DROMINTEE GAC JUVENILE REPORT 2026

PRESENTED AT DROMINTEE GAC JUVENILE ANNUAL PRESENTATION

24th OCTOBER 2026

DROMINTEE JUVENILE SECRETARY REPORT

This report seeks to review the juvenile football scene in Dromintee and provide an overview of the playing activities that took place in 2026.

2026 saw a continuation of the excellent work going on within the local schools with both Dromintee PS & Jonesborough PS again represented at the Malachy Mc Geeney schools finals in May 2026. Both schools participated strongly in the various games and reached finals with both Jonesborough and Dromintee boys teams winning their respective competitions.

Jonesborough PS had real reason to celebrate given their school's 180th Year celebrations when they won their second successive Malachy Mc Geeney competition. Both schools have active support coaches to support them which has meant that schools football continue to flourish for both boys and girls teams.

At Go games levels there is strong participation from the children of the parish and large numbers of children are availing of the excellent coaching and football that is on offer. Reading through the various juvenile reports it is clear that there is a lot of volunteer hours going into coaching underage football teams with significant numbers of training sessions, matches being played by the various teams.

Why is this so important?

Gaelic football needs to be on a footing where it competes successfully with other sports for participation. While there are glamorous expectations from our young players to be the next 'soccer wonderkid' or rugby player with Ireland I have no doubt that the level of support and training going into support our juvenile teams in Dromintee is of a high level and which allows our children to choose their sporting career pathway. We can't be complacent however and we always need to strive to ensure that our Go Games programmes and juvenile football experiences compete positively with other sports.

The success of our school and Go Games participation levels means the club need to think outside the box in ensuring that we can adequately compete against other sports.

In 2026, I note the increasing cross over of experience coaching support between our underage teams which is a novel approach to coaching of our underage teams together with the success of football hubs that compliment and support the Go Games set up in Armagh. This puts extra demands on the coaching structures within the club. The professionalism and skills gained by running our annual underage blitzes means that we have a lot of people with skills now to deliver these underage hubs in a positive manner.

The club should always seek to upskill and provide coaching opportunities and there is always a need for new coaches coming forward. At some age groups there are upwards on 10 – 14 local people being used to support teams. More people from the female side of the club should consider getting involved and this is something that needs to be addressed going forward. An obvious answer should be recruitment of ex-players to help support the female teams. We are fortunate to have the excellent 'Sports Inspire

Programme' managed by Sheila walker, which provides a necessary and positive juvenile support to our teams.

I acknowledge the success of our Boys U 14 team in winning the Division 1 Championship beating Crossmaglen in the County Final displaying a high level of skill and team play in the process. The success of this team ensures that the Dromintee football club will have additional talent pool coming through to support the Minor teams of 2025 and 2026. The U 14 team have a good range of exiting prospects who are adapt with both feet and their skill level and team play is particularly impressive.

Likewise the winning of the club's third Minor Girls Division 1 championship crown - the first in sixteen years - ensures that girls football is in a strong footing going forward. This team are a relatively young team with 13 out of the starting team all available again in 2028. They now move onto an Ulster Championship campaign which is exiting and follows the proven route of their male minor counterparts in 2025.

Commitment to gym work is now a necessary requirement for underage players and the club have now rolled out a strength and conditioning programme for all levels. Together with 'Yoga' training the winter programmes are now key component features for our underage teams with much good work being done well in advance of season commencement.

Facilities are critical and the club are actively working on ambitious plans for supporting this in 2027 and beyond. We ask everyone to get in behind the fundraising committee in the years ahead to further improve our facilities and provide our youth with the best facilities and supports that they deserve.

I wish to acknowledge the work of all our coaches and volunteers who are ensuring that all our children get an opportunity to participate and develop through the organising of mini hubs and blitzes. The approach being adopted by Dromintee GAC is clearly working and the work and support to both local schools is paying dividends.

Our well regarded underage juvenile blitzes were once again played over the two weekends and were the biggest ever in the clubs history. The 2026 Blitz committee really excelled and should be commended for their work. The influx of teams from all over the Country is a tribute to the Club and they are invaluable components of the Juvenile year both for the club and our players. These exemplar underage blitzes are a great advertisement of the club and its facilities and ensures Dromintee GAC are at the cutting edge of underage juvenile competitions in Ulster and beyond, all played in a structured and organised format.

The 2026 Dromintee minor team have reached their second successive minor final which is a huge achievement for the club and testament to the underage structures created within the club. This team have had to wait until November (more than ten weeks after their championship quarterfinal victory over Clan Na Gael in August) to reach the latter stages of the championship which was held up over an unsuccessful appeal against one of the quarterfinal matches. They now play Cullyhanna hoping to emulate

the Dromintee minor team of 2025 by bringing home for the second time the Armagh Minor Club Championship trophy.

As some teams are taking a well-deserved rest, it is a tribute that the club's two minor teams (boys and girls) are still out training and preparing for important fixtures at County and Ulster levels ahead. In reality the Dromintee club is a 12 month of the year operation and the results on the football pitch are key timelines in the Dromintee journey and reflect positively on our club.

I wish to extend my thanks to the many voluntary coaches, parents and children who continue to provide their time and energy in keeping our native games strong in our club and I wish you every success in 2027. I also commend both our local schools and their teachers and management committees for continuing to work alongside our coaching committee in ensuring that Gaelic football and its accessibility continue to prosper and develop within our schools. I wish to thank all those officers who have assisted in making the underage season successful particularly those officers who are not always publicly seen but who deal with our club memberships, safeguarding and child protection, our field committee our club fundraisers who ensure we have adequate kit and allow us to go to other venues or blitzes. I acknowledge the team who promote our games on social media and who ensure that we keep communications available for our memberships and those other people both within and external to the club who promote our games.

Finally, to juvenile sponsors for 2026 we thank you for your support and encouragement towards our juvenile teams throughout 2026 and we earnestly hope that you will continue to support us into 2027 and beyond.

Declan Conlon
Dromintee Juvenile Secretary

Dromintee Football Committee Review 2026

Overview

The Football Committee is responsible for the planning, coordination, delivery and review of all football-related activity within the club. This includes coaching appointments, coach development, player support structures, pitch scheduling, equipment provision and the overall development of our football programme. Committee members contributed their expertise and time across a wide range of tasks, ensuring the continued progression of football within Dromintee.

Coaching Values

Chaired by Declan McBennett, the Football Committee remains committed to the coaching principles that underpin player and team development across the club. Maintaining these values across all age groups has helped create a consistent approach to player development and team performance.

Dromintee GAC Coaching Values:
A. Aggressive Competition for the ball - Deny possession, tackle, block, first touch, etc
B. Fast movement of the ball - Kick early, support the ball, etc
C. Carry yourself with pride - Conduct, communication, standards, etc.

Delivery of Programmes

One of the most significant areas of progress during the year has been in Athletic Development. The previous approach up to and including minor was embraced fully by both senior teams this year, with progress achieved. An athletic development pathway has been established (see attached) across DP Fitness and the work of Eoin Moran. While this area requires significant investment and resources, it is a critical aspect of developing well-rounded athletes. Further work will continue to strengthen the integration of athletic development within our overall player pathway.

The committee recognises the importance of primary school coaching as a cornerstone of long-term club development. Early engagement introduces young people to Gaelic Games, develops fundamental skills and strengthens connections with the club. We thank all those who contributed to coaching in our partner schools, with particular recognition for Philly McEvoy, Declan McCoy, John Fearon, Gareth McCoy, Martin O'Rourke and Oliver Gaughran for their outstanding contributions.

The Football Committee continues to benefit greatly from the support of the club executive for the delivery of programmes. As our ambitions and development plans expand, the need for resources increases accordingly. The continued backing received has enabled the committee to deliver a number of important initiatives throughout the year.

Terms of reference (attached) was agreed at the beginning of the year to help manage the committee's governance and responsibilities but the work continues to evolve. Key aspects of the work this year are included below.

Football Committee Key Areas of Responsibility	
Team Management Appointments	County team nominations
Coach education and development	Parent education and engagement
Ongoing coach support and mentoring	Blitz and tournament coordination
Player support services	County board representation
Equipment provision	Player recognition and awards
Training and match scheduling	Cáirde Dhromainn Tí initiatives
Winter development programmes	Club coaching & games development
School engagement	End-of-season reviews

Coach Development

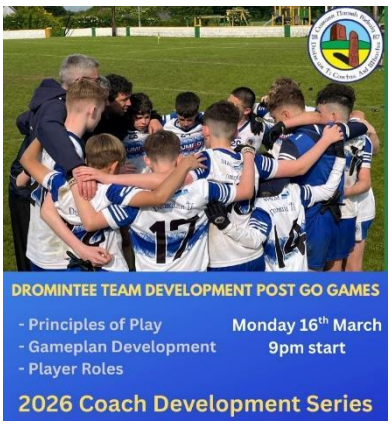
Coach development remained a key priority throughout 2026. All coaches were supported in achieving, at minimum, the GAA's foundation-level coaching qualifications, while a number progressed to Level One accreditation in partnership with county coaching personnel.

In addition to formal qualifications, the committee delivered a series of developmental workshops designed to enhance coaching practice. A particular focus was placed on Go Games coaching, outlining the club's player-centred approach and reinforcing the principle of prioritising long-term development over short-term results.

Parents were also invited to participate in educational sessions, helping them understand the developmental rationale behind our coaching practices and the positive behaviours and standards expected throughout the club environment.







County Representation

The club continues to be well represented across county development squads and county teams, reflecting the quality of players, coaches and volunteers within Dromintee. At senior level, Aaron McKay and Aoife McCoy continue to serve as excellent role

models, setting standards that inspire younger players progressing through club and county pathways. Both captured Ulster titles with Armagh in 2026.

