



CATHAL BRUGHA BULLETIN

It's the end of a busy year, so what better time to look back on our highlights of the year. It is clear there is a passion and drive for success in the club, backed up by the strong commitment of the coaching team, players, parents and Executive Committee. We look forward to continuing success in 2019.

Chairman's Corner

As the year draws to a close, the stand-out highlight from 2018 was of course winning the U15 cup and our aim in 2019 is to have the team ready to prepare to defend our title.

Our boys U13 team performed wonders to reach the final of the U13 Cup and hopefully more or less the same team will go one better in 2019.

Our flagship senior teams once again showed they are among the top teams in Ireland. A special word must go to the men's team who lost out in the final of the Irish Senior Cup following a penalty shoot-out against Corrib. Again, hopefully the team will be more settled next year and will pick up gold in Dublin in April.

All that remains is for me to wish our members, friends, players and supporters best wishes for a happy and successful 2019.

Gerry O'Neill

Dates for the Diary

First sessions in January will be on

Mondays in Lisburn - Monday 7 January.

Wednesdays in Falls – Wednesday 2 January.

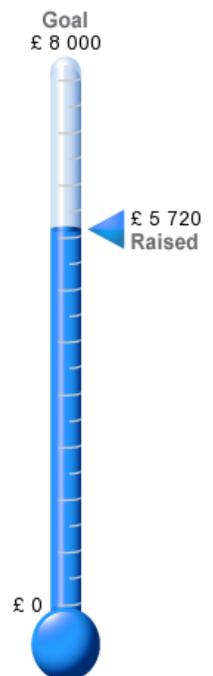
Fridays in Falls - Friday 4 January (**new start time of 6.30pm for Fundamentals**).

Table Officials Course

A table officials' course will be held on 11 January 2019 in Grove from 6pm – 9pm. Participants must be aged 13 and over –If you are successful you will be paid to carry out table duties at senior matches. If interested, email info@cathalbrughawaterpolo.com

Fundraising success

Many thanks to our players, parents and supporters for all your efforts in fundraising this year. We held a last man standing competition, spin-a-thon, abseil, bag packing and received funding from Asda and Belfast City Council. We would like to particularly commend Deirdre Morgan, mother of Caraigh, for the significant amount she raised for completing the abseil in October, Chairman Gerry O'Neill was delighted to present Deirdre with a club half zip for her tremendous efforts.



We would welcome your ideas on how to reach our target of £8,000 whether through fundraising, sponsorship or grants.

2018 HIGHLIGHTS

U9s

Highlights for Under 9s coach Damien O'Neill included the blitz in Grove in November, seeing the excitement and enjoyment of the kids playing in their competition and watching them doing the dances from the game Fortnite, especially when they score a goal during matches!

U11s

U11 coach Chris French is so proud of how well his squad has developed. Their swimming and ball handling skills have come on leaps and bounds. Chris says he has a great bunch of kids who all enjoy water polo and looks forward to seeing what 2019 brings. Chris also mentioned that it is great to see how many new kids have joined the club this year.

U15 Boys

The attitude, determination and the fight of our very young U15 Boys team in Galway was remarkable. It was mainly an U13 team, but they showed guts, never took a step back or gave up. They were brilliant and coach Paul Goss was very proud of them.

U15 Girls

U15 Girls Coach Lynn Hann Short says her highlight of the year was the outstanding win for the U15 Smilers as they smashed the U15 Girls Cup in Galway in May. This group of Mighty Girls did themselves and their club proud. There was a further show of great determination by the U15 Smilers as they came from behind in the final V Diamonds to win Bridgestone Tournament in September. Lynn is delighted that Orla Monaghan has come on board to help coach the junior girls and is looking forward to the U17 cup in January 2019.

U19 Boys

Reflecting on the U19 boys' season so far, coach Nathan Taylor believes that the younger team coming through is showing a lot of potential. Although the results in the U19 cup did not reflect the want from the U19 Cup, lessons were learnt for the future. Special mention would have to go to Conor McKee, Noel McGuigan and Cameron Loan who played outstanding at the tournament and left everything in the pool. Nathan also paid tribute to Stio McMahon for his time and effort for helping the team prepare for the cup.

Senior Men

Men's Senior Team coach, Conor Campfield said the team entered the 2018/19 season buoyed by a significant showing at the Irish Senior Cup in April, narrowly losing the Corrib on penalties. The new look Brugha team, made up of experienced players and exciting junior talent has made an excellent start to the season, winning 4, losing 1 and drawing 1. The new year will see momentum build as the team seeks to bring the Irish Senior Cup back to Belfast, a feat that is clearly within its grasp.

