



Clanna Gael Fontenoy GAA Club CLANNS UPDATE

A promising start for the U-11s

After weather caused the cancellation of a previous fixture our U-11s had their first competitive football match last weekend in what was their first visit to Ballymun Kickhams and their great all weather facilities alongside Dublin airport. As was evident from the training session the evening before where everyone was focused and engaged, the boys were well up for the challenge - if a bit excited to be playing such strong opposition.

Both matches turned out to be a game of two halves such was the strength of the wind. The B team started well and notched up an early point from Louis Roden, but after a while the Ballymun lads had secured a few goals and were well ahead by half time. Playing with the wind Clanns enjoyed a much better second half with a couple of nice goals from Eoin McGrath. Unfortunately, between our defence losing its shape on occasion and a tendency to try for scores rather than working the ball into the forwards in the latter part of the second half left the game in no doubt. Some very nice football by the hosts and strong goalkeeping also help them end up winners 7-2 to 2-4

Our A team had a better run, also finding themselves behind at half time but only by a couple of scores. In the second half the team really pulled together to dominate the game. They were very impressive in beating well a very strong Ballymun outfit which had dispatched all visitors over previous games. Everyone played excellently and showed great tackling and passing skills. So overall a good start and the objective now is to see both teams winning their matches. Weaknesses identified in the matches will be worked on during the Friday evening training sessions.

While our U-11 hurlers haven't yet had any competitive matches, they have managed a number of friendlies in the last few weeks. Last Sunday they togged out against Na Fianna in Glasnevin - two very good games that definitely showed a strong improvement in the squad over recent months. Hurling training continues every Wednesday at 7pm, including the mid-term week; and there's hurling training this coming Friday (21st) at 6.30pm in preparation for a hurling match the next day.



The team performed well last year - here in action against Thomas Davis



Club News

Our ladies don the Dublin colours

A number of our female footballers have done themselves and the club proud of late. Congratulations to Rebecca McDonnell and Stacey Flood and the Dublin minor team on their recent 3-17 to 1-6 win over Offaly in the Leinster championship.

Congratulations also to Niamh Shaw and Maria O'Dea who made their inter county debuts for the U-14s in the game against Waterford and helped to secure a fine 5-13 to 3-7 win.



Niamh Shaw and Maria O'Dea

And a number of our other U-14 players also featured very well in the Dublin trials – particularly Orla Flanagan who was there right to the end; also Clodagh Ferry, Sally Vaughan and Kate Benson who did very well along the way.



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U-14s go down in first outing

The bad weather continues to play havoc with much of the fixtures list particularly at under-age level. One game that did go ahead was our U-14 footballers' first outing of the new season in making the trip to North County Dublin to play St Margarets. Thankfully, the weather held up reasonably well to allow a good, open game of football which saw just one point between the teams at one stage in the second half.

In the end home side won out, though in truth this was a game which Clanns could have won had our attack been able to show a bit more guile in opening up the home defence. But there was sufficient in the Clanns play to give grounds for optimism – including 10 well-taken points with two of them coming from the boot of U-13 player, Seamus McCann. The Clanns midfield duo of Evan Caulfield and Josh Tilson also played very well.

With their first competitive hurling fixture due the first weekend of March (weather permitting), our U-14 hurlers have been assembling at 11.30 on Sunday mornings in the cage to hone their skills. A major development this year sees the U-13s and U-14s combine to form one team, although the players themselves will be no strangers to one another having played together quite a number of times already over the last 12 months.

St Margarets 3-6 Clanna Gael Fontenoy 0-10

U-8s preparing well

Due to the run of bad weather of late, the U-8s are still eagerly waiting for their first competitive fixture. But this has not dampened their spirits as the commitment to training has clearly shown.



U-8 hurlers in training during the week

Hopefully, they will get their chance with a home hurling match this coming weekend against St Patricks. We wish them luck!

Visit www.clannagaelfontenoy.ie for lots more information on the Club's activities

Club News

Date for diary – Beach Run

Sunday 11th May – that's when this year's Beach Run takes place. A fun event for all ages to raise funds for the Club, the run will get underway at 13.00 for kids followed by adults at 13.30. Make sure to put this date in your diary.

Club Fixtures

Hurling! [Sat 22nd February]

U-8 Boys:

Clanns v St Patricks, 10.00hrs

U-9 Boys:

Ballinteer St Johns v Clanns,
Marlay Park, 11.00hrs

U-10 Boys:

Bray Emmets v Clanns,
Old Conna, 11.00hrs

U-11 Boys:

Clanns v Commercials, 11.00hrs

U-12 Boys:

Cuala 1 v Clanns,
Shanganagh Park, Shankill, 12.15hrs
Clanns 2 v Liffey Gaels, 12.15hrs

U-13 Boys: [Football]

St Sylvesters v Clanns,
Bridgefield, 13.30hrs

U-14 Boys: [Football]

Thomas Davis v Clanns,
Kiltipper Road, 15.00hrs

U-15 Boys:

Naomh Mearnog v Clanns,
Pairc Mearnog, 11.30hrs



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