

CUMANN LÚTHCHLEAS GAEL NA FIANNA

SECRETARY'S REPORT 2009.

FOR A.G.M.

1st October 2009.

Cumann Lúthchleas Gael Na Fianna

Cómdháil Bhliantúil 2009.

Áras Na Fianna.



Cumann Lúthchleas Gael Na Fianna
Comdháil Bliantúil 2009
Áras Na Fianna

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Standing Orders for Annual General Meeting.

The proposer of the motion or an amendment thereto, may speak for five minutes but no longer.

A person speaking to a motion or amendment shall not exceed three minutes.

The proposer of a motion or amendment may speak a second time for five minutes before a vote is taken, but no other person may speak a second time to any motion or amendment.

The Chairman shall, at any time he considers that a matter has been sufficiently discussed, call on a proposer to reply, after which a vote must be taken.

A person may, with the consent of the Chairman, move 'that the question now be put' after which, when the proposer has spoken a vote must be taken.



Secretary's Report to the 2009 AGM

Is onóir mór dom mo Thuarascáil Bliantúil a chur os comhair na Cruinnithe cinn Bliana. Bliain iontach torthúil a bhí ann agus ba mhaith liom buíochas a ghabháil le gach aon duine a chabhraigh le riaracháin an chumainn i rith na bliana.

It may have been an *annis horribilis* for the Irish economy, but I am pleased to again report on an extremely busy year for Na Fianna both on and off the fields of play. We had over ninety teams participating in League and Championship across all the age groups from Under 8s to senior level. By most measures Na Fianna has grown to be the largest GAA club in the country because we have embraced hurling, football, camogie, ladies' football and handball and compete strongly in all codes. Furthermore Na Fianna stands out as being willing to compete in Division 1 wherever it is possible.

Our senior teams gave us plenty of excitement during the year with good league performances. All three senior teams in football, ladies' football and camogie competed at the highest level. The senior footballers with many new young faces amongst them were knocked out of the Championship by Kilmacud Crokes in the early stages but have fared very well in the League reaching joint third. The number of younger players coming through the senior and intermediate ranks augurs well for the Under 21 Footballers who were beaten in the final a year ago. Our senior hurlers ended the season on top of Division 2 and are hopeful of reaching Division 1 next year for the first time. Our senior camogie players are at semi-final stage of the Championship at time of writing.

What a year it was for the lady footballers with the seniors going all the way to beat Naomh Mearnóg in a thrilling final after taking the scalp of previous winners Ballyboden St Enda's along the way. The Junior Ladies Footballers also had a great year in Championship, Cup and League.

The other big achievement this past year was the winning of the Minor 'A' football championship title for the first time in thirty-three years. For many on that team this was the second year to progress to the final stage and they made no mistake in winning the title in a replay against St Brigids.

The competitive spirit has been reciprocated all the way down to the older teenage teams. At this stage in the playing calendar it is great to see the club's teams perform so well across the age groups. In some cases teams are winning trophies and beating opposition for the first time in the club's 54 year history as you will see from the team reports.

On the county front, your club was well represented at Minor, Colleges and Under 21 level although for the second year our previous contribution to the Dublin Senior Football Team was not what it was. Hopefully this will change in the years ahead as we need players competing at the top level. However the senior hurlers more than made up for this deficit and Joey Boland and Tomas Brady were lynchpins in the Dublin Senior Hurling team which went so far in the Championship 2009. Other club players to make a contribution at county level included Máirtín Quilty, Dara Ó Maoilidigh, Jonny Cooper, Mary Nevin, Sinéad O'Donnell and Arlene Cushen.

Supporters and mentors are a vital element in successful participation in all our competitions. I would urge family and friends of players to give them whole-hearted sporting support from the sidelines. Happily this year there were no major incidents of unsporting behaviour on the sidelines.

There were unfortunately a growing number of injuries and hopefully the introduction of compulsory wearing of helmets from January 1 next will help to curtail injuries on the hurling field. The wearing of gum-shields and shin-guards is also recommended strongly by the medical personnel amongst our members.



Despite the recession the club's social activities continued apace. Even though the corporate support was reduced, the third Race Day at the Punchestown Festival in April was very well attended by our members. The reduced numbers may have resulted in a more intimate and informal gathering on this occasion. Again this was an important fund-raiser for the club with almost thirty tables of ten people attending. More importantly this was a great day out for hundreds of club members many of whom do not meet socially. The Day ended with the long and varied sing-song in the Mobhi Suite and the club members' bar where a great night was had by all.

The club also hosted a Night at the Dogs for the first time and this was a great success amongst our younger members in particular who seemed to enjoy greater success on the Tote than their parents. The club premises are now in operation for three and a half years and have gone from strength to strength as an extremely attractive facility for members and mentors and their guests particularly for the Sunday carvery which is extremely popular each week for members and visitors.

A significant number of members have availed of our function rooms for family events like 21st, 40th and 50th birthday parties, retirement parties and Christenings. We hosted a number of wedding parties and the facilities are also being used more and more for funerals of club members and their friends. I would urge members planning a family, social or even work event to consider the facilities that Na Fianna has to offer in the heart of Glasnevin with free unhindered parking under security cameras, modern facilities, live music on tap and a top class professional caterer in Aidan Irwin and his team at Cater 4 U. Bar and facilities manager Oliver Brennan can be contacted at 01 8370210 for those of you in party planning mode. He joins long-serving Pat Sullivan who has passed his 20th anniversary behind the bar and they have both been ably assisted by temporary bar staff from within and outside the club membership including Gerry Bowe, Alan Stone, Ciara Maye, Dessie Brosnan, Gráinne Ryan and Lee Bird.

It has been the policy of the Executive to hold regular social events for members in the club so watch out for club notes in the Evening Herald on Tuesdays for details and our popular website www.clnafianna.ie. Highlights over the past 12 months included the New Year's Ball organized by Steo Behan and Ciara FitzGerald and Lá na gClub organized by Pat Montague and James Mangan. The recent Mr Na Fianna Night was a roaring success. Well done to the winner Mark Foley and the organizing team led by Ciara Maye. Our Family Bar B Q was hampered by a cold evening but still turned out to be a great success particularly for our younger members. There were fears that the clash with a senior hurling match in Parnell Park would dampen enthusiasm but many hardy souls attended both events on the night. I want to pay special thanks to the 'outdoor DJ' Ruairí who was as popular as Aidan Irwin's burgers, Marie Collins' chocolate fountain and Oliver's pints on the night. Ruairí is the resident DJ for our Juvenile Discos, which are held regularly during the year for members and their friends aged 13 to 15 inclusive. Ann Gray, Bríd O'Dwyer, Ciaran Gray, Finbar Gaffney, Paul McCarville and I try to ensure the Juvenile Discos take place around school holidays and we can host as many as 350 'boppers' in an evening. This disco is supervised by adults and is strictly a no-smoking, no-alcohol event. As well as being an important social outlet for our members and their friends, it is a good fund-raiser for the club.

The new new all-weather pitch is just completed and will be available for Winter training for most of our teams. Our older all-weather and club-house reception areas continue to be besieged by young members of all ages ever since they became available over three years ago. I would like to stress the importance of remembering the safety of yourselves and others while around the club premises. Hopefully unsupervised youngsters will become accustomed to pucking and kicking balls in the handball area or all-weather facility rather than resorting to the car park. Again this year the facilities committee has had to replace broken windows on a regular basis which few juvenile members admit to breaking.

It is also important for parents to realize that the club cannot supervise their children outside of organized training and matches and the executive goes to great pains and expense to prevent the premises from becoming a location for loitering and mischief.



We continue to look at improving our facilities and all fund-raisers can help. Our club lotto continues to be a major source of income and now has an online version for club members who reside away from Mobhi Road as well as the two euro envelopes. I would urge members to consider the direct debit lotto which is a bargain at €12 per month and gives two chances to win the jackpot each week. “When you’re in then you can win”.

Gaelic Telecom has raised €5,000 per year for the last three years and many thanks to all those who signed up for Gaelic Telecom. If you are interested in Club Lotto Direct Debit or switching to Gaelic Telecom and helping the club in that way, please contact Róisín at the Na Fianna office (01-8370210).

Vodafone customers can also avail of a facility whereby 5pc of their bill goes to Na Fianna. Check this out on your next Vodafone bill.

Club Committees

As before the club made great progress during the year on the back of extremely committed work from a number of committees and their members. The committee is the well-proven GAA method of spreading the workload and, while it has its detractors, the success of the committee system is there to be seen. However with time now the most precious resource, it is no surprise that many committees are crying out for new members. If you wish to make a valuable contribution to your community and avail of a very enjoyable social outlet, then look no further than the members of the committee in which you have an interest.

Executive Committee

There were a number of changes to the Executive during the year. Tom Brady stepped down due to work commitments and was replaced by Anne Foley. Karen Dunne was co-opted to the executive as assistant treasurer to replace Downey Keegan who stepped down because of work abroad. At this year’s AGM there will be a number of important positions to be filled. Gerry Donohue has decided to step down after two fruitful and busy years as Cathaoirleach and I speak for all of the Executive when I say he will be badly missed. I wish him well with his future involvement on the sidelines in this club. Na Fianna has a strong tradition of retaining the services of former cathaoirligh. Bernie Caffrey was the prominent organizer of the Night at the Dogs this year and the Race Day this past year. Charlie O’Reilly is a county delegate and both Charlie and Brian O’Sullivan are active on the facilities’ committee.

There are other changes to the executive to be addressed by agm with the stepping down of the hugely experienced John Mangan after three years in the role of Treasurer- one of the toughest jobs in the club. Pat Montague, the club PRO and creator of the Nuachtlitir, is not going forward for re-election. There will also be a change in the position of Chairman of Juvenile Games where Colum Cronin is stepping down after four years of Trojan work.

Development Committee

This committee drew up plans and received planning permission for the new all-weather pitch which qualified for grant aid from the National Lottery but was hit by the closure of the Sports Capital Programme. An extremely well organized Members’ Loan Scheme – by Finbar Gaffney and Anne O’Dea - raised over €220,000 from members who have loaned thousands of euro per family to the Club. The Development Committee continues to explore grant opportunities for the new all-weather. Many thanks and well done to the committee which gives ‘Developers’ a good name: Finbar Gaffney, Anne O’Dea, Charlie O’Reilly, Tom Dowd, Gerry Donohue (Chair), Tom Gray, Brian O’Sullivan and Kevin Nichol.



Social/Catering Committee

Many thanks to all who helped out with tea, sandwiches, finger food etc at a myriad of events during the year. It is club policy that parents of players help to supply the sandwiches after important matches and cup wins. These are the unsung heroes of our great club. Mile Buíochas. Social Chairman Yvonne Duggan has been involved in organizing the eve of All-Ireland Night and the New Year's Eve Ball. We continued with the ever popular Mentors' Night and Christmas Concert. Ann Ryan and Johnny Quinn organized the Mass for Deceased Members in January which goes from strength to strength. Ciara and Ailish Maye, Dessie Brosnan and the chuckle brothers Phil Kelly and Dermot Moran ensured the Mr Na Fianna was a great night.

Our Saturday morning teas/coffees service is growing and providing a very welcome service of tea and toast to Mums, Dads and other minders during the nursery sessions. The proceeds of the mornings have purchased the lovely trophy display case built by mentor Liam Connolly and the plants and flowers you may have noticed around the Club House. Many thanks to Mary Doolan, Essie O'Hara, Mary Donohoe, Marie Campbell, Patricia O'Sullivan, Patricia Lowry, Marie Kirwan, Fionnuala Neville and Mary Behan for all the effort.

Céilí Committee

The Club Céilí takes place on the second Saturday of every month. A great night of music, dance and 'cupán tae' continues with Mary Murphy as Bean a' Tí. Sincere appreciation to Mary Murphy, Ann Ryan and their team for keeping this cultural event up and running.

Club Lotto Committee

The Lotto team continues to do Trojan work behind the scenes and has expanded its range of interest with on-line lottery this year. Friends of Na Fianna as far away as Limerick and New York can play the lotto on-line as well as picking up club news. My thanks go to Sean Behan, Bob Courtney, Ann Ryan, Jackie Dolan, Vinnie Caffrey, Ian O'Donnell and Paddy Kelly. The direct debit lotto which costs only €12 per month now has almost 200 members and is obviously an important feature of the Lotto's success as a fundraiser. Parents of juveniles are being asked to support the club's activities by signing up. 'If you're not in, you can't win'!



