewise at Coiste within the club; of Jenny Drummond who has managed a difficult registration system and who will now hopefully oversee a new departure next January with a registration day that will streamline the process; and of Zita McDermott who has kept us in the spotlight and on our toes with regard to pictures, stories and news, have been of great benefit to all of us and the boys.

Cormac O'Tighearnaigh and Stephen Connolly both stepped into the positions of Treasurer and Runaí for the first time this year, filling large shoes but doing so in a way that has been simply the best. These two guys have put in more hours, at all hours, than any of the rest of us would consider possible or indeed sane. We all owe them a huge thanks.

Finally, the thing that continues to breathe life into our 125 year old association is that we are constantly bringing in new players and new ideas. This year we have great pleasure in welcoming the 2002 group to the Juvenile section. We all hope you will enjoy your stepping into this more grown up world of games and matches.

As one joins another departs. The 1994 group are moving on to take their first step towards minor and senior status. This group has been one of the finest to come through Cuala in every respect. They leave us with a Dublin Championship in hurling and from my point of view they generated the first Féile triumph since I took over as Chairman from Johnny, as well as my first opportunity for a blazing row with the county board over the trip to Cork.

To all the mentors, managers and parents thank you for some great times, thank you Kevin, Barry and John for delivering that Féile and for being such great supporters of the first Night at the Dogs in 2008, and special thanks to John McKeown who provided such great calm, wisdom and support in the role of Leas Cathaoirleach of the Juvenile section in recent years.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh and go n'éiridh an bother leat.

Rob Hartnett
November 12th 2009

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Secretary's Report

It is easy to get wrapped up in the many chores we have all chosen to take up in the pursuit of providing the best for our children and players. But when we stand back and view the year about to end, one cannot but admire the continuing achievements of Cuala's Juvenile section. The number of players training and playing every weekend, the number of teams competing, the number of mentors coaching, planning, organising, the numbers of parents assisting and fund raising, transporting teams across Dublin and indeed further a field, the incredible sight of packed Thomastown and Clonkeen pitches, the frenzied training winter sessions in Loreto, IADT etc,the list is a long one.

Success can be measured in many ways. The key one is the ongoing enjoyment and participation (in increasing numbers) of the players. Without this, the victories wouldn't come. 2009 has seen some incredible achievements and victories (as detailed in the attached team reports) by the various teams. In addition to the victories in matches, leagues and tournaments, there is the underrated and not mentioned enough successes of continuing participation (especially the weaker teams) and sportsmanship shown by our many players. Discipline is, at the moment, very much in the spotlight at County Board level. Cuala Juvenile section members have an exemplary record in this regard, and our players have been great ambassadors for the Club. Long may it last. It is up to us as Mentors to continue to lead by example.

The achievements of the section are all the more significant in light of the relatively poor infrastructural facilities at the disposal of the Club. There have been some magnificent improvements during the year – notably the new dressing rooms in Thomastown, new back nets in Shankill and this weeks announcement re the development of Hyde Road (a marvellous success to all those involved) etc.

The lack of an all weather pitch, hurling wall and the poor drainage in Thomastown must remain as key priorities for us all. The Club's relationship with the Council has greatly improved in the last two years and we have been fortunate with the assistance and new resources they have provided us with. However, surely we cannot always be reliant exclusively on others. Should we not be preparing ourselves to become more self-sufficient by establishing for example some form of "capital facilities fund" for use when opportunities arise? The Juvenile section is uniquely positioned with it's numbers to adopt a more co-ordinated and innovative approach to medium/long term funding. It won't happen over night, but we have to start somewhere.

Let's continue to strive to provide the best for our players. Let's continually challenge and look for inventive ways to secure the best future.

Finally, congratulations to Willie Braine on his appointment during the year as the Club's GPO, and special thanks for his every flowing energy, enthusiasm and the invaluable help he has given to us all on the coaching front.

Thank you and Good Luck to all our teams for 2010.