Senior Women

In true managerial style, Johnny Donnelly, senior ladies coach delegated responsibility for writing about the highlights of the women's team to newly appointed Team Manager Damien O'Neill. Damien quickly consulted his black book and said the highlight of the year so far has to be how unbelievable the junior girls have been in the team. They have seized the opportunity and went for it, particularly in the comfortable win over rivals Diamonds with most of the squad U16, as well as when Eva Ramsey scored eight in Dublin. Also, this season has seen the return of Brugha stalwarts Niamh Barr and Caoimhe Cooke to give strength and depth to the team. A special mention to our "foreign" superstars Irene and Rachel who along with Amy, Hannah and Orla have become the backbone of the team.

2018 HIGHLIGHTS

Masters Swimming

Our only Masters swimmer, Gerry Flynn has broken 29 Ulster records in the 70 - 75 age group since taking up Masters swimming in January 2018. He also broke 5 of these records a second time! Gerry was encouraged to join Cathal Brugha as a 13 yr old in 1960 by Liam Goss. Living in Drogheda since returning to Ireland after spending many years in the States, Gerry rejoined Brugha as the only club he wished to swim under. We hope Gerry continues his success in 2019.

Certified Team

Awards weren't just won by players this year, many of our club members gained invaluable accreditation of their abilities.

Coaching Certificates - Adam Cushley, Paul Goss & Lynn Hanna Short received their Level 1 Coaching certificate and Nathan Taylor received his Level 2 Coaching certificate.

Team Manager Certificates - Adam Cushley, Darren Donnelly, Paul Goss, Adrian Hanna (snr), Lynn Hanna Short, Phil Kelly, Ciaran McGurk, Lisa O'Kane and Stephen Whelan achieved their Level 1 Team Manager certificates.

Referee Certificates - Adam Cushley, Darren Donnelly, Chris French, Adrian Hanna (snr) and Jake Marron all received their Level 1 refereeing certificates.

Special recognition

Two club men who give up so much time for multiple teams were nominated for Young Children's Coach of the Year – Ciaran McGurk and Damien O'Neill. Damien says *"that was a shock and I was well chuffed"*.

Ciaran McGurk came 3rd in Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council's Coach of the Year Award and Eva Ramsey came 3rd in the U15 Junior Sports Personality of the Year award. Andrew Edgar also received 3rd place in the U19 section for his exploits on the hockey field.

Gerry O'Neill won the Swim Ireland award for Outstanding Contribution to Water Polo and Wally Clarke was inducted into the Swim Ireland Hall of Fame for his lifetime dedication to swimming.

Representation on Provincial and National teams

Brugha was well represented on the Irish and Ulster teams this year. Hannah Taylor starred on the Irish women's team which finished 4th in the European Nations Cup in Brno. Johnny Donnelly (capt.), Chris Devlin, Stio McMahon and the Hanna brothers Adrian and Matthew all played on the Irish men's team.

Maria McGuigan (capt.), Siùn McGurk, Ciara McKee, Cara O'Kane and Eva Ramsey all competed on the U15 Irish girls' team which finished second in the ASA Inter-regional competition, with Eva winning MVP for the team and the overall tournament. Eoin Donnelly was selected for the U15 Irish boys' team but unfortunately was unable to travel.

The following juniors represented Brugha on the Ulster teams this year:

U15 Boys - Eoin Donnelly, Ciaran McGuigan & Nick Whelan.

U15 Girls - Tegan McGurk, Ciara McKee, Niamh O'Connor, Cara O'Kane & Eva Ramsey.

U17 Boys - Fionntan Hill, Noel McGuigan & Conor McKee.

U17 Girls - Abaigh Gribben, Maria McGuigan, Siùn McGurk & Ciara McKee.

Memorable Moments 2018



Players of the Year 2018

Div 1 Men – Matt Hanna

Div 1 Women – Irene Tenchini

Div 2 Men – Adam Cushley

U19 boys – Yaseen Akhonzada

U19 girls – Kathryn Marron & Lauren Fegan

U17 boys – Noel McGuigan

U17 girls – Abaigh Gribben

U15 boys – Eoin Donnelly

U15 Girls – Niamh O'Connor

Heard in the stands

We want to commend all of Brugha's supporters who turn out to cheer on and encourage our teams – parents, players, former players and Brugha die-hards make their voices heard at our matches home & away.

Particular kudos to the U15 boys who cheered (along with some other clubs(!)) our U15 girls' team to victory in Galway, but also to our boys' and girls' teams at the U19 cup in Limerick who made their presence known. Long may it continue.