

Tangerine News

The Newsletter of St.Kevins Boys Club

February 2018

Seniors Shine in Aidans



Following their promotion to the Leinster Senior League Sunday Major Division our Senior team have found the going to be tough. A lack of consistency has seen them languish in the lower part of the league table so their game against Newlands Castlepark, who are level with them in the table, gave them an opportunity to finally put some indifferent performances to bed.

They started the game well and debutante Andy Brennan brought out a good save from the Newlands keeper after just five minutes with a stinging shot from distance. In fact Andy is part of our Under 19s team who stepped up to this level for the first time and we hope to see more of their players being included throughout the season.

Stephen Doyne should have scored a hat trick by the break as he turned the defence inside out with a couple of mazy dribbles but the goalkeeper and the crossbar denied him each time.

With thirty minutes gone Andy McKenna's shot was deflected in the area into the path of Ross Harrison and his strike had goal written all over it but somehow the keeper managed to get a hand to it.

It was proving to be a frustrating night as the Saints totally dominated the game but a stubborn Newlands rearguard constantly denied them. Then just before the break Newlands got a lucky break as a misunderstanding in defence allowed their forward in on goal and despite Darragh O'Neill in goal getting a hand to the ball he couldn't keep it out.

Just on the restart the Saints scored the equaliser. Harrison was fouled in the area and Keith Rooney slotted home the resultant penalty.

Ten minutes later and the Saints were denied a stone wall penalty and we all thought that things were going to go against us.

But halfway through the second half the Saints grabbed the lead as a great passing move involving Harrison and Eddie Rupeiks saw them feed the ball to McKenna as he raced down the left, his low cross into the area was met with conviction by our own Scholsey, Jamie Delaney. A few minutes later and Delaney latched onto a poor clearance, lifted the ball over the defence and Rooney was on hand to blast the ball past the keeper from close range and make it 3-1.

With the game now all one way traffic it was no surprise that the Saints added a fourth goal as Rooney found Josh Peyton in space and his ball across the area was slotted home by Josh Kennedy from inside the six yard box.

It was a result that the team not only needed but thoroughly deserved and if they can build on this performance they will find themselves in the other half of the table in no time.

It was great to see so many of our schoolboy players from over the years involved with this team and it proved yet again that we can provide football for you from 5 to 35 (ish)!!

SKB: Darragh O'Neill, Andrew Brennan, Andrew McKenna, Josh Kennedy, Paddy Ellis, Jamie Delaney, Stephen Doyne, Jordan Farry, Keith Rooney, Ross Harrison, Eddie Rupeiks, Eoin Kinsella, Graham Conway, Josh Peyton, Ciaran Nolan, Ciaran Doyne, Lee Rogers, Gavin Brown

SFAI Cup sees our Teams Progress to Last 16s Round

The last weekend in January saw five of our schoolboy teams take part in the last 32 of the SFAI All Ireland Cups and we are delighted to report that all the teams progressed to the next round of the competitions.

Our Under 11s faced College Corinthians from Cork in Shanowen Road. In what turned out to be a very tight game the Saints came from behind in the dying minutes of the match to force extra time with a Cathal Hickey goal. Still level at the end it was on to a penalty shootout and the Saints progressed thanks to the heroics of Theo Hennessy in goal. The Saints scored all four penalties they were to take but Hennessy saved the first two Corinthians penalties.

Our Under 12s headed off to Kilkenny where they recorded a 2-0 victory over Bridge United with Logan Preston and Mark Tarzan grabbing the goals while the Under 13s ran out 8-0 winners against Aisling Annacotty in Limerick. The Under 14s travelled to Westport and left having beaten local team Westport United 3-1.

In the SFAI Evans Cup our Under 15s faced Drogheda Town in Shanowen Road. As our Under 15s team are involved in the SSE Airtricity U15 League we were forced to field a team made up with players from our Under 13s and Under 14s.



Despite this the Saints put in a fantastic display - when you consider that all these players had played up and down the country the previous day!

The Saints opened the scoring early in the game as Cian Kelly got on the end of a great ball into the box by Jamie Murphy to slot it past the keeper. Halfway through the first half they doubled their lead as a great header from Jamie Murphy was cleared off the line but Evan Ferguson was following up and tapped the ball home.

It was looking like the game was all over but Drogheda had other ideas and by the break they had scored two goals within minutes of each other to level the game at 2-2.

The second half was a very lively affair with the Saints getting a third as Byron Preston and Derrin Adaweale closed down the Drogheda centre half, Adaweale nicked the ball and as the keeper came out he coolly dribbled around him and slotted the ball in from a tight angle.

Drogheda equalised again with just 15 minutes remaining but it didn't last long as Derrin Adaweale was taken down in the area and Jamie Murphy stepped up to score from the resultant penalty.

