

Junior A Football 1999 to 2011 - By John Garvey

Not since 1990 did Naomh Olaf have a Junior Division 1 football team. However, having joined forces with Dundrum / Churchtown in 1999, Naomh Olaf again had a team at this level. The period 1999-2011 was exciting, especially in the early years, when this group was capable of stepping toe to toe with any of their contemporaries and coming out on top.

This group performed most consistently in the Junior A Championship. Each year from 1999 through until 2008, the team won all their first and second round games plus quarter-final games in the Junior A Championship; they contested nine successive Junior Championship quarter-finals and five semi-finals, playing a total of 35 championship games, winning 20, drawing 2 and losing 13. However, the Holy Grail was not achieved during this spell and with a little luck, and a more concerted effort, both league and championship success could have been achieved.

The only piece of silverware was a Conlon Cup victory in 2003; again it showed Naomh Olaf were always at their best when facing perceived superior opposition.

Starting off in 1999, this Junior team was a blend of youth and experience. The experience came mainly from Dundrum / Churchtown - Mayo man Ray Greally, a fine experienced corner-back; John Davitt at centre-half back won an Intermediate Championship in London with Shannon Rovers; Seamus Mac Gabhann at mid-field played Minor football for Dublin; Enda Holmes on the half-forward line who is a brother of the Mayo player, Pat Holmes, and Enda Deignan at full-forward played Senior football for

Sligo. In addition, Michael Byrne and Caomhán Bermingham were experienced Senior footballers, while Brian de Veale had already won Junior and Intermediate Championships with the club. Many of the club's most talented young players gained much from the experience of playing adult football at this level - players such as Eoin Hayes in goal, Emmet O'Grady in defence, Kevin Birrane, Ronan Hegarty, Eoin Kinsella and Eoin Leavy in the attack.

As the years moved on, more of the club's younger players came to adult football through the Junior A route. Mick Neill, Malachy Coughlan, Stephen Browne, Seamas Kinsella, Lorcan Kinsella, Conor Sobolewski, John McGrath, Shane Whyte, Chris Fennell, Gary Wilkins, Ciarán Hegarty, Conor Haskins, David Lynch and Colin Doyle spring to mind.

In the latter years, when the same application to training and playing was not evident, the results followed suit, which was a pity as the true potential of this group was not realised.

The following pages hopefully give a flavour of the teams and the competitions that were contested during this period. If there are any inaccuracies in the reports and content, they are not intentional and hopefully nobody is offended.

The high and lows of 1999 to 2011

1999: Junior As reach championship semi-final only to be beaten by eventual winner Fingal Ravens by one point.

2000: Team ended up as runners-up in the league, and were narrowly beaten in the championship quarter-final by eventual winners St Finian's of Swords,

30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club

who, as it turned out, went on to win Intermediate Championship in 2001.

2001: Team lost in championship quarter-final to St Brigid's.

2002: Team lost in extra time of championship quarter-final replay to Thomas Davis.

2003: Conlon Cup was won defeating St Finian's (N) in the final, but lost championship semi-final to the eventual winners Lucan. Won the St Mark's Tournament.

2004: Reached the championship semi-final, but lost to eventual winners Naomh Mearnóg. Won the league promotion play-off semi-final vs Kilmacud but lost the final vs St Finian's.

2005: Reached the championship semi-final, but lost to Round Towers. Reached league promotion play-offs, only to lose narrowly to St Brigid's.

2006: Reached the championship semi-final, but lost to Castleknock. This was after a protracted wait from the quarter-final victory, due to unfounded and withdrawn objections. Also reached league promotion play-offs, only to lose narrowly to St Brigid's again.

2007: Reached the championship quarter-final, but lost to Whitehall.

2008: The first year this team had not reached the championship quarter-final. They were beaten in first round by a very skilful and up-and-coming team in St Oliver Plunkett's ER.

2009: Won championship first round but lost the second round to Man O' War.

2010: Won championship first round but lost the second round game to the eventual finalists St Jude's.

2011: Lost the championship first round away to Man O' War.



Junior Football Panel 1999 - Front row l to r: R Hegarty, S McGinn, E Kinsella, E Deignan, B De Veale, D McDonnell, B McGuire, E Doolan. **Back row l to r:** E Holmes, R Kennelly, E Brennan, S Mac Gabhann, E Leavy, E Hayes, K Birrane, B Sweeney, N O'Eineachain, E Finnerty, E O'Grady and Mentor J Garvey. **Missing:** John Davitt, Ray Greally, Niall Coppinger, Caomhán Bermingham, Michael Byrne, Joe McGann (Mentor) and Larry Kinsella (Mentor).

30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club

Junior A Football Team 1999

The Junior A team contested Junior Div 1, Conlon Cup and Junior A Championship.

Mentors for the 1999 season: John Garvey, Joe McGann, Larry Kinsella and Ultan Carroll

Captain: Ray Greally

Player of the year: Eoin Hayes

Joy Cup 1999

This competition was played on a league basis for Inter Div. 2 and some Junior Div. 1 teams. As seen from the results, it was a mixed bag and the team did not qualify for the semi-final.

Junior A Football League 1999

The league campaign started off on 7th March, with a narrow loss to Ballyboughal. As the season progressed, this panel became more of a team and gave a good account in the league, finishing strongly in the last series of games.

Junior A Football Championship 1999

This team's first championship game was to be a stern test against St Finian's of Newcastle in O'Toole Pk. The teams were very equally matched but the hunger of the Olaf's team, and the impact Ronan Hegarty had as a third midfielder, most likely swayed the tie in Olaf's favour.

The team had a great victory in the second round vs. Bank of Ireland. This game was played at true championship pace, with Bank of Ireland putting up a stern test in the first half, but Olaf's pulled away comfortably in the end with all six forwards getting on the score sheet.

Olaf's next game was the Championship quarter-final vs Ballyboughal, played in Balgriffin on August 6th 1999. This game was nip and tuck all through, until a decisive goal by Eoin Leavy turned the game

in Olaf's favour, sending Olaf's through to the Junior semi-final, where the opponents were Fingal Ravens.

The semi-final of Junior A Championship vs Fingal Ravens was played in O'Toole Park on August 20th 1999. Olaf's started off in flying form and an early goal, compliments of Damien McDonnell, set the tone of the game; this was quickly followed up by two goals from sharpshooter Enda Deignan following some good interplay between the forwards. Caomhán Bermingham added a point, Olaf's only other score for the first half.

Half time score: Naomh Olaf 3-1 to 0-6 Fingal Ravens

The second half began with Fingal Ravens having a goal disallowed for a square infringement. The signs were good for a Naomh Olaf win, but in true fashion of North County Dublin teams, the Ravens never gave up and continued to pick off points and eventually took the lead in the closing minutes. Olaf's mounted a frantic final attack but a couple of astute interceptions foiled the best efforts of Olaf's forwards. Try as they did, they could not get the equalizer, which would have been a fair result. Fingal Ravens ran out winners by a solitary point. Ravens went on to win the Junior A championship and in a short few years progressed to Senior Division 1 status.

Junior A Championship semi-final August 20th 1999

Naomh Olaf 3-5 to 0-15 Fingal Ravens

Eoin Hayes, Caomhán Bermingham (0-1), Neil O'Eineachain, Ray Greally, Enda Finnerty, John Davitt, Niall Coppinger (0-1), Seamus Mac Gabhann, Breffni Sweeney, Enda Deignan (2-0), Michael Byrne, Eoin Kinsella (0-2), Brian De



Naomh Olaf Junior A championship semi-final team 1999- Front row l to r: Brian De Veale, Michael Byrne, Ray Greally, Eoin Kinsella, Enda Deignan, Caomhán Bermingham. Back row l to r: Niall Coppinger, Damien McDonnell, Neil O'Eineachain, Breffni Sweeney, Seamus Mac Gabhann, Eoin Hayes, Eoin Leavy, John Davitt, and Enda Finnerty.

Veale, Damien McDonnell (1-0), Eoin Leavy (0-1)

Subs: K Birrane, E O'Grady, B. McGuire, S McGinn, Eoin Brennan, E Doolan.

Junior A Football Team 2000

The Junior 'A' Football team contested Junior Div 1, Conlon Cup and Junior 'A' Championship.

Mentors: John Garvey and Joe McGann, aided by Ultan Carroll & PJ Kelly

Captain: Eoin Hayes

Player of the Year: Eoin Leavy

Junior A Football League 2000

After the great run in the 1999 championship this Panel started off the year with high hopes of achieving promotion and doing well in Junior A championship.

The Joy Cup was a mixed bag of results and the panel finished mid table, however the league proved to be a heartbreak as the team only missed out on promotion by a point. The League started off with a

home game vs Round Towers.

However the league was decided on a windy November morning in Ballyogan. Both Naomh Olaf and Na Fianna were at the top of the league and this game would decide who was promoted. Olaf's played with great teamwork and spirit all through the league campaign. However on that fateful morning, lady luck did not smile on Olaf's, having created the only clear goal chance of the day, only to see this attempt rebound off the cross bar.

The team finished out the campaign with wins; however Na Fianna did not slip up in the run-in and were promoted (note only one team was promoted from each division in those days).

Junior 1 League 3rd December 2000

Naomh Olaf 0-8 to 0-11 Na Fianna

Eoin Hayes, Caomhán Bermingham, John Davitt, Eoin Christian (0-1), Brian De Veale (0-1), Arren

30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club

Nolan, Pat Neary, Robert Quinn, Kevin Keane, Kevin Birrane, Enda Deignan Cormac Fox, Ronan Hegarty, Seamus Mac Gabhann, Eoin Leavy (0-6)

Subs: Malachy Coughlan, Rory Kennelly, Ronan Miley, Sean McGinn

Junior A Football Championship 2000

The Championship run of 2000 began with a first round game vs Skerries Harps. Olafs won this encounter 1-13 to 2-4. The second round was played in Kiltipper Rd, vs St Brigids on 16th July 2000, this game was a closely fought encounter, and it was only when Olafs were reduced to 14 men did the true grit and determination of the likes Enda Finnerty, Enda Holmes, Eoin Leavy and Brian De Veale see the team through to the quarter-final.

The quarter-final was played in Bohernabreena vs St Finian's (S). This game, according to Finian's, was their toughest game on their way to Junior Championship success.

Junior A Championship quarter-final 19th August 2000

Naomh Olaf 2-9 to 1-14 St Finnians (S)

Philip Byrne, Caomhán Bermingham, John Davitt Pat Neary, Brian de Veale, John Gilvarry, Enda Finnerty, Breffni Sweeney, Kevin Keane, Eoin Brennan, Enda Holmes, Ronan Hegarty, Malachy Coughlan, Séamus Mac Gabhann, Eoin Leavy

Subs: Brian Hogan, Eric Doolan, Joe McGann, Paul King, Sean McGinn,

This ended Olafs interest in 2000 championship, again beaten by the eventual winners.

Junior A Football Team 2001

The Junior 'A' Football team contested Junior Div 1, Conlon Cup and Junior 'A' Championship.

Mentors: John Garvey and Joe McGann, aided by Ultan Carroll, PJ Kelly & Enda Deignan

Captain: Seamus Mac Gabhann

Player of the Year: John Davitt

Junior A Football League 2001

This panel started off the year with a team-building weekend in Carlow, and it was hoped this would galvanise the team for the upcoming season, following the previous year's heartbreak of missing out on Intermediate status in the last game. In Carlow, the panel played a closely contested challenge game vs Éire Óg U21s and the local side won by a small margin.

The first league game was a facile win vs Garda; the second was a closer encounter vs St Vincent's.

Junior 1 League 5th April 2001

Naomh Olaf 3-8 to 0-11 St Vincents

Eoin Hayes, Caomhán Bermingham, John Davitt, Brian De Veale, Mick De Veale, Ronan Miley Pat Neary, Robert Quinn, Kevin Keane, Caolan Cotter (1-1), Enda Deignan (0-4), Arren Nolan Malachy Coughlan, Alan Lyons (2-1), Oliver Fay (0-1)

Subs: Aidan Byrne, Mick Neill, Seamus Mac Gabhann (Capt), Paddy Roe, Eoin Leavy (0-1), Stephen Kelly.

The season was progressing well until the panel lost some key players. This loss of players at vital times led to a less than satisfactory bid for promotion.

Junior A Football Championship 2001

The first round saw a visit to O'Toole Park to play Erin's Isle. This game was a tense game but Olaf's youth and skill prevailed in the end. The second round saw a return visit to O'Toole Park

to play Naomh Barróg. This game was played in true championship spirit; the statement ‘goals win games’ was again proven when Olaf’s scored two goals at vital times in this game. These were crucial to secure victory. The next round was Olaf’s third successive quarter-final. Back to O’Toole Park, this time to play St Brigid’s. This was a game where Olaf’s never got going, not even a superb individual goal from Gary Wilkins was enough to inspire the team and we lost by three points.

Junior A Championship Quarter Final, June 9th 2001

Naomh Olaf 1-8 to 1-11 St Brigids

Philip Byrne, Caomhán Bermingham, John Davitt, Rory Kennelly, Brian de Veale (0-1), Ronan Miley Mick de Veale, Kevin Birrane, Kevin Keane, Cormac Fox, Caolan Cotter (0-1), Malachy Coughlan, Gary Wilkins (1-0), Alan Lyons (0-1) Eoin Leavy (0-3)

Subs: Mick Neill, Eoin McCaffrey, Eoin Brennan, Paddy Roe, Stephen Kelly, Damien Maher (0-1).
Junior A Football Team: 2002

Up to 2002 season the Junior ‘A’ Football team contested Junior Division 1, but this was changed to AFL Div 5, The Conlon Cup and Junior ‘A’ Championship were contested in 2002.

Mentors: John Garvey and Joe McGann, aided by Ultan Carroll, PJ Kelly & Enda Deignan

Player of the year: Michael Neill
Conlon Cup 2002

In Conlon cup the team didn’t make an impact and finishing 8th in the table.

Junior A Football League 2002

Olaf’s AFL Div 5 team started the league campaign

30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club

on a bright note with a spirited victory over near rivals Kilmacud Crokes (see match report below); however the next four games were lost due to player injury and up to nine players being unavailable for more than one of these fixtures. When most of these players returned, the team came back to winning ways and went on to finish the league in a commendable 4th position.

Naomh Olaf 2-5.....0-10 Kilmacud Crokes

Naomh Olaf made a Lazarus-like comeback from a nine-point deficit to grab victory in the dying minutes of the local derby at Wedgewood last Sunday. Malachy Coughlan’s injury time point was enough to seal the win by a single score in this exciting Dublin League Division 5 game.

Considering Kilmacud Crokes’ position with ten minutes remaining, leading 0-10 to 0-3, they will feel this was one that got away. Crokes were in complete control of the game, and possession, until midway through the second period. Four early points set the first half tone. The game shifted significantly in Crokes’ favour with the dismissal of Olaf’s midfielder Robert Quinn on 14 minutes for retaliation on Mark Kane, who had made the initial foul. Crokes profited from the extra space in midfield to increase the pressure on Olaf’s defence, leaving them six points clear of the scoreless Sandyford outfit at the break.

Early in the second half, Crokes appeared to have wrapped up the contest as they rattled up three further points.

However, the introduction at half-time of Shane Whyte changed the course of the match. He contributed 1-1 to the cause and was instrumental in Olaf’s vital second goal. After 40 minutes, Whyte

30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club

opened his team's account with a well-struck point. Thereafter John Garvey's crew controlled possession and all Enda Deignan's hard work was rewarded with two points in succession midway through the half. The never-say-die attitude of men like Eoin Brennan and Seamus Mac Gabhann proved vital in filling the midfield void left by Quinn's departure and they helped turn the game Naomh Olaf's way.

Yet it was undoubtedly the talented Whyte, who even had a goal disallowed, who stole the show with his all-action second half performance. Naomh Olaf's superior fitness showed in the final quarter. Whyte's expertly-taken goal left the difference at four points with nine minutes remaining. The introduction of replacement Ray Naughton moments later was significant. A Coughlan free reduced the sides to one goal, which duly arrived with five minutes left after an electrifying run by Whyte led to Naughton firing home a goal from close in, to complete a remarkable comeback. The Crokes players appeared to be dead

on their feet as Olaf's snatched a late victory with Coughlan calmly splitting the uprights from wide on the left.

Junior 1 League 7th April 2002

Naomh Olaf 2-5 to 0-10 Kilmacud Crokes

Philip Byrne, Caomhán Bermingham, John Davitt, Pat Neary, Rory Kennelly, Ronan Miley, Denis Doolan, Robert Quinn, Mick Neill, Cormac Fox, Enda Deignan (0-2), Malachy Coughlan (0-2) Seamus Mac Gabhann, Eoin Brennan, Gary Wilkins

Subs: Ray Naughton (1-0), Shane Whyte (1-1) and Seamas Kinsella.

Junior A Football Championship 2002

The 1st Round fixture was vs Raheny in St Annes Pk. Down to fourteen players early in this game, Olaf's put in a very strong performance especially in the second half to see us through to Round 2. Jason Gilligan gave a man of the match performance in



AFL5 Olafs vs Crokes - Back from left: Seamus Mac Gabhann, Pat Neary, Shane Whyte, Ronan Miley, Rory Kennelly, Philip Byrne, Michael Neill, Eoin Brennan, Robert Quinn, Ray Naughton. **Front from left:** John Davitt, Enda Deignan, Malachy Coughlan, Denis Doolan, Caomhán Bermingham, Gary Wilkins, Cormac Fox, Seamas Kinsella.

particular when he was sited in the half back line.

The second Round was played at Dolphin Park, vs Templeogue Synge St. this was a see-saw affair - see match report below.

Naomh Olaf 4-10.....2-13 Templeogue Synge Street

Three early second-half goals proved to be a bridge too far for a resilient Templeogue/Synge St as they bowed out of the Dublin Junior Football Championship on Sunday evening. Olaf's weathered a late storm from the home side to deservedly progress from this second round fixture after a hard-fought battle in Dolphin's Barn.

Early in the second half, TSS were trailing by nine points, until a remarkable revival transformed the game and had TSS leading by a point, entering the final ten minutes. It required Olaf's most durable disciples, Paddy Roe and Robert Quinn, to lift their games to new heights to manufacture the all-important late scores and ensure victory. The first half finished 1-5 apiece with TSS reeling Olaf's back in on two occasions; first after Brian Begley's goal and secondly with a converted penalty after 22 minutes. Begley's goal put Olaf's into an early 1-2 to 0-2 lead but two frees cut the deficit. Points from Michael Neill (2) and Enda Deignan put the Olaf's team in the ascendancy once more but Scully's penalty and another Cullen free left it all square at the break. With the second half still in its infancy, Olaf's goal-blitz began in earnest via the boot of Begley, thanks to a clever flick from marauding midfielder Quinn.

Three minutes later good combination play between Roe and Malachy Coughlan allowed Begley to complete his hat-trick. Before the dust had even settled on the last two goals, Quinn caused further misery as he weighed in with another goal to leave Tem-

30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club

pleogue Synge St with a mountain to climb. They came very close to the summit. Instantly, Browne attacked from midfield brushing off a challenge to unleash a tame shot that trickled under the legs of Olaf's keeper Philip Byrne.

This goal proved the catalyst for a highly impressive and spirited revival from 'Synger' who accumulated 0-7 in a 12 minute spell to lead 2-12 to 4-05 with less than 10 minutes left. Substitutes Danny O'Reilly and Eoghan O'Gara added fresh impetus to the side's endeavours, and scores from Derek Cullen (0-3) were vital in the remarkable comeback. With both teams now in Championship mode, the intensity levels escalated. However, Olaf's won the scrap for possession to gain a vital two-point cushion via points from Kevin Doolan and Roe (2). TSS did reply with the point of the match in the final minute but only a goal would have saved them as Olaf's found the extra gear with points from Rory Kennelly and Paddy Roe to earn the spoils.

Naomh Olaf 4-10 to 2-13 Templeogue Synge St.

Philip Byrne, Caomhán Bermingham, John Davitt
Rory Kennelly (0-1), Emmett O'Grady, Pat Neary,
Brian De Veale, Robert Quinn (1-0), Mick Neill
(0-3), Paddy Roe (0-4), Enda Deignan (0-2),
Cormac Fox, Richie Doyle, Brian Begley (3-0)
Malachy Coughlan

Subs: Eric Doolan, Kevin Doolan (0-1), Enda Holmes, Seamus Mac Gabhann

Player-of-the-Match: Paddy Roe

The next round was Olaf's fourth successive year reaching the Junior Football Championship quarter-final. Back to O'Toole Park, this time to play Thomas Davis. This was a really close game, so close it ended level and off to a replay.

30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club

Junior A Championship quarter-final 29th
September 2002

Naomh Olaf 1-8 to 0-11 Thomas Davis

John Whealans, Caomhán Bermingham, Rory Kennelly, Eric Doolan, Denis Doolan, Pat Neary Brian De Veale, Robert Quinn (0-1), Mick Neill (0-1), Kevin Doolan, Seamus Mac Gabhann, Jason Gilligan (0-1), Malachy Coughlan (0-2) Paddy Roe (0-3), Gary Wilkins (1-0)

Subs: Chris Fennell, Sean McGinn, Donal Flynn

Again, heartache was to be the outcome of the day for Olafs, the replay was just as close a game as the drawn fixture and ending in another draw. However, in extra time, Thomas Davis just got their noses in front to reach the semi-final.

