AGHADERG G.F.C. & BALLYVARLEY H.C. NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO. 31 12/07/08

SENIOR FOOTBALL

The Senior footballers played at home to St John's on Sunday but lost 2-13 to 1-5 which was disappointing considering it was a tight contest until midway through the second half.

SENIOR HURLING

Senior Hurling League 08/07/08
Ballyvarley 5-15Castlewellan 1-9

It was a case of back to the future for Ballyvarley on Tuesday night when the return of several of their prodigal sons inspired a scoring spree that saw the Reds sweep through to a morale-boosting 18 point victory over visiting Castlewellan. The visitors were unfortunate to meet the Reds on such a night and after a hesitant start the home side slipped smoothly into gear, with James McGrath and Paul O'Neill providing the finish to some excellent outfield play.

The opening ten minutes belied the scoring display that was to come as both sides spurned several golden chances to hit the net. The Reds looked as though they were playing their first game of the season, and for some that was true, but gradually the rustiness disappeared and the game gradually sprung to life. A Paul O'Neill free in the 11th minute ended the deadlock and four minutes later the tireless running of Michael Cairns was rewarded when he followed up a loose clearance to strike a crisp ground shot to the corner of the net. The game had finally started and two pointed frees from Paul O'Neill were cancelled out by similar efforts from Castlewellan full-forward Raymond Cunningham, to keep just four pints between the sides. Martin O'Neill then burst through for the first point from play before Paul O'Neill and Paul Jennings both converted 65 yard frees for their perspective sides to leave Ballyvarley in front by five points at the interval.

Half time:
Ballyvarley 1-5 Castlewellan 0-3

There was much more action in the second period as both sides finally sprung to life. Two more points from free-taker Cunningham kept Castlewellan in touch but it was the Reds attack that carried the most menace as James McGrath fired over two rasping shots when goals seemed likely and O'Neill added another 65. Another close-range free was buried to the net by O'Neill thus opening up a nine point gap that left Ballyvarley in cruise control. However, as the home side eased off a little, Castlewellan took advantage and a period of dangerous attacks saw Cunningham slot over three more points before finally striking with a shock goal to reduce the deficit to just three points and suddenly it was game on again.

That was when erstwhile defender, James McGrath, staked his claim for a full-forward slot with a devastating hat-trick that stopped the Castlewellan revival in its tracks and steered Ballyvarley to their largest winning margin of the season. Three times he collected, went round his man and soloed through to drive the ball to the back of the net and each time the Castlewellan heads sank that little bit lower. It was virtually a procession after that with O'Neill and McGrath adding on seven more points for the Reds and Castlewellan managing only one further minor score in reply.

It was a great exhibition in front of the home fans, with the defence back in form and solid throughout, midfield in control and an attack producing the finish.

Final score:
Ballyvarley 5-15 Castlewellan 1-9

Team: Cathal O'Neill; Pat McGrath, Niall Higgins, John O'Neill; David Lavery, Eunan McConville, Thomas Lennon; Paul O'Neill(1-10), Ciaran Connolly; Martin O'Neill(0-1), Michael Cairns(1-0), Niall Savage; Colin O'Neill, Conor Grew, James McGrath(3-4).

Subs: Conor McClorey; Jamie Murray; Stewart Cartmill

UNDERAGE FOOTBALL

The next **minor football** game is on Wednesday 23rd July away to Drumgath.

The under **14 footballers** play Drumgath at home on 24th July.

The **under 16s** play Ballymartin at home on 22nd July.

The **under 12** footballers play away to Tullylish on Sunday 27th July.

Under 12 footballers train on Thursdays from 7-8pm.

Under 8/10 football coaching on Wednesdays from 7-8:00pm.

UNDERAGE HURLING

Down Minor Hurling League
St Patricks 2-17 Leitrim 5-6

St Patricks got their minor league campaign off to a winning start with a narrow two point victory over local rivals Leitrim in Ballyvarley. The Ballela/Ballyvarley combination could have wished for an easier game to get their season underway but in a fast-flowing, tough-tackling encounter they managed to get the narrow verdict in this clash of minor hurling specialists.

The game began at a thrilling pace with Jamie Murray's brace of points being quickly cancelled out by the Leitrim attack. Paul O'Neill then gave the home side the lead before a fast moving Leitrim attack scythed through the Red rearguard for two crushing goals to open up a telling gap. However St Patricks gradually gained midfield control through Paul O'Neill and his four converted frees and a point from Niall Burns eventually drew the sides level deep into the second quarter. Almost on queue Leitrim responded again with a swift attack down the right wing and once more they applied the lethal finish with another stunning goal to edge in front again. St Pats responded with typical

determination and two points from Noel Burns and another from Jamie Murray left it all square at the interval with it all to play for in the second half.

