

# Tangerine News

The Newsletter of St.Kevins Boys Club

June 2017

## 4 Trophies and a Place in History

St Kevins Boys created their own piece of history in Jackson Park as they competed in and won all four SFAI All Ireland cups for the first time in their history. Our Under 14s were the first to lift the cup as they played Belvedere on the Saturday at lunchtime.



In a very evenly contested first half it was looking like it would end 0-0 but Belvo managed to take the lead with a well taken goal. The second half saw the Saints pile on the pressure as they went in search of the equaliser and it arrived after 10 minutes as a cross by Gavin O'Brien floated over a very deceiving ball and the Belvo keeper landed up in the back of the net clutching the ball. There were protests from the Belvo bench but the referee saw no infringement and awarded the goal. From then on the Saints ran the show and on 20 minutes O'Brien met Roland Banya's cross with a powerful header that gave the keeper no chance. 2-1 and the Saints went searching for more and Bosun Lawal was unlucky as his header grazed the crossbar. The final whistle blew and the Saints celebrated their first All Ireland (Thunder Cup) win of the weekend.

SKB: Mark Smith, Gavin O'Brien, Len O'Sullivan, Ronan Kilkenny, Cian Byrne, Bosun Lawal, Roland Banya, Colin Conroy, Conan Noonan, Aaron Doran, Danny Nurris, Eoghan Heavey, Dan Bivol, Cian Kelly, Jamie Mullins, Sean Grehan, Alex O'Brien, Chris Kenny

That afternoon our Under 16 DDSL Premier team overcame Mervue United of Galway 2-1 to lift the Barry Cup. This Saints team have won the All Ireland on three of the five occasions that they have competed for it.



It has to be said that all the nonsense that you read about Irish players not having technical ability was dismissed as both these teams put on a scintillating display of football. The Saints were 2-0 ahead at half time thanks to goals from Dawson Devoy and Ryan Cassidy but Mervue never stopped playing the ball they like and it paid off in the second half as they grabbed a goal back 15 minutes in. From then on it was a test of the Saints defence who were superb on the day and the Saints looked to play on the counter attack. The Saints went close to scoring from these breaks and it provided the large crowd

with a hugely entertaining end to end game. When the final whistle sounded there was a great round of applause from all there in appreciation for the fantastic game they had witnessed.

SKB: Cian Lacchia, Kevin Mohamed, Brian McManus, Matthew Costello, Luke Kane, Ross Tierney, Brandon Bermingham, Kathelego Mashigo, Ryan Cassidy, Dawson Devoy, Ciaran Behan, Abdul Alama, Donovan Troy, Sean McEvoy, Karl O'Callaghan, Jamie Farrell, Darryl Byrnes, Jack Tynan

Sunday morning saw our Under 12 DDSL Premier take on Shamrock Rovers in the Norton Cup.



From the start the Saints dominated proceeding with Kevin Zefi outstanding in the team. The Rovers defence put in a tremendous display but they were unable to contain Sam Curtis as he powered in a header from a Byron Preston corner to see the Saints finish the first half 1-0 up. Rover grabbed an equaliser early in the second half but the Saints restored their lead through Matthew Anderson and Derrin Adawale was unlucky not to score as his strike came back off the upright. It finished 2-1 to the Saints and a third SFAI cup was destined for our trophy cabinet.

SKB: David Leonard, Matthew Anderson, Sam Curtis, James McManus, Luke Browne, Billy Gilmore, Byron Preston, Kevin Zefi, Daniel Bergin, Conor Rice, Daniel Jeal, Emre Topcu, Derrin Adewale

So the stage was set for our Under 13 DDSL Premier team to cap off a wonderful weekend and win the SFAI Troy Cup.



The Saints knew what was required and produced an unbelievable display against their big rivals St Josephs Boys. They totally dominated the game from the off and would not have been flattered by a higher scoreline at the final whistle. As it was they won the game 2-0 with Alex O'Brien producing a world class strike to open the scoring in the first half and Evan Ferguson completing the job in the second half with a tremendous finish.

