

2017 40x20 Juvenile County Championships Report

Compiled by Juvenile Committee PRO Gavin Buggy

The first of the GAA Handball Co.Wexford 40X20 Juvenile A Final's took place in St.Josephs and Coolgreany on Friday evening 20th January with some good games at each venue. St.Josephs players edged the honours in their home Court by taking Girls U-12 Singles,Girls U-13 Singles and Boys U-11 Singles while Ballymitty won the other two titles on offer namely Girls U-14 Singles and Girls U-15 Singles. Jodie Keeling (St.Josephs) disappointingly received an '11th Hour Walkover' from her opponent in Girls U-12 Singles and had a facile Championship victory. 'Stablemates' Ellie Murphy O'Gorman (St.Josephs) & Elizabeth Walsh (St.Josephs) served up a good U-13 Singles Final before Ellie's greater experience told and she won it 15-0,15-11 holding off Elizabeth's late surge. Rory Gilbert (St.Josephs) made it his third 40X20 County Singles victory in four years as he reversed the result of an earlier group game against the very talented Jamie Barnes (St.Marys) in a terrific contest for the Boys U-11 Title 15-11,12-15,11-8. This was the 'Game of the Night' as both boys went at it hammer and thongs as has been the norm in their meetings up to now. Rory won the opening game 15-11 and looked to be slightly in control but Jamie stormed back to win the 2nd 15-12 forcing it to a Tie-Break. The St.Marys youngster looked to have an unassailable lead at 8-0 in the decider before the Josephs man came out of the clouds and won it going away 11-8. Top class on all fronts from both boys. Ballymitty ruled the roost after that and the South County Club took the remaining two titles on offer at Girls U-14 and Girls U-15. April Moran looked every inch a player going places when she beat her gallant clubmate Danielle Kinsella 15-8,15-1 at Girls U-14 Singles. April's serving and court awareness were too much for Danielle on this occasion and try as she did she couldn't reel her opponent in. Lots will be expected from both girls over the next few years. Niamh Millar continued the dominance of her age group in Girls U-15 Singles as she had far too much in the locker for Hannah Cullen (St.Josephs) who gave it her all but Niamh had simply too many shots winning it 15-3,15-5. Two girls titles for Ballymitty should be a great boost for the Club going forward.

In Coolgreany the 'Black and White' of the home Club was very much to the fore as they won both titles on offer at Girls U-16 and Boys U-17. Leanne Boland beat her U-15 60X30 All Ireland winning partner Ciara Parnell (Ballyhogue) in their U-16 Singles Final by 2 Games to 0 playing great Handball while it was Ciaran Power who emerged victorious from a hard fought Boys U-17 Singles Final when he beat Colm Parnell (Ballyhogue) 21-13,21-14. Both boys served up an enjoyable game with the local lad just having the better of the argument.

Sunday 22nd January 2017 saw the last of the GAA Handball Co.Wexford 40X20 Juvenile A Championship Finals played before disappointing crowds both morning and afternoon in St.Josephs. People only seem to show up for their own kids Finals and the format of play will have to be looked at again. In the morning session Conor Horan (Coolgreany) captured the third title of the weekend for the North County Club when he produced a very composed display to see off the game challenge of Taghmon's Bobby Doyle in a high standard Boys U-12 Final. Both boys charted their way to the Final after coming through a competitive championship with Conor confirming the form of his earlier meeting with Bobby on a 15-9,15-3 Scoreline. Mark Doyle (Taghmon) continued the dominance of his age group as he had too much Handball for his club mate Conor Murphy in the Boys U-14 Singles Final. Off the back of a terrific serve Mark dominated the exchanges and try hard as Conor did he could never get to grips with it, Mark came away with another Singles Gold after a 2-0 victory. Josh Kavanagh (St.Josephs) made the step up in age a winning one when he beat the 2016 Champion Josh McMahon (St.Josephs) 21-10,21-19 in the 'Game of the Day' at Boys U-16 Singles. Apart from a few errors here and there both lads served up a terrific contest played at a fast pace. Josh Kavanagh won the opening game with a little to spare before Josh McMahon found plenty for pressure to look the most likely in the 2nd Set leading 19-14 and seemingly one good passage of play away from 'Game Ball' but he lost focus at a crucial stage and sensing this Josh Kavanagh reeled him in and ran right by him to win it 21-19. A tough Championship right from the start with plenty of close games and a very positive standard, both lads will be happy with how they have progressed heading into the Leinster Championship ~ well done to both of them. The three afternoon games all went the way of the home Club with victories at Boys U-13 Singles,Boys U-15 Singles and Girls U-17 Singles. Johnny Goggins defeated first time finalist and B Singles Winner Cian Doyle (Castlebridge) after a close game to take the Boys U-13 Singles. The St.Josephs boy had just about enough experience to see him home 15-6,15-11. There were comfortable victories at Boys U-15 Singles for Richard

Lawlor and Cora Doyle at Girls U-17 Singles over Dean O'Neill (Ballymitt) and Emma Sweeney (St.Josephs) respectively. With the Boys U-10 Final still to be played St.Josephs top the 'Leaderboard' with seven titles followed by Coolgreany on three, Ballymitt on two and Taghmon on one.

Many thanks to Co.Board Officers Virginia Rossiter & Robert Doyle who presided on the day and to Marguerite Gore who presented Medals, and thanks to the venue officials in both Coolgreany & St.Josephs and to all of the parents for their support since the A Championship's started.

Results ~

Boys U-12 Singles :

Conor Horan (Coolgreany) dft Bobby Doyle (Taghmon) 15-9,15-3..

Boys U-16 Singles :

Josh Kavanagh (St.Josephs) dft Josh McMahon (St.Josephs) 21-10,21-19..

Boys U-14 Singles :

Mark Doyle (Taghmon) dft Conor Murphy (Taghmon) 2-0..

Boys U-13 Singles :

Johnny Goggins (St.Josephs) dft Cian Doyle (Castlebridge) 15-6,15-11..

Boys U-15 Singles :

Richard Lawlor (St.Josephs) dft Dean O'Neill (Ballymitt) 2-0..

Girls U-17 Singles :

Cora Doyle (St.Josephs) dft Emma Sweeney (St.Josephs) 2-0..