



# *Treasured Memories*

*30 Year History  
of  
Naomh Olaf GAA Club  
1981 - 2011*

*Compiled By*  
**Brendan McGlynn**

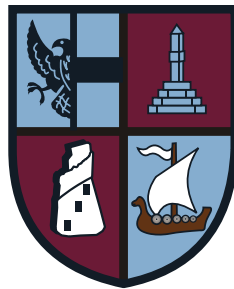
© The Authors and Naomh Olaf G.A.A. Club

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the publishers.

First Published in 2011 by  
Naomh Olaf G.A.A. Club

*Dedicated to all those who, by their voluntary  
effort over the past thirty years, have  
made our club what it is today.*

ΝΑΟΜΗ ΟΥΛΑ  
1981



---

# FOREWORD

---

## *A Message from Mick Brown, President and Founder Member of Naomh Olaf GAA Club*



When a group of us decided, in 1981, that the young people in the Sandyford area should be given an opportunity to play Gaelic games in a competitive way, little did we think that the Naomh Olaf GAA Club we founded would become the success that it is today. Over the last thirty years, the club has grown and has become the club which we all hoped it would be. It has provided facilities and games for all our members, young and old, boys and girls, from Dundrum to Sandyford. It has also provided facilities for the communities, schools and clubs in our area, as well as a social outlet for many people and clubs.

On the playing pitch, we have won many trophies and produced many great players, coaches and mentors. We have not scaled the heights of the bigger clubs, but we have achieved our goal of providing games for all our members. Our committee members and team mentors have worked above and beyond the call of duty in providing these opportunities.

I believe that there are even better days to come for our club because of the effort put in by the schools and juvenile mentors in our club. There is a new breed of young members and mentors now involved who will see to it that Naomh Olaf GAA Club will continue to turn out fine young men and women as in the past.

And I would ask all members to remember the famous words of John F Kennedy - with a little twist:

*Ask not what your club can do for you, but what you can do for your club.*

*Mick Brown*

---

# FOREWORD

---



When Mick Brown, Bill O'Brien, Brendan McGlynn and others decided to start a GAA club in the new parish of Balally, they could hardly have envisaged that 30 years later their Club would have in excess of 1200 members and possess its own fine clubhouse and hall.

This is the story of how their initial effort and vision grew and developed over the intervening years to make Naomh Olaf the Club it is today and recounts how generations of people from Balally, Sandyford and its environs have spent their free time in thrall to their national games and the club that organises them.

It documents successes and disappointments, the milestones, the passion and the undeniable bonds created the first time the jersey was pulled on. The sense of belonging, family and community is readily apparent throughout the rich collection of photographs and reports that have been so diligently collected.

Thanks to the time and effort given by many to the club over the years the future for Naomh Olaf is bright. We seek new horizons in terms of new challenges and enhanced visibility. We have dedicated mentors who are passionate about their club and Gaelic games and have energetic & innovative coaches working tirelessly in vibrant boys and girls academies.

I would like to express my sincerest thanks to Brendan McGlynn, to his wife Patsy and indeed to his entire family for the amount of time and effort he has expended on this project over the last two years. No-one else could have produced a book of this magnitude and it is a testimony to his integrity and love for our club that he did so with such zeal and honesty of effort.

*Harry O'Crowley*

Cathaoirleach

**Naomh Olaf GAA Club**

September 2011

---

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

---

I feel honoured and privileged to have been asked by the Executive Committee of Naomh Olaf G.A.A Club, to compile a thirty year history of the Club.

Inevitably a history of any club cannot be compiled or written without the help and encouragement of many individuals and groups. I wish to express my profound appreciation to all who helped in any way to bring this project to fruition.

A special word of gratitude to the Club Committee and to its Chairperson, Harry O’Crowley, for their on-going support and encouragement. To the many Club members who so willingly gave of their time to research and write, detailed and sometimes lengthy articles, on the various aspects of club life. To the three Rock Panorama Community Magazine Ltd. (herein after referred to as Panorama) and to its editorial Board Member, Vincent Supple, for his advice and his invaluable assistance in producing this publication. To Bairbre O’Hogan and Kate Irwin for proof-reading. To Liam Christian, Ann Marie Bent and Denise Byrne for their special assistance. To Niall Scully of the Evening Herald for his assistance. To Jimmy Burns for the book cover art work and to our cartoonist John Joyce. Finally to my wife Patsy and my family, including my extended family, for their patience, help and encouragement.

In compiling this Club History, I have had the opportunity of renewing old acquaintances. I have also had the pleasure of forging many new friendships, particularly with the younger generation of Club members. My sincere wish is that this book, while refreshing the memory of older Club members, will be a valuable source of information for newer Club members and that all those who read it, will derive as much pleasure in reading it, as I have enjoyed in compiling it.

*Brendan McGlynn*

## Table of Contents

<i>How it all Began by Brendan McGlynn</i>	11
<i>Extracts from Minutes of Club Meetings 1981/83</i>	15
<i>Items from Panorama 1982 to 1988</i>	19
<i>Tom Culligan - Lord Mayor of South Dublin by Brendan McGlynn</i>	28
<i>Our Illustrious Founder by Mathúin MacFheorais</i>	29
<i>Club Outings in the 1980's by Bill O'Brien</i>	33
<i>Centenary Celebrations by Mick Brown</i>	35
<i>The Naomh Olaf Experience of Road Making by Brendan McGlynn</i>	37
<i>Scór in the 1980's by Brendan McGlynn</i>	40
<i>Footballers born in 1987/88 by John O'Brien &amp; Ray Howley</i>	43
<i>Gaelic Games at St. Olaf's N.S. by Gerry Murphy</i>	45
<i>From Corrigan Cup to Murphy Cup by Eoin Kinsella</i>	49
<i>Extracts from Panorama 1988 to 2006</i>	55
<i>Appreciations by Brendan McGlynn</i>	69
<i>The Planning Process by Frank Heeney</i>	76
<i>First Adult Hurling Team Formed by Larry Kinsella</i>	84
<i>Junior Football Panel 1991/93 by Colm McEnerney</i>	105
<i>Presentation to Balally Scouts by Brendan McGlynn</i>	107
<i>Cheese &amp; Wine Reception January '91 from Club Minutes</i>	108
<i>An Important Milestone by Brendan McGlynn</i>	122
<i>Naomh Olaf Win Minor Football Title 1993/94 by John McGrath</i>	123
<i>Naomh Olaf Win U21 Football 1993/94 by Bill O'Brien</i>	128
<i>Fundraising by Mick Brown</i>	131
<i>The Grand Opening by Bairbre de Burca</i>	133
<i>Building a Clubhouse by Dermot Irwin</i>	136
<i>Ladies Football by U. Maher, C. Kilpatrick, F. O'Driscoll, H. O'Crowley</i>	138
<i>Under 21 Hurlers Win All County League 93/94 by Bill O'Brien</i>	158
<i>Minor Football Team 94/95 by John McGrath</i>	161
<i>Dublin's No.1 Supporter by Brendan McGlynn</i>	163
<i>The First Camogie Team by Brendan McGlynn</i>	165
<i>Re-birth of Camogie by Mary Gibney</i>	167
<i>A Slice of Clubhouse Life by Anne-Marie McGlynn</i>	171
<i>A Great Team by Bill O'Brien</i>	174
<i>Anniversary &amp; Presentation Supper Dance by Brendan McGlynn</i>	175
<i>Junior Hurlers 1997-2011 by a Junior Hurler</i>	180
<i>Special Evening with Michéal O'Muircheartaigh by Brendan McGlynn</i>	184
<i>Before Olaf by Joe Fleming</i>	188
<i>Golf Classic by John Mulhall</i>	195

# Table of Contents

<i>Golf Society by Brian Hickey</i> .....	200
<i>History of the 2002/2003 Minor Football Team by Kevin Kavanagh - With further Reports by K. Naughton, L. Flynn &amp; B. McGlynn</i> .....	204
<i>Appreciations by Brendan McGlynn</i> .....	209
<i>The Golden Years by Tom Brennan</i> .....	213
<i>Under 14 Football Team Win Dublin Feile 2000 by Trish Farrelly</i> .....	231
<i>Plans for Extension Launched from Panorama</i> .....	233
<i>Junior B Football 2001-2002 by Andrew Kinsella</i> .....	237
<i>Feile Hurling Team 2001 by Special Feile Correspondent</i> .....	256
<i>History of 2nd Class Inter-School Blitz by Andy Gibbons</i> .....	264
<i>Appreciations by Chris O'Grady &amp; B. McGlynn</i> .....	266
<i>A Year of Mixed Emotions by Brendan McGlynn</i> .....	268
<i>Extension to the Clubhouse by Mary Hayes</i> .....	270
<i>Corporate Lunch by Jim Quinn</i> .....	272
<i>Junior Football 1999-2011 by John Garvey</i> .....	276
<i>Story of Club Crests &amp; Logo by Margaret Kyne Delaney</i> .....	300
<i>Naomh Olaf Senior Football 2003-2011 by John McGrath</i> .....	302
<i>Opening of Páirc Uí Bhriain by Thomas Brown</i> .....	316
<i>Dublin Minor B Hurling Championship Winners 05 by Brendan McGlynn</i> .....	317
<i>Dublin U21 B Hurling Championship Winners 06 by Brendan McGlynn</i> .....	319
<i>The Mural by Francois Gray</i> .....	321
<i>The Referee by Paddy Kiernan</i> .....	322
<i>The Club Coach by Darren Egan</i> .....	324
<i>From Shoelaces to College places by Anthony Delaney</i> .....	326
<i>Scór na bPáistí Naomh Olaf by Harry O'Crowley</i> .....	329
<i>Volunteers at County and National Level</i> .....	331
<i>Recall by Paddy Kiernan</i> .....	332
<i>Lá Na gClub by Brendan McGlynn</i> .....	338
<i>Saint Benildus College by Liam McLoughlin</i> .....	340
<i>2011 Minor Hurling Team by Eoin Ryan</i> .....	345
<i>Féile Péil Na nÓg 2010 by Ger O'Malley</i> .....	348
<i>The Primary Schools Essay Competition by Brendan McGlynn</i> .....	352
<i>More Than Just a Club by Harry O'Crowley</i> .....	355
<i>Building on the Foundations of Success by Anthony Delaney</i> .....	356
<i>Players that Represented Dublin &amp; other Counties</i> .....	357
<i>Some of the Naomh Olaf Teams in 2011</i> .....	361
<i>Deceased Club Members by Brendan McGlynn</i> .....	372
<i>Club Information</i> .....	378



## *How It All Began - By Brendan McGlynn*

In the thirties and early forties, St. Mary's of Sandyford Junior Football team won almost every honour in the game, with the exception of the Championship, and was promoted to Intermediate status. In the mid fifties, however, because of a dwindling population due to emigration, the club, sadly, went out of existence.



Frank Gaynor. A new unit of the association was born.

It was decided that the club should cater for Balally and Sandyford parishes. One of the schools in Balally had already been appropriately named St. Olaf's because of its location in Balally which, in old books, is called Baile Mhic Amhlaoibh (the town of the son of Olaf). This Olaf is identified as Si-

In the late 60s and early 70s, the area between Dundrum and Sandyford was developed and soon, neat housing estates replaced the green pastures. In 1977, a new parish was formed and named after the largest housing estate – Balally. Balally Parish had two new schools. There was no church so one of the schools was used as a Mass Centre.

One of the residents in Balally, Mick Brown, an able hurler who had given outstanding service to the Naomh Fionnbarra Club in Cabra, recognised the need for a GAA club to cater for a growing young population. He placed a notice in the Panorama Magazine requesting anyone who was interested to contact him. He got no response to his request. Then he called a meeting to which he invited a number of people. A preliminary meeting was held in St. Olaf's Primary School on the 13th July 1981 with a view to forming a Gaelic Football and Hurling Club. The following were present at that meeting: John Martin, Flannan McCarthy, Brendan McGlynn, Kevin O'Malley, Finbar Brogan, Mick Brown, Bill O'Brien, Gerard Doherty, Terry Kavanagh and

tritic Mac Amhlaoibh, Norse King of Dublin, who founded Christ Church in the 11th century. In order to identify with both parishes, the club was named Cumann Peile agus Iomána Naomh Olaf, Áth an Ghainimh (Naomh Olaf G.A.A. Club, Sandyford). Claret and blue were selected as the club's official colours. These were chosen because the local youth club, St. Mary's, as well as the 137th Balally Scout Troop, were already wearing them. Indeed the Youth Club presented the new club with one of its first sets of jerseys. It was decided to hold training in St. Benildus College's playing fields on Monday 20th July. Notices were read out at Masses in Balally and Sandyford churches the following Sunday.

On the 20th July 1981, a second meeting was held in St. Olaf's Primary School following the first training session, in which over seventy boys had taken part. Present at the meeting were Donald O'Meara, Michael Waters, Ven Naughton, Frank Harty, Brian Martin, Flannan McCarthy, Brendan McGlynn, Gerard Doherty, Terry Kavanagh, Bill O'Brien, Finbar Brogan, Mick Brown and Frank Gaynor. The

### *30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club*

meeting was joined by Mr Don Cotter, Chairman of the Dublin County Board. He wished the new club luck and was very pleased to note that it would cater for hurling as well as football. It was decided to set up a caretaker committee: Chairman – Mick Brown, Secretary – Frank Gaynor, Treasurer - Donald O'Meara, PRO – Finbar Brogan. Mr Cotter suggested we contact Dundrum and Kilmacud Crokes as a matter of courtesy, advising them of the birth of our club.

It was decided to contact Panorama, Southside and Balally News with a view to getting publicity for the club. The Secretary was instructed to write to Mrs Canon to obtain permission to hold our meetings in the prefabs that were in the school grounds. It is noted in the minutes of that meeting that:

- there were still a few details to be attended to such as getting jerseys, balls and a pitch. A few avenues were being explored for the latter.
- The Development Officer of the Dublin County Board, Donal Hickey, had informed Mick Brown that he would attend a meeting, if required, to give any assistance or guidance that might be necessary.
- Everybody present contributed the sum of ten pounds towards the purchase of much needed equipment.

The club's first AGM was held in Queen of Angels' School Hall at 8pm on Thursday 26th November 1981. The following is recorded in the minutes of that meeting:



**Where It Began** - Photograph shows portion of St Olaf's Primary School where the first club meetings were held, as well as the prefabs that were subsequently used as meeting rooms and dressing rooms.

*The meeting was attended by a total of 32 people. It was encouraging to see some of the mothers present and showing such an interest in what the Club has planned for the future.*

*The following were elected as officers of the Club:*

<i>Chairman</i>	<i>Mick Brown</i>
<i>Vice Chair</i>	<i>Bill O'Brien</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Frank Gaynor</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Flan McCarthy</i>
<i>Registrar</i>	<i>Matt Bermingham</i>
<i>PRO</i>	<i>Finbar Brogan</i>
<i>Committee</i>	<i>Brendan McGlynn, Maurice Holland, John Brady, Frank Harty, Dolores Buggy, Kevin O'Malley</i>
<i>Trustees</i>	<i>Niall Andrews TD, Tony Kelly PC and Eithne Fitzgerald TD.</i>

In its first season in competition, 1981/82, the club entered four football and two hurling teams, all of them between the ages of 10 and 14 years. Playing facilities were provided by Dublin County Council

at Wedgewood and the use of additional playing fields was generously afforded by St Benildus College. Prefabs at St Olaf's Primary School were used as dressing rooms as well as meeting rooms and players always met there before travelling to away games.

The formation of the club was widely welcomed throughout the area. Teachers in both schools in Bally Parish coached and encouraged the children to play Gaelic Games. The club presented jerseys to the school teams and an excellent relationship developed between the schools and the club. Over the years, many of the primary teachers have done, and continue to do, trojan work for our games, but in the early years none did more than Gerry Murphy, Tom and Mick Brennan, Finbarr O'Driscoll and Barry Kenna of Our Lady of the Wayside School.

In addition to providing healthy outdoor recreational pastimes, the club arranged team trips to the country annually, while victory trips to McDonalds and presentation concerts became a regular feature of club life. Members enjoyed the odd céilí in St Olaf's School Hall as well as an annual Supper Dance. During the eighties, the club took part in Scór na nÓg (the GAA juvenile talent competition) and were Dublin champions in the Tráth na gCeist section.

Soon the club became a major influence in the social and cultural life of the area. It strived to attain the highest standards and continued to attract talented, committed and hard working people, many of whom have made a huge contribution to its successful development.

### *30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club*

Ladies have played a major role in the club's development. The club is indeed fortunate to have five ladies who have served as Club Secretary: Nuala Byrne, Valerie Monaghan, Mary Hayes, Mary Shivan and Eileen Hickey. Indeed ladies have always been deeply involved in all aspects of club life.



*The Committee elected at the first club AGM held in Queen of Angels' School, on the 26th November 1981. Photograph taken in 2002. Front row l to r: Matt Bermingham (Registrar), Dolores Buggy, Mick Brown (Chairman), Frank Gaynor (Secretary), Finbar Brogan (PRO) Back row l to r: Kevin O'Malley, Flan McCarthy (Treasurer), Brendan McGlynn, Bill O'Brien (Vice-Chairman), John Brady. Missing from photograph: Frank Harty and Maurice Holland.*



## *First Ever Under - 14 Football Team*

The first ever under-14 football team to represent Naomh Olaf played St. Jude's at Templeogue in a challenge match on the 10th of September 1981. The game finished in a draw, two goals and seven points each (statistics supplied by Bill O'Brien).

***The Naomh Olaf team lined out as follows:***

*Terry Nolan, Colm Cahill, Mark Traynor, David Supple, Michael Byrne, John McCarthy, Paddy Feehan, John O'Brien, Michael Ruane, Keith Hannon, Fergal Keys, Ciaran Leavy, Raymond*

*McGlynn, Ray Kenny and Camillus Kavanagh.*

***Subs:*** Ruairi DeBurca for M Ruane, Simon Hewson for K Hannon, Michael Seery for C Leavy, David Healy for C Kavanagh, Joe Feehan for R Kenny, David O'Grady for D Healy.

***Scorers for Olafs:*** F Keys 1 – 3, R Kenny 1 – 1, C Leavy 0 – 1, R McGlynn 0 – 1, C Kavanagh 0 – 1, C Leavy 0 – 1.

***Transport:*** B O'Brien, B McGlynn, P Feehan.



***The first ever team to represent Naomh Olaf in Under 14 Football - Front Row l to r: S Hewson, D Healy, M Seery, R DeBurca, J Feehan, D O'Grady. Second Row l to r: P Feehan, C Cahill, C Kavanagh, M Byrne, R McGlynn, C Leavy. Back Row l to r: D Supple, J McCarthy, M Ruane, John O'Brien, T Nolan, F Keys, M Traynor, K Hannon, R Kenny.***

## *Extracts of Club Minutes*

The following are items recorded in the minutes of Club meetings, held in the early years of the club, which may be of interest.

### *Meeting of the 29th September 1981*

Results of first competitive games played on the 26th September 1981:

U10 Football Naomh Olaf 2-0 Dundrum 1-1

U14 Football Naomh Olaf 6-7 Clanna Gael 1-4

### *Meeting of the 6th October 1981*

The following were named mentors for the football teams:

U10 Mick Brown and Brian Martin

U11 Kevin O'Malley and Finbar Brogan

U12 Frank Harty, Ven Naughton, John Maloney

U14 Bill O'Brien and Brendan McGlynn

### *Meeting of the 3rd November 1981*

The club has got the use of the new Queen of Angels' school hall, to be used for training of the Under 12 and Under 14 football teams.

### *Meeting of the 1st December 1981*

Delegates to the Boards:

South West - Mick Waters

South City - Frank Gaynor

Juvenile Hurling - Maurice Holland

The club has three acts in the Dublin Finals of Scór na nÓg.