Team	People involved with Armagh GAA Teams
Senior	Aaron McKay, Diarmaid O'Rourke
U20	Fergus Toale, Diarmaid O'Rourke, Tomas Fox, Gavin O'Rourke, Fionn Toale
Minor	Scott Harris, Oisin McCrink, Peter Rice & Aodhan O'Neill
U16	Aodhan O'Neill
U15	Daibhi Carr, Miceal O'Hanlon, Daithi Carnegie
U14	Pearce Conlon, Andrew McNally, Jude Garvey, Paraic McGenity, Junior Winters

Team	People involved with Armagh LGFA Teams
Senior	Aoife McCoy, Philly McEvoy (Coaching), Shauna Carnegie (FLO)
Minor	Alannah O'Neill, Sadhbh McKeever, Lily McBennett, Caitlin Carnegie, Declan McBennett (Coaching)
U16	Emma Toale, Ava O'Neill
U14	Molly O'Neill

This level of representation is a testament to the commitment of players, coaches and families and highlights the strength of the club's development structures.

Secondary & Further Education Teams

The Football Committee strongly encourages our players to pursue opportunities at school, University and county level as part of their overall development journey. Experiencing different coaching environments helps broaden players' understanding of the game, develops confidence and provides other routes for younger players. Dromintee players continue to be represented across several secondary schools, including St Paul's, The Abbey, St Joseph's, St Mary's, Our Lady's and Sacred Heart.

The committee was pleased to contribute to the Review of Gaelic Games at St Paul's during the spring, recognising the close relationship between the school and one of its principal feeder clubs.
There were also significant on-field achievements for Dromintee players during the year.

At U16 level, Our Lady's Newry secured a provincial "A" title with four Dromintee representatives involved, while seven Dromintee players were part of The Abbey squad that captured the MacRory Cup. These successes highlight the positive impact our players continue to make beyond the club environment.

Challenges

There are always areas we want to improve with player and team development in mind. Central to all of our coaching is the appointment of a Lead Coach at every level that can co-ordinate a coaching team and ensures the delivery on pitch is of a consistently high standard and in line with the club coaching values. It remains a challenge to ensure we have that network of lead coaches in place.

Successes

Trophies will never be the measurement applied to success within the club. The volume of strong, consistent coaching at all levels speaks for itself when you assess our player and team development. The headline development story of the year is probably the steps forward by our senior team, which has been infused by the number of graduated minors to the squad. Promotion to ACL 1A for 2027 and a championship semi-final are good markers of progress with the promise of more to come.

However, pride of place this season on the pitch is shared by our Minor Girls and u14 Boys, who both captured their respective championships in style. I would like to commend the coaching around both squads and the subsequent evolution of both players and teams across the season.

As it occurred in 2026 and since our 2025 review, it is worth acknowledging the 2025 Minor Boys Team's historic success in winning the Ulster Minor Club title on New Year's Day.

Overview

2026 has been another productive year for football development within Dromintee. The continued commitment of coaches, players, parents, volunteers and administrators has enabled the club to continue to strengthen its development pathways, enhance coaching standards and increase representation at school and county level.

While significant progress has been made, the committee remains focused on continuous improvement and delivering the best possible environment for every player to develop, enjoy the game and represent Dromintee with pride.

2026 Football Committee			
Declan McBennett (Chair)	Philly McEvoy	James Daly	Shane McNamee
Aidan O'Rourke	Aaron McKay	Martin O'Rourke	Sinead Kerr
Ray Harris	Declan Conlon	Peter Rice	

Aidan O'Rourke (Coaching Officer) on behalf of the Football Committee.

Dromintee GAC Juvenile Chairperson Review

It is with great pleasure and privilege that I compile this Dromintee GAC Juvenile overview of the past 12 months through my role as Juvenile Chairperson. Upon taking up my role last November my remit was quite simply to continue the superb work of my predecessor Declan McBennett and continue to make our juvenile environment a place where our young members can flourish and feel part of the Dromintee GCA family.

My 12 months in the role started off in spectacular fashion as our Minor Boys embarked on a journey through the Minor Ulster Championship during the Festive & New Year period bringing a whole new level of excitement to the festive season for us all. The trips to St Pauls in Belfast will live long in the memory as our minor lads saw off the challenges of Tyrone Champions Ardboe, Derry Champions Dungiven on St Stephen's Day and finally began 2027 by disposing of Monaghan Champions Clontibret on New Years Day to become the inaugural Dromintee Minor Ulster Champions to sit alongside their feat of being the clubs first Armagh Minor Championship winning team. A phenomenal achievement and I would like to thank the lads & their mentors for providing us all with memories that will last forever including the celebrations in the Club that New Years Night when it felt like the whole community, young & old, were there celebrating the Club being crowned Kings of Ulster at Minor level.

In many ways that success was the launchpad for another fantastic year for the club. Our U6.5s, U8.5s and U10.5s all took great encouragement from the boy's success of the Winter and the participation numbers during the Winter programme, and indeed when 2027 season kicked off in January, were reflective of this. All age groups availed of the use of the JADE Centre from November right through to almost April given the extreme wet weather to that point. I would like to personally thank all within the Club and beyond that were responsible for making this space available for our juvenile members as it served as an excellent safe space during those winter months to ensure all our kids got the opportunity to commence their season without delay and not be dependent on weather conditions as to whether or not training would take place which is critical when focusing on maintaining high participation rates.

Over the season it was a pleasure seeing our younger cohorts engage in various Go Games matches, Hubs and blitzes and they all showed great pride in wearing the Dromintee Jersey.

The highlight of the year yet again was our Festivals of Football which took place across 2 weekends in the middle of August. Almost 1,500 kids came through Dromintee's gates over the 2 weekends to showcase their GAA Skills against clubs from all over the country. 92 teams representing 56 clubs from 16 different counties made this the biggest Festival of Football in the club's history. Only made possible by the dedication, work & commitment of our volunteers. Whilst the dozens upon dozens of positive messages left by visiting clubs made us all feel very proud, it was the performances of all the boys & girls on the pitch that brought most satisfaction to us all and made memories for the kids that will last a lifetime & made the months of preparation all worth it. Whilst the main premise of the Festivals of Football is to promote both underage football and indeed our club to clubs from across the country it also acts as a welcome fundraiser for the club and again only for the massive efforts of our Blitz organising committee, parents and helpers this would not be possible so again a massive thank you to all that helped- those 2 weekends really do show our club at its very best!

It was also fantastic to see our u12s boy & girls play in competitive leagues this year and we thank the respective county boards for organising that as it provided a great basis for the kids as they move into the competitive u14 environment next year.

I would also like to acknowledge the continued success of our Primary Schools football coaching and pay special recognition to our two external coaches over the last 12 months namely, Caolan Laverty and of course Greg McCabe who has been a stalwart of this programme from its inauguration. I would also like to praise all our club coaches who give up their free time during the week to coach our kids at the schools respective afterschool sessions which are invaluable and not only allow kids to hone their skills but also allows kids who haven't perhaps experienced Gaelic football to get a feel for the sport and potentially join our club which without the afterschool sessions they perhaps would never of entered the gates of Dromintee GAC and this again has had a positive influence on our

participation numbers which is great. I would also like to congratulate Dromintee PS Boys team and Jonesboro PS team on their success back in May on winning their respective Malachy McGeeney Finals in the Athletic Grounds in Armagh. These successes have meant that over the last 3 years our Primary Schools have won six out of the nine Malachy McGeeney trophies available to them which is testament to all the coaching that taking place and to the skill and determination of our boys & girls in both schools.

More success followed later in June when our u14 boys won the Division 1 Championship by beating Crossmaglen in Athletic Grounds and the boys were on hand at our recent Juvenile Awards night to collect their championship winning medals. Across all grades the efforts of all boys & girls have to be commended as well as that of their coaches also. More success was to follow with our Minor Girls team securing the Armagh League and Championship double and they now will embark on their own Ulster Minor Championship journey, and we look forward to cheering them on in the weeks ahead.

Our Minor boys have qualified for the Armagh Minor final where they will play Cullyhanna and we wish them luck on trying to win successive Boys Minor Championships and indeed secure a unique double with our Minor Girls which would be a phenomenal achievement.

I would also like to congratulate all our players both at juvenile & senior level that have represented Armagh in the last 12 months as you continue to be an inspiration to all at our club and indeed represent our club with great pride at a national level. Warm congratulations to those who have won honours at county level this year including our 2 senior representatives Aaron & Aoife who both played their part in winning their respective Ulster Senior titles ensuring that both the Men's & the Ladies County teams hold the Ulster Senior titles in the same year for the first time in history.

Also, I would like to congratulate all our juveniles who represented their schools, primary & post Primary, with particular mention to our Our Lady's players who secured provincial 'A' title for their school and to Abbey CBS lads who secured the MacRory Cup in 2026 – an amazing achievement for both schools.

I would also like to commend both our Senior teams on reaching their respective Senior County Semi-Finals as these provided a great fillip for all our juveniles and gave us all great days out this season.

Lastly, a big thank you to all our committees and to our volunteers who I have seen first hand this year the incredible work that goes into the running of the club both on the pitch but also off the pitch. It is a great honour for me to a part of this club and to have fulfilled the role of Juvenile Chairperson for 2026.

I wish all members of the club continued success in the future.

Philly McEvoy
Dromintee Juvenile Chairperson

DROMINTEE & JONESBOROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL REPORTS

Jonesboro Primary School Report 2026

In our 180th year Jonesboro Primary School had a record-breaking year both on and off the pitch. Whilst winning the schools second successive Malachy McGeeney trophy was to many the highlight of the sporting year there were so many other record-breaking achievements that we would like to share below that go way beyond winning trophies;

- **Most Blitzes Ever Attended in 2026** - Jonesboro PS took part in 8 different blitzes throughout the year
- **Visited all local Secondary/Grammar Schools blitzes**
  - P5/P6 team visited St Pauls & won all games
  - P5/P6 Team visited St Colman's and lost in Shield Final in extra time
  - P6/P7 Team Abbey CBS Indoor Blitz and lost in Final in extra time



- **Most Matches Ever**- Overall the team competed in 52 different matches
- **Most players Ever**- Across those matches, 29 kids represented the school team



- **Most Debutants Ever**- Of those 29 kids, 11 represented the school for the first time, making their debuts
- **Biggest Afterschool Ever** - Further 11 kids from P4 took part in our Afterschool programme run by Johnny Fearon, Declan McCoy & Philly McEvoy ably assisted by Eamon Murphy meaning that 80% of kids between p4-p7 engaged with Gaelic Football in Jonesboro last year.
- **3rd Successive Bernie O Rourke Shield Winners** - The Boys Team also secured the Bernie O'Rourke Shield for the 3rd successive Year with wins over Killean PS, Meigh PS & Forkhill PS being the highlight.
- **Girls First Ever Jonesboro PS Jersey-** The Girls team also reached the semi-final of the Bernie O'Rourke Girls blitz and thanks to sponsor Gap O' the North donned Jonesboro PS first ever Girls team jersey



In what was an incredible year on the pitch, the School Team were only defeated once all season and for the 2nd season running won all 8 of their Malachy McGeeney group games and also a semi-final against our fellow finalists from last year St John's Eglish. A titanic battle against a very strong & physical Clady team in Malachy McGeeney Final was a great advertisement for competitive underage football. For the team to show the character, resilience and desire to grind out the win despite being a point down with 2 minutes to go shows the determination that this group had, and this will stand to them both on the pitch and off the pitch whilst moving on from Jonesboro PS.



