

The 16th  **National Conference**

***"A New Ireland:
Community and Economy"***



***Regency Airport Hotel, Swords Road, Dublin 9
25th-27th February 2000***

The 16th ^{Y O U N G} *Finé Gael* National Conference

Welcome to Conference 2000



THE STEERING COMMITTEE FOR NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Back Row: (l to r) Arthur Lynch, Anthony O'Mahony

Front Row: (l to r) Valerie Duffy, David Rouse, Joanne Harmon

Name: _____

Branch: _____

The 16th ^{Y O U N G} Fine Gael National Conference

Failte ón t-Úachtárain

A Chara,

Tá áthas orm bheith in ann fáilte a chur romhat chuig ár Chrinniu Náisiunta, anseo i mBaile Átha Cliath.



Since we last gathered in Galway, Ireland has continued to experience the unprecedented economic boom, the benefits of which are well-documented. But has the new-found wealth been evenly spread around and is everyone in a position to benefit from our enviable economy? This 16th Young Fine Gael National Conference will seek to address the growing imbalances that currently exist in Ireland by asking if society should be abandoned in the pursuit of economic and monetary gains.

This conference has been designed to ensure that you will be able to play a role in the future development of Young Fine Gael. The National Conference Steering Committee must be thanked and congratulated for providing the organisation with a dynamic programme aimed at maximising the contributions and thoughts of every member. Finally on your behalf, I wish to thank the staff of the Regency Airport Hotel for the efficiency and hospitality shown to Young Fine Gael.

I hope you enjoy the weekend.

Is mise le meas,

Patrick O'Donovan

Patrick O'Donovan
President

The 16th ^{Y O U N G} *fine Gael* National Conference

Programme for Conference

"A New Ireland: Community and Economy"

Friday 25th February

17:00	Reg. Desk	Registration & distribution of delegate packs
19:00	Residents Lounge	Official Opening Reception
19:45	Regency Suite	Adoption of Standing Orders/Intro. to Steering Committee Chair: Cllr. Sean Dolphin
20:00	Regency Suite	Inter-branch debate: "Politics in Ireland is the last refuge of the scoundrel." Chair: Senator Maurice Manning
21:15	Regency Suite	Q&A with Party Leader, John Bruton TD Chair: Patrick O'Donovan -President YFG
21:45	Regency Suite	Inter-branch debate cont'd : interventions from floor
22:00	Collins Suite	Ceili Band & Social event

Saturday 26th February

10:00	Regency Suite	Constitution & Rules Chair: Arthur Lynch
10:45	Regency Suite	Motions Chair: Brian Hayes TD
12:00	Regency Suite	National Exec. Candidates Debate Chair: Denis Naughten TD
13:00-15:00	Beaumont Room	VOTING
14:00	Ulster Room	Discussion Forum: Workshop 1 - Agriculture & Rural Development Chair: Anthony O'Mahony
	Regency Suite	Workshop 2 - Children (0-18) Chair: Nichola McDonagh
15:00	Regency Suite	Presentation of YFG paper on "New Patriotism" by: Gerry O'Connell - YFG Vice-President Chair: Cllr. Olwyn Enright

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Programme for Conference continued

15:15	Regency suite	Address by: YFG President: Patrick O'Donovan Party Leader - John Bruton TD Dr. Garret FitzGerald Presentation of Hugh Coveney Award, Liam Naughten Award Joan FitzGerald award
16:15	Regency Suite	Discussion Forum Workshop 3 Address by: Mr. Yousef Allan, Palestinian Ambassador to Ireland Discussion: "Ireland & the Commonwealth" Chair: Leo Varadkar
	Beaumont Room	Workshop 4 - Poverty & Welfare Reform Chair: Aidan Brennan
17:15	Regency Suite	Northern Ireland Debate Speaker: Charlie Flanagan TD Panel Discussion: Stephen King - Advisor to David Trimble/UUP Brian Heading - SDLP Q& A from floor
18:30	Regency Suite	Plenary Session Adoption of policies discussed in workshops Chair: Nora Owen TD - Deputy Party Leader
21:00	Collins Suite	Disco/Social event

Sunday 27th Feb

10:30	Regency Suite	Emergency Motions
11:00	Regency Suite	Election Count
12:30	Regency Suite	Intro. of new Exec.
13:00		Close of Conference

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THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE REPORT **November '98 - February '00**

by Leo Varadkar, YFG National Executive

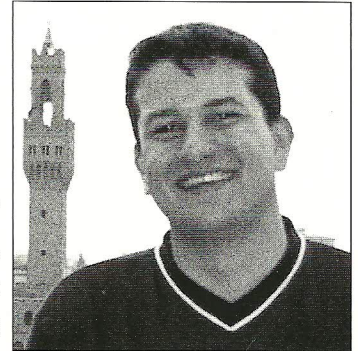
After fifteen months on the National Executive and with National Conference upon us, the time has come to evaluate our performance since November 1998. I think we are all agreed that we came on the Exec. full of ideas, enthusiasm and expectation. We leave regretting that we could not do all the things we hoped to, but satisfied that we were a good National Executive with many achievements to our name.

The National Executive has, over the past fifteen months tried to reinvigorate Young Fine Gael as an organisation on the ground, raise our profile in the media, influence Fine Gael with our policies and ideas and get young candidates selected and elected for Fine Gael. We have given voice to a number of issues that other political organisations would rather avoid and ignore and we were true to the radical mandate that we were given at the 15th National Conference in Connemara in 1998.

