

Tangerine News

The Newsletter of St.Kevins Boys Club

December 2016

Under 18s Progress in FAI Youths Cup

St Kevins Boys have never won the FAI Youths Cup so it was great to see our Under 18s (pictured below) progress to the last sixteen of the competition with a 6-3 victory over Drogheda United recently. Now they say that football is a funny old game and boy were they right with this one!

The game started out with both teams evenly matched with chances at both ends but a stunning strike from Sean Cummins on 20 minutes changed the whole complexion of the game.

Sean challenged two defenders for a header in the air about 25 yards from goal. As the ball fell the three players were looking for where it went but Cummins was sharpest and unleashed a terrific strike that hit the upright and nestled in the net.



From that moment on the game was all one way as the Saints turned on the style. Levi Boardman brought out a superb save from the Drogs keeper with a great header and it was Boardman who eventually made it 2-0. A great run by Mark Powel from inside his own half saw him slide the ball into the path of Boardman in behind the defence and he slotted it past the keeper.

The second half had only started and Andy Brennan brought out another great save from the keeper but two minutes later a fine header by Craig Connolly made it 3-0. You could see the fight leave the Drogheda players.

A few minutes later it was 4-0 as Brennan played in a lovely ball for Ryan McGuinness to slot home.

Boardman was a constant aerial threat and he met a great ball in by Morgan Biggs only to see his header cannon off the crossbar but a few minutes later he was on target following a ball in by Peter McElroy to see the score stand at 5-0.

Then the game changed as within the space of two minutes Drogheda had dragged the score back to 5-2!

From then on it was end to end football and it was looking like the next goal would be the most important one of the game.

Thankfully it came the Saints way as following a very quick move Mick McAuley was on hand in the box to control the ball, beat the defender and score 6-2!

With just a few minutes remaining Drogheda got a third goal but at this stage they knew the tie was lost.

The Saints nearly added to their tally as the goalkeeper pulled off a great save from a stinging Jamie O'Brien strike right at the death.

SKB: Mark Byrne, Peter McElroy, Morgan Biggs, Craig Connolly, Jamie Delaney, Mark Powel, Andy Brennan, Jamie O'Brien, Mark O'Connor, Levi Boardman, Sean Cummins, Conor Smith, Ryan McGuinness, Adam Duffy, Mick McAuley, Darren Barry, Esheban Browne, Godfrey Yoro

The previous week our Under 17 Premier booked their place in the next round of the FAI Under 17 Cup with a comprehensive 8-0 win over Avondale.

What was all the more remarkable about this result was that it was 1-0 at halftime so we would be interested to know what was said to the team at the break!

In fact both our Under 17s and Under 18s will meet each other if they both win the next round of the Leinster Youths Cup and as both sides are on fire at the moment we expect that to be a fixture to relish. In other SFAI Cup news we are delighted to report that going into the round of 32 after Christmas which will include teams from outside Dublin we will have a very strong representation.

Our Under 12 Premier overcame Home Farm 6-0 with a fantastic display away from home while our Under 13 Premier overcame last year's SFAI cup winners Crumlin 2-0 in Shanowen (see report inside). Both our DDSL and NDSL Under 14 Premier teams are also in the last 32.



Our DDSL team defeated Drogheda Boys 7-2 in the SFAI Skechers Goodson Cup while our NDSL Premier team defeated Glenmuir of Dundalk 4-0 with the help of a hat trick from Aaron Murphy (pictured).

Our Under 15 DDSL team played St Josephs Boys under lights in St Aidans watched by

the largest crowd seen at a game on our new pitch. It was the tightest of games as expected and Joeys got the all-important goal late in the game.

At Under 16 level we also have our DDSL Premier team and NDSL Premier team in the next round. The DDSL side who won the SFAI cup last season at Under 15 and are looking to win it again this season as they defeated Cabinteely 4-3 away from home. While our NDSL team overcame Ratoath 3-1.

So as we face into the new year we can look forward to plenty of cup football and a lot of travelling!

Is it time to buy our own bus Pat????

Get the Last of Your Tickets!!



