## St Vincent's Water Polo Club



50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Book

Saturday 23rd February, 2019





















## Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday from Club Chairman, Ian Hutcheson

In 1969 when Joe Caulfield brought a waterpolo ball into the St Vincent's school pool, he wondered what the school brothers would say to him and maybe ball him out. Small beginnings but with Paddy Bowler and Joe going on to found St. Vincent's Waterpolo Club, the link to the St Vincent's school was firmly anchored. The swimming pool and even John Berchman's Lifesaving club were the entry points for many members over the next 40 years not to mention the corporate merger with CRC in the late '80s. There have been many changes since, including the transfer of all training to the NAC since 2011 and the use of the Dublin City Council Ballyfermot pool for Leinster junior matches. Doubtless there are many more changes to come.



#### **SUCCESS**

Waterpolo is a minority sport but for most of us nothing quite matches the fun, enjoyment and entertainment of battling it out with the opposition who are trying to drown us, swipe off our heads or simply stop us moving. There is also the joy of the referees who sometimes frustrate us. Also, our own team mates and coaches, who so enthusiastically encourage us even if it just seems sometimes that they are just "shouting" and oblivious to whether we are listening or not. For others, defending the opposition attacks and stopping them scoring goals is the pinnacle of enjoyment and we have a great tradition of "stop-shotters" in goals who have saved us in many a match that we might otherwise have lost.

Currently, we have 3 senior national mens' teams (Div 1, 2 and 3) and 2 womens' teams (Div1 and 2) and are active in all Junior competitions both in Leinster and nationally. Club membership is at 130 plus with 70 adult and over 50 junior members. The latter is a tribute to the dedication of many different

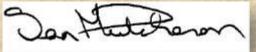
coaches. Most recently, both the under 17 girls and boys teams won their national championships and have set a great standard for all the other teams to match.



To all those who have played, supported or have done any of the many coaching and administration roles including, most importantly, the interested and supportive parent, we can be proud of the ongoing existence of the Club. It is thanks to you all that the club has had so many successes with club teams in Leinster and national competitions as well as the significant contribution at all levels to the national teams. More importantly, the active juniors group provides a great space for children to develop a whole range of skills and play a contact team sport. The underlying theme should always be about fun, participation and "doing your best" in sport. It is thanks to so many people doing their best in many different ways that the Club continues to develop and adapt. May it do so successfully and with lots of fun and friendships for another 50 years.

As a final note, I would thank Ciaran Caverly and Tadhg Murphy for their work in putting this booklet together as well as all the other contributors and sponsors. It is a wonderful history of the many aspects of the club which I am sure you will enjoy.

Yours in Sport



## Before the Club Pre 1969

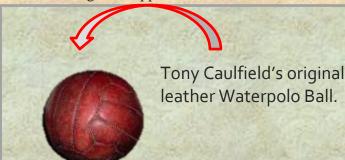
Prior to the opening of the pool, some school-goers formed a life-saving club and trained in the old Tara Street and Iveagh baths. The club enjoyed some success in 1965 when Joe Caulfield and Russell Orpen, representing St Vincent's school were members of the Dublin Primary Schools swimming team which won the Cyril Hardy Memorial Trophy in Belfast.

In 1966 Tony Caulfield became the All Ireland U/16 Life-Saving Champion and later many of the club's founder members won under age and senior provincial and Irish Lifesaving titles. The following teams won senior titles:-

- Barry Kelleher and Tony Caulfield - 1972
- Tony Caulfield and Joe Caulfield
   1974
- Joe Caulfield and Frank Carroll -1976

In those early years Dan Reidy, Oliver Flanagan, Mick Traynor,

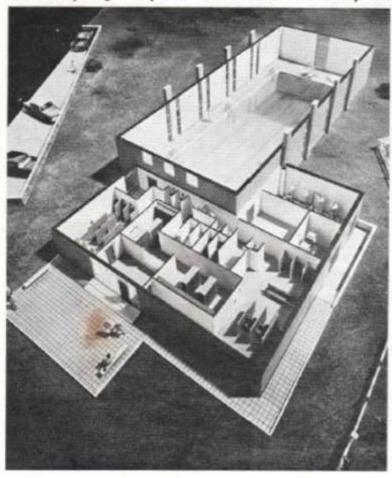
Mattie Curran, Brother Keniry, Pete Madden and Larry Caulfield were responsible for the running of the pool and did a great job getting it up and running and supported the new Club in 1969.



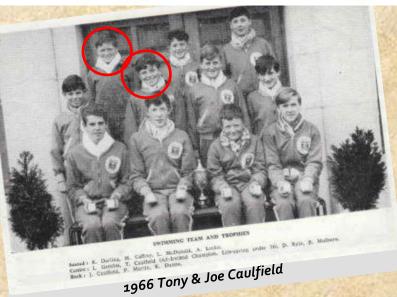
St Vincents - Most modern Pool in Ireland and UK

## This is your pool — with the lid off

This is the package-deal pool to be built for St. Vincent's by Ascon







## The Seventies 1969 to 1979 -The early years:-

St. Vincent's Swimming Pool was opened on 21st March, 1969. The pool was built after a major fundraising campaign over a number of years by the pupils and past pupils union. Aidan Gunne, Br Casey and Br Burke led the funding. At the time the total cost of building the pool amounted to £45,000. It was described by a national newspaper at the time as 'the most modern pool in Britain and Ireland'.

Two of the clubs founder members Joe Caulfield and Paddy Bowler looking fit & relatively young after a game in the Lee baths in Cork in the late 70s. (Please note that the picture has been enhanced with colour in recent years)



St. Vincent's Water Polo Club was founded in 1969 and consisted of 10 members. The founder members included Joe Caulfield, Tony Caulfield, Barry Kelleher and Paddy Bowler. Other members of the early club teams were Denis Clarke, Sean Cloherty, Frank Carroll, Ciaran Caverly, Eamonn Caulfield, Brian Murphy and Stan Pyke.

Back then Water Polo in Ireland was very different than it is today. The National Leagues were played in outdoor sea-water pools during the summer months in Blackrock and Clontarf baths.



The Irish Senior Cup was also played in Blackrock baths however in the late seventies it moved indoors and was played in October in the Grove pool in Belfast. In addition to this the

Leinster branch ran the winter leagues from January until the end of May.

The club initially entered Leinster League Division 4 and gained promotion to Division 3 after winning the league in 1971. Team Members included Tony and Joe Caulfield, Paddy Bowler, Barry Kelleher and Denis Clarke.