Half time:

St Patricks 0-11 Leitrim 3-2

Leitrim came storming out after the break and threatened to blow St Patricks away. Two quick points followed by another devastating goal left St Patricks floundering but a few quick switches and a power-packed display from midfielder Paul O'Neill pulled the home side back into contention. First he soloed through for a point and then moments later pushed forward with the attack, where he collected from a long range free before bursting through to send the ball to the back of the Leitrim net. He added two great points from play and two converted frees. St Patricks had come from five points down to take a two point lead and when Tony Hegarty showed great skill to double on an overhead ball and send it to the net it looked as though the home side had finally wrapped up the points. But once more the pendulum swung in this exciting encounter and a late goal and a point from Leitrim produced a nail-biting finish and there were sighs of relief all round when full-forward Niall McAleenan collected a high ball and struck over the insurance point to give St Pats their narrow victory.

Final Score:

St Patricks 2-17 Leitrim 5-6

Team: Michael McAllister; Ryan Haughey, Kieran Maguire, James Kennedy; Sean O'Hare, James McDermott, Niall Burns(0-3); Paul O'Neill(1-10), Ronan McConville; Patrick Mackin, Conor McClorey, Thomas McKernan; Jamie Murray(0-3), Niall McAleenan(0-1), Tony Hegarty(1-0). Subs: Conor Strain, Michael Downey

The under 14 hurlers play at home to Liatroim on Wednesday 23rd July.

The under 16 hurlers next league match is away to Kilclief on Sunday 20th July.

The next under **12 hurling** game is away to St Paul's on Saturday 2nd August.

SUDOKU CHALLENGE

				6	9			4
	8				4			
2						8		
						3	2	
	4			8			5	
	9	6						
		3						9
			5				6	
5			2	7				

LOTTO UPDATE

JACKPOT £3100

Draw On 06/07/08

WINNING NUMBERS

2, 12, 21, 25

No Jackpot Winners.

£10 Winners

Gerard O'Neill.

LADIES FOOTBALL

Football for girls aged 10 – 14 years has commenced and anyone looking details of it should contact Ciara Devlin 07511477877.

COUNTY HURLING

The South Down hurlers play Fermanagh in the group stages of the Nicky Rackard Cup. The game will be played on the 12th July in Brewster Park Enniskillen.

CUL CAMP

Despite the changeable weather this week the Cul Camp held at our Club grounds was a great success. There were 60 young boys and girls in attendance all week where they were drilled in the skills of football hurling and camogie. Judging by the response of some of the young attendees a great time was had by all.

FAMILY FUN DAY 09/08/2008

The Club are having a "Family Fun Day" ahead of our annual Barbecue from 3:00pm to 6:00pm on the 9th August.

This will be instead of the sports day which was cancelled due to the poor weather last Sunday.

CLUB FUNCTION SCHEDULE

Annual BBQ on the 9th August 2008. Bar opens @ 7:00pm. Music by "Highland Paddy". Tickets are now available Admission £10. There will also be a Novelty Football match ahead of the Barbecue starting at 7:30pm.

WORD SEARCH

Down Senior Hurlers Who Played Against Antrim In This Years Ulster Final

gclarke, lclarke, murray,conway, Wilson, Courtney, savage, mcgrattan, braniff, mcgourty, woods, oprey, Hughes, mcgarry, ennis.

y	y	o	s	n	m	c	h	c	y
t	a	p	i	a	u	e	e	y	r
r	p	r	n	t	r	k	c	l	r
u	y	e	n	t	r	u	o	c	a
o	i	y	e	a	a	w	c	l	g
g	s	l	l	r	y	o	o	a	c
c	c	c	d	g	o	o	n	r	m
m	g	n	t	c	l	d	w	k	e
c	o	n	w	m	y	s	a	e	n
f	f	i	n	a	r	b	y	l	u

CLUB MERCHANDISE

Shorts and socks in club colours will be available in Ballyvarley Hall at 12 noon to 1pm every Sunday. All juvenile and senior players should be kitted out in club colours.

MAINTENANCE WORK

During the period Monday 14th July - Thursday 17th July the outside of the clubrooms will be power washed. In order to complete this work we will have to use scaffolding around the building and for safety reasons children are not allowed in the club grounds during this period. Can all juvenile members keep away from the club grounds until this work is complete? Thank You