

Tangerine News

The Newsletter of St.Kevins Boys Club

September 2019

A 50th and a 1st as Saints Dominate Internationals

We were delighted to see Jeff Hendrik reach the milestone of 50 Senior International caps for the Republic of Ireland in the game against Switzerland in the Aviva stadium recently.

Jeff along with Robbie Brady played all their schoolboy football with the Saints and we always believed they would both go far in the game and star for the national team.

Jeff left us at 16, having won every honour available at schoolboy level to join Derby County and within a few years was getting game time with their first team under the guidance of Nigel Clough.

When he finally nailed down his regular starting position with the club, Burnley along with a number of others started to take a keen interest in him.



Jeff in the 2007-2008 League Winning team

Since 2016 he has been a constant in the Burnley first team where he has helped maintain their position as a Premier League Club in what is seen as the toughest league in the world.

The following Tuesday saw another ex-Saints win his first Senior International cap for the Republic of Ireland as Jack Byrne finally got the recognition that his talent deserves.

Coming on as a substitute after 60

minutes Jack was his usual confident self as he passed the ball around the pitch and constantly looked to be involved in the play. He had a hand in the two goals that helped the team to a 3-1 win over Bulgaria.

Jack was another player that played all his schoolboy football with the Saints – in fact he started off in the Little Saints!

It was obvious from a very early stage that Jack Byrne was a special talent and that his talent would take him far. Sure enough at just 16 he joined Manchester City where none other than Patrick Vierra reckoned he was the most outstanding young player he had come across.



Jack Byrne receiving the Player of the Tournament award in the 2009 Academy Cup

Unfortunately, as can happen in football different moves failed to make the most of his immense talents and despite always being a crowd favourite at first Cambur in Holland and then Blackburn Rovers, Wigan, Oldham and Kilmarnock in Scotland before joining Shamrock Rovers this year.

This last move has allowed him to show the natural talent that he possesses and he has been instrumental in Rovers rise in

fortunes. His eye-catching performances have not gone unnoticed as he has been awarded the Airtricity League's Player of the Month Award for both March and July as well as being called into the Senior International panel by Mick McCarthy.

Just like Jeff and Robbie we always believed Jack would gain the international recognition that he deserves and after seeing him run the show against Bulgaria we expect to see a lot more of him in the years to come.

Who knows with the way our ex-players are performing at youth international level we could be fielding a predominately Saints Republic of Ireland team in years to come!!

Welcome to the New Season



As a new season dawns, we extend a warm welcome to all our players, coaches and parents. In particular we greet all those who are new to the Club. After a few turbulent years this season sees a return to a normal football calendar (September 2019 to May 2020). Our Club always felt that the football season should tie in with the school calendar.

Thankfully this is now the case.

Unfortunately our SSE Airtricity Under 13, 15 and 17 sides, run in association with Bohemians FC, still run on the March to November calendar. This causes a huge degree of conflict with the bulk of our teams but it is a matter over which we have no control. In addition we still have the huge problem of the gap years, i.e. where will the Under 14s and 16s play. The recent proposals by the FAI are certainly not the solution.

Hopefully by the time this issue of the Tangerine News goes to print our new all-weather training pitch and the new car park surface at the Clubhouse will be completed. These developments do not come cheaply, but represent our intention to maintain and upgrade our facilities wherever possible.

Can I make an earnest request to our parents to respect the time, effort and dedication of our coaches. These coaches are volunteers who deserve our support and praise for the great work they do. Before you criticise a coach ask yourself if you are prepared to match their devotion to looking after young players.

I trust everyone will have a pleasant, enjoyable and sporting season, win, lose or draw.

Michael O'Callaghan,
Chairman, St Kevins Boys

Seniors See Off Home Farm

Our Senior Saturday team defeated Home Farm 1-0 in the second round of the Leinster Senior League Ryan Cup in the AUL recently. This was the first time that the Saints have met their local rivals at senior level in over 30 years in a competitive game.

