

Christopher Doyle 1947-99 - By Brendan McGlynn

The community was shocked and saddened to learn of the sudden passing of Christy Doyle, Balally Drive on the 13th December, 1999. Born in Rathvilly, Co. Carlow in 1947, he joined the Army Apprentice School in Naas in 1957 where he trained until 1960. He gave 25 years faithful and dedicated service until retiring as a Company Sergeant in 1982. During his service, he was employed as an Armament Artificer. He served in the Army Ordnance Corps from 1960-1982. Christy also served with the Irish Peacekeeping Forces abroad on five occasions, twice in the Lebanon, twice in Cyprus and once in Sinai. Following his retirement, he was retained in a civilian capacity as an Artificer in Clancy Barracks.

In 1969, he married Bernie Kelly of Rathmore, Co Carlow. Later that year, the young couple came to live in their new home in Balally Drive. Their marriage was blessed with three children – Sharon, Gary and Anne.

Christy was a man of sound Christian values who took pride in his career and who displayed great love and affection towards his family. He was a generous man who was fiercely competitive. He was very energetic and was involved in a wide range of sporting and cultural activities. He took great joy in the simple things of life.

He loved playing bridge with his wife Bernie as his partner. They played in Dundrum Bridge Club and also in the Carnegie Bridge Club in Sandymount, where Christy was Club Secretary for three years. In November 1999, they played there in the Irish Bridge



Union Simultaneous Pairs, which is a National Competition. It was only on the 11th January 2000 that Bernie was notified that she and Christy had come second in the Competition, winning themselves a prize of £80.

Christy was a founder member of the Balally Horseshoe Pitching Club. He excelled at the sport and he won the County Dublin Singles in 1977. He was

a member of a team to represent Ireland in an international event in Luton in 1988. On that occasion, his team won the major event as well as the ensuing Doubles competition. Gardening was another of his pastimes and, with Bernie as his mentor, they won First Prize in the Balally Gardening Competition on more than one occasion. He was a regular supporter of the Parish Bingo ever since its inception.

Christy enjoyed music and had a great feeling for Irish culture. In the past five or six years, himself and Bernie had developed a love of set dancing. They had enjoyed sessions in Stackstown, Hotel Victor, Glinalbyn and Naomh Olaf GAA Club, often twice weekly. Indeed, it was while they were set dancing in Bray that Christy took ill and died.

The large attendance at both the Removal of the remains and the Funeral Mass in the Church of the Ascension of the Lord, Balally were testimony to the high esteem in which he was rightly held. The attendance included many high ranking Army Officers. The organisation of National Ex-Servicemen, of which he was a member, provided a guard of honour. Very Rev. Fr Dermot Lane P.P. delivered a fitting homily.

Micheál Byrne 1944-2008 - By Brendan McGlynn

Micheál Byrne was born in Marlborough Street, Dublin in 1944 to Tom and Christine Byrne. He was the youngest in a family of seven children, five boys and two girls. His brother, Laurence, and his sisters, Phyllis and Joan, are now the only surviving members of the family. Micheál's mother was a sister of Luke Kelly, who was the father of Luke Kelly of the Dubliners. There was always music in the Byrne family and they were all lovely singers. Having finished his formal education, Micheál went to Waterford where he served his time and studied to be a refrigeration engineer with the Southern Refrigeration Company. Having qualified, he came back to Dublin and worked for the same company in the North Strand for about ten years. Then he, along with three others, formed the Leinster Refrigeration Company, based in Dublin. Following fifteen years of successful trading, Micheál went out on his own and continued to work in the refrigeration business for a number of years.

Micheál first met Nuala Doyle from Milltown at a dance in the Olympic Ballroom in 1961. They were married on the 2nd of January 1969 and came to live in their new home in Balally Hill. They were blessed with three sons, Michael, Niall and Robert. Micheál and Nuala soon became immersed in everything that was a force for good within the community.

Balally Youth Club was formed in 1968 and when their boys were old enough to participate in the various activities, Micheál and Nuala were always available to support and provide transport when necessary. Balally Scout Group was formed in 1977



and when they were building the Scout Den in 1983/1984, Nuala was their first Treasurer while Micheál assisted, particularly with the plumbing of the premises. When Naomh Olaf GAA club was formed in 1981, Micheál and his family soon became involved.

Michael, Niall and Robert played hurling and football with the Club, while Nuala served as Club Secretary for a number of years. When the Club was fundraising for the purpose of building the clubhouse in 1991/1992 and when none of the financial institutions would lend sufficient money to the club, Micheál was one of the fifty four club members who gave a £1000.00 interest free loan for a number of years, so that work on the project could proceed. Micheál was always supportive of Nuala in her role as Committee Member of Balally Residents' Association and as Treasurer and Secretary of St Olaf's Ladies' Club.

Michael, Niall and Robert are now mature and successful adults. They all attended St Olaf's Primary School and St Benildus Secondary School. Michael and Robert played Gaelic, soccer and rugby there. They both played for the U18 Leinster Senior Soccer Squad. Michael won a four year soccer scholarship to UCD where he studied Commerce; while there, he played League of Ireland Football with UCD. He then went to London where he studied and qualified as a Chartered Accountant. While there, he played Gaelic football with the Tír Chonaill Gaels Club and he also played for London. On his return to Ireland in 1998, he played Senior Division 1 football with Naomh Olaf. He married Regina Harty from Tralee

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in 1999 and they now live in Newbridge. They have two children, Katie and Cian. Michael is the Chief Executive Officer of ITG in the Financial Services Centre in Dublin. Niall won an All Ireland medal for Cross Country running with St Benildus College. He went on to study in the College of Catering in Cathal Brugha St. where he qualified in Hotel Management. He is now the Assistant Manager of the Tower Hotel in Waterford. He is married to Deirdre Hickey from Leixlip and they have two children Peter and Micheál. Robert played Senior Division 1 Football for Naomh Olaf. He was the most versatile player on the team. He studied Electrical Engineering in the College of Technology in Kevin Street. He is now the Service Manager with Ascension Lifts in Kimmage. He is married to Tara Fox from Wedgewood. They have two sons Jack and Robbie.

Micheál Byrne was a quiet and inoffensive character who always enjoyed a celebration. His singing and performing of “Finnegan’s Wake” was one of the highlights of many a good party. Indeed, it was to celebrate Niall’s forthcoming wedding that his three sons took Micheál to New York on the 12th November 2008. He died suddenly but peacefully in his sleep there on Saturday, 15th November 2008. As a mark of respect, a minute’s silence was observed in Wedgewood the following day prior to a Senior Football League game between Naomh Olaf and Ballinteer St John’s. Micheál’s remains were waked in his home that evening and the following day. On the 20th November, his remains were removed from his home to the Church of the Ascension of the Lord, Balally for the Funeral Mass at 12 midday. The church was packed to capacity for what was a sad but beautiful occasion. As the remains were being taken into the church, Jimmy and Paddy Kelly

(Luke Kelly’s brothers) sang “The Voyage” and as the remains were leaving the church, they sang “The Coolin”. The chief celebrant of the Mass was Fr. Colm McGlynn who is a friend of the family. He was assisted by Fr. Philip Bradley. During the Mass, Lorraine Maguire sang while Teresa O’Donnell played the harp. Following the Mass, the coffin, draped in the Naomh Olaf Club flag, was taken to Glencullen Cemetery for burial. At the graveside, Jimmy Kelly sang “A Song for Ireland” and “The Parting Glass”. Everybody was invited for a meal in Naomh Olaf GAA Club afterwards.

Micheál, may your gentle soul rest in peace. To his wife, Nuala, his family and many friends, we extend our sincere sympathy.

Ar fhoireann Dé go raibh sé.

Mark Smith 1984-2004 - By Brendan McGlynn

The tragic and untimely death of Mark Smith in a drowning accident in Thailand on the 13th September 04 came as a great shock to those privileged to know him. Mark, who was only twenty years of age, was the only son of John and Catherine Smith of Annville Park, Dundrum. The Smith family also have a younger daughter, Tara.



Death is always sad, but when it strikes at one who is an only son, in excellent health and an exceptionally talented individual, it is particularly poignant. Mark had attended St Olaf's Primary School, as his family lived in Balally Grove at the time. He also attended Oatlands College. Having completed his formal education, he commenced work in his father's business. After about one year, he became self-employed in the I.T. industry.

Mark played football with Naomh Olaf GAA Club. He was an exceptionally good player and won Division One leagues with the Club. He was selected on a Dublin Under Fourteen development squad and went on to represent Dublin on Under Fourteen, Fifteen and Sixteen football teams.

Mark developed an interest in karting when he was eleven years of age. His interest in this sport grew and he became All-Ireland Senior "A" Karting Champion in 2001. That same year, he also won the Ulster Karting Cup Club Championships, the Irish Club Championships, as well as the IRL Plate and also the O Plate. He represented Ireland in the Inter-Nations team events on three occasions. Because of his interest and success in karting, he was unable to

concentrate on his football for a couple of years but he was back playing well for the Club before his death.

While on holidays in Thailand with some friends, Mark was enjoying white-water rafting, when he was drowned. There was a large and representative attendance at his Funeral Mass in Holy Cross Church, Dundrum. Naomh Olaf GAA Club provided a guard of honour. Following his burial in Shanganagh Cemetery, his family invited everybody to a reception in Naomh Olaf GAA Club. With Mark's passing, his family has lost a treasured member and Naomh Olaf GAA Club has lost one of its brightest prospects.

Ar fhoireann Dé go raibh sé.

Under 14 Footballers take Division 2 Title - By Brendan McGlynn

When some of the present footballers on the U 14 Football team played U 11 Football in the 1988/'89 League, they came runners-up in Division 2 of the league. However, because of an age rule change, seven of that team had to play U 13 Football the following season. The club was therefore unable to field an U 12 team in 1989/'90 or an U 13 team the following season. At the commencement of the 1991/'92 season, it was decided to again enter a team for this age group. A number of players had gained valuable experience playing at Division 1 and for their schools in the intervening period. The team was entered at Division 2 of the League.

Naomh Olaf travelled to play Clanna Gael on Saturday, 23rd May with a full complement of players and it was one of the Club's best supported matches of the season. Playing in brilliant sunshine, the boys did not disappoint their followers, and aided by a slight breeze, led by three points at the interval. Shortly after half time, the lead was reduced to two points but following a shrewd switch, they soon took control and ran out deserving winners on the score of 3-10 to 1-7. In addition to winning a cup and a set of medals, the team had qualified to play in Division 1 next season. It was difficult to believe that this was almost the same team that had played Synge Street at the start of the season.



Naomh Olaf U 14 Football Team. Winners of Division 2 of the League 1991/92 - Front row l to r: Ultan O'Dwyer, Liam Casey, Kevin O'Brien, Paul Monaghan, Jimmy Smith, David Neilson, David Farrell, Eoin Christian, John Park, Eric Doolan and John O'Shea. **Back row l to r:** Brendan McGlynn (Mentor), Vincent Mulhall, Darragh Duffy, Brendan McGlynn, Kevin Keane (Captain), Enda Brennan, David Butler, Conor Waters, Philip Byrne, Mark Harrington with Sean Keane and Liam Casey (Mentors). Missing from photograph: Jimmy Anderson, Gerard Gill, Adam Hunter, Michael Mulligan, Rossa Coughlan, David Nolan, Wayne McMahon, Karl Kavanagh, Killian Purcell and Eamonn Tierney.



Photograph taken in Wedgewood during the Junior Football Championship Victory Celebrations in 1990 - Back row l to r: Dermot Irwin, Peter O'Brien, Malcolm Kinsella, Gerard Maher, John Mulvaney, Gerard O'Malley, Aidan O'Malley, Kevin O'Malley, Kevin Birrane, Brendan Curtin (RIP), Derek Kinsella, Bill O'Brien, Dermot O'Brien, Brendan McGlynn, Larry Kinsella. Front row l to r: Ven Naughton, Eddie McCarthy, Ken Naughton, Michael Byrne, Kevin Curtin, David Roben.



Photograph taken outside The Portakabin in Wedgewood (The Club's dressing rooms at the time) during the Junior Football victory celebrations in 1990 - How many can you identify?

Naomh Olaf GAA Clubhouse - The Planning Process - By Frank Heaney

Despite being then involved with underage teams at the Club and having often admired other clubhouses when at “away” matches, it never once occurred to me at the time that the Naomh Olaf Club’s development ambitions extended beyond that much-loved, long, low, flat-roofed, architectural gem that we called the dressing rooms, perched at the top corner of the field at Wedgewood. Our own beautiful converted container, painted green to fuse with the natural sylvan backdrop. Not.

Of course, as with all good GAA clubs, the founders of Naomh Olaf did indeed have bigger plans on the agenda. A well-known Kerryman landed up at the house one day in the late 80’s, with a well thought-out brief. And a sketch plan. “Would you mind drawing that up? To scale. It would be nice to have it for the weekend coming up. Thank you.” “No problem. Where’s the site?” “To the side of Balally Shopping Centre. Up from the Scouts’ Den. Good evening to you all.”

It was, for planning reasons, a good site but as we agreed it was not an ideal location because, among other things, the long-planned (now completed) Drummartin Link Road would effectively bisect the land, isolating the planned clubhouse from the playing pitches some considerable distance away. Nevertheless, beggars can’t be choosy, so a few sketch ideas were debated.

As it happened, the gods looked down upon us favourably. I was involved with a planning application for completion of the nearby Stillorgan Industrial

Estate for Healy Holdings (in receivership). Permission came through, with a condition. A half-hectare field, jutting out to the west of the site, was to be sterilised - effectively ceded to the local authority for public open space purposes.

This parcel of land adjoined and linked Wedgewood Open Space with the playing fields of St Benildus College. It was as perfect a site as you’d get for a clubhouse in that the zoning was favourable, it was sufficiently removed from all residential areas as not to be the cause of any disturbances, yet within easy walking distances from most; it was accessed from an industrial estate, parking at night and weekends would not be a problem, it was a serviced site, it immediately adjoined the playing pitches, it was unlikely to attract objections during the planning process and, for obvious reasons, the proposed development would have the support of the local communities. On top of this, the club had over the years developed an excellent relationship with the Parks Department which, in practice, had a big say in the use of the site.

Situated on the edge of an industrial estate also had some economic and aesthetic benefits in that we could plan with basic cost-effective structural systems and external finishes, the idea being that at some time in the future, as finances improved, some new elements could be added, if required, to extend and/or improve appearances.

Much map-making and preliminary discussion about the several legal and planning issues inherited with

the land, stalled any hasty approach to Naomh Olaf for fear that initial optimism proved premature, or worse. However, “aided and abetted”, Naomh Olaf were subsequently in a position to submit a particularly strong presentation to the Parks Department and got the nod.

Prior to making the formal planning application, some of us travelled all over Dublin to assess and learn from the more recently completed GAA club-houses. We were very impressed with the efforts made by every one of them, though no two were alike as each had its own peculiar issues regarding access, size, finance etc. Our own plans were similarly affected of course but Naomh Olaf Club’s immediate and long-term requirements had been well debated and agreed by the members involved and the brief given to me was comparatively straight forward and practical. We also had our own in-house specialists on whom I could call for help; a call to Mick Byrne, for example, eased my pains regarding details for the installation of the bar’s cooling system! It is also worth noting here that the Club insisted that the main hall be sufficient to provide a full-size arena for the successful ladies’ basketball teams in the parish. Tennis courts also formed part of the original layouts. This was to be a community development.

Our planning application, when lodged, was dealt with quickly and favourably by the local authority, though we didn’t get the tennis areas! We had also preferred that the building would be pushed right back on the site, like all the other existing units, to allow for some future and substantial extension to the front, if required. But the powers that be, Dublin City Council, argued against this on the grounds that

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the building, if pushed forward instead, would be less visible from the proposed Link Road a couple of pitches away (in fact, because of ground levels, the opposite was the case). . . and to think I used to lose sleep over decisions like that!



Club member Pat Mooney is seen here with his JCB. He did much of the work in clearing the Club site.

Naomh Olaf Under 15 Hurling League Winners 1990 - By Mick Brown

The Naomh Olaf Under 15 hurling team of 1990 won their league without losing a match. The team was made up of Under 13, Under 14 and Under 15 players and was hastily put together at the start of the season to make sure we had an Under 15 team playing this season.

In our final game of the season, we easily beat Na Fianna by 10-5 to 2-2. The closest team to us was

Cabinteely who we beat by 3 goals. Although we did not win the Championship, we beat Crokes in the shield qualifiers.

Mentors on the team were Mick Brown and Liam Kavanagh.



The Under 15 Hurling Team 1990 - Back row: Mick Brown (Mentor), Paddy Roe, Derek Naughton, Ciaran Boyle, Robert Byrne, Niall Kavanagh, Niall McCaffery, Fergal Hogan, Padraig Bermingham, Cormack Doyle and Liam Kavanagh (Mentor). ***Front row:*** Tommy Brown, David O'Brien, Greg Naughton, R.I.P. Oliver Seery, Brian Goulding, Ronan Condron, Aiden Maguire and Brian Murtagh. ***Missing from the Photograph:*** Eoin Brennan, Stephen Heaney, John Keane and Alan Traynor.

Under 11 Division One Football Team 1990

This report by Kevin Birrane was first published in Panorama Magazine in March 1990

Following a very successful season in '88/'89, when we finished runners-up in our league and won the Corrigan Shield, we were promoted to Div. 1 for the '89/'90 season. We had to start the season without six of last year's panel as they were still eligible for U10 football. Having lost our first two games, I began to worry that the boys would struggle in the very competitive First Division. We regained our composure to win the next six games in succession and at the moment, with just one game to play, it looks like we will finish in a very respectable 3rd place. It is a credit to these boys that they came back from such a shaky start to finish in such a high position in Division 1.

Two members of the team, Eoin Christian and Karl Kavanagh, were chosen to represent Dublin South East in a Three County Competition against Wicklow and Wexford and duly won their first Inter-County medals. Other members of the panel to do well through the season were Richard Masterson, Cillian Purcell, Paul Doyle, Peter Hopkins, Paul Costelloe, Ian McDonnell, Maurice Whelan, Andrew Kinsella, Edmund Smyth, Donal Boyle, David Pocock, Shane O'Connor, Niall Brogan, Gavin Wyse, Peter Fallon, Robert Fahy, Andrew Hayes, Stephen Lynch and Eric Doolan.

Finally, I would like to say a word of thanks to Karl Sexton, my helper throughout the season, without whom this team would not be able to function, especially when I have to work day duty on every fourth Saturday. I would also like to thank parents Joe Fahy

and Liam Christian who made transport available every Saturday.



Photograph taken in the Clubhouse on the 7th November 1990 - shows members of the Feehan family proudly in possession of the Conlon Cup: L to R: Paddy Feehan with his mother Jean and father Pat.



Also celebrating the Conlon Cup victory were (L to R) Peter Maher, Mary and Pat Maguire.

