

# BALLINTEER ST. JOHNS GAA CLUB



## End of Season Newsletter

2015

### GROWING STRONGER

It was a really good season for the Club with almost all of our 10 adult and our Minor teams competing at the sharp end of Championships, Cups or League Promotion Playoffs. The club fielded 95 teams in 2015 and has over 1800 members. Our AGM was held at the end of November and the accompanying Yearbook is on the BSJ website and is a great summary of 2015 both on & off the pitch.

I said when I came into Chair my belief is that there is a player in the Club right now who will kick or puck the winning point for Ballinteer in a Senior A Championship Final. Like all of you I want it to happen sooner rather than later. So whether it is Camogie, Ladies Football,

Hurling or Football our day is definitely edging closer.

As I step down as Chairman after 3 great years I want to thank everyone who has contributed to the Club during my time. Those who have played and managed on the pitch, those who have served on the Executive, those who have worked on Committees and those who have just gotten on with whatever work needed to be done. The job of Chairman would not be possible without the goodwill and efforts of all of you and I do appreciate it.

Our Club is growing stronger each year and I know that our incoming Chairman and Executive will build further on it. I wish them the very

best luck in the year ahead. I pledge my full support and I ask all Club members to do likewise.

**Together we will grow stronger**

*Slán agus go raibh maith agaibh*

*Peadar O'Shea*

*Chairman 2012 - 2015*



# Adult Football & Hurling

The **Senior Footballers** beat Cuala from the 1st Division with a wonderful performance in the 1st round of the Championship but went out in the 2nd round in a scrappy affair at O'Toole Park against St Annes. Promotion to Division 1 was the primary objective for the season; there some brilliant standout performances throughout the year which meant a place in the Division 1 play offs against Lucan. Things just didn't go our way though in front of a really big BSJ crowd at the 12th Lock.



The **Junior B's** had a thrilling last minute win against a really good Castleknock side in O'Toole Park in early October to win the C Championship Final. They also reached the League playoff promotion semifinal but lost out to Wanderers.

The **Junior C Footballers** finished 6th in the League this year, their highest position yet. In addition they got to the final of the O'Broin Cup where they just lost out by 2 points to Liffey Gaels.

The **Senior Hurler's Championship** got off to a great start beating Faughs (31 times Dublin senior champions) 2-14 to 1-16 unfortunately they made their exit from the Championship in the 3rd round losing to Lucan Sarsfields. There were also excellent Division 1 league wins against Kilmacud Crokes and St Vincent's which have helped secure Division 1 status for the coming year.



**Nicky Devereux** was again a part of Dublin Senior Football panel for the League and Championship with **Robbie Gaughan** on the Dublin U21 Football team who won the Leinster Championship.

The **Junior A Footballers** lost their A Championship semi-final in the last minute to a Round Towers side who went on to comprehensively beat Raheny in the final. They reached the league playoff semi-final, losing out to Crokes.

The **Junior A Hurlers** reached the semifinal of the Championship side but lost to O'Tooles by a couple of points.

There was similar disappointment in the league. They won 8 out of 11 fixtures to secure a playoff semi-final against Crokes but unfortunately, in atrocious weather on a difficult Marlay pitch Crokes came out on top



The **Junior B Hurlers** were trying hard to emulate their great Championship win of last year. Again they performed extremely well only narrowly losing out at the final hurdle to an experienced Ballyboden team. Reaching two Jnr B finals in a row and winning one is a massive achievement.



# Minors & u21's

Our **Minor A Footballers** went into the history books of Ballinteer St Johns when they took the Division 2 League Title for the first time. In the 33 year history of the club we have never won a Minor League or Championship title up to this year. There were great wins against Senior Clubs such as Oliver Plunketts, St Vincents, Thomas Davis and St. Sylvesters.



2015 was the first time in several years BSJ was in a position to field 2 Minor Football teams. All 18 players on the **Minor B Panel** had graduated from U16B and had been together as a team since the nursery days! They finished near mid table in the League. In the Championship there was an excellent victory over local rivals Ballyboden but they subsequently came up against very strong opposition and ultimately bowed out of this year's competition.

Graded in Division 2 for the league, the **Minor Hurlers** suffered considerably with injury losses and endured a frustrating campaign, winning 3 and losing 7 games. The Championship proved much more successful; playing Cuala in the B Championship Final.

Ballinteer had the better of the first half and Cuala the second.

The last few minutes were a real battle with the Cuala team coming out on top with a final score of Cuala 0-16 St Johns 0-11.