Jonesboro Primary school would like to thank all their sponsors who have contributed in any way over the past 4 years without which the kids wouldn't have had such a fulfilling & rewarding experience . Particular thanks go to Johnny Fearon of the Gap O' the North pub in Jonesboro who sponsored new kit for the Girls team ensuring that for the first time ever Jonesboro PS have a dedicated team jersey for the Girls team going forward.



Our school year ended in a very prestigious manner when NMDC Chairperson Philip Campbell and Local Councillor Mickey Larkin took time out of their busy schedule to visit the victorious Malachy McGeneey team to recognise their achievement. A great privilege for our School and team to welcome both.



All at the school would like to thank Dromintee GAC for the use of their facilities and all-round support from all aspects of the club over the last number of years including the in-school coaching which has been taking place in the school over many years. This year we had Caolan Laverty in the first half of the year to take the kids for their in school sessions which all the kids loved and we thank Caolan for his time & efforts and are delighted to hear he's coming back again this Autumn. At the turn of the year Greg McCabe then continued his coaching with the school and he has a been a consistent contributor to the development of GAA in the school for many years now & we continue

to appreciate all his efforts and expertise. The school would also like to thank Packie McDonald for all his help over the past year regarding preparing the clubs facilities for use by the school.
Jonesboro would also like to pass on our congratulations to Dromintee PS Boys team on their respective Malachy McGeeney cup win in 2026 and it was a pleasure sharing the Athletic Grounds pitch with you all on what was a momentous day for both schools on 2026 School Finals Day.
To recognise this achievement Dromintee GAC arranged a special evening for both schools to come together and treat themselves to Pizza which was kindly sponsored by Fire Box Pizza and also a lap of hour at halftime of Dromintee Senior team match which was one of the highlights of the year.



Finally, we would just like to thank all the staff at Jonesboro PS, in particular Eamonn Murphy, who have all been instrumental to the success of the GAA Afterschool programme since its inception in September 2022 and we look forward to continuing this relationship in the new academic year to ensure all Jonesboro PS kids continue to get to experience all that the GAA offers!

Now onto 2026/ 2027 season!!

Jonesboro PS GAA Team Management.



Dromintee Primary School Report

Our after school program began in September 2025 led by Greg McCabe and supported by Nicole McKenna. The girls, and boys competed in plenty of schools football throughout the year, Carrickcruppen, Bessbrook , Silverbridge and the Abbey all held tournaments , with the most prestigious being the Bernie O'Rourke and the Malachy McGeeney competitions. The group stages of the Malachy McGeeney began in October, with the girls attempting to win 3 in a row. The girls section was incredibly competitive Dromintee winning 1, losing 1 and drawing 1. The boys came out on top in their first group with impressive wins over Meigh , Forkhill and Kilean PS, conceding only 2 points over the 3 games.



After school continued throughout the winter, both indoor and outdoor. On the 4th March the second group stage of the Malachy McGeeney , this time hosted in Dromintee. The girls put in 3 massive performances , sadly losing out to killean by the finest of margins , this ending their attempt for 3 in a row. The boys again came out on top in all three games setting up a semifinal against St. Josephs & St. James PS. The semifinal was held in Dromintee where the boys put in a determined performance to ensure the school had a day out in the Athletic grounds.



On the 29th April the Boys put on a clinical performance winning by 19 points to 9 , lifting the school's 2nd Malachy McGeeney in 3 years. The day was made even more exciting by our club mates Jonesboro PS winning their final to make it back to back titles. Our final blitz of the year was the Bernie O'Rourke blitz, unfortunately both our P7 and P6 boys came up short in there semifinals with our girls losing out in the final. A massive thank you to Vincy and Joanne Martin who kindly sponsored new jerseys for the boys, Colly & Hanagh McCormack for the new zip tops and Gareth & Fiona McCoy for sponsoring new gloves. Thank you to Desy McCoy for driving the bus to matches , Nicole Mc Kenna ,Richard Garvey and Aaron McKay for assisting with the coaching, our young referee's Caolon O'Rourke.



Dromintee Primary School GAA Team Management.

2026 Dromintee GAC Juvenile Teams

Dromintee U6.5 Go Games End of Year report 2026

The Dromintee U6 season began on 24th November in the JADE, where we completed three sessions before the Christmas break. These early sessions gave us the opportunity to welcome a new group of P1 children into Dromintee football, while also welcoming back our returning P2s and the JADE was a fantastic facility.

We have had very low numbers within the P2 cohort this year, with approximately 10-12 regular P2 children across the season. This did create some difficulties when it came to arranging games during the summer months, as a number of other clubs split their U6 teams into separate P1 and P2 groups for matches. While games at this age are purely about fun, participation and giving the children the experience of playing, this is something we may need to consider when planning for future seasons.

Despite this, we managed to arrange three games across the year against Carrickcruppen, Crossmaglen and Cullyhanna. These were fantastic occasions for the children, with over 30 children lining out in the Dromintee colours, many for the very first time. Most frustrating when opposition don’t bring the number of children they say they will, meaning our children had to play some parts against themselves.

One thing that deserves particular recognition is the behaviour of this group. It has been exemplary throughout the entire season. With around 30 young children regularly attending sessions, this makes a significant difference to the coaches and has allowed us to concentrate on making sessions active, enjoyable and focused on developing the basic skills of Gaelic football.

We encouraged them to move quickly, get involved, have a go and, most importantly, not worry when something didn't work or they fell down. Just get back up and go again.

Sinead Finnegan provided a new football for each P1 child in Dromintee and Jonesborough Primary Schools, helping to encourage the children to practise at home and hopefully introducing more children to the club. Unfortunately, we accidentally missed the P1 children attending schools in Killean and Meigh. This is something to bear in mind going forward so that any future initiatives can include children across all of our local schools.

At Easter, Maria and Shane McNamee very kindly sponsored an Easter egg for every child in the group, which was greatly appreciated by both the children and coaches.

Throughout the season, the children also benefited from coaching sessions delivered by Philly McEvoy and Marty O'Rourke from the Coaching Committee. It was great to have different coaches coming in to work with the children and bring new ideas and energy to the sessions.

Coach development was also a positive feature of the year. A large number of our U6 coaching team attended the coach development session on Saturday 23rd March, delivered by Marty and Shane. This was particularly worthwhile and helped us to continue developing the quality and structure of the sessions we were delivering to the children.

We remained in the JADE for the first part of the season before moving outside to the pitch in the middle of July. We consistently averaged approximately 30 children each Saturday morning, which was a brilliant turnout and demonstrated the enthusiasm of both the children and their families.



Later in the season, we moved training to Friday evenings ahead of the Festival of Football, which worked well and gave the children another experience of being around the club and the pitch on a busy Friday night.

We brought our season to a close on Friday 18th September with a final celebration for the children. Coach Connor kindly supplied party bags for everyone, while the club presented every child with a medal in recognition of their effort and participation throughout the year. It was a lovely way to finish what had been a very enjoyable season.

Looking Ahead

Overall, it has been a very positive year for the Dromintee U6s. The most important thing at this age is that children enjoy coming to football, feel part of Dromintee and want to come back again. Judging by the numbers regularly attending and the enthusiasm shown throughout the season, hopefully we have achieved that.

There are a few things we can take forward from the season:

- A number of children in the group were not permitted for photos.

- Continue to actively encourage new children to join, particularly with the smaller numbers currently coming through the P2 (now P.3) age group.
- When promoting U6 football or distributing items through schools, make sure we include children attending Dromintee, Jonesborough, Killean, Meigh and any other schools within our catchment.
- Continue to bring coaches from elsewhere within the club into U6 sessions. This helps the children become familiar with other club members and reinforces that they are part of the wider Dromintee club, rather than just their own U6 team.
- Above all, continue to keep U6 football focused on fun, participation, development and giving every child the opportunity to play.



Finally, a big thank you to all of our coaches who gave up their time throughout the season, and to everyone who helped or contributed in any way. Thank you also to the parents for bringing the children week after week and supporting what we were trying to do. Most importantly, thank you to the children themselves. Their behaviour, enthusiasm and willingness to get involved have been outstanding, and they have been a pleasure to coach.





The U6 Coaching team

- Sinead Finnegan
- Colum Grogan
- Connor McLelland
- Gavin Fearon
- John Kerr
- Kevin Carragher
- Niall Finnegan
- Noel Convery
- Sean Rice
- Shane Carroll

Dromintee U 8:5 End of year report 2026

The U8.5 season began on 16th January with an eight-week indoor programme at The Jade. With a large group this year, we ran two sessions each evening, one for P3 and one for P4, allowing the children plenty of opportunity to develop their skills.

We returned to Dromintee football pitches in March, moving to twice-weekly outdoor training. From March through to September, the group completed an impressive 39 training sessions, with 55 children making up our U8.5 panel.

It was a particularly busy year for matches and Go Games. Our boys and girls played Go Games against Mullaghbawn, Killeavy and Cullyhanna, as well as taking part in our own Festival of Football in Dromintee on 22nd August and finishing the season against Shamrocks on 20th September.

The boys also enjoyed games against Crossmaglen, Saval, Silverbridge, Carrickcruppen, Culloville and Bryansford, along with a trip to the 2017 Naas Blitz in July.

