

Football

Senior

The 2017 season for Donaghmore Ashbourne's adult senior footballers started with the defence of their Feis Cup title against Navan O'Mahony's in Paddy O'Brien Park on the evening of 3rd February. They dug out a hard fought win on a 1:09 to 0:10 scoreline. This good form continued into the next round of the Feis Cup on 12th February at home when they won against St Peters of Dunboyne, 1:08 to 0:09 to get into the semi final. The following week the team started the defence of their A League Division 1 title with an opening game versus St Patricks at home on 18th February. When Don/Ash led after only eleven minutes by 1 - 5 to two points an easy home win looked to on the cards, however after losing Conor Carey to a shoulder injury a few minutes later last year's League Champions appeared to lose their way as the Stamullen men then took over and went in at half time leading by 1 - 9 to 1 - 7. Andrew Tormey scored the goal for Don/Ash and also contributed two pointed frees while Ciaran Ellis, Paul Gilligan, Sam Benville, Darragh McGovern and Conor Carton accounted for the other first half points.

The sides scored two points each early in the second half with Dylan Brady and Andrew Tormey (f) on target for home side. Don/ Ash then hit eight consecutive wides while a St Pats free with ten minutes to go gave them a three point lead and it could have been more only for a fine double save from goalkeeper Jack Hannigan. Centre back Shane Melia got forward to score two points for the home side, then just when it looked like St Pats would hold on for a slender win John Broderick finished to the net following a pass from Ciaran Ellis as the game moved into injury time. Paul Gilligan added a pointed free to give Don/Ash a three point win.

Don/Ash : Jack Hannigan, Garth Deery, Thomas McGovern, Jack Giles, Iarlaith O'Donnell, Shane Melia 0 - 2, Paul Gilligan 0 - 2(1f), Conor Carey, Conor Carton 0 - 1, Sam Benville 0 - 1, Andrew Tormey 1 - 3(3f), Ciaran Ellis 0 - 1, Darragh Mc Govern 0 - 1, John Broderick 1 - 0, Dylan Brady 0 - 1.

Subs: J.P. Casserly for Conor Carey, Leo Reilly for Sam Benville, Niall Kavanagh for Andrew Tormey, Dathi Murtagh for J.P. Casserly

On 26th February they finished up a busy month of football when they took on Seneschalstown in Ashbourne, winning 1:14 to 0:09. Blackhall Gaels were the next to fall in Kilcloon on 12th March to a scoreline of 2:15 to 1:10.

Shortly afterwards on 16th March they played the semi-final of the Feis Cup against Summerhill in Dunganny reaching the Feis Cup Final for the second year in a row by defeating Summerhill on a scoreline of 2 - 10 to 0 - 6. After a very poor opening half Don/Ash trailed by four points to two, however two points from John Broderick just after the resumption followed by goals from Paul Gilligan (pen.) and a brilliant effort from Thomas McGovern set the tempo for a dominant second half in which they outscored their opponents by 2 - 8 to 0 - 2.

Jack Hannigan, J.P. Casserly, Cormac McGill, Jack McCarney, Sean Curran 0 - 2, Shane Melia 0 - 1, Paul Gilligan 1 - 3 (pen, 3f), Kevin Lanigan, David Carey, Ciaran Ellis, Thomas McGovern 1 - 0, Darragh McGovern, Leo Reilly, John Broderick 0 - 2, Jack Giles 0 - 1.

Conor Carton for Carey, Dylan Brady 0 - 1 for Reilly, Conor Carey for Lanigan and Shaun Byrne for T. McGovern

Round 4 of the league on 25th March brought Moynalvey to Ashbourne and they were outgunned 1:18 to 0:06. This rich vein of form was needed as Championship coming. League games continued to be fixed due to the late start of championship and the team played their Round 5 game versus O'Mahony's in Paddy O'Brien Park on 8th April.

Thanks to an injury time equalising point from Bryan Menton in a hard fought game they remained unbeaten and held a one point advantage at the top of the A League Div 1 table. On the day the breeze blowing towards the Clubhouse goals appeared to be influential as Don/Ash held a half time lead of 1 - 9 to three points, the goal coming after seventeen minutes from the hard working Thomas McGovern following a strong run through the middle. Leo Reilly scored three fine points from play in the first half and Paul Gilligan converted three frees.

Things got better when John Broderick scored a goal immediately after the restart following a good run from Bryan Menton, however O'Mahony's, following a number of substitutions then started to dominate and scored 1 - 8 without reply to put the minimum between the sides. A Darragh McGovern free with about six minutes remaining pushed Don/Ash two ahead but O'Mahony's soon equalised and then just as the game entered injury time took the lead and seemed to be heading for a win. Don/Ash showed great resolve by launching one last attack culminating in Menton's equalising score which preserved the unbeaten run. Final score 2:11 to 1:14. The team on the day was:

Jack Hannigan, J.P. Casserly, Jack McCarney, Jack Giles, Conor Carton, Shane Melia, Paul Gilligan 0 - 3 (3f), Bryan Menton 0 - 2, Kevin Lanigan, Ciaran Ellis, Thomas McGovern 1 - 1, Darragh McGovern 0 - 1f, Dylan Brady 0 - 1, John Broderick 1 - 0, Leo Reilly 0 - 3.

David Carey for Kevin Lanigan, Shaun Byrne for Ciaran Ellis, Eric Callaghan for John Broderick.

Two more league games were played in April, on the 21st at home to St Peter's Dunboyne which they won comfortably 0:17 to 1:05 and the seventh round away to Dunshaughlin on 30th April. This game was the first defeat in the excellent season so far. A one point win for Dunshaughlin, 1:09 to 0:11 was a disappointing result. The home side made the most of the strong breeze to lead at half time by 1 - 5 to three points with Darragh McGovern, Conor Carton and Paul Gilligan accounting for Don/Ash's scores. Dunshaughlin opted for a defensive approach in the second half and it took ten minutes of play before a score was registered - Paul Gilligan on target with a free. Soon afterwards the visitors hit a purple patch with another Gilligan free, two points from Conor Carton and another from substitute Leo Reilly to draw the sides level before Dylan Brady put Don/Ash ahead with ten minutes remaining. Dunshaughlin got their first score of the second half in the fifty third minute to level again and moved ahead with another point a few moments later. Leo Reilly levelled the game again only for the home side to go back in front as the game moved into injury time. John Broderick appeared to keep the league leader's unbeaten run intact when he drew the sides level again in the sixty second minute but Dunshaughlin conjured up another score to win the game.

The team on the day was as follows:

Jack Hannigan, J.P. Casserly, Cormac McGill, Jack McCarney, Conor Carton 0 - 3, Shane Melia, Paul Gilligan 0 - 3, Conor Carey, Kevin Lanigan, Ciaran Ellis, David Carey, Darragh McGovern 0 - 1, Dylan Brady 0 - 1, John Broderick 0 - 1, Jack Giles.

Leo Reilly 0 - 2 for Ciaran Ellis, Colm O'Mealoid for David Carey.

The team needed a quick turnaround in fortune to maintain their momentum into championship. Six days later they had another league game at home against Summerhill on Saturday 6th May. They came out at the wrong end of a 2:11 to 1:12 defeat but had to try and compose themselves for another league game just 4 days later against the county champions, Simonstown in Navan.

Simonstown ran out 2 point winners 2:10 to 1:11. With championship only a week away against Rathkenny, Donaghmore Ashbourne had to refocus and get back on track.

On 18th May in Pairc Tailteann they took on Rathkenny and despite winning 2:13 to 1:13 to gain the two championship points, it wasn't one of their better performances.

Don/Ash team : Jack Hannigan, Jack McCarney, Cormac McGill, Jack Giles, Conor Carton 0 - 1, Shane Melia, Paul Gilligan, Conor Carey, Kevin Lanigan, Darragh McGovern 1 - 1, Bryan Menton, Ciaran Ellis, Thomas McGovern 0 - 2, John Broderick 1 - 5, Dylan Brady 0 - 4.

Shaun Byrne for Ciaran Ellis

Leo Reilly for Darragh McGovern black card

David Carey for Paul Gilligan black card.