S Connolly
12th November 2009

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Proposals and Nominations

2000's (U9's)

This year saw the 2000s Boys group graduate from the Academy to the Juvenile Section and with that our entry into the Go Games competitions at Under 9 level. It has been an exciting year for the lads, and indeed for their parents, and we are pleased to report that the year has been a great success. The Group has maintained its numbers at around 60 – we have lost a small number of players but also gained some new players who have settled in very well.

Early in the year we formalised a group of around a dozen parents into a “mentors” group and this group have excelled in working with the lads at training and at games. We also convened a meeting for all parents meeting early in the year and outlined the new arrangements and logistics now that we would be “on the road” each week and would need a greater level of communication and commitment from parents and players alike. The Setanta, Cu Chullain and Brion Boru sub-groups were formed and it is great to report that from the outset the arrangements have worked very well and much credit and thanks to all of the parents in the group for this.

New jerseys were procured for the teams – “look like a team, play like a team” being the motto – so thanks to our jersey sponsors - Automsoft, Donton and Wicklow Tyres - for their generous support. And thanks of course to our loyal group of jersey washers!

Our aim is to field 5 teams each week in both hurling and football – and First Communion season aside, we have managed to achieve this. We are particularly keen to keep the hurling numbers as high as the football and we appear to be the only club in Dublin fielding 5 hurling teams at this age group. This has had its challenges in that, by spreading our resources thinly, sometimes results have not gone our way. However as the season wore on, we have found ourselves increasingly holding our own at least, competing very well and coming away with enough victories to keep the lads from becoming demotivated. That is all that counts at Under 9 level and with the Go Games format. In football we have remained very competitive throughout and across both codes the skill levels of the lads have continued to improve and the coaches/mentors are delighted with the progress the Under 9s have made.

We organised Mini All Ireland competitions in both codes for the lads over the last week of June and the enjoyment the lads got from that week reminded us of their young age and that its important to maintain the fun element in the midst of all of the inter-club activities. The Mini All Ireland finished with refreshments for all and brought the first half of the season to a fitting end. A trip to Croke Park and the GAA Museum is planned for December to mark the end of the second half of the season. Thanks to all who have contributed in any way to a successful year for the 2000s Boys.

1999's (U10's)

Facts at a Glance

No. Players registered at end of 2008	62
Transferred from 1998's	10
Players leaving during the year	(10)
Players joining during the year	5
No. of players registered at the end of 2009	67

Teams: Football 6 (three groups of 2); Hurling 5 (two groups 3+2)

Games played: 102 (49 football & 53 hurling).

Mentors: G Byrne, S Connolly, M Jackson, K Kirwan, E McGuirk, P McGrath

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Fielding as many teams as we did inevitably meant spreading the stronger players over a greater number of teams. Whilst (especially for Hurling) this placed pressure on individual match results, we believe it better equips us for next years leagues.

Highlights of the year

The 10 players transferring from the 1998's group joined us in January and have been a magnificent addition to our group. With the additional numbers, we increased the number of football and hurling teams by 1.

Special emphasis was placed on hurling training during the year with the introduction of a second mid-week training night and also the "meet and the play" informal games with the 1998's during the summer months. Though this is an ongoing process, we are pleased with the initial results e.g. three out of three win for the "A" team at a hurling Blitz in Carlow in September.

We are particularly grateful for the coaching help received from Willie Braine and we look forward to continuing to work with him in the future.

The social highlight of the last 12 months was our "Christmas Event" held in Killiney Castle with the "Anthem Singers". The response from the parents of players in the group was magnificent with sales of c. 300 tickets achieved. The event not only raised funds but it was a truly enjoyable night for all those who attended. Our 2009 event takes place at the same venue on the 3rd of December with the "Gardiner Gospel Street Choir" providing the entertainment.

We offer a special word of thanks to Beaufield Mews Restaurant who generously sponsored our new jerseys at the start of 2009 and also to Blathnaid Ni Cofaigh for hosting the Christmas Event.