Our Christmas raffle tickets are selling fast and with just a week to go before the draw we urge everyone to get their tickets in to ensure that you have a chance to win our top prize or even one of the other 15 prizes that are on offer. Tickets are a mere €2 or €10 gets you a book of 6 and all proceeds get ploughed back into the development and running of the Club.

SKB U16s in Viva España!!

Our Under 16 DDSL Premier team are off to Spain to take part in the Torneo De Navidad De Futbol Cadete. We are the only club outside of Spain to be invited to take part in this tournament so it is a great honour for St Kevins Boys. We are in the same group as such illustrious names as Real Madrid and Real Sociedad. Included in the other groups are the likes of Barcelona, Atletico Bilbao and Real Zaragoza so our boys will be mixing with the elite of the elite!

We wish them the very best of luck.

Political Football

You may have read the very interesting article in the Evening Herald recently regarding the relationship between League of Ireland clubs and schoolboy football clubs throughout Ireland.

The writer of the article, Paul Hyland rightly pointed out that it appears that the senior clubs and schoolboy clubs outside of Dublin have a better handle on what is important in the development of talent within their respective counties.

Sadly, all Dublin clubs on both sides of the fence seem to be suspicious of each other and hence there is a very poor relationship between them.

The FAI High Performance Director, Ruud Dokter, is quite insistent on maintaining his Pathway programme which would see League of Ireland clubs take over the development of our footballing talent at Under 13, Under 15, Under 17 and Under 19 level.

We as a schoolboy club, who have been at the forefront of the development of schoolboy players for over 50 years, do not necessarily agree with Mr Dokter's stance and believe that we have a very important role to play in the development of elite players.

We have met with the FAI on a number of occasions with regard to having St Kevins Boys included in these proposed leagues but are constantly informed that we do not meet the criteria necessary. On enquiry as to the criteria that we fall short on we never receive a clear answer.

Now, we don't want this to sound like sour grapes but there has to be a better way to solve the current impasse. It would strike me that it would have made more sense for the FAI to appoint a panel of LOI people and a panel of those at the top end of schoolboy development along with Mr Dokter to work towards a solution that benefits all those involved.

Throughout the last twenty years the main clubs at the forefront of developing players have been St Kevins Boys, St Josephs Boys, Cherry Orchard, Belvedere, Home Farm and a few others.

I can safely say that no League of Ireland clubs have been involved in the development of schoolboy players at a high level. The League of Ireland clubs have been busy trying to develop players that have already passed through the schoolboy system and when you look at both Dundalk and Shamrock Rovers they have done this very successfully. They do not have the time or resources to get too involved in the schoolboy football area.

It would appear to me that the best solution would be to leave the development of schoolboy football to the clubs who are already getting the required results from their systems and to concentrate the energies of the League of Ireland on encouraging all the clubs to look to the successful models that Dundalk and Rovers have created.

The model that has been proposed by the FAI of Under 13, 15, 17 and Under 19 National leagues will cause us all to lose a number of budding players throughout the proposed age groups. For instance a player at Under 15 will not be able to go straight into Under 17 level from a purely physical development level and as the League of Ireland clubs do not have Under 16 teams the player will be released and potentially lost to the game.

Another issue that arises from the current FAI Under 17s and Under 19s set up is the number of players signed with the League of Ireland clubs for the relevant age groups. The clubs sign 30 or more players to the squad but only register 20 of those players for the league. Therefore, the other 10 players lose out on regular football.

There are also reports of players losing out on trials with UK clubs as the UK clubs are reluctant to get involved in bidding wars for a young player with LOI clubs.

I can remember when the Under 17 league was on the cards we met with the FAI to have our then Under 16 team registered in the forthcoming league. This was a side that had dominated schoolboy football from Under 11 that we were extremely proud of and saw as the perfect team to compete in a national league.

Sadly we were rejected, as to why we are still unsure but rumours that our inclusion, along with a few other successful schoolboy clubs, was strenuously objected to by a number of League of Ireland clubs were rife throughout the footballing community.

