



Na Fianna Nuacht

Deirdre Lambe



When news broke last Saturday night of the sudden death following a short illness of our beloved club secretary Deirdre Lambe the sense of disbelief among her friends and colleagues was palpable. How could somebody of such vivacity and vitality be taken from us so soon? Even now almost a week later it is difficult to accept that we will no longer see Deirdre supporting Na Fianna on the side of a pitch or in a committee room getting on with the business of running the club.

Deirdre's first interaction with the club was as a mother. Her son Conor began in the club nursery soon after the turn of the century. The 1996 boys were a well organised and numerous group and

Deirdre very soon became a popular figure among the parental cohort. The seed had been sown and Deirdre's appetite for greater club involvement was duly whetted. The subsequent arrival of her daughter Anna some years later in 2001 provided full bloom to Deirdre's amazing qualities. She quite literally became a mother figure to each and every one of the 2001 girls providing them with lifts to matches all over and beyond the county, providing them with a shoulder to cry on when required and providing them with all of the encouragement and support they needed. Testament to the esteem in which Deirdre was held by the girls and the genuine love that they felt for her was born out by the turnout of grieving teenagers in yellow jerseys at her funeral in Our Lady of Victories church on Thursday.

Deirdre had a real enthusiasm for the games and her many fine qualities were manifest to all those with whom she came in contact. It was readily apparent that Deirdre's organisational acumen and administrative ability would sooner or later be required on the club's Executive Committee. Deirdre had already excelled for some years in the role as club delegate to the Dublin ladies football board. It came as no surprise when at the club AGM of 2013 she was elected onto the Executive Committee. One year later she was elected as the club Leas



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Cathaoirleach where she served for a period of two years before being elected as Club Secretary at the AGM of 2016. During her many years of service to Na Fianna no job was ever too easy or too difficult for Deirdre. Her painstaking attention to detail and her thoroughness in completing successfully any task which she undertook were marvellous.

No matter to what she turned her hand, Deirdre invariably excelled. Her engaging and welcoming personality along with her beautiful smile endeared her to all. In the sad days since her death, it has been remarked to me by countless club colleagues how Deirdre never had a bad word to say about anybody. By the same token, nobody ever could have a bad word to say against Deirdre. Such an idea would be utterly unfathomable.

Those of us who count ourselves among Deirdre's friends and colleagues have lost a dearly loved friend. The club has lost an indefatigable volunteer. But the greatest loss is the loss which will be felt by Deirdre's family who have lost the bedrock of their lives. To her husband Pat, to her son Conor, to her daughter Anna, to her mother Kathleen, to her brother John and to all of her extended family, we offer our heartfelt sympathy. The memories of Deirdre and of the fortitude which she displayed will continue to inspire us in the struggles and challenges of life which lie ahead.

Ní bheidh a leithéid ann arís.

(With thanks to her friend and fellow mentor Colum Cronin)

Metrolink – Chairman's Update

It has been a traumatic week. All activity has been overshadowed by the untimely passing of our dear friend and colleague Deirdre Lambe. Our Na Fianna family is struggling to come to terms with the loss of our Club Secretary. Deirdre has been a very close and much loved colleague for many but especially all of us on the current Executive. She was our rock. We miss her deeply. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h-anam dílis.

While struggling with our loss, work on Metro link matters has had to continue. The task of formulating a detailed submission on behalf of the club has now begun. Following a



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tendering process a firm of planning consultants has been engaged to assist with our technical response. The work group is working closely with them to ensure that our submission is reflective of our community values but also based on a solid technical footing. We can afford to leave no stone unturned.

We view this process as a collective and need your input to finalise the submission. We will have an outline submission ready to present to the membership at a **special members meeting to be held in DCU St Pats on Wednesday 2nd May at 8pm**. It is important that as many as possible attend that meeting and input into the process so we can confirm our submission by May 11th.

In the interim our press campaign continues and this week the matter featured in The Sunday Indo (see page 6 of this issue), on Morning Ireland, Newstalk and featured as a topical item on the floor of Dáil Eireann last Wednesday, see link <http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/debateswebpack.nsf/takes/dail2018041800029?opendocument#HH00550>

On the political front we met with the party leaders of Fianna Fáil and Sinn Féin and have a series of further meetings planned for next week. We continue to engage with all our stakeholders - Schools, Clubs, County Board and Croke Park. Next Wednesday we have been invited to appear before the Joint committee of the Oireachtas on Transport ,Tourism and Sport.

