

Naomh Olaf Ladies' Football

By Ursula Maher, Camillus Kilpatrick, Finbarr O'Driscoll and Harry O'Crowley

1991- 1993: Adult

Ladies' Football came into existence in Naomh Olaf back in February 1991, more by accident than by any major planning exercise. Sinead Worthington was one of the many young people that had followed and enjoyed the success of the Naomh Olaf men's Intermediate football team and often heard the girls supporting the team say how nice it would be if they had a team of their own. Sinead decided to do something about it and she approached the Chairman of the Club, Kevin Birrane, and suggested forming a Ladies' Gaelic Football team. Sinead went about calling on people that she knew were fit and lively, and asked them to come along to a training session to see if they'd be interested in playing Gaelic football for the club. The first training session was held on 3rd April, 1991 and Sinead was delighted with the large turn-out for training. Perhaps this had something to do with the fine male specimens from the Naomh Olaf men's Intermediate team that Sinead had managed to persuade to train and act as mentors for the team, but either way she managed to get enough interest from girls in the area to get involved, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Naomh Olaf Senior Ladies' GAA team had their first competitive match at Wedgewood on the 24th April 1991. Although they were beaten, they gave a very good account of themselves, considering the team had only been together for three weeks beforehand. Few could have anticipated the amount of interest, entertainment and excitement that this team would bring to the community in its first year of existence,

and the numbers of supporters grew each week on the sidelines. The team consisted of a number of sisters from well-known families in the community – the Naughton sisters, Michelle and Vivienne, the de Búrca sisters, Fiona and Eimear and the Maher sisters, Ursula, Jennifer and Deirdre. Others were talked into joining as they were friends of the groups of sisters, or they played either basketball or soccer with them.

In their first year playing GAA football for Naomh Olaf, the team went on to achieve great success, finishing second in Division 2 of the league. Ursula Maher and Jennifer Maher were selected to play on the Dublin Ladies' Junior football team, while Deirdre Maher was selected to play on the Dublin Ladies' Minor football team. This was a fabulous achievement for the team to have the Dublin selectors recognise the girls' ability, considering they were all playing in only their first season of the Dublin Ladies' GAA league.

The Naomh Olaf Ladies' Junior football team continued to grow in stature and was beginning to get noticed by the established teams in Division 1 of the Senior league. Chairperson of the club, Kevin Birrane, approached Finbarr O'Driscoll in early 1992 at Queen of Angels P.S. and pressed him to set up a juvenile team, as the school had been competing in the Dublin Cumann na mBunscol girls' league at the time. The Dublin Ladies' Juvenile leagues at the time were comprised of U14, 16 and 18 teams. Under 16 seemed the most viable age-group by way of player numbers and so a team was entered in that competition. Even though a number of the team had just progressed out of primary school, they

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competed well against some of the more established teams at the time. Finbarr believed that the future of the Senior team depended on bringing girls through from the schools in the locality. Many of the girls progressed on to the Senior team at an early age, such as their high level of ability and skills. They included Sarah Kilpatrick, Emma Wyse, Aisling Doyle-Rauf, Síle Nic Coitir, Roseanna Murphy and Myra Kelly.

That same year (1992), Sarah Kilpatrick was chosen to play on the Cumann na mBunscol selection that played at half-time in Croke Park on All-Ireland Final Sunday when Derry defeated Cork in the Senior decider.

By September 1993, Vivienne Naughton, Ailish Flynn, Paula Feehan and Roseanna Murphy were all selected to play for Dublin in the Under 16 Leinster Championship while Vivienne was also selected to play for the Dublin Ladies' Minor team. That year, Finbarr entered the club team in the Under 14 Dublin competitions where they competed reasonably successfully.

October 1993 provided the first success for Naomh Olaf ladies when they won Division 2 of the league and were promoted to Division 1 for the following year.

The team was made up of a large number of girls involved in other sports, mainly basketball: Liz Irwin, Ailish Flynn, Catherine McKenna, Fionnuala Birrane and Vivienne Naughton. There were also a number of newcomers to the team at that time, namely Janet Slattery and Pádraigín Mooney. They proved to be a vital addition to the squad. One of the key reasons for the team's success, thus far, was the support they received from Kevin Birrane who

helped to set up the team initially, but also undoubtedly, the support of their trainer and mentor, Derek Dowling. Derek was a qualified GAA coach and he put huge effort into the team. Time is perhaps one of the most difficult things to commit to and Derek was also coaching the U11s and playing with the Intermediate men's team; he was also a member of the Dublin Senior panel and the girls were very lucky that he chose to be blessed amongst women! Derek was assisted by Kevin Curtin and the team worked very hard in training to prepare for their new season in Division 1 of the Senior league.

1993: Juvenile

Vivienne Naughton and Fionnuala Birrane played for the Dublin U16 Ladies football team and Vivienne also played Dublin Ladies' Minor football that year. Ursula Maher played for the Dublin Ladies' Junior team.

1994

On 26th February 1994, the Ladies Junior football team had their first Presentation Night when they were presented with their medals for winning Division 2 of the league by the Dublin football star, Paul Curran. It was a memorable occasion for the girls with over 300 club members in attendance and there was a tremendous atmosphere. A special presentation was made to their mentors, Derek Dowling and Kevin Curtin, to thank them for their contribution to the team's success.

The Ladies' team:

Denise Lawless, Catherine McKenna, Amanda Timmons, Ailish Flynn, Fionnuala Birrane, Paula Feehan, Vivienne Naughton, Christine Mulhall, Sarah Kilpatrick, Fiona de Búrca, Deirdre Maher, Jenny Maher, Ursula Maher (Capt), Siobhan Byrne, Pádraigín Mooney, Anne Marie McGlynn, Janet Slat-

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tery, Gillian Rooney, Sinead Worthington, Liz Irwin, Róisín Cray, Michelle Naughton, Susan Brodigan, Tanya Deveraux and Roseanne Murphy.

1995 (July – September): Adult

The Ladies' Senior football team were riding on the crest of a wave in 1995 as they received a major boost when eight ladies from the Blackrock rugby team joined the club. They included some outstanding players like Aoife Rogers, Vicki McDonnell, Joanne Moore, Emer Doyle, Nicola Doyle, Angela Cox, Suzanne Corcoran and Deborah Byrne. A number of players had been with the club since 1991 and were still to the fore, particularly the Maher sisters, Deirdre, Ursula and Jenny, Vivienne Naughton and her sister Michelle, Paula Feehan, Sinead Worthington, Amanda Timmons and Gillian Rooney. There were also a number of outstanding new players on the panel, most of whom were still very young, such as Ceara Nic Coitir and her younger sister Síle, Emma Wyse, Fionnuala Birrane, Myra Kelly, Aisling Doyle-Rauf, Aisling Dillon and Sarah Kilpatrick.

The team won a 7-a-side competition that was held in Lucan in July, and they also beat St Mark's in the first round of the Championship at home, 3-7 to 1-4. In the second round of the Championship, they beat the 1994 Championship winners, Robert Emmet's, 3-8 to 2-4. It was a very exciting game in which many of the girls played well but none shone brighter than Vicki McDonnell, Vivienne Naughton, Síle Cotter and Emma Doyle.

The ladies were now facing their first semi-final in the Championship against one of the top ladies' Gaelic football teams in Dublin for several years, Marino. The game was played in front of an enthusiastic crowd in a sun-drenched O'Toole Park. Vivienne Naughton opened the scoring in the second minute

with a point from play. Jenny Maher and Aoife Rogers added further points before Marino got their first score – a goal from play. A point from Ursula Maher and another from Aoife Rogers restored the lead and a well-taken goal by Michelle Naughton made the half-time score 1-5 to 1-0. Marino scored another quick goal after the resumption but in the 44th minute, Joanne Moore stretched the Naomh Olaf lead to three points. Marino replied with a brace of points, leaving only one point between them.

However, superior fitness enabled Naomh Olaf to add two further points from Vivienne Naughton and Ursula Maher, resulting in a final score of Naomh Olaf 1-8 to Marino 2-2. This was a very entertaining game of fast-flowing football with few fouls committed by either side. The commitment and dedication of the Naomh Olaf team was refreshing, and they thoroughly deserved their win.

The final was played in O'Toole Park on the 4th August and the opposition was the formidable Portobello side that had been defeated in the Championship Final in the previous two years, and won it back in 1992. There was a great feeling of anticipation and excitement within the club and, once again, the team were very well supported by club members.

The girls never under-estimated the opposition, having played them previously in the league, but many of the young Naomh Olaf players were obviously affected by the big occasion. The team were slow to settle but while they were led by 1-7 to 1-3 at the interval, the issue was still in some doubt. In the 25th minute, Vivienne Naughton scored one of the best goals ever seen in O'Toole Park. Having gained possession forty-five yards out, she soloed straight towards goal and from twenty-five yards, she kicked a bullet-like shot to the right corner of the net. Mighty

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defending in the second period by Naomh Olaf, and an exchange of points, ensured that Portobello did not extend their lead until the fifty-third minute of the game. For the final seven minutes, the superior strength and experience of Portobello told, and they scored goals in the fifty-eighth and fifty-ninth minutes to leave the final score 3-11 to 1-4.

As the teams gathered in the centre of the field after the game for the presentation of the Cup, there were tears to be seen as many of the girls could not hide their disappointment. The team captain, Ursula Maher, helped to change all that. She was very gracious and charming as she spoke on behalf of the team during the presentation and congratulated Portobello on becoming Dublin County Champions for 1995.

1995: Juvenile

Finbarr O'Driscoll stepped down from running the U14 team at the end of the season. He sent his best wishes to Camillus Kilpatrick and Ceara Nic Coitir

and wished them every success for the years ahead as they took over the reins of the Juvenile section of Ladies' football. Finbarr also thanked all those who helped him over the years. They were Camillus, Úna and Seán Kilpatrick, John Ivory, Sinead Worthington, Declan and Mary Harpur and Kay Doyle for transporting the team to away matches on a regular basis. Finbarr also looked back on a year to remember. It was a great year at club level with Naomh Olaf ladies finishing as runners-up in both the League and Championship to Portobello – a notable achievement indeed.

The Senior team had seven of the U18s on the panel; in fact five of the panel were U16 with 4 being U14. Six of those players played for Dublin during the course of the year. Vivienne Naughton played with the Dublin U18s that lost out to Wexford. Vivienne also played with the Senior team with Ceara Nic Coitir and were unlucky to lose to Westmeath in the



*Naomh Olaf Ladies' Senior Football Team 1991 - Back row l to r: Susan Brodigan, Gay O'Brien, Deirdre Maher, Jenny Maher, Ursula Maher, Anne Marie McGlynn, Helen Irwin, Sinead Worthington, Noelle Wilson, Liz Irwin, Valerie Monaghan, Lisa Fitzpatrick, Eimear de Búrca
Front row l to r: Fiona de Búrca, Vivienne Naughton, Ailish Flynn, Paula Feehan, Amanda Timmons, Catherine McKenna, Niamh Supple, Yvonne Mulvey, Audrey Dowling.*

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All-Ireland B Championship. Emma Wyse played for the U16 Dublin team that lost to Wexford in the Leinster Final. Síle Nic Coitir was also drafted into the panel for the Final.

The highlight of the year at inter-county level was the performance of the U14 Dublin team that beat Wicklow, Wexford and Laois to win the Leinster title for the first time ever but, unfortunately, lost narrowly to Monaghan in the All-Ireland semi-final at Ardee. Naomh Olaf had four players who contributed significantly to Dublin's success. They were Sarah Kilpatrick, Myra Kelly, Síle Nic Coitir and Aisling Doyle-Rauf. Aisling was still under age the following year. The same players contributed to Dublin success in the All-Ireland and Leinster Blitz. By way of promoting girls' football, the television programme 'The Grip' featured Dublin and Wexford at U14/U16 Level. The Naomh Olaf girls did us very proud. This was followed by a second programme

featuring mixed inter-county teams from Dublin and Mayo at U18 level. Fionnuala Birrane and Brendan McGlynn represented Naomh Olaf on this outing to Mayo.

1996 – 1997: Adult

Naomh Olaf Ladies' football team reached the Championship final again in 1996 and yet again they were defeated by Portobello. However, on that occasion it was only after a replay: 1-9 to 0-9.

In the 1997 Championship first round, Naomh Olaf were drawn against their rivals Portobello and it promised to be a great game. That year brought about a number of changes for the team, as eight of the 1996 panel were unavailable. Sinead Worthington hung up her boots and four of the team went backpacking their way around Australia – Michelle Naughton, Gillian Rooney, Ceara Cotter and Deborah Byrne. Nicola Doyle was due her second baby, Róisín Cray was advised to take a break for a year to



Naomh Olaf Ladies' Senior Football Team Winners of Division 2 of the League 1993 - Back row l to r: Deirdre Maher, Eimear de Búrca, Siobhan Byrne, Pdraigín Mooney, Anne Marie McGlynn, Janet Slattery, Gillian Rooney, Sinead Worthington, Jenny Maher, Ursula Maher, Liz Irwin, Róisín Cray. Front row l to r: Denise Lawless, Catherine McKenna, Amanda Timmons, Ailish Flynn, Fionnuala Birrane, Paula Feehan, Vivienne Naughton, Christine Mulhall, Sarah Kilpatrick, Fiona de Búrca.

give her broken collarbone time to mend and Anne Marie McGlynn took a break to finish her exams.

However, every cloud has a silver lining and five new players arrived for the 1997 season: Anne-Marie Kyne, Ursula Kyne, Edel O’Gorman, Cathy Mullin and Nicola Doherty. Edel O’Gorman was an exciting talent who played for Wexford and she was one of the best female footballers in the country. Her work rate per game was astonishing and her passing and support play were second to none. The younger members of the team put in trojan performances in the Senior ladies’ games. Special mention must go to Myra Kelly who was playing corner-back for the Senior team. Her performances were so consistent and she gave 100% in every game. She was also playing on the Dublin U16 team. Síle Nic Coitir was also playing phenomenal football and her ability to take on older, more physical players at such a young age gave a great boost to the team. Síle was also representing her county in both Camogie and Gaelic Football at U16 level. Aisling Doyle-Rauf, Sarah Kilpatrick, Cathy Deveraux, Emma Wyse, Michelle Muldoon and Sinead Byrne were also playing at U16 level and on the Senior Ladies’ football team.

Amanda Timmons made a great comeback to the ladies’ team that season as she made up for lost time with some excellent performances at centre-half back. The ‘rugger buggers’, Vikki McDonnell, Aoife Rogers, Helen Raftery and Joanne Moore, had a brilliant season in 1996 and Vikki was selected as the regular full-back for the Dublin Junior team. The new additions from the world of basketball, Ursula and Anne-Marie Kyne who play with Naomh Mhuire, were no strangers to the Naomh Olaf clubhouse as they have had many battles with West Coast Coolers who played their home basketball games there.

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Another major asset was the combined family contribution of Ursula, Jenny and Deirdre Maher, all fine athletes and accomplished Gaelic footballers. They were the spine of the team. Deirdre was playing exceptional football at full-back in ensuring that forwards didn’t score. She was also playing full-back for the Dublin Junior team and was turning in some awesome performances. She was feared by all who had to mark her because once she saw the ball, nothing else would get in her way. Jennifer’s fitness levels were at their best and her partnership with Edel O’Gorman in midfield had the ability to run ragged any other midfield pairing in Dublin. Ursula was playing full-forward with the club team and playing in goal for the Dublin Junior team.

Morale was high in the squad at that time and they were only beaten once that year in the league. The players were committed to achieving the highest honours in the game, both at club and, where selected, at county level too. The mentors, Kevin Curtin and Paddy Feehan, put in a massive effort to train the ladies’ team which must have been difficult for them considering they were both playing football for the Naomh Olaf Senior men’s team at the same time. Paddy’s no nonsense attitude ensured that the team remained focused. Paddy and Kevin were constantly reminding the team of the challenges that lay ahead, which encouraged the girls to work really hard in training.

1996: Juvenile

Ladies’ football was the fastest growing sport in Ireland that year. Olaf’s were growing fast at Juvenile level. It was also the year that Kilmacud Crokes and Ballinteer St John’s set up Ladies’ football within their respective clubs.

This year was Camillus Kilpatrick’s first year in

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charge of the U16s and U14s. It also saw Ceara Nic Coitir helping out with the training of the Juvenile teams, setting the trend for other Senior players to follow in the future years. They finished 3rd behind the big guns of Ballyboden St Enda's and St Brigid's. Naomh Olaf worked hard in persuading girls locally to give football a go. The priority was to provide plenty of football for everyone and, at the same time, achieve as much success as possible. Both of these had been attained. Of the newcomers, Michelle Muldoon at U16 and Caroline Nolan, Emma Doyle and Aoife Birrane at U14, were the pick of the bunch.

Aisling Doyle-Rauf played with Dublin U14s in their defence of the Leinster title which they had won the previous year. They lost out to Meath in the Leinster Final who went on to win the All-Ireland Final. Sinead Byrne (Bearna Park), Nicola Thornton and Sinead Byrne (Sandyford Park) were also part of the Dublin panel. They all received their Leinster runner-up medals at a presentation in the Cuckoo's Nest.

Dublin U14s won the annual Leinster blitz held in Carlow. Aisling and Sinead Byrne (Bearna Park) played with the 'A' Panel and Nicola and Sinead Byrne (Sandyford Park) played with the 'B' Panel.

Five of the U16 players were a permanent part of the Senior team that year. They were Emma Wyse, Sarah Kilpatrick, Myra Kelly, Síle Nic Coitir and Aisling Doyle-Rauf who was U14. The youth policy at Naomh Olaf was very successful. Emma Wyse and Síle Nic Coitir were on the Dublin U16 county team that lost to Meath that year.

Six of the Naomh Olaf Senior players were on the Dublin panel that year that played in the 'B' Championship. They were Ursula, Jenny and Deirdre Ma-

her along with Vicki McDonnell, Ceara Nic Coitir and Vivienne Naughton.

1997: Juvenile

This year the U16 team was managed by Camillus Kilpatrick and Ger O'Malley. Ger also came on board to look after the training of the girls. Others to come on board were Joe Jackson and Joe Byrne (Bearna Park) to help out, especially on match days. The six players from this team also played Senior football that year. They were Sarah Kilpatrick, Sinead Byrne, Aisling Doyle-Rauf, Cathy Deveraux, Myra Kelly and Síle Nic Coitir. Five players were on the Dublin U16 County team panel. They were Sarah Kilpatrick, Myra Kelly, Síle Cotter, Aisling Doyle-Rauf and Sinead Byrne.