There was over a month before the next game, Round 10 league game versus Wolfe Tones in Kilberry on 21st June 2017. Wolfe Tones won by six points (0:16 to 1:07). Gaeil Colmcille visited Ashbourne for Round 11 on 2nd July and went away with the two league points, engineering a 0:14 to 1:10 win.

Two weeks later on 15th July in Round 12 Rathkenny were dispatched easily with a 0:19 to 1:08 win. It was a win that was needed to stop a run of defeats in the league. Championship second round was fixed for Sunday 23rd of July in Pairc Tailteann against Wolfe Tones.

Despite a good start and leading with ten minutes to go Don/Ash managed to surrender the lead and Wolfe Tones drew level. There was a feeling that it was a game that should have been wrapped up and lay a foundation for the remaining 3 group games. Meanwhile the last league game was fixed for 7th August 2017 against Na Fianna in Enfield. Once again Don/Ash lost by a one point margin and Na Fianna leapfrogged us in the league table. The final score was 3:14 to 1:19.

The 3rd round of the SFC group game was fixed for 15th August once again in Pairc Tailteann versus a resurgent Summerhill. The game was a tough encounter with both teams bagging 2 goals each but it was Summerhill who came by points easier with a solid performance. The end score was 2:15 to 2:07. The team had it all to do in the next game against Gaeil Colmcille on 26th August. Fresh in the mind was the previous encounter in Ashbourne which ended up with a couple of dismissals in a controversial end of game incident. The Kells side brought their A game to the encounter and proved the old saying 'goals win games'. The 2:09 to 0:12 point win for Gaeil was to set them up to advance to the quarters. Meanwhile Don/Ash were faced with the prospect of trying to overcome a 29 points difference and rely on Summerhill to beat Wolfe Tones in order to have a chance at qualifying. The last game against Duleek Bellewstown was set for Donore on a foggy night on 8th September 2017. Don / Ash went about the task immediately and remarkably produced a sparkling, direct and powerful display of football to take control of the game and relentlessly pound the Duleek Bellewstown goal. With the scoreboard ticking over at an astonishing rate, midway through the second half, word filtered through from the other game of interest that Wolfe Tones were beating Summerhill. All the good work would be undone should Wolfe Tones win. Despite this the team pressed on to do the job in hand and won the game by 30 points, 7:16 to 0:07.

Wolfe Tones had beaten Summerhill (who were already through) to take 3rd spot and qualify. Donaghmore Ashbourne Senior Championship was over for 2017.

Nevertheless there was still a Feis Cup final to look forward to. It was fixed for 1st October 2017 in Pairc Tailteann and for the third time in 2017 Gaeil Colmcille would be the opposition.

The team went about their business with a purpose and proceeded to dominate the game. At half time leading 1:06 to 0:6 against the breeze and boosted by Kevin Lanigan's 28th minute goal they came out for the second half determined not to let the lead slip. They outscored the Kells side by 9 points to 3 in the second half to win 1:15 to 0:09. For the first time in their history they had retained the Feis Cup.

The team on the day was as follows.

Don/Ash : Jack Hannigan , Conor Carton 0 - 2, Cormac McGill, Jack Giles, Daragh

McGovern 0 - 1, Shane Melia, Paul Gilligan 0 - 3 (3f), Conor Carey, Bryan Menton 0 - 2,

David Carey, Thomas McGovern 0 - 4 (1f), Colm O'Mealoid, Dylan Brady 0 - 1, Kevin

Lanigan 1 - 1, Leo Reilly.

Sam Benville 0 - 1 for Leo Reilly, Niall Farrell for David Carey, Iarlaith O'Donnell for Dylan

Brady, Jack McCarney for Conor Carton and Rory O'Connor for Conor Carey.

Intermediate Football

The second team started their season in the B League Division 1 on 10th February 2017 with a victory over Gaeil Colmcille, 0:12 to 1:03.

Further victories followed away to Wolfe Tones (3:09 to 0:09) on 11th March, although there was not a breath of wind of wind at Kilberry it was the proverbial game of two halves. The home side enjoyed a half time lead of seven points to one but Don/Ash took control after the resumption scoring 3 - 8 to just two points to come away with a nine point win.

Don/Ash : Danny McShane, Shane Rae, Tadgh Kelly, Garth Deery, Alan Murtagh, Niall Kavanagh, John Wilson, Chris Brady, Dathi Murtagh 0 - 1, Shaun Byrne 0 - 2, Eric Callaghan 0 - 2, Kevin Fenton, Sam Benville, Matty Devine 2 - 0, Steven Carton 1 - 1.

Subs used: David Carey 0 - 2, Jack Giles, James Crumlish, Leo Reilly 0 - 1 and Iarlaith O'Donnell

Next up was a home fixture versus St Patrick's on 11th April (3:11 to 0:08) and then away to St Peter's Dunboyne on 18th April (3:11 to 0:08) and then home versus Dunshaughlin on 8th May 2017 (6:23 to 0:03). A good start to the league leading up to championship.

Intermediate Championship started on 20th May 2017 in Duleek against a tough Nobber team. Playing with the wind advantage Don/Ash opened up a seven point to no score lead before Nobber replied with two points and then capitalised on a Don/Ash mistake for a goal to bring them back into the game. Don /Ash finished the half strongly with two more points and a goal from the penalty spot by Matty Devine following a foul on James Crumlish, they lead at the interval by 1 - 9 to 1 - 2. Nobber piled on the pressure after the interval and a second goal mid way through the half left them only three points behind and with further points they moved a point ahead with only a few minutes to go. Don/Ash centre back Colm O'Mealoid then went on a surging run which might have yielded a match winning goal, however he was pulled down and Stephen Carton pointed the resulting free to salvage a draw.

A draw was a fair reflection on the game 1:15 to Nobber's 2:12.

Don/Ash team: Danny McShane, Garth Deery, Niall Kavanagh, Shane Rae, Iarlaith O'Donnell, Colm O'Mealoid, Martin Lynch 0 - 1, Rory O'Connor, Chris Brady, Sam Benville 0 - 5 (3f), Eric Callaghan, Kevin Fenton 0 - 1, James Crumlish 0 - 1, Matty Devine 1 - 3 (pen + 2f), Steven Carton 0 - 4 (3f).

Stephen Fenton for Rory O'Connor ht, Cathal Field for James Crumlish 52, Daryl Lawlor for Cathal Field b/c 53, Dylan Cassidy for Niall Kavanagh b/c 58.

Another league game was played on 29th May at home versus Simonstown which resulted in a 1:15 to 10 point victory. The 2nd round of championship was fixed for Kilmainham on 10th June 2017. Oldcastle were the opposition and once again a hard fought draw was the outcome. Don/Ash scoring the only goal of the game in a 1:08 to 0:11 stalemate.

The next game was against Skyrne in their patch on 4th July 2017. Another solid performance earned the team a 1:10 to 0:09 win. They then welcomed Summerhill to Ashbourne on 17th July and in a typically tough encounter Don/Ash won out 2:08 to 2:05.

A place in the final beckoned for the second year in a row with one game remaining. The last game to be played was conceded by Na Fianna. St Peter's Dunboyne were to be the opposition in the final yet to be fixed.

The 3rd round of the Intermediate championship was fixed for Slane on 13th August 2017 against Walterstown. This was one of the toughest games so far and Don/Ash were one point winners 4:06 to 1:14. Unbeaten in Championship they looked forward confidently to the next game versus Syddan in Pairc Tailteann on 26th August 2017.

Don/ Ash dug deep and secured another draw scoring 2:14 to Syddan's 3:11. A victory in Round 5 in the group stages would ensure qualification for the quarter final.

Don/Ash played St Ultan's on 9th September 2017 in Duleek. Against all the odds they beat St Ultan's first team to qualify for the quarter finals with a 0:14 to 1:09 victory.

The opposition in the quarter final were local neighbours Curragha who were favourites for the tie to be played in Ratoath on 23rd September 2017. Don / Ash put up a good fight but the experienced and clinical Curragha booked their place in the semi final with a 1:13 to 0:09 win.

/insert Inters.jpg/

Team: Back L to R: John Wilson, Sam Benville, David Dowd, Niall Kavanagh, Danny McShane, Pdraig Durkan, Jason Boland, Ryan Bannon, Chris Brady, Kevin Fenton, Eric O'Callaghan

Front L to R: Stephen Fenton, Shane Rea, James Crumlish, Stephen Carton, Tadgh Kelly, Martin Lynch, Iarlaith O'Donnell, Matthew Devine, Gareth Deery, Cathal Field.