Junior A Championship quarter-final replay 6th
October 2002

Naomh Olaf 0-12 to 0-13 Thomas Davis

John Whealans, Caomhán Bermingham, Rory Kennelly, Barry Lynch, Jason Gilligan (0-1), Pat Neary, Brian De Veale, Robert Quinn, Mick Neill, Paddy Roe (0-8), Enda Deignan (0-2), Seamus Mac Gabhann (0-1), Malachy Coughlan, Brian Begley, Gary Wilkins

Subs: Enda Finnerty, Adrian Smith, Sean McGinn, Kevin Doolan

Junior A Football Team 2003

The Junior A Football team contested AFL Div 5, Conlon Cup and Junior A Championship.

Mentors: John Garvey and Joe McGann, aided by Ultan Carroll, PJ Kelly & Enda Deignan

Captain: Rory Kennelly

Conlon Cup 2003

The AFL Div 5 team contested the Conlon Cup, played 6, winning 5 and thus qualifying for a semi-final place vs Garda. This was played in Westmans-town on a damp, heavy Sunday morning. The game was by no means a classic but Olaf's prevailed in the end, helped by the introduction of the fleet-footed Seamas Kinsella in the second half.

This win put Naomh Olaf in the Cup Final vs St Finian's of Newcastle, a team who defeated Olaf's in both league and Cup earlier in the year. The game was played in Kiltipper Road in good conditions. It was a bruising encounter with no quarter given. Olaf's started off well and were in front at the break 0-4 to 1-0. The second half was closely contested until Gary Wilkins secured Olaf's only goal. This gave Naomh Olaf the cushion needed and they ran out winners by five points.

Conlon Cup final December 13th 2003

Naomh Olaf 1-8 to 1-3 St Finians (N)

Eoin Hayes, Caomhán Bermingham, Rory Kennelly, Jim Quinn, Ronan Miley, Pat Neary Donal Flynn, Kevin Birrane, Tom Friel (0-1) Derek Naughton, Enda Holmes, Paddy Roe (0-4) Mal Coughlan (0-1), Cormac Doyle, Gary Wilkins (1-0)

Subs: Philip Byrne, Seamas Kinsella (0-2), Mikey Denton, Mick Neill, John Gilvarry, Robert Quinn.

Junior A Football League 2003

The League campaign started on a bright note with a spirited victory over St Judes, but an indifferent run in the middle of the season saw us in the lower half of the league. However the victories in the final games saw the team finish in 6th position.

30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club

Junior A Football Championship 2003

The first round fixture was vs O'Tooles in Newcastle. This was a game where Naomh Olaf were always in control and, with Aidan Trant having a stormer at full forward, the outcome was rarely in doubt. The second round was played in Saggart vs Crumlin. This game was close all through, with only a score separating the teams at any time in the game. The intervention of sub Stephen Browne with his last minute goal swung the game in Olaf's favour.

The next round was Olaf's fifth successive year reaching the Junior Football Championship quarter final. O'Toole Park was the venue for a clash with our neighbours and rivals, Kilmacud Crokes. The feature of this game was the manner in which Olaf's backs marshalled the lively Crokes inside forward line and the crucial goal secured by Eoin Kinsella, late in the second half, to put the game beyond Crokes and send Olaf's into the semi-final.

Junior A Championship quarter-final 7th September 2003

Naomh Olaf 1-8 to 0-5 Kilmacud Crokes

Philip Byrne, John Walsh, Karl Naughton, Jim Quinn, Aidan Byrne, Pat Neary, Brian De Veale (0-1), Robert Quinn, Rory Kennelly, Paddy Roe (0-4), Enda Holmes, Eoin Kinsella (1-1), Malachy Coughlan (0-1), Aidan Trant, Pauric Costello (0-1)

Subs: Mick Neill, Mikey Denton, Jason Gilligan, Ronan Miley, Lorcan Kinsella & John Leahy.

The semi-final was decided by goals at crucial times and, unfortunately, Lucan got three to Olaf's one.

With key players missing from the previous game due to holidays and injury etc, Olaf's task was difficult from the outset. Again Olaf's were beaten by the eventual winners.

Junior A Championship semi- final 21st September 2003

Naomh Olaf 1-8 to 3-8 Lucan Sarsfields

John Whealans, Caomhán Bermingham, Rory Kennelly, Barry Lynch, Aidan Byrne, Pat Neary Brian De Veale, Robert Quinn (1-0), Tom Friel Paddy Roe (0-3), Enda Holmes, Malachy Coughlan Vincent Corley (0-2), Pauric Costello (0-1), Eoin Kinsella (0-2)

Subs: Mick Neill, Mikey Denton, Jason Gilligan, Ronan Miley, Lorcan Kinsella & John Leahy, Stephen Browne, Niall McCaffrey.

Junior A Football Team 2004

The Junior A Football team contested AFL Div 5, Conlon Cup and Junior A Championship, St Mark's Tournament.

Mentors: John Garvey and Joe McGann, aided by Ultan Carroll, PJ Kelly & Enda Deignan

Captain: Pat Neary

Player of the Year: Philip Byrne

Conlon Cup 2004

The AFL Div 5 team contested the Conlon Cup, played 6, won 5 and thus qualified for a semi-final place vs Fingallians. This was played in Swords on a damp Sunday morning; the loss of John Walsh early in the game, and Seamus Kinsella a while later, put paid to Olaf's chances, and they lost out by 4 points in the end.

Conlon Cup semi-final August 29th 2004

Naomh Olaf 0-10 to 1-14 Fingallians

Philip Byrne, John Walsh, Ronan Miley, Jim Culligan, Denis Doolan, Pat Neary, Seamus Kinsella, Robert Quinn, Mick Neill (0-2), Declan Thornton (0-1), Adrian Smith (0-1), Lorcan

30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club

Kinsella (0-3), Mick Donnelly (0-1), Malachy Coughlan (0-1), Gary Wilkins (0-1)

Subs: Joe McGann.

Junior A Football League 2004

The league campaign started with a loss vs O'Tooles, a game we really should have won. But ten wins from the next eleven games put us in promotion territory; however, losses in next two games meant we had to beat Crokes to qualify for play-offs. This was achieved, and as luck would have it, we had to play Crokes in the play-off semi-final. Again we defeated them to qualify for league promotion final vs St Finian's of Newcastle.

In the play-off final, Olaf's didn't have any luck as the opposition were awarded two penalties in dubious circumstances which changed the course of the game. Olaf's were eventually beaten by three points. The following are some of the team line ups for 2004 competitions:

Junior 1 League Promotion semi-final 5th December 2004

Naomh Olaf 1-8 to 0-9 Kilmacud Crokes

Philip Byrne, Caomhán Bermingham, Pat Neary, Jim Quinn, Denis Dolan, Aidan Byrne, Donal Flynn, Robert Quinn (0-1), Kevin Birrane Mick Neill, Malachy Coughlan, Declan Thornton (0-1), Gary Wilkins (1-0), Aidan Trant (0-5), Lorcan Kinsella (0-1)

Subs: Tadgh Purcell, Brian Begley, Mikey Denton, Seamus Mac Gabhann.

Junior 1 League Promotion final 11th December 2004

Naomh Olaf 1-11 to 3-8 St.Finnians (N)

Philip Byrne, Mikey Denton, Pat Neary, (0-1), Jim

Quinn, Denis Dolan, Aidan Byrne, Donal Flynn, Robert Quinn, Kevin Birrane, Gary Wilkins (0-1), Seamus Mac Gabhann, Declan Thornton (0-3, Aidan Trant (1-3), Malachy Coughlan (0-1), Lorcan Kinsella (0-1)

Subs: Mick Neill, Tadgh Purcell (0-1), Brian Begley, Rory Kennelly.

Junior A Football Championship 2004

The first round fixture was vs Peregrine's in Balgriffin. Olaf's had to be on top form in this game. A man of the match display from Donal Flynn, coupled with outstanding performances from Jim Quinn, Seamus Mac Gabhann, Tom Friel, Derek Naughton and Aidan Trant, helped to swing the game in Olaf's favour.

Junior A Championship 1st Rd May 22nd 2004
in Balgriffin

Naomh Olaf 1-9 to 0-11 St Peregrine's

Philip Byrne, Mick Neill, Jim Quinn, John Walsh, Denis Doolan, Aidan Byrne, Donal Flynn, Robert Quinn, Tom Friel (1-0), Derek Naughton (0-3), Seamus Mac Gabhann, Jimmy Culligan (0-1), Gary Wilkins (0-1), Mal Coughlan, Aidan Trant (0-4)

Subs: Caomhán Bermingham, Pauric Hogan, Kevin Birrane, Stephen Browne, Adrian Smith, Brian Begley, Shane Kavanagh, John Whelans

The second round was also played in Balgriffin. This time St Monica's were the opposition; this was a tough bruising game with no quarter given. With Denis Doolan and Aidan Byrne to the fore in defence, Robert Quinn king of the midfielders and Gary Wilkins and Aidan Trant on top form up front, Olaf's secured a deserved victory in trying circumstances and qualified for the quarter-final for the

sixth successive year.

1st of July saw Naomh Olaf return to O'Toole Pk for the quarter-final vs St Anne's. Having only led by a couple of points at half time, the team stepped up a gear in the second half and ran out handy winners. Aidan Trant was the star of the show with seven points. Beside him, Stephen Browne had a good game and finished with 1-2. Kevin Birrane ran the show at midfield with wily campaigners Aidan Byrne and Jim Quinn marshalling the defence very well. Rory Kennelly returned to the team after a long absence to rule the roost over former All Ireland winner Joe McNally.

Junior A Championship quarter - final 1st July 2004

Naomh Olaf 1-15 to 0-6 St Annes

Philip Byrne, John Walsh, Rory Kennelly, Jim Quinn, Denis Doolan, Aidan Byrne, Donal Flynn (0-1), Kevin Birrane (0-1), Tom Friel (0-1), Adrian Smith (0-2), Sean Gibbons (0-1), Mick Neill, Stephen Browne (1-2), Mal Coughlan, Aidan Trant (0-7)

Subs: C. Bermingham, M. Denton, P Hogan, D. Egan, S. Mac Gabhann.

The semi-final was played in Parnell Park on 4th September. Olaf's never reproduced the form shown in earlier rounds. Two great goal chances spurned in the first half, including a penalty miss, showed it was not to be our day yet again.

Half time score Naomh Olaf 0 - 4, Naomh Mearnóg 0 - 7.

Even though Olaf's outscored Mearnóg in the second half, it was not enough to secure victory. The absence through injury of Tom Friel, John Walsh and talisman Aidan Trant did not help our cause,

30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club

yet the team showed tremendous spirit and tenacity throughout the game and could not be faulted for effort, with Robert Quinn giving a superb performance at midfield. However Olaf's were again beaten by the eventual winners.

Junior A Championship semi-final 4th September 2004

Naomh Olaf 0-9 to 0-11 Naomh Mearnóg

Philip Byrne, Jim Quinn, Rory Kennelly, Darren Egan, Aidan Byrne (0-1), Pat Neary, Denis Doolan, Kevin Birrane (0-1), Robert Quinn (0-1) Adrian Smith, Seamus Mac Gabhann, Declan Thornton, Mick Neill, Mal Coughlan (0-2), Lorcan Kinsella (0-4)

Subs: Stephen Browne, Eoin McCaffrey, Jimmy Culligan, Enda Holmes, Sean Gibbons

Junior A Football Team 2005

The Junior A Football team contested AFL Div 5, Conlon Cup and Junior A Championship.

Mentors: John Garvey and Joe McGann, aided by Ultan Carroll, PJ Kelly & Enda Deignan

Captain: Malachy Coughlan

Player of the Year: Robert Quinn

Conlon Cup 2005

The AFL Div 5 team contested the Conlon Cup, played 7, winning 2 and not qualifying for a semi-final place.

Junior A Football League 2005

The League campaign started with wins vs Garda and St Anne's. Winning 10 and drawing one of our 15 game programme saw the team reach the promotion play-off semi-final where the opponents were St Brigid's. In a low scoring game where Olaf's had plenty of scoring opportunity, we just could not

30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club

convert the possession into scores and Brigid's proceeded to the play-off final.

Junior 1 League Promotion semi-final 18th
December 2005

Naomh Olaf 0-5 to 0-7 St Brigid's

Philip Byrne, Seamas Kinsella, Pauric Hogan,
Mikey Denton, Aidan Byrne, Kevin Keane,
Donal Flynn, Robert Quinn, Tom Friel, Gary
Wilkins, Enda Holmes, Mick Neill, Paddy Roe
Stephen Browne, Lorcan Kinsella

Subs: Denis Doolan, Jimmy Culligan, Greg
Naughton, Ray Quinn, Denis Begg, Ed Buckley

Junior A Football Championship 2005

The first round fixture was vs Parnells in Collins-town Lane. Naomh Olaf led from start to finish in a bruising encounter, where there were only three points between the teams at any juncture, but a man of the match display from Derek Dowling, aided by Mick Neill in defence, Kevin Keane in mid field and Enda Holmes and Tom Friel up front, gave Naomh Olaf an excellent win in trying circumstances.

The second round pitted Olaf's against O'Tooles, but as the scoreline suggests it was a facile victory. With Olaf's in command in all departments and Mick Neill contributing two goals, the team were through to their seventh successive Junior Championship quarter final.

On 24th July, Olaf's returned to O'Toole Pk for a quarter-final clash with St Pat's, Donabate. This game was a closer game than Olaf's were expecting. A goal by Chris Fennell and the six points by Mick Neill were crucial in helping Olaf's through to the semi-final for the third successive year.

Junior A Championship quarter-final 24th July 2005

Naomh Olaf 1-9 to 1-7 St Pat's (Donabate)

Philip Byrne, Rory Kennelly, Pauric Hogan,
Darren Egan, Denis Doolan, Aidan Byrne, Mick
Neill (0-6), Tom Friel, Kevin Keane, Chris Fennell
(1-0), Malachy Coughlan, Gary Wilkins (0-1),
Stephen Browne, Kevin Birrane, Lorcan Kinsella
(0-2)

Subs: Jimmy Culligan, Rónán Ó Conghaile, Denis
Begg, Denis Everett, Jason Gilligan

The semi-final was played in O'Toole Park on 24th September. In this game, Olaf's were always in contention but goals by Towers at crucial times proved to be body blows from which the team would not recover.

Half time score: 1-5 to 0-4 points.

Not even the superb display by substitute Derek Dowling and eight points in the second half could swing the game in Olaf's favour. Again, the pain of another semi-final defeat.

Junior A Championship semi- final 4st September
2005

Naomh Olaf 0-12 to 2-8 Round Towers (C)

Philip Byrne, Pauric Hogan, Rory Kennelly, Dar-
ren Egan, Denis Doolan, Aidan Byrne, Mick Neill
(0-4), Tom Friel, Robert Quinn (0-1), Gary Wilkins
Enda Holmes (0-1), Malachy Coughlan
(0-1), Stephen Browne (0-1), Kevin Birrane
Lorcan Kinsella (0-3)

Subs: Jimmy Culligan, David Broderick, Denis
Begg, Denis Everett, Chris Fennell, Derek Dowling
(0-1), Eoin McCaffrey

Junior A Football Team 2006

The Junior A Football team contested AFL Div 5,
Conlon Cup and Junior A Championship.

30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club

Mentors: John Garvey, Joe McGann, aided by Ultan Carroll, PJ Kelly & Enda Deignan.

Captain: Denis Doolan.

Conlon Cup 2006

The AFL Div 5 team contested the Conlon Cup, played 5, winning 3 and finishing level on points with St. Judes, forcing a play-off for a semi-final place, Olaf's lost the play-off by a single point.

Conlon Cup semi-final playoff 12th November 2006

Naomh Olaf 2-6 to 1-10 St Jude's

Stephen Stapleton, Donal Flynn, Enda Holmes, Caomhán Bermingham, Denis Doolan, Brian Murphy, Conor Sobolewski, Robert Quinn (1-0), Rory Kennelly (0-1), John Tyrell (0-1), Mark Fitzachary (0-2), Ciaran Hegarty, Gavin Stapleton, (1-0), Paddy Roe (0-2), Gary Wilkins

Junior A Football League 2006

The league campaign started with winning three of the first four games. The highlights of the league wins were superb away wins vs Crokes and St Monica's. Of the 15 game schedule, Olaf's won 8 and drew 4, which ensured a place in the promotion play-offs (again). In the play-off semi-final, the opponents were St Brigid's. In a low scoring game where Olaf's fluffed an early gilt-edged goal chance, Brigid's were more productive with the chances they created and ran out winners.

Junior 1 League Promotion semi-final 1st Feb 2007

Naomh Olaf 0-4 to 0-6 St Brigids

John Whealans, David Broderick, Rory Kennelly, Denis Doolan, Ciaran Hegarty, Brian Murphy, Donal Flynn, Robert Quinn, Conor Sobolewski, John McGrath, Marc Fitzachery (0-1), Josh Dunford, Gary Wilkins, Paddy Roe (0-3),

Lorcan Kinsella.

Subs: Barry Flynn, Richie McDonnell, Simon Hickey, Ed Buckley.

Junior A Football Championship 2006

The first round was a home game vs Thomas Davis. The result of this game was a facile victory over Davis's who were operating in AFL6. The star of the show was Vinny Corley who gave a master class display and returned a personal tally of 1-7. He was ably supported up front by Gary Wilkins and Stephen Browne.

The 2nd Round saw Olaf's travel to St.Annes Pk to play Raheny. This game was a true test for Olaf's after the less taxing encounter against Davis's in the previous round. But the experience gained from previous championship outings told and with excellent displays from Enda Holmes and Brian Murphy in defence, Robert Quinn at mid field and Paddy Roe up front helped Olaf's hold out for victory. This victory saw Olaf's through to the quarter final for the eight successive year.

Naomh Olaf 2-90-7 St Finian's Newcastle

Naomh Olaf had a score to settle with St Finian's before the sides met in this Junior Football Championship quarter-final. The teams faced each other in an AFL Division 5 promotion play-off two years ago, two hotly disputed penalties denying Olaf's victory. Finian's operate in AFL3 while Naomh Olaf, despite again making the play-offs last year, still reside in AFL5.

In the early stages, it was the high-flyers Finian's who showed all the enterprise. Ronnie O'Donnell laid down a marker in centre field, all this while Finian's were in total control, going through the motions of dismissing lower league opposition without

30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club

stretching themselves unduly. Finian's were 0-3 to 0-1 ahead and in cruise control but never built on the foundations, kicked eight first-half wides and between the 16th and 48th minutes, they went scoreless. During this period, Naomh Olaf put away all but one score of their two goals and nine point haul; full forward Lorcan Kinsella's converted 40-yard free in the second minute of the game being the exception. Gary Wilkins and Corley levelled the scores before Wilkins supplied Kinsella for a cracking goal on 22 minutes. Paddy Roe took over as the game's dominant midfielder and his centre-field partner Robert Quinn stretched the lead with a fistid point. Corley scored again as Olaf's went in 1-5 to 0-3 at the break.

From the restart, Naomh Olaf defended their five-point lead by stretching it further. Paddy Roe kicked over a couple of frees, Kinsella pointed after a blistering solo run and centre forward Stephen Browne brilliantly rounded the Finian's keeper to find the net again on 39 minutes. Naomh Olaf had turned the game on its head. Eleven points separated the sides with a quarter remaining. Finian's whittled it down to seven but never came close to competing again. Finian's did get a couple of late points but it was too little too late.

Junior A Championship quarter final 1st September 2006

Naomh Olaf 2-9 to 0-7 St Finians's (Newcastle)

Philip Byrne, Mark Fitzachary, Enda Holmes, Darren Egan, Denis Doolan, Aidan Byrne, Conor Sobolewski, Robert Quinn (0-1), Paddy Roe (0-2) John McGrath, Stephen Browne (1-0), Gary Wilkins (0-1), Chris Fennell, Lorcan Kinsella (1-2), Vincent Corley (0-3)

Subs: Gavin Stapleton, David Howley

After a long delay from the quarter final, the semi-final was finally played on Thurs 19th October under lights in Saggart.

In very adverse weather conditions, Olaf's played up the hill and were not able to cope with Castleknock's tricky corner forwards who secured early frees, which they converted and this settled their team. Shortly afterwards, Castleknock got a very fortuitous goal which gave them a cushion that they kept to the end.

Half time score: Castleknock 1-7 Naomh Olaf 0-4

Olaf's flew out of the blocks in the second half and hit Castleknock with three points on the trot. Olaf's dominated in midfield and were hungry to the breaks which Castleknock had taken for granted in the first half. Olaf's did not score sufficiently during this period of dominance, and this was to prove our undoing. When Castleknock got control again, they pushed on with decisive scores to see them through to the final.