While all these actions are underway it is vital that everyone plays their part by submitting observations to consultations@metrolink.ie and if agreeable cc them to consultations@clgnafianna.ie THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ACTION TO COMPLETE NOW.

(For those who would like some guidance on content, a template submission is detailed on the next page which you may cut, paste and edit as you see fit. For members' convenience, this will also be available on club website)



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Re: *Metrolink – Emerging Proposed Route – Impact on Na Fianna CLG*

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to register my concern at the Emerging Proposed Route (EPR) for Dublin's MetroLink, with particular focus on the proposed station and tunnel-boring machine depot at CLG Na Fianna, Mobhí Road, Glasnevin.

CLG Na Fianna is one of the largest Gaelic sports and cultural centres in Ireland. With more than 3,000 members and a wider associated community of many thousands more, construction at Mobhí Road and disruption to Na Fianna's activities would have an enormous and long-lasting negative impact.

Na Fianna fields more than 100 teams ranging in age from 4 to over 40. At the very least, training and matches provide an important function in North Dublin for keeping these players physically active and socially engaged, which has associated physical and mental health benefits.

But there is much more. Players forge friendships that last decades beyond those training sessions and games, and parents, mentors, coaches and supporters build and nourish strong networks that enrich lives and even professional careers, another long-term impact that arises from those fixtures.

The premises at Mobhí Road also provide an important focal point for local businesses and the clubhouse is a popular site for informal gatherings and more formal social events such as birthdays and parties following baptisms, weddings, Confirmations and funerals.

In these and countless other ways, CLG Na Fianna builds health and social cohesion in North Dublin, and disruption to the future of the club is disruption to the future wellbeing of a community of thousands.

I am not against progress, but it cannot be at any cost. I urge you to take into consideration the enormous impact that the construction of a Metro station and the placement of a tunnel-boring depot would have on this vibrant and engaged community for generations to come.

Yours,

NAME

The quantity of submissions is vital - so please encourage everyone in your household, your relatives and everyone you can, to submit their responses and question the proposed requisitioning of our communities facilities for the project.

I look forward to seeing you on May 2nd in St Pats and please continue with submissions to Metro Link and mails to Public reps. Beart de réir ár mbriathar - Action according to our words.

Le Buíochas, Cormac Ó Donnchú, Cathaoirleach CLG Na Fianna.



Na Fianna Nuacht

Weekend Fixtures



Following Thursday night's Championship win by Senior Hurlers, see pic above, Hurling Championship continues on Saturday with Inters away against Thomas Davis at 6pm. Both Junior teams play Championship on Sunday at 3pm, A's host Naomh Mearnóg in Mobhi Road and B's away against Commercials.

Minor footballers at home on Sunday at 11am with A's playing Clontarf in Mobhi Road and B's hosting Whitehall Colmcille in Collinstown.

A busy morning of Rounders fixtures in St Vincents CBS on Sunday morning starting at 10.30am. Best of luck to all teams, full fixture list on website, all support welcome.





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8 | SPORT | GAELIC GAMES

Sunday Independent 15 April 2018

Na Fianna tackling latest crisis head on

Members unite to fight Metro plans which would put main pitch out of use for 3-6 years



DERMOT CROWE

HERE are still some people around Na Fianna GAA club who remember the fire of 1967. It quickly engulfed the newly built wooden pavilion that was to serve as the clubhouse for years to come. In no time, that project was reduced to dust. Jimmy Gray, a founding member of the club 12 years earlier, was a club officer when he got an urgent call from a neighbour on nearby Mohbi Road around 2am.

"We got the pavilion from the Ivsagh Grounds that Guinness owned," says Gray, 50 years later. "We took it down, brought it over to Mohbi Road and rebuilt it. We were to open it a few days later and someone went in and set it on fire. I would say 20-30 people worked on that clubhouse, carpenters and electricians and all of them members, getting it ready.

"A neighbour rang me, I was in bed. We went down and there was a crowd there watching it on fire. We thought we'd never see a clubhouse again. It was very disheartening, particularly when so much community voluntary work went into it. We have had crises before and we go over them, and please God we are going to get over this one."

The last crisis that he refers to, centred on proposals for a Metro underground rail link cutting right through the club's headquarters, leaves the fire of '67 in the shade. The plans have shocked and angered the club's 3,000 members. Were they to come to fruition the main pitch would be turned into a building site and placed off limits for three to six years. Already the club is struggling to find the facilities to cater for increasing numbers, including 160 competitive teams.

Like the fire in '67, the news of the Metro plans came to Jimmy Gray when last expected. "It's a shock," he admits. "because it was such short notice without any consultation whatsoever. I was in holiday down in Spain and I got a phone call from my daughter telling me about it."