A penalty awarded after 20 minutes for a foul on Gavin Harney raised our hopes of a goal but a good save by the keeper denied Keith Rooney.

Five minutes later and Rooney opened the scoring when he raced onto a through ball and calmly slotted it past the advancing keeper. Despite the Farms best efforts they were unable to get an equaliser and were grateful to their keeper who managed to deny Rooney on three more occasions in the second half.

So it's on to the next round for this superb team.

Meanwhile our first team have started well in the Intermediate divisions of the Leinster Senior League. Following promotion to the Sunday Senior Division 1B League they have recorded three wins, a draw and only one defeat while scoring 21 goals in total!

Recently they faced Verona and found themselves level 2-2 at halftime but whatever was said at the break worked as they ran out comfortable 6-2 winners in the end.

This season also sees the Club enter an Under 19s team in the Leinster Senior League which will provide us with a pathway for our schoolboy players to progress to the senior teams in the years to come.

Saints Advance in SFAI Cups

With the season only a week old we were surprised that the SFAI cup games had already started.

With the calendar year football finally scrapped by the DDSL it means that the current football season runs in line with this very important national cup competition. Throughout the last 15 years the Saints have had a very good record in reaching the finals, and indeed winning them in the SFAI cups at all ages. Previously we have had two of our own teams contest the final itself.

This success was exemplified in the 2016/17 season when we captured four of the five available All Ireland trophies as our Under 12s, Under 13s, Under 14s and Under 16s were all successful.

Since the DDSL changed to calendar year football, as proposed by the FAI, our teams have suffered as the SFAI competition remained as September to May season. This meant that come the "new" league season some of our players that started the competition could be gone to another club and we would have signed new players who in turn were now cup tied! This led to our teams being weakened for the later stages of the competition which left us at a disadvantage. So the competition begins and over the weekend we had six teams compete in the various SFAI cups and were delighted to see five of them advance to the next round. Our Under 13 Premier recorded a very well deserved 4-0 win away to Malahide while our Under 12 Premier recorded an emphatic victory over Dundrum Athletic.



Our Under 12 Premier team with Mark & Karl Keogh

The 12s dominated this game, played in Shanowen Road, from the kick off and it was no surprise that they went on to win the game easily with both Harry Wynne and Shay Casey recording hat tricks on the day.

Some of the play from the Saints was just top class with all the players comfortable on the ball and constantly looking to get the ball forward at every opportunity where they were clinical in front of goal. Their general awareness of where their teammates were and their unselfishness in front of goal speaks volumes for the players' vision and attitude. When they didn't have the ball the entire team worked hard to win it back.

As a team performance it was top drawer with players being played in different positions as the game progressed and great credit is due to the management team of Karl and Mark Keogh who have certainly taken this team to a new level. Well done to all involved.

SKB: Kian Keogh, Leon Laban, Jamie Fields, Jan Biero Tello, Bobby Malone, Rhys Cullen, Tom Lacey, Harry Wynne, Cillian Ryan, Shay Casey, Jamie Fields, Karl Stenson-Browne, Liam Murray

The following day proved to be a good day in St Aidans where our Under 12 Sunday booked their place in the next round of the SFAI Norton cup with a terrific win over Lourdes Celtic.

They were followed by our Under 16-3A who recorded a tremendous win over Beechwood in the SFAI Barry Cup while our Under 16-2 also booked their place in the next round of the same cup with a 2-1 win over Celbridge Town.

Our Under 15-2 Saturday team lost out to a very strong Cherry Orchard team in the SFAI Evans Cup away from home

SKB/Bohs Defeat the Kingdom

On the same day that the Dubs recorded their five in a row in Croke Park our Under 15s SSE Airtricity team saw off the Kerry League team with a very strong display.



