



Carniny Amateur and Youth Football Club was founded in the summer of 2000 from very humble beginnings, involving six children kicking a ball around at Carnhill Playing Fields, Carniny, Ballymena, Northern Ireland. A "Coaching School" was formed by a handful of interested parents under the auspices of the IFA Model for Mini Soccer and the number of children (boys and girls) wanting to attend grew very rapidly and had reached 60 by the autumn of that year.

A competition was launched for the children within the Club to design their Club's Badge and the winning badge clearly reflects the Club's aims - Football, the handshake as a symbol of Friendship and the laurel leaf as a symbol of vitality and youth.

Since the formation we have made steady progress and now have a membership of almost 250 young people, fielding eight full-sided and several mini soccer teams backed by a flourishing mini soccer centre.

Recent times have seen a new development within the club with the formation of a 'Senior' team playing in the Ballymena and Provincial Football league. Although the team is mainly in their late 'teens' they are more than capable of holding their own and are currently in the high regions of the league. We were also delighted to appoint a Director of Football this season in the form of former Birmingham City, Coventry City and Celta Vigo player Jim Hagan, in order to further enhance coaching at the club.

Our newly formed Football in the Community coaches are kept busy in local schools and clubs promoting sport, education and a healthy lifestyle within the Borough and have a busy schedule ahead.

On the Club front we have secured a lease on grounds which we hope to develop in time for next season although in the long term we are also negotiating with our local council in the hope of developing other suitable grounds close to our home locality at Carniny.

The Club continues to expand and develop, which is mainly due to an enthusiastic committee and team of coaches. We are all indebted to these people who give of their time voluntarily, ensuring the Club is at the forefront of football in Northern Ireland.

Yours in Sport

BILLY O'FLAHERTY MBE
SECRETARY