

DELIVERING THE YOUTH STRATEGY

FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT



Foundation



Irish FA Foundation Fun Day

The Irish FA Foundation was officially launched with a community fun day on Saturday 3rd June at The National Football stadium.

Around 4000 people came along on the day and enjoyed a range of fun activities for all ages.

Over 300 were able to get a visit to the Education and Heritage Centre with many others experiencing the dressing room and tunnel area where their heroes emerge. They could then get their picture taken with Michael O'Neill on the bench.

On the pitch throughout the afternoon were representatives from all sections of the foundations programmes. Disability clubs, girls clubs, boys clubs, Back in the Game, Street Soccer, Business League, World United and refugee programmes all had a turn playing on the hallowed turf.

This was a fantastic launch of the foundation and feedback from the whole football family who attended and were able to enjoy the stadium. It is hoped this can become an annual event.



Recruitment and Retention

During May/June Recruitment and Retention has:

- Organised and delivered the first ever Irish FA Foundation Corporate Business league which finished with a finals day at the National Football Stadium at Windsor Park during the Irish FA Foundation Launch. Over 80 players took part in the league giving them the platform to play the beautiful game and enjoy the benefits that this brings.
- Been involved in the organisation and delivery of the Irish FA Foundation Launch at the NFS at Windsor Park which showcased the wide and varied work that the Foundation does.



On-going work:

- Construction of a Good-Practice Charter for private soccer companies delivering in schools.
- Development of education programme.
- Organisation of summer multi-sport holiday camps and TBUC camps.

Club and Community Development

The Irish FA Club and Community Development Officer (CCDO) has worked closely with clubs to proceed through the McDonalds Clubmark. 4 Clubs resubmitted folders over the past month with 3 clubs achieving the standard and therefore being awarded the accreditation. This recent surge of applications is encouraging and it's a testament to the work being done by the CCDO and the other development officers within Grassroots, Women's, NIFL and disability football in Northern Ireland. The CCDO has set ambitious targets to be achieved in 2017 in terms of clubs achieving Clubmark and Advanced Clubmark across all levels of the game.

The CCDO has continued touring the country delivering sessions to clubs across all levels of the game with a view to upskilling the coaches and players, as well as offering club development support to the club. This process will ensure clubs are aware of the support on offer and who they should contact for assistance. The clubs to benefit from these sessions to date vary greatly from NIBFA clubs to NIWFA and Amateur league clubs.

The CCDO, with support from the Football Development Manager, the Female Domestic Officer and the Youth Development Co-Ordinators has been working hard to develop NIFL Premier League clubs in the male and female game. This work is ongoing and has already seen huge progress being made both on and off the pitch within some of the IFA's largest and highest profile clubs. To highlight the progress being made to date a large number of these clubs have submitted folders for Clubmark with a few being recently awarded the accreditation.

Schools' Football

Primary Schools Finals

Kings Park primary school from Lurgan has done the double this year in our national competitions. The school first won the national five-a-side competition at the Valley Leisure Centre defeating Buick PS in the semi-final and Holy Cross 2-1 in the final to lift the trophy. The team then travelled to Allen Park, Antrim a week later to compete in the national seven-a-side tournament where they remained undefeated and lifted their second trophy of the year.



School Quality Mark

Congratulations to Dundonald Primary School, Orchard County Primary School, Seagoe Primary School and St Columb's College who have all completed the school quality mark accreditation.

Seagoe Primary school in Portadown are the first primary school in Northern Ireland to achieve the school quality mark. The School's Head of Football Stephen Calvert was delighted that the hard work the school puts into extra-curricular activities is now being recognised, "The Irish FA recognised our determination to involve as many boys and girls in football as we could. We are in support of the Irish FA's Let Them Play campaign and believe in giving children the opportunity to have fun and be active through football. Ross Redman was a great support throughout and offered guidance every step of the way. We are very proud to have achieved the Silver Award as it recognises the commitment and enjoyment of football in our school."

Rood Wit tournament

On Friday 26th May 2017, the Northern Ireland U10 Player Development Team travelled to Holland to compete in the Rood-Wit International U10 tournament. Based just outside of Amsterdam, the Rood-Wit tournament is one of the most prestigious youth tournaments in Europe with the likes of Real Madrid, Ajax, Liverpool and Arsenal all in attendance.

Playing conditions were difficult as temperatures soared up to 34 degrees but the Northern Ireland players stood up to the challenge and opened the tournament with a superb 1-0 victory over PSV Eindhoven. Narrow 1-0 defeats to Paris St Germain and West Ham United followed but the players competed so well in both matches in what was an even contest. West Ham eventually finished the tournament as runners up losing on penalties to Real Madrid which proves that the Northern Ireland players were a highly talented group of individuals and very competitive against Europe's finest.

