

GAA



Yearbook Supplement including the Clubs of

Aughrim
Luke O'Tooles

2021



Aughrim

Aughrim Juvenile GAA Foreword

Along with every GAA club in the country, Aughrim eagerly awaited the start of the 2021 season, the season having been delayed for a 2nd year due to the Covid pandemic. There was however unfinished business from the 2020 season to be completed 1st with the U11 football team facing Kilcoole in their mini-festival final, the U13 footballers playing in the B championship and the U15 footballers in the A Championship along with some hurling games. All 2020 games were scheduled to be played in June, and with Aughrim being a dual club this wasn't going to be easy.

Finishing the 2020 season

First up were the U11 footballers and having done so well in their league in 2020 they fancied their chances against Kilcoole. Unfortunately, on the day the lads were very ring rusty, they never got going in the first half and left themselves a mountain to climb in the second. They did eventually get on top but left their kicking boots at home too and lost out narrowly – 20pts to 16pts.

The U13 footballers played Baltinglass in the B Championship semi-final and came a cropper against a big and strong Balto team, their consolation was to play in the B Shield final against neighbours Annacurra. This game proved very entertaining from the word go, with very little in the game throughout. With man of the match Colm McGuckian scoring 0-8 points, Ryan Kinsella 0-3, Marc O' Shea 0-2, and James Lambert hitting the goal at the death, it was nice to get the win 1-13 to 0-10. Daragh Rice and Conor Wilson were two backs that played their part in a

miserly defence on the day and Pierce Carroll was a very assured goal-man. Daragh Rice accepted the Shield on behalf of the club.

The U15 team had won all their games in the 2020 league/championship and now faced into the A Championship Semi-final as favourites. Any rustiness the players had was quickly dis-guarded as they saw off St Pats in the semi-final to set up a mouth-watering final against the might of Bray Emmets. The A Final was fittingly played in the County Grounds and the Aughrim team being led from the front by Mark Shannon, Leo Byrne, Oisín Keegan, Dermot Toomey, Joe McGuckian and Alex Kavanagh got into their stride early and never looked back. The skill shown by the Aughrim team was impressive and the boys ran out convincing winners on a score of 4-12 to 3-05 to secure a first ever A championship football crown for the club. Alex Kavanagh had the honour of captaining the team and accepting the cup on behalf of his team and club. A truly great day for the club. Eugene O' Brien, Eoin Forsyth, Richard Keegan and David Murphy coached and looked after this gifted team.

You can read about the exploits of the U13 and U15 hurling under Luke O' Toole's section.

The 2021 Season

The 2021 season kicked off at the end of June and games came thick and fast for the club, again being a dual club and trying to participate in the player pathway and Feile Competitions it may have been a bit too much in a very condensed season, the club however just got on with it, it was better to be playing games than being locked down.



U7 Team A

With large numbers of kids joining the club at Academy and U7, the juvenile club expanded by 50% year on year, this was very much welcomed and bodes well for the future. Laura Stearn and Claire Fanning joined our coaching staff to help cater for the large influx of kids and they both proved a breath of fresh air to a very much dominated male coaching structure, with sisters Majella O’ Shea and Fiona McAllister Our ladies coaching staff doubled.

It was great to see the re-introduction of our Academy this year. Billy Byrne, Clare Fanning, Richie Keegan with help from other parents got these young boys and girls playing together for the first time. The kids had great fun throughout the season, and it was great to see them all having a laugh as they played away without a care in the world.



U7 Team B

U7 Football

Fair dues to the U7 football Coaches – Laura Stearn, Stephen Fanning, Ian McDonald and William Byrne and the U7 hurling coaches of Shane O’ Loughlin, Alan Byrne and Peter Quigley for handling such huge numbers of kids. At many a football blitz we fielded 3 teams and at hurling 2

teams. Hopefully this will be the start of a new generation of kids playing for Aughrim in the years to come. The club would like to acknowledge and thank Byrne’s Londis for sponsoring a set of jerseys for the U7 squad during the year too, with Siobhan, Monica and William Byrne all having kids playing, it was money well spent.