1998: Adult

The Ladies' Senior Football team got a new manager that year, Pat Henry from Swinford, Co. Mayo. Pat had been persuaded to take on the role by the club's then PRO, Brendan McGlynn. His first match was against Portobello in the league and a lack of fitness and inaccuracy in front of goal proved decisive for Portobello who ran out early winners. The following match, against An Garda away, saw a much improved team performance but unfortunately Naomh Olaf lost that game by a solitary point.

The team then travelled to Roundwood and recorded a resounding victory. A feature of this match was the brilliant kicking out of the ball by Deirdre Maher, the full-back. The ball dropped a full 50 yards out, to be fielded practically every time by the star midfielder Edel O'Gorman. What a sad loss it was for the team for the forthcoming championship when Edel announced that she was leaving the team to travel to Australia for a year.



Naomh Olaf U16 Team 1996 - Back row l to r: Michelle Muldoon, Noreen Dowling, Cathy Deveraux, Sinead Byrne (Bearná Pk), Jennifer Byrne, Jennifer Ivory, Nicola Thornton, Sarah Kilpatrick, Shauna Connors, Sinead Byrne (Sandyford Pk). Front row l to r: Amy Kilpatrick, Myra Kelly, Linda Kilpatrick, Aoife Birrane, Triona Harpur, Orla Lynch, Síle Cotter, Aisling Doyle-Rauf, Ciara Emmett.



Naomh Olaf Ladies' Senior Football Team - Dublin Championship Finalists 1998 - Back row l to r: Fionnuala Birrane, Helen Raftery, Joanne Moore, Carol-Anne Byrne, Vicki McDonnell, Deirdre Maher, Ursula Maher (Capt), Cathy Muldoon, Anne-Marie Kyne, Siobhan Byrne, Pat Henry (Mentor). Front row l to r: Jenny Maher, Amanda Timmons, Caitriona O'Gorman, Eileen Hickey, Michelle Muldoon, Paula Feehan, Ceara Nic Coitir, Síle Nic Coitir, Aisling Doyle-Rauf, Sarah Kilpatrick 'Tiny' the dog (Team Mascot).

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Twelve members of the victorious double team along with team manager Finbarr O'Driscoll and co-trainer, Nicola Thornton - Front: Leah Tobin, Susan Howley, Kathy Whyte, Ciara Kilpatrick. **Middle:** Aoife Waters, Jenny Carlyle, Danielle O'Hare, Orla Cotter, Catherine Cotter, Hannah Coen. **Back:** Finbarr O'Driscoll, Nicola Thornton, Aoife Green, Ruth Stafford.



Captain Catherine Cotter listens intently as Club Chairperson Chris O'Grady addresses all present; Finbarr O'Driscoll in the background.



Eleven members of the 2000 U12 team at the annual Club Presentation - Back row l to r: Aoife Greene, Finbarr O'Driscoll, Barbara-Ann Connors, Aisling Keane, Aoife Murphy, Susan Howley, Lana Kelly, Leah Tobin. **Front row l to r:** Orla Cotter, Colette Brennan, Pamela Bowes, Jenny Masterson.



Naomh Olaf Dublin Fab 7 Players - Front row l to r: Barbara-Ann Connors, Jenny Carlyle, Ciara Kilpatrick, Louise Wright, Catherine Cotter, Kathy Whyte and Hannah Coen.

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The prize every club player cherishes is the County Championship. The quarter-final, against Naomh Barróg at Wedgewood, saw a shaky start for the team with lapses in concentration. However, it ended with a superb last quarter with all players making a tremendous effort - in particular, Siobhan Byrne scoring a brilliant goal and Paula Feehan making a terrific save on the goal-line - which saw Naomh Olaf go through to the county semi-final against An Garda in O'Toole Park.

An Garda were now a much fitter team than when Naomh Olaf had played them earlier in the year in the league. A 'never say die' attitude from Naomh Olaf ladies allowed them to triumph by six points over a much favoured Garda side, who boasted five inter-county players in their ranks. In his first year as manager, Pat Henry's team qualified for the Dublin County Final by defeating Garda in the semi-final in O'Toole Park, on 8th July on the score of 4-10 to 3-7.

It was then onto the final against the club's old rivals, Portobello. The game was fixed for Glenalbyn on 29th July. After a whirlwind start which saw Olaf's totally dominate the exchanges, they also shot as many wides and missed chances in front of the goal. At half-time, the teams were level at 1-4 each. Portobello reversed the role in the second half, taking their chances in front of the goal and recorded 1-4 to no reply, in the first six minutes of the second half. At this stage, many of the team's faithful followers felt a case of *déjà vu* when the Naomh Olaf ladies rallied with a very well hit penalty by Síle Nic Coitir which was saved by the Portobello keeper. In contrast, a penalty was awarded to Portobello which they duly converted. The final score of Portobello 3-9 to Naomh Olaf's 1-8 did not reflect the amount

of possession retained by Olaf's. Once again, it was disappointment for the Naomh Olaf ladies and they were left to rue their missed opportunities.

1999 - 2003

Ladies' football went through a major change during the years 1999 to 2003. Many of the regulars that had been with the team since it was formed, had hung up their boots for one reason or another. Some of the girls emigrated, or went travelling the world while others got new jobs that took them away from Dublin.

As the player numbers dwindled, a decision was taken to amalgamate with the Cabinteely/Foxrock team, who were suffering from the same fate as Naomh Olaf and the team was now playing at Intermediate level. The team gelled well together and some of the younger Cabinteely/Foxrock girls proved to be a great addition to the Ladies' team. The team enjoyed some success in these years at Senior level, but more so at underage level where a large number of the U16s were being picked to play on the Dublin U16 team.

The following is how things worked out over those years:

1999: Juvenile

Our U14 Girls' team were runners-up in the C Championship. The mentors were Brian Ward and Mary Kelleher.

This year also saw two new Ladies' teams, U12 and Minors.

U14 and Minors got to the Shield Finals.

Sunday 31st Oct., our Minors lost the B Championship to Naomh Mearnóg on a score of 5-9 to 2-4.

Saturday 6th Nov., our U14s lost the Shield Final to St Jude's.

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U12s did the double by winning the U12 Championship and League.

Friday 1st October, League Final: Naomh Olaf 11-3 to Clontarf 3-5.

Sunday 7th Nov: U12s win the B Championship by 1 point, Naomh Olaf 4-4 to Clontarf 3-6.

Síle Nic Coitir was voted Young Player of the Year, and her sister, Ceara, was voted Dublin Junior Player of the Year. The following people looked after Ladies' football that year: Ursula Maher, Úna Kilpatrick, Clare Whyte, Michael Whyte, Finbarr O'Driscoll, Brian Ward and Camillus Kilpatrick.

Finbarr O'Driscoll took a break from mentoring in 1995 but returned again in 1999 for a two-year stint. Queen of Angels P.S. had just won the Division 3 competition of the Dublin Cumann na mBunscol league, the Corn an Chladaigh, and along the way, had a narrow one point win over St Olaf's N.S. Having seen the potential that existed to create a strong team from within the two schools alone, he entered an Under 12 team in the Dublin B League and Championship. With the combination of players like Kathy Whyte, Ciara Kilpatrick, Louise Wright, Hannah Coen, Catherine and Orla Cotter, to name but a few, Naomh Olaf swept all before them, only losing to an equally strong Clontarf side away in the league. When the two sides met in the league final on a horribly wet night on Friday 1st October, under lights at Belfield, they blew away the opposition on a scoreline of 11-3 to 3-5, with full-forward Jenny Carlyle contributing 3-3 from play. Great rejoicing followed back at the clubhouse as the Naomh Olaf girls celebrated winning the club's first trophy in Juvenile Ladies' Football. One month later, the two sides would go head to head once again, this

time in the Championship decider. On Sunday 7th November, they emerged victorious once again after a thrilling encounter by 4-4 to 3-6. Champions on the double. Other members of that successful team were Aoife Waters, Leah Tobin, Sarah Taylor, Susan Howley, Ruth Stafford, Jenny Carlyle, Barbara Connors, Anne Marie Connors, Lynne Mulville, Kim Masterson, Lana Kelly and Danielle O'Hare. Úna Kilpatrick and Clare Whyte were co-mentors with Finbarr for that team. Nicola Thornton assisted Finbarr with the training. The club was honoured with the presence of Mayo captain, Diane O'Hora, for the presentation night. She commended the players for their efforts and encouraged them to keep playing and remain involved with ladies' football.

2000: Juvenile

This year saw Finbarr staying with the U12 team that competed well throughout the whole season even though they were promoted to Division 1. Many of the more seasoned players had moved up to the U14 grade. Nevertheless, the U12s reached the Championship final where they lost narrowly to St Brigid's on a windswept Westmanstown pitch. Shortly after this, Finbarr ceased his involvement as a coach with the club when appointed as Acting Principal of Queen of Angels P.S. in 2001.

The Dublin Mentors had taken note of the Naomh Olaf Under 12 performances during the league campaign and, as a result, seven of the squad (Fab 7) were chosen to represent the county at the Leinster Blitz in Carlow.

This year, the Féile was held in Dublin. In the Dublin Féile, the Naomh Olaf U14 Team won two of their group matches and drew the last match to win the group. Group Matches (Kilmacud Crokes Venue): Naomh Olaf 3-4, Kilmacud Crokes 1-2; Naomh

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Olaf 2-3, Ballyboden St Enda's 2-3; Naomh Olaf 6-4, Cabinteely 1-2. In the semi-final they beat St Jude's but lost the final to Fingallians.

Semi-finals: *Naomh Olaf 2-2, St Jude's 0-1*

Final: *Fingallians 4-2, Naomh Olaf 0-3*

That year also saw the winner and runner-up of the Dublin Féile qualifying to play in the National Féile in Dublin. So both Fingallians and Naomh Olaf represented Dublin in Féile that year.

In Féile Peil na nÓg, Naomh Olaf lost the first match to Donaghmoynne at Wedgewood. Then they lost to Corofin and Ballyboden St Enda's at Cherryfield. Their mentors, Brian Ward, Mary Kelleher and Úna Kilpatrick were very proud of the girls.

The following girls received Naomh Olaf Awards in the year 2000: Orla Cotter was U12 Player of the Year, Ciara Kilpatrick was U14 Player of the Year and Leah Cassidy was U16 Player of the Year.

Orla Cotter, Susan Howley and Aisling Keane played for Dublin in an U12 Football Blitz.

2001: Juvenile

Our U16 Girls were beaten in the Championship Shield Final by Skerries Harps on the score of 4-8 to 4-4 on 27th October in Westmanstown.

The panel of players was as follows:

Leah Cassidy, Hannah Coen, Aisling Keane, Deirdre Kelleher, Louise Wright, Kim Masterson, Nicola Kilpatrick, Ciara Kilpatrick, Sarah Doyle, Orla Cotter, Kathy Whyte, Catherine Cotter, Lana Kelly, Leah Tobin, Pamela Bowes, Kim Ward, Jenny Masterson, Lynne Mulville and Aoife Waters.

Mentors were Brian Ward, Michelle Masterson and Mary Kelleher.

That year, Dublin U14 County team won the Lein-

ster Championship and the U14 A Leinster Blitz. The following Naomh Olaf players were on the county team: Kathy Whyte, Ciara Kilpatrick, Louise Wright, Catherine and Orla Cotter. This team lost the U14 All-Ireland semi-final to Monaghan.

Eimear Máirtín was U12 Player of the Year, Kathy Whyte was U14 Player of the Year and Ciara Kilpatrick received the U16 Player of the Year.

2002: Juvenile

This year, Naomh Olaf had teams at U12, U14, U16 Minor and Senior Ladies. The Ladies' Committee held quiz nights that would raise enough money to pay for the registration and insurance of all our ladies' players. Many sponsors came on board to support us each year.

Our U16s were runners-up in the Division 1 Championship. They were U16s Division 1 league runners-up also. It was a very good year for all the girls involved. Orla Cotter won an U14 Leinster medal with Dublin before they lost to Galway in the All-Ireland semi-final.

On the county front, the following Naomh Olaf players, Ciara Kilpatrick, Catherine Cotter, Kathy Whyte and Sarah Doyle, were on the Dublin U16 county panel. Camillus Kilpatrick was also a mentor with the county management team.

2003: Juvenile

February saw the Awards Night in the club for the 2002 season. Jenny Maher was the Senior Player of the Year and Ciara Kilpatrick was the Minor Player of the Year. A good night was had by all. In March, the Ladies' Football Committee was set up with Camillus Kilpatrick as Chairperson and Michelle Masterson as Registrar. On the night, the following teams and mentors were selected.

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<i>Team</i>	<i>Mentors</i>
<i>Senior Div 2</i>	<i>Camillus Kilpatrick/Michael Whyte</i>
<i>Minor Div 1</i>	<i>Brian Ward/Paul Masterson /Mary Kelleher</i>
<i>U16 Div 1</i>	<i>Brian Ward/Paul Masterson /Úna Kilpatrick</i>
<i>U14 Div 2</i>	<i>Avila Máirtín/Úna Kilpatrick /Frank Keane</i>
<i>U12 Div 2</i>	<i>Mary Kelleher/Anne-Marie Kyne</i>

The mentors received presents from the girls in appreciation for their hard work throughout the year.

Also this year, many of our young players helped the mentors with the training and coaching. They were Ciara Kilpatrick, Kim Masterson, Nicola Kilpatrick, Amy Johnson, Kathy Whyte and Shane Whyte.

The Naomh Olaf U16 team were runners-up in the Division 1 league that year. The Senior football team were runners-up in Division 2 and gained promotion to Division 1 for the 2004 season.

This year saw Naomh Olaf have the 'Fab 6' on the Dublin U16 County Team: Kathy Whyte, Ciara Kilpatrick, Hannah Coen, Catherine Cotter, Orla Cotter and Grace O'Neill (Foxrock/Cabinteely, who had permission to play with Naomh Olaf for the 2003 season). They won the Leinster Championship Final with a resounding victory over Meath. These were the first girls to win a Leinster U16 Medal in Naomh Olaf. They lost the All-Ireland semi-final to Cavan.

Naomh Olaf honoured the Dublin U16 Ladies' team in the clubhouse for their achievements during the year. The event was attended by the then President of the Ladies' Gaelic Association, Geraldine Giles. The President noted that there was a very bright future

for Dublin ladies' football. The club also acknowledged Camillus Kilpatrick who was a selector of the Dublin U16 team and the main driving force behind ladies' football in Naomh Olaf for many years.

This year also saw the Dublin Ladies' Senior team lose the All-Ireland Final to Mayo by just 1 point. Mayo scored a goal in injury time; Viv Naughton and Ciara Kilpatrick were on the panel. Kim Masterson was a member of the Dublin Minor Team. Rachel Kavanagh was on the Dublin U14 county team that lost to Cork in the All-Ireland semi-final. Alison Tyrrell was on the Dublin team that won the U12 Blitz in Carlow. Grainne O'Dwyer was on the Dublin team that were runners-up in the U12 B Blitz. To finish off the year, Grainne O'Dwyer represented Dublin on All-Ireland Ladies' Football Final day in the Mini-Sevens competition at Croke Park. In 2003, the club entered a team at U10 with Michelle Masterson and Paul Farrelly as mentors. They stayed with this team until the end of 2004.

2004: Juvenile

The numbers were tight at U16 and Minor level. Yet the adult mentors/volunteers were quite strong. Those involved were Camillus Kilpatrick, Michael Whyte, Paul Masterson, Paul Farrell, Finbarr O'Driscoll, Mary Kelleher, Shane Whyte, Úna Kilpatrick, Anne-Marie Kyne, Frank Keane, Brian Ward, Clare Whyte, Ray Howley, Imelda Staunton and Avila Máirtín. Our U16 team formed an amalgamation with Kilmacud Crokes and Ray Howley was the manager.

Our Minor team formed an amalgamation with Foxrock/Cabinteely. This year also saw Grace O'Neill and Orla Vallely (Cabinteely) given 'permission to play' with Naomh Olaf Senior team, by the Dublin County Board.

21st March 2004: Naomh Olaf/Foxrock won the Dublin Minor 2003 Championship Final against Man O'War on a dreadful day at Starlights' grounds, Ballymun. The girls braved the elements of the weather to win by 4-5 to 2-3.

The panel of players included Amy Johnson, Doireann O'Daly, Deirdre Kelleher, Rachel Kavanagh, Rachel Attley, Aisling Keane, Catherine Cotter, Nicola Kilpatrick, Hannah Coen, Orla Cotter, Kim Ward, Leah Cassidy, Jenny Masterson, Kathy Whyte, Ciara Kilpatrick, Kim Masterson, Grace O'Neill, Susan Howley, Elaine Bulger and Eimear Máirtín. The mentors were Úna Kilpatrick, Paul Masterson and Shane Whyte. Scores: Ciara Kilpatrick 1-2, Kim Masterson 1-1, Grace O'Neill and Eimear Máirtín 1 goal each, Orla Cotter and Rachel Kavanagh 1 point each. Player of the Match went to Hannah Coen.

Naomh Olaf / Foxrock girls completed the double by having won the 2003 Division 1 League two weeks earlier. I would like to mention that Brian Ward was in charge of this team, until family and work commitment forced him to step down. Many thanks to Brian for all of his hard work.

The following players were chosen for the Dublin Minor county team that year: Ciara Kilpatrick, Kim Masterson, Kathy Whyte, Catherine Cotter and Hannah Coen. Kathy Whyte was a member of the Dublin Senior county team and Vivienne Naughton was named Captain of the Dublin Junior Ladies' county team. In 2003, Vivienne was a Senior Dublin county player and part of the team that lost the 2003 Senior All-Ireland Final to Mayo by 1 point. Ciara Kilpatrick and Kim Masterson were also on the Dublin Junior county team. Camillus Kilpatrick was a mentor with the Dublin U16 team that lost the All-Ireland semi-final to Cork. Rachel Attley and

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Orla Cotter of Naomh Olaf were on the county team that won a Leinster medal that year. Michelle Masterson and Paul Farrelly were mentors who stayed with this U11 team until the end of 2004.

2005: Juvenile

This year Naomh Olaf did not have enough players to set up a Senior team. So we had talks with our neighbours, Foxrock/Cabinteely and amalgamated with them for the Dublin Ladies' Senior Football season of 2005. The following players represented Naomh Olaf: Ailish Flynn, Vivienne Naughton, Jenny Masterson, Ciara Kilpatrick, Kathy Whyte, Susan Howley, Colleen Donnelly, Orla Cotter, Catherine Cotter and Deirdre Kelleher. It was a mixed year with the team finishing mid-table. The team mentors for Naomh Olaf were Michael Whyte and Camillus Kilpatrick.