Impressive performances continued over HB Koge of Denmark and Bavel of Holland as consecutive 3-0 victories were secured. The glamour tie of the round followed as Arsenal were next up for Northern Ireland. The boys dominated the match and created lots of opportunities but just couldn't find that clinical edge to get the decisive goal but a 0-0 result against Arsenal was excellent and each player should be very proud of themselves.

Schools' Football (continued)

The German heavyweights were next up in the shape of Red Bull Leipzig. A keenly contested affair ended 0-0 as both teams were very sporting and defended resolutely. Once again, we proved we can match up with the very best teams in Europe. Dutch team NAC Breda followed and an inspirational performance secured a 2-0 victory for Northern Ireland.



Northern Ireland had one of the best defensive records in the tournament conceding only 5 goals in 11 matches which helped the team go on a six-match unbeaten run. Finishing a respectful 14th out of 24 teams was a success and every player should be extremely proud of their performances. Competing against the very best teams in Europe and matching them on ability is a huge achievement and something the players will always remember. A fantastic learning experience for all players and no doubt will help in their development as a person and player.

Northern Ireland Boys' FA

Activity for for season 2016/17

- Affiliated members rose by 5% to 1340 teams
- Associated playing members now approximately 21,500 reflecting the 5% increase in team membership
- 540 teams participating in the NIBFA knock out cup competitions maintaining the record entry of 2015/16
- Administration of the NIBFA National League with some 130 teams working closely with Club NI to coordinate fixture programmes
- Assisting affiliated leagues with player registration and support for disciplinary matters
- Promotion of Irish FA Coach Education programmes and offering subsidy to successful candidates/clubs
- Support and promotion of other Irish FA departmental activity to NIBFA membership
- Record entries for the NIBFA Mallusk small-sided games festival with 136 teams and some 1400 children U8 - U11 inclusive
- Advice and information to leagues, clubs, players and parents

On the football front there was a particularly successful season for Linfield's youth teams winning several of the awards on offer in season. Not to be outdone Glentoran have an excellent U13 side which forms the backbone of the Club NI team at that age, while teams from Beragh Swifts, Annalong, Mountjoy and the Ballyhalbert areas had terrific runs in the NIBFA Cup they show that NIBFA Membership and association football is thriving across Northern Ireland.

Northern Ireland Boys' FA (continued)

For the record

NIBFA National League Winners

Premier Division	First Division	Cup	Plate
		U12 Linfield	U12 Tristar Boys
U13 Glentoran	U13 Cliftonville	U13 Glentoran	U13 Derry Colts
U14 Linfield	U14 Foyle Harps	U14 Linfield	U14 Dungannon United Youth
U15 Linfield	U15 Carrick Rangers	U15 Linfield	U15 Glentoran
U16 Linfield	U16 Warrenpoint Town	U16 Portadown Youth	U16 Coleraine Academy
U17 Linfield	U17 Knockbreda	U17 Glentoran	U17 St. Oliver Plunkett

NIBFA Cup Winners

9 a side

U11 Cup	Glentoran
U11 Plate	Oxford United Stars
U12 Cup	Lurgan Town
U12 Plate	East Coast Strikers

11 a side

U12 Cup	Linfield
U13 Cup	Linfield
U14 Cup	Portadown Youth
U15 Cup	Linfield
U16 Cup	Coleraine Academy
U17 Cup	Linfield

DB Champions Cup (Cross Border NIBFA National League Winners v ROI National Cup Winners)

U13	Glentoran
U14	Dungannon United Youth
U15	Linfield
U16	St. Kevin's

Subway All Ireland Inter League Challenge Cup & Plate

U13 Cup	Dublin & District Schoolboys League
U13 Plate	NIBFA National League
U15 Cup	NIBFA National League
U15 Plate	Dublin & District Schoolboys League

Other participants were Derry & District Youth League, Mid Ulster Youth League, South Belfast Youth League, Donegal Schoolboys League, Mayo Youth League, Athlone Youth League and Sligo/Leitrim Youth League



Foundation



Hughes Insurance

Hughes Insurance Irish FA Summer Football Camps

Applications are coming in for the Hughes Insurance Irish FA Summer Football Camps which will be held in over 50 locations across Northern Ireland.

The five day camps will take place throughout July and August following on from record participation figures in 2016, which saw over 8,400 children take part in football, disability football, multi-sport and goalkeeping camps over the entire year. Camps are open to children aged between five and 13 years of age and early indications is that this year will see even larger numbers attending.



Back in the Game

Back in the Game regional festivals continue to take place across Northern Ireland with more teams being formed and receiving kits. Glebe Galacticos will receive their newly badged kit this month and on 12th June enjoyed a tour of the Irish FA Education and Heritage centre after they attended a mental health workshop in the stadium.