The club won back to back Irish Under 21 Cups in 1973 and 1974 and in the late 70's the club enjoyed considerable success at junior level under the guidance of junior coaches Fintan Cassidy and Paddy Bowler.



Pete Madden and Larry Caulfield, managers of St Vincent's pool in the 70's and 8o's. Larry was the President of the club from 1975 until 1989. Larry's sons Tony, Joe, Eamon & Lorcan all played a significant role in developing the club.





In the early 70's most of the club members came from St Vincent's school, however during the mid-70's the club benefited when a number of new players joined from Beneavin College and the surrounding area of Finglas, Glasnevin and Santry. These included the Underwood brothers Sean, Tom and Gerry, Brendan and Paul Murphy, Mick and Brian Mongey, Fran Finnegan, Eamon Porter and Dave O'Callaghan.

Between 1976 and 1979 the club won two U15 and three U18 Leinster League titles. It also won the Irish U16 Schools Cup on two occasions and the Irish U19 Schools cup three times. The team was made up of a youthful Lorcan Caulfield in goal, Paul Gallagher, Fran Finnegan and Stan Pyke in defence, the Murphy brothers Brian and Jim in midfield and Philip Shannon and Olympic swimmer Dave Cummins provided a formidable strike-force.

The St Vincent's team which won the U19 Irish Schools Cup in 1977.

(Back Row) Fintan Cassidy (Coach), D Cummins, S Pyke, P Murphy, M Regan, Bro O'Neill (Principal)

**(Front Row**) P Shannon, J Murphy, B Murphy, L Caulfield, P Gallagher.





Gerry Underwood, half the man he is today, after a cold outdoor Polo Match.

Most of the young players were awarded Leinster and Irish under age caps and went on to form the nucleus of the clubs senior team in the eighties. During the 70's, the club grew from its humble beginnings in 1969, with a group of just 10 players playing in Leinster League Division 4, into a much bigger club. The expanded Club totaled over 50 players competing at the highest level in numerous Irish junior and senior water polo competitions.

Larry Caulfield, the pool manager in St Vincent's for many years, became the clubs President in 1975. Larry coached the school water polo team during lunch hour in St Vincent's and developed their swimming abilities. He also regularly drove the school mini bus to tournaments in Gormanstown and Belfast and always stopped on the way back at the chipper in Balbriggan as a treat for the team.



Water Polo in the Liffey



Lorcan Caulfield, Ciaran O'Neill, Ken Tuck Carroll, Philip Shannon

Great credit is due to the founder members a particular Joe and Tony Caulfield, Barry Ke Paddy Bowler and Fintan Cassidy for all the work and commitment in developing the clu throughout those early years



**St Vincent Swimming Club** (can you name any swimmers?)

## The Eighties 1980 to 1989

The great work from the founding members of the club in the 70's proved to be of enormous benefit to the club over the following decade. The allconquering junior teams of the 70's now began to make their mark at senior level. In 1983 the senior men's team finished third in the Leinster League Div 1 and the Div 3 team won the Leinster League. The men's team under the guidance of senior coach Lorcan Caulfield were now firmly established as a senior Div 1 team in the National League.

the winners. The picture below left shows club President Larry Caulfield receiving the cup from M Corcoran, Rowntree McIntosh. In 1985 the club benefited when a number of new players joined after CRC water polo club disbanded. Established players such as Gerry and

Holiday weekend. Rowntree McIntosh/ Polo Mints

sponsored the competition and donated a cup for

Tony Roche, Joe and Peter Byrne, Ian and Niall Mckenna, Dermot O'Donohoe, Liam Fennell and Broc Coughlan joined the club and provided

additional strength to the clubs

1988 - The St Vincents Senior Men's Team which

(Back Row) Lorcan Caulfield (coach), Jim Murphy,

O'Callaghan, Gerry Roche, Brian Murphy, Tony

reached the semi-final of the Irish Senior Cup.

Paul McCann, Gerry Underwood, Dave

Roche, Dermot O'Donohue (coach).



for the 'Original' Ladies Team.



Lorcan Caulfield (pictured here on our first trip to Malta) was the club's senior coach in the 80's and on

various occasions in the 90's. He also coached our first U19 Irish Cup winning team in 1987.

Lorcan was also chairman of the club for many vears and went on to become Chairman of the Irish Water Polo Association.

Throu ghout the 80's the club ran a succes sful water

polo tournament in the pool over the Easter Bank

teams.

In the 1986/87 season the men's first team won the National League Div 1 title. The following season in 1988 the team reached the Irish Senior Cup semi-final for the first time. St Vincents lost to the eventual winners Half Moon after

extra time in the Grove swimming pool in Belfast.

Tadhg Murphy once went to the Dark side and joined Half Moon. It's ok, he came back.

The club continued to perform well at youth level throughout the 80's and won the Leinster U15 and U18 leagues on three occasions. In 1987 the club won the men's Irish under 19 cup for the first time under the guidance of coach Lorcan Caulfield. Star players included Mick Kelly (2nd highest top goal scorer of all time), Paul McCann, Dave and Alan Turner, Ollie Flanagan and Brian Balfe.

Throughout the 80's the club had a very strong squad of players and had Div 2 and Div 3 teams playing in the National league. In particular the Div 3 team performed with distinction winning the Leinster League on five occasions and winning the Leinster cup on four occasions.

In the early eighties the club started a women's section. Players on the first team included Carol Finlay, Pauline Underwood, Annie McMenamin and Mandy Kavanagh. Unfortunately after a few years the team disbanded and these players went on to make a big impression on the game with other clubs.

Sadly at the end of the decade in 1989 our club President Larry Caulfield passed away after a short illness. The members of the club named a cup in his honour. The 'Larry Caulfield Memorial cup' is now awarded to the winner of our annual men's sea swim. Larry's son Tony Caulfield was duly elected as club president.

In outdoor Polo the Referee had to take the temperature before the match. Why....? Because the colder the water the shorter the match.

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Congratulations from Manus McAleer & staff

## The Nineties 1990 to 1999

At the start of the 90's the club had a membership of about 70 players and were playing in the National and Leinster Div 1, Div 2 and Div 3 leagues. In 1993 the men's senior team succeeded in winning the Leinster Senior Cup for the first time when we beat North Dublin in a close encounter in the final. St Vincent's had reached the final of this competition on four previous occasions in the late 80's and early 90's but unfortunately had never won it.