Junior A Championship semi- final 19th October 2006

Venue: Páirc Mhuire Saggart

Naomh Olaf 0-9 to 1-12 Castleknock

Philip Byrne, Mark Fitzachary, Enda Holmes, Darren Egan, Denis Doolan, Aidan Byrne, Conor Sobolewski, Robert Quinn, Paddy Roe (0-3), Chris Fennell (0-1), Stephen Browne, John McGrath, Vincent Corley (0-1), Lorcan Kinsella, (0-2), Gary Wilkins (0-2)

Subs: John Whelans, Ciaran Hegarty, Josh Dunford, Rory Kennelly



Naomh Olaf Junior A Football team who defeated St Finnian's (N) - Back row l to r: D Howley, C Sobolewski, G Stapleton, L Kinsella, E Holmes, P Byrne, A Byrne, S Browne, P Roe & J McGann (mentor). Front row l to r: J Garvey (mentor), G Wilkins, J McGrath, V Corley, M Fitzachary, D Egan, D Doolan, C Fennell & R Quinn.

Junior A Football Team 2007

The Junior 'A' Football team contested AFL Div 5, Conlon Cup and Junior A Championship.

Mentors: John Garvey and Joe McGann, aided by Ultan Carroll, PJ Kelly & Enda Deignan

Captain: Mark Fitzachary

Player of the Year: Brian Murphy
Conlon Cup 2007

The AFL Div 5 team contested the Conlon Cup, played 5, won 1, lost 3 and one drawn. We did not qualify for play-off stages.

Junior A Football League 2007

The league campaign started off poorly losing our first six games. However, better form in mid season and again at the end was enough to stay clear of relegation. Of the games we did win, the game against Scoil Uí Chonaill, was the most memorable, as we hadn't won a league game until then and Scoil were unbeaten at the time.

AFL5 Round 7 game 12th June 2007

Naomh Olaf 2-6 to 0-9 Scoil Uí Chonaill

Philip Byrne, Denis Doolan, Brian Murphy, Owen Byrne, Ger Dougan, Mick de Veale, Donal Flynn, Barry Flynn (1-0), Conor Sobolewski, Chris Fennell (1-0), Mick Neill (0-1), Gary Wilkins (0-1), John Tyrrell (0-2), Stephen Browne (0-2), Chris Cunningham

Subs: Colin Hughes, Malachy Coughlan, Bill Nolan, Ed Buckley

Junior A Football Championship 2007

Naomh Olaf received a by in the first round. The first outing was against St Brigid's, played on their all-weather pitch. This Brigid's team operated in AFL4 and were expected to win comfortably.

St Brigid's 0-12 Naomh Olaf 1-9

Report by Rory Kerr (Dundrum Gazette)

A ten-point haul from Mick Cousins was enough for

30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club

St Brigid's to force a replay in Sunday's Dublin Junior Football Championship. Brigid's opened up an early two-point lead through Cousins before Olaf's found the back of the net after five minutes.

Michael de Veale played a ball into Chris Cunningham who, from just outside the square, slid the ball under the keeper's body. And with Brian Murphy giving a very able display at full-back, Naomh Olaf added further scores through Cunningham and Mark Fitzachary.

Brigid's, however, were not out of it, with John Cousins' industry yielding a deserved score from the corner forward. A Mick Cousins' free then put the bare minimum between the two before Olaf's produced a late spurt through Stephen Browne (2) and Malachy Coughlan to lead at half time.

The second half opened with frees at each end before an intelligent ball played in by Gerard Dougan set up Gary Wilkins for a well-taken Olaf's score. But, with Shane O'Brien starting to cause problems for the Olaf's defence with his movement, Brigid's continued to close the gap with a Mick Cousins point from play to put just a goal between the two.

Olaf's, after posting two wides, then landed a free through Fitzachary on 48 minutes, which was to be their last score of the game. From there, Brigid's took control of the game with frees from Mick Cousins and influential midfielder Conor Clavin taking them ever closer to the Olaf's tally. Mick Cousins then sent over his third point play on 57 minutes before Ciaran Plunkett won a free for Brigid's in the fourth minute of injury time. And Cousins, having previously missed a free out of the hands, made no mistake second time round to bring this tie to a second game.

Junior A Championship 2nd Rd., 20th May 2007 in Russell Park

Naomh Olaf 1-9 to 0-12 St Brigid's

Philip Byrne, Mark Fitzachary (0-4), Brian Murphy, David Broderick, Denis Doolan, Mick de Veale, Donal Flynn, Barry Flynn, Conor Sobolewski, Malachy Coughlan (0-1), Ger Dougan (0-1), Chris Cunningham (0-1), Chris Fennell, Stephen Browne (0-2), Gary Wilkins (1-1)

Subs: Owen Byrne, Colin Hughes, Richie McDonnell

The replay was played in Páirc Uí Bhriain on May 23rd and the following report, compliments of the Dundrum Gazette (Louise Browne), shows that Naomh Olaf pulled off an unexpected win against higher league opposition.



Conor Sobolewski commands the air, while Ger Dougan and Stephen Browne look on.

30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club



Denis Doolan puts Brigids under pressure.



Conor Sobolewski, Ger Dougan and Barry Flynn contain Brigids threat.



Olafs vs Brigids Drawn game - Back row l to r: C Cunningham, S Browne, D Flynn, C Sobolewski, B Flynn, M De Veale, P Byrne, D Broderick, B Murphy, G Dougan. Front row l to r: O Byrne, M Coughlan, R McDonnell, D Doolan, C Fennell, M Fitzachery, C Hughes & G Wilkins.

30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club

Olaf's battle through hard-fought replay

Naomh Olaf just about walked away with a well-earned win after overcoming St Brigid's in this hard-fought Junior A Football Championship replay at Páirc Uí Bhriain on Sunday. Olaf's, playing with the wind behind them, were two up early on when Ger Dougan's pass found Mick de Veale who struck a point, before Dougan's gutsy run through the middle doubled their tally and sent them well on their way.

St Brigid's opened their scoring with a great point from the boot of Stephen Quigley - however, the southsiders responded with four unanswered points. Chris Cunningham fed Barry Flynn who calmly sidefooted over the bar; Stephen Browne followed this with a score from an acute angle. Minutes later, Browne had two great goal chances but St Brigid's keeper Damien Smith kept him at bay. Vincent Corley tapped a free over before he brought another good save from Smith. Olaf's finished the half five points to the good but should have made more of their possession. Their sloppiness was punished when Brigid's cut their lead to a single point within eight minutes of the restart. Brian McIntyre started the scoring before Quigley added another two. Quigley then turned provider, hand-passing to Mick Cousins who opened his account with a point. The home side needed to get possession to ease the growing pressure and steady the ship, and up stepped Fitzachary and Gary Wilkins to fill the bill. Fitzachary's two sublime frees were momentarily interrupted by Brigid's Cousins' second point. Wilkins then helped himself to his one and only point.

Brigid's kept the pressure on and cut the deficit down to two through substitute Paul Brady, but Chris Fennell's blocked shot fell kindly for Corley who made

no mistake from close range to make sure of the win.

Junior A Championship 2nd Rd replay., 23rd May 2007 in Wedgewood

Naomh Olaf 0-10 to 0-7 St Brigid's

Philip Byrne, Mark Fitzachary (0-2), Brian Murphy, David Broderick, Denis Doolan, Mick de Veale (0-1), Donal Flynn, Barry Flynn (0-1), Conor Sobolewski, Malachy Coughlan, Ger Dougan (0-1), Chris Cunningham, Vincent Corley (0-3), Stephen Browne (0-1), Gary Wilkins
Subs: O Byrne , P Jackson, C Fennell, C Hughes, R McDonnell, B Nolan, N Frawley

The quarter-final was again a home game for Naomh Olaf. This game was expected to be a difficult assignment due to the losses of Mark Fitzachary, Brian Murphy, Vincent Corley, Chris Cunningham, Gary Wilkins and Stephen Browne from the previous game for a variety of reasons. However the team on the day fought all the way till the end, and were in contention right up until then, but a last minute goal was enough to seal victory for Whitehall.

Junior A Championship quarter-final - July 24th 2007

Naomh Olaf 0-9 to 1-11 Whitehall

Philip Byrne, Darren Egan, Peter Jackson, Denis Doolan, Owen Byrne, Mick de Veale, Ger Dougan, Robert Quinn, Conor Sobolewski, Malachy Coughlan (0-1), Mick Neill, Paddy Roe (0-7)

Barry Flynn, Simon Hickey (0-1), Lorcan Kinsella
Subs: Chris Fennell, Colin Hughes, Richie McDonnell, Bill Nolan, Niall Frawley

Junior A Football Team 2008

The Junior A Football team contested AFL Div 5, Conlon Cup and Junior A Championship in 2008.



Naomh Olaf team photo replay vs St Brigids. 23rd May 2007 - Back row l to r: D Flynn, M De Veale, M Coughlan, C Fennell, B Nolan, C Sobolewski, B Flynn, P Jackson, S Browne, D Broderick, P Byrne, B Murphy, G Dougan. Front row l to r: G Wilkins, O Byrne, C Cunningham, R McDonnell, C Hughes, N Frawley, V Corley, D Doolan, M Fitzachery.

Mentors: John Garvey and Joe McGann, aided by Ultan Carroll.

Captain: Mark Fitzachary

Player of the Year: Owen Byrne

A pre-season trip to Carlow on Saturday 9th February with a game vs Éire Óg was the start to the 2008 season. The trip was an enjoyable event. Olaf's lost a close challenge game to the hosts.

Conlon Cup 2008

The AFL Div 5 team contested the Conlon Cup, played 5, winning 2, losing 3. We did not qualify for play-off stages.

Junior A Football League 2008

The league campaign started poorly with losses to Raheny by 2 points, a one point loss to Ballyboughal, followed by a draw with Jude's. This was to be the form of the team for 2008. By early November with 3 games left and only 5 points secured, the team was in danger of relegation, but with relegation loom-

ing, the team showed spirit and determination to get wins against James' Gaels and Whitehall which was enough to keep AFL5 status for another season.

Junior 1 League Round 13, 19th October 2008

Naomh Olaf 0-14 to 0-4 St James' Gaels

Philip Byrne, Shane Slattery, Conor Sobolewski, Darren Egan, Andrew Murphy, Mick de Veale, Owen Byrne, Derek Dowling (0-2), Robert Quinn, Barry Flynn (0-1), Robby Byrne (0-1), Paddy Roe (0-6), Chris Fennell (0-1), Kevin Keane, Gary Wilkins (0-2)

Subs: Mick Neill, Stephen Browne, Denis Everett, Conor Roe, Stephen Stapleton

Junior A Football Championship 2008

St Oliver Plunkett's were the opposition in Round 1 of Junior A Championship 2008. In the middle of a poor run of form and with key players like Lorcan Kinsella, Vinny Corley, Gary Wilkins and Malachy Coughlan all injured, it was going to be a tall order

30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club

to beat a very well-drilled Plunkett's side. Plunkett's started off the brighter and ran into an early lead which they duly maintained till the end.

Half time score: Olafs 0-3 to 0-11 Plunkett's.

In the second half, Olaf's started off well and got four quick points before Plunkett's settled. However, a goal for Plunkett's put paid to any comeback aspirations entertained by Olaf's and they ran out winners by 1-14 to 0-9.

Olaf's were well served on the day by Denis Doolan, Mark Fitzachary & Mick de Veale in defence, Robert Quinn and Derek Dowling in midfield with Paddy Roe, Stephen Brown and Chris Fennell the pick of the forwards on the day.

This loss was the first time in ten years that Olaf's Junior A football team did not reach the Championship quarter-final and the first time in four years they

did not reach the semi-final.

Junior A Championship 1st Round., 11th May 2008
in Martin Savage Park

Naomh Olaf 0-9 to 1-14 St Oliver Plunkett's ER

Philip Byrne, Owen Byrne, Brian Murphy, Denis Doolan, Mark Fitzachary, Mick de Veale, Shane Slattery, Robert Quinn (0-1), Derek Dowling (0-1), Shane Kavanagh, Paddy Roe (0-4), Mick Neill
Chris Fennell, Barry Flynn, Stephen Browne (0-3)

Subs: David Broderick for Shane Slattery, Brian Deady, Stephen Stapleton.

Junior A Football Team 2009

The Junior A Football team contested AFL Div 5, Conlon Cup and Junior A Championship.

Mentors: John Garvey and Joe McGann, aided by Ultan Carroll



Naomh Olaf AFL5 Team vs Eire Og - Front row l to r: D.Egan, M De Veale, O Byrne, D Dowling, M Fitzachery, A Smyth, R Quinn, C Fennell. Back row l to r: B Murphy, P Jackson, S Stapleton, S Browne, M Neill, D Flynn, B Flynn, E Holmes, P Roe, M Coughlan.

Captain: Robby Byrne

Player of the Year: Robby Byrne

Conlon Cup 2009

The Conlon Cup is a competition played on a league basis for teams playing AFL5 and is divided into two regional groups. Naomh Olaf narrowly lost out on a semi-final place after winning 4 of the 6 group games.

Junior A Football League 2009

The league campaign started well, winning the first game away to Raheny, but this was followed by a string of poor results. The season turned around in the end of May and in the last ten games, 5 were won, 2 were drawn and 3 were lost, to end up a comfortable mid table position with 14 points. However, in a lot of the games we only had 15 or 16 players out.

AFL5 Round 7, 21th July 2009

Naomh Olaf 3-11 to 1-6 Scoil Uí Chonaill

Cathal Daughton, Shane Slattery, Peter Jackson, Denis Doolan, Aidan Byrne, Mark Harnett (0-1), Mick de Veale, Conor Haskins, Derek Dowling, Mick Neill, Robby Byrne (0-1), Paddy Roe (0-5), Chris Fennell (1-1), Gerry Maher (0-1), Stephen Browne (2-2)

Subs: Austin Ó Tuama, Donal Sheehan, Brian Begley

Junior A Football Championship 2009

Round 1 saw a repeat of the 2007 quarter final between Olaf's and Whitehall. This time, the outcome was never in doubt as Olaf's were by far the better team and got some compensation for the defeat of two years previous.

Junior A Championship 1st Rd., 28th April 2009 in Páirc Uí Bhriain

30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club

Naomh Olaf 2-12 to 0-6 Whitehall Colmcille's

Cathal Daughton, Shane Slattery, Brian Murphy, Owen Byrne, Aidan Byrne, Mark Harnett, Denis Doolan, Robert Quinn, Peter Jackson (0-2), Edward Diggins (0-1), Robby Byrne, Paddy Roe (0-7), Gary Wilkins (1-0), Stephen Browne (0-1) Lorcan Kinsella (1-1)

Subs: V Corley, A Smyth, M Neill, D Everett, C Fennell, A Ó Tuama, N McCaffrey.

The second round was an away encounter with Man O' War. The team on the day put in a sterling performance, but the loss of key players from the previous round and the eleventh hour loss of inspirational center back Mark Harnett were blows the team did not recover from.

Junior A Championship 2nd Rd., 17th May 2009 in Man O' War

Naomh Olaf 0-6 to 2-6 Man O' War

Cathal Daughton, Shane Slattery, Robby Byrne, Denis Everett, Denis Doolan, Aidan Byrne, Peter Jackson, Robert Quinn, Mick Neill (0-2), Austin Ó Tuama, Ger Maher, Adrian Smyth, Chris Fennell (0-1), Stephen Browne (0-2), Lorcan Kinsella (0-1)

Subs: None.

Junior A Football Team 2010

The Junior A Football team contested AFL Div 5, Conlon Cup and Junior A Championship.

Mentors: John Garvey and Joe McGann

Captain: Brian Murphy

Player of the Year: Brian Murphy

Conlon Cup 2010

The Conlon Cup is a competition played on a league basis for teams playing AFL 5 and is divided into

30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club

four groups. After great away wins against St Mary's on 16th Feb under lights, and one week later again under lights away to Innisfails, the team qualified for the quarter-final, only to fail to a strong Castleknock team.

Junior A Football League 2010

The league campaign started off on 14th March with a loss to Brigid's. As the season progressed, the team struggled numerically to such a degree that we had to concede one league game due to lack of players. In spite of this, the team finished off the season winning six games - Innisfails, Wanderers, St Anne's, St Mary's, Clontarf & Whitehall - to finish mid table.

AFL5 Round 4, 25th May 2010 in Bohernabreena

Naomh Olaf 4-9 to 0-13 St Anne's

Denis Kelleher, Richie McDonnell, Brian Murphy, Michael McDermott, Jim Culligan, Conor Sobolewski, Mick de Veale, Conor Haskins (1-0), Paddy Feehan, David Lynch (0-1), Sean Scott, Gary Wilkins (1-1), Cormac Lucey (1-1), Gerry Maher (0-1), Lorcan Kinsella (1-5)

Subs: Will Byrne, John Dillon, Brian O'Connor

Junior A Football Championship 2010

Round 1 was away to Round Towers. This game was played in true championship style; the first half was evenly balanced and the second ebbed and flowed with Towers going into a 2 point lead with a minute to go. The game would have been lost by lesser teams, but this team kept trying right to end and were rewarded with a late goal from Cillian Lewins. Towers had an opportunity to draw level, but the 45' was well wide and the day belonged to Olaf's.

Junior A Championship 1st Rd., 18th April 2010 in Clondalkin

Naomh Olaf 1-12 to 0-14 Round Towers (Clon)

Cathal Daughton, Michael McDermott, Robert Byrne (0-1), Owen Byrne, Colin Doyle, Brian Murphy, Mick de Veale, Conor Sobolewski, Kevin Keane, Ed Diggins, Conor Haskins, John McGrath (0-1), Cormac Lucey (0-7), Gerry Maher (0-2), Stephen Browne (0-1)

Subs: Chris Fennell, Cillian Lewins, (1-0), Cian Faulkner

Olaf's next game was one week later and we were without the services of Cormac Lucey, Conor Sobolewski & Ed Diggins (all injured), and Kevin Keane (away). All these absentees proved to be too big a loss and the team lost to the eventual finalist, St Jude's.

Junior A Championship 2nd Rd., 25th April 2010 in Tymon Park

Naomh Olaf 0-7 to 2-7 St Jude's

Cathal Daughton, Michael McDermott, Robert Byrne (0-1), Will Byrne, Colin Doyle, Brian Murphy, Owen Byrne, Conor Haskins, Mick de Veale (0-2), Shane Mulvey, Chris Fennell, John McGrath (0-1), Cillian Lewins (0-3), Gerry Maher, Stephen Browne

Subs: Colin Hughes, Robert Quinn

Junior A Football Team 2011

The Junior A Football team contested AFL Div 5, Conlon Cup and Junior A Championship.

Mentors/Caretaker Managers: John Garvey & Larry Daly

Captain: Emmet O'Grady

Junior A Football League 2011

The league campaign started off on 27th February with a loss to Round Towers. Unfortunately this

was to be a pointer for the rest of the league season. The season ended with the team being demoted to AFL6.

Junior A Football Championship 2011

Round 1 was played mid week, away to Man O' War, with the opposition operating in AFL4. Olafs weren't give much of a chance in this game, but in typical Olaf's style, we took the game to the opposition and led at at the break 1-2 to 4 points. However, the fitness of Man O' War told in the final ten minutes when they ran up six points to see the game out.

Junior A Championship 1st Rd., 25th April 2011 in Man O' War

Naomh Olaf 1-4 to 0-14 Man O' War

Michael O'Connor, Peter Gordan, Michael McDermott, Enda Finnerty, Colin Hughes, Eoin McCaffrey, Mick de Veale, Paddy Feehan (0-2), Sean Scott, Gavin Stapleton, Stephen

30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club

Stapleton, Shane Kavanagh (0-1), Robert Doyle, Chris Fennell (0-1), John Dillon (1-0)

At the end of the 2010 season I stepped down from Junior football management, but with Larry Daly we done a caretaker managers role for the 2011 season. This group of players through the years 1999 until 2011 brought varying degrees of entertainment, excitement and value for money, particularly when in championship mode. It is a pity that this team's true potential was never realised.

At times when success beckoned events contrived to ensure this group did not have the success it richly deserved.

I hope I have rendered an accurate account of events during this period and if there are any inaccuracies or omissions they are not intentional and I hope no offence is taken.



Naomh Olaf AFL5 Team vs Ballinteer St Johns, 17th July 2011 - Front row l to r: P. Feehan, C Murray, J Dillon, M. McDermott, R Doyle, C Hughes, E McCaffrey, J Garvey (Mentor). Back row l to r: Gillivan, S Coughlan, S Stapleton, A O'Hara, E Finnerty, D Byrne, S Browne, K Keane, M O'Connor.

The Story behind our Club Crest and Colours - By Margaret Kyne-Delaney



The current Naomh Olaf crest was designed in 1999 after the amalgamation of Naomh Olaf and Dundrum / Churchtown GAA clubs. The new crest was designed to take in elements of both clubs and to represent the wider community that the club now embodied.

The crest is made up of four images that represent the two clubs and the expanded catchment area which resulted from the amalgamation.



The two maroon-coloured sections came directly from the Dundrum / Churchtown crest.

The Usher Monument represents the Dundrum area of the club's catchment area. Dr Isaac Usher was a popular resident of Dundrum in the early 20th Century. He did a lot for the town but unfortunately he was killed in one of the first accidents involving a motor car in Ireland, when a car struck him while reversing near the railway station in 1917. The residents decided to build a monument to honour him.