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



# Bank Holiday Games in Sunny Ellenfield

The June Bank Holiday Saturday saw three games take place in a sunny Ellenfield Park despite the absence of a number of players from our teams.

Our Under 11-4 play in the DDSL Saturday B League. The start of the season saw them suffer defeats in their first few games and all because although they created chances they were just unable to finish them off.



With their "never say die" attitude they have stuck together and managed to turn that early blip around. In their last five games they have won 4 of the 5, in that time they recorded a superb 4-1 cup victory over Peamount who earlier on had beaten them 3-0. So it was no surprise that they were in confident form in their recent game against Drogheda Boys in Ellenfield Park.

As it was the bank holiday weekend they were without 3 players for the game so it meant there was a general re-shuffle of the team as few players were required to slot into positions they were not overly familiar with. Manager, Wayne Gallagher needn't have worried! By half time in the game they were 4-0 up and a clearly shell shocked Drogheda couldn't wait for the half time whistle.

Dyson Reilly grabbed two goals while Emmanuel Osei Obobso and Miks Balamaks Okenavus both added a goal to the total.

The second half saw Drogheda grab a goal back and give themselves what they thought was a lifeline. But up stepped Reilly again to score his third goal and make it 5-1 to the Saints.

Drogheda were up against it as they found goalkeeper, Ivan Scheffer in top class form. From a Drogheda free kick he tipped the ball off the crossbar and then produced a brilliant double save from point blank range as Drogheda pounced on the loose ball.

With time slipping away Drogheda scored a second but the day belonged to the Saints who are brimming with confidence as they face into their next series of games.

SKB: Ivan Scheffer, Conor Gallagher, Calum Pender, Jamie Gibson, Jack O'Neill, Dyson Reilly, Callum Barkley, Oliver Sherry, Jonathan Kaya, Arijos Vilimas, Emmanuel Osei Obonsu, Miks Balamaks Okenavus

Over on the full size pitch our Under 13-3 who play in the DDSL A1 league faced Donnybrook FC – the previous game between these two teams had ended 6-5 in their opponent's favour so we knew there would be goals.



The Saints were missing a few players but looked up for the game from the start. They created a number of chances early on but failed to convert them and suffered the consequences as a long ball from Donnybrook left their striker one on one against the Saints keeper, Ethan Farrelly who could do nothing about the top class finish.

Billy Houlihan and Gino Cregan tried their best to get the equaliser but Donnybrook got plenty of bodies in the way.

Half time and the Saints were trailing 1-0, but a quick regroup and the instruction that they pass the ball quicker looked to have made the difference.

Unfortunately Donnybrook got a second goal early in the half which knocked the stuffing out of the team and from then on it was one way traffic with Cian Daly and Jack Owens at the back under constant pressure as their opponents seemed to find another gear.

Donnybrook scored two more to win the game comfortably 4-0.

Things will get better for this Saints team once they can convert the chances they create – it will just take time and self-belief!

SKB: Ethan Farrelly, Adam Fitzpatrick, Joshua Mangan, Cian Daly, Jack Owens, Samuel Osei Bonsu, Billy Houlihan, Gino Cregan, Paddy O'Brien, Jamie Elworthy, Daniel Lyons, Gavin Crockford, Tomas O'Rourke, Timmy Akinola

Our Under 13-2 have managed to overturn the bad start they had to their season since May as they have gone unbeaten in all seven games, with five of them being victories.



Saturday saw them face Crumlin United in Ellenfield with a depleted squad due to a number of long term injuries (get well soon Arron Butler and Jamie Browne) and bank holiday absences. So with just 13 players meeting up they started their warm up and suffered another blow as Obinna Mwoke pulled up injured! It was not looking good.