Facilities Committee

Another year of great work on our pitches by our hard-working team of Dermot Moran, Fintan Brennan, Phil Kelly, Pat Clinton, Pat O'Shea, John Bridgeman, Frank Gray, Charlie O'Reilly, Brian O'Sullivan, Fergus McNally, Dave Buckley, John Campbell, Tom Ryan and Jim Aughney. The committee is chaired by Gerry Donohoe. The main pitch is a credit to the investment in time and money which has gone into it. In recent months we have carried out much needed remedial work to St Vincent's school pitch and when complete it will be able to now host adult teams and two juvenile cross pitches with netting to protect local gardens. More work done on Scoil Chaitriona pitch which is having its goal-mouths all-weathered. The nets at the Griffith Park end have improved this pitch no end. Mentors should please consider the condition of all our pitches before proceeding with an authorized training session.

Fás Committee

During the year the Executive performed an analysis of the benefits which the Club received from the operation of the FAS Community Scheme and the costs of its operation in particular the heating and lighting costs. The Executive found that the costs exceeded the benefits and a decision was taken not to renew the scheme from last March 31st. This decision was not taken lightly as it affected a number of people but our experience since March is that it was the correct and necessary decision.

Fás Committee Sponsor Group: Chairman Tom Brady, Secretary Deirdre Lane, Treasurer Donal Ring, PDO Mary Byrnes. Many thanks to the members of the FAS Committee for their hard work over a number of years. Well done Paul McCarville who handled the close-down of the FAS Community scheme with Gerry Donohoe.

Juvenile Games Committee

Colum Cronin chairs this committee which meets on the first Wednesday of the month. All juvenile teams and the Saturday morning nursery come under the aegis of this committee. James Mangan put in his first full year as Games Promotion Officer with the task of promoting the club as a source of Gaelic games in the local schools as well as keeping mentors on their toes with the latest training techniques.

Conduct Committee

The Conduct Committee continued its third year of operation. This committee consists of a panel of John Higgins (Chair), Anne Foley, Mary Burn, Brendan Ó Laoire and Jim Aughney (representing the Executive). Happily the committee had a very quiet year in 2009 which may have been a result of tighter supervision of facilities during the Summer months.

Bar Committee

The successful commercial operation of our Bar and Function Services underpins the financial stability of the club. The service continues to be managed by Oliver Brennan and a group of members work tirelessly week-in week-out to ensure that our facilities operate to the highest standards for our members and guests and generate the profitability needed to sustain our redevelopment borrowings.

'Cater4U' operated by Aidan Irwin provides a full catering service for functions and also provides a Sunday lunchtime carvery which has proven a big hit with members and visitors.

The members of the Bar Committee are Tom Gilligan, Charlie O'Reilly, John Mangan, Dommo Weir, Joe Walsh, Pádraigín Breathnach, Ronan Nolan, Anne Frawley and John Sullivan.



Fund Raising Committee

A special word of thanks to Punchestown Race Day organisers Bernie Caffrey and John Quinn and to the many volunteers who helped out on the day. Our DCU Intra Student Aoife Maloney carried out much of the administrative work prior to the Race Day.

Given the demise of the Punchestown Race Day next year, the committee has a challenging year ahead raising funds to keep all of the club's teams operating. The committee's first major project is to encourage all members to participate in the Club's Lotto on a regular basis. Members will be contacted during this autumn seeking their support. Committee: Anne Foley (Chair), John Mangan, Richard Dunne, David Doran, Finbar Gaffney, Bernie Caffrey, Ciara May, Joseph Devins, Carol Quinn, Rachel Quinn and Rose Collins.



Juvenile Disco Committee

This bunch of people has managed to organize a Juvenile Disco almost once a month throughout the year. We now have up to 300 young people under 15 attending on a regular basis. The disco is an important social event for our young members and friends and provides a smoke free, alcohol free environment for the attendance.

I would like to thank the members of the Juvenile Disco Committee for maintaining high standards of comfort, safety and enjoyment throughout the year. Downey Keegan has the unenviable task of selling tickets and checking juveniles' ages and involvement with the club. Well done to Sandra Tarr, Anne McInerney, Paul McCarville, Donal Keegan, Ann Gray, Fionnuala Neville, John Leen, John Mangan, Liz O'Brien, Ciaran Gray, Finbar Gaffney, Tim Collins and Pat Clinton. Any interested adults are welcome to help out on Juvenile Disco nights. Thanks to the relevant mentors such as Colum Cronin for assisting with ticket sales.

Other Committees

A number of other committees met during the year including the Sale of Work Committee under Martin Quilty. A welcome new feature of the Sale of Work was the factory sale of gear by Fionnuala Neville.

Trustees

Our trustees are Paul Smith, Ciaran Gray and Finbar Gaffney. John Costello represents the Dublin County Board and Michael Delaney represents the Leinster Council on our board of trustees. Many thanks to them for their support and vigilance.

Club member and intermediate player Leo Fay is our legal officer while John Corcoran of Walker & Co handles our bar licence renewal each year. At time of writing there is a redundancy claim against the club from the former FAS supervisor.

Delegates

Special thanks to our delegates who represented the club at various county committees including Charlie O'Reilly, Kieran Redmond, Ricky O'Sullivan, Liz O'Brien, Billy Fenlon, Michael Griffin and Billy McLaughlin.

World Wide Web

Colin O'Reilly continues to do Trojan work in assisting Na Fianna to bring its message to the club members and to the wider GAA world. I would recommend that members check out the website as a favourite home page for upcoming events and crucial background information on matters like Players Injury Funds. Addresses: Website - www.clgnafianna.ie - E-mail - clgnafianna@eircom.net.

Club Shop

Special thanks to Sean Behan, Sheila Quinn, Seosamh Breathnach, Patricia Close and Tiarnán Ó Dubhlainn for their work in the shop on Saturday mornings. The club continues to try to meet the equipment needs of all teams and juveniles. Members who no longer have need of helmets and hurleys are asked to donate them to the club for re-use by juvenile members. Contact Sean. If buying a new helmet or hurley – trade-ins are accepted.



Administration

Róisín O’Sullivan has settled into the role of permanent part-time Administrator in the club this year. Róisín undertakes a great deal of administrative work on behalf of the Executive and provides support particularly on the financial side of the house. She is available from 9am to 1pm Monday to Friday in the club offices at 8370210.

We were joined by Aoife Moloney for a period of four months on a placement from DCU. Aoife is a marketing student and did great work in promoting our facilities to companies and other potential clients.

Condolence

The Executive Committee wishes to offer condolences to the families of all members who passed away during the year. Mass for all deceased members will again be celebrated in the club in the New Year.

Séamus Mac Fhactna
Runaí 21/09/2009.



ACTIVITY REPORTS – Adult Field Games

ADULT FOOTBALL

Senior Football

Stephen McGlinchey succeeded Sean Forde as manager of the Senior Footballers for the 2009 season and appointed Gerry Gray, Tom Lynch, Cathal Ó Tórna, Pat Coffey and Vinnie Caffrey to his management team. Shay Cloherty and Danny Mc Gowan were appointed Captain and Vice-Captain respectively. Throughout the course of the year physical conditioning expertise was provided by Danny Crowley and physiotherapy services were provided as required by Dave Lyons and Shay Caffrey.

The 2009 campaign began with two league defeats in March in our opening two outings. It was not surprising however that it took some time for a young team in transition to adapt to the demands of senior Club Football and other than one subsequent defeat remain unbeaten in the league. At the time of writing the Senior Footballers lie in fourth position in the league with three matches remaining.

A championship victory over Parnells, unfortunately was followed by defeats at the hands of the two previous All-Ireland Club Champions St Vincents and Kilmacud Crokes which concluded our involvement in the competition. These defeats formed part of a steep learning curve for this group of players who encouragingly reacted positively in their subsequent performances following defeat and will undoubtedly learn from the experience. It must also be emphasised that the commitment and application of this group of players throughout the course of the year, both in terms of their preparation and their approach on the field was of the highest order which bodes well for the future.

Finally the management team and players would like to thank the Club Chairman Gerry Donohoe, Treasurer John Mangan, Downey Keegan, Tom Ryan and the Executive Committee for their assistance and support throughout the year.

Adult Football 3 (Intermediate Football)

AFL 3 League

At the time of writing we currently lie in the relegation playoffs however we have five games left to play which are against the teams around us in the bottom half of the league, so we are very much in control of our destiny provided we focus on maximising the highest possible return from these remaining games, we can still make it to mid-table safety.

Championship

Our championship campaign started last June with a lesson from one of the championship favourites Cuala. We regrouped and in the backdoor we had impressive victories over O'Dwyer's and St Patrick's, Donabate. In the last sixteen we were paired against Naomh Barróg who currently are lying third in AFL 3. In very much a game of two halves we battled bravely back from nine points in arrears only for time to run out and lose by one point.

Loving Cup

We did not make the knock out stages.

Summary

This panel is very much in transition both at player level and management level with Dermot Hennessy, John Gray and Brian McLaughlin taking over from the outgoing management team. Our goals this year have been to continue with the development of those players out of Minor and consolidate our League position.

Finally we the management would like to thank the following who have assisted us through the year



- Stephen McGlinchey for his co-operation and assistance in allowing players flow between both panels and sharing training sessions
- Martin Cotter and Ian Foley also for their co-operation in releasing players on match days from the Junior panel
- George McAllister and Starlights for their use of their pitches and facilities for training and matches
- Danny Crowley for Physical Training sessions and Shay Caffrey for Physio
- Pat Fanning – Senior Hurler Manager for his co-operation and access to players on his panel
- Gulliver Retail Park for sponsoring a new set of jerseys
- Gerry Donohoe, Tom Ryan and the Na Fianna Executive committee
- And finally to the players who have shown great commitment and dedication thus far this year. This panel started out last January and have trained over fifty-five times and played over twenty-five games in all competitions.

Adult Football 7 (Junior Football)

AFL 7 League

At the time of writing we are top of Division 7 with twelve wins out of twelve. However it is a close league with Skerries and St Sylvesters only two points behind us and both have to visit Mobhi Road in the remaining matches. A trip to St.Vincent's will complete the fixtures.

Significant victories were away games against St.Margarets, Parnells, Robert Emmets, St Marks and Thomas Davis. While maybe our best victory was against Fingallians in Mobhi Road, which we won by a point after going behind early on.

Championship

After a bye in round 1 our campaign in the Junior B championship began just like the league, away to St.Margarets. A tight game saw us come away with a two-point win.

Next was Ballinteer St.John's in Mobhi Road. Unfortunately this did not go to plan with the game finishing level. The replay turned out to be our hardest day of the season with a one-point defeat.

Parson Cup

This competition is split into two groups of seven teams. We topped our group and faced Skerries Harps in the semi-final which we subsequently lost by a goal.

Sponsorship Deal

We sincerely thank McGowans for providing the team with a complete set of polo shirts. This was a significant cost and greatly appreciated.

Summary

We began the season by losing our manager Dermot Hennessy to the Inters and it turned out to be not possible to replace him. However, as a team we got together and arranged training sessions, got ourselves organised and thankfully the results followed. We thank Dermot for laying the groundwork in the past two years and for his continued support.

While two of us are the mentors there has been no lack of support from the rest of the panel to help run the team. For the extra time and effort, thanks to Aidan O'Donnell, Gerry Fleming, James Mangan, John Cotter, John Stanford and Paraic O'Carroll.

We would like to thank every player in the squad for their commitment and the excellent team spirit we enjoy. Players who deserve extra praise for their performances on the pitch are Eoin Darling, Leo Fay and Mark Foley.

Also thanks to Tom Ryan and Gerry Donohoe for their support throughout the year.

Mentors: Martin Cotter, Ian Foley.



Adult Football 10 (Junior Football)

The team started out this year with a mixture of last years AFL 10 and 11 teams and new players to adult football up from minor Level. The new team has taken time to settle and some of the younger players found it hard to settle at Adult football to begin with, but to there credit the teams form has continued to improve as the season has progressed. The league has been disappointing results wise (Mainly due to my ability as a goalkeeper, which thankfully has been resolved, by Daniel Redmond) and great character has been shown by all with there commitment to training and matches. Since the completion of the leaving Certificate several more players from last years minor teams have returned and performances on the pitch have greatly improved and the signs for next season and future seasons are very promising if they continue to show the same commitment.