Ciara Lynch was Under 12 Player of the Year, Grainne O'Dwyer was Under 14 Player of the Year and Rachel Atley was Under 16 Player of the Year. Paul Farrell and Michelle Masterson were the U14 Mentors.

In the Suzuki Ladies' National League Division 4 semi-final, Dublin lost to Wicklow. Ailish Flynn, Ciara Kilpatrick and Hannah Coen were on the Dublin county panel representing Naomh Olaf. Rachel Attley was on the Dublin U16 county team that lost the All-Ireland semi-finals to Mayo. Rachel Staunton was on the Dublin U14 county team.

Eileen Hickey and Stephen O'Connor took over the mentor roles at U12 and brought the team up to Féile in 2007. Although this team did not progress beyond U14, they marked the beginning of the new era of Ladies' Football in Naomh Olaf GAA Club.

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Naomh Olaf Ladies' Senior Football Team - Dublin Football Championship Finalists 1995 - Back Row: Nicola Doyle, Jenny Maher, Vicki McDonnell, Deirdre Maher, Eimear Byrne, Sarah Kilpatrick, Fionnuala Birrane, Gillian Rooney, Sinead Worthington, Deborah Byrne, Aoife Rogers, Sarah McCormack, Roisin Cray, Suzanne Corcoran. **Front row l to r:** Paula Feehan, Ceara Nic Coitir, Emma Wyse, Ursula Maher (Capt), Síle Nic Coitir, Amanda Timmons, Aisling Doyle-Rauf, Vivienne Naughton, Myra Kelly and Joanne Moore.



Naomh Olaf Ladies' Football Team, beaten only in the replay of the Dublin Ladies' Senior Football Championship Final, September 1996 - Back row l to r: Jenny Maher, Michelle Naughton, Sarah Kilpatrick, Sinead Worthington, Helen Raftery, Vicki McDonnell, Ursula Maher (Capt.), Aoife Rogers, Deirdre Maher, Ceara Nic Coitir. **Front row l to r:** Myra Kelly, Joanne Moore, Síle Nic Coitir, Paula Feehan, Emma Wyse, Fionnuala Birrane, Christine Mulhall, Aisling Doyle-Rauf, Vivienne Naughton, Gillian Rooney. **Missing from photo:** Máirín Ní Dhubhtaigh, Nicola Doyle.

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2006: Juvenile and Adult

Foxrock/Cabinteely decided to go it alone this year. Naomh Olaf decided to have talks with Ballinteer St John's and an amalgamation was set up for the 2006 season with the team called Naomh Olaf/Ballinteer St John's. The management team was Angie McNally (B. St J.), Michael Whyte and Camillus Kilpatrick (Naomh Olaf). It was a partnership that worked very well. The team had a good championship and league run and finished runners-up in the Division 2 Cup. The foundations were laid for the 2007 season. That year, the two Cotters (Catherine and Orla) had dropped out along with Jenny Masterson.

The U14 Juvenile team had a good year, finishing mid-table. Both Eileen Hickey and Stephen O'Connor stayed on board as their mentors.

2007: Juvenile and Adult

The partnership with Ballinteer St John's blossomed. All the players felt that it was going to be a good year. Unfortunately, what turned out to be a very good year hadn't started very well with Ailish Flynn deciding to call it a day before the season started. Ailish was one of the best ladies' footballers to wear the Naomh Olaf ladies' jersey. She was a huge loss, but the panel was very strong. Angie started the season very early with ten weeks of gym work before we started training outdoors. The team went on to win the Intermediate Championship beating St Brigid's. The team were also Division 2 League and Cup runners-up. That year also saw Rachel Staunton join the panel of Naomh Olaf Senior players. It was a very enjoyable and successful year.

The newly formed U10 team, with Orna Murray & Orla Hegarty as mentors, saw success in their first year when winning the Division 3 South Shield. In 2008, they were fantastic in winning the U11 Divi-

sion 2 league.

2008: Juvenile and Adult

This year saw Michael Whyte step down and Camillus Kilpatrick had become the Chairperson of the Dublin Ladies' County Board in November 2007.

Ballinteer St John's decided to go it alone. Vivienne Naughton and Ciara Kilpatrick of Naomh Olaf took a break or packed up their boots. The following players decided to seek 'permission to play' with Ballinteer St John's for the 2008 season: Hannah Coen, Susan Howley, Kathy Whyte, Rachel Staunton, Deirdre Kelleher and Colleen Donnelly.

The U11 team, with Orna Murray & Orla Hegarty as mentors, were fantastic in winning the U11 Division 2 league and did so without dropping a point.

That year, the club also formed a team at U10 which gave a small glimpse of the resurgence of ladies' football in Naomh Olaf. The team mentors were Liam Donnelly and Harry O'Crowley and the team ended their first season as runners-up in the Division 2 South League and runners-up in the Division 2 Shield.

2009: Juvenile and Adult

This year, the girls had a similar arrangement with Ballinteer St John's, but Colleen Donnelly packed up her boots due to a back injury.

With the promotion of the older Juvenile team to Division 1 in 2009, a strategic decision to merge the U12 & U11 panels was taken. This paid dividends when the enhanced U12 team, mentored by Liam, Harry & Veronica Donnelly, finished runners-up in the Division 1 Shield and finished a creditable 5th place in the league. A new team at U10 was also formed that year.

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May 2009 also saw a Girls' Academy established in the club. This has already provided a flow of new Naomh Olaf girls that is ensuring the continuity of teams at all ages groups.

2010: Juvenile and Adult

Once again, this year saw a similar arrangement with Ballinteer St John's. It also saw Eimear Máirtín join Ballinteer St John's as a player. Eimear was originally a Naomh Olaf player. This year also saw Ciara Kilpatrick transfer from Naomh Olaf to Kilmacud Crokes.

In 2010, the U13 girls consolidated their progress in Division 1 and again were runners-up in the Shield Final Competition.

2011: Juvenile and Adult

Once again, this year we had a similar arrangement with Ballinteer St John's. Deirdre Kelleher transferred from Naomh Olaf to Ballinteer St John's. Deirdre Kelleher and Eimear Máirtín are now Ballinteer St John's players. Kathy Whyte, Susan Howley and Rachel Staunton have 'permission to play' with Ballinteer St John's.

This year sees Naomh Olaf with a tremendous U14 Juvenile team. So Senior football should be back in Naomh Olaf in the next three to four years. Their participation in the 2011 Dublin Féile competition, hosted in the club, saw the girls win two out of three games but unfortunately go out on scoring difference. Nonetheless, this was the first time in four years we had entered a Féile team and the first time ever in Division 1. This team has also had representatives on Dublin teams at U12, U13 & U14 with Kate Murray playing in the U14 All-Ireland Final against Cork. Unfortunately, Dublin lost out to Cork on the day.

The 2011 Mentors/Coaches line-up of teams is as follows:

- U8* *John Coffey & Veronica Donnelly.*
- U9* *Declan Naughton, David Walsh & Liz Doyle.*
- U11* *Liam Donnelly, Archie O'Rourke & Niamh Maher.*
- U12* *Conor Lynch, Neil O'Sullivan & Harry O'Crowley.*
- U14* *Veronica Donnelly, Orna Murray, Liam Donnelly & Harry O'Crowley.*

Gaelic4Mothers (G4M)

Gaelic4Mothers is an initiative devised by the Ladies' Gaelic Football Association to provide mothers with an opportunity to keep fit in a non-competitive and fun Gaelic Football environment. Moreover, it rightly and importantly establishes mothers as an independent, yet integral, section within their clubs.

In February 2011, Margaret Kyne-Delaney organised the first G4M session which was run by Darren Egan, Stephen Stapleton and Harry O'Crowley. Since then, 65 unique mothers have attended weekly training sessions in Naomh Olaf GAA Club. Some ladies turn up every week and others are there whenever they can, but this is the essence of the G4M programme. In a short few months, the G4M women have shown total dedication and determination to develop their Gaelic football skills, which they have done superbly.

The Naomh Olaf G4M's first ever match was in Parnell Park at half-time in the 2011 Ladies' Division 2 NFL final between Dublin and Meath. While the Olaf's G4M team played against Simonstown, Co. Meath, the club's Senior footballers played at the same time in the Football Championship.



Members of the Naomh Olaf Féile Team of the Year 2000 - Back row l to r: Louise Wright, Kim Masterson, Aisling Keane, Kim Ward, Catherine Cotter, Kathy Whyte, Nicola Kilpatrick, Kim Ward, Leah Cassidy. Front row l to r: Orla Cotter, Ciara Kilpatrick, Deirdre Kelleher, Amanda Ronayne, Eva Smith and Ciara Watson.



Naomh Olaf Ladies' Mentors and Coaches on Presentation Day at Naomh Olaf Club with Joe Cooney - Left to right: Anne-Marie Kyne, Mick Whyte, Mary Kelleher, Joe Cooney (Galway Hurler), Úna Kilpatrick, Brian Ward and Michelle Masterson. Joe Cooney is a brother of Naomh Olaf Executive Member, Mary Hayes.



Naomh Olaf Fab 6 Dublin U16 County Players - Left to right: Kathy Whyte, Ciara Kilpatrick, Hannah Coen, Catherine Cotter, Orla Cotter and Grace O'Neill (Foxrock/Cabinteely - 'permission to play' with Naomh Olaf)

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Naomh Olaf Minor Team - Championship and League Double Winners 2004 - Back row l to r: Úna Kilpatrick (Mentor), Amy Johnson, Doireann O'Daly, Deirdre Kelleher, Rachel Kavanagh, Rachel Attley, Aisling Keane, Catherine Cotter, Nicola Kilpatrick, Hannah Coen, Orla Cotter, Kim Ward, Leah Cassidy. Front row l to r: Shane Whyte (Mentor), Jenny Masterson, Kathy Whyte, Ciara Kilpatrick, Kim Masterson, Grace O'Neill, Susan Howley, Elaine Bulger, Eimear Máirtín, Paul Masterson and Shauna Masterson (mascot).



Naomh Olaf 2004 U11 Panel - Back row l to r: Paul Farrell, Derbhla Madden, Sarah Ryan, Ciara Lynch, Orla, Shauna Freeney, Rebecca Collinge, Aoife, Ciara, Patricia, Michelle Masterson. Front row l to r: Emma Walsh, Niamh Shoebridge, Shauna Masterson, Aisling Hickey, Aoife Gannon, Nadine Farrell, Samantha Gunning.



Naomh Olaf 2009 U12 Division 1 Shield Runners-Up - Back row l to r: Veronica Donnelly (Mentor), Liam Donnelly (Mentor), Stacy McNulty, Stefanie Deasy, Giordan Brewer, Hayleigh Gunning, Kate Murray, Leanne Cannon, Sadie Lanigan, Katie Grimes, Jordan Bent, Róisín MacLoughlin, Harry O’Crowley (Mentor), Niamh Lakes. Front row l to r: Chloe Reilly, Teresa Lee, Niamh Brennan, Amy McGrath, Niamh Donnelly, Sadhbh Maher, Chloe Ní Cheallaigh, Aoife O’Rourke, Éilis Murphy.



G4M Naomh Olaf vs Simonstown 7 May 2011 - Back row l to r: Harry O’Crowley (Mentor), Maeve Kearns, Maria O’Connor, Suzanne Kelly, Liz Doyle, Cesia Deasy, Ann-Marie Horgan, Anthony Delaney (Mentor). Front row l to r: Paula Feehan, Maria Hickey, Tara O’Brien, Jenny Murray.

Naomh Olaf wins Division 3 of the U21 Hurling All-County League 1993-94 - By Bill O'Brien

This all began in the 1991-92 Season when Naomh Olaf entered an U21 Hurling team for the first time. With only four genuine Under 21 players, the minor hurlers were approached and a number of them agreed to play at U21 level. The team played in a thirteen-a-side league, with no pressure to win games but to use the games as a training session. Accordingly, no game was won until the last game of the league. On that occasion, the opposition was Kilmacud Crokes. As Naomh Olaf had only 12 players on the day and Crokes had several, it was put to Olaf's players by their mentors that we give the points to Crokes and we play a 15-a-side game. The Olaf's players insisted on playing for the points and so it was. At half-time, Olaf's were in with a chance to win but it was necessary to have 13 players at the start of the second half which Olaf's had not got. During half time break, a father and son arrived as supporters. This was none other than John O'Brien and his son Barry, both since deceased. Barry was playing at U12 at the time and he was approached, and encouraged by his father to put on a Naomh Olaf jersey and to play the second half of the game. Olaf's went on to win this game by one point. The part Barry O'Brien played for hurling at Naomh Olaf and Dublin up to the point of his untimely death is well known.

This victory gave great encouragement to the Olaf's players and in the following '92-'93 season, more players came on board and training was organised on a regular basis. Sean Keane proved an excellent coach and the team showed great improvement and

commitment, but no trophies. A firm foundation had been laid.

Our Captain, Caomhán Bermingham, led by example, having scored 7 goals and 21 points of Olaf's 28 goals and 46 points.

The 1993-94 campaign began on 16th October 1993 with the Dublin U21 championship. Naomh Olaf played Erin's Hope, this being St Patrick's Training College, Drumcondra, made up of players from all over the country. Olaf's were beaten 2-8 to 2-7 after a great game of hurling. Had Olaf's had the benefit of one league game before the Championship, I have no doubt the result would have been different.

The next game, the League against Clanna Gael, was won comfortably by Naomh Olaf. Cuala were next to crumble but only by one point after a great game. Next were Faughs. While Naomh Olaf won by five points, this game was very competitive. Then St Patrick's, Palmerstown, where the game ended in a draw 2-4 to 1-7. Another traditional hurling club, Kevin's, were next on the fixtures list and again Olaf's were back on their winning way.

What might be called the League Final took place at Portmarnock on 25th July 1994 against Naomh Mearnóg. If Naomh Mearnóg won this game, they had the League won and Olaf's had still to face Raheny before they could even think of becoming runners-up.

At half time, Olaf's found themselves trailing by one point, having played with a strong wind. All

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seemed lost, but thanks to a great display by the Olaf's fifteen in the second half, they ran out worthy winners on a score of 3-7 to 1-8. A mighty achievement for our hurlers, none of whom were considered worthy of a place on the Dublin Minor or U21 hurling teams, while Naomh Mearnóg lined out with two Dublin County U21 hurlers.

The League Final was played at Wedgewood on 27th August 1994 against Raheny. This game created no great problems for Naomh Olaf and Michael Dun-

phy (R.I.P.), Chairman of the Dublin Minor Board, honoured the Club with his presence. He presented the cup to Olaf's team captain, Pádraic Bermingham, who expressed his thanks to all, including Raheny, in Irish, and for those who did not understand all he said, he repeated himself in English.

This was an historic day in that it was the first trophy won in Hurling under the Dublin County Minor Board.



Naomh Olaf U21 Hurling Team, Winners of Div. 3 of the All-County League 1993-94 - Back row l to r: Bill O'Brien (Team Mentor), Patrick Maguire, Philip Funge, Paddy Roe, John Keane, Darragh Maxwell, Brian Murtagh, Fergal Hogan, James Whelan, Niall McCaffrey, Eoin Brennan, Flannan McCarthy (Team Mentor). Front Row l to r: Eamonn Cotter, Aidan Maguire, Pádraic Bermingham (Captain), Tommy Brown, Lorcan MacMathúna, Eion Ryan, David O'Brien. Missing from photograph: Derek Naughton, Greg Naughton (R.I.P.), John Champion, Martin Cullen, Cormac Doyle, Martin Duggan, Niall Kavanagh, Kevin Keane, Eochaidh Ó Caollaí, Aidan O'Brien, Tony O'Brien, Sean Keane (Trainer), Jerome Hogan (Team Mentor), John O'Brien Sen. R.I.P. (Team Mentor).

Naomh Olaf had two Under 10 football teams in the Dublin South League in the 1993/94 Season

This report by John Reynolds was first published in April 1994

In April 1993, it was decided that the Kiltarnan, Glencullen and Stepside area should get involved in the Dublin Community Games. Out of this came a number of teams for different sports, one of which was an U10 Gaelic Football team.

Instead of allowing this team to dissolve after the Community Games, it was decided to enter it in the Dublin South U10 league. The player base comes from the schools in Kiltarnan and Glencullen and

the team is affiliated to the Naomh Olaf GAA Club in Sandyford. The performance of the team has been excellent, and at present they have 16 out of a possible 22 points on the league table, with some excellent victories over Round Towers, St Finnian's and Synge Street.

This season may not be rewarded with medals, just enjoyment, but it won't be long. Anybody interested in helping with the continued success of this team can contact John Reynolds.



One of the Naomh Olaf Under 10 Teams of 1993/94 - Back row l to r: Marcus Connell, Chris Lawless, Eamonn McConville, David Hackett, Adam Reynolds, Niall Egan, John Thompson, Edward Mulvey and Gareth Nolan. Front row l to r: Sean Lawless, Joseph Doyle, Peter Kavanagh, Daniel Deering, Shane Cullen, Charles Walsh (Capt.), Brendan Smith and Niall Davis. Missing from Photo: Luke Caffrey, Shane Kinsella and John Reynolds (Mentor).

Minor Football Team 1994/95 - By John McGrath

In September 1994, fresh from winning Division 2 of the Minor Football League, the Naomh Olaf football team began a new adventure in Division 1. Mentors and players were uncertain how the team would cope with the stiffer challenges to be encountered in the higher division. The first game was at home to Lucan Sarsfields and proved to be a successful beginning. Strong performances by Niall McCaffrey, Alan Lyons and Darragh Maxwell showed that the team was not out of its depth at the higher level. In the second game, a further two points were gained at the expense of Round Towers. In these early games, a new half-back line of Darragh Duffy, Barry Lynch and David O'Brien emerged to ensure that the new Naomh Olaf defence had a solid foundation.

Next came what was to prove to be a crucial game against Ballymun Kickhams in Albert College. This proved to be a titanic struggle with both sides happy to share the points at the final whistle. The draw would not have been possible without the battling qualities of the Keane brothers, John and Kevin, Thomas Brown and Eoin Christian. The Naomh Olaf response to dropping this point was positive and showed the strength of character of the team. Na Fianna crossed the city and a lively encounter was played in Ballyogan. Two goals from Alan Lyons ensured a narrow win for the home team. The feature of this game was the accurate point scoring of Brendan McGlynn and the performance of Under 16 substitute Eric Doolan who won some vital possession in the closing stages of the game.

The next game, which was away to Garristown, is one that the mentors and players will wish to forget.