During the period of office of this National Executive, Ireland has changed greatly. We have seen the consolidation of our economic success with the virtual elimination of unemployment and a reversal of a generation tide of emigration to real immigration for the first time in centuries, we have witnessed dramatic changes in Northern Ireland. We have also seen the "new world order" winning its first important battles in Kosovo and in Timor Lorosae, a land with which YFG has been concerned for so long.

However, Ireland has not become the "Just Society" that we envisaged in Connemara in 1998. Our economic growth has benefited all of us but has created

and exacerbated many of our country's greatest problems. The response of Irish people to refugees and immigration has turned our economic miracle sour. Young Fine Gael must always be on guard to oppose the rise of Nationalism, whether it be in the war torn states of the former Yugoslavia, on the pristine mountain tops of the Austrian Alps or on our own streets and in our own towns and villages.



Leo Varadkar

Social Exclusion has dominated our politics and media and yet no government or political party has really acted to eliminate exclusion and discrimination in our society. The very fabric of Irish society has been undermined by our drive towards individualism and the evaporation of faith in politics and our system of government. The derisory turnout in the local elections and in the Dublin south-central by-election should have set of alarm bells for those of us who have the power the change Ireland and the society in which we live. Yet, it has not. For these reasons, we have decided to make theme of the 16th National Conference, "A New Ireland - Community and Economy."

A time when it is unfashionable, even embarrassing to be a member of a political party, Young Fine Gael can say with pride that we have increased our membership yet again and can point to a number of regions in which we have enhanced our presence. In our south-western strongholds we can point to consolidation and new growth particularly in Kerry. We have at last turned the corner in the Capital with UCD and Trinity soaring in size and activity and with new branches in the DIT and DCU. The success of the Dublin Regional Group which I had the pleasure to Chair provided a good example for other parts of the country. The DRG ran an excellent Dublin transport campaign over the Christmas period and oversaw regeneration in a

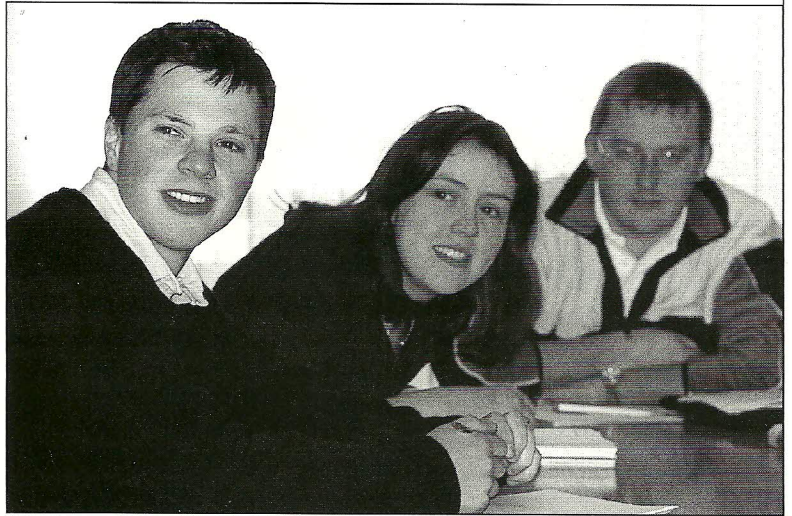
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number of the Dublin constituencies. This is, I hope, just the beginning. In other areas, Tullamore, Meath and the WIT, real growth in numbers and activity has been recorded. In Donegal, thanks to hard work and innovation, Young Fine Gael at last has a strong arm in Ulster. We must note, however, that we did not do enough to arrest the decline in the West and the battle to get into IT's around the country continues. It is extraordinary that in a time of such youth apathy that political organisations are practically banned in many of these third level institutions. This has to be a priority for the new Executive. Moreover, we failed to get the Regional Forums up and running (except in Dublin) and did not work hard enough to keep branches active. This is probably the most important role an Executive member can have.

Nonetheless, Young Fine Gael was instrumental in so many of Fine Gael's local election campaigns, both in getting candidates selected and more importantly elected. The long list of young candidates elected on the 11th of June 1999 is impressive. Before the local elections, the average age of a Fine Gael councillor was 54. With the election of so many young candidates Fine Gael has a wealth of good Dail candidates in many areas.

We regret that more young candidates did not make it to the council chamber and that YFG could not do more for them.

The National Executive did well on PR over the course of its term in office. Although not quite a household name, I can honestly say that as PRO, rarely a fortnight has passed without Young Fine Gael making it into the national newspapers or on to the radio. Our hotly disputed, but brave decision, to take a stand on abortion in the early part of our term grabbed all the headlines and had me on one occasion standing in D'Olier Street at half past mid-night waiting for the first editions. We scored victory on the "Touts Out Campaign" which we inherited from our predecessors and scored a blinder on our poster campaign for the June '99 elections to encourage young voters to make Fine Gael their "first time". Who would have thought that you could use sex to sell our MEPs!! Thanks Joanne. Hey, at least the woman was on top! Our education campaign was launched with some success in



"The Exec. in listening mode" pictured l-r are John Fagan, Yvonne Mullen and Mark Gallagher.

various local media. We really turned heads with our campaign on refugees and immigration. No, Minister O'Donoghue, we did not manipulate your photo!