Outlook for 2010 and Conclusion

We are very pleased with the ongoing development of our players, their efforts and their high standard of sportsmanship. We look forward to 2010 with energetic enthusiasm and with great hopes. With the increased numbers allowed per team at U11 level, we expect to field 4 football and hurling teams.

Thank you to all who have helped during the year.

1998's (U11)

U11 Football

Champions



Our first year in league competition has been one of great success. We won the football U11A Southside Cup in May and almost doubled up in Hurling, only losing to Clontarf in the Hurling U11A Cup in June.

All of our four teams in both football and hurling played well and had fun.

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We lost 12 players who had been with us from the start, but who went back to the 1999 group at the start of the year. Since then we have maintained 68 players with new lads joining at a consistent rate and making up for those who left through the year for a variety of reasons.

Leagues and Competition

This has been a great year for our Lions and Leopards group in football. Six wins out of seven in the Southside A Cup, saw us to victory over St Judes in May and this has been followed up with a similar level of achievement in the League. We finished joint top of Division 1A and now face a play off, against St Judes again, for the title. All support would be warmly welcomed when the details are known. Our Cougars and Jaguars struggled at first but found their feet towards the second half of the season, finishing mid table in Division 2.

We were the only side to field four teams in hurling and the red and White group made it through to the final of the U11 A Cup in June, just going down to Clontarf in the Final. The league campaign suffered through fixture congestion and the parallel success of the footballers in the early stages but victory over Ballyboden in October has put them back on an even keel as we head into our last couple of back matches. The Blue and Green group also improved as the year progressed and, despite some early reverses kept up a strong approach to training and finished the year with three wins out of six in Division 3A.

A fair selection of match reports and other information is available at www.cuala1998.com

Training

We train hurling and football on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, attracting an average of between 40 and 55 boys on Tuesdays, a little less on Thursdays.

Since our academy days we have always done dual sessions and this has been an important factor in maintaining interest in both sports. As the lads grow bigger and the technical training becomes more important, this has proven to be more of a challenge in 2009 but we are still keen to maintain the policy for as long as possible.

Once again we have kept up an organised approach to training with a programme developed in advance of each session that is tailored to the particular needs of the group at different stages. We tend to concentrate on one key theme each week and 'ball time' is kept to a maximum. We have been helped out again by transition year lads among whom Dara King deserves special mention for his efforts and consistency over the last few months.

Organisation and Fundraising

The pressure of success in competition and fixture congestion means that we have had less time this year to organise the 'group wide' events that have served so well in the past to keep the lads together as a group.

The weekly email, texts and our own mini-website at www.cuala1998.com serve as a good communication network but we will concentrate greater effort on maintaining a group identity for the lads and the parents in the next twelve months as we become more dispersed in competition.

Finbarr Murphy did pull together a great trip down to Kilkenny for the Leinster Hurling semi final against Wexford and we had a group outing to Croke Park for the 125 celebration match against Tyrone in February.

Olwyn Dunne and a merry group pulled together our contribution to the family fun day and parents within the group including Mike Beary and Andrew Desmond were very supportive of the Cuala Lunch.

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We did reasonably well on the Night at the Dogs again this year but will look to have a separate fundraiser for the group, mixing in a social element in 2010.

Outlook for 2010

We are currently looking at the prospect of entering four teams in football leagues and three in hurling at U12 level. We currently have an active panel of 68 players which would allow us panels of 17 players in football. This is thin but we are actively recruiting new members, we may avail of a smaller team size for our D Group and we have a good relationship with former players that dropped back to the 1999 group and who could, in difficult circumstances, be called upon to play the odd match.

Rob Hartnett and Cormac O'Tighearnaigh will continue to represent our group on the Juvenile Committee and we will as ever work closely with the coaching section to continue to develop best practice in how we prepare our teams to represent Cuala at a high level in the years to come.