Having lost to Shamrock Rovers during the week at a packed St Aidans this was a must win game and the SKB/Bohs team started with that intention visible for all to see.

It took just 5 minutes to open their account as Jamie Mullins received the ball on the edge of the area, made space for himself and placed a left footed shot into the top corner.

Kerry grabbed a goal back a few minutes later as a cross into the box wasn't dealt with and left the opposition with a free header.

From then on the Saints upped their game and on 25 minutes made it 2-1 with Josh Dunne playing the ball to Callum Warren on the right at the edge of the area before continuing into the area to meet Warren's returned ball on the 6 yard line and power a header home.

A few minutes later and Sean Grehan who was very impressive at the heart of the defence played a great ball from the back to Odhrán Lawlor and he played a through ball into the path of Dylan Simpson who slotted the ball past the advancing keeper from just inside the box to make it 3-1.

Then just before the break Grehan made it 4-1 with a powerful header from a corner.

The second half saw the Saints make a number of changes but the substitutes kept up the tempo and but for the Kerry goalkeeper and the upright they would have added more to their tally. In fact one lovely piece of footwork by Mullins on the halfway line where he left two players in his wake before feeding the ball to Jakub Bassinski deserved a goal, but the upright came to the opposition's rescue.

As it was they had to wait until nearly the final whistle before adding a fifth goal when a cross from Chris Lotefa was met with a header by Evan Harte but the keeper managed to push it away only to see the ball fall to Bassinski who kept his cool to take a touch before dispatching it to the bottom corner.

SKB: Fiachra Pagel, Kieran Mitchel-Lees, Cian Kelly, Sean Grehan, John Finnerty, Odhrán Lawlor, Callum Warren, Brandon Nangle, Dylan Simpson, Jamie Mullins, Josh Dunne, Chris Lotefa, Somtochi Agbaje, Evan Harte, Jakub Bassinski, Dawid Biernat, David Okagbue, Evan Ferguson

The Airtricity leagues finish up at the end of October and will hopefully see our SKB/Bohs teams lift plenty of silverware.

Our Under 13s finished top of the National League Group 2 and are through to the semi-final of the League cup where they will face a team from Group 1 while the Under 15s finished second in the National League Group 2 and qualify for the semi-final where they will face either Dundalk or St Pats with both of these games due to be played on the weekend of September 29th.

Meanwhile our Under 17 SKB/Bohs team are through to the Mark Farren Cup final where they will face Kerry FC and they also have just two games left in their Northern Elite League where we expect them to qualify for the knock out stages.

The Under 19s will face PAOK of Greece in the opening round of the UEFA Youth League and they are also hunting a double as they are in the final of the Enda McGuill Cup and are running away with the U19 Northern Elite Division League.

In Profile

We felt it was fitting to feature the Saints most prolific goal scorer in our first In Profile. Despite reaching a very significant birthday this October (*think Teddy Sheringham*), Keith Rooney continues to



defy the ageing process as he consistently records over 30 goals per season with our Senior Saturday team.

We have yet to find out what it is that drives Keith season after season to play at the consistently high level that he does rather than electing to play at a slightly slower pace but as long as he keeps wanting to push himself and bang in the goals we are delighted that he doesn't look to take a step back.

Name: Keith Rooney

Age: Not tellin' ya!!!

Occupation: Warehouse coordinator in DHL Ireland

How long have you played for St Kevins? I have played with St Kevins Boys for 16 years on and off

What other clubs have you played for and what made you join the Saints? I've played with two other clubs - Whitehall Celtic & Sandyhill Shangan. The set-up of the Club from the coaching staff to the excellent facilities was what prompted me to return to the Saints. The new astro pitch we have in St Aidans is great.....but I miss playing on the grass in the Clubhouse - maybe Ken might let me have a testimonial on it when I hang up the boots!!

Is there any position that you hated playing over the years? There hasn't been many over the years, I have always been a centre forward. There was a few times that I've played leftside of midfield but it's not good for the legs at my age.