With just five minutes left the Saints were awarded a second penalty as Jamie Mullins was fouled and again Jamie Murphy made no mistake from the spot to see the game end 5-3.

SKB: Fiachra Pagel, Luke Brown, Chris Moore, David Okagbue, Ben Curtis, Evan Ferguson, Callum Warren, Jamie Mullins, Jamie Murphy, Derrin Adaweale, Byron Preston, Sam Curtis, Billy Gilmore, James McManus, Cian Kelly, David Leonard

SKB/BOHS Link



As everyone is well aware the FAI introduced their National Leagues for Under 19s and Under 17s a number of years ago. At the time we applied to join the Under 17s league and put forward a very strong case. Unfortunately we were unsuccessful in our bid and the outcome for us was to lose all the players from one of our most

successful teams to League of Ireland clubs.

Two years ago it was announced that there would be an Under 15s and later on an Under 13s SSE Airtricity Leagues.

Obviously we knew that we as a Club needed to be involved in these leagues or we would again lose our elite players – players that we had developed from an early age.

There was strong resistance from the League of Ireland clubs to our, or indeed any of the schoolboy clubs, inclusion in these league set ups. We were all constantly told that we had to form an alliance with a League of Ireland club.

Now we were always happy to do this but we still needed to retain the name and indeed the internationally recognised brand that is St Kevins Boys.

We refused to be bullied or belittled by those seeking their own demands. And we watched as some of our great schoolboy rivals over the years disappeared into the League of Ireland structure with no mention of their previous great deeds. When the inaugural SSE Airtricity Under 15s league started up we were selected by the FAI to compete but it was on the condition that we formed an alliance with a League of Ireland team in the future.

We conducted numerous discussions with the various clubs but nothing materialised until our recent discussions with local giants, Bohemians Football Club.

Following intensive negotiations white smoke emerged and I think it is safe to say that both clubs will gain from the alliance.

This season we will have an Under 15s team compete in the National League under the name of Bohemians/St Kevins. The games will take place in Shanowen Road and the team will be managed/coached under a combined SKB/Bohs staff. The team's first kit will be the Bohs iconic red and black stripes jersey with our crest appearing on the sleeves while the second kit will be the Saints famous tangerine jerseys.

Both Clubs feel that this partnership will benefit all of us in the future and will offer the elite players from both St Kevins Boys and Bohemians the pathway to success that is at the blueprint for Irish Soccer. The partnership can provide a seamless path for players from 5 years of age right up to League of Ireland level.

Respect our Facilities

In recent times we have encountered a few issues in our training facilities in St Aidans school that are not in keeping with the exceptional level of good behaviour that St Kevins Boys are known for. So please adhere to the following rules/requests.

Players, coaches and managers must wear moulded boots to enter the all-weather training pitch.

Parents are not allowed into the astro pitch area and should watch the games or training in the general viewing area to the side of the pitch.

Players should only arrive ten minutes prior to training and we would ask those parents dropping players off to drop the players at the entrance gate on Collins Avenue rather than driving in to avoid unnecessary congestion.

Finally, parents or players are not permitted to enter the school itself, the hall or the gym under any circumstances. There is a toilet located beside the dressing rooms at the astro pitch.

Your assistance in these simple rules will help everyone involved.

U11s & U12s Go Head to Head



A large crowd turned on a very cold January night to watch our Under 12s play our Under 11s in the semi-final of the SFAI Regions Cup which was played under lights in St Aidans.

As expected this turned out to be a very entertaining game with both sides playing great football and neither team interested in "parking the bus" and hoping for a break!

The U12s started the game better as they piled the pressure on the U11s rearguard and within 7 minutes had gone 1-0 ahead. Mark Tarzan produced a great run down the right and into the area and his cross was met by Danny McGrath with a clinical finish.

Despite this setback the U11s started to make some ground but they found it difficult to get that final ball through to the forwards.

The U12s should have added to their tally as McGrath headed just wide and Ben Collier's strike from distance brought a great save from Theo Hennessy in goal.

Sean Moore looked like he might get the equaliser for the U11s late in the first half but just as he was about to pull the trigger Scott Brady made a magnificent tackle to deny him.

With half time approaching the U12s added to their tally as again Tarzan put in a terrific cross and Josh Okagbue rose to power the ball home with his head.

The second half saw the U11s up their game as they looked to get on the scoresheet but the U12s defence stood firm and denied them at every opportunity.

At the other end their goalkeeper, Hennessy pulled off two brilliant saves to keep his team in the game. The first saw him somehow deny Tarzan as he managed to push the ball away when he was going the wrong way and the second when he pushed a stinging shot from Ryan Markey off the upright.

The U12s keeper, Ryan Maher also performed heroics as he made a great double save following a goalmouth scramble.