1997's (U12)

This year the 1997's played in the Go Games Under 12's Competitions in both Hurling and Football. We fielded three thirteen a side teams for the Football and two thirteen a side teams for the Hurling. In the Football Competitions, the "A" team reached the Cup Final where they were beaten by Thomas Davis. The "B" and "C" teams didn't fare so well and did not advance to the knockout stages. Each of the three teams had successful league campaigns, with all three teams finishing mid-table. The "A" team played in Division 1, the "B" team in Division 4 and the "C" team in Division 5. Due to the change in Competition Rules, we shall be fielding two teams in 2010. The "B" Hurling team had a fantastic run in the Cup, reaching the final and losing out on the day by a few points. The "A" team suffered some heavy defeats in the Cup Competition which saw them electing to play in Division 2 of the Hurling League, where they won five out of eight matches. The "B" team played in Division 4 and enjoyed considerable success with the assistance of some talent from the U/11 squad. Unfortunately, when play resumes in February 2010 we will be limited to fielding one hurling team as we join the "full rules" league at U/13.

At the beginning of the year, each of the Football panels consisted of eighteen players, totalling fifty-four players. That number has now been reduced to forty-two. At the start of the 2008 Season that number was sixty-five! There are two main reasons for this. One reason is that a number of kids have now entered Secondary School and have begun to play Rugby on Saturdays. The second reason is that a number of kids that trudged along from one year to the next have eventually been allowed to "hang up their boots" by their parents. The mentors of this Group, who have spent considerable time and effort over the years coaching these children were very aware that this day would come about and have spoken on many occasions about the reasons why many of the kids that are joining our Academy do not see Cuala as being the place where they will remain for their youth and beyond. We don't know where the resolution for this problem lies but we do believe that Cuala should be more proactive in reminding parents and children alike, that the Club is not just a place to "send Johnny until the rugby starts" or somewhere that the kids can be sent for some fresh air on a Saturday. We should not be selling our souls cheaply to make the numbers at Academy level seem impressive. We should insist upon commitment and allegiance to Cuala and the G.A.A. way of life.

Once again the children in this Group enjoyed some fantastic outings. The Christmas party took place at Monkstown Fitness Centre where a successful football competition took place, followed up by some very enjoyable pizza and videos at the Cuala Social Centre. We brought fifty kids into the Dublin v Tyrone match in Croke Park for the "125 years" extravaganza, where a most memorable night was had by everybody. In April, we brought forty children to the Share Adventure Centre in County Fermanagh for the weekend. This was a brilliant weekend which the kids enjoyed immensely. We made our second trip to Croke Park to see the Dubs in action against Meath. In August, we held a Hurling tournament at Thomastown which received very favourable comment from all those that

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attended. In October, a large group of parents and children participated in our Annual Walk which raised much needed funds for the Group.

Looking forward to 2010, we hope to continue to provide a positive and enjoyable environment where our children can participate in sport, develop life long relationships with their peers and continue to add to the Cuala Tradition. Thank you to all members of the Coiste. Thank you to all the members of the Juvenile Committee in particular Rob, Stephen and Cormac.

1996's (U13)

The Cuala 1996s (U13's) had another busy year in 2009 and are developing into some fine young men. All of our lads are now in secondary school and the longer hours, increased workloads and activities have made 2009 a tough challenge.

Registration

The overall registration for the year in the age group stands at 37 fully registered kids (down 5 from 2008).

Results

We started the year with 2 football teams and 1 hurling team. The initial football games were grading games and our A-team did poorly in this phase, narrowly ending up in Division 2 for the remainder of the year. The B-team competed in Div 8 for the year.

Our A-team currently lie second in Div2 with one game left to play and may yet win the Division. We competed very well all year but suffered earlier in the year in grading games where players were missing due to other commitments.

Our B- team did quite well but did not get to play enough regular games as there were several walkovers, pitch problems and hurling fixtures inhibited their ability to build some momentum. Overall the B-team has done very well in 2009 and may get promotion in 2010.