Depleted by injuries to key players, the team nevertheless played well enough to win. Unfortunately however, on this occasion fortune deserted them. Notwithstanding a brilliant display by young Cillian Purcell and superb goal keeping by Paul Donnelly, the game was lost by a single point. The facts were now simple – Naomh Olaf had to win their remaining five games to have any chance of league honours. The resolve of the team was once more in evidence as victory after victory was recorded in those five remaining games. Brilliant encounters with St Jude's, Thomas Davis and Craobh Chiaráin ensured tremendous excitement for players, mentors and supporters. Younger players such as David Doorley, Kevin O'Brien, Enda Brennan and Eoin Christian turned in some class performances to show that there will be no scarcity of senior talent in the years to come.

The penultimate game was away to Oliver Plunkett's who, up to this point, had not won a match. Instead of an easy victory for the now rampant Naomh Olaf team, a battle similar to the Garristown encounter took place. This time however a single point victory went to Naomh Olaf. Due to injuries, the minor team had to rely once more on help from the Under 16 players. Once more, these young lads rose to the occasion. The vital point of the game was scored by Under 16 player Andrew Kinsella and the Naomh Olaf team was happy to head back to Sandyford with the narrowest of victories. The final game was away to St Mark's who had dropped only a single point all season and consequently a Naomh Olaf victory was essential. St Mark's showed their class early in the game and, by half time, had established an

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eight point lead. Early in the second half, things got worse for Naomh Olaf when a goal and a point for the opposition increased the deficit to twelve points and only twenty minutes remaining. However, those remaining minutes were to see a recovery which is unlikely to be repeated. Niall McCaffrey, Douglas Leonard, Cillian Purcell and particularly Eoin Christian, took the game to St. Mark's. Three goals and a succession of points were scored without reply. As the final whistle sounded, Naomh Olaf had unbelievably converted a twelve point deficit into a six point win. The result ensured Naomh Olaf would at least finish joint top of Division 1, an achievement few expected at the start of the season.

When all the games were played and all the points added up, it emerged that Naomh Olaf and Ballymun Kickhams had finished joint top of the league.

The playoff to decide the winners and runners-up was played on the 19th September, 1995, approximately one year after the first game with Lucan Sarsfields. This game was not to prove the finale Naomh Olaf had hoped for. Ballymun settled into the game quickly and Naomh Olaf were unfortunate to concede two early penalties which were scored. The Sandyford side battled bravely to reduce the arrears but not even a late goal from Alan Lyons could win the day for Naomh Olaf. While this was a disappointing end to the season, it would not overshadow the excellent performances of the team during the entire campaign and runners-up medals will be some consolation to the players who almost achieved a remarkable feat of winning Division 2 and Division 1 titles in successive years.



Naomh Olaf Minor Football Team - Runners-up in Division 1 of the League 1994/95 - Front Row l to r: Douglas Leonard, Kevin O'Brien, Thomas Brown, Barry Lynch, Niall Keaveney, David Doorly, Andrew Kinsella, Darragh Duffy and Alan Lyons. Back Row l to r: John McGrath (Team Mentor), Michael Neill, Enda Brennan, John Keane, Darragh Maxwell, Kevin Keane, Paul Donnelly, Niall McCaffrey, Cillian Purcell, David O'Brien, Brendan McGlynn, Eoin Christian and Brendan McGlynn (Team Mentor). Missing from photograph: David Butler, Conor Waters, Eric Doolan and Sean Keane (Team Mentor).

Dublin's Number One Supporter

This article by Brendan McGlynn was first published in Panorama Magazine in March 1994

Bríd Uí Mhaonaigh, who lives in Balally Grove, is probably the best known Dublin GAA supporter. Affectionately known as Mrs. Mooney, since the early seventies she has scarcely missed a championship or league match in which the Dublin football team was involved. While she was always interested in sport, it was not until the rise of the great Dublin team in 1974 that Dublin football became her passion.

Born in 1935 in McGuinness Square, off Pearse Street, she attended Marlborough Street Primary School and from there, won a scholarship to Rathmines Technical School. While in Rathmines, she was introduced to camogie. She commenced work at the tender age of 14 years as an ice-cream girl in the Queen's Theatre. Her hours were 1 pm to 9 pm and her weekly wage was ten shillings. She remembers with fondness her many visits to the Palace Cinema in Pearse Street where admission to the full show cost one penny.

Married with three grown up daughters, Mairéad, Aileen and Páraicín, her home resembles a Dublin GAA museum. The gates at the road are navy and blue, having the words "The Dubs" embodied in the steelwork. The two Dublin footballers that were also on the gate disappeared in 1992 and she fears that they might have played for Donegal that September. The welcoming tea is served in navy and blue cups as the conversation flows about Dublin and Dublin football. The sitting room is newly decorated with the wallpaper, carpet, suite of furniture and even the lamp shades (on two matching Dublin Millennium

bottle lamps) all matching beautifully in navy and blue. A number of statuettes fully togged out in Dublin gear immediately catch the eye. Bríd takes great pleasure in identifying each one of them. Jimmy Keaveney wearing No. 14, Kieran Duff wearing No. 12 and John O'Leary wearing the goalie's jersey appear to be her favourites. Paul McGrath in the Irish singlet is also there. The book shelves contain many books written in the Irish language. They also contain programmes of Dublin matches down through the years, as well as scrapbooks containing previews of Dublin matches and match reports. Bríd reaches for an album of photographs and produces a picture of herself taken with the Sam Maguire Cup, when Dublin last won it in 1983. She has an excellent photograph of herself taken in the crowd on Hill 16 and is also very proud of photographs that she had taken with Kevin Heffernan and Paddy Cullen.

Since 1974, Dublin football and hurling has become her way of life. A member of the Dublin Supporters Club, she is to be found on Hill 16 every time a Dublin football or hurling team appears in Croke Park. League matches take her all over the thirty two counties, by rail as well as by bus. Sometimes the bus will leave Parnell Square at 8 am and not return until late at night. She is usually accompanied by her daughter, Mairéad. When attending matches, she is always dressed in the Dublin colours including navy shoes or blue sandals and a Dublin head scarf autographed by Dublin players of the past four decades. Her Dublin scarf has badges bearing the following slogans – "Breda Mooney, Dublin's No. 1 Fan", "Supporters Club", "Come on, ye boys in blue" and "The Jacks are back".

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Bríd has knitted Dublin jumpers and cardigans for many of her friends. She has knitted jumpers for John O’Leary and Kieran Duff and they never fail to send her a Christmas card. Many of her knitted Dublin garments have been sent to friends as far away as Spain, Canada, America and Australia.

Bríd was delighted when Naomh Olaf GAA Club was founded. Since then she has become a lifelong member. She had occasion to visit the clubhouse on the 26th February when her daughter Páraicín,



“The True Blue” - Bríd Uí Mhaonaigh.

a member of the Naomh Olaf Ladies Gaelic Football team, received her league winning medal. She was very surprised however when the former Dublin football star, Seán Doherty, on behalf of the club, presented her with a framed picture of herself sitting in the lounge of the clubhouse in the area known as Hill 16. She was also presented with a bouquet of flowers as the band played her favourite tune, “Molly Malone”.

Togha mná í!

Presentation of Coaching Certificates

On Wednesday the 8th of March 1995, J.J. Barrett, Gaelic Games Correspondent, Evening Herald, was the guest personality at the Club’s presentation of Foundation Level, Hurling and Football Coaching Certificates. Over seventy club members had completed the course.



Front row l to r: Ceara Cotter, Michelle Naughton, Paula Feehan, J.J. Barrett, Ursula Maher. Back row l to r: Sarah McCormac, Kevin O’Brien, Darragh Maxwell, Eoin Brennan, Eochaidh Ó’Coadlaí and Philip Funge.

The Club's First Camogie Team - By Brendan McGlynn

This article was first published in Three Rock Panorama in June 1995

1994 will be recorded in the Club's history books as the year the club fielded its first camogie team. The name Frank Heaney will long be associated with camogie within the club for it was he who organised and entered an Under 12 camogie team for the 1994/'95 season. With the active support of his wife Susan, and assistance volunteered by Benita Harbourne and Mairead Colgan, Naomh Olaf fielded its first camogie team in Bohernabreena, Tallaght against the home side - St Anne's 5 - 0, Naomh Olaf 0 - 0. Their second game, on the 19th November 1994 was at Wedgewood against Liffey Gaels when the score was Liffey Gaels 2 - 0, Naomh Olaf 0 - 0. The final game before Christmas was played in Ballinteer on the 3rd December against St John's. It was as if Santa Claus had come early to the Naomh Olaf girls for they won their first camogie game on the score of Saint John's 0 - 0, Naomh Olaf 1 - 0. On the 1st of April, they were defeated by Trinity Gaels in the Championship played in the Phoenix Park but when the league resumed on the 4th April, at Wedgewood they recorded their first home win on a score of Naomh Olaf 7 - 0, St Jude's 1 - 0. On the 2nd May, they suffered a heavy defeat at Wedgewood against St Mark's but received a walkover there on the 16th May against Thomas Davis.

Frank Heaney's idea to start a camogie team in the first place was prompted by the fact that a number of girls had played hurling with the Under 10 and 11 hurling teams that he had managed the previous two

seasons. Frank felt it might not be possible to have them play Under 12 hurling with the boys and so entered a camogie team. The team was built around the girls who had hurling experience, such as Orla Lynch, Naomi Smith and Aoife Birrane. Unfortunately, the twin sisters Jenny and Caroline Nolan who also had hurling experience, were over age for the team as were Niamh Harbourne, Lisa Ronayne and Fionnuala McLoughlin. The other members of the panel were Aoife Maguire, Rachel Hughes, Leona Wallace, Emma Doyle, Cliona Waters, Emma O'Connor, Deirdre Ní Ghríofa, Lisa Malone, Linda Kilpatrick, Gráinne O'Grady, Caoimhe Murray, Lisa O'Mahony, Chermaine Linnie, Elaine Doyle, Sally O'Donnell and Triona Colgan.

There were other factors which contributed to the successful launch of the camogie team. In March 1993, Frank Heaney had organised camogie training at Wedgewood. He had enlisted the assistance of Una Kilpatrick, her sister Deirdre McGrath and their mother Mrs. Eileen Hogan. The latter mentioned had won an All-Ireland Camogie Final with Dublin some years ago. About 40 eight to twelve year olds attended the training which continued until June that year. It was later in the same year that the Dublin County Board of the GAA first organised hurling coaching within the primary schools. Fortunately, the schools availed of this service. The arrival of Seamus O'Neill as Principal of Queen of Angels School was another influencing factor. His knowledge of, and enthusiasm for, the game of hurling and his willingness to impart that knowledge to

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his pupils, both boys and girls, is already reflected in the present standard of juvenile hurling within the club and must be a contributing factor in the number of girls wishing to play camogie. Gerry Murphy, St Olaf's Primary School and Barry Kenna, Our Lady of the Wayside, Kiltarnan, are other teachers who are doing great work for Gaelic games in their schools. Michael Brennan, Queen of Angels School, who has done trojan work in the teaching of set dancing in the club, is to be found at Wedgewood every Sat-

urday morning with a number of helpers coaching over 30 under 10 year olds in the skills of camogie. With the interest being shown at the moment, the future of camogie within the club is looking very bright. Liz Daly is now assisting with the Under 12 camogie team. However, more help would be appreciated. If anybody out there wishes to organise a Junior Camogie Team, I am informed that there are plenty of girls who are willing and able to play.



Some of the Club's first Camogie Players with their mentors: - Front Row l to r: Triona Colgan, Lisa O'Mahony, Linda Kilpatrick, Orla Lynch, Aoife Maguire, Aoife Birrane. Back l to r: Mairead Colgan, Elaine Doyle, Lisa Malone, Nina Murray, Niamh Harbourne, Fionnuala McLoughlin, Cliona Waters, Caoimhe Murray, Rachel Hughes and Benita Harbourne.

2004-2007 Rebirth of Camogie - By Mary Gibney

Having had no camogie team since the 1990s, Moya Power-Kelly and Pádraig Bermingham started an U13 team in 2005 with the following girls as members: Ciara Lynch, Alice Hopkins, Liz Byrne, Anika Babel, Derval Madden, Niamh Shoebridge, Caoimhe Power-Kelly, Emma Walsh, Elizabeth Curtis, Shonda Ryan, Rhianne Fahey, Claire Stevenson, Sarah Shoebridge, Amy Thornton, Aoife Gannon, Sarah Twomey, Leanne Byrne and Lea Gunning. Unfortunately they were unable to keep the team together.

It was around this time that the academy, with Moya's help, started on Saturday mornings and though it was mainly boys who attended, a handful of girls were also attending. Mary Gibney brought her daughter along to the academy and having played camogie herself, enquired as to what was available at club and county level for the younger age groups. The first step for Moya and Mary was to attend the monthly Dublin Camogie County Board meetings to see what was going on. There was no structure for camogie below U11 at county level. To have weekly games, the girls, on leaving the academy, would have to play hurling with the boys for three years. This was not ideal as many of the girls would give up before they had even started. As a result, Naomh Olaf was the driving force behind the successful proposal at County Board to commence non-competitive U10 leagues, with the girls playing 9-a-side games. Naomh Olaf played their first match away to Naomh Bríd and we have not stopped playing camogie since, currently fielding teams at each age level from U8 to U14. Following the huge success of the introduction of U10s, Naomh Olaf, along

with a number of other clubs, proposed the commencement of U9 leagues in 2007 and U8 leagues in 2009. Girls now have a defined pathway for camogie from academy straight through to juvenile and then to adult.

2008 - Naomh Olaf wins first Dublin titles

2008 was a wonderful season for camogie at Naomh Olaf as the club won its first ever league and championship titles. The U11 team, coached by Mary Gibney, won the Division 2 league and the B Championship. Katie Grimes was also awarded Dublin Division 2 'Player of the Year, our first ever club player to win one of these coveted titles. The team was unbeaten all season in over 20 matches. However, it was not all easy and they had plenty of heart-stopping moments along the way. The championship final against Naomh Bríd in the Phoenix Park, home of Dublin Camogie, was a very tight game as both teams were all square twice, before Naomh Olaf scored the winning goal, minutes from the final whistle.

2009 - Girls' Academy

With the commencement of U8 non-competitive leagues, Naomh Olaf needed to look at its own structures and how it would support the growth of camogie at both club and school level. Large numbers of girls were joining the academy in September; however, by January, very few would still be attending. We made the decision to start a girls-only academy, catering for ladies' football and camogie. Currently there are almost 60 girls signed up at U5, U6 and U7.

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2008 U11 B Championship Winners and League Division 2 Winners - Back row l to r: Sadhbh Maher, Jordan Bent, Róisín MacLoughlin, Katie Grimes, Kate Murray, Morgain Reynolds, Jennifer Heckman, Sadie Lanigan, Mairéad O'Shea Scanlon, Siobhan Keogh. **Front row l to r:** Emma O'Higgins, Niamh Brennan, Shauna O'Connell, Caoimhe Heckman, Eilis Murphy, Harriet Meagan, Niamh Donnelly, Niamh Lakes, Katie Pollard, Rachel Morris, Carolyn McGuirk. Missing: Neama Keogh.

The club has a very strong link with local primary schools. Weekly, our club coaches and a number of dedicated teachers, give additional coaching skills to the girls. At the end of 2009, St Olaf's National School under the guidance of teachers, James Robinson and Ger Murphy, won their first camogie Cumann na mBunscol title, having been beaten by one point in the 2008 final. The girls went on to take a football title, having also lost out by a single point the previous year after a replay. They were the first team from our local schools to do the double in the same season.

2010 - Olaf's 3rd Dublin title

Again in 2010, we tasted success winning the U13 B championship against Good Counsel. Giordan Brewer was in superb form, winning the 'Player of the Match' award. The girls coached by Niamh Maher, Ann Grimes and Stephen Murray, were in con-

trol of the match from start to finish.

Later in the year, the club put forward one nominee each for 'Dublin Player of the Year' in U13 Division 2 (Kate Murray), U12 Division 2 (Róisín MacLoughlin) and U11 Division 2 (Ellen Brien). We were thrilled when we found out that, not just one, but all three girls were successful. It was wonderful to have other clubs recognise Naomh Olaf's talent and the contribution we have made, as a club, to the game. They were presented with their awards by Dublin Minor Board Chairperson Patsy Powell in front of a packed crowd at St Vincent's GAA Club.

2010 was also the first year that players from Naomh Olaf represented Dublin playing camogie. Katie Grimes and Kate Murray were both successful members of the Dublin U13 School of Excellence panel.

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2011- Looking to the future

Again in 2011, both Katie and Kate made the Dublin U14 School of Excellence while Sadhbh Maher also played in a number of blitzes earlier in the year with the U14s. Shannon McDonagh and Róisín MacLoughlin were successful in getting onto the Dublin U13 School of Excellence.

In 2011, Naomh Olaf registered 115 girls and 15 mentors with the Dublin Camogie Board. Including numbers in the academy, we have almost 200 girls now playing camogie at the club. U14 is currently our oldest age group. Almost half the players on our current U14 team sub up from the U13 team. The team, as a whole, is finding the pace and skill level of Division 1 camogie tough going. Our vision is that a number of these girls will stick with camogie and we will have our first club adult camogie team in the next three to four years. This will be a huge challenge for us as it is at this age level that the biggest drop-off is experienced in the game. We are not the only club who find ourselves in this position in Dublin. Many girls leave camogie for different reasons; among these would be the following: not being given match time even though attending training, giving up sport to concentrate on secondary school studies (many of these girls go on to play no sport), choosing another sport over camogie. Many of our players are dual players i.e. they also play ladies' football. Unlike the boys where they play hurling one weekend and football the next, camogie and football are played every weekend; this is because each code is run by a different association. Most of our players would also play school hockey with matches on Saturday mornings. This means that a core group of girls would have 3 matches every weekend in the months of Sept/Oct/Nov/Mar/Apr/May and this is



Kate Murray 2010 U13 Division 2 'Dublin Player of the Year'



Róisín MacLoughlin 2010 U12 Division 2 'Dublin Player of the Year'



Ellen Brien 2010 U13 Division 2 'Dublin Player of the Year'

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not taking into account girls who would play up or play other club/school sports. Mary Gibney, who is currently Secretary of the Dublin Minor Camogie Board, has been supporting this agenda (driven by neighbouring club Cuala) for alternate weekends. A working group, from across both codes, has been set up to review and are due to report later in the year at Convention. On the brighter side, local secondary school, St Raphaela's, have, for the first time, submitted a school team to play in 2011/2012 Dublin Camogie Secondary Schools competition. With

the continued support of the mentors John Coffey, Veronica Donnelly, David Walsh, Declan Naughton, Liz Doyle, Tara O'Brien, Joe O'Shea, Louise Staunton, Jim Quinn, Paula Feehan, Moya Power-Kelly, Noeleen Brien, Sinead Cassidy, Xavier Tynan, James Hughes, Mary Gibney, Ann Grimes, Stephen Murray and Niamh Maher and with the assistance of club coaches Aisling Farrelly and Darren Egan, our main priority is to keep all the girls playing. If we taste success on the field while doing this, that will be an added benefit.