The Bottle Tower represents the Churchtown area of the club's catchment area. The Bottle Tower is a structure on Whitehall Road. It is a folly built in the terrible winter of 1741-42, by Major Hall, as relief work for the poor. It gives its name to the nearby pub, which nowadays is much better known.



The two blue sections were added to represent the Naomh Olaf side of the club and both came from the crest of King Olaf.



Balally is named after Olaf (Amhlaoihbh), the first King of Viking Dublin, who is reputed to have built a fort in the locality. The place name Baile Mhic Amhlaoihbh, meaning "the town of the son of Olaf" was anglicised as Balally. The Viking ship was an integral part of his family crest and represents the Balally catchment area.

The raven represents the Olaf coat of arms and signifies the Sandyford area of the club's catchment area leading up to the Dublin Mountains. The raven is thought to represent Raven's Rock which is located above Curtlestown Wood and is a large rock face with excellent views over Dublin and Wicklow. It is on the Wicklow Way.

Meet our club mascot "Olaf the Viking"



To coincide with the 30th anniversary of the launch of the club, the Juvenile section has launched a new Club Academy mascot – "Olaf the Viking".

30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club

Olaf the Viking was the brain child of Darren Egan, one of our current club coaches. He felt that Naomh Olaf needed a mascot for the Academy section of the club. A small team set to work and found a Viking image and customized it to fit what we wanted him to represent.

This image was designed by Paddy Cahill, Balally Avenue. It shows our club colours, our name, and a football and hurley. It was created in the 1990s, one evening after a discussion between a number of mentors. It was created and drawn up in 20 minutes.



Naomh Olaf Senior Football 2003 to 2009 - By John McGrath

In the twenty two years since its foundation, Naomh Olaf had almost reached the pinnacle of Dublin football. The high point was probably reaching the Senior Championship semi-final. The departure of Tommy Brennan marked the beginning of a new era for football at the club. It was a period which was to see some of the players who had contributed to the team's success step up into management. It was also a period in which outside managers were recruited.

The team itself also went through great change. Gone were many of the stars who had played so well under the stewardship of Tommy Brennan. New players came from the club's juvenile ranks and from counties all over Ireland. On the pitch, the high standard of club football in Dublin became very clear. The team seemed to be in an endless battle to retain its senior status in the county. This, however, was also a period of great excitement. The battles which were fought were memorable. The pride the players showed in the club and the jersey was remarkable. Supporters revelled in the games which were played with everything at stake.

2003

Aidan Byrne was appointed senior football manager following the resignation of Tommy Brennan. Aidan had been one of the stalwarts in the halfback line through many of the team's great days.

The team was in Division 1 of the league. The season got off to a great start with a win over St Vincent's by a score of 8 points to 6. This was followed by another success against Ballyboden St Enda's. After four games, the team had seven points and all

looked bright for a good season. However from then on, results did not go well and the team fell into the relegation zone. Despite a good win against Craobh Chiaráin, the slide could not be halted and Naomh Olaf were relegated to Division 2. Aidan Byrne could not continue as team manager for family reasons.



Aidan Byrne, the first Naomh Olaf player to take over management of the Senior Football team.

2004

Following the resignation of Aidan Byrne, the club appointed Kevin Curtin as team manager. Discussions had taken place with Liam Connor. Liam was

30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club

part of the Offaly team that denied Kerry the ‘five-in-a-row’ in 1982. He also won an ‘All Star’ that year. However the committee decided to appoint Kevin. The club was very fortunate to be able, once again, to turn to one of its own players from the team which won Junior and Intermediate Championships. Kevin played his early football with Round Towers of Clondalkin and transferred to Naomh Olaf when his family moved to Sandyford. Kevin was a strong defender and captained the side which won the Junior Championship. All those at that game will remember Kevin’s victory speech which he delivered totally ‘as Gaeilge’. Jack Horgan and Kevin Birrane (Snr) were appointed as team mentors.

In 2003, Naomh Olaf was relegated to Division 2 of the league. It was a time of transition as many of the great players who had served the team so well in the past either departed or retired. Gone were players like Paul Curran, the Valentia Island man who had played really well for many years. Cillian Purcell, Junior Cronin, Alan Lyons, Niall Savage, Niall Coughlan and Robbie Byrne were also gone. On the bright side, new young players, who had come through the club’s juvenile ranks, came forward to claim regular places on the team. The Kinsella brothers Eoin, Lorcan and Seamas, Ronan Miley, Eoin Christian, Barry Lynch and Shane Whyte were players upon whom the future of the team would be built. Assistance came from some new signings such as Declan Thornton, Eoin O’Connor and Johnny Tyrrell.

In the league, the team got off to a poor start losing their first four games. After that however, they won six games out of seven and eventually finished comfortably in mid-table. Wins were secured against Whitehall, St Sylvester’s, St Finnian’s, Naomh

Fionnbarra, Craobh Chiaráin, Fingal Ravens and Naomh Barróg. The team showed great form during July and August with Ronan Miley, Niall McCaffrey, Eoin Kinsella and Barry Lynch to the fore in all these games. Indeed, had one or two other league games gone in the team’s favour, promotion would have been a real possibility. The league campaign finished with a home game which Naomh Mearnóg won by four points. The result was meaningless to Naomh Olaf, a state of mind which was not to re-occur in future years when final league games were to become hugely important.



Barry Lynch, one of the young players to emerge from Naomh Olaf juvenile ranks.

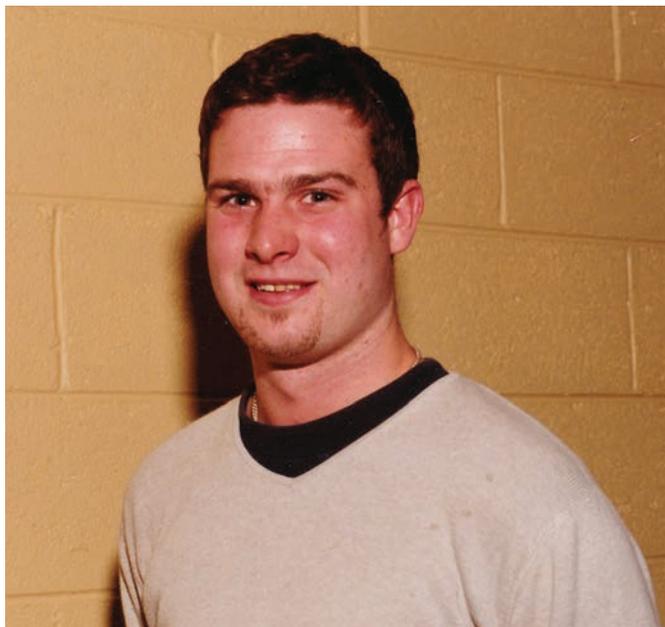
In the Championship, Naomh Olaf drew Naomh Fionnbarra. The game was played in May in Parnell Park. This was a wonderful game which finished in a draw. Mick De Veale put in a great performance at left halfback and, at a critical time in the game, went forward to score a vital point. The replay was at the same venue two weeks later. Naomh Olaf began the game well and some excellent points from

30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club

Fearghal Purcell had them in control at half time. As the game came to a close, Naomh Fionnbarra drew level. However, the day belonged to the Sandyford team when Cormac Lucey got the winning point on the stroke of full time. Kevin Curtin and his mentors had their first Senior Championship win. In the second round they met O'Tooles. In a lively encounter, O'Tooles proved too strong and won the game by four points.

The team also competed in the AIB and Floodlit Cup competitions. In the Floodlit Cup, they progressed to the semi-final where they lost to Raheny, who were managed by former Naomh Olaf manager Tommy Brennan.

It had been a good year for Kevin Curtin and his team. His side had performed well and consolidated their position in Division 2.



Eoin Christian, another of the young players who would become ever present in the senior football team.

2005

This was arguably the club's most difficult year for football since its foundation. Kevin Curtin and Jack

Horgan were reappointed. Kevin Birrane became manager of the Junior team. The performances of the previous year gave reasonable grounds for optimism that a challenge for promotion was realistic. A win in a cup match, in early March, away to Peregrines by 5 - 5 to 0 - 9 reinforced this optimism.

However, once the league began, reality set in quickly. It was not until July 9th that Naomh Olaf won its first league game. Up to then they lost to Fingallians, St Anne's, St Finnian's (Swords), Fingal Ravens, St Maur's, St Oliver Plunkett's, and O'Tooles. The win was away to Parnells by a single point. Unfortunately it was not to trigger the change of fortune which all at Naomh Olaf hoped for. The remaining six league games were all lost to St Sylvester's, Peregrines, Clontarf, Naomh Mearnóg, Garda and Naomh Barróg. Naomh Olaf were firmly anchored to the bottom of the league. The only hope of salvation lay in a once-off relegation play-off.

The rules for the league were, (and still are), that the bottom four teams play off, with the two losers relegated. Fourth from bottom was Peregrines and they played Naomh Olaf who were last. Peregrines' better league position entitled them to a home venue. So Naomh Olaf travelled to Blakestown Road knowing that a win would salvage their senior league status. Peregrines' superior league position and home venue made them favourites. However they had only been promoted from Division 3 the previous year and so lacked the experience of Naomh Olaf at this level. Previous contests indicated that the sides were well matched. They had played twice already this season at the same venue. Peregrines won the league game but Naomh Olaf were victors in the cup encounter.

Naomh Olaf prepared well for the game and Pat Stephens, who had been appointed fulltime club

coach, took over team training. This change helped and it was clear that, in the latter part of the season, performances improved despite results. The game itself was a tight affair played in front of a big crowd. Before the start, Naomh Olaf suffered a set back when midfielder Eric Horgan had to leave because his wife Aedin went into labour. The first half saw the sides level on three occasions. At half time, Naomh Olaf led by one point, mainly due to stalwart defending by Cathal Daughton, Paddy Feehan, Niall McCaffrey and Shane Whyte. Up front Fearghal Purcell, Marc Fitzachary, Cormac Lucey and Kevin Birrane kept the score board ticking over. Early in the second half, Naomh Olaf took control and a well worked move ended with a fine goal from Damien Maher. However Peregrines responded with five unanswered points to take a single point advantage. In the final quarter of the game, Brian Begley was introduced at wing back. He made an immediate impact. He won lots of ball and his very accurate passes to the forwards gave Naomh Olaf the edge. Eoin Kinsella, who had been outstanding throughout the game, received a pass close to the sideline about twenty five yards from the Peregrines' goal. Most spectators expected he would try to work the ball closer to goal because to kick a wide at this stage of the game would have been fatal. However, Eoin decided to shoot from a very difficult angle. It was a brave but a great decision. This score is still recalled by Naomh Olaf supporters as one of the best and most important in the club's short history. From the kick-out, Naomh Olaf attacked again and were awarded a free close to goal. Up stepped the man of the moment, Eoin Kinsella, and coolly slotted over the winning score. This was a deserved result for Naomh Olaf and the management team of Kevin and Jack. Both had stuck to their task, never lost faith

30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club

in the ability of the team and emerged with senior status for another year. Aedin Horgan gave birth to a boy, Cian. A good day for Naomh Olaf.

In the championship, Naomh Olaf lost to Parnells in the first round.

At the end of the season, Kevin Curtin and Jack Horgan stepped down. The club is indebted to both for their perseverance which ultimately ensured that the club would play senior football in 2006, the club's silver jubilee year.



Eoin Kinsella, a forward for the big occasion. His performances in the high pressure games helped keep Naomh Olaf in senior football. In 2009 he was named the Naomh Olaf Football Player of the Decade.

2006

After the Houdini act of 2005 the club, for the first time, appointed a senior football manager who had no previous involvement in the club. Having considered the appointment carefully, the Club Chairman, John O'Brien, and the Chairman of the Adult Games Committee, Mick De Veale, met with Frank Roebuck. Frank was recommended by Tommy Bren-

30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club

nan with whom he had worked on the Dublin Junior team. They also worked together on a Dublin 'Aus-sie Rules' team. A primary teacher by profession, Frank was a member of Round Towers for whom he had played senior football. He also had experience of senior football management having managed the Towers team. Frank was appointed to the post and at an open meeting was introduced to club members. Kevin Birrane and Mick Whyte were appointed as mentors.

Frank immediately set about reorganising the team and training began. His first match was a challenge game against Inisfails in Balgriffin. Over 30 Olaf players were tried in this game. It was an early opportunity for Frank to assess his new charges. On the night the result (a loss) was unimportant. What was significant was the arrival of the new manager and the appearance of some new players. Brian Rice, Chris Cunningham and Denis O'Driscoll began their Naomh Olaf playing careers. In addition, Frank also had available some new young talent which was emerging from the minor ranks. Donal Kinsella, Declan O'Dwyer and Johnny McGrath would all play a part during the coming season.

The first competitive outing was an AIB Cup game in Ballyogan against Clontarf. In the first half, Clontarf scored two goals but Johnny Tyrrell responded for Naomh Olaf with a well struck shot to the back of the net. At half time, Clontarf led by one point. In the second period, the home side took over. Points from Darragh Maxwell, Kevin Birrane and Brian Rice were memorable. Goals from Fearghal Purcell and Eoin Kinsella (penalty) gave Olaf's a comfortable lead and they finished eleven points clear of their opponents.

Following some more challenge and Cup games, the Adult Football League Division 2 began with a match against St Maur's in Rush. In the warm up before the game, Denis O'Driscoll, who had been selected to play in goal ahead of regular keeper Cathal Daughton, sustained a nasty cut and could not play. Cathal replaced him and had an outstanding game, thus sending a clear message to the new manager that he was not going to easily relinquish his place between the posts. The game itself was a perfect start for the new management team. A good win was secured on the back of fine performances from both established and new players. Paddy Feehan, Derek Dowling, Shane Whyte and team captain Niall McCaffrey gave brilliant displays in defence. Up front Johnny Tyrrell, Chris Cunningham and Donal Kinsella settled in well alongside Eoin Kinsella. The game was notable for a fine display of point scoring by Fearghal Purcell who was on the score sheet four times. The home side struck back in the second half and reduced the lead to a single point. Kevin Birrane settled matters by finishing the scoring with a marvellous point. This victory was the perfect start and gave justifiable grounds for optimism to the Naomh Olaf faithful.

Unlike the previous season Naomh Olaf settled into a very competitive season with fine wins, some draws and the inevitable losses. The drawn game in Ballyogan against O'Tooles was particularly exciting. Despite bad weather conditions, both sides gave top performances. O'Tooles were inspired by Dublin midfielder Eamonn Fennell. In the last minute of the game, Olaf's were leading by one point. O'Tooles attacked and backs and forwards competed for a ball in the Olaf's small square. The referee awarded a free out to Olaf's but goalkeeper Denis O'Driscoll

30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club



Niall McCaffrey, a dual star for Naomh Olaf.

mistakenly used the kicking tee, leaving the referee with no choice but to throw in the ball. From the throw in, O'Tooles scored a point to level the match. The kicking tee had only recently been introduced and so the error was understandable. A draw was probably a fair result on the day and supporters were left with yet another talking point.

In the months that followed, Olaf's beat St Oliver Plunkett's, Whitehall, St Jude's (B), St Brigid's (B), and Parnells. The game with Fingal Ravens resulted in a draw. Defeats were inflicted by Raheny, Clontarf, Naomh Mearnóg, Garda, Ballinteer St John's and the season concluded with a defeat to Naomh Barróg. There were highs and lows throughout the season. One of the highs was beating Oliver Plun-

kett's who eventually went on to win the league. An away win against a team laden with inter-county players was a great achievement for Naomh Olaf. This game was also notable for the emergence of the young players who played a significant role in this victory. Both Donal Kinsella and Johnny McGrath were prominent in the game and good interplay between them led to Kevin Birrane scoring the winning point. The draw with Fingal Ravens is worth noting because this was the year that Ravens went all the way to the All Ireland Intermediate Final. This game was played in Rolestown at a time when both teams were in contention for a place in the promotion play-offs. At half time, the score was level. Fingal Ravens scored the only goal of the half. Eoin Christian and Chris Cunningham contributed well-taken points for Naomh Olaf. In the second half, Naomh Olaf went into a two point lead, thanks to scores from Eoin Kinsella and Fearghal Purcell. However, Ravens were pressing very hard and it took a wonderful save from Cathal Daughton to prevent them scoring their second goal. In the final minute, Ravens scored twice and the the game finished level. This result was not what either team wanted as it damaged both of their promotion ambitions. Nevertheless, it was another wonderful game in what was turning out to a very exciting season.

In the championship, Naomh Olaf came up against the best in Dublin. In the first round, Ballymun Kickhams provided the opposition. Despite a very good performance, Naomh Olaf were beaten. Next up was Naomh Barróg in the 'back door' draw. This was a game both sides wanted to win in order to avoid the relegation championship. Despite points from Johnny Tyrrell, Cormac Lucey, Eoin Kinsella and Fearghal Purcell, Naomh Olaf trailed by two

30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club

points at half time. The Sandyford men played with purpose in the second half and were quickly back in front. Of particular note in this period was the conversion of a '45' by one of last year's minors, Declan O'Dwyer. The crucial score came late in the game. Donal Kinsella crossed the ball in front of the Naomh Barróg goal. Declan O'Dwyer won the ball and struck it to the back of the net. Naomh Barróg tried desperately to pull the game from the fire but resolute defending from Shane Whyte and Ronan Miley ensured a victory for Naomh Olaf.

In the next round, neighbours Kilmacud Crokes provided the opposition. This team was regarded as the best in Dublin and so it proved, with Crokes winning comfortably. The championship campaign had pitted Naomh Olaf against the strongest opposition in the county but the players showed their ability to compete with the best.



Fearghal Purcell, (left, pictured here with his brother Cillian) formed a deadly forward partnership with Eoin Kinsella.

In the AIB Cup, Naomh Olaf had a good run beating St Brigid's in the semi-final. Naomh Olaf travelled



Cathal Daughton, made the goalkeeper's jersey his own for over fifteen years.

to St Brigid's ground in Blanchardstown for the first Senior Football game on their spectacular new all-weather pitch. The game was played under flood-lights but Naomh Olaf spoiled the party with a late goal to set up a final with St Oliver Plunkett's. The final was again played under lights on the Thomas Davis all-weather pitch. Plunkett's fielded all their inter-county stars (the Brogan brothers, Jason Sherlock etc). After a competitive first half, Naomh Olaf succumbed to Plunkett's class. Once more, in a good season, Naomh Olaf had played against top class opposition but fell marginally short. Nevertheless, to be good enough to get to the business end of competitions showed Naomh Olaf had the players with ability to progress to the next level.

30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club

2007

Frank Roebuck was reappointed Team Manager. Kevin Birrane and Mick Whyte were also reappointed as selectors and were joined by John McGrath.

Three new players joined the panel, Cillian Lynch from Co Kerry, Seamus Glynn from Co Mayo and Bernard Gaughran, son of Benny Gaughran who had played for Civil Service in his hayday and Co Louth. These were three experienced players who were destined to make telling contributions over the coming seasons.

The early results were a great disappointment. Defeats were suffered at the hands of St Maur's, O'Tooles, Clontarf, Parnells and Fingallians. Some of these defeats were by narrow margins and a draw with Brigid's followed by a win against St Jude's gave the team some hope that, with a change of luck, they could turn things around. However, as the summer rolled on, further defeats to St Anne's, Naomh Barróg and Raheny deepened the depression. The only respite in this period was a draw with Templeogue Synge Street. With five games remaining in the league, it was clear the relegation play-offs beckoned unless there was a serious turn around. The first sign of light was a draw away to Whitehall. This game was played on a waterlogged pitch and with any luck could have been a victory for Naomh Olaf. In the first half, several clear cut chances for scores were denied by the conditions. On one occasion, Donal Kinsella kicked what looked like a certain goal. However, with the goalkeeper beaten, the ball stopped in a deep puddle of water and failed to cross the line. In the final seconds of the game, with the scores even, Kevin Birrane threw himself at a ball in the penalty area. At full stretch, he punched the ball goalwards only to see his effort hit the upright. The

game ended in a draw. Naomh Olaf supporters wondered if the team's luck would ever change but took heart that a run of defeats had been halted.

The next league game was at home to Erin's Isle. This was a very tense affair. Naomh Olaf continued the spirited display they had shown against Whitehall. They never lost touch with their opponents and managed to level the game as the final minute approached. On the stroke of full time the Erin's Isle full back, Gary Connell, caught the ball in front of his own goal. As he attempted to clear the ball, the referee awarded a free against him, apparently for over-carrying. To all observers the free looked harsh. Eoin Kinsella tapped the ball over the bar, the final whistle sounded and Naomh Olaf had a lucky victory. Maybe Lady Luck had decided to support the team at last.

The next outing was away to neighbours Kilmacud Crokes in Silverpark. Both teams were trying to avoid the relegation play-offs. This was another keenly contested game. It was apparent that recent performances had boosted Naomh Olaf confidence. In another close contest, a narrow victory was secured. The game will be particularly remembered for the masterful display of Darragh Maxwell in midfield. Darragh had been injured in the early part of the season. His return to his very best form was one of the main reasons for the Naomh Olaf revival.