Tarzan got the third goal for the U12s with five minutes left as his powerful header from a corner gave the keeper no chance.

The U11s got a consolation goal with just a minute left as Chris Conlon, who had been excellent throughout managed to steer the ball home to see the score finish at 3-1.

Both teams can be very proud of their performances on the night and in a way it is a shame that this match was not the final of the competition.

SKB U12s: Ryan Maher, Mark Tarzan, Logan Preston, Josh Lyons, Scott Brady, Danny McGrath, Ryan Kelly, Ben Collier, Ryan Markey, Josh Okagbue, Emmanuel Obonsu

SKB U11s: Theo Hennessy, Stephen Brady, Ivan Graminshi, Taylor McCarthy, Sean Moore, Fiachra Coffey, Richie Vodo, Chris Conlon, Andy Paraschiv, James Bailey, Cathal Hickey, Bezalel Gold, Patrick Manning, Aaron Donnelly

St Kevins Boys AGM

The St Kevins Boys AGM will take place on Monday 26th February at 8.00pm in the Clubhouse.

All club members, managers and coaches are asked to attend this very important Club meeting.

Should you wish to put yourself forward to serve on the Board of Directors of the Club please give your name to Brendan Bermingham by Monday 19th February at the very latest.

Welcome from our Chairman



Life can be very confusing. Some of our teams will start a new season in February, some will start in March and some will start in April. Better again some won't start a new season until next September!

In addition our Little Saints Coaching Academy started their new season in January 2018.

Meanwhile our three senior teams will continue to play the old September to May season.

Who is in charge of the asylum?

We extend a warm welcome to all the new players and parents who have recently joined the club. Equally we welcome back those who are continuing to be involved with the club. In particular we welcome the (large) number of new volunteer managers and coaches. It is very encouraging to see so many parents offer their services to assist in running teams.

We wish our departing players and parents "bon voyage" as they move on to play cross channel, or in the National 15s and 17s leagues or for other schoolboy clubs.

This season sees a number of new features.

Firstly the FAI have decreed that all schoolboy leagues must run according to the "calendar season", i.e. they must tie in with the League of Ireland season of (roughly) March to November. However the Dublin and District Schoolboy League do not intend to play much football in the summer months of June, July and August (on the basis that Junior and Leaving Cert exams take place in early to mid-June and players are away on holidays for the other months).

This means most of our teams will play football mainly in March, April, May and then again in September, October and November, exactly the same months as in the old September to May season!!!

The more things change the more they stay the same.

Secondly the all-Ireland SFAI cups are still running on the old September to May season. This means that any new players who join us in January/February will probably be cup tied for the all-Irelands. This anomaly is to be addressed by the FAI who say that the SFAI cups will soon be aligned with the new calendar season. However, for the present, chaos rules with players and managers having to juggle with two different seasons at the same time.

A third change sees St. Kevin's Boys join with Bohemian FC to run under 15 and under 17 National League teams (with under 13s due to commence in a year's time). This was a long time ambition of our Club and was brought about with the support of the FAI and with long and protracted discussions with Bohemian FC. The two teams will be under joint management and will train in St Aidans CBS and play in St Aidans and our own club pitch.

One sad note is the fact that three of our stalwart volunteers have decided to take a sabbatical. Gerry Murtagh has been involved as the lead coach with the Little Saints for 15 years. Joe Quinn has been one of our most successful managers for longer than he cares to remember. Mick McCracken has to step down to save Everton FC (he was appointed as a scout for them). We thank them all for their commitment, enthusiasm and efforts over so many years. Gerry will continue to serve the club as newsletter editor and committee member while Joe and Mick will be very welcome supporters (until they return to the fold with new, enhanced contracts!!)

In conclusion I hope that all our teams have an enjoyable and rewarding season (or seasons) and that the players continue to improve and derive pleasure from playing with St Kevin's Boys, whether they win, draw or lose.

*Michael O'Callaghan
Chairman, SKB*

Little Saints Returns

The Little Saints Coaching Academy kicked off in January with over 130 players involved.

This year the programme is under the watchful eye of Mick Fox.



Mick Fox gives his instructions to the group

The Little Saints is designed to give young players an introduction to the game, learn the basics of the game, develop their skills on the ball, instil in them a love of the game and most importantly to have fun and enjoy playing.

The Little Saints has been running for over 30 years and in that time we have seen thousands of players pass through the programme who have gone on to enjoy playing the game at different levels – some have gone on to play the game professionally both in Ireland and abroad while others have enjoyed playing with our teams all the way up to senior level.

We are very lucky to have a dedicated team of coaches and administrators who are there week in and week out making sure that the players get the maximum benefit from the programme. We always welcome new



Denis Cassidy helps to develop the players skills on the ball

coaches so if you would like to volunteer please let us know. By the way, all our coaches and administrators are volunteers and happily give up their own time to take part in the programme.

