



Clontarf Cricket Newsletter



Monday May 4th 2021



The Skippers Welcome

Hi everyone,

Welcome to the 2021 season, hopefully we will get to see each other very soon at a beautiful sunny Castle Avenue. With runs, wickets and good times flowing.

We are very fortunate to have all the captains in place and rearing to go. Most are returning back for another year. May I introduced Shane O'Brien who most will know from doing virtually everything around the club over the last few years. He will be taking over from Niall Delany, a big thank you to Niall for his work last year. Gerry Murphy is stepping down from his management role with the 2's also, it has been a very successful period for the 2nds under Surf as manager so a massive thank you. We have the 3rd XI back in the Leinster league this season after a year off due to COVID among other things. So delighted to be back to six men's teams again.

The captains are as follows:

- **1st - Andrew Poynter**
- **2nd - Shane O'Brien**
- **3rd - Jimmy Bansal**
- **4th - Daniel O'Sullivan**
- **5th - Micheal Lowe**
- **6th - Naven Bachani**

From a 1st XI point of view, we are delighted to have PJ Moor joining the club as our overseas professional. PJ is a wicket-keeper batsman that has played Tests, ODIs and T20s for Zimbabwe. Fionn Hand has joined us from YMCA also. Fionn is a seam-bowling all-rounder with Ireland wolves and inter-pro experience. They are both in the Munster squad this season, they are welcome additions to our squad and will be coaching our youth squads throughout the season.

The squad has been working on our fitness during the lockdown and can't wait for the green light to return to training and hopefully soon after that matches...fingers crossed it's not too far away!

Andrew Poynter



Back to Cricket as Youth Cricket Returns

The youth section has begun training with the 5th and 6th class teams (Minor Boys and girls) as well as the secondary school teams all returning last week. The players and coaches were all delighted to be back and the feedback from parents has been fantastic. Thank you to our coaches for their hard work in getting everything up and running.

Next week, the 10th of May sees the return of our mixed 3rd and 4th class group, the Cubs on Monday's and Friday's. This is an exciting young group with lots of talent and we are looking forward to having them back training.

The last piece of the youth set up to return, will be our Junior Infants - 2nd class who will return to cricket on Friday the 21st May. This group is very kindly sponsored by Nolans Supermarket and we really appreciate their support.

Registrations are still open for any Youths that have yet to sign up, and we ask that we encourage family and friends that may not have considered signing up for Youth Cricket to get involved. More information can be found on www.clontarfcriccets.com or register directly by [clicking here](#).

Robert Forrest and Dave McGeehan



A massive Welcome to PJ Moor

We're delighted and massively excited to welcome PJ Moor to Clontarf Cricket Club as our Overseas Professional for the 2021 season. PJ has a terrific record in International and First Class Cricket in Zimbabwe. A right-hand batsmen and Wicket-Keeper who has been capped 78 times by Zimbabwe in various formats including Test Cricket. I hope we can all be sure to welcome PJ when you see him at the Bull Ring. PJ who is currently finishing up his required isolation upon arriving in Dublin was happy to share a few words.

I am extremely honoured to join Clontarf Cricket Club. It is fantastic to represent a cricket club that has such a rich history, dating back to 1876. That alone generates a lot of sentimental value to me and I am excited to begin the season as soon as we are permitted to do so. I hope to contribute a lot to Clontarf's success during the 2021 campaign and I am looking forward to representing the club.

**Thanks,
PJ Moor**



Message from our Chairman

Dear readers,

Huge congratulations go to Brian 'Bomber' McNeice on becoming Chairperson elect of Cricket Ireland. It's been some journey from being the tallest scrum-half in schoolboy rugby to the rocking the baby celebration in a Sr. cup final to where he is now. Cricket Ireland have undoubtedly picked the best person for the job and Brian has done the club proud.

I think we can now say Welcome to the Season!!! Youth training started last week with great participation numbers across all the age groups and for a change, the weather has played ball. The efforts to make this happen under the current restrictions are not insubstantial and great credit and no fewer thanks should go to Youth coordinator David McGeehan, Bobbo Forrest, the Youth steering committee and all of the coaches who together have worked so hard on behalf of the club.

We have also heard the great news of the return to adult training from May 10th and all going well in actual real cricket matches from early June!! With that, we have upgraded our Covid Track and Trace process from a pen and paper to a cloud-based solution. When you arrive in the club you notice new QR code signage about the ground, simply scan the code using the camera on your phone

and enter your details. Boom, done. We hope this will make entering the club faster, simpler, and safer for all who visit.

On to the cricket, although we don't yet know what form the season will take that hasn't stopped Micky Lowe from creating a fantasy league for us all to enjoy, All you need is an email address. Click on the address below for all details and rules clontarf.fantasyclubcricket.co.uk Is Punky worth a punt, what about Peppers? Will Bobbo shine or will Sully get double points as captain? It's your choice. Pick your team wisely and win a manager of the month award. The prizes for the end of season winners will be calculated depending on the number of entrants. Thanks to Micky for putting in the time and effort, although we know the only person who loves the stats more than you is Herbs!!!

Lastly, I am fortunate enough to chair a committee of incredible volunteers. The work these people do all year round and on their own time is nothing short of amazing and we as a club are very lucky to have has this group of leaders to guide us through the last 18 months taking every new challenge head-on. Thank you to you all for your hard work and dedication. Hopefully, we will soon enjoy a match with a pint and a new haircut.

Frank Furlong
Chair CCC



Updates on our Sponsors

We're delighted to welcome onboard Banjoman and Stafford Funeral Homes as sponsors of Clontarf Cricket Club. Banjoman of course is partly run by our very own Matthew D'arcy and his business partner Dermot Malone. Founded in 2015 they have been booming in the production of award-winning adverts for the likes of Brown Thomas, Eir, Lucozade, An Post, and Nissan to name a few. Check out their website at www.banjoman.tv to see some of their fantastic work.

Also, we're delighted to have continued support and a growing presence from [Stafford Funeral Homes](#). The Stafford family have been very loyal and regular supporters of Clontarf Cricket and Rugby for many years and we're massively appreciative to have them on board.

**Kind Regards,
Jack McGreal**



An update from our Ladies XI Captain

As we patiently await the announcement of a date for the return to cricket I would like to take this opportunity to update you all on what is set to be a great season for women's cricket.

I am delighted to take on the role of women's first XI captain again this summer. It's great to see the number of women and girls playing cricket in Clontarf continuing to grow with players representing the club at many levels including the current Super Series competition which involves 3 first XI players Una Raymond-Hoey, Christina Coulter Reilly and Freya Sargent. With the continued involvement of Isobel Joyce as a coach and player, it is an exciting time for women's cricket in Clontarf.

This season our first XI will continue to compete in division one our second XI have been promoted to division 2 and the addition of a third XI will see more women and girls competing in division 4. This is a testament to the support the club has given women's cricket and to the individuals who have been involved throughout.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Cecily McGeer for her involvement to date in women's cricket in Clontarf. Cecily has captained our second XI for several years and this year steps down as captain. In her place, Hannah Pasley steps into the role of captain with the support of the club behind her. I wish Hannah the best of luck in this role and look forward to watching her and the team grow throughout the season.

As it nears the summer months I am excited to get back down to Castle Avenue for what will hopefully see the return of a complete and competitive cricket season.

**Many Thanks,
Emma Butler**

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