Currently the League has divided into a top and Bottom Six play off, and hopefully we can end the season with some morale boosting victories, don't need to say which half we are in.

To summarise our year it has been very much been a rebuilding process and hopefully a good foundation has been but in place for the coming season.

Of the players who have come out of minor level special mention must go to Niall O Connor, Paddy Armstrong and Colm Scott Byrne. From the more senior side of the team special mention goes to Shay O Neill and Darren Territt who have put in a lot of hard work this season to keep the heads above water.

Would like to take this opportunity to wish Rob O Neill the best of luck on his move to France in the near future, and on behalf of the team members both past and present thank him for his leadership and commitment on the pitch which was always second to none, he will be badly missed

Mentors: Colin O Reilly, Brendan Mc Guinne

Minor Football

2008 was a special year in Na Fianna Minor football, after over thirty years the Dublin minor football championship title was brought back to Mobhi Road.

The sheer joy of players and supporters, young and young at heart, in December in Inishfails was unforgettable.

A special thanks to the dedicated players, to the supportive and proud parents, to the juvenile mentors who moulded these young men and to those who quietly, constantly and generously gave their support to develop the team and bring the title home.

This year, 2009, thanks to the work done at juvenile level the complement of players is high, and with additional mentors over fifty players have been catered for in Na Fianna minor football with three full teams in the league.

In the Summer, despite holidays and exams, games continued uninterrupted and all teams competed well and completed all divisional games as well as competing in a number of challenges. The mentors' approach is one of inclusion and development, giving each player the chance to progress and achieve.

Competition for places is high, as is the intensity on the pitch. Our players are showing their growing maturity by their self-discipline and encouragement of each other under match pressure and in training. We are proud of them.

We wish our players every success in their future sporting career and in their adult lives.

A special thanks also to the parents whose support is tangibly seen in the hundreds of miles travelled, and in the hospitality they always show to visiting teams.

The Minor Football mentors



ADULT HURLING

Senior Hurling

SENIOR HURLING

At the time of writing the Senior Hurling Team has four League games left to play and has just started its Championship campaign.

The panel and management met in January and decreed that, to build on the considerable progress made in recent years, promotion to Division One for league hurling was the primary objective for this team for this year. The season began well with a six game unbeaten league run before a loss to St. Brigid's brought a reality check. That wake-up call should be enough to shake off the complacency and the team will be very disappointed if the results of the remaining games don't see Na Fianna taking its place in Division One. The Championship opener against Ballyboden resulted in a heavy defeat but the game was not without some positive signs. A draw with St. Patrick's of Palmerstown in the second round was a serious disappointment leaving the team dependent on securing a big win against Dublin North East in the final game to progress on score difference

The Senior Hurling team undoubtedly has the players, the talent and the skill to compete at the highest level but, although the team has made progress, it is not yet performing at the levels it should. A number of factors have upset the team's performance: - the fixtures sheet being frequently changed, the lack of competitive fixtures (ONE game in June and ONE game in July!!), the plague of injuries and the involvement of so many players with the various inter-county teams have all conspired to disrupt this team's preparations. This is not to offer excuses or to blame anyone but attempting to prepare a team is made extremely difficult in those circumstances. The players themselves also have a responsibility in this area. On many occasions during this season there were fewer than a dozen players at training and this year there would appear to be many more players taking long holiday breaks and week-ends away than in previous years; hard to blame players, perhaps, with a constantly changing fixtures sheet but an improvement in player commitment and attitude allied to the top class games which Division One League status would bring, will see Senior Hurling Championship honours won by Na Fianna in the very near future.

My thanks to Alan, Aisling and Fran for their time, expertise and commitment. Míle buíochas.

Bainisteoir: Pádraig Ó Fainín

Junior Hurling

Junior Hurling---AHL 8

This is a new team for 2009 season. It is our 4th Adult Hurling Team at Mobhi Rd.

The team was formed to provide an opportunity for the entirety of adult hurlers to have a team to play on. An analysis of the number of potential players that we have was undertaken early in 2009. The panel of players came for some who were involved with Junior D team in 08, some transfers in and players progressing out of Minor grade.

Our season has been successful. We have fielded a team for every match. We have togged out up to 21 players during the height of the season. We have benefited from fitness and skills training with the other Junior teams. We have become more competitive throughout the year. We did not win too many matches and lost some by small margins. We picked up a number of injuries during the year; our thanks to club insurance admin for assisting with compiling of claims etc.



Tomas Redmond has done huge work as our Team Captain. He has actively taken on the challenge of circulation all details, by text message, of all training and matches. Martin Quilty, Ciaran Redmond, Jim Heffernan and Bob Courtney make up the mentor group.

There are a number of items that can improve our ability to be more successful in 2010. Access to new all weather pitch will, over the winter, attract additional players to training. Putting two U-21 teams in competition this autumn will hopefully bring some more of the recent Minors into the panel. We also present an opportunity for 2009 Minors to progress to adult hurling in addition to offering attractive training and playing options to those who may wish to transfer to us.

Many thanks for a successful year and great optimism for many more.

Junior Hurling

Junior hurling continues to thrive and Cumann Báire Na Fianna now boasts three good Junior teams.

The Junior A team are enjoying a good League campaign and have reached the semi final stage of the Championship.

The Junior D team have reached the quarter final stage of the Championship and are going well in the League.

The Junior E team had a reasonable season but were on the wrong side of a number of close results. This team is one of the real success stories in the Club and credit is due to Logistical Director Tomás Redmond and inspirational Manager Martin Quilty.

The international dimension saw Dee Kernan bring an intrepid band to Brussels in February for an enjoyable weekend. The home team won the hurling. A number of players and mentors are also embarking on a trip to Edinburgh in December for the annual Trinity College v University of Edinburgh Shinty Tournament.

The ever growing number of County players within Na Fianna is primarily a reflection on the calibre of the individuals themselves but also on the hurling development programme within the Club.

It is the clear objective of the Junior management that all adult hurling teams play at the highest possible level and this is vitally important for hurling standards within Na Fianna.

Going forward, the challenge for Na Fianna is to properly cater for the ever growing number of hurlers in terms of facilities and management resources.

The Hurling Wall and new all-weather facility is a testament to the support from the Club Executive and to the enthusiasm for the game within the broader club membership. Go raibh maith agaibh.

Mentors: Eugene Barry, Dee Kernan, Tomás Redmond, Martin Quilty, Kieran Redmond, Bob Courtney, Diarmuid O'Connor, Paschal Conboy, Tom Ryan, Mike Coen.



Minor Hurling

Mentors: 'A' Tom Ryan, Adrian Tierney, Mick McMorrow, Declan Feeney
'B' Martin Quilty, Jim Heffernan

ADULT CAMOGIE

Senior 'A' Camogie

2009 has been a bumpy season for the Senior A panel due to change in management mid-season. However the girls under the captaincy of Marie O'Dwyer have shown fantastic commitment and dedication and recorded good wins over St Judes and Erins Isles and also pushed Ballyboden and St Vincents close. We also had representation on the Senior county team by Elaine O'Meara and Arlene Cushen and on the Junior Panel by Gráinne Ryan, Hannah McInerney and Róisín Murphy. Hannah and Róisín are also on the Dublin minor panel for this season. We would also like to welcome Jacinta Buckley and Nicola Gavin onto the panel. This team is a work in progress and with continued support is one to watch for the future.



Senior 'B' Camogie

Yvonne Duggan

Intermediate Camogie

A new coaching team of Joe Langan, Maireaine Quigley, Tony O'Brien and Fiachra Foran was put in place for the Intermediate camogie panel of 2009. A panel of twenty-six players were registered and training commenced in January. A lot of fitness work was done in the early part of the year including road runs around the streets of Glasnevin with the coaches following on bicycles and cars to make sure no short cuts were taken.

We managed to play two challenge matches against Ratoath and Ballyboden prior to the league starting. These matches were played in freezing weather conditions but we managed to win both of them. The league started in April with a good victory at home to St. Vincents. In our second match we were beaten at home to Erin's Isle in a match that we should have won. This setback galvanised the players and the team went on an unbeaten run of seven matches to leave us leading the league going into a crunch game away to Good Counsel. In a tough game Counsel came out on top by two goals. In the remainder of the league campaign the team were affected by the loss of key players due to holidays, exams and we lost a further two matches but won a total of ten. We are two points clear at the top of the table. Good Counsel have 2 back matches to play and need to win both to take the league outright. If they lose one match we will be involved in a play off for the league title. We can only hope and pray.

During the early part of the league campaign we lost two key players to injury. Naoise Webb suffered a torn muscle and only returned near the end of the summer. Unfortunately, Clodagh Burke suffered a cruciate knee ligament injury and is out until next season. Clodagh is undergoing rehab and vows to be back to her best for next season.

The Intermediate championship commenced in late August. Na Fianna were drawn away to our nemesis Good Counsel in the first round. In one of the best matches of the year Na Fianna gave everything and had Counsel on the ropes at the end but could not get the winning score, losing by two points. We are now in the Shield competition and won our quarter-final by a big score against Erin's Isle at Mobhi Road. The girls are determined to go all the way in this competition and bring some silverware back to the clubhouse.

A very successful wine tasting fundraiser was organised in Sweeney's Wine Merchants in Glasnevin. Many thanks to Finian Sweeney and his team for allowing us to benefit from this event. We were able to purchase a new set of jerseys, sliotars and hurls for the team. Many thanks to our supporters who have attended matches in particular the stalwarts of Sean Lohan, Mary Breen, and John Campbell. A big thank you, to Sandra Tarr for her co-operation in making Under 16 players available during the season. These girls contributed enormously to the success of the team and we look forward to them contributing to the adult camogie teams next year.

Finally, two players who enjoyed great success this year are leaving for foreign shores for work and study reasons. Bon voyage to Carmel Ryan and Celine Campbell, you will both be sorely missed.

Junior 'B' Camogie

Manager: Kieran Lowry

LADIES FOOTBALL (ADULT)

The Ladies Senior Team are Dublin Senior champions and play the first round of the Leinster championship 4th October in Confey GAA club at a time to be announced. We have worked very hard this year training up to three nights a week and playing in all of the League and Cup fixtures. The squad of twenty-six players has also contributed to the development of Ladies' football in the club participating in juvenile training and working with teams.



Thanks to our Att's Derbhla Gallagher and Suzanne Kelly, our coach Paul O'Donovan and mentors Johnny Quinn and Eamonn O'Donnell.

Our Captain is Nadine Doherty, and Vice-Captain Bernie Finlay. Thanks to all the girls for your commitment this year. Good luck in the All-Ireland series.

The dates are October 4th for the first round of the Leinster championship, October 11th for the Leinster semi-final and October 25th for the Leinster final. If we are good we will be at all three matches.

Thank you to the Club and Executive Committee for all your support this year. Thanks to the Na Fianna Pitch Committee for your presentation of such a fantastic facility to play our game on.

Mentors: Eamonn O'Donnell, Johnny Quinn

Junior Ladies' football

The ladies' junior team commenced their pre-season with a 9-a-side tournament in November 2008 on the all-weather pitch. This proved to be great fun and very successful. Junior footballers were supplemented by some Under 16s and some senior players.

The discovery of a few new players was an added bonus. Pre-season training commenced at the end of February and from then on attendance at training was excellent. Since then the Junior Ladies have had a very successful season winning their Junior Championship on 8th August. They are leading the league with one game remaining and also leading the Cup with one game remaining. The team has been a classic balance of youth and experience. We would be hopeful that some of the current Under 16 team will play in the 2010 season. Great credit is due to the players for their attitude and commitment to the team throughout this season. Here's to further success in 2010.

Mentor: John Freir

ACTIVITY REPORT – Adult Handball

Adult Handball

Our most successful adult again this year is Egin Jensen who won the over 35 American open singles title and also the over 40 American doubles titles along with the legendary Duxie Walsh from Kilkenny. He also won the senior singles county 40x20 championship, 60x30 senior doubles, 40x 20 senior doubles, over 40 60X30, over 40 40x40 (partner Frank Daly). Egin will play the All Ireland senior 60x30 doubles final with Eoin Kennedy on September 19th.

Mick O'Brien won the over 65A 60x30 All Ireland singles title for the second year running. He was also narrowly beaten in the All Ireland 60x30 doubles final with Pat Ryan. Pat Ryan and Ned Flynn won the All Ireland over 65A 40x20 doubles final. John Barton won over 60 singles All Ireland 40x20 final.