Goalkeeper Niall McKenna & Paul Murphy (St Vin) getting high out the water to tackle Gerry 'Bimbo' Wilkes (North Dublin) during the Leinster Senior cup final in 1993.

The Division 3 team continued with their impressive form winning the Leinster League and Cup double on seven occasions during the 90's. The Div 2 team also won the Leinster League in 1993 and 1998.



Tadhg Murphy, Mick Kelly ,Dave O'Callaghan (St Vin) & Derek Wilkes (North Dublin) in action in the Leinster Senior Cup final in 1993.

Throughout the 90's, the club regularly qualified for the finals of the Irish Senior Cup and reached the semi-final again in 1998. Our senior coach at the time Bert O'Brien arranged to have his son Gary fly over from the US to play for St Vincent's. Unfortunately we lost the semi-final to North Dublin after extra time.

In the 90's we continued our strong tradition of developing young players and our youth teams won numerous Leinster League and Cup competition

Glenn Oglesby was junior coach in the mid 90's and was instrumental in developing players of the calibre of John and Kieran Greene, David and Michael O'Connor, David Fitzpatrick and Alan McCarthy.



In the late 90's and the early years of the new millennium, Ken Tucker took over as junior coach. Like Glenn and the other junior coaches before

him, he put in a huge effort to prepare teams for competition and was responsible for developing players such as Robert Dougan, John Roche, Mark O'Rourke, Conor and Brian O'Dea.



The senior men's team at Irish Senior Cup in Galway 1999 (Back) N Murphy, T Murphy, G Oglesby (coach), G Griffin, I Hanrahan, G Underwood, J McSweeny, D Turner, T Neary. (Front) S O'Brien, B Balfe, D Fitzpatrick, D O'Connor, M O'Connor, A McCarthy, K Tucker, .

#### Did vou know

In the Seventies the majority of the Guinness Polo Club joined St Vincents. They went back to the Black side of the Liffey after a couple of seasons.

That's why CRC joined us...they heard there was lots of Guinness in our Club



**Nineties Outdoor Training Session** 



The men's team that travelled for a tournament in Latzen, Germany.

(Back) T Roche, P McDermott, G Underwood, G Griffin, G Roche, B Murphy, G Oglesby.

(Front) N McKenna, K Tucker, I McKenna, D O'Callaghan, T Murphy, P Murphy, B Coughlan.

#### Did vou know

Which of the 4 Murphy brothers missed a penalty in the Leinster Senior Cup final in 1983? Well it wasn't Jim, Tadhq or Niall. See above.

# The Naughties 2000 to 2009

#### 2000 to 2005 :-

At the start of the new millennium the club's first team was still playing National League Div 1. However the team contained a number of players that had played on the team since the early 80's. Age began to catch up on players such as Joe Byrne, Broc Coughlan, John McSweeney, Tadhg Murphy, Ken Tucker and Paul Reynolds. Although the club had traditionally developed strong junior players, a lot of these younger players never came through the ranks to take their places on the senior team.

In 2001 the inevitable happened and our first team was relegated to National Div 2. After we were relegated two of our most promising junior international players Dave Fitzpatrick and Michael O'Connor left the club to join Guinness so as to continue playing National League Div 1 water polo.



(2004) - The senior mens team at the Irish Senior Cup in Limerick. (Back Row), K Greene, A McCarthy, C O'Dea, I Synnott, M Sheridan(Front Row) – E Bridgeman, T Murphy, Doogie, B Balfe, Mick Kelly (missing)



2002 Junior Team Limerick

Despite an ageing squad and the loss of some of our better young players the club finished runners up in the National League Div 2 in 2003 and gained promotion. At the time the club committee decided to turn down promotion so as to concentrate on developing a new younger squad of players for the future



(2004) - The Leinster Div 3 cup winning team : (Back Row) – Ian Hanrahan, Mick Kelly, John McSweeny, Dave Turner, Pado Halton, John Kelly, Robert Dougan, Mick Mongey. (Front Row) – Lorcan Caulfield (coach), Fran Corcaran, Tadhg Murphy, Paul Reynolds, Ken Tucker, Ciaran Caverly.

At the time the club committee put a huge effort into attracting new members into the club and focussed on developing them into senior players.

Tadhg Murphy took over as junior coach while Ken Tucker/Niall Murphy looked after the U19 team.



2005 Juniors

The ladies section was re-formed in 2003 and girls were allowed play in the Leinster leagues up to U15 level and we won the Leinster under 15 Leagues.



(2003) – St Vincents. Winners of the U15 Leinster mixed League. (L to R) P. Connolly, K Spain, K Moran, B Murphy, L Murphy, S Drumm, J Kelly, T Murphy (coach), D McGlynn, M Brennan, E Bridgeman, S Kenna & C Kelly (missing from picture – probably at a Camogie match)

In 2004 we had almost 50 players eligible to play for the club at U15 level and we entered 2 teams in both the U13 and U15 Leinster Leagues.



(2005) – The St Vincents team which won the Irish U19 Cup in Belfast. (L to R) B O'Dea, C O'Dea, K Greene (capt), J Baker, M Brennan, E Bridgeman, E Nolan, G Quigley, S Drumm, J Kelly, S McDermott, S Kenna, C Cremin, N Murphy (Coach), G Dunne (Asst Coach)

#### 2005/06 Season

The 2005/06 season was a great season particularly at under age level. The U19 men's team, under the stewardship of Niall Murphy and George Dunne, won the Irish Cup for the 2nd time in the club's history and the U18 team won the Leinster League and Cup double.

The U16 boy's team coached by Tadhg Murphy and Michael O'Connor won the Irish Cup for the first time and also won the Sean Lalor Cup in Leinster. In addition, our two U15 teams finished 1st and 2nd in the Leinster League and our U13 team won the Leinster League.



(2005) — The St Vincents team which won the Irish U16 Cup in Limerick. (L to R) M O'Connor (Asst Coach), M Brennan, S Kenna, D Garvey, G Troy, B Murphy, J Baker, D McGlynn, S Kirk, C Broderick, D Murphy, M McDermott, J Kelly, E Bridgeman, S Drumm, T Murphy (Coach)

Our U14 boys' team were beaten finalists in the Irish Cup after losing in a close game to a strong Corrib team.

Our girls also performed with distinction winning the Leinster U19 cup and finishing runners up in both the U16 and U19 Irish Cups.