Naomh Olaf Under 12 ACC Winning Team 1990

This article by Brendan McGlynn was first published in Panorama Magazine in July 1990

Naomh Olaf Sandyford took home one of the premier trophies in the second annual ACC Football Festival which opened at Tymon Park on Saturday 23rd June, 1990. This two day festival for Under 12 football teams, inaugurated last year, proved an outstanding success. Over 1,200 children from all over Leinster and from Dungarvan, Co. Waterford, created a moving spectacle as they marched in their colourful outfits behind the Tallaght Festival Band to the opening ceremony at St. Jude's Club premises. There, each team captain was introduced to the Chairman of the Leinster Council, Jimmy Grey and to the Chairman of the Dublin County Board, Phil Markey. Following a short opening ceremony, 57 teams dispersed to six different venues to compete in the competition.

Wedgewood was one of the venues for the Festival Blitz in which Naomh Olaf was competing. There were six other teams competing in Wedgewood. Naomh Olaf played in Group 1. Their first game was against Killucan, Co. Westmeath, the team they were hosting for the weekend. Before a good home following, Naomh Olaf proved too strong for the visitors. Two matches were in progress at this venue throughout the evening. The second Naomh Olaf match was against Enniskerry and a number of well taken scores saw them through to the semi-final against the winners of Group 2, Naomh Barróg. They had already beaten Good Counsel, Clonard, Co. Wexford, Blessington and St Jude's on their way to the semi-final. This was one of the closest games in the competition with Naomh Olaf eventually win-

ning by four points. Two more groups had played in this particular competition at Tymon North on the same date and Cuala had qualified for the final from that section. So the scene was set for the final at Tymon North on Sunday morning. All the other teams continued to play in a loser's section.

A strong breeze favoured Naomh Olaf in the first period and they led by 1 – 5 to no score at the interval. This looked scarcely enough of a lead as they faced the breeze for the second half. However, playing with great determination and skill, Naomh Olaf made much better use of their chances in the second half and went on to a wonderful victory on the score of 2 – 10 to 1 – 2.

The presentation immediately afterwards was a great occasion as the captains of the winning teams were presented with their trophies by Danny Lynch, PRO of the GAA. Each member of the winning teams received a beautiful inscribed medal. There was a very special trophy for "Club of the Festival". This was presented to the "best presented and conducted team". De La Salle were deserving winners while Naomh Olaf was amongst a small few teams that were highly commended.

This was the first occasion for Naomh Olaf to host a section of such a competition and the opportunity was gratefully accepted. The Club was thrilled with the success of the venture and are indebted to the 137 Scout Troup, Balally and in particular to Tony Roe, for the use of the Scout Den. This enabled our Social Committee to provide much needed refreshments on both days which added greatly to the festival atmosphere. The Killucan team and mentors

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thoroughly enjoyed their weekend with Naomh Olaf and have already invited them to spend a weekend in

Westmeath in the near future.



Naomh Olaf Under 12 ACC Winning Team - Front row l to r: Ian Mc Donnell, Edmund Smith, Robert Fahy, Maurice Whelan, Eoin Christian, David Wyse, Liam Casey, Shane O'Connor and Peter Hopkins. **Back row l to r:** Kevin Birrane (Mentor), Peter Fallon, John O'Shea, Paul Doyle, Cillian Purcell, Mark Harrington, Philip Byrne, David Butler, Brendan McGlynn, Enda Brennan, Darragh Duffy, Vincent Mulhall and Brendan McGlynn (Mentor).



Photograph taken in Wedgewood around 1990 - Front row l to r: David Johnson, unidentified, Mark Harrington, Barry Lynch, Brendan McGlynn, John Park and Paul Monaghan. **Centre row l to r:** Tommy Brown, Rossa Coughlan, Darragh Duffy, David Hickey, David O'Brien, Niall McCaffrey and Sean Muldoon. **Back row l to r:** David Butler, Alan Burns, Philip Byrne, Desmond Murphy, Brendan Johnston and Bill Hopkins, Team Mentors.



Photograph taken at Wedgewood in the mid '90 - Front row l to r: Malcolm Kinsella, Michael Seery, Myles Merriman, Stephen Murray. **Back row l to r:** David Supple, Shane Maloney, David Roben, Martin Doherty.

Under 10 Footballers win Division Two of the 1990/91 Seasons

This report by John Stewart was published in Panorama Magazine in September 1991

The success of Naomh Olaf underage teams continues with the Under 10s taking the coveted “B” title in a play-off with Blessington. This was the culmination of a very long season, which was often interrupted by very poor weather in February and March. All credit is due to the mentors John Stewart and Brendan Curtin, R.I.P. who, at the beginning of the season, put together a very large and much talented panel of players.

The league campaign began with a flourish with all matches being won by very handsome margins. The one and only defeat was suffered away, against Blessington, who, by coincidence, had their only defeat against Naomh Olaf at Wedgewood. The play-off between both teams for the league title was arranged for Sunday 26th May at St. Jude’s, Templeogue. The atmosphere just before the match was electric, with a huge gathering of supporters on both sides.

Such was the dominance of Naomh Olaf in the first half that that it was difficult to believe a 0-0 score line at half time. Two points by Kevin Birrane and Simon Byrne, just after half time, quickly settled the team down, and they never really looked back after that. Goals by Eamon Spain, Derek Mills and Kevin Meaney gave the team a comfortable lead which they held until the end of the game, despite a late surge by Blessington.

In a game such as this, it is difficult, and indeed un-

fair, to highlight the performance of a few players. The whole panel of players, right throughout the season, contributed handsomely to the final success.

- Barry Hicks, in goal, performed very capably all through the season saving his best performance for the final.
- Bill Stafford, R.I.P. Christopher O’Shea and James Clarke proved to be a very solid full back line right through the season.
- The regular half back line of Sean Saunders, Michael Denton, and Derek Mills performed to an exceptionally high standard and proved to be the launching pad for most of Olaf’s attacks.
- The captain of the team, Kevin Meaney, in his second year at Under 10, was an example to all his colleagues by displaying some lovely football skills and discipline, in all matches.
- Kevin Birrane had again a huge impact on the team in every game he played and certainly displayed his three years competitive experience at Under 10.
- Simon Byrne, our centre forward, must be surely one of the most talented under age players Naomh Olaf has ever produced. With proper coaching and continued interest in the game, he is capable of playing at the very highest level.
- Interestingly enough, the two wing half forwards, Daire Stewart and Eamon Spain are, like Simon Byrne, both left footers, with

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Daire in particular having had a great season. Performance of the year was probably from Eamon in the final, ending up scoring a goal and two points.

- In the full forward line there was an abundance of talent. Mark Egan captured his second Under 10 trophy. Brian Keogh was, unfortunately, to carry an injury in the final but he is a player of exceptional natural talent. Barry McCardle, a newcomer to the squad, scored two fine points when he came on as a sub in the final, and demonstrated that he must be in contention for a

regular place next season. The Harrington brothers, Padraig and John, also contributed handsomely – Padraig with his natural talent and John with his sheer determination.

- Probably the two most versatile players on the panel were Hugh O'Donnell and John Reynolds, both of whom could fit into any position on the team.
- The panel was finally made up of Shane Monaghan, Lorcan Kinsella, Ross Turner and Colm Hartin, all of whom made a significant contribution when called upon during the year.



Under 10 Football Team - Winners of Division Two of the League 1990/91 - Front row l to r: Mark Egan, Derek Mills, Brian Keogh, Michael Denton, Seán Saunders, Padraig Harrington, James Clarke and Eamon Spain. Back row l to r: Brendan Curtin (Mentor), R.I.P. Hugh O'Donnell, Kevin Meaney, Simon Byrne, Barry Hicks, Kevin Birrane, Christopher O'Shea, Daire Stewart, John Stewart (Mentor) Missing from photograph: Ross Turner, Barry McCardle, Shane Monaghan, Lorcan Kinsella, John Harrington, John Reynolds and Colm Hartin.

First Adult Hurling Team Formed - By Larry Kinsella

With the formation of Naomh Olaf GAA Club in 1981 and the entry of juvenile teams in competition that year for the first time, it was inevitable that some years later, an adult hurling team would be entered. This eventually took place in 1990, thanks mainly to the efforts of Jerome Hogan, Flan McCarthy, Mick Brown and others. The team was entered at Junior D level and the historic first outing took place on 7th October 1990 in Meadowbrook against Dundrum/Churchtown in the first league match.

While the records of the day are not great, it is thought that the team which lined out on the day was as follows:

*Jerome Hogan, Sean O'Brien, Larry Kinsella
Aidan O'Brien, Gerry Murphy, Niall McCabe,
Mick Seery, Jim Shiggins, Brian Horgan,
Brian Cotter, Eddie McCarthy, Caomhán
Bermingham, Finbarr O'Mahoney, Finbar Brogan,
Aidan O'Malley.*

The referee for the match was Peadar O'Neill and the match ended in a score-line of Dundrum/Churchtown 2-8, Naomh Olaf 2-6. Toggled out on the day for Dundrum/Churchtown were Hughie Doyle, Dara Wade, Pat Boylan, Mick de Veale and Dónal Mac Mathúna. Donal and Mick scored the last three points of the game to win the match for Dundrum/Churchtown. Significantly all five players subsequently transferred to Naomh Olaf. There was a brief report in the Evening Herald the following week, as follows:

Naomh Olaf of Sandymount played their first ever Jun-

ior hurling match last Sunday against neighbours Dundrum/Churchtown. The game turned out to be a cracking match with Dundrum winning by two points in the last few minutes. Olaf's will be very happy with their first excursion into adult hurling and they have a lovely blend of young and experienced players with young Eddie McCarthy scoring freely up front and the experienced Larry Kinsella giving a masterly display at full back.

The Evening Herald was very kind in the use of the word 'experienced'. For example, Larry Kinsella (long since retired and just gone 40 years old at the time) went to watch the match with his young sons. He ended up, after very little persuasion, toggling out at full back and wasn't the oldest member of the team that day. It was, however, a landmark occasion in the history of the adult hurling section and the mentors, with overall responsibility for looking after the team for the year, were Jerome Hogan, Caomhán Bermingham, Karl Sexton and Flan McCarthy. Other players who featured regularly in the course of the next two years were Niall Byrne, Gerry Maher, Dermot O'Donovan, Ben Shorten, Dermot Crean, Paddy Feehan, Brian Lambe, Eamon Cotter, Damien McDonnell, Derek and Greg Naughton, Patrick Maguire, Eoin Ryan and Fergal Hogan.

In May 1991, Caomhán Bermingham was invited on to the Dublin U21 Hurling Panel and started in a challenge match against Wexford - not bad for a Junior D club hurler!

In 1992, the team progressed further. The first ever Championship game at Junior B level was won by

defeating Shankill on a score-line of 1-7 to 0-8 with Caomhán Bermingham scoring all but one point of Olaf's scores. In the quarter-final, Olaf's defeated Setanta by a score of 2-5 to 0-8, thanks to two spectacular saves by Jerome Hogan, one in the dying seconds of the game. Scorers that day were Peter Maher 1-1, his son Gerard 0-3 and Pdraig O'Leary 1-1. The team was beaten by Sylvester's in the Championship semi-final but finished up winning the top 4 of the league which was a very respectable achievement for a team, in only its second year of existence.

Hit it out to your Daddy!

A feature of new adult teams being fielded for the first time in a young club is the huge age span of players ranging from very young (17 to 20 year olds) to much older (40 years plus). It was inevitable therefore that father/son combinations featured in the first couple of years. The 1991 league matches regularly featured Jerome Hogan and his son Fergal, also Kevin O'Malley and his son Aidan. Peter Maher and his son Gerard also featured on a couple of occasions. Sean Keane and his two sons, John and Kevin, started and finished the match in the Junior B Championship Final of 1996.

A league match against Kevin's was played in Dolphin Park in July 2002. Peter Maher toggged out at full forward with his son Gerard at wing half-forward. Kevin O'Malley was picked at right half-back with his son Aidan (for reasons best known to Flan McCarthy!) picked at right corner-back. At one stage in the second half, Aidan O'Malley was struggling to clear a ball and Niall McCabe, centre half-back, was heard shouting loudly at Aidan "Hit it out to your Daddy, hit it out to your Daddy.

Shield of Dreams

Competing in adult hurling competitions for the first

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Selection of Players from First Hurling Team 1990/91 -

***Front row:** Unidentified, Derek Eagers, Mick Seery, Jerome Hogan, Caomhán Bermingham, Briain Cotter, Flan McCarthy **Back row:** Damien McDonnell, Derek Naughton, Niall McCabe, Jim Shiggins, Brian Lambe, Aidan O'Malley, Eddie McCarthy, Finbarr O'Mahoney.*

time was obviously a major milestone for Naomh Olaf. The continuous progress of the team in 1991 and 1992 meant that winning our first trophy was not too far away. This historic event took place on Sunday 4th July 1993 when O'Dwyer's were beaten in the final of the Fletcher Shield by a score-line of 6-5 to 0-3. Niall Scully reporting in the Evening Herald said:

At full-forward, Olaf's had their top Kilkenny cat Willie Vereker who collected a hat-trick of goals. Vereker, fondly known as 'the Russian', picked the big occasion to have one of his finest games in the Olaf's jersey.

Niall was generous in his praise of Sean Keane at centre-back and Larry Kinsella at full-back - 'The two most experienced players on the pitch.' What Niall probably meant was that Sean and Larry were, by far, the two oldest players on the pitch. He spoke of the energy and skill of 16 year old Lorcan Mac Mathúna. He singled out, in particular, Caomhán Bermingham who scored 1-3 from centre half-

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forward; the goal coming in the 37th minute was a cracker to the top lefthand corner of the net. Mick Seery, who came on as a sub on 40 minutes, scored Olaf's 5th goal from an awkward angle on the left.

Padraig Bermingham, Gerry Murphy, Larry Kinsella, Pat Boylan, Derek Gill, Sean Keane, Aidan O'Malley, Brian Horgan, Sean Coleman Lorcan Mac Mathúna (0-1), Caomhán Bermingham (1-3), Jim Shiggins (0-1), Padraig O'Leary (1-0), Willie Vereker (3-0), George Mahoney.

Subs: Declan Williams for Gill (injured 20 mins). Mick Seery (1-0) for Shiggins - 40 minutes. Tim Slevin for Mahoney - 55 minutes.

Mentors: Flan McCarthy, Jerome Hogan, Larry Kinsella.

League and Championship Success in 1994, 1995 and 1996 Junior C Championship 1994

To hurling people, nothing compares to the winning of a Championship. Winning the Fletcher Shield in 1993 was hugely important in that it was the first silverware won by the adult hurlers. In the words of Jerome Hogan, in a Panorama article of 1994 'The winning of the Fletcher Shield in 1993 was a stepping stone to the ultimate achievement that any team hopes to attain, namely the winning of a Championship.'

So it came to pass in 1994. The first Junior C Championship match was an away game against Naomh Mearnóg on a very wet day and it turned out to be the toughest game of the year, winning by just 3 points. The second round was won comfortably against a young Cabinteely side. Shankill were the next opponents in the semi-final in O'Toole Park on Sunday 19th June and the team produced probably its best display yet in winning by a score of 4-14 to 0-4.

George Mahoney produced a man of the match performance by scoring 2-5 on the day. Willie Vereker contributed a modest 2-3.

The Junior C final was played in Parnell Park on Sunday 3rd July against O'Dwyer's and Naomh Olaf stepped into history by winning on a score-line of 3-11 to 1-9. O'Dwyer's were also trying to step into history. In their long, distinguished history, they had never before reached a major Championship hurling decider. They were skippered on the day by Denis O'Leary (brother of legendary Dublin goalkeeper, John). A towering display by Sean Keane at centre back and two huge performances from Caomhán Bermingham and Willie Vereker helped to swing it for Olaf's on the day.

The Olaf's team which fielded that day was:

Padraig Bermingham, Derek Naughton, Dara Wade, Pat Boylan, John Campion, Sean Keane (0-1), Niall McCaffrey, Sean Coleman, Lorcan Mac Mathúna, Jim Shiggins, Caomhán Bermingham (1-3), Tom Kennedy, George Mahoney (0-2), Willie Vereker (1-6), Kevin Dempsey (1-1).

Mentors: Flan McCarthy, Jerome Hogan, Sean Keane.

Winning the Championship was the highlight of a very successful year which included finishing second in the League and winning the Millar Shield. Our success meant competing in Junior B in 1995. Jerome Hogan, again in his Panorama article, said:

The future of hurling in Naomh Olaf looks good. Maybe it's not too much to hope that some day, in the not too distant future, there may be a strong Intermediate team or even a Senior team. How prophetic was that!



Junior C Champions 1994 - Front row: Patrick Maguire, Tom Kennedy, Jim Shiggins, Lorcan Mac Mathúna, Caomhán Bermingham, John Campion, Pdraig Bermingham, Derek Naughton, Mick Seery, **Back row:** Philip Funge, Unidentified, Niall O'Toole, Sean Coleman, Willie Vereker, Sean Keane, Pdraig O'Leary, Dara Wade, George Mahoney, Niall McCaffrey, Pat Boylan, Cormac Doyle.

League Promotions 1995 and 1996

In 1995, the Junior hurling team mentored by Flan McCarthy, Jerome Hogan and Sean Keane won the Junior B League and reached the semi-final of the B Championship. Team member, Niall McCaffrey, was selected as corner-back for Dublin Minor hurlers and at full-back for Dublin Minor footballers.

In 1996, the club fielded very strong Minor and U21 teams. While no silverware was won by these teams, the club now had a group of promising young players beginning to feed into the adult team. The Junior hurling team competed in Division A of the League and in the B Championship. The year overall was a great success for the team, winning the top 4 final of the League and in so doing, gaining promotion to Intermediate standard for the next season. The Junior B Championship team produced great victories against St Vincent's in the first round and O'Toole's in the semi-final. They were unfortunately beaten by a very experienced Ballyboden St Enda's team in the B final on 30th June by a score-line of 2-8 to 0-7.

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Sean Keane, Jim Sullivan, Dara Wade, Paddy Roe, Sean Coleman, Lorcan Mac Mathúna (0-1), John Keane (0-2), Enda McLaughlin, Kevin Keane Jim Shiggins, Brian Horgan, Pdraig Bermingham George Mahoney, Willie Vereker (0-3), Eddie McCarthy (0-1).

Subs: Pat Boylan for Shiggins, Seamus Mac Mathúna for Wade (injured).

Mentors: Jerome Hogan, Flan McCarthy, Sean Keane.

Jerome Hogan, in his comprehensive review in Panorama of adult hurling for the '95/'96 season, stated that the team's performance in 1996 rated as a great achievement for the team and mentors, as the team had only been in existence for six years. He went on to say that:

The Intermediate League holds no fears for the team or mentors in the coming season. With new players coming of age all the time combined with the experience and craft of the more established men, we expect to hold our own with the best in the higher League. The healthy state of hurling in Naomh Olaf is reflected in the fact that there is now a need for a second Junior team. Efforts are now being made to comprise a panel and mentors for this team.