Roll of Honour

Dublin Championships



40x20

Senior Singles Winner Egin Jensen
Doubles Winners Egin Jensen and Frank Daly.
Over 40 Singles Winner Egin Jensen
Doubles Winners Egin Jensen and Frank Daly

Junior B2 Singles winner Corey Fay
Doubles winners Corey Fay and Cian Ó Dálaigh

60x30

Senior Singles Winner Egin Jensen
Doubles Winners Egin Jensen and Frank Daly.
Over 40 Singles Winner Egin Jensen
Doubles Winners Egin Jensen and Frank Daly
Over 50 Singles Winner Vinny Farrelly.
Doubles Winners Vinny Farrelly and Eamon O'Brien

Junior B Singles Naoise Greene
Doubles John Walsh and Brian Treanor
One Wall Jnior singles Winner Brian Treanor.

Leagues

=====
Senior 40x20 League Winners
Senior 60x30 League Winners

Leinster Championships

=====
40x20
Winners over 55 singles John Barton.
Over 65 singles Ned Flynn.
Over 65 doubles Pat Ryan and Ned Flynn.

60x30
Winners over 55 singles Paddy Clerkin
Over 65 singles Mick O'Brien.
Over 65 doubles Mick O'Brien and Pat Ryan.

All-Ireland Winners

=====
40x20
Over 55 singles John Barton.
Over 65 doubles Pat Ryan and Ned Flynn.
60x30
Over 65 singles Mick O'Brien.

The number of players young and old who represented their county are too numerous to list but all did so with pride in their club and county. We look forward to a another good year which sees a major departure in handball in Na Fianna, the new 40x20 alley.
Thanks to all who helped this year, refereeing, giving lifts, coaching, etc.

Frank Daly



ACTIVITY REPORTS – Juvenile Games

Years which end with the digit 9 have for some reason or other marked particularly successful championship campaigns for senior football in the club. This proved to be the case again in the year just passing but on this occasion it was the senior ladies rather than the men who provided the county title. A direct playing link was provided by right-half-back Sarah Quinn who emulated the achievements of her father John (1979) and her uncle Brendan (1999) in winning a senior county title for Na Fianna in a year ending in a nine. From the perspective of the club's juvenile section, it was especially gratifying to witness the stellar contributions in a thrilling final of such recent graduates from the juvenile section as Orlagh Egan and Arlene Cushen. Both Orlagh and Arlene have been perennial winners of under-age All-Ireland titles with Dublin in recent years beginning with the Under 14 success of 2004. Between them they have amassed no less than seven All-Ireland titles at Under 14, Under 16 and minor grades. However, strictly from the club viewpoint, their achievement in winning a senior county title tops the lot. Arlene made a telling contribution when introduced as a substitute at half-time while Orlagh was the star of the show and deservedly won the Player of the Match accolade. Neither do I overlook the presence of both Sinéad O'Donnell and Hannah McInerney in the subs and I am certain that in the years ahead the club's juvenile section will continue to feed into both the senior and junior adult teams.

The win is bound to add further momentum to the rapid growth of the ladies' football code within the club. It was great to see so many of the juvenile teams in attendance at Parnell Park. The rude health of ladies' football in the juvenile section is best exemplified in the fact that we have almost as many girls playing the game in the Under 10 age-group alone today, over fifty, as we had in the entire club four years ago. I would like to pay special tribute to Eamonn O'Donnell whose contribution in building the code at juvenile level in the club is unsurpassed. The senior victory this year in which Eamonn wore the trusty 'Bainisteoir' bib, was a fitting testament to his massive contribution and I know that there are plenty of chapters still to be written in this particular story.

The camogie section has also grown impressively in the past four years albeit from a stronger base. I know that Liz O'Brien is spearheading a root-and-branch review of the sport within the club and expects to roll out a new Camogie Strategy in the coming months. Managing the transition from the juvenile section to the adult is a particular challenge for camogie in the continuing absence of a minor grade but in the past twelve months there have been definite signs that as a club we are managing this transition better than in the past. Plans are in place to provide a 'buddy' from the adult playing section to each juvenile team and I know that the juvenile players have been very heartened by the presence at their recent championship matches of senior players and management.

The continuing growth of both camogie and ladies' football presents its own problems to a dual club such as our own. Both county boards have jurisdiction over their own code only and are not necessarily interested in promoting the interests of the other. In fact quite often, the exact opposite has been the case. 2009 saw a decent attempt made by the two bodies to organise fixtures across the age-groups in such a way that camogie and ladies' football matches could be fixed one on Saturday and the other on Sunday. There was a definite improvement in the fixture schedule and some of the worst excesses of recent years have been avoided. For whatever reason, the Under 11 grade proved to be the exception with the result that girls in this age-group have been expected to play matches in both codes on the same day every weekend. This is far from ideal and hopefully the penny will drop with both boards that they share their playing pool to a greater degree than either board is prepared to accept.

The most remarkable trend which I have observed over the past four years has been the growth in popularity of the trip down the country. Juvenile players of all ages love a trip out of Dublin whether it be a



bus-trip to Newry, Galway or Kilkenny, a train-trip to Cork or Killarney or even a hop into the back of a car to Meath or Portlaoise. The important thing about these trips is that the emphasis should be on fun and participation for all. If mentors go overboard on the importance of winning an obscure invitation-only tournament in the provinces, there is a very real danger of over-loading young players with too much competition too soon. I formed the view that the frequency, scope and composition of such trips needed to be regulated. They should not happen too often, they should include where possible a social or recreational outlet, they must not be restricted to the stronger players only of an age-group and they must not undermine Dublin GAA. Na Fianna is first and foremost a Dublin GAA club and our primary commitment must be to fulfill all scheduled fixtures on the annually published calendar. There can be no question of our reneging on this commitment. The September Juvenile Games meeting agreed that a task force be put in place to recommend a set of protocols for such trips. The group has met and its recommendations will go before the October meeting for adoption or rejection.

The strength of the club nursery is the bedrock of the club's juvenile section. As stated many times before, it is the jewel in the crown. The proverb states '*Mol an óige agus tiocfaidh sí*' and Na Fianna's experience over the past decade has been '*Fáiltigh an óige agus fanfaidh sí*'. The club has been fortunate indeed in its recruitment of volunteer parents as mentors for the nursery. Mentors imbue children with a love of the games and their enthusiasm imparts itself readily to the young players. The Go Games introduce the children to the concept of games in the context of fun and participation for all and also have the effect of hooking many mentors into more official and prominent mentoring roles in the club. An initiative first prompted by Colm Burtchael in his time as club GPO three years ago has been the rotation of mentors among the older juvenile teams. There comes a time in the evolution of every age-group when juveniles have heard everything they are ever going to hear from their nursery mentors. A fresh voice can be of great benefit as it presents children with a new challenge. This should not be seen by the incumbent set of mentors as a vote of no-confidence by the club but rather an acknowledgement of the work which they have put into the development of the club's teams.

I have previously referred to the occasional tensions and lack of co-operation between the ladies' football and camogie. Thankfully the situation is greatly simplified on the boys' side due to both codes being under the jurisdiction of the Dublin GAA County Board. I would have to admit however that I have been aware of some minor tiffs over the past four years between the competing demands of both football and hurling on our juvenile members. There is an element in Dublin GAA which feels that the demands of football are being somewhat overlooked at the expense of the welcome growth of hurling in the capital. On the other hand, certain hurling people would feel that their code is still the poor relation. What is undeniable is that the increased levels of participation in Gaelic Games in Dublin since the 1990s has not yet been reflected in senior or minor inter-county success. Having seen the last eight senior All-Irelands won by single code counties, it is a debatable point as to whether Dublin can hope to compete at the highest level in both codes under the current juvenile playing regime. Even ostensibly strong dual counties such as Cork and Galway are geographically large and contain within their boundaries areas which are specifically hurling or football strongholds and where the emphasis is most definitely on the dominant code. However here in Dublin it is a different kettle of fish. The majority of clubs pay at least lip service to both codes with the result that from March to October, children play either sport on alternate weekends rather than their preferred sport every weekend. There is no easy answer to this which would not alienate a sizeable number of Dublin GAA people and I have to accept that the scheduling of fixtures is not an easy task.

On a personal note, I intend to step down as Chairman of Juvenile Games after four enjoyable years in the position. I would like to record a special note of thanks to Anne Foley as Juvenile Secretary and to Billy Fenlon, Ciaran Gray, Michael Griffin, Billy McLaughlin, Damian Murphy, Liz O'Brien, Ricky O'Sullivan and Seirse Smith who served as club delegates during this period. I was also fortunate to have worked with three of the best Games' Promotion Officers in Dublin in Colm Burtchael, Niall Cooper and James



Mangan and my thanks and best wishes also to them. Neither could I forget Róisín O'Sullivan for the past fifteen months or so. I don't know how I managed before Róisín.

Mar focal scoir, is mian liom mo chomhgairdeas a ghabháil do na páistí go léir as ucht a n-iarrachtaí ar feadh na bliain atá thart agus mo dea-bheannachtaí do 'chuire fhoireann sa bhliain atá romhainn. Mar a deirtear, 'Ní neart go cur le chéile'.

Colum Cronin
Cathaoirleach
Cluichí na nÓg
21 Meán Fómhair 2009.



JUVENILE GAMES - Football

Under 7 Football

The 2002 boys' football continues to develop very well this year. Nearly sixty boys hit the ground running at 9.30am every Saturday followed (some way behind) by a strong panel of dedicated mentors. This year we continue to work on the ABC's while also focusing more on skills' work with the introduction of specialist stations such as kicking drills, handpassing, tackling and most importantly having FUN. There was great excitement when we hosted Castleknock in our first ever match. We fielded six teams accompanied by droves of parents and guardians sporting video cameras, a variety of dodgy coloured drinks and fantastic enthusiasm. Naturally all the lads performed heroics, got to touch the ball and were suitably idolised by their fan clubs as the final whistles blew.

All the boys are making great strides as was evidenced by the standard of football shown in the Mini Leagues where we enjoyed some great games. September saw us start back after the summer by hosting Naomh Martin from Monasterboice. We were all delighted with the way the boys played, the good work put in at summer camps and in various back gardens was evident.

Special thanks to all of the mentors whose continued hard work and sense of humour continues to make Saturday morning football such an enjoyable experience for all the boys.

Mentors: Dara McGowan, Dermot Kane, Andy Matthews, David Kerins, Fergus McCabe, Paul Carroll, Paul Flynn, Seamus McHugh, Shane Coleman, Philip Mongey, Mark Brabazon

Under 8 Football

After two years in the nursery the 2001 boys commenced their Go Games programme on February 14th last. We have fifty-five boys playing regularly and the emphasis has been on skills development. Many thanks to Eoghan Meleady, Mark O'Dea, Shane Kelly, Danny Flaherty and Neil Flannery from the Under 16 footballers for their help with training and also to all the coaches and parents for their co-operation during the year. Thanks also to James Mangan and Colum Cronin for their expertise.

Mentors: Kieran Brennan, Ciaran Burke, John Cleary, Aidan Farrington, Cian Ferriter, Tom Flaherty, Martin Kelly, Noel O'Reilly, Ricky O'Sullivan, Joe Smyth, Paul Smith.

Under 9 Football

There are sixty boys in the 2000 group. The boys have had an excellent year, doing extremely well in Go Games and competing strongly in challenge matches and tournaments. In 2008, our Go Games panel consisted of six 7-a-side teams split into two 3-team groups. In 2009, the teams went up to 9-a-side and we have fielded five teams – three in a 3-team group (the Yellow Team) and two in a 2-team group (Blue Team). In 2009, for the first time, the boys have been streamed by ability. In July, we fielded a team in the Ger Canavan 'A' Tournament hosted by O'Toole's. Having come through the group stage and a tough semi-final against St Sylvester's, Malahide, we were pipped by a point in the final against a strong Whitehall Colmcille side. We were delighted to have been invited to compete in this enjoyable and well organised tournament.

We are always open to challenge matches against other clubs and our games during the year included matches away to Sarsfields of Newbridge in May and home against Tyrone's St Colmcille's/Carrickmore at the end of January.

Away from the field, we organised a nutrition talk for parents in May when qualified nutritionist Richelle Flanagan came to speak to parents about food and nutrition for children engaged in team sports. Richelle gave some great advice and tips on healthy eating and nutrition which hopefully be applied by many parents as time goes on.

