

DELIVERING THE YOUTH STRATEGY

FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

January 2019



Foundation

*Serving the community
through football*



Education and Employability Programme

In December we completed our second Goals programme. 17 participants graduated (eight female and nine male). The participants gained a number of qualifications such as Grassroots Intro Award, Coaching Disabled Footballers Level 1, Futsal Intro Award to name a few. Some of these participants have went on to join our volunteer team with the hope of gaining more experience.



Graduates of the GOALS programme



Level 1 participants at Larne High

Our schools programme continues to go from strength to strength with Larne High completing their Level 1 in November. The programme is continuing in the NRC Colleges, St Louise's and St Malachy's. We also have a number of schools starting the programme in January such as Rathmore, SRC, SERC and Boys Model.

Our Belfast Get Active nutritional programme is now well under way. Over three sessions 277 young players from all over society have benefited from a nutritional workshop, stadium tour and a practical football session at Olympia Leisure Centre. This will continue in the new year with four more days planned.



The Get Nutritional programme at Olympia Leisure Centre

Community Sports Development

Celebration Of Achievement event

The Celebration Of Achievement event was held in the Titanic Quarter on 28 November and led by Volunteer Now with Ulster GAA, Irish FA and Ulster Rugby being delivery partners.

100 volunteers were recruited primarily from the 45 clubs most engaged on the Sport Uniting Communities programme. Also recruited for the evening were participants and graduates of the Youth Leadership Programme (Sports Leaders Awards presented on the night).

11 Clubs from Ulster GAA were represented with Michael Hasson (Ulster GAA President) and Mattie Donnelly (Tyrone GAA Captain) as guest speakers.

Eight Clubs from the Irish FA were represented with David Martin (Irish FA President), Amber Dempster (Northern Ireland Futsal International) and Bill Anderson (Institute FC Chairman) as guest speakers.

Five clubs from Ulster Rugby were in attendance with Stephen Elliot (Ulster Rugby President).

Craig Gilroy (Ulster & Ireland rugby player) and Don Gavigan (City of Derry RFC Coach) were also guest speakers.

The Goldmark event was the second of the major events of the 2018. It was widely attended by people from across the province.

Schools' Football

Post Primary Futsal

Regional post primary futsal tournaments were held across Northern Ireland in October. Over 1500 school boys and girls competed in six competitions with the winners booking their place in the National Futsal Finals in the Shankill Leisure Centre on Wednesday 14 and Thursday 15 November. The biggest regional tournament was the girls' futsal tournament held in Lisburn LeisurePlex with 33 teams competing at year nine and year 11 age groups.



In the year nine semi St Columbanus ran out 2-1 winners against OLSPCK with Bloomfield beating Bangor Academy 2-0. Bloomfield would go on to defeat St Columbanus in the final to book their place in the National Finals. In the year 11 St Colmcilles overcame OLSPCK 3-2 on penalties while Laurelhill A defeated Laurelhill B in the other semi finals. St Colmcilles showed their class in the last match of the day defeating Laurelhill 3-0 in the final.



The National Post Primary school Futsal Finals were held in the Shankill Leisure Centre on Wednesday 14 and Thursday 16 November with over 30 teams qualifying from regional tournaments across Northern Ireland. There were five regional competitions for girls and four boys with 124 schools attending and over 1000 participants.

In the final it was Boys Model Belfast and St Cecilia's College Derry who showed their futsal pedigree by being crowned champions at both year nine and year 11 in two very competitive tournaments. In the girls' competition St Cecilia's fought off close competition in St Louise's, Kilkeel High and Mercy College but were well worth their status as national champions in the year nine competition. In the year 12 competition it took penalties to clinch the school's double in a very close game against St Joseph's College, Belfast.

In the boys section Boys model defended their year 11 title with a convincing win over a resilient Ballyclare Secondary whilst their year nine team played out a very tight and tense final against local rivals Ashfield Boys. The two teams could not be separated in normal time and it took penalty kicks for the North Belfast School to claim their second trophy of the day.

Girls' 11 aside

The final tournament of this year was the girls' 11-a-side which showcased the best girls schools football talent in four regional tournaments across Northern Ireland. This tournament gives girls under 15 the opportunity to compete in 11-a-side games whilst also teaching rules and tactics within the game. This year a record 31 schools attended the girls regional competitions with over 500 participants in a very successful week.

The first regional tournament this year was held in Valley Leisure centre with last year's finalists St Louise's narrowly defeating Mercy College in a penalty shoot out to clinch the first spot in the national finals. In the second heat of the week St Cecelia's College Derry fresh from their victory at both the year nine and year 11 National Futsal Finals delivered again winning a very strong heat by defeating St Brigids in the final.



Last year's winners Holy Cross were victorious in the Omagh heat for the second successive year going undefeated against very good opposition in Aghnacloy, Cookstown High, Castlederg and Royal School Dungannon.