It was also a very positive year for our girls, with games against Killeavy and Carrickcruppen, alongside a busy programme of Girls' Hubs in Dromintee, Silverbridge and Shane O'Neill's, culminating in the All-County Hub in September.

Overall, it was a very busy and enjoyable season for our U8.5 group. The children showed great enthusiasm throughout the year and made excellent progress in their football skills. A huge thank you to all our coaches and volunteers who gave their time throughout the season, and to all the parents for their continued support in getting the children to training, matches, Go Games and blitzes.

Most importantly, well done to all 55 children who represented Dromintee throughout the year and made the season such an enjoyable one.

Is Mise Le Meas,

Kevin Fearon

On Behalf of U8 Management team

U8 Management Team 2026	U8 Management Team 2026
Marie Mc Coy, Majella Mc Evoy Emma Mc Court Michelle Tumilty	Dan Fanning Niall Finnegan Donal Mc Kenna Rory Sheridan
Ana Bergin - Gold Mark Mairead Martin - Gold Mark	Paddy Garvey Gareth Mc Coy Kevin Carragher Kevin Fearon

Dromintee under 10.5 Mixed End of Season Report 2026

The Under 10.5 Group, which consisted of P5 & P6 (now P6 & P7) Boys & Girls, commenced their 2026 season with a 4 week winter pre-season program across November and December 2025. After a Christmas break, the season kicked off with the first training session on 21st January. The boys season finished on 20th September with a Mini All Ireland at St Jude's, Dublin.

The girls finished up on 3rd October with a home event hosting Dundalk Gaels. The group finished up together that evening of 3rd October with a trip on the official Armagh team bus to the Athletic Grounds (via McDonald's) to watch Dromintee v Killeavy in the Senior semifinal.
Over the course of the season there were ninety-one (91) sessions in total between trainings, Go Games, blitzes, etc. The use of the JADE over the early part of the season was a welcome option given some extremely poor weather conditions.

Players
There were 48 children in the group, consisting of:

- 18 P6 Boys
- 12 P5 Boys
- 14 P6 Girls
- 4 P5 Girls

The attendance overall was quite good. However, with the P5 boys group the attendance and responses on Club Zap were more inconsistent and in fact we had to pull out of 2 blitzes initially entered due to low uptake by the younger age group – these were u10 blitzes meaning the older boys in the group were overage so there was a reliance on the younger boys.

Go Games
We were scheduled to play 14 GoGames in South Armagh and played 13 of these. In general, games were played at mixed ability, however on a couple of occasions the games were more streamed. More often than not, we were a lot stronger than the opposition but did get a handful of good tight games.

No other clubs had girls playing at GoGames, it was boys only. We brought some girls to help make up numbers on a few occasions but in general it was boys only. We did bring the full group of boys and girls to Crossmaglen to match their all-boy numbers, but the general feedback was that the boys games were too rough for the majority of girls, and they did not enjoy it.
The appetite for Girls games and hubs from other clubs was disappointing this year.

Blitzes

The boys attended a number of blitz type events this year. In general, we graded teams at these as other teams did. The coaches are extremely happy with the performances at these events. The Blue team were unbeaten in group stages across 4 different blitzes and despite not going on to win anything, the performances, work effort, and attitude were always top class. The White team faced some difficulties but also put in some excellent performances, notably at the home blitz and Culloville where they reached a final.

A real positive was at St Paul's Lurgan where the referee on our pitch came over to the boys after to say they were the best team he had seen all day and, as importantly, the team with the best attitude and discipline.
A negative occurred at the final blitz when one of our players was subjected to inappropriate language from an opposition coach and this matter was dealt with by the club afterwards.

The Dromintee Festival of Football was the highlight of the season with both boys teams performing very well and we were glad that the hard work put in all year was showcased on the biggest day at the club with a large attendance. Thanks, must be extended to all who helped out in any way in the running of the festivals, a massive success as always.

Coaches
As always, the season requires a lot of effort from volunteer coaches. At u10.5 level this is always difficult due to large numbers, boys and girls mixed and different age groups within that, e.g., u9.5 and u10 games as well as u10.5. The coaching team comprised of:

- Declan McCoy (Lead Coach)
- Declan Hynes (Girls Lead)
- John Fearon
- Noel Convery
- Thomas Callan
- Breean Weldrick
- Padraig Keating
- Paddy Garvey
- Eamon Power
- Rory Sheridan
- Barry McManus



The female coaches were:

- Marie McCoy
- Ciara Fearon
- Andrea White

Something to review perhaps is additional female coaches getting involved.

Summary

Overall, the coaching team feel the season was a success with the key positives being the basic skills development of all the players which was then reflected on the field at end of season blitzes. In particular, the use of the “Bonus sock & wristband” to develop the non-dominant foot and hand was a success – it was evident on the pitch and as well as this the children enjoyed this element more than expected at such a young age.

Dromintee U 10.5 Girls End of year report 2026

This was a very successful year for the girls involved in the Under 10.5 girls football. The girls trained twice weekly along with the under 10.5 boys and several times we had our own sessions. We had 22 girls in total on the panel with a high uptake at both training sessions and hubs. It was wonderful to see some new girls enter the panel this year. Coaches involved were Declan Hynes, John Fearon, Eamon Power with Ciara Fearon as F.L.O. and Andrea White also acting as a F.L.O. Student Coach, Emma Toale.

We had some trips away from home in late April and early May to Carrickcruppen, Killeavy and Mullaghbawn. These games were all played in a friendly spirit with all girls getting plenty of game time.









In early June we hosted Silverbridge, Shamrock Gaels and Killeavy to Dromintee for our home hub. Our home hub was a superb success with 6 teams involved and plenty of high quality football on display.





Shamrock Gaels invited us up in mid-June for their own hub. We played some terrific games of football, building on the work we have been doing in training. Matches were against Shamrocks, Mullaghbawn and Crossmaglen Rangers.
On the 12th of August we held our training session along with the boys during a dramatic solar eclipse!! Our bonus foot luminous orange socks coming in very handy.

Our highlight of the year was our participation in and running of the Owenie Rocks festival of football on August 16th. The girls won all their group matches, playing Glen Emmets, Pearse Ogs, Dunshaughlin & Warrenpoint and made it all the way to the final. Losing out to a strong and experienced Killeavy side. Our own Ellie May Molloy picking up a recognition award for her fantastic efforts during the tournament. The home support on the day made all the difference.



In early September we travelled up to Lissummon playing fields for an end of season hub, games against Forkhill, Killeavy and Shamrock Gaels, all played in good spirit and with some great football on display.



Our season ended on Saturday October 3rd where we hosted Dundalk Gaels in a series of matches, this was followed by a team trip to the Box it Athletic grounds in Armagh to watch the senior men play Killeavy.

The girls have had a tremendous year of football, plenty of fun and laughter along the way, and they can be very proud of their efforts all year. They represented the club with great distinction and gained valuable experience with every training session, match and hub.

Declan Hynes on behalf of the U 10:5 Girls Management

Dromintee U 12 boys End of Year Report 2026

It was another busy and highly successful season for our **U12.0 team**. Our management team this season consisted of **Shane McNamee** (Manager), **Philly McEvoy** (Lead Coach), **Gareth McCoy** (Assistant Lead Coach), and **Barry McManus** (Support Coach).

Winter Programme

Our new season commenced way back on 20th November 2025 with our structured winter programme.

- **Four-Week Bootcamp:** First up was a four-week bootcamp held in the Jade Centre in Jonesborough. Ian Woods, a trainer with the Irish Army, kindly came in to lead these sessions. We extend our sincere thanks to Ian for giving up his time to help the kids.
- **Eight-Week Gym Program:** Moving into the new year, Shane O'Neill put together a further 8-week gym program which ran until the end of February. We would like to thank Shane for dedicating his time to designing the routine and for generously loaning the group gym equipment for use in the Jade Centre.

Overall, the winter gym programme focused on fundamental athletic movements—including squats, lunges, push-ups, pull-ups, and core work. This served as a fantastic starting point for the players athletic development ahead of the competitive season. We were delighted that attendance levels remained excellent for the entire duration of the programme.

Our thanks also go to the club executive and the Jade Centre committee for organising the use of the Jade Hall, which proved to be an invaluable asset over the winter months.



U12 squad during the winter gym programme inside the Jade Centre.

Training Structure

Our on-field season started proper with our first Saturday pitch session on 10th January. Thursday evening training sessions began on 5th March, followed by an additional Monday skills training session which was introduced on 23rd March.

- **Monday Sessions:** 60 minutes duration focusing primarily on refined technical skills.
- **Thursday & Saturday Sessions:** 1 hour 15 minutes

We maintained this training frequency of three times per week (unless interrupted by a match) consistently throughout the season, with our final collective training session taking place on 1st October. From memory, we only had to cancel one single training session all year, and that was purely due to an official weather warning. This is an excellent reflection of the dedication shared by both our coaches and players.

Alongside focusing on the basic skills of the game, sessions were carefully planned to align with the core coaching values of the club:

- **Aggressive competition for the ball**
- **Fast movement of the ball**
- **Carry yourself with pride**
- **Tactical awareness**

The management team has observed a marked, visible improvement across the entire player group in all of these core areas over the course of the season.

Coach Swap Initiative

The juvenile coaching committee introduced a 'Coach Swap' initiative this season, and the U12 management found it to be hugely beneficial. We were fortunate enough to have two highly experienced coaches, Marty and Aidan O'Rourke, step in to lead two of our sessions. This gave the players a welcome change of voice. Just as importantly, it provided us as coaches with fresh drills and ideas to implement for the remainder of the season, while offering us independent feedback on the group's overall progress.

We strongly believe this is an initiative the club should continue going forward. Our sincere thanks to Marty and Aidan for volunteering their time and expertise.