### *Meeting of the 16th February 1982*

Mick Brown attended meeting of the Juvenile Hurling Board in the North Star Hotel on the 15/2/82 and entered teams at Under 10 and Under 11 years of age.

First game to be played on the 6/3/82.

### *Meeting of the 23rd February 1982*

John O'Brien and Fergal Keys called for second trials for the South City Under 14 football team.

### *Meeting of the 2nd March 1982*

Membership fees were decided. Juveniles £2  
Adults £5.

### *Meeting of the 9th March 1982*

Under 10 Hurling Mentors - Mick Brown, Gerry Murphy and Brian Martin.

Under 11 Hurling Mentors - Matt Bermingham, Kevin O'Malley, Finbar Brogan.

Margaret Morgan has arranged for some of the children who took part in Scór na nÓg to do a turn for the Senior Citizens Party on the 11/3/82.

### *Meeting of the 23rd March 1982*

Result of games played 20/3/82:

U10 Hurling Naomh Olaf 8-0 Commercial's 2-1  
Kevin Conlon scored 5 goals.

### *Meeting of the 18th May 1982*

Concert on the 16/5/82 was a big success.  
A profit of £150 is expected. A bank account is to be opened.

### *Meeting of the 16th July 1982*

Under 11 Hurlers came runners-up in their league.

### *Meeting of the 20th July 1982*

The Under 11 Hurling team to play Portroe. Meet at St Olaf's School at 5.30 pm on 20/7/82.

### *Meeting of the 27th July 1982*

Result of game: Portroe 6-5 Naomh Olaf 4-3.  
Naomh Olaf Club expenses were £59.

### *Meeting of the 31st August 1982*

The Under 10 Hurling team beaten by St Marks 5-0 to 4-0 for second place in 1981/82 league.

### *Meeting of the 7th September 1982*

South City League 1981/82 Under 14 Football Final, Naomh Olaf v Good Counsel will be played in O'Toole Park on Saturday 11/9/82 at 3.50pm.

## *30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club*

---

This is the club's first fixture in the County Grounds.

### *Meeting of the 21st September 1982*

Fixtures for the following football teams were recorded:

U10A, U10B, U11, U12, U13, U14 and U15.

### *Meeting of the 19th October 1982*

Pat McLaughlin R.I. P. presented a set of jerseys to the club.

### *Meeting of the 28th October 1982*

Concert to be held 3rd Sunday in November. Seamus Darby to present medals.

### *Meeting of the 13th January 1983*

Insurance for Adult club members will be £5, Juvenile players £1. Under 14 team is sharing a set of jerseys with the U15 team.

### *Meeting of the 3rd February 1983*

Mrs Cannon N.T., Gerry Murphy N.T. and Maureen Pender attended the meeting. The club presented a set of jerseys to Mrs. Cannon for the St. Olaf's school team.

The club requires more playing pitches. Mr Lynch of the County Council says that there is no point in meeting him, as there is no money at present for developing pitches.

### *Meeting of the 10th February 1983*

In addition to the committee, the following were present - Maureen Pender, Kate Irwin, Bairbre De Búrca and Mona Walsh. St Olaf's School Hall has been booked for a special family night on the 17/3/83. Admission £2 per family or 50p per person. Ladies' Committee to organise teas, minerals, biscuits etc. Margaret Morgan to be asked to help with Céilí.

### *Meeting of the 10th March 1983*

Mentors for Hurling teams:

U10 Mick Waters, Gerry Murphy, Jack Horgan

U11 Mick Brown

U12 Matt Bermingham

U14 Flan McCarthy.

The U15 football mentors, Bill O'Brien and Brendan McGlynn, are congratulated on their team reaching the semi-final of the Championship, at their first attempt.

### *Meeting of the 15th March 1983*

In addition to the Committee, the following attended this meeting – Dolores Buggy, Maureen Pender, Nuala Byrne, Kate Irwin and Mona Walsh.

### *Meeting of the 24th March 1983*

It was decided to hold a Céilí on Saint Patrick's night every year because of the success of this year's Céilí which made a profit of £25.51.

### *Meeting of the 14th April 1983*

Congratulations to Derek Dowling on being selected on the South City team.

Matt Bermingham gave the meeting a fifteen minute refresher course in the Irish language. It is intended to continue with the refresher course following future Committee meetings.

### *Meeting of the 28th April 1983*

Matt Bermingham and Jack Horgan handed out proposed guidelines for mentors, which will be discussed at the next meeting.

### *Meeting of the 5th May 1983*

Team Mentors for the coming season:

*Football:*

U16 Bill O'Brien/Brendan McGlynn

U15 Brendan McGlynn/Bill O'Brien

U14 Ven Naughton

U13 Frank Gaynor

U12 Mick Brown/Brian Martin

U11 Kevin O'Malley

U10 Jack Horgan

*Hurling:*

U13 Matt Bermingham

U12 Mick Brown.

Irish class continued.



## *30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club*

### *Meeting of the 12th May 1983*

Players picked for South East Team to play North Wicklow:

U10 Gerard O'Malley

U11 Darren Corrigan

U12 Caomhán Bermingham, Aidan O'Malley, Eddie McCarthy.

### *Meeting of the 2nd June 1983*

U15 and U13 footballers finish second in their leagues.

U14 and U15 football teams going to Trim on the 25th June 1983. Cost to club £100. Disco that night.

U10s going to Rush. Cost to club £50.

U12 hurlers going to Portroe. Return game on the 8th July. Concert and presentation that night.

### *Meeting of the 9th June 1983*

Under 11 team goes to Butlins. Cost to club £80.

### *Meeting of the 10th September 1983*

Jack Horgan had a sample of a new club crest. Some slight changes to be made.

### *Meeting of the 8th September 1983*

All our teams are in Division 1 of their leagues.

### *Meeting of the 15th September 1983*

U10 Blitz had six teams: each played five games.

U15 Blitz: Four teams took part.

### *Meeting of the 22nd September 1983*

There was a great turnout for the U10 games - forty boys and ten cars.

Club membership cards are ready.

### *Meeting of the 20th October 1983*

Question time was held with a view to selecting a team for Scór na nÓg. Further trials on the 3/11/83.

AGM on the 27th October 1983

Jack Horgan proposed that the Club adopt the Official G.A.A. Constitution. Seconded by Matt Bermingham. Adopted.

### *Committee Elected:*

<i>Chairman</i>	<i>Bill O'Brien</i>
<i>Vice Chairman</i>	<i>Jack Horgan</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Mick Brown</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Brendan McGlynn</i>
<i>PRO</i>	<i>Dermot Irwin</i>
<i>Registrar</i>	<i>Matt Bermingham</i>
<i>Committee</i>	<i>Eddie Mulligan, John Ryan, Richard Murray, Pat McGuire, Ven Naughton, Flan McCarthy and John Martin. Flan McCarthy withdrew as only 12 were allowed on Committee.</i>

### *Meeting of the 3rd November 1983*

As a result of a proposal by Jack Horgan at the AGM, which was seconded by Matt Bermingham, a sub-committee was set-up to look into the future development of the club. This committee to be chaired by Jack Horgan and to include Matt Bermingham, Brian Martin, Brendan McGlynn, Seán MacGiolla Fhearga and Flan McCarthy.

Jack Horgan proposed holding Flag Days to raise funds.

It was decided that each team would have a Player of the Year, chosen at the end of the season. The club would take regard of attendance at training and matches, conduct and contribution made to the team and to the club.

It was decided to make a presentation to Derek Dowling at forthcoming concert, on being selected on the Dublin Under 14 Football team. Brian Martin suggested that we have a meeting with the Scout Leaders to try to avoid having our games clash with their hikes.

## Naomh Olaf Under 10 Football League Winners 1981/82 - By Mick Brown

The Naomh Olaf Under 10 football team of 1981 was the first Naomh Olaf team to win a trophy. They achieved this in the year the club was founded, 1981. It was a great start for a club to win a trophy in their first year and they did it in style. They lost only one game in the league which was away to St Kevin's in Kilnamanagh.

In their first game of the season they played away to St Mark's in Tallaght and won on a score of 8 – 0 to 3 – 6. The man of the match was Gavin Brown who scored five goals, Paul Flynn scored two and Under 9 player Gerard O'Malley scored one. We had outstanding defenders in Darren Corrigan, Colm Buggy, Ronan Morgan and Michael Bradley who kept Mark's at bay.

Our second game was against Dundrum which we won by 2 goals to 1 – 1. A goal scored by Gary Neilson and one by Colm Saunders late in the game gave us a very lucky win. Defenders Robert Irwin, Justin Smyth and Kyle Duffy starred in defence.

In our third game we played Crokes whom we beat by 5 – 3 to 3 – 5 with Mark McDonnell, Stephen Brady, Kevin Buggy and Dermot Orr starring. The only game lost in the league was to St Kevin's by 2 – 2 to 2 – 6. We had Ian Gavigan, Gerard Keating, Damian Martin and Paul Murray playing really well in this game. Losing this game was a shock to us as we had been unbeaten until then. But it gave us a

real incentive to improve and we went on to win all our remaining games.

Darren Corrigan and Colm Buggy went on to represent Dublin South against Dublin North.

Most of the football team also played for Naomh Olaf in the Under 10 hurling league of 1981. We had a very good season and we ended up third in the league behind Crokes and St Mark's. Players who only played on the hurling team included Jason Grant, Eoin Penston, Jeffrey Gill and Ciaran Conlon.

***Mentors on these teams were Mick Brown and Brian Martin.***



***Naomh Olaf Under 10 Football League Winners 1981/82-  
Back row l to r: Michael Bradley, Colm Buggy, Mark McDonnell,  
Paul Flynn, Stephen Brady, Darren Corrigan, Ian Gavigan, Robert  
Irwin, Paul Murray, Dermot Orr, Kyle Duffy, Keith Ennis.  
Front row l to r: Ronan Morgan, Kevin Buggy, Ronan Smyth, Neal  
Rowland, Ger O'Malley, Gavin Brown (Captain), Gary Neilson,  
Gerard Keating, Michael Casey, Damien Martin, Colm Saunders,  
Justin Smyth.***



## *Club News*

*The following items, written by Mick Brown, were published in Panorama Magazine in 1982-1983*

### *June 1982*

Naomh Olaf GAA Club, Sandyford, wishes to thank all who supported them in their first Presentation Concert at St Olaf's School Hall on Sunday, 16th May. It was a tremendous success and was enjoyed by all in the packed hall. A special word of thanks to Margaret Morgan, who organised the various acts expertly, and to all who helped.

Naomh Olaf is one of the new clubs to enter juvenile leagues in Dublin. Sandwiched between the big clubs in southeast Dublin, Kilmacud and Ballyboden, it was felt that the Sandyford area was being neglected in regard to GAA and so, in July 1981, the Naomh Olaf Club was formed.

Playing accommodation was a big worry to us initially but thanks to Brother Philbert, Principal of St Benildus College, we were allowed to play on their pitches. During the season, the County Council also provided us with a pitch in Wedgewood, for which we are very grateful.

In our first season, we entered six teams at juvenile level and the enthusiasm of the boys was rewarded when our teams finished in the first three places in all competitions; in fact, our Under 10 footballers won their league.

It gave us particularly great satisfaction to do so well in the hurling leagues as the Sandyford area has never had any tradition in hurling. We in the club would like especially to thank the great work of Gerry Murphy, a teacher in St Olaf's School.

In the first year, we did not wish to confine ourselves to hurling and football as there are other activities run by the GAA. At very short notice we entered competitors in Scór na nÓg. Here again, the boys and girls of Sandyford put up a great show. Our two troupes of dancers and our solo singer got through to the Dublin finals and, indeed, our first ever trophy was won by Orla Doyle in solo singing. We would like to thank Margaret for the great work of organising the competitors.

There is a question time for teams of four adults run by the Dublin Supporters Club. We entered a team and, although they didn't win, they enjoyed it immensely and are looking forward to the next competition.

Our second season has now begun and we have practically doubled our number of teams. We have entered seven football and four hurling teams. The organising of these teams is a big job and we appeal to parents to help us, particularly in relation to transport.

We realise that competition will be harder this season as we will be playing in the 1st Divisions, but we are sure Naomh Olaf will be a force to be reckoned with.

### *October 1983*

The new season is just starting and we wish our teams and mentors every success. This season we have again increased our numbers. We have entered the following teams:

*Gaelic Football:* 2 Under 10 teams and 1 team each at U11, U12, U13, U14, U15 and U16

## *30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club*

*Hurling:* 1 team each at U10, U11, U12 and U13.

We are glad to welcome some new mentors, Richard Murray of Clonard who takes over the U13 football team and Jimmy Dunne of Balally and Harry Murtagh of Dun Emer who will look after our U10B team. Although we have our teams in training for the new season we will still welcome any boys who are interested in playing hurling or football. We would also like to hear from boys or girls under 17 years of age who would like to take part in Scór na nÓg. This is a competition for solo singing, ballad groups, musical groups and Irish dancing. The persons selected would represent Naomh Olaf GAA Club in competitions to find Dublin, Leinster and All-Ireland champions. *Anybody interested in any aspect of our Club, please contact us.*

*The following items, written by Dermot Irwin, were published in Panorama Magazine 1984-1986*

### *November 1984*

On Saturday November 17th at St Olaf's School Hall, Pat Grant will host the annual toy auction which, this year, is being held in aid of club funds. The hall will open at 7 pm for the usual side stall sales with the auction proper commencing at 8.30 pm. Items of bric-a-brac will be collected during the coming week and anything of saleable value will be welcome, except clothes.

A Presentation Concert will be held on Sunday 25th November, also at St Olaf's School Hall. Trophies will be presented to last season's successful teams which include the Under 11 and Under 12 football teams and Under 13 hurling team and Under 10 hurling team (runners-up). Niall Clancy from Kilmacud Crokes, who scored a decisive penalty in this year's All-Ireland Minor Football Final, will present the trophies. Niall will also bring along the Minor

All-Ireland Cup, 'The Tom Markham Trophy', on the night.

The concert will commence at 8 pm sharp. Admission £3 for a family ticket or £1 for an individual. We would appeal to parents, especially parents of the winning teams, to come along on the night and support the club and your children.

### *March 1985*

Like all clubs, funds are a major problem, and our greatest need at present is to provide some form of dressing rooms for the players. The Development Committee is currently investigating various possibilities and are hopeful that Dublin County Council might provide a small Portacabin.

For the third successive year, the Club is holding a Céilí on St Patrick's Night in St Olaf's School Hall. The event has been a great success in previous years, and now looks like becoming a regular feature on St Patrick's Night. Let's hope that lots of parents will come along and join the youth in the 'Walls of Limerick' or the 'Siege of Ennis' and help celebrate the national holiday. Admission £1 for adults, 50p for children and £2 for a family.

### *September 1985*

Summer Activities: With all the main competitions completed by the end of June, the principal activities during the summer have consisted of festival competitions and outings. A number of teams took part in Dundrum Festival, our U10 football team picked up the winners' trophy while the U13 and Minor football teams did likewise in the Glencullen Festival.

Outings: Outings were arranged during the summer for most of the teams and their mentors. The U10 squad, about 40 in all, had a trip to town to the cinema followed by a visit to McDonalds for burgers,

## 30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club

chips and coke. The U11 team went to Croke Park followed by a similar visit to McDonalds. The U15, U16 and Minor squads all had a great day in Tullamore for the Leinster Semi-final between Dublin and Offaly. Flan McCarthy took the U14s, and many others, on the annual visit to Portroe, Co. Tipperary, where they played the local team and then took in the Munster hurling match at Ennis. A reciprocal visit was organised for the Tipperary boys.

*New Dressing Rooms:* With the new season just getting under way about now, the club is delighted with the new dressing rooms erected by Dublin County Council at Wedgewood playing fields. After years of campaigning for this facility, we extend our thanks to the Council and all who helped secure this essential facility for the club.

*New season:* The following teams have been entered for the new season:

### **Football**

*Junior*

*Minor*

*Under 16*

*Under 15*

*Under 14*

*Under 13*

*Under 12*

*Under 11*

*Under 10A*

### **Mentors**

*Richard Murray,*

*Bernard McCabe*

*Bill O'Brien,*

*Brendan McGlynn*

*Ven Naughton*

*Richard Murray,*

*Bernard McCabe*

*Michael Brown,*

*Dermot Irwin*

*Kevin O'Malley,*

*John O'Brien*

*Liam Kavanagh,*

*Paddy Kavanagh*

*Sean Mac Giolla*

*Fhearga*

*Jack Horgan*

*Under 10B*

*Matt Bermingham*

### **Hurling**

*Under 10 to Under 15 teams entered.*

### **October 1985**

This season has seen a tremendous increase in the number of under 10 year olds turning out for training. What is even more encouraging is the large number of parents who have come along to help with training and to provide transport to matches. We have often appealed for help in this area and it is great to see such a positive response. It is particularly welcome to see parents from the newer estates like Kilcross, Moreen and Coolkill becoming involved. To date the Under 10A team are unbeaten in their league.

### **December 1985**

Naomh Olaf GAA Club's AGM took place on the 7th November and we are delighted to report that the attendance surpassed all expectations.

One of the major tasks facing the club for the future is the provision of permanent club facilities. If the club is to prosper and retain the interest of the youth, it is essential that a proper clubhouse and dressing rooms are provided as soon as possible. Various options are being considered at present but it is a formidable task and one that will require tremendous support and commitment.

*The following were elected to the incoming committee:*

*Chairman*

*Michael Brown*

*Secretary*

*Nuala Byrne*

*Treasurer*

*Dolores Buggy*

*Vice-Chairman*

*Brendan McGlynn*

*Registrar*

*John O'Brien*

*PRO*

*Dermot Irwin*

## *30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club*

*Committee Members*      *Simon Hewson, Sean Mac Giolla Fhearga, Pat Maguire, Jerome Hogan, Maureen Downes, Frank Heaney, Ciaran Brennan (Hurling Board Delegate).*

### *May 1986*

The club's Annual Supper Dance took place on Friday 25th April and what a night it turned out to be. Stackstown Golf Club, which has proved such a popular venue in recent years, was packed to capacity as the revellers danced the night away to the music of Les Keller and his group. There were raffle prizes and spots galore and people were reluctant to go home when the music finally ended and the weary staff started to lock up for the night.

The Committee wish to thank all who supported the club's recent Flag Weekend which helped to raise some badly-needed funds for the club. A special word of thanks is due to the dedicated band of collectors who braved the weather to do their turns at the various locations.

### *August 1986*

*Teams and Mentors for 1986/'87*

<i>Under 10 Football &amp; Hurling</i>	<i>Jack Horgan, Frank Heaney, Liam Casey</i>
<i>Under 11 Football &amp; Hurling</i>	<i>Matt Bermingham, J Hickey</i>
<i>Under 12 Football &amp; Hurling</i>	<i>Sean Mac Giolla Fhearga</i>
<i>Under 13 Hurling</i>	<i>Liam Kavanagh</i>
<i>Under 14 Football</i>	<i>Kevin O'Malley</i>
<i>Under 14 Hurling</i>	<i>Liam Kavanagh</i>

<i>Under 15 Football</i>	<i>Mick Brown, Dermot Irwin</i>
<i>Under 16 Football</i>	<i>Richard Murray, Ven Naughton</i>
<i>Under 16 Hurling</i>	<i>Flan McCarthy, Jerome Hogan</i>
<i>Under 18 Football</i>	<i>Brendan McGlynn</i>
<i>Under 21 Football</i>	<i>Bill O'Brien</i>

### *September 1986*

Naomh Olaf now have five referees taking charge of matches on a regular basis - Simon Hewson, Brian Cullen, Aidan O'Malley, Terry Nolan and Caomhán Bermingham. Last season, Simon was nominated 'Young Referee of the Year' by the Dublin South East Board which looks after Under 10, 11 and 12 teams. Congratulations, Simon and well done.