## U 21 MENS FOOTBALL & HURLING

With a mixture of Senior, Junior and Minor footballers our **Under 21 Football Team** was a great mix of youth and experience this year. They reached the B Championship Semifinal losing out to a St. Brigids team who went on to win the Final

### U21 Hurling

Watch this Space in early 2016

For the first time BSJ entered a **Minor Ladies Football** league. The ladies finished joint top of Division 3 winning 6 out of 7 games final. This means promotion to the Division 2 Minor Championship.



The **Minor Camogie** girls made it to the B Championship Final against Faugh's. There's no shortage of skill in this young Ballinteer side and while that result didn't go their way there was much to excite their loyal supporters who cheered them on as they played right to the end. Beidh lá eile acú.



# Ladies Football & Camogie

## Historic day for Ballinteer

The Senior Camogie team provided one of the highlights of 2015, and what a highlight it was. Two years ago they lost the Senior 2 final to Plunketts, last year they were beaten in the semifinal, you could say they have been knocking on the door for a couple of years, well this year they didn't knock at all... they just kicked the door clean off the hinges with a marvelous performance at Parnells to beat a really good Lucan side. Great credit to all the girls, after a strong 1st half and good lead, they conceded an early goal in the 2nd half, it was time for the team to show character, and that is exactly what they did, that game was never going to get away from them. The joy of players, parents, friends and supporters when the final whistle blew was a scene to behold – one Championship made up for so much previous disappointment.



BEST SELFIE OF THE YEAR!



SISTER ACT  
LOUISE & FIONA HAYES

## JUNIOR CAMOGIE

For the second year running the adult camogie section in the club were able to field two Senior teams. Our Senior 7 team managed to fulfil their fixtures for the League and finished up mid table with some good wins at home and away to set them up for Championship.

In the Senior 7 Championship the girls had a tough group. They had early defeats to both Erins Isle and St Marks but then good wins over Craobh Chiarain, Commercial and Na Gaeil Oga. They finished second in the group qualifying for the semi-finals. Unfortunately it wasn't to be their day and they lost out to a strong St Finians side in the semi-finals.

## SENIOR LADIES FOOTBALL

A good run in the Cup saw the ladies finish mid table. Division 2 status was maintained in the League They were very unlucky not to progress to the semi-final of the Championship, losing out on a place based on head-to-head results.

This 2015 season was very much a developmental year for the Ladies Senior Footballers; a large proportion of the squad are Minor girls who hadn't played at Senior level before.



AMY BURKE,  
CAPTAIN DUBLIN U16 CAMOGIE

## JUVENILE HIGHLIGHTS

- U16 Boys reach Hurling Championship Final
- U16 Girls win the Dublin A Football Championship to add to the U14 A Championship they won two years ago
- U16 Camogie girls reach the A Championship semifinal with a team largely comprised of U15 girls
- U15 hurlers and footballers are the first teams in the club to maintain Division 1 status from U12 through to U16 in both codes.
- U14 girls win Division 2 Football League
- U14 Girls win the Division 5 Camogie Féile
- U14 Boys hurlers top Division 2
- Our U12 and U13 Boys finish well up the table in Division 1 Football
- U12's host 10 Team, Football Invitational Tournament in Marlay Park



PEADAR  
CONGRATULATES U14  
HURLERS

## CUMANN NA MBUNSCOL

St Attractas, Scoil Naithi and Our Lady's Boys all won their Cumann na mBunscol football finals on the one wonderful day in Croker in October.

Lots of wonderful performances from BSJ's Under 12's and 11's and from their class mates. A special word too for BSJ's Mr Clabby, in charge of Our Lady's

All three games went down to the wire - the best way to win!"



U14 LADIES FOOTBALL



U16 DIVISION 1 CHAMPIONSHIP  
WINNERS 2015



MENTOR COACHING WITH  
PHILIP KERR





**OFF THE PITCH**

While our Club is centered on Gaelic games, it is not just about Gaelic games..

It's about the charity fundraising we do; Trad for Trocaire, St Michaels House, Pieta House.

It's about the Active Retirement Group in the clubhouse on Wednesday mornings, the *tinies* in the Naíonra during the week and the Irish Dancers there on Saturdays.

It's about the numerous committees who go about their work quietly and enthusiastically. There are too many volunteers to mention but they do tireless work behind the scenes to ensure that we as a Club embrace our community.