2010 - U13 B Championship Winners, Runner-Up Division 2 League - Back row 1 to r: Ann Grimes (Mentor), Hayleigh Gunning, Giordan Brewer (Player of the Match), Katie Grimes, Kate Murray, Stefanie Deasy, Laura Hennessey Feehan, Niamh Donnelly, Shauna O'Connell, Róisín MacLoughlin, Niamh Maher (Mentor), Stephen Murray (Mentor). **Front row 1 to r:** Niamh Brennan, Carolyn McGuirk, Eilis Murphy, Sadhbh Maher, Niamh Lakes, Amy McGrath, Shannon McDonagh, Sadie Lanigan. *Missing: Chloe Ní Cheallaigh, Jordan Bent.*

A Slice of Clubhouse Life

This report by Anne - Marie McGlynn was first published in the Souvenir Programme for the Official Opening of the Clubhouse in 1994

Back in August 1993, we had the Barndance – lots of straw, checked shirts and foot stamping. The hall was transformed and we certainly acted like Wild Westerners for the night. The Clubhouse was buzzing – a little taste of things to come. New Year's Eve was another big night. A dinner dance was held and for the first time, club members rang in the New Year together!

Since the opening, the club has been hired by members for all sorts of parties, birthdays and anniversaries. There is badminton on a Monday and often table quizzes during the week. Set dancing has started and Irish music and a bit of a céilí are found every Friday night. St. Patrick's Day was also celebrated this year. A Céilí Mór was held and old memories of a haon, dó, trí, were renewed.

Thursday nights are perhaps the best example of life in Naomh Olaf, starting at 6.30 p.m. when the minor team arrives; the clubhouse remains busy until closing.

Downstairs in the hall, dedicated players and mentors work away, putting in the hours; outside too, teams are training, all hopeful of honours. Then there's a trip to the shower, perhaps the highlight of the session, to ease away all those healthy aches before heading home. Age permitting, it's not uncommon to meet those same Celtic gladiators in the bar wetting their whistles. Tired and thirsty and glad to be sipping their bottles of minerals, at least while

their trainers are around, they can relax and enjoy the bit of slagging and craic. Watching from the bar the West Coast Coolers can be seen, bringing strenuous activities for the night to an end.

In the interim, it's down to serious business as the last of the committee members assemble for the weekly conference. Elsewhere the ruaille buaille continues, members are signed in by the rostered door person, pool is being played, lotto tickets are sold and glasses are refilled. As the committee meeting draws to a close, last orders are about to be called, kit bags are rounded up, plans are made and reminders given of weekend training or match times. As the bar empties, bar staff still remain, putting things back in order, ready for another good night.



Michael Byrne (RIP) a life long member of the club, signs his name in the club register, in the presence of the door staff, on this occasion, Mary Shivnan and Mick Fallon. Photo taken in 1994.

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Eoin Brennan, Eric Horgan, David Roben and Brian Horgan have a mineral as they relax in the lounge, following a Thursday night's training session in 1994.



A group of the club's set dancers in action on a Friday night in 1994.



Minor football team trainer John McGrath explains his point, during a training session approaching an important Championship Match in 1994.

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Photographs taken on the 3rd January 1995 on the occasion of the presentation of trophies to four adult winning teams of 1993/94, including the Junior



Former Dublin Hurling and Football star Jimmy Keaveney (centre) with (L to R) Flan McCarthy, Sean Keane and Jerome Hogan, Junior Hurling Team Mentors, with Larry Kinsella, Club Chairman, on right.

Hurling Team, winners of the “C” Championship. This was the first hurling championship ever won by the Club.



L to R: Don Cotter, Balally Drive, (RIP), former Chairman of the Dublin County Board, his daughter Síle Cotter who later played Senior Ladies Football for Dublin. Jimmy Keaveney and Ned Seery of Naomh Olaf Lotto Committee.



L to R: Don Cotter, R.I.P. Terry Bermingham, Síle Cotter, Jimmy Keaveney and Regina Hogan, with Ned and Michael Seery in the background.

A Great Team

This article by Bill O'Brien was published in the Souvenir Programme for the Official Opening of the Clubhouse in 1994

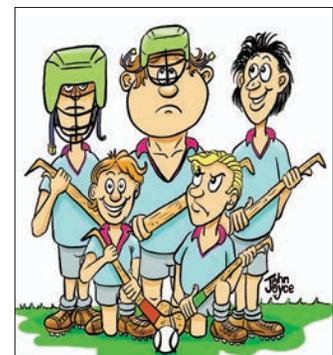
I have no doubt but that, since 1981, I have been a member of "The Greatest Team of All". The team I speak of is, of course, that which founded and nurtured Naomh Olaf GAA Club for the past twelve years. It has been a great privilege to have been part of the team down the years. The various members of "The Team" are too numerous to mention, but each and every one brings back fond memories and all have become very good friends of mine. The achievements of "The Team", in my humble opinion, have been exceptional and are an example of what can be achieved when a group of people set their minds to something.

Since that first meeting in a pre-fab. at St. Olaf's School, when all of those present put their hands in their pockets to establish the first funds of Naomh Olaf, many a mountain has been climbed. At the time, the pessimists insisted that Naomh Olaf would never field even a Minor (Under 18) team and later, that the type of premises "The Team" envisaged as a Clubhouse was out of the question and could never be a reality. However, over the years not one member of "The Team" flinched from their goal and all are to be congratulated for their wonderful achievements over a short period. It is incredible that the boys who lined out for Under 14 football for Naomh Olaf in 1981 (our most senior team then) have now achieved Senior status and are playing at the highest level of club football in Dublin and have done so in the same year as our Clubhouse opened. Now that

a goal has been reached, let us concentrate on the games. Sport is supposed to be enjoyed by participants and spectators alike and is to be encouraged by all. Whether participants are good or bad, there is a place for everyone. The best participants may not be the best administrators.

Gaelic games, particularly hurling, are a delight to watch when played well by skilled players. To achieve these skills, our youth need proper coaching and hours of practice. Naomh Olaf has some excellent young footballers and hurlers, thanks to school teachers and team members, and the future on the playing fields looks bright. To continue the excellent work of the past, new "team" members are always required. I have no doubt that there are several people in our community who would be a decided asset to our club. We were all very green in 1981, so don't be shy, get involved now and become part of "a great team" for the future.

Congratulations and a sincere thank you to all who helped in any way over the years. Thank you for the memories, anxieties, frustrations, thrills and spills and most of all, for being there.



Anniversary and Presentation Supper Dance held 30th April 1995

*This report by Brendan McGlynn was published in
Panorama Magazine in May 1995*

The Anniversary and Presentation Supper Dance on Sunday night, 30th April, was a most enjoyable and successful occasion. The amount of hard work done by Mary O'Shea and her Social Committee in preparation for this event was clearly evident as one entered the spacious sports hall, which was beautifully and suitably decorated for the occasion. The Club bunting, together with a liberal supply of balloons in the Club colours of claret and blue (which were organised by Robert Irwin), created a homely and cosy atmosphere.

Almost 300 patrons enjoyed a very tasty meal, efficiently served by Sheila Fagan and her able staff. The highlight of the night was the presentation of the "Player of the Year" trophies, sponsored by Carroll and Kinsella, to six lucky recipients. The Chairman of the Club, Larry Kinsella, made the presentation after the various team mentors had announced the winners and explained why these particular players had been selected to receive the trophies. The following players were honoured:

<i>Minor Player of the Year</i>	<i>David O'Brien</i>
<i>Under 21 Player of the Year</i>	<i>Eric Horgan</i>
<i>Ladies Footballer of the Year</i>	<i>Vivienne Naughton</i>
<i>Junior Footballer of the Year</i>	<i>Ian Munnelly</i>
<i>Junior Hurler of the Year</i>	<i>Jim Shiggins</i>
<i>Senior Footballer of the Year</i>	<i>Derek Dowling</i>

Later, Seamus Brennan presented a set of jerseys and two track suits to the Club. Soon the dance floor was filled as Odyssey, the band on the occasion, played music to suit all tastes and had juniors and seniors alike, dancing to their hearts' content. It was generally agreed that it was one of the best nights' entertainment in the life of the Club.



Back row l to r: Larry Kinsella (Chairman of the Club), Derek Dowling, Eric Horgan and David O'Brien. Front row l to r: Jim Shiggins, Vivienne Naughton and Ian Munnelly,

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Some of the Under 13/14 hurlers of 1995/96 - Back row l to r: John Ballance, Daniel Mulligan, Donal Shivnan, Brian Egan, Alex O'Brien, Alan Mulvey, Michael Horan, John McDermott, Keith Nolan and Thomas fanning. Middle Row l to r: Brian Rice, Stephen Farrelly, Eoin Heaney, Chris Daly, Philip Conway, Lorcan Kinsella, Michael Fahy and Robert Fox. Front Row l to r: Adam Culligan and Kevin Doolan.



Official Opening of Clubhouse 30.4.94 - Back row l to r: A. Roe, B. Begley, D. Suivnan, J. McCarthy, M. Grace, P. Mahon, S. Redmond, D. Egan, C. McMahon, A. Burke. Middle row: R. Fitzmaurice, A. Comerford, T. Purcell, K. Doolan, P. Rice. Front row l to r: D. O'Reilly, W. Mulvey, G. Keady, S. Whyte, P. McGrath, M. Smith.



Executive Committee 1995/1996 - Back row l to r: Dermot Irwin, Mary O'Shea, R.I.P.Liam Christian (Registrar), Ceara Cotter, Kevin Birrane (Vice Chairman), Ray Howley. Front row l to r: Flan McCarthy, Paddy Kiernan (Treasurer), Mary Hayes (Secretary), Larry Kinsella (Chairman), Brendan McGlynn (P.R.O.), Ned Seery.

Hurling in Naomh Olaf 1995/96

This report by Jerome Hogan was published in Panorama Magazine in October 1996

Hurling in Naomh Olaf made huge strides forward during the 1995/'96 season. Trojan work has been done by many players and mentors, from the young under age teams to the adult Junior team. My brief here is to deal with the achievement of the Minor, Under 21 and Junior teams. This in no way disregards the great efforts and achievements of the teams below these age groups.

At the beginning of the season it appeared there would be no team at Minor level. Through the great efforts of Sean Keane, a panel was put together and entered in Div. 3 of the league. The team was an instant success, winning their first game easily against St Peregrine's and going on to win seven other matches easily, against teams of the calibre of Faughs and Kilmacud Crokes. The final match against the only other unbeaten team, St Sylvester's, was played in Wedgewood on the 8th of September and Naomh Olaf won narrowly giving them the league honours.

Probably the team's outstanding performance during the year was not in the league but in the first round of the Minor Championship. Naomh Olaf were drawn against Cuala who were leaders of Division 2 of the League. Cuala were hot favourites on the day but Sean Keane had his team well primed and they achieved an outstanding success after a great game. There was to be disappointment in the quarter final as Trinity Gaels, having been led until well into the second half, turned the tide with two quick goals. Overall a great achievement for Sean and the play-

ers. Larry Kinsella will be charge of the minor team in the coming season and they will be campaigning in Div. 2. We wish them well.

Panel of Players (Minor) 1995/96

Caolan Cotter, Ronan Hayes, Shane O'Connor, Kevin O'Brien, Eoin Christian, Brendan McGlynn, Kevin Keane, Enda Brennan, James Anderson, Aoghain Cotter, Edmund Smyth, Karl Kavanagh, Michael Neill, Michael McDermott, Sean Gibbons, Ciaran Maguire, Jerome Hogan, Eoin Kinsella, Karl Byrne, Emmet O'Grady.

The gap between Minor and Adult hurling was very adequately filled by our Under 21 hurlers, taken care of by Mick Waters, Flan McCarthy and Sean Keane. The panel of players here was very strong and many of them also competed at adult level. The team competed in Division 2 of the League and won seven out of the nine matches played. Whitehall/Colmcille was their first match and also one of their defeats. A measure of their improvement was seen last week, when they played the same Whitehall/Colmcille team in a play-off for second place in the League. The match was played in Ringsend. The Naomh Olaf team put on a great performance on the day and ran out comfortable winners. This is a very dedicated team and many of the players were called on to play on the Junior Hurling team during the whole season.

In the Championship, the first round produced a great win over St Jude's in a great match. The second round was disappointing in that the team didn't produce its best against Lucan Sarsfields. Some of these players are now too old for Under 21 and will be devoting their total energy to the Junior Hurling

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Team. The Under 21 team will compete in Division 2 of the League again next year.

The Under 21 1995/'96 panel was:

Derek Naughton, Greg Naughton (RIP), John Keane, Kevin Keane, Niall McCaffrey, Daragh Maxwell, Lorcan MacMathuna, Shamie Mac Mathuna, Barry Lynch, Thomas Brown, Eoin Brennan, David O'Brien, Des Murphy, Shane O'Connor, James Anderson, Pdraig Bermingham, Paddy Roe, Brian Murtagh, Eamon Cotter, Kevin O'Brien, John Manners and Fergal Hogan.

The Junior Hurling Team competed in Division A of the League, in the Corn Fag an Bealach and in the "B" Championship. The year overall was a great success for the team. It was its first year in Division A and as a result of winning the Top 4 final of the League, it has won promotion to Intermediate standard for next season. This rates as a great achievement for the team and mentors, as the team has only been existence for six years.

The Junior "B" Championship produced some great victories for the team. St Vincent's provided the opposition in the first round and the result was a great win in Wedgewood. Another club with a great tradition in hurling were our opponents in the semi-final. The result was another great win, this time in O'Toole Park. And so to the final, again in O'Toole Park. Ballyboden St Enda's put out an experienced team against us and proved too crafty for us in the end. The team never lost heart after this defeat and lifted itself again to gain promotion to Intermediate level. This league holds no fears for the team or mentors in the coming season. With new players coming of age all the time combined with the wealth of experience and craft of the more established men, we expect to hold our own with the best in the higher

league. I would like to pay tribute to my fellow mentors and helpers of this team, Flan McCarthy, Sean Keane (also the team's goalkeeper) and John Ryan.

The healthy state of hurling in Naomh Olaf is reflected in the fact that there is now need for a second junior team. Efforts are now being made to compose a panel and team of mentors for this team. I have no doubt that it will also be a success.

On the 8th of December 1995, two of the All Ireland winning Dublin Senior Football Team, Brian Stynes and Paul Bealin, brought the Sam Maguire Cup to the Club.



Back row l to r: Brian Stynes, Martin Monaghan - Drumriley Construction, Mairead Colgan - Sec. Naomh Olaf Juvenile Committee, Pat Maguire - Drumriley Construction and Paul Bealin.
Front row l to r: Ceara Cotter - Naomh Olaf and member of Dublin Ladies Senior Football Team, Derek Dowling - Naomh Olaf Senior Footballer with the Sam Maguire Cup.

The Phoenix from the Flames - By Stephen Hession

The 1996/97 season has witnessed the meteoric rise of our U16 football team, from the ashes of Div. 3 last year to the dizzy heights of Div. 1 this season. As U15s, the team showed some potential but lacked discipline and hunger for success. During the summer months however, a lot of behind the scenes work was done and a number of semi-retired players were coaxed back into their boots. Team spirit and discipline were raised and from four starts, success was achieved on three occasions.

The introduction of an outstanding goalkeeper in Ronan Miley, a strong full back line and an excellent half back line, led by Hugh O'Donnell, have reduced the opposition's scoring chances to a minimum. Mid-field, with Kevin Birrane and Barry O'Brien, R.I.P. has dominated in most games, releasing a lethal Ronan Hegarty into the forward line. Every few years a player of exceptional skill appears on the scene and this team is no exception with the scoring prowess of Eamonn Spain. Eamonn could be described as a time bomb waiting to ignite, but his dedication to the team and regular training have been amply rewarded with high scoring rates in each game.

No team could operate without leadership and this squad is lucky to have three devoted mentors in Hugh O'Donnell (Snr.), Kevin Birrane (Snr.) and Stephen Hession. Success is not guaranteed without hard work and it takes the entire squad of twenty-two, three mentors and the solid backing of the Club, to hopefully collect the silverware this team so richly deserve.

Naomh Olaf GAA Club has given these young men, and many more like them, the opportunity to learn respect, discipline and, most importantly, teamwork.

The alternative to playing for such a strong club for these impressionable young men does not bear thinking about.



Some members of the Under 15 Football Team, winners of Division Three of the 1995/96 League receiving their trophies - Back row l to r: Stephen Hession - Team Mentor; Donal Shivnan, Chris Gates, Graeme Fennell, Ciaran Doyle, Stephen Farrelly, Anthony Mayland, James McCarthy, Wayne Rodgers, Mary Shivnan - Team Mentor. Front row l to r: Wayne McCarthy, Kevin Doolan, Shane Whyte, Stephen Keogh.



*Three Naomh Olaf players who were honoured to be voted The Irish Nationwide Dublin GAA Club Footballers of the Month - R to L: Paddy Feehan, for the month of April, 1996
Alan Lyons, for the month of July, 1997
Paul Curran, for the month of December, 1997*

Naomh Olaf Junior Hurlers - 1997 to 2011 - By 'A Junior Hurler'

Towards the end of the 1996/1997 hurling season it was obvious that, due to the success of Naomh Olaf juvenile structures, a second team was needed to cater for the numbers then playing adult hurling. Paddy Maguire Snr, Jerome Hogan, Sean Keane, Mick Waters, Tommy Kennedy (amongst others) and, as always, Flan McCarthy were instrumental in forming this team which, thankfully, still survives.

Success came instantly with the winning of the Junior 'C' League in the team's first ever year, which in itself was an outstanding achievement. Guided primarily by Paddy Maguire Snr, they won all their matches, bar one, to comprehensively win this league and set the team on a firm footing. Early stalwarts included Willie Vereker, Fergal Hogan, Jim Quinn, Eoin Heaney, Timmy Cooney, Brian Mac Coitir, Dara Wade, Sean Coleman, Greg Naughton, R.I.P. Brian Horgan, Mick Seery, Philip Funge, Pat Boylan, Lorcán Mac Mathúna, Jim Quinn and others (many of whom were also to distinguish themselves in the future).