That same year saw the players from our Under 16s vanish from the Club. On their last home game of the season a large contingent of League of Ireland managers were busy in the clubhouse apparently making promises to the parents of our players for the coming season. As I said previously this might all sound like sour grapes but believe me it's not. My biggest fear is that, as a country, we will lose a significant number of potential top class players through our own narrow vision of what we expect our soccer leagues to look like.

Remember both the GAA and Irish rugby are looking to grow their membership in Dublin and they are looking to incorporate the clubs that do the right thing at each level to promote their game.

Irish football is its own worst enemy!!!

Gerry Murtagh

U13s Important Win in SFAI



Our Under 13 DDSL Premier team and Crumlin Utd met each other in the SFAI Sketchers Cup recently in Shanowen Road in a game that would see the winners progress to the last 32 of the competition. The two teams had met at the quarter final stage of the SFAI Cup last season at Under 12 age group where Crumlin got the upper hand in winning the game and eventually going on to win the cup.

The game proved to be an entertaining affair and this time the Saints came out on top with a well deserved 2-0 win.

The Saints started brightly with Callum Warren down the right wing creating numerous chances in the first few minutes and eventually the early pressure paid off when Ben Curtis got on the end of a fine team move to calmly finish in to the bottom corner.

Crumlin's only chance in the game came early in the second half with their striker latching on to a long ball over the top but a great reflex save from Fiachra Pagel followed up by a last ditch tackle from Sean Grehan and block from David Okagbue ended the danger. In the second half Ben Curtis set off on a mazy dribble from midfield and was fouled in the area. Up stepped Evan Ferguson with the spot kick but the Crumlin keeper made a brilliant save only to see Evan score from the rebound.

This was a good team performance and puts the lads through to the last 32 of the All Ireland open draw. Their hard work and application in training has been rewarded with some positive results going in to the New Year.

SKB: Fiachra Pagel, Cameron Simpson, Tadgh Walsh, Sean Grehan, David Okagbue, Craig Moore, Chris Moore, Jamie Mullins, Jamie Kelly, Ben Curtis, Cian Kelly, Callum Warren, Adam Coyle, Sam Curtis, Evan Ferguson, Alex O'Brien, Cameron Simpson

West Brom Coaching Session

We were delighted to welcome Jamie Smith who is Lead Professional Development Coach and manager of West Brom's Under 18s team to the Clubhouse recently for another of our continuing coaching seminars. Jamie was joined by Owen Lee who is West Brom's video analyst.

There was a great turnout for what proved to be an excellent session as Jamie and Owen put our Under 16s through their paces on the St. Aidans pitch. Prior to this they had delivered a very informative presentation in the Clubhouse.

More sessions are planned for the future as we continue to enjoy a very fruitful relationship with West Bromwich Albion.

In Profile

As we have always prided ourselves on being a family Club it is no surprise to find lots of brothers and sisters playing for the various age levels of St Kevins Boys be it a league team, our senior team or



indeed in our Little Saints. So for this issue's In Profile we opted to ask two brothers for their insights. Both Logan and Byron Preston (pictured) have played for the Club since arriving down a number of years ago to our Little Saints. Even at that early stage it was clear to us that we had two super footballers on our hands and they have

both gone on to shine for their respective teams.

Date of Birth: Byron: 17th July 2005; Logan: 20th October 2006

Team: Byron: Under 12 DDSLA; Logan: Under 11 DDSLA Sunday

Managers: Byron: Philip Grehan, John & Stewy; Logan: Richie Crean, Dave, Eoin and Ian

Position: Byron: Centre Forward; Logan: Left Midfield

Who's the Joker in the dressing room? Byron: Kevin Zefi; Logan: Ryan Kelly

When did you get involved with SKB? Byron: At age 6 in 2010; Logan: In 2011 aged 5.

What team do you support? Byron: Liverpool; Logan: Everton (I'd say there's great fun in that household on Merseyside derby days!)

Who's your favourite player? Byron: Lionel Messi; Logan: Yannick Bolasie

Which League of Ireland team do you support? Byron: Dundalk; Logan: St Pats Athletic

Who's your favourite LOI player? Byron: Daryl Horgan; Logan: the same as my brother – one of the few things we agree on!