The annual summer barbecue in June, and the Training Day in September '99 went off well. It was good to see faces from newly established branches present. The Waterford Seminar on suicide in January '99 was a real success and formed a valuable part of Fine Gael's regeneration strategy in the city. Suicide remained on the YFG agenda for the rest of the year with NUIG and Tullamore branches also running successful public meetings on the issue. The newly introduced Young Fine Gael "Summer School" in Carlingford, Co. Louth, during August '99, was perhaps one of the highlights in our programme of activity. Young Fine Gael members gathered from all over Ireland in the Carlingford Adventure Centre to develop our vision of what "A New Patriotism" meant to us. We all agreed that this should become an annual event for Young Fine Gael. A healthy balance of workshops, water sports and social interaction proved to be a winning formula.

On the policy front, Young Fine Gael did not restore itself to the political think tank that it once was. The National Policy Council and Policy Research Unit were not pursued. However, the Northern Ireland group re-started under Joe Duffy (Donegal South West). We can also point to some good policy work. Our Prison Reform document and Refugee/Immigration policy document were covered by the media and largely incorporated into party policy. Shane Morris (U.L)

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Vice-President of YEPP, Stephen McCullen pictured with a stethoscope around his neck.

deserves particular credit for his document on GM foods which earned us a lot of publicity and was taken by him to YEPP, where it was endorsed in almost its entirety.

The International Committee went from strength to strength. Stephen McCullen replaced Joanne Harmon as YEPP vice-president. It is a credit to the International Committee, our excellent record of representation on the YEPP Board and of course to the candidate that our seat was retained amid such stiff competition. The IC aimed to attract more members from outside of Dublin. This was achieved with regular mailings to all chairs and secretaries, meetings outside Dublin, open membership and an IC Website. A very good panel of YFG'ers has represented the organisation in Europe and with these diplomatic missions, the IC has found its policy-making zeal once more.

One of the real successes of this Executive has been the development of links with the Northern parties. The newly re-established Northern Ireland Policy Group under the stewardship of Joe Duffy co-operated with the Executive in a fact-finding mission to the North. With branches following suit, YFG has done more to

recognise the full implications of the changing circumstances in Northern Ireland than the senior party has. It is a fair criticism of this Executive, to say that we could have done more to get policy groups set-up and working. Policy Groups are not just about policy. They have an educational and public relations role. We need to be meeting more with young teachers, unions, NGOs and front-benchers to discuss policy issues.

The National Executive regained our second seat on the Executive Council on which we were represented by our President Patrick O'Donovan and Richard Hammond. We played an active part as individuals at the Ard Fheis but were unable to do more as an organisation. Valerie Duffy was re-elected to the board of NYCI. We also increased the frequency and quality of Futureline.













The purpose of this report, it to give you, the member, an insight into some of the events of the last year and a half from the point of view of the National Executive. As this National Executive's term of office come to a close an end, we would like to sincerely wish the incoming National Executive the very best.

Acknowledgments:

Finally, the National Executive would like to say a few words of thanks to those who have helped us and covered up for us over the past fifteen months. We would especially like to thank the National Youth Officer, Joanne Harmon. Joanne's commitment, hard work and innovative ideas made everything that the Executive did possible. Joanne deserves particular praise for the Summer School and the Passion 2 campaign. As National Youth Officer, she never missed a meeting and gave up countless of evenings and weekends for YFG. National Executive's come and go but we will have a hard time finding someone to replace Joanne. We would also like to thank all the staff at Headquarters, especially Eibhlin (Schools liaison officer) who helped with our programme to build up links with Northern Youth Parties and Sinead for the barbecue and refugee campaign. And of course, thank you, the member, for your enthusiasm, involvement, campaigning and thank you for making the decision to join Young Fine Gael.

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Young Fine Gael National Executive November 1998 - February 2000

	<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>PORTFOLIO UNTIL JULY 1999.</u>	<u>PORTFOLIO SINCE JULY 1999</u>
	Patrick O'Donovan	Vice-President, Parliamentary Liaison Officer	President
	Gerry O'Connell	Policy Officer	Vice-President, Policy Officer
	John Fagan	Co-opted 27th Feb. '99 Activities Officer	Activities Officer, Parliamentary Liaison Officer
	Mark Gallagher	Co-opted 2nd Oct. '99 Development Officer	North-western
	Mike Griffin	Financial Controller	Resigned 20th Nov. '99
	Richard Hammond	National Organiser	Fine Gael Executive Council, National Organiser
	Emily Maher	Internal Communications	Internal Communications
	Karl Moore	Hon. Secretary	Western Development Officer
	Yvonne Mullen	Co-opted 14th Aug. '99	Education Officer, Co-Campaigns Officer
	Conor Price	President	Resigned 3rd July '99
	Adrian O'Donovan	Campaigns Officer	Hon. Secretary, Co-Campaigns Officer
	Leo Varadkar	Public Relations Officer	Public Relations Officer

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1. Elected at 15th YFG National Conference November 1998

Member	Meetings held while member	Meetings attended	%'age attendance
Patrick O'Donovan	14	13	93%
Mike Griffin	12	7	58%
Richard Hammond	14	14	100%
Emily Maher	14	10	71%
Karl Moore	14	5	36%
Gerry O'Connell	14	12	86%
Adrian O'Donovan	14	14	100%
Conor Price	8	8	100%
Leo Varadkar	14	12	86%
Joanne Harmon National Youth Officer	14	14	100%

2. Co-opted since November 1998

Member	Meetings held while member	Meetings attended	%'age attendance
John Fagan	9	7	78%
Mark Gallagher	4	4	100%
Yvonne Mullen	5	4	80%

3. Venues of YFG National Executive meetings

Venue	Number of meetings
Ballinasloe	1
Cork	1
Dublin	9
Galway	1
Limerick	1
Waterford	1

YFG National Executive sub-committees

1. Campaigns

Leo Varadkar (Chairperson), Yvonne Mullen and Adrian O'Donovan.