Over the years, this junior team remained competitive, and due to the trojan (and often thankless) work of Paddy Maguire Snr, more importantly they always fielded a team, even in the notoriously difficult Sunday morning and midweek cross-city fixtures. To be fair, the junior hurlers have remained loyal to the team and while staying in on a Saturday night might have proved too much of a discipline for some (a national junior hurling ailment, apparently), the team always managed to fulfil its fixtures. Training also proved elusive to many but the primary commitment

to staying competitive and fulfilling fixtures was respected by the lads.

Success proved elusive however after the first year, although it wasn't from want of effort. In 2004, the team reached the quarter final of the Junior 'D' Championship (the Dublin Leagues having been re-organised), losing bitterly by three points to Trinity Gaels after losing three players early on to injuries.

2005 was, however, to prove a tad more successful. The AHL7 Junior Hurling League was won in style with a stunning victory over Thomas Davis GAA Club in the final at Ballyboden. Great displays from Eoin Hayes, Timmy and Denis Cooney, Seamas 'Shimbo' Kinsella, Paul Desmond, Páraic Bermingham, Tommy Brown and many others resulted in the first silverware for the team in eight years. After a semi-final victory over Lucan Sarsfields, there were great hopes that the Junior 'D' Hurling Championship could also be won. St Maur's of Rush in Fingal awaited in the final which was played in O'Toole Park, Crumlin. To say we did not "turn up" in the final was an understatement, as St Maur's narrowly won the final on an afternoon in which we did not do ourselves justice. Most definitely a missed opportunity and the team eagerly wished to make amends for it. Alas, another Championship Final appearance has proved beyond the panel and many fine hurlers have since retired, without ever getting their hands on a well deserved Championship medal. Stalwarts on that panel in 2005 were Eoin McCaffrey, Aodhagán Mac Coitir, Paul Desmond, Tommy Brown, Brian Murtagh, Pat 'The Bull' Boylan, David 'Dob-

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sie' O'Brien and Enda Brennan. The AHL7 League victory was undoubtedly some consolation for the wretched Championship Final display.

Since 2005, the team has managed to reach the knock-out stages of the Championship annually (bar the calamitous 2009, when 3 one point defeats and a draw conspired to relegate us). Sadly, despite regularly appearing in semi- and quarter-finals, a further Championship Final appearance has proved elusive (that word again) and the team now plays in the AHL6 League and Junior 'D' Hurling Championship. An appearance in the Junior League final in 2006 vs. Craobh Chiaráin in Islandbridge resulted in a narrow one point defeat. A 'harshly' awarded penalty against David 'Dobsie' O'Brien was the decisive score in a tough game against the Donnycarney outfit. Another 'what if?' story.

The cold statistics - of leagues won and championships (sadly) never won - only give a partial picture

of the junior hurling team during that time. It has proved a highly successful introduction to adult hurling for many minor hurlers and it is a source of satisfaction that the likes of Colin Kyne Delaney, Mick O'Connor, Darren Egan, Anto Daly, Seamas Kinsella, Donal Kinsella and others have progressed to our senior hurling team via the junior hurlers.

Recent additions to the junior hurling team include such players as Gavin Stapleton, Ian Whelan, Francie Gray, Niall Harbourne, Will Byrne, Stevie Mahon, Eoin Lumsden, Cillian Lewins, Shane Mulvey, Niall Gallagher, Stephen Stapleton, Chrissie Fennell, Rob Doyle, Peter Gordon and Terry Carroll, who have all proved to be fine hurlers and who, in turn, have blended in with the more "seasoned" players in the panel. Barry Lynch, Greg Hannon, Emmett Laffan, James Hughes and Eamonn Barry have also distinguished themselves recently in the colours of the junior hurlers.



Adult Hurling League Division 6 Winners 2006 - Back row l to r: Eoin McCaffrey, Paddy Maguire, Francie Gray, Aodhagán Mac Coitir, Timmy Cooney, Ian Whelan, Eoin Hayes, Paul Desmond, Greg Hannon, Eamonn Barry, Denis Cooney. **Front row l to r:** Donal Kinsella, Seámas Kinsella, Stevie Mahon, Páraic Bermingham, Mick Seery, Pat Boylan, David O'Brien, Tommy Brown, Dara Hayes.

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The team has been managed by Tommy Brown, Mick Brown, Fran O'Dwyer and, in particular, Paddy Maguire Snr, who proved to be inspirational for many years until he stepped back from the team some years ago. All members of the junior panel are massively in their debt for all the work put in by them.

From Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow to Balbriggan in North County Dublin, the junior hurlers have plied their trade. Augmented on one occasion in Crumlin by an Australian visitor (he scored a point), it is fair to say that they have always played with a commitment to the cause and a pride in the sky blue and maroon jersey which belie their junior hurling status. The vitriol heaped on referees who treated the team harshly after narrow Championship defeats showed how much the team meant to many players. For some reason, the referees in the county have sought fit to conspire against us (or so we believe)

in big games and no doubt you will have heard (or will hear in the future while being buttonholed at the clubhouse bar by a former junior hurler) the litany of refereeing injustices perpetrated on the team.

Players who have been nominated, over the years, as Player of the Year include Emmett Laffan, Eoin McCaffrey, Mick Seery, Páraic Bermingham, Tommy Brown, Eoin Hayes, Brian Murtagh and Paddy Maguire Jnr. Despite exhaustive enquiries, an inclusive list of all winners of the Player of the Year award could not be compiled. Apologies to the lads whose names were omitted from this list.

It is fair to say that this junior hurling team has proved a worthwhile addition to Naomh Olaf GAA Club and a dangerous adversary for those opponents who underestimate us. In 2010, the AHL6 winners St Brendan's GAA Club suffered their only loss in the league to us. Long may it continue.



The Junior Hurling Team 2011 - Back row l to r: Eamonn Barry, Mick O'Connor, James Hughes, Gavin Stapleton, Niall Gallagher, Francie Gray, Páraic Bermingham, Kevin Quigley, Shane Sweeney, Niall McCaffrey. Front row l to r: Fergal Máirtín, Terry Carroll, Ritchie McDonnell, Shane Mulvey, Barry Lynch, Peter Gordon, Robert Doyle, Eoin McCaffrey.

Under 12 Football Team of 1997/98 Season

This report by Trish Farrelly was first published in July 1998

We were fortunate to have the same squad as last season with the addition of Joseph Canning, Niall Egan, Barry Kenny, Stephen Stapleton and William Byrne. Our league consisted of 12 teams in the South East League, Division 2.

Our first league game was against Good Counsel on September 13th, which unfortunately we lost, but they went on to beat every other team and took the League title. After Christmas, the league was divided into mini leagues. Teams were matched in groups of four according to ability and played on a home and away basis. We won the league, winning all our games for which we will be receiving certificates and medals.

In the first round of the Cup we played and beat St Jude's. In the second round, we met a Division 1 team and unfortunately we lost. However, our spirits were high having won the mini-league, and we were playing and working much better as a unit. We sent six of the team forward for trials for the Dublin Under 12s and Barry Kenny was selected and played for the Dublin team. Well done, Barry.

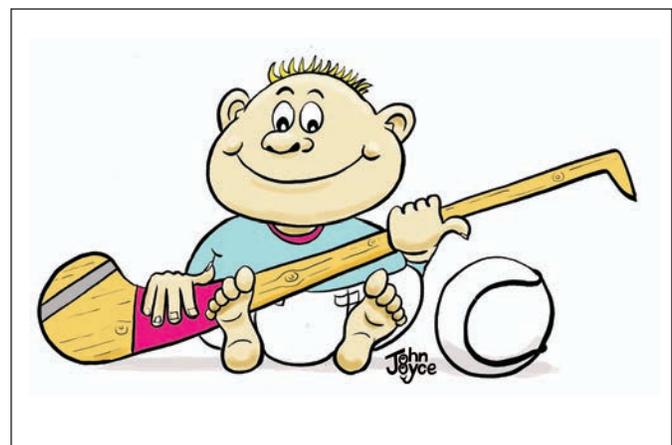
There is great commitment and discipline in this team. There is always a great turn-out for every training session and match and we pride ourselves on never having had a player booked since the squad was formed at Under 9 level.

Of course we couldn't manage without the help of the parents who double up as roadies and supporters. Thanks to Mary and Paul Hughes, Christy Darcy, Martin Huggard, Alex Hughes, Fergus Canning, An-

gela Davis, Janet Frewen, Catherine Egan and Pat and Mary Kenny. A special thanks to our, by now, official 'Net Man', Christy Darcy. R.I.P.



Under 12 Football Team 1997/'98 - Winners of the Special League - Back row l to r: Trish Farrelly (Coach), Alec Hughes, Niall Egan, Edward Darcy, John Mulhall (Coach). **Middle row l to r:** David Frewen, Patrick Mulhall, Joe Canning, William Byrne, Patrick Doyle, Colin Hughes, Ian Corcoran. **Front row l to r:** Kevin Davis, Chris Dent, Sean Gaskin, Kevin Farrelly, Philip Farrelly, Dean Huggard. *Missing from photograph:* Stephen Stapleton, Barry Kenny, Mark Hopkins, Zac Delaney.



Special Evening with Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh - 24th February 1998

This report by Brendan McGlynn was first published in Panorama Magazine in March 1998

A planning workshop was organised in 1997 by Glór na nGael to identify practical ways of promoting the use of Irish in the community and in various aspects of daily life. The local GAA clubs were amongst the groups who participated. Many very worthwhile proposals arose, including one from Naomh Olaf.

Representatives suggested that, with appropriate support and encouragement, team mentors could use some Irish in training sessions and matches. This would apply mainly, but not exclusively, at juvenile level.

Implementation of the proposal would enhance the great work being done within the clubs to support many other aspects of Irish culture, apart from the games themselves. These include, for example, traditional music and set dancing sessions and the Irish language by the use of bilingual signage, stationery and forms.

Arising from this proposal, a special evening for the local GAA clubs, Naomh Olaf, Ballinteer St. John's and Kilmacud Crokes, was held in Naomh Olaf Clubhouse on Tuesday, 24 February 1998 at 8 p.m. Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh did a commentary in Irish on a short friendly match in the sports hall between Under 10 footballers from Naomh Olaf and Ballinteer St. John's during which some Irish phrases were used by the players. It was a very exciting and entertaining occasion for those of us fortunate enough to be present.

Mícheál signed photographs galore and several photographs were taken. Later, he gave a bilingual talk for the mentors upstairs and introduced a bilingual leaflet of hurling and football terms which was put together with the help of Finín Máirtín of Naomh Olaf. The session finished with a social evening and Irish music in the Club, where discussion and debate continued in a relaxed atmosphere.



The Naomh Olaf Under 10 Football Team, who played Ballinteer St. John's, in Naomh Olaf Clubhouse, on 24-2-98. Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh did a commentary as Gaeilge. Front row l to r: Susan Howley, Sean Scott, Simon Hickey, William Byrne, Andrew Guyett. Second row l to r: Owen Byrne, Colm Fox, Shane Gill, Dane Holland, Joseph Egan, Ross Melody, Fergal Máirtín. Back row l to r: Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh, Finín Máirtín, Mary Hayes.

Ten Naomh Olaf Players play for Dublin in 1998 - By Brendan McGlynn

Darragh Maxwell, Niall McCaffrey and Alan Lyons played on the Dublin Under 21 football team that reached the Leinster Championship Final. Darragh Maxwell was named on the Dublin Senior Football Championship Panel and he and Alan Lyons played league football for Dublin Senior footballers that year. Niall McCaffrey played Under 21 Championship Hurling and also played for Dublin in the Senior Hurling League.

Sean Gibbons, Eoin Kinsella and Fearghal Purcell played on the Dublin Minor Football team that reached the Leinster final. Caolan Cotter and Sean Gibbons were on the Dublin Minor Hurling team that reached the Leinster Final while Ceara Cotter, Síle Cotter and Aishling Doyle-Rauf were on the Dublin Ladies Senior Football squad in 1998.



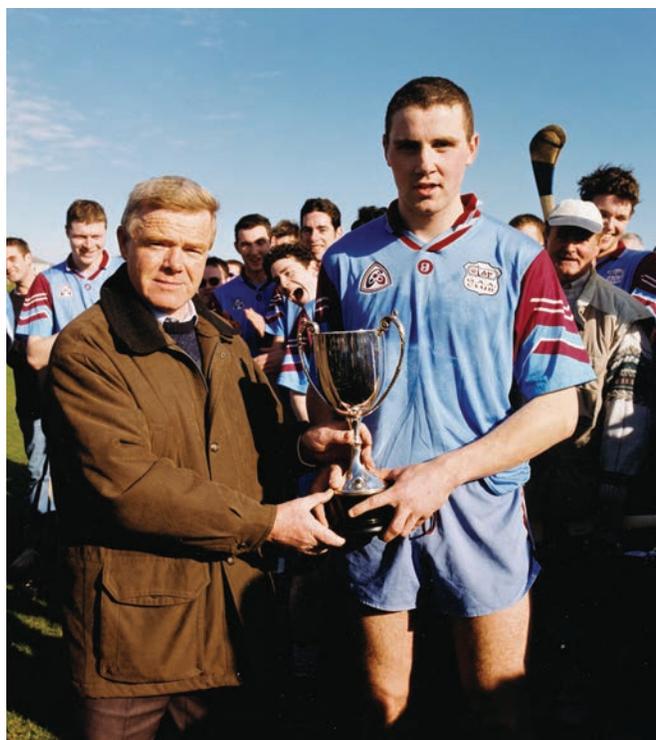
Naomh Olaf players who played for Dublin in 1998 - Back row l to r: Sean Gibbons, Niall McCaffrey, Alan Lyons, Darragh Maxwell and Fearghal Purcell. Front row l to r: Caolan Cotter, Aisling Doyle-Rauf, Síle Cotter, Ceara Cotter and Eoin Kinsella.

Under 21 Hurling Shield Winners 1999

This report by Brendan McGlynn was first published in May 1999

Fingallians presented no problems for Naomh Olaf when they travelled to Swords to fulfill the first round fixture. The second round was against St Oliver Plunkett's and was always going to be a tough game. Naomh Olaf concentrated on their hurling and produced some wonderful passages of play as they went on to win by 4-9 to 1-3. In the semi-final against St Mark's, Naomh Olaf showed wonderful commitment and no small amount of skill as they went on to win by 4-16 to 2-5.

The final was played in Sean Moore Park, Ringsend on Good Friday against Naomh Mearnóg. A large crowd travelled to Ringsend to witness the spectacle. While bright sunshine helped to warm the atmosphere, a strong wind favoured the opposition in the opening period. Naomh Olaf defended brilliantly and made good use of their few chances to be led by only a point at half time. The switch of young Barry O'Brien (RIP) from corner back to mid-field made a huge difference in the team's performance; aided by the wind, they scored five points without reply in what was a great team performance with every player giving 100%. The final 15 minutes were hectic with both sides getting some great scores, such as a memorable point by Niall McCaffrey from well inside his own half. When the final whistle sounded, to the delight of all Naomh Olaf players and spectators, the score was Naomh Olaf 2-10 Naomh Mearnóg 1-9. Scorers for Naomh Olaf were Darragh Maxwell 1-2, Sean Gibbons 0-5 (5f), Fintan O'Brien 1-1, John Keane and Niall McCaffrey 0-1 each. Niall McCaffrey was Player of the Match



Naomh Olaf Captain, Niall McCaffrey, is presented with the Shield Cup by Noel Murphy, Secretary of the Dublin Minor Board.





The Under 21 Hurling Team Shield Winners 1999 - Front row l to r: Edmund Smith, Ray Quinn, Eoin Christian, Kevin O'Brien, Niall McCaffrey, Seamus MacMathúna, Barry Lynch, Eoin Kinsella, Robert Quinn, Thomas Brown. Back Row l to r: Emmet O'Grady, David O'Brien, John Quinn, Kevin Keane, Sean Gibbons, Caolan Cotter, Barry O'Brien (RIP), Darragh Maxwell, Fintan O'Brien, John Keane, Eoin McCaffrey, Peter Fallon and Shane O'Connor.



1997 Under 21 Hurling Championship team in O'Toole Park - Back row l to r: Eoin Christian, John Quinn, John Keane, Peter Fallon, Kevin O'Brien, Barry Lynch, Eoin Brennan, Kevin Keane. Front row l to r: Edmund Smith, Séamus Mac Mathúna, Lorcán Mac Mathúna, Shane O'Connor, Caolán Cotter, Greg Naughton, R.I.P. Brendan McGlynn.

Before Olaf - By Joe Fleming

The early years of the GAA in the Dundrum area were sketchy, intermittent, and poorly documented. It is known that Dundrum Volunteers fielded an adult hurling team in the 1920s. It flickered, fluttered, sputtered and died in the space of about two or three years. In the 1940s, a minor football team known as Thomas McDonaghs had a similar experience. St Mary's, Sandymount was probably the most stable club, and certainly the most successful. They won the Dublin Junior Football Championship in 1922. But they were rough and ready and later, in the 1920s, they were expelled for riotous behaviour. In 1934, they were re-instated and survived into the middle 1950s. In my time, their chief coach, jersey-washer, and on some occasions corner-forward, was Paddy Walsh, now with Stars of Erin in Glencullen. The beginnings of stability arrived in 1966. In that year, teams drawn from Barton Rd East, Ludford, Wyckham Park, Windy Arbour and points in between, were entered in hurling and football at both Under 13 and Under 15 level by the Dundrum club. Simultaneously Churchtown (Baile an Chlocháin) entered teams drawn from Churchtown itself, Beaumont Avenue and adjoining roads, and Nutgrove Avenue.

The Dundrum club was formally inaugurated on the 13th September 1967. In addition to juvenile teams, adult sides were formed in both hurling and football. A sufficient number of hardy animals living locally had been disturbed from retirement, and together with some younger blood, teams were formed. The adult hurlers won the Junior 'B' League in 1968, and after a poor year in the 'A' League, won the Miller Shield in 1970. The adult football team did not fare

so well and after a few years faded. Under-age teams also enjoyed the occasional success.

In 1981, the Dundrum club began to run summer leagues in order to generate further interest. About this time however, new clubs – Naomh Olaf (1981) and Ballinteer St John's (1982) – began to form in the locality and so the catchment area became restricted.

Baile an Chlocháin was also, as already stated, formed in 1966 to cater for juvenile hurling, football and camogie in the Churchtown area. The local De La Salle Brothers were very supportive, despite the fact that their secondary school was rugby-playing. A reasonable string of successes was recorded, culminating in a Minor Football League title in 1975. In 1983, the club achieved Intermediate status, being runners-up in both Junior League and Championship.