The B League Division 1 final versus St Peters Dunboyne was played in Ratoath on 8th October. Dunboyne gained revenge for the earlier defeat in the league by winning 0:13 to 0:11.

Juniors

Donaghmore Ashbourne's third team were in B League Division 3 and the fourth team was entered in Division 5. They also were entered in the Junior B championship, looking to build on last year's performances and advance past the group stages. It was going to be a tough group to get out of with the calibre of the opposition.

The league started on 11th February at home versus St Michaels which resulted in a 2:06 to 1:08 loss. Nearly 2 months later their second game was fixed for 9th April 2017 away to St Ultan's in Sean Newman Park. They had a bright start with a point from play after a minute from Colin O'Sullivan but St Ultan's fought back immediately and equalised from a free. The away side picked off another point from O'Sullivan and again St Ultan's equalised. In the second quarter the St Ultan's team took advantage of loose marking and picked off a run of 3 more points from play after Stephen Breslin scored a point from a free kick for Don Ash. St Ultan's finished the half stronger with a well struck 45 to leave them 3 points ahead at the break.

Donaghmore Ashbourne rallied in the second half and a super long range pointed effort from Joey Long from the throw in settled the Moors. St Ultan's responded with two pointed frees. Colin O'Sullivan found himself on the end of a fine move to beat the keeper to keep Don Ash within a point. A minute later pointing himself to level the game on 46 minutes. Conor Donnelly finished another flowing move to put his side a point up, 1.06 to 0.08. St Ultan's worked another free and pointed to level on 48 minutes. Quick Donaghmore Ashbourne play cut the St Ultan's defence open to make a goal chance for O'Sullivan but the St Ultan's keeper made a smart save and cleared. Donaghmore Ashbourne launched another attack and were rewarded when Joey Long produced another long range point to take the lead with 3 minutes left.

St Ultan's weren't finished and worked another free which was duly put over the bar to level the game with the last kick. Donaghmore Ashbourne team on the day:

Matt Davis, Matt Finn, Anthony Lynn, Aaron McLoughlin, Michael McCabe, Niall Moran, Liam Finn, Jack Toohey, Anthony McElearney, Stephen Breslin (0-1), Eoin Caffrey, Colin O'Sullivan (1 -03), Conor Donnelly (0-1) , Joey Long (0-2), Lorcan Nolan.

Subs: Andrew Brady for Jack Toohey, Jack Toohey for Andrew Brady, Keith Callaghan for Liam Finn, Cian Field for Eoin Caffrey, Oisin Mulhall for Anthony McElearney.

The next two league games for the 3rds were a win at home to Rathkenny's 2nds (2:18 to 1:17) on 19th April and a one point loss to Cortown away on 2nd May (2:12 to 1:14). They lost the match to a resolute Cortown team. The Don Ash lads had the upper hand in the first half leading by a point at the break but could not put daylight between themselves and the seasoned Cortown team. The second half became a battle and tempers flared on both sides with each team having a player sent off, Liam Finn seeing red for Don Ash. The game remained tense until the final minutes when crucially Donaghmore Ashbourne lost two players to black cards in key positions.

A penalty for Cortown put them right back in the game and just when Don Ash seemed to have done enough an injury time free was hopefully lobbed into the Don Ash defence which was duly fisted to the net to give the Cortown a 1 point lead. As injury time ticked on Don Ash mounted a flurry of attacks but loose shooting and good defence ensured Cortown got the win.

/insert Juniors.jpg/

Team v Cortown: Back L to R: Matt Davis, James McKeown, Joe Merry, Liam Finn, Anthony Lynn, Conor McGovern, Joey Long, Michael McCabe, Keith O'Callaghan, Jack Toohey

Front L to R: Niall Moran, Matt Finn, Chris Twomey, Keith McCarthy, Donagh O'Donnell, Aaron McLoughlin, Anthony McElearney, Conor Donnelly, Lorcan Nolan.

The eagerly awaited first round of the Junior B Championship was set for 21st May in Moynalvey versus Na Fianna. A disappointing performance led to a loss (1:21 to 0:12) against the much stronger Na Fianna side.

/insert Juniors2.jpg/

The Don/Ash team on the day was as follows.

Darragh Morrissey, Matty Finn, Anthony Lynn, Aaron Mc Loughlin, Keith Callaghan, Niall Moran, Liam Finn, Jack Toohey, Stephen Breslin 0 - 6 (4f), Danny Deery, Eoin Caffrey 0 - 2 (2f), Lorcan Nolan, Conor Donnelly 0 - 1, Joey Long, Donagh O'Donnell 0 - 2.

Anthony McElearney 0 - 1 for Lorcan Nolan, Conor Heffernan for Eoin Caffrey, Oisín Mulhall for Aaron Mc Loughlin, Ian Byrne for Keith Callaghan and Michael O'Hara for Danny Deery.

The fifth round of the league was due to be against Derry but they conceded the fixture. It was the 16th of July before they played the next league game.

The next championship game was set for 10th June 2017 against St Peter's Dunboyne in Dunshaughlin. A solid performance from the team controlled the game and despite conceding a couple of late goals deserved the win, 2:17 to 3:08.

The game was lucky to be played on an excellent Dunshaughlin pitch.

Donaghmore Ashbourne started the brighter with scores from Danny Deery, Eoin Caffrey and the ever threatening Donagh O'Donnell with a point each in the first 10 minutes. Playing against the wind they pressed Dunboyne for every ball and launched attack after attack. Dunboyne responded with a couple of scores and kept themselves in the game in the first 20 minutes. A goal from play by O'Donnell proved to be the difference at the break with Donaghmore Ashbourne leading 1.06 to 0.06.

With the wind at their back Donaghmore Ashbourne pressed on but Dunboyne also played smart football threatening to reduce the deficit. A super save by Donaghmore Ashbourne net minder Darragh Morrissey seemed to galvanise the Donaghmore Ashbourne team into action. Donaghmore Ashbourne responded with flurry of scores from their forward line. Jack Toohey, Cian Field, Stephen Breslin and O'Donnell with 6 points between the 39th and 46th minutes. A goal by Dunboyne kept the tie alive until a penalty awarded to Donaghmore Ashbourne was dispatched by Caffrey. Dunboyne responded scoring two goals (one from the penalty spot) and a point.

A point from Conor Donnelly on 55 minutes and another from Cian Field immediately after maintained the gap between the two teams. Substitute Conor Heffernan then scored a brilliant point off his left and Anthony McElearney duly scored from out the right side of the field to close out the game.

Donaghmore Ashbourne will feel they made amends for a defeat to the same opposition at the same stage last year and have benefited from more games played this year.

It was a good team performance from the Donaghmore Ashbourne team with notable performances from Darragh Morrissey, Donagh O'Donnell and Eoin Caffrey.

Don/Ash Team:

Darragh Morrissey, Matt Finn, Niall Moran, Aaron McLoughlin, Ian Byrne, Anthony Lynn, Oisín Mulhall, Jack Toohey (0-1), Stephen Breslin (0-1), Danny Deery(0-1), Joe Long, Cian Field (0-2), Conor Donnelly(0-1), Eoin Caffrey (1-2), Donagh O'Donnell (1-6),

Subs. Liam Finn for Mulhall, Conor Heffernan (0-1) for Deery, Anthony McElearney (0-1) for Long, James Flavin for Field, Michael McCabe for Toohey.

The third round was fixed for Kilcloon on 23rd June 2017 against Trim. The match was a tense but entertaining contest with no quarter asked or given. Don/Ash played wonderful football to take the game to Trim and with time almost up and Don/Ash leading by two points, play was held up while the referee was dealing with an incident. During this time a Trim player felled a young Don/Ash player in front of both teams and a Trim mentor entered the field of play and struck the player on the ground. This unprecedented act caused uproar on the line and the referee had to intervene

while the incident was sorted it out. The referee then abandoned the game but then sent both players involved in the original incident off the field. No action was taken in relation to the second incident as the referee did not see it. Despite Don/ Ash winning the game at the time no points were awarded. It was a bitter blow to a team that had fought hard to get to that position.