What other sporting event do you like? Byron: Running; Logan: Gaelic football

What has been your best sporting moment to date? Byron: Winning the cup with my school, Larkhill Boys – first time we ever won the cup; Logan: Winning the Kells Tournament during the summer

What's the best advice you ever received? Byron: Always try your best; Logan: When you're happy you learn

Check Your Behaviour

We have been disappointed at the behaviour of a number of parents and players in relation to our all-weather pitch in St Aidans.

We have received a number of complaints from St Aidans school regarding parents and younger players using the toilet facilities in the school out of school hours. Recently, but for the sharp vision of one of their teachers, we would have had two young players locked in the school as they were in the toilets when the school was about to be locked up for the night and alarmed.

We have had issues with a few players going into the school gym area which is a restricted area. We have also had problems with people moving cones in order to park in restricted areas – one of these areas is specifically for emergency vehicle access.

Furthermore, and this is the real disappointment, our security person has had a number of incidents with parents who ignore his requests to keep out of the playing areas and indeed some have been quite abusive towards him.

St Kevins Boys will not tolerate this type of behaviour from any person whose child uses these facilities and action will be taken against the teams involved.

So we would recommend that parents act as responsible adults and behave themselves, obey directions given by our staff and ensure that their children also behave and follow our guidelines.

Little Saints Update

Our Little Saints are all progressing very well as we head towards Christmas and in fact they have all been so good it wouldn't surprise me if a certain Mr Clause paid them all a visit on 17th December which will be the last Saturday of the Little Saints for the year. We'll be back on Saturday 7th January when I'm sure I'll hear how much stuff Mr Clause dropped down their chimney on Christmas morning. Remember you have to be very good for your mam and dad all the time.



Over the years we have seen lots of brothers and sisters take part in the Little Saints but I have to say that I think this is the first time that we have had

triplets take part so meet Alfie, Oscar and Max Noonan (pictured) who have been part of the Little Saints for two years now and have shown great improvement since the first day they stepped into the hall. The boys are following in the footsteps of their dad, Paul who plays for Whitehall Celtic but we expect that they'll be lining out for the Saints for a long time before they jump ship on us!!

We have recently taken a number of players out of the teams onto our Development Squad. This can sometimes cause parents more upset than the players but the reason we spilt the group is to allow the players to develop at a pace that suits them. Over the years we have found that players who happen to be at a higher level in their development can dominate the sessions and hence other players get less from their involvement in the sessions. Our program is designed to encourage players to develop at a pace that suits all levels.

Ex-Saints Shining in LOI

A number of our ex-players are making a real name for themselves at League of Ireland level and we are delighted that they are progressing so well.

Everyone knows how well Dundalk are doing on a European and domestic stage and Ronan Finn, Sean Gannon and Michael O'Connor have been ever present in the squad.

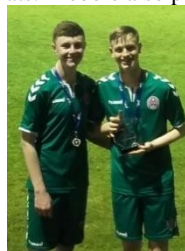


Sean Heaney has made the left full position his own with Shamrock Rovers and was joined this season by Trevor Clarke.

Eoin Wearen is the fulcrum of the Bohemians midfield while Karl Moore starred at Bray Wanderers during the season. Aaron Ashe (pictured) picked up the Drogheda United Player of the Year Award after himself and Lloyd Buckley

were outstanding for the Drogs throughout the season. At Shelbourne we have Ryan Robinson, Dale Rooney, Dylan Kavanagh, Jack Brady and Cian Kavanagh sharing the stage. While Longford Town boasts Cian McGarry, Philip Gannon and Josh O'Hanlon. UCD boast ex-Saints Dan Tobin and Jack Ryan among their team.

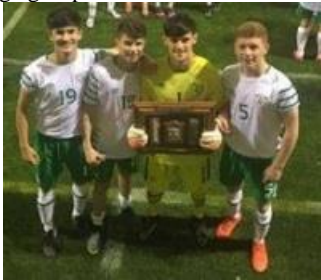
The Under 17 National Cup saw a lot of ex-Saints play out an exciting cup final where Robbie Dunne (son of the infamous Mick) and Stephen Nolan both scored to give Bohemians a 2-0 win over St Pats. Robbie also picked up the Man of the Match Award.