2. Policy

Gerry O'Connell (Chairperson), John Fagan and Emily Maher.

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YOUNG FINE GAEL: BUILDING ON OUR SUCCESS

by Joanne Harmon, National Youth Officer



It doesn't seem like fifteen months since we all gathered in Connemara for our last National Conference. The radical mandate that was handed to the Executive was to hit the headlines in many forms over the past year or so. Whether it was the government's handling of asylum seekers and immigrants, drugs issues or genetic modification, Young Fine Gael was a head of the game, in our views, in our public campaigns and our policies.

This year, there is still a need to be radical in our organisation. We are likely to face an election within eighteen months and we must be ready to face the electorate with a real alternative to government. It's not easy to do this in a time when apathy is rife, when economic times are good and social deprivation and marginalisation are brushed under the carpet. The concepts of social justice, of civil society, of the balance between uncontrolled growth and the quality of life, is just not on the government's agenda. John Bruton, our Party Leader, on the other hand has articulated the Fine Gael long-term view for the nation and Young Fine Gael has an important role in spreading this message.

The last year saw some of our young members standing for the Local Elections. It was heartening to see so many young people willing to contest conventions and put their names into such a public arena. It will stand the party in good stead in years to come and is a very hopeful sign for the future that young people still

believe that politics has the power to change society for the better.

On the organisational front, we have seen new areas of growth in YFG. New branches have been established in many quarters and we must ensure that they are sustained over the next year. The incoming Executive must see that the regional forums inserted into the constitution last year, happen quickly in order to provide an outlet for branches operating in isolation, between national events.

From National Office, we increased resources to branches to assist them in carrying out their business and training in new members. The Guide for New Members, The Branch Manual, poster backings, YFG flags, promotional leaflets and the History of the Party booklets have all been added to the substantial resource material available. New branches received advertising grants for their start-up meetings and third level branches received grants to assist with their activities. All national activities were heavily subsidised to facilitate members travelling and/or accommodation costs. I think we can safely say that the average YFG member gets good value for her £2!

Lastly, I would like to thank you the members, for the time and energy you have given as volunteers and to all those who have so often responded to my phone calls with such courtesy and agreed to go canvassing, leaflet dropping, envelope licking etc!! It is deeply appreciated. Thanks also to the parliamentary party for their support in attending YFG events. Finally a big thanks to my colleagues in Fine Gael National Office, the Press Office and Leader's Office for their on-going support and assistance.

The 16th National Conference

YOUNG FINE GAEL CONSTITUTION AND RULES - AMENDMENTS BEFORE - THE 16TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE. Sat. 26th: 10:00am

NO.	AMEND'T TO:	PROPOSAL	
1	2.1	To amend rule 2.1 to read as follows: "The Organisation shall foster, promote and develop an interest among young people in political activity, and shall seek to promote young candidates in Fine Gael." Proposed by : YFG National Executive.	RULE 2 OBJECTIVES
2	3.4	To amend rule 3.4 to read as follows: "No person shall be a member of the Organisation before the age of 15 and shall not be eligible to renew membership beyond the age of 30." Jointly Proposed by: YFG National Executive, Muskerry Branch YFG.	RULE 3 MEMBERSHIP
3	5.4	To replace rule 5.4 with the following: "Where no branches of the Organisation exist in a constituency, the National Executive must, in consultation with the Fine Gael Constituency Executive, appoint a Constituency Youth Officer for that constituency." Proposed by: YFG National Executive	RULE 5 FG CONSTITUENCY YOUTH OFFICER
4	6.1	To amend rule 6.1 to read as follows: "There shall be a Regional Forum in each of the European Constituencies or other region where sufficient interest exists." Proposed by: YFG National Executive	RULE 6 REGIONAL FORUM
5	7.2	To amend rule 7.2 to read as follows: The National Executive shall consist of a maximum of 12 persons appointed as follows: By election at the National Conference using the Seanad electoral system: a) A President, who shall be the automatic nominee of the Organisation for one of its two positions on the Executive Council of Fine Gael b) An ordinary member of the National Executive who shall represent the Organisation on one of its two positions on the Executive Council of Fine Gael. c) Eight ordinary members d) Up to two additional members may be appointed by the National Executive to redress any imbalances that exist as regards gender, region and skills. Proposed by: YFG National Executive	RULE 7 NATIONAL EXECUTIVE
6	7.2 (b)	To amend rule 7.2 to read as follows: "(b) a total of eight ordinary members, two being elected from each of the four Euro-Constituencies" Proposed by: University College Cork YFG	

The 16th National Conference

YOUNG FINE GAEL CONSTITUTION AND RULES - AMENDMENTS BEFORE - THE 16TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE. *cont'd*