'A' Football

14 matches;
9 wins; 4 losses; 1 W/O

'B' Football

11 matches
3 wins, 6 losses 2W/O;

The hurlers did very well also in 2009 finishing mid-table in Division 1. Again we lost some ground earlier in the year when not all players were available. We ended up in the bottom half of Division and in Top4 Bottom4 play off – we have ended up 'top of the bottom'!!

Hurling

10 matches played;
6 wins, 4 losses;

Highlights

The highlight for us this year is to see to way the team and several players have developed. Since returning after the summer the footballers have started to build real momentum and when all players are present, they are definitely Division 1 material. Our problem continues to be consistency of attendance.

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The hurling highlights have been again defeating some of the teams who would in previous years have been considered stronger than us (Faughs, Lucan). Not only did we comprehensively beat all the Div1 teams lower than us, but were unlucky to lose to some of the stronger teams in the Division. 5 of our players have solidified their positions in the U13 Dublin Development squad and continue to shine for club and county.

We also had a wonderful weekend trip to Cavan to visit our old mentor Siobhan O'Dea. It was a fantastic trip for all the kids and adults too.

Coaching

Coaching continues to occur twice weekly with very good attendance from the boys. Thanks to Des McCarthy for taking on the 2nd Football team and driving it forward. Des has done a fantastic job. Also thank to all the mentors John Twomey, Declan Schutte, Kevin Malone, Frank Wolahan, Colm Buckley, Joe Molumby, Terry Sheehan and Tom Flynn.

Summary

It has been a very busy year again. The biggest challenges by far we face is the lack of numbers. With a fairly cluttered fixture calendar we often struggle to field teams especially around holiday periods. We've persisted with 2 football teams this year. However, but for the much appreciated assistance of the U12s, we would be in a far worse position. As we face in 2010 we aim to seek some level of firm commitment from players and parents as otherwise we will need to cut back to 1 team.

So it is with satisfaction that we look back on 2009 and with confidence and anticipation we look forward to 2010 and Feile.

1995's (U14A)

Overview

The 1995 age group has approximately 50 boys registered. We field 2 teams in Hurling and 2 in Football.

"A" Hurling

League

League table for U14 Hurling Division 1

Team	P	W	L	D	Pts
Kilmacud Crokes A	12	10	1	1	21
Cuala A	12	8	3	1	17
Ballyboden St Enda A	12	7	3	2	16
Na Fianna A	12	6	4	2	14
St Vincents A	12	3	7	2	8
Castleknock A	12	2	9	1	5
St Sylvesters A	12	1	10	1	3
Bye	0	0	0	0	0

The Div 1 Hurling league was always going to be a battle between the big 3 of Cuala, Kilmacud Crokes and Ballyboden St Enda's. Our first big battle was away to Ballyboden where we drew, next was away to Kilmacud where we won by 1 point. We entered the summer break Top of the league table topping Crokes by point. In the second half of the season we had the two big guns at home, first up it was Ballyboden who we beat convincingly then it was Crokes, where we were defeated by 2 points. At this point we had lost the league but secured 2nd place. Unfortunately at this stage of the season a good number of our players picked up injuries which have left a number of them out until next season. This

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resulted in us losing our final 2 matches away to Na Fianna and St. Vincents, two teams which we would normally be expected to beat. This highlights that although we have an extremely talented young team we do not have the depth of players that we have in Football or the other teams such as Crokes or `Boden have.

U14 Dublin Hurling Development Squad

We have 7 players on the Dublin Hurling Development squad and 5 of these were selected to represent Dublin on the 2 Dublin teams that were entered in the Tony Forristal Hurling competition in Waterford in late August.

Hurling Feile

The Hurling Feile was probably our only disappointment of the season. Leading Division 1 in Hurling at the time we would have been considered strong contenders. But on the day things didn't go our way and were left not progressing out of the group stage.