Catchment areas were declining however and on the 1st August 1985, Dundrum and Churchtown merged with a view to maximising resources. Again there were successes in both Junior Hurling and Minor Football. In 1987, the Under 13 hurlers won the Dublin Féile na nGael and the corresponding Leinster title. But the club's pride and joy, the Intermediate Football team, began to decline, was relegated and eventually slid to Junior Division 2, to regain Division 1 status in 1993. About this time the Junior Hurling team was lost. The area was ageing and old bones cannot hurl. By 1998, there was nothing left but a Junior Football Division 1 team and a reserve team in Junior 7. In January 1999, after much soul-searching, it was decided to wind up the club and

transfer all players, and hopefully their talents, to Naomh Olaf.



Launch of the Club Crest for Dundrum/Churchtown Hurling and Football Club in 1985 - L to R: Hugh Doyle, Joe Fleming, Billy Cullen of The Bottle Tower who presented a set of jerseys, and Claus De Veale.

A Welcome for Dundrum/Churchtown

The following article, by Brendan McGlynn, was published in the Panorama Magazine in July 1999

On Friday night June 11th 1999, the Club celebrated in fine style the joining of Dundrum / Churchtown with Naomh Olaf. It was Irish music and set-dancing as usual but this Friday night was special. Seldom were so many young people (junior footballers and their friends) present and obviously enjoying themselves. Rory Kennelly on bodhrán, Emmet O'Grady on violin and John Manners on uilleann pipes are all fine musicians. There was singing too but few obliged more often than Ken O'Hara. The Social Committee representatives on the night, Mary O'Shea, Patsy McGlynn, Catherine Egan, Nuala Byrne and Karen Egan, prepared and served delicious food, which was much appreciated. The Club Chairman, Larry Daly, officially welcomed the people of Dundrum/

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Churchtown and invited them to get involved in the management of the club. John Garvey, on behalf of Dundrum/Churchtown, made an appropriate reply. It was a most enjoyable and social occasion.

The following article by Brendan McGlynn, was published in the Dublin Year Book in 2000

Adult football is flourishing in the club at present. Last year in addition to the senior team, the club had only one junior football team playing in Division 3 of the league. The players seldom trained and sometimes there was even difficulty in fielding a team. Early in 1999, our neighbouring club, Dundrum / Churchtown, approached Naomh Olaf with a view to throwing in their lot with the club. Their approach was welcomed. Men such as Claus De Veale, Joe Fleming, Jim McCrea, John Garvey, Fred Healy etc., who had done tremendous work in promoting hurling and football from juvenile to intermediate level in the late sixties, seventies, eighties and nineties, found it increasingly difficult to continue in an area where there has been little new housing development. They had, of course, enjoyed the support and indeed, the participation, of the residents of all the new housing estates in the Ballinteer area until they successfully formed their own club, Ballinteer St John's, in the early eighties. Now with only two football teams, a Junior 1 and a Junior 7, the members felt that their cause would be better served by joining with Naomh Olaf where they would have well-organised coaching for beginners, teams for all age groups in hurling and football, including ladies' football, in addition to the benefit of first class club facilities.

Among a number of gestures the Naomh Olaf club made to facilitate their involvement was the production of a new Naomh Olaf club crest incorporating

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the Viking ship of Naomh Olaf as well as the Bottle Tower and the Usher Monument, both of which formed part of the Dundrum/Churchtown crest.

When their decision was made and following a welcoming night in the club, junior football training commenced in earnest in Meadowbrook and in Wedgewood. Now there was competition for places on the club's Junior 1, Junior 3, and Junior 7 teams. Players who had not played or trained seriously for ages were now training sometimes twice a week. The training was reflected in the team's league performances and culminated in the club reaching the semi-finals of both the Junior 'A' and Junior 'B' championships. The Junior 'A' team was beaten only by a point by Fingal Ravens who eventually won the competition.

Dundrum/Churchtown Hurling and Football Club produced a Yearbook in 1996. The following is recorded in that publication.

A Word from the Junior 'A' Football Team Manager, John Garvey.

In 1991 after a couple of bad years where Dundrum/Churchtown had lost its Intermediate status, I decided it was time to put something back into the club, in the shape of team management. Previous to this I was not in a position to help out in running a team due to work/travel commitments.

The first couple of years were difficult, as a lot of players had lost interest and/or had retired early. But a solid core of players with sufficient interest was available to build a team around. That core was made up of Joe McGann, Ultan Carroll, Ray Grealley, Manus Caden, Tony O'Reilly, PJ Kelly, Sean Coleman, Liam Flynn, Paddy McGlynn and Mel Kilkenny. With no small amount of coaxing, some play-

ers were enticed back to play, and some new blood was added. This gave us a solid base, from where we started to look and play like a team again.

In 1992/93 season, we went close to winning Division 2 League honours, but we did win our first trophy, The Murphy Cup.

In 1993/94 season, we did win Division 2 League and promotion to Division 1, but later that year our team was to sadly lose one of our players, Liam Hennesly. Liam brought life and spirit to all that knew him, and was a great supporter of Dundrum/Churchtown Club. His true form was shown in the hard times when we had difficulty getting team players out to play. Liam, even with heavy business commitments, started back playing football with Dundrum/Churchtown and he also proved to be very fruitful in the quest for new players.

To his family and friends we offer our sincere sympathies.

At present the Junior 'A' team is, I feel, as strong as it has been for years. After winning Division 2 League, more local players came back to play with the club. Players like Barry McCrea, Michael De Veale, Seamus McGowan, Niall Coppinger, Brian Hogan and Chris Cullen have made a huge impact since their arrival.

With the commitment that is being given to training and playing, I feel confident that we will be back in Intermediate football next season.

The Junior 'B' Team - By Joe Fleming

Managing a reserve team has always been a risky business. The well-being and success of the premier team must take priority, and from time to time, calls have to be made on the reserve team squad in order to preserve the health of the premier team. Replace-

ments are not readily available. I once hurled for a club who won a low grade Junior League in the same year as their Senior Team was relegated. It did not compensate. However, this is not the only function of a reserve team. There should be an enjoyment factor and an occasional success would be nice.

Dundrum/Churchtown are in their third competitive season of the current reserve side, although we have had other reserve teams in the past. I feel it has been great fun, and while we have had our ups and downs, last year was particularly good when we were “on a roll”. We have had players with a lot of talent whose work patterns and level of commitment to their careers did not allow them to train for a place on the first team. And we have included many players who just wanted to play football without any great aspirations. This too is legitimate. We have also had players like Pat Lester, Brian Rennick, Barry McCrea and Michael De Veale who were only passing through to a first team place and hopefully acquiring a level of match fitness in the process.



Community Games Hurling 1983 - Front row l to r: Darren Chambers, Tom McNamara, Larry McNamara, Hughie Doyle, Tony Cullen, Patrick Douglas, Henry Fox, Mark McMahon, Richard O'Connor, Christy Dardis, David Carton, Fred Healy and Murt Nolan (Team Mentors). **Back row l to r:** Hughie Doyle, Christy Cullen, Sylvester Cullen, Stephen Kearney, Peter Quinn, Ken Quinn, Derek Lynch, Stacey King, David Brien.

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The hard core team, who really kept it going, included Pat Boylan, Dave Nolan, Ultan Carroll, Fran Dunne, Ger Dunne (no relation), Damien Fagan, Nigel Gibbons, Derek Herbage, Mick Hosey, Michael Lynn, Eamon Magnier, John Manners, Bert Worth, PJ Kelly, Ken O'Hara. Thank you for the effort.

But we need commitment to achieve success. I know that, from time to time, players will have family and other commitments. But players who fail to turn up on a Sunday afternoon after giving a commitment to do so, because of the activities of the day or night before – well, that says to me that they don't make young lads like they did. By failing to show up for a game, you are letting your team mates down as well as your team, manager and your club.

Let's make a New Year's resolution to play all the games we can, even if we have a sore head. Who knows? A success would be nice.



Dundrum / Churchtown Junior 'B' Hurling League Runners-up 1986 - Front row l to r: Frank Cunningham (Selector), Joe Meagher, Mick Conheaney, Tony Bernie, Paul Irving, Ollie Farrell, Colm O'Connor, Paschal O'Rourke (injured), Eddie Finn (Manager). **Back row l to r:** Joe Fleming, Mick Keane, Donal Daly, Seán Coleman, Eddie Corbett, Seán Keane (Captain), Ger Hogarty, Jimmy Smith, Ger Fahy, Donal Kavanagh, Matt Fogarty, Pat Burke.

A Very Poignant Photograph - By Kevin Birrane

Pictured below is the Naomh Olaf Minor Football Team of 1999, a very talented team who competed in Division 2 of the All Dublin League and eventually finished in a very respectable 2nd place to St Mary's Saggart and narrowly lost a Murphy Cup Final to St Margaret's. Several members represented Dublin at the various age groups in both hurling and football.

The loss of both Barry O'Brien and Mark Smith to tragic drowning accidents, Barry while swimming in the sea at Achill Island and Mark white-water rafting in Thailand, was tragic to both families, Naomh Olaf and Dublin GAA. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha.



Naomh Olaf Minor Football Team 1999 - Back row l to r: Joey Jackson (Mentor), Lorcan Kinsella, Seán Colgan, Ronan Hegarty, Edward McCarrick, Alex O'Brien, Kevin Birrane, Padraig Harrington, Michael Denton, Seán Saunders, Martin O'Shea, Kevin Birrane (Mentor). **Front row l to r:** Ray Naughton, Darran Egan, Kevin Doolan, Wesley Fitzpatrick, Barry O'Brien (RIP), Ronan Fitzmaurice, John Harrington, Derek Whelan and team captain Mark Smith (RIP).

Naomh Olaf U12 Football 1999/2000 -

By Mary Hayes

Training for the new season 99/00 commenced last August. We were extremely lucky to find a young player, Emmet O'Grady, who was prepared to give of his time and expertise to coach and train this young team. From the outset a high level of discipline, both on and off the field, was demanded.

Our target for the year was to win Division 2. Our first game away to Lucan was a very competitive match but we lost by just one point. We were very disappointed and vowed that all other games had to be won.

In the group with us were Lucan Sarsfields, St Mark's, St Jude's, Liffey Gaels, Stars of Erin, St Patrick's, Thomas Davis, Ballyboden St Enda's and Kilmacud Crokes. We beat each of the above teams (except Lucan) and with every game the team grew in confidence. We ended up one point ahead of Ballyboden at the end of the League. However, it was decided to have a Top-4 play off. We had our work cut out for us with an away match against Ballyboden to decide who the winners of the League would be.

Naomh Olaf were not fazed and were single minded in the job that had to be done. The display of football skills on that day was brilliant. Each and every player gave their all, so much so that no single player could be singled out as man of the match, as is the custom after each game. We beat Ballyboden convincingly in the end. The joy and emotion among the team and supporters was great.

Sammy Seery, our goalie for the latter part of the year, was probably the find of the season. Joey Egan will be sorely missed next year. We wish him the best of luck in his new home in Portlaoise. Gavin Quirke, William Byrne and, in particular Gordon Canning, have ably assisted Joey in the full back line. Our half back line of Shane Gill, Simon Hickey and Jack Healy is probably the strongest line we have. Feargal Máirtín and Ross Melody are also strong and mobile and have given some very good displays throughout the season. Sean Scott, Owen Byrne and Colm Fox are always dogged and waiting to pounce on the goals. Scott Lester is a very mobile corner forward as is Adam Wyse. Dane Holland as full forward is strong and very skilful. Niall Gallagher is one of the most committed players and has played very well in both backs and forwards. Mark Corcoran has a very good left foot and has got some very nice points. Colm Doyle has made great strides and is getting stronger with every training session. Paddy Byrne has been training with us through the winter, but has only been available for midweek matches. Niall Healy's strength outfield is a great advantage.

I would like to congratulate Colm Fox, Ross Melody, Feargal Máirtín and Joey Egan on being selected for the South Dublin U12 development panel. They played a Blitz over the Easter weekend against the North Dublin panel and won the game. Thanks to all the parents who helped during the year. We look forward to your continued support. Having such support makes the job of a mentor much easier.

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U12 Football Team, Div. 2 League Winners - Front row l to r: Feargal Máirtín, Adam Wyse, Gordon Canning, Simon Hickey, Niall Gallagher, Shane Gill, Colm Fox, Jack Healy, Sean Scott. **Second row l to r:** Dane Holland, Mark Corcoran, William Byrne, Gavin Quirke, Colm Doyle, Ross Melody, Niall Healy, Owen Byrne, Joey Egan, Scott Lester. **Back row l to r:** Paul Quirke, Mary Hayes and Emmet O'Grady (Mentors). Missing from photo: Sammy Seery and Paddy Byrne.



Juvenile Players who received "Player of The Year" awards for their particular age group at the Summer Camp 1996 - Front row l to r: Michael Horgan (Kneeling), John Thompson, Philip Farrelly, Donal Kinsella, Declan O'Dwyer, and Karl Naughton (kneeling). **Back row l to r:** Stephen Farrelly, John Whealans, Alex O'Brien, Bill Stafford, R.I.P. Christopher Gates and Lisa O'Mahony.



Players of the Year Awards 1999 - Front row l to r: Eoin Hayes - Junior Hurling Div.1, Cathal Daughton - Senior Football Div. 1, Eoin Kinsella - Minor Football 1998, Ronan Hegarty - Minor Football 1999, Caolan Cotter - Div. 3 Football, Ken O'Hara - Div 7 Football. **Back row l to r:** John Costello – Secretary, Dublin County Board, Chris O'Grady – Chairman, Naomh Olaf, and The legendary Jack O'Shea.

Golf Classic - By John Mulhall

In 1997, Naomh Olaf was performing at a high level in both codes. The adult football team was playing in the Senior Division 1 and the hurlers had just been promoted to the Intermediate Premier League. Players were therefore beginning to attract the attention of the Dublin selectors; Paddy Feehan had just made his full debut for the Dublin senior football team against Down, whilst Niall McCaffrey and Alan Lyons were also training with the team. Niall McCaffrey (a dual star) was on both the Senior and Under 21 hurling panels and was joined on the Under 21 panel by Lorcan Mac Mathúna. There was also some promising young talent coming through with Cao-lán Cotter representing the club on the Dublin U17 hurling panel and Eoin Heaney on the U14 panel. Juvenile teams were also performing well across all ages. The rapid rise in the success of the club led to increased growth and a need to finance this.

A casual conversation was held in the bar by a number of senior non-playing members to brainstorm potential fundraising options. The Celtic Tiger was roaring at this time and golf was regarded as a leisurely way of entertaining corporate clients. Numerous other sporting clubs had organised golf classics and there appeared to be a template for success established. The general consensus at this meeting was that, if a strong committee was formed and everyone involved put their shoulder to the wheel, some valuable funds could be raised. The organising committee for the first Annual Golf Classic was selected on the basis that they could entice outside interest as well as loyal local support. The committee comprised Mick Brown (Chairman of Naomh Olaf), Larry Kinsella (former Chairman), Paddy Maguire

and Finbar Brogan (well established club members and local businessmen), Tom Culligan (club bar manager), John Mulhall and Fran O'Dwyer (juvenile mentors).

A date was set for Friday 16th May, just as the golf season starts, and the venue selected was Old Conna Golf Club, just outside Bray. Old Conna is a championship standard golf course with first class clubhouse facilities. These attributes were expected to be excellent selling points when promoting the event. John O'Brien (former Chairman) arranged generous sponsorship from J&H Marsh McLennan. The committee targeted obtaining 25 teams of 3 to play, and sponsorship for each of the 18 tees. With regular meetings, every 2 weeks, and each Thursday for the month preceding the event, no stone was left unturned with items of business including catering, prizes, sponsorship and filling the timesheet with potential golfers.

The sun was splitting the rocks when Naomh Olaf GAA Club, members, guests, supporters and sponsors arrived at Old Conna Golf Club for our first ever official outing in the game of golf. The check-in table was clad in Tipperary Crystal (due to Fran O'Dwyer's influence) which would later be presented to the winning teams. The important role of checking in all golfers and managing the money fell on the current chairman and a former chairman: Mick Brown and Larry Kinsella. 32 teams participated, which were primarily filled by the targeted corporate community, and there were 25 holes sponsored. Paddy Maguire and Finbar Brogan produced the excellent signage for our generous sponsors and strategically placed them around the course. As the

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golfers completed their rounds, an excellent 4 course meal was served in Old Conna.

A very successful day was rounded off with a presentation of prizes in the bar of Naomh Olaf. The large crowd in attendance included a mixture of golfers and non-golfers alike to support the occasion. Tom Culligan ensured that the club bar was seen at its best, with additional staff drafted in for the evening and a table and microphone in place for the display and presentation of prizes. Live music was provided on the night to add to the atmosphere. The only other thing required was that we would be graced with local winners and we were not disappointed. The prizes were presented by Mick Brown and Jimmy Ward (Director, J&H Marsh McLennan) and all prizewinners were on hand to collect their spoils:

- 1st Prize went to the Smurfit team of Frank Lynch, Jimmy Kinsella and club member Gerry Fagan.
- 2nd Prize - Meteors Basketball Club (Mary O'Mahony, Siobhan Caffrey and John Denehey).
- 3rd Prize - Ballinteer Roofing (Paddy Wright, Aidan Pender and Brian Pittam).
- 4th Prize - Dundrum House (Paddy Ryan, Martin Cleary and John Cleary).
- 5th Prize - Bill Hopkins (Bill Hopkins, Peter Hopkins and Pat Doolan).

The committee held a post-mortem a number of weeks after the event, when all monies had been collected. The general consensus within the club was that the golf classic had been a resounding success with all golfers thoroughly enjoying their day. Comments were also passed about the great social event, both in Old Conna and later in the evening back in Naomh Olaf. The final piece of the jigsaw which



Winners of the first Naomh Olaf Annual Golf Classic (Smurfit). - Left to right: Frank Lynch, (Manager, AIB Dundrum), James Ward (Main Sponsor - Director, J&H Marsh McLennan), Gerry Fagan (Team Captain) and Jimmy Kinsella (Director of Golf, Kilternan Sports).

would ultimately determine the success or failure of the event was the financial situation. The committee were pleasantly surprised with the significant profit made from the golf classic which exceeded all targets and expectations they had set before the event. A decision was made at this point to repeat the event the following year.

As we began preparations for the second golf classic, we received some feedback regarding the location of Old Conna GC. At that time, the M50 had not been constructed and many of the competitors were delayed due to traffic congestion along the Old Bray Road. It was therefore decided that, for logistical purposes, a new location was required closer to home. A number of options were considered and some of the more seasoned golfers on the committee suggested Edmondstown Golf Club as it was in close proximity and was widely regarded as a high quality championship course. This turned out to be a well-educated decision as, 13 years later, the golf classic is still held annually in Edmondstown Golf Club. The facilities and food on offer, along with the friendly reception all golfers receive, has added to

the experiences had by all participants and the overall success of the classic to date. The Golf Classic Committee would like to give a special thank you to Angela Stirling and Richard O’Heir from Edmondstown for their continued support over the years.