The next game was a trip to Rathcairn against Athboy on 3rd July. Weather was typical Irish drizzle with more drizzle. Despite the tricky conditions, an entertaining game ebbed and flowed and went right to the wire, resulting in a draw 10 points apiece.

The next game was fixed for Duleek on 16th July and despite Don/Ash pulling out all the stops to get a team on the field, Duleek/Bellewstown were not able to field a team and conceded their home game.

The final championship game was fixed for 21st of July and Gaeil Colmcille 2nds lived up to their favourites tag and duly won the game played in Dunsany 1:20 to 1:10. The junior team put in a huge effort and it was a good performance against an excellent Gaeil Colmcille side that went on to win the Junior B Championship.

The last two league games were nearly a month apart, in Round 7 versus Castletown at home on 31st July and on 21st August 2017 at home against Skryne.

Castletown travelled to Ashbourne and took the points in an entertaining and lively game 2:11 to 1:09. Don/Ash had a number of chances to reduce the deficit but went for goals and the Castletown defence held out to claim the win. The last league game against Skryne was another decent game but Don/Ash didn't do enough and lost out on a 1:12 to 0:06 score line.

It was disappointing for this bunch of players to finish so early in the year but the commitment shown was excellent and is there for all to see, so roll on next year.

The fourth team was entered in the B League Division 5 and started their league games on 14th March 2017 against Drumcondrath at home. Despite a slow start the home team managed to take control and go in at the break 2:10 to 0:03. They maintained the pressure on Drumcondrath and two quick goals in the second half ended the game as a contest. The final score was 4:20 to 1:04.

On 18th April 2017 Gaeil Colmcille 3rds visited and our 4th team got the better of them 4:14 to 1:09.

They then took on a strong Dunsany team on 10th May who won on a scoreline of 5:17 to 1:06, the home side benefiting from some slack defending in front of goal. Carnaross made the journey down to the Ashbourne Community School on 29th May 2017 and came away with the points outshooting the Don/Ash 4th team 4:16 to 2:10. A month later on 30th June 2017 Don/Ash made the trip to Meath Hill on a Friday evening. Although fielding a slightly older than average team, (3 players were nearly 50 years of age), they competed well against a strong Meath Hill side losing out 1:15 to 0:10. The most pleasing aspect was they outscored their hosts in the second half.

The final game against Clonard on 17th July was conceded as Clonard could not field, a recurring theme amongst the lower divisions.

Minor Football Under 18

The minor championship started for Donaghmore Ashbourne on 30th August 2017 with an away game versus Wolfe Tones in Kilmainham. It was a forgettable night for the Ashbourne lads as Wolfe Tones lived up to their favourites tag and outplayed Don/Ash in the first half to build a commanding lead. A better performance in the second half still wasn't enough to catch the 'Tones who won comfortably 6:15 to 2:03.

The second game of the Championship was against St Colmcilles on 13th September 2017 in Ashbourne. A better performance was needed from the young team and they duly stepped up but

the concession of goals in the game kept St Colmcilles at arm's length for the majority of the game. The final score loss 6:08 to 1:10 was not a reflection on the effort put in on the night.

Under 17 Football

The under 17 team were gradually building up to their season, training with the Junior team in early part of the season and putting in some fine performances in their early games of the Division 2 league. A first round win against Simonstown paved the way for a roller coaster season. A win against Na Fianna with arguably their best football of the year. A ding dong battle against St Vincent's/ Curragha which the amalgamated sides won. A hard fought win over Walterstown qualified them for the semi final with one game to go against Kilbride. The loss against Kilbride was used to focus minds on the semi final against Simonstown.

Results

11/08/17	Simonstown	3-8	: 2-13	Donaghmore/Ashbourne
18/08/17	Donaghmore/Ashbourne	6-17	: 1-11	Na Fianna
23/08/17	St.Vincent's/Curragha	1-22	: 4-9	Donaghmore/Ashbourne
29/09/17	Donaghmore/Ashbourne	4-17	: 6-8	Walterstown
14/10/17	Kilbride	6-18	: 2-9	Donaghmore/Ashbourne

The Semi Final was played on 18th October in Ashbourne and in an entertaining game both sides gave their all with the Navan lads winning out on a score line of 4:14 to 1:07. Don/Ash were a bit unlucky to concede two goals in over the head of their keeper but battled on and still managed to hit the post twice and crossbar once but it was not their day.

/insert U17.jpg/

Team v Walterstown 29th September 2017.

Picture includes A. Brady, J. Brady, S. Wilson, C. Twomey, L. Byrne, C. Davis, J. Magee, J. Watters, D. Rooney, N. McGrath, R. Power, D. Carr, K. Hogan, C. McGahan, M. Farrell, E. Tormey, D. Morrissey, D. O'Sullivan, L. Barrett, M. Crumlish, E. McGuirk, S. Purcell, A. White, A. O'Dwyer.

Under 21 Football

The only competitions remaining were the Under 21 Championships and Donaghmore Ashbourne once again fielded two teams. On 15th October 2017 in Ratoath both teams were fixed to play their respective ties. In the first game the reigning Champions were aware that retaining the title would be a tough ask and despite a spirited revival in the second half St Peters Dunboyne finished out the game on a score line of 4.09 to 0.08. The damage was done in the first half when three goals were conceded and St Peters played a very controlled game against a stiff breeze.

The second team faced Walterstown and after a very good start for Donaghmore Ashbourne

with a Ciaran O'Sullivan goal they led 1.06 to 2 points in the first quarter. Walterstown fought back and soon brought themselves level. From then on it was nip and tuck with both teams swapping the lead eventually drawing level at fulltime 1.12 apiece. Don Ash started the extra time scoring well and were leading by a point coming up to injury time before Walterstown scraped a goal at the death to win by two, 4.13 to 2.17.

Compromise Rules Game 13th October 2017

VAFAs (Victoria Amateur Football Association): 1.7.14 (41)

Donaghmore Ashbourne: 7.7.7 (70)

The touring side from Victoria Australia played their last game of their Irish tour against a strong Donaghmore Ashbourne selection bolstered by the addition of Meath players Conor McGill, Donal Keogan, Graham Reilly, Joe Sheridan and Bryan Menton. The rigours of being on tour finally told for the visitors when Don / Ash ran out winners but only during the last quarter. They eventually got to grips with the free running Australians who showed remarkable skill with the round ball. Although they would rue the many attempts on goal that drifted for a behind rather than an over in the first and second quarter. Indeed it was during the second quarter that they pushed Don/Ash hard before the experienced players on the home side started to control the game. Despite the misty rain which persisted all night both sets of players and supporters enjoyed an entertaining game.

/ insert DonAshCompr.jpg/

Team pictured before their Compromise Rules game versus the touring Australian VAFAs team.

Back L to R: J. Sheridan, E. O'Callaghan, P. Gilligan, C. Brady, D. McShane, J. Hannigan, P. Durkan, C. McGill, K. Lanigan, S. Melia, G. Deery, G. Reilly

Front L to R: JP. Casserly, S. Benville, K. Fenton, I. O'Donnell, B. Menton, C. O'Mealoid, D. Keogan, T. McGovern, J. McCarney, D McGovern, C. Ellis.

Hurling

Seniors

Our intermediate hurling team has completed another year of league and championship games.

Results have not gone our way as much as the players would have liked but it was not for the lack of effort and commitment.

The team has held its place in Div.3 and intermediate championship for 2018.

There is a squad of 37 hurlers regularly attending training sessions, playing challenge games and participating in the county's league and championship competitions.

The future looks good with the foundation work that's being built at the moment.

There are great things happening at underage level and hopefully this will bear fruit at adult level in years to come.

Thanks to one and all who have contributed to the development of hurling in this great club and long may it continue.

minor hurlers

Donaghmore/Ashbourne minor hurling team have qualified for the Shield Championship final. The team performed very well against a good Kiltale side in the quarter final and were unlucky to lose 3-12 to 2-10. The next opponents up were Dunderry in the shield semi final, This was a close game throughout but goals either side of half-time proved decisive and gave the Donaghmore/Ashbourne team the win with a score -line of Donaghmore 3-14 Dunderry 2-1 1. They now await Drumree/Killmessan in the final.

