

Tangerine News

The Newsletter of St. Kevins Boys Club

February 2017

Saints March on in SFAI Cups

A number of our teams were involved in the last 32 rounds of their respective SFAI Cups at the end of January and were unaffected by the lack of competitive football since the change in the season.

Our Under 12 DDSL Premier travelled to Cork where they defeated Ringmahon Rangers 2-1 with goals from Daniel Bergin and Byron Preston in the Skechers Cup.

Our Under 13 DDSL Premier team played Kells Blackwater away in the Troy Cup and recorded an 8-1 win.

Both our Under 14 DDSL Premier and 14 NDSL Premier teams were in the last 32 of the Skechers Goodson Cup. The DDSL team's game was postponed at the very last minute while the NDSL team faced Corduff. It took extra time to separate the teams and the Saints recorded a well deserved 2-0 win (see report inside).



Both our Under 16 DDSL Premier and 16 NDSL Premier (pictured above) progressed to the next round of the Skechers Barry Cup. The NDSL team overcame Kildare Town 5-1 in Shanowen.

The Saints were a goal ahead after 10 minutes as Davidson Okosun played a great cross from the left that Ola Lawal scored from 6 yards out. It was all one way traffic from then on until the 25th minute when Kildare equalised with a hotly disputed goal.

Thankfully the second half saw the Saints take control and they were 2-1 ahead within 10 minutes as Okosun scored with a terrific header. Two minutes later it was game over as Sean O'Connor scored with a superb volley from a corner. Two more goals late in the game by Gavin Lenihan and Jason Noone only emphasised their superiority.

Immediately following this game our DDSL team (pictured below) defeated Ringmahon Rangers of Cork 5-0. Ross Tierney opened the scoring after just three minutes and by half time he had netted a hat trick. The second half belonged to Ryan Cassidy who was playing his last game for the Saints as he is due to head to Watford shortly. His two goals were no more than his play deserved and he left the pitch to a huge round of applause.



Meanwhile in the Leinster Youths Cup our Under 17 DDSL Premier team overcame a strong Athlone Town side 2-1 while the Under 18 DDSL Premier side blitzed Wayside Celtic as they ran out 8-0 winners with Jamie Delaney, better known to us all as Scholsey getting on the scoresheet.

Saints Shine Away from Ireland

Every year in January a number of our Premier teams make the trip over to West Brom where they get to play a few games, get coached by the West Brom coaching staff and attend a number of talks on how to prepare yourself for becoming a professional footballer.

These trips are very important to the players that attend as it gives them the opportunity to see the level that they need to be at in order to make the transition. During their time away they get to train, eat and rest like a professional in top class surroundings.

The West Brom coaching staff headed by Steve Hopcroft and Mark Harrison go out of their way to ensure that the players receive the best of coaching and advice to assist them and we are as ever, very grateful for all they do for us.



This year it was our Under 14 DDSL Premier team and our Under 15 DDSL Premier team who made the journey and as well as getting the opportunity to train in the fantastic West Brom facilities, play a game against the West Brom Academy they also took a trip to Wolverhampton to play the Wolves Academy at their training facilities. We would like to thank Willie Byrne the Wolves Irish representative for arranging this game.

Our coaches also get to learn a lot as they can see how professional coaching staff set up sessions, prepare for games and interact with players.

So it is a win, win for both players and coaches with these trips.

Following the Wolves game six of our players headed to London to take part in a week's training with Watford.

Before Christmas two of our teams were involved in tournaments in Spain.

Our Under 16 DDSL Premier team were the only non-Spanish team to be invited to take part in the Torneo De Navidad De Futbol Cadete. This was the first time in the 25 year history that a team from outside of Spain were invited to this prestigious tournament so it was a tremendous honour that St Kevins Boys, an amateur schoolboy club from Ireland, receive the invite and it speaks volumes for our standing as a Club in the eyes of the top clubs in Europe.

Their first game was against Real Madrid who were rocked after Ross Tierney had put the Saints 1-0 ahead. Real subsequently went on to win the game 3-1.

