

# Tangerine News

The Newsletter of St.Kevins Boys Club

May 2019

## SKB Academy Cup



2019 SKB Academy Cup Winners : Athletic Club Bilbao

Sunshine greeted our 11<sup>th</sup> International Academy Cup over the Easter weekend and the tournament witnessed another Spanish team capture the coveted trophy.

Athletic Club Bilbao along with their colourful and cheerful supporters were the winners over the weekend. From their first game where they led 2-0 within 10 minutes and looked like they might go on to score many more - only to end up conceding two goals and in danger of losing the game - the team looked well balanced to go all the way! And they did this in style with a well deserved 2-0 win over Bayer Leverkusen in the final.

The Tournament kicked off on the Friday morning as our Under 14s faced newcomers Watford. Despite taking the lead through a Jamie Mullins goal, the Saints were defeated 2-1 and faced an uphill battle the following day.

The next game up on the Friday saw West Bromwich Albion take on previous tournament winners Celtic FC. Celtic had the better of the play in the first half but the second half was a different story and West Brom scored the all important goal to register three points.

That afternoon saw Bayer Leverkusen and Watford play out a 0-0 draw that didn't set the pulses racing.

But that all changed when Athletic Club Bilbao (or *Athletico Madrid as Dave announced*) took to the pitch for their opening game. With a cheerful bunch of parents and friends over from Bilbao there was a great atmosphere in Shanowen. Athletic Club Bilbao didn't disappoint as they registered two goals against Celtic in the opening 10 minutes and looked like they would add to their tally.

But credit to Celtic who turned the game around and scored two goals to equalise. If the game was five minutes longer we all thought that Celtic would have won but as it was both teams shared the points.

The following morning Bayer Leverkusen overcame the Saints 3-0 and the game was followed by a thrilling 3-2 win for Athletic Club Bilbao against West Brom.

And so to the semi finals, and first up saw Bayer Leverkusen book their place in the final with a narrow 1-0 win over West Brom. The second semi saw Athletic Club Bilbao overcome Watford by the same score.

Easter Sunday saw Celtic show the crowd why we rated them so highly for this tournament as they completely overwhelmed the Saints 6-1. Believe it or not it was 1-1 at half time but Celtic put in a second half performance that took all our breath away!

The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place playoff game saw West Brom overcome Watford 3-1.

Then it was on to the final as both teams were led out by our Under 8s to a waiting crowd eager to see some quality football. Both Bayer

*Continues inside*

## Seniors Capture League Title



Our victorious Senior Saturday team with their longest serving supporter, Alex McQueen

Our Senior Saturday team won the first Leinster Senior League title for the Saints and first league title for the Saturday side since 2003! In a season that saw the team totally dominate the league and lose only 1 game in the campaign it was fitting that the game against their closest challengers Verona was the one that sealed the title.

The game proved to be the cup final that we all expected as both teams took to the pitch with only one aim – to win the match!

Led by captain, Lee Rogers the Saints never looked to be in danger as they coped with everything Verona threw at them. A draw would have sufficed the Saints but true to their style of play they wanted to win this game and prove to all how good they were. And win they did with goals from Stephen (Twinnie) Doyne and Keith Rooney.

They finished the season two weeks later with a 5-2 win over Dunboyne which saw them end up with a staggering goal difference of 47 goals!

Congratulation must go to all the players who played their part in the league campaign – most of whom have been with the Saints since schoolboy level – some even from the Little Saints Coaching Academy!

*Continues on back page*

\*\*\*\*\*

## Saints Retain SFAI Trophy



Our Under 12 Premier made it back to back wins for the Saints in the SFAI Norton Cup with a well deserved 4-1 win over Shamrock Rovers in the Oscar Traynor recently.

Two goals from Aaron Donnelly and one apiece from Andy Paraschiv and Bezalel Agbontaen sealed the win for the lads.

## Under 12s Get their Win



Our Under 12 Major 1 team have been playing really well since the beginning of the season but without getting the rewards their play deserved. Having drawn four of their previous games and losing two they were beginning to wonder would their luck ever change.

Thankfully it did in their recent game against Dalkey that was played in Shanowen Road where they finally got the win they were looking for.

A blustery wind didn't help either team in the first half and the only real opportunity came when John Robertson broke down the right and played a great cross in to Dylan Conroy whose strike brought out a top class save from the Dalkey keeper.