Disability Football

Coach Education

Irish FA Level 1 Coaching Disabled Footballers Award delivered to 22 coaches at Stranmillis University College

Irish FA Level 2 Coaching Disabled Footballers Award delivered to nine coaches at Stranmillis University College

Tandem Young Coach Education delivered to 12 coaches at Stormont Playball, in partnership with Scort Foundation and Queens Park Rangers.

Competition

16 June 2017

Walking Football National Championships

Olympia Leisure Centre, Belfast

Two age brackets – Over 50s & Over 60s. Seven walking football clubs involved

Development

Meetings with Belfast Frame Football, Crusaders FC & Ards Rangers FC about starting disability sections. Belfast Frame are already operational. Ards Rangers have a Down Syndrome group already operating and Crusaders will start the disability section in September 2017.

Hot Wheels Powerchair Development Day

Hot Wheels Powerchair Football Club Development Day took place on Saturday June 17th at the Torrent Complex, Donaghmore, Co. Tyrone.

Players from existing clubs Belfast Trailblazers and Lisburn Lightning played an exhibition match to show the new players at Hot Wheels Powerchair FC the official game with AIPF Referee, Keith Boylan. The new players then tried this exciting sport for the first time with eight players enjoying the experience.

Disability Sport NI supported the event by providing support staff and lunch for all participants and their families.

Hot Wheels Powerchair Football club will launch in Donaghmore in September 2017.



Football and Social Responsibility

Placement Programme Education

In our Let them Play strategy the Irish FA committed to delivering 40 structured works placements per year. As we come to the end of the academic year our placement programme has grown massively increasing our numbers having already facilitated 60 placements in 2017. Staff and participant feedback has shown the mutual benefit the programme offers for students and the Irish FA.

Rachel Millar from The Royal School Dungannon completed a placement with our disability team and offered an insight into the benefits of our placement programme:

“I had a very enjoyable day on 12th June at the Irish FA office working with the Disability Football Development team on event planning. Before this I did not know much about disability football in Northern Ireland and so it was great to find out just how many people and events are involved. I was given the Irish FA Disability Action Plan for 2016-2020 and it was very interesting to see the number of teams, competitions and coaches that are involved.

I found the atmosphere to be very friendly and I was made to feel very welcome from the moment I arrived. I really enjoyed working alongside Nicola Gorman, the placement student. I enjoyed seeing how to contact clients both over the phone and by email and it was good to be able to talk to her about her placement year and both what she studied for her A Levels and what she is currently studying at university. What was probably the highlight for me was helping Nicola to contact teams about the upcoming Walking Football event. This was a great experience for me because I gained some experience in customer relations.

I also enjoyed hearing about some of the previous events such as the Irish FA Fun Day and previous football tournaments that Alan Crooks, the Development



Manager for Disability Football, and Nicola had organised and the amount of work that goes into planning them. There are so many events being planned at the same time and this showed me that for event planning, good organisational and time management skills are essential to get everything organised in time for upcoming events.

It was really interesting to hear from Alan about the disability teams he is involved with and also the Special Olympics. I enjoyed hearing about the Community Cup and how much planning was needed with 72 teams taking part from all over the UK and it was also good to hear about opportunities that teams have such as going to Argentina to play. I also heard about the upcoming event The Hot Wheels Powerchair FC Open Day and this was a sport I did not know much about and so it was really good to learn about it.

I would like to pursue a career in marketing and after spending the day with Alan, Nicola and the Irish FA office staff, I have begun to consider event planning as a career option because it involves marketing as well as so many other interesting aspects. I like that there is a mix of both being in the office and out at events and the variety that this offers really appeals to me. I would strongly recommend this opportunity of work experience to other people because I felt that it gave me a great insight into sports event planning. This was a great opportunity for me as sports marketing is an area that I would be interested in having a career in.

I am really excited about the opportunity that I was offered to come back in my final school year to do further work experience. Thanks again to all who helped me to have a valuable work experience day.”

For more information on any of the programmes above please contact Health and Education Officer, Sarah Keys – sarah.keys@irishfa.com or Diversity & Outreach Officer Andy Waterworth - andy.waterworth@irishfa.com

Football and Social Responsibility (continued)

Education

As we continue to deliver the Let them Play strategy our work with education partners is essential in achieving many of our objectives. Partnering with the Open College Network has enabled the Irish FA to become an accredited learning centre. In May we were externally verified by OCN giving us a direct claims status so that we can now certify all our OCN programmes inhouse. All participants from our March Programmes successfully completed the OCN Level 2 Football Administration course. Throughout the summer we are delivering a further football administration course within the Female Football Leaders Programme.

To further the reach and impact of our education programmes we have partnered with Northern Regional College to create a bespoke programme. This exciting new course, will provide students with the knowledge and skills to gain employment in a wide variety of sports careers, in particular, the football industry. In addition to completing the Level 3 Extended Diploma in Sport students will also acquire a variety of Irish FA qualifications.