The boys train on a Thursday evening and play Go Games matches on Saturday morning.



Mentors: Brian Skelly, Richard Dunne, Martin Hardiman, Sean Potts, Paul Nolan, Jim Ratcliffe, Daire Daly, Conor Buckley, Matthew Kelly, Mike Farrell.

Under 10 Football

In February 2009 Na Fianna U-10 boys football commenced playing in the Dublin Northside Go Games football challenge matches. Facilitating our large playing numbers of sixty registered U-10 footballers, we entered five teams and they are sub-divided into a 3-Team Group Section and a 2-Team Group Section. Na Fianna (3-team) is managed by Luke Lacey, John O' Dea and Padraic Bolger and Na Fianna (2-team) is managed by Noel McKenna, Fergal O'Dwyer and Paul Whelan. To date we have played well over twenty matches across both groups.

The 2009 Mini Leagues proved to be a great success once again with upwards of sixty-five boys participating during June. We had eight teams with approximately eight players per team.

A special word of thanks to all the parents and guardians – because of their commitment, support and drive Na Fianna can boast of having one of the largest U-10 Football boys groups in Dublin and County.

Finally a word of thanks goes to the managers and trainers for their efforts and support throughout the year.

Mentors: Pat Brennan, Luke Lacey, Fergal O' Dwyer, Noel McKenna, Padraic Bolger, John O'Dea, James Sweeney, Jack Byron, Eugene Mc Hugh, Paul Whelan, Ger Mackey, John Collins.

Under 11 Football

We continue to make steady improvement in this group and continue to operate with large numbers. We have almost sixty boys registered and have an average of fifty-two boys attending at each training session. In May we won the Under 11 Cup and are holding our own in the leagues where we have both groups (four teams) competing in the top league. Special mention to Paul Fitzgerald for his outstanding commitment and contribution and to Kevin Breen, Robert Bruton, Jude Byrne, Ray Henry, Sean Paul Mahon and Tony O'Flaherty for their ongoing commitment and dedication. Also special thanks to the few parents who regularly help out with putting up and taking down goals and nets etc.

Mentors: Willie Rafter, Paul Fitzgerald, Kevin Breen, Robert Bruton, Jude Byrne, Ray Henry, Sean Paul Mahon, Tony O'Flaherty.

Under 12 Football

Under 12 football continues to thrive with sixty-four registered players; just about sufficient numbers to field four panels of thirteen-a-side. We have two balanced 'A' teams competing well in Division 1 and a 'B' and 'C' team holding their own in Divisions 5 and 6 respectively.

The aims for U-12 football this year, as in recent years, are to ensure that the lads;

- Enjoy their experience in Na Fianna and stay involved over the longer term;
- Develop their skills as footballers and their maturity as team players;
- Play and compete at a level appropriate to their own ability.

The highlight this year for this very successful bunch of footballers was the 'Four Provinces' 'A' and 'B' tournament we hosted on the 14th June. We entered a straight 'A' and two balanced 'B' teams. The 'A' team won their section and the two 'B' teams competed well in theirs. The tournament was attended by the top team from Counties Antrim, Cork, Derry, Galway, Laois and, dare we say it, Dublin.

The two 'A' teams finished 2008 1st and 2nd in Division 1 and continued in that vein this year playing each other in the U-12 Cup final – Na Fianna won!



Another highlight of the year was the blister-inducing fathers' walk on the snow-capped Church mountain alongside Lugnaquilla to Glenmalure; followed by a song-inducing session in the Glenmalure Inn. About twenty parents took part.

We continue to enjoy great support from parents and a group of committed mentors and our thanks go out to them. Thanks also to Colum Cronin for his work and support over the past four years.

Mentors: Finbar Gaffney, John Caffrey, Paddy Connolly, Matt Bowden, Fergal Brophy, Richard Dunne, Michael Kenny, Michael McLoughlin, Aidan Murphy, Tom O'Connor, Peter O'Hanlon, Michael Flanagan, Peter Pringle, Philip Baxter, Alan Hughes

Under 13 Football

Two of the 1996 boys' teams won their divisions in the Dublin North U-12 leagues in 2008, with the third team achieving a very respectable Top 4 finish in their division. This year again three teams were entered in Divisions 1, 4 and 8, playing fifteen-a-side cross-city football. Our first team in Division 1 continues to be very competitive and again are challenging for honours alongside Ballyboden and St Vincent's. Our second and third teams have had some very encouraging results and both are hoping for Top 4 finishes in their divisions.

It is a big challenge for any club to field three fifteen-a-side teams at a single age group and the 1996 mentors would like to thank all of the boys for their continued enthusiasm and regular attendance at training and matches. We would also like to acknowledge the support that we receive from the 1997 boys group who provide extra players if needed. Finally, a big thank you to all the parents and particularly those who wash gear and help with nets / flags etc.

Mentors: John O'Dea, Tom Gray, Paul Kenny, John Murchan, Paul McDonnell, Greg Victory

Under 14A Football

A successful finish to the Under 13 season when the lads got second in the league and had a heartbreaking one-point defeat in the Championship final to Ballyboden.

The new season started with high hopes but losing our first two league matches by one point each meant that the league title was out of reach very early. Attention turned to the Féile competition and in the group stages the lads beat Lucan and Naomh Mearnóg and then drew with Fingallians which put them through as Group winners. They won the semi final against Kilmacud Crokes by four points and then faced Ballyboden in the final which was a first ever appearance by the club in the Division 1 final. Level at half-time hopes were high but a debatable penalty saw Boden win by two points. They subsequently won the All-Ireland Féile.

Focus on avoiding relegation was the aim for the remainder of the season and the lads have won three of their last four Leagues games and are moving up the table.

Mentors: Ciaran Gray, Clive O'Reilly

Under 14B Football

This year is progressing very well for this hard working and committed squad of players. We are currently in Division 4 of the league and are in the top three, after just defeating league leaders, St. Maurs in a thrilling game of football. We intend to 'keep our foot to the floor' for the remaining five games and hopefully go one step further than last season, when we were edged out of the top spot on 'goal/points difference'.

This year we also had the added buzz of Féile. This proved to be a fantastic weekend of fun and excitement for both players and mentors. The boys did themselves and their club proud. They finished top of their



initial group, but unfortunately just did not have enough left in the tank to overcome a very strong Division 3 Skerries team in a bravely fought contest.

Of far greater importance than winning Leagues and medals we hope that all the boys enjoy their football, and feel that they are valued members of a united and determined squad of players. That is the real bottom line. We would like to thank all the parents for their support throughout the year. We would also like to thank our Juvenile Chairman, Colum Cronin for his support over many years and wish him well in his 'retirement'.

Mentors: Dave Buckley, Brid O'Dwyer, Padraic Bolger, Donal Keegan

Under 14C Football

"Truth in our hearts, strength in our limbs and deeds according to our words." The progress of the U-14C team proves that the dream of Na Fianna can continue for players of all abilities into their teenage years. This year hard work in training and a determination to work for colleagues has made this twenty-four strong squad a team of which the club can be proud. At the time of writing, we are challenging for promotion from Division 6 having competed honourably in the Féile. The support for the team has grown to include six mentors and many parents who regularly attend matches. We would like to use this opportunity to publicly thank Cormac O'Sullivan, our Féile co-ordinator and Gerry Whelan, Con Daly and Brendan Roddy who assisted him throughout the day. We would also like to thank Ann Ryan, Aidan Reddy, Máirín Murphy, Collette Reilly, Liz Maloney and Rita O' Shaughnessy who co-ordinated all the preparations for the Féile as well as the sandwich and cake makers who were too numerous to mention. This team has a special bond and we are determined that when we write next year we will be a hard working and courageous Division 5 team.

Mentors: Charlie Ferguson, Declan Fitzgerald, Bill Murphy, Gerry O'Leary, Philip Webb, Dave Williams

Under 15A Football

There was a change of mentors at the start of the season with Seamus McHugh, Stephen Farrell and Michael Griffin stepping down and being replaced by Denis Gaffney, Aidan Collins and Fearghal Scanlon with Paraic O'Connor remaining on as mentor from last season.

The experience and dedication of the new mentors, which included continuing training throughout the Summer (sometimes with more mentors than players present!), has resulted in the team currently lying third in the Division 1 league table and having successfully overcome Templeogue Synge St. in the first round of the championship.

To prepare for the Championship, we had a number of challenge games over the Summer, in Portlaoise (against their Under 16 Hurling Team without the hurls - refer to Aidan Collins for further details!), Ashbourne and Ratoath which proved worthwhile and enjoyable.

We are very happy with progress to date with a great bunch of lads and good support from their parents. Hopefully it will be onwards and upwards with the best yet to come!

Mentors: Paraic O'Connor, Denis Gaffney, Fearghal Scanlon, Aidan Collins.

Under 15B Football

A big year for the 1994 cohort with half of them undertaking Junior certificate examinations whilst also keeping up with their football and hurling with Na Fianna. The 'B' squad provided four of its strongest players to the expanded panel of the 'A' squad at the beginning of the year to ensure that both squads had more than twenty players available to cover exams, injuries etc. As a result the competitiveness of the 'B' squad has taken a negative turn with a significant drop in competitiveness even in the lowest division. However, to their credit the enthusiasm of the remaining squad has never waned with continuing high numbers turning out for training and matches.

A changed training regime has seen fitness improvements in some areas of the squad but there is little possibility of a return to competitiveness without new squad members being brought in.

Mentors: Barry Delaney, Seoirse Smith, Martin Greene.



Under 16 Football

This team continues to improve immensely as the year progresses. After a magnificent win over St Vincents in the first round of the Championship we were brought back down to earth by eventual beaten finalists Ballymun in the quarter final. With the second round of the league to come we look forward to a good run which will prepare the lads for minor football next year. A special mention to Niall and Ian for their contribution given their busy schedules.

Mentors: Niall Cooper, Ian Foley, Paul Smith



JUVENILE GAMES - Hurling

Under 6 Hurling

During the year, numbers grew from about twenty to thirty. The growth can be attributed to a number of factors:

- overall encouragement, management and support from James Mangan
- club purchase of equipment including sliotar hitter which kids find great fun
- various training courses directly influencing training routines used, making for more fun and greater learning
- natural progression of coaches from complete novices to battle-hardened child minders!
- noticeable involvement of parents in the routines (keeping kids in straight lines etc) plus a keenness for their kids to learn hurling specifically
- removal of traditional split between football and hurling; before the sessions were separate now football flows seamlessly into hurling, such that kids are not inclined to head home after football; a big factor and ought to be standard for all nurseries

Overall the sessions are much more manageable. Kids are enjoying and understanding the game whereas before it was seen as a chore. Plenty of budding Shefflins and Ó hAilpíns.

Mentors: Sean Cody, Tom Hickey, Philip Lynch, Tim Coughlan

Under 7 Hurling

The boys continue to make progress on developing their basic hurling skills every Saturday morning. The highlights of the year have been our first competitive games against the famed “Village” team James Stephens from Kilkenny (where apparently they know a thing or two about hurling). Our boys performed brilliantly both in the home game in Mobhi Road in July and on the return visit to Kilkenny on 13th September where honours were even. Go Games will commence next year so the focus now is to continue to expand the boys increasing repertoire of skills and to have a bit of craic.

Mentors: Jim Deane, James Jesson, Perry Kalk, Dermot Conroy, John Kelly, Philip Mongey, Andy Matthews, TJ Gleeson

Under 8 Hurling

The Under 8 hurlers are in full flight at the moment. We have forty-five hurlers on paper with thirty-five turning up on each match day, allowing us to field five 7-a-side teams. We train on a Monday evening, which has allowed the boy to develop their hurling skills. The boys are looking forward to handing back the ‘big balls’ and start using First Touch sliotars. We have had some great displays this year against some Dublin teams but the performances put in against James Stephens and The Blacks and Whites were the highlight of the year. Each boy should practice during the week as hurling is not a game that the boys can pick up with a one-hour training session a week. It is important that the boys do their homework and hold the hurl every day. The mentors will show the drills but it is more important that parents watch and practice these skills with their child during the week. A small number of committed mentors will need more volunteers to come forward to help, now that the boys have two training sessions a week. If you are interested please contact any mentor at a training session.

Remember keep practicing.

Mentors: Dermot Moran, Tom Flaherty, Gavin Banahan, John O’Grady, Mary O’Connell.