Naomh Olaf then faced their other neighbours, Ballinteer St John's. Both sides needed the points to fight off the prospect of relegation play-offs. Cormac Lucey gave Naomh Olaf the perfect start by scoring a goal in the first minute. For the remainder of the first half, both sides had periods of dominance and at half time Lucey's goal separated the teams. Early in the second half, St John's scored a goal of their

30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club

own. The game was now nip and tuck and was all square with five minutes to go. Once again, Darragh Maxwell was involved in the defining moment of the game. His long range speculative shot travelled all the way to the net giving Olaf's a precious lead which they refused to surrender.

The final match was against Fingal Ravens who were in contention for promotion. This was a game from which few would have expected Olaf's to get a result. Mick Deegan's men were on top for long periods of the game but could not pull away from Olaf's. As in many recent games, Naomh Olaf finished well to secure a draw. In this game, the home team had their goalkeeper Cathal Daughton and full back Paddy Feehan to thank for some outstanding defending. This draw was enough to see Naomh Olaf finish above the relegation play-off zone and guarantee senior football for another season.

This year's championship also turned out to be a struggle. In the first round Naomh Olaf were drawn against St Oliver Plunkett's. Sunday afternoon in Parnell Park in front of a big crowd was the setting for this encounter. Naomh Olaf were not overawed by the occasion and put on a sterling performance. Right throughout the game Olaf's players put it up to their more illustrious opponents. Indeed was it not for the class of Jason Sherlock there could have been a shock. Plunkett's won the game by three points, 1 - 19 to 3 - 10. Declan O'Dwyer was outstanding in the half forward line. The team played so well that the struggles that were to follow in the league came as a surprise to Naomh Olaf faithful.

The 'back door' draw pitted Naomh Olaf against Thomas Davis. This seasoned side, with a great championship pedigree, proved far too strong and

ran out comfortable winners. Naomh Olaf was now in the relegation championship. They were drawn against Whitehall. This game seemed to offer Naomh Olaf a good chance of victory. The game was played on a very hot Friday evening in Fingallians' ground in Swords at a time when Olaf's were having a torrid time in the league. The championship offered no respite from the poor form and Whitehall inflicted a heavy defeat on the Sandyford men.

When the league finished, Frank Roebuck had to resign his position as team manager for family reasons. However the championship relegation battle was still ongoing and team selection and management was left in the hands of Kevin Birrane, Mick Whyte and John McGrath. They immediately brought in Shane Smith from Thomas Davis to take over team training. In early December, the 'semi-final' of the relegation championship was played against Clontarf in Kiltipper Road, Tallaght. By now, Naomh Olaf form had improved and confidence was high, following good results in the league. However, Clontarf won a very tight game by a single point. In the first half, there was little between the teams. Mick De Veale and Paudi O'Brien defended stoutly. Up front Johnny McGrath, Shane Kelly and Johnny Tyrrell kept Naomh Olaf on terms. Early in the second half, Clontarf scored a goal that was to be crucial to the outcome. Despite several chances, Naomh Olaf could not get the vital late scores to win the game. They now had the dubious honour of qualifying for the relegation final which was postponed until after Christmas.

Immediately after the Christmas break, the team returned to training under Shane Smith. All involved were determined not to surrender Senior Championship status. Their opponents were Garda and the

30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club

game was set for a bitterly cold Sunday morning in Newcastle. Naomh Olaf fielded a side which combined youth and experience. Young players like Donal Kinsella, Seamas Kinsella, Johnny McGrath and Simon Hickey were thrust into this important match alongside experienced veterans like Darragh Maxwell, Eric Horgan and Paddy Feehan. Naomh Olaf took the early initiative supported by a strong breeze. Scores from Donal Kinsella, Brian Begley and Johnny McGrath gave the Sandyford team a six point lead at half time. In the second half, Garda, who now had the wind at their backs, brought the game to Naomh Olaf. Gradually they reduced the deficit to a few points. During this phase of the game, the half-back line of Shane Whyte, Barry Lynch and Seamus Glynn were outstanding. With about five minutes to go, a goal from Brian Begley and a point from Simon Hickey broke the Garda resolve and Olaf's won the game and remained in the Senior Championship.

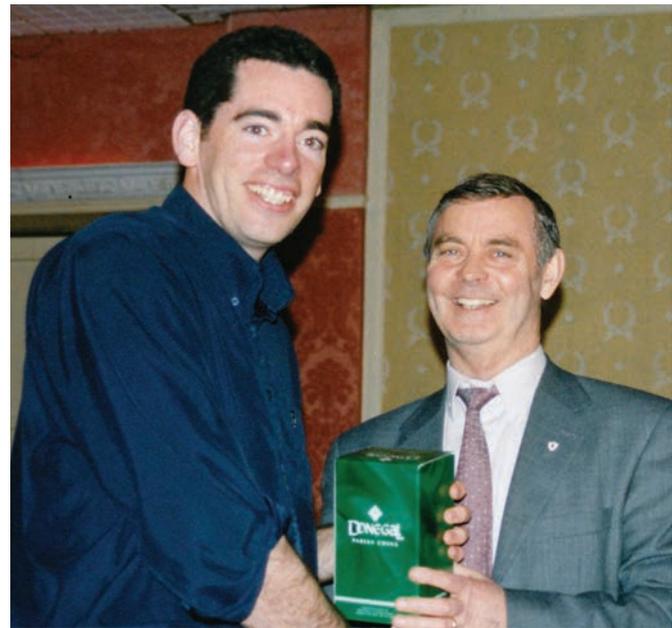
Player of the Year was Darragh Maxwell for his outstanding contribution to the team. His performances in the high pressure games in the latter half of the season were an important element in the survival of the club in both Senior League and Championship.

2008

JJ Martin was appointed team manager for 2008. He had been a tremendous player in his day. He played inter-county football for Cavan and was the cornerstone of the great Thomas Davis team of the 80s and 90s. For the past few years he had been Senior Team Manager in Newtownmountkennedy, Co Wicklow. Kevin Birrane and John McGrath were reappointed as selectors.

After the survival heroics of 2008, the new season beckoned with high hopes under the new manager. New players to join the panel were David Burke and

Fergal McCann, both formerly of Salthill Knocknacarra. In addition, the club welcomed the return of Ronan Hegarty. Ronan had played under age with the club and progressed through Minor and Under 21 to play at Senior level. He then went to work in Donegal and played his club football there. In 2008, Ronan returned to work in Dublin and transferred back to Naomh Olaf.



Darragh Maxwell, (pictured here with former Donegal manager Brian McEniff) outstanding midfielder.

The season got off to a good start with two wins from the first three games. After losing the opening fixture to Templeogue Synge Street, a great two points were secured away to St Mary's Saggart. A second away win was achieved against Naomh Fionnbarra. These two games contrasted the young and the old for the team. The victory over St Mary's was noteworthy for the outstanding performance of minor goalkeeper Denis Kelleher. However, against Naomh Fionnbarra it was Derek Dowling and Mick De Veale who stood out. They were both back in the Senior Team because of injuries and absentees. Both showed their

30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club

experience and strength in a tough encounter. The game was won in the final seconds by Eoin Kinsella who scored the winning point from a fifty yard free.

However these games were followed by a series of disappointing defeats. Particularly disappointing were the losses to Kilmacud Crokes where a substantial half time lead was surrendered and Whitehall, a game where Olaf's kicked a serious number of wides. Two points were secured away to Parnells and an excellent draw was taken from a trip to Skerries. However with four games remaining, the spectre of the relegation play-offs loomed once again. With only seven points secured, surely it was too much to expect the team to repeat the heroics of 2007.

The first of these games was played against St Brigid's in Blanchardstown on their all-weather pitch. Outstanding performances from Ronan Hegarty, Marc Fitzachary and the Kinsella brothers, Eoin and Donal, contributed to a much needed win. The next league fixture was at home to Clontarf who were also fighting to avoid the play-offs. This was seen by both clubs as a four pointer. Once again the Naomh Olaf players excelled and the win was secured. On this occasion, it was a series of brilliant saves and blocks by goalkeeper Cathal Daughton and full back Paddy Feehan which inspired the victory. Next up was a home game against neighbours Ballinteer St John's. They were having a good season and were pressing for a promotion play-off place. The game ended in a draw. It took a long range free from Johnny McNally to deny Naomh Olaf the victory. This gave the team twelve points but results elsewhere meant that they needed to win the final game against Erin's Isle. This was played in Finglas and Naomh Olaf once more had to show their determi-

nation to secure a single point win. This game once again showed the quality of the defence with Shane Whyte and David Burke outstanding in the half back line. Brian Begley scored some vital points and Eoin Kinsella finished a brilliant run to the net to score the all important goal.

When the league finished, it showed Naomh Olaf well clear of the relegation play-offs. Eventually Naomh Fionnbarra and Clontarf were relegated to the third division. What was notable about the tally of fourteen league points was that only three were secured at home.

The senior championship was again a struggle. Naomh Olaf finished last in a group which also contained Kilmacud Crokes, Raheny and O'Tooles. Kilmacud Crokes went on to win the the Dublin and All Ireland club titles.

The first round of the relegation championship was played in O'Toole Park against St Anne's. Naomh Olaf took a heavy beating. After this game, mentors and players reappraised their approach to all aspects of the team. Training was stepped up. Shane Smith was brought back to take training. Players and mentors showed a new determination to retain both league and championship status. In the next round, Naomh Olaf were drawn against Naomh Barróg. This game was played in Saggart. At the end of a tough game, Naomh Olaf were winners by one point. There were some fine performances on the night but once again it was the defence that was outstanding. Eric Horgan used all his experience to guide the side to victory. Up front Fergal McCann and Marc Fitzachary were always a thorn in the side of the opposition. Naomh Barróg were eventually relegated to Intermediate Championship.

30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club



Eric Horgan, another outstanding midfielder who, with Darragh Maxwell, formed one of the best partnerships in Dublin club football

The highlight of the year was probably when Naomh Olaf bridged a nine year gap and won the AIB Cup. The final was played in Wedgewood against neighbours Kilmacud Crokes. This final was a carry over from the previous year's competition. The team included some veterans of the 1999 winning side - Paddy Feehan, Eric Horgan, Darragh Maxwell and Cathal Daughton. Naomh Olaf started brightly with points from Fearghal Purcell and Simon Hickey. Naomh Olaf led at half time 1 - 06 to 0 - 08 thanks to a well taken goal by Fergal McCann. In the second half, Naomh Olaf quickly went into a five point lead mainly due to great play from Conor Sobolewski. Further scores from Shane Whyte and Eoin Christian ensured Naomh Olaf ran out comfortable winners.

A year which began with great promise ended with Naomh Olaf comfortably in mid table. Once again the league format which involves the bottom four teams in a relegation play-off caused anxiety. Once

more Naomh Olaf showed their talent and resilience to ensure the worry of a play-off was avoided.

JJ Martin and John McGrath resigned from team management at the end of the season. Player of the Year went to Eoin Kinsella who led the forward line brilliantly and consistently came up with vital scores when needed.

2009

2009 saw the appointment of former Armagh footballer Des Mackin as team manager. Paddy Feehan, a legend of Naomh Olaf football, opted for the sideline and became a mentor. They were joined by the experienced Kevin Birrane.

Paddy felt he could best contribute to the team from the sideline. His view was not universally shared by Naomh Olaf supporters, many of whom thought he still had a lot to offer on the field. Indeed, as the season progressed, Paddy did play a few games.

Des immediately introduced new methods of training and preparation which were embraced by the players. In January the attendance at early morning training on Killiney Hill was almost 100%.

The league campaign got off to a slow start. The first game away to Templeogue Synge Street was lost, despite a good performance. The players were working hard to adapt to a new style of play which required high levels of fitness and placed an emphasis on ball retention. The first victory came in an away game to St Mark's. It seemed that the team still found it easier to win away from home. The next points were secured from a win against St Maur's, a home win at last. This was a particularly good win as it was against a team which had been unbeaten up to that point. What was even more pleasing was that it was followed up by a great performance at home

30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club

against St Anne's who only secured a draw with a point in the fourth minute of injury time. This was the same St Anne's team that inflicted very heavy defeats on Naomh Olaf the previous year in both league and championship.

However as the wet summer rolled on, heavy defeats were inflicted by Round Towers, St Brigid's and Parnells. Tight battles with O'Tooles and Ballinteer St John's were also lost. The prospect of the relegation play-offs began to loom large. In September a good away win was secured against Cuala. This was followed by a very narrow defeat to Whitehall. The way the league was shaping up, it was imperative that Naomh Olaf won their last two games to have any chance of avoiding the relegation play-offs. Skerries were next up. Due to bad weather in early December which made the Sandyford pitches unplayable, the game was set for Ballyogan. On the morning of the match, Naomh Olaf and the referee waited for the Skerries team. Thirty minutes after the scheduled throw-in, all of the Skerries team had not arrived. The referee departed and his report to the county committee recommended that the game be awarded to Naomh Olaf.

This brought us to what was scheduled to be the final league match against St Patrick's Palmerstown. This young and mobile team had been promoted from Division 3 but also found themselves in need of points. In a tight and dogged game, Naomh Olaf secured a narrow victory. There were some great performances by Naomh Olaf players but none more than team captain Kevin Birrane who played brilliantly on St Pat's talisman and Dublin hurling star, Liam Rushe. This result left Naomh Olaf outside the bottom four on scoring difference. The team and supporters retired to the clubhouse to celebrate another important

victory and looked forward to a well-earned Christmas break.

However the celebrations were short lived as Templeogue Synge Street objected. They stated that the use of score difference was invalid as Naomh Olaf had received a walk-over against Skerries. The objection was upheld which meant there would be a four way play-off to determine the team to finish fourth from bottom. Eventually it was decided that the game between Skerries and Naomh Olaf, which was originally a walk-over for Naomh Olaf, should be played after Christmas. This was very disappointing as the team had to prepare for a vital game during the Christmas holidays. When the game was played, Naomh Olaf were comfortable winners. On the same day, St Mark's beat St Pat's and so the play-offs involved Ballinteer St John's, St Pat's, O'Tooles and Whitehall, with the latter two being eventually relegated.

The Championship was a huge disappointment. The first round was against Kilmacud Crokes who, as expected, were easy winners. In the 'back door' game, O'Tooles inflicted another defeat. The first round of the relegation championship was against Whitehall. This offered Naomh Olaf the best prospect of a win as Whitehall were also having a bad year. The game was played in Blanchardstown but a very disappointing display by Olaf's allowed Whitehall to secure their senior championship status. Next up was the formidable Division 1 side, Fingal Ravens. In a tight game in Balgriffin, Ravens won and Naomh Olaf were once again consigned to the relegation play-off final. This time there was not to be a happy ending. Templeogue Synge Street inflicted a heavy defeat and Naomh Olaf were relegated to Intermediate championship. It was a disappointing end to

30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club

the season. Having avoided relegation for so many years, it was inevitable that so many titanic battles would catch up with the team.

Senior Football Players 2003-2009

Begley Brian	Lyons Alan
Birrane Kevin	Maher Damien
Browne Stephen	Maxwell Darragh
Burke David	McCaffrey Eoin
Christian Eoin	McCaffrey Niall
Corley Vincent	McCann Fergal
Coughlan Malachy	McGrath John
Cunningham Chris	Miley Ronan
Daughton Cathal	Murray Mick
De Veale Mick	Naughton Greg
Donnelly Mick	Naughton Karl
Dowling Derek	Neary Pat
Egan Darren	Neill Michael
Feehan Paddy	O'Brien Padraig

Fitzachary Marc	O'Connor Eoin
Flynn Donal	O'Driscoll Denis
Friel Tom	O'Dwyer Declan
Gaughran Bernard	O'Grady Emmet
Glynn Seamus	Purcell Fearghal
Hegarty Ciaran	Purcell Tadhg
Hickey Simon	Quinn Jim
Horgan Eric	Quinn Robert
Keane Kevin	Rice Brian
Kelly Shane	Roe Paddy
Kennelly Rory	Sobolewski Conor
Kinsella Donal	Smith Adrian
Kinsella Eoin	Stapleton Gavin
Kinsella Lorcan	Stapleton Stephen
Kinsella Seamas	Thornton Declan
Lucey Cormac	Tyrrell John
Lynch Barry	Whyte Shane
Lynch Cillian	Wilkins Gary

Launch of the Club's Sponsorship Scheme

On Thursday the 19th of May 2005 the Club launched a new three tiered sponsorship to businesses in the area.



L to R: Conor Clarkeson, George Wallace, Seán Kelly, David Kennedy and John O'Brien.

The GAA President, Seán Kelly attended and Marty Morrissey was on hand to host the evening. The Sam Maguire Cup, The McCarthy Cup and the Cheltenham Gold Cup were among the trophies on display.



L to R: Brendan McGlynn, Mick Brown and Seán Kelly with Bill O'Brien, President of the GAA (second from left).

Opening of Páirc Uí Bhriain

This article by Thomas Brown was published in Panorama in November 2003

On Saturday October 25th 2003, the club held an event which formally named the new pitches after recently deceased member Barry O'Brien. As most people know, Barry was a club member who gave outstanding service to his club, his college team (University of Limerick) and to his county. Barry captained the Dublin U21 side last summer shortly after his father John, the club treasurer at the time, passed away.

As a fitting tribute, the council granted permission for the new pitches to be named after Barry. A beautiful stone was unveiled at the ceremony, by Barry's mother, Brenda, and brother, David, and it sits at the entrance to the pitches, on the clubhouse side of the fence.

A match was then held between Naomh Olaf Senior hurling team and Dublin U21 selection. The club thanks Tommy Naughton of the Dublin U21 team for his work and also thanks those who travelled from far and near to play on both teams. It was an exciting game with plenty of goals to warm the crowd.

As Chairman Chris O'Grady said at the unveiling, 'Barry was someone who gave much more service than was ever asked of him and asked nothing in return.....he filled more into his short life than most will ever do.'



Grand Opening of Páirc Uí Bhriain - L to r: Chairman Chris O'Grady, Brenda O'Brien, David O'Brien, Club Secretary Mary Hayes.

Naomh Olaf Players of the Decade 2000 - In 2010 Eoin Kinsella and Niall McCaffrey were presented with trophies for being selected as Footballer and Hurler of the previous decade – Eoin Kinsella as Footballer and Niall McCaffrey as Hurler.



L to R: Eoin Kinsella and Niall McCaffrey

2005 Dublin Minor B Hurling Championship Winners - By Brendan McGlynn Jnr.

2005 proved to be a very successful year for the Naomh Olaf minor hurling team, culminating in a historic win over Crumlin, in an epic county final played in O'Toole Park. The championship campaign began with an encouraging win away to St Jude's in Tymon Park. Next up in the quarter-final was a trip to Malahide to play St Sylvester's. The match was played in ideal conditions for hurling, on an excellent sod for the time of year, with Naomh Olaf winning by four points. In the semi-final, we were drawn away for the third time against Whitehall Colmcille. Whitehall had beaten us at the same stage by one point in Wedgewood the previous year. This draw gave the lads an ideal opportunity to exact revenge for that defeat. The match itself turned out to be a very tense and physical affair between two evenly matched teams with Naomh Olaf finally coming out on top in an enthralling finish by one point. Whitehall were controversially awarded a 21 yard free with the last puck of the game. The free was well struck but a combination of bodies managed to block it out and seal a dramatic win for Olaf's.

The final was played on the 4th December in O'Toole Park against Crumlin. Crumlin started brightly and scored the opening point of the game. Our nerves were soon settled when Johnny McGrath scored an excellent point from play. Crumlin however responded well and began to dominate possession, aided by a strong breeze. Niall Brogan and Darren Whelan were causing problems in our defence, picking off a number of good scores from play. We managed to stay in touch with Crumlin, thanks largely to

the efforts of Simon Hickey. Simon's strong direct running at the heart of the Crumlin defence resulted in three frees which were all converted by the ever reliable Donal Kinsella. Crumlin enjoyed a purple patch just before half time, scoring 1-3 without reply to leave the half time score 1-7 to 0-4.

Although trailing by six points at half time, the mood in the Olaf's dressing room was positive. This group of players had been playing together since U10, under the management of Fin Máirtín, Fran O'Dwyer and trained in later years by Barry O'Brien. As well as their hurling skills, a great team bond had been developed over the years, resulting in a 'never say die' attitude within the team. Leaving the dressing room for the second half, nobody was in any doubt that we would respond to the challenge thrown down by Crumlin.

Slowly but surely, Olaf's began to get a stranglehold on the game. In defence, Stevie Mahon, Declan O'Dwyer and Fearghal Máirtín were hurling out of their skins. Crumlin, however, offered stubborn resistance to the Olaf's fightback and still lead by 4 points with around fifteen minutes remaining. The crucial score for Olaf's came following brilliant team work. Simon Hickey battled for primary possession from a long Ian Whelan puck out, with Donal Kinsella winning the breaking ball. Donal showed great vision and accuracy to pick out Declan O'Dwyer with a 40 yard cross field pass. Deco gathered possession in midfield in yards of space. Instead of carrying the ball forward himself, he delivered a typically unselfish low fast ball into Johnny McGrath's

30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club

corner. Johnny anticipated the pass coming and got out in front of the defender. After gathering possession, Johnny escaped the attention of two Crumlin men before finishing to the net. The goal still left us a point down but the momentum was now with Olaf's. Two inspirational frees from Donal Kinsella from within his own half edged Olaf's in front, for the first time in the match. Further points from play by Simon Hickey and Johnny McGrath, following good work from Stevie Mahon and Chrissy Fennell, sealed a superb fightback from Olaf's and a historic first Minor Hurling Championship for the club.