### *November 1986*

The club wishes to welcome the new Chairman, Brendan McGlynn of Balally Close. Brendan, who has been involved in the club since its foundation will, we are sure, be a great asset as Chairman.

*The full committee elected at the AGM was:*

<i>Chairman</i>	<i>Brendan McGlynn</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Simon Hewson</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Dolores Buggy</i>
<i>Vice-Chairman</i>	<i>Sean Mac Giolla Fhearga</i>
<i>Registrar</i>	<i>John O'Brien</i>
<i>PRO</i>	<i>Mick Brown</i>
<i>Committee Members</i>	<i>Dermot Irwin, Bill O'Brien, Nuala Byrne, Oliver Delaney, Brendan Johnson and Frank Heaney.</i>

---

*The following news items, written by Mick Brown, were published in Panorama Magazine in 1987*

### **February 1987**

Our teams are making big impressions in the Championships this season. Our Under 15 football team, captained by Darren Doyle of Sandyford, reached the third round with impressive wins over Ballin-  
teer and Portmarnock. The introduction this season of James Weldon and Brian Mulvey from Glencullen and Rory Mulhall of Moreen has given this team the extra strength it required. Our Under 16 team is also through to the third round after big victories over St Oliver Plunkett's and Cuala. This team seems to have ability to make it to the final stages. Experienced players like Aidan O'Malley, Caomhán Bermingham and Niall McCabe will certainly take some stopping.

Our Under 18 team has a tough task in their second round tie against Ballymun Kickhams, but with home advantage, they could just cause a few too many problems for Ballymun. This team has one of the strongest midfield pairings in the country in Paddy Feehan and Derek Dowling. With Hannon, O'Brien, Roben and Kinsella backing them up, they are a force to be reckoned with.

### **March 1987**

Anybody at our club grounds in Wedgewood on Sunday 1st March could have been excused for thinking they were in Kilkenny or Tipperary with the amount of hurling going on. There were over 100 boys and girls playing hurling but these were not from the two mentioned counties but from Kilternan, Stepaside, Sandyford, Moreen, Wedgewood, Balally, Clonard and all the other estates in the area. This was a great turn-out and is a direct result of the

## **30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club**

new coaching scheme for hurling being done in all the local schools. Naomh Olaf Club organised this coaching session and hopes to continue it throughout the spring and summer and to give as much help to the schools as possible.

### **September 1987**

The following are the teams we are entering in the 1987/1988 leagues, along with their managers:

<i>Under 10 Football</i>	<i>Liam Casey</i>
<i>Under 10 Hurling</i>	<i>Brendan McGlynn</i>
<i>Under 11 Football &amp; Hurling</i>	<i>Jack Horgan</i>
<i>Under 12 Football &amp; Hurling</i>	<i>Matt Bermingham</i>
<i>Under 13 Football &amp; Hurling</i>	<i>Sean Mac Giolla Fhearga</i>
<i>Under 14 Football</i>	<i>Liam Kavanagh</i>
<i>Under 15 Football</i>	<i>John O'Brien</i>
<i>Under 16 Football &amp; Hurling</i>	<i>Mick Brown</i>
<i>Under 18 Football</i>	<i>Ven Naughton</i>
<i>Under 18 Hurling</i>	<i>Flan McCarthy</i>
<i>Under 21 Football</i>	<i>Bill O'Brien</i>
<i>Under 21 Football</i>	<i>Kevin Birrane</i>

Olaf's club will break new ground this coming season when they enter 16 teams in Gaelic Football and Hurling competitions. This is a fantastic achievement for a club founded only six years ago. Another remarkable feature is that we will be entering two Under 21 Football teams, a feat which is only matched by two or three of the top clubs in Dublin.

*The following news items, written by Dermot Irwin, were published in Panorama Magazine in 1988*

### **January 1988**

Great Plans for the Future: The club is about to embark on an ambitious development programme, culminating in the provision of pitches and a clubhouse. The seven year old club, which caters for



### *30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club*

sixteen teams, from U10 to U21, has formed a 14 person Development Sub-Committee to spearhead the plan. This sub-committee, which is under the chairmanship of Ned Seery, stresses the value to the local youth, and to the community in general, of a thriving club. They also realise they will need the support, goodwill and practical help of the community to bring the plan to a successful conclusion.

Over the next two years, the sub-committee plans to hold a series of fundraising events to assist the project. If you have any helpful ideas, or want further information, please contact the Chairman of the Development Sub-Committee.

#### *February 1988*

The annual Supper Dance will take place in Stackstown on the 9th April which happens to be a Saturday. As always, it promises to be a great night of entertainment so make a note of the date in your diary. The annual Flag Day collection will be held on the following weekend, 15th & 16th April, so we'll be appealing for lots of helpers to come out and lend a hand, rattle a few boxes and hopefully raise some badly needed funds over the two days.

#### *May 1988*

The past two months have been hectic for the club with so many activities taking place. These included a Ballad Night in the Golden Ball, a special 7-a-side football competition during the Easter holidays, a Supper Dance in Stackstown and a Flag Day collection. In addition to all that, we had the main activity of playing hurling and football matches in the various leagues.

The GAA National Charity Day Fund was a stimulus to organise a local 7-a-side football competition during the Easter holidays. The need for a competi-

tion of this kind had long been recognised by the club and what a success it turned out to be. Blessed with magnificent weather, the young boys, and some girls too, turned out in great numbers during the week and treated us to a feast of good football. The finals on Sunday were to prove a fitting climax to an entertaining week. Balally Youth Band led all the finalists on to the playing pitches to do battle for the final honours. At the end of the day, the victors and runners-up were presented with their trophies by Declan Bolger of the Dublin Senior Team.

#### *July 1988*

Our club had a very successful Race Night in Jonah's of Leopardstown on June 16th. Thanks to all our supporters who turned out. A special word of thanks to our sponsors and to Mick Brown who took responsibility for organising the event.

A good year for young hurlers: Our Under 10 hurlers had a fine win over Commercials, Rathcoole on Saturday June 25th to give them the league title. This was a very important match for us. Having won all our matches in the first round, we had dropped two points to St Mark's of Tallaght in a second round match. However, these were the only points dropped and we ended up clear winners, having had many exciting victories. Congratulations to the boys, to their manager Brendan McGlynn and their trainer Mick Lynch.

Congratulations also to Matt Bermingham and his U12 hurling team. This team came second in their league, following a play-off with St Anne's of Bohernabreena. Many members of our under 10 and 12 hurling teams had already tasted success earlier this year when St Olaf's School won the Junior Schools Hurling Cup at Croke Park.

---

### *September 1988*

With the old season just ended and a new one about to begin, Naomh Olaf can look back with pride, and look forward to an exciting year ahead. Last year, a Development Committee was set up to look into the possibility of providing a club house. Several meetings were held, and while there may still be no tangible evidence of their achievement, a lot of work has been done with a view to securing a site from Dublin County Council adjacent to the playing fields at Wedgewood. If this is successful, then it will be full steam ahead.

On the playing fields, there have been successes with our young football and hurling teams which have been reported in earlier editions. However, the highlight of the season has to be the success of our Minor Team. At the start of the season it seemed we might not be able to field a team at all at this level. Thanks to mentors Ven Naughton and Richie Murray, not only was a team fielded but they finished up league winners in the division. Then on Sunday 28th August, they crowned a fantastic year by beating Raheny in a North-South play-off to become County Champions. All the players and their mentors are to be congratulated on a magnificent achievement.

The coming year will see the first junior team in the Naomh Olaf colours as enough of our older players have now passed the 21 age bracket to form the nucleus of a junior team. We wish them well in their first season.

The following is a full list of the teams, together with their mentors, which have been entered for the coming season. New players are always welcome, and anyone interested in playing, or helping with a team, should contact any of the mentors listed – they will be delighted to hear from you.

### *30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club*

<i>U10 Football</i>	<i>K Birrane, N Mc Dermott</i>
<i>U11 Football</i>	<i>B McGlynn, L Casey</i>
<i>U12 Football</i>	<i>B Johnson, B Hopkins</i>
<i>U14 Football</i>	<i>P Ging, K Curtin, S Mac Giolla Fhearga</i>
<i>U14 Hurling</i>	<i>L Kavanagh</i>
<i>U16 Football</i>	<i>M Brown, K O'Malley</i>
<i>U18 Football</i>	<i>V Naughton, D Irwin, R Murray</i>
<i>U18 Hurling</i>	<i>F McCarthy, J Hogan</i>
<i>U21 Football</i>	<i>B O'Brien, T Brennan</i>
<i>Junior Football</i>	<i>P Monaghan, M Whyte</i>

### *November 1988*

The Club's AGM was held on 20th October and was well attended. In his report, the Secretary said that the year had been a busy one for the club and included a wide variety of activities including the setting up of a Development Sub-Committee.

The Chairman of the Development Sub-Committee, Ned Seery, gave a report on their efforts to secure a site for a clubhouse from Dublin County Council. The matter is complicated by the fact that there is difficulty establishing ownership of the site in question.

Following the election of Officers and Committee, there was a lively debate on a number of issues, particularly the decline of hurling and the need for

## 30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club

greater action to promote the game.

*Officers/Committee elected for 1988/89:*

<i>Chairman</i>	<i>Michael Brown</i>
<i>Vice-Chairman</i>	<i>Kevin Birrane</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Dermot Irwin</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Michael McCarthy</i>
<i>PRO</i>	<i>Brendan McGlynn</i>
<i>Registrar</i>	<i>John O'Brien</i>
<i>Committee Members</i>	<i>Michael Seery, Jimmy Kearns, Pat Maguire, Ned Seery, Brendan Johnson, Ruth Henderson.</i>

### December 1988

A Junior Disco and Presentation of Trophies and medals to last year's winning hurling and football teams will take place at St Olaf's NS on Sunday 11th December, commencing at 7 pm.

The 3rd annual Private Members Draw (in aid of Club Development Fund) takes place in the Balally Inn on Thursday 15th December at 9.30 pm. A limited number of tickets are still available to members.

Our Club Calendar, featuring the Under 10 Hurling and Football League Champions 1988, has received an enthusiastic reception from our supporters and sales are exceeding expectations. If you have not yet got a copy, any Club member will gladly assist.

The more senior teams in the Club have made exceptional progress this season. Our recently formed Junior Football Team, under manager Phil Monaghan, is acquitting itself well in Div. 2 of the league. In the Championship our Under 21 footballers have advanced to the second round. Our Minor hurling team has reached the third round while our Minor

football team has qualified for the quarter-final of the competition. The U16 footballers have their interest alive in the Championship having won their first round. It is encouraging to see our teams doing so well at this level. The success of our Minor teams is particularly pleasing and hopefully will act as an inspiration to our many juvenile players.



**U14 Féile Hurling Team 1986/7 - Back Row l to r:** K. Buggy, P. McGuire, T. O'Brien, M. Doyle, N. Coughlan, K. Maloney, J. Whelan, L. Kavanagh, D. Hannon, E. Ryan. **Front row l to r:** A. Maguire, P. Bermingham, N. Kavanagh, M. Cullen, D. O'Brien, M. Duggan, G. O'Malley, B. Leavy. *Missing from photograph: Team Mentors M. Brown and Liam Kavanagh.*



## *Dublin South City Board G.A.A. Presentations Night at St. Anne's GAA Club, Bohernabreena, 1983*



*Members of Naomh Olaf G.A.A. Club enjoying the night, with Dublin county player Joe McNally - Front Row 1 to r: Camillus Kavanagh, Joe McNally, John O'Brien and Benjamin Shorten. Second Row 1 to r: Stephen Roe, Keith Hannon, Brian Cullen and Dessie Dowling, R.I.P. Back Row 1 to r: Derek Dowling, Colin O'Brien, Raymond McGlynn, Paddy Feehan and Brendan McGlynn.*



*Paddy Feehan and Benjamin Shorten are seen here entertaining guests at the Presentation Night.*



*Naomh Olaf Under 15 Football Team 1983, Beaten in the Dublin County Semi-Final in O'Toole Park, on the 15/5/83 by Erin's Isle, the eventual winners. Front Row 1 to r: F. White, M. Seery, M. Byrne, C. Cahill, R. Kenny, R. Corrigan, C. McEnerney, J. O'Brien, R. DeBurca, F. McDonnell, P. Feehan, S. Hewson. Back Row 1 to r: K Hannon, T. Nolan, C. O'Brien, D. Dowling, D. Supple, J. McCarthy, M. Luby, L. Pender, F. Keys, K. Corrigan, M. Doherty.*

## *Club Manager, Tom Culligan, was Lord Mayor of South Dublin in 1983/84 - By Brendan McGlynn*

Tom Culligan, who was the Club's Manager from 1998 to 2000, was once the Lord Mayor of South Dublin. The campaign to elect the Honorary Lord Mayor came to an exciting climax at a Lord Mayor's Ball which took place in the Dublin Sports Hotel in Kilternan in the Autumn of 1983.

The new Mayor Tom Culligan was invested with his chain of office by the outgoing Lord Mayor, Mr Louis McGuire.

Six candidates, four men and two women, worked relentlessly for a three month period to help raise funds for the new church and school in Balally Parish. The six candidates raised a total of £11,561.62; the winner alone raised £3,561.62.

In addition to his chain of office which he held for twelve months, Tom was presented with a memento - a crystal bell - as were all the other contestants.

At the time of his election, Tom was a senior laboratory technician in UCD and had leased the public bar in the Lamb Doyle's. Many of Tom's customers contributed generously to a draw every Sunday morning to help him reach his total. A race night in the Mountain View raised £1,500 and a poker night raised approximately £600. He organised many other fundraising activities. Tom is a native of Co. Clare, lives in Wedgewood with his wife Callie, and they have four, now adult, daughters.

Tom, who was a very popular Club Manager, is still an active and valued club member. He is a founder member of Naomh Olaf Golf Society and holds the honour of having been its first Captain. On his retirement as Club Manager in 2000, a function was held in the club to mark the occasion and Tom was presented with a Dublin Crystal memento bearing the Naomh Olaf logo.



*A youthful Tom Culligan is seen here having received his chain of office, being congratulated by Séamus Brennan T.D. (RIP)*



## *Our Illustrious Founder - By Mathúin Mac Fheorais*

Hewn from the limestone rocks of the Burren Country in North Clare our illustrious founder, Michael Cusack, grew up in a herdsman's cottage in what is now the parish of Carron, not far from Kinvara and Gort in County Galway and Ballyvaughan and Kilfenora in County Clare. He first saw the light of day on 20 September 1847, a year closely associated with the potato blight and the resulting great hunger throughout Ireland. (1)

There was no shortage of food in the country at that time – records show that thousands of head of cattle and many tons of corn were exported annually. This latter fact was relayed by Daniel O'Connell to the Members of Parliament in the House of Commons and is recorded in the Hansard or records of that famous House. The above items of food were of course under the control of landlords and landed gentry. It was the working classes and landless people who perished in workhouses, thatched hovels, "scailpín" (make-shift huts built against cliffs and damp walls) and on the roadsides of Ireland. Those with land or in the employment of the Crown survived as did those who could muster up the money to emigrate or flee the country. (2)

All of the west coast of Clare from Black Head in the north to Loop Head in the south was Irish speaking or Gaeltacht at that time and Michael grew up as a native speaker of our ancient Celtic language. For this reason he must have been familiar with that poem in the Irish language called *Iománaithe Chill Cóirne*, which tells the story of an epic hurling match played in Cusack's native parish, around the time of Daniel

O'Connell or possibly a little later. This poem has been translated into English by Mathúin Mac Fheorais and published in *In Praise of Heroes* – a collection of songs and ballads assembled by Ruan man Jimmy Smyth, one of the legendary heroes of Clare hurling. It has also been published in *The Hurlers of Kilfenora and Kilmacduagh*.

Many years later Cusack, overflowing with enthusiasm, wrote as follows about our ancient game of hurling as he remembered it played in North Clare: "The game is an exceedingly simple one. It matters not how big the field is, nor does it make much difference how many players there are. We ourselves hurled in a room and we hurled when the goals were a mile apart. Stone walls and roads and trifling obstructions of the kind made very little difference. We have played with a sorry little bit of a "cipín" and we have played with a "camán" which might have served Diarmaid Ó Duibhne. We have played with only a single opponent and we have played when upwards of three score men and boys took part in the game." Cusack wrote the above in response to a statement made by Justin McCarthy M.P., who was bemoaning the decline of "the fine manly sport" of hurling as he had seen it played "full of heroic and Homeric incident" in his youth. (3) Cusack's reference to "three score men" could have been alluding to games played from steeple to steeple - just as horse-racing was sometimes organised at that time.

We do not know what was the nature or extent of Cusack's formal education before he enrolled at Carron National School when it opened in November 1858;

### *30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club*

he was then eleven years of age and it is likely that he had been to school elsewhere prior to that date. He was appointed monitor on 1 March 1862 – a post he held until November 1864; this appointment was an important step on the road to becoming a National Teacher at that time. We know that he spent one year in training at the Model School in Enniscorthy. He then taught at Richmond National School near Corofin before returning to the Central Model School in Dublin, to complete his studies. On completing his training he got an appointment at Lough Cutra National School, near Gort in County Galway, but soon transferred to Saint Colman's College in Newry, where he met Margaret Imelda Woods from Dromore, County Down, whom he married in 1876. He later taught in Blackrock College, St John's College, Kilkenny and Clongowes Wood, County Kildare. He then moved to Dublin, where he opened an academy in Nelson Street, in partnership with a man named Hamilton Bell, before establishing his own academy – possibly in early 1880 - at 4 Gardiner Place near Parnell Square, where the Dergvale Hotel now stands. (4)

Being a native speaker of the Irish language it was only natural that Cusack would become involved in the language revival movement. He joined the Gaelic Union, where another scholarly Clareman, David Comyn from Kilrush, was also very active. The Gaelic Union had superseded the Society for the Preservation of the Irish Language (SPIL). These two organisations eventually led to the establishment of the Gaelic League in 1893 and this movement was dedicated to the complete restoration of An Ghaeilge as the every day language of all the people on this island. Dr Douglas Hyde of the Gaelic League once remarked that he had never heard a

native speaker of the Irish language more fluent than Michael Cusack, the man from Carron. (5)

Michael had been involved in the revival of the game of hurling before he launched the GAA in Thurles on 1 November 1884. In fact it could be argued that Cusack had already founded the GAA when he was elected president of the Metropolitan Hurling Club in Dublin on 6 December 1882. He built on this initiative by starting a hurling club in his Gardiner Place Academy in October 1883. The episode in Thurles could indeed be regarded as little more than the official launching of the already well-established hurling revival initiative and most of those present on that November day were never again heard of in GAA circles. It should indeed be noted here that Cusack was all-Ireland champion at putting the 16 pound shot in both 1881 and 1882. Gaelic football did not seem to interest Cusack at that time and some would argue that this game was foisted on the man from Clare after he had launched his hurling-revival effort. (6) To highlight the central role of Cusack's academy in Gardiner Place, a group of Clare people had a plaque bearing the following inscription erected outside the Dergvale Hotel:

*Cumann Lúthchleas Gael*

*Micheál Ciosóg*

*Founder of the Gaelic Athletic Movement*

*Bhí Acadamh aige sa tigh seo 1880 - 1886*

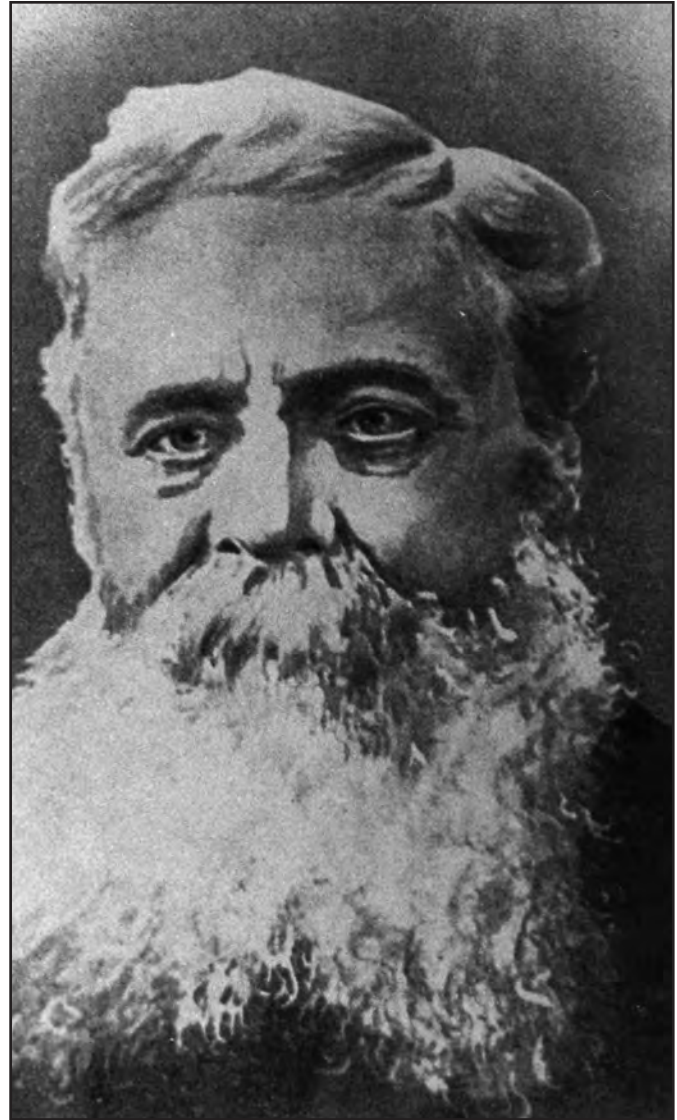
A local Clare paper called The Saturday Record of 1 December 1906 brought the sad news of the illness and eventual death of the Man from Carron to the people of his native county. This publication informed the readers that Cusack had been "in fairly good health" until he became unwell about two

months previously. During his term in Jervis Street Hospital he had been treated by “one of his old pupils, Dr Burke Savage.” He was found to be suffering from Bright’s Disease, named after Richard Bright - a Bristol doctor who worked in Guy’s Hospital and was the first to describe the symptoms of this kidney disorder. Cusack soon became ill again following his discharge from Jervis Street and was admitted to Whitworth Hospital “there being no vacancy in Jervis Street when his son John applied for admission for him.” He died “shortly after his admission.” (7)

The fifty nine year old Michael Cusack - the illustrious founder of Europe’s greatest amateur sporting organisation and one of Ireland’s most respected sons - was laid to rest in Glasnevin Cemetery, where his grave is visited annually by those who erected the plaque to his memory at the location of his academy at 4 Gardiner Place. Thousands of GAA enthusiasts pass this historic building annually on their way from Parnell Square to Croke Park.