Minor hurling squad 2017; Colm O Toole, Ryan Power, Sean Hogan, Dillon Morrissey (C), Jack Butler, Colm Cox, David Carr, Alex Power O Rourke, Killian Hogan, Jack o Connor, Conor Harford, Darragh O Sullivan, Adam Brady, Joe Mc Gee, Conor O Farrell, Liam Byrne and Oisin O Nuallain.

Donaghmore/Ashbourne were well represented on the Winning Meath All Ireland Minor B final team with three representatives Conor O Farrell, Sean Hogan and Alex Power O Rourke.

The 2017 squad have been one of the most successful underage hurling teams in Ashbourne with wins in U/14, 15 and 16 competitions. They have always shown the right qualities and hopefully will come through in the very near future and play Adult hurling with the club.

Ladies

Ladies Football

In 2017 Donaghmore / Ashbourne Ladies Football Club were determined to build on the successes of 2016. The aim was to increase numbers at all age groups, improve standards and hopefully win some titles.

Adult Ladies

The aim of our Adult Ladies in 2017 was to enter two teams in the League, retain Division 1 status in the League and win the Intermediate Championship. We almost did it!! Thanks to the hard work and dedication of our coaches we did increase numbers and succeeded in fielding two teams in the League. We were competitive in Division 1, beating Seneschalstown and St. Ultan's and losing to Royal Gaels in the last kick of the match. Having reached the semi-final of the Intermediate Championship in 2016, the girls were determined to finish the job this year. This determination resulted in them beating all seven teams and securing a place in the final against a much fancied Dunboyne. Our girls got off to a flying start with Aoibhín Cleary scoring a spectacular goal in the first 10 minutes. The DonAsh ladies battled hard and went in at half time a point up. Dunboyne started the second half with two subs Fiona O'Neill and Emma Duggan who were instrumental in changing the course of the game. The experience and strength of the Dunboyne ladies won out on the day. However, 'Player of the Match' went to our own Aoibhín Cleary in recognition of her outstanding performance throughout the game. Although, disappointed the DonAsh ladies, went home satisfied that they had given their all and considering that more than half the team were Minors they would come back the following year, a year older and a year wiser.

Three of our ladies played for their county in the National League: Máire O'Shaughnessy, Síofra Cleary and Michelle Peel. Máire went on to play mid-field in the National Intermediate Championship and was

accompanied by two young players called up from the Minor panel, Aoibnín Cleary and Judy Bobbett. Our girls played no small part in helping the Meath Ladies put the misfortunes of recent years behind us to bring home the Leinster Intermediate Cup.

Minor

The Minor ladies competed in Division 1 of their championship and were unbeaten at going to print, having overcome Ratoath, Royal Gaels and Simonstown. This should be enough to secure them a place in the final.

Donaghmore/Ashbourne had no less than four representatives on the County Minor team. Aoibhín Cleary who captained the team, Abbie Timmons, Judy Bobbett and Laurie McLean played a significant role in getting their team to an All-Ireland B Final.

U16

Our u16 girls showed great commitment and courage as they faced into their Division 2 Championship with the tightest of panels. This was a difficult season for them but the girls persevered and the experienced gained stood them well when they joined the Minor panel in the Autumn. We had three u16 girls playing for their county; Lucy Butler, Marie Heffernan and Aoife Toner. We were also very proud to have our adult coach Seán Butler coach this team.

U15

U15s fielded two teams, one competing in Division 2 and the second team competing in Division 6. The second team went on to reach the final of their division. After a somewhat slow start, the girls made a superb comeback in the second half but lost to a stronger Walterstown side.

U13

Comprising girls born in 2004 and 2005 this panel fielded in Division 2 and Division 6. Both teams performed well throughout the campaign with the Division 2 team making it all the way to the final. The opposition is to be old rivals Skyrne. Having lost the round game to Skyrne and entering the fray as underdogs, the Don/Ash girls and their mentors were relishing the challenge on final day. After winning 6/7 in the league, with the only defeat to Skyrne, it was sure to be a top of the table clash. Skyrne raced into an early lead with a strong wind and went in at the half mark 1-5 to 0-1 up. Our girls rallied in the second half and put in a massive performance to claw the game back to level at 1-6 to 1-6 with only 5 min left. it wasnt to be though as the more experienced Skyrne team hit 3 late points to take the win and move on to u14 Div 1 in the spring. The girls now look forward to the spring league and carrying on the good work that got them to the autumn final.

U12

Consisting of a squad of over thirty players, the challenge for this group was to give all girls adequate match time. Having worked hard all winter our u12s were fit and ready to contest the Division 1 title. This they did in style and made it all the way to the County final. This was a tight affair, played on one of the hottest days of the year. Our girls took the lead in the second half and were a point up with a minute to go. However, heartbreak reigned as a last minute goal by St. Pats secured victory for them.

Four girls, Katie Twomey, Katelyn Brady, Eabha Magee and Ciara Doherty represented their county at u12. Katelyn won a Leinster Blitz medal while the other girls made it to the final of their section. At the End of Year Awards ceremony, Katie Twomey was awarded U12 Meath Player of the Year in recognition of outstanding performances throughout the year.

Donaghmore Ashbourne U12 Girls who finished runners up in Division 1 cup final. Lola Gore, Katie Twomey, Ciara Doherty, Ella O Driscoll, Holly Davies, Rebecca Condon, Katelyn Brady, Sarah Hegarty, Éabha Magee, Aimee Gore, Emma Gallagher, Sophie Quinn, Evie Connolly, Emily Holmes.

/insert u12 girls image/

u12 girls meath community games champions

Donaghmore Ashbourne U12 Girls who are Meath Community Games Champions. The girls played unbelievable football from goalkeeper through to the backs, midfielders and forwards in what was an impressive display of football. In the group stage they beat St Pats 6-5 to 0-1 and Skryne 7-3 to 0-0. In the semi-finals they beat Seneschalstown 6-3 to 0-1 and in the final St Colmcilles 6-9 to 1-1. Included in the photograph are, Evie Connolly, Emily Holmes, Aoife Cox, Sarah Hegarty, Katie Twomey, Lola Gore, Ella McAdam, Ella O Driscoll, Jillian Ryan, Faye Corcoran, Jessica Walton, Holly Davies.

/insert u12 girls comm games image/

U11

In the Autumn girls born in 2006 and 2007 came together to form two teams to play this non-competitive league. In addition to the league this group played a significant number of challenge games both inside and outside the county developing and honing their skills in preparation for their first competitive campaign next Spring.

u10

Girls born in 2007 and 2008 made up the panel for the u10 league. This year a new division was created which consisted of clubs fielding two teams. This was a very successful initiative as it allowed clubs to play two games at the same time alongside each other. In accordance with LGFA rules this league was non-competitive and

gave the girls invaluable match experience in a non-threatening environment.

U9

DonAsh U9s are a very talented group. They love their football and work hard at their training sessions. In the Spring they joined the u10s to play in the u10 league. They thoroughly enjoyed this experience and it really helped develop their skills and team play. In the Autumn when they returned to being u9s they played a number of challenge games and two u9 blitzes.

Panel: Abigail Gough, Jessica and Grace Merry, Lauren and Sophie Hegarty, Lucy O'Connell, Katie Ann Bobbett, Aoife Finn, Grace Holmes, Grace Hanley, Julia Birtzy, Aimee Seoighe, Isobel Butler, Emma McGrane, Ella O'Brien, Hannah McNally, Robyn O'Sullivan Bartly, Grace Scanlon and Souher Ellafas.

/insert u8 ladies image/

/insert u9 ladies image/

/insert u10 ladies image/

/insert intermediate ladies image/

Camogie

2017 was a year of many highlights for the Donaghmore/ Ashbourne Camogie Club.

Pride of place in a year such as 2017 will always go to teams who claimed silverware and this year we were lucky enough to have two such teams. Both the u14 and u16 teams won their respective championships and enormous credit must be given to both the players and the management teams behind them. They are a credit to the club and inspiration to all their fellow players.