Following that they played Real Sociedad before ending up in a three way playoff with Celta Vigo, where Keith Carter's volley was enough to win the game and then the Ribera game which went to penalties.

In fact the final was contested by the two teams from our group Real Madrid and Real Sociedad after defeating Barcelona and Ossasuna in the semi finals.

Kian Clarke deservedly won the Goalkeeper of the Tournament Award following some outstanding displays.

The organisers were delighted that they had invited us and were

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Saints Shine Away (continued)

glowing in their praise of both the standard of football from our team and the professional way that they approached the games and their behaviour off the pitch.

Our Under 12 DDSL Premier team headed to Barcelona to take part in the VII Power – Gol Cup.

It was straight off the plane and into their opening game where they also faced the mighty Real Madrid. Putting in an excellent performance they came away with a very credible 0-0 draw.



Our U12s warm up in front of the crowd

Their second game saw them face Celta Vigo. Kevin Zeffi got the Saints opening goal and the post denied them two more but as the players tired following their travels Celta scored two late goals to win 2-1.

They also played against host club Cornelia and Sant Cugat before finishing with an exciting 3-3 draw against Bermudan team Performance FC.

The players and managers drew high praise from all involved and it was a fantastic opportunity for the team as they tested themselves against top quality opponents.

Probably the highlight of the trip for the boys was their visit to see Espanyol play Barcelona where the genius that is Lionel Messi put on a virtuoso show – knowing the Saints were watching!!

"Summer Soccer"

We all heard the roars from the crowds for Summer Soccer which eventually became Calender Year Soccer. We in St Kevins Boys felt it was a regressive step and not in the best interests of the players themselves.

A meeting was held for all managers at the beginning of January in the Clubhouse to give them details of what will actually happen.

The Small Sided Games season will start in March and finish in October. However, there will be no games in July and August and no games at Easter or bank holiday weekends. We estimate that this reduces the SSG season of games to 19 or maybe 20 weeks to play all games.

Meanwhile the 11-a-side season will run from March to October with a six week break in July and August and again there will be disruptions for Easter and bank holidays. In addition to these breaks, the age groups doing Junior and Leaving cert exams will not play throughout June.

Again this leaves you with a 20 week season (or less) to play all league games, league cup games and SFAI cup games.

The interesting thing is that those that were most vocal in looking for Summer Soccer were the very first group to insist that there be no games in July and August!

Our biggest fear is firstly the amount of midweek games that players will have to take part in, the number of players missing through holidays in June and September which are popular holiday times due to cost and also the number of clubs that will not be able to field teams in September and October if results go against them earlier on.

If we get the normal Irish weather this year expect most of September and October to be unplayable!

Finally, in keeping with the bizarre twists in Irish football the SFAI Cups are still run on a school term calendar basis ie September to May and the new Under 15 FAI League will run from September to May!!!

SKB AGM

Our AGM will be held in the Clubhouse on Monday, 27th February at 8.00pm. All managers and coaches are asked to attend.

Extra Time sees U14s Progress

Our Under 14 NDSL Premier team put in a stunning football performance against league rivals Corduff in their last 32 SFAI Skechers Goodson Cup in St Aidans.



They had already defeated their opponents in the league and it was clear from the start which team wanted to win this game more.

The opposition's plan was to defend and hope to hold out for penalties and they nearly got their wish thanks mainly to the heroics of their goalkeeper!

As it was it was extra time before the opening goal arrived much to the relief of all the Saints supporters watching on.

The game itself was very entertaining as the Saints played some very clever football. In fact a very clever free kick nearly led to the opening goal. Lining up like he was going to take a pop at goal, James Maloney instead played the ball to his left where John McDonagh had raced past the opposition wall and he put in a terrific cross that the goalkeeper managed to get his fingers to and take it away from the Saints player arriving at the far post.

Thomas Redmond who was a constant threat to the opposition throughout the game produced a lovely turn in the box that wrong-footed the defence and slipped in Jordan Mooney who grazed the upright with his strike.