But in true Saints spirits they took to the pitch and completely dominated the game and with just 10 minutes gone they opened the scoring as Peter O'Donnell met a cross from the left perfectly on the volley to smash the ball into the net. Crumlin had no response as the Saints piled on the pressure looking for a second but the first half ended with the Saints 1-0 ahead.

Things didn't get any better for Crumlin in the second half as again the Saints dominated the game with Muiz Shittu in midfield putting in a wonderful display. His perfectly weighted through ball picked out Darragh McGowran coming in on the right and despite the best efforts of the Crumlin defender he slipped the ball past the advancing keeper to make it 2-0.

Crumlin looked to get back in the game but they came up against a very strong Saints rearguard in Eoin Duffy, Kevin Moran and team captain Sadhbh Moran who never gave them an inch and with time ticking away the Saints broke but were unable to add to their tally following a great move.

In the end they were happy to record another victory to see them drive up the table towards silverware.

SKB: Declan Murphy, Eoin Duffy, Sadhbh Moran, Kevin Moran, Darragh McGowran, Sam McMahon, Muiz Shittu, Peter O'Donnell, Nathan Logue, Callum Butler, Tom Cassidy, Josh Kelly, Obinna Mwoke, Sam Callaly, Sean Boyne, Aaron Butler, Jamie Browne

## Summer Leagues are Cancelled

The Summer Leagues (or as they more commonly known the Road Leagues) have been part of the fabric of the Whitehall area for 50 odd years.

The games normally take place during the month of June and were open to players from both St Kevins Boys and any other club in Dublin, including players that normally only played gaelic football for the local clubs.

The intention of the games was always to have some fun in an organised environment and generally that was the case for the vast majority of the games. Back in the 70s and 80s teams up to Under 18 used to compete against each other as they looked to prove that their road was better at football than the road beside them. The older lads would really put it up to each other in the cup finals and at times tempers would flare. Thankfully in the last number of years our younger aged players, while still possessing the competitive spirit which is necessary to play the game, would enjoy the games as they were designed to be played.

In the last number of years the Summer Leagues catered for players from 4 years of age up to Under 13 and as players arrived from areas outside of Whitehall we had teams named "Exiles" who competed with the "Larkhill", "Beaumont" and "Shanliss" teams.

Sadly, this year we will not be in a position to run the Summer Leagues for two reasons.

Firstly, with the change to calendar year football our managers coaches and indeed players have been involved since September 2016 playing games with only a short break before the new style season commenced in March. There is a natural break in the season in July and rather than asking our volunteers of managers, coaches and admin staff to run a competition it was decided to give them a well-earned rest.

The second reason is due to the optics of having players from other clubs compete in a competition that is organised by St Kevins Boys. Previously players from other clubs could take part as the season was complete for whichever club they played for and although the actual trials for teams could not take place until July each year they were able to play in the Summer Leagues as it wasn't a trials type competition.

Since the new season runs from March to October it would be deemed inappropriate to allow players from other clubs take part in our competition for league reasons and we feel that the competition is always better when we have players from different clubs partake. So reluctantly, we have had to take the decision not to hold the Summer Leagues this year – a break from a well recognised tradition!

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## Summer Soccer

We all remember the call for Summer Soccer (or Calendar Year Football as it is officially known) from various clubs around Dublin as they proclaimed it would be better than ever before with us all out in shorts and sunglasses.



The grounds around Roadstone recently

Well spare a thought for our Under 8s and Under 13s who travelled out to Shamrock Rovers new state of the art all weather pitch in Roadstone to find the place waterlogged! They had to exit the area by the golf course next to the ground.

And then the leagues decided that all Under 15s and Under 16s fixtures would be suspended from mid-May to end of June to accommodate the state exams.

Following this decision the DDSL announced that the Under 8s to Under 12s games would cease for July and August and resume in September!!

Summer Soccer??? Am I missing something with these arrangements!!

## Under 9s Hit Galway



The sandwiches and fruit were packed, as were the wellies, brollies, t-shirts and sun cream (typical Irish summers day) as the SKB U9 Reds set off early for Galway on a Sunday morning to test themselves against some top quality Under 10s opposition at the Mervue United Under 10s 7 a side Cup.