The second half saw the Saints look to break the deadlock but they were caught by a quick counter attack that saw Dalkey take the lead. The Saints dusted themselves down and took the game to their opponents.

A well rehearsed corner kick whipped in by Kyle Burke found Paul Foley at the back post and he rose higher than everyone else to head home the equaliser.

The Saints didn't have long to wait for their second goal when a break down the left by Kyle Mooney found Nathan Tracey who pulled the ball back to the edge of the box for the normally right footed Thanos Nikolopoulos to rifle his shot home with his left to make it 2-1.

Dalkey looked to get back in the game and put pressure on the Saints back line but couldn't get past a solid Zach Conway and consistently strong Evan Redmond and when they did Charlie Gibney in goal did his job brilliantly.

The Saints created a number of chances to add to their score with great work from Eugene Tarzan and Andy Caswell in the middle of the park but Dalkey did well to repel them.

Onwards and upwards for this great side for the rest of the season. SKB: Charlie Gibney, Zach Conway, Evan Redmond, Eugene Tarzan, Andy Caswell, Kyle Mooney, John Robertson, Kyle Burke, Nathan Tracey, Paul Foley, Thanos Nikolopoulos, Dylan Conroy

\*\*\*\*\*

## Darkness into Light



A large number of Saints recently took part in the annual Darkness into Light walk in aid of Pieta House in both DCU and Clontarf in memory of the late, great Paul

Smyth. Well done to everyone who took part and raised funds for a very deserving charity.

## SKB Academy Cup (continued)



*The two finalists being led out by our Under 8s*

Leverkusen and Athletic Club Bilbao did not disappoint in that respect as they produced a cracking game of football.

The Spaniards proved to be the better side as they went on to win the game 2-0 with a cracking goal from Player of the Tournament, Alemu Plazaola Pereira making sure of the win.



*Some of our Catering Crew who rarely see daylight!!*

The presentations were made on the pitch in the glorious sunshine and well done to those involved in getting the stage erected so quickly. Both Bekir Gediktas of Bayer Leverkusen (*not Bayern Munich, Dave*) and Lewis Dobbie of Celtic shared the "Leading Goalscorer Award". Derin Adewale was named St Kevins Boys Player of the Tournament while his teammate, David Leonard was awarded Goalkeeper of the Tournament.

When the teams departed the tired volunteers went about the unenviable task of collecting rubbish, stacking chairs, dismantling



*The volunteers get fed and some words of encouragement from Karl*

marquees, washing up, cleaning kitchens and generally getting the Clubhouse back in action before heading for a few well deserved refreshments in the Kilmardinny Inn.

Most people are unaware of the commitment from our people who put this

tournament together and spend long hours over the Easter weekend in and around the Club making sure that everything goes smoothly. In fact it is these volunteers that make sure that we all, as part of St Kevins Boys continue to do this on an annual basis. The stories and yarns that happen over the few days are recounted endless times from year to year.

As ever this year Shadow found himself at the centre of a round of applause when he showed up in his customary late position citing he needed a lie in! Lauren will never announce to Tony Bolger that she is heading for a "comfort break" (to the toilet!) as he decided to share it with every one of us "Wash your hands Lauren!"

Dave Furey made us all howl with his pronunciations of the Spanish and German players. In fact at the presentation one of the players didn't even recognise his own name when it was announced. Joe Quinn continued to drain the Clubhouse of tea as he drove the bus and we had to remind Donie not to accept Leap cards.

So my thanks to everyone who volunteered and made sure that everyone went away with a new found respect for St Kevins Boys. Finally thanks to the CES lads who work in the Club on a daily basis for always being there to do whatever is requested.

## U17s Lose out in FAI Youths Cup Final

A goal from a corner in the first half was enough for Blarney United to lift the FAI Under 17s Cup and break Saints hearts in Dalymount Park.

Despite dominating possession throughout, the Saints were unable to break down a very solid Blarney team who worked hard to frustrate the Saints.

From the start the Saints looked the better side as they passed the ball well around the pitch and some lovely touches from Dylan Brooks and Dylan Kelly made us feel that this would be the Saints day.

But too often the final ball went astray or the strike was off target and failed to trouble the opposition net-minder.