The senior men's team, made up of a lot of underage players, performed consistently well throughout the year and finished 2nd in National League Div 2. After a tense play off with Clontarf they were promoted to Division 1.



Niall Murphy seen here in a 'man of the match' performance in the Corrib tournament in Easter 2006. Nellie has been an inspirational goal-keeper for St Vincent's over the past 15 years & was the coach of the senior team in 05-06 season. Together with George Dunne he coached our successful Irish U19 men's winning team in 2005.

Tadhg Murphy and Mick Kelly

Who would

Scorer in the Club. Who would

Scorer in the Club. Who would

Scorer in the Scorer i

#### 2006/07 Season

The 2006/07 season was another fantastic season for the club and one of our best seasons to date. At under age level the club created a record by winning all five Irish Junior Cups with both the boys and girls winning their respective Under 16 and Under 19 competitions and the Under 14 boys winning the cup in the NAC.



(2006) – St Vincents winners of the U14 Irish Cup in the NAC. (Back) Doogie (asst coach), E McGlynn, S Byrne, S Garvey, A O'Boyle, T Murphy (coach), (Front) S Murray, C Bridgeman, S Kenna, B Murphy, J Brennan, D O'Connor.



(2006) – St Vincents winners of the U16 Irish Cup pictured in the Falls Pool, Belfast. (L to R) C Nolan, D McGlynn, J Kelly, J Baker, B Murphy, S Kirk, M Brennan, M McDermott, D Murphy, E Bridgeman, G Troy, S McDermott, S Kenna, D Garvey, S Garvey. (Coach) T Murphy

The senior women's team entered the National League Division 1 for the first time and performed admirably with a very young squad. The women's team was boosted by the addition of Sinead Delaney and Cara Mulcahy when they joined from Glenalbyn. Carol Finlay, Elaine Dunne, Louise Hanrahan and Michelle Gaffney later joined the women's squad and brought a wealth of experience to the team. (What I really mean is that they are "very old" - buts it's not politically correct to say that!)



(2006) – St Vincents winners of the U19 Irish Cup. (Back) D Garvey, B Murphy, J Kelly, G Quigley, C Cremin, B O'Dea, J Baker, E Nolan. (Front) S McDermott, S Drumm, S Kenna, E Bridgeman, M Brennan, S Kirk. (Coach) N Murphy

The senior men's team now under the guidance of George Dunne also had a great season and finished 4th in their first season back in National League Div 1.



#### 2007/08 Season

The 07/08 season was a great year for both the senior men and women's teams. A young men's squad finished 4th in the National League and also managed to qualify for the Irish Senior Cup semifinal.

Frank Carroll was an early member of the Club before he crossed the Liffey



(2008) – The Senior men's team which qualified for the semi-finals of ISC. (Back) R Collins, C O'Dea, Dougie, C Garcia, G Quigley, E Nolan, K DeBagio, P Ryder (Front) T Murphy, B O'Dea, E Bridgeman, C Fitzgerald, J Kelly, S Kenna, K Lynch, G Dunne (coach)

(Front row, Centre) Sean Dunne , (Team Mascot & future hole forward)



(Dec 2007) – The St Vincents Div 2 men's team which qualified for the final of the Leinster cup.. (L to R) Dougie, J Kelly, S McDermott, J Greene, Doc, M McDermott, J Baker, M Kelly, B Murphy, S Kirk, C Fitzgerald.

The women's team pictured at the Mr. St Vincents night in April 2008 (with their clothes on for a change!). The senior women's team won the Irish National League Division 1 title and received the 'Pat Crowe Memorial Cup'. The team are pictured below presenting the cup to coach Brian O'Dwyer who was a great friend of Pat.



The underage boys teams performed well in their respective Irish cups but unluckily were beaten at the semi-final stage in each competition. However the girls performed with distinction in the Irish competitions and won both the U16 and 19 cups.



(2008) – St Vincents winners of the U14 Mixed Irish Cup in Galway. (Back) C Bridgeman, C O'Reilly, C Kelleghan, B Griffith, S Murray, D O'Connor, D O'Donnell, C Keegan. (Front) N Kenna, R Murphy, R Baker, S McCardle, L Kelly



(2008) — The U16 Girls team winners of the Irish Cup in Lisburn. N Kenna, S McCardle,E Walsh, R Baker, L Kelly, N McCardle, R Murphy, M Baker, L Jenka. (Coach) B O'Dwyer, (Manager) S Murphy

#### 2008/09 Season



2008 – Irish U19 Cup Champions.
J Baker, J Kelly, D McGlynn, S Kirk, C Nolan,
Bence Pall. E Bridgeman, B Murphy, A
O'Boyle, S Drumm, S Kenna, P Connolly (not
in picture)

The 2008/09 season was another great season for St Vincent's at under age level. Our junior teams succeeded in winning the Irish U13 Development Cup, the Irish U14 mixed cup, the Irish U16 girl's cup and the Irish U19 boys and girl's cups. The Under 16 Boys also finished runner-up in their Irish cup.



The St Vincent's team which won the U16 Irish Cup in the Grove pool, Belfast in 2008.

(Back)L Murphy, M Baker. (Middle) O Sharp, C Kelly, S Baker, H Broderick, O Mahon, Brian O'Dwyer (Coach). (Front) L Kelly, R Baker, R Muphy, N Kenna

The senior men's team finished 5th in the National League and is pictured below competing in the Irish Senior Cup competition in Limerick in April 2009.



Back Row) S Drumm, C O'Dea, G Quigley, M Kelly, S Kenna, J Kelly, E Nolan, G Dunne (coach): (Front Row) B Pall, J Baker, B O'Dea, R Collins (capt), E Bridgeman, K Lynch



George Dunne coach of our men's senior team from (2006-09). George was hugely committed in the role and did a great job introducing many of our junior players to senior level water polo. He has also been working at junior level within the club & has decided to concentrate on developing the club's younger players for the next few years.

The senior women's team finished runners up in the National League. They went on to win the Irish Senior cup for the 1st time, beating Half Moon in the final by 8 goals to 5. The venue was the University pool in Limerick in April 2009.



(Back Row) B O'Dwyer (coach), M Gaffney, M Jordan, O Mahon, J Murphy, N Beirne, N Bergin, C Mulcahy: (Front Row) C Barreto, C Kelly, L Kelly,

L Murphy, M Baker, S Delaney



Club members pictured at the annual Sunnybank Cup in St Vincents Pool in December, 2008.



