



Na Fianna Nuacht

Hurling Championship Weekend



Saturday April 6th will see the Na Fianna Senior A Hurlers take to the pitch at Parnell Park at 4pm in their opening game in the Senior Championship against Kilmacud Crokes. The temporary return of Na Fianna's County Hurlers Shane Barrett, Donal Burke and Jonathan Tracey will add strength to the already formidable panel.

Kilmacud Crokes have never been an easy team to overcome and the match promises to be an exciting and entertaining encounter. The Senior Hurlers would really appreciate the support of Club members on Saturday so please come along with your Na Fianna colours and support the lads. The team management and players would like to express their gratitude to the Mater Private Hospital for the brand new set of jerseys which they received recently, see page 13 for more.

NA FIANNA
1955

Senior Hurling Championship Saturday 6th April

SHC A
Na Fianna V Kilmacud Crokes
Parnell Park 4pm

SHC B
Na Fianna V BSE
Mobhi Rd 6pm

#NaFiannaAbu #HeartOfTheCommunity

Meanwhile our intrepid reporter who has been following our Senior 2 Hurlers this year reports on their Championship preparations....read on.



Na Fianna Nuacht

There have been many milestones down through the years of this great club since it was formed on April 25th, 1955. I got very lucky with the first club championship I covered as a reporter as it was in 1969, the first year Na Fianna won the Dublin Football Championship. I was at the opening of the new clubhouse in 1972 and I was on the trip to America in 1976. I was present in the clubhouse to cover the celebrations after the second football championship win in 1979 and I was at each of the three in a row wins of the early noughties. One memory that stands out for me was the atmosphere in O'Toole Park when Na Fianna were victorious by one point in the 2017 Junior F Championship.

However, possibly the most important game in the club's history is due to be played in Mobhi Road at 6pm on Saturday as the Senior 2 Hurlers take on Ballyboden in the championship. This fixture was touted in the Herald as the game of the first round when the draw was made and a huge crowd is expected (parking will be available in Phibsborough Shopping Centre). Ballyboden will undoubtedly be favourites but Na Fianna will be looking to put in a good performance in front of their home support. Na Fianna are in 5th place in AHL 4 while Ballyboden are 3rd in AHL 3 so the challenge for the Mobhi Road men is clear, but not insurmountable and with the Flaherty brothers and Dave Neylon returning from injury anything is possible.



After a tough start to the league with losses suffered against decent opposition, our Junior A Hurlers produced a battling performance against Vincents and played some smart hurling in the second half. The squad has been bolstered by a number of skilful young players coming in from previous years' minor teams, while a few gnarled veterans are still hanging around for another crack at Champo. If we can reproduce a performance similar to the Vincents'



Na Fianna Nuacht

game, we can be sure of notching our first win of the year and build some momentum back and start setting things for the year right at Mobhi Road!

Our Junior B Hurling team is looking forward to Sunday's Championship clash against Naomh Mearnóg in Collinstown at 3pm. Confidence is high following three league wins which puts them top of the Division 9 league. While Sunday's opponents are playing a league higher, preparations have been good and all are ready for the challenge ahead.



Na Fianna Operation Transformation Leader Board

Leaders	Fri 5th April '19
Kevin O'Donnell	15.73%
Ryan O'Flaherty	13.21%
Nora McCarrick	12.77%
Carla Downes	12.57%
Deborah Walsh	10.51%
Philip O'Brien	9.16%
Seosamh Ó Maolalaí	8.59%
Maurice Grehan	6.60%
Aileen Donnan	5.88%
Shaun Cummins	4.81%
Sinead Kane	4.34%
Colm O'Driscoll	3.65%
Roisín O'Donoghue	3.41%
Christina Hendrick	-0.83%



Na Fianna Nuacht

In this week's Nuacht we continue our "Get To Know Your Na Fianna OT Team Leaders" series where over the course of the next few weeks we will feature our Team Leaders and this will allow Na Fianna member to decide who you're going to throw your support behind. First up this week, representing the 2006 Boys is Phil O'Brien.



My name is **Philip O'Brien**, I am married to Annette, have two children, Amie (23) and Ben (12). I have been involved in Na Fianna since 2007 when we moved back into the area. When Amie was playing football and camogie I was quiet happy to bring her to all he games and support from the side-lines – but as most of you know that is not something you can get away with forever!! Since Ben joined Na Fianna in 2010 I have become more involved in the club than I ever thought possible. I am the lead mentor for the 2006 Boys – supported by possibly the best bunch of coaches and mentors in the Club, we have 25 Active coaches working with our group of 71 boys. I am also the Club Fundraising Officer (for my sins).