The second half saw Alex Clarke put through on goal a couple of times but somehow the keeper managed to keep the ball out, producing a few outstanding saves. Then Dylan O'Hara played a wonderful ball in behind the defence to Jake Hollywood whose first touch was top class but the ball went the wrong side of the goal.

With time running out McDonagh went on a mazy run that beat five players before he was unceremoniously fouled. Up stepped Sam Hayden, who was magnificent throughout the game, only to see his free kick cannon off the upright.

It was on to extra time and still the Saints piled on the pressure. Then with five minutes left a corner on the left saw Maloney rise in the area and power in a header to the top corner. The Saints went mad, Corduff were distraught. Two minutes later it was all over as Clarke fought for a ball on the edge of the area, the ball fell to Robbie Mahon just inside the box and he rifled home a shot to see the Saints win 2-0. It was a game they deserved to win as they put in an outstanding team performance.

SKB: Alex Clarke, Cian Grew, Tadhg Keenan, Thomas Redmond, James Maloney, Dylan O'Hara, Ross Leonard, Jake Hollywood, Jordan Mooney, Adam Lynch, Aaron Murphy, Sam Hayden, John McDonagh, Robbie Mahon, Conor Gray, Kieron Howard-Curley, Michael Hilliard

International Saints



Pictured are Jack Funge and Sean McEvoy of our U15 DDSL Premier team along with ex-Saint, Armstrong Okoflex (who is now with Arsenal) who were all part of the Rep of Ireland Under 15s squad that travelled to Holland at the end of January to play a few friendlies.

We are sure that the boys did us proud in the games.

Married vs Singles Game



The annual SKB “Marrieds vs Singles” game kicked off on St Stephens Day in honour of the late and great Lar Madden. We were delighted that Lar’s nephew, Billy Hyland took part and played a blinder at left full. As ever Ciaran and Donie were patrolling the technical areas in charge of both teams.

As usual the protests were lodged before a ball was even kicked, this year it concerned the size of the keeper’s gloves (apparently Kick Boxing gloves are not permitted!). Anyway the keeper’s gloves came into action after just one minute when Eddie Murphy tipped over a stinging Adam Firych shot.

Stephen Brady was first to head for the physio after just two minutes – it looks like the walk out onto the pitch did the damage to him!

The scoring was opened for Donie’s team by Andy McKenna, who managed to turn in Alan (Jan Molby) Caffrey’s cross into the right goal for a change. From this moment on it was end to end football and Ciaran’s team got the equaliser when Mick Dempsey chipped Eddie from 25 yards. Both coaches made changes as the players were feeling the (snail)pace of the game.

The first bit of controversy involved a disallowed goal as the keeper mistakenly played his kick out to the opposition who promptly scored – Caffo was livid and forced the ref to disallow the goal – there is still discussions on Sky Sports about the decision. There is even talk that the ref will be forced to do LOI games in future!!

As ever Gavin Quinn dives and wins a peno, the ice cool Fran O’Neill (who was awarded the much coveted Golden Boot for his outstanding display) scores and Donie leads 2-1.

The second half kicks off with Mick Dunne going in goal for Donie’s team. 10 seconds later Keith Rooney scores for Ciaran’s team under the body of Mick – immediately Donie calls Mick to the line to add more WD40 to his joints and replaces him in goal with Eddie again. The stats read Mick Dunne *minutes in goal*: 1; *goals conceded*: 1.

After this the goals really start to flow as Caffo scores from 2 yards (he normally misses these ones), Glen Murray equalised to make it 3-3. Adam Firych nets a second for Ciaran’s team and Gavin McCabe equalises again. Then Gavin scores another two as he again breaks through to leave him one on one with the keeper – the third goal was a comedy of errors as Gavin failed to control the ball to start with, only for Jake in goal to rush out and miss it completely leaving Gav with a tap in. Jake blamed the sun in his eyes even though the ball was only 3 feet off the ground – it was a very, very low lying sun that day I believe!!

