

**Simon Rees: Senior Girls Chair
31st May 2021**

I represent all Senior Girls at the club which is the 1st Years, Minors (2nd Years) and Inters (3rd & 4th Years).

Registrations:

We started the season with:

46 x 1st yrs (4 x Teams)

47 x Minors (3 x Teams)

80 x Inters (5 x Teams)

We are hoping this year to offer places to some who are on the waiting list and this should allow us to add an additional team for each section next season.

We started the season with a number of training sessions where the girls were assessed by their coaches before being placed into teams and allocated their training slots going forward. We will be adopting the same process this year where we will ask girls to attend specific sessions in order to be assessed. It is very important that the girls understand that there is always movement up and down the teams throughout the season as each one develops so the team they are allocated to at the start is not a guarantee for the season.

We introduced the new app, ClubZap, at the start of the season so this was an additional challenge to all the Covid rules. I would like to thank all parents who were patient with us during this time as it was a new way of communicating with the club and as would be expected, took a bit of getting used to for everybody. It has proved invaluable to us as Managers as we are now able to quickly register attendance at training and get Covid forms completed when required. ClubZap will continue to be used as the primary source of information and contact between parents and managers for this coming season. All information about matches and training will be posted there.

Each school year is represented by a Year Manager and I would like to thank Michelle Ritchie, Yvonne Meijerhof, Beryl Alvey, Carolyn Gleeson and Angela Guillemet for all their work this year. All will move up with their school years to manage this coming season apart from Angela, who after 8 years as a Manager, is taking a well-earned rest from this. So a special thank you to Angela for all her hard work over the last 8 years. We will be looking for parents to volunteer as managers to help out at matches and registration at training so if any of you are interested, please get in contact.

I'd also like to thank both Anna Richardson and Emma Meir who coordinate the training and coaching at Sion Hill and Newpark respectively. There's a huge amount of work that goes into that so thanks to them both. Not forgetting Brian Cleary who provides all the specialist GK training.

Unfortunately, as you are all aware, Covid had a dramatic effect on the season. We have had lockdowns with no training at all, a return to training but with no contact in groups of 15, to now eventually returning to contact in training. We missed a total of 11 training sessions through cancellation due to Covid but as a club, we were delighted to be able to provide an additional 9 sessions now when normally the season would be over. We usually lose at least 2 sessions in the winter due to frozen or flooded pitches so whilst the sessions have been different due to no contact, we probably have had the same number as we would normally expect. We look forward to some friendly matches against other clubs in June so keep an eye on ClubZap for details. Nearly all the teams have 2 matches confirmed against other clubs.

We had 3 x girls who were selected for the Leinster U16 panel last summer: Cathy Green, Rachel Jackson & Isabelle Napier. Unfortunately, again Covid prevented any further involvement but I'd like to congratulate them on selection and wish all girls who are going forward for the trials this year.

Next season sees the introduction of an U18's section. This gives the girls the option of playing for the U18's or moving up to the Ladies section when they leave the Inters and move into 5th Year at school. We are really excited about this and the club will be supporting this new area. Thanks you to all who took part in the survey we did as this was instrumental in proving that this will be a popular section. We hope to have more details after the Leinster AGM this week.

Some of you will be aware that we recently issued new reversible Avoca trading bibs to 1st Years and Minors. These have proved to be very popular with the girls. We're asking parents please to put names in them and ensure they are brought to training every week. Inter girls will be issued with theirs in September.

I'm really looking forward to the friendly matches in the coming weeks and also to the start of what should be a very different season in September.

Thanks to all those who have helped out this season and also hopefully to some new volunteers for next season.

Thank you

Simon Rees
Senior Girls Chair