"A" Football

"Nemo Rangers Tournament"

The 2008 season ended with us being relegated to division 2 in the league. We then lost our opening 2 league matches (more on the league later) before went to Cork to defend Cuala's hold on the Nemo Rangers' Tournament. In light of our recent bad spell we decided to take a low key approach to the tournament and use it as a team building exercise. On day one of the tournament we first met Cork's Macroom and later in the day An Gaelteacht of Kerry both of whom we beat. As the Day progressed one could see the team spirit returning to the Cuala boy's both on and off the pitch. We won our half of the Draw with a strongly fancied Nemo team winning the other side.

In the Final, our star midfielder Andrew Murphy was made Captain both for his magnificent displays on the path to the Final and because his Grandfather an All Ireland winning Captain for Kerry and former President of Nemo Rangers was watching from the sideline. To the consternation of the Nemo crowd present, we hammered the "bejaysus" out of the Cork side to win the Nemo Cup for Cuala for the third successive year.

The A panel of the Cuala '95's would like to thank Zita McDermott and Jenny Drummond for organising the Nemo trip. They organised everything from Accommodation, Meals, First Aid for baby sitting while the rest of the mentors went to a local bar to fine tune the match tactics for the Final.

League

League table for U14 Football Division 2

Team	P	W	L	D	Pts
Cuala A	12	10	2	0	20
Ballinteer St John	11	10	1	0	20
Castleknock A	12	7	5	0	14
St Judes A	9	6	2	1	13
Whitehall Colmcille A	11	4	7	0	8
Naomh OP/ER A	13	4	9	0	8
Cluain Tarbh	11	3	7	1	7
Naomh Barrog A	11	0	11	0	0

Having been relegated from Division 1 the previous season our main goal in Football for the year was to regain Division 1 status. As mentioned previously, we lost our opening 2 matches of the season to St. Judes and Ballinteer St. Johns. We have since beaten them in the return leg. With 2 matches left to

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go in the league (at time of writing) we have secured 2nd spot and promotion to Division 1 and we are still in with a chance of winning the league if Ballinteer slip up in their final 3 matches.

Football Feile

We enter the Division 2 Feile on winning roll after the Nemo Tournament and a number of high profile wins in league. The group stages were held in St. Brigids where we saw off St. Brigids, Ballinteer and St. Judes to set up a meeting with Castleknock in the Semi Finals on the Sunday morning.

We beat Castleknock in a keenly contested match only to find ourselves drawn against St. Judes in Final in Parnell Park. Having lost to them in the early stages of the league our lads were determined to win, which we did in some style to win the Dublin Division 2 Football Feile.

As division 2 winners we went on to represent Dublin in the Division 2 All Ireland Feile competition in Kildare. Our hosts for the event were Suncroft. We owe Suncroft a dept of gratitude for the way they invited us into their lives for the weekend of the Feile, they really took our boys into their homes and supported us all the way. After finishing first in our group we then had a very tough challenge against Celbridge in the semi finals. We had watched Dunboyne in their semi final against O'Donnovan Rossa and knew we were up against it in the final.

The final was held in Gaelic Park in Newbridge and was an occasion the lads will remember for evermore. But it is the path to the Feile All Ireland final that the lads will remember not the winning or the losing. The preparation the boys did themselves and as a unit brought them closer as friends and as a team and that is what I think the Feile stands for. The parents of the U14 age group are unbelievable and especially Zita McDermott and Jenny Drummond, the management only had to look after the playing side of things, Zita and Jenny did everything else from the accommodation to the lads nutrition needs for the whole weekend.

Taking to the field in front of thousands of supporters was a great occasion for the lads and they played their best football we have ever seen them play in the first half. But Dunboyne must have got some half time talk from manager Sean Boylan and they came out fighting and we finished three points behind. But as they say you have to know how to lose before you can appreciate how to win and this will stand to the lads in the future.

It is weekend's like this that you really appreciate what we have in Cuala and the supporters that came and stayed for the weekend was fantastic, so thank you all. We certainly would not have got so far in the competition were it not for the support and players from the U13's – and they will take this experience to the Feile in 2010. It was great to get to an All Ireland final and to finish runners up, it was a great achievement for the lads but it is the journey we took together that was really the reward for all concerned.