U9 Football

The U9 football squad was coached by Declan O’ Brien, Niall Byrne, Derek Kavanagh and John Gunning and with big numbers they needed all the help they could get, In U9

hurling, it was Donal Rice, Philip Doyle and Fiona McAllister looking after the team. Both codes enjoyed some great blitzes throughout the season, more than holding their own against other clubs.



U11 Football

U11 Football

The U11 football team was coached by Paul Cullen and Padraig Connell. The team was put into a Div. 2 league, which was probably that bit too strong for them. They were competitive in a lot of games but struggled to get a few wins that would encourage them to keep playing, it was a sharp learning curve for these young lads and hopefully they will be the stronger for it. The U11 hurling team was

coached by Majella and Sean O' Shea with Shane O' Loughlin taking the team for matches. The team played in Div. 2 and were shy on numbers, needing some U9's to make up the team at times. They played well all year and gained a lot of confidence as the year went on. They beat St Pats of Wicklow in their Mini Festival final, with Vanessa Toomey, Sophie O' Loughlin and Fia Doyle, 3 great young ladies contributing to the win.

U13 Football



The U13 footballers played in Div. 2 in 2021 and this again was probably a division too high for them. They struggled all year but did manage to beat Shillelagh/Coolboy and Baltinglass during the year. They finished 4th in the group,

lost to Annacurra in the B Championship semi-final, and then lost to St Kevin's in the B Shield Final. A tough year for the players and mentors – Rory McElhinney, John Byrne, Sean Keenan & JP Byrne.

U15 Football



The U15 Football team played in Div. 2 of the league and did reasonably well. They were up against a lot of big teams – AGB, Clara Gaels, Shillelagh/Coolboy, St Nick's, St Kevin's, Rathnew and Baltinglass, but were able to hold their own. Eoin Forsyth and Sean O' Shea coached the team with the help of Eugene O' Brien. The team finished 5th in the league, played Rathnew in a Plate semi-final and St Nick's in the Plate final, where the team dug deep and won after extra-time and against the odds - including 2 harsh sending offs

and several player injuries on the day. It really was a tough year though; the team played many a game with only 13 players due to covid and injury. The team lost out in the B Feile final too, losing out to Michael Dwyer's. With just 14 players to choose from, 2 lads picking up injuries on the day and playing a full-size pitch it was just too much to ask from a very committed team that just ran out of steam in the second half.

U17 Football

Moving on to U17 Football, the Michael Hogan's combination of Aughrim, Avoca and Avondale played in Div. 2 of the league and after a few defeats along the way managed to finish 2nd in the league. They faced Eire Og in the B Championship final, but on a windswept day in Wicklow Town, where the team struggled to master the elements, they came out on the losing side of a 2-06 to 0-8 defeat. Coaches from Aughrim were Pete Carroll, John Gunning

All in all, 2021 was tough, if anyone thought they could get ahead of themselves after the exploits of winning an U15 A Football championship and an A U13 Hurling Championship in 2020, 2021 showed everyone that getting to the top needs a massive effort but to stay at the top needs an even bigger effort. Roll on 2022 and let's see where that brings for us.



U9 Hurling



U11 Hurling Mini Festival Final Winners



Luke O'Toole's GAA

U15 A plate final to finish the 2020 season before even considering the 2021 season.

Foreword

2021 was a strange year for all clubs as Covid remained the centre of attention, there was the small but very important matter of the 2020 Gaa season finishing before the 2021 season could kick off and, in the background, there was always the concern that the 2021 season could be put on hold due to another lockdown. Luke O' Toole's had an U13 A Championship final to be played, an U13 B Plate final and an

Finishing the 2020 season

Unfortunately, the window to finish the 2020 season was only 3 weeks and with Aughrim U15 footballers contesting an A Championship semi-final and possible final it was decided to pull out of the U15 A Plate hurling final which was fixed just days before the U15 Football semi-final. This left the U13 A Championship final and the U13 B Plate final to be played.



