

Double Croke Park Glory for St. Attracta's SNS!

Match Report Corn Frank Cahill - Cumann na mBunscol Final

St. Attracta's SNS Vs Holy Family NS Monday, 19th October 2026 Croke Park

Monday, 19th October 2026 will live long in the memory of the St. Attracta's Senior National School community as both our Senior Boys' and Senior Girls' Gaelic football teams took to the hallowed turf of Croke Park to contest their respective Cumann na mBunscol finals. It was an historic occasion for the school, marking the first time that both teams had reached Croke Park finals in the same code in the same year. Holy Family National School, Rathcoole provided the opposition in both deciders, setting the scene for a truly memorable day of Gaelic football.

Our boys took to the field to contest the Corn Frank Cahill at 11am, and it was Holy Family NS who settled quickest, registering two early points, including one from a free. St. Attracta's endured a nervy opening, spurning a number of scoring opportunities before a wonderful goal from Rory O' Callaghan settled the nerves and provided a much-needed foothold in the contest.

What followed was a fast, free-flowing and hugely entertaining opening half, despite the extremely narrow pitch dimensions allocated by the Croke Park groundsmen! Holy Family possessed a particularly pacy forward line and looked threatening whenever early ball was delivered inside. However, our full-back line of Louie Faye, Dylan Flood and Aaron McCabe gradually got to grips with the challenge, with all three producing vital interceptions and timely defensive interventions.

At the opposite end, two beautifully struck left-footed points from Tom Lally kept the scoreboard ticking over, while our sideline-ball specialists provided some of the highlights of the opening period. Leo Greene landed two superb efforts from the sideline with his trusty left boot, while Rian Gormley demonstrated that the opposite flank was equally fruitful with a wonderful sideline score of his own.

Holy Family NS were giving as good as they got at this stage of the game, including a low-driven goal from a 13-metre free that ensured there would be little breathing room between the sides.

Leo Greene, however, was proving a constant menace to the Holy Family defence and clinically dispatched two excellent goals during the opening half. His second was a particularly impressive individual effort, demonstrating tremendous determination and composure. Despite playing into a light breeze, St. Attracta's entered the half-time interval with a slender but deserved three-point advantage.

Half-time: St. Attracta's 3-09 Holy Family NS 3-06

The second half resumed at a similarly frantic pace, with both sides trading scores and neither willing to concede an inch. With 20 minutes remaining, just two points

separated the teams, and the destination of the Corn Frank Cahill remained very much in the balance.

It was at this crucial juncture that St. Attracta's began to assert themselves. Some heroic last-ditch defending provided the platform for a tremendous second-half performance, with every player displaying remarkable determination, composure and commitment to the cause.

Wing half forward Tom Lally was instrumental during this period, producing three outstanding points when they were needed most. One beautiful score on the run was followed by a magnificent long-range effort off his right boot. David Clarke was another who made an immense contribution, chipping in with three valuable points, including two off his weaker left foot, during a tireless and industrious performance around the middle third. A fine right-footed effort from Cillian Scollan further strengthened our position as St. Attracta's began to take control.

The defining moment of the second half came courtesy of Rory O' Callaghan, who produced a goal worthy of winning any Croke Park final. Rising to meet a long delivery, he caught the ball brilliantly on his chest, turned and rifled an unstoppable shot into the back of the Holy Family net. Another excellent piece of innovation from Leo Greene occurred moments later when he completed his hatrick, toe-poking a great effort into the back of the Holy Family net which sent the St. Attracta's supporters in the Cusack Stand into raptures. An excellent long range point from Paddy McGrath smacking the crossbar and over further extended the St. Attracta's lead. Conor Lawless raised a sixth green flag in the final minutes courtesy of a great ball in from Paddy McGrath.

With the finishing line in sight, our defensive unit rose magnificently to the challenge. The half-back line of Cian Berry, Paddy McGrath and Rian Gormley were outstanding, while midfielder Ronan Burke's relentless defensive tracking helped close down space and make scoring opportunities increasingly difficult for Holy Family NS. Behind them, Louis Faye, Dylan Flood and Aaron McCabe continued to stand firm, producing a series of crucial interventions as the opposition searched desperately for a way back into the contest.