Another highlight of the year was the representation of the club by players on their relevant county teams. It is a great honour for any player to play for her county and particular mention must go to Maggie Randle who was part of the Meath Intermediate Adult team who won the All-Ireland Intermediate Championship this year. Maggie was also part of the panel who won the All-Ireland Junior Championship in 2012. She is now the first Donaghmore Ashbourne club member to be in possession of two All-Ireland medals.

As a club another highlight was the attendance by many of the underage players & mentors at the All-Ireland Camogie Finals on the second Sunday in September. While a draw for the Meath team was not the perfect result on the day it did lead to another thoroughly enjoyable adventure when a full bus load of members and players made its way to Limerick for the replay. The victory for Meath was a wonderful experience for all in attendance.

Other county players

U13 Sinead Synnott, Erin Quinn

U14 & U15 Leah Butler

U16 Robyn Roche, Ava Fraughen & Emily Deegan

U17 Anna Ronan, Ruth Redmond, Robyn Roche & Rachael Fraughen

Minor Anna Ronan, Ruth Redmond

Intermediate Maggie Randle

Insert County Photos

A Special word of thanks to John Broderick from Mollys Bar, Ashbourne for his kind sponsorship of Jerseys for the Intermediate team.

2017 Donaghmore/Ashbourne Intermediate/Minor Camogie

We find ourselves very much in a transitional period with the intermediate squad, a mixture of experienced players and very young new additions. There is still a lot of work to be done and with the even further addition of more young talent going forward hopefully there are more interesting and exciting times to come.

We are delighted that members of our squad represented Meath Minor Camogie this year, Anna Ronan and Ruth Redmond. At u17 Meath retained the All Ireland Shield with the above names players accompanied by Robyn Roche and Rachel Fraughen from the Meath U16 Squad. Maggie Randle was part of the Meath Intermediate All Ireland winning squad which made history for Meath Camogie and we are honoured to have these young ladies represent Donaghmore/ Ashbourne Camogie.

Our intermediate team were also privileged to take part in the All Ireland 7s held in Kilmacud on Saturday 9th September 2017.

Our adult team have worked hard this year and we are indebted to our more experienced players taking our young players under their wings, hopefully we will see the benefits of this moving forward.

Insert All Ireland 7s Photo wearing New Jerseys Sponsored by Mollys Bar

U14 and U16 Camogie

It was a great year for Donaghmore Ashbourne U14 camogie. The girls are a so hardworking and dedicated while always retaining the fun and enjoyment. It really showed as they won the U14B Championship. This highlighted patience and perseverance coupled with a great team spirit can win through.

17th June 2017 U14 Final Donaghmore Ashbourne v Dunderry

Insert U14B Champions

Not to be outdone the U16 had a great season too. This group of girls have stuck together for many years and this year they were rewarded with winning the U16B Championship. It was a hard-fought contest with worthy opponents Kiltale. At full time the scores were level requiring us to go back to Drumree and play again. The girls were in determined mood and fought to the end.

17th May 2017 U16B Final Donaghmore Ashbourne v Kildate 1g4pts v 1g4pts

22nd May 2017 U16B Final Replay Donaghmore Ashbourne v Kiltale 5g5pts v 1g3pts

Insert U16 Champs Photo

The number of girls playing camogie has increased this year which allowed us to enter 2 U15 League teams this Autumn. We had a mixed season this autumn at U15, however both teams competed well. The future is looking bright and we are looking forward to 2018.

U11 – U12 – U13 Donaghmore/ Ashbourne Camogie

Our year began with the annual Sunday afternoon Gormanston indoor tournament in January. This year we entered an u11 and u12 team which created the perfect environment for the players to warm up for the new season.

The outdoor season kicked off with an u12 blitz in the Abbotstown GAA Complex on March 12th. The 'Caman to Leinster 2017' blitz allowed teams from all over the province to come together and play on the one day. The u12 team played teams from Dublin, Kildare and Carlow in what was a very enjoyable experience for all involved.

A lack of official fixtures did not hinder the development of the girls as challenge matches were constantly organised to fill the gaps. However, we are very proud of the girls who remained unbeaten during the u12 league, a just and fitting reward for the hard work and dedication of the players during the year.

As the weather improved and the evenings lengthened one of the most inspiring developments for Camogie and indeed the club was the introduction of the 'Super Wednesdays' Over the course of several Wednesdays from mid-April through May we hosted a number of clubs at u8, u10 and u12 in simultaneous matches. It was an amazing sight to see the pitches filled to bursting point with girls of all ages enjoying the game of Camogie.

Following a brief summer break the u12 squad split in to the u11 and u13 squads for the autumn leagues. With these leagues we were playing strong teams and although our girls took a while to get used to the step up they enjoyed the challenge and competed very well. Our U11 team finished their season in Ratoath at a county blitz playing Ratoath, Navan & Killyon.

However, the u12 entity was far from finished for the year. On the 'Trip to Limerick' to follow the Meath Intermediate Camogie Team in their All-Ireland Final Replay the u12's were very grateful to the Borrisoleigh u12 Camogie team who kindly hosted a challenge match while we were enroute to Limerick itself. The day still held a treat for the u12s (not even counting the subsequent All-Ireland win by the adult team) as the u12s were invited to play at half time in the All-Ireland match against Killeagh (Cork).

A day full of excitement and joy, perfectly finished off by the Meath's victory over Cork.

Insert U12 Abbottstown

Insert U11 Photo

Insert U13 Photo

Insert Bus to Limerick

U10 Camogie

We are delighted with the steady progress our U10s have made this year. Gormanston at the beginning of the year got our team out and moving good and early.

We were disappointed with the lack of fixtures from County board but thankfully we were invited to various clubs outside of Meath to get game time, great experience and have fun.

Another fantastic club initiative was 'Super Wednesdays' once the clocks changed we had all our teams out playing. It was an amazing site seeing all our pitches Camogie busy and a great opportunity for parents to meet each other while their daughters got to play our wonderful game.

We applied to take part in the National Golden Ticket Blitz Sunday 20th August 2017. We were honoured when asked to host this event and also played in it. Our U10s got to play 5 teams from Derry, Kildare, Meath, Wicklow & Dublin. This was a wonderful experience for our girls and were well able for the challenge.

This was a great day for our club as we also hosted the Liberty Insurance All Ireland Intermediate Semi Finals Derry v Cork & Meath v Kildare.

Insert Super Wednesdays

Insert U10 Golden Ticket

U8 Donaghmore/ Ashbourne Camogie (Dual)

Our numbers at Under 8's have grown steadily during the year. We now have 48 registered players. There are two sessions, Saturday morning and Monday evening. Training is a hectic hour and a quarter. The concentration is on drills for both codes for the first hour and then fun camogie match for last 15 minutes. We have an average of 24 girls every Monday and 14 on Saturday which is a good indication that they enjoy the Dual experience.

From a games perspective we are disappointed in the lack of games organised by the County Board. We took part in the Under 8 Blitzes during June/July and in the Under 7 and 9 Blitzes during Sept/Oct.

The girls are very enthusiastic and just love to play matches. We have also found that the games really bring on the skills developed during the training sessions.

A special word of thanks goes to our Mentors, who generously give of their time each week. On a Monday evening these include Paul Garrigan, Andrea Slattery, Conor Grant, Gary Daly, Mary O'Shaughnessy and Dredre Keaveney. On a Saturday morning Paul, Andrea and Gary are also joined at times by Padraic Doherty and Mick Flynn, all the above also accompany the girls to their matches.

The future of the club looks promising with the numbers and talent coming through, however we need to ensure that there is a better structure put in place for next season to get the girls playing more games.

Insert U8 Photo

Overall Donaghmore Ashbourne are most fortunate with the dedication and commitment from all our volunteer coaches. They go above and beyond our expectations but the proof is in the pudding. The hard work is starting to pay off. We are seeing steady increase in our numbers in all ages and less fall off. We promote Camogie & Fun hand in hand.

Players and parents have a massive roll to play and as they are committed to what we are trying to do, we believe we will get stronger as a Camogie Club.

A major boost for our club this year was Coláiste De Lacy fielding a Camogie team for the first time. This is a wonderful link for the club and we plan to support them as best as possible to grow their school Camogie.