Football Hubs

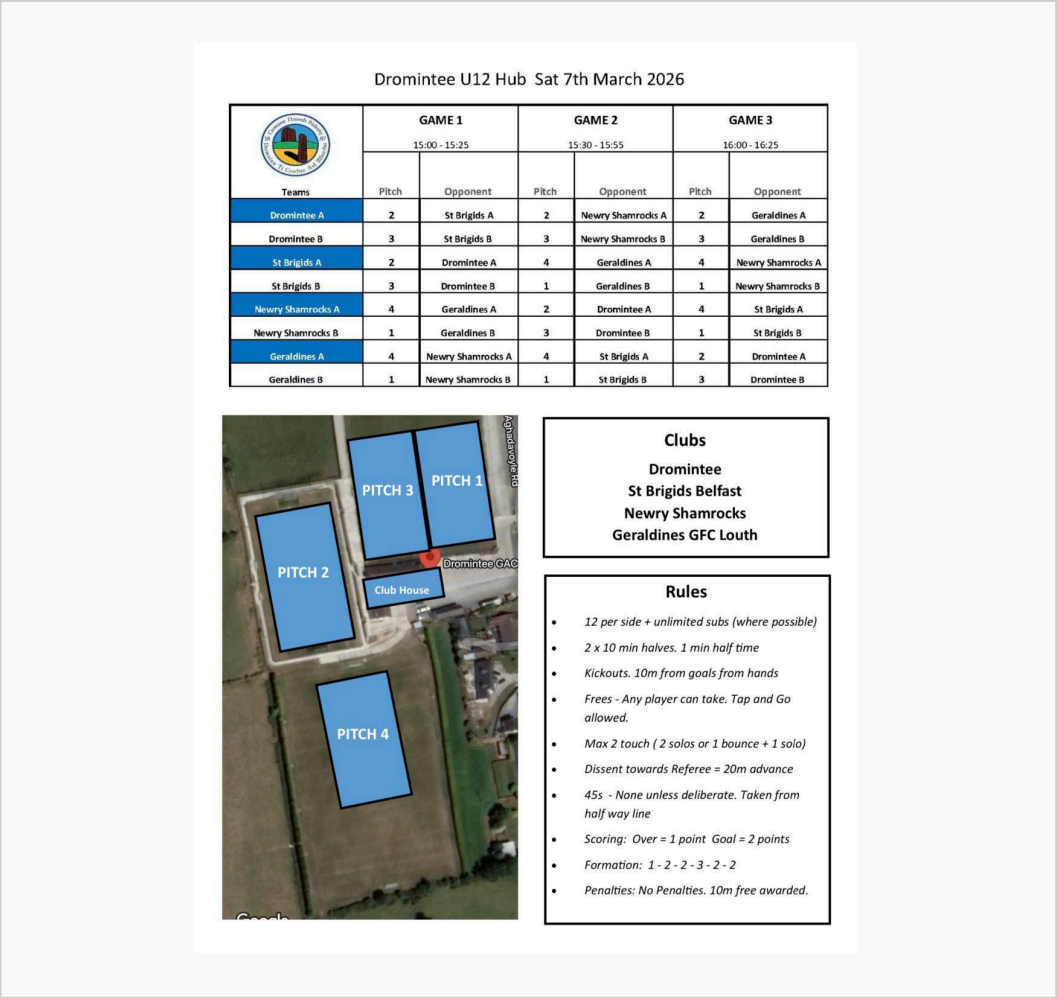
Building on the success of last season's strategy at both U10.5 and U12.0 levels, the coaching group made an early decision to prioritise hosting 'Football Hubs' rather than relying on standalone Go Games fixtures.

The primary difficulty with standard Go Games fixtures is finding opposing clubs with similar playing numbers to our own. We boast a strong core group of about 24 players (enough to comfortably field two teams). In single club Go Games, we frequently ran into opponents with smaller panels who could only field one team. This inevitably resulted in a large number of our boys standing on the sideline as substitutes, and it is our firm belief that players do not develop or learn by sitting on the bench.

The Football Hub format was explicitly designed to fix this issue:

- **Handpicked Opposition:** Selected clubs with similar playing numbers who could also travel with two distinct teams.

- **Streamed Tiers:** Teams were evenly streamed into two separate sections to ensure games remained highly competitive and balanced.
- **Round-Robin Format:** Each club played against one another in a mini-tournament format, allowing the boys to test themselves against several unique teams on the same day.
- **Maximized Game Time:** We aimed to match exact numbers so there were zero substitutes, ensuring every single player received maximum minutes on the pitch to aid their development.



Dromintee U12 Hub Sat 7th March 2026

Teams	GAME 1 15:00 - 15:25		GAME 2 15:30 - 15:55		GAME 3 16:00 - 16:25	
	Pitch	Opponent	Pitch	Opponent	Pitch	Opponent
Dromintee A	2	St Brigids A	2	Newry Shamrocks A	2	Geraldines A
Dromintee B	3	St Brigids B	3	Newry Shamrocks B	3	Geraldines B
St Brigids A	2	Dromintee A	4	Geraldines A	4	Newry Shamrocks A
St Brigids B	3	Dromintee B	1	Geraldines B	1	Newry Shamrocks B
Newry Shamrocks A	4	Geraldines A	2	Dromintee A	4	St Brigids A
Newry Shamrocks B	1	Geraldines B	3	Dromintee B	1	St Brigids B
Geraldines A	4	Newry Shamrocks A	4	St Brigids A	2	Dromintee A
Geraldines B	1	Newry Shamrocks B	1	St Brigids B	3	Dromintee B

Clubs

Dromintee
St Brigids Belfast
Newry Shamrocks
Geraldines GFC Louth

Rules

- *12 per side + unlimited subs (where possible)*
- *2 x 10 min halves. 1 min half time*
- *Kickouts. 10m from goals from hands*
- *Frees - Any player can take. Tap and Go allowed.*
- *Max 2 touch (2 solos or 1 bounce + 1 solo)*
- *Dissent towards Referee = 20m advance*
- *45s - None unless deliberate. Taken from half way line*
- *Scoring: Over = 1 point Goal = 2 points*
- *Formation: 1 - 2 - 2 - 3 - 2 - 2*
- *Penalties: No Penalties. 10m free awarded.*

Example of Dromintee U12 Football Hub.

The hubs have been an overwhelming success for player progression, and the external feedback received from visiting clubs has been incredibly positive. Over the season, we successfully hosted 6 Football Hubs, welcoming over 20 participating clubs from across 5 different counties. As a result, the boys played over 19 high-intensity games with minimal to no time spent on the bench. In addition to the hubs, we also arranged a further 6 challenge matches throughout the year.

This high volume of game time has accelerated the development of all players, particularly those on the fringes of the squad who might otherwise have faced restricted playing time in a traditional league setup. The only drawback is the extensive logistical workload placed on our coaching team to coordinate and host these multi-team events.

To that end, I want to personally thank our coaches for the immense hard work they put in behind the scenes to make these days run like clockwork.

Tournaments & Blitzes

Over the course of the 2026 season, our U12s tested themselves in several high-profile tournaments across the region, putting together an incredibly consistent competitive record:

Month	Tournament / Blitz Location	Final Achievement
April	U12.0 Granemore Blitz	Cup Semi-Finalists
May	**U12.5 Clonduff Tournament**	**Shield Winners** 🏆
June	U12.0 Crossmaglen Tournament (Team A)	Cup Quarter-Finalists
June	U12.0 Crossmaglen Tournament (Team B)	Shield Semi-Finalists
June	U12.0 Clady Tournament	Cup Semi-Finalists
June	U13.0 Cooley Tournament	Cup Quarter-Finalists
June	U12.5 Ballyholland Tournament	Cup Final Runners-Up 🥈
July	**U11.0 Naas Blitz**	**Group Winners** 🏆
July	U12.5 Saval Tournament	Cup Final Runners-Up 🥈
August	U12.5 Derrylaughan Tournament	Cup Semi-Finalists
September	Culloville Blitz (U12 Section)	Cup Final Runners-Up 🥈
September	Culloville Blitz (U11 Section)	Cup Final Runners-Up 🥈
October	U12.0 Monaghan Harps Tournament (Team A)	Cup Final Runners-Up 🥈
October	U12.0 Monaghan Harps Tournament (Team B)	Shield Final Runners-Up 🥈

This standard of consistency—competing almost exclusively in the top-tier 'Cup' sections—reflects the exceptionally high standard to which this squad carries itself. It serves as a clear indication of the strong, deep panel of players progressing into U14 football over the next two seasons. The future potential for this group is excellent.



The U12 panel representing Dromintee St Patrick's GAC at the Crossmaglen Rangers Tournament.

U12.0 Armagh League

For the first time in a number of years, Armagh GAA provided structured football on a formal league basis at the U12.0 grade. Instead of grading teams by rigid divisions, the county split teams across 5 separate groups. However, almost all of the historically strongest clubs ended up concentrated into just two of those groups, and Dromintee was placed directly into one of these highly competitive sections.

League Format & Regulations:

- **Squad Size:** 13-a-side matches, played across a single round-robin format of fixtures.
- **Match Structure:** Three distinct 20-minute periods. Official scores were recorded only during the first two periods, while the final 20-minute period was strictly non-competitive to promote squad rotation.
- **Pitch Setup:** Matches were played between the two 20-metre lines using the full width of the pitch, providing an excellent transitional bridge before full-pitch U14 football.

League Match Record:

Home v Clan na Gael	**WIN**
Away v Crossmaglen	**LOSS**
Home v Wolfe Tones	**WIN**
Away v Pearse Óg	**WIN**
Home v Carrickcruppen	**LOSS**
Away v Madden	**WIN**



Some of The Dromintee U12 league panel.

Overall, the league campaign proved highly beneficial from a Dromintee perspective. Several innovative rules implemented by the county board worked very well:

- **The 5-Goal Rule:** A novel rule stating that a team could only register further points once they hit a maximum threshold of five goals. This successfully prevented lopsided 'cricket scores' against developing sides.
- **The Non-Competitive 3rd Period:** Ensuring a mandatory, non-competitive final period guaranteed that every member of the squad received a minimum of 20 minutes of solid game time. It also gave squad players a brilliant platform to stake their claim for a starting jersey.
- **Non-Publishing of Scores:** Fixture results were archived solely as a 'Win' or 'Loss' rather than publishing actual scores, which prevented one sided results being publicly published.
- **Formal Match Day Protocols:** Enforcing strict team sheets and fixed jersey numbers gave the players excellent preparation for the step up to competitive championships.