I took part in operation transformation for a few reasons.

1. I was already on my own get fit journey and the appeal of having support from other like-minded people really appealed to me. I also liked the idea of having some healthy competition, those who know me well, will tell you that I never shy away from competition!!!
2. When the idea was put to me at dinner one night in town, I thought "Wow that's a great way to promote healthy lifestyles and raise some much needed money for Na Fianna" – so the next morning Annette said I had to make it happen!! And we all know who the boss is, so when the boss gives an order there is no backing out!!
3. I have been involved in the club fundraisers for the last 6 years, and every time we run an event be it a Panto, Christmas Fair, Strictly Come Dancing I have always made great friends, so I thought this is another way to meet new friends in Na Fianna.



Na Fianna Nuacht

Since I started my weight loss journey in September 2018 I have lost a total of 31Lbs (2 stone 3 pounds). But more importantly I have now changed old (bad) habits and created new (good) habits. I hope all leaders on this journey are experiencing the same changes.

But now for the real stuff – I need your support, ask not what your Club can do for you, but what can you do for your Club!!! Well let me make it easy for you – sign up for the Fun Run on Friday 19th April and select me (Philip O'Brien) as the leader you are supporting!!! I am bursting through the pain barrier on a daily basis for you the Club members – and now All I ask is that you support me on the Final Race of the Final Day of Operation Transformation!!!



My name is **Kevin O'Donnell** and I represent the 2006 girls for Operation Transformation. I have been involved in Na Fianna and with the team since we joined back in 2015 coaching several teams. Both my wife Mags and I are huge GAA supporters and we always wanted to have our kids play GAA to the best of their ability. We have 5 children who are all involved with the club. Banbha plays with 2006 girls, Ainle with 2009 boys, Anú with 2011 girls, Tailte is in the nursery and Iollán will be starting nursery shortly. So we spend A LOT of time at Na Fianna!

There are a few reasons I wanted to do Operation Transformation. Firstly I needed to lose weight and I saw this as a great way to get that process started. Secondly, Banbha was making her confirmation in March and I wanted to fit into my suits again! Thirdly, the 2006 girls have an expensive year next year with Féile and I wanted to help with the fundraising efforts. Finally, I am WAAaayyyy too much of a coward to walk up to any other parents, tell them they were fat and needed to go on a 12 week intensive diet and exercise plan! So I had to start closer to home!!

The program itself has been wonderful. Getting to know the other leaders and other people around Na Fianna has been absolutely brilliant. It's so well run and I can only congratulate everyone involved for such a brilliant idea and a wonderful program. I have really, really enjoyed it. It's been tough at times but very educational and really eye-opening in terms of my own attitude to food and exercise. Overall I feel like I have made some brilliant life



Na Fianna Nuacht

changes as well as making a lot more friends and connections just by getting involved. If you are there at the Gala night I would love for you to vote for me.



My name is **Nora Mc Carrick** and I am representing the 2007 boys and I am the proud owner of an 07 boy, Tom Smith.

I am a member of Na Fianna since I joined as a shy retiring 9 year old girl to play Camogie... the only thing that has changed is my age! I never foresaw the role Na Fianna was to play in my life. I have made many many friends both on and off the pitch, married a very lucky Na Fianna man Paul Smith and have 6 children, all active playing Na Fianna members. My OT journey has enhanced my love for our great club, I have enjoyed every step (and God knows I have counted them) the Monday walks, the Wednesday and Friday classes and the millions of what's apps!

The support of the 07 boys parents group has been phenomenal and I am really looking forward to a night of fun on April 19th.



Mise Seosamh Ó Maolalaí. Is mé an t-Oifigeach Gaeilge sa chlub. Daoine a spreagadh chun Gaeilge a labhairt. Sin atá uaim. Tá mé ag glacadh páirt san Oibríocht Claochló don chraic. Agus chun buaileadh le daoine nua sa Chlub. Agus chun beagáinín meachain a chailliúnt agus chun an aclaíocht a athmhúscailt san sean-chorp!

Tá mé pósta le hElma agus triúr clainne orainn – Diarmuid, Róisín agus Dónal – an triúr acu ins na fichidí anois. Muid inár gcónaí díreach ag geata páirc scoile Naomh Uinseann ag Coirnéal Uí hAirt. Níor imir Diarmuid riamh don chlub – is file é. D'imir Róisín camógaíocht agus peil leis Na Fianna agus í ina déagóir. Tá Dónal ag imirt fós – iomáint agus peil shóisearach – agus é ag baint taitneamh as fós chomh maith.