There had been rumblings about the



Founding member of Na Fianna Jimmy Gray with players like Keenan, Egan, Keating, Conboy, O'Leary and O'at McSwain at Mohbi Road, Clonsilla. Photo: Tony Gallo

proposed route of the Metro line and its possible impact on some part of the club's infrastructure. But nobody envisaged a similar right at the heart of its operation. The plans, with a few days' notice given to Na Fianna, contained proposals for an underground station beneath the main pitch. The two all-weather pitches as the venue were also to be taken over, although there have been suggestions that these might be spared as a compromise. All of a sudden the club was riven with fear, confusion and uncertainty.

Further complicating matters are two schools, a primary and secondary, situated adjacent to the clubhouse. Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) claims the schools and club can continue to function while major excavation work begins there. The club is deeply sceptical about the practicalities of this and fears,

understandably, that parents won't want their children attending nurseries with major noise and dust in the immediate vicinity, where a tunnel boring deep is already envisaged.

One thing is clear, even if the future of the project and route remains uncertain. The threat has mobilised the club and united it like at no other time in its history. Faced with an existential crisis like this, the club has mined new depths of awareness and appreciation of the value of what it has. In public consultations, the latest taking place last Monday in DCU, the show of strength and solidarity was

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When the fire destroyed the pavilion, a letter was published in the Evening Herald a few weeks later. It was written by a Martin Peasey of nearby Rosalie Avenue who said the experience had led him to view the club in an entirely different light. The letter went as follows:

My young son plays football for Na Fianna Club and I imagine that other than the fact that he goes off on a Sunday morning or afternoon to a match, I have never given the matter much thought, not being particularly interested myself.

I did not quite appreciate what it meant to him either until Sunday week when he learned that their pavilion had been destroyed by fire. He went up to the field at Mohbi Road and when he returned he cried bitterly. He is 11 years of age and not really given to this sort of emotion, so if this has affected him so greatly there must be a lot of good in the club.

I am afraid that many parents size for ground or just never think of the great work being done by Na Fianna. Home from school and after the club's children men give up their time to look after and care for young boys, performing as they do a service that is absolutely essential these days as they the minute of youth occupied with something that is healthy.

I have seen the damage done at Mohbi Road and I understand that the pavilion, which was practically finished, had been mainly done by voluntary labour. I spoke to one man who told me that members of their clubs work each night for up to three or four hours' work.

I sincerely hope that they will find this spirit and resources in their club and continue to carry on the good work which they have been doing.

Gray echoes similar sentiments today, like many of his club colleagues. "I hope they will find an alternative route. Because it would have a serious effect on the club. It is a huge club now. The nursery is the future of the club and if that was to be affected in any way it would be a disaster for us. We have 400-500 kids here. It is worthwhile coming down on Saturday mornings to see the activity."

The thing I feel very sorry about, and it is not just confined to Na Fianna, is the contribution GAA clubs make to the State from a social point of view. Take Na Fianna. I couldn't quantify what we have spent, we spend a lot of money on the club, involving the pitch, two clubhouses, one went up on fire. That cost, of all that, 90 per cent would have come from our own resources, fundraising and that. That provides an important social service to the State and I think it is appreciated to the same extent it should be."

Jimmy Cooper's grandfather, Brendan Deegan, was another founding member, one of those who formed a breakaway group from CJ Kickham's Naive to Cavan. Deegan's brother Simon was on the Cavan team that played in the Polo Grounds. Having moved to Dublin, Deegan put down roots that remain in

place today. Cooper, his grandson, is the most high-profile player in the club and in recent years he has attained a better appreciation of what the club has given him, admitting he lost signs of that air a while.

"If I am frank about it, for about three years with Dublin I took Na Fianna for granted and I always came back inspired or disinterested or just wanted a break," says Cooper. "Lads would tell you the exact same. I wasn't around or if I was I didn't look interested. But in the last two years I became more aware of my responsibility to the club, and being someone that kids might look up to, like I did to Brendan [Farrrell] or whoever growing up."

"People were telling me that I could make a contribution, that people would listen to me more because of who I am. Then all of a sudden the penny dropped. Why do people need to remind me of what this is about? I probably did get sucked into the whole Dublin bubble. The club, as with every GAA player, it is such a hard to pin one word on it. It is the place certainly from where I always felt most comfortable. I wasn't always the most sociable guy in the world, but put a football or a ball in my hand and I was more confident and able to be more comfortable with people."