Our singular recommendation to the county board would be to run this league earlier in the calendar year. Because it was positioned very late in the season, it extended our calendar by nearly a full month, clashing with the commencement of winter sports. While it didn't create major selection dilemmas for our squad, we are fully aware that neighboring clubs encountered significant numbers problems. All in all, the league was a fantastic addition to calendar, and we hope it remains a permanent fixture going forward.

Primary Schools Football

Philly McEvoy will be compiling a comprehensive, standalone report regarding our primary schools' football activities, so I will avoid duplicating those details here. However, it goes without saying that we are tremendously proud of our players' immense efforts and achievements at the school level. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all club coaches who invest their personal time into developing school football—with a special mention to our U12 mentors, Philly and Gareth, for their tireless work in this area.

U14.0 Championship Success

We would also like to offer our warmest congratulations to the Dromintee U14.0 panel on their historic Championship success earlier in the year. In particular, we want to highlight and congratulate the U12 players who stepped up and played an integral role in securing that silverware: Ceallum Murphy, Harry McNamee, Eoin O'Rourke, and James Byrne.

Concluding Thanks

As is evident from the depth of this report, it has been an exceptionally long and demanding season for the U12 group.

Between our hub tournaments, challenge matches, and weekend blitzes, we estimate our players have taken part in over 110 games this season—an extraordinary number by any metric. Our players, coaches, and parents have earned a thoroughly deserved winter break!

- **To the Parents:** Thank you for driving the kids to and from training sessions and matches all year round, and for your unwavering, positive support on and off the sidelines.
- **To the Coaching Team:** Thank you for your relentless hard work, dedication, and sportsmanship throughout the entire 2026 season.
- **To the Executive Committee & Volunteers:** Thank you to our groundskeepers and club volunteers who continuously provide the absolute highest tier of facilities and pitches for our youth players to enjoy.

Most of all, to our boys:

The coaching team feels incredibly privileged to have worked with this group over the past year. Not only are you exceptionally talented young footballers, but you are also a fantastic, respectful bunch of young men. No matter what challenges or physical demands we placed on you this year, you always carried yourselves with pride, worked your hardest, and gave everything for the Dromintee jersey. As coaches, we simply cannot ask for more than that. As long as you keep applying that work ethic, the future is incredibly bright for this team!

Signed,
The Dromintee U12 Coaching Team

Dromintee U 12 girls End of Year Report 2026



The 2026 Dromintee U12 Girls panel

Season of Progress

The 2026 season was a hugely positive first year of competitive football for most of our U12 girls. The team topped the South 1 Grading League, losing only once, before stepping up to the Mackin section of the All County League. The higher standard brought tougher results, but the girls kept competing, learning and improving, and their victory over Wolfe Tones was a deserved reward for their effort.

• Panel: 20 girls, including U10 players stepping up.

• South 1 Grading League: 7 games; group winners with only one defeat.

• All County League, Mackin section: 6 games; victory over Wolfe Tones.

• Season focus: player development and enjoyment.

Our Panel

Our panel consisted of 20 girls, with a significant number of U10 players stepping up throughout the season. Their contribution cannot be overstated: without those younger girls, we would not have had the numbers to fulfil our fixtures. They competed enthusiastically against older players, while the U12 girls welcomed and supported them as the group grew together.

The Season

South 1 Grading League

Dromintee played seven grading fixtures against Patrick Rankins, Michael O'Doirnin Emmets, Killeavy A, Carrickcruppen B, Shane O'Neills, Whitecross and Mullaghbawn A. The girls finished top of South 1 with only one defeat, an excellent achievement for such a young panel.

Mackin All County League

That success placed the team in the Mackin section, where we faced Madden, Clann Eireann, Middletown, Armagh Harps, Wolfe Tones and Silverbridge. The step up was considerable, but it gave the girls valuable experience against strong county opposition. The win over Wolfe Tones was the highlight of the league campaign and showed the progress being made.



Team memories from across the 2026 season

Standout Moments

Last Minute Winner Against Killeavy One of the moments of the year came in the grading league against Killeavy. With the last kick of the game, Dromintee scored a dramatic goal to secure victory against Killeavy. It was a brilliant finish to a tight game and captured the determination and never-give-up attitude the coaches encouraged all season.

All Ireland Semi Final Half Time Appearance

A truly special highlight was the girls being selected to play at half-time during the Senior Ladies All-Ireland semi-final between Armagh and Galway. Taking part in such a major

occasion was a rare privilege that many players may never experience. It gave the girls the chance to represent Dromintee on a national stage and created memories they will carry with them long after this season.

Sean McGenity Festival of Football

The Sean McGenity Festival of Football was another special day. Dromintee entered two teams, giving every girl meaningful game time. Both groups performed superbly, with one team reaching the Shield Final and the other reaching the Plate Final. Although neither team won its final, progressing so far in both competitions was a fantastic achievement and reflected the girls' effort, teamwork and determination throughout the day. Most importantly, they enjoyed their football, supported one another and represented the club with pride.

Our Club Coaching Values

Our coaching was guided by Dromintee GAC's three club coaching values. Alongside these, we placed particular emphasis on moving the ball quickly through the hands and supporting the player in possession, helping the girls develop confidence and understanding of the game.

• Aggressive Competition for the Ball - Deny possession, tackle, block and develop a strong first touch.

• Fast Movement of the Ball - Kick early and support the ball.

• Carry Yourself with Pride - Uphold standards of conduct and communication at training and in matches.





Festival football and the team spirit that defined the season

Inspiration and Development

A memorable part of the year was welcoming members of the Armagh Senior Ladies team. Meeting players from the senior county game gave the girls role models they could relate to and reinforced the standards of hard work, teamwork and pride that we promoted throughout the season.




Learning from the senior game and putting our coaching values into action

The Team Behind the Team

Role	Name
Coaching Team	Jack Maguire, Declan Hynes and Corann Larkin
GoldMark Student Coach	Grainne Laverty
Additional Female Liaison Support	Caroline Convery
Chief Cone Collector	Shauna Larkin

A sincere thank you to every coach, helper, parent and club volunteer who supported training, fixtures, equipment, transport and match days. Special recognition goes to Shauna, whose dedication ensured that no cone was ever left behind. A special thank you to Ruth Hynes and Ciara Fearon, who washed the girls' jerseys after every match throughout the season.

A special thank you also goes to the parents and volunteers who supported the Sean McGenity Festival of Football tournament, preparing sandwiches, helping at the coffee dock, cleaning and taking on the many other jobs needed throughout the day. Your time and effort made it a welcoming and enjoyable occasion for the girls and our visiting teams.

Looking Ahead

Overall, 2026 gave this group an excellent foundation. The girls experienced success, faced stronger opposition, built friendships and learned how to respond when games became difficult. Most importantly, they enjoyed representing Dromintee. The experience

gained by both the U12s and the younger girls playing up leaves the club with plenty to build on in the seasons ahead.



Season in Pictures

A season full of effort, skill, friendship and memorable moments on the field.



Play fast Compete hard Carry yourself with pride

Dromintee Boys U14 End of Year report 2026

Dromintee GFC – Season Review

Dromintee entered both the All-County League and Championship this season, with the group enjoying a very successful year and showing clear signs of progression throughout.

The Championship programme was completed before the summer holidays. Although the schedule initially seemed slightly rushed, in hindsight it proved to be a very good decision. With a number of players unavailable at different stages during the summer, it allowed us to field a strong team throughout the competition.

The boys went on to win the All-County Division 1 Championship, defeating Killeavy and Pearse Óg before overcoming Crossmaglen in the final. Winning the Division 1

Championship was an excellent achievement and a fitting reward for the effort the players had put in.
The league campaign was also very strong, with our only defeat coming by a single point against Carrickcruppen. Ultimately, that result proved decisive, with Carrickcruppen finishing two points ahead of us in the final standings. While disappointing, it was a valuable lesson for the players in the importance of every game and every result across a full season.
The year finished on another high with victory in the Charlie Grant Tournament, which included a win over Crossmaglen. Overall, the results speak for themselves: Division 1 Championship winners, a strong league campaign and Charlie Grant Tournament winners.



CHARLIE GRANT WINNERS 2026 PHOTOS

More importantly, however, there was clear development both individually and collectively as the season progressed. One of the biggest positives throughout the year has been the commitment shown by the lads. It was very rare to have fewer than 20 players at training, with numbers regularly approaching 30. This allowed us to create competitive and purposeful sessions and begin establishing the standards and culture of hard work that we want to carry forward.
The commitment to Strength & Conditioning with Shane and Eoin has been particularly encouraging. Numbers have consistently been excellent, and the lads' willingness to put in that additional work will hopefully benefit their physical development while also establishing good habits for the years ahead.
Another major positive has been the relationship between the management teams across the different age groups. In agreement with the U12 management, several U12 players trained and played with our group when required. Their involvement strengthened our sessions while hopefully providing them with valuable experience. Similarly, good communication with the U16 management helped ensure that players involved with both

teams were managed appropriately and were not being over-trained or over-played. This cooperation has been hugely beneficial and should continue.

One minor concern has been seeing some players, at different stages of the season, choosing other sports ahead of Gaelic football. This is something we have not really experienced with the group before. As the boys get older, hopefully their commitment will continue to develop, but equally it is important that we continue to provide an enjoyable, competitive and challenging environment that makes them want to remain involved. Overall, this has been an excellent season.

The trophies and results are obviously very pleasing, but the increased commitment to training and S&C, the development of the players and the culture beginning to emerge within the group are perhaps even more important.



ARMAGH COUNTY DIVISION 1 CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS 2026

Squad:
Pearse Conlon, Shane Rice, Feidhlim McKeever, Ronan McNally, Anthony McGeough, Luke McBennet, Dylan McCoy, Andrew McNally, Jude Garvey (Captain), Fionnán O'Rourke, Jack Begley, Pauric McGenity, Conall Phillips, Junior Winters, Fionn O'Neill. Subs used: Caellum Murphy, and Liam Finnegan.