Insert Coláiste De Lacy Picture

Juvenile & Acorns

u10 footballers

Our u10 started back training at the end of January and starting with a full turnout and continue to do so which shows we have a very dedicated bunch of kids. We have played in the Go games all season and this has seen as great improvement in the skills and team work of the team. We also were invited to play in the annual Fingallians u10 Go games in August and had a great day playing teams from all over. The panel of players consists of Ross Wilson, Sean Ward, Shane Brady, JJ MacManus, Josh Bourke, Ryan Lynch, Cieran Shortt, Scott Thomas, David Power, Aidan Keogh, Emma Wilkie, Aaron Murphy, Zak Dennehy, Jodi Purcell, Megan Byrne, Kyle White, Liam Tannam, Darragh Nulty, Matthew Holmes, Liam o Connor, Alex Fitzpatrick, Philip Carragher and Liam Faye.

Our mentors are Brian Thomas, Paul Brady and Liam Ward.

u10 hurlers

Our u10 hurlers are a small bunch of very committed lads who started training the end of January and have full attendance at training and games every week. We have played in the Go games all year and a few challenge matches also which has seen the skills improve greatly. Our panel consists Sean Ward, Daniel Doherty, JJ MacManus, Aidan Keogh, Scott Thomas, Darragh Meagher, David Power, Liam Faye, Ryan Lynch, Eoin Darcy and Darragh Nulty.

Our mentors are Liam Ward and Neil Doherty.

u12 hurlers

Our u12 hurlers got their year off to a busy start which began with playing in the Leinster League. It was a great experience for the lads playing teams from different counties. It was after this finished we started our league which finished with a 3 team play-off to see who went on to the semi-final, we were narrowly beaten in the play-off by Gael Colmcille/Kilskyre. This meant we then entered the shield competition which we went on to win by defeating Longwood in Dunganny and retain the Shield won the previous year. We then entered the summer league which was only 3 games where we competed well considering some lads were away on holidays while these games were played. We were also invited into Fingallians summer tournament where we had a great day playing teams from Dublin, Waterford and Wexford. After this the team split into u11 and 13 where our u11s played Go games for the remainder of the season. Panel consisted of Oisín Daly, Michael o Sullivan, Joedev Puchoen, Darragh Finn, Jack Keenan, Aidan Mackey, Robert o Farrell, Fionnan Hogan, Callum Thomas, Patrick Moran, Derry o Sullivan, Davin Jones, Jack

Doran, Scott Moss, Cillian Paget, Eoin Byrne, Tom Ryan, Conor Lawless, Darragh McCabe, Tom o Riordan and Darragh Meagher.

Mentors for this team were Brian Thomas and James Ryan.

u13 hurlers

/insert u13 hurlers image/

Squad List: Oisin Daly, Jack Keenan, Cael Sullivan, Fionnan Hogan, Tom O' Hara, Alex Devine, Tomas Gaughan, Rhys Thomas, Alan Lipiki, Aidan Mackey, Michael O' Sullivan, Dylan Smith, Paddy O'Brien, Joedev Puchon, Darragh Finn, Robert O Farrell and Ben Mather.

Our U13 hurlers had a good year qualifying for the semi final of the championship losing out to Kells/Kilskyre. We topped our group with victories over Boardsmill, St Colmcilles, Wolfe Tones and Na Fianna. We had some great performances in this competition and are already looking forward to feile next year.

u14 hurlers

/insert u14 hurlers image/

Squad List : Aidan Mackey, Tom O Hara, Alan Lipiki, Cianan Finn, Shane Duke, Michael O' Sullivan, Oisin Daly, Jack Kennan, (Mascot Darragh Meagher), Fionnan Hogan, Ben Mather, Cael Sullivan, Tomas Gaughan, Sean O' Sullivan, Jack Meagher and Darragh Gleeson.

Our U14 hurlers had a mixed year. We were delighted to qualify for the final of the Meath Feile competition only just losing out to a strong Clann na Gael team. We had victories over Dunboyne Dunderry and Na Fianna on our way to the final. We had injuries to some key players during the year which greatly hampered our progress in the u14 championship. These players look forward to a much more competitive 2018.

u16 hurlers

/insert u16 hurlers image/

Squad List : Ethan Tormey, Eoin Breathnach, Darragh Finlay, Killian Hogan, Conor Harford, Ryan Power, Kevin Cully, Sean Rooney, Jack Meagher, Alex Homes, David Carr, Darragh O Sullivan, Sean O' Sullivan Darragh Gleeson, Eoin Ryan and Colm Cox.

The year started for our hurlers with a great buzz around training due to an increased squad size resulting from some new players and a few players returning to hurling after taking a brake for a year or so.

Round 1 of the league was a tough opening home game v Kiltale. What resulted was a hard fought game, which we should really have won, the end result was a draw with a score line of 2-10 to Donaghmore Ashbourne 3-07 Kiltale.

Next up was a local derby away to Ratoath, our lads were now hurling well and won easily 6-06 to 3-03.

The team travelled to Dunderry for round 3, down a few players, we didn't get going on the day and were beaten 7-10 to 4-11.

After the results were crunched, Dunderry were through to the Final while Donaghmore Ashbourne got a home draw against Kiltale for a 2nd Place Playoff, with the loosing team meeting Ratoath in a Shield Final.

In an evening when our hurlers really stood up to mark, the moors displayed a brilliant display of skills to beat Kiltale 3-17 to 1-05. A huge turn around from the drawn result earlier in the year.

The Final v Dunderry was set for the 14th of May at 10 am in Dunganny. Again Donaghmore Ashbourne dug deep in a tough hard skillful game of hurling.

Down 1-7 after ten minutes, the Moors held their nerve and through hard work and great skill they worked their way back into the game, 2-9 to 3-1 at the interval to Dunderry. That never say die work rate continued in the second half and it payed off with Donaghmore Ashbourne leading by a point 5-5 to 2-13 with seconds to go in normal time. Dunderry were awarded a penalty (one of four in total for them in the game), they took their point - drawn game 2-14 to 5-5 - EXTRA TIME.

Donaghmore hit early with a goal and scored 1-4 to Dunderry's 0-1 in the first half of extra time. Dunderry hit the net twice to our one point. Final score and a historic win for Donaghmore Ashbourne 6-10 to Dunderry's 4-15.

u9 boys football

1 club 4 codes

"Four Codes One Club" Poster Winners

/ insert 1club4codes image/

In conjunction with the clubs motto of "Four Codes One Club" the club ran a poster competition in the Local National Schools to raise awareness of the motto and to come up with a poster or posters that would best represent that motto. We were delighted with the response we got, with over 250 posters received, we really have very talented children in our schools. Thanks also to the teachers for embracing the idea and encouraging the fine work. It was a really difficult job picking the winners from such fine work, well done to everyone for entering.

The winners were announced in the schools and they are as follows:

1st Prize: Keitija Zarina St Declans 5th Class.

2nd Prize: Emilia Drozd St Declans

3rd Prize: Klaudia Turozynska St Declans 5th Class

4th Prize: Grace Heneghan St Mary's 3rd Class

5th Prize: Sean Jones St Declans 3rd Class

Congratulations to you all, and the posters are appearing on the walls around the Club throughout the year and remember it's all about "Four Codes One Club"

u7s

2017 has been a momentous year for our U7 boys as they have made the transition from Acorns to a strong and eager team hitting the grass in an official capacity!

From their 2016 routine of training once a week, they progressed smoothly to Go Games every weekend and show massive enthusiasm in their matches.

Our Go Games have been hugely successful and have had our boys alternate between hurling and football on Saturday mornings.

The mission of "Every child gets a go" has been realised with the consistently high turnout and our Mentors are kept on their toes with an average of thirty U7 energetic players representing Donaghmore/Ashbourne and making our club proud.

We kicked off the season with hurling, away, against St.Peter's in Dunboyne and in the months that have followed they have encountered St.Pat's-Stamullen, St Colmcilles-Piltown, Kiltale, Ratoath, Duleek and Walterstown both at home and away.

Sportsmanship from all players involved has been exemplary and parental support fantastic.

Our Lá Na Club on May 7th was a special event for the boys when they played half time matches in front of their first big crowd. Dedication didn't stop there, as evident in their participation in our "Street Leagues" and in the "Cul Camps" and Donnaghmore/Ashbourne's summer camps.

For a team in its early stages, they have quickly unified and the improvement and development of skills is evident with every match played.