Is pobal é an club seo. Is breá liom é. Is aoibhinn liom a bheith ar Bhóthar Mobhí maidin Shathairn ag caint le na tuismitheoirí agus le na páistí ag an Naíonra. Tugaim cuireadh do gach éinne teacht don bhear oíche Déardaoin ar bith timpeall leath uair tar éis a hocht don Chiorcal Comhrá. Cúpla focal – brú ar bith. Táimid ag iarraidh Bonn Óir Fondúireacht



Na Fianna Nuacht

Sheosaimh Mhic Dhonncha a ghnóthú don chlub an bhliain seo – labhair cúpla focal Gaeilge chun cabhrú linn!

I'm Seosamh. I'm the Irish language Officer in the club. To encourage people to speak Irish. That's what I'm about. I'm taking part in Operation Transformation for the craic. And to meet new people in the Club. And to lose a little bit of weight and to reawaken the athleticism in the old body!

I'm married to Elma and we have three children – Diarmuid, Róisín and Dónal – the three of them in their twenties now. We live just at the gates of the St Vincent's School field at Hart's Corner. Diarmuid never played for the club – he's a poet. Róisín played camogie and football for Na Fianna as a teenager. Dónal is still playing – junior hurling and football – and he's still enjoying it too.

This club is a community. I love it. I love being down on Mobhí Road on a Saturday morning talking to the parents and the children at the Nursery. I invite everyone to come down to the bar any Thursday night around half eight for the Ciorcal Comhrá – Irish Conversation Circle. A few words – no pressure. We are trying to achieve the Gold Medal of the Joe McDonagh Foundation for the club this year – speak a few words of Irish to help us!



My name is **Shaun Cummins** and I had a couple of reasons for getting involved with Operation Transformation. I'm helping out with the Senior 2 hurling team this year and as anyone involved with a team knows, it can be an expensive business. Getting involved with OT was a good way for us to raise some funds which we will use to buy sliothars etc. All the lads look after themselves well so I was the only one left who could benefit from OT, so it ended up being my name going forward.

I still try to play junior hurling as well and I've been at a loss over the last few years to explain why the only players slower than me were Jim Deane and Richie Moore, everyone else seemed to be getting faster. I then realised that they weren't getting faster, I was just getting slower. Diarmuid O'Connor has made it clear from the beginning of the year that with Peadar O'Laoire, Eamonn Rainsford and Niall O'Ceallachain on the team; he can't afford another forward who won't track back so I was forced to work on my fitness.



Na Fianna Nuacht

A lot of credit has to go to Phil and the organising committee for all the work they have put in to support the OT leaders over the last few months and I'd like to thank them for all the motivation.

Final Leader's profiles next week, don't miss it!

Don't forget that everyone is welcome to join the Team Leaders on Wednesday and Friday nights but you are asked to please email ot@clgnafianna.ie in advance just to register. The Monday Night Walkers at 7pm are also welcome anyone who fancies a quick stroll around the block. Take the 3km route or the slightly longer 5km route, whichever suits, and don't forget the cuppa or glass of water, or the fruit selection back in the Club Bar afterwards.

Gala Night 19th April

Hosted by a national media personality, the Gala night, which will be the grand finale of Na Fianna's Operation Transformation, will be held in Scoil Chaitriona and back to the club afterwards on Friday 19th April. On the night, the winning leader will be announced during a night's programme that includes quality halftime entertainment, spot prize raffle, finger food back at the club bar and general fun and craic. Tickets for the night are €25 and are available to buy from any of our team leaders...but get to them early, because when they're gone, they're gone and the event will sell out very quickly!



CLG NA FIANNA 1955
GOOD FRIDAY
5K FUN RUN
CHIP TIMED LOCAL RUN - 10AM START

This year is the 4th year of the
Na Fianna 5K Fun Run
Register on www.clgnafianna.ie



Na Fianna Nuacht

Metrolink – Chairman’s Statement

As you may be aware a more realistic Metrolink proposal has been recently published by TII. The new plans involve the siting of a Metro station on the adjacent Home Farm FC pitch. This announcement is a welcome relief to CLG Na Fianna. It removes a threat to place one of Europe’s largest construction sites on Mobhi Road and avoids a possible fatal blow to our club and its carefully fostered culture and community ethos. The removal of this threat will ensure that the central role that our club performs at the heart of our community may continue uninterrupted.