2008 – Irish U19 Cup Champions. (Back Row) L Kelly, H Broderick, O Mahon, L Murphy, J Murphy, Mad Baker, N Bergin, B O'Dwyer (Coach). (Front Row) M O'Reilly, N Kenna, L Kelly, R Baker, R Murphy

#### Did vou know

Christine (Tino) Kelly once did a sponsored parachute jump to raise funds for the water polo club

## The Teens 2009 to 2017

#### Women's Section of the Club

Before we move forward a decade we have to highlight the women's section of the Club which was re-established in 2003. Tadhg Murphy, who was coaching the junior boys at the time, decided to bring his two daughters, Jennifer and Laura, along to train with his boys team in St. Vincent's Pool. Brian O'Dwyer, a close acquaintance of Tadhg and Sandra, was the chairman of the Leinster Branch at the time and after some gentle encouragement from the Murphys, he agreed for girls to play with boys in mixed completions up to U15 level, giving our girls their first taste of competition!

Brian's decision would be a game changer for the club. The girls section of club grew rapidly and in no time a number of the boy's relatives began to join the club – amongst these newest members were Christine 'Tino' Kelly, Mairead Baker, Brenda Reilly, Orla Mahon all who were closely followed by younger siblings and relatives; Lisa Kelly, Roisin Baker, Nicole Kenna, Rachel Murphy and Sinead McCardle. Additionally, a cohort of local T.Y. students, Michelle Jordan, Anna Murphy, Gemma Kiernan and Claire Judge, would join up and prove to be instrumental in forming the first U16 and U19 teams in the club!



At this stage the girls teams were growing fast and the club committee had to make some important strategic decisions regarding their coaches. Ultimately, the committee decided on appointing two of their most handsome ex-players Niall Murphy and Kieran Greene as the first U16/U19 girl's coaches. It was of course envisaged

that Kieran would appeal to the young girls, while Niall would appeal to their mothers!

After initially playing in the Leinster Junior Leagues and Irish Junior Cup competitions, the girls entered National League Division 2 in 2006. Although they were young at the time the girls began to prove that they could hold their own. Luckily for the girls, Sinéad Delaney was teaching next door in St Vincents school at the time and she and Cara Mulcahy agreed to join up and to help develop the young players. The following year Michelle Gaffney came on board and at this stage the girls decided they needed a more 'experienced' coach. After some serious consideration and recruitment they decided that Brian O'Dwyer, who had given them their first break back in 2003, was the man for the job. Brian had NO experience coaching women. He would soon learn that aside from coaching polo his new role included dealing with strops, tantrums and tears. Nevertheless he ploughed on and the squad grew stronger by the game. Around this time Elaine and Irene Walsh arose from the west to join the squad and a very welcome transfer came in the form of superstar keeper Julia Schmuster, all three of whom added further experience and depth to the developing women's squad.



The players had a great blend of youth and experience and Brian with his great knowledge of water polo managed to develop them into a formidable team. In 2007 they had their first senior success, winning the National League Div 1 in 2007, and just two short years later, in 2009, Brian led them to their first Irish Women's Senior Cup win. An amazing success story considering they had been in existence for only six years.

Tasting success now meant our girls craved it. Luckily our committee and parents knew that in order to maintain this success we would need to focus on and to develop our junior players. Thankfully we had parents and coaches who saw this and rose to the challenge. One standing out over them all, Louise Hennessy, who took over the mantle as Junior girls coach and brought (and continues to bring) on a wealth of successful junior players who have been a fantastic addition to the squads. Players such as Sophia O'Donnell, Niamh O'Meara, Cliona Colvin, Molly Reilly, the Kindlons, Eve Lynch, Katie Hynes, Kerrie Noonan, Rebecca, and her own daughter Aoife.

Over the years Vincent's have been lucky in gaining the odd overseas players who have added diversity and competitiveness to the squad. However, no two stick out more than our two most recent arrivals Selina Smellers from Belgium and Meave O'Connor from Chicago. Both having played at a high level in their countries, added further firepower to the St Vincent's women's team and became indispensable players in the women's most recent League and Cup wins.

Stevie O'Brien took over as coach in 2014. Over the last few years he has enjoyed great success with the senior women and underage girls teams. The women remain unbeaten in the National League and Irish Cup competitions since 2011. Stevie had big shoes to fill but in his time with the women he has successfully managed to integrate the younger players in the senior team meaning that they now have a wealth of players to choose from and are continuing to experience success at all levels.

Mick Kelly and Mairead Baker have now taken over as Junior Girls coaches, assisted at times by Eve Lynch and Aoife Hennessy. Mairéad is quoted as saying "The future looks bright" and we know she's right. Hopefully these 'up and comers' will enjoy as much success as their predecessors in the role as St Vincent's polo players and that the club will continue to benefit.

The focus on developing all our younger players over the previous decade paid off over the next few years. The women had already established themselves and had won the Irish Senior Cup in 2009. A few years later in 2012 the men followed suit and won the Irish Senior Cup for the first time in the University pool in Limerick in 2012. The team completed the double by winning the National League title.

The photos following show our members enjoying their sport and bringing the Club from a good Club to Number 1 in Ireland.

#### -----2010-----

St Vincents Under 16 Leinster Team Winners 2010





St. Vincents Under 19 Irish cup Winners

#### -----2011-----



National League Div 2 2011







#### -----2012-----

## Most Successful Season Ever



Without doubt 2012 was a remarkable year for the club. Our junior boys and girls teams performed with distinction in their respective Irish Cups and both the Senior Men and Women's team achieved a remarkable double by winning both the National League Div 1 titles and Irish Senior Cup competitions.

The men's team was made up of two excellent goalkeepers in Alberto Lopez del Oso and Gareth Quigley. Defenders were John Kelly, Fernando Pertegaz, Jack Baker, Brian Murphy and Keith Lynch. The attackers were Eoin Bridgeman, Adam Caulfield, Mark Finlay, Mick Kelly Shane Drumm and a youthful Aidan O'Boyle. We had a formidable hole forward pairing of Sean Kenna and Eoin Nolan who were also the joint captains. Tadhg Murphy coached the team and the assistant coach was Sean Kenna Sr.



Keith Lynch (who had finally learned to catch the ball and shoot after a number of years playing polo - only kidding!) helped to prepare the men's team and get them swimming fit. He was a great support to the coaches and an inspiration to the team. He was later to captain the men's senior team for a number of years.