### *Sources*

1. Mac Conmara, Seán: The Man from Carron, p. 14. (Pub. by Coiste Cumarsáide an Chláir)
2. The Illustrated London News, 22 December 1849
3. The Shamrock, 10 March 1883
4. Mac Conmara, An Br Seán: The Man from Carron, and Micheál ón gCarn, passim
5. Mac Conmara, An Br Seán: The Man from Carron, p.12
6. Mac Conmara, An Br Seán: The Man from Carron, pp. 9,10
7. Saturday Record, 1 December 1906



*Michael Cusack*



## 30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club



**Front row l to r:** Ciarán MacGiolla Fhearga, Dermot Dunne, Alan Doyle, Declan Cotter, Brian Murtagh, Aidan McGuire, Ronan Smith.  
**Back row l to r:** Jimmy Dunne (Team Mentor), Stephen Donnelly, Shane Donnelly, Feargal Costello, Neal Rowland, Ken Maloney, Liam Kavanagh, Patrick Maire, Daniel Hutton, John Carey, Séán MacGiollaFhearga (Team Mentor).



**The mentors were Mick Brown, Dermot Irwin and Brian Martin - Naomh Olaf Under 12 football team, Division 2 League Winners 1983/84 - Back row l to r:** Gavin Brown, Darren Hogan, Damien Martin, Gerard Keating, Rodney Andrews, Gary Neilson, David Kinsella, Colm Saunders, Justin Smyth, Michael Doyle. **Front row l to r:** John Kilcooley, Paul Flynn, Michael Bradley, Dermot Orr (Captain), Colm Buggy, Darren Corrigan, Jason Grant, Paul Murray, Robert Irwin, Mark McDonnell.

## *Club Outings in the 1980's - By Bill O'Brien*

On Saturday, 25th June 1983, the U14 and U15 panels of players, thirty one in all, travelled by coach at 9.30 a.m. from St Olaf's NS to Trim GAA Club, Co. Meath, where they played two games. After the games, the Naomh Olaf panel members were brought to the homes of their opponents for a substantial meal. The contact at Trim was Garda Kilian Doran, who had been stationed at Dundrum and resided at Balally Hill. The outing continued to the Hill of Tara and to Navan where all enjoyed a meal before travelling back to St Olaf's school where a disco had been arranged by mentors, B. Mc Glynn and B. O'Brien. Entrance to the disco was free to the travelling party, who had paid £2 each to cover expenses for the trip. The cash raised from the disco left a little profit for the Club. A most enjoyable day was had by all.

On Saturday, 23rd June 1984, the U15 and U16 panels of players, 28 in all, travelled to St Patrick's Club in Wicklow Town where two games were played. The party was treated to a variety of sandwiches and tea and minerals at the clubhouse after the games. It was then off to Silver Strand for three hours on a lovely sunny day, where all had crisps and minerals and enjoyed chicken and chips, ice cream and minerals at a restaurant on the way home, again to a free disco at St Olaf's school. This trip was again taken by coach and the outing was paid for by a subscription of £3 from each person, plus the proceeds of the disco. Another great day was enjoyed by all who travelled.

On Sunday, 7th July 1985, the Minor Football outing was arranged to Tullamore on the occasion of Dublin v. Offaly in the Leinster Football Champion-

ship. Fifteen players, with mentors B. Mc Glynn, B. O'Brien and K. O'Malley, travelled by coach, which was filled by club members of all ages. Juvenile passes were supplied for the game by the Leinster Council. The players were treated to ice cream on the way on a lovely day. Sandwiches and minerals were supplied during the game and chicken and chips at Kinnegad on the way home on another most enjoyable trip at a cost of £5 each.



On Friday afternoon, 5th September 1986, another outing took place for the same panel of players. This time it was a week-end and a longer trip than heretofore, all the way to "The Kingdom" of Kerry, to the historic parish of Keel on the Dingle peninsula. Eighteen players travelled in two VW mini-buses with Pat Feehan, Vincent Supple and B. O'Brien. The travelling party were put up in the local community centre where they were treated to a great reception on arrival by the local club, with a plentiful



### *30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club*

supply of home-cooked food. Pat Feehan entertained the party on the front green, with his guitar and songs, into the early morning. Saturday commenced with a trip to Inch Strand, to Annascaul, Dingle, the Conor Pass and back to Keel by sundown. Sunday morning Mass at Keel Church was followed by a Minor match at 1 p.m. which, of course, was won by the local lads. After refreshments and an exchange of plaques, it was back to Dublin. This trip is still spoken fondly of by those who travelled.

Another trip to Keel took place on the 23rd, 24th and 25th April 1993. This time the party travelled in a Garda Community seven-seater mini-bus driven by B. O'Brien with Colm McEnerney taking luggage, cooking equipment and food in his van. All had a great night at Murphy's, Boolteens where the singing was led by Brendan Curtin (RIP). The party was put up in the homes of the Keel club members on both nights. Saturday saw a trip to Inch beach.

Dingle and Ventry, where the cooking took place in the van and rashers, sausages and burgers were in great demand. Back to Keel for a game at 6.30 p.m. which, this time, finished in a draw. Sunday morning Mass at Keel and then to Cromane for a barbecue on the beach and spectators at a game between Keel and Cromane, after which the party started back for Dublin, stopping on the way for chicken and chips at Portlaoise. The party arrived back at the new Naomh Olaf clubhouse, which had opened the previous day, for last drinks. Fifteen players travelled on this occasion accompanied by Bill O'Brien, Michael Hodgins and Colm McEnerney. The cost of this outing to each travelling member was £19 which covered food, fuel and transport. Another memorable outing enjoyed by all.



In the early days, Club games were played in St. Benildus Fields, down by the disused railway line. Often the goal posts had to be erected before matches. This photograph shows Bill O'Brien and Brendan McGlynn in the act of putting up goal posts. The Club had no nets at the time.

*This photograph was taken in Wedgewood in 1984*



*Front Row l to r: Brown, D. Maher, B. Fahy, R. Byrne, D. Cotter, Unidentified. Back Row l to r: S. Flynn, J. McKenna, B. Murtagh, N. Ruane, K. Bannon, R. Burke.*



## Centenary Celebrations 1984 - By Mick Brown

In the Centenary year 1984, The Gaelic Athletic Association in conjunction with Cospóir, The National Sports Council, chose to highlight the importance of the Club, through Cospóir/GAA Lá Na gClub. July the 29th 1984 was set aside for club activity only. There were no Inter-County or Inter-Club games and every club was expected to organize it's own special programme of events.

Naomh Olaf GAA Club celebrated the day by holding a novelty sports followed by an open-air Ceili. Sunday July 29th was a glorious day and the large crowd which gathered at Wedgewood playing field had great fun and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. There was something for everyone, the ladies tried their hand at "long puck", the girls played football and showed their skills at penalty kicking. There were obstacle races and Tiny Tots races and an exhibition of hurling by the Under-10 boys.

The girls football was a real thriller with the girls from St. Olaf's School coached by Brendan McGlynn, taking on the girls from Queen of Angels School coached by Eddie Mulligan. After a close and well-contested match, the girls from St Olaf's won through by a score of 4-1 to 3-2.

### OBSTACLES RACES

<b>Under 11</b>	<b>Over 11</b>
<b>1st Eric Horgan</b>	<b>1st Michael Byrne</b>
<b>2nd Stephen Kearney</b>	<b>2nd Gerard Hayes</b>

### Penalty Kicking Competition

<b>Boys Under-14</b>	<b>Girls Under-14</b>
<b>1st Graham Rowland</b>	<b>1st Antoinette Lambert</b>
<b>2nd Robert Weir</b>	<b>2nd Christine Mulhall</b>

### Girls Under 10

**1st Allison Mayland**    **2nd Rosemary Mulligan**

### Boys Under 10 Hurling Match

**Blues 1-0**

**Maroons 3-0**

### Girls Under 13 Football Match

**St Olaf's 4-1**

**Queen Of Angels 3-2**

*In the under-10 Hurling the boys in Maroon (Galway) beat the boys in Blue (Dublin) by 3-0 to 1-0.*



*Boys & Girls Under Six Race*

*The full results of all the days events are given here:*

### TINY TOTS RACES

#### Under 4

**1st Laura Duggan**

**2nd Jerome Hogan**

#### Under 6

**1st Louise Duggan**

**2nd Conor McDonnell**

#### Under 7

**1st Emer Kavanagh**

**2nd Michael Flemming**

### LONG PUCK

#### Under 10

**1st Damien Maher**

**2nd Robert Byrne**

#### Under 12

**1st Mark Weir**

**2nd James Whelan**

#### Under 14

**1st Gerald Maher**

**2nd Ed McCarthy**

#### Under 8

**1st Thomas Brown**

**2nd Joseph Rogers**

#### Over 14

**1st Paul Saunders**

**2nd Eddie Mulligan**

## 30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club

### POINT KICKING COMPETITION

#### Over 15

1st John O'Brien  
2nd Terry Murphy

#### Under 13

1st Colm Buggy  
2nd Garry Neilson

#### Under 9

#### Under 15

1st Michael Byrne  
2nd Gerard Hayes

#### Under 11

1st Stephen Kearney  
2nd Niall Ruane

1st Damien Maher  
2nd Brian Coughlan

### LADY'S LONG PUCK

1st Ciara Merriman  
2nd Mrs. Hogan, Clonard

The day concluded with a most enjoyable outdoor Ceili held in the ground of Queen of Angels School. A very interesting exhibition of photographs, trophies won by the Club and art work, which was submitted for the Club's Centenary art competition was held inside the school.

Saint Olaf's Primary School, Girls GAA Football Team Winners of the Centenary Competition



**Saint Olaf's Primary School - Back Row l to r:** Brendan Mc Glynn (Mentor), Antoinette Lambert, Anne-Marie Mc Glynn, Margaret Cullen, Susan Neilson, Alison Sherry, Deborah Roberts, Sandra Fitzpatrick, Gemma Clarke, Anne Murtagh and Melanie Woods. **Front Row l to r:** Claire Mc Carthy, Lynn Perry, Mary Doherty, Una Murphy, Jennifer Brown, Lisa Blyth, Lisa Conway, Dorothy Roe, Siobhan Saunders and Anne Doyle.



**Queen of Angels Primary School Girls GAA Football Team Runners-up in the Centenary Competition - Back Row l to r:** Jackie Hedderman, Sinead Hanley, Sinead Costello, Andrea McNulty, Anita Hedderman, Caroline Fleming, Mary Burke and Suzanne Mayland. **Front Row l to r:** Denise Davis, Lorie Grant, Karen Ronaine, Yvonne Comerford, Bernadette Byrne, Sam Freegrove, Christine Mulhall and Carol Curran

*Mick Brown Presenting Medals*



*Mick Brown Presenting More Medals*



## *The Naomh Olaf Experience of Road Making - By Brendan McGlynn*

In 1985, pupils from Balally and surrounding housing estates, who were attending St Benildus College, either walked or cycled to access St Benildus fields. There was no road or footpath for them to use, as they crossed between St Olaf's primary school and the College itself, a distance of approximately 500 yards. There was a large number of pupils using the same path twice and often four times daily, as many of them went home for lunch. In winter time, it was almost impossible to cross there without getting mud up to the ankles. Members of the Naomh Olaf Committee approached Brother Amedy, who was Principal of St Benildus College at the time, with a view to the club laying a footpath there. He gladly gave his permission.

Jude McMahon from Balally Drive, who was employed by the County Council, was invited to a club meeting. He advised that a grant be applied for, as the council would be likely to support such a worthwhile project. A grant was applied for. The club decided to do the work themselves and to start immediately.

One Saturday morning in October 1995, a *meitheal* of club members led by Bill O'Brien, assembled on the site, armed with spades and shovels. Lines were laid and a four foot wide foundation was cut and cleared. Having worked for two or three Saturdays, the ground was ready for the laying of the footpath.

Fortunately, the late Chris Clarke, Balally Grove and the late Oliver Whelan, Balally Park, were employ-

ees of Roadstone and they ensured that we got four or five lorry loads of gravel delivered to the site, at the right price. The following Saturday, wheelbarrows were used to disperse the gravel to where it was required. The gravel was then spread onto the foundation and rolled to give a level surface. The footpath was of great benefit to the community. The club subsequently received a grant in the sum of £600 from the county council, which covered the cost of the materials.

By 1993, the footpath was badly in need of repair. The Parents' Association of St Benildus College approached Naomh Olaf G.A.A. Club to see if the club would share with them and the Board of Management of the College the cost of repairing the footpath, increasing its width to six feet and tarring its surface. This was agreed and the work was carried out. The footpath remained serviceable until recently when the Railway Procurement Agency changed the face of the area and gave us the excellent amenities we enjoy today.



## Naomh Olaf Under 11 Football Team won all 18 games to finish worthy league winners in 1984



**Back Row l to r:** Kevin O'Malley (Mentor), Darren Broughal, Donal Hannon, Dermot O'Brien, Ian Doyle, Raymond Costello, Keith Ennis, Mark O'Leary, Martin Duggan, Leon O'Connor, Derek Gill, Eddie Mulligan (Mentor). **Front Row l to r:** James Whelan, Laurence Spain, Aidan O'Brien, Gerard O'Malley, Mark Weir, Niall Coughlan, Kevin Buggy, Michael Mulligan, Ronan Byrne, Ian Delaney, Emmet Moriarty and Michael Casey.



Terry Byrne, Balally Park, presents a Cup to the Club in the early eighties which the Club Chairman Mick Brown graciously accepts.







**Naomh Olaf Minor Football Team 1986 - Back row l to r:** D. Dowling, N. McCabe, K. Hannon, C. O'Brien, G. Maher, R. Kenny, P. Feehan, R. McGlynn, D. Roben, S. Maloney. **Front row l to r:** E. McCarthy, M. Kinsella, S. Roe, G. Flynn, N. Byrne, P. Buggy, A. O'Malley, D. Flynn, C. Bermingham. Missing from photograph: Team Mentors Bill O'Brien and Brendan McGlynn.



**The Under 15 Football Team of 84/85 played in Division Three of the League - Back Row l to r:** Ven Naughton, Mentor, J. Gaynor, V. Dillon, J. Butler, N. McCabe, J. Casey, A. Dixon, R. McGearty, E. McDonald, M. Byrne, B. Nolan. **Front Row l to r:** N. Byrne, M. Gentile, K. Naughton, R. Clarke, G. Maher, R. Taylor, A. O'Malley, C. Bermingham, B. Horgan.

## *Scór in the 1980s - By Brendan McGlynn*

Scór is one of the least publicised activities within the GAA. Yet, this annual talent competition could be described as its greatest off-the-field success. Founded in 1969 following a Cork Congress motion proposed by Derry Gowan, the competition was a winner from the very start and has helped to preserve many aspects of Irish culture. Soon, clubs from all over the country were taking part in the various competitions which included solo singing, novelty act, céilí dancing, recitation, quiz, instrumental music, ballad group and set dancing. The competition commences at club level and advances to county, provincial and eventually All-Ireland finals. At first, there was one competition covering all ages. In the mid 70s, it was necessary to run two competitions. The age limit on the new competition, known as ‘Scór na nÓg’, was under seventeen years, while the over seventeens took part in Senior Scór. It is estimated that, at present, over 60,000 people are involved in Scór annually, including competitors and those who help to organise and run the competition. The early rounds of the competition are held in October and November and the All-Ireland finals are held in March. Scór has everything the Céilí had - dancing, recitation, song, the playing of the instruments, the man who tells funny stories, in fact everybody can find a niche for himself or herself if (s) he wants to take part in Scór. Over the years, these competitions have given many young budding artists the opportunity to show off their talent and many have gone on to be very successful.

Between 1981 and 1988, Naomh Olaf Club took a very active part in the ‘Scór na nÓg’ competition. In the club’s first season in existence (1981/’82), Orla

Doyle of Dun Emer won the club its very first trophy, when she won the Dublin Final in the Solo Singing Section of the Scór na nÓg competition. Between then and 1988, the club won four Dublin finals and one Leinster final in the Tráth na gCeist section of the competition.

At that time, there were nine different sections in the competition. It was compulsory that each club enter competitors in three sections. It was here that Margaret Morgan played a vital role. She was involved in Irish music and dancing all her life. Margaret organised musicians, dancers and singers, coached them and prepared them for the competitions.

The 1983/’84 season was the most successful the club had in this competition. The club entered seven events and reached the County Final in five of them. No other Dublin club had as many acts in the final that year.

Erin’s Isle GAA Club, Finglas, was the venue for the final, held on 25th November 1983. Geraldine Snee and Sharon McDonald, backed by two friends on guitars, sang a couple of ballads. Aileen Kavanagh, Deborah Roberts, Ronan Morgan and Owen Murray gave two great displays of Irish dancing, while Niall Harkin did a recitation. The overall standard was very high and while only one of the Club’s entries got through to the next stage of the competition, all of the contestants deserve the height of praise for putting up a fine show. Naomh Olaf were well rewarded for their efforts however, when Liam Pender, Raymond McGlynn and Stephen Duff walked away with the trophies in the Tráth na gCeist section of the competition. They went on to represent Dub-



lin in the Leinster Semi-Final in Dundalk on 17th December 1983, where they were again victorious. The Leinster Final was held in the Olympia Theatre in Dublin on 15th January 1984 and to the delight of their many supporters, the Naomh Olaf team became Leinster Champions.