Lotto and Bingo had another brilliant performance in 2015 and are of huge importance to the club finances. The Shop continues to turn out the smartest looking teams in Dublin.

This time last year Detective Brian Sutton reported a "day light robbery", he was of course referring to the Concerts and the opportunity to steward them. Well this year thanks to an army of club volunteers we pulled off a great operation. This contributed significant funds to our 2015 revenue.



TIMES PAST, MARLAY, 1976



**BSJ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2016**

<b>Chairman</b>	Ken Aherne
<b>Vice-Chairman</b>	Niall Joye
<b>Secretary</b>	Elaine Dolan
<b>Treasurer</b>	Christy Merriman
<b>Registrar</b>	Alison Emanuel
<b>Irish Language &amp; Culture</b>	Peadar O'Shea
<b>Players Rep</b>	Keith Nolan
<b>Public Relations Officer</b>	Colm O' Donnell
<b>Juvenile Chair</b>	Paraic Kennedy
<b>Committee Members</b>	Eamon Coleman
	Mary Devereux
	Kieran Duffy
	Sandra Seoige
<b>Childcare Officer</b>	Eamon Hession

**TOM PIGOTT RIP**

2015 has been sad too in part and saw the passing of a really great club man, Tom Pigott

Goodbye Tom. It was a wonderful journey we all took together. So sorry you had to leave so soon.

Ar dheis Dé atá tú, táimid cinnte



## Incoming BSJ Chairman

### Dia dhaoibh a chairde agus fáilte chuig nuachtlitir BSJ

We end 2015 on the back of some great performances on and off the field. It's a sign of good times when teams are competing in the depths of winter for top honours. And even though we might not always be the ultimate winners, we are "trending" very well. And off the pitch too, the Club has performed very well in continuing to provide a broader and improved range of services to our members and the community.

Looking forward to 2016 the Club will refocus on improving our team performances. The Juvenile ranks at all ages and all codes are strong, and it is important that we set the correct pathway for these players

to develop into the Senior ranks. And the Senior players themselves are very ambitious to lead the Club to compete at the top table. So the Executive and the Games Subcommittee commit to focusing our efforts to work with these teams so that we can reach our potential.

Finally, the Club has become a very significant management operation. We always need help, sometimes very skilled, and sometimes not so much. It's not rocket science. If you feel you have some time available to contribute to the operation of the club, and all its ancillary works, please contact any of the Executive or myself. Beannachtaí na Nollag

agus Athbhliain faoi mhaise oraibh go léir.

**Mise le meas,  
Ken Aherne**



## Christmas & New Year Events



**Super Saturday, 19th of December;** Santa, the Parish Cup, Club Night & Players of the Year:

**NURSERY CHRISTMAS PARTY** the biggest one yet! 550 children visited Santa & Daidí na Nollag, then upstairs to the function room for games, face painting, crafts & more treats! Thanks Pat M, Maurice and all those who helped out.



### PARISH CUP 2015

It's now 3 in a row for Pine Valley / Kingston! Is there any stopping them?



### BSJ CLUB NIGHT & AWARDS

It was standing room only in the Clubhouse & great craic.

#### Player of the Year Winners;

Snr Camogie - Niamh Nic Cinneide  
Jnr Camogie (3 way tie) - Brona Fagan, Grainne Friel, Ruth Nolan  
Minor Camogie - Naoise Irwin  
Ladies Snr Football - Laoise Tully  
Minor Ladies Football - Laoise Tully  
Snr Hurling - Alex Hogan  
Jun A Hurling - Danny McCarthy  
Jun B Hurling - Barry Judge  
Minor Hurling - Patrick O'Reilly  
Snr Football - Shane McCann  
Jun A Football - Shane Holland  
Jun B Football - Gerry Quirke  
Jun C Football - Brian Byrne  
U21 Football - Donal Gormley  
Minor B Football - Denis McCambridge  
Minor A Football - Daniel Fitzgerald

### Next Up Day at the Races

Jan 17th 2016  
Leopardstown Race Course



This is the main fundraising event for the club for 2016 and was a mega success when run in the past; Champagne reception, 4 course meal & wine, services of the resident tipster & Tote service at the table. Great raffle prizes and of course a Best Dressed Lady competition!

**TICKETS** [087-2460286](http://087-2460286)

**DON'T MISS A THING ..CLICK**

[www.ballinteerstjohns.com](http://www.ballinteerstjohns.com) for fixtures, match reports, events & more

For a full 2015 report see our [BSJ Yearbook 2015](#)

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