Heading into last Monday's public consultation meeting attended by concerned members, he overheard someone saying, "You don't mess with a family like that. You can sense the emotion," says Cooper, "that people are really engaged."

Last September, Cormac Ó Donnchú took over as chairman of the club. He was in charge of overseeing for a charity organisation, Zamda, when he was made aware of the proposals, on Friday, March 10. A member of TII spoke to him at 4.30pm Irish time, just before the bank holiday weekend. "Because of the amount of activity," says Ó Donnchú, "we are under enormous pressure to find locations so that we can continue to be active — green spaces within our community. We operate in a regular locations. Of those the only one we have full unfettered access to is our headquarters and from pitch and two all-weather pitches. On the Friday of the long weekend I got an urgent message to call home. They rang and heard a voice message which said I was out in the next 24 hours. Messages were being delivered instead to my wife, Georgina. They contacted her and said they wanted to speak to me. My first question was to ask them did they understand the depth and scale of the operation of Na Fianna. Their answer was that they knew we were a club that had won three county championships in a row between 1999 and 2001. In other words they had a look at our website. So the next question was, did they understand the depth and breadth of the organisation and the effect that excavation would have on it?"

Ó Donnchú was trying to change his plans to come home for a meeting on the

following Tuesday with TII but it was not possible to go back. That meeting went ahead with a delegation representing the club. He got home the following Friday, the day after the news became public.

This is not naive to the fire. He first became involved in the club 18 years ago, being originally from Walkinstown. His wife is from Leath. He became involved in the club nursery. Gradually he became more deeply involved.

"You're carrying the bags and before you know it you are chairman," he says. "It's been all-consuming. It has been a very unnecessary distraction. We didn't seek to be at the centre of this issue. It has the potential to be a fatal blow to our community. And after so much work since 1955, a slow progressive erosion of this amazing community, of our culture and sport, we face the possibility it could be extinguished, or extremely damaged."

"What we are somewhat bewildered by is that the format in which it has been presented to us shows no regard or respect for the level of community engagement and involvement that we represent. Our position, and our community, and our schools — that has to be represented when it comes to making improvements and changes and can't be driven by economics and engineering concerns."

"We were informed 48 hours before this major announcement and given six weeks to respond."

"The club has until May 15 to make a submission when the public engagement period expires."

Eoin O'Brien is the Dublin senior camogie team's joint captain. She has been playing in the club since she was a child, her parents having moved to the area, her father from Wexford and mother from Kildare. "We were born in Glasnevin and they brought me down to the nursery. I have a brother three years older, just two of us."

Word filtered through her team's WhatsApp initially. "It is like the rug is being pulled from underneath you. Your whole sense of security. It is not really about pitches. It is about your family, your community and your identity."

"It was upsetting because I couldn't understand that the GAA offers so much to people for so little, and is so embedded in our culture, and this was being disregarded. I believe in working with communities and allowing them to be involved in decision making. The decision-making that fundamentally affect their lives and I felt that was not happening. I know this development and infrastructure is needed, I got that, but just before the bank holiday weekend. "Because of the amount of activity," says Ó Donnchú, "we are under enormous pressure to find locations so that we can continue to be active — green spaces within our community. We operate in a regular locations. Of those the only one we have full unfettered access to is our headquarters and from pitch and two all-weather pitches. On the Friday of the long weekend I got an urgent message to call home. They rang and heard a voice message which said I was out in the next 24 hours. Messages were being delivered instead to my wife, Georgina. They contacted her and said they wanted to speak to me. My first question was to ask them did they understand the depth and scale of the operation of Na Fianna. Their answer was that they knew we were a club that had won three county championships in a row between 1999 and 2001. In other words they had a look at our website. So the next question was, did they understand the depth and breadth of the organisation and the effect that excavation would have on it?"

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Malahide Cricket Club, Dublin

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Na Fianna Nuacht

Hurling Féile Weekend

Na Fianna will field two Hurling teams in this weekend's Féile which starts tomorrow (Saturday 21st) morning. Our A team will play in Division 1 Group B in Cherryfield. Here they will play Lucan Sarsfields, Naomh Barróg and Ballyboden. Meanwhile our B team compete in the Division 5 Group B section and will be based in Rivervalley where they will play teams from Kevins, Naomh Fionnbarra and Fingal Gaels. All games throw in at 10.30am, best of luck to the lads, hope they all enjoy the day and all support welcome.

Wall Ball Challengers!



