

Avoca Ladies 2020/2021

This season never got going for the majority of our ladies' teams due to Covid 19 restrictions. These restrictions meant training sessions were limited, in the most part, to pods of 15, non-contact, which made organising sessions difficult and team selection very challenging. Organising groups weekly into pods and checking Covid forms was made easier by the introduction of Clubzap, but still required a lot of co-ordination.

We were lucky to start preseason training in August and some teams even managed a few friendly games. Restrictions in September put paid to this as Dublin went into Level 3 Lockdown and some members were unable to attend training as they lived outside the County. The whole country moved to level 3 on 15th October and then on 21st October we went into Level 5 lockdown and everything shut down.

Subsequently we were able to offer hockey to U18's who played senior hockey with all members allowed back to training in early December. As you all know, things got significantly worse at Christmas and by the time restrictions were lifted a few weeks ago the hockey season was over.

We are currently offering training and social hockey sessions until the end of June for all Senior players, so have a look at Clubzap if you would like to attend.

Ladies 5ths and 6ths: Coaches Herbie Fowler Hudson and Kevin Mellott

Ladies 4ths: Coach – Ruairi Nolan

Ladies 3rds: Coach – Herbie Fowler Hudson and Kevin Mellott

Ladies 2nds: Coach – Mark Meir

Ladies 1sts: Coach - Noelle Farrell, Assistant Coach: Anna Richardson, Captain – Molly Cole

Unbeaten in 3 league games in Division 1 before Covid 19 put paid to the season.

LADIES DIV 1

TEAM	PLD	W	D	L	PTS
Avoca 1st	3	3	0	0	9
Monkstown 1st	2	2	0	0	6
Trinity Ladies 1st	2	2	0	0	6
Genesis 1st	2	1	1	0	4
Naa's 1st	3	1	0	2	3
Corinthians 1st	2	1	0	1	3
Clontarf 1st	2	1	0	1	3
North Kildare 1st	3	0	1	2	1
Rathgar 1st	3	0	0	3	0
Glenanne 1st	2	0	0	2	0

FIXTURES

Goalkeeper Coach – Thank you to Brian Cleary for all his work with the Senior Club Goalkeepers throughout the season. Brian is a very important part of the team and Avoca are lucky to have him. We are the envy of a number of other clubs as we provide specific training for our Goalkeepers.

Even with all the challenges Covid 19 has brought, Brian has kept the Goalkeepers busy with lots of training (when allowed) and hopefully they will be able to show their skills in the coming season.

Honours:

Leinster U18 – Zoe Watterson, Erika Gallagher (GK) and Lauren Moore

Leinster U16 – Rachel Jackson, Isabel Napier and Cathy Greene (GK)
 (*Squads were selected for the Interpros but unfortunately due to Covid-19 they did not take place)

Noelle Farrell – Leinster U16 girls Head Coach, Irish U17 Head Coach, Irish U16 Assistant Coach

Anna Richardson – Leinster U16 girls Assistant Coach. LHA
Development Programme Manager.

Brian Cleary – Irish JAG GK Coach 16s, 18s & 19s (Boys), Leinster
U16/U18 GK Coach (Boys)

Thank you to all team Captains, coaches, and Managers for all their help throughout the season.

Thank you to all players, parents and friends who helped as Covid officers at training sessions this season. These were challenging times for the club and without volunteers the club would not have been able to run sessions.

Thank you to Al Robinson for looking after the pitch bookings and Covid 19 updates. Without your organisation things would not run so smoothly.

Ladies Vets:

Captain – Naomi Murphy

Even though we didn't have the "league season" we wanted due to covid, that didn't stop us ladies vets from having a truly enjoyable season..

After the success and support from Dennis O'Connor and team in the "Mums and Chums", the vets successfully maintained a huge percentage of players throughout the season. 36 ladies in total which led to the creation of a 2nd vets team.

We organised goalkeeper training session with Brian Cleary back in mid-August and I went along to support Tiggy. Thankfully Tiggy decided she wanted to take on the role as Keeper, which was fantastic, as we lost our keeper a few years back so we were delighted Tiggy will be the keeper..

The attendance record on a weekly basis was a testament that the ladies were enjoying hockey and resulted in the ladies paying their

annual registration knowing we couldn't offer them "League Matches" due to covid.. another great registration year from our ladies vets team.

As the team increased considerably it was very welcoming that Kevin and Emma became the Coaches to the ladies vets. Both with different coaches styles yet very beneficial to our full team..

As the lockdown restrictions became even tighter a weekly covid officer was organised...A text was sent out and to help show their support the ladies stepped up and many players completed the online covid e-course and offered to be covid officer a different player each week..

It was very important to us that we organised different activities from the previous week.. Every week we had music playing for all to hear! Secret Santa was introduced for the first time, we dressed up in fun clothes on certain occasions and for the full month of December as elves, overall having a fun time while covid was looming over us ..

Finally I would just like to take the opportunity to Thank You, it was a true privilege Managing this absolutely fabulous group of ladies even though we didn't get the opportunity to play league matches for a year and a half (covid)

The consensus from the ladies Vets Squad they Loved Wednesday nights hockey, Sion Hill, 8:30pm as this was "Our Time" to do what we love most playing hockey having fun and welcoming new members to this wonderful group...

I would like to wish most sincerely Tiggy, Bernie, Aoife, Michelle, Emma and the coaches the very best for the new season..

Yours in Sport,
Naomi Murphy.

My intention was to step down as Lady Captain tonight after 3 years in the role, but I have been unable to find a replacement so far. I have spoken to a number of members and I'm hoping that two/three people could take on the role together. I will be around to support whoever takes over the role.

If anyone feels they would be interested in taking on the role but does not want to put their name forward tonight, please contact me directly and we can discuss it further.