The Bohs side also had Domi Peppard, Aaron Townley, Mitch Byrne, Ryan Harte and Lido Lerefa who all played for the Saints. While Pats ex-Saints contingent included Luke Heaney, Paul Cleary, Luke Nolan, Alex Kelly and Brian Maher. Imagine the team we could have entered into the FAI Under 17 National League if we had been allowed!!!

International Saints

As ever the Saints are well represented at International level at all age groups with both current and former players.



While we had four players, Kameron Ledwidge, Kian Clarke, Ray O'Sullivan and Ryan Cassidy involved in the Republic of Ireland winning the Under 15 Victory Shield in Scotland; Dara O'Shea and Thomas Byrne were part of the Rep of Ireland Under 18s team in

Spain for games against Holland and Germany.

Jack Byrne and Sean Heaney have been teammates since Under 8s in the Saints and they are joined by Dylan Watts in the Under 21 Rep of Ireland team that were also in Spain for games against the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

Saints Dominate DDSL Squads



We are not sure if this is a first but we recently had 13 players on the DDSL Youths squad for their opening FAI Inter League game against Kildare league. The Saints actually had 10 of the starting 11 players on the pitch – as somebody remarked the other three lads must have been devastated! The DDSL side won the game 3-0. Great credit goes to Mick Dempsey of our Under 18s team for producing this number of players on a league representative side.



Billy Gilmore, Danny Jeal, David Leonard and Byron Preston
Meanwhile four of our Under 12s lined out for the DDSL team that played Leicester Celtic Under 13s. The DDSL team were 1-0 winners with Billy Gilmore getting the all-important goal.

Snippets

Now I take full responsibility for not including this photo previously and I extend my apologies to Harry Dunne.



Harry Dunne of our Under 16 NDSL Elite team played with the Republic of Ireland Emerging Talent Future Developers team at the Galway Cup back in August. Harry scored the second goal in a 2-0 win in the final against Cavan/Monaghan. He was also named Player of the Tournament. He is pictured being presented with his trophy by Darryl Horgan the current star of Dundalk FC.

It will soon be that time of year again, so dust off those boots (moulded studs only) and join the Saints for our annual "Married" versus "Singles" game on St Stephens Day.

For those who are unfamiliar with this game it is a bit of a highlight in the Saints calendar. Every Stephens Day two teams compete for bragging rights as to who are better - the married lads or the singles. It should be pointed out that we use the terms married and single quite loosely!! Also up for grabs on the day is the coveted Golden Boot Award. Anyway, following this always enjoyable game those in attendance head for refreshments and the all-important post mortem on the game.

As ever our competing managers Donie "I Hate to Lose!" Bermingham and Ciaran "Winning is Everything" Heffernan will be in charge of the teams. So come along and have some fun – all levels of players are always welcomed.

Please contact the Club for details – by the way there is a minimal charge which is donated to a designated charity.

Congratulations to ex-Saint Graham Kelly who made his full debut for Sheffield United in their 4-2 away win to Grimsby during November.

End of 1st Stage of New Look Season

When the DDSL announced that they were changing the football season from the standard school year of September to May we all scratched our heads as to how the whole deal would work.

So it was decided to play a 16 month season that would start in August and end with a Shield game in December then break and restart in March and continue until November.

In previous years there would be about 12 teams in each league giving teams up to 22 games in their season, along with league cup games and the SFAI cups.

In order to facilitate the new season it was decided to split the leagues into an A and B type section, each hosting up to 6 teams. The winners of each section would then meet in a shield final.

So as we come to the close of the first stage of this new season we have a number of teams competing for their respective shields but overall there seems to be much confusion surrounding the games to be played and the opposition involved.

We hope to get clarity shortly.

HOW TO CONTACT US

Write to : St Kevins Boys Club, Crestfield Estate, Larkhill, Dublin 9

Telephone : (01) 8374411

Fax: (01) 8570121

Email: sharonmitchell@skbfc.com



@fckevins



st kevin's boys club

Website: www.skbfc.com