As the Celtic Tiger continued to roar over the following decade and Ireland grew at a rapid pace, the golf classic followed suit, with in excess of 50 teams competing for a number of years. However, as the economy slowed due to the recession, it became obvious that companies no longer had the financial resources to enter teams of three. In 2009, the committee held a meeting to decide the path the golf classic should take. The overall feasibility of this event was debated and a number of options were considered, including discontinuing it. Eventually a strategic decision was made to change the format of the day from a team to a singles competition in order to reduce the cost and allow individuals or companies an equal opportunity to participate. A large contributory factor to this decision was the success of the Naomh Olaf Golf Society which had been founded in 1999. One of the main reasons for the golf society being formed was the success of the annual golf classic and many GAA club members had realised that golf would make a good sporting substitute now that their football and hurling days were long since over. A large number of society members had played in the golf classic throughout the years and had voiced their support for its continuance. The change in the format meant that participation on the day was still a possibility for all willing golfers and the number of competitors greatly exceeding the committee’s expectations leading to another hugely successful day. As mentioned, the golf classic has remained profitable, through both good times and bad. A major fac-

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tor in its success has been, and continues to be, the generous sponsorship received. Although due to the immense support received over the years it is not possible to mention all of the people who have contributed, the main sponsors deserve recognition at this point:

- J&H Marsh McLennan
- Willis Corroon Insurance
- Drumriley Construction
- Eblana Construction
- Ven Naughton Enterprises (VNE)

The first two sponsors were business associates of John O’Brien. Drumriley Construction is, to date, the longest serving sponsor and was owned by Paddy Maguire, a founder member of the club. When the golf classic began, Paddy Maguire was not a golfer but was an avid supporter of the GAA club and was willing to contribute in any way possible, including sponsoring a sports event he had little or no interest in playing in. Times have changed dramatically since and Paddy has gone on, not only to take up golf and become an accomplished player, but to captain the Naomh Olaf Golf Society. The sponsorship was then handed over to the younger generation, with Eblana Construction owned by Patrick and Aidan Maguire taking over where their father left off. VNE is the current sponsor and has been generously contributing for the last three years. Ven Naughton is a well-known club member and has never been short of support for the club, which can be seen from how he took over as the main sponsor in 2008, by which point the recession had firmly struck. Another who deserves a mention is club member Niall Byrne (FBD Hotels Group) who has generously supported us for many years.

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Our most recent outing was held on Friday 27th May 2011. Although there have been a large number of changes to the format of the competition, the day itself remains the same. There is always a good hustle and bustle around the bar in Edmondstown Golf Club with golfers coming and going throughout the day. Each participant's entry commences by paying their entrance fee to a member of the committee who in turn provides the competitor with his/her scorecard and a goodie bag of refreshments. The banter continues on the 1st tee for the majority of the day, with people hitting high blocks into the trees, others snap hooking their tee shots and endangering fellow club members who are minding their own business putting on the 9th green. There were a rather frequent number of "duffed" tee shots which struggle to make the ladies' tee, and rarest of all, a well-struck opener straight up the middle. Later in the day, as the golfers completed their rounds and the scores began to arrive in the clubhouse, it became obvious that many players had managed to shake off those first tee nerves and go on to produce some excellent scores. The biggest success on the day was Denis Leine, a new club member, guest and good friend of our main sponsor, Ven Naughton.

Thankfully people have enjoyed the golf classic throughout the years and it is this enjoyment that has bred its continued success. It has become one of the main social events on the club calendar. However, what must be remembered is that the classic was established in an attempt to raise much-needed funds for the club, and is still run to this day for the same purpose. This success over the last 14 years would not have been possible without the help and support of a large number of people, including:

- The Sponsors and Competitors.
- Naomh Olaf GAA Club and Golf Society Members.
- The Bar Managers and Staff.
- The various Public Relations Officers (PROs). We would like to make a special mention of Brendan McGlynn who not only wrote reports about the many golf classics (a game he admits would not be his number one sport) but also provided us with various articles detailing the history of the event.
- The Executive Committee - for all of their encouragement and support.

Although the golf classic would not have been possible without the generous time, effort and hard-earned cash that the aforementioned people have generously contributed, there is one group of people who not only came up with the original concept, but who have also seen the operational and financial success through, from the planning to completion stages 14 years in a row. As mentioned above, the committee, which was established in 1997, comprises of 7 influential club members. All of these members still remain on the committee to this day. Colm McEnerney joined the committee and chaired it for a number of years before stepping down due to family and other club commitments. Liam Kavanagh joined the committee in 2008 and has since done a wonderful job as treasurer. The committee has remained strong throughout this time, as all of its members realise the importance of the golf classic, not only for the finances required to support the GAA club, but also to allow club members and friends to socialise and enjoy themselves in a completely different surrounding.

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Denis Leine being presented with his prize by Tom Culligan (committee member).



Golf Classic Committee, 2011 - Fran O'Dwyer, Pat McGuire, Liam Kavanagh, Larry Kinsella, Tom Culligan, Mick Brown, John Mulhall, Colm McEnerney, Finbar Brogan.



Football Team - Year 1986/87 - Front Row l to r: David O'Shea, Derek Naughton, Pdraig Bermingham, Stephen Flynn, Robert Byrne, Philip McLoughlin, Neil Kavanagh, Eric Horgan, Killian Maxwell, Patrick O'Shea. Back row l to r: Donnacha Harrington, Martin Cullen, Ronan O'Farrell, Eoin Ryan, Mark Fitzpatrick, David Healy, Peter Casey R.I.P., Fergal Hogan, Robert Walsh.

Naomh Olaf GAA Golf Society - By Brian Hickey

The success of a GAA club is not always measured on the size of its trophy cabinet or the number of members it has but on the quality of those members. And when a number of those members (whose football and hurling days were over) decided to form a golf society with-in the GAA club, Naomh Olaf GAA Golf Society was born on the 9th February 1999.

Just like that eventful night in Hayes Hotel all those years ago, Tom Culligan called a meeting in the bar of the club with the intention of forming a golf society and electing a committee. This incoming committee would draw up a set of rules for the society. Tom himself chaired the meeting and in keeping with true GAA tradition, it was decided that its first order of business was to rule that the president of the Society would always be Naomh Olaf's current Chairman, and so it was that Larry Daly who was the current chairman of the Club at that time, was duly elected the golf society's first President. Larry was not a golfer at the time of his election but has since become a keen member and competent player and has gone on to pick up many prizes down the years.

The election of Tom Culligan as the First Captain, and Francis O Dwyer as his vice Captain was a popular choice for all in attendance, and the election of the first committee was the next item on the agenda with the following members being elected:

John Mullhall (Secretary)

Fin Mairtín (Treasurer)

Regina Hogan

Fergus Canning

Finbar Brogan

And so the society was now up and running with a membership of 37 players and a membership fee of £20.00 realising the princely sum of £740.00 which enabled the committee to book the first four courses for the first years golf outings in advance.

Killeen on June 4th

Stackstown on July 23rd (captain's prize)

Charlesland on September 2nd

Kilkea Castle on October 2nd

As most of the members did not have a GUI (Golfing Union of Ireland) handicap it was decided that a handicap of 18 would be given for the first outing and that Francis O Dwyer and Fergus Canning would review handicaps from there on. The committee also decided to apply to the GUI for affiliation and to have a golfer of the year competition based on the average of the combined scores from each of the outings.

The very first winner of a Naomh Olaf Golf society outing was none other than Francis O Dwyer with 39 points, and the winner of the First Captain's Prize was Jim Quinn. Along with the Captain's prize Jim received a trophy sponsored by Robbie Ferrie on behalf of Stillorgan jewellers, this trophy would become a perpetual trophy and is still presented today. A Captain's Dinner was held in Stackstown Golf club and a great night was had by all.

The Naomh Olaf Golf society was a great success and at its fourth outing to Kilkea Castle GC the society was presented with its first hole in one by Gerry Fagan.

The society's numbers had by now grown to 46 with a lot of guests also attending the outings. The soci-

ety had also managed to gain a number of sponsors along the way and had commissioned golf sweaters and clothing with the club crest embroidered on them.

The Society's first AGM took place on the 8th of February 2000 in the club, It not only saw a change of Captain, with Francis O Dwyer taking over, from Tom Culligan, but also a change of President as Chris O Grady had been elected Chairman of Naomh Olaf's GAA club.

Fin Mairtín the Club Treasurer also announced that the golf society had a balance of £735.53p in its account; all agreed it was not a bad way to end the first year of Naomh Olaf's Golf Society.



Tom Culligan, Fin Máirtín, Colm McEnerney, John Mulhall - Naas 2008.

The society moved from strength to strength as it progressed through the first 10 years of the new millennium. The main fund raising activity for the society has been an annual Table Quiz which in itself is a great social evening ,with Fergus Canning with his unique style of hosting the quiz, who has over the years made the Quiz masters role his own. Numerous other events have been added to the golf

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society's calendar down the years to give a full year of events.

Francis O Dwyer introduced a weekend golfing, trip away to Dundrum House Golf & Country club in Co Tipperary, which was a huge success, and with the exception of a couple of years at different venues, Dundrum House has become an annual event around the second week in August every year. “ Golfer of the year” was also introduced in 2000, and Shane O Connor was the first recipient of that award. A match play competition was organised during John Mulhall's reign as Captain, and this was dominated in its early years by Shane O Connor who won it for the first three years in a row. The society had many members with varying skill levels and handicaps ranged from 7 to 36 in the early days The club also had the legendary Jack O Shea as one of its members for many years.



Jack O'Shea, and Declan Murphy, - Captain's Prize 2008.

History was made in 2004 when Regina Hogan became the first Lady Captain of the golf society. Not to be out done by this Rachel Heritage made history of her own when she became the first Lady to win John McGrath's Captains Prize in 2007.

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As Captain in 2007 John McGrath with his footballing background realised the importance of having a defibrillator in the club, and so organised a charity golf outing to Stackstown to raise the much needed funds to buy a defibrillator, which he then presented on behalf of the golf society to its parent club.

Also in 2007 Naomh Olaf golf society was approached by its neighbour Sandyford Castle Golf Society and challenged to a Ryder cup style match. This has proven to be one of the best fun days the society engages in. It has become an annual event with both teams playing for a beautifully sculptured crystal cup in the style of the Sam Maguire; this was donated personally by our 2003 captain John Mulhall. Naomh Olaf Golf society took the honours the first year with a fantastic match in South County GC. However since then the honours have been shared and it now stands at two wins apiece.

Francis O Dwyer was the captain for the first Ryder cup match, after which it was agreed that the outgoing Captain (ex officio) would be the Captain of the Naomh Olaf Ryder cup team for the succeeding years.



Former Captains holding the inaugural Ryder Cup after victory over Sandyford Castle G S in 2007.

In 2009 at the age of 22 Patrick Mulhall became the youngest Captain of the Society, he again made society history by being the first player to win the Captain's prize and retain it the following year when he won back to back in 2010, 2011.

Patrick was the only Captain who actually had his golf competition played at the official dinner when rain cancelled his outing in Edmondstown GC and Patrick promptly held a Wii Golf competition to fill in for the official prize giving.

Great credit must also be given to Fergus Canning for the foresight in bringing the Captain's Dinner Back to the Club Function room after his captain's golf competition. This was continued for a number of years and hopefully it will make a welcome return.

Brian Hickey Captain of 2008 decided in its 10th year that the society needed to spread its wings a little and so organised it's first annual overseas golf trip to Lisbon in Portugal. Eighteen golfers spent an extended weekend playing some fabulous golf courses in sunshine in the Lisbon area. Since then



Members on tour - Algarve 2009.

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two more trips to Alvor in the Algarve followed in 2009 & 2010 and another planned for 2011 to Tavira in Portugal.

Naomh Olaf golf society has been in existence now for 13 years and it has provided the opening for many a member who felt golf was beyond them and have now gone on to be members of established golf clubs. The Current Captain Jerome Hogan has also created a little bit of history by being part of the first husband and wife team to hold the Captaincy but this time it was ladies before gents with Regina being first in 2004. Next years captain will also be a woman when Rachel Heritage takes over in 2012. The society has also created friendships and bonds that will last long after the 19th hole has closed. Hopefully it will continue to grow from strength to strength and provide many more years of enjoyment for its members young and old.



Captain's Day 2008 Montage.

<i>Captains</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Course</i>	<i>Captain's Prize</i>
<i>Tom Culligan</i>	<i>1999</i>	<i>Stackstown</i>	<i>Jim Quinn</i>
<i>Francis O' Dwyer</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>Newlands</i>	<i>Shane O' Connor</i>
<i>Gerry Fagan</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>Newlands</i>	<i>Peter O' Brien</i>
<i>Finin Maritín</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>Stackstown</i>	<i>Bill Hopkins</i>
<i>John Mulhall</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>Edmondstown</i>	<i>Aidan Maguire</i>
<i>Regina Hogan</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>Greystones</i>	<i>Kevin O'Brien</i>
<i>Liam Heritage</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>Stackstown</i>	<i>Peter O' Brien</i>
<i>Fergus Canning</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>Portarlington</i>	<i>Mick Browne</i>
<i>John McGrath</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>Naas</i>	<i>Rachel Heritage</i>
<i>Brian Hickey</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>Naas</i>	<i>Colm McEnerney</i>
<i>Patrick Mulhall</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>Edmondstown</i>	<i>Mandy Booles</i>
<i>Paddy Maguire</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>Sutton Golf Club</i>	<i>Patrick Mulhall</i>
<i>Jerome Hogan</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>Stackstown</i>	<i>Patrick Mulhall</i>

History of the 2002/2003 Minor Football Team - By Kevin Kavanagh

- Under 9:** *Winners of the Southside Cup beating Round Tower in final. Runners-up in Division 1 Southside League.*
- Under 10:** *Runners-up Southside Division 1 League and semi-finalists in Corrigan Cup.*
- Under 11:** *Winners of the Hanrahan Cup v Kilmacud and runners-up in Southside League Division 1.*
- Under 12:** *Winners of the Southside Cup v Lucan and runners-up in Division 1 Southside League.*

At Under 13 level the best five teams from the northside and the best four teams from the southside entered an all-Dublin Premier League.

- Under 13:** *Runners-up to St Brigid's. No cup competition.*
- Under 14:** *Winners of the All-Dublin Premier League. Beaten semi-finalists in Féile and beaten in Final of Evening Herald Floodlight Cup competition.*
- Under 15:** *Winners of the All-Dublin Premier League. Ended level on points with Kilmacud but beat them in League Final. Beaten in Juvenile Championship Final by a point by Craobh Chiaráin.*
- Under 16:** *3rd place All-Dublin Premier League.*
- Under 17:** *Entered a team in Division 2*

All-Dublin Minor League and won the League.

- Under 18:** *Finished mid-table Division 1 All-Dublin League and exited Minor Championship at quarter-final stage v St Vincent's.*

Over the course of the years the team mentors were as follows: Kevin Kavanagh, John McGrath, Leo Flynn, Larry Kinsella, Jimmy Brown, Mary Shivnan, Tony Murray, Tony Purcell, Paul Murray, Mick White, Ken Naughton, Greg Naughton (RIP), Cathal Daughton and Pat Kenny (RIP).

On Wednesday the 8th of March 1995, J.J. Barrett, Gaelic Games Correspondent, Evening Herald, was the guest personality at the Club's presentation of Foundation Level, Hurling and Football Coaching Certificates. Over seventy club members had completed the course.



Presentation of Coaching Certificates - Front row l to r: Ceara Cotter, Michelle Naughton, Paula Feehan, J.J. Barrett, Ursula Maher. **Back row l to r:** Sarah McCormac, Kevin O'Brien, Darragh Maxwell, Eoin Brennan, Eochaidh Ó'Coallaí and Philip Funge.

U12 Football Cup Final 1997 - By Ken Naughton

Naomh Olaf - Lucan Sarsfield

2-14 1-8

On Sunday evening, 22 June, Naomh Olaf U12 Gaelic Football team at last realised the potential that they had shown throughout the year, by beating Lucan Sarsfield in a very tough, but sporting, game to win the U12 Cup Final.

The final was played in Kiltipper Road, Tallaght, and was attended by a very sizeable contingent of Naomh Olaf supporters, both parents of players and supporters of the club and the team.

The team was selected along the usual lines, except that Karl Naughton, our centre-half back, had to be replaced due to illness; this necessitated a change with Stephen Duffy coming in at full-back where he played brilliantly, especially in the first half.

Lucan started the stronger and hungrier team and after twenty minutes, they were one goal and seven points to no score, ahead of a very lacklustre Naomh Olaf team that did not seem to be playing well. Some of the Lucan scores were excellent points taken from a distance which did not bode well for the second half. However, just before half time, Olaf's managed to put 3 points on the scoreboard. At half time I spoke to the players, asking them for a bigger effort for the second half, especially midfield and in the forwards, as we had quite a margin to close on Lucan.

I need not have worried, however, as in the second half, Olaf's outscored Lucan by 2 goals and 11 points to 1 point, by playing some of their best football this year which, at times, was quite brilliant.

The success of the team is built on a number of fac-

tors, namely a very strong and reliable goalkeeper in David Murray, who ensures that anyone who scores against him needs to have done something special; a very strong defensive unit that concentrates on getting to the ball first and passing to our forwards to ensure that we keep possession; a midfield that is probably the best in Dublin in its ball-winning and distribution, and lastly, forwards who can all score from most positions inside the opposition's half, as can be evidenced by the high scores that have been registered against our opponents.

Management

Ken Naughton, Mary Shivnan and Cathal Daughton.

Scorers in Final

Shane Kavanagh: 2 goals 5 points; Barry Kenny: 1 Point; Barry Thornton: 2 points; Dylan King: 2 points; Tadhg Purcell: 3 points; Conor Kelly: 1 point



Under 12 Football Team 1997 with Team Mentors - Back row l to r: Shane Kavanagh, Sean Egan, Dara Hayes, Ken Naughton, Mary Shivnan, Cathal Daughton, Karl Naughton, Eamon Shivnan, Josh Delaney. Middle row l to r: Niall Egan, Shane Kenny, Niall Davis, Michael Flynn, James Culligan, Niall Clancy, Brian Rooney. Front Row l to r: David Nolan, Barry Kenny (Capt.), Seamas Kinsella, Gregory Chester, Conor Kelly, Shane Cullen, Dylan King. Missing from Photograph: David Murray, Stephen Duffy, Tadhg Purcell, Barry Thornton, Nicky Fennell.