What has been your most treasured playing moment? I'd say it was the Myles O'Neill Cup Final against Kilbarrack a few years ago on a lovely Friday evening in the AUL. We had a great team at that time (Saturday team) we went 1 nil down and I thought we are going to get bashed as they had 7 or 8 of their first team playing that night - but that didn't happen as we pulled one back and then we got number two. So we went in 2-1 at the break. Soon as the second half started we got number 3 inside 10 mins and then we got numbers 4 and 5! I came off with about 30 mins to go happy with the effort I and the team had given so far. I got Man of the Match that night with one goal and three assists for the night having won the game 5-1.

What trophies have you collected over the years? I have collected a few trophies over the years from Players Player of the Year awards, a few Golden Boots awards, LSL Major IB League Winners medal and a few Managers' Player of the Year awards. And then the ones you hate the runners up medals!

Who's the biggest joker on the team? I'll get back to you on that one!
Who has been the biggest influence on you over the years? I would have to say my Ma. When I was growing up she would always try to keep me on the straight and narrow - sometimes it worked and sometimes it didn't! I could be in a different place only for my mother.

How much time per week do you devote to the club between training and games? At my age now the managers let me do training once a week for an hour and a half and I try to do a bit of running in my own time. Match days we meet way too early (GALLY KNOWS WHAT I MEAN) ha ha - on a Saturday it's about 5 hours for an hour and a half game HA HA HA HA.

What is your main method of relaxation? Just sitting down at home playing with the kids and walking the dog or watching the TV.

Favourite team, and if you were manager what change would you make? Liverpool and there's nothing to change at the moment. They're going good in the league so please God no player will pick up a knock and be out for a bit. Hopefully we can go a step further this year and win the leaguefingers crossed!!!!

Saints 14s Open their Account

Our under 14 DDSL Premier team kicked off their season with a well-deserved 5-0 victory over Stella Maris in St Aidans.



Our Under 14 Premier with coaches, Paul Bassett, Marcin Kowalczak, John Behan and Brian Culligan

The game had only kicked off when Richie Vodo and Bez Agbontaen conspired to get a shot on target which the keeper did well to hold on to.

But within the first 10 minutes all the pressure paid off as the Saints went a goal up. Andy Paraschiv delivered a great ball into the box and Agbontaen was on hand to bury it in the back of the net.

Two minutes later and the upright came to Stella's rescue as again Agbontaen and Vodo combined well.

On 20 minutes Agbontaen was again causing mayhem for the Sella defence as he raced onto a through ball, his shot was blocked but Sean Moore was on hand to score and make it 2-0.

The Saints were dominating the game so much that Stella had their only real shot on goal after 30 minutes with a free kick that Theo Hennessy in goal collected easily.

The second half continued with the Saints enjoying the better of the play and the Stella keeper made two smart saves from Chris Conlon and Agbontaen again. Conlon wasn't to be denied and on 12 minutes he latched on to a through ball and, despite being under pressure, showed great composure to slot the ball past the advancing keeper into the bottom corner to make it 3-0.

Halfway through the second half and James Bailey added a fourth as he was put through on goal. By this time Stella were completely shell shocked and with Andy Paraschiv putting in a top class performance in midfield they were unable to hold onto the ball.

On 30 minutes the Saints wrapped it up with a fifth goal as the Stella keeper made a rare mistake and played the ball directly to James Bailey who was delighted to accept the gift and the opportunity to add a second goal to his tally for the day.

At the other end the clean sheet spoke volumes for the hard work put in by Taylor McCarthy, Ivan Gramminschi, Fiachra Coffey, Lucas Kane and Jayden Keavney who ensured that Hennessy had a quiet day.