NO.	AMEND'T TO:	PROPOSAL	
8	7.9	The proposal is to delete rule 7.9 Proposed by: YFG National Executive	
9	7.12"	To replace rule 7.12 with the following: In the event of the YFG Representative on the Executive Council failing to serve the full term of her office, the vacancy shall be filled by any member of the Organisation to be selected by the National Executive" Proposed by: YFG National Executive	
10	8.7	To amend rule 8.7 to read as follows: "Motions for the National Conference, and amendments to the Constitution, may be put forward by units and organs of the Organisation not less than twenty-one days before the date of commencement of the National Conference." Proposed by: YFG National Executive.	RULE 8 NATIONAL CONFERENCE
11	8.8	To insert rule 8.8 to read as follows: "The National Flag of Ireland will be displayed at the National Conference" Proposed by: Cork South-Central YFG.	
12	11.2	To amend rule 11.2 to read as follows: "All elections to office within the Organisation except to the National Executive shall be carried out by the proportional representation single transferable vote system (PR-STV) Proposed by: YFG National Executive.	RULE 11 UNITS OF THE ORGANISATION
13	11.3	To amend rule 11.3 to read as follows: "At least three days notice in writing of any meeting of any unit of the organisation shall be given to all members of that unit plus the Constituency Youth Officer and the National Youth Officer. Proposed by: YFG National Executive.	
14	11.5	To amend rule 11.5 to read as follows: "A person may not hold the same office within the Organisation for more than three consecutive terms." Proposed by: YFG National Executive.	
15	14.1 - 14.3	The Proposal is to delete rule 14 entirely, with all references to policy groups within the YFG Constitution removed. Proposed by: University College Cork YFG.	RULE 14 POLICY GROUPS
16	15.1	Proposal is to delete Rule 15.1 entirely. Proposed by: YFG National Executive.	RULE 15 COMMENCEMENT

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Motions - for Conference 2000 Sat. 26th 10:45 am

TRANSPORT

1. This conference calls on the Minister for Public Enterprise to:
 - commence the Luas light rail project once and for all.
 - provide real investment for public transport in small towns and rural areas
 - build Rail links to the three major airports
 - provide 50% subsidy for public transport

Proposed: Waterford city

Related motions: TCD

Result: _____

CAR INSURANCE & YOUNG DRIVERS

2. Young Fine Gael calls on the government to urgently redress the car insurance crisis for young drivers by:
 - introducing "Drivers Education" into the second level syllabus
 - follow a European model of issuing learner licences, prior to provisional licences whereby as a learner the driver must drive with an instructor for 20 hours prior to applying for a provisional licence.
 - Introducing a government sponsored insurance scheme for young drivers with a premium, which incorporates stiff increases for Traffic Law violations.

Proposed: Muskerry

Related Motions: UCC

Result: _____

FOX HUNTING

3. Young Fine Gael opposes a ban on fox-hunting and supports this pursuit and the campaign to keep it legal for all to enjoy.

Proposed: WIT

Result: _____

SATURDAY ELECTIONS

4. In order to facilitate young people who are eligible to vote in elections, polling day should be moved to a Saturday.

Proposed: UCC

Related Motions: CSC

Result: _____

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Motions - for Conference 2000 Sat. 26th 10:45 am

ELECTORAL REFORM

5. Young Fine Gael calls for the reform of the electoral system to :
- Reduce the numbers of TD's to 100
 - Elect 50% of TD's in proportional single-seat constituencies
 - Elect 50% of TD's on National or Regional party lists.
 - Grant real powers to local government with jurisdiction in their own areas, elected mayors, council chairpersons and tax-varying powers

Proposed: Dublin West

Related Motion: Waterford City

Result: _____

NATIONAL STADIUM

6. This Conference condemns the government for squandering money on a national stadium at a time when young people still have to change behind ditches.

Proposed: South Roscommon

Related Motion: UCD, DCU

Result: _____

RULE 21 & THE GAA

7. That this conference would call on the GAA, in light of recent developments in the North to withdraw rule 21 and allow members of the RUC members to play GAA and become members of the association.

Proposed: DCU

Result: _____

TAX FOR FARMERS

8. YFG move to allow farmers be given a single rate of tax of 12.5% (as corporation tax) to allow for a level playing pitch amongst all sectors of the economy.

Proposed: U.L.

Result: _____

The 16th ^{Y O U N G} Fine Gael National Conference

Motions - for Conference 2000 Sat. 26th 10:45 am

ASYLUM & IMMIGRATION

9. Young Fine Gael note the complete shambles that is the government's policy on asylum seekers and immigration and call on the Minister for Zero Competence, John O'Donoghue to:
- establish an independent Immigration Service to recruit and select up to 100,000 people over the next seven years to service the huge labour shortage in this country.
 - grant an amnesty for existing asylum seekers for all asylum seekers whose applications were made before January 1st 1999.
 - grant citizenship rights to all non-national residents after five years
 - separate the "Refugee Agency" from the Dept. of Justice and place it under the direction of the Minister for Social, Community and Family Affairs
 - formulate a Charter of Rights for asylum seekers
 - pursue the harmonisation of EU immigration and refugee policy by 2004 (Amsterdam Treaty) so that freedom of movement within the EU can apply to non-national as well as EU citizens.

Proposed: Dublin Central

Related Motions: UL, DCU,

South Roscommon

Result: _____

IRISH LANGUAGE

10. Ba cheart go mbeadh rogha ag scolairi an Ghaeilge a seachaint don Ardeist.
Translates- "That students should have a choice to drop Irish for the Leaving Cert."

Proposed: UCD

Result: _____

SAME-SEX & UNMARRIED COUPLES RIGHTS

11. YFG calls for an introduction of a "civil contract" to recognise the inheritance, insurance and taxation rights of same-sex and unmarried couples.

Proposed: TCD

Result: _____

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Motions - for Conference 2000 Sat. 26th 10:45 am

RENT CONTROL

12. In view of the astronomical increases in the cost of accommodation, this Conference calls on the government to introduce rent control.

Proposed: Meath

Result: _____

SUICIDE

13. Young Fine Gael calls on the government to immediately implement, as a matter of urgency, the full recommendations published by the "National Task Force on Suicide", in January of 1998 to reduce the rising figure of death by suicide.