Under 9 Hurling

Our season started on the 18th of January with the annual Gormanston Indoor Hurling tournament, which ran for five weeks. We entered three teams and the players showed no sign of rust, coming home with first place in pool A and second place in pool B. We started training on 16th February and have had eighteen training sessions up to the end of August. Attendance at training has been about 70% while attendance for matches is at about 85%. Although we lost a few players at the start of this year, we also gained a few new players during the season, which leaves our panel size at thirty-nine.

This year we played Under 9 Go-Games, which is our first year playing streamed teams (A, B & C). We entered three teams into a three-team group which consists of the following nine clubs: Ballinteer St. John, Castleknock, Clontarf, Cuala, Kilmacud Crokes, Lucan Sarsfields, Na Fianna, Naomh Barróg and St. Vincents. Teams are nine-a-side. We have played nine games to date and the players are acquitting themselves well, winning all but one.

During July we ran some skills challenges and matches instead of training sessions and these proved very popular with the players. During the summer we have played several clubs from outside of Dublin. In June we welcomed St Paul's of Belfast and played both hurling and football on the back pitch. In early August we took part in a blitz in Black & Whites in Kilkenny. In late August we took part in a tournament in Ballyhale Shamrocks in Kilkenny. Although we didn't win down in Kilkenny, we competed well and both players and mentors learned a lot. We are looking forward to an Under 9 Tournament in James Stephens in Kilkenny at the end of September.

Being able to measure our progress against teams from Antrim, Dublin, Tipperary, Kilkenny and Galway has allowed us to adjust our training to keep pace with these clubs and hopefully deliver plenty of Na Fianna hurlers ready for selection for Dublin in the years to come!

Players continue to progress at a good pace, however we would encourage all players to have their hurl in their hand as often as possible as only one hour of training per week is never enough. Hurling practice outside of official club training is essential.

Many thanks to all the mentors, parents and helpers for all the support during the season and a special word of thanks to Des Tuite for obtaining sponsorship during the year.

Mentors: Joe Murphy, Cormac O'Sullivan, Daire Daly, Christy Donnelly, Eoin McCabe, Martin Hardiman, Mike Farrell, Brian Skelly

Under 10 Hurling

Comprising over forty players, this group entered four teams (9-a-side) in Go Games, in a three-team group and a single team group. They competed well in all events, with Kilmacud being the only rivals to seem to have a slight edge over us at this early stage.

With fantastic support from the parents, this group hosted the third Dermot McNulty tournament for the first time on the May Bank Holiday weekend. Played in uncommonly benign weather conditions, it was a triumph for the club, the parents, the organisers and all guests, which included marquee clubs like James Stephens (The Cup winners) and Dicksboro (both Kilkenny), Na Piarasigh, Cork and Gorey of Wexford. An added bonus was the victory of our own B1 team in the Shield for the very first time, and the presentation of the medals by our two Dublin stars, Tomás Brady and Joey Boland. As always, we are thankful to the McNulty Family for their attendance at the presentation and their fulsome support of the event.

Shortly after, we travelled with two teams to Limerick's Na Piarasigh to participate in the Burtchaell Under 10 Tournament, named after Paddy's brother and Colm's uncle, who was a stalwart member for the Shannonsiders. Our second team competed well, narrowly losing a Shield final, but the 'A' team exceeded all expectations, winning the event outright for the first time, with a thrilling (1-6 to 1-3) win over Moycarty-Borris (Tipperary) in the Final.

June was this age group's final opportunity to participate in the Mini-Leagues, which was enthusiastically embraced by all. The autumn part of the season involves the boys seeing out their Go Games programme,



and all are looking forward to a reciprocal tournament invitation from Kilmacud Crokes in October, which will require only a short ride across the city for the opportunity to play traditional hurling clubs from around the country.

Mentors: Adrian Tierney, Donal Buggy, Fran Gray, Jimmy Deane, Eugene McHugh, Pat Brennan, Willie Bergin, Hugh McFinn, Cian Ó Lionáin, Padraic Bolger

Under 11 Hurling

The Under 11 Hurlers have enjoyed another good year. They field three 11-a-side teams in the Cup and League, two 'A' teams and a 'B' team, and they competed in both C amaint Leagues during the summer. The highlight of the year was a trip to Cork back in April where they played two matches against Na Piarasaigh and then on to Fota Island Wildlife Park. Thirty-three children from the panel of thirty-nine travelled.

They will be hosting and defending their annual tournament 'The Fella Cup' on October 11th in Mobhi Road and St Vincents School. Clubs from Kilkenny, Cork, Donegal, Waterford, Offaly and Galway will be represented in this tournament which is sponsored by the 'Fitzgerald and O'Flaherty Clan'.

This year the U-11s have added a bit of silverware to the Trophy Cabinet, the Under 11 'A' Cup, the Division 1 C amaint Cup and the Shield from a tournament they played last May in Ballyragget, Lismore, Co Waterford.

Many thanks to 'Wynns Hotel' for sponsoring a set of jerseys for the children.

Mentors: Mary O'Connell, Catherine Fitzgerald, Declan Feeney, Gerry Corcoran, Niall Loftus, P airic Clerkin, Regina Bermingham, Tony Kelly

Under 12 Hurling

After Paudie Butler's now annual visit for a Coaches in-service session in January, this group entered three teams in the U-12 Go Games, now thirteen-a-side. This consisted of two balanced teams in Division 1, in an effort to offer as many players as possible who were showing good form, to experience hurling at this relatively high and improving standard. The third team entered Division 5. With an average 85% turnout from a pool of about forty players, we were often short when all teams were in action simultaneously, and we are most grateful to Mary O'Connell and the U-11 players and parents for their wonderful ongoing support. All three teams reached the Division 1 and Division 5 Cup semi-finals, but being the June Bank Holiday weekend, all were depleted and duly heavily defeated on the day. The policy of having two balanced teams in Division 1 therefore had mixed results: while a few players "stepped up to the plate", more found the standard too high, with some games seeming to pass them by. Nonetheless all players can expect an abundance of action in the ongoing league.

Continuing our policy of striving to raise standards by engaging with elite hurling clubs from traditional strongholds, we hosted a four-team tournament for all players at Easter, which the 'A' team won with wins over Na Piarasaigh of Cork and Kilmacud Crokes and a draw with James Stephens of Kilkenny. A reciprocal invitation in May from our southside friends saw us contest the final with the hosts (the Kilkenny teams were dismissed early defeated!), which we lost narrowly.

An 'A' team competed against a top-class field in a Blackrock, Cork tournament in late August, emerging with great credit following a four-point defeat to Dicksboro (our closest yet to these current national standard bearers), a one-point defeat to Blackrock, a thrilling draw with Tipperary U-12 champions Nenagh, and a resounding win over Kilmacud. A final trip to the James Stephens tournament will take place in late September.

Summer hurling was maintained via the Cam aint Dublin event. We were successful in winning the 'A' Cup in this competition, after a keenly-fought final contest with Naomh Barr og in Parnell Park on September 5th. This meant a Cam aint victory for the 1997 hurlers for the second year in succession.



We are thankful to all parents for their ongoing support of all the players and mentors. We are particularly fortunate to welcome Martin Keenan as a new mentor, who has made an outstanding contribution already to the 'B' team.

Mentors: Donal Buggy, Oliver Casserley, Dave Doran, Billy Fenlon, Dave Fenton, Michael Flanagan, Finbar Gaffney, Chris Garvey, Andrew Green, Michael Kenny, Paddy Oliver, Tom O'Connor, Seosamh Ó Maolalair, Peter Pringle, Frank Twomey.

Under 13 Hurling

The U-13 hurlers took the move to fifteen-a-side hurling in their stride this year following a strong performance in our final year of Go Games. We are fielding two teams - in Division 1 and Division 4. The Division 1 team has been very successful in their league matches to date. Our second team has struggled with numbers but a few new recruits have recently joined us so we are confident of finishing the year out strongly. Thanks to our U-12 colleagues who help us out with players at times so we can continue to field. Thanks also to the U-14 mentors who gave several of our players the opportunity to play in Féile na nGael where they acquitted themselves well. We currently have six players on the Dublin North Under 13 Development squad with several others pushing hard for inclusion.

Mentors: Michael Ryan, Tommy Curley, Kieran Lowry, Brendan Craven, Pat Barron, James Jesson, Anne Foley

Under 14A Hurling

It's been a long season for the U14A hurlers, starting with training on the all-weather pitches in January. On the morning of the All Ireland club final, we had the pleasure of hosting Tramore for an excellent challenge match in the back pitch. Our early performances in Division 1 of the league were hampered by long-term injuries to key players. This meant that a real team effort was required to try and maintain our Division 1 status, a task which the panel has risen to. To date we have played nine of our twelve games and are placed in fourth spot with a record of Won 4, Drew 1, Lost 4. We competed in Division 1 of Féile na nGael which only consisted of five teams and was hosted in DCU. Although we only won one out of four group matches we competed well in all the games. Special thanks to the four Under 13 players that greatly strengthened our panel and to their mentors. Six of our panel were chosen for the Dublin West Under 14 development squad and five of those players played for the Dublin teams that competed in the All Ireland Tony Forristal tournament in Waterford.

Mentors: Damian Murphy, Joe Murphy

Under 14B Hurling

Our season got off to a disappointing start when we had to concede our first league game due to the non-availability of players. Commitment improved dramatically thereafter and we began to make headway in the league, achieving a record of Played 9 Won 3 Drew 1 Lost 5 at the mid-way point. This left us in the bottom half of Division 4 when the table was split, but we have high hopes of finishing on top of the sub-table. Of course the highlight of the year was our participation in the Féile na nGael competition. We competed in Division 6 and we hosted the group stages at Mobhi Road. A huge thank you to all those who helped make that day a great success. After a titanic struggle with Craobh Chiaráin in the semi-final, we progressed to the final against Cuala, played at their home venue. Despite great support and a spirited performance, we had to give way to a superior Cuala team. Our Féile squad was augmented by three fantastic U-13 players. Special thanks to them and to their mentors for helping us out. Many of the players have shown a marked improvement in skill level over the year. It is great to see them so proficient at a game currently being considered for inclusion in UNESCO's global list of cultural activities that are unique and valuable enough to be especially safe-guarded.



Mentors: Oliver Power, Dave Williams

Under 15 Hurling

The big decision at the start of the season was whether we would be able to sustain two teams at Under 15 level with a pool of just twenty-nine regular players. We didn't want to run with only one team as this would mean boys potentially getting very little game time, but we also knew it would be major challenge to field two teams on a regular basis. However thanks to the great commitment of the lads, support from the Under 14 mentors and players and the return of some prodigal hurling sons from the ranks of the footballers, we successfully fielded an Under 15A and an Under 15B team in both league and championship competitions, competing in Divisions 1 and 4 respectively. We are the only club in Dublin to achieve this at Under 15 level.

2009 also saw the injection of some fresh mentor blood with Diarmuid O'Connor and Seosamh Breachnach coming on board to help with the 'B' team. Unfortunately work commitments meant Seosamh had to move down the country in June. But Diarmuid stayed the course bringing his mix of Kerry wit and wisdom to training and match day team talks.

During the course of the season, despite great battling performances in all matches, both squads had mixed results. Fewer victories than defeats meant neither of the squads challenged for the top spots in their respective divisions and both teams also bowed out in the first round of the championships in September. Although at the time of writing the 'A' team has won through to the final of the Division 1 Shield competition.

Highlight of the season was the now customary weekend away trip during the summer. In July, the entire Under 15 hurling squad travelled to Galway again this year where they played Clarinbridge and Ragoon/Newcastle Under 16 hurling teams. This memorable tour concluded with a trip to Thurles where the boys saw the Dubs succumb to Limerick in the All Ireland Senior Hurling qualifiers.

So all in all 2009, while not successful in terms of competition results, was a success for Na Fianna hurling with a large core group of young hurlers sticking with the sport as they continue their skills development and their enjoyment of hurling.

Mentors: Dermot Moran, Greg Whooley, Peter Caulfield, Greg Ronayne, Fran Gray, Fintan Brennan, Diarmuid O'Connor, Seosamh Breachnach

Under 16 Hurling

The past year has been one of modest but definite progress for this team. The team has consolidated its position in the top half of Division 1 and the gap between Na Fianna and the 'Big Two' continues to narrow. A surprise championship exit at the hands of St. Sylvester's dented confidence but this bunch is resilient and will bounce back. The team is well-balanced and not dependent on one or two 'superstar' players. For that reason, amongst others, there is no doubt that, if they stick at it, this bunch of players is destined for serious success. At any rate the progress made by these lads in the last few years sees them well prepared for minor ranks. They have the ability, maturity and determination to mount a credible challenge for minor honours in 2010.