Mental Health

The Irish FA is committed to promoting positive mental health, we continue to engage with a variety of mental health agencies to ensure the message is widely circulated. In June we partnered with Action Mental Health when we brought a men's group to the National Stadium to take part in a mental health workshop followed by a tour of our education centre.

If you have a club or community group who would like to take part in a similar programme please contact the IrishFA Education & Health Officer - sarah.keys@irishfa.com

Stay Onside

The second Stay Onside programme working with PSNI, PBNI, YJA and the prisons service took place in Ballymena. The programme ran over 12 weeks and all seven participants graduated with a Level 1 coaching badge.



The Beautiful South

The second edition of the Irish FA community newsletter The Beautiful South was delivered to residents living around the National Football Stadium. The newsletter informed residents of upcoming matches and events at the stadium as well as covering the continued work being carried out throughout Grassroots football and Football For All.

The events team held a large number of community days in the local area. We've also supplied Irish FA staff and equipment to 27 clubs and organisations to help them deliver their own programmes.

Futsal

Northern Ireland recorded their first ever international futsal win with a 1-0 victory away to San Marino on Sunday 14 May.

Ciaran Donaghy's 57th second goal gave Northern Ireland the perfect start in what proved to be a physical game.

Both team's started quickly but it was Northern Ireland who took the match to their opponents.

James Gould came close to doubling the visitor's lead on four minutes, only to see his shot hit the post, while a well-worked corner routine saw Conor Glenholmes get a shot away only for Elia Cecchetti to make a great save on eight minutes.

Seconds later San Marino came close to scoring with a freekick routine that was saved by Philip Irvine.

San Marino started the second half brightly and kept possession of the ball well.

On 26 minutes Cecchetti made a double save from Craig Taylor and Ernestas Verenka, before Danilo Busignani saw his shot blocked by Gould.

Northern Ireland continued to soak up the San Marino pressure and tempers started to flair as both teams looked for a goal.

San Marino reverted to playing with a fly goalkeeper in the last five minutes as they pushed for an equaliser but Northern Ireland sat deeper and saw out the game to clinch a well deserved victory.



Refereeing

The summer continued with several referee workshops for Grassroots referees at regional Level. Over 550 referees have now attended a workshop on safeguarding, report writing and updates to the new laws of the game. Workshops continue in July.



A first meeting of the NIFL Women's Premier League panel took place in May 2017 – they looked at several clips based around the women's game, had a seminar with Women's Domestic Manager Gail Redmond and worked on aspects of teamwork. There was also a day long seminar for assistant referees at PIL level as we move to recruit more assistants at this level.

Keith Kennedy officiated his first Under 21 Qualifier between Lithuania and Faroe Islands. He was joined by Stephen Donaldson, Gareth Eakin and Steven Taylor.

Girls' and Women's Football

Girls' Regional Excellence

The Girls' Regional Excellence programme continued with a number of the 04, 05, 06 and 07 development squads playing a number of boys' teams over several weekends as part of the Friendship Cup in Greenisland. The games proved to be very beneficial to the girls and staff alike and were great learning experiences against good boys' teams.

The 03 development squad travelled to Sweden to take part in the Leonard Johansson Trophy. This was the first time that a girls' squad from the excellence programme had taken part in a tournament in Europe and it was one in which they really benefitted. They played against Stabaek (Norway) 0–1, B93 (Denmark) 0–0, Espanyol (Spain) 0–5, HJK Helsinki (Finland) 0–2; Lierse sk (Belgium) 2–4. The girls gained a great deal by playing against teams from four different countries. The experience will certainly benefit them in their future careers and give them an early benchmark of other girls at their age.



International Women's Football

The U16 Girls Development squad took part in the UEFA U16 Development Tournament hosted by the FAI in Mayo. Because of a clash with exam dates the squad travelled with 10 players missing but this gave others the opportunity to gain international experience. With a number of the U15 Bob Docherty squad playing, the results were ROI 0–6, Norway 0–4 and Lithuania 3–0.

Launch - Every Body Active 20/20

Every Body Active 2020 is a four year lottery funded programme aimed at getting people more active more often through sport and physical activity in Northern Ireland. The Irish Football Association is delighted to work in partnership Belfast City Council and Sport NI. Our aim is to strengthen Women and Girls Clubs in the Belfast area by providing a mentor coach to assist in promoting the club on and off the field.

To date we have seven clubs in the programme: Albert Foundry, CSP, Cliftonville, Crusaders, Linfield, Glentoran, Rosario.

Development through structured coaching

This week Stevie Graham held a 45 minute coaching masterclass at the Mallusk game centre giving coaches the opportunity to gain insight into structuring sessions for their teams.

The session which was focused on the development through structured coaching had 3 key objectives:-

Developing a session; objectives, problems and solutions;
long term development.