Proposed: Tullamore YFG

Result: _____

KERBSIDE & RECYCLING

14. This Conference calls for the Minister for the Environment to provide the Kerbside collection service with adequate funding if a proper recycling culture is to be developed.

Proposed by: DIT

Related Motion: Dublin North East

Result: _____

GRANTS & FEES IN EDUCATION

15. This Conference calls on the government to:

- Abolish third level fees for mature students and post-graduate and mature students
- Support a tier system for higher education grants to take account of varying levels of income

Furthermore, we call on the Minister for Education to take decisive action to accelerate the payment of third level grants to students.

Proposed: NUIG

Related Motions: Dublin Central,
DCU, South Rosc.

Result _____

The 16th ^{Y O U N G} Fine Gael National Conference

Candidates' Profiles

(Voting is on Sat. 26th between 1:00pm and 3:00pm)

Candidates for President: (1 position)



Aida Goold UCC/Charleville YFG

Aida has been a member of YFG for the past four years and is currently Chairperson of UCC YFG, having held various other positions in this branch over previous years. She set up a branch of YFG in her native Charleville two and a half years ago which is now very active and she chaired the branch for a year.

Best chat up line: "That suit would look good on my bedroom floor."

Claim to fame: "The van and her journeys! Ask no questions, hear no lies..."

I love YFG because... "the craic is mighty and the politics is even better!"



Clodagh Power Trinity College/Waterford city YFG

Clodagh Power is secretary of the Trinity YFG branch, where she's been actively involved for three years. TCD won "Society of the Year" in the college for 1999. Clodagh hails from Dungarvan and she set up a Waterford city branch last year. Amongst her passions are the Irish language and politics and she would "argue you under the table".

Best chat up line: "I was born to make you happy!"

Claim to fame: "I was Kate Winslett's stand-in in Titanic...honest!"

I love YFG because.... "it refreshes the parts other parties don't reach."

Candidates for Fine Gael Executive Council: (1 position)



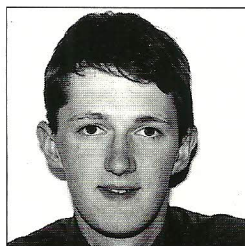
Richard Egan UCD/Tullamore YFG

Richard joined YFG in 1996 as Secretary of the Tullamore branch and is now Vice-Chairman. A member of Fine Gael since '97, Richard was recently elected Chair of the Tullamore FG branch. A languages and history student of UCD, Richard has held numerous positions in UCD YFG, including Treasurer for the current '99/'00 year. He organised a high profile seminar on "Suicide Awareness" in Tullamore in December '99.

Best Chat up line: "That's a nice blouse you're wearing, would you allow it get closer to a blue-shirt?"

Claim to fame: "I guess being stuck in a lift in Leinster House with Jackie Healy-Rae"

I love YFG because... "politics, craic agus ceoil - what more could you ask for?"



Mark O'Doherty UCC/Kilkenny YFG

Mark O'Doherty joined YFG four years ago. Aged 21, Mark is from a farming background in Co. Kilkenny. He is a previous constituency Youth Officer, Activities Officer and Chairperson of UCC YFG. Mark enjoys yoga, skiing, gymnastics, tobogganing and taking the piss out of short biographies like this!

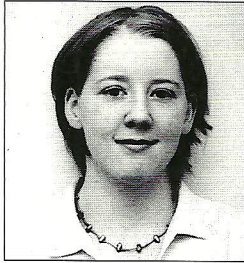
Best Chat up line: "Do you want to be buried with my people?"

Claim to fame: "A Kilkenny man who survived four years and the last All-Ireland, in Cork."

I love YFG because... "because, because, because, because of the wonderful things it does, we're off to see the wizard!"

The 16th ^{Y O U N G} Fine Gael National Conference

Candidates for National Executive: (8 positions)



Elaine Byrne **University of Limerick YFG**

Elaine Byrne is studying History and Politics at UL. She hails from "somewhere near" the Wicklow, Carlow, Wexford border called Crablane. She was chairperson of UL YFG before she started her compulsory year out of college where she spent the first half in the Department of Agriculture in Dublin and the second half studying and travelling in Eastern Europe.

Best Chat up line: "Hello, my name is Elaine and I'm a member of YFG, do you want to touch my hat??..."

Claim to fame: the hat again of course!

I love YFG because... "I have always had a crush on men who are bald."



Lucinda Creighton **Trinity College**

Lucinda comes from Claremorris in Co. Mayo. She got involved in Fine Gael in the General Election of '97, helping out Jim Higgins, her local TD. A second year law student, Lucinda was the only fresher to make it onto the committee last year and she has remained there ever since, holding positions of Assistant Treasurer, records secretary and is currently branch treasurer.

Best chat up line: "I may not be Wilma Flinstone but I can sure make your bedrock!"

Claim to fame: "Surviving the YFG conference last year."

I love YFG because... "I find the people are a lot friendlier than at my AA meetings!"



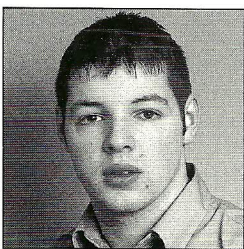
Ciaran Cullen **Dublin City University/Dublin Sth Central**

Ciaran Cullen is 22 years old, and is taking a post-graduate diploma in Accounting in DCU. Ciaran has been a member of YFG for four years, including Treasurer of Trinity YFG for 18 months. Currently Chair of DCU, Ciaran has set up a branch of YFG in Dublin South Central. He also an ardent Liverpool fan.