Mick Kelly (2nd top club goal scorer of all time) was enticed out of retirement. Although a veteran he added a bit of firepower and experience and even scored a goal in the finals. He went on to collect his 1st Irish senior cup and National League Div 1 medals. ....then he retired again! (We won't be enticing him back again!)



Ladies Irish Senior Cup Winners 2012









Irish U16 Cup 2013





#### Did you know.

Michelle Gaffney has 18 Irish Senior Cup Winners medals and she has just turned 40! 1 for CRC, 9 for Polar Bears & 8 for St Vincent's

### ----- 2016-----

# Another Most Successful Season Ever

In 2016 the club had another great season. That year the Irish Senior cup finals was held in the NAC in Dublin and the club received great support from the home fans. Both the Senior Men and

Women's team achieved the' double/double' once again when they both won the National League Div 1 and Irish Senior Cups. The women team had a very close final but eventually came out on top against a strong Cathal Brugha team. The men also had a close game against Sandycove but also triumphed with Jack Baker nullifying the threat of their New Zeland player Johnny Clarke. The

U19 boys and girls teams also triumphed in their respective Irish Cups and the junior section was once again thriving.

The men's team had changed a bit from the 2012 team. Our defenders were made up of Michael O'Connor (Capt), Fernando Pertegaz, Jack Baker and Eoin Bridgeman. The forwards were Adam Caulfield, Aidan O'Boyle, Shane Drumm with Sean Kenna and Eoin Nolan playing in the hole forward position. The older lads where joined by a number of up and coming younger players in goalkeepers David O'Donnell and Shane O'Brien, and outfielders Tiarnan and Cillian Colvin and Matthew Hynes. Once again Tadhg Murphy was the coach of the team with Brian O'Dwyer.

Michael O'Connor having spent a number of years on the dark side in Guinness returned to the club in 2015 and added some experience and tactical guile to the squad (not to mention his knack of winding up opponents!). He was very popular in the dressing room and went on to captain the Irish Senior Cup and National League Div 1 winning squad in 2016.

The following year David Fitzpatrick also returned to the club and played 2 seasons with us winning 2 National League Div 1 titles and the Bro Philip Knock-out Cup. He was a solid defender and had a

great shot... although he was always crying about his sore shoulder and got a lot of sympathy from Brian O'Dwyer!!



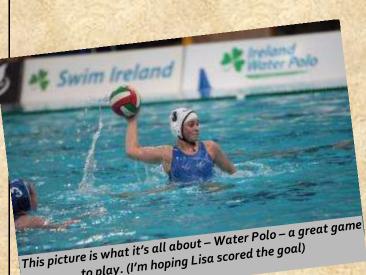
Mens Senior Cup Winners 2016

In 2017 another Spanish player Alberto Gil joined the club. He was a very committed and skillful player and was a fantastic outside shooter. The men's team retained

the National League Div 1 title that year winning all of their games both home and away. Alberto played a significant part and also helped us win the Knock-out Cup. Unfortunately the men's team finished runners in the Irish senior Cup final when North Dublin put in a great performance to deservedly beat us on the day.

The 2016 Women's National League Div 1 and ISC champions was made up of goalkeepers Orla Mahon and Sophia O'Donnell. Defenders included Jennifer Murphy, Sinead McCardle, Michelle Gaffney, Michelle Jordan and Roisin Baker. While the attack consisted of Rachel Murphy, Meave O'Connor, Irene Walsh, Lisa Kelly, Selina Smellers and Summer Creighton with Laura Murphy and Mairead Baker playing in the hole. The team was coached by Steve O'Brien.

Cav is playing in his 47th waterpolo season - some say it shows....



to play. (I'm hoping Lisa scored the goal)



Ladies Senior Cup Winners 2016

### Sea Swims

#### St Vincents Club Sea Swim



Dave Turner and Mick Mongey. Tadhg and Joe Brown in background

St Vincents Club originally focused on swimming. While it's a long time ago since the Club participated in Swimming Galas, swimming is certainly part of our tradition.

The Summer sea swims have always been well supported by the Club. With the introduction of the St Vincent's Sea Swim it was appropriate the swim should be in honour of Larry Caulfield. Pool manager, President of the Club and father of the Caulfield Clan. Larry taught hundreds of kids to swim providing the raw material for new members



of the Club.
Cav
remembered
"Larry was a
favorite who
taught two of
my children
to swim. I
fondly
remember
him on
Sunday
mornings
teaching
small kids.

half in and half out of the water. He had a unique style and was the corner stone of St Vincents Club "

The Larry Caulfield memorial race has been a very successful event, both as a social event and fund

raiser. In 2008 we had over 150 entries in the mens event.



The Club Swim was so successful it was expanded to include a Ladies race. This was named in honour of Audrey Lynch, wife of member Johnny Lynch and mother of Keith Lynch.

The Club Swim now has a special award for first junior to finish. This is called the Conor Keleghan in honour of our young friend and team mate.



Nothing ever gets done without Volunteers.
Steve and Tadhg giving up the chance to win to look after the swimmers

The Caulfield Clan have won
the Vincent's Sea Swim 6
the Vincent's Mhile
times.
Eamonn's daughter, came
in first last year her brother
Adam is STILL trying....



"That's not a handicap, that's a sentence.....



Mick Kelly at the St Vincents Swim. Looks like his hat is too tight for his head?



In with a chance ...



Fiona Caulfield minding the 'boys' at the swim



Presentation of the Conor Keleghan award to Luke Harris.



Did I win again?

24

### LIffey Swim

Apart from the Vincent's Club swim, the best supported sea swim is the Liffey Swim.

#### **Club Liffey Swim Winners**

- Ollie Flanagan 1990
- Mick Mongey 1997
- Deirdre Dunne 2010



Deirdre Dunne Wins Liffey (centre) 2010. On right is Pauline Underwood, 10<sup>th</sup> place and Joan Barron with the Veteran (over 40s) award



Getting in the ZONE before the Liffey



After Liffey Swim celebrations outside Mulligans.



Cav decontaminating after the LIffey. Checking to make sure everything is stil in one place?



The St Vincents 'Team' of swimmers – Liffey Swim 2018

### **Dun Laoghaire Harbour Swim**

Another favourite sea swim is the Dun Laoghaire Harbour Swim, a fair test of endurance.