Christmas Party/Award Ceremony

The 1995's will hold a Christmas outing to Meath for a paintball teambuilding exercise and then we will hold a Mentors/Parents Soiree back in Cuala on Saturday 5th December.

Fundraising

The 1995's bag packed in Tesco's and Dunnes Stores in order to pay for the Feile related team expenses incurred during the year.

Conclusion

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When we coach or manage teams we are given the responsibility of the players parents and Cuala to do the best job we can. And I find the more you put in the more you get back and we in the U14's are very lucky with the Lads we have. But never have we been more proud to see the lads voluntarily give something back to the club as they arrive every Saturday morning to the nursery to help coach and nurture the future of Cuala. Well done lads.

1995'S (U14B)

Hurling

We had a very busy hurling season this year and unfortunately we narrowly missed out on promotion last week from Division 4 to Division 3.

However, the highlight of the year for all under 14's has to be the Féile, the buzz amongst the Kids when the word Féile is mentioned is fantastic – new gear, new gear bags, challenge games down the country it's all part and parcel of the hype. Expectations are very high.

Finally, the weekend Féile arrives, we collect a huge amount of fresh fruit from Wag (owner of the fruit shop at Ballybrack shopping centre) all the Kids are togged out in their new Cuala track suits and their new gear bags full of sweets and chocolate – so much for a healthy diet.

We were drawn against Croabh Ciarán and St. Annes on the Saturday morning and finished runners up to Ciaráns so we then had to travel to Mobhi road to play St. Vincents in the semi final in the afternoon. It was touch and go for the 40 minutes and at end of a fantastic game we beat them by two points. We were in the Dublin Féile final.

Furthermore we won the toss for home advantage so our Féile final was to be played in front of our own fans in Dalkey the following morning against Na Fianna. A huge crowd arrived to support us in Hyde Park on a glorious summer's morning. Both teams were confident of victory and everybody was expecting a great game of hurling, we weren't disappointed, the level of skill from both teams was awesome. For the first 15 minutes of the game there was no score but plenty of chances and great defending from both sides. Eventually we scored a goal and in the second half we struck over four more points without reply. We had beaten Na Fianna in the final 1-4 to no score.

A big **Thank You** to all parents and friends that helped and supported us throughout the year.

We are the Dublin Féile 2009 Division 6 Champions!

Team Mentors: Brendan Stanley, Aongus Maloney and Patsy Greene.

Football

This year we played in Div. 4 after getting promoted from Div.6 but unfortunately this jump of 2 divisions proved a very difficult task. We won 3 matches during the year and finished up in the bottom 3. However, 2 of these 3 wins were one point victories over Kilmacud and Na Fianna, who both finished in the top 3. These wins indicate the potential that's in this team.

The highlight of the year was participating in the Feile. We played our group matches in Sandyford, hosted by Nh Olaf. We got off to a reasonable start by drawing our first match but we lost our next two matches to finish 3rd in the group. This was a fantastic experience which will live long in the minds of all the players,mentors & parents.

Taking into consideration our lack of victories this year, the enthusiasm shown by all the players has been fantastic. Out of a panel of 26, at least 20 turn up for training every week. If this level of commitment is maintained this team will be a force to be reckoned with in the future.

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Team Mentors: Patsy Greene, Aonghus Moloney and Brendan Stanley.

1994's U15'As

Hurling

The Under 15 hurlers had a great season. They won the Division 1 championship final on the 27th September with a fine victory over Ballyboden St Edna's, preceded by wins over Kilmacud Crokes and Whitehall. They were also runners up (to Ballyboden) in the first division of the U15 league. Mentors and the many club members who supported the team in the championship were impressed by the intensity, work-rate, organization and skill that characterised the team's performances.