Best Chat Up line: "You can not spell beauty without you in it."

Claim to fame: "I was in the crowd for the Bloody Sunday scene in Michael Collins, and lived to tell the tale."

I love YFG because... "they're smarter than the average bears!"



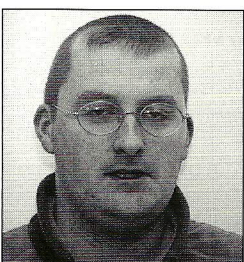
Charles Daly **Duhallow YFG (Cork North West)**

Charles is 20 years old and was born and raised in a farming community near Kanturk in North Cork. Currently he is a second year student, studying Mechanical Engineering in Cork IT. His interests include: motor racing, reading, soccer and socialising.

Best Chat Up Line: "Your top would go well with my carpet."

Claim to Fame: "Having the only student Ansbacher account!"

I love YFG because... "it gives me the chance to become "The Charlie" of YFG."



Mark Gallagher **Hugh Coveney Branch(Donegal South West)**

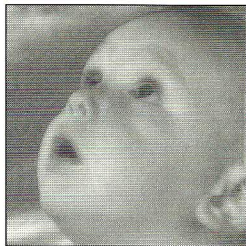
Mark Gallagher is 25 years old and is from Inver in Donegal. Mark works in the fish-handling industry in Killybegs and also on the family farm. He was co-opted on to the last Executive and was North Western development officer.

Best Chat Up line: "Here's 20p, phone your mother and tell her you won't be home for breakfast."

Claim to fame: "I once won a tin of biscuits at a bazaar."

I love YFG because... "like myself, it is popular, demanding and sometimes full of bull s**t!"

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Alan Hayes

Waterford IT

Alan is from "the premier county", Tipperary and is studying Science in Waterford IT at the moment. He is 18 years old and has many interests apart from politics. He is an avid hurling, football and rugby fan and he also works on an entertainments crew in Waterford, marshalling local weekly discos.

Best Chat Up line: "Do you want to go halves in a baby?"

Claim to fame: "Living life without regrets"

I love YFG because.... "it's a bit of crack and sometimes you get free beer."



Alan McMenamín

UCC/Hugh Coveney branch(Donegal South West)

Alan McMenamín is studying Social Science in UCC and worked with the Dept. of Justice for five years before that. He received a Higher Diploma in Social Care from Derry last year and is very involved with his home community in Donegal. Alan is PRO with the Hugh Coveney branch of YFG in Donegal South West. He is also Vice-Chairman of his local Fine Gael branch and is Chairman of the Fine Gael District Executive at home.

Best Chat Up Line: "going out with a woman for over 8 years so I can't remember any" (NOT)!

Claim to fame: "asking John Bruton what he thought if someone challenged him for the leadership-and surviving!"

I love YFG because... "meeting new people, great craic, plenty of drink and it's radical (nearly)."



Seamus Naughten

South Roscommon

At the age of sixteen, Seamus became actively involved in the local YFG branch in South Roscommon. He has held various officerships in the branch. He currently serves as PRO. Seamus studies property economics at Bolton Street, DIT.

Chat Up Line: "You sit beside the chosen one then hit off her with your knee and say Sorry, I need you"

Claim to Fame: "The position of p.r.o. In the South Roscommon Branch!!!!!!!!!!!!!"

I love YFG because.... "of the excitement and intensity of the branch meetings???"



Edwina Nyhan

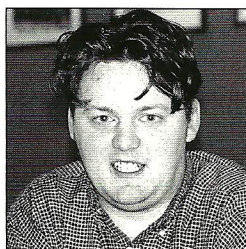
UCC/Cork 5th Central

Edwina (22) is a student in UCC where she is working on an MBS. She has been a member of YFG in UCC since 1995. During her time in the branch, she has been Treasurer and she is currently Vice-Chair. Edwina is a founder member of Cork South Central YFG and holds the Youth Officer position for the constituency. She is involved in UCC's racing club and in the Phlsoph (UCC's debating society).

Chat Up Line: "Next"

Claim to Fame: "Leading rock the boat at the last two national conferences and I'm still on for a third!"

I love YFG because... I'm crazy, crazeeee for feeling so bluuueeee! (sung a la Patsy Cline)!



Gerard O'Connell

NUI Galway

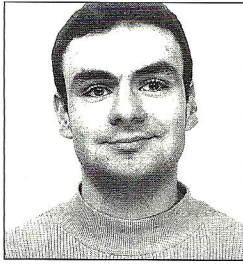
Gerry was born in Killenaule, Co. Tipperary and holds a BA and LLB from NUIG. He is currently taking a Masters in Queens University Belfast. A member of YFG since 1993, he has served NUIG YFG in many capacities including Chairperson. He is currently National Policy Officer on the National Executive and Vice-President. Gerry has authored many policy papers during his time in YFG including "The New Patriotism" document.

Chat Up Line: "Well, what's the crack?"

Claim to fame: "Chairperson of a National Presidential Election Debate 1997, in front of 1,100 people and covered by five TV networks."

I love YFG because.... "it worth it!"

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Michael Scanlon UCD/Dublin South YFG

Michael comes from Knocklyon in Dublin. A first year student of economics, politics and French, he has been active politically since the '97 General Election, helping to secure two seats in Dublin South. He is Chairperson of YFG in Dublin South and has served Fine Gael in various capacities. Michael is also secretary of the Knocklyon branch of Fine Gael.

Chat Up Line: "Excuse me, I seem to have lost my phone number, perhaps I could have yours?"