1997 - A Vintage Year

The year 1997 proved to be the most successful ever in the short history of hurling in the club. Having started originally in 1991 with one adult hurling team competing at Junior D level and selected from a skeleton panel of players, the team gained promotion each year. Some silverware was won and the team was competing at Intermediate level in 1997. The older players who were so important in the early years were now all retired. Young players had

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progressed through the ranks, some outside players were taken on board and overall success had generated a new interest in hurling.

The ever-expanding pool of hurlers made it necessary to enter a second adult team. Paddy Maguire came on board to join the established mentors Flan McCarthy, Jerome Hogan, Sean Keane and Mick Waters. Another huge addition to the backroom team was Greg Hannon who had a great interest in, and knowledge of, hurling. He brought a huge freshness to the backroom team and had the total respect of players and mentors alike. He could play a bit of hurling too!

The second team competed at Junior C level, won 10 out of 11 matches and finished up League winners - a remarkable achievement for Paddy Maguire's men in their first year in existence. The most satisfying point about this team was the return of many former juveniles who had drifted away from hurling and the club.

The Intermediate team was entered in the Junior B Championship and installed as hot favourites from the start. Having received a walk-over in the first round, the first match was a quarter-final against Kilmacud Crokes which was won by 0-12 to 0-9, thanks to an injury time penalty save from 17 year old goalkeeper Caolán Cotter. Commercials were easily overcome in the semi-final, thanks to a devastating forward display. The final against O'Dwyer's was played in O'Toole Park in late August. The team struggled badly in the first half and were seven points down at one stage. However, a great second half performance meant that Olaf's ran out comfortable winners by five points.

Hannon Sinks Setanta

The third major success of our adult hurlers in 1997 was winning the Intermediate League and gaining promotion to Intermediate Premier League for 1998. When the team was promoted to Intermediate level at the end of 1996, everyone wondered if they could compete in this higher level of competition in 1997. Expectation began to grow as they continued to win matches, finishing up in the Intermediate League final against Setanta in O'Toole Park on Saturday 26th July 1997. Victory was achieved by the narrowest of margins on a score-line of 1-11 to 1-10. Niall Scully, in his Evening Herald report the following week, said:

Last Saturday night in O'Toole Park, Greg Hannon, player/coach of Olaf's, in Billy Byrne fashion, came off the bench to make as stunning a contribution as the Wexford ace did in the Leinster final. Hannon's heroics steered Olaf's to the Intermediate League hurling title, sending them into Intermediate Premier Grade, their highest ever achievement in hurling. Trailing by 3 points, with 3 minutes remaining, Hannon was the last throw of the dice. With a minute left, he fired over a point and in additional time he supplied the pass for Eddie McCarthy to drive into the net giving Olaf's victory in the most dramatic of circumstances.

Captain Niall McCaffrey proudly lifted Olaf's third major trophy of 1997. Not a bad season - Junior C League, Intermediate League, Junior B Championship. The great game of hurling is alive and well in the club.

Caolán Cotter, James Sullivan, Robert Quinn, Seamus Mac Mathúna, Sean Coleman, Niall McCaffrey (0-1), Kevin O'Brien (0-1), Lorcan Mac

*Mathúna (0-1), Enda McLaughlin (0-1)
Sean Gibbons (0-1), Brian Horgan, Kevin Keane
George Mahoney, Willie Vereker (0-3), Eddie
McCarthy (1-1).*

Subs: Eoin Brennan for Mahoney (38 minutes),
Jim Shiggins (0-1) for Horgan (44 minutes). Greg
Hannon (0-1) for Gibbons (54 minutes).

1998, 1999 and 2000 Seasons

In 1998, the Intermediate hurlers competed in the Premier Division and performed particularly well all season. The first match in the league was away in Cloughran against Whitehall Colmcille and, due to a mix-up, the team arrived with no jerseys. The team played in a combination of shirts and jumpers and won the match! The final league game was against St Jude's in Tymon North on Sunday 23rd August with a win for either side assuring promotion to Senior status. After a well-contested but controversial game, St Jude's won on a score of 2-7 to 1-7. While hugely disappointed with the result, the experience of playing at this level had been a great learning curve for our young players.

Niall McCaffrey was a member of the Dublin U21 hurling team of 1998, defeated by Kilkenny in the Leinster final. The following year, Niall was selected as corner-back for Dublin Senior hurlers against Wexford in the South-East League. Caolán Cotter was a member of the Dublin Minor hurling team beaten by Wexford in the Leinster Championship.

In 1999, the Intermediate hurling team reached the semi-final of the Championship having defeated St Sylvester's in the first round and O'Toole's in the quarter-final by a score-line of 5-14 to 2-10. This was, probably, one of the team's best ever performances. The match took place in O'Toole Park on

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Friday 4th June 1999. Niall Scully of the Evening Herald reported:

All Olaf's six forwards scored. Among them was centre-forward Kevin Keane, brilliant in possession, who wreaked havoc to the O'Toole's rear guard with his ability and running power. His attacking colleague Padraig Bermingham was in the kind of form that turned harmless-looking crumbs into a delicious four course meal with dessert and coffee. Bermingham's two goals resulted from pure inspiration demonstrating a mind that was in the fast-forward mode.

Padraig must have paid Niall Scully to write that.

Scorers: Padraig Bermingham (2-0), Kevin Keane (0-6), Caolán Cotter (1-2), Dónal Mac Mathúna and Timmy Cooney (1-1 each), Sean Gibbons and Jim Quinn (0-2 each).

The Intermediate Championship semi-final was played against Kilmacud Crokes on Friday 25th June 1999. A heartbreaking injury-time goal sealed victory for Crokes on a score-line of 2-8 to 1-8. Another hard lesson was learned by the team, one they would soon draw on to take the next major step to promotion.

Brendan Banes, Robert Quinn, Niall McCaffrey, Barry O'Brien, Lorcan Mac Mathúna (0-1), Dónal Mac Mathúna (0-2), Eoin Kinsella, Enda McLaughlin, John Keane, Caolán Cotter (1-1), Kevin Keane (0-1), Jim Quinn (0-2), Padraig Bermingham (0-1), Timmy Cooney, Sean Gibbons.

Subs: Brian Phelan for Cooney, Darragh Maxwell for McLaughlin.

Year 2000

In the 2000 League, our Intermediate hurlers won

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eight matches and drew one out of a total of ten matches. They lost out in their promotion bid to gain senior status because of a 1-8 to 2-9 loss to Craobh Chiaráin in the eighth league match. Setanta were promoted, having dropped only two points in the League campaign.

In the 2000 Championship, the Intermediate team lost to Kilmacud Crokes after extra time in a replay in O'Toole Park in what was a highly entertaining match. Crokes scored a late goal to bring the match to extra time and went on to lead in extra time by four points. Naomh Olaf had a late 25 yard free to draw the match but the shot whistled over the cross-bar with Crokes winning on a scoreline of 1-13 to 0-14. The 2000 team was managed by Sean Keane and the very experienced Pat Quinn from St Vincent's.

Our U21 hurlers competed in the very competitive Division 1 South League and finished a very respectable runners-up to an excellent Ballyboden St Enda's side who won the League unbeaten and were the only team to beat Olaf's. We took some notable scalps along the way including Cuala, Kilmacud Crokes, Ballinteer St John's, Clanna Gael and Thomas Davis. It was very satisfying to have done so well in the League and to have competed against some of the best, and longest established, hurling clubs in Dublin. We lost to St Vincent's in the quarter-final of the Championship. With the exception of Shane O'Connor and Eoin Christian, all other players were eligible for U21 in 2001.

Top scorers: Padraig Harrington (0-30), Caolán Cotter (0-21), Raymond Quinn (4-7), Sean Gibbons (1-12).

Panel of Players: *Philip Conway, James McCarthy, Eoin Hayes, Eoin McCaffrey, Darren Egan,*

Kevin Doolan, Eoin Kinsella, Eoin Christian, Eoin Heaney, John Harrington, Padraig Harrington, Sean Gibbons, Barry O'Brien, Emmet O'Grady, Fearghal Purcell, Caolán Cotter, Raymond Quinn, Rory Kennelly, Kevin Birrane, Shane O'Connor, Gary Wilkins, Stephen Redmond, Fionnan McGrath

Mentors: *Larry Kinsella, Chris O'Grady, Kevin Birrane and Joe Jackson.*

2002 - Senior Hurling At Last!

The 2002 season was targeted by mentors (Larry Kinsella and Flan McCarthy) and players alike for an extra-special drive to break through to Senior hurling and get the monkey of narrow defeats off their back once and for all. The return of Kevin Keane, Barry Lynch and Padraig Bermingham during the season, from twelve months abroad, strengthened the panel.

Pre-season training commenced in mid-January and went particularly well. Four pre-season challenge matches were played and won against Setanta, Civil Service, Oliver Plunkett's and Kilmacud Crokes. It was no surprise therefore that the team got off to a flying start in the Division 3 League winning the first five League matches in a row against: St Sylvester's (3-6 to 1-4), Raheny (1-9 to 0-4), St Vincent's (walkover), Kilmacud Crokes (1-14 to 3-3), St Patrick's (2-5 to 0-5).

In between, two Corn Céitinn matches were won against Crokes (3-9 to 2-9) and Sylvester's (1-9 to 0-3). A feature of performances was exceptionally good defending, with the half-back line in outstanding form.

Gibbons seals it for Olaf's

This was the heading in the Evening Herald in its report of the top 4 final of 10th November 2002 which

Naomh Olaf won and, in so doing, wrote themselves into the club's history by achieving the elusive Senior hurling status. The venue was O'Toole Park and the opposition was Kevin's who had already beaten us comfortably in the League.

The drama commenced even before the throw-in when selected corner-back Brian Phelan was injured in the warm-up and replaced by Caomhán Bermingham. He slotted in perfectly and had a fine game. Sean Gibbons opened the scoring with a free after two minutes. Kevin's replied scoring two points in quick succession. A sweeping move started by Eoin Kinsella led to a great goal by Kevin Keane. Further points from Gibbons, John Keane and a goal from Kevin Keane left the half-time score at 2-4 to 0-4 with Olaf's looking very impressive. However, Kevin's replied with two quick goals early in the second half and went on to lead for the first time by 2-6 to 2-5 after 50 minutes. Padraig Bermingham levelled the game on 55 minutes and two fine points by Gibbons, one from a free and the other a classy point from play, sealed it for Olaf's on a score-line of 2-8 to 2-6. The team's superior level of fitness on the day, combined with greater experience, prevailed in the end.

The Olaf's half-back line of Barry Lynch, Dónal Mac Mathúna and Eoin Kinsella was exceptional. The midfield pairing of Lorcan Mac Mathúna and Robert Quinn worked tirelessly with Robert, in particular, making some quite amazing catches. The complete squad of players could be justifiably proud of the achievement as it put Naomh Olaf among the elite clubs in Dublin with a Senior side in hurling and football.

Shane O'Connor, Caomhán Bermingham, Paddy Roe, Hughie Doyle, Eoin Kinsella, Dónal Mac

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Mathúna (0-1), Barry Lynch, Lorcan Mac Mathúna, Robert Quinn, John Keane (0-1), Sean Gibbons (0-5), Padraig Bermingham (0-1) James Hughes, Kevin Keane (2-0), Greg Hannon.

Subs: Jim Quinn for Hannon.

Mentors: Larry Kinsella and Flan McCarthy.



Naomh Olaf Hurlers Celebrate Promotion to Senior Ranks 2002 - Left to right: Paddy Roe, Jim Quinn, Lorcan Mac Mathúna, Kevin Keane, Robert Quinn, James Hughes, John Keane, Padraig Bermingham.

The prophetic words of Jerome Hogan, in his Panorama article of 1994 when Olaf's won the Junior C Championship, had finally come to pass.

The future of hurling in Naomh Olaf looks good. Maybe it is not too much to hope that some day in the not too distant future there may be a strong Intermediate team or even a Senior team.

Intermediate status was achieved in 1996 and now, at last, after some near misses, Senior status was achieved at the end of a long 2002 season. By any standards, it must be regarded as a phenomenal achievement for a club that fielded its first adult hurling team in 1991 at Junior D level.

Intermediate Championship Disappointment in 2003 and 2004

The team finished in a very comfortable mid-table

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position in the Senior Division 2 League. It was a huge learning curve for our players, almost all of whom were playing and competing at this level for the first time in their hurling careers. The highlight of the League campaign was probably the home match against St Mark's on Saturday 14th June. Mark's came into the game with four league wins out of four against Kevin's, Cuala, Ballyboden St Enda's and Lucan Sarsfield's. Olaf's came into the match with a win against Ballyboden St Enda's, draws against Kevin's and Cuala and defeat against Lucan Sarsfield's. Olaf's hurled brilliantly and defeated Mark's by 2-12 to 2-4, despite having two players (who shall be nameless!) sent off. Goals from Greg Hannon and Dónal Mac Mathúna proved priceless but man of the match was Shane O'Connor who made many superb saves on the night. Niall Scully in his Evening Herald report of the match was very complimentary of the 'wonderful dedication of the Olaf's players and mentors Larry Kinsella, Flan McCarthy and Jerome Hogan'. Niall described the match as 'Sandyford's Saturday Night Live with more to come'. He does get carried away at times, doesn't he!

In the Intermediate Championship, we qualified top of the 5 team group in the round robin stage with 7 out of 8 points. We drew with Vincent's in the semi-final, on a score-line of Olaf's 2-6 Vincent's 1-9, thanks to a last minute free from Sean Gibbons. It was, however, a game that we should have won. St Vincent's beat us in the replay by 2-11 to 2-5 and, in turn, were beaten by Thomas Davis in the Intermediate Final.

In the previous three years, Shane O'Connor had made the goalkeeping position his own. His efforts and consistency were rewarded in July 2003 with an Evening Herald Player of the Month Award. Surely,

the blue star selectors would soon come knocking on his door!

In 2004, the team had a very peculiar Intermediate Championship campaign. Kilmacud Crokes were defeated in the first round replay after a controversial drawn match. Niall McCaffrey gave a towering display at full-back in the drawn game with Niall and Eoin Kinsella at wing half-back giving brilliant performances in the replay.

Drawn Match: Olaf's 1-7 Crokes 0-10

Replay: Olaf's 2-12 Crokes 2-7

Clanna Gael were despatched comfortably in the second round on a score-line of 3-17 to 1-7 with Kevin Keane in brilliant form, scoring 3-4 from the full-forward position. Three more round robin matches were lost to Sylvester's (0-9 to 1-9), Ballyboden (2-12 to 1-11) and St Vincent's (5-8 to 1-6) leaving us with a relegation play-off against Setanta which we won comfortably by 2-15 to 2-4.

In the knock-out stages, Sylvester's were beaten in the quarter-final, after extra time, on a scoreline of 0-15 to 1-9. Ballyboden St Enda's were despatched in the semi-final on a scoreline of 1-13 to 1-6. A feature of both matches was the exceptional free taking of Dónal Mac Mathúna who scored 9 points against Sylvester's and 10 points against Ballyboden. The Intermediate Championship final was played in Parnell Park on Saturday 2nd October 2004 against St Patrick's. The match ended in a draw on a score-line of Olaf's 1-8 to St Patrick's 0-11 with St Patrick's levelling the match with a pointed free deep into injury time. It was heartbreak for Olaf's who looked to have the game won. In the replay, St Patrick's won by 0-13 to 2-6. While it was heartbreaking not to win the first day and to lose the replay, the big

plus was that the team would be competing in the Senior B Championship as well as Senior League Division 2 the following year. That, by any measurement, had to be regarded as further progress for the team. Of further significance was the introduction on to the panel of three very promising young hurlers from the Minor ranks, Johnny McGrath, Donal Kinsella and Declan O'Dwyer.

Team in the drawn match:

Shane O'Connor, Paddy Roe, Niall McCaffrey, Anthony Daly, Barry Lynch, Pdraig O'Brien, Eoin Kinsella, John Harrington (0-1), Sean Gibbons Ray Quinn, Robert Quinn, Eoin Christian, Pdraig Bermingham (0-1), Kevin Keane (1-0), Dónal Mac Mathúna (0-6).

Subs: *Paul Desmond for Christian (injured 15 mins), Declan O'Dwyer for Ray Quinn (40 mins), James Hughes for Pdraig Bermingham (50 mins), Eoin Brennan for Paul Desmond (55 mins).*

Mentors: *Larry Kinsella, Flan McCarthy and Greg Hannon.*

2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 Seasons

In 2005, the team had a very average League campaign in Division 2 but still finished comfortably in the bottom half of the table. They came through the round robin stage of the Senior B Championship and qualified for the quarter-final against Cuala in Islandbridge on Saturday 19th November. The match finished in a draw, Olaf's 1-11 Cuala 2-8. Ray Quinn at corner-forward was in excellent form, scoring 1-3 with Eoin Kinsella and Barry Lynch, both at wing half-back, giving men of the match performances. Unfortunately, Cuala were victorious in the replay on a score-line of 2-8 to 1-8. Dónal Mac Mathúna scored 1-6 of Olaf's total from frees and play. Cuala

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went on to contest the Senior B final and gained promotion to the Senior A Championship the following year.

While all involved with the team were disappointed not to have made further progress in the Championship, the general consensus was that Olaf's now had a team capable of competing comfortably at this level. With greater effort, further progress could reasonably be expected the following year.

Our 2006 season commenced on a bitterly cold St Patrick's Day morning with a 10.30 a.m. Corn Uí Laochra match in Dolphin Park against Kevin's. The game was won on a peculiar hurling score-line of 4-5 to 1-7. Of greater interest on the day was probably the fact that our full-forward line was made up of 18 year olds, Johnny McGrath, Declan O'Dwyer and Donal Kinsella who, between them, scored all the Naomh Olaf scores. Johnny and Declan contributed 2-1 each with Donal scoring 0-3.

Larry Kinsella, long-standing mentor, had to step down in June 2006 due to pressure of work. The team, under the guidance of new mentors Fran O'Dwyer, Flan McCarthy, Mick Brown and Fin Máirtín, had a reasonable league campaign and reached the semi-final of the Senior B Championship. The first league game was away to St Mark's which was won on a score-line of 5-8 to 3-5, with man of the match Declan O'Dwyer ending up with a personal tally of 3-3. The best league performance during the year was probably a home game against Trinity Gaels in May and the following is a reproduction in full of the match report in Panorama 3 weeks later.

Naomh Olaf finally snatched victory in this hugely entertaining Senior Hurling League game in Páirc Uí Bhriain with an injury time winner by Eoin Kin-

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sella. Conditions were perfect for hurling as Naomh Olaf got off to a powerful start opening up an early 4 point lead through scores by Donal Kinsella (2), Eoin Kinsella and Kevin Keane. Trinity Gaels responded with 3 points of their own. A Donal Kinsella free extended Naomh Olaf's lead to 2 points before Trinity Gaels scored a well-taken goal to put them one point up. Naomh Olaf reacted very positively closing out the first half with 7 of the next 8 points to lead by 0-12 to 1-4 at the break. Those on target for Naomh Olaf during this late flurry of points in the first half included Greg Hannon (1), Donal Kinsella (4, 3 from frees) and 2 magnificent points by midfielder John Harrington who for both scores caught the sliotar straight from goalkeeper Ian Whelan's clearance before splitting the posts from outside his own half.