City Hall in Cork was the venue for the All-Ireland Final of the competition which was held on 24th March 1984. Naomh Olaf was the only Dublin team to represent Leinster in the finals. Having tied with Ulster and Munster, they were finally narrowly beaten into second place by Ulster, following a sudden death play-off. The team had been coached by Kate Irwin Bairbre de Búrca and Brendan McGlynn.

In the '84/'85 season, Stephen Duff and Raymond McGlynn again represented the club in this section of the competition. Liam Pender had gone over age. They were joined by Ruairí de Búrca who had been a substitute the previous year. They won the Dublin Semi-Final and Final. They also won the Leinster Semi-Final but were beaten in the Leinster Final. They had been coached by Kate Irwin, Bairbre de Búrca and Brendan McGlynn.

In the 1986/'87 season, Lorcan Duff, Caomhán Bermingham, Jean Keating, and Anna Feehan, won the Dublin Semi-Final and Final but were beaten in the Leinster Semi-Final.

Lorcan Duff, Gavin Brown and Daragh McDonough won the Dublin Semi-Final, Final and Leinster Semi-Final in 1987/'88. They were beaten only in the Leinster Final.

Naomh Olaf had competitors in various sections of the competition during this period. Many of them reached the Dublin Finals. The following are some

## 30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club

of those who took part during these years.

### *Céilí & Set Dancing*

Orla Morgan	Ronan Morgan
Sinéad Costello	Eoin Murray
Aileen Kavanagh	Aidan Carthy
Alice Byrne	Paul Lynch
Linda Hayes	Deborah Roberts

### *Ballads*

Sinéad Kavanagh & friends, Geraldine Snee and Sharon McDonald.

### *Music*

Daragh McDonough, Teresa Pender, Karl Sexton, Paul Maloney.

### *Recitation*

Niall Harkin, and Anne Marie McGlynn.

### *Novelty Act*

Anne Marie McGlynn, Jeffrey Gill, Siobhán Saunders, and Maria York.

The club also took part in the Senior Scór on more than one occasion, around this time.



Raymond McGlynn, Stephen Duff and Liam Pender who won the Dublin and Leinster Finals in the Tráth na gCeist section of Scór na nÓg in 1983/'84.

## 30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club



**Under 11 Victorious Hurling Team 1986 - Back Row 1 to r:** Damien Maher, Graham Davis, Eoin Brennan, Cormac Doyle, Ciarán Boyle. **Third Row 1 to r:** Darragh Maxwell, Colm Ennis, Cormac Doyle, Darren O'Kelly, David Fallon, Brendan Byrne. **Second Row 1 to r:** Aidan Maguire, Alan Traynor, Odhrán Hickey, Rónán Condon, Páraic Bermingham (Captain), Ciarán O'Driscóil, Brian Kennedy, Eoin Harrington. **Front Row 1 to r:** Derek Naughton, Stuart Geddis (Supplied by páraic Bermingham).



**Naomh Olaf Minor Football Team 1987/88. Winners of Division 2 of the Dublin League - Front Row 1 to r:** Michael Morrissey (RIP), Peter Doyle, Gavin Brown, Aidan O'Malley, Eddie McCarthy, Caomhan Bermingham, Gavin Flynn, Ken Naughton (Mascot) **Back Row 1 to r:** Richard Murray (Mentor), Colm Buggy, Enda McDonnell, Darren Kavanagh, Niall McCabe, Kenneth Naughton, Niall McDonnell, Joseph Fitzpatrick, Brian McCarthy, Ven Naughton (Mentor) Not in photograph: Darren Corrigan, Gerard Maher (Captain).



**Under 10 Hurling and Football League Champions 1988 - Front Row 1 to r:** J. Park, P. Murphy, P. Hopkins, D. Nolan, S. O. Connor, E. Kinsella, R. Hayes, N. Keaveney, D. Duffy. **Second Row:** B. Lynch, B. McGlynn, R. Coughlan, D. Hickey, P. Jennings, L. Casey, M. Henderson, R. Brennan, E. Christian, S. Muldoon. **Back Row:** B. McGlynn (Mentor) E. O'Brien, K. O'Brien, N. Brogan, S. Campbell, U. O'Dwyer, P. Monaghan, G. Tallon, D. Watt, E. Brennan, M. Harrington, A. Coffey, L. Casey (Mentor).



# Naomh Olaf Footballers born in 1987/1988 - By John O'Brien/Ray Howley

## Nursery

Our earliest memories of this fine group of players were the old "nursery" days when the group first started to come together. The young enthusiastic hurlers and footballers arrived in Dublin jerseys and some in the jerseys of their father's and mother's home counties! Declan O'Dwyer arriving in his Tipp. jersey is a stand out ... and Johnny McGrath arriving in his perfect full Dubs kit (complete with socks rolled up to the knees!)

## Mentors

What struck us from the beginning was the interest and involvement of a number of the parents at the time. Ray Howley, a teacher in St Benildus College and a Roscommon man, got involved as his son David was playing. Josh Dunford's father, Tom, R.I.P. a Mayo man (who supplied Jaffa cakes at half time) also got involved. John O'Brien had been coaching in the nursery for a number of years and decided to leave the hall on Saturday mornings and get involved in mentoring. As a group of mentors, we had good craic on and off the field, with some memorable afternoons and evenings spent discussing losses and victories in the new clubhouse bar! We had plenty of help throughout the years from Fin Máirtín, Fran O'Dwyer and John McGrath among others.

## Players

In our first year at Under 9, we played in Division 1 and did well, finishing as runners-up to Ballyboden and winning the Cup competition.

The team that played against Ballyboden in our last league game on 24th February 1996 was Redmond

Gates, Paddy Swendell, Josh Dunford, Ross Melody, D. O'Connor, David Howley, Eoin Ó Murchú, P. Kavanagh, Declan O'Dwyer, Anthony Walsh, Chris Fennell and Feargal Máirtín.

Other panel members, who joined us in later years, were as follows:

James Berry, A. Nugent, C. Cotter, L. Wright, B. Gildea, D. O'Mahony, Kathy White, Eoin Stafford, Eoin Lumsden, John Donnelly, Brian Farrington, Stephen Mahon, Shane Lambert, Fionn Huggard, Ciaran Hegarty and Trevor Doyle.



**Naomh Olaf Under 9 Football Cup Winners 1995/96 - Back row l to r:** Feargal Máirtín, David O'Connor, Ray Howley (Mentor), Josh Dunford, Patrick Kavanagh, Eoin Ó Murchú, Anthony Walsh, James Berry, Jack Mulvany, David Howley, John O'Brien (Mentor) **Front row l to r:** Ross Melody, Chris Fennell, Donal Kinsella, Stephen Mahon, Declan O'Dwyer, Kathy White, Eoin Stafford, Redmond Gates, John McGrath. Missing from photo: Patrick Swendell.

In the years up to Under 15, we had some great battles with local rivals Kilmacud Crokes and Ballyboden St Enda's. There was never more than a point or two between the teams and there were plenty of heated exchanges on the sidelines. The fact that

## *30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club*

the lads played together as a group in hurling also helped hugely.

Their mentors, Fin Máirtín, Fran O'Dwyer and Barry O'Brien R.I.P. were dedicated and focused and succeeded in winning the Dublin Féile, which was a great achievement. We also had some great battles with Paddy Christie's Ballymun Kickhams team over the years.

In those years, we had two girls playing on the team, Kathy Whyte and Catherine Cotter. They played with us until Under 12 and were a huge asset to the team.

Some players had great individual success. One of the highlights was the selection of six of the team for the Dublin Under 12 Southside panel. Declan O'Dwyer, Josh Dunford, David Howley, John McGrath, Chris Fennell and Luke Fitzgerald were all selected and they won the competition overall.

### *Luke Fitzgerald*

Over the years, we were lucky to attract some new players and Luke Fitzgerald, the current Irish international rugby player added a huge dimension to the team, in both hurling and football. Luke joined us through Fin Máirtín's friendship with his father Des (who grew up in Balally!) Luke joined us at Under 12 and continued to play until the County Final at Under 15.

### *County Juvenile Final - 2002*

In 2002 we managed to get to the County Juvenile Final with the panel pictured below. We won Division 2 of the League.

We were beaten in the County Final by a superb St Brigid's team who, the previous year, had won the All-Ireland Féile. On the way to the final, we had

fantastic wins against some of our biggest rivals, including Ballyboden St Enda's, and a one point win versus Kilmacud Crokes in the quarter-final. On that day, we finished with 13 men and managed to win, despite being four points down with ten minutes remaining. There were fine displays from the lads that day, in particular, Adam Mulvey who had joined us from Glencullen and Josh Dunford in defence. Chris Fennell scored 1-3, Asafa Ingram two points and Declan O'Dwyer scored two great points.

We have great memories of those days. They were a great group of lads with very supportive parents. Along the way, this group of players lost two fine people who were a big influence on their lives and on their mentors' lives. It was a privilege to have known Barry O'Brien R.I.P. and Tom Dunford R.I.P. and I'm sure none of the group will ever forget their contribution to the good memories we all hold.

It is great to see many of the lads (and ladies) still involved in both the playing and coaching side of the club.



**Naomh Olaf Under 15 Football Team - County Final 2002**  
- Back row l to r: Chris Fennell, David Howley Declan O'Dwyer, Sean Coffey, Gavin Stapleton, Josh Dunford, Eoin Stafford, Shane Kelly, Luke Fitzgerald, Willie McGrath, Adam Mulvey. **Front row l to r:** Feargal Mairtín, Adam Moore, Eoin Lumsden, Donal Kinsella, John McGrath, Kieran Hegarty Steven Mahon, Colm Fox.

# Gaelic Games at St Olaf's National School -

## By Ger Murphy



When I left St Pat's College in 1979 to join the teaching staff at St. Olaf's NS, little did I think that I would still be here, 32 years later, writing this brief history for a Naomh Olaf Club booklet. There were no formal Gaelic games being played in the school at the time and our initial problem was lack of equipment. We had only 6 or 7 large hurleys, a couple of old heavy sliotars and a few tennis balls. The lads had to take turns with the hurleys and it was impossible to play any sort of meaningful games. Mr Pat Irving, who also joined the staff in 1979, entered a Gaelic football team in the Dundrum / Churchtown Schools' League in 1980 and did very well, reaching the final that year. Mr Alec Hughes and I entered a hurling team in 1981 but we struggled to compete with the more established hurling schools in the area. However, when Mick Browne, Brendan McGlynn, Bill O'Brien and others set up the fledgling Naomh Olaf GAA Club in the prefabs in the school grounds, we were given great support and I believe the first juvenile football team at the club was composed mainly of Mr Irving's young footballers.

### *Cumann na mBunscol*

We discovered Cumann na mBunscol Átha Cliath in 1981 and entered the Corn Clonmore with Mr Irving's U11 footballers, reaching the final that year in Croke Park. We didn't even have a full set of jerseys that day as you can see below, and went on to be beaten by Haddington Rd (1-2 to 0-1). Ronan Cosgrove scored our only point that day.



**Clonmore 1982 team - Back l to r:** Colm Buggy, Declan Kennedy, Paul Flynn, Darren Corrigan, Kenneth Naughton, Greg Kennedy, Ciaran Conlon, Gary Neilson, Nigel Condron, Derek Kinsella, Mark McDonnell, Mr G Murphy. **Front l to r:** Dara Kennedy, Mark Weir, Robert Irwin, Kevin Buggy, Ronan Cosgrove, Eddie McCarthy (Capt), Jason Grant, David Kinsella, Ger O'Malley, Ronan Morgan, Stephen Brady.

Since then we have contested 23 Cumann na mBunscol Finals, (10 Football, 3 Girls' Football, 8 Hurling and 2 Camogie) winning 4 Football, 1 Girls' Football, 1 Camogie and 4 Hurling titles. Our Senior Boys will be hoping to add a 5th football title to the list when they seek to emulate the girls by completing a football / hurling double when they contest the Corn an Chéid Final in Croke Park on May 30th.

The 1991 Corn Johnson Mooney & O'Brien was a particularly memorable final for me, coming just days before my marriage to Siobhán, and I will never forget that panel of players who defeated Scoil Lorcáin Palmerstown against all the odds and then completely surprised me when forming a guard of honour at the church for our wedding!

Another milestone was the Corn Fianna Fáil hurling win in 1997 which secured Division One status for



## 30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club



the school for the first time. Current Dublin hurler and Naomh Olaf clubman Declan O'Dwyer figured prominently that day.

### *Cailíní*

Gaelic games for the girls only started for us in 2001 and we really hit a purple patch from 2008 – 2010 playing in 5 finals and winning the Corn na Laoch (football) & Corn Nuri (camogie) double in 2009-2010. This is a very talented bunch of girls and I expect many of this panel to go on to greater things in the not too distant future.



**Back l to r:** Niamh O'Shea Scanlan, Hayleigh Gunning, Aisling Murphy, Carolyn McGuirk, Jordan Bent, Laura Hennessy-Feehan, Emer Hughes, Jessica Tynan, Amy McGrath, Róisín McLoughlin, Ellen Brien, Sadhbh Maher, Claire O'Connor. **Kneeling l to r:** Rachel Mahon, Sadie Lanigan, Shannon O'Hanlon, Aoife Maher, Ally Jones, Sadie Lanigan, Éilis Murphy, Kate Murray, Harriet Meagan, Clara Sullivan, Chloe Kelly McDonald, Ciara Murphy, Lianna O'Connell, Sarah Coghlan.

2010 was another landmark for me personally as it was the first time I had to sit in the stands and watch our school play a Cumann na mBunscol Final in Croke Park, as there are now so many younger, talented coaches on the staff to whom I am happy to hand over the reins. It's been a fabulous journey to date and I know there's a load more to come with teachers such as Mr Ruane, Mr Kavanagh, Mr Robinson, Mr Fitzpatrick and Ms Hogan continuing to give freely of their time and talents in promoting our national games. Together with the ongoing support we receive from Naomh Olaf club, the future does indeed look bright. Go mba fada buan sibh uilig!



**Corn an Chéid Winners 2010 - Standing l to r:** Neil O'Mahony, Oscar Bent, Oisín Horgan, Adam Byrne, Matthew Kelly McDonald, Nathan Kennedy, Alex Johns, Craig Hannigan, James Grimes, James Byrne, Cian Power-Kelly, Dara O'Sullivan, Ali Hussein Hamed, Dylan McKeever, Daniel Hogan. **Front l to r:** Andrew Hayes, Fiachra McLoughlin, Cian O'Sullivan, David Pollard, Tom McGuirk, Tom Keane, Seán O'Brien, Dara Murphy, Ben Thornton, Liam Kelly.



## *Naomh Olaf Shine in ACC Juvenile Football Festival - By Brendan McGlynn*

The inaugural Dublin ACC Juvenile Football Festival was held at Tymon Park, Tallaght, on Saturday and Sunday, 24 and 25 June 1989. It was the largest Gaelic Football Festival ever held for juveniles. Over two days, in glorious sunshine, more than forty Under 12 football teams from South East Dublin, and their guests from all over Leinster, battled for victory. Tallaght Festival Band led the parade which preceded the opening of the festival. Naomh Olaf was host to a team from Clonard, Co. Meath. They had arrived on Friday evening with their mentors and were guests mostly of families who had members on our Under 12 panel.

Our Club was competing for the ACTC Festival Trophy. There were four groups in this competition, and we were in Group One. There were three other teams in this group, Clonard (Co. Meath), Cuala and Bray Emmets. We played all three of them on Saturday, winning all three and thus qualifying for the semi-final of the competition on Sunday morning. Our last game on Saturday, against Bray Emmets, was one of the best and most exciting of the festival.

Shelmaliers (Wexford), Winners of Group 2, were our opponents in the semi-final. Having played against a strong breeze, Naomh Olaf led by 1 – 1 to 0 – 1 at the interval and ran out comfortable winners. The final, against Athlone (Westmeath) was played immediately. Naomh Olaf had their moments but a very well-balanced Athlone side, which had already qualified for the semi-final of the Westmeath Co. Championship, was too strong for the young Naomh Olaf side. For winning the Group, the Naomh Olaf

players were presented with lovely inscribed medals.

The following was the Naomh Olaf panel: Philip Byrne, Neill Lambert, David O'Brien, Mark Harrington, Brendan McGlynn, Barry Lynch, David Wyse, Niall McCaffrey, David Butler, Alan Lyons, David Johnson, Douglas Leonard, David Hickey, Thomas Brown, Darragh Duffy, Alan Byrne, Anthony Higgins, John Park and Desmond Murphy.

---

John O'Brien was the first Naomh Olaf player to play Minor Football Championship for Dublin. He was a member of the Dublin Minor Football Team that won the Leinster Championship in 1986. Here he is seen with his proud father Bill O'Brien in possession of the Leinster Trophy, the Father Larry Murphy, Cup.





## 30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club



**Under 10 Footballers win Corrigan Shield June 1989 - Front Row l to r:** E. Smith, S. O'Connor, E. Hayes, P. Hopkins, K. Birrane, E. Leavy, E. Kinsella, C. McCarthy, J. Hogan, N. Kirwan, R. Kennelly, A. Fahy. **Back Row l to r:** N. McDermott (Mentor), C. Purcell, A. Kinsella, P. Fallon, K. Kavanagh, M. Whelan, R. Masterson, M. McDermott, E. Christian (Capt.), P. Costelloe, D. Boyle, N. Brogan, D. Pocock, Kevin. Birrane (Mentor).



**The Naomh Olaf under 12 hurling team of 1989 won the All Dublin League - Front Row l to r:** Paul Donnelly, David O'Brien, Niall McCaffrey, Mark Harrington, Des Murphy, Greg Naughton (RIP) Tony Murray, Daragh Maxwell and John Park. **Back Row l to r:** Kevin O'Brien, Stephen Campbell, Stephen Heaney, Brian Burns, Tommy Brown, Alan Traynor, Brendan McGlynn, Mark Henderson, David Johnston, Barry Lynch, Niall Keaveney, Ronan Hayes, Tony Higgins, David Nolan. Missing from photo: Enda Brennan and Team Manager Mick Brown.

# *From Corrigan Cup to Murphy Cup, 1989/2000 -*

## *By Eoin Kinsella*

As a club, Naomh Olaf is one of South Dublin GAA's newest members. Some of us have played competitively for the club all our lives. There's nothing really remarkable in that, except that we also happen to be older than the club itself. When Mick Brown, Brendan McGlynn et al founded Naomh Olaf in 1981, the future U10 team of 1989-90 were taking their first steps, swaddled in nappies and blissfully unaware of the long, cold nights of training in Wedgewood that lay in our future.

### *First Season, 1989-90: Corrigan Cup Champions*

In August 1989, Brendan McGlynn approached Larry Kinsella and politely asked him to consider taking the reins of the U10 team, then about to kick off its season. As Larry recalls the conversation: 'Brendan McGlynn does not take "no" for an answer. I accepted the job!' In those days, Gaelic football and hurling were a long way from where they are now. The GAA had yet to embrace the concept that under-age sports should be structured to suit each age group. We played a season that adhered to the school calendar – matches commenced in August and ended some time the following summer. In football, goal kicks and free kicks were taken from the ground. No easy thing when the goalkeeper is four feet tall with legs the width of match sticks.