Mentors: Pádraig Ó Fainín, Colum Meleady



JUVENILE GAMES – Ladies’ Football

Under 11 Camogie and Ladies’ football

The Under 11 girls had a huge panel this year consisting of forty-six girls. We decided to field three camogie teams due to the numbers involved as the girls at this age play eleven-a-side. We fielded two football teams, one in Division 2 and one in Division 3. We ran a very successful winter league in both codes amongst the girls for the month of November.

January saw the introduction of camogie for the first time in the Gormanston indoor competition & we entered two teams for what turned out to be a very enjoyable and extremely well organised competition. Early in the year, we had a visiting football team from Tyrone and we organised and hosted a football blitz with three other clubs in June. Our Division 2 football team got through to a play-off against Thomas Davis to decide who would top the league. We played a very competitive match on the 27th of June in St. Brigids grounds with plenty of support on the sideline from parents and families and Na Fianna won the game.

This was a great achievement for the panel of twenty players.

Some senior camogie players are coming on board soon to help with training sessions. We also hope to have some players from both adult ladies’ football teams.

We had a great Parents’ Social Night in the club in May as a team fundraiser. This was very well supported by the parents of the U-11s. Edel Prince & the Lacklustre band provided the entertainment at a reduced rate as some of the band members performed free of charge. One member of the band, Jim Brophy, has a daughter on the U-11 team.

Finally, a huge thank you to our sponsors ‘Brady’s Butchers’. We obtained a new set of jerseys for the girls through their generous sponsorship.

Mentors: Brian O’Gorman, Liam Connolly, Ricky & Róisín O’Sullivan, John McDaid, Jim Aughney, Seamus Gill, Pat Montague

Under 12 Ladies’ football

We had a real up-and-down season. Some big wins including a record score for this division of 8 goals and 15 points in one game, however we also had a couple of big defeats but the remainder of games were tightly fought encounters with a couple of points either way at the end. We finished off the summer with a visit to Rhode in County Offaly on a very hot day along with our U-9 and U-13 teams.

We start our championship in late September and we plan to host teams from Offaly, Wicklow and Tipperary in a mini blitz in late October/early November.

This season Eamon O’Donnell set up a link between the senior team and our team and a number of players have helped us. Thanks to Sinéad O’Donnell, Mary Nevin and Bernie Finlay for their help and advice and huge thanks to Róisín Grogan who give a lot of time and great advice to the team especially during a number of games. We also wish to thanks our sponsors Stack’s Pharmacy of Hart’s Corner

Mentors: Billy McLaughlin, Brian Murphy, Máirtín Mac Con Iomaire, Paul Nolan, Áine Clerkin, Pauline O’Neill.

Under 13A Ladies' football

Congratulations to all the girls on a very successful season, second place in Division 1. We were in joint second with one final match to play, at home to Foxrock/Cabinteely which we needed to win. At half-time we were 0-5 to 4-2 down but after an amazing thirty minutes of football, with a final score of Na Fianna 0-



16 Foxrock/Cabinteeley 4-2, we secured second place. Well done girls this was one of the best performances seen in recent years. We are also looking forward to the Championship which starts off on 17th September at home to Castleknock. There has been a great turnout to training sessions, normally around fourteen, which out of a squad of seventeen is excellent. Keep it up girls!

We had one trip away with to an Adventure Centre in Birr on 26th April.

Thanks to all the parents for their support during the year and a big thank you to our sponsors: Vincent Wall who organised sponsorship from DAA, and also Des Tuite who organised sponsorship from Intel.

Mentors: Tony Lynch, Brendan Gearon, Seamus Boland, Mary McQuillan, Des Tuite, Declan Mulvey

Under 13B Ladies' football

We've had a successful season so far adding a few new players to our squad. There have been some very close games and some where we struggled a little which is to be expected when we are up against some clubs with only one ladies' team at this age group. The league has been fairly well organised this year and because we're in a northside division we've been fortunate to avoid long trips to away games. Our championship starts soon and we're looking forward to an exciting campaign. The players we've added in the last few months might cause some surprises for teams that come up against us.

Our squad is currently seventeen strong - Aisling Bergin, Catrina Carrigan, Catriona Bregazzi, Eimear O'Connor, Emily Deering, Fiona Gallagher, Kate Leen, Kayleigh Foran, Laetitia Close, Lauren Wall, Maeve Keirns, Muireann Quinn, Orla Buckley, Saoirse McCormick, Sarah Reddin, Sinéad Brennan and Una Dowling. Regina Gallagher has been organising fixtures good and Regina Bermingham and Richard Quinn have been coaching. Michael Griffin has been inveigled to help us out recently and we're hoping to hold onto him for a bit (although I'm not sure if he knows that yet!). We're all enjoying the football and camaraderie ... long may it continue!

Mentors: Richard Quinn, Regina Bermingham, Regina Gallagher

Under 14 Ladies' football

This team has worked hard this year. They are in Division 1 and are holding their own. 2009 was Féile year and well done to the girls on reaching the semi-final in Division 1 against a very strong Ballyboden team. Well done also to the players from the U-13 girls for helping us out during the Feile and for various other matches during the year. Our numbers are very tight with only fifteen registered players. Well done also to Emer McDonagh who was very active in the Dublin U-14 ladies' football team. A big thank you to Eamonn O'Donnell and Tony Lynch for continuing the training with the U-13s and U-14s during the summer.

Mentors: Eamonn O'Donnell, Nora Lee, Ann Kelly

Under 16 Ladies' football

The highlight of the year so far was the team's performance against Arklow who had been admitted to Division 1 of the Dublin ladies' league for the first time. Na Fianna had performed well up to that point, having beaten Kilmacud Crokes and Ballinteer St. John's whilst suffering losses against St Brigids and Ballyboden St Enda's. Arklow were unbeaten when they met Na Fianna in the last league game of the season. As before Na Fianna confounded all pundits by delivering a stellar performance to win by three points, repeating their exploits of 2007. It is a pleasure to manage both 1993 and 1994 girls together for the first time, providing a very wide panel of girls enabling us to look forward to a competitive championship campaign which is about to begin. We would also like to congratulate the Dublin Under 16 girls' team who won the All-Ireland Shield Final in August after a very tough final against Mayo. The club was represented by Lucy Collins and Leah Caffrey while the team was captained by Aoife Caffrey. Many thanks to all of our parents for their unstinting support to the girls throughout the season.



Mentors: Bernie Caffrey, John Freir, John Lynch



JUVENILE GAMES - Camogie

Under 6 Camogie and Ladies' football

The number of girls in this group (2003 and younger) on Saturday morning is in the region of twenty to thirty and with over forty girls participating in the mini-leagues it is sure to grow even more. In the spring of this year the younger girls split from the Under 7 girls and this has made the sessions more manageable in terms of numbers. The session starts at 9.30am and finishes at 11am with camogie for the first forty-five minutes. The session is organised around a series of stations in order to focus on the skills in both codes and generally we finish with a match. We have recruited additional mentors, parents encouraged in from the sidelines and this has helped immensely in making the sessions more productive and of course more enjoyable for all. The interest and enthusiasm shown by both mentors and girls has been excellent. Big thank you to all.

Mentors: Ciarán Rogers, Tommy Burke, Fearghal Scanlon

Under 7 Camogie and Ladies' football

The attendance on Saturday mornings for the 2002 girls has continued to grow with nearly forty girls present on our first morning back after the summer break. In the spring of this year we split the 2002 girls from the younger group with each group having half of the all-weather pitch. The session starts at 9.30am and finishes at 11am with camogie from 9.30am to 10.15am and football thereafter. The session is organised around a series of stations in order to focus on the skills in both codes and due to the large numbers we have incorporated the match as one of the stations which is working very well. The enthusiasm shown by both mentors and girls has been excellent and we are encouraging the girls to practice the skills at home during the week. The Mini Leagues were a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by all; players, mentors and parents. We have recruited additional mentors (parents and others) and this is making the sessions more productive and enjoyable for all. Big thank you to all, especially to Lucy Collins and Áine Gaughan of the Under 16 girls' team for their help during the year.

Mentors: Tommy Burke, Fearghal Scanlon, Sandra Tarr, Cormac Ó Donnchú, Colum Cronin

Under 8 Camogie and Ladies' football

We continue to have forty-plus girls who attend regularly. Great excitement when we took part in our first activity involving other clubs (a camogie Blitz in the Phoenix Park). While the emphasis is still on fun and skills' development, we will hopefully be playing more matches and blitzes next year. Growth in the coaching group has made a big difference - special thanks to Laurence MacDonald who has been a great help.

Mentors: Martina Capper, Niall Healy, Marion Loftus, Mark Opperman, Paul McCarville, Philip Webb

Under 9 Camogie and Ladies' football

All members of the Under 9 girls' panel are currently playing both camogie and football. Our objective has been to teach the skills of both codes in a fun environment and the panel is developing into a fine group that shows great potential for the future.

In addition to our Saturday morning training sessions, we added a mid-week slot for camogie from mid-April. With the help of Karen Fox, Orla Behan and Celine Campbell (all playing Senior 'B' camogie), this has helped the girls to come on in leaps and bounds. Three teams have been entered into the Under 9 camogie league and to date the girls have played extremely well indeed. The girls also enjoyed success in an Under 9 camogie blitz held in the Phoenix Park on the May bank holiday weekend.



Football is coming along well too. The panel doesn't play in a league until early 2010 however several challenge matches were arranged throughout the year. The highlight was the trip to Rhode, Co. Offaly in June. We are planning further matches in the run-up to Christmas so that the girls are ready for the Under 10 league in the New Year and we are currently in the process of recruiting two members of the senior ladies team to join our coaching panel.

Downey Keegan, one of our mentors, has moved to Dubai and she will be sorely missed as will her daughter, Clodagh. We look forward to their return! Thanks must go to Ber Buckley for her background work and to all the other parents for their continued support.

Mentors: Manus McAleer, Fran Cullen, Fran Claxton, Billy McLaughlin, Karen Fox, Orla Behan, Deirdre Quinn.

Under 10 Camogie and Ladies' football

The Under 10 girls have had a very busy year with their introduction to the league structure. At this age the football league is uncompetitive, however it is of a high standard. To facilitate our large numbers (over fifty girls), four football teams were entered into two two-team leagues (northside group A and northside group B) each comprising five clubs. Managing the large numbers and spreading the girls over four teams in separate leagues plus the addition of camogie leagues at this age group has been our greatest challenge as most of the girls play both codes. We are fortunate in Na Fianna that we have an enthusiastic bunch of girls who play both camogie and football and given the demands at weekends, the training sessions and matches are very well attended and we thank the parents for showing such great commitment to their girls and the club.

Our priority is to maintain these numbers but also to raise the standards of the girls. In April we hosted a pre-season mini blitz where our four teams played teams from three visiting clubs. This was the girls' first outing and they gave a very good account of themselves. In the league, Group 'A' won seven of their nine matches while Group 'B' won five of their seven matches - an impressive start. Judging the team's performance on the basis of results can be a crude measure of performance but what has been particularly pleasing was the noticeable improvement in the skill level in the girls as the year progressed.

While skill levels do vary within the group, we have spread them evenly to have four balanced teams. The objective is to ultimately develop four competitive teams. We face a busy second half of the season which will help to prepare the girls for their introduction to more competitive leagues next year.

Mentors: Dave Fenton, Joseph Devins, Austin Rock, TJ Gleeson, Ann Purtill-Kalk., Mary Rock

Under 12 Camogie

The Under 12 camogie team has about twenty-four girls on the panel and have had a very productive year. The skill levels have improved dramatically in the last year following implementation of drills shown by Paudie Butler last January, and also the defensive coaching workshop organised by Mango. The numbers of both players and mentors are good and we have a few other mothers who have agreed to attend matches regularly so as to have female assistance on the sideline.

League:

This year the Under 12s have been very unlucky in the league, winning one game and drawing one game. We lost two games by one score and never really got to field a full strength team for one reason or another. We still have two league games outstanding (Ballyboden away, St Vincents at home).

Championship:

We have started the championship recently with a win over Ballyboden and have our next match against Good Counsel on the 19th September.