Trinity Gaels came out fighting in the second half intent on overturning the 5 point deficit. They out-scored Naomh Olaf by 7 points to 2 during the 30 minutes of ordinary time in the second half. Johnny McGrath and John Harrington were Olaf's scorers during that period. The sides were level going into injury time and Naomh Olaf appeared to meet their match in Trinity Gaels. An inspirational score by Eoin Kinsella however decided the match in Naomh Olaf's favour, the wing back picking up a clever line ball by John Harrington before calmly slotting the sliotar between the posts. Overall, Naomh Olaf probably deserved to win and will be particularly pleased to take the 2 points given that they were missing a number of first team regulars. Amongst those to shine for Naomh Olaf were goalkeeper Ian Whelan, defenders Darren Egan, Niall McCaffrey and Eoin Kinsella, John Harrington at midfield and top scorer Donal Kinsella in the full forward line.

The team qualified for the semi-final of the Senior B Championship with a thrilling quarter-final victory against Ballinteer St John's at O'Toole Park on Saturday 17th September 2006. Successive victories in the round robin stage over St Jude's and Naomh Fionnbarra secured a local derby quarter-final clash against St John's. The following is a comprehensive Panorama report on the match:

A mouth-watering Senior B Championship quarter-final took place against St John's in O'Toole Park on Saturday 17th September. As Ballinteer had prevailed earlier in the season in the League game between the sides, this was a game to which the Sandymount men really looked forward as it afforded them another chance to show their true form. One major fear for Naomh Olaf however was the absence through injury of star defenders Eoin Kinsella and Niall McCaffrey. In the event, however, their replacements rose valiantly to the occasion and, also on the plus side, captain Barry Lynch was back in the side for his second match following a long layoff through injury.

After 20 minutes St John's had established a 1 point lead 0-4 to 0-3, Naomh Olaf's scores coming from John Harrington and two Donal Kinsella frees. Naomh Olaf were by now beginning to settle well into the match and there followed a great goal by Marty Devlin. The livewire corner-forward finished brilliantly to the net following excellent work by Dónal Mac Mathúna, Declan O'Dwyer and Robert Quinn. Two further points from St John's were cancelled out by one from John Harrington and another free from Donal Kinsella to leave the half-time score Naomh Olaf 1-5 St John's 0-6. Three minutes after the resumption, Kinsella had a fine point to further widen the gap to 3 points in favour of the Sandymount

man. However, St John's weren't going to give up too easily and they completely dominated the next eight minutes and scored 3 unanswered points to draw the match level. Now the match seemed to be swinging against Naomh Olaf and a goal from Ballinteer had Naomh Olaf in real trouble. Another pointed free from Donal Kinsella was cancelled out by St John's and the Ballinteer men led by 3 points at the three-quarter stage.

Naomh Olaf needed something special and it came in the form of a wonderful goal scored by Declan O'Dwyer following great work by Johnny McGrath and Robert Quinn. A minute later, Robert Quinn followed up with a great point and then Seamas Kinsella showed courage and determination when he finished into the net to give Olaf's a 4 point cushion. St John's hit back for 2 points and had the Olaf goal under siege as the game went to injury time. While the large Naomh Olaf support endured many anxious moments, the defence held out defiantly and thwarted St John's best efforts to get the vital goal. In the fourth minute of added time, Donal Kinsella scored an excellent point to leave the final score Naomh Olaf 3-9 St John's 1-12. This was a fitting reward for a marvellous team performance with every man playing his part. It was also a very encouraging start for new hurling mentors Fran O'Dwyer, Flan McCarthy, Mick Brown and Fin Máirtín.

Shane O'Connor, Paddy Roe, Eamon Barry, Darren Egan, Lorcan Mac Mathúna, Barry Lynch, Anthony Daly, John Harrington (0-2), Donal Kinsella (0-5, 3f), Robert Quinn (0-1), Pdraig O'Brien, Dónal Mac Mathúna, Marty Devlin (1-0), Declan O'Dwyer (1-0), Seamas Kinsella (1-1).

Subs: *Stevie Mahon and Johnny McGrath.*

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Unfortunately, in the semi-final, the team was beaten by Crumlin who, in turn, were beaten by St Mark's in the final. While the Championship season ended in disappointment, the team had progressed further than the previous year and played some fine hurling in both League and Championship.

2007 Season

The 2007 season for the senior hurlers got off to a good start as they captured the Paddy Murphy Cup in an exciting final against Thomas Davis, hosts of the tournament. The game finished level on a score-line of Naomh Olaf's 1-11 Thomas Davis 2-8. Olaf's dominated extra time and finished comfortable winners by 2-16 to 2-9, thanks to fine free taking by Donal Kinsella (0-7) and goals by Ray Quinn and Feargal Máirtín.

There were some exciting matches in the Senior B Championship. In the round robin stage, we drew with St Patrick's in a home game on a score-line of Olaf's 1-11 St Patrick's 3-5. Overall, this was a good display by the team except for two defensive slip-ups. Good free taking by Donal Kinsella (0-5) at midfield and lively forward play, particularly from Johnny McGrath (1-2) and Declan O'Dwyer (0-2), got us back into the game. It took a great last minute free from Dónal Mac Mathúna, who took over free taking duties from the injured Donal Kinsella, to level the match. The final match in the round robin stage was against near neighbours Ballinteer St John's which was won by the narrowest of margins on a score-line of 0-12 to 1-8. The following is a full Panorama report on the match:

Local rivalry and a pleasant summer's evening brought a fine crowd to Páirc Uí Bhriain for a crucial Championship match between Naomh Olaf and Ballinteer St John's. Those who turned up were

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treated to a cliffhanger and, not for the first time in this year's Championship, they saw Dónal Mac Mathúna close out the match in injury time in favour of the hosts. Ballinteer set the early pace with a marvellous point from Feargal Chambers as well as a point from a free. Donal Kinsella replied with a point for Naomh Olaf but St John's restored their 2 point advantage in the tenth minute. An excellent point from about 60 metres by John Harrington and a free by Dónal Mac Mathúna brought the sides level only for the visitors to go one up again with a quarter of an hour gone. Strangely, that score was Ballinteer's last of the first half while Naomh Olaf dominated the second quarter, scoring 6 points without reply. Much of the credit for this lay with a resolute defence and in particular the half-backline of Barry Lynch, Niall McCaffrey and Eoin Kinsella. In the 18th minute, McCaffrey burst out of defence and found Declan O'Dwyer wide on the right. The young county player fed the perfect ball to John Harrington who split the posts for the best score of the evening. Dónal Mac Mathúna added a point from a free as well as a wonderful point from a side-line cut. Adrian Shanahan landed a point, Donal Kinsella shot a point from 60 metres and Harrington, playing his best match for some time, scored his third point of that half to leave the score at half-time Naomh Olaf 0-9 St John's 0-4. The first point of the second half was a hotly disputed one for St John's. They followed up with another to leave just 3 points between the sides. In the 13th minute, St John's conceded a penalty. The shot was saved at the expense of a sixty-five which was scored by Dónal Mac Mathúna. 2 points from St John's, one of them from a free, reduced the margin by 2 points and with ten minutes remaining, we knew we were in for a nail-biting finish. Johnny McGrath restored Olaf's 3 point margin before Feargal Chambers

brought the Ballinteer men back on level terms with a great goal. At this stage, a draw seemed on the cards but to Olaf's credit they pressed on and their efforts resulted in a free being awarded to the home side two minutes into injury time. It wasn't an easy angle but Dónal Mac Mathúna kept his cool and landed the point which sent Olaf's through to the knock-out stages.

At the end of the round robin stage of the Championship, St Patrick's and Olaf's were on equal points and had a play-off match to see which team would secure the all-important quarter-final place in the Senior B Championship. The game took place in June 2007 in O'Toole Park and a blistering first half display saw Olaf's emerge victorious on a score-line of 2-18 to 1-9. Olaf's had built up an almost unsailable half-time lead of 1-12 to 1-3. Full-forward Robert Quinn totally dominated proceedings in and around the square and as well as scoring 0-2 himself, he assisted in at least five other scores. Dónal Mac Mathúna at wing-forward scored an impressive 1-7, of which 1-2 was scored from play. Substitute Simon Hickey scored 1-2, the goal coming in the last seconds of the game.

This was a huge win for Naomh Olaf, as it went some way towards avenging the Intermediate Championship semi-final defeat by St Patrick's in 2004.

The team had a very good quarter-final victory against Oliver Plunkett's/Eoghan Rua winning on a score-line of 2-18 to 2-12. Unfortunately, an exceptionally good Na Fianna side inflicted a heavy defeat in the semi-final.

Shane O'Connor, Paddy Roe, Pdraig O'Brien, Darren Egan, Barry Lynch, Niall McCaffrey, Eoin Kinsella, Donal Kinsella (0-2), John Harrington

(0-1), Adrian Shanahan, Eoin Christian (0-1), Dónal Mac Mathúna (1-7), Marty Devlin (0-2), Robert Quinn (0-2), Johnny McGrath (0-1).

Subs: Simon Hickey (1-2) for Eoin Christian.

2008 Season

The Senior Management Team of Fin Máirtín, Fran O'Dwyer, Flan McCarthy and Mick Browne stepped down at the end of the 2007 season. Despite all efforts, the Club was unsuccessful in putting in place a new management team from either inside or outside the Club. Three senior hurlers, Paddy Roe, Niall McCaffrey and Dónal Mac Mathúna, to their great credit, agreed to take over management of the team for the year with side-line assistance from Larry Kinsella.

In the Championship after a 1 point loss to Ballin-
teer St John's and a draw at home to Commercials, Naomh Olaf got their Championship campaign back on track with a tremendous victory over Ballyboden St Enda's. Our full forward line of Ray Quinn (2-0), Marty Devlin (1-2) and Donal Kinsella (0-3) were in tremendous form. Further Championship victories over Naomh Fionnbarra and Erin's Isle followed before the team was defeated by St Mark's in the semi-final on a score-line of 2-17 to 1-12 in a game in which Olaf's dominated the first half, during which Eoin Kinsella at wing half-back scored 2 excellent points from play.

2009, 2010 and 2011 Seasons

At the beginning of 2009, Naomh Olaf GAA Club, for the first time in its history, appointed an outside manager, Paul Gethings, with Larry Kinsella and Liam Kavanagh coming on board as selectors. There were mixed fortunes in the league but the team ended up, at the end of the year, well clear of relegation,

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thanks to two excellent end of season one point victories over Raheny and St Peregrine's. A feature of the St Peregrine's game was excellent performances by Michael O'Connor in goal and Niall Gallagher at corner-back. Our Senior B Championship campaign got off to a great start with very impressive victories against Raheny, Trinity Gaels and Oliver Plunkett's/Eoghan Rua. The Raheny match took place on 21st April and the following is a brief report by Niall Scully of the Evening Herald:

Naomh Olaf were as smooth as the LUAS in the second half of last night's opening Group 1 fixture of the Dublin Senior Hurling B Championship at Sandyford. They beat Raheny 6-18 to 1-8. There was no indication of such an outcome in the first half and the teams were level four times before the 18th minute. Raheny then went in front with a well-worked goal in the 22nd minute but the turning point came with three Olaf's goals before the break giving the hosts the interval advantage of 3-7 to 1-6 on a charming evening.

Declan O'Dwyer, showing electric pace, got the first of them in the 23rd minute. Colin Kyne-Delaney's long-range strike from the left then ended up in the net, with Dónal Mac Mathúna getting the third after a sweet combination between O'Dwyer and Donal Kinsella. O'Dwyer cut in from the left to bat in the fourth goal in the 40th minute and Donal Kinsella with a super effort and Kyne-Delaney's second made it six.

Scorers: D. O'Dwyer (2-3), C. Kyne-Delaney (2-0), D. Kinsella (1-3), K. Keane (0-6), D. Mac Mathúna (1-2), J. Carroll, J. Harrington, M. Devlin (0-1) each.

The most satisfactory part of the game was the emer-

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gence of young players Feargal Máirtín and Colin Kyne-Delaney, to join the established young players, Johnny McGrath, Donal Kinsella and Declan O'Dwyer.

The second Championship game was away to Trinity Gaels which was won on a score-line of 3-13 to 3-9. The forwards were again in very impressive form with Declan O'Dwyer scoring a very impressive 1-5 from play, Kevin Keane 1-1 and Donal Kinsella 0-4. Despite two defensive errors, the backline was very solid with Paddy Roe and man of the match John Harrington in particularly good form. The third Championship game was against Oliver Plunkett's in the Phoenix Park which was won on a score-line of 5-8 to 3-5. It was again a very good team performance with Declan O'Dwyer (2-3) and Kevin Keane (2-0) in great form. Paddy Roe and Niall McCaffrey were rock solid in defence with Eoin Kinsella holding Oliver Plunkett's/Eoghan Rua's most dangerous forward scoreless on the night. Marty Devlin was probably man of the match with his mid-field performance.

The Olaf's/Oliver Plunkett's match was played in the army grounds of the Phoenix Park and an amusing disruption to both teams' pre-match preparations occurred with the arrival of the Presidential helicopter. The landing of the helicopter on the pitch was delayed slightly, due to the fact that one Naomh Olaf player was reluctant to have his practice at free-taking interrupted. Armed Army personnel convinced him that it was wiser to join his team mates off the pitch.

At this stage in mid-season, the Naomh Olaf Senior Hurling team had a very good blend of experienced players playing at the top of their game. The very talented young players Feargal Máirtín, Donal Kin-

sella, Johnny McGrath, Colin Kyne-Delaney and, in particular, Declan O'Dwyer hurled consistently to a very high standard.

The next two round robin matches were lost to St Brigid's and St Mark's but the team qualified comfortably for the knock-out stages of the competition. Naomh Mearnóg were the quarter-final opponents. In preparation, two very worthwhile challenge matches were organised, against St Vincent's which was won by 2-16 to 2-13 and Glenealy which was narrowly lost by 1-11 to 1-13. The quarter-final game was held on Saturday 10th October away which was won by 2-10 to 0-12. It was probably the team's best defensive display of the year with every defender, particularly Eoin Kinsella (who had the difficult task of marking Dublin County star Shane Ryan), producing quality performances. Declan O'Dwyer was superb at wing half-forward and corner forwards Johnny McGrath (0-2) and Colin Kyne-Delaney (1-1) were in great form. Donal Kinsella at midfield scored a very impressive 1-2.

Unfortunately, we failed again to get beyond the semi-final stage and were beaten comprehensively by St Brigid's.

We reached the Corn Uí Laochra Cup Final also but were beaten by Erin's Isle at home on 30th June. At full-time it was a draw at 2-9 each. However, Isles went on to win in extra time by a score-line of 3-15 to 2-13.

2010 - The Winds of Change

The year 2010 was a difficult one for the Senior hurlers as, due to a combination of emigration, injuries and studies abroad, the services of some players had been lost, all of whom had been making very significant contributions to team performance. John

Harrington and Donal Kinsella, the midfield pairing of 2009, were now working in London. Niall McCaffrey (injury) and Feargal Máirtín (further studies abroad) were unavailable for the second half of the season. The signs were ominous early on, with two heavy defeats against Raheny and Kilmacud Crokes in the Corn Uí Laochra cup competition. The previous year, the team reached the final and were only narrowly beaten by Erin's Isle after extra time.

The league campaign got off to a great start with victory over Erin's Isle away by 0-13 to 1-9. Unfortunately, four defeats in a row were sustained against Na Fianna, Naomh Mearnóg, St Pat's and Setanta. Clanna Gael were beaten at home by 1-11 to 0-11. Eoin Kinsella at centre-back, Robert Quinn, midfield and Dónal Mac Mathúna, centre-forward (scoring 0-9), hurled particularly well that evening. Two defensive errors contributed to a one point defeat in the next match against Peregrine's (2-9 to 1-11). On 11th July, a very good home win was ground out against Ballyboden St Enda's (score 0-10 to 0-9). This was a tough physical contest in which our defence was superb. The final league match was played on 16th Oct. against Naomh Barróg. This was a crucial match for both teams in that the winners would retain senior status with the losers relegated to Division 3. Unfortunately, a very good Barróg side was victorious by 1-14 to 0-9.

The Senior B championship got off to a good start on 28th April with a win over Round Towers (1-15 to 0-10). On 5th May, Erin's Isle were victorious by 2-17 to 4-10 with man of the match Mick O'Connor scoring 3-1 and Declan O'Dwyer scoring 1-3. On 23rd July, the team was beaten by Ballyboden St Enda's on a scoreline of 1-16 to 1-9. The next round robin match took place on the 6th September with

a home match against St Mark's which was won by 4-14 to 3-8. This was probably the best performance of the year with the defence and forwards in great form. Declan O'Dwyer scored 2-2 and Mick O'Connor scored an impressive 2-5 (3 f). As a result of the two wins in the round robin stage, the team qualified for a quarter-final game against near neighbours Ballinteer St John's which was played on 4th October. A very good John's side won the match by 1-13 to 0-7.

The loss of Senior league status was hugely disappointing to players and mentors. A good number of the team had experienced the elation of being promoted to Senior status for the very first time in 2002. The author of this hurling history had the great privilege of working with the team as manager/mentor from 2001 to 2010, except for a short break in 2006 and 2007.

2011

At the time of writing, the team, now playing in Adult Hurling Division 3, had finished comfortably mid-table in the league. In the restructured Senior B Championship, a narrow first round victory was achieved against Thomas Davis by 0-14 to 1-10 with Dónal Mac Mathúna giving a man of the match performance at centre half-back. This was a year of consolidation with a number of new players being brought on to the panel from Junior ranks and given the opportunity to establish themselves as first team players.

In conclusion, the club owes a great debt of gratitude to the very many people whose love for, and dedication to, the great game of hurling has made it a vibrant part of Naomh Olaf for the past twenty years at adult level. Names which must be mentioned here are Mick Brown, Sean Keane, Jerome

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Hogan, Flan McCarthy, Liam Kavanagh, Greg Hannon, Fran O'Dwyer, Fin Máirtín, Paddy Maguire, Thomas Brown, Caomhán Bermingham and a great many more. It has been my privilege to contribute as a player and mentor over the years.

The Hurling All Stars

Most people with a good knowledge of adult hurling in the Club would regard the picking of an All Star team spanning a twenty year period and hurling in different grades of competition as an almost impossible task. Some would regard it as an exercise in bravery, more still would regard it as a foolhardy exercise and one that should be avoided at all costs. How do you compare players that played in different grades and in different eras? What emphasis should be put on longevity of service? Should players who have given long years of playing service only be considered or should players who made very significant contributions but in a much shorter hurling career be brought into the reckoning?