#### **Dun Laoghaire winners**

- Dave Turner & Frank Carroll 1991
- Shane Drumm 2010 (Aer Lingus)
- Tadhq Murphy 2006

Brian O'Dwyer also won the Harbour in 2001 (his brothers Frank and Greg also won the Harbour swimming family or what..)

St Vincents won the team prize 5 times from 1989 to 2001.



**Dun Laoghaire Harbour Race - Finish** 



TADHG (I NEVER **WIN ANYTHING) MURPHY WINNING SOMETHING** 



Sean Kenna, another of our sucessful sea swimmers recives a prize.

#### **Other Swims**



ISLAND RACE 2018 Mick Mongey, Ian Hanrahan, Pauline Underwood, Willy Irwin, Paul Reynolds



of the Sea Swims.

## Remembering Past Friends

Let's remember some of our members and friends who have unfortunately passed on. The Club would not have been the same without knowing them.

#### Mick Conway

Mick was an early member of the Cllub and featured on many teams.

#### **Peter McDermot**

Peter was a very early member of the Club. Fondly remembered for his big smile, his motto "I'll get fit next year" and his claim to fame "I'm descended from the High Kings of Ireland."



#### **Gerry Roche**

Gerry came to St Vincents from the CRC Club and quickly slotted into the training regime, both in the water and otherwise. He established himself as No 1 Goalkeeper and



played for many years with great distinction.

#### **Mick Chaney**



A great Half Moon man. He gave a lot of his time to St Vincents as Coach in the Nineties.

#### Conor Keleghan



A very gifted young player much missed. The Sea Swim includes a trophy in his memory for first junior St Vincents member to finish the race.

## Social, Trips and Tournaments

## Trip to Latzen, Germany.

In the nineties the Club went to Germany to a club called Latzen and played under the St Vincent's University banner.



The records don't show if we won the tournament but I have it on good authority that we won the drinking competition.



## **Malta Trips**





Malta-: Polo in the Sun

### **POLO Tournament**

For many years Vincents ran a polo tournament in the St Vincents pool. Appropriately the tournament was sponsored by POLO.



Referee is Paddy Bowler and on bench spot Dave Turner and Lorcan Caulfield



Presentation of the POLO cup to Larry Caulfield



Photo features Gerry Underwood, Paddy Bowler and Fergus Byrne in goals.

### **Christmas Time**

### "Brian Boru & Sunnybank Cup"

As all members know the polo seasons mid-way break was celebrated by an internal water polo tournament. This was officially a 'friendly' competition but the fact that outside referees had to be brought in says it all. Sadly with the loss of the St Vincents pool the Christmas tournament is no longer a yearly event.



The 'A' team: Gerry, Willy, Lorcan, Lou, Broc, Joe, and Peter Byrne (Petes).



The Retired Group blocking the BAR as usual



Thankfully the get together in the Brian Boru/Sunnybank before Christmas is stronger than ever.

The cornerstone of the Christmas get together is the chance to buy tickets for the World Famous St Vincents Hamper.





Paul Reynolds and Keith Lynch, two of the key men who kept the Club 'Afloat' for many years, thanks lads.





Crowd go Wild as Paul Reynolds picks the Winner of the Famous Hamper



The 'Duck' all grown up





Two Murphys, a Caulfield and a few CRC'ers



Club Newsletter Christmas 2003

Sunnybank Cup – Check out the U16 names – who made it to the Senior Team



Caulfield Boys out for the night.

### Half Moon Tournament

In the nineties Half Moon ran an international tournament out of the Guinness pool. Picture here is the Vincents team in 1992. Items to note are Mick Chaney, the coach at that time. Also, Cav is actually playing outfield!



## **Galway Trip**

#### Who says polo players never die?



1989 - The St Vincents & Corrib water polo players who played in a friendly game in Galway ... to celebrate Broc Coughlan's stag party. Broc is pictured in the bottom centre of this photo alongside Mick Langan from Corrib & Joe Byrne. Other notable players include Padraig Smith, a slim looking Ian Hanrahan and Eamonn Caulfield from Corrib. Also Gerry Roche and Gary Griffin from St Vincents.

#### Did vou know.

Goal scoring runs in the Murphy family .....with Laura Murphy the women's top goal scorer of all time for the club (Allegedly!)

## **Family Matters**

Family Matters	
Family Matters	Basel Basel & Harle
Ayers	Donal, Pascal & Hugh
Baker	Jack, Mairead & Roisin
Bridgemans	Eoin & Conor
Broderick	Colin & Helen
Byrne	Joe & Peter
Carroll	Frank, Pat
Cassidy	Fintan, Ciaran
Caulfield	Tony, Joe, Eamonn, Lorcan & Adam,
Caverly	Ciaran, Niall
Colvins	Tiarnan, Killian, Cliona, Aveen & Alec
Dougan	Robert & David
Doyle	Aisling, Sive (not sure spelling)
Dunne	Sean, Ciaran, Jennifer, Lee, Elaine & George
Egan	Dylan, Tristan & Daniel
Flanagan	Ollie & Alan
Gaffney/O'Brien	Stevie, Michelle, Shane & Zoe
Gallagher	Paul & Stephen
Garvey	Shane & Darragh
Hanrahan / Hennessy	Ian. Louise. Aoife, Caoimhe & Aine
Hynes	Andrew. Robert. Matthew, Katie & Joan
Kavanagh	Sean, Ben & Adam
Kelly	John, Christine & Lisa
Kelly	Mick, Joe, Clara & Lucy
Kenna	Sean, Sean Jr & Nicole
Kindlon	Sadhbh, Cara & Erin
Lynch	Johnny, Keith
McDermott	Stephen & Mathew
Mongey	George. Mick, Paul & Brian
Moran	
Murphy	Ben, Sam & Mia
ivial pily	Paul, Brendan
Murphy	Brian, Niall, Tadhg, Jim, Jennifer, Laura, Rachel & Sinead
Murphy	
	Pat, Barry & Kieran
Noonan O'Dea	Keri. Senan, Ethan, Fiona & John
O'Donnell	Conor & Brian
	David & Sophia
O'Dwyer	Ben & Sam
O'Meara	Ciaran & Niamh
Purcell	Isabella & Jessica
Reilly	Fergus, Thomas, Brenda & Ciaran
Reilly	Jack & Molly
Roche	Gerry, Lou & Fergus
Sandu	Marius & Julian
Turner	David, Alan & Ken
Underwood	Sean, Gerry, Tom & Pauline
Walsh	Elaine & Irene
Woolley	Ben & Aimee

## Mr St Vincents

In 2008 the Club held the Mr. St. Vincents competition for the Senior Men.

budgie smugglers and also dressed in their best outfit. As usual, when interviewed on stage, most wanted to impact on world peace and also loved babies.