It’s 6-4 to Donie and he is giving it loads, he’s even encroaching on Ciaran’s technical area and has to be spoken to. Ciaran grabs a goal back as Joe Quinn misses a peno but thankfully, Adam Firych is on hand to score the rebound for his hat trick. With time running out Ciaran tries his famous 1-2-7 formation and it pays dividends as Glen Murray whips over a lovely cross and Git Rogers rises at the far post to head home – cue massive celebrations as the game finishes 6-6. Ciaran’s team narrowly won the resultant penalty shoot-out but the real winner was the game of football - Lar would have loved this game and especially the craic!!

Donie and Ciaran would like to thank all those who took part and contributed to a very worthy cause of St Francis Hospice.

The game is dedicated to the late, great Larry Madden from all at St Kevins Boys, may you rest in peace.

Ciaran’s Team: Jake Rossiter, Joe Quinn, Billy Hyland, Mick Dempsey, Git Rogers, Neil Fox, Graham White, Ger McCarthy, Keith Rooney, Glen Murray, Adam Firych, Brendan O’Callaghan, Tony Dunne

Donie’s Team: Eddie Murphy, Lee Rogers, Fran O’Neill, Stephen Brady, Gavin McCabe, Barney Tully, Simon Quinn, Alan Caffrey, Gavin Quinn, Owen Murray, Andy McKenna, Mick Dunne

SKB Ignore Brexit Boundaries



We were delighted recently to welcome Glanavon FC to play our Under 14 DDSL Premier team in a friendly.

Glanavon are an Irish League club running 20 teams from Under 7s to 17s along with an Under 20s and a senior team. Their current Under 14s team have been on an upward curve in terms of performances over the last few years and this season were promoted to the A Division where they have proved they are more than capable of competing. They are currently 4th in the league and are competing well against a number of more established teams.

Their goalkeeper is with the Northern Ireland Under 15s and in fact was unavailable for this game as he was away at a tournament so both Saints keepers played a half each for Glanavon.

It proved to be an entertaining game as both sides played open attacking football. Glanavon opened the scoring following an uncharacteristic error by the Saints keeper but their lead was short lived as Conan Noonan completed a lovely turn in the area to lose his marker and bury the ball in the far corner of the net. Noonan had been lively throughout the first twenty minutes and an overhead kick by him produced a good save from Evan Murtagh in goal. Just on the break he made it 2-1 with another great finish after Bosun Lawal had fed him the ball.

The second half saw the Saints take more control of the game and they were unlucky not to increase their lead when Roland Banya and Gavin O’Brien combined well but an excellent save by Mark Smith in goal thwarted their effort.

Glanavon defended well and when they broke forward they always looked dangerous, in particular Reece Marshall who was unlucky on a number of occasions not to score. The Saints worked hard and eventually got the breakthrough with half an hour gone as Dan Bivol pounced on a loose ball in the area to make it 3-1. Two minutes later a powerful header by Colin Conroy gave the goalkeeper no chance and the final score ended at 4-1.

It was a good run out for both teams and we hope to enjoy more friendlies against teams from the very competitive Irish League.

We extend our thanks to Glanavon for making the journey and hope they enjoyed the game and the afters in the Clubhouse as much as we did.

SKB are Looking for You!

Want to join the top schoolboy Club in the country? Do you have what it takes to bring players of all grades to the next level? Do you see yourself managing/coaching at the very top level in years to come? Then look no further.

St Kevin's Boys are on the lookout for additional managers and coaches at all levels to help us provide football for as many players as possible from Elite standard right through the grades.

No previous experience / qualifications required – just an appetite for the best game in the world. Send you details to admin@skbfc.com

All interested parties will be Garda Vetted etc in line with appropriate Child Welfare legislation

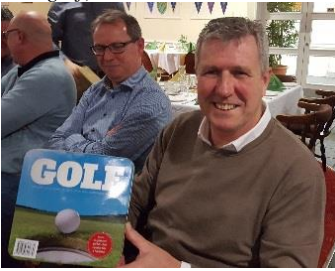
Little Saints Update

Our Little Saints are all back in action every Saturday afternoon and it’s obvious that most of our players were practicing over the festive period.