Blarney used the strong wind to great effect and their keeper's kicking landed in the Saints area every time throughout the first half. One of them left the Blarney forward in on goal but his shot went wide of the post.

A corner on 32 minutes saw Blarney take the lead with a powerful header and the Saints were left chasing the game. This goal allowed Blarney to launch a number of counter attacks but thankfully Ross Leonard in goal was a good match for anything that came his way. The second half was only a few minutes old when the Saints had the ball in the net but it was ruled out for a foul on the keeper.

Then Killian Philips let fly from a corner but the goal-bound effort struck a Saints player – we should have known then that it wouldn't be our day!

The Saints continued to take the game to Blarney and Philips had two strikes from distance that went narrowly wide. It was Craig Braddell that brought the best out of the Blarney keeper with a stinging shot from 30 yards that the net-minder managed to tip over. Despite the number of corners that the Saints won they never managed to threaten the goal and there was a general feeling of disappointment amongst the Saints supporters at the lack of ideas from set pieces.

With ten minutes remaining the referee dismissed three players as the game got overheated. Two of the Blarney players were sent to the line and one of the Saints.

Then with just minutes remaining the Saints put the ball in the net and the referee pointed to the centre circle but the linesman flagged and the referee instead signalled for a free out – cue pandemonium both on and off the pitch!

On the final whistle there were more ugly scenes on the pitch and suffice to say that this game will not go down in any records books as a classic.

Congratulations to the winners on the day Blarney United.

SKB: Ross Leonard, Andrew Malone, Taylor Dolan, Adam O'Brien, Jack Tynan, Cian Woodlock, Jack Halligan, Clinton Eluka, Killian Philips, Callum Ridgeway, Craig Braddell, Dean Paget, Dylan Brooks, Dylan Kelly, Jake McEvoy, Liam McNamee, Ben Maguire, Sean Larkin

The Saints have a chance to bounce back from this disappointment when they face Freebooters FC in the final of the Leinster Youths Cup in Kildare on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May – all support will be most welcomed.

They managed to reach this final following a dramatic semi final against Larkview. Finding themselves 2-0 down after just 20 minutes the Saints rallied and goals from Craig Braddell and Callum Ridgeway levelled the tie. Late in the second half the Saints were reduced to 10 men but held out to bring the game to penalties.

The Saints were clinical with their spot kicks and with goalkeeper, Ross Leonard saving the opposition's first penalty and watching their third go wide it was time to celebrate another final appearance.

## Saints in UK Tournament



*Our Saints in Oakham*

Our Under 9s, 10s and 11s all took part in the prestigious Oakham Tournament in April. This was the second year that we have taken part in this tournament but this year we opted to bring three of our age groups.

There are a number of prestigious teams in this tournament with the likes of Manchester United, Wolverhampton Wanderers, Leicester City and AFC Wimbledon all sending their Academy teams. Indeed St Kevin's Boys were the only non-English team invited to this tournament.

It took place in the scenic town of Oakham in East Midlands, which revolves around the very exclusive Oakham boarding school where all the teams were housed.

The playing facilities as well as the organisation of the tournament were 1<sup>st</sup> class.

This was a fantastic 3 days of football, the Under 10s and Under 11s had positive results against Manchester United and the Under 9s put up a great showing in what was their first trip away.

The rules of the tournament were different to what we have here for the Small Sided Game. There is no retreat line and the off side rule applies at all age groups. This was a steep learning curve for the players to get used to but one that once they did they thrived in playing with "real football" rules.

It is vital going forward, that the players are exposed to as many of these tournaments as possible as it shows the level they need to aspire to as well as the required standard of opposition they need to be playing against on a regular basis.

All coaches involved made reference to how much they learned over the few days and this will be hugely beneficial to the player's development going forward.

Overall it was a great experience for everyone involved with plenty of positive comments from both opposition teams and the organisers on the performances of the Saints teams both on and off the pitch.

\*\*\*\*\*

## U13s Saints DDSL Success



Six of our Under 13 Premier team were involved with the DDSL who captured the SFAI Inter League championship – congratulations to Richie Vodo, Taylor McCarthy, Ivan Gramminschi, Chris Conlon, James Bailey and Sean Moore.

## SKB Internationals

Congratulations to Under 14s Premier team captain, James McManus who scored on his debut for the Republic of Ireland Under 14s in their game against the Netherlands.