Naomh Olaf Team

Ian Whelan, Owen Byrne, David Howley, Stevie Mahon, Fearghal Máirtín, Declan O'Dwyer, Eoin Lumsdon, Josh Dunford, Eoin Stafford, Donal Kinsella, Chrissy Fennell, Simon Hickey, Gavin Stapleton, Niall Gallagher, Johnny McGrath

Captain: Johnny McGrath

Subs: Terence Carroll, Dennis Kelleher, Ciarán Hegarty, Will Byrne

Scorers: Donal Kinsella 0-9 (frees), Johnny McGrath 1-3, Simon Hickey 0-1

Management: Tommy Brown, Brendan McGlynn.



Minor Hurling Team 2005 - Back row: David Howley, Terence Carroll, Simon Hickey, Owen Byrne, Gavin Stapleton, Josh Dunford, Ian Whelan, Niall Gallagher, Eoin Stafford, Declan O'Dwyer. **Front row:** Eoin Lumsdon, Fearghal Máirtín, Dennis Kelleher, Ciarán Hegarty, Chrissy Fennell, Johnny McGrath (Capt.), Donal Kinsella, Stevie Mahon, Will Byrne.

2006 Dublin Under 21 B Hurling Championship Winners - By Brendan McGlynn Jnr.

Having won the Dublin Minor B Championship in 2005, Naomh Olaf were optimistic, heading into the Under 21 Championship in 2006. The panel, consisting of the successful minors of the previous year, was further bolstered by Dara Hayes, Anthony Daly, Richie McDonnell, Seamas Kinsella and Francie Grey. We began the campaign well with a convincing victory away to Naomh Fionnbarra. In the semi-final, we were made to fight all the way by a very determined Naomh Mearnóg side in Wedgewood. Indeed, going into the final quarter of the game, the Portmarnock men held a four point advantage and it took a plucky fight-back by Naomh Olaf to advance to the county final on a score line of 3-7 to 1-11.

Our opponents in the final were Raheny with the game being played in O'Toole Park on the 1st December. Played on a heavy pitch, this final provided plenty of excitement with the outcome in the balance until the final minute. The difficult underfoot conditions militated against flowing hurling and required the total concentration of the players from start to finish.

Despite starting the game without injury victims Declan O'Dywer and Chrissy Fennell, we settled quickly into the game with our first score coming from a Donal Kinsella free. While Raheny drew level one minute later, their tendency to commit fouls was punished on a day that scoring from play was proving extremely difficult. A great score from play, along with two frees from Donal Kinsella, pushed Olafs into an early lead. Raheny responded bravely however with a scrambled goal but another con-

verted free from Donal and a point from play from Johnny McGrath meant that at half time we led by 0-7 to 1-2.

The second half was a tight affair with Olafs still holding the upper hand. Anthony Daly held the defence together from centre back, alongside the magnificent Feargal Máirtín whose calming influence insured that a very disciplined defence did not concede any unnecessary frees to the opposition. The immense work rate of Richie McDonnell, Josh Dunford, Seamas Kinsella and Dara Hayes, along with the precise finishing from frees from Donal Kinsella, gave us a three point lead heading into the final minute of normal time. Disaster then struck when Raheny equalized with a second scrappy goal and the game seemed destined for extra time. However the experience gained from a narrow Minor Final victory in 2005 stood to Olafs in the final tense minutes. We remained calm and focused and our collective nerve was rewarded when Donal Kinsella scored a dramatic winning goal three minutes into injury time with the final score 1-10 to 2-4. The win was just reward for a very talented and dedicated group of young hurlers who had all applied themselves brilliantly in training during the year.

Naomh Olaf Team

Ian Whelan, Terry Carroll, David Howley, Francie Grey, Stevie Mahon, Anthony Daly, Feargal Máirtín, Donal Kinsella, Richie McDonnell, Dara Hayes, Josh Dunford, Simon Hickey, Gavin Stapleton, Seamas Kinsella, Johnny McGrath

30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club

Captain: Johnny McGrath

Subs: Chrissy Fennell, Niall Gallagher, Will Byrne, Declan O'Dwyer.

Scores: Donal Kinsella 1-9, Johnny McGrath 0-1

Management: Tommy Brown, Fran O'Dwyer and Brendan McGlynn.



2006 Dublin Under 21 B Hurling Championship Winners - Front row l to r: Anthony Daly, Richie McDonnell, Simon Hickey, Donal Kinsella, John McGrath, Seamas Kinsella, Francie Grey, Declan O'Dwyer. **Back row l to r:** Stevie Mahon, Chrissy Fennell, Terry Carroll, David Howley, Dara Hayes, Ian Whelan, Gavin Stapleton, Josh Dunford, Niall Gallagher, Feargal Máirtín, Will Byrne.

The Mural - By Francois Gray

While still in secondary school in St Benildus College, in 2006, Andrew Barry and I painted a mural for our graduation ceremony. It turned out very well and the Naomh Olaf chairman, John O' Brien, (always knew he had an eye for art.....and for a bargain) approached me one day asking could I do a mural on the side of the clubhouse. After consulting Andy and telling him about the idea, we set about designing it with the help of St Benildus art teacher, Tim O' Neill.

We had a fair chunk of wall to paint so we decided to break the mural up into three parts - one part would be the Naomh Olaf logo, one part the players and the last one, the club crest. We then projected the images onto the wall and traced them on. Easier said than

done, considering we were nearly two storeys up and painting onto wavy lumpy metal. Once traced on, we began painting: undercoat, second undercoat, third undercoat, outlines, main body, details, overcoat and finally another weather proofing.

Looking up at it when we had finally finished, we felt pretty proud of it, but mostly we just wanted a pint. The heat was intense all week and we were burned to a crisp but proud to have done something for the club which had done so much for me and for everyone in the area.

If anyone cares to hop in a cherry picker and stick their noses right up close to the paint, they'll see a few hidden messages in there.....



The Mural.

The Referee - By Paddy Kiernan

How often have you heard the phrase, “Who would want to be a Referee?” Probably on numerous occasions when leaving a venue at the end of the match, having listened to the comments directed at the referee who was in charge of the game. If you were to stop and think about them, most of us would not be willing to put ourselves in such a position.

Like the committed players that every successful team needs, the referee, who is necessary before any game can proceed, is a dedicated individual who, for his own reasons, takes the whistle in hand to officiate at our games. Referees for the most part are either current or ex-players. No two individuals are alike. Most people will differ in their views of incidents that occur during the course of a game. Every one of us can recall incidents in games that when related would have been viewed differently by someone else who had seen the same incident. One should remember that the referee has only one pair of eyes (some will say that they are all blind) and that he

may on occasions not see a particular foul from the same vantage point as spectators or mentors. It is very easy to have one’s line of vision obstructed by a player running across your line of sight. Unfortunately, the referee has only the one view on which he has to make an instant decision based on what he has seen. Hindsight is a wonderful thing.

It is very easy to be critical of referees. It always amazes me how the referee is the first to be blamed when a team loses a game. The referee on these occasions is a soft target. All referees are honest in their approach to every game. They will always attempt to be fair in every decision they make. It is easy to maintain control of thirty individuals who want to play but not so when there are some who are out for mischief during the course of any game. Some referees are better at this than others, remember no referee can foresee a foul or the consequences but has to deal with aftermath.



L to R: John McCarthy and Keith Noonan, St Olaf’s School were at the Naomh Olaf HB Ice Cream Party in aid of Down Syndrome Ireland, held in the Clubhouse on the 20th May 2006.

Brian Carthy of RTE was the Special Guest at the Club’s Jubilee Supper Dance held in the Clubhouse on the 18th of November 2006.



L to R: Ray Howley, Brian Carthy and Mick Whyte. Three decent Roscommon men enjoying the occasion.

The following report was published in Panorama Magazine in 2007

December 2007 - Automated External Defibrillator (AED)

Mr Paul Sullivan, Chairman of Naomh Olaf GAA Club Sandyford, presented St Benildus College, Stillorgan with an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) on Tuesday 20th November 2007. At a ceremony in the school, principal, Mr Seán Mulvihill, in the presence of the teaching staff, accepted the defibrillator on behalf of St Benildus College.

Naomh Olaf GAA Club has a long and proud association with the school and uses the college grounds for its juvenile games. Significantly, many of its players and mentors, past and present, are or were pupils of the school and as such, the bond between club and school is strong.

In a short address to the assembled staff, Paul Sullivan said that Naomh Olaf GAA Club was delighted to present St Benildus College with the AED. He thanked them for their on-going support of Naomh Olaf GAA Club, both on and off the pitch, and hoped that this would continue in the future. Seán Mulvihill said that he was delighted to accept the AED on behalf of the school and thanked Naomh Olaf for its gesture. He said that it was important that the school possessed an AED and it was poignant that Cormac McAnallen, a gifted GAA footballer, was also a young and popular teacher in St Benildus College before his death from sudden cardiac arrest in 2004. It was largely due to the death of Cormac that the Irish public became aware of the issue of sudden cardiac death among young people.



L to R: Paul Sullivan and Seán Mulvihill.

On Sunday the 11th of March '07, Paul "Pillar" Caffrey attended the Annual Juvenile Presentations in the Club. Special guests were our own Declan O'Dwyer, Dublin Senior Hurler and Luke Fitzgerald, former Naomh Olaf player and current Leinster and Ireland Rugby star.



L to R: Luke Fitzgerald, Paul Caffrey and Declan O'Dwyer.

The Club Coach - By Darren Egan

In 2004, the club made a courageous and far-seeing decision to employ a full time Games Promotion Officer, also known as a Club Coach. The reason for this decision is discussed elsewhere in this book. The club was fortunate to secure the services of Pat Stephens, a man who had a very high profile. Pat, a native of Galway, was living in Dublin whilst completing a Masters in Exercise Physiology in UCD. Pat also had a degree in Sports Science from University of Limerick. For many years, Pat had been involved in coaching Dublin-based intercounty players from other counties. He had also worked on the TG4 reality TV show 'The Underdogs', as a fitness and strength coach. While Pat was the club's first full-time coach, the club has continued to employ one, and at times two, full-time coaches as well as suitably qualified part-time people to fill this role.

Pat, who commenced work in his new post in November 2004, had the privilege of having the use of the Naomh Olaf Club car sponsored by Paschal Kennedy Motors, Dún Laoghaire. Pat did outstanding work for the club and, indeed, laid much of the groundwork for today's club. In 2005, Pat was joined by Chris Cunningham as a second full-time coach. The Co. Meath man's main task was as a primary schools' hurling coach. Pat was very popular around the club and the children missed him when he left his post, to take up a job in the secondary school sector. The children need not have worried as the Offaly man Austen Lynch took up the post.

Austen furthered the work already done and provided a boost to the club with his new ideas. He was in the role for two years when he decided to return to college to take up another field of work. Austen was

very popular around the schools in the area and is still held in high regard in the primary schools today.

In September 2009, the club was delighted to employ for the first time one of its own club members. Darren Egan, who lives in Wedgwood and who has played hurling and football for the club since he was a child (and is still playing with the club), was given the position of Club Coach, which he retains today. In September 2010, it was decided to split the role of Club Coach. This involved one coach concentrating on the school side of coaching and the second coach being responsible for coaching within the club.

Club member Johnny McGrath, Balally Drive, has also been playing with the club since he was a child. As a talented hurler and footballer, his appointment also proved to be a great success. He was highly thought of in the schools by the students and teachers alike. It was due to his experience in this role that Johnny decided to return to college to start a course in primary school teaching.

The post is now filled by Aisling Farrelly. Aisling was a member of the Dublin panel that won the All-Ireland in 2010 and has previously worked as a Games Promotion Officer in Templeogue/Synge Street. Aisling is proving to be very popular with the students around the schools in the area. With Aisling's experience and innovative ideas, the club can look to greater progress in the development of our young players.

When discussing coaching in the club, one cannot omit Andy Gibbons. Andy worked for many years in the schools as the club's hurling coach. He is still present in the club and at schools functions and is

highly regarded by coaches, teachers and children. Like all previous coaches, he is very welcome back to the club at any time.

Schools

The Club Coach works closely with the schools in the area. It is one of the aims of the Club Coach to get the maximum number of children from each school down to Naomh Olaf to join the teams. This is done through coaching of the children during class time. The coach targets classes at the lower age groups, particularly senior infants up to third class. This is done for two reasons. The first is to catch the children's attention to Gaelic games from as young an age as possible. Secondly, it also gives children, who may not have an interest in GAA, a taste of it as once a child goes into fourth class, many children experience the Cumann na mBunscol competition. The club prides itself on its close relations with the schools in the area. Currently, we are present in seven schools from Our Lady of the Wayside, Kiltarnan down to Holy Cross, Dundrum. Each school receives at least one and a half hours coaching a week. We value our relationship with each school as we think that the schools are vital to player recruitment and it is of strategic importance that a presence is maintained in each school.

Competitions

The Club Coach organises a number of tournaments for different groups in the club. During the school year, we have a minimum of seven school tournaments for classes from second class up to sixth class. Many players, who have since left primary school, remember playing in the Andy Gibbons Hurling Tournament for third class students, which is refereed by Andy Gibbons. For many years, the Club Coach has organised a Mini All-Ireland Competi-

30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club

tion. This is for players in the club aged 8 to 11. In 2010 to meet demand, an older Mini All-Ireland was also organised for players from 12 to 15. This competition is held in late summer and is seen as a nice return to pre-season training for our players.

Academy

A vital aspect of the role of Club Coach is the academy. The academy caters for children aged 5 to 7. It is here that the foundation stones for the years to come are laid. At the academy, we target to teach the skills of the games as well as the rules in an organised way but also, most importantly, in a fun way. We aim to see a progression in every child from when they enter the academy to when they leave it to play at the Under 8 age group. With the growing numbers involved with the ladies' section of the club, it was decided to split the academy to have a 'girls only' academy. This is held on a Friday night and has gone from strength to strength and now totals over sixty girls of different ages.

The Future

The existence of the Club Coach role is vital for the continued progress for the club.



Darren Egan.

From Shoelaces to College Places - By Anthony Delaney

When mentors take a team out of the academy, little do they know the journey that lies ahead. The journey from U8 through minor is a long one; 10 years working with a group of kids, seeing them develop their skills and watching them grow from small children to young adults.

As Declan Coppinger, who became the mentor of the U8s in 1999, explained to new mentors last year, it's the journey 'from shoelaces to college places'. You start out tying shoelaces for a tiny eager-faced young kid and progress to discussing college places with the same 6' 2" young man. Like all mentors, Declan experienced a mix of highs and lows over those ten years but as any mentor will tell you, the highs far outweigh the lows.

Successful Juvenile Years

Over the early years, Declan built his mentor team, including John Garvey and Anthony Delaney, and the many hours perfecting skills on the training ground outside the clubhouse paid off when they picked up the U11 Hanrahan Shield in O'Toole Park on a sunny June morning in 2002. A panel of twenty battled well and claimed a hard fought victory for what was to be the first of many pieces of silverware that the team brought back to the club

Only a year later, they picked up the 2003 U12 South Dublin plate in Parnell Park thanks to fine performances from Thomas Downes, Colin Kyne Delaney, Blaine Begley and Cian Faulkner. These were all names that would figure prominently in the



U11 Hanrahan Shield Winners 2002 - Back row: Lorcan Grey, Alan Lane, Thomas Downes, Jason Cooney, Robert McCarthy, Mark Quinlivan, Gavin Gunning, Daniel Coppinger, Luke Kelly, Declan Coppinger (Mentor). **Front row:** Sean O'Malley, Rory Lawlor, Garret David, Colin Kyne-Delaney, Blaine Begley, Carl Peacock, Shane Butler, Conor Butler, Davin Tinton, Rowan Noonan.

30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club

following years. Indeed, one of the stars on that day was a big fullback called Conor Haskins, who would make his mark in later years in midfield and who you will now see playing for the club's adult intermediate team.

In 2005, a hurling team was formed and within a few months they finished runners-up in the U14 Féile Division 5, losing a close final in Parnell Park to St Finian's. The Féile competition highlighted the potential for this team and the following year they captured the U15 Division 4 title with an emphatic 8-14 to 3-0 win over Clontarf.

Progression into Adult Games

In 2007, the mentors took the bold step to take the team past U16s and straight into minor football to ensure the club had sufficient numbers to enter a team at minor level. It was a step that many ques-

tioned, but it provided the first minor football team for the club in 4 years. Declan's team joined up with Jerry Kelleher's team for the next two years and it provided the basis of a new generation of players for the adult section. That combined minor team produced players of the calibre of Conor Haskins, Colin Doyle, Denis Kelleher, Cian Faulkner and David Lynch in football and Colin Kyne Delaney, Cillian Lewins, Shane Mulvey and Ian Harding in hurling.

When Declan finished with his team at the end of minors, he had, like so many mentors who have managed a group for so long, developed a strong relationship with the players. It's a relationship that will live on for many years, as this group of young men will always be the U8s of 1999, and the minors of 2007 and 2008.



U14 Féile Division 5 Runners-Up 2005 - Back row: Stuart Kyne-Delaney, Darragh Byrne, Robert Doyle, Alan Lane, Gary Hickey, Conor Rochford, Shane Mulvey, Conor Roe, Mark Quinlivan, Conor Haskins, Daniel Coppinger, Darren Darcy. Front Row: Anthony O'Hara, Conor Murphy, Sean Sullivan, Thomas Downes, Colin Kyne-Delaney, Niall Sullivan, Blaine Begley, Cian Faulkner, Rory Lawlor, Jack Lee.

30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club



Naomh Olaf Minor footballers 2008

Minor Team's Last Game Together - Championship Semi-Final 2008 - Back row l to r: Eoin O'Brien, Jamie O'Crowley, Dara O'Sullivan, Conor Haskins, Eoin O'Brien, Eoin Norton. **Middle row:** Declan Coppinger (Mentor), Anthony Delaney (Mentor), Denis Kelleher, Cathal Norton, Conor Roe, Michael O'Connor, Brian O'Connor, Jack Dunning, David Cafolla, Jerry Kelleher (Mentor). **Front row:** Conor Rochford, David Lynch, Blaine Begley, Keith Begley, Cian Faulkner, Colin Kyne Delaney, Stuart Kyne Delaney, Shane Mulvey, Kevin Quigley.



AFL Division 3 Football Team 2011 - Back row l to r: Darren Egan, Kevin Birrane (mentor), Colin Doyle, Conor Haskins, Anthony Dunne, Darragh Maxwell, Denis Kelleher, Kevin Birrane (Capt.), Darragh Byrne, Ronan Miley, Mick O'Connor, Lar Gillivan, Larry Kinsella (mentor). **Front row l to r:** Bernard Gaughran, Brian Murphy, Simon Hickey, Tony O'Hara, Shane Whyte, Jack Lee, Andy Murphy, Eoin Kinsella, Gary Wilkins, Conor Sobolewski. **Missing From Photo:** Mick Whyte (mentor) Joe McGann (Mentor), Brian Begley, Robbie Byrne, Paddy Feehan, Cathal Daughton, Johnny McGrath, Fergal McCann, Cormac Lucey.

Scór na bPáistí Naomh Olaf - By Harry O’Crowley

With the establishment of Scór, the GAA, through its clubs, is actively involved in promoting Irish culture in a meaningful and enjoyable manner. In 2008, the club decided to run its own Scór competition - Scór na bPáistí Naomh Olaf – to afford local primary school children, many of whom are playing members of the Club, the opportunity to participate in another, but equally important, aspect of the Gaelic Athletic Association.

Scór na bPáistí Naomh Olaf is run as an inter schools Irish language, culture and dance competition with teams from local schools participating in categories ranging from Tráth na gCeist to group singing. The success of Scór na bPáistí Naomh Olaf is, in no small part, down to the teachers and principals of our local schools who actively promote and prepare their pupils for the competition. The standard of dancing, singing, and musicianship has improved year on year and the performances continue to be a credit to the children, their parents and their teachers alike.

A review of Scór na bPáistí Naomh Olaf would not be complete without a reference to our then Oifigeach Gaeilge, Sinéad Cassidy, who co-ordinated each and every competition ensuring they were always a huge success.

In 2010, Corn Naomh Olaf was introduced for the overall school winners which was won by and retained in 2011 by Gaelscoil Thaobh na Coille.

In November 2007 the club has once again started to compete in Scór na nÓg Áth Cliath & Scór na bPáistí Áth Cliath. We have progressively improved in the intervening years and we are hopeful that some of our Scór na bPáistí Naomh Olaf participants will go on to win at the older age groups.



Gaelscoil Thaobh na Coille - Corn Naomh Olaf Winners 2011.



Scór na nÓg 2008 - Rince Foirne - Back l to r: Niamh Donnelly, Emma McGuirk & Sadhbh Maher. Front l to r: Aoife Maher & Ciara Donnelly.