We are always particularly keen to get our young players involved in the coaching as it gives them a greater insight into the game and helps with their own personal development so any of our team managers reading this should encourage their players to get involved.

It is important for the players to be there on time for the sessions so we appeal to parents to make sure they are there 15 minutes before the designated time, make sure laces are properly tied and that they have a drink (non-fizzy obviously) with them.

You Are Not Alone



It's great to see some new coaches in the Club especially at our Small Sided Games teams. We know for most that this can be a daunting experience if you have never coached a team previously. Luckily at St Kevins Boys

there are years of experienced coaches who will gladly offer you any advice, hints and tips that can help.

Don't be afraid to ask someone. Thursday nights in the Clubhouse normally sees a good gang of managers and coaches hanging around having a cuppa so it's an ideal time to drop in and get some advice from those who have been around the block a few times.

Another way is to go and take a look at the training sessions of other teams from around the same age group. It's a great way to pick up ideas that you can use with your own team.

And remember you are there to help these young players learn the skills of the game so always look to make it a fun team to be with.

Married vs Singles



The Married versus Singles game is an institution in the St Kevins Boys Club calendar.

The game is always played on the morning of St Stephens Day and in the last few years has taken place on our state of the art surface in St Aidans.

The idea of the game was to get everyone together after Christmas, run off the excess turkey, play a friendly game of ball (regardless of your ability or indeed how many plastic replacement parts you now possess), collect some money for a charity (this year it was the very deserving Peter McVerry Trust) and get to spend a few hours socialising and analysing the game.

Sadly numbers have been falling over the last few years as we all live more hectic lives. We are unsure why the numbers are falling and some suggest that it is the very harsh regime that the Marrieds manager Donie Bermingham exerts over his players.

Anyway the brave souls that turned out had a great time with lots of memorable displays both on and off the pitch. I want to thank Ciaran Heffernan for a minute by minute report on the game. It ended 13 – 10 to Donie’s team – a result that was important for Donie to get back to winning games since he has rejoined the Saints as manager of our Under 16 Premier team.

The “Golden Boot” award was won by Graham White for his outstanding display. Top goal scorer was Gavin Quinn (son of the legendary Joe) with 8 goals (I think) – most people will remember Gavin playing for our Senior team a number of years ago where he regularly banged in goals so it’s good to see he hasn’t lost his touch.

Behind the Scenes



It can be very easy to think that being on the Executive of St Kevins Boys would be all glamour as you deal with international teams, get quoted in the media, rub shoulders with the FAI and other sporting organisations etc. But spare a thought for what happens behind the scenes as we caught Ken Donohue (Director of Football) and Pat Daly (Club Treasurer) sorting out the team jerseys for next season just after

Christmas. This, believe it or not, is an annual task that these two lads undertake as they examine every jersey that is returned to the Club for any damage to the fabric, numbering, crest etc to ensure that our teams are properly kitted out for the upcoming season.

Snippets

Expect an announcement early in February of the teams competing in this year’s SKB Academy Cup. Having heard the names I can safely say that the tournament promises to be an entertaining competition in keeping with previous years.

I can reveal two teams taking part they are St Kevins Boys and West Bromwich Albion!!!

We were all shocked to learn of the illness of Keith Maher. Keith who played for the Saints as both schoolboy and senior player is very seriously ill in hospital and our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends at this time.

Over the Christmas period a few of our teams were asked to take part in a number of prestigious international tournaments.

Our Under 11s were in Barcelona to compete in the Copa Sol while our Under 15s took part in the Villa e Cabanillas Tournament in northern Spain.

These tournaments attract all the top names in Spanish football so it is a great opportunity for our players to test themselves against the best academies in Europe.

Meanwhile our Under 13s are off to Barcelona in February to take part in the International Carnival Cup where their first opponents will be RCD Espanyol.

We would like to wish Brian McCabe a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing him back on the sidelines and training pitches in the not too distant future.

It was good to see the referee at the Seniors match enforcing the SKB footwear policy by asking a few of our club members to leave the astro pitch area – it gave us a great laugh!!

Saints Collect their Silverware



The SKB Trophy Table at our recent presentation

With the change in the season to “Calendar Year” football we found ourselves in the unusual position of collecting a lot of our silverware just after Christmas.

The DDSL Presentation was held in January and a large number of our teams were on hand to collect their league and cup trophies.

These trophies were in addition to the SFAI trophies that we collected back in May.

So in order to honour all our teams we held our own SKB Presentation at the end of January in Parnells. As usual the room was packed with representatives from our teams and Chairman, Michael O’Callaghan was on hand to conduct the ceremonies.

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