Alongside the teaching aspect, our Mentors tick all the boxes of the Go Games ethos to "optimise levels of fun, friendship, fair play and achievement" as the boys are eager to get on the pitch and get playing at every meet.

Christened "The Uncut Diamonds" by PJ Moran, these boys shine, and will doubtless become familiar names in years to come if their performances so far are anything to go by.

Team Members:

Charlie Barry, Conor Beggy, Daniel Bennett, Leo Bourke, Oisín Breathnach, Aaron Byrne, Lee Byrne, Craig Campbell, Josh Carolan, Bob Cullen, Alex Curren, Daniel Daly, James Dexter, Darragh Donnelly, Lucas Doyle, John Farrell, Nata Gaidys, Daniel Gallagher, Leo Garry, Marcus Hernandez, Daniel Holmes, Tommy Joyce, Rossa Kearns, Alex Kelly, Adam Kynes, Cillian Loughran, Sean Lucid, Jake McCaffery, Conor Meehan, Michael Minch, Luke Moran, Noah Murphy, Aaron Norton, Tadhg O'Buachalla, Matthew O'Riordan, Donnacha Paget, Max Peters, Stanley Pigott, Samuel Rees, Tadhg Sheehy, James Thomas, George Toomey.

u8s

The Donaghmore / Ashbourne U8 team took a major leap forward in 2017, by moving from the club Acorns setup into organized GAA club matches in the form of the Go Games fixtures.

After starting back training in earnest in February, we had our first Go Games outing at the start of March, with a football match at home to St. Patricks, Stamullen. From there we played each week during March and April, competing in both football and hurling before having a break at Easter.

After the Easter break, we continued in the Go Games matches against our fellow Meath clubs, right through to the end of June, culminating in a hurling blitz, hosted in our club on 1st July. We were delighted to have 10 different teams fielded on the day, with visiting clubs Ratoath, St. Pats and Colmcilles also represented.

During all this time, our players were training each week on both football and hurling skills. The coaches and mentors were delighted to see the progress being made by all our players each week. It was particularly satisfying to see each of our players understand and learn, from the training sessions at different rates and different times during the year. Each player was seen reaching their own achievements – whether that was kicking a point in football, mastering the roll lift in hurling or simply improving their balance and coordination.

Thanks to a really successful Street League competition ran by the club, and also our GPO Martin Lynch visiting the local schools, we welcomed a number of new players into the ranks during the year – Liam Brooks, Thomas Conlan, Lewis Galvin, Griffin Galvin, Jeff Mahon, Callum Sheridan, Dominik Siwec and Mark Muldoon. We also welcomed the following players into the team – Sean Smith, Liam Tuohy, Finn Moore and Alex Jones All these players have had a really positive impact to the team during the year.

After our Summer Break, our U8s were back on the road, with an away Go Games football fixture, followed by an away hurling fixture, both matches against St. Pats at Stamullen.

We next hosted St. Peter's Dunboyne for football, and close neighbours Ratoath in hurling a week later. It was great to see our fantastic U8 players showing great commitment to both codes, in these home matches.

As we entered into September, we had an away Go Games football match against Simonstown. There was great excitement to travel to the home of the county champions. Certainly, the Donaghmore/Ashbourne U8s gave really strong performances, as we had 3 separate teams playing against the Simonstown U8s, with great footballing skills on show from all our players.

September also saw our players travelling to Kilmessan for a hurling Go Games match. This was probably the most competitive hurling our U8s have had this year, with both teams very closely matched. Harry Gough, Mikey Heavy, Fionn Kenny, Cian O'Grady and Eoin Tannam, as well as all our players doing extremely well in Go Games matches that they played.

As we've seen throughout the year, each match in the Go Games fixtures was played in the best sporting fashion, with supporters and mentors from both clubs, cheering for both teams.

All the effort, skills and fun that we see from all the players at our weekly training, is certainly coming through in the match success each week.

However, the highlight of the playing year for our U8 team was without doubt, representing the Donaghmore / Ashbourne club in GAA Headquarters, Croke Park, when Leinster GAA invited our team to a Go Games hurling event during April 2017. To say that the players were excited was an understatement. We had two U8 teams lining out on the hallowed turf of Croke Park representing Donaghmore / Ashbourne – a proud day for players, coaches and parents. Who knows, perhaps we'll see some of these players represent club and county in the future in Croke Park again.

Well done to all our fantastic U8 players for a really successfully 2017, and huge thanks to our coaches, mentors and, of course, parents – Your support is greatly appreciated throughout the year.

/insert u8 boys image/

u9 boys

/insert u9 boys image/

2017 was a great year for our U9 football and hurling team with the same squad of players involved in either hurling or football Go Games almost every week from March to October. We went dual at the start of 2016 when we effectively introduced most of our football squad to hurling. Over 2017 you wouldn't know so many of the kids were so new to hurling. We had some great competitive hurling games throughout the year and our young hurlers made amazing progress. We also had 4 of

our U9 hurlers on the team who won the silver medal in the U11 Meath Community games in the summer.

Similarly our U9s have made great strides in football over the year. It's great to see the kids playing with their heads up and showcasing great teamwork as well as fantastic skills. We also had 12 of our U9 players on the team that won the gold medal in the U10 Meath Community Games in May.

Our 2017 squad members were:

Aaron O'Shaughnessy, Alexander Douglas, Bernard Joyce, Callum O'Buachalla, Cillian Dowling, Conor Jones, Conor McCabe, Dara O'Sullivan, Dylan Gannon, Erik Byrne, Evan Tumbleton, Fionn Mulvihill, Jack Burns, Jack Hickey, Jack Minch, Jack O'Brien, Jack Ryan, Joe Concannon, Joe Robertson, Matthew McCabe, Max Connolly, Max Larkin, Nathan Roach, Niall Lawless, Pdraig Gaughan,

Rian Mahon. Rua Malone, Sean O'Driscoll, Tom Broderick

Reports for the u10 football, hurling and the u11/12 hurling.

Our u10 started back training at the end of January and starting with a full turnout and continue to do so which shows we have a very dedicated bunch of kids. We have played in the Go games all season and this has seen as great improvement in the skills and team work of the team. We also were invited to play in the annual Fingallians u10 Go games in August and had a great day playing teams from all over. The panel of players consists of Ross Wilson, Sean Ward, Shane Brady, JJ MacManus, Josh Bourke, Ryan Lynch, Cieran Shortt, Scott Thomas, David Power, Aidan Keogh, Emma Wilkie, Aaron Murphy, Zak Dennehy, Jodi Purcell, Megan Byrne, Kyle White, Liam Tannam, Darragh Nulty, Mattew Holmes, Liam o Connor, Alex Fitzpatrick, Philip Carragher and Liam Faye.

Our mentors are Brian Thomas, Paul Brady and Liam Ward.

Our u10 hurlers are a small bunch of very committed lads who started training the end of January and have full attendance at training and games every week. We have played in the Go games all year and a few challenge matches also which has seen the skills improve greatly. Our panel consists Sean Ward, Daniel Doherty, JJ MacManus, Aidan Keogh, Scott Thomas, Darragh Meagher, David Power, Liam Faye, Ryan Lynch, Eoin Darcy and Darragh Nulty.

Our mentors are Liam Ward and Neil Doherty.

High Kings and Development Squads

Donaghmore Ashbourne Hurlers who represented their club Playing for Meath in 2017

/insert igh kings images/

All-Ireland B All-Ireland Champions - Sean Hogan, Conor O' Farrell and Alex Power O' Rourke.

/insert u16 hurling image/

U16 Hurling - Colm Cox and Darragh O Sullivan played for Meath in the Celtic Challenge completed well and were beaten in the All-Ireland Simi Final.

/insert u15 hurling image/

U15 Hurling –Kevin Cully on Meath Development Squad.

/insert u14 hurling image/

U14 Hurling - Sean O' Sullivan, JackMeagher, and Darragh Gleeson.

/insert u13 hurling image/

U13 Hurling - Cael Sullivan, Alan Lipiki, Ben Mather, Thomas Gaughan and Rhys Thomas.

/insert u12 hurling image/

U12 Hurling - Jack Keenan, Michael O Sullivan, Fionnan Hogan and Oisin Daly