

**Senior Football Championship**  
**First Round**  
**Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2016, in Ballygarvan**  
**Carrigaline 0-13 St. Nicholas 0-05**

The day finally arrived, we played our first ever Senior Championship match. And what a game it was. In truth it was a game where we always seemed in control. David Drake opened the scoring for Carrigaline in the fifteenth second of the match. St. Nick's replied a minute later with what ended up being their only point from play. Carrig had already started the brighter and with Brian Coakley hitting the post, we were looking very dangerous up front. Coakley then kicked two points and Drake added another after a Nick's free to leave the score 0-04 to 0-02 in the sixteenth minute. Carrig were then dealt a blow when Evan Ryle received a black card in the nineteenth minute. Evan had been playing well up to this point and was unlucky to go off. Thankfully Evan's replacement Matthew O'Reilly seamlessly slotted in and played just as well. With the card Carrig could have seen it as a setback but Barry O'Keeffe added to the scoreline immediately, followed by more scores from Drake (free) & Coakley. Nick's then converted another free to leave the halftime score Carrigaline 0-07 St. Nick's 0-03. Carrig started the second half as brightly as we started the first and again Coakley had the crossbar rattled, but a goal alluded us. This period of the match really showed off the Carrigaline game plan. St. Nicks were able to move the ball as far as their half forward line before being suffocated by the Carrig defence, with Carrig then breaking at pace and with purpose. This led to two more Drake points with a third added by Barry. Nick's did score a point from a free in between. Then on came Killian McIntyre for Barry Ryan, who did well in his first outing. McIntyre immediately added to our game plan and looked dangerous. Points were then traded, two Nick's frees with scores also from Coakley and Eoin Kavanagh. After the Nick's goalkeeper made a great save from a Cian Barry effort, Barry O'Keeffe finished the scoring in the sixty-first minute to leave the final score Carrigaline 0-13 St. Nick's 0-05. In a game where Carrig probably never reached fourth gear, it didn't really matter. Once the damage was done Carrigaline soaked up Nick's pressure and then countered at will. Tougher assignments lie ahead but in our first ever Senior Championship outing Carrig will be very happy with a competent display and a successful result. In a game where everyone did well, special mention to Niall Quirke on his first start in Carrig's first team. He looked like he had playing for years. Biggest mention to Nicholas Murphy, at 39 years young, in his twenty-second Championship campaign, but his first Senior match. He has quite literally been playing for years!

Carrigaline Team: Sean Mellet, Killian Forbes, Peter Ronayne, Eoin O'Connor, Niall Quirke, Peter Murphy, Kevin Kavanagh, Nicholas Murphy, Cian Barry, Evan Ryle, Barry O'Keeffe (Captain), Eoin Kavanagh, Brian Coakley, David Drake, Barry Ryan. Subs Used: Matthew O'Reilly, Killian McIntyre. Panel: James O'Reilly, Cillian Mac Sweeney, Kieran Kavanagh, Shane Griffin, Daniel O'Reilly, Shane Collins, Stephen Maguire, Gary Harrington, Nathan Coleman.

Scorers: David Drake (0-05, 1 free), Brian Coakley (0-04), Barry O'Keeffe (0-03), Eoin Kavanagh (0-01)

Manager: Mick Meaney. Selectors/Coaches: Alan O'Mahony, Ken O'Keeffe, Alan O'Keeffe, Eamon Kearney. Goalkeeping Coach: Kelvin O'Sullivan. Fitness Coach: Aiden O'Connell. Doctor: Mortimer O'Connor. Physio: Brendan O'Driscoll.

Main Sponsors: Barry Collins' Super Valu Carrigaline.