



Croom GAA 2009 Review of the Year

In January, John Galvin, Pat Reidy & Cormac Beehan were presented with achievement awards from the South Bord in Bulgaden. Our 2008 AGM took place in the Scouts Den with Colm O'Regan presenting his 35th consecutive Treasurer's report, explaining our growing costs & thanking our loyal supporters who contribute to the running of our club when buying lotto tickets or joining the Limerick Gaa Development draw. John Galvin was also voted Munster Senior footballer of the year for 2008. Our inter county players, Stephen Lucey, John Galvin & Mark O'Riordan helped Limerick senior footballers to a great win over Roscommon in Kilmallock. Mark O'Riordan & Stephen Lucey then both lined out with Limerick Senior Hurlers in their win over Dublin.

In March, we had a presentation of medals to our juveniles in front of a large attendance in the Scouts Den. Tom Carmody, was appointed as the Senior Hurling Captain for the '09 season.

In April our Junior hurlers recorded a win against Glenroe in Croom on a scoreline of 2-09 to 1-03.

In May, we held a very successful Golf Classic in partnership with Croom Utd soccer club in Charleville Golf Club.

As part of the 125th anniversary celebrations of the Gaa & with the kind permission of the National School principal, the students were allowed to wear their Gaa jerseys to school on Fri 8th of May. There was also an art competition, with a GAA theme in the school with the best pictures from each class being displayed at our Open day & also on our website on www.croomgaa.com. We held an Open day on Sun May 10th, with a large crowd in attendance Club Chairman John Galvin, opened the event welcoming everyone & then Club President Michael McDonnell, gave a brief history of the Club. Fr Joe Kennedy then explained about the missions in Croom at the moment and the good work that they do. After blessing the field and all present, the fun began with the U8 & U10 football and hurling blitz games. With the skill level shown by these kids & with the right coaching, i have no doubt that the strong tradition of Croom GAA providing players to county teams will continue long into the future. We had a team of face painters busy all day creating great characters & smiles on scores of young kids. There was a number of competitions going all day also with a free raffle for a signed Limerick jersey, horseshoe throwing, wellie tossing, bouncy castles, bowling, puc fada & Pony Treking. There were two large tents set up with refreshments including, tea, coffee, minerals, a range of sandwiches, cakes and a BBQ that went down a treat. Also on display were a range of photos from years gone by that brought back many great memories of players, teams & occasions in our history. There was a ladies V daughters football that was great craic & showed that our women are just as competitive & skillful as our men. We were delighted to welcome the new members that signed up to our club on the day & hope that they enjoy playing our games.



The day closed with a few words from Bord na nÓg Chairman Mark Reidy who thanked all for coming and wished everyone a safe trip home. Also in May our Senior hurlers recording an away win over Tournafulla on a scoreline of 4-10 to 1-10, Our Junior hurlers travelled to Knockainey and won 1-10 to 0-03, Our Ladies footballers also won beating Monagea by 4-10 to 4-05 & our Intermediate footballers travelled to Dromcollagher to take on Fr Caseys in the Championship & with Stephen Lucey kicking 4 points from play we ran out winners by 0-13 to 0-07. Our Junior hurlers won at home against Castletown/Ballyagran scoring 4-13 to 0-06. On Sun 31st May our U14 hurlers, won their County Final in sweltering heat, in Bruff against Cois le Gaels. Our Senior hurlers had a good win when we opened our Championship season against Murroe/Boher on a scoreline of 0-13 to 0-17.

In June, our Junior Hurlers won the South League Final against Athlacca, the U13 Footballers captained by Jamie Shinnors, played one of the best games of football seen for quite a while & won the County Final beating South Liberties by 5-08 to 3-04. Our Minor Hurlers won the South Final beating Blackrock in Kilmallock by 2-14 to 1-10.

In July, the High flying Junior Hurlers were in action in the 2nd round of their championship, when they won at home to Knockainey on a scoreline of 1-15 to 2-10. Our Minor Hurlers had two Championship victories on 14th & 17th July. The Junior Hurlers also saw Championship action in Effin with Croom scoring 1-18 to Effins 2-03. Our U21 Hurlers travelled to take on Ballyagran in the Championship and came away with a well deserved victory. Croom ran out winners on a scoreline of 3-10 to 2-08.

In August, our Senior Hurlers lost to Patrickswell in Kilmallock on a scoreline of 0-14 to 1-09 in the 2nd round of the Championship. Our Intermediate Footballers travelled to Knocklong to take on Galtee Gael and we lost out by 1-07 to 1-04.

Margaret Lynch from Donoman Croom, played with the Limerick Ladies Footballers in the All Ireland Junior Football Final. The Croom Junior Hurlers made the trip to Ballyagran to contest the South Final against Bruff, Croom ran out winners on a scoreline of 1-14 to 1-03.

In September, our Senior Hurling Championship clash with near neighbours Granagh/Ballingarry in Ballyagran ended in a thrilling draw. The replay was also in Ballyagran & Croom ran out winners on a scoreline of 3-09 to 0-04. Our Senior hurlers lost the County 1/4 Final in the Gaelic Grounds on Sat 19th Sept with defeat to Na Piarasigh we lost on a scorline of 1-14 to 1-05. On Sun 27th Sept our U16 hurlers had an impressive win beating Castletown/Ballyagran in Croom by 4-08 to 2-05 in the County 1/4 Final.



In October, our U14 Hurlers won the Shield Final against Atthlacca in Mick Neville Park in Rathkeale. The Minor Hurlers renewed their rivalry with Knockainey in Croagh on Sun 4th Oct in the South Final. Croom proved much too strong for their opponents outscoring them by 24 pts to 1-09. The Junior Hurling season ended for Croom with a narrow defeat to Killeedy in the County Semi-Final Killmallock on Sat 10th Oct, on a scoreline of 2-08 to 0-13. Our U16 Hurlers also lost in their County Semi-Final in Ballyagran going down to Shamrock Gaels by 2-15 to 2-10, on Sat 10th Oct. The U21 hurling season ended in a 1 point defeat for Croom to Blackrock on Sat 24th Oct at Staker Wallace new grounds losing on a scoreline of 1-05 to 0-07.

In December, the final game of our playing season was the Intermediate Football League Final against Na Piarasigh & after being postponed twice it finally went ahead last week in Foynes. We started brightly & lead by 6 points at half time but with such a long break since we last played we ran out of steam & ended up losing by 2-08 to 2-11. The launch of the Limerick GAA Yearbook took place in Mark Foleys Bar in Ballyagran recently. Inter county hurling & football stars Mark Foley & John Galvin were invited to open the event. It gives a brief history on all 69 clubs in Limerick & has a range of interviews, pictures and information to celebrate 125 years of the G.A.A. It is a good read, priced at €10 and is available to buy in Croom Stores. Our dog buster took place at The Markets Field on Sat 12th Dec & the winner of €1000 was Timmy Dillon from Banogue.

Finally, on behalf of Croom GAA, I would like to wish all our supporters, players & friends in a sporting new year

John Fitzgerald

Croom PRO