Despite the good news the Metrolink project combined with Bus Connects proposals will continue to deliver significant challenges to us and our wider community. Our Metrolink work group will be studying the precise details of these plans and will be responding on our behalf.

The Metrolink proposals challenged us all to reflect on exactly what Na Fianna means to us all. Na Fianna and the values it represents means so much more than just sport. The fact that an amazing 67% of all consultations received by TII related to Mobhi Road testifies to the value we all place on the importance of community, friendship, volunteerism and Gaelic cultural values.

On behalf of the whole club I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to every single person who helped make our voices heard so clearly on this matter. I would specifically like to acknowledge the tireless work within Na Fianna of the Club Executive, the Metrolink Work group, our PR group and many other silent members of the club who assisted in a very busy campaign.

One of the significant outcomes of the year has been the affirmation of the unshakable and deep bonds which exist with our Breac Gaeltacht neighbours of Scoil Mobhi and Scoil Chaitriona. Our collective and co-ordinated response delivered a strong message and it was listened too. Míle buíochas doibh.

Finally we should all thank - Dublin County Board and Croke Park for their superb support both advisory and financial.



Na Fianna Nuacht

No time for complacency

While the major threat of Metrolink has been averted - we should not be under any illusion as to the continuing challenges we face in persuading our state to the value of the work of our community. The Metrolink plans may be changed but access to space for our children and teams to play on has not.

Our numbers continue to grow with another 10% joining us this year to help celebrate our community and healthy values. A weekend ago we fulfilled 70 official fixtures (70 Community events!) and still only have guaranteed long term access to one pitch!

Our fixtures committee is struggling under this enormous pressure - it is vital that as the unwelcome distraction of Metrolink passes that we refocus on the key issue of securing space for our community to continue to breath, to exercise, to engage in positive community activities - this can only be done with the resources of those who govern our wider society. Our job is to persuade them of these values.

Important local elections are on the horizon it's vital that our non-party political voice is heard on these matters. I would ask you in this regard to please carefully read the message later in the Nuacht on the matter. We now need our voice heard - more then ever but this time for positive action.

Let us look forward together with great confidence reassured by our recent collective response and reaffirmed in our understanding "Ní neart go cur le chéile!"

Now let's get on with supporting our very own community heroes in the important issues of Championship!

Míle Buíochas díobh ar fad- Beirimid Bua!

Le Buíochas,

Cormac Ó Donnchú, Cathaoirleach, CLG Na Fianna



Na Fianna Nuacht

European & Local Elections Friday 24th May

The upcoming Local and European elections provide the opportunity to engage with political candidates and canvassers as they arrive on our doorsteps looking for our support. What can sometimes be forgotten by some of our candidates and elected representatives is that support is a two-way thing. Too often, the only time we see candidates and elected representatives is when there is political advantage to be gained by them.

At a time when on the one hand Na Fianna is experiencing year on year growth in playing membership (10% increase last year), and on the other hand access to playing and training facilities at some of the 14 locations that we have current use of, is under constant threat, it is not unreasonable for any Na Fianna household to ask of a candidate what exactly they propose to do to support Na Fianna and its 4,000 members. It is the responsibility of our elected politicians at all levels to represent the interests of Na Fianna, our members and our wider community.

For your convenience, the club Executive has drawn up some questions that each household should put to all prospective candidates when they call to your door looking for your vote.

- Why does our local Gaelic community of 3000 active members which fields 174 teams (More than GAA Teams in the county of Leitrim) only have shared access to two juvenile pitches in the local public Dublin City Council parks?
- What plans exist to make more public/municipal facilities for **local** clubs/children to play and exercise in?
- As Dublin City Council now also owns two sports stadia (Dalymount and Tolka Park) in our area what access do our locally based voluntary community clubs have to them to play/train in these publicly owned facilities?
- What support will be made available by full time DCC officials to support our local volunteers and their positive community and cultural work?
- We regularly hear in the media of the problem of obesity in today's children. Here is a local voluntary association, staffed by unpaid volunteers, offering the opportunity of healthy lifestyles to 1,500 juveniles in this area and yet we struggle on a weekly basis to find playing pitches. What will you do?
- CLG Na Fianna fields 174 competitive teams and has 3,000 active members and supports work in over ten local schools. How will you support our Club if you get elected?