Can we remind parents to have the players down 15 minutes prior to their game each week and most importantly to tie their laces properly!

Golfers

The December "Turkey Shoot" proved a very popular affair with our St Kevins Boys golfing crew. There was a great attendance on the day that saw the Green Jacket won by Stephen Higgins with a score of something under or over something (*I still don't know anything about golf*).



Dermot Wilkins proudly displays his prize on the "History of Golf" as told by Dermot Wilkins

As it was Christmas all those taking part were the proud recipients of a prize of some sort so nobody went home empty handed. After the golf the group retired to the Beaumont House for refreshments where the ever generous owner laid on some finger food to compliment the beverages.

The first outing of 2017 is expected to be held in March so keep your eyes peeled for the date.

It is always a great day out for anyone interested in golf.

The Saints Lose Another Legend



Maurice Coffey is a name that will forever be associated with St. Kevin's Boys.

In 1960 he was asked by our founder, Fr. (later Bishop) Des Williams, to move with a team from Shanowen Boys to take over the reins in the newly formed St. Kevin's.

From this date until he left the club in the late 1980s Maurice was the heart and soul of our Club.

He organised new managers, ran numerous fund raising events (such as carol singing four nights a week in December, sales of work, raffles, sponsored walks etc.), ordered and distributed jerseys and footballs, started and ran the original mini-leagues in Collinstown, organised the summer road leagues and was the main man who organised our annual two week holiday for over 100 boys (known as camp).

For Maurice St. Kevin's was a 24/7 job (and 365 days a year).

In all of these ventures he was ably assisted by his fellow officers and by the dedicated managers and volunteers in the club. However everyone was fully aware of who drove the agenda and provided leadership and inspiration. The club and all those associated with it and the wider community of Whitehall owe a huge debt of gratitude to Maurice.

He was a dedicated, driven and natural organiser who took our club under his control and grew it from one team to almost forty teams when he handed over control. He was an inspiration and was admired and respected by so many of those who knew him.

Maurice had been unwell and confined to a nursing home for many years. He passed away peacefully on 29th of December last year. He is sadly missed by his family, the many past members of St. Kevin's Boys club and the wider football community.

May he rest in peace.

*Michael O'Callaghan
Chairman, St Kevins Boys*

Snippets

Our Christmas raffle was a great success and we would like to thank everyone that helped out by buying tickets, selling tickets etc. The winner of the raffle was Maura Moore and we sincerely hope your prize went a long way to making it a merry Christmas. The seller of the winning ticket was none other than Chairman of St Kevins Boys, Michael O'Callaghan is there nothing that this man will not do for SKB!!!!



Pictured is Cillian Philips of our Under 8s who was at the Swansea vs Sunderland game in December where he was asked to show off his dead ball skills to the crowds – by the way he scored!

We are delighted to announce that our new Physio is none other than Dr. Anthony Hoban who you might have seen on the front of the Irish Times a few weeks ago. Not only is Anto (as he is better known) a top drawer physio but he also lectures in the College of Surgeons so he might be the man to sort out those old hip and knee replacements that a few of us need!!



Pictured are Ciaran Heffernan and Donie Bermingham with Donna Hyland, niece of the late Lar Madden, and her son Billy Hyland who were delighted to accept a cheque for St Francis Hospice. The monies were raised by all those who took part in the Married vs Singles game on St Stephens Day.



We were delighted to hear that one of our ex-players, Robert Dunne has signed a two year contract with Sunderland.

Robert was with us from Little Saints all the way to Under 16. Over the many years he was with us he was well coached by his father, the great Mick Dunne but the biggest influence on his career was mum, Joan who was his team manager throughout his Road Leagues career. We wish him the best of luck on the next chapter of his career.

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