On the night, the lads paraded in

A great night was had by all with lots of supporters raising the roof for their favourite Polo player.

As you will see from the entrants (main photo) there were all shapes, sizes and ages.

As a fund-raising event, entrants had to get their groupies to pay for votes and the winner was the one who raised the most money.



On a great night for celebration, the Ladies Senior team was presented with their Cup Winner medals.



#### AND THE WINNER IS.....



**EOIN NOLAN** 



The Lads warm up backstage before the budgie is smuggled

### Internationals



As Ireland's number 1 Water Polo club, we have a rich tradition of our members being honoured by playing for both Leinster and Ireland. We won't try to list all our Internationals so here are a few photos to illustrate how hard they work while on the Ireland squads.





Where did this photo come from? (we had to get Sandra in)



Ladies Irish Squad with 7 Vincents players in photo

## **Current Squads**

incorporated additions to the team this year strengthen our play on the right side of the pool with talented left hand players.

The team feels cautiously confident coming into the end of the season, unbeaten to date, with the Leinster Cup under their belt."

Now say hello to the squads and Captains.....



Ladies Senior Squad

The current squads are excelling in all competitions. Our Senior Women are winning as usual. Men's Div 2 is going well. Men's Div 3 is... well.. let's say mixed results. Our juniors, girls and boys, are winning all around them.

It is no exaggeration to say that St Vincents Waterpolo Club is the Number1 Club in Ireland. Long may it continue.

So, how are the Senior Men doing? Here is an update from the coach, Fernando: "After a painful and disappointing elimination in semi-finals of the ISC last year, the senior team started the new season with myself as coach, Fernando Pertegaz, and an invigorated attitude ready to fight for success this season.



With a revitalised team we started the season with the objective to fight for every trophy and improve our games. The idea from the coach is to have a team with ambition and a willingness to learn from each other and experience. With this attitude to learn and develop, aspiring members of the youth team (Alex, Corrado, Marius, Dylan and Sam) have joined the senior team. The incorporation of players into the senior team from a younger age shows the strength and ambition of the team. The hopes are that this will balance the team to build a solid squad that boasts a blend of experience and youth not only this year but for the future too.

The team has also welcomed fresh faces to the team from further afield, such as Zoran and Fabio, the



2019 Boys U17 Cup Champions



Go The Juniors

Mens Div 3 Squad The young, old, good, notsogood but never



#### Did you know.

The Ladies have more 1<sup>st</sup> Division and Senior Cup wins than the Men. OK, I know the girls know this, I'm just reminding the lads.

## Captains Corner.....



U17 Girls Captain – Cliona Colvin



Ladies Senior Captain -Laura Murphy



U17 Boys Captain Sam ODwyer



U19 Boys Captain Shane O'Brien



U19 Girls captain Niamh O'Meara



Mens Senior Captain - Eoin Bridgeman

## Who Runs the Club?

### **The Committee**

Chairperson: Ian Hutcheson

Treasurer: Joan Hynes

Secretary: William Irwin

Club Children's: Fiona Ivory Noonan

Officer

Committee Members: Michelle Gaffney, Eoin

Bridgeman, Mandy Woolley

Communications Officer: Open Position



Club Mascots
Supporting through Thick and Thin.
Win, lose or draw...

#### Coaches

The secret of St Vincents success has been the dedication of its coaches. Who wants to give up their time to stand on the bank? Down the years we have had brilliant coaches and the current coaching teams are no exception. Massive thanks to all of you.

Here are some of the current and recent coaches

**Senior Mens Coach: Fernando Pertegez** 



Senior Women's Coach:

Stephen O'Brien and Louise Hennessy



U19 Boys Coach: Juan San Emeterio Iglesia

U19 Girls Coach: Louise Hennessy

U15 Boys Coach: Juan San Emeterio Iglesia

U15 Girls Coach: Louise Hennessy

Others on the coaching team: Mick Kelly, Mairead Baker, Eva Lynch, Steve Harris, George Dunne, Tadhg Murphy





Brian O'Dwyer – thanks for being a coach and friend to



Sean Kenna
Thanks for the
coaching not to
mention the
photos

The club received great support particularly from parents and sponsors over the years. We were lucky enough to benefit from the Trojan work put in by committee members, managers and coaches over the 50 years. However great credit is also due to the older set of players who still play today and who supported and helped develop different groups of junior players over the years. We owe a great deal of thanks to players such as Ciaran Caverly, Gerry Underwood, Ian Hutcheson, Paul Reynolds, Mick Mongey, Willie Irwin and (Happy) Ian Hanrahan for all the effort they have put in to develop our younger players.

#### Finally.....

This 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration Photo Book has been brought to you by Tadhg Murphy, Ian Hutcheson and Ciaran Caverly.

If you have corrections or additional photos email ciarancaverly@gmail.com.

If you want to show your appreciation please present it in a pint glass.

In the meantime, it's good to keep in touch. Use our website <a href="https://www.stvincentswaterpolo.club/">www.stvincentswaterpolo.club/</a> or Facebook page. All the photos will be available soon so keep an eye out.

## Sláin, see you in fifty years!

## **Club Achievements**

Before we go, a quick chance to check out some of the achievements of the Club over the years.

I will be to the state of the s	- 5
50 Years of Competing	
Competition	Seasons Won
Mens Irish Senior Cup	2012, 2016
Men Nat league Div 1	2012, 2015, 2016, 2017
Br Philip/Knock Out Cup	2015, 2017
International Nordic Cut	2012
	1986, 2006, 2007, 009, 2010,
Boys - U19 Cup	2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2018
Boys U21 Cup	1973, 1974
Boys U16/17 Cup	2006, 2007, 2009 and 2019
Boys U14 Cup	2006
	2009, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014,
Womens Irish senior Cup	2015, 2016, 2017, 2018
	2007, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012,
	2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017,
Womens Nat league Div 1	2018
	2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010,
	2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015,
Girls U19 Cup	2017, 2019
	2005, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010,
	2011, 2012, 2016, 2017, 2018,
Girls U16/17 Cup	2019

V2