Senior Players:

We have been allocated three girls from the senior team in Rachel Quinn, Aisling Taffe and Ali O'Brien who have agreed to help out in training twice a month and to try and attend matches. Rachel attended the first championship match and warmed up the girls and gave the team-talk which was very beneficial.



Mentors: Máirtín Mac Con Iomaire, Cormac Ó Donnchú, Billy McLaughlin, Áine Clerkin, Brian Murphy, Liam Rainsford

Under 13 Camogie

We are currently lying in second place in the league and are about to start the championship. We now have seven girls who are on the Dublin development squad who have training and have competed in various competitions during the year. They are Laura Mulvey, Vanessa Boland, Aoife McKenna, Bláithín McQuillan, Heather Deignam Gough, Kate O'Dwyer and Fiona Tuite.

Our thanks goes to all those help have assisted us during the year and in particular to Des Tuite who managed to get sponsorship for the team.

Mentors: Fiona Greene, Mary Breen, Fergal O'Dwyer, Seamus Boland, John Leen, Brendan Gearon

Under 14 Camogie

The girls were unfortunate in going into Division 1 where our opposition was generally much too strong for us. However, we are in Division 2 in the championship so we should make a better account of ourselves. Donal Murphy joined us as a coach during the season and is proving a big success. A big Thank you to Donal! The Camogie Féile has yet to be played and we are awaiting a re-fixed weekend for it. The original Féile weekend was cancelled as it was a wash-out! A big thank you to the girls from the U-13 camogie panel for helping us out during the year. Well done to three of our girls, Claire Murray, Róisín Baker and Cliona McCullough who were part of the Dublin U-14 Camogie team and trained hard every week in the Phoenix Park. The Dublin team unfortunately lost the Leinster final against a very strong Kilkenny. We went to Kilkenny at the end of August and played the Blacks and Whites. Our girls gave a very good account of themselves in the second half and lost by only one point. We are due to replay them here later.

Mentors: Nora Lee, Philip Kelly, Gráinne Ryan, Ann Kelly.

Under 15 Camogie

Bhuamar Craobh Átha Cliath Roinn a Dó faoi 14 i 2008. Cluiche iontach a bhí sa chluiche craoibhe agus bhaineamar an-sult as an mbua agus as an lá ina iomlán. Mar thoradh ar an mbua sin, d'imríomar i Roinn a haon den Sraith faoi 15 i 2009. N'fheadair muid fós arbh duais nó piónós an toradh sin!

Táimid lánsásta le hiarrachtaí na foirne sa Roinn sin go dtí seo. Táimid ag imirt i gcoinne na foirne is fearr sa chontae (agus go deimhin sa tír uile) agus muid ag tnúth le tuilleadh feabhais ar an imirt againn sna cluichí atá le himirt san fhomhar sa Sraith agus sa Chraobh.

Fiche cailín sa phainéal againn chomh maith le ceathrar a imríonn faoi 16. Tá duine amháin ón gclub againn ar phainéal forbartha Átha Cliath 2010 faoi 16 faoi láthair. Seans maith, creidimid, go mbeidh duine nó beirt eile againn ar an bpainéal sin de thoradh an triail-chluiche a himríodh le déanaí. Tá spiorad an-mhaith sa champa. Cuimhnigh go bhfuil cúram na scrúdaithe ar chuid den phainéal i mbliana agus an bhliain seo chugainn.

Chabhraigh tuismitheoirí an ghrúpa leis an mbailiúchán don pháirc nua uile-laimsire.

Ár mbuiochas do oifigeacha agus meantóirí an Chlub agus do na tuismitheoirí a chabhraigh linn i rith na bliana

We won the Dublin Championship Division 2 Under 14 in 2008. The final was a great game and we really enjoyed it and the whole day. As a result of that victory, we have played in Division 1 of the Under 15 League in 2009. We still don't know whether that was a prize or a penance!

We are very happy with the team's efforts in that Division up to now. We are playing against the best teams in the County (and indeed the country) and we are expecting further improvements in our play in the games we still have to play in the autumn in both the League and the Championship.



We have twenty girls in the panel as well as four who play Under 16. There is currently one girl from the club on the Dublin 2010 Under 16 Development Panel. There's a good chance, we believe, that we will have one or two more on that panel before long arising from the trial game that was played recently. There's a great spirit in the camp. It must be remembered that some of our panel are in Junior Cert year this year and the rest will be next year.

There was a positive response from the parents to the fundraising for the new all-weather pitch.

Our thanks to the club officers and mentors and the parents who assisted us during the year.

Mentors: Anne Chambers, Declan Murtagh, Seosamh Ó Maolaláí

Under 16B Camogie

We started the year with a small number of U-16 'B' players but a decision was made to enter a team in the league with the support of the U-15 players to enable us to field a competitive team. Due to health concern one of the main mentors which had been with this team for several years could not continue to be involved. We were unsuccessful in getting a mentor to take over the team. The situation was not helped by the fact that several of the players were also completing their Junior Cert.

We struggled in the league and in retrospect we should only have entered in the championship but the intention was to try and keep as many U-16B players involved. The players that have remained have improved and played in the U-16 summer league and some have played matches with the Junior adult team. It is hoped they will continue next year and if that happens we will have been successful in forging the transition between juvenile and adult earlier than in the past which I believe makes the transition to adult easier and we are more likely to maintain players rather than lose them

The players are now competing in the championship within a small group of teams.

Much thanks is owed to the U-14 and U-15 mentors and players for their support and commitment to our team during the year and would like to make special thanks to Ann McInerney and Hannah McInerney who managed this team successfully in previous years.

Mentor: Liz O'Brien

Under 16A Camogie

Under 16A started the year with a thrilling game away to Ballyboden on their new all-weather pitch. It was a 'horrible evening' and the game was one of two halves. We were in control in the first half, they took over in the second half but we went on to win by a point with a great goal in the dying minutes scored by Lauren. We have again beaten Ballyboden in the League and in the first round of the Championship on 5th September. There was not much between the two teams but despite a late 'Boden rally, we held out for quite a comfortable win. We also have St Brigidsa in our Group. The winners of our Group are likely to be playing Oliver Plunketts in the semi-final - so it is a tough draw. In the league we have also beaten both Lucan and St Judes, again two good games with not a lot between all three teams but we were beaten by both St Vincents and St Oliver Plunketts who have been the best two teams in our league since Under 13/14. Our target for this year was to ensure we come out on top against Ballyboden, Lucan and St Judes and at least give Vincents and Plunketts a good challenge. We did come close to Vincents, coming within four points in our second game. We have a tight panel with nineteen players being part of the team up to now. There were times when we were very tight on numbers and we would like to thank Seosamh, Declan and the Under 15 team for their support in allowing Isabelle Kelly, Anna O'Hanlon and Michelle Gahan to play with us when we were short. We have an even tighter panel now with Orla Keegan and her family having moved to Dubai. Orla will be missed not only for her play but as a good friend to the girls on the team and personally I will miss Downey who helped us out with training at Matches this year. We wish them all the best. Some of our girls have also played up with our Intermediate and Junior Adult teams whenever they were needed. This is good preparation for the girls for next season when they will move out of the juvenile section. Four of our girls were also part of the Dublin Under 16 panel namely Lucy Collins, Khloe Dillon Coote, Laura Tarr and Aine Gaughan



Mentors: Sandra Tarr, John Leen, Peter Pringle



JUVENILE Games - Handball

Another very good year for our handballers both young and old with wins in county, interprovincial and international competitions.

Na Fianna hosted the Leinster and All Ireland semi-finals and finals and received great praise for our hospitality and the court facilities.

Féile na nGael

BOYS.

Our biggest win this year has to be the win in Offaly early in the summer in Féile na nGael. It was the third year that we entered a boys' team, and after two runner-up positions in previous years, the hard work and grit has paid off. The lads' team played four games and were unbeaten and deservedly won the final. The final went to a tie-breaker in which they came from 3-8 behind to win 11-9.

GIRLS

Our girls' very young team had a tougher time. Although they battled through each game and never gave up they were outclassed. However these girls have great potential and signs are good for the future.

Leinster Championships

BOYS

Pride of place goes to Cian Ó Dálaigh and Corey Fay again. They seem to want to break records every year. They started the year off in the 'A' championships in the Colleges and were only narrowly beaten in both Leinster finals by Kilkenny. They then played 'A' championship doubles in 40x 20 and representing Dublin, beat Laois 21-0, 21-0, Carlow 21-4, 21-6, Wexford 21-6, 21-4 and then for the first time beat Kilkenny in the Leinster final 21-14, 21-4. This was Dublin's first Under 15A Leinster win since 1977. Unfortunately they were beaten by Clare 18-21, 15-21 in the All-Ireland semi-final, who were the eventual All-Ireland winners.

They then turned to the 60x30 'A' championships and beat Wexford very well and beat Kilkenny again in the Leinster final 21-14, 21-10, but again Clare beat them in the All Ireland semi-final 21-8, 21-10.

Niall McKenna was narrowly beaten in the Under 14A doubles 40x20 and 60x30 semi finals with his partner Joseph Varley (Brian Boru).

GIRLS

Cliona Mc Cullough represented Maryfield College and won the first year Leinster singles' titles in 40x20 and 60x30. She played fabulous handball and had to travel to play both Leinster Finals in her opponents' home courts so she truly did very well against all odds.

Eleanor Buggy and Jane Griffin had a great win in the Under 19 Leinster Colleges' final representing Loreto College, St. Stephens Green.

The following girls all reached the 'A' Leinster finals.

40x20



Under 12 doubles Meadhbh Ní Dhálaigh and Ailbhe Clerkin.

Under 15 singles Eleanor Buggy.

Under 16 doubles Lisa Mc Kenna and Susan Clinton.

Under 17 singles Jane Griffin.

60x30

Under 12 singles Emily Lacey.

Under 12 doubles Meadhbh Ní Dhálaigh and Ailbhe Clerkin.

Under 13 singles Rachel Malone.

Under 14 singles Clíona McCullough.

Under 15 singles Eleanor Buggy.



Under 15 doubles Gráinne Sutcliffe and Aoife Gaughan.

Under 16 singles Dianamh Greene.

Under 17 singles Áine Gaughan.

Under 17 doubles Karly O'Neill and Jane Griffin.

Dublin Championships

40x20

Dublin junior B2 doubles winners Cian Ó Dálaigh and Corey Fay.

Dublin junior B2 singles winner Corey Fay.

60x30

Dublin junior B singles winner Naoise Greene.

Dublin junior B doubles winners John Walsh and Brian Treanor

One wall junior singles winner Brian Treanor.

Coaches: Frank Daly, Kevin McKenna, Pat Ryan, Christy Donnelly, Gary McNulty, Peter Caulfield, Cliona Ní Dhálaigh, Páirc Clerkin.



Motions and Recommendations

Motions:

Amend Rule 7.5

Juvenile Suspensions – Special Rules

(k) Except as provided in (l) below, Juvenile Players participating in Under 16 or younger Grade Competitions shall be subject to penalties for Misconduct at Games Infractions on the same basis as under the General Rules above, except that the Minimum Suspension shall in each case be one-half of that applicable and Suspension from the next Game in the Competition in question, if outside the Suspension Time Period, shall not apply.

to read:

(k) Except as provided in (l) below, Juvenile Players participating in Under 16 or younger Grade Competitions shall be subject to penalties for Misconduct at Games Infractions on the same basis as under the General Rules above, except that the Minimum Suspension shall in each case be one-half of that applicable.

Proposed: Damian Ó Murchú

Recommendations:



NOMINATIONS

	Position	Nominees
Uachtarán	President	
Leas Uachtarán	Vice President	
Cathaoirleach	Chairman	Paul McCarville
Leas Cathaoirleach	Vice-Chairman	Colum Cronin
Runaí	Secretary	Jim Aughney
Leas Runaí	Assistant Secretary	Des Ó Dubhlainn
Cisteoir	Treasurer	Declan O'Sullivan
Leas Cisteoir	Assistant Treasurer	Karen Dunne
Cathaoirleach Cluichí na nÓg	Chairman – Juvenile Games	Billy Fenlon
Cathaoirleach Cluichí Shinsir	Chairman – Adult Games	Tom Ryan
Oifigeach Caidreamh Poiblí	Public Relations Officer	Cormac Ó Donnchú
Ball den Comhar (x 2)	Member of Executive (x 2)	Anne Foley Linda Richardson