Na Fianna Nuacht

Football Championship Dates For Your Diary

Club Football Championship

Senior	Sat 13 April 5.15pm	St Sylvesters	Na Fianna	Parnell Park
Junior 1	Sun 14 April 11am	Na Fianna	<u>Raheny</u>	Mobhi Road
Junior 3	Sun 14 April 11am	St Pats	Na Fianna	<u>Donabate</u>
Junior 4	Sun 14 April 3pm	Na Fianna	Geraldine Patrick <u>Morans</u>	<u>Collinstown</u>

Free GAA Club Symposium

A FREE event in Croke Park on Wednesday evening 10th April, this session will be delivered by Pat Daly, GAA Director of Games Development and Research with the support and backing of Dr Niall Moyna of DCU (and known from *Operation Transformation*). It has been organised as part of the [Dublin Learning City](#) festival and will be attended by a number of other North Dublin clubs. As well as being an interesting evening, it provides an opportunity to network with other clubs.

"Going WeLL" helps GAA practitioners to cultivate Wellbeing and Lifelong Learning (WeLL) because they know:

- WHAT ten capacities benefit and drive human growth and development
- HOW motivation and vocational attributes engender TENX impact
- WHY the value laden ideal "I MOULD TEAM" optimises potentialities

Specifically aimed at the Club Sector - Child and Youth domains in particular

A free event, it's open to all and you can sign-up via this link: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/gaa-is-everyone-going-well-croke-park-club-sector-tickets-58726371157>



Na Fianna Nuacht

Mater Private Hospital Sponsor Senior Hurlers



Our Senior Hurlers are delighted to announce that they have secured a new two year sponsorship deal with The Mater Private Hospital. Pictured at the launch are (L-R) Backrow: Shane Barrett, Dr Pat O'Neill, Medical Consultant in Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine at the Mater Private Hospital, Pádraig Buggy, Professor Donal Buggy, Consultant in Anaesthesia, Mater Private Hospital. Front Row: Feargal Breathnach, Dr Caroline Whelan, Group Chief Operations Officer, Declan Feeney Manager of Na Fianna Senior Hurling team and Kevin Burke.

Speaking at the launch, Dr Caroline Whelan, Group Chief Operations Officer at the Mater Private Hospital said "The Mater Private Hospital is delighted to announce our new 2-year sponsorship deal with CLG Na Fianna. Our sponsorship of the senior hurling team is part of our overall commitment to supporting the local community and we look forward to the 6th of April, when CLG Na Fianna will wear their new jerseys as they take on Kilmacud Crokes in the first championship match of the season. We wish the team every success in the coming years."



Na Fianna Nuacht

LOTTO Jackpot.....Could Be Yours!

**Na Fianna
Lotto Results
April 1st 2019**

Numbers

5	10	16	23
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Jackpot €16500 - No Winner

Match 3 Numbers €30 - Winner

John Murchan (ID 139)	Numbers	4	10	16	23
Louise Hennessy (ID 772)	Numbers	2	10	16	23
Dermot Moran (ID 259)	Numbers	5	10	16	20
Helen Caulfield c/o Vinny	Numbers	5	10	16	24
Karen Granville (Sat. Morn.)	Numbers	5	10	16	18

Lucky Pick Winner - €15

Noreen McHugh
Richard Currie
Mary McGrath (Sa. Morn.)
P. J. McHugh c/o Vinny
Rita Rocca c/o Vinny

Next Jackpot €16750

Club lotto jackpot still not won and now stands at an impressive €16,750. Tickets on sale in members bar or around the club. Alternatively, by signing up for the direct debit option, you could win the jackpot every week! See details [here](#)

Na Fianna Golf Society

Na Fianna Golf Society outing in Castleknock GC on Wednesday May 1st. Tee time is 2 to 3.30pm. Contact Ciaran Gray for timesheet 0872269133. New members welcome.





Na Fianna Nuacht

EASTER CAMP 2019

 CLG NA FIANNA 1955



Please see Club website for details on this year's Na Fianna Easter Camp. Book early!

<http://www.clgnafianna.com/na-fianna-easter-camp-2019/>

Members' Subscriptions Due

Members' subscriptions for the coming year 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).

Croke Park Jobs

Croke Park are Hiring! If you would like to work in one of the biggest stadiums in Europe now is your chance. Open community recruitment drive for local residents in Croke Park on Saturday, 6 April from 12pm-5pm.

<https://crokepark.ie/communityjobs>





Na Fianna Nuacht

Deirdre's First Anniversary Mass

The first Anniversary Mass for our late Club Secretary Deirdre Lambe will take place in Our Lady of Victories Church next Saturday 13th April at 6pm.

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