In making the final selections a number of critical factors were considered – commitment and dedication to the team, significance of contributions in games played, leadership qualities both on and off the field, sportsmanship, ability to get on with and motivate team-mates, skill level and intelligence of play. Longevity of career was a major consideration but there were notable exceptions.

Different people would have used different criteria and picked a different team. For this reason the team should not be taken as the definitive selection but should instead, like the annual GAA All Stars, become a very good topic for discussion and debate. The author is hopeful that not too many players past or present will cross him off their Christmas card list. His “advisors” in the selection process shall re-

main anonymous!

After that rather long preamble here is the team selected:

Shane O'Connor,

Paddy Roe, Niall McCaffrey, Padraig O'Brien,

Barry Lynch, Donal MacMathuna, Eoin Kinsella,

Donal Kinsella, Barry O'Brien,

Kevin Keane, Declan O'Dwyer, Caomhan Bermingham,

Marty Devlin, Willie Vereker, Sean Gibbons.

Goalkeeper was probably the most difficult choice. **Jerome Hogan** was the very impressive first adult keeper back in 1991. **Caolan Cotter**, an excellent keeper, played in goal for Dublin Minor hurlers and would have been a serious contender but for the fact that he played most of his short adult hurling career for the Club in the forwards. **Shane O'Connor** has been a hugely dedicated adult hurler over a long period and is well deserving of selection.

Paddy Roe, arguably the most dedicated hurler in the Club, was an automatic selection at right corner back. **Niall McCaffrey** played Minor, u21 and Senior hurling for Dublin. Earlier this year he was selected as Naomh Olaf Hurler of Decade. He was selected at full back even though his preferred position would probably be centre back. **Padraig O'Brien**, selected at left corner back, would be regarded more as a central defender. He has put in some quality performances at centre and full back over the years but recently has played at wing and corner back.

Selection of the half back line required some thought. **Donal MacMathuna** has played at wing half forward in recent years. However in his prime he was a great centre half back, brilliant in the air, a great reader of play and one of the best long range free takers ever. **Eoin Kinsella** was an automatic selec-

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tion at left half back. His pace, skill and aggression meant that invariably he was given the difficult task of marking the opposition's most dangerous forward. **Barry Lynch** selected at right half back was a great captain and leader for a number of years. The mid-field pairing was another difficult selection to make. **Barry O'Brien's** untimely death cut short a very promising and prolific career during which he won a Fitzgibbon Cup medal with UL and captained Dublin in a Leinster u21 hurling final against Wexford. **Donal Kinsella's** playing career for the Club was equally cut short by emigration. His skill levels, intelligence of play, distribution of the ball and free taking skills earned him selection.

Declan O'Dwyer was selected at centre half forward. He has won Minor, u21 and Senior medals with Dublin and on his day is the most prolific forward the Club has produced. **Kevin Keane** at right half forward is one of the longest playing adult hurlers. He has put in some great scoring performances over the years. **Caomhan Bermingham** was in his prime in the earlier years of adult hurling. It would have been great to see him perform on the Senior

hurling stage.

The selection of **Willie Vereker** at full forward is a link with the early years of adult hurling and a recognition of his phenomenal scoring rate in almost all matches played. **Marty Devlin** at right corner forward is a livewire. His honesty, passion and work rate on the pitch are a joy to behold. Selection at left corner forward was again difficult. The three main contenders were **Caolan Cotter**, **Eddie McCarthy** and **Sean Gibbons** all of whom had short adult playing careers. Caolan and Eddie had to retire early due to injury and Sean's career took him out of Dublin. On balance **Sean Gibbons** takes the last position. He is probably the most naturally skilful hurler the Club has fielded.

Strong arguments for inclusion could also be made for a number of other players. These include goal keeper **Jerome Hogan**, classy corner back **James Carroll**, half back **Lorcan MacMathúna**, midfielders **John Harrington** and **Robert Quinn**, forwards **Padraig Bermingham**, **Jonny McGrath** and more. Let the discussions, debates and arguments begin!



Fletcher Shield Winners 1993 - Front row: Kevin O'Malley, Pat Teehan, Tim Slevin, Gerry Murphy, Mick Seery, Larry Kinsella, Aidan O'Malley, Padraig Bermingham, Lorcan Mac Mathúna, Sean Coleman, Declan Williams, Caomhán Bermingham. **Back row:** Flan McCarthy, Dara Wade, Brian Horgan, Jim Shiggins, Derek Gill, Greg Naughton, Fergal Hogan, Willie Vereker, P. O'Leary, Neil Kavanagh, Sean Keane, George Mahoney, Pat Boylan, Martin Fallon.



1996 Junior A Team Promoted to Intermediate - Front row: Paddy Roe, Sean Keane, Lorcan Mac Mathúna, Padraig Bermingham, Sean Coleman, Jim Shiggins, Jim Sullivan. Back row: Pat Boylan, Kevin Keane, John Keane, Enda McLaughlin, Willie Vereker, George Mahoney, Eddie McCarthy, Dara Wade, Brian Horgan.



1997 Junior B Championship Winners - Front row: Flan McCarthy (mentor), Sean Coleman, Brian Horgan, Enda McLaughlin, Lorcan Mac Mathúna, Seamus Mac Mathúna, Caolán Cotter, George Mahoney, Niall McCaffrey, Sean Keane (mentor). Back row: Paddy Roe, Eddie McCarthy, Sean Gibbons, Robert Quinn, James Sullivan, Willie Vereker, Eoin Brennan, Kevin Keane, Dara Wade, Barry Lynch, Padraig Bermingham, Fergal Hogan, Jim Shiggins.



Senior B Championship Semi-Finalists 2007 - Back row: Adrian Shanahan, Paddy Roe, Eoin Christian, Declan O'Dwyer, Dónal Mac Mathúna, Barry Lynch, Niall McCaffrey, Padraig O'Brien, Kevin Keane, Feargal Máirtín, John Keane, Ray Quinn, Marty Devlin. Front row: Richie McDonald, Eoin Kinsella, John Harrington, Shane O'Connor, Donal Kinsella, Johnny McGrath, Darren Egan, Stevie Mahon, Simon Hickey, Seamas Kinsella, Lorcan Mac Mathúna, Emmett Laffan, Robert Quinn.



Intermediate Championship Semi-Finalists 1999 - Front row: Padraig Bermingham, Jim Quinn, Enda McLaughlin, Caolán Cotter, Lorcan Mac Mathúna, Eoin Kinsella, Timmy Cooney. Back row: Sean Gibbons, Dónal Mac Mathúna, Kevin Keane, John Keane, Brendan Banes, Robert Quinn, Niall McCaffrey, Barry O'Brien.

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Naomh Olaf Team Promoted to Senior Hurling 2002 - Back row: Brian Phelan, Paddy Roe, Padraig Harrington, John Keane, Kevin Keane, Greg Hannon, James Hughes, Robert Quinn, Jim Quinn, Derek Naughton, Sean Gibbons, Eoin Hayes. **Front row:** Dónal Mac Mathúna, Lorcan Mac Mathúna, Padraig Bermingham, Hughie Doyle, Shane O'Connor, Barry Lynch, Darren Egan, Caomhán Bermingham, Eoin Kinsella.



Naomh Olaf AHL3 team 2011 - Back row: J Mitchell, S Maher, J McGrath, F Gray, R Quinn, N Gallagher, E Barry, D Lynch, D O'Dwyer, M O'Connor, G Stapleton, P Roe, R Quinn, N McCaffrey, T Carroll, L Kavanagh, F O'Dwyer. **Front row:** S Hickey, S Mulvey, R McDonald, H Ruane, D Egan, S O'Connor, C Fennell, D Mac Mathúna, C Lewins, P O'Brien, M Devlin, E Laffan.

Junior Football Team 1991/92 & 1992/93 -

By Colm McEnerney

Missed out on promotion from Div 5 in 91/92 season but next season won it and came third in the Mooney Cup. As can be seen from the attached panel, over 38 players were used in that season and we've probably missed out a few names. One thing that could be guaranteed was that the line up was never the same in any two games in those years due to the social activities of most of the squad.

The bulk of the team was from the under twenty ones of that year, with the remainder older players and occasionally a few minors when we were really stuck. What I remember was no matter the results the games were thoroughly enjoyable and the after-match analysis even better.

A few stand out memories were Ger O'Malley stopping goals in some matches and scoring them in others, his dad Kevin showing the younger lads what real defending was. I'm sure the three O'Brien's played one match together, Louis Dockrey who had one of the sweetest left foots I've seen and always guaranteed a brace of scores in every game. Looking back my favourite was playing in goal with a young Brendan Curtin R.I.P. in front of me at full back, which if nothing else meant a bit of fun during the game, you are sorely missed Brendan.

Our best season was the 92/93 season we won Division 5 Title and came 3rd in the Mooney Cup. In the following season that group started to break up with the likes of Eric Horgan, Niall Coughlan, Tony O'Brien, Damian Maher going on to play with Intermediates and Seniors and the veterans of the team fi-

nally succumbed to old age and moved on. The best thing about that team was the fun we had during, and after the games and at training sessions.

Goals

Ger O'Malley, Cathal Daughton, Colm McEnerney

Backs

Robert Irwin, Tim Lawson, Brendan Curtin, Mick Monaghan, Ronan O'Farrell, Ian Gavigan, Stephen Brady, Liam Pender, Aidan O'Brien, Dermot O'Brien, Kevin O'Malley, Mick Seery, Derek Kinsella, Eoin Ryan.

Midfield

John McCarthy, Ken Hodgins, Colin O'Brien, Brendan Quinn, Eric Horgan (92 Minor), Martin Duggan.

Forwards

Ray Kenny, Brian Lambe, Niall Coughlan, Martin Cullen, Louise Dockrey, James Whelan, Paul Buggy, Colm Buggy, Kevin Buggy, John O'Brien(1 game), Robbie Byrne(92 Minor), Malcolm Kinsella, Mick Ruane, Tony O'Brien (92 Minor) ,Colin Delaney, Damian Maher (92 Minor), Derek Naughton.

1992/1993 Season Won Div 5 League

27/09/92 Olaf's 5-16 Cuala 0-4

Cathal Daughton, Stephen Brady, John McCarthy, Dermot O'Brien, Ian Gavigan, Ronan O'Farrell, Mick Monaghan, Ken Hodgins, Paul Buggy 0-1, Louise Dockrey 1-6, Ray Kenny 0-1, Martin Duggan 0-1, Ger O'Malley 1-1, Brian

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Lambe 0-2, James Whelan 2-4.

Subs: *Martin Cullen 1-0, Mick Seery, Derek Kinsella, and 3rd In Mooney Cup.*

18/10/92 Olaf's 1-4 Cabinteely 0-5

Ger O'Malley, Stephen Brady, John McCarthy, Dermot O'Brien, Aidan O'Brien, Ronan O'Farrell, Mick Monaghan, Ian Gavigan, Louise Dockrey 0-3, Ray Kenny, Malcolm Kinsella 0-1, Mick Ruane 0-1, Tony O'Brien 1-0, Colin Delaney.

Subs: *Martin Cullen 1-0, Mick Seery, Derek Kinsella, Martin Duggan.*

08/11/92 Lucan Sarsfields 1-2 Olaf's 3-15

Colm McEnerney, Robert Irwin, John McCarthy, Dermot O'Brien, Colin Delaney, Malcolm, Kinsella, James Whelan 0-1, Martin Duggan, Brian Lambe, Louise Dockrey 0-4, Colm Buggy, Niall Coughlan 1-5, Ger O'Malley 0-4, Mick Ruane 0-1, Martin Cullen 2-0.

Subs: *Robbie Byrne*

15/11/ Olaf's 2-9 Na Fianna 2-9

Colm McEnerney, Colin Delaney, John McCarthy, Dermot O'Brien, Aidan O'Brien, Malcolm Kinsella, Ian Gavigan, Martin Duggan, Ray Kenny, Louise Dockrey 0-4, Colm Buggy, Derek Kinsella 0-1, Brian Lambe, Colin O'Brien 0-1, Martin Cullen 1-2

Subs: *Damian Maher*

15/11/ Parnells 0-9 Olaf's 2-3

Colm McEnerney, Malcolm Kinsella, Dermot O'Brien, Aidan O'Brien, Mick Monaghan, Ronan O'Farrell, Paul Buggy, John McCarthy, Ray Kenny, Louis

Dockrey 0-2, Brian Lambe, James Whelan, Ger O'Malley 1-0, Martin Cullen 1-1, Niall Coughlan.

Subs: *Derek Kinsella, Derek Naughton.*

Championship

Civil Service 1-6 Olaf's 1-6

Replay: *Olaf's 1-8 Civil Service 1-11*



Paddy Feehan, Gerard Maher and Derek Dowling, Captain, all played in the Leinster Junior Football Final, in Croke Park in 1991.

Presentation to 137th Balally Scouts

This report by Brendan McGlynn was first published in May 1991

On the 23rd April 1991, Naomh Olaf GAA Club had the pleasure of handing over a cheque for £9,000 to the 137th Balally Scouts. They had won top prize in the Club Development Draw held in March. The winning ticket had been sold by Tony Roe. In mak-

ing the presentation to the unit leader Mr. John Roberts R. I. P. the Chairman of the club, Kevin Birrane, thanked the Scouts for their support and spoke of the joy with which the news of their worthwhile win had been greeted within the community. Following the presentation, the Scouts entertained all present to warm refreshments which were much appreciated.



Photograph taken at the presentation - Back row l to r: Charlie Rowland RIP (Regional Commissioner), Ned Seery (Chairman of the Lotto Committee), Sue Conaty (Venture Leader) **Centre row l to r:** Mairéad Costello (Assistant Cub Leader), John Roberts RIP (Unit Leader), Audrey Dowling (Assistant Cub Leader), Karen Rowland (Cub Leader). **Front row l to r:** David Nolan (Scout), Eoin Kinsella (Cub), Alan Curtis (Beaver), Keith Fortune (Scout), Owen Drummond (Cub).

Cheese and Wine Reception held in St. Olaf's School Hall 16 January 1991

This report was taken from the Minutes of a Club Committee meeting held in January 1991

A Cheese and Wine Reception was held in St. Olaf's School Hall on the 16th January 1991, to launch plans for the Clubhouse and to promote the Rath Cairn Draw. Francis Heaney had copies of the plans for the Clubhouse on display. The reception

was very well attended. Niall Byrne, and his friend from College, did an excellent job in preparing the food and Mick Brown ensured that there was plenty of wine available.

As can be seen from the report elsewhere in this publication on "Financing a Clubhouse", the draw was a big success.



L to R: Kieran Brennan, John O'Brien and Colm McEnerney.



L to R: Rose McCarthy, Joan Broughal, Marie McDonnell and Kay O'Brien.



L to R: Michael Hodgins, Maire O'Brien and Anna Hayes.



L to R: Simon Hewson, Kevin Birrane and Liam Kavanagh.

Naomh Olaf Minor Football Team wins Division Two of the Dublin South City League 1991/92

This report by John McGrath was published in Panorama Magazine in 1992

The 1991/92 minor team includes seven of last year's side. These players, plus the emergence of some excellent talent from the Under 16 ranks, have formed a talented squad who are currently making a bold bid for league honours. They currently stand top of a very strong league, having won four of their five games played to date.

As was the case last year, this year's campaign also opened up with a game against St Mark's, Tallaght. This was a very close game with both sides playing very good football. This year, however, the luck was with Naomh Olaf who won the game by a single point. The turning point came when Paddy Maguire scored a fine goal with a good shot from twenty five yards.

This year's championship got underway with a home game against Innisfails. As with all championship games with northside teams, this was a bruising encounter. Naomh Olaf always had the upper hand and ran out easy winners in the end. Excellent displays from goalkeeper Cathal Daughton and defenders Eoin Ryan, Ronan Murphy and Padraig Bermingham, blunted the threat of the Innisfail forwards. This display whetted the appetite for a second round encounter with local rivals, Kilmacud Crokes. Despite being underdogs, Naomh Olaf entered this game with great hope of victory. However, conceding two soft goals early in the game meant an uphill battle for the remainder of the game. Hope was restored when Neal Rowland dispatched an unstoppa-

ble shot to the net to reduce the first half arrears to six points. The second half saw Olaf's dominate the game for long periods, but good Kilmacud defence denied the scores necessary for victory.

The league campaign resumed with a game against St Brigid's. An early goal from Brendan Curtin R.I.P. set Naomh Olaf on the way to victory. Further scores from Tony O'Brien, Brian Goulding and Eric Horgan gave Olaf's an unassailable lead at half time. The last game before Christmas was in Saggart against St Mary's. This proved to be a below par performance for Olaf's and resulted in the only league defeat so far. After ten minutes, Olaf's trailed by four points but fought back to level affairs by half time. The second half was very tight with the decisive goal going to St Mary's five minutes from full time.

The resumption of the league after Christmas saw Olaf's take on St Jude's. A determined start resulted in early goals for Patrick Roe and Eoin Brennan. Further scores from Derek Naughton, Colin Delaney and Eric Horgan effectively finished the game by half time. The game saw a return from injury of James O'Shea which, coupled with good attacking halfback play from Neil Kavanagh, ensured complete domination for Olaf's. This game was followed by an encounter with Good Counsel in the Phoenix Park. On a frosty pitch, Olaf's again struck early with goals from Colin Delaney, Damien Maher and Eoin Brennan. Solid displays from full backs Niall Ruane, Mark Weldon and Padraig Bermingham and goalkeeper Cathal Daughton eliminated any threat to

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the Olaf's goal. The second half continued in much the same vein as the first with stylish performances from Cormac Doyle and Brian Goulding. Some excellent long range points from Derek Naughton left the result in no doubt.

Then came the most difficult fixture away to Clanna Gael. Olaf's began this game in a positive manner. The strong wind was put to good use and an eight point lead was established by half time. In this game, the forwards again showed their accuracy and Paddy Roe's goal was typical of a confident performance. The second half began with a good team exerting strong pressure. Within twelve minutes of the restart, the home team had scored two goals and four points and were poised to win the game. In an effort to match the quicker Clanna Gael forwards, Olaf's switched Brian Goulding from full forward to the half back line. Brian's influence in defence prevented further scores from the home team and Olaf's regained control of the game. Points from Damien

Maheer and a last minute goal from Eric Horgan gave Olaf's a hard earned victory.

Next came St Mary's. A strong and confident display ensured revenge for the early defeat by the Saggart side. Goals from Derek Naughton and Neal Rowland ensured that Olaf's were never in danger of defeat. The next obstacle to the league title was the return fixture with Clanna Gael. Both sides were keen to win but Olaf's knew that a draw would be sufficient to retain leadership of the league. This was probably the tightest and most physical game of the year. In the first half, the home side were on top and took a lead which they held until the final minutes. Clanna Gael scored a late goal which tied the game. However, this result effectively ended their interest in the league and left Olaf's virtually assured of the title. Comprehensive victories in the two remaining games against St Brigid's and St Jude's brought a highly successful campaign to an end.