The Saints arrived at Mervue's "Fahys Field" at 11am and the crowds had already gathered. The boys had been looking forward to the trip in the weeks leading up to the tournament so the excitement levels amongst the players (and parents) was already high but were even higher once everyone got to the ground and began to sample the atmosphere and take a look around the excellent facilities and set up on show.

16 clubs from around the country had entered. Registration was complete, the teams, fixtures and KO times confirmed. The Saints had entered 2 teams and some excellent teams and difficult fixtures lay ahead. One team were in a group with Roscommon Schoolboys League, Knocknacara, Shannon Hibs and Salthill Devon, while the 2<sup>nd</sup> group were in with Aisling Annacotty, Colga, fellow Dubs Cherry Orchard and the hometown favourites Mervue United. It was 30 minutes to KO in the 1<sup>st</sup> games and the noise and excitement had now been replaced with a little nerves and silence.

After a solid warm up, and a little team talk the boys were ready to go. The crowd clapped the teams on to the respective pitches and after shaking hands with opposition. The referee's whistle blew and we were off.

The spectators saw the tangerine jerseys and crest so were expecting good football. They were not disappointed! The boys (who usually play 5 a side football) adapted to the 7 a side game with ease. The shape was good, the attitudes and work rate were good, and some of the passing moves would not have looked out of place at the Camp Nou. The whispers could now be heard from the side-lines "these boys are only under 9, Wow!".

Both Saint's teams were very competitive in all their games with not more than a couple of goals between teams in each game. Unfortunately, one team bowed out at the group stage but did so with their heads held high. Not to mention a goal of the tournament nomination for an excellent strike by Gareth Hayes.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> team qualified for the quarter finals, winning 3 of the 4 group games, drawing 1 and only conceding 1 goal along the way. They finished in a dead heat with Salthill Devon so a toss of the coin would decide who officially finished top and got the easier road to the final. Salthill won the coin toss. The Saints would have to do it the hard way and would face Dublin rivals Cherry Orchard in the quarter final. The Saints played some excellent football and were just too good for their opponents. Goals from Jack Edgeworth, Sam Rooney and an excellent free kick from Cillian Ryan meant the saints marched on to the semis with a 3-0 win.

The boys came up against an excellent Mervue United side in the semi-final, and it was great to see that the parents and players of our 2<sup>nd</sup> team stayed to cheer the lads on. It was a difficult first half when only some unbelievable saves from Ali Topcu kept the scores level going in at the break. The Saints started the 2<sup>nd</sup> half really well and had some chances but it was Mervue that got the opener. They went on to win the game 2-0 and ultimately went on to win the competition, they were worthy winners.

There was understandably some tears after the game amongst the young Saints, but after some reflection on the performances of both Kevin's teams, and listening to all the complimentary comments of the spectators, not to mention the promise of a Supermacs on the way home, the smiles were back on the faces.

Everyone arrived home safely around 9pm on the Sunday evening, and although exhausted and a little disappointed, a great day was had by all. It was an excellently organised event and it's sure to be an experience that will live long in the memories and assist in the development of these excellent young players. They may not have got the silverware but took all the plaudits for their performances. They did themselves, their parents, coaches and the Club proud.

SKB: Gareth Hayes, Cillian Ryan, Liam Murray, Alex Flynn, Bobby Doyle, Jake Bonnell-Trible, Jamie Brennan, Karl Stenson Browne, Sean Whelan, Marco Lentini, Ali Topcu, Leon Hudson, Sam Kierans, Jack Edgeworth, Max Ferguson, Alex Kelly, Finn McDonnell, Jan Biero, Sam Rooney



## Little Saints

Our Little Saints enjoyed two sessions on the main pitch during May as we moved the games from Saturday afternoon to Friday night. This was done to allow our volunteers go to the cup finals that the Saints were involved in – the SFAI Cup Finals and the Leinster Youths Final.