The team was ably led by captain and championship final man-of-the-match, Colm Cronin. Players from the Under 14 hurling panel also contributed significantly to the U15s' league and championship campaigns, and the U15 mentors are indebted to Ken O'Sullivan, Willie Braine and others involved with the U14 team for their unstinting support during the season. Colm O'Giollain also made a huge contribution to the training and preparation of the team, the foundations for the team's progress having been laid during consistently well-attended winter training sessions in Carysfort National School. As ever, parents of the U15s and U14s were supportive throughout.

Mentors: Declan Cronin, Colm O'Giollain, Aidan McMahon, Justin Phelan, Bill Roche.

Football

Mentors: John Mc Keown, Aidan Mc Mahon, Maurice O' Callaghan, Brian Mullally, John Gallagher, Declan Cronin.

Following on from last years team report where we stated "we are looking forward to the 2009 Season at U15 level and the fixture change to Sunday mornings!!" The change to Sundays brought its own problems where we did not have access to all players from the panel of 23 due to conflict with other sporting codes.

We commenced the 2009 Season on the 25th January with a friendly against St. Judes, which we won. The first two league fixtures on the 1st (vs. Ballinteer) and 8th (vs. Na Fianna) of February were cancelled due to pitches being unplayable and we had our first outing at home to Templeogue with a comprehensive win on 15th February. We had eight more fixtures up to the summer break recording 4 wins and 4 loses.

Returning after a well earned rest we had consecutive games against Kilmacud Crokes on 23rd August (league) and 6th September (championship) which we lost. We continued to U15 A Shield competition with wins against Templeogue in the quarterfinal on 20th September and St. Judes in the semi-final on 11th October and looking forward to the Shield Final vs. Ballinteer St. Johns in early November.

A very important win (by 1 point) was obtained away to Na Fianna on 18th October (back match referred to earlier) and hopefully should secure Division 1 status at U16 level next year. Three remaining league fixtures to be played - home to St. Sylvesters and Ballinteer and away to Ballyboden.

We would like to congratulate the players who represented the club on the U15 Development Squad and Dublin Colleges Team and I would like to sincerely thank my fellow mentors and parents for all their hard work and support over the past year as we look forward to the 2010 Season and Saturday fixtures once again.

Finally, the U15 Mentors would like to extend our gratitude to Willie Braine and Patsy Greene who supplied U14 Panel Members throughout the season.

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1994's U15B's

Under 15Bs Panel 21 Division 5

Mentors; Kevin Kennedy, Ciaran Irwin , John Ryan, Barry Tiernan.

We started off the year with a team building trip to Scotland. Thirty of us travelled including parents Friday 4am and arrived home exhausted Sunday evening. A great time was had by all and events included Cycling, 5 aside soccer, trip to Celtic park and a game against the local GAA team.

Numbers in attendance were strong throughout the year for both matches and training we were narrowly beaten in the championship semi final and finished off this year 2nd in Division 5.

We are looking forward to next year Under 16s before the lads head into the Minor division.

Many thanks for the parental support throughout the year and also the help from the under 14s in times of need.

1. Proposals to Club AGM (to be voted on at Juvenile AGM)

In order to better manage the welfare of players and team morale, all requests for players to play with a team or in an age group other than their own must only be made between the nominated managers of both teams.

2. Nominations for Juvenile Committee

Committee 2009		Nominations for election to 2010 Committee	Proposed	Seconded
Chairman	Rob Hartnett	Rob Hartnett		
Vice Chairman	John McKeown	Donal Murphy		
Secretary	Stephen Connolly	Stephen Connolly		
Treasurer	Cormac O O'Tighearnaigh	Cormac O O'Tighearnaigh		
Registrar	Jenny Drummond	Jenny Drummond		
PRO	Zita McDermott			
Coiste Delegate	Tadhg Murphy	Zita McDermott		
CCC1 Delegate	Damian McKeown	Damian McKeown		
CCC2 Delegate	Frank Wolohan	Frank Wolohan		