U13 A

First up was the U13 A Final and Luke O' Toole's took on a very fancied Arklow Rocks team on a very hot day in Ballinakill. The game was a real cracker from beginning to end with the lead changing hands on numerous occasions. With ARP ahead by 4 points with 4 minutes remaining on the clock you would have bet your house on them taking home the cup, however there are a lot of big characters in the Luke's team, they believe in one another, and 4 separate players hit 4 points to draw level and bring the game to extra time. The team

pushed on in extra time playing the hurling we knew they were capable of, to go 6 points clear before allowing AGB back into the game with a goal just before the final whistle. Final score 4-14 to 4-11, The final whistle was greeted with wild celebrations from the players, the U13 B team (who were waiting to play their final next), the coaches - Sean O' Shea, Majella O' Shea and Donal Rice and some very tense supporters. Well done to all concerned, the result was testament to the hard work that everyone put in in 2020 and early 2021.

U13B



The U13 B team had to play their final immediately after the A Championship trophy was presented to their teammates and they weren't at all clued in. Going from a celebration, to a very short warm up and straight into a final wasn't the best preparation and Kilcoole took full advantage. They had 5 goals scored before Luke's knew they were actually playing a

game. The lads finally lifted themselves and put it up to Kilcoole, but the damage was done, even though they played their hearts out they couldn't get in for the big scores that could close the gap quicker. They eventually ran out of time and lost on a score of 7-02 to 2-08, knowing it all could have been so much different.

The 2021 Season

Luke's fielded at U15, U14, U13 and U12 in the shortened 2021 season with the hope of building on the 2020 season and although not reaching the heights of 2020, there was still a lot of good progression.

U15's



The U15 team made up largely of U14 players had a mixed season, they had good wins over Kilcoole, Western Gaels and Michael Dwyer's, drew with Bray early on and lost narrowly to St Pats and Glenealy but went down heavily to Carnew and ARP. They played Glenealy in the Plate Semi-final and having led all the way were pipped at the post by a point. Their final game of the year was 3 days later in the U15 Trophy final against a very big Bray team and played under lights. Having shipped some heavy knocks from the Glenealy game, the team was totally understrength and with the added disadvantage of playing under lights for the first time they were well beaten in the end.

The U14 Player pathway didn't work out too well for the team either, the team played Bardarrig early on and won out easily

enough, they then played St Pats in a great game of hurling with Pat's turning the tide at the death when Luke's were unfortunate to be reduced to 14 players. Eire Og then conceded to us leaving us with one final game against ARP. With so many players carrying injuries from a very condensed season, we too conceded. Coaches for both teams were Sean O' Shea, Majella O' Shea, Donal Rice and Eamonn Byrne.

When the U14 Hurling County Development Squad got to play a few games, the Club was well represented, with 10 players doing their bit for the County, the squad played games v Carlow, Kildare and Laois and it was great to see the lads wearing the Blue & Gold for the first time. Sean O' Shea too got involved with the coaching of the squad.

U13's



The U13 hurlers had a very good year. It did not get off to a great start though with their first outing resulting in a loss to Carnew and their second outing resulting in a single point loss to Kilcoole. The team showed great character and followed this with excellent wins over Eire Og, St Patricks, Glenealy, ARP and Bray Emmets. A draw in their final league game against Michael Dwyer resulted in both teams tying for joint 3rd position on the league table. A draw was taken to decide the semi-final teams. Luke O'Toole's drew Carnew. Although Carnew had topped the table, it didn't faze the boys

at all, they put in a storming performance but were just edged out after a pulsating and tense contest. It was end-to-end drama, and the hurling was excellent by both teams. At half time, the teams were tied at 1-4 a piece but in the second half Carnew scored 2-3 to Luke O'Toole's 1-3 and that goal was decisive and as much as Luke's tried to equalise, it never materialised. Luke O'Toole's went on to meet Michael Dwyer's in the U13A Shield final. On this occasion Luke O'Toole's emerged victorious from a keenly contested final winning 4-6 to 1-5.

U12's



With a big squad the U12 player pathway was used to great effect to give the younger U12 players some valuable game time. They started their campaign in June with a superb win over Kilcoole at home. This was followed by a well-earned draw against ARP, both teams showing excellent scoring abilities. Luke O'Toole's went on to win their remaining

matches in excellent style and we look forward to seeing how this team progresses in 2022.

Looking forward to 2022, we have good numbers at most age groups and some very good players very interested in playing hurling, hopefully we can keep them interested in the game with the goal of fielding a minor team each year in the very near future.