Well done to Tadhg O'Loinsigh, John Keane, David Bateson and Michael Keane from the 2006 and 2008 groups who represented CLG Na Fianna in the O'Tooles Wall Ball Challenge on Good Friday.



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**Na Fianna
Lotto Results
April 16th 2018**

Numbers

19	23	24	28
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Jackpot €4000 - No Winner

Match 3 Numbers €130 - Winner

Christine Kenny Numbers

4	19	23	28
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Lucky Pick Winner - €15

Sean Potts
Catherine and Peter Clarke
Maria O'Hanlon (Sat)
Ruth McGetrick (Sat)
Shayne Ryan

Next Jackpot €4250

Club Shops

Both shops open tomorrow Saturday 21st April. Club shop in foyer open 9-1pm for all your Na Fianna colours and gear and Hurley shop open until 12 noon. Click on banner below for online shopping.

**SHOP ONLINE AT THE
NA FIANNA CLUB STORE
CLICK HERE**

1918 O'Neills



Na Fianna Nuacht

Na Fianna Golf Society

Na Fianna Golf Society's first outing of 2018 will be to Castleknock Golf Club on Monday 23rd April. Tee time reserved 2-3.30pm, timesheet available from Ciaran Gray 0872269133, new members always welcome.

Na Fianna Golf Classic in support of
Senior Football and Hurling teams

Donabate Golf Club

Friday 25th May 2018

Entry Fee €350 per team of 4
(includes green fees and meal)



Contact the following for details

John Caffrey 087 6917295 Gerry Donohoe 087 6736294

Tom Gilligan 087 2661383 Declan Feeney 085 7397127

Tom Ryan 087 2857669 Pat Breen 087 9683222

Patbreen1945@gmail.com



Na Fianna Nuacht

Artist on and Off the Pitch!



Well done to Rian O'Reilly (2008 Boys) for winning his age group and coming second overall in the Tesco Childrens. We expect to see these master strokes on the pitch O'now with the hurl and feet.

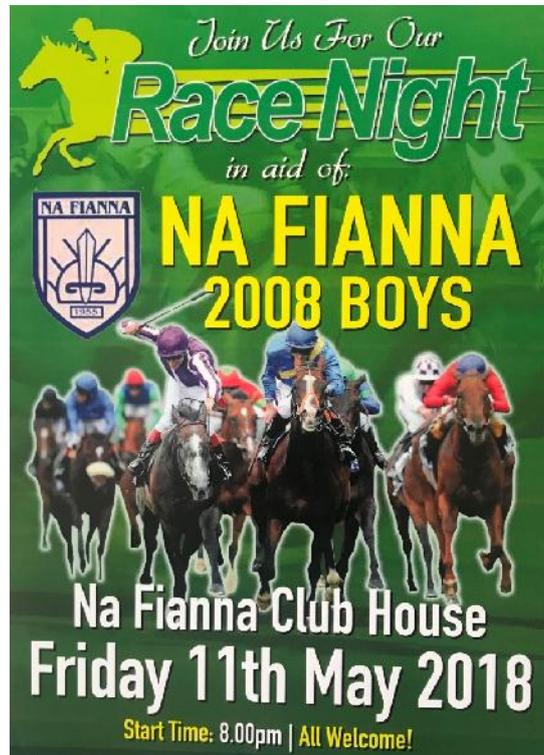
Members' Subscriptions Due

Members' subscriptions are due and payable since the AGM. Details of subscription rates and methods of payment are on the Club website <http://www.clgnafianna.com/membership/> Subscriptions can be paid online, on Saturday mornings in the Club or at the office during opening hours (9.30am to 1pm Mon –Fri).





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On Friday 11th May @ 20:00, CLG Na Fianna will be hosting the 2008 Boys Race Night, this will be a fun, social evening and all proceeds will help prepare these boys for the future. All Welcome. If anyone is interested in sponsorship or advertising for the night, please contact either Gary Bateson – 0868259990 – garybateson@gmail.com or Dave Curran – 0857025074 – daitnicurran@gmail.com

Fógra Tabachtach

The objective of Na Fianna Nuacht is to communicate as much club activity as possible however it is important to note that all items for inclusion in either Club Notes or Na Fianna Nuacht are reported to news@clgnafianna.ie or texted to 087 9250697 by Sunday evening. With a growing membership of almost 3,000 and over 100 teams now competing it is difficult to ensure all club activity is reported upon – **Do not assume** that your team's activity is already known to Na Fianna Nuacht or that someone else has reported it. When errors or omissions occur it is the policy of Na Fianna Nuacht to correct these in subsequent issues when they are reported to news@clgnafianna.ie