Claim to Fame: "Co-presenting a young people's TV programme on democracy in Ireland."

I love YFG because... "it won't dry your skin like some soaps can."



Leo Varadkar Trinity College/Dublin West

Leo Varadkar (21) comes from Blanchardstown in West Dublin and is PRO on the YFG National Executive. He has been involved in Fine Gael, since he was 16. With the help of some good friends, he turned Trinity YFG into the branch it is now, with over 200 members. He re-established YFG in Dublin West, where he is branch PRO, and constituency Youth Officer. He also stood for Fine Gael in the Local Elections in Dublin West. Also studies medicine, when he gets the time.

Chat Up Line: "Hey! Would you like to start a political dynasty?"

Claim to Fame: "Getting 'banned' from Austria, because I criticised the Freedom Party!"

I love YFG because.... "the hours are short, the pay is great and everyone gets on so well."

***Detailed profiles of all candidates are on display in the
Main Conference Hall.***

The 16th National Conference

Standing Orders

1. Procedure

The ruling of the presiding Chairperson on all matters is final.

2. Motions and Amendments

(a) Only Motions and Amendments to the Constitution and Rules which are on the Programme may be moved, except for those Motions subject to Standing Order 8.

(b) A Motion or Amendment may be moved only by the Unit of the Organisation listed on the Programme.

3. Quorum

Where less than 15% of registered delegates are not present, the meeting shall be inquorate and the Chairperson shall adjourn the session until the Conference becomes quorate. Only one quorum count may be called at each session of Conference by a member of the Conference Steering Committee.

4. Speakers

(a) A strict time limit will be imposed on all Speakers in order to allow the Programme to be completed.

(b) In general the proposer of a Motion or an Amendment will be allowed no more than 2 minutes.

(c) All Speakers must report to the Speakers Desk 15 minutes before the start of a session. An absolute right to speak cannot be guaranteed.

5. Points of Order and Information

Delegates may speak from the floor on a point of order or information. Points of Order shall relate to the procedure adopted or to the conduct of the meeting. Points of information may be raised by any delegate who states that he/she is rising on such a point and such a delegate may be heard if the speaker gives consent. Points of order or information shall be limited to 15 seconds.

6. Amendments

(a) Amendments shall be submitted to the Speakers desk before the start of each session.

(b) Amendments must not contradict the spirit of the motion.

(c) The proposer of a motion has a one minute right to reply in the event of an Amendment.

(d) Amendments must be signed by either the Chairperson or the Secretary of at least two units of Young Fine Gael.

7. Relevancy

If any delegate is directed by the Chairperson to cease speaking on the grounds of irrelevancy, he/she must do so forthwith.

8. Emergency Motions

(a) Emergency motions must only deal with events of exceptional significance which have occurred after February 3rd 2000.

(b) Emergency motions must be submitted to the Steering Committee before 10.00pm on Friday February 25th 2000.

(c) An emergency motion must be signed by the Chairperson or Secretary of two units of Young Fine Gael.

(d) The decision of the National Conference Steering Committee is final.

9. Voting

(a) The Chairperson shall appoint tellers for each session of the National Conference.

(b) Voting shall be by a show of delegate cards.

(c) The Chairperson shall rule on the need for a division.

(d) Once a division is been called and ruled by the Chairperson, and a result declared, no further requests for counts shall be considered.

(e) Voting on each motion shall take place directly after each motion has been debated.

(f) In the case of Amendments, the National Conference must first vote on accepting the Amendment. If the Amendment is accepted, the motion as amended shall be put to the Conference. If the amended motion is passed, the original motion shall not be put to the Conference.

10. Standing Orders

Once Standing Orders have been accepted by the Conference, they cannot be suspended or amended.

The 16th ^{Y O U N G} *Fine Gael* National Conference

Young Fine Gael wish to thank our sponsors for National Conference 2000:

**Ballygowan
Mary Bannotti MEP
Bus Eireann
Coca-Cola
Esat Clear
European Peoples' Party
Glendale Foods**

**Iarnrod Eireann
Masterfoods
Pickwick Stationers
QPA printers
Tayto
Vichy**

National Conference Awards

Awards will be presented by Party Leader, John Bruton TD and Dr. Garret FitzGerald after the Leader's Speech at 3:15pm on Saturday 26th February.

Best Team from Inter-branch Debate
Best Speaker of Conference
Member of the Year (new)

Hugh Coveney Memorial Shield
Liam Naughten Memorial Cup
Joan FitzGerald Memorial Shield



Conference Socials: Admission Free

Opening Drinks Reception on Friday evening 7:00pm - 7:45pm
Traditional Ceilí on Friday night in Collins Suite 10:00pm onwards
Disco on Saturday night in Collins Suite 9:00pm onwards

Meals at Conference

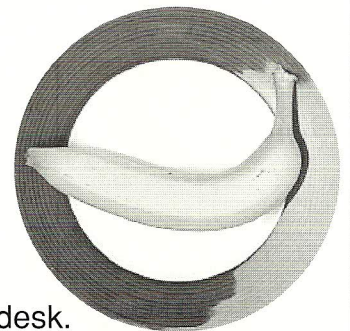
Lunch on Saturday (1:00pm to 3:00pm) £5.00
Dinner on Saturday evening (7:00 - 9:00pm) £8.00*

*Delegates must register for dinner on Saturday afternoon at registration desk.

A word of thanks...

The Steering Committee would like to express their thanks to:

- The Fine Gael staff in National Office with special thanks to Irene
- Zoe Healy in the Fine Gael Press Office
- The staff and management of the Regency Airport Hotel





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