30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club

Category winners in Scór na bPáistí Naomh Olaf 2008-2011

Scór na bPáistí Naomh Olaf - 27 ú Aibreán 2008

<i>Rince Foirne:</i>	<i>Our Lady's National School Clonskeagh</i>
<i>Amhránaíocht Aonair:</i>	<i>Gaelscoil Thaobh na Coille</i>
<i>Ceol Uirlise:</i>	<i>St Mary's National School Sandyford</i>
<i>Aithriseoireacht/Scéalaíocht:</i>	<i>Gaelscoil Thaobh na Coille</i>
<i>Bailéad Ghrúpa:</i>	<i>Gaelscoil Thaobh na Coille</i>
<i>Tráth na gCeisteanna:</i>	<i>Oatlands Primary School</i>

2ú Scór na bPáistí Naomh Olaf - 25ú Eanáir 2009

<i>Rince Foirne:</i>	<i>Gaelscoil Thaobh na Coille</i>
<i>Amhránaíocht Aonair:</i>	<i>Naomh Olaf</i>
<i>Ceol Uirlise:</i>	<i>Gaelscoil Thaobh na Coille</i>
<i>Aithriseoireacht/Scéalaíocht:</i>	<i>St Mary's National School Sandyford</i>
<i>Bailéad Ghrúpa:</i>	<i>Gaelscoil Thaobh na Coille</i>
<i>Tráth na gCeisteanna:</i>	<i>Gaelscoil Thaobh na Coille</i>

3ú Scór na bPáistí Naomh Olaf - 24ú Eanáir 2010

<i>Rince Foirne:</i>	<i>Naomh Olaf</i>
<i>Amhránaíocht Aonair:</i>	<i>Naomh Olaf</i>
<i>Ceol Uirlise:</i>	<i>Gaelscoil Thaobh na Coille</i>
<i>Aithriseoireacht/Scéalaíocht:</i>	<i>Our Lady's National School Clonskeagh</i>
<i>Bailéad Ghrúpa:</i>	<i>Gaelscoil Thaobh na Coille</i>
<i>Tráth na gCeisteanna:</i>	<i>Gaelscoil Thaobh na Coille</i>

Overall Winner of Corn Naomh Olaf – Gaelscoil Thaobh na Coille

4ú Scór na bPáistí Naomh Olaf – 23ú Eanáir 2011

<i>Rince Foirne:</i>	<i>Naomh Olaf</i>
<i>Amhránaíocht Aonair:</i>	<i>Gaelscoil Thaobh na Coille</i>
<i>Ceol Uirlise:</i>	<i>Gaelscoil Thaobh na Coille</i>
<i>Aithriseoireacht/Scéalaíocht:</i>	<i>St Mary's Lambs Cross</i>
<i>Bailéad Ghrúpa:</i>	<i>Gaelscoil Thaobh na Coille</i>
<i>Tráth na gCeisteanna:</i>	<i>Gaelscoil Thaobh na Coille</i>

Overall Winner of Corn Naomh Olaf – Gaelscoil Thaobh na Coille

Volunteers At County & National Level

Paddy Kiernan, Finbarr O'Driscoll, Camillus Kilpatrick, Una Kilpatrick, Tommy Brown, Mary Shivnan

The following people represented the Naomh Olaf Club at the Ladies County Board

Year 95: Camillus Kilpatrick - Dublin County Board Fixture Secretary.

Year 2003, 2004 and 2005: Camillus Kilpatrick was a Dublin Selector with the Dublin U16 and Minor County Teams.

Year 2007 to 2010: Camillus Kilpatrick was the Dublin County Board Chairperson. During those 3 Years Dublin won All-Irelands at Senior Level, Senior B Level, Minor, U16 and losing an All-Ireland U14 by 1pt to Galway to prevent Camillus a overall clear sweep during his term.

Year 2011: Camillus Kilpatrick is the Dublin Development Officer.

Year 2007 to 2010: Una Kilpatrick was the Dublin County Board Registrar.

Tommy Brown

- Joined the Dublin Senior Ladies Management team as selector/coach in April 2007.
- 2007: Won Division 2 of the National League and beaten by Cork in All Ireland Quarter Final.
- 2008: Defeated in All Ireland Quarter Final by Tyrone.
- 2009: Reached Division 1 National League

Semi Final defeated by Cork. Reached All Ireland Final defeated again by Cork by a point.

- 2010: Won All Ireland Title defeating Tyrone 3-16 to 0-9
- 2011: Became manager of the Dublin Ladies Team. Won National League Division 2 Title. Currently in All Ireland Quarter Final v Cork.

Mary Shivnan

1995 Dublin County Committee
1999 Secretary, Dublin South Juvenile Board
2000 Chair Person, Dublin South Board
1999/2000 Organising Committee, National Football Féile

2002 Amalgamation of Regional Board under Chairmanship of John Bailey, Continued as Secretary of South

CCCI

2004/09 Naomh Olaf Club Secretary.

Recall - By Paddy Kiernan

One of the great gifts that we all have is the ability to look back, reflect and recall various happenings and occurrences from our involvements in the GAA family. This is a special privilege when one meets up with past or present colleagues and a discussion develops.

We can all recall various events, be it on a playing field, from matches we attended or at the cold face of administration within clubs with which we were lucky to be involved. It also is great to discuss these occasions with colleagues and friends, as each of us will have our own memories of events that happened on a particular occasion at which we were fortunate enough to be present.

Everybody recalls the paper headlines that journalists produce from all the major championship and league matches played throughout the length and breadth of the country. They, however, are the words of someone else whereas our own descriptions are something completely different.

I would like to share some of my own memories and recollections of over 40 years involvement with the GAA. I'm from Drumlish in Co. Longford, a small village just north of Longford town. My first memories of being part of the GAA was playing football in the local national school and then for the local minor club St Vincent's at school boy level and up through the ages of 14, 16 and Minor. In those early days, the club developments that we see today of dressing rooms, enclosed pitches and floodlit grounds were not present. I can remember having to go down to the local field and tog out along the side of ditches. Our club was somewhat successful

at under age level, winning both a Minor and Under 16 championship in 1972.

I was also fortunate enough to be part of the county teams playing Under 16 for Longford in a competition called 'The Father Manning Cup' and then also playing for Longford at Minor level in Leinster Championship Competition. I was part of the Minor squad for two years running in '73 and '74.

In 1974, Longford played three games in the Minor championships (straight knockout basis); first up was Kildare at home, and next up was Dublin in the semi-final and then the final against Wicklow which we lost. I played at left corner-back in all three games. I can say, however, that I was present to see the start of the revival of Dublin's fortune in 1974 where Dublin went on to contest, and win, the Leinster and All-Ireland Finals. Indeed, one could say that was the revival of the present colourful Hill and the fabulous atmosphere that Dublin supporters bring to Croke Park.

In my earlier years, I was also lucky enough to be involved in college football, playing in the Leinster Colleges Championship. I had the privilege of playing on the same college team as Richie Connor, who went on to captain the Offaly team that won the All-Ireland in 1982, preventing Kerry achieving that famous five in a row.

Having finished up in school, I moved to Dublin to work but continued to play football with my home club in Longford. In 1975, I sustained a bad injury where I did serious damage to my left knee, which required surgery, and kept me out of football for almost a year. Having returned from injury, I was still

troubled by my knee and was not able to play to the same level as I had before.

Obviously living in Dublin and commuting home was difficult, especially in those early years, as I did not have my own transport. While reading the Evening Herald, I stumbled across a notice from Coiste na Réiteoirí looking for new referees. I knew this was a way of maintaining my involvement in the GAA. I applied and thus commenced my career as a club referee in Dublin. This was in the early eighties and, apart from two serious injuries sustained, I have been refereeing ever since.

My refereeing career commenced with an-in house training course at 5 Belvedere Square, where the Dublin County Board was located at that time. Meetings were held in the basement of the County Board Offices where we were given instruction in the rules etc. necessary to provide us with the knowledge to commence our refereeing careers. But as we all know, nothing beats experience and it is only from experience that I learned how to deal with various situations and occurrences on the playing fields.

The first game I was appointed to referee was under the Junior Football Board in the Phoenix Park. The game involved Park Rangers and was played on the 40 Acres. I can recall how nervous I was taking charge of my first game, whether I would have the knowledge to be able to take charge of the 30 players. I have no doubt too that the seasoned players could see how nervous I was, but I survived, held my nerve and was now up and running as a budding referee.

My memories of this period of time was the difficulty in finding the various locations where I was appointed to officiate as I was not familiar with the

30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club

Dublin GAA scene and most of the venues were a total mystery to me. I was lucky enough to meet great colleagues who were able to put me on the right road. Having commenced my refereeing career, I harboured the thoughts of reaching the highest level possible. This was done by, firstly, attaining this at County Level and then being fortunate to go on to the Inter County scene. For me, however the Inter County Scene was not attainable as a referee but I was fortunate enough to be involved as an official on the Inter County scene for at least ten years.

My refereeing career in Dublin progressed nicely and I had the honour of officiating at a number of finals within the Dublin county. These included the following:

- Minor Football Championship
- Under 21 Football Final
- County Senior Final in 1998 involving Kilmacud Crokes and Na Fianna.

I can still remember the day I was notified that I had been appointed to referee the County Senior Football Final in Dublin. I was notified about a week and a half prior to the game by the secretary of Coiste na Réiteoirí. He advised me that I had to organise my team of umpires for the day, but that the Coiste on this occasion had appointed the lines men to assist me. The week leading up to the game is still crystal clear in my mind and the thoughts that went through my head, the worries, the anxieties and the fear that maybe I might pick up an injury or fall ill and be unable to participate on the day in question. I suppose you can put this down to nervous energy upon the excitement of the appointment. The fact that the game was to be televised on TG4 who had just commenced showing county finals did not help my case. I still have a video of the game in question.

30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club

I consider this as the height of my refereeing career to date in Dublin. The fact that I was appointed by my peers to officiate at the Senior Final is, to me, acknowledgement of my abilities to control a game and implement the rules.

I was also fortunate enough to be involved on the Inter County scene operating as an umpire for over 10 years. This came about through my friend and colleague, Aodán Mac Suibhne, who commenced refereeing in Dublin about one year earlier than me. Aodán was a hurling referee and was appointed by the Dublin Committee to the Inter County scene for hurling. Aodán was also responsible for me taking up refereeing hurling in Dublin, due to the shortage at that time. It is fair to say that I was reluctant to do so, but I did and the rest is history.

One of my first assignments with Aodán was at an Under 16 Special Hurling League match in Wicklow between Wicklow and Meath. This would have happened in the early 90s. Aodán continued to referee at Inter County Level until he retired in 2005.

During Aodán's time as an Inter County referee, I would have assisted him on at least 80-85% of the occasions that he refereed at Inter County Level. We were lucky that we officiated at almost every hurling county throughout Ireland.

Aodán had a distinguished career at Inter County Level and was good enough to referee at all of the major hurling finals including, in 1994 the Minor All-Ireland Hurling Final, in 2001 the Under 21 All Ireland Hurling Final and in 2002 and 2004 the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Final. To be part of the team of officials on the occasion of an All-Ireland Final was something special, no matter what the grade. I have fond memories of my involvement on these oc-

casions. Looking back on these occasions, I recall the All-Ireland Minor Final of 1994 was memorable for the fact that Offaly staged such a recovery against Limerick, scoring three goals in the final minutes to practically steal the title. After our game, we were given seats along the sidelines and in front of the Hogan Stand. Croke Park had not been revamped at this stage.

The All-Ireland Senior Finals of 2002 and 2004 were special days. Indeed the excitement and contention commenced once Aodán was advised that he had been appointed as referee and contacted each of us to confirm our availability to assist on the day.



Paddy about to officiate at an All Ireland Senior Hurling Final.

In 2002, I happened to be away on holidays when he was notified and I received a text seeing if I was free on that Sunday. I indeed made myself available without hesitation and told him promptly of such. The day itself was something else, arriving at Croke Park, passing through the security clearance into the dressing rooms. Croke Park had been revamped and the referees' dressing room were now located under the Cusack Stand. They are fine spacious rooms and on arrival there were refreshments

30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club

aplenty contained therein. The Minor Final referee and the Senior Final referee have their own dressing rooms for themselves and their umpires, linesmen and fourth official. The sense of anticipation on taking the field, the fullness of the arena, the crowd, and the whole occasion was overwhelming. Our nerves on edge, as there is so much focus on the referee and his officials and the decisions they make. We were all conscious of how each aspect of the game is viewed by the watching critics and analysts, praying that we would not make any silly or stupid calls to bring us to their attention. Pictured are Aodán and the umpires that officiated at both the 2002 and 2004 All Ireland Finals.

2002 was also remarkable as referees were now being appointed to officiate outside of their province. In this year we were also selected to officiate at the Munster Final in Cork. Many hurling purists regard this as most difficult of all the provincial championships to win. In hurling terms, it is up there with the All-Ireland Final. The atmosphere in Cork that day was electric, hair standing on the back of the neck stuff, Waterford v Tipperary. We travelled that day by train and I still remember meeting club members on the return trip and chatting about the game.

In 2002, we were requested to form part of the umpiring team for the International Rules Series between Ireland and Australia. Part of this involved us being wired to the match referees. This was new technology to us. We could, for the first time, overhear all that was being said by the referees to the players on the field of play. My abiding memory of this International Rules Series was the perishing cold on the day of the second test in Croke Park.

Finally, in the last few years, the final chapter of my refereeing career came about when I got involved

with camogie. I had been refereeing camogie for the last few years from Senior A right down to Junior B and the odd Juvenile game. In 2010 I was honoured with the final of the Senior A Championship, the first time in a number of years that a Dublin-based referee had been requested to do so. Prior to this, it was always outside of the county that the referee for the Senior A Final was appointed.

In my look back on my GAA life to date, it would be remiss of me not to refer to Naomh Olaf GAA club. When I started out in Dublin, I was not attached to any club in the county. As I had done a number of games, I got to know Bill O'Brien and he invited me to join (maybe this was to stop me from refereeing any more of their games!).

I must say, from the outset, I was made welcome and have made many great friends within the Naomh Olaf GAA club. I have had the honour to serve on the club executive for a number of years, as registrar and then as treasurer. The club has achieved many goals over its short life and I am glad that I was able to play a small part in those achievements.



Paddy before refereeing the Dublin Senior A Camogie Championship Final in 2010.

Finbarr O'Driscoll, Naomh Olaf - By Finbarr O'Driscoll

Finbarr O'Driscoll of Naomh Olaf GAA Club refereed three Ladies Football All-Ireland Finals in Croke Park between 1997 and 2000, two at senior level and one at junior level. In the 1997 Senior Final between Waterford and Monaghan, Finbarr played 11 minutes and 4 seconds of injury time at the end of the second half, after which Monaghan emerged victorious by two points.



Finbarr in action in the 1997 final. Jenny Greenan, Monaghan, is in the background.

In 1998, the Ladies Gaelic Football Association decided to introduce the Countdown Clock with a view to eliminating the timing controversy that surrounded the previous year's final. Finbarr was selected to operate the clock in Croke Park for the senior final between Waterford and Monaghan. The game ended in a draw and Waterford won the replay. Referee Christy Haughney played 12 minutes and 30 seconds injury time in the second half of the replay and so the 11 minutes and 4 seconds slipped into the background. However, to this day, it is still the one that is remembered. In 1999, Finbarr was put

in charge of the Waterford and Mayo Senior Final which Mayo won. Diane O'Hora, Mayo's captain, was the last person to receive a trophy in the 'old' Hogan Stand as the demolition work began the following morning.



Finbarr is greeted by President Mary McAleese prior to the 1999 final between Waterford and Mayo.

In 2000, Finbarr refereed his last All-Ireland Final. It was the junior final between Down and Galway which Down won. He also had the honour of refereeing two Senior National League Finals, two All-Star matches, two interprovincial tournament finals and four O'Connor Cup (Colleges) finals in a row, 1997 – 2000. He refereed in twenty-two different counties as well as in London and Manchester. He was given the honour of taking charge of the All-Ireland Senior 7-a-side tournament final between Emyvale, Monaghan and Shelmaliers, Wexford in 2006 for his final game in charge as an inter-county referee. Emyvale won the competition.

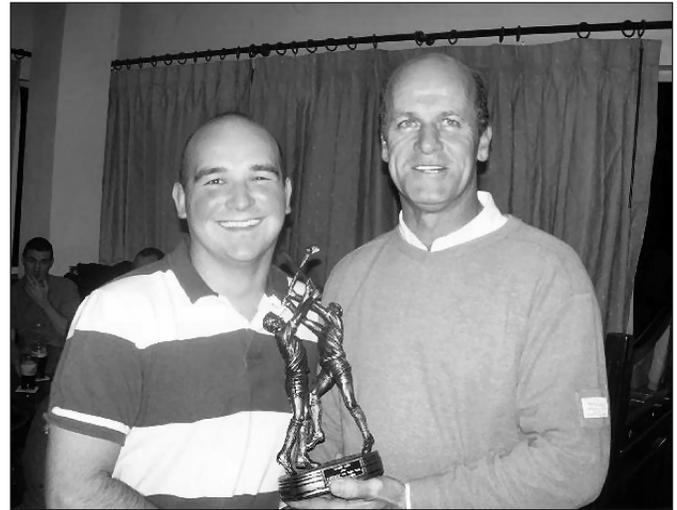
Player of the year Awards

The following are some of the players who received Player of the Year Awards in

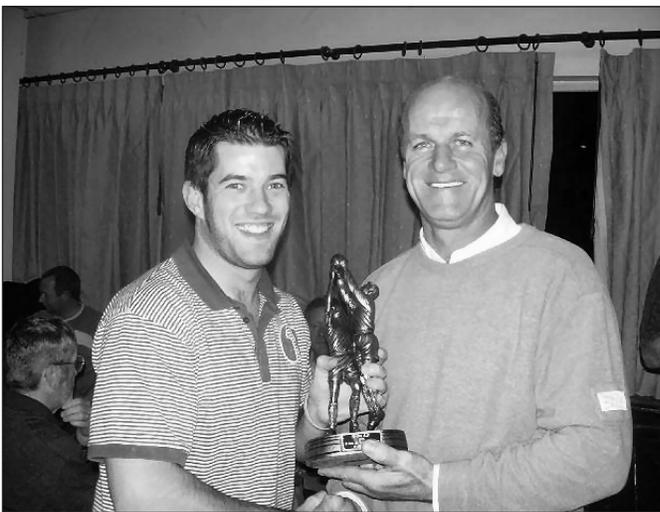
2005 - presented by Jack O'Shea.



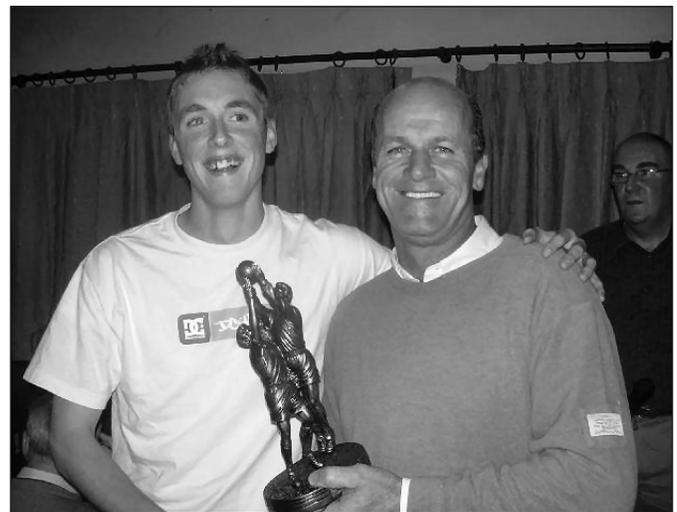
Senior Hurling - Anthony Daly.



Under 21 Hurling - Jimmy Culligan.



Under 21 Football - Shane Whyte.



Minor Football - Conor Sobolewski.

Lá na gClub - By Brendan McGlynn

To mark the 125th anniversary of the GAA, Sunday May 10th 2009 was designated as Lá na gClub. The day was set aside for club activity only. There were no Inter-County or Inter-Club games, and every club was expected to organise its own special programme of events.

Naomh Olaf celebrated the occasion in great style. There was a big turnout from all sections of the club. The beautiful weather was a welcome bonus, allowing all field activities to take place as planned. The formal ceremonies commenced with the blessing of the club by our local parish priest, Monsignor Dermot Lane.

Then the Club Chairman, Pól Ó Súilleabháin, addressed the gathering as follows:

“Little did the men who formed the GAA in Thurles 125 years ago realise the legacy of their actions when they set up the Gaelic Athletic Association. 125 years later, the largest amateur sporting organisation in the world stands testament to their vision, drive and ambition.

Around the same period, rugby, soccer, baseball, Australian Rules football and a number of other sporting codes were constituted – and while all are fine sports in their own way – all have become professional. The GAA has not. It has held true to the pillars of amateurism and volunteerism.

The strength of the Association is not bricks and mortar; it is not fields and posts. It is flesh and blood, bones and muscles, held together by pride of place, passion, perseverance and the proud assertion that the games we play are not just the greatest games in the world – but a statement of who we are, where we

come from and where we want to go.

The key word in the GAA is Association. It embodies the belief that within a defined area or parish, everyone is welcome to participate and take part. Young, old, rich, poor – everyone is welcome to join.

We set no barriers; we erect no prejudices. However, one thing is certain, you will be asked in some small way to do something – anything. It is that participation that creates the bond, strengthens spirits and shares burdens and defeats – but allows all of us to gain from the experience. The modern phrase is ‘Community’; the better understood Irish phrase is ‘Meitheal’.