Naomh Olaf Minor Football Team, 1991/92 winners of the Dublin South City League - Back row l to r: Damien Maheer, Cormac Doyle, Mark Weldon, Tony O'Brien, Niall Ruane, Derek Naughton, Brendan Curtin (RIP), Neil Kavanagh, Neal Rowland, James O'Shea, Eric Horgan. Front row l to r: Pdraig Bermingham, Brian Goulding, Cathal Daughton, Eoin Ryan, Colm Delaney, Eoin Brennan, Patrick Roe, Paddy McGuire. Missing from photograph: Team Mentors, John McGrath and Colm McEnerney.

Under 13 Football Team - Runners up in Division 1 of the 91/92 League - By Kevin Birrane

The Under 13 football season began on Saturday evening, 21st September 1991 when the Naomh Olaf team travelled to Tymon North to take on St Jude's in Division 1 of the league. St Jude's was an unknown quantity to us as they had just been promoted to Division 1 while our team had been competing there since the U 11 grade. It looked bad for us at half time as the opposition led by 2 – 3 to 2 – 0. A good team talk from mentors Kevin O'Malley and Kevin Birrane seemed to work as we ran out easy winners on a score of 6 – 6 to 3 – 3 with some well taken scores from new captain Karl Kavanagh and a couple of lovely points from play by Robert Fahy.

Our next game was at home to St Marys of Saggart on the 5th October. The gap of two weeks between games at this age level is due to every second Saturday being allocated to hurling. I feel that this system did not do us any favours as it took away the continuity of regular football. We duly lost a thriller of a game on the scoreline of 6 – 8 to 5 – 8 with some excellent football being played by our new player, Eamonn Tierney and his half back partners, Eric Doolan and Peter Fallon.

We next travelled to Moyle Park College, Clondalkin on the 19th October to play the local Round Towers who were unbeaten and remained so on a scoreline of 5 – 9 to 2 – 3 with our goalkeeper, Maurice Whelan, and full back line, Shane O'Connor, Paul Doyle and Peter Hopkins, performing heroics to keep the score to a respectable level. Our next engagement was again a long away journey for a game in Saggart against the local St Mary's. With great

support from our U 21 team who had just beaten the locals by a point, we raced into a 2 – 4 to no score interval lead and looked set for victory. But after the break St Mary's came well into the game and, with a Houdini-like comeback, beat us 5 – 6 to 2 – 5, a very bad reflection on our lads who only scored one point in the second half, albeit against the wind. After this set back, things didn't look good but a good team talk cleared up a few things and we went from strength to strength. Some great victories against De La Salle Ballyfermot, home and away, St. Jude's, Kilmacud Crokes, Cuala home and away, left us, to our surprise, in joint runner-up position with De La Salle Ballyfermot on 12 points each. A play-off game would be needed to decide the runner-up in Division 1 U 13 League.

The Play-Off Game

The play-off game for runner-up was fixed for the Thomas Davis ground in River Valley, Tallaght on Saturday 1st March '92 and, amid great excitement among parents and friends, was played in a great spirit and was a credit to the boys of both Naomh Olaf and De La Salle. The Ballyfermot boys started off very strongly and in the first ten minutes had several goal chances but the Naomh Olaf goalie, Eoin Kinsella, and full back line of Edmund Smith, Michael McDermott and Shane O'Connor, who had the proverbial blinder, stood firm. Naomh Olaf actually went two goals up on two breakaways into the De La Salle half with goals by Andrew Kinsella and Karl Kavanagh. This stung the Ballyfermot lads and they came back strongly to score 2 goals and 4 points to

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lead by 2 – 4 to 2 – 0 going in to the break. On the resumption, the Naomh Olaf mid-field pairing of Cillian Purcell and Eoin Christian combined to give their best performance of the season when it was needed most and Cillian, along with his midfield play, seemed to pop up all over the field contributing 2 long range points into the bargain. This seemed to inspire the rest of the team and we knocked over five more points with one delightful effort from Maurice Whelan sealing the day for Naomh Olaf on a score line of 2 – 7 to 2 – 4. A great finish to our season after such an indifferent start.

In conclusion, there are a few people I would like to thank. The parents who gave regular transport, Joe Fahy, Ed Tierney, Liam Christian and Liam Kavanagh. I would also like to thank Larry Kinsella, the U 12 mentor, and his four U 12 players M McDermott, Fearghal Purcell, Eoin Kinsella and Kevin Birrane jnr. for doubling up as U 13 players after playing U 12 football on Saturday mornings.



Under 13 Football Team, Runners up in Division One of the '91/'92 League - Back row l to r: K Birrane (Mentor), A Kinsella, E Christian, P Costelloe, P Doyle, C Purcell, S Lynch, E Tierney, K O'Malley (Mentor). Front row l to r: I Mc Donnell, E Doolan, R Fahy, E Kinsella, K Kavanagh (Capt.) M Whelan, K Birrane and P Hopkins. Missing from photo: P Masterson, S O'Connor, P Fallon, E Smith, S O'Neill.

Naomh Olaf Under 12 Hurling Team - Division 1 League Champions 1991

This report by Brendan McGlynn was first published in Panorama Magazine in Oct. '91

Congratulations once again to the Under 12 hurlers of Naomh Olaf, Sandyford, on another tremendous hurling season. These magnificent young men remained unbeaten throughout their entire league campaign with wins over such notable opponents as Kilmacud Crokes, Clanna Gael, Ballyboden, Palmerstown and Crumlin.

Inspired by an outstanding goalkeeper in Shane O'Connor, the defence, marshalled by Eoin Hayes and Aidan Power, held firm against the most resolute attacks. Cillian Purcell and Eoin Christian rarely faltered at midfield and their long deliveries supplied the forward line with an almost limitless supply of possession. Edmund Smyth, Sean Gibbons and Mi-

chael McDermott were the driving forces in the attack but the superb passing, by Jerome Hogan and Darren Melody in particular, led to some excellent goals for Naomh Olaf.

Indeed the entire panel of players deserves great credit for their commitment throughout the season. Their parents and mentors too should not be forgotten. Without transport to and from the matches, participation in leagues would not be possible. Thanks again to those faithful parents who regularly assisted the lads all year. A special word of thanks to Mr Barry Kenna and Mr Gerard Murphy who co-managed the team, with expert advice from Sean Keane and Michael Gibbons.

Congratulations and well done to everybody.



Naomh Olaf Under 12 Hurling Team - Winners of Division 1 of the League 1991 - Back row l to r: A. Kinsella, M McDermott, E. Hayes, P. Fallon, E. Smyth, K. Kavanagh, A. Power, E. Christian, E. O'Connor. Front row l to r: C. Purcell, M. Whelan, N. Brogan, S. O'Connor, R. Kennelly, J. Hogan, P. Hopkins, S. Gibbons, F. Purcell. Missing from photograph: E.Tierney, C.McGuire.

Juvenile Football Championship Team 1992 -

By Brendan McGlynn

There has always been something magical about Championship Football. Here in Dublin, leagues are organised from under 9 years of age upwards but Championship Football commences at under-15. Almost all of the under-15 players had won leagues, but how would they fare out in the heat of Championship Football? This team has played together for the past two seasons. In fact, the majority of the team played under 11 Football in the 1988/'89 season when they came runners-up in Division Two of the league. At that time, a player had to be under a particular age on the 1st of September but that rule was changed to the 1st of January for the 1989/'90 season leaving Barry Lynch, Niall Keaveney, David Hickey, Mark Henderson and Alan Coffey ineligible to play under 12 Football. At the same time, the under 12 Football team of 1988/'89 had also been badly affected by the new age rule. There were, however, about five or six strong and skilful players such as Niall McCaffrey, David O'Brien, David Johnson and Darragh Maxwell who were not affected and could play under 13 Football that season. Therefore it was decided not to enter an under 12 team but rather an under 13 team for the 1989/'90 season.

A number of outstanding, genuine under 12 players such as Philip Byrne, Darragh Duffy, Brendan McGlynn, David Butler, Mark Harrington and Enda Brennan made up the panel. The team was entered in Division 2 of the League and had notable double victories over Saint Anne's, Round Tower, Thomas Davis and Templeogue. They were defeated only by Cuala to come runners-up in the League. The team

was now looking forward to playing in Division One in the 1990/'91 season. Eoin Goulding, John and Kevin Keane, who had transferred to the club earlier from Ballinteer to play hurling, by now had decided to play their football with the Club as well, and the inclusion of these three strong talented players was a tremendous boost to the panel. Having lost the first match to Lucan, the team went on to record some notable victories, including wins over Cuala and Kilmacud Crokes twice, to end up third in the League. Lucan and Ballyboden were the only teams that they did not beat and they came first and second respectively. In the 1991/'92 season, the team had recorded victories over Blessington, St Jude's and Templeogue. They had lost two good players, David Johnson, who had gone to live in Athlone and Thomas Brown, who had decided to concentrate on hurling. If the team had lost two players, it had gained five others who had come to notice when playing for St Benildus College – they were Gerard Gill from Sandymount Park, Douglas Leonard from Moreen, Conor Waters and Ted McKeon from Kilcross and Ian Callaghan from Stepaside. Seamus MacMathuna, better known as a hurler, had also joined the panel.

When the draw for the Championship was made, we were drawn against Lucan at Wedgewood. Few outsiders gave us a chance. What a football game that proved to be. By half-time Naomh Olaf was leading by 1 – 4 to no score having played against the breeze and the hill. Lucan, who had beaten us twice in the League the previous season and who

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had drawn with Ballyboden only two weeks earlier, were shocked. Changes were made and substitutes introduced. It was all to little avail as Naomh Olaf went on to win by 2 – 5 to 0 – 3. It was one of the most spirited performances ever given by a Naomh Olaf team. This was a magnificent team effort where everyone played his part. Special mention must be given, however, to David O'Brien, Niall McCaffrey, Eoin Goulding, David Butler, Darragh Maxwell, Ian Callaghan and Barry Lynch.

We were drawn against St Brigid's of Blanchardstown in the next round but we were fortunate to have home advantage. St Brigid's and St Vincent's were the two best teams at that age level on the north side of the city. Unfortunately, we were short a number of players for various reasons. They included Gerard

Gill, Conor Waters, Ted McKeon, Ian Callaghan and Mark Henderson. St Brigid's got a goal from their first attack. Ten minutes later, Douglas Leonard waltzed through their defence for a great goal. However, St Brigid's led by three points at the interval. Early in the second half, Barry Lynch got a goal and it looked as if there could be another upset. Encouraged by a very large home following, Naomh Olaf continued to play excellent football and could easily have forced a draw if they had taken their chances. St Brigid's finally won a most entertaining game by 3 points. The Naomh Olaf captain, Niall McCaffrey, turned in an outstanding performance and was easily the best player on view. David O'Brien, Eoin Goulding, David Butler and Darragh Maxwell were others to shine on a star-studded team.



Naomh Olaf Juvenile Championship Team 1992 - Front row l to r: David Hickey, Barry Lynch, Brendan McGlynn, Kevin Keane, Darragh Duffy, Niall Keaveney, Kevin O'Brien, Liam Casey and Seamus MacMathuna. **Back row l to r:** Brendan McGlynn (Mentor), Niall McCaffrey, David O'Brien, David Butler, Douglas Leonard, Des Murphy, Darragh Maxwell, John Keane, Eoin Goulding and Sean Keane (Mentor). Missing from photo: Gerard Gill, Mark Henderson, Conor Waters, Ted McKeon and Ian Callaghan.

U 10 Football Team - Runners-up in Division 2 of the League 1992

This report, by Liz Daly, was published in Panorama Magazine in May 1992

The youngest team in competition for Naomh Olaf G.A.A. Club is the U10 boys. They were initially part of the youngsters who played football on Saturday mornings at 11a.m. on Wedgewood pitch in the latter half of the summer holidays. Prior to the league, there were between twenty and thirty children learning basic skills and then playing a game together. On return to school, some of these players were unavailable to the club. Some went home to the country. One boy was so enthusiastic he volunteered to travel from Inishbofin every fortnight to play for the club. His local G.A.A. club has gained a keen and able footballer - Good luck, Oisín. Some players were lost to other sports. Every effort was made to facilitate the children allowing them to play as many sports as possible.

Positioning the players and encouraging their best skills was the task of the team trainer / mentor Derek Dowling, who is an outstanding member of the successful Naomh Olaf Intermediate team and who also plays on the Dublin Junior Football team. The children were impressed and in awe of his football talent. Discipline was never a problem; Derek's word was law.

The games began in earnest on October 5th with a convincing win against Good Counsel; the final score was Naomh Olaf 7 goals 3 points, Good Counsel 1 goal 1 point. The winning streak continued until Christmas. More children were joining the team. One of these, Alex O'Brien, a natural defender, with

his imposing stature and strong clearances, earned a regular first team place. The team defence is possibly their strongest area. Goalie, John Whealans inspires confidence, his agile body and good eye for a ball makes him a natural for his position. The sound all-round skills of John Harrington (Captain) coupled with the dogged determination of Martin O'Shea and pure athletic ability of Brian McDonnell kept opposing forwards at bay. Kris Mooney's strength, speed and aggression have moulded him into a tough defender. Barry O'Brien's versatility and true grit enabled him to be either forward or in defence. Seamus Coughlan can at any time turn on a great display of football. In mid-field, Glen Smith's enthusiastic and 'never lie down' attitude in every game won him the "Player of the Year" trophy. Niall Daly, also in the mid field, has proved he has potential to be a fine footballer. The forwards showed steady progress. The top scorer Lorcan Kinsella (21 goals, 1 point) was truly dynamic. He, along with Raymond Naughton, was instrumental in setting up many more scores. Raymond is a lovely player to watch. There is a graceful quality in his style. Brian Rice and Peter McHugh improved with every game and, with the arrival of Aodhan Rowe, selecting the forward line was not an easy choice. Michael Fahy gained confidence and became an ideal half forward. His quick thinking and improved skill alongside his persistently high work rate won him the "Most Improved Player" award. Sean Colgan has a keen knowledge and understanding of the game and scored some classic goals.

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It was decided early in the season to play as many children as came to the game; this paid off. When they were needed, these players took their positions and assisted the team victories. Jonathan Brown's blocking and disguised left kick were of great value as was Alan Roche's defending tactics and clearing kicks. Stephen Keogh and Paul Mahon are always hungry to score and often did. Graeme Mongey was anxious to secure a first place on the team and worked hard to that end. He and Colm Ryan were frequently picked for the first 15.

In the New Year, illness had depleted the panel. Despite this, the team only lost one game - away to Good Counsel. A cruel draw to Kilmacud Crokes, that we had beaten easily in the first round, meant that we had lost the league by a single point. However, we did come runners-up and are guaranteed promotion to 1st Division next season. Some of our players are U9. It is club policy that children play within their own age group. This means that players like Robert Fox, Paul Mahon and Stephen Ke-

ogh will leave a gap in this squad and they will be missed. However, the foundation of this team is now well built. It has great potential. No doubt that with practice, commitment and some luck, next season they can be winners. A special word of thanks to the parents who helped in running the team, washing the kit, providing transport and especially in giving encouragement from the side-line which was greatly appreciated.

Mentors: *Liz Daly and Derek Dowling.*

Team Panel: *J. Harrington, S. Colgan, A. O'Brien, M. O'Shea, N. Daly, G. Smith, K. Mooney, P. Mc Hugh, S. Keogh, L. Kinsella, M. Fahy, R. Naughton, B. McDonnell, G. Mongey, B. Rice, S. Coughlan, A. Roche, B. O'Brien, R.I.P. C. Ryan A. Rowe, P. Mahon, John Browne, and John Whealans.*



L to R: Bridie Cannon, Matt Bermingham and Florence Moore.



L to R: Kevin Birrane, Kevin Flynn, Mary Flynn and John Maloney.

Under 12 Football Team - Runners-up in Div. 2 of the 92/93 League - By Kevin Birrane

It was with some trepidation that the U 12 footballers started the season, having been relegated from Division 1 the previous season. Our very first game would be a real test of character as it was a home game against our local rivals Kilmacud Crokes on a lovely September morning. Things didn't look good for Naomh Olaf at half time as our old foes led by 7 points, but a brilliant second half performance, with James Clarke and Eamon Spain netting two great goals, pulled the game out of the fire to win by 4 points. The standard of football by both teams was a credit to their clubs.

With two very good points under our belts, confidence began to soar and before we knew it we were on top of the league by Christmas, with very good victories over St Mark's, Crumlin and Ballyboden Wanderers to our credit. Our first set back came on a very cold and wet morning in January when we had to travel to St Mary's of Saggart with only thirteen players at our disposal. The thirteen who turned up, strengthened by Daire Stewart who arrived from a schools rugby match in the second half, put in a great effort, only to lose the game by 1 point to a last minute goal from the Saggart lads.

Our next game was at home against Round Towers of Clondalkin who were joint top of the table with us, having lost their only two points to Kilmacud. This was an absolute thriller with Naomh Olaf the victors by 5 points. A feature of this game was the great defending by Kevin Birrane in goal and John Harrington, Michael Brogan and the Captain, Bill Stafford (R.I.P.), in the full back line. So we found

ourselves in early Spring on the run-in to the finish having dropped only two points, and leading the league. This was not bad for a team that started off the season with morale very low after relegation. By this time the hour had changed and we were into evening games, the first of these causing a slight hiccup, as we suffered an unexpected home defeat to St Mark's. This defeat was to be our downfall as it left us level on points with Round Towers and this was the way it remained until the very last game of the season, when we had to travel to Moyle Park College to play the West County Men. The game was fixed for 7p.m. on the Sunday evening of the National Football League Final (Dublin v Donegal) but due to non-appearance of the referee, (who we later heard went off celebrating the Dubs' great victory), the game did not go ahead and was re-fixed for the following Sunday at the same time. So off to Clondalkin again the next Sunday, only for disaster to strike again, this time due to the weather. The referee declared the pitch unplayable, and rightly so, as it would have been dangerous to ask 30 juveniles to perform on such a mud bath. This game seemed destined never to be played. For various reasons, such as school tours, confirmations and exams, it kept being postponed.

Finally the game was fixed for July 1st and, boy, was it worth waiting for. It proved to be the best game of the season, with the Towers lads winning the game and the league on the score of 0 – 10 to 2 – 6 with Towers goal coming with the very last kick of the match. What a way to lose a match and a league.

You can imagine the celebrating on one side and the tears and feeling of being defeated on the other. One player who stood out like a beacon in this game and had a fabulous season all round was young Hugh O'Donnell. Others to give their all were Michael Brogan, Bill Stafford (RIP), James Clarke, Padraig Harrington, Brian Keogh, Colm Kenny, Daire Stew-

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art and four U 11 players who were a great help to us: John Whealans (a John O'Leary in the making), John Harrington, Glenn Smith and Lorcan Kinsella. Finally a word of thanks to fellow mentor John Stewart and all the parents who helped with transport during a very long season.