We had four players from our SKB/Bohs team involved with the Under 16 Republic of Ireland team that took part in the UEFA Development Tournament in Israel. Gavin O'Brien, Colin Conroy, Robbie Mahon and Evan Ferguson (pictured celebrating his goal against Ukraine) all did themselves proud with Evan netting 2 goals and Robbie one

goal over the 3 games.

Former SKB player Sean McEvoy was our sole representative in the recent Euro Under 17s Tournament hosted in Ireland. Unfortunately for Colin O'Brien's team they were unable to progress to the later stages following three draws and huge frustrations at contentious refereeing decisions.

\*\*\*\*\*

## The Times they are a Changing (again for schoolboy football)

We were delighted to see the majority of the DDSL voting to finish the current league campaign in June and to recommence the football season from the beginning of September, in the way that the traditional football season ran.

We, as a Club were never in favour of this idea of calendar year football citing the many problems that it would bring. In particular the idea of trials for young players at the worst time of year, December. We also had the total confusion of players being eligible/ineligible for the national cups due to the cups being run from September to May and the schoolboy football season from March to September.

At the time we pointed out that the core difficulty with the scheme was that come June to the beginning of September there would be difficulty with player availability due to holidays and clashes with other sports. In fact this difficulty coupled with teams disbanding after the summer where results had meant they had nothing to play for was one of the key reasons for the vote from the clubs to change back.

At a vote the previous week the NDSL had also voted in favour of the change back. A number of years ago they had also trialled the calendar or Summer league and found it to be unworkable.

The FAI had promoted this idea despite evidence to the contrary and advice on the outcome and had decreed that by 2020 all leagues would be calendar year football.

The Carlow league recently voted against the proposal and the Cork leagues look like they will follow suit. The Leinster Senior Leagues members and Wexford leagues were all opposed to the idea also.

It remains to be seen if the FAI and Rudd Dokter in particular agree with the will of the football leagues and revert to the September/May season.

## Snippets

We were all deeply saddened to hear of the recent passing of one of our former Clubman, Charlie Batten. Charlie was a wonderful vibrant character to have on your sideline and a popular figure around the Club – always had a smile on his face. Over many years along with his good friend, Mick Quinlan he ensured the Saints added to their silverware.

\*\*\*\*\*



Some of you may recognise Jennifer Fox who helps out with our Little Saints Coaching Academy every Saturday. But what most of you won't know about our very talented Jennifer is that she has been selected to represent Ireland in kickboxing at the WAKO European Championships in Hungary at the end August/beginning of September. We wish her the best of luck at the tournament

\*\*\*\*\*

I can't believe the SKB Golf Outing scheduled for Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May was cancelled due to the lead organiser Bren Bermingham being unwell! I seem to remember his brother, Donie taking over the reins in Bren's absence previously in what was hailed as the best golf outing ever!!

\*\*\*\*\*

Speaking of Donie I hear there was a great turnout (replacement limbs and all) from lots of the old St Kevins Boys third team recently. We didn't hear if Donie went through his description of the match winning goal on the night – but we're fairly sure he did!

\*\*\*\*\*

## Seniors Capture League (continued)

Special mention must go to veteran striker, Keith Rooney (pictured) who bagged 32 goals this season including three hat tricks! Keith is that very rare player who you just know will score in every game.



Finally a mention to Sota Kawasaki who having finally got his International Clearance went on to make a major impact on the team before returning to his native Japan before the season ended. (*We know you're reading this Sota, cheers for everything*).

Meanwhile, our Senior Sunday team are still in the hunt for promotion from the LSL Major Sunday League and have just booked their place in the final of the LSL Kevin Nugent Cup with a magnificent 7-2 victory over

Ballyfermot United in the semi-final. Four goals from Josh Peyton, two from Ben Donohoe and one from Jordan Cromwell saw them totally dominate the game as they put in a scintillating display in St Aidans. They face Larkview in the final in Westmanstown at 7.30pm on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May.

Get along and support the Saints in their bid for more silverware.

### HOW TO CONTACT US

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

Telephone : (01) 8374411

Fax: (01) 8570121

Email: [admin@skbfc.com](mailto:admin@skbfc.com)

Website: [www.skbfc.yourclub.ie](http://www.skbfc.yourclub.ie)



@fckevins



st kevin's boys club