Our goalkeeper, Oliver Waters, also deserves enormous credit for a fantastic performance between the sticks. Showing great composure under the high ball, tremendous awareness when coming off his line and producing several fine saves throughout, he provided a reassuring presence at the heart of our defence.

Further upfield, our wing half-forward line led by Conor Lawless with Tom Lally and Cillian Scollan on either side worked tirelessly throughout, competing ferociously for breaking ball and linking defence with attack. Inside, the dangerous combination of Leo Greene and Rory O' Callaghan remained a constant scoring threat, ably assisted by Hugh O' Riordan, whose movement and contribution from the corner were invaluable.

One of the most pleasing aspects of this victory was the contribution of the entire squad. Every substitute who entered the fray did so with tremendous enthusiasm, taking up the mantle from the teammates they replaced.

James Kenny was particularly unfortunate to see a beautifully taken right-footed score called back for a sideline ball, while Finn George, Matthew Doyle, Dylan Keane, Aidan Sayles, Hugo Lynch, Matthew Connaghan and Óisín Kelleher all made positive contributions when introduced. Their readiness to step into the contest and give everything for their teammates epitomised the collective spirit that has characterised this group throughout the campaign.

And then came the moment everyone had been waiting for.

As the referee sounded the final whistle, scenes of unbridled joy erupted across the pitch and among the sea of St. Attracta's supporters in the Cusack Stand. Seven weeks of training, commitment, teamwork and determination had culminated in a thoroughly deserved Cumann na mBunscol title, our first boys' football victory since 2015 following a drawn final in 2023.

The celebrations reached their peak when Cumann na mBunscol stalwart Pat Fogarty presented the Corn Frank Cahill to our inspirational captain and full-back, Dylan Flood. It was a fitting honour for a player who had led his teammates magnificently throughout the campaign.

Unfortunately, it wasn't possible to get game time for the rest of our panel but this victory was very much a panel effort with all thirty-two members of the panel featuring in matches throughout the rest of the campaign. This includes the following players whose contribution and commitment has been very much valued: Jason Brennan, James Ryan, Tom Worthington, Liam Rowland, Roan O' Connor, Callum McDermott, Lochlan Donohoe, Eoin Hourican, Jack Hourican.

Full-time: St. Attracta's 6-16 Holy Family NS 3-09

St. Attracta's SNS Team: O. Waters, L. Faye, D. Flood (capt), A. McCabe, C. Berry, P. McGrath (0-1), R. Gormley (0-1), D. Clarke (0-3), R. Burke, C. Scollan (0-1), C. Lawless (1-0), T. Lally (0-5), L. Greene (3-05), R. O' Callaghan (2-00), H. O' Riordan

Fir Ionad: J. Kenny for H. O' Riordan, M. Doyle for C. Scollan, D. Keane for L. Faye, F. George for R. Burke, H. Lynch for C. Berry, M. Connaghan for T. Lally, A. Sayles for A. McCabe, O. Kelleher for L. Greene

Other Panel Members: Jason Brennan, James Ryan, Tom Worthington, Liam Rowland, Roan O' Connor, Callum McDermott, Lochlan Donohoe, Eoin Hourican, Jack Hourican

A huge word of thanks must go to Mr. Maguire, Mr. Coughlan, Ms. Doyle and Ms. Kenny for their great commitment to the two groups over the past seven weeks. Their

encouragement, preparation and dedication have helped create an experience that these children will cherish for the rest of their lives.

We also extend our sincere appreciation to the parents and guardians, families, staff, pupils and supporters who travelled to Croke Park and contributed to such a wonderful atmosphere. To see so many members of our school community united behind our teams was something truly special.

While the Corn Frank Cahill and the Corn Comhar Linn will take pride of place in St. Attracta's SNS for the next twelve months, the greatest reward lies in the memories created, the friendships strengthened and the lessons learned about teamwork, resilience and playing for one another.

An historic day, two magnificent team performances and an unforgettable chapter in the sporting history of St. Attracta's SNS.

Corn Frank Cahill Champions 2026 – Maith sibh, a bhuachaillí! 🏆

Corn Comhar Linn Champions 2026 – Maith sibh, a chailíní! 🏆