Our first season was a resounding success. The team was managed by Larry, Noel McDermott and Richard Kennelly, both of whom also had sons on the team, Michael and Rory respectively. We were entered in Division 2 South in football and hurling and played

fourteen games in both, remaining undefeated and winning the leagues comfortably. Looking back on the league season in a piece for Panorama magazine as the league neared completion, Larry noted that the football panel consisted of about 22 players. The talents of every single player were highlighted, such as the 'exceptional anticipation and blocking ability of Kevin Birrane', the 'dogged determination of Eoin Hayes', the 'exceptional natural talents of Eoin Leavy' and Eoin McCaffrey's 'intelligent distribution of the ball'. Larry also made special mention of the excellent discipline displayed by the team; towards each other, our opponents and the referee. If you speak to any of the players today, they'll tell you that that discipline came from the top down and we were all too scared of Larry and Noel to step out of line.

Our biggest test, however, came in the Corrigan Cup football competition, which combined teams from Division 2 with those from Division 1. The challenge for us, and our managers, was to prove that we could compete with the better-established clubs of South Dublin. Rounds 1 and 2 quickly provided us the opportunity. Round 1 saw us drawn against St Jude's, who had finished third in Division 1. Fearghal Purcell finished with 1-5 on a day that saw Olaf's trounce the opposition, 3-12 to 2-3. Our opponents in Round 2 were even more daunting. Ballyboden St Enda's had finished second in Division 1. The final score is not recorded for posterity, but Seán Gibbons, Eoin Leavy and Eoin Hayes led the way for us as we staged a comeback, late in the second



### *30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club*

half to triumph by the slimmest of margins.

Disaster struck in the semi-final, when we were beaten by two points by Naomh Éanna. However, it later transpired that Naomh Éanna had fielded some over-age players and we were awarded the match and a place in the final. Standing between the cup and us were our near neighbours Ballinteer St John's, winners of Division 1.

The match did not start well for Naomh Olaf. By half-time, the scoreline stood at 1-6 to 1-2 for St John's. A strong wind in favour of St John's had helped them to build their lead, but the challenge for Olaf's was to make similar use of the conditions. The team proved equal to the challenge, stretching into a comfortable lead early in the second half, only to be hauled back by the Division 1 champions. With eight minutes to go, Olaf's were protecting a mere one point advantage. From that point on, Eoin Leavy, Fearghal Purcell and Seán Gibbons took command of the game, with Gibbons slotting two goals to drive Olaf's to victory on a scoreline of 5-9 to 3-6.

The final took place on 8 September 1990, more than a year after we had first come together as a team. In that time, we won every competition entered, finishing the year with three medals. Michael McDermott proved an inspirational captain while, throughout the year, Eoin Leavy, Fearghal Purcell and Seán Gibbons gave early notice that they would soon be regarded as some of the best footballers ever produced by the club. One of the St John's players that lined out against us on the day, Emmet O'Grady, later transferred to Olaf's and became an integral part of our team.

U10 Football and Hurling Panel, 1989–90: Eoin

Leavy; Kevin Birrane; Darran Melody; Colm Colbert; Kevin Meaney; Barry Hicks; Fearghal Purcell; Mark Byrne; Michael McDermott; Eoin McCaffrey; Rory Kennelly; Conor Hickey; Kevin Walkin; Eoin Hayes; William Cosgrave; Eoin Kinsella; Seán Gibbons; Mark Egan; Ronan Kearney; Michael Lennon; Neil Kirwan; James Carroll; Shane Reilly; Ian Harmon.

### *Champions of South Dublin, 1991-2*

Over the next two years, the team proved that its first season was no flash-in-the-pan. As might have been expected from a group that defeated the top three teams in Division 1 in its debut season, we ended up as Division 1 football champions in the 1990–91 and 1991–92 seasons. As is always the case with under-age teams, some players drifted away, but new players joined the panel to fill the gap. Among those who came on board in 1991 were Graham Maher, Declan Duffy, Oisín Roe, Brian Barrett and John Dowling R.I.P. Our rivalry with St John's continued in 1991. On our home turf, a last-minute goal from Neil Kirwan salvaged a draw.



**U11 South Dublin Football Champions, 1990-91 - Back row l to r:** Declan Duffy, Seán Gibbons, Michael McDermott, Fearghal Purcell, Graham Maher, Mark Byrne (Capt.), Rory Kennelly, Eoin Hayes, Kevin Birrane, Eoin Leavy. **Front row l to r:** Oisín Roe, Brian Barrett, David Keating, James Carroll, Eoin Kinsella, Neil Kirwan, Darran Melody, John Dowling, Kevin McCabe.



We repeated the dose as U12s in 1992, this time seeing out the season undefeated. Our first game in the league had proved to be something of a mismatch, as Kilmacud Crokes were sent packing on a score-line of 20-11 to no score. It's worth mentioning that, on the day, Fearghal Purcell scored 4-4, Eoin Leavy kicked 4-3 and Eoin Kinsella 4-1. None of us ever saw days like that again! Larry has always been good at compiling statistics, and by the season's end, Eoin Leavy topped the scoring charts with 11-23 (56 points), followed by Seán Gibbons with 13-8 (47) and Fearghal Purcell with 9-16 (43). There are no statistics as to the number of blocks or tackles put in by our excellent backs, but since there's no glory in defending, it's only fair to put the spotlight on the forwards. Ciarán Mulhall, Kevin Walkin and Alan Murray proved to be great additions to the panel that year. In an indication of the quality throughout the team, Michael McDermott, Eoin Kinsella, Eoin Leavy, Seán Gibbons, Eoin McCaffrey and Fearghal Purcell all played for the Dublin South U12 football team. In fact, at the end of the year, Naomh Olaf (including the above) played against the South Dublin team and came out victorious by a single point.

Throughout 1991 and 1992 (and beyond), Larry and Noel stayed with the team. Noel, in particular, was famous for his half-time talks. Normally a quiet man, he came alive during the ten-minute break every weekend, exhorting us to greater efforts. We usually responded. Larry ensured that we were well drilled and well disciplined. He ran a tight ship and no dissent was tolerated, as some of us found out to our cost! Michael Gibbons, father of Seán, completed a management team that always took the greatest care to ensure we were well behaved and well prepared. Between the three of them, they produced a group of

## 30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club

players that always played for each other, and built some lasting friendships in the process.

### U13 to U16

Our season at U12 had been a little too easy. No team put us to the pin of our collar as we ran away



**U12 South Dublin Football Champions, 1991-2 - Back row l to r:** James Carroll, Rory Kennelly, Eoin Hayes, Seán Gibbons, Michael McDermott, Graham Maher, Mark Byrne, Alan Murray, Ciarán Mulhall. **Front row l to r:** Eoin McCaffrey, Declan Duffy, Kevin Birrane, Eoin Kinsella, Darran Melody, Kevin McCabe, Rory McNally. **Missing:** Eoin Leavy, Fearghal Purcell, Neil Kirwan, John Dowling, David Keating, Larry Kinsella (Mentor), Noel McDermott (Mentor).

with the league. The players didn't quite realize that our U13 season was to be a different story, as we were set to play in an all-Dublin Division 1, bringing us face to face with the powerhouses of north Dublin football. In 1993, South Dublin was still very much the poor relation of the north side. In an apposite illustration of just how dominant the north side was at this time, not one of Kilmacud Crokes' All-Ireland Club Championship winning team of 1995 started for the Dublin team that won the Senior All-Ireland the same year.

When I look back at the early years, it's difficult to recall many incidents with clarity. One that will always stick is Darran Melody's epic bout of travel sickness in Mary Hayes' car during a long, pre-M50 trek to St Margaret's. The only game that is clear in

### *30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club*

my mind is a challenge match against Fingallians of Swords, organized by our management team at the end of our U12 season, to try and prepare us for the transition to an all-Dublin league. We were a team that had swept all before us in South Dublin, losing just once in league competition over three years. Our U12 season had seen us put further distance between ourselves and our neighbours. We went to Fingallians brimming with confidence, and were hammered 6-23 to 2-3. I remember the bewilderment among the players, who were used to coming out on the opposite side of scorelines like that. But perhaps it's best to quote from Larry's own recollection of the game:

*During the first half I was very annoyed because I felt the team was not trying and letting themselves down. However, slowly but surely during the match it became very obvious to me that the type of game being played by the opposition was far more advanced than ours. Their hand-passing and foot-passing was excellent. They played a short possession game and when the long kick did come, it was into space with a player running onto it. Their blocking and tackling was superb. . . .they supported each other in numbers.*

One thing Larry and I both remember is the friendly talk given to us by the Fingallians manager, Frank Kelly, after the game. He mentioned that the standard they aspired to was the Dublin and Kerry teams of the 1970s. It was a seminal moment for us as players, and I think for Larry and the management team too. For the players, there was the stark realisation that we were not as good as we thought. For our managers, the challenge was to bring us up to that standard. I remember our pre-season training for the U13 season almost as clearly. It was a shock to the

system to say the least. Gone were the light kick-arounds and inter-panel games, and in came hard running, tackling and more hard running. It helped to define us as a team.

With the start of the U13 season, we more than held our own and quickly established ourselves among the elite of Dublin football. Sadly, we never quite managed to deliver on our promise. Despite making the Championship semi-finals at U14 and U15 levels in football, and U15 and U16 levels in hurling, we never managed to contest a final, or to win the football league. Success, though, did not always elude the team. In May 1993, Eoin Hayes, Eoin McCaffrey, Fearghal Purcell, Michael McDermott, Eoin Kinsella, James Carroll, Kevin Birrane and Seán Gibbons stepped up to U14 level and played on the first team to ever win a Féile na nGael hurling competition for Naomh Olaf. Victories over St Kevin's and St Patrick's in the group stages earned us a place in the semi-finals against St Peregrine's. A comfortable victory on a scoreline of 4-4 to no score booked a spot in the final, played the next day in Parnell Park. Rathcoole provided the opposition in a much tighter game, but a goal from Jerome Hogan clinched victory for Olaf's, 2-5 to 1-3.

The following year, we were brought together as an U14 hurling team. Hurling was obviously not as popular as football, with quite a few of our football panel electing not to line out for the hurlers. Despite our much smaller playing resources, we won Division 2 outright, remaining unbeaten for the year.

#### *The Murphy Cup, 1998*

After the disappointment of so many near misses in league and championship, we entered our last years as a group as Minor footballers in 1996. As our last season as Minor footballers began in late 1997, it



***U14 Hurling Féile na nGael Div. 4 Champions, May 1993 -***

***Back row 1 to r:*** Kevin Birrane (Mentor), Eamon Tierney, Peter Fallon, Paul Doyle, Niall Brogan, Cillian Purcell (Capt.), Michael McDermott, Shane O'Connor, Eoin Christian, Carl Burke, Fearghal Purcell, Larry Kinsella (Mentor). ***Front row 1 to r:*** James Carroll, Jerome Hogan, Karl Kavanagh, Kevin Birrane, Eoin Kinsella, Eoin McCaffrey, Edmund Smith, Eric Doolin, Eoin Hayes, Seán Gibbons.



***U14 Hurling Division 2 Champions, 1993-4 - Back row 1 to r:***

Kevin Birrane, Rory Kennelly, Liam Kavanagh, Michael McDermott, Peter Kennedy, Fearghal Purcell, Seán Gibbons (Capt.), Eoin Kinsella. ***Front row 1 to r:*** Eoin Hayes, Eoin McCaffrey, Shane Monaghan, Darran Melody, Bill Stafford, Declan Duffy, Dessie Hanrahan. ***Missing:*** David O'Sullivan, Michael Brogan, Ciarán Mulhall, James Carroll, Lorcan Kinsella, Hugh O'Donnell, Kevin Birrane (Mentor), Larry Kinsella (Mentor).

had been nearly six years since we took home a medal as footballers and we felt it was time to rectify that. Our last competition together as a team was the Murphy Cup, a more prestigious trophy in those days than it might be now. The Murphy Cup kicked off in November 1997, with an opening day

## ***30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club***

defeat to Ballyboden on a scoreline of 3-9 to 2-8. Luckily, the competition was organised into group stages initially, which meant we were still in contention. Victories over Skerries Harps, Cabinteely and Cuala meant that, by February 1998, we were in with a chance to top the group. Unfortunately, defeat to neighbours Ballinteer St John's forced a play-off with Na Fianna on 10 April 1998. Despite a generally poor performance, Olaf's took the game on a scoreline of 2-5 to 0-8, qualifying for our first football final in eight years (F. Purcell 1-2, E. Kinsella 0-3, E. McCaffrey 1-0). In the meantime, for the first time in its history, the club had three players on the Dublin Minor football panel: Fearghal Purcell, Eoin Kinsella and Seán Gibbons. Fearghal started the Leinster Final in Croke Park – a narrow defeat for Dublin by Laois who won the title for the third year in a row.

Due to a backlog of matches, we had to wait over a year and a half before the Murphy Cup final was played on 16 January 2000. We were otherwise finished with Minor football, and the team had dispersed to the various adult teams within the club. When we were brought back together in the weeks before the match, Larry and his mentors, Chris O'Grady and Joey Jackson, stressed that we would never all play together again. It was a powerful message to all of the players, especially those of us who had been together since 1989. Fittingly, our opponents in the final were Fingallians, who had given us a footballing lesson in 1992. From U13 right through to Minor, Fingallians and ourselves had always contested tough, close battles. But our mentors had primed us for this game, and we were determined to finish our underage years, however belatedly, with a medal. We knew that not only would we be winning a long



### *30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club*

overdue medal, but also rewarding the hard work of Larry and all our other mentors over the years with something tangible.

Starting Team, Murphy Cup Final: Eoin Hayes; Eoin McCaffrey; Rory Kennelly; Seán Colgan; Caolán Cotter; Emmett O'Grady; Barry O'Brien; Seán Gibbons; Eoin Kinsella; Ronan Hegarty; Fearghal Purcell; Lorcan Kinsella; Pádraig Harrington; Kevin Birrane; Eoin Leavy.

As soon as the game started, it became obvious that we were in form. By half-time, the scoreline read 0-11 to 0-2 in our favour. Eoin Leavy, Lorcan Kinsella and Fearghal Purcell starred up front, while Rory Kennelly and Eoin McCaffrey led determined resistance at the back. The second half was a much tighter affair, but the drama had been taken out of the day by our dominant first half performance and we ran out winners on a scoreline of 2-17 to 2-9 (E. Kinsella 1-5, F. Purcell 1-3, E. Leavy 0-4, L. Kinsella 0-3, S. Gibbons 0-1, R. Hegarty 0-1). The celebrations continued long into the night in the clubhouse, and captain Rory Kennelly's emotional speech brought the house down, and with it, our underage careers. We had never quite delivered on our potential over the years, but nothing beats finishing on a high.

#### *Looking Back*

Looking back at the panels of 1989-92, and that which won the Murphy Cup in 2000, the number of players that stayed together seems remarkable. Of those that first toggled out together in August 1989 and played in the Corrigan Cup final in September 1990, Fearghal Purcell, Eoin Hayes, Rory Kennelly, Kevin Birrane, Seán Gibbons, Eoin Kinsella, Eoin McCaffrey and Eoin Leavy all played in the Murphy Cup final in January 2000. Throughout all of years

playing together, Larry Kinsella was our constant manager. It's a tribute to his influence that so many of us played together for so long. All eight of the players named above played Senior football for the club after 1998, as did others who joined us along the way such as Emmett O'Grady and Lorcan Kinsella. Eoin Hayes, Seán Gibbons, Emmett O'Grady, Eoin Kinsella, Eoin McCaffrey and Fearghal Purcell all played for the Senior hurlers. Without Larry, none of us would have become the footballers and hurlers that we did.

Between 1989 and 2000, some of our best players were tempted away to other sports. Sadly, some of those who starred for the team over the years are no longer with us. John Dowling, Bill Stafford and Barry O'Brien have all passed away in recent years. They are badly missed by their former team mates, some of whom still soldier on in the maroon and sky blue jersey. Though they get slower every year, Kevin Birrane, Eoin McCaffrey, Eoin Kinsella and Michael McDermott are still playing as the club marks its Pearl Jubilee.



**Murphy Cup Winners, 1998 (2000)** - Back row l to r: Joey Jackson (Mentor), Chris O'Grady (Mentor), Caolán Cotter, Pádraig Harrington, Seán Colgan, Emmett O'Grady, Fearghal Purcell, Eoin Hayes, Rory Kennelly (Capt.), Kevin Birrane, Michael Brogan, Seán Gibbons, Larry Kinsella (Manager). Front row l to r: Barry O'Brien, Ronan Hegarty, Eoin Kinsella, Eoin McCaffrey, Malachy Coughlan, Kevin Doolin, Ed Sullivan, Lorcan Kinsella, Barry Keaveney, Ray Naughton.



## **Extracts** - *The following reports were published in Panorama from 1988 to 2002. Written by Brendan McGlynn who was the club's PRO in those years.*

### **January 1989 - Club Calendar**

The Chairman of our Development Committee, Ned Seery, is pleased to report that our 1989 Club Calendar is a big success. In addition to being financially rewarding, its value as a public relations exercise is believed to be enormous.

### **February 1989 - Annual Supper Dance etc.**

Our 6th Annual Supper Dance will be held in Stackstown Golf Club on Saturday 8th April, 1989. This year the club's Annual Flag Weekend will be held on the 14th, 15th and 16th of April. Parents or supporters wishing to assist may contact any committee member.

### **May 1989 - Club News and Minor Hurling**

#### **Championship - Club News**

The long awaited top of the league play-off in the Southeast Under 11 Football League Division 2, between Naomh Olaf and Kilmacud Crokes, was decided at Deerpark on the 19th April. Kilmacud had won the first round game at the same venue and Naomh Olaf had taken the points from the return match at Wedgewood. This third meeting aroused much interest within both clubs and the scene was set for a thrilling encounter. Ideal weather conditions were a contributory factor to the large attendance. The game never reached the standard of the two previous clashes and the home team was never led. An excellent goal from a penalty by Gerard Gill (Naomh Olaf), approaching half time, left only two points between the sides but in the end Kilmacud Crokes won by a comfortable margin.

This gallant Naomh Olaf side, having won their league last season, had to accept second place on this occasion. Their disappointment was lessened

when the party reached McDonalds in Stillorgan shortly afterwards. As a bonus, the team panel (29 in all) travelled to Croke Park the following Sunday to see the football league home final between Dublin and Cork. For their mentors, Brendan McGlynn and Liam Casey, it was the end of a busy season.

The Under 11 panel was: P. Byrne, M. Harrington, A. Coffey, E. Brennan, B. McGlynn, B. Lynch, D. Wyse, D. Butler, D. Hickey, L. Casey, R. Coughlan, D. Duffy, P. Jennings, G. Gill, N. Keaveney, J. O'Shea, S. Muldoon, M. Henderson, S. Campbell, P. Monaghan, D. Nolan, P. Masterson, P. Murphy, R. Maxwell, B. Frisby, R. Brennan, D. Watt, J. Park, P. Fallon.

#### **Minor Hurling Championship 3rd Round**

##### **Thomas Davis 1 - 9 Naomh Olaf 2 - 3**

Thomas Davis just about won through in this thoroughly entertaining and typical hard-fought championship encounter played at Wedgewood on Sunday 30th April.

Thomas Davis, with a strong wind in their backs in the first half, took their scores well and led 1-7 to 0 -1 at the interval. Olaf's courage and determination eventually paid off as they began to translate chances into scores and two goals and a point in quick succession set the scene for a tense finale. Thomas Davis seemed to have Lady Luck on their side and eventually held out to win by a margin of three points.

Outstanding for Naomh Olaf were: Niall McCabe, Dara McDonagh, Aidan McMahon and Eddie McCarthy who scored 2 - 1 and Caomhán Bermingham who scored 0 - 2.

## *30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club*

### *September 1989 - Club News and Teams entered Sept. '89 - Club News*

The foundation of the present Minor hurling team was laid back in 1981, when Naomh Olaf GAA Club was founded. More than half the team started their hurling career with Naomh Olaf on an Under 11 team. The following year, Olaf's won its division of the Under 12 league. The mentors of the first hurling team in the club were Flan McCarthy and Matt Bermingham. Gerry Murphy, of course, had introduced most of the boys to hurling in the first instance.