With the change in the football season for our teams and the fact that we are unable to host the Summer Leagues this year it has been decided to continue the Little Saints until 1<sup>st</sup> July. On that day we will hold our games and presentation.



*The Little Saints and Coaches giving the thumbs up to all Saints doing exams*

The Little Saints will be back on 2<sup>nd</sup> September where we will retain the existing teams until Christmas. This is being done to accommodate the players who are eligible for trials for next season's league teams. We hope you will bear with us as we try and negotiate the choppy waters of the new league arrangements.

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## Nurney Villa Strike Twice

Our Under 17 DDSL Premier played out a cracking game in the Leinster Youths final against Nurney Villa of Carlow but found themselves on the wrong side of a 4-3 result.

Nurney had overcome our Under 18s in the semi-final when they came back from 2-0 down to win 3-2 so they were in confident mood as they faced our U17s.

It was a case of Déjà vu as despite the Saints going into a two goal lead courtesy of Gerard Noone and Jordan Pitshou, Nurney grabbed two goals back before the break to see the teams go in at half time level at 2-2. The second half saw the Saints take the lead again as John Barry's strike found the net. But the lead lasted only five minutes as Nurney equalised again.

Things started to go against the Saints as firstly their goalkeeper, Godfrey Yoro had to be replaced through injury and then Jamie Byrne was harshly awarded a second yellow card.

So going into extra time with just ten players the Saints were unlucky not to win it as Luke Carberry's fine strike was cleared off the line. A minute later and Nurney scored with a long range effort that deceived everyone, including the scorer!

Try as they might the Saints were unable to get the equaliser and the stadium erupted at the final whistle as Nurney won the Leinster Youths Cup for the very first time.

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As the summer beckons and players look to replace the footwear that has served them so well in the last twelve months or more we would ask that if you are replacing your current moulded boots that you donate them

for use for our St Aidans pitch where they can be utilised as spares in case someone needs them. Drop them into the Clubhouse for the attention of Neil Fox.

## Snippets



Last month we spoke of how well four former Saints were doing in Stevenage and we were delighted to see that Luke Wade Slater has just signed a professional contract with the club following a two year apprenticeship. Luke has played for the Saints since he was 6 years old so we are delighted that his boyhood dream has come through.

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It was great to see ex-Saint, Dara O'Shea receive the plaudits and indeed the honour that his ability and attitude deserves as he was named "Best Scholar" at the Premier League Awards Presentation during May. This is a great honour for Dara and is in recognition for the hard work and dedication that he puts into his game both on and off the pitch.

Dara played for the Saints since he was 10 years old and went to West Brom at 17 having won numerous titles and cups in the intervening years. He is a regular part of the West Brom Under 23s team even though he is only 18 so expect to see his name crop up more and more in the coming years.

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*Kevin Zefi who was named Player of the Tournament*

Congratulations to our Under 12 DDSL Premier team who were invited to take part in the Villaret Cup in France at the beginning of June. They were in good company in this tournament that featured Paris St Germaine, FC Nantes, AS Monaco, Fulham and Brighton as well as Cruizeiros from Brazil, FC Bruges of Belgium along with clubs from Switzerland and Finland.

The team won their group games and then went into a three team group to reach the final and a game against French side Rennes, who finally stopped the Saints wonderful run with a 2-0 victory played in 26 degrees heat!!

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We were delighted to see two players from our Under 16 DDSL Premier team compete against each other recently. Ross Tierney



*Ross Tierney*



*Brandon Bermingham*

was called up to the Rep of Ireland Under 16s team and played against his teammate, Brandon Bermingham who was called up to the Northern Ireland Under 16s team.

Brandon, whose dad is from Belfast earned his first call up for the games that were played in Westport during May.

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Finally, congratulations to our Senior Premier team who got promoted to the Major Sunday League after just one season in the Leinster Senior League.

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