



# Clontarf Cricket Newsletter



**Friday 2nd of April 2021**



## Opening Message & Welcome

As Alexander Pope said *“Hope springs eternal”*. As we emerge from a tough Winter period we can start looking forward to a new cricket season with all the

eager anticipation that brings. Your Executive Committee has been working very hard over the last number of months to prepare us to hit the ground running. When current restrictions are lifted we will be ready to go. We have some exciting new plans that include:

New faces in the coaching set-up that further strengthen our team of coaches (more of that below);

The launch of an internal midweek league for our adult players – men & women – to give everyone more cricket playing opportunity;

The continued rollout of our youth strategy to support the continued development of our boys and girls;

Exciting plans for our late teens and early 20s cohort to support their transition into Senior cricket;

The addition of a 3<sup>rd</sup> women's team reflecting the increased numbers and focus on Women's cricket at the club;

The refurbishment of the tea room and the unveiling of new memorabilia and pictures from the past;

The continued bedding in of our newly re-laid square following the very successful ground project in 2019;

The return of representative and international cricket at Castle Avenue.

So as you can see there is lots happening. However, we look forward to nothing more than our ability to meet again. To get our kids back out with bats and ball in hand. To hear the sound of leather on willow. To smell the freshly cut outfield. To compete for honours at all levels throughout the club. To cheer on our teams from the sidelines. And to renew acquaintances, rekindle friendships, and forge new memories.

To all our members I wish you, more than ever, the best for the season ahead. I look forward to welcoming you all back to Castle Avenue shortly and have a

lovely Easter Weekend.

**Brian MacNeice**

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## Message from our Chairperson

Dear Club Members,

Welcome to the brand new CCC newsletter introduced to hopefully keep you the member more informed as to what and why things are happening. I hope you all find it both interesting and valuable. I have been told I have a habit of banging on a bit. For all your sakes I will try to avoid this. So, let me first address the elephant in the room, when will cricket start???

The honest answer is at time of writing simply that we just don't know and are totally at the mercy of Government restrictions. Sport and in particular cricket is so important to us and our wellbeing the main goal is to get you back on the pitch and down watching so in the background we have been planning for a number of possible scenarios to get going as soon as possible once we get the green light. As soon as we have a date we will be on to you all to share the good news.

The CCTV system in the club recently received a big upgrade with both the cricket and rugby covered along with the car park and BmC's office/shed. Thanks to Bren Smith and Paul Fallon for organising all of this, the quality is amazing.

With Cricket Leinster introducing coloured shirts for all T20 cricket we ran our first club fundraiser in the form of a Numbered Shirt Auction and what a fundraiser it was. Fundraising is so important to the functioning of any club and the support for the auction was far beyond all expectations with 70+ (out of 99) shirts bid on. We had some full on battles with both the Chairman and President (twice) getting blown out of the water by some very “committed” bidders. But the battle of Clontarf took place over 21. Two members neither of which took a backward step. We are sincerely grateful to everyone who took part and I only hope you had as much fun as I did.

Lastly with the longer days and improving weather we encourage our members to avail for the facilities but please to do so responsibly and adhere to safety protocols and look after each other. If you're taking the dog for a walk please keep them on the lead and pick up after them.

Thanks so much everyone, we hope to see you soon, summer is coming'

**Frank Furlong**  
**Chairperson CCC**

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**Ground Update from Brian McDermott**

Good afternoon all members near & far,

As we all know we upgraded our square in August 2019 and seems all went to plan. This was a great opportunity to move our square forward and we grabbed it with both hands.

As 2020 season rolled in, we were unfortunately struct down with covid in March, which put a massive halt on cricket. The square saw very few games that summer and, for the games it did, they were only T20s. There were pros and cons with this for the square but let's move on.

This year is looking much better for cricket and I'm looking forward (with fingers crossed) in getting plenty of games on the square to see how it is maturing. Remember this is not a sprint but more a marathon for the new square.

With spring starting and the warm weather on the horizon. The faint hint of mown grass looming in the air, I'm in the middle of pre-season preparation. For all you keen gardeners out there this involves some basic skills like cleaning out the square of the winter debris, lots of brushing to stand the grass up. Giving the square a nice feed to help toughen up and improve the sward.