Extended panel:
Shane Campbell, Daniel Loughran, Harry McNamee, Lughan Rice, Joe Kelly, Thomas Kiely, Logan Conlon, Ryan Toale, Fearghal McCoy, Donal McCoy, James Byrne, Dáire Laverty, Oran Toale, Joe Byrne, Brián Thompson

Looking ahead, Féile will become the major priority early next year, and the progress made this season gives us a very strong foundation to build upon.

I would like to thank all sponsorship and Parental support throughout the year.

U14 Management Team

Martin O'Rourke
Damian Phillips
Greg Mc Nally
Aidan Rice
Scott Winters

U14 Dromintee Girls End of Year report 2025

Introduction & Acknowledgements

Firstly, I would like to sincerely thank all of our coaches for their hard work, commitment and dedication throughout the 2026 season. The time and effort given by everyone involved played a huge part in providing a positive environment for the girls to develop, improve and enjoy their football.

Our coaching team for the season was led by **Shane O'Neill as Manager and Lead Coach**, supported by a fantastic group of coaches in **Michael McCreesh, Tara Clarke**

and Kevin Hanratty. During pre-season, we were also fortunate to have the support of **Conor Walker**, whose contribution helped us prepare the squad for the season ahead.

A special word of thanks must also go to **Caroline Convery**, who carried out the role of **FLO** throughout the season. Caroline did tremendous work behind the scenes, ensuring everything was organised and in place for the girls, as well as looking after the match-day jerseys and many of the important details that allowed things to run smoothly.

The commitment of everyone involved was greatly appreciated and was an important part of what we achieved together as a group throughout the season.

Season Overview

The 2026 season was a long but extremely rewarding year for our Dromintee U14 Girls, beginning with pre-season in early November and continuing through a demanding Féile, Division 1 League and Championship campaign.

Throughout the year, our focus was not solely on results. We wanted to provide an environment where the girls could develop technically, tactically and physically while enjoying their football, developing friendships and understanding the standards required to represent Dromintee.

Pre-Season Preparation

Our preparations began in **early November** with a six-week Yoga and Pilates programme in **Tí Chulainn, Mullaghbawn**, delivered by **Orlagh from Yoga Sanctuary**.

The response from the girls was excellent, with a large uptake and fantastic commitment right through until the final session on **19th December**.

Following the Christmas break, we resumed in early January with a further six-week Pilates block, running alongside a structured strength programme in **DP Fitness**.

We were very conscious that our Féile campaign was due to begin on **22nd February**, so it was important that the girls returned after Christmas ready to work.

Our pitch-based sessions began in mid-January and ran alongside the Pilates and strength programmes, with both our U14 and Féile squads training collectively.

This provided the girls with a comprehensive pre-season programme and allowed us to begin establishing the standards around **effort, attitude, commitment and work ethic** that would remain important throughout the year.

Féile Campaign

Unfortunately, our Féile campaign was short-lived as we came up against a very strong **Mullaghbawn** side.

While it was disappointing to exit the competition, the quality of the opposition became increasingly clear as the season progressed. Mullaghbawn went on to win the **Armagh Féile** comfortably before narrowly missing out in the **All-Ireland Final**.

The experience gave our young squad an early indication of the level required and provided valuable lessons that we were able to carry forward into our U14 League campaign.

Division 1 League Campaign

Once the Féile campaign concluded, our attention turned towards the **U14 Division 1 League**.

We knew from the outset that this would be a significant challenge. We had a particularly young U14 squad, with only **two girls in the older third-year age bracket**. Many of our players were therefore regularly competing against girls who were older and more physically developed.

The response from the group was outstanding.

The girls fully bought into the training programme and coaching philosophies. Their work ethic on the training pitch was excellent, and they demonstrated a real willingness to learn, improve and work for one another.

As the season progressed, we could see their confidence and understanding developing. They continued to compete regardless of the opposition and showed great resilience when games became difficult.

That commitment stood by us throughout the league campaign and the girls produced some excellent performances, eventually achieving a fantastic **second-place finish in Division 1**.

For such a young squad to finish runners-up at the highest league level was a significant achievement and something the players, coaches and club can be extremely proud of.

Championship Preparation

Following the league campaign, our attention switched to the **Championship in August**, where we faced a strong Clan Eireann side.

Our preparation leading into the Championship was very positive. Alongside our football preparation, we placed an emphasis on team building and giving the girls experiences together away from the normal training environment.

One of the highlights was a training morning on **Slieve Gullion Mountain**, followed by some well-earned treats in **McGuill's Café**.

A huge thank you must go to **Mickey and Stella** for looking after the girls and generously sponsoring milk and treats for the team.

Another highlight was a fantastic trip to Dublin, where we played **Raheny** in a pre-Championship challenge game before travelling to **Croke Park**.

It was a brilliant experience for the squad and another opportunity for the girls to spend time together as a team away from the normal training and match environment.

A special thank you goes to **Kevin Hanratty** for setting up the trip and organising all the logistics on the day. We would also like to sincerely thank **Raheny GAA Club** for their warm welcome and kind hospitality towards our players and coaches.

Championship

We felt our preparation going into the Championship had been good and the girls were looking forward to testing themselves.

In hindsight, the girls' blitz the day before the Championship match probably took more out of some of our younger players than we had anticipated.

Unfortunately, we didn't do ourselves justice on the day.

However, one thing that could never be questioned was the girls' effort. They worked tirelessly throughout the game against a well-organised, physical and aggressive **Clan Eireann** team and continued to compete right to the end.

The Championship result was disappointing, but one game certainly did not define our season or take away from the enormous progress this young group had made throughout the year.

There are also lessons for us as a management team around preparation and managing the players' workload going into important fixtures, which we can carry forward into future seasons.

Player Development

Player development remained at the heart of everything we tried to achieve throughout the year.

The combination of **Pilates, strength training, pitch-based coaching, competitive games and team-building activities** provided the girls with a broad programme of development.

As the season progressed, we saw improvements in the girls' confidence, physical capabilities, football skills and understanding of the game.

Most importantly, the players demonstrated a willingness to learn and challenge themselves.

For a young group to compete so consistently at Division 1 level was extremely encouraging. The experiences they gained this season – both the positive moments and the difficult ones – should prove invaluable as they continue their development.

Management Reflections

As a management team, we genuinely could not have asked for much more from the girls throughout the season.

From those first pre-season sessions in November through to the conclusion of our Championship campaign, they continually gave us their best.

Their **work ethic, attitude, commitment to training and willingness to learn** were a credit to them.

There were naturally challenges and setbacks throughout such a long season, but the girls continued to turn up, work hard and represent Dromintee with pride.

For such a young squad to compete consistently in Division 1 and ultimately finish **second in the league** demonstrates the potential that exists within this group.

More importantly, we believe the experiences gained throughout 2026 have provided the girls with an excellent foundation for the next stage of their football development.

Parents & Families

We would also like to sincerely thank all of the **parents and families** for their tremendous support and encouragement throughout the year.

Whether it was getting the girls to training, travelling to games, supporting from the sideline or helping behind the scenes, that commitment was greatly appreciated by the management team.

Youth football simply could not operate without this support, and we thank everyone who contributed throughout the season.

A Special Mention – Tara Clarke

Finally, a very special mention must go to our coach **Tara Clarke**, who experienced an incredibly difficult year following the sad passing of her father, **James. May he rest in peace.**

Tara has been a big part of these girls' football journey, and we were delighted to welcome her back to the coaching team during the season.

Her commitment to the girls and to Dromintee, particularly during such a difficult period personally, was greatly appreciated by everyone involved with the team.

Looking Ahead

The 2026 season has given this group an excellent platform from which to continue developing.

The fact that such a young squad was able to compete at the top level and finish **second in Division 1** should give the girls great confidence moving forward.

There is still plenty of development ahead. Our focus should remain on improving the girls technically, tactically and physically while continuing to provide an environment where they enjoy their football and want to represent Dromintee.

The work completed this year through strength training, Pilates, pitch sessions and competitive football has provided a strong foundation which can now be built upon. Most importantly, we want the girls to continue enjoying their football, challenging themselves and developing together as a group.

Final Word

Overall, we can look back on the 2026 season with a great deal of pride. Results will always form part of competitive sport, but the progress made by this group throughout the year goes far beyond results alone. The girls demonstrated **commitment, resilience, teamwork and an excellent work ethic**, and they represented themselves, their families and **Dromintee GFC** extremely well.

To every player who pulled on the Dromintee jersey this year – **thank you for your effort and commitment**. A special mention to our player Molly O'Neill who represented our club with distinction at county level playing a big part in the Armagh U14 team who won an Ulster Medal and losing out to a strong Cork side in the All-Ireland Platinum final.

To our coaches, FLO, parents, families and everyone who supported the team throughout the year – **thank you**. We look forward to watching this talented young group continue to develop and hopefully enjoy many more successful years representing Dromintee.

Shane O'Neill *Manager / Lead Coach*

<u>U16 Boys End of Year report 2025</u>

The U16 boys experienced a very challenging season in Division 1 in 2026, with player availability and commitment proving to be the biggest difficulty throughout the year. Preparation for the season began in October with weekly gym sessions, followed by

functional movement and athletic development sessions at the JADE Centre with Scott Winters during December and January.

Pitch sessions commenced twice weekly in mid-December, initially alongside the Féile team until the completion of their Féile campaign. From May onwards, the boys were also provided with two gym sessions each week, meaning there were plenty of opportunities for the players to train and develop throughout the season.

In preparation for the league campaign, the team played a good number of challenge games against Ballyhegan, St Brigid's Belfast, Newry Shamrocks, Kilcoo, Carrickcruppen, Annaclone, Mullaghbawn and Saval.

The Division 1 League began on 16 April with an away fixture against Silverbridge. The boys played Silverbridge, Killeavy, Crossmaglen, Clan na Gael, Pearse Óg and Armagh Harps both home and away, with the final league fixture taking place away to Armagh Harps on 3 September. The team recorded one league victory, against Crossmaglen, with the remainder of the league campaign proving extremely difficult.