Naomh Olaf Under 10 Hurling Team Win Division 3 of the 1992/93 League

This report, introduced by Brendan Mc Glynn and written by Liz Daly, was published in February 1993

When Liz Daly of Clonard joined Naomh Olaf GAA Club, she confessed that she scarcely knew the rules of hurling or Gaelic football. Anxious to become involved with the club, she was soon in charge of an Under 10 football team. While Liz may have lacked knowledge in some of the skills of the games, her many outstanding qualities more than compensated for this. Her energy, enthusiasm, interest and care for her players are really amazing. This is reflected in her team's performance - in her first season as mentor, aided by Derek Dowling, her football team came runners-up in both the league and the Corriggan Shield. Assisted by Paddy Harrington and Mary Brogan, her Under 10 hurling team won Division 3 of the league. Here Liz reports on her hurling team's success:

Hurling skills are not easily learned and practice is essential. Encouraging youngsters to don helmets, which limit their vision, and hit sliotars with sticks of ash banded with strips of metal, should have been difficult. Thankfully, our local children's remarkable enthusiasm and commitment to our national sport ensured that there were enough dedicated volunteers to form a club team and enter a competitive league.

Finding experienced mentors with time free was problem number one. Hurling is not just a week-end sport. Games were fixed for Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings so mentors needed to commit to those times at least. Mary Brogan offered to

supervise training and attend as many matches as possible. Coming from Galway, Mary as a child had played hurling as automatically as today's children watch television. We were off.

Practice sessions gathered momentum and enthusiasm, some which rubbed off on Pat Harrington, who agreed to coach and mentor the emerging team. His depth of experience and obvious love of the game made him ideally suited to the task. The team thrived under his guidance.

Our grading game was lost so we were entered into Division 3 of the South Dublin Hurling League. Our first game was on April 10th in Tymon North against St Jude's. Both sides were tentative and the misty drizzle did not make for a good game. As usual, our loyal supporters and parents were vociferous and encouraging. We won, mainly due to a superb individual performance from John Harrington. John is a great hurler. His skill is awesome. He was the most effective player on the team in every game and was admired by his team and opponents alike.

Michael Fahey's skill and confidence grew with every game. His progress was immense and, no doubt, he will be a future hurler of great standing. Alan Roche worked hard and achieved great individual hurling skills. His courage and determination are greatly admired by the mentors. Goal-hungry Alex O'Brien had to fight hard for the full forward position. His rival was John Whealans whose nifty turning and follow-through resulted in many goals. Alex, on the other hand, relied on his strong pull on the sliotar for his scores.

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Glen Smith is a natural athlete and committed himself in every game. Being so involved, he was frequently injured but his “true grit” spirit kept him on the field of play. Sean Colgan’s love of the game was evident in his play. His strident progress and courage earned him a regular first team place. Seamus Coughlan’s natural ability was a joy to watch. Shea hides his light under a bushel but when it is displayed there is nothing to beat it.

Brian McDonnell is another great sportsman. His insight into the game, his agility, doggedness and high work rate make him a highly respected member of the team. Raymond Naughton is another, in that vein. His accuracy, in goal or out-field, benefited the versatility of the team. Lorcan Kinsella contributed some of his familiar hurling skill throughout the season. His turn of speed and fielding ability were invaluable. Brian Rice and Niall Daly’s reliability and efforts were rewarded with automatic selection to the team. Colm Ryan played in the forward line and was totally committed to the team. Some players started late in the season, two of whom, although still under nine, added to our panel. They are Derek Fitzpatrick and Paul O’Brien. Both were eager to learn and prepared to work hard, on and off the pitch. Aodhan Roe and Paul Mahon are another two who were a year younger than necessary but this was only in size, not in spirit. They fought hard and never let their side down. Graham Mongey enjoyed being on the forward line but was more effective in defence. He saved sure goals on more than one occasion. His happy-go-lucky temperament made him very popular. Shane Fleming was very willing and keen to master the skills of the game. His uncle had once played for his county and he wants to follow suit. Glen Keddy, a good soccer player, was anxious

to try hurling and proved to have the natural talent for it.

The league was completed and won without losing a game by May 27th. This entitled Naomh Olaf to play the winners of the North Side Division 3 Hurling League for a silver cup. That league was not finished until the end of June. Summer holidays further delayed the play off. Eventually it was scheduled for October 11th in the Phoenix Park against Oliver Plunkett’s.

High tension and anxiety was evident, both on and off the pitch, as the game proceeded. The first half had the teams even but a couple of well worked goals by Oliver Plunkett’s, early in the second half, settled them and they went on to win handsomely. It was heartbreaking to lose and the disappointment was palpable. Medals would have to suffice. Maybe next year there will be silverware.

Thanks again to the parents who supported the team, acting as chauffeurs, umpires, linesmen, advisers and launderers. An even bigger thanks is due to the team for the credit they were to the Club.

An Important Milestone in Naomh Olaf Club Development

This article by B. McGlynn was first published in The Dublin Year Book in 1993

Sunday, 5th of April 1992 was a red letter day in the life of Naomh Olaf GAA Club. The dream and vision of a small group of people became a reality when the first sod was turned on the site for a new club premises. This was a huge undertaking for a young club who had planned a building with facilities for basketball, badminton, indoor football, table tennis, keep-fit classes etc., as well as four large dressing rooms, a lounge and a functions room.

The day itself was memorable. The club colours swayed in the breeze as the dignitaries and clergy chatted, and the crowd assembled to witness and celebrate this historic occasion. Very Rev. Fr. James Randles and the Reverend David Muir together blessed the site and all who would work on the

building and play in the finished clubhouse. Minister of State Tom Kitt donned his safety helmet and mounted the JCB already on the site.

With the aid of a skilled operator, he dug out the first gabháil of earth and stones to a loud cheer and some helpful comments from a crowd who enjoyed it all. The Development Officer of the Dublin County Board, Mr. Donal Hickey, was delighted with the flourishing of the Club and commended the persistence of Mick Brown who got the Club going initially in 1981.

Soon all present repaired to the local Scout Hall for a welcoming cup of tea and good spirits were very much in evidence on this happy occasion. While the year may best be remembered for the development of the Club facilities, the Club's record on the field was truly remarkable.



L to R: Larry Kinsella, Kevin Curtain and Dermot Irwin seem to be very happy with the Club's site before the first sod is turned.



L to R: Senator Don Lydon, Very Rev. Fr. James Randles, Parish Priest, Balally, Rev. David Muir, Rector, Church of Ireland, Kilternan, Tom Kitt, Minister of State at the Dept. of An Taoiseach, Kevin Birrane and Mick Brown, Naomh Olaf.

Naomh Olaf Win Minor Title, 1993/94 -

By John McGrath

In September 1993, Naomh Olaf Minor Footballers began their 1993/'94 league campaign with a home game against St Anne's, Bohernabreena. This was the first game of a league campaign that was to culminate with the County League Final against Northside winners Clontarf. Naomh Olaf had to fight very hard to overcome a spirited challenge from St Anne's and the narrow two points victory was due primarily to excellent work by forwards, Brendan McGlynn, Niall Keaveney and Thomas Brown.

During the months that followed, the team worked very hard and good attendances at training were indicative of a strong will to win within the team. By Christmas, Naomh Olaf had secured wins against St Kevin's, Kilnarnagh, Good Counsel and St Finian's, Newcastle. The toughest of these games was undoubtedly against St Kevin's. It took brilliant defensive performances from the halfback line, Tony Murray, Barry Lynch and Stephen Heaney, to prevent St Kevin's from winning in the final quarter of the game. The vital scores which secured victory were two breathtaking goals from Damien Maher which had all spectators applauding. In the games against Good Counsel and St Finian's, the forwards, in particular, played well with Darragh Maxwell, Eoin Brennan, Ian Munnely and Graham Davis scoring regularly.

The team also had high hopes of a good run in the Championship. The opening round was played in Cabra against Naomh Fionbarra and this was one of the most thrilling games of the year. The difference between the two teams was probably the brilliant

performance from the Naomh Olaf midfielder, Niall McCaffrey, who undoubtedly played his best game of the year that day. An opportunist goal from Ian Munnely in the dying moments of the game ensured victory for Naomh Olaf. The next round was played in Wedgewood against Wanderers who were unable to cope with the strength of the home team. The forwards, in particular, were on top of their game and a series of excellent scores from Aidan Maguire and Alan Lyons ensured an easy victory. The next round was played away to Naomh Barrog. In a low scoring game, Naomh Barrog secured a narrow two point victory.

After Christmas, victories over Cabinteely and local rivals Kilmacud Crokes left three teams in contention for the league, Clanna Gael, St Patrick's, Palmers-town and Naomh Olaf. At this stage, all three teams were unbeaten but still had to play each other. The first of these encounters for Naomh Olaf was against Clanna Gael. A tough bruising game was played in Wedgewood and, despite being reduced to fourteen men, Clanna Gael pushed the home side right to the final whistle. This was undoubtedly the Naomh Olaf team's toughest league game to date and was where the backs showed their ability to withstand pressure. The full back line was outstanding with Sean Keane, Thomas Brown and Greg Naughton, R.I.P. conceding no quarter to the opposition.

So, after a winter of competition, Division 2 South came down to a game between St Patrick's and Naomh Olaf, the only unbeaten sides in the Leagues. The game, which was delayed due to examinations,

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was eventually played on 30th July, 1994 in Glenaulin Park, Palmerstown. Naomh Olaf played with wind advantage in the first half but found scoring difficult against the resolute St Patrick's defence. The points which were scored resulted from determined play from Mick Donnelly, Alan Lyons and Ian Munnely. Just before half time, Eoin Brennan punched a vital goal for Naomh Olaf to give his side a two-point lead at half time. Naomh Olaf started the second half brightly and brilliant points from Alan Lyons and Damien Maher stretched the Naomh Olaf lead. In defence Kevin Keane, Thomas Browne and Greg Naughton R.I.P. ensured that St Patrick's scoring was kept to a minimum. Midway through the half, St Patrick's were awarded a penalty which was duly despatched to the net reducing the lead to two points. Naomh Olaf, however, responded to the challenge and with midfielder Mick Donnelly and halfbacks David O'Brien, Barry Lynch and Stephen Heaney attacking with purpose, the lead was quickly restored to three points. Again, however, another St Patrick's attack yielded a second penalty. This time the penalty was put over the bar. Naomh Olaf immediately responded to this good fortune by scoring a goal which effectively put the match beyond St Patrick's. From the kick out, Cillian Purcell took the ball from his own halfback line to the full forward line where his accurate pass found Eoin Brennan who again despatched the ball to the net. As a result of this victory, Naomh Olaf were crowned Division 2 Champions for the second time in three years.

The only hurdle remaining between Naomh Olaf and the Division County League Title was Clontarf who themselves had impressively won Division 2 North. This play-off was also played in Palmerstown on Sunday 11th September. Naomh Olaf played against

the breeze in the first half and immediately took the initiative by scoring two points. With Mick Donnelly injured, Darragh Maxwell came into the Naomh Olaf midfield and with the help of forwards Brendan Byrne and Alan Lyons, immediately stamped his authority on the game. Corner backs Sean and Kevin Keane played brilliantly to ensure that Clontarf could not translate their territorial advantage into scores. At half-time, despite having played against the breeze, the score was 0 – 3 to 0 – 2 in favour of Naomh Olaf. In the second half, Clontarf sought gallantly to get the scores which would bring them back into the game. In spite of having two players sent off, Naomh Olaf refused to concede and gradually wore down the Clontarf challenge to run out winners in this game with a score line of 0 -10 to 0 – 4. A performance worthy of particular mention in this game was that of Naomh Olaf goalkeeper Paul Donnelly. Paul, who had played well all season behind the strong Naomh Olaf defence, chose this play-off to give his best performance of the year. On at least three occasions, he brilliantly saved point blank efforts from the Clontarf forwards and so ensured victory for Naomh Olaf.

After the game the Division 2 Cup was presented to Naomh Olaf Captain, Eoin Brennan and was brought proudly back to the Clubhouse.

A word of thanks to the team sponsors, UCD Sports Shop. The Naomh Olaf Minors are grateful for this sponsorship and were proud to wear the "UCD Sports Shop" logo during this successful league campaign.

***The team mentors were John McGrath,
Ven Naughton and Frank Heaney.***



Naomh Olaf Minor Football Team - Division 2 League Winners 93/94 - Front row l to r: Niall Keaveney, Brendan McGlynn, Gregory Naughton, R.I.P. Thomas Brown, Eoin Brennan, David Doorly, Brendan Byrne, Darragh Duffy and Aidan Maguire. **Back row l to r:** Ven Naughton (Team Mentor), Ian Munnelly, Alan Lyons, David O'Brien, John Keane, Paul Donnelly, Darragh Maxwell, Niall McCaffrey, Kevin Keane, Barry Lynch, Graham Davis, Damien Maher, Tony Murray and John McGrath (Team Mentor). Missing from the photo: Frank Heaney (Team Mentor).



Francis O'Dwyer of K.C.R. Heating Supplies Ltd. presenting a set of jerseys to John O'Brien, Secretary of Naomh Olaf GAA Club in 1994.



Mick Brown, Chairman of Naomh Olaf G.A.A. Club receiving the "Pat McLaughlin Memorial Cup" from Philip McLaughlin of U.C.D. Sports in 1994.

Under 16 Football Team win Div. 3 Dublin South League 1993/94

This article by Brendan McGlynn was first published in Nov. 94

In December 1993, it looked doubtful if the Club could field an Under 16 football team. There was a relatively small panel of genuine Under 16 players, i.e. players born in 1978, and of those, some were unavailable for various reasons. It was decided to play in Division 3 of the league and to utilise younger players if necessary. This team had won Division 2 of the league when under 14 but having lost some players, found themselves out of their depth as Under 15s in Division 1. One of their best players, Darragh Duffy, was chosen as captain as the team faced their first assignment against St. Killian's. This was a well contested match with victory only secured by Naomh Olaf in the final ten minutes. This victory however gave the team the confidence it needed, following heavy defeats in Division 1 the previous season. This was David Doorly's first game with the Club and his early promise was realised as the league progressed. It was also Brendan McGlynn's only game in that league as a knee injury received a few days subsequently kept him out of the game for twelve months. He had, however, scored six valuable points from play on that occasion. In the course of the league, the team had victories over Ballin-teer, Thomas Davis, St Patrick's of Palmerstown, St Finnian's of Newcastle, Bray, Good Counsel, Lucan, Robert Emmets and St Anne's. With each victory the team grew in confidence. Gerard Gill in goal displayed consistent excellence throughout the campaign. David Wyse, Enda Brennan, Stephen Camp-

bell, Darragh Duffy, Conor Waters, Maurice Gates, Kevin O'Brien and Aodhagán Cotter had some outstanding games in defence. David Butler and Kevin Keane generally had the edge at mid-field while forwards Rossa Coughlan, David Farrell, John O'Shea, Paul Monaghan and Alan Kelly all took some fine scores.

No fewer than nine under age players contributed to this league victory. They included Wayne Rodgers, Con Smith, Michael Neill, Eoin Christian, Cillian Purcell, Shane O'Connor, James Walsh, Peter Fallon and Eric Doolan, all fine players who are this year playing in the Under 16 Super League. Most of the genuine Under 16s of last season are this year playing in Division 1 of the Minor League and are enjoying their football. They will play minor football again next season. Their mentors, Brendan McGlynn and Sean Keane, are looking forward to that just as much as the players are.



Under 16 Football Team 1993/94 – Winners of Div. 3 South City League - Back row l to r: Eoin Christian, Cillian Purcell, James Walsh, Alan Kelly, Kevin Keane, David Butler, Brendan McGlynn, Enda Brennan, Maurice Gates, Kevin O'Brien, Rossa Coughlan. Front row l to r: David Wyse, John O'Shea, Paul Monaghan, Peter Fallon, Con Smith, Darragh Duffy (Captain), Wayne Rodgers, Stephen Campbell, David Doorly, Shane O'Connor, David Farrell. Missing from the photograph: Gerard Gill, Conor Waters, Aodhagán Cotter, Michael Neill and and Eric Doolan.



Naomh Olaf U21 Football Team 1993/94 - Front row l to r: Eoin Ryan, Colin Delaney, Patrick Roe, Eoin Brennan, Padraic Bermingham, Greg Naughton, R.I.P. Cathal Daughton, Niall Coughlan, Philip Funge, Derek Naughton, Gerard O'Malley. Back row l to r: Bill O'Brien (Mentor), Dermot O'Brien (Capt), Kenneth Hodgins, James Whelan, Eric Horgan, Tony O'Brien, Kevin Buggy, Gary O'Hanlon, Michael Donnelly, Martin Duggan, Niall McCaffrey, Cormac Doyle, Brendan Curtin, R.I.P. Michael Hodgins (Mentor). Not in Picture: Ronan O'Farrell, Christy Cullen, Brian Murtagh, Martin Cullen, Aidan O'Brien, Neal Rowland, Alan Lyons and Damien Maher.

Naomh Olaf Under 21 Football 1993/94

This report, by Bill O'Brien, was published in Panorama Magazine in December 1994

We looked forward to the season with great expectations. We had retained our position in Division 1, a few of the lads were too old but the majority was a year older, wiser and more mature. We had also boosted the panel with a number of younger players. We had John McGrath well established as our trainer, and Colm McEnerney and Bill O'Brien as the other mentors. However, John McGrath was diverted to the Minor Football Team and Colm McEnerney to the Junior 8 Football Team.

Michael Hodgins and Michael Dalton were to be the new mentors with Bill O'Brien. Michael Dalton came to our club with a great reputation, having been trainer of the Wicklow Minor Football County Team the previous year. Our players took to him like ducks to water and he conducted some great training sessions.

The new season began 18th September 1993, at Wedgewood against Round Tower, Clondalkin, and the game finished in a draw. This was a great result for Naomh Olaf as a number of vital players had not yet returned from their summer abroad. This was followed by a good win against our neighbours, Kilmacud Crokes. We next took to the field against Thomas Davis, who were winners by four points. Michael Dalton took no further part in our activities after this game, much to our regret. However, we continued on our merry way and on 4th December, we had a great win in the mud at Wedgewood in the first round of the Championship against a well fancied St. Jude's. Due to bad weather and pitch con-

ditions, no other games were played until the 19th February 1994, when the next round of the Championship was due to be played against St. Bridget's, Blanchardstown, at Wedgewood. Wedgewood was declared unplayable on that day as were most of the playing fields in Dublin. The County Board however, in their wisdom, transferred the game to Glencullen. Imagine the County Board's disappointment when the game ended in a draw, after an excellent game of football. The replay was fixed for the following Saturday at Russell Park, Blanchardstown. No other game was played that weekend due to continued bad weather and Naomh Olaf ran out of steam in the mud and rain, but not before giving a good account of themselves. This however, was Olaf's last defeat of the season and they went on to win all their remaining league games and finished up joint league leaders with Thomas Davis and Round Tower. This resulted in a three way play-off. Round Tower defeated Thomas Davis at Wedgewood. Round Tower also defeated Naomh Olaf in a great game at Kiltipper Road on 11th July, when Olaf's were without nine of their panel of players. The game between Naomh Olaf and Thomas Davis, despite having been fixed on a number of occasions, was never played as Thomas Davis did not fulfill the fixture for various reasons. The game, I believe, has been awarded to Naomh Olaf and they are officially league runners-up.

