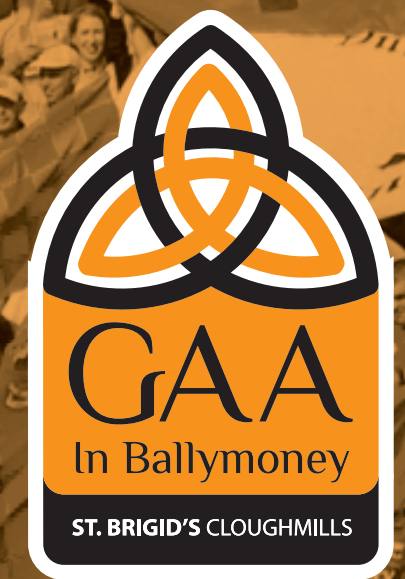


ST BRIGID'S CLOUGHMILLS



Patrick Og's

1940s

Cloughmills' first club, Patrick Og's, was formed in the early 1940s by Father Leonard, the Parish Priest. They wore a green and white kit and matches were played in a field owned by Willie Richmond, a local farmer. Very little is known about the club and it is believed to have closed after only a few seasons.

St Brigid's GAC

1992-Present

In 1992, St Brigid's GAC was founded by Micky McCann and Davy Martin as a hurling team. The club took its name from the local primary school and chose orange and black as its colours to set them apart from other clubs in the county. Their first competitive match was an away win at Glenarm and in 1994 they won their first silverware, the Junior Féis.

Since then, St Brigid's have made steady progress. The 1997 season was one of their most successful, winning a second Junior Féis, the North Antrim Junior Championship and the County Junior Championship where they defeated their neighbours St Mary's, Rasharkin.

In October 2006 St Brigid's opened their new sand based pitch, Fr. Leonard Park, and in the first game at the new grounds they won against Sarsfields 1-18 to 1-6. The President of the G.A.A., Nickey Brennan, described it as one of the best playing surfaces in Ireland.

The club won a second Junior Championship in 2010 defeating Emmet's, Cushendun in a close game at Loughgiel. That season, St Brigid's reached the Ulster Junior Championship final for the first time with Lee Henderson scoring 13 out of their 15 points in the semi-final. Unfortunately, they lost the final by two points to Inniskeen, Monaghan.

The 2011 season was St Brigid's first at Intermediate level. Despite this, they reached the County Championship final where they lost to Lámh Dhearg 2-09 to 1-09. The next year, the club's 20th anniversary, they fittingly went one further, defeating St Paul's 1-12 to 1-11 to reach Senior status for the first time in their history. This was followed by an appearance in the Ulster Intermediate Championship final against Lisbellaw, Co. Fermanagh and a runners-up finish in Division 3 to gain promotion.



Patrick Og's line up in the 1940s. Not much is known about the short existence of the club. Jimmy Cudden, Neil Patterson, John Smith, Willy Smith and John McToal are known to have played lined up for them.



St Brigid's line up for the first time in 1992. During the club's early years training sessions took place in the fields of local farmers.



St Brigid's line up before their first County final in 1997.



Liam Kearns is blocked down by a Loughgiel defender in the 2005 Féis Junior final. It took extra time for St Brigid's to secure a 5-18 to 5-12 victory in the most exciting match of that year's Féis nGleann.



St Brigid's showed they were up to the task in their first game at Intermediate level as they defeated local rivals St Mary's, Rasharkin 4-13 to 3-5 in the preliminary round of the County Championship. (Above left) Liam Kearns celebrates the first goal of a hat trick. (Top right) Ruairi Lavery moves in to block St Mary's Paul McMullan with dad Geoffrey looking on in the background. (Bottom right) Corner-forward Stephen Smith strikes beyond a stranded defender



Cloughmills vice-captain Darren Morrison holds the Intermediate Cup aloft as team captain John McGuckian (out of picture) who was injured for the final, makes his acceptance speech.



Steven Smyth breaks clear of his marker as Cloughmills' bright debut season at Intermediate level continued as they dispatched Glenarm in the quarter finals of the Championship. They would go on to defeat St Theresa's in the semi-finals before falling at the final hurdle.



St Brigid's celebrate their County Antrim Intermediate Championship win 2012, completing a remarkable rise through the ranks. For their Senior debut they played Loughgiel in the Championship for the first time in their history.