Flan McCarthy has remained an ever-present with the team since and it is fair to say that he has done more for the team over the years than anybody else.

Players who were with the team from the start were Eddie McCarthy, Aidan O'Malley, Gerard Maher, Caomhán Bermingham, Brian Horgan, Val Dillon, Dara McDonagh, Niall Byrne and Ken Naughton.

All these have given sterling service to the team over the years, but natural shedding meant that new blood had to be found. None came bigger or more big-hearted than Niall McCabe who was a late-comer to the team, but made great strides in the game. Others who arrived at later stages on the team, and contributed a lot to its success, were Jason Grant, John O'Brien, Ian Gavigan, Eoin Ryan, James Whelan, Michael Clarkson, Joe Fagan and Adrian McMahon.

The success of the Minor hurling team attracted the attention of the selectors for the County Minor team. Caomhán Bermingham, Eddie McCarthy, Gerard Maher and Aidan O'Malley all have got trials for the Dublin Minor hurling team.

#### *Teams Entered for 1989/90*

The following teams have been entered for the 1989/90 Competitions:

<i>Team</i>	<i>Manager</i>
<i>Junior Football</i>	<i>Phil Monaghan</i>
	<i>Tom Brennan</i>
<i>U21 Football</i>	<i>Bill O'Brien</i>
	<i>Tom Brennan</i>
<i>U21 Hurling</i>	<i>Flan McCarthy</i>
	<i>Jerome Hogan</i>
<i>U18 Football</i>	<i>Peter O'Brien</i>
	<i>Dermot Irwin</i>
<i>U16 Football</i>	<i>Michael Seery</i>
	<i>Colm McEnerney</i>
<i>U16 Hurling</i>	<i>Liam Kavanagh</i>
<i>U15 Football</i>	<i>Ven Naughton</i>
<i>U15 Hurling</i>	<i>Mick Brown</i>
<i>U13 Football</i>	<i>Brendan Johnson</i>
	<i>Bill Hopkins</i>
<i>U13 Hurling</i>	<i>Mick Brown</i>
<i>U12 Football</i>	<i>Brendan McGlynn</i>
	<i>Liam Casey</i>
<i>U11 Football</i>	<i>Kevin Birrane</i>
	<i>Karl Sexton</i>
<i>U10 Football</i>	<i>Larry Kinsella</i>
	<i>Noel McDermott</i>
<i>U10, U11, U12 Hurling Leagues do not commence until after Christmas.</i>	
<i>November 1989 - Committee Elected in 1989</i>	
<i>The following Officers and Committee were elected:</i>	
<i>Chairman</i>	<i>Mick Brown</i>
<i>Vice-Chairman</i>	<i>Kevin Birrane</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Dermot Irwin</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Kevin Curtin</i>
<i>PRO</i>	<i>Brendan McGlynn</i>
<i>Registrar</i>	<i>John O'Brien</i>
<i>Committee</i>	<i>Ned Seery, Bill O'Brien, Tony Morris, Brendan Johnson, Derek Dowling, Peter Maher.</i>

## 30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club

### February 1990 - Club News

There is a lot more to being a good club member than playing the club games and we are delighted to see a number of this Junior panel being involved in other ways with the club.

Mick Seery and Colm McEnerney are very successful managing the U16 Football Team. Karl Sexton, John O'Brien, Kevin O'Malley, Mick Seery and Derek Dowling have been involved in the coaching of beginners for the past few years. Karl also assists managing the U11 team. Kevin Curtin is Treasurer of the club and Chairman of the Social Committee.

John O'Brien has been Registrar of the club for the past few years and is a member of the Social Committee with David Supple and Derek Dowling, also a Club Committee member. David Supple, Colm McEnerney and Derek Dowling also attend Board Meetings on behalf of their club.

With young men like these, the future of our club seems assured. They have been joined by a group of young ladies this year who form the Social Committee and this too augurs well for the future of our club.

### November 1990 - Club News

There was a large attendance at the AGM held in Queen of Angels School on Thursday 25th October 1990.

#### *Officers and Committee elected for 1990/1991:*

<i>Chairman</i>	<i>Kevin Birrane</i>
<i>Vice-Chairman</i>	<i>Mick Brown</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Dermot Irwin</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Kevin Curtin</i>
<i>PRO</i>	<i>Brendan McGlynn</i>
<i>Registrar</i>	<i>John O'Brien</i>
<i>Committee Members</i>	<i>Bill O'Brien, Ned Seery,</i>

*Brendan Johnson, Brian Horgan, Larry Kinsella, Mary Hayes.*

*Assistant to Treasurer Caomhán Bermingham*

### April 1991 - Club Profile of the O'Malleys

When Naomh Olaf Junior football team won their historic treble - Championship, League Division 1 and Conlon Cup – last season, there were many proud Dads to be seen on the side lines, but one of the players, Aidan O'Malley, had a unique distinction of having his Dad, Kevin, on the field of play with him. For Kevin O'Malley, who admits that he is over forty and who has graced the Gaelic scene for more than thirty years now, it was a proud and memorable experience. Kevin, who hails from the picturesque village of Kinlough in north County Leitrim, has had a very successful footballing career. At the early age of eighteen years, in 1959, he had the honour of winning his first Leitrim County Senior Football Championship with his home club, Melvin Gaels. This very talented youth assisted his club in retaining the title again in 1960 and 1961. By that time, Kevin was the regular left half -back on the Leitrim Senior football team, having won a Connacht Junior Championship in 1962. He was one of the team's outstanding players in 1963, when Leitrim played Galway in the Connacht Final. He continued to represent his county in Senior football for a number of years. He won another County Senior Football Championship with Melvin Gaels in 1965. An ESB employee, married with two children, Aidan and Gerard, he played with Binn Éadair (Howth) in 1973/74 when they won the Dublin Junior Championship, Loving Cup and Intermediate League. He had unofficially retired when Naomh Olaf formed their Junior football team two years ago, but his craft



### *30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club*

and experience played a vital role in their success of 1990 and while he does not entertain hopes of playing Intermediate football this season, he is looking forward to assisting his club at Junior level.

Small wonder that his eldest son, Aidan, born in 1971, should have a keen interest in sport. He was only eleven years of age when the Naomh Olaf Club was founded in 1981. His father, Kevin, managed his team that season and they won Division 3 of the league without defeat. The following year his team, having been promoted to Division 1, came second following a play-off. That year, Aidan was chosen to play for the South Dublin U12 team. He scored his first goal in Croke Park that year when he helped South Dublin to beat a North Dublin selection there. Having come second in the U16 League, Aidan's team went on to win the Minor League and beat the Northside to win the Dublin League.

Aidan, who has qualified at Bolton Street as a fitter/turner, was on the Dublin Minor football panel when he was seventeen years of age, but missed out the following year because of injury. Aged twenty, he has already played for four seasons on the Naomh Olaf U21 team, and was one of their star players when they were beaten in the replay of the Dublin U21 Championship in 1989. He was on the Dublin U21 Football panel this season and must be an automatic choice again next season. He was the highest scorer for the club's Junior football team that won the treble last season, scoring 3 - 36 in a total of 22 matches. An equally accomplished hurler, he is an outstanding member of the club's new Junior hurling team and has been nominated for trials for the Dublin U21 Hurling team.

We wish Kevin and Aidan continued success and we know that, despite the generation gap, this father and

son have many fond sporting memories to savour and to discuss.

#### *January 1992 - Presentation & Sinéad*

##### *Worthington - Presentation to Brendan Johnson*

At the Annual Christmas Draw, a presentation was made to Brendan Johnson of Wedgewood, who is going to live in his native Athlone. His wife and family are already settling in there. A committee member for a number of years, Brendan was also a team mentor. His pleasant and quiet manner made him a very popular club man. We wish himself and his family every blessing in the future.

##### *Sinéad Worthington, a very special member of Naomh Olaf Club*

It's not Sinéad's friendly manner or lovely smile alone that makes her a very special and respected member of Naomh Olaf GAA Club. From Ballawley Court, Sinéad was one of the many young people who had followed and enjoyed the success of the club's Junior football team over the past couple of years. She had often heard the young ladies discuss at football matches and club functions how nice it would be if they had a team of their own. Sinéad decided to do something about it. In February 1991, she approached the Chairman of the club, Kevin Birrane, and suggested forming a ladies' football team. She was most encouraged by his response and was pleased that the first training session was held as early as the 3rd April. There was a large turn-out for training. Sinéad was delighted with the interest shown by the club committee and was thrilled that Kevin Curtin and Derek Dowling of the Intermediate team were prepared to train them and act as their team mentors. She enjoys the training and the matches immensely, as all the girls do and she makes light of the fact that their team came second or third

---

in the league in their first season in competition.

Sinéad attends Naomh Olaf GAA Club meetings and acts as delegate to the Ladies' Gaelic Football Board. While still a young lady, Sinéad has already made an outstanding contribution to the life of the local community. For three years she was a Beaver Leader and for the past two years she is a Cub Leader with the 137th Balally Scout Troup, spending her spare time, including her annual holidays, caring for her young charges.

A former student of St Anne's Secondary School in Milltown, she qualified as an accounting technician in Dundrum College. She is employed by AIB Investment Services in Ballsbridge. We congratulate her on her achievements and are delighted with the opportunity to record our appreciation.

### *July 1992 - U15 Hurling Division 2*

This team has had an outstanding season. They are currently lying in second place in Division 2 of the league, having lost only one match against O'Toole's. A return to Division 1 is inevitable. In the Championship campaign, the team recorded great wins over Setanta (Ballymun), Crumlin, Cuala and Raheny in the quarter-final. They then went on to play Ballyboden St Enda's in the Championship semi-final at Glenalbyn on June 19th. This game was played under ideal conditions on a beautifully prepared pitch thanks to Kilmacud Crokes.

After ten minutes play only two points divided the teams and the pace was electric. Ballyboden, however, took control and got some excellent scores and went on to win.

There were fine hurlers on both sides, but the outstanding player by far was Niall McCaffrey for Naomh Olaf. He gave a display of hurling that will

## *30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club*

be long remembered by those present.

This is the first time in the history of Naomh Olaf that a juvenile hurling team has reached a Championship semi-final and I am sure we will be hearing a lot more from them in the future.

The Under 15 hurling panel included: Shane O'Connor, Darragh Maxwell, John Keane, Niall McCaffrey, David O'Brien, Barry Lynch, Tom Comerford, Des Murphy, Seamus Mac Mathúna, Eoin Goulding, Gerard Ritchie, Oisín Fitzgerald, Kevin O'Brien, Thomas Brown, Brendan McGlynn, Ronan Devitt, Mark Henderson, Kevin Keane, John Parke and Peter Fallon.

### *October 1992 - Club News*

On Saturday 19th September, the club fielded an Under 9 Football team for the first time and the Under 10 Football team of this season had their first competitive match on that date. Consequently, 44 boys had their first competitive game for the club on the same occasion. This gives some idea of the members being catered for by the club at present. Paul Buggy, Mary Shivan, Barry Kenna and Noel McDermott look after the Under 10 team while Kevin Kavanagh and John McGrath are the Under 9 mentors.

The teams which, hopefully some day, will represent the club at the highest level are:

U10: Paul Mahon, Stephen Farrelly, Donal Shivan, Warren O'Neill, Stephen Wright, Kevin Doolan, Stephen Redmond, David Redmond, David Egan, John McDermott, David Moloney, Darren Egan, Eoghan O'Neill, Stephen Keogh, Eoin McCullagh, Derek Fitzpatrick, Aodhán Roe, Michael Moran, Daniel Moloney.

U9: Seamas Kinsella, Shane Kavanagh, Paul McGrath, Mark Grace, Donal Kenny, Conor McMa-

## *30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club*

hon, Enda McMahon, Tadhg Purcell, Darren Doolin, Mark Smith (RIP), Wayne Mulvey, Gary Wilkins, Anthony Wilkins, Lorcan Byrne, Killian O'Byrne, Andrew Moloney, Eoin Murphy, Niall Harbourne, Paul Rice, Niall Morris, Gavin Byrne, Shane Whyte, Ciaran McCabe, Sean Egan, Dylan King

Football training for beginners, with former Dublin Minor John O'Brien as coach, every Saturday morning at Wedgewood at 11.30 a.m.

### *January 1994 - Christmas at the Clubhouse*

As the first ticket was drawn on Monday 21st December for a hamper, the scene was well set in the Naomh Olaf clubhouse for a festive couple of weeks. The tree was lit, tinsel was hung and the large crowd was in party spirits. Over fifty prizes had been added to the usual weekly lotto for this monster Christmas Draw, to which the band 'Celtic Kick' added to a thoroughly enjoyable night.

Over the Christmas period there was a relaxed and friendly atmosphere in the clubhouse but the highlight was certainly to be the New Year's Eve Ball. Expectations were high following the huge success of the Barn Dance in August. It was a great challenge to the bar manager, Damien Carey, who was behind the whole idea, to try to match what had been one of the best nights of the club's calendar year. Great effort was put into the night and there was a lot of work involved to transform the sports hall into a ballroom to cater for over three hundred. The large hall is ideal for holding such functions and the club has yet again to acknowledge the efficiency and competence of the club staff on such occasions. The meal was served early and dancing was well under way by the countdown to midnight. The band was great and there was a lovely mixture of music which encouraged every age group to take to the floor. As

visitors to the club have often remarked, one of its great attractions and charm is in the mingling of ages and this night was to be no exception. This will surely become an annual event.

Thanks must be given to all those who helped and supported the club throughout the year – from players to parents, team managers to jersey washers, and in particular to those who worked hard over Christmas. Thanks to Tony Wright who was responsible for the much admired Christmas artwork in the clubhouse. After such a successful year for Naomh Olaf in 1993, hopes for this year are high and resolutions must include that '94 be just as good as the year gone by.

### *September 1996 - Tír Chonaill Gaels visit the club*

On Saturday 17th August, Tír Chonaill Gaels of London played the Senior football team in a challenge game at Wedgewood. The visitors have reached the semi-final of the London Championship and took in



*Brothers l to r: Robbie and Michael Byrne.*

this game as part of their Irish tour. The home side were short several of their regulars and the visitors won on the score of 0-12 to 1-7. An interesting aspect of the game was that while Robert Byrne and



---

Sean Coleman played for the home side, their brothers Michael Byrne and Paul Coleman starred for Tír Chonaill Gaels. A very enjoyable evening was had in the clubhouse afterwards.

### ***October 1996 - Indoor Hurling Marathon***

The first ever Indoor Hurling Marathon was held in the club on Saturday 14th September, organised by the Juvenile Committee. It commenced at 9 a.m. and continued to 9 p.m. The young participants enjoyed the experience and raised much-needed funds in the process.

### ***March 1997 - Player Honoured***

John McGrath is the first club member to win the 'Young Dub GAA Award' sponsored by the Evening Herald. He is the son of John and Mary McGrath, Balally Drive and is a star member of the club's Under 11 football team.

### ***November 1997 - Balally Lady Honoured***

Saranne Byrne, Balally Drive, was guest of the Organising Committee and official representative of her father, the late John Joe O'Reilly, at the 50th Anniversary GAA Commemoration ceremonies in New York recently. She was accompanied on the five day trip by her husband Paddy. Their son Cormac and his wife Aisling (nee Fagan) joined them from Florida for this very special occasion. Saranne's brother, Brian O'Reilly and his wife Frances, also accompanied them on the trip.

One of the many highlights of the occasion was the commemorative Senior football league game between Cavan and Kerry, at Downing Stadium, Randall's Island, on Saturday, October 18th which was broadcast live. Prior to the game, the surviving members of the Cavan and Kerry teams of 1947, and the representatives, were introduced to the 12,000 spectators. They were each presented with a beauti-

## ***30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club***

ful commemorative trophy, suitably inscribed.

On Sunday 19th October, they attended a special Mass, with seats reserved, in St Patrick's Cathedral, 5th Avenue and 50th Street, celebrated by Cardinal John O'Connor, Archbishop of New York. Later that evening, they attended a banquet at Terrace on the Park at the Old World's Fair site in Queen's, where over 2,000 people celebrated the 50th anniversary, 1947-1997.

1947 was the only time that the All-Ireland Football Final was played outside Ireland. Saranne Byrne's father, the late John Joe O'Reilly, was captain of the Cavan team that defeated Kerry on that occasion. He was also captain of the Cavan team that won the All-Ireland Final in 1948.

### ***January 1998 - Christmas Trees***

The Hurling section wishes to thank sincerely all members and supporters who purchased Christmas trees from the Club. While the work was not easy, it proved financially rewarding for the club. From experience gained and lessons learned, hopefully in future with a little refinement, the exercise can be of considerable financial benefit to the purchaser as well as the club.

### ***February 1998 - Naomh Olaf Radio Programme & New Display Cabinet - Naomh Olaf GAA Club's own radio programme***

In February 1998, Naomh Olaf GAA Club was given the opportunity of presenting its very own radio programmes. The programmes were broadcast on 104.9 FM (Dublin South Community Radio) on the first Sunday of every month at 8 p.m. Brendan McGlynn, the Club's PRO presented the programmes. His guests included Mick Brown, Eric Horgan, Chris O'Grady, Finbarr O'Driscoll and Kevin Birrane. A total of three or four programmes were broadcast.

### *30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club*

The programmes were at least of interest to club members and were given favourable mention in the press at the time.

#### *New Display Cabinet*

The Building Committee, under the chairmanship of Dermot Irwin, are continuing work on the maintenance and improvement of the club premises. They have recently acquired a display cabinet for the club trophies. Fortunately it is already reasonably full but there is place for more. It certainly looks very well and has added much to the appearance of the lounge area.

#### *October 1998 - Loss of Four Outstanding Club Members*

It is with much regret that I report that Jim Shiggins and his family have left Wesley Lawns to take up residence in Jim's native Co. Wexford. An employee of the Ulster Bank, Jim had given great service to the club, both as a hurler and a hurling coach. Stephen Hession has also moved from Sandyford with his wife to Wexford where he has opened a business. A very well qualified football coach, he was also a team mentor with the club. Niall Savage and Junior Cronin, both natives of Tralee who have played senior football with the club all season, have left. Niall has emigrated to Holland indefinitely while Junior has opened a licensed premises in Cork. All four gentlemen will be a major loss to the club. We appreciate very much all that they have done and wish them every success in the future.

#### *February 1999 - Reporting in Irish & Video Taping of Matches - Reporting in Irish*

A number of people have enquired recently as to who supplies the monthly report in Irish to the club's notes in Panorama. Fin Máirtín is the man responsible. Fin is a Dublin man who has made his home

in Clonard. A member of the teaching profession who has a great love for the Irish language, he is a valued mentor of the Club's U12 hurling team. The club wishes to express its appreciation to him for his regular contribution.

#### *Video Taping of Matches*

For some time now it is club policy to record, on video tape, important club games, such as Finals in hurling and football in which the club is involved. These recordings will certainly make interesting viewing in years to come. The more immediate use, however, is when they are shown on the big screen in the clubhouse shortly after the game. If a team has secured an important and exciting victory, the showing of the tape before a full house can create a wonderful atmosphere. It gives those who were unable to attend the game an opportunity to view the action. It gives the players themselves and their mentors a chance to relax while they relive the highlights of the game. It can also be useful to the mentors to pinpoint any weaknesses in the team. No match video would be complete without a commentary on the game. The club is fortunate to have a number of members who have become excellent in this art and are always willing to oblige. Kevin O'Malley, Mick Brennan, Kevin Birrane, Finbarr O'Driscoll and Eoin Brennan all have experience in this field and the club is very grateful to them.