The boys also faced Killeavy in the Championship quarter-final on 20 August, where they were defeated. The only fixture not played during the season was the Shield game against Pearse Óg.
Unfortunately, the major challenge throughout the season was the level of commitment from a significant number of the older players within the U16 panel. Despite an extensive programme of football, gym and athletic development sessions being made available, training numbers were regularly disappointing, with some sessions attended by only 6–8 players. This made it extremely difficult to build consistency, develop the team tactically and create the continuity required to compete successfully at Division 1 level.
However, it is important that the overall difficulties faced by the age group do not detract from the commitment shown by the core group of approximately 8–10 players who attended consistently throughout the season. These boys deserve tremendous credit. They continued to turn up for training and matches despite difficult results, low numbers and an unsettled team from week to week. Their attitude and reliability ensured that the team was able to fulfil the vast majority of its fixtures, and their commitment should be recognised as one of the major positives from an otherwise difficult season.

Special credit must also go to the U14 players who regularly stepped up to represent the U16 team. On numerous occasions, younger players were required not simply to make up the panel but to start U16 Division 1 games. They acquitted themselves extremely well

and demonstrated that they were more than capable of competing at the higher age level. Their willingness to help was greatly appreciated.

Ultimately, however, having to rely so heavily on U14 players highlighted the difficulties within the U16 age group. The ability of the younger boys was never in question; rather, the issue was that too many eligible U16 players were unavailable or unwilling to commit consistently. With such a small core group attending regularly, it was extremely difficult to establish a settled team or generate the competition for places necessary at Division 1 level, and this was ultimately reflected in the season's results.

While it was undoubtedly a difficult year in terms of results, the commitment of the core 8–10 U16 players should not be overlooked. They continued to represent the team throughout a challenging campaign and set the standard of commitment that is required. They, together with the U14 players who repeatedly stepped up to support them, deserve considerable credit for ensuring that the club continued to field an U16 team throughout the 2026 season.

U16 Management Team
Martin O'Rourke
Greg Mc Nally
Sinead Carr

Dromintee U16 Girls End of Year report 2026

2026 season was a tough year for our girls with our girls competing in Division one league and championship.

- 10 girls playing u16 and Up

- 3 girls only playing u16s
- 7 girls Playing u14 and up

With So many of the girls Committed to Other teams it Proved difficult to get all girls training together. For the majority of the season the u16s trained with the minor girls or minor / senior girls sessions with u14s training at their own age. In the six weeks running into championship we were able to get them together for u16 specific sessions once a week alongside their league game but there were some players who trained very inconsistently across the season.

Three of our girls represented our club at county level at U14 and U16. We would like to congratulate Emma, Ava and Molly who won their respective Ulster championships.

Our League saw the Girls play 9 League games,

Our first outing Resulted in a Draw Away to Mullaghbawn.

With 3 hard fought wins over Clan Na Gael, Wolf Tones & Cullyhanna

With Defeats to Clann Eireann x 2, Eire Og x 2, & Clan Na Gael

Championship saw the girls away to Eire Og, the game was fixed for the 29th of August and Unfortunately, it wasn't to be as Eire Og ran out Winners on the night.

The season saw multiple interruptions including exams and the Gaeltacht.

The Majority of year's group of Girls will be eligible to play U16 Football next season and can expect stern challenges in their Forthcoming seasons.

2026 Total Games 10 (9 League &1 Championship)

Games won 3

Games lost 7 (6 League &1 Championship)

U16 Management would like to thank Murphys Cost Cutter for their kind sponsorship of the jerseys.

We Would like to thank the players Parents for their continued support and commitment to the team throughout the 2026 season,



Dromintee Girls 2026

U16 Div 1 League					
Date	**Venue**		**Result**		
09/04/2026	Mullaghbawn		Mullaghbawn 3-5 Dromintee 1-11		
16/04/2026	Dromintee		Dromintee 4-6 Clann Na Gael 1-5		
30/04/2026	Clann Eireann		Clann Eireann 3-13 Dromintee 4-6		
07/06/2026	Dromintee		Dromintee 3-7 Eire Og 3-8		
14/06/2026	Cullyhanna		Cullyhanna 4-12 Dromintee 5-12		
02/07/2026	Dromintee		Dromintee 5-9 Wolf Tones 2-16		
23/07/2026	Eire Og		Eire Og 4-8- Dromintee 0-2		
30/07/2026	Dromintee		Dromintee 2-10 Clann Eireann 7-15		
06/07/2026	Clann Na Gael		Clann Na Gael 7-8 Dromintee 2-7		
U16 Div 1 Championship					
Date	**Venue**		**Result**		
29/08/2024	Eire Og		Eire Og 2-6 Dromintee 0-4		

Management Team: Aidan ORourke, Paul Toale, Grainne O`Rourke, Cliodhna McCoy

Dromintee U18 Girls End of Year report 2025.

Division 1 League & Championship Winners 2026.

The Dromintee minor girls were made up of a good few of the 2025 Feile Girls winners together with a cohort of girls who had played Division 2 only a couple of seasons ago to go on to win both the Division 1 league & championship in 2026 going through the entire season undefeated.

We started the season with huge win over local rivals Mullaghbawn and continued to grow from strength to strength through each league game. Management's only concern was the lack of competition in the league and knowing teams would be better come Championship.

Henry Mc Crink Minor 9 aside Cup Winners 2026:

Between the league and Championship the club held a boys & girls tournament in memory of our great friend and clubman Henry Mc Crink. We invited the best minor league teams from 6 different counties. It was a super day capped off by Dromintee winning the tournament and lifting the Henry mc Crink cup. The girls had to really dig it out in a few of the games and we then realised that these girls meant business.

Championship Campaign:

Championship started in early August and run off pretty quickly. We were again matched off against Mullaghbawn in the quarter final stage and then Mullabrack in the semifinals. Girls put in 2 really top performances coming out big winners in both games and putting us in the final against our old rivals Clann Eireann..



Armagh All County Minor Division 1 League & Championship Winners 2026

2026 CHAMPIONSHIP WINNING TEAM

Team
Caitlin McCann, Emer O'Neill, Sarah Murphy, Éabha McCreesh, Sinead O'Neill, Sadhbh McKeever, Molly O'Neill
Caitlin Carnegie, Alanna O'Neill, Caoimhe O'Rourke(Ava O'Neill) Lily McBennett, Pippa Mooney, Grace Conlon, Emma Toale, Caoimhe Byrne .

Subs : Grainne Laverty, Meabh Martin, Sally Byrne, Nicole McNamee

Management : James Daly, Fiona O'Neill, Marian O'Rourke, Martin Murphy, Sean Carnegie

Final score
Dromintee 4:11
Clann Eireann 1:16

The Championship Game was played on August 17th and after a super first half and a little bit rocky second we took the minor championship home for the first time in a long time. Great performance by the girls.

Winning every game of the season we played the team are currently preparing for an Ulster Minor club campaign.

I would like to take this moment from players, parents & Management to thank the club for the massive support and help all year..

Personally It's been a privilege to work with these girls over the last number of years and they are a credit to the club and our coaching team for getting them to where they are now.. Priority is to keep them at it and the sky's the limit.

I will be stepping down now and will let someone else take them to the next level.

James Daly Manager

The Minor girls management consisted of
James Daly
Martin Murphy
Sean Carnegie
Fiona O'Neill
Marian O'Rourke FLO

Dromintee U18 Minor boys End of Year report 2026

Minor Boys 2026 Report Our Minor team played out the first round of the league with 7 games in total. They were victorious in 4 of these with 1 draw and 2 defeats. The 2 defeats were in the first 2 rounds where the minor squad was lacking in numbers due to county commitments and injuries. We had 6 of our Minor panel represent our club at county level with Scott Harris, Oisin McCrink, Aodhan O'Neill and Peter Rice playing with the Minors while Gavin O'Rourke and Tomas Fox represented the club at U20's. We were also without the services of Charlie Fox who was returning from a long-term injury. To further pile pressure on the panel we were very unfortunate to lose Petie Rice in our first round game to a serious knee injury which would mean he would be ruled out for the remainder of the season. Petie has had his surgery and is making great strides to get back to contact football. With these players unavailable it gave other players the opportunity to stand up with the team grinding out a hard-fought draw against Crossmaglen in Round 3.

We then went on a winning run of 4 games in a row, showing a lot of quality with squad improving in very game. These results meant that we now qualified for the top 4 of the Division 1 league. This commenced with a good win away to Clan Na Gael. We were then due to play Killeavy in the next round however due to availability of players and a bereavement we did not field a team and unfortunately Killeavy were not in a position to accommodate a refixture date over the Month of July or August and therefore Armagh County board award the league points to Killeavy. This decision put an end to our chances of winning the league.

We then put a focus towards our championship campaign where we played a challenge game against Na Fianna in Dublin in preparation for our championship quarter final. This was a good test and ideal preparation as Na Fianna went unbeaten in the Dublin minor league. Unfortunately, in that game we lost our full back Aodhan O'Neill due to an ACL injury. Aodhan has had his surgery and is in recovery/rehab mode to get back from his injury and we wish him all the best with this. We played Clan Na Gael in our quarter final and played some good football while getting the result. This meant that we would play Silverbridge on Monday the 24th of August in the semi-final. This game has to date not been played due to an appeal by Carrickcruppen. We have managed to play challenge games against St Pats Lordship and Naas in anticipation that the appeal, which is now with the DRA will be resolved when they meet on the 15th of October.

The semifinal of the Armagh Championship eventually was fixed for the Sunday 1st November with Dromintee having to meet Silverbridge in the delayed semifinal. Played in Thomas Davis Corrinshego, Dromintee successfully navigated this hurdle when they beat Silverbridge 1:18 to 1:3 with an impressive second half performance against the wind restricting the opposition to just one pointed free in the second half. The team now focus their attention on Cullyhanna whom they meet in the final.

RAY HARRIS on behalf of the Dromintee Minor Boys Management 2026

Management Team
Shane Mc Coy; Ray Harris; Petie Rice; Stephen Dyas & Mark Mooney



Minor team in a huddle after beating Silverbridge in Championship Semifinal.



Dromintee Minors 2026 – Championship Finalists

Please accept my apologies for any errors or omissions in the text. The text and photos for this report have come from our many voluntary coaches and helpers who have helped

support Gaelic games in our club for 2026. Well done on the past year and look forward to having you all on board again in 2027.