SKB: Theo Hennessy, Taylor McCarthy, Ivan Gramminschi, Fiachra Coffey, Lucas Kane, Sean Moore, Richie Vodo, James Bailey, Bezalel Agbontaen, Chris Conlon, Andy Paraschiv, Callum Willoughby, Aaron Donnelly, Jayden Keavney, Pat Manning, Basangur Gashaev, Rocco Byrne, Jao Pedro Vieira

City Boss Meets Saints?



We were delighted to see the legendary Pep Guardiola take some time out to meet our Under 13s on their recent visit to Manchester City stadium. He had obviously heard all about these lads and SKB!

SKB Internationals

As well as our players lining out for the Republic of Ireland Senior team we have had a number of players lining out for the international teams at youth level.

The Under 21s that have won their first three games under new manager Stephen Kenny featured Darragh Leahy and Dan Mandriou of Bohemians, Dara O'Shea of West Brom, Gavin Kilkenny of Bournemouth and Kameron Ledwidge of Southampton.



At Under 17 level Colin Conroy, Evan Ferguson, Bosun Lawal (Watford), Robbie Mahon and Gavin O'Brien have all played a starring

role in Spain in their games against Russia

Evan Ferguson was also involved with the Rep of Ireland Under 16s where he was joined by Sean Grehan, Jamie Mullins and Cian Kelly as they took part in a mini series of games against England and Denmark in St Georges Park in England.



Kian Lacchia made his debut for the Rep of Ireland Under 18s recently where he starred alongside Jack Funge and Thomas Considine.

It was a particularly proud moment for Kian and his family who have worked hard

to get to this stage. Onwards and upwards Kian!!! So the future is definitely looking bright for both the Saints and the Republic of Ireland.

14 Major Lose out at Home



Our Under 14 Major with coaches Wayne Gallagher and Patsy Browne

Our Under 14 Major suffered a shock defeat in Shanowen against Greystones United. Missing a peno in the opening minutes didn't auger well for the day and despite going two down they managed to get the score back to 2-2 but Greystones scored twice against the run of play and added a fifth in the dying seconds to see the Saints lose 5-2. It's a long season so we don't expect this setback to affect their search for silverware come May.

SKB: Matthew Harris, Gerard Crawley, Nathan Maguire, Emmanuel Osei Obonsu, Sam Doyle, Jack O'Neill, Evan Reel, Kuba Laton, Sergej Orlenko, Reece Rodrigues, Niks Balmaks Okunevas, Dayne Dunne, Charlie Duffy and Filip Mudrecki

Snippets



We were delighted to see Gavin Kilkenny (pictured) starting to make the breakthrough at Bournemouth. Gavin is an exceptionally talented young player who graced the Saints teams throughout his schoolboy years before joining Bournemouth.

He played in the club's Carabao Cup game recently against Forest

Green where the team were eventual 3-0 winners. So we're looking forward to seeing more of him in this competition as he gets his first real taste of senior football.

Meanwhile, Dara O'Shea continues his steady progress at West Brom where he has made a number of starts for the club and his solid performances suggest we will see a lot more of Dara in the future.

His involvement marks the first breakthrough of a Saints player with West Brom with whom we have enjoyed a very strong relationship over the years.



You might remember back in May we spoke about Jennifer Fox, who assists with the Little Saints, being selected to represent Ireland at the WAKO European Championships in Hungary. Well our Jennifer only went and came 3rd winning a bronze medal at the championships on her first visit.

It was remarkable to see Evan Ferguson play for Bohemians against Chelsea during the summer in their friendly game.

Evan, who is still only 14 years of age, is a great prospect to the Club where he has been since Little Saints so to see him go toe to toe with some of the stars of the Premiership was a very proud moment.

Little Saints Returns



Our Little Saints returned during September to the delight of both the players and the coaches – and a big welcome back to Ayo!

The Little Saints provides an introduction to the game for children between the ages of 4 and 8 and takes place in the Clubhouse every Saturday afternoon from 1.30pm onwards. If you would like to register please contact the Club for details or come along on the day.

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