The club is also grateful to Pat Maguire and his two sons, Pat and Aidan, who have never failed to have scaffolding erected for the benefit of the person making the video. The promotional value of the video is very much dependent on the result of the game. Overall, however, I feel that video recording of games is a very worthwhile exercise.

---

## *30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club*

### *May 1999 - New Video Tape Library for Clubhouse*

The communications section has decided to setup a library of club video tapes in the clubhouse. All video tapes of hurling and football matches already recorded, as well as those to be recorded in future, will be available. Any member who has a recording of club games in their possession is asked to forward it to the club PRO without delay please.

### *June 1999 - Trip to Tipp. & Club acquires own Website - The Trip to Tipp.*

On Saturday 8th May 1999, a panel of 23 U12 hurlers from the club, accompanied by team mentors and parents, travelled to the Clonoulty Rossmore GAA Club in Co. Tipperary, to take part in an U12 hurling tournament there. Francis O'Dwyer, Fin Máirtín, Pat Kinsella, Ray Howley, John O'Brien, John McGrath, Tom Gill and Tom Dunford were the adults who looked after the team, including supplying the transport.

On Saturday, the team won all three games, thus qualifying for the Final on Sunday. This team, which won the All-Dublin U11 Division 1 League this season, went on to beat Holycross in an exciting final, to win the tournament.

In a skills competition, Declan O'Dwyer won first prize while Chris Fennel won second prize. A Holycross player won third prize. Declan Ryan, the Tipperary hurler, presented the trophies.

The party received a wonderful reception in the home of hurling. A disco was organised for the team on Saturday night. The group have very fond memories of their trip and look forward to a visit by the Clonoulty Rossmore Club to Naomh Olaf, we hope next September.

*Club acquires its own Website*

Thanks to Thomas Brown of the Communications Committee, the club now has its own website. You may visit it at <http://members.tripod.com/naomh-olaf>.

### *October 1999 - All Ireland Sevens*

For the first time ever Naomh Olaf took part in the All Ireland Seven-a-side senior football tournament, organised by Kilmacud Crokes. The Naomh Olaf section was played on their home grounds. The home side got off to a great start, beating the three teams in their section. They then beat Round Towers, Co Kildare in the knock-out stages. They were beaten only by Ballinderry in the quarter-final. Robbie Byrne was the Naomh Olaf star of the competition. The team is to be congratulated on a gallant performance. Sincere thanks to Kilmacud Crokes for inviting the club to take part.

### *November 1999 - Naomh Olaf Players on Network 2*

The seven Naomh Olaf U14 Footballers who are on the Dublin Development Squad won Leinster medals on Sunday 31st October when two teams from the squad won out the Leinster Competition. The squad will be featured in the programme 'Rapid' on Network 2, presented by Jason Sherlock every Thursday evening in the month of November. The players concerned are Donal Kinsella, Shane Kavanagh, Barry Thornton, Tadhg Purcell, Karl Naughton, Jimmy Culligan and Stephen Duffy. Well done lads!

### *October 2001 - The Murphys move to Galway & the Club loses two young families - The Murphys move to Galway*

Philip and Theresa Murphy, Balally Drive, have recently taken up residence in the new bungalow they have built in Peterswell, Co. Galway. Peterswell is Theresa's home place and is situated between Gort and Loughrea. The Murphys lived in Balally Drive



### *30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club*

since the houses were built there in the late sixties. Philip and Theresa were valued members of Naomh Olaf GAA Club. They were very well respected within the community and were always willing to support any worthwhile cause. They have two children; Carmel who is married with three children, now lives in Britain; Paul, who played juvenile football with the club, is also married. He lives in Wedgewood with his wife and two children. Philip, who is a native of Ferns, Co. Wexford, had been employed in the building industry until he retired recently. He was an active member of the local horseshoe pitching club. He also has a keen interest in bee-keeping. We wish Philip and Theresa a very happy retirement in Galway and we assure them there will always be a very special welcome for them if they visit the clubhouse.

#### *Club loses two young families*

Two families who were very good friends and next door neighbours have moved from Balally Avenue. Shay and Maura Kennelly who are both from Tullamore, Co. Offaly and their young daughter Megan have moved to Mullingar, Co Westmeath. Seán and Éibhlín Logue, both natives of Co Cork, have returned to live in their native city. They have three young children, two girls and a boy, Joe, who is a very promising hurler and footballer. Both families were very good supporters of the club. We wish them every blessing and assure them that they will be sadly missed by the club.

#### *October 2002 - The Gill family emigrate*

The emigration of the Gill family, Wesley Lawns, to England represents a major loss to the club. Tom and his wife Patricia, or 'Tish' as she is more affectionately known, and their three children - Shane, Caitríona and Matthew - have already moved to their new home in St Alban's. The move was necessitated

by the fact that Tom, who is a native of Westport, Co. Mayo, has been appointed Managing Director of PBI Home and Garden Ltd in Hertfordshire. We congratulate him on his appointment.

The Gill family were valued club members and were very actively involved in its activities. For more than three years, Tish, who is a native of Bunclody, Co. Wexford, was in charge of hurling and football training for beginners. It was she who ensured that the sports hall was open every Saturday morning, that the children and their parents or guardians were made feel welcome and that the coaches were present and had all the necessary equipment available to them. This was a very important function voluntarily undertaken by her on behalf of the club. In addition, Tish was always available to provide transport to away games. At a special function held in the club recently, the club Chairman Chris O'Grady paid a special tribute to Tish and her family, before presenting her with a Dublin Crystal bowl inscribed with the Naomh Olaf Club crest. While Tish may have only one item to remind her of her involvement with Naomh Olaf, her son Shane will have several such items. He will treasure, in particular, the medal he won last year when the Under 14 Hurling team won the Dublin Hurling Féile. It will remind him of that wonderful occasion in June 2001 when his team represented Dublin so well in the All-Ireland Hurling Féile in Cork.

The Naomh Olaf Club trophies he won as Club Hurler of the Year at Under 10 and as Footballer of the Year at Under 13, will hold special memories for him. Shane's team mentors will certainly miss him. His younger brother, Matthew, will equally be missed by the Under 10 team mentors. Tom Gill has always impressed as a defender in the annual over-

---

forties competition on St Stephen's Day. He may consider arranging a visit sometime to coincide with that event. Whatever the occasion Tom, Tish and family are always assured a warm welcome when they visit the clubhouse.

*The following reports were published in Panorama from 2003 to 2006 and were written by Tommy Brown who was the club's PRO in those years.*

***February 2003 - Tommy Brennan Steps Down as a Senior Manager***

Just after Christmas, Tommy Brennan decided to step down as Manager of the Naomh Olaf Senior football team. Tommy has been involved with the club for the last 17 years and has given dedicated service to the club which saw a huge amount of success on the pitch.

Tommy's first involvement with the club was in 1986 when he was mentor to the club's Minor football team. Since then, he has brought the team up through the ranks to Senior grade. The progress that was made with the team has been nothing short of remarkable. In 1989, his team was beaten only in a replay of the Under 21 Football Championship Final. In 1990, the team won the Dublin Junior Championship, as well as Division 1 of the Junior league and the Conlon Cup. One of the outstanding games of the league campaign took place in Wedgewood against Round Towers, when Olaf's were 12 points down at half time but rallied in the second half to win the game by 1 point. 1991 saw the team win the All-Ireland Junior Football Seven-a-side competition.

In 1992, the team were beaten in a replay of the Dublin Intermediate Championship but the following year, 1993, they went one step further and won

## ***30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club***

the Intermediate Championship. In 1996, the team reached the semi-final of the Dublin Senior Championship only to be beaten by Erin's Isle by 3 points. The following year they reached the quarter-finals of the Championship. In 1998, the team achieved promotion to Division 1 status and the subsequent year they won the AIB Senior Football Cup.

Unfortunately, the team were relegated two seasons ago to Division 2. Tommy was determined that, if this was his last year in charge of the team, he wanted to leave them while they were in the top flight of Senior football. It was a testament to the character of the players and manager that they achieved promotion straightaway back to Division 1 by defeating An Garda in the promotion play-off at O'Toole Park with a last minute goal.

It is easily seen that Tommy has had huge success with the current team and this in turn has helped the club as a whole, by raising its profile in Dublin football. He put in a lot of work and will be sorely missed.

The club would like to thank Tommy for all of his hard work since 1986 with the team and the development of many fine young players. We would also like to wish Tommy the best of luck in whatever his next challenge may be and he can be assured that he will always be extremely welcome in Naomh Olaf.

### ***December 2003 - Club AGM***

*The club held its AGM at the beginning of November. The following is the list of incoming Executive Committee:*

<i>Chairman</i>	<i>Chris O'Grady</i>
<i>Vice-Chairman</i>	<i>John O'Brien</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Cathal Daughton</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Paddy Kiernan</i>

## *30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club*

<i>PRO</i>	<i>Tommy Brown</i>
<i>Registrar</i>	<i>Jim Quinn</i>
<i>Committee Members</i>	<i>Mary Hayes, Moya Power Kelly, Philip McCabe, Shane O'Connor, Paul Sullivan.</i>

### *January 2004 - Christmas at Naomh Olaf*

The club celebrated Christmas in style this year and there was plenty to keep members busy over the festive period. There was an International Rules competition on the Sunday before Christmas between all the adult footballers. It was a bitterly cold day but a good game was played with both the Gaelic football and the Aussie Rules ball. On St Stephen's Day, the annual over 40s game was played and there was the usual fun and craic followed by a few drinks afterwards. The club would like to thank Mick Whyte who puts in a big amount of effort in organising both of these very successful days around Christmas.

The Dinner Dance was held in early December and was well attended. There was a lovely meal and good music supplied and a great night was had by all who attended. There was also a Supper Dance on New Year's Eve in the function room which was extremely well attended and again, well done to all who organised the two events and to those who attended.

### *May 2004 - Minor Panel Travel to Mayo*

The Minor Football and Hurling panels travelled to the parish of Kiltane in Bangor Erris, Mayo, on the recent bank holiday weekend. The welcome received by the teams from the locals was quite fantastic from the moment the teams arrived until their departure. On the Saturday, the minor footballers played Kiltane for a memorial cup. A good game resulted in the local side making sure theirs was the first name to go

on the cup. A reception was held for the teams and presentations made later that evening. The following day the hurling team travelled to play a match against a Belmullet selection in a picturesque setting by the sea. The Naomh Olaf team won the game and were again astounded at the reception that was received afterwards. The team, mentors and parents who travelled will be eternally grateful to the parish of Kiltane and hope that a return gesture can be done soon.

### *December 2004 - New Executive Committee*

The AGM took place on November 4th in the clubhouse. There was a good turnout from members. *The new committee that has been elected is as follows:*

<i>Chairman</i>	<i>John O'Brien</i>
<i>Vice-Chairman</i>	<i>Cathal Daughton</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Mary Shivanan</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Paddy Kiernan</i>
<i>PRO</i>	<i>Tommy Brown</i>
<i>Registrar</i>	<i>Paul Sullivan</i>
<i>Committee Members</i>	<i>Shane O'Connor, Anthony Delaney, Chris O'Grady, Colm McEnerney, James Whelan, John Garvey, Kevin Curtin, Jim Quinn</i>

### *July 2005 - Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh's Visit & Eamon Ó Domhnaill Music Festival - Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh visits the Club*

The club would like to officially thank Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh for attending the club in early May. Mícheál was there along with Sam Maguire and Liam McCarthy. The night was organised to present Foundation Level Coaching Course Certificates to those who took part in the course. There was also an official welcome to the club for Club Coach, Pat Stephens. Mícheál and Pat have worked closely to-



---

gether on the reality Gaelic Football show ‘The Underdogs’. Mícheál assured all present that Pat was a driving force behind the Underdogs team and that Olafs had landed an excellent coach.

*Launch of the ‘Eamon Ó Domhnaill Music Festival’*  
In early May, Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh launched the ‘Eamon Ó Domhnaill Music Festival’. Eamon was a Naomh Olaf club member and a resident of Wedgewood with roots steeped in traditional Irish music. Eamon died 2 years ago and the club have organised this festival in his honour. Eamon’s sister, Triona, spoke on the night and made a moving tribute to Eamon and his love for music in general, not just Irish traditional music. The festival of music will take place in Naomh Olaf GAA Club on the weekend of October 14th. Anyone who has an interest in getting involved, either on the organisational side or on the music side, are welcome to contact John O’Brien or Mary Shivnan.

### ***March 2006 - Concert in St Mary’s Church***

The Dublin Welsh Male Voice choir will perform live in St Mary’s Church, Sandyford, on Friday 31st March, as part of the celebrations of Naomh Olaf GAA Club’s silver jubilee year. Proceeds from the concert will go to Holy Trinity NS, the new primary school which is currently being built at Orby, Leopardstown. Tickets cost €15 and can be bought at the parish office or at the Naomh Olaf clubhouse. A memorable night is promised with this fine choir, which includes our very own Kieran Brennan and Peter O’Brien. Before Christmas, they were recorded live at Farmleigh House for RTE’s Rattlebag programme with Myles Dungan. They have a number of fine recordings to their credit, including the anthems of all the rugby nations at the 1999 rugby world cup. Everyone attending the concert is invited

## ***30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club***

back to the Naomh Olaf clubhouse after the concert for refreshments and further entertainment with the singers. Don’t miss it.

### ***April 2006 - Silver Jubilee Celebrations & Andy Gibbons - Silver Jubilee Celebrations***

The Silver Jubilee celebrations got off to a wonderful start with a concert by the Irish Welsh Male Voice choir in St. Mary’s Church Sandyford on 31st March. The concert was a great success with a large attendance and the fun continued back in the clubhouse where the choir continued to entertain with their fantastic repertoire and were joined by a host of aspiring new members. Proceeds from the concert will be used to buy sports equipment for the pupils of Holy Trinity NS, Leopardstown and we look forward to working with school principal, James Tobin, and his team in promoting Gaelic games. Our thanks to the choir for a marvellous evening and to Fr Eamon Cahill PP for making the church available.

### ***Andy Gibbons***

Naomh Olaf GAA club owes a great debt of gratitude to Andy Gibbons who has retired from coaching hurling to boys and girls in local primary schools – St Olaf’s, Queen of Angels, St. Mary’s Sandyford, Gaelscoil Thaobh na Coille and Holy Cross Dundrum. A native of Kilkenny, Andy was born with hurling in his blood. He imparted his skills and love of the game to the younger generation, and the children he coached were taught not only how to win but also how to accept defeat. Before every game the children shook hands and wished each other well.

Andy commenced coaching with Naomh Olaf GAA Club in October 1997 and continued with enthusiasm up to Christmas 2005. At almost 70 years of age, Andy is still very energetic and it is a measure of his love and dedication to the game of hurling that he

### *30 Year History of Naomh Olaf GAA Club*

refereed a match last week on a very cold, wet evening. The late Barry O'Brien was one of Andy's helpers and someone that Andy remembers with great fondness. With Barry and his dad John, they started an indoor hurling blitz for second classes from local primary schools. John's family later donated the John O'Brien cup to this tournament. It continues, with two additional cups – the Barry O'Brien Cup and the Craic Cup. The competition for these cups every year is keen and now forms an important part of the local schools' calendar. The third class indoor hurling competition for the Andy Gibbons cup is one which generates much interest and anticipation each November/December among all the local primary schools. Andy was the force behind this competition and it has always lived up to expectations, both from an enjoyment point of view and from skill acquired over the period of the competition. Andy says that he enjoyed every minute of his work in the schools and has made many friends in Naomh Olaf. He is particularly grateful to his two 'messiahs', Patrick Stephens and Chris Cunningham, who will carry on the work.

Thanks again, Andy, for giving so many young children the opportunity to experience the thrill and excitement of playing the game of hurling. We wish Andy a long and happy retirement looking after his garden and watching from the sidelines.

#### *May 2006 - Silver Jubilee Mass*

On Sunday 30th April, exactly thirteen years to the day that the new clubhouse was opened for business, a Mass was celebrated in the new function room to mark the 25th anniversary of the founding of Naomh Olaf. Despite being a bank holiday weekend, the room was filled to capacity with a good cross-section of those associated with the club past and pre-

sent, from babies in arms to former club members who had relocated to the country. Among those who travelled back for this special celebration were Ned and Bridie Seery, who were trojan fundraisers for the club before their retirement to Moate, Co Westmeath.

Among invited guests was Fr Eddie Randles (now Canon), former PP of Balally, who blessed the foundation stone of the new clubhouse back in 1992. Also present was Fr Donal O'Doherty from Dundrum parish. There were representatives from the Scouts, basketball teams, Dundrum Credit Union and Panorama. The children of some of the first members of the fledgling club back in 1981 were in attendance with their parents, some of whom are still active members of the club.

In his homily, the celebrant on the day, Fr Dermot Lane PP, Balally, spoke of the vision of a small group of men who met in a prefab in the grounds of St Olaf's school back in 1981, whose dream culminated in the building of a fine clubhouse which opened in 1993, and not content with that, enlarged and improved it over the past couple of years into the fantastic facility that it is today. He posed the thought 'what would the children of this area have done with their time and energy if it were not for the GAA club?'

He remarked on the groups and societies that used the premises, among them soccer, basketball and the various social activities that took place within its walls. He praised the GAA as a whole and particularly our own local club, for the amount of 'volunteerism', apparently a dying thing, which is certainly alive in this area. The club Chairman, John O'Brien, thanked everyone for coming.

## Pat McLaughlin 1939-1993 -By Brendan Mc Glynn

Pat McLaughlin was born and reared in Malin Head, Co. Donegal. He was the youngest of three children born to Philip and Roseanne McLaughlin. He attended Malin Head Primary School and Carndonagh Vocational School. Having completed his formal education, he served his time as a barman. Having come to live in Dublin in the early sixties, he worked in the Green Isle Hotel and later in the Montrose Hotel.



He met Moira Murphy from Ballylinan, Co. Laois, in Dublin and they were married in 1967. They went to live in Canada where they remained and worked for five years. On their return, they came to live in Balally Drive. Pat worked for some time for O' Meara's Camping in Dundrum Shopping Centre. Sometime later he started his own sports business, which was to become very successful. His family continue to run what is a thriving business. In 1979, the family moved to their present home on Sandyford Road. Their marriage was blessed with two children, Carol and Philip.

Pat was an avid Gaelic football supporter with a special interest in his native Donegal's senior football team. It was well that he lived to see his county win the All-Ireland Football Final in 1992, and that he was able to enjoy and celebrate the occasion. When Naomh Olaf GAA Club was formed in 1981, Pat was one of its first sponsors, and was soon to become a lifelong club member.

Moira McLaughlin's parents, the late Denis and Christina Murphy, were also steeped in the Gaelic tradition. Christina, a Kilkenny native, attended eve-

ry All-Ireland Final between 1939 and 2000, while Denis was Secretary of the Laois Co. Board and a delegate to the Leinster Council. When Muhammad Ali and Al Blue Lewis fought in Croke Park in July 1972, it was Denis Murphy that the promoter Butty Sugrue requested to take charge of ticket sales. Denis had the pleasure of meeting Muhammad Ali at Dublin Airport. When Ali was

leaving, his autographed boxing glove and boxing trunks were his parting gift to Denis. The Murphy family subsequently handed these items to the authorities in Croke Park and they are now on display in the Museum there.

Pat died, a relatively young man, following a short illness in August 1993. There was a large and representative attendance at his Funeral Mass in the Church of the Ascension of the Lord, Balally. The Church Choir, of which Pat had been an active and valued member, sang during the Mass. His burial took place later in Shanganagh Cemetery. His family invited everybody, many of whom had travelled long distances, to a reception in Naomh Olaf GAA Club.

Following Pat's death, his family donated the "Pat McLaughlin Memorial Cup" to Naomh Olaf GAA Club. The cup has been used for local secondary schools competitions. St Benildus College are the present holders of this very handsome trophy.

It is indeed fitting that the memory of this valued friend of Naomh Olaf GAA Club be kept alive in this manner. *Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.*