Hurling in the Club

This article by Mary Hayes was written for the Souvenir Programme for the Official Opening of the Clubhouse in 1994

Two hurling teams were entered in competitions in our very first year of existence in 1981. The Under 10 team came third and the Under 11 team came second. That is no mean achievement in a first year of competition. Today, we have seven hurling teams ranging right through from Under 11 level to Minor, Under 21 and Junior. Our Under 11 hurlers, under the excellent management of Liz Daly and Pat Harrington, won their league last year. Pat's son, John, is one of the most exciting young hurlers in the Club and one to watch for the future.

At Under 14 level last year, we had one of our best victories yet in juvenile hurling, winning our first Féile na nGael competition and bringing back the first trophy to the Clubhouse. Great credit for this fantastic win must go to Kevin Birrane and coach Larry Kinsella, whose knowledge of the ancient game is second to none. Our Under 15 hurlers, with Sean Keane, Gerry Murphy and Mary Hayes as mentors, didn't let us down either. We finished in third place. This year, we have had a lot of injuries but great credit is due to all the lads who never let us down and made sure we had a team to field. Thanks to Eoin Christian, Peter Fallon and Cillian Purcell, and also Sean Gibbons for supporting us. All helped greatly in making sure that so far we have not lost a match. With Brendan McGlynn, Kevin O'Brien and David Doorley back with us in the new season, we hope to continue in that trail.

Our minor team, under the management of Sean

Keane and Mick Brown, boast many young promising players. Lorcan Mac Mathúna and Niall McCaffrey are on the Dublin Colleges team and could make the Dublin Minor team. Eoin Brennan, Barry Lynch and Daragh Maxwell also got trials for Dublin this year. Most of this minor team have been together since Under 10. They won the Under 12 league, were runners up at Under 13 and Under 15 level and reached the quarter final of the Under 15 Championship. Although not doing well in the minor league this year, they are a young team and most will be minor again next year.

Last year was our first year having a team at Under 21 level. Bill O'Brien mooted the idea first with four or five of the minor team, and with these four or five forming the core of the team, they went on to field a team for every game played. The minor team benefitted very much from this experience. At the time of writing, the Under 21 team remains unbeaten in the league. With players like John and Kevin Keane, Cormac Doyle, Lorcan Mac Mathúna and Niall McCaffrey, hurling should have a bright future, and with people like Flan McCarthy, Bill O'Brien and Sean Keane leading the way, it certainly won't be allowed to die.

Our Junior Hurling team did us proud last year winning the Fletcher Shield. They created history by being the first adult team to bring back a trophy to the Club. Flan McCarthy, Larry and Jerome Hogan have a difficult job trying to motivate players especially when inclement weather makes pitch and playing conditions unattractive. With a few dual players like Caomhán Bermingham, Eric Horgan, Brian Horgan

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and Gerard Maher, it can be difficult to arrange fixtures to suit all.

There is no other game or sport that compares with hurling for skill, speed and excitement when played well. However, hurling needs to be nurtured and started at a young age. We are very lucky that both of our schools in the parish, St. Olaf's and Queen of Angels, have people like Gerry Murphy and Seamus O'Neill who ensure that our young boys and girls are well coached in the skills. It is a joy to see so many of them setting off for school with their hurleys and helmets on their backs.

This year there will be no competitive leagues for Under 10s. Leagues have been replaced by an extensive coaching programme culminating in Féilí involving both northside and southside teams. Frank Heaney is co-ordinating and organising this new venture for our Club. With Frank's commitment and enthusiasm, we will surely reap a fine harvest. I think this is the direction we should be going if hurling is to become a force to be reckoned with in Dublin. Children have to feel comfortable playing the game and this can only be achieved if they are well coached in the skills.



The Under 12 Hurlers Winners of The 11 Aside Cup 2004 - Back row l to r: Dara Byrne, Robert Doyle, Stuart Kyne- Delaney, Jack Hastings, Ben Mahon, Michael O'Connor, Sean Sullivan, Graham Elliot, Dermot Frewen, Anthony O'Hara and Stephen O'Connor (Mentor). Front row l to r: Conor Murphy, Jack Doherty, Conor Murray, Keith Begley, Jack Lee and Conor McGovern.

Fundraising - By Mick Brown

Fundraising is obviously one of the most important aspects of any club. In Naomh Olaf, we made a decision early on that we would not do any major fundraising until we had something to raise funds for. So it was not until we had the plans drawn up for our Clubhouse in the early nineties, that we started to fundraise.

The first real fundraiser was when we decided to join in an existing monster draw which was run by Rath Cairn GAA club in Co. Meath. This draw was run on a regular basis by Rath Cairn and clubs from all over Ireland took part. The reason for going this way was that we decided not to risk running the draw ourselves, just in case we did not succeed. By joining an existing draw we could not lose any money.

The organisation of the draw was the main reason for its success. We put people in charge of groups of sellers. We got Ned Seery to administer the returned tickets and keep a check on the sales. We organised sellers to call to every house in the Sandyford / Dumdrum area and the response was brilliant. The goodwill and generosity of all the people in the area was fantastic. The draw was a great success and we made over £90,000 at the time. The reason for the success was that everybody in the club pulled together and put in a huge effort; the success was obviously all down to this combined effort.

In 2001, we had another monster draw which was to help build an extension to the club. We tried to replicate the first draw but we could not. This draw was also very successful but not as good as the first draw. When we were preparing our submission to the banks for a loan to build the clubhouse, we had

to come up with other ways of getting money. We had our £90,000 from the draw, so we needed some other forms of income to help get the loan. One of the plans in the submission to the banks was that we would borrow one thousand pounds from any member of the club who could afford it and was willing to lend to us. For the loan we gave life membership to the families who loaned us the money. We also guaranteed to repay the loan after three years, which we did. We got fifty members to lend us one thousand pounds each and a lot of members have not yet asked for their money back, for which we are very grateful.

An income from our weekly Lotto draw was also part of the submission to the banks for our original loan.

The original building cost of the clubhouse was over £400,000 pounds. None of the main banks would lend us the money to build, even though we had £90,000 in one of these banks at the time, and also a guaranteed £50,000 from members. The GAA gave us a very small grant of £8,000 towards the building which was very little. But it was only through contacts with NIB by Phil Monaghan and Mick Brown that we eventually got the loan. We have banked with NIB since.

As soon as we opened the clubhouse, we started our weekly lotto draw. This has turned out to be one of our main sources of income over the years and long may it continue.

Ned Seery and his wife Bridie had administered our first monster draw with great success and so they

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were asked to look after the lotto draw on a weekly basis. This they did and made a great job of it for many years. Another man who gave great service to the club lotto with his sales of tickets was Bill Sunderland. Bill used to sell every Sunday night in the clubhouse and he also sold in many of the local hostelrys. If you met Bill anywhere he would always have a ticket for you in his pocket. Others who helped out with the draw were Brendan and Patsy McGlynn, Mary O'Shea, R.I.P. Josie Brown, Pat Kinsella and Mary Hayes.

When Ned and Bridie decided to move home to Moate, a new committee was set up to run the lotto and they have run it since. The group is made up mainly of husbands and wives who run the draw every Sunday night and the members include Paul and Mary Hughes, Eileen and Brian Hickey, Brian and Brenda Collinge, Rachel and Liam Heritage, Kay Meegan, Joan O'Mahony, Mick and Josie Brown, Bernard Keaveney and Jim Hayes, and until recently, Mary O'Shea R.I.P. and Patsy McGlynn, Sheila Fagan and Brian and Joan Begley.

The lotto continues to be one of our most important sources of income. And in spite of the downturn in members frequenting the bar and the recession, the lotto continues to make a huge contribution to the running of the club. Tickets are sold in the bar and by juvenile members door to door, by direct debit and you can also play on-line. If you want to support the club, you can play the lotto on-line at www.naomholaf.ie

Recently, the juvenile section has been getting involved with the sales of tickets and we are hoping that this will make an impact on our sales. Recently joined helpers from the juvenile section for Sunday

nights are Annmarie Bent and Gerry Donnelly. We are always looking for new helpers because, as they say, many hands make light work.

***If you can help in any way please contact us at:
012950216 or at info@naomholaf.ie***

The Grand Opening - By Bairbre de Burca

There was a great day of celebration for Naomh Olaf GAA Club to mark the official opening of their very fine club premises on Saturday 30th April 1994. Preparations were hectic for a few weeks beforehand, drawing up lists of guests to be invited, arranging matches to mark the occasion, planning the liturgy for the special Mass, touching up the paintwork inside the building, organising fencing, flags and music. The night before the opening was like the night before a family wedding, excitement in the air, everything arranged except the weather, and questions about whether it would be favourable on the day.

The day itself started early for many. Tony Roe, Peter O'Brien and their colleagues in the 137th Scouts were out at 6 a.m. assembling a marquee close to the building, to house the shop and give shelter if necessary. Club Officials arrived at 8 a.m. to put up flags and bunting. Josie Brown carefully stitched the blue and maroon ribbons together to be used in the ceremonial cutting before the official entry into the building. Many members of the club made their way to Balally Church for the 10 o'clock Mass which marked publicly the start of the celebrations. Seeing the club colours in the blue irises and maroon chrysanthemums on the altar surprised, and gave a lift of delight to, all as they entered the church. These had been quietly supplied by Jean Feehan, who had taken a pair of her son's football shorts around the flower market to get a good colour match to represent the club. Mass was celebrated by Fr Dermot Lane and was on the theme of thanksgiving and joy in what had been achieved, and hope for further expansion of the warm and generous spirit which has been gen-

erated through the club activities for the community. Members of the club – young and founder members – participated as readers, altar servers, ministers of the Eucharist, in the prayers of the faithful, the offertory procession and the Communion reflection. It was a fitting start to the celebration and gave all an opportunity to reflect on, and celebrate, God's goodness at work through the many people who had worked so hard to bring the club to its present fine achievements, both on and off the playing fields. Music was by Miss Moynihan, R.I.P., and the children's choir and the liberal use of the Gaeilge gave a special sense of the ritual.

The plaque bearing the inscription about the official opening was presented and blessed during Mass and afterwards Dermot Irwin was on duty to bring it down to the clubhouse and hammer in the final nail of the building. Crowds assembled for 1 o'clock coming on foot and by car from Kiltarnan, Sandyford and Balally Parishes, and from places further away, to join in witnessing the official opening ceremony. The Garda Band played in the warm sunshine, children danced around to the music, old and new friends chatted together. The dignitaries, including Niall Andrews MEP (R.I.P.), Ministers of State, Eithne Fitzgerald, Tom Kitt and Seamus Brennan T.D. (R.I.P.), Liz O'Donnell and Councillors Larry Gordon and Mairead Deehan were welcomed by P.R.O. Brendan McGlynn. Rev. David Muir, who has just been installed as Rector of Delgany, came to give an ecumenical blessing alongside Fr Lane from Balally. Rev. David had been present at the turning of the first sod, and was charmed with the beautiful building now completed. He brought three of his

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children along to watch the match between Dublin and Wicklow which took place later.

The first match got underway. The Garda Band continued to keep everyone entertained and in good humour.



Good humour is in evidence as the Official Proceedings commence - Front Row l to r: John Bailey, chairman of the Dublin County Board, Albert Fallon, Chairman of the Leinster Council, John O'Brien, Club Secretary, Mick Brown, Club Chairman, Jack Boothman, President of the GAA.

Then the President of the GAA, Mr Jack Boothman, arrived. His opening words were congratulatory and encouraging, both to the club and to the teachers in the local schools, who have done so much to encourage and train the children in football and hurling skills. He also welcomed the idea of women playing at the highest levels in the GAA, and noted the success of the Naomh Olaf Ladies team to date. In response, Mick Brown, Chairperson of Naomh Olaf, gave a warm and friendly speech of welcome to the large crowd who had turned out to support the club's special day. He thanked those who had supported its building so generously and commented that they had to go to Blanchardstown in search of bank funding in the early days, and expressed his gratitude for the vision of National Irish Bank who had come up trumps when banks nearer home were not responsive. He also thanked all the clubs who had helped

with advice at the various stages and suggested that the GAA headquarters might compile an information pack for clubs starting out to develop club premises. All the expertise could be collated for easy access.

The blessing was delivered, the ribbon was cut, the deed was done and the crowd streamed into the premises to partake of refreshments. One hundred sliced pans of sandwiches had been prepared by Sheila Fagan and her neighbours on Balally Drive, and club members enjoyed the feast. It was magnificent looking out from the clubhouse over the playing fields. Crowds of people lined the specially installed fences watching the challenge matches which had been arranged for the day. Then the Dublin Senior Football Team lined out to play the Wicklow Senior Team, preceded by a march around the field led by the Dublin Fire Brigade Band. Club players Eric Horgan and Caomhán Bermingham played for the Dubs for the first time! During the interval, the young juveniles, hurlers and footballers, had mini games refereed by young Brendan McGlynn, Dara Duffy and teacher Gerry Murphy from St. Olaf's N.S. St. Olaf's School kindly gave the use of their premises for these teams to tog out and both themselves and Queen of Angels N.S. lent the gear for the young players. A collection for GOAL was taken up the members of the Ladies football team.

After all that fresh air and enjoyment, the teams retired to the hall where they were fed by Monica Condren and her crew and there was a lull in activities until the dinner dance at 9 p.m. This was a great success. Music was by Les Keller who had everyone up and moving. A lovely meal was enjoyed by all, and the sight of the senior team being presented with their medals – all gorgeous in good suits – was the final confirmation that Naomh Olaf GAA has come

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of age and takes its place proudly amongst a list of notable clubs in the Gaelic Athletic Association.

Congratulations to all who worked so hard, and so generously, on a voluntary basis to bring this fine day about. It was a proud moment which the whole community celebrated with pride.

A very fine booklet was prepared by the Naomh Olaf club to mark the occasion of their official opening. It traced, in picture and story, the events which led up to their great opening day.



The Dublin Fire Brigade Band parade the Dublin and Wicklow Senior Football Teams around the field.



The president of the GAA, Mr. Jack Boothman, is watched by the Chairman and Secretary of the Club, Mick Brown and John O'Brien, as he unveils a plaque, the blessing having been delivered and the ribbon cut.



Also savouring the occasion - L to R: Maire O'Brien, Patsy McGlynn, Anne-Marie Horgan, Mary O'Shea, R.I.P. Kate Irwin, Nuala Keavney, R.I.P. Mary Hayes.

Building A Clubhouse - By Dermot Irwin

Building a Clubhouse is probably easy, that is if you have a site on which to build it and you have sufficient money to hire architects to design it and to employ building contractors to build it for you. Unfortunately, when the Club first started talking about a Clubhouse- somewhere around the middle of the 1980's - they had neither money nor a site. What they did have, fortunately, was a lot of commitment and a band of very dedicated workers.

By September 1991, a site had been secured from Dublin Co. Council, fundraising was well under way, plans had been drawn up and Planning Permission and Bye Law Approval had been obtained. In this regard, the Club is forever indebted to Francis Heaney, our architect, who not only helped us secure a site, but also prepared the plans and piloted us through the Planning and Bye Law maze.



The Clubhouse at an early stage of its construction.

Before finalising plans committee members from Naomh Olaf visited a number of fellow Dublin clubs, including St.Oliver Plunkett's, St. Vincent's, St. Brigid's, St. Jude's, St. Mark's, Good Counsel and Naomh Barrog, to seek their help and advice on what was involved in building and running a Clubhouse. When finally trying to decide on a design, the

Club felt it had two options: to plan on the basis of what we might be able to afford; or plan for what the Club would ideally like to have. In the end it was decided to opt for the latter, knowing that once we embarked on that road, there would be no turning back.

In October 1991, a building sub-committee was set up, namely, myself, Larry Kinsella and Ned Seery, to plan and co-ordinate the building programme. Again, the Club was fortunate to be able to draw on the services of a wide range of local specialists to augment this sub-committee. We had Paddy Maguire, a builder; Phil Monaghan, a builder and publican; Sean Ryan, a mechanical/electrical services engineer; Billy Murphy, a quantity surveyor; Terry Kirwin, a structural engineer; Michael Hodgins, a purchasing manager; Bernard Keaveney, electrical design; and of course the Club Chairman, Mick Brown, always driving us forward.

The sub-committee held its first meeting in November 1991 and began by looking at the different ways they might approach the task ahead. To rely on doing it entirely with voluntary labour was considered as a possibility but it was obvious the job was far too big for that. Putting it all out to a main contractor had major attractions but the Club simply didn't have the funding in place and, in any event, would not have been able to afford it. Finally, it was decided to do it on a phased basis, sub-contracting out the various jobs as we were ready for them and as the finance became available. The first target was to complete the shell of the building as we were confident the Club could fund that from its own resources. This was to be Phase 1. Going about it this way, the committee felt that, if at that stage, funding was

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not forthcoming from the Banks, we could stop until we had the necessary backing. The main aim at that stage was to complete the basic facilities and open the bar which would be the main source of income and help pay the bills.

On Sunday, 5th April 1992, following an ecumenical blessing of the site by Fr. Randles, P.P. Balally, and the Rev. David Muir of Kilternan, the first sod was cut by Tom Kitt, T.D., Minister of State. Work on the site commenced two weeks later. By the end of June the precast structures were in place but the Banks were still being shy about giving us money and we were still being cautious. As a result, work stopped until September. Finally, we got the green light on funding and from then on it was full steam ahead.



Paddy Maguire is seen at work here. He played a major role in the building of the Clubhouse.

The sub-committee meetings now became site meetings, with many wet and windy Saturday mornings spent sorting out the numerous problems that inevitably arise on any building site, and even more so when you don't have a main contractor involved. As the main structure took shape planning was now concentrated on internal finishes. Paddy Maguire's Drumriley Construction took over responsibility for all the finishing work. At the same time, a ladies

group, consisting of Josie Brown, Maire O'Brien, Mary Hayes and Pat Kinsella, set about planning the decor, selecting colours and finishes, selecting carpets, curtains and furnishing fabrics for the lounge. At one stage it was hoped to open for Christmas, then it was to be St. Patrick's Day, and finally, the Club was delighted to announce that the new Clubhouse would open for business on 24th April 1993, just twelve months after work commenced.

While it opened for business on 24th April, there was still a significant amount of work to be completed. In particular, the Maple floor in the sports hall had still to be laid. This was eventually installed in September and was preceded by a massive Barn Dance in the hall before the new floor was laid. From there on, it was a case of finishing the various outstanding jobs as money became available.



Francis Heaney, our Architect and David Kinsella, pose for a photograph as work progresses.