In the meantime, the height of cut gets slowly reduced, minor repairs get done, sorrel rolling & over-seeding followed up by heavier preseason rolling. Not to neglect our outfield and surrounding area in this post. Lots of cutting, aeration, feeding and find a safe window to close the ground to spray for those pesky weeds. I'm happy to say our square and outfield are coming along nicely.

I can't wait to hear the crack of leather on willow and see stumps tumbling. Looking forward to seeing you all this summer.

All the best and stay safe,

**Bryan McDermott**

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**Nolan's**  
of Clontarf

**THANK YOU**

## An Update on our Sponsors

As we look ahead to 2021 with optimism, it ensures to be another year with new challenges for all, but I'm delighted to announced the continued support from our existing and new loyal sponsors and partners.

We're delighted to continue with REA Grimes who will once again be our headline sponsors and feature on the First XI Kits and their branding around the club. Nolans of Clontarf and Kinara once again have shown their continued commitment to local sporting clubs and happily extended their support to Clontarf Cricket Club.

We also welcome Tyler Owens Architects as a new supporter and sponsor of Clontarf Cricket Club. A very well known and established Architect firm based in Drumcondra, their fine work features heavily in the local area. It's a privilege to have them on-board and I want to say a particular thank you to Peter Owens and Jason Tyler for their contribution.

We are very excited and very grateful for all our support we receive from local businesses, and I openly encourage all our members to give back to our sponsors where possible.

Heres to a great season ahead!

**Jack McGreal**

## Coaching Update

As some of you may be aware, in November 2020 we began the search for a new Director of Coaching with Isobel Joyce stepping aside due to her impending arrival.

After a rigorous interview process, we are delighted to announce that we have appointed the former India and Bangladesh women's coach, Anju Jain. Anju was the standout candidate and we as a committee are extremely excited to welcome her to Clontarf in the next few weeks. Anju had a glittering playing career during which she captained India 8 times out of her 73 caps. She is the only player to have played in four consecutive world cups.

As a coach, Anju holds the equivalent of the ECB Level 3 qualification and has massive experience at state & international levels as well as in development roles. She will be a fantastic role model for all of our youth players and will continue on the excellent work done by Isobel (who will remain on the coaching team at Clontarf) over the past few years.

As well as running and taking part in our youth coaching program, Anju will also coach our men's 1st XI and we look forward to great success on the field in 2021 and beyond.

Please join me in offering Anju a very warm Clontarf welcome when you see her around the club.

**Connor D'Arcy**  
**Chair of Cricket**

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## We Welcome Anju Jain to the Club

We're delighted to welcome Anju Jain to Clontarf Cricket Club who will be Head Coach for our Senior Mens Teams. Anju was kind enough to share a few words on her excitement and interest to the challenge ahead;

I am delighted to be joining Clontarf CC this season and I am pleased to have this opportunity to introduce myself virtually in advance of getting to meet you all over the coming months. Firstly a bit on my background, I am an Arjuna Awardee, Former India Captain and Coach, having worked with various Indian domestic women's sides and also coached Bangladesh Women's team which won their maiden women's Asia Cup 2018 title by defeating India, the defending champions.

Clontarf Cricket Club, home to one of the three One Day International grounds on the island of Ireland, has a very rich culture since its establishment in 1876. It's a premier ground with the best cricketing facilities in the country with lot of hopes and goals. The last decade has brought a lot of successes to the club which needs to be maintained.

The expectations to maintain this requires a focus on improving performance and we hope to make progress in this regard together. I plan to achieve the goals



through the existing dedicated team of members who are the strength of the club.

While focusing on short-term challenges, we will be looking at the long-term vision of continuously striving towards excellence, exposure, training and innovation. The club is well-equipped to cater to the demands of the current scenario of competitive cricket and we will work together for the same.

My mission is to bring innovation in coaching concepts and developing processes while maintaining the existing high-quality standards. I am looking forward to the beginning of this chapter with confidence, optimism and professionalism with my own learning cap on.

Take care,

Anju Jain

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## Our Sponsors



**Nolan's**  
of Clontarf

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