28 years ago, with nothing but ‘Meitheal’ in mind, a group of individuals led by Dubs and culchies founded Naomh Olaf. They had nothing - no pitches, no jerseys and no clubhouse. It was established in the middle of a recession but building on the core values of the GAA. It has grown to be a force in Dublin GAA – fielding panels in four codes with teams from Senior right down to our vibrant academy. It could not have succeeded without you and the core values of the Association.

Finally to the youth of this club – this club is your inheritance, it is yours by right of playing and being part of the Association. The values it has are the values of fair play, participation and belonging. Wherever you go in the future, should you be a stranger in a strange town, county or country, look for the local GAA club. Its values will be what you grew up with and you will already be a member, by virtue of being a member of Naomh Olaf today.

30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club

This is the legacy of those who established the Association 125 years ago and it is your inheritance. It is precious, intangible and unique. All we ask is that you hand it on as it was handed to us.

If you do that, the next 125 years will be even better.”

The burying of the club’s time capsule was the next item on the agenda. Brendan McGlynn, one of the founder members of the club, assisted by his two grandsons, Oisín and Jack Horgan, performed this task. A commemorative tree was then planted by club members involved in the juvenile section (Bernard Walsh of the Boys’ Academy, Ger O’Malley of the Boys’ Juvenile Section and Mary Gibney of the Girls’ Juvenile Section). Hopefully this section of the club will live to see the tree grow to maturity. Ven Naughton provided a cherry picker for the taking of photographs.

In conjunction with the day’s events, the club coach Austin Lynch organised an Art Competition, which received eight hundred and seven entries. All in all, it was a very joyous and memorable occasion.

So successful was the venture throughout the thirty two counties that a Lá na gClub was again held on the 9th July 2010. On this occasion the club had no formal ceremonies. Events began with a sponsored walk at 1p.m. An ice cream van was awaiting the children on their return to the clubhouse. The Samba Band generated a great atmosphere and the wonderful sunshine added to the sense of occasion. Sinéad Cassidy, the club’s Irish & Cultural Officer, along with her team of helpers, had organised an excellent range of fun activities for the evening, which included face painting, wellie throwing, tug-of-war, spud and spoon race, sack race, poc fada, obstacle course,

penalty shooting and more. A Hip Hop extravaganza in the sports hall preceded a traditional music session in the lounge where refreshments were enjoyed by all.



Lá na gClub, 2009.

St Benildus College and Naomh Olaf - Thirty years of working together - By Liam McLoughlin

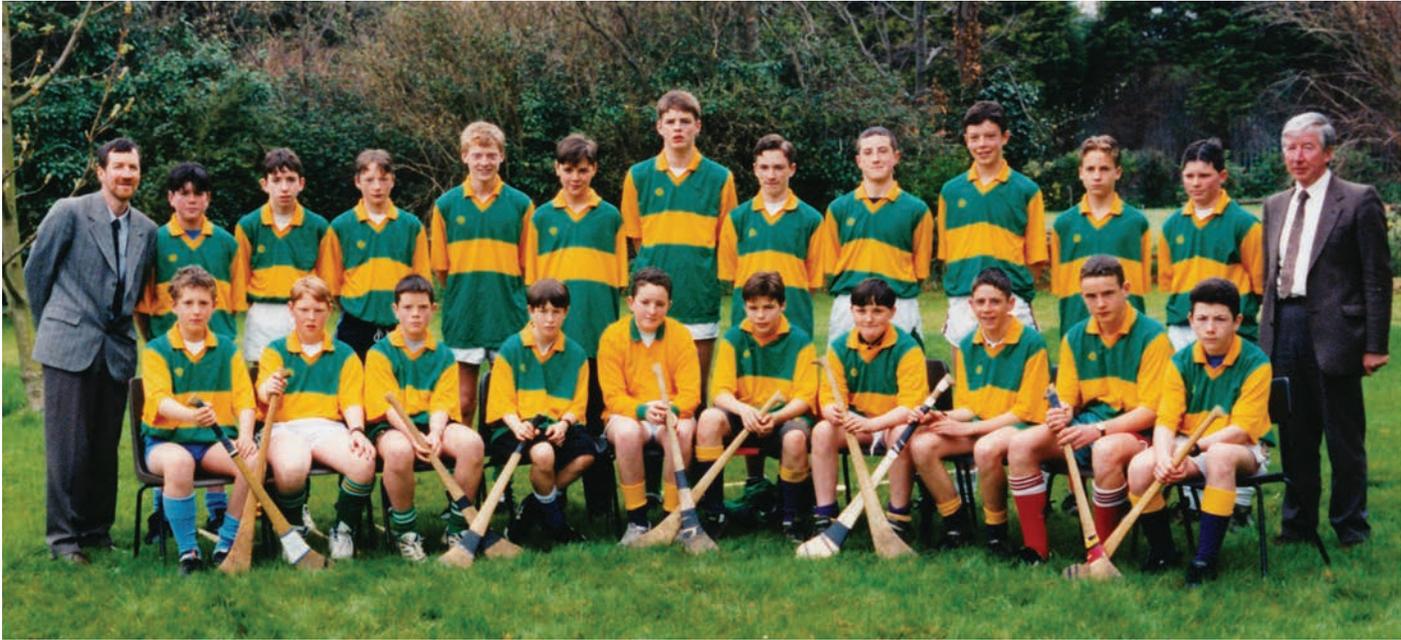
Sport has an important function in school for young people. It promotes a healthy lifestyle, can make the daily drudgery of classes tolerable, fosters friendships and creates indelible memories. The teachers who volunteer to take teams have the opportunity to see their students in a new light and better understand them. Teaching in St Benildus College since 1974 and being involved with the hurling there has given me an appreciation of the very positive relationship that has existed from the beginning between Naomh Olaf GAA club and the school. I am proud of their shared endeavour in nurturing Gaelic Games and I am aware of the huge amount of voluntary effort involved. As I write this in the Spring of 2011, St Benildus College are both Dublin Colleges' Senior

``A`` Hurling and Football Champions, the prestigious Double for the first time in our 45 year history. This is no mean feat. The College clearly continues to benefit, as it has always done from the work being done in the local primary schools and at club level. Looking back over the record of the College's successes over the past 30 years, as this article does, the substantial input of Naomh Olaf members in the Benildus story is clearly evident.

The very first Naomh Olaf names that come to mind are those of Fergal Keys and John O' Brien, Fergal played hurling and football for the school and John played football. John's father Bill O'Brien is one of the founding fathers of Naomh Olaf and in Septem-



Leinster and Dublin Colleges Senior B Hurling Champions. November 25th 1992 - Naomh Olaf players: Standing: Des Murphy 7th from left, Niall Mc Caffrey 8th from left. In Front: Brendan Mc Glynn 1st from left, Barry Lynch 3rd from left, Greg Naughton (RIP) 4th from left, David O'Brien, 5th from left. Mentors; Mr. Michael Mc Carthy, Mr John Butler and Mr Liam Mc Loughlin.



St Benildus College Under 14 Hurling Panel 1996 - Naomh Olaf players: Standing: John Harrington 1st from left, Kevin Birrane 5th from left, Peter Kennedy 6th from left, Barry O'Brien (RIP) 5th from right. Seated: Brian Egan (RIP) 1st from left. Mentors; Mr. Liam Mc Loughlin, Mr. Pat Harrington.

ber 2011, John's son Sean will enter the College in First Year. When St Benildus College win the Dublin Colleges' Football Under 14A title in 1990, the team is backboned by Naomh Olaf players; David O'Brien, Stephen Heaney, Niall Mc Caffrey, Greg Naughton (RIP), Brendan Mc Glynn, Barry Lynch and David Johnson. These players, along with Des Murphy, are to the fore again when Benildus claim both the Dublin and Leinster Colleges' Hurling Under 16B titles in the autumn of 1992, defeating Bagnalstown C.C. in the Leinster decider on a memorable day in Naas, with David O'Brien and the heroic Niall Mc Caffrey outstanding. The lion-hearted Greg Naughton died tragically in early 2011. May he rest in peace.

Other Olaf's players who contributed in Benildus in these years include, Eoin Ryan, James O'Shea, Brian and Eric Horgan, Alan Lyons, Aidan Byrne and brothers, Tony O'Brien, David's older brother, John

O'Brien, Gerard O'Malley, Cathal Daughton, Derek and Ken Naughton, Barry Kirwan and Kevin Buggy. Barry O'Brien (RIP) was the youngest of the O'Brien family from Clonard. During his years in the College he captains hurling and football teams. His passion for Gaelic games and for hurling in particular is only equalled by his commitment to excel. He wins a Fitzgibbon medal with the University of Limerick and in July 2002 leads the Dublin U21 Hurlers to a Leinster Final. A few weeks later on Saturday August 17th just as he was about to join the teaching staff in St Benildus College, he drowned accidentally on holiday in Mayo. His death was a terrible blow to the whole community. His memory lives on in the College through the Barry O'Brien Sports Scholarship Award which is awarded annually.

St Benildus College take the Under 14A Football title in 1995, defeating St Joseph's CBS Fairview, and there are now new names emerging. Mal Coughlan,

30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club

Stephen Kelly, John Harrington, Ronan Miley, John Whealans and Barry Duffy. Mal, ``Harro`` and Barry are also there when we win Hurling titles in 1997 and 1998 along with very reliable goalkeeper, Philip Conway, Brian Egan (RIP), John Mc Dermott, Stephen ``Packie`` Redmond, Shane Whyte, Stephen Kelly, Eoin Heaney, Kevin Doolan, Martin O'Shea, Michael Fahy, and Alex O'Brien. There are great days in Parnell Park and O'Toole Park. This very impressive group of players will collect a Senior Colleges title in 1999 along with Stephen Farrelly and Gary Wilkins and will help us retain that hurling title in 2000 and win a Senior B Football title. Brian Egan, near neighbour and student of mine dies tragically at the age of 18. Brian's gentle personality is still missed. Eoin Mc Caffrey is Senior Gaelic Player of the Year in 1999. St Benildus win an Under16 Football title also in 2000 with a strong Naomh Olaf presence. Shane Whyte, Caleb Mur-

ray, Stephen Browne, Sean Egan, Nicky Fennell and Conor Mc Mahon are part of this historic first Under 16A Football title win for Benildus.

On the Under 16 team which beat Portmarnock C.S. to win a Colleges' Hurling title in October 2000 are players such as Shane Cullen, Roghan Colbert, David Frewen, Niall Davis, Conor Heffernan, Ian Whelan, Nick and Chris Fennell and Niall Egan and the young Declan O'Dwyer.

In May of 2001, St Benildus College contest their very first Dublin Colleges A Hurling Final, when we played St David's CBS, Artane, in Parnell Park. No fewer than 10 of the team that day and another 7 panel members were Naomh Olaf players. This golden generation of Naomh Olaf talent- Dublin Feile Division 1, Hurling Winners, nurtured carefully at Club level by Fran O'Dwyer and Finn Martin in hurling and Ray Howley and John O'Brien in



Dublin Colleges Senior A Final 2003, St Benildus College v St Declan's C.B.S.Cabra. O' Toole Park October 2003 - Naomh Olaf players: Standing: Terence Carroll, first from left, Shane Kelly 5th from right, Josh Dunford 3rd from right, In Front: Declan O'Dwyer 2nd from left, Ritchie Mc Donnell 3rd from left, Francois Grey 5th from left, John Mc Grath 5th from right, Eoin Lumsden 4th from right, Donal Kinsella 2nd from right, Chris Fennell 1st from right. Mentor Mr Liam Mc Loughlin



St Benildus College Dublin Colleges Senior A Football Champions 2009 - Naomh Olaf players: Standing Back Row: Jack Dunning 3rd from left, Michael O'Connor 5th from left, Conor Haskins 6th from left, Colin Kyne Delaney 7th from left. Standing Middle Row: Cian Faulkner 3rd from left, Robert Doyle 6th from left, Conor Roe 5th from right. Sitting: Michael Coen 3rd from right, Cillian Lewins, 2nd from right. Team Mentors Mr. Alan Costello, Mr Eamonn Cosgrove. School Principal Mr Sean Mulvihill, Deputy Principal Mr Martin Johnson.

football, will win many honours in both hurling and football for the College taking us to a historic Colleges' Senior A Hurling Final in 2003.

The names include, Shane Kelly, Asafa Ingram, Josh Dunford, David Howley, John Mc Grath, Kevin Davis, Eoin Lumsden, Declan O'Dwyer, Donal Kinsella, Chris Fennell, Graham Presch, Ross Melody, Adam Moore, Terence Carroll, Colm Fox, Niall Healy, Francois Gray and Jason Kenna. This particular group of players I personally remember with great affection, their commitment, dedication and loyalty to club and school were at all times exemplary. Declan O'Dwyer goes on to play Senior Hurling for Dublin, winning National League Division One honours on May 1st 2011.

And at no stage can I forget the hard work, loyalty and friendship of the Benildus parents, great Naomh Olaf people, on whom you could always rely, Bill

O'Brien, Mick Whyte, Brendan Mc Glynn, Larry Kinsella, Gerry Kelleher, Tom Dunford (RIP) and his wife Eithne, John Mc Grath, Fran O'Dwyer and many more. And my fellow hurling mentors in Benildus deserve mention too for their hard work and for the many happy times we spent together, Pat Harrington, gentleman and proud Corkonian, and John Walsh, a most passionate Deise man.

In 2003 Conor Parker Mc Cabe captained a brilliant Benildus team to an U14 A Dublin Football Championship, a team which featured many Olafs Players including Dennis Kelleher, Eoin Lumsden, Brendan Staunton, David Lynch and Michael Coen. This same group of players are involved in a Junior B Hurling success in 2004, along with, Moosa Patel, Danny O'Connor, Conor Parker-Mc Cabe, Barry Morgan, Conor Tiernan, William Keane, Colin Doyle, Cillian Lewins, Eoin Heffernan and Colin Kyne De-

30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club

laney. The football victory of 2003 sparked off the current golden era for Gaelic Football in the College. That same panel of players went on to contest the schools second ever Senior Colleges' Football A Final in 2006 and Benildus have contested every Senior A Final since, losing the first two and winning the coveted title for the past three years, Dublin Colleges' Football Senior A Champions 2009, 2010, 2011. Olaf's players have featured prominently in this success with Jack Dunning, Simon Hickey, Conor Haskins, Cian Faulkner, David Byrne, Mick O'Connor and Stephen Mulvany -amongst others already mentioned-, starring for the College. Hurling success has followed as well with A titles at Under 14, and Under 16 level, culminating this year, 2011, in our very first Dublin Colleges Senior Hurling A title with notable contributions on the way from many of the afore mentioned as well as Conor and Eoin Murphy, Daniel Coen and Keith Begley.

And so the story will go on, new chapters await being written. New stars will sprinkle the firmament. Kevin and Cian Power Kelly, Jamie O'Malley, Mark Doyle and Sean O'Brien all await their day in the sun. The relationship between Naomh Olaf and St Benildus College has been a long and happy one, and of much mutual benefit. I have many memories, happy and sad, watching Declan O'Dwyer climbing the steps of the Lower Hogan Stand to collect his National League Hurling Medal on May 1st has to be balanced with the memory of young lives cut short and the thought of what might have been. But we will go on, and with confidence for with School and Club working together the future is bright, everyone wins and our young people benefit. And at the end of the day, that's the most important thing. So here's to thirty more good years! Come on the Olafs! Benildus Abu!



St Benildus College Dublin Colleges Senior A Football Champions 2011 - Naomh Olaf players: Standing Back Row: David Byrne 1st from left, Eamon Roe 5th from left. Standing Middle Row: Stephen Mulvany, 1st from left, Daniel Coen 2nd from right. Team Mentors Mr. Alan Costello, Mr Eamonn Cosgrove. School Principal Mr Sean Mulvihill, Deputy Principal Mr Martin Johnson.

2011 Minor Hurling Team - By Eoin Ryan



Under 13 Hurling Championship Final - Naomh Olaf players: Standing Back row l to r: Sean Whelan (Mascot), James Whelan (Mentor), Matthew Norgrove, Ronan Lewins, Stephen Mulvany, Harrison Brewer (0-1), Marc Gallagher (0-1), Adam Blunden, Eoin Murphy (Captain, 3-3), David Byrne, Daniel Coen, Conor Leavy (0-1), Thomas Kenny, Ger Murphy (Mentor), David Peacock, Eoin Ryan (Mentor). **Front row l to r:** Gavin Beere, Kevin Doyle, Ross Bannon (1-0), Kevin Power Kelly (1-0), Harry O'Brien, Craig Furlong, John McCarthy (1-0), Cormac Bracken, Christy Connors.

This group of players has represented the club with great honour and success over the last eight years. The same management team of Eoin Ryan, Gerry Murphy and James Whelan have coached them from Under 10 through to the present day Minor team. From Under 10 to Under 12, the team took part in non-competitive leagues and was one of the first groups to take part in the Go Games initiative, which was designed to emphasise greater participation of all players in games, rather than strict competition. In 2007 as Under 13s, the team achieved unprecedented success by winning the Troy Cup, the League and the Championship in the one season. They defeated a strong Faughs side in the league final, which started a keen rivalry for future years, and defeated Liffey Gaels in the championship final which was

played at Erin's Isle ground in Finglas. The full back line led by Daniel Coen was excellent and captain for the day, Eoin Murphy, finished the day scoring an amazing 3-3 (3-1 from play). The final score ended Naomh Olaf 6 - 6, Liffey Gaels 3 - 5.

Féile Year

In 2008, the team reached the Division 3 Féile (U14) Final in Parnell Park. Having beaten Craobh Chiaráin in the quarter-final, we were again drawn against Faughs in the semi-final. In a heart-stopping match, Naomh Olaf turned a 2 point half-time deficit into a 4 point win, with some outstanding performances on the day from Harrison Brewer and Conor Leavy. The final score was 3 - 6 to 3 - 2. This win set up a Féile Final showdown with our neighbours

30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club

Ballinteer St John's.

It was a great experience for the team who were getting their first opportunity to play in Parnell Park. Olaf's started slowly on the day and conceded a couple of early goals but soon settled and took the game to Ballinteer. The game ebbed and flowed but Olaf's just couldn't get the scores that their good play deserved and, in the end, went down narrowly by 4 points.

In 2009 as Under 15s, the team again showed its love for championship hurling by again reaching the county final in Parnell Park. The quarter-final (vs O'Toole's) and semi-final (vs Raheny) matches will live long in the memory for many reasons. Both matches went to extra time and were packed with incidents. These included conceding six goals in

the first half against O'Toole's and still managing to come back to level the game and bring it to extra time. Then there was Marc Gallagher's memorable run up the wing and pass into Conor Leavy to score the winning goal of the game.

The semi-final was no less eventful. Having dominated the game, we began to let it slip towards the end as Raheny got on top. With a minute to go and being three points down, we seemed down and out, but up stepped Stephen Mulvany from centre back to half volley a shot to the back of the net to bring the game to extra time. In extra time, a classic strike from Harrison Brewer got us over the line and into the final to meet Erin's Isle.

In the final, we gave a spirited display but went down to a stronger team on the day. The highlight of the



The Trip to Tipp where we played Drom-Inch - Back row l to r: Eoin Ryan (Mentor), Harrison Brewer, Marc Gallagher, Adam Blunden, Matthew Norgrove, Daniel Coen, Stephen Mulvany, Gavin Beere, Eoin Murphy, Ger Murphy (Mentor), James Whelan (Mentor). **Front row l to r:** Kevin Power Kelly, Craig Furlong, Ross Bannon, Conor Leavy, John McCarthy, Harry O'Brien, Ronan Lewins, Cormac Bracken, Thomas Kenny 482 - Pucking around in Semple Stadium.



Pucking around in Semple Stadium.

day was a 30 yard screamer of a goal from Christy Connors just before half-time.

In 2010 as Under 16s, we had a great victory over St Vincent's in our opening Division 2 league match and were narrowly beaten in the quarter-final of the championship against Kevin's. We rallied and finished the season on a high with a fine win over our perennial rivals Faughs in a classic Shield Final in Páirc Uí Bhriain. Superb displays on the day from captain, David Byrne, Kevin Power Kelly, Eoin Murphy and John Connors guided us to a narrow but deserved 1 point win. Man of the Match on the day went to Jamie O'Malley who performed heroics in goal for us.

The goal for the 2011 Minor hurling team is to compete strongly in the championship which begins in late August and to lay the foundations for a strong Minor team for the 2012 season. It has been an amazing journey for this team of players and mentors. Many of the current squad have the ability to

progress on to represent Naomh Olaf at Junior and Senior levels. A number of the players have been on Dublin development squads over the years. At the moment, both Eoin Murphy and David Byrne are part of the U17 development squad and hopefully we get to see them soon in the Dublin colours representing the club.

The 2011 Minor hurling squad is J O'Malley, M Norgrove, D Coen, C Furlong, G Beere, S Mulvany, C Murray, B Mahon, H Brewer, D Byrne, E Murphy, C Leavy, J Connors, C Connors, H O'Brien, C Bracken, K Begley, M Gallagher, A Blunden, Johnny Connors, K Doyle.