The final heat of the week was the biggest of the regional tournaments with 14 schools vying for their place in the finals, school completed their group games with the top four proceeding to the semi finals. The first semi final St Joseph's Belfast produced a fine display to overcome Banbridge High whilst Laurehill defeated a resilient St Colmcille's side. The final could not have been closer with the schools deadlocked after normal time and still could not be separated through five penalties, however, it was Laurehill who finally secured their place in the national finals winning 5-4 on penalties.

School Quality Mark

The School Quality Mark accreditation is part of the Irish FA's Let Them Play strategy which strives to improve schools football in Northern Ireland. The role of the School Quality Mark is to revamp schools football, create and improve structures and further build capacity for football in schools. Some of the key areas that are set out in the accreditation are school governance and management, further games development, duty of care and female participation. School-club links will also form a major part of the School Quality Mark as it is key for pupils to be given a pathway from schools to local club football. The project has been delivered in 34 schools with Irish FA staff providing mentoring, coaching and workshops with the aim to develop schools football and teachers who give their time to manage school teams. The most recent school to be awarded was Maine Primary School who achieved the bronze Schools Quality Mark with the assistance of Irish FA primary school coach Damian McLaughlin.

Grassroots and Youth Development

Club and Community Development

In December our Club and Community Development Officer Gavin Nelson delivered Club Promotion Workshops in tandem with Ulster GAA and Ulster Rugby as part of the Department For Communities programme.

These workshops took place at the Kingspan Stadium in Belfast and Drumragh Sarsfields G.A.C in Omagh. The evenings were attended by a mixture of football, rugby and gaelic clubs at both venues.



On the evenings the content included marketing fundamentals for professional and amateur clubs as well as a session on how to use the power of video to engage your community.

Brian Kirker from 22nd Old Boys FC also shared his story on how his club promotes mental health throughout the community using many different mediums such as social media, traditional marketing and events.



McDonald's Grassroots Football Awards

In November 2018 the McDonald's Grassroots Football Awards returned to Belfast City Hall and heralded the beginning of an exciting forward-looking new four year contract with McDonald's Football UK.

A record number of 320 nominations across six categories again highlighted the tremendous efforts of local volunteers who continue to provide football opportunities and quality coaching.

This year, women's and girls' football was in the spotlight through the efforts of Elaine Junk, who became the first woman to be shortlisted for the People's Award. To top this Elaine also became the first woman to win the prestigious public vote award.

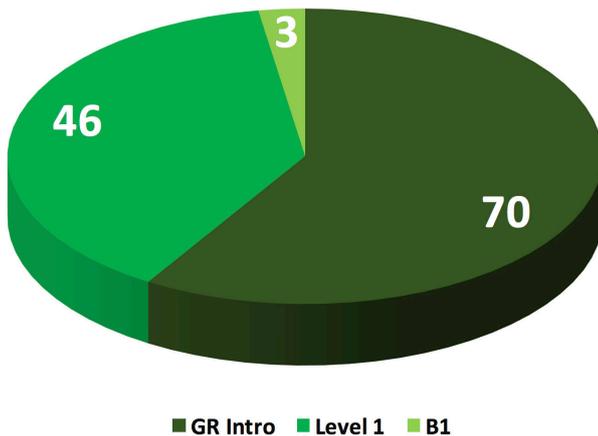


Elaine Junk accepts her award from Pat Jennings

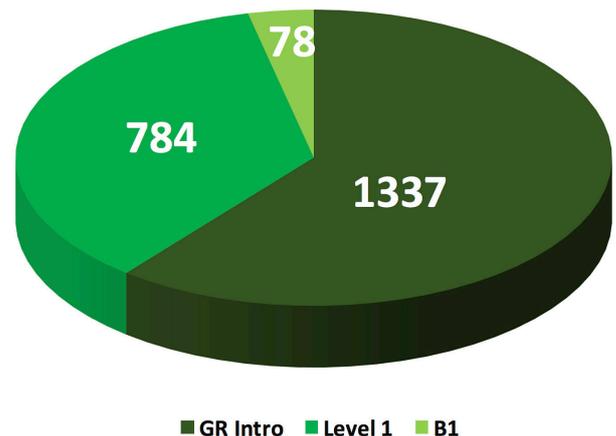
Coach Education

The Irish FA ran more Coach Education courses in 2018 and enjoyed an increase in the number of participants compared to the previous year.

Number of courses in 2018



Number of participants in 2018



Stay Onside

In 2018 the Stay Onside team have delivered the following:

- **HMP Maghaberry** - three Intro courses (46 participants) in partnership with DOJ and NIACRO
- **HMP Magilligan** - one intro and one Level 1 Course (22 participants) in partnership with DOJ and NIACRO
- **Hydebank Wood College** - one intro (eight participants) in partnership with Start 360 and DOJ
- **Shannon Medium Secure Clinic** - one intro (eight participants) in partnership with DOJ and the Health Trust
- **Ballymacash Rangers** - one Level 1 qualification (15 participants) in partnership with PSNI and PCSP

In 2019 we are committed to:

- **HMP Maghaberry** – two Intro and one Level 1 course
- **HMP Magilligan** – one Intro and one Level 1 course
- **Hydebank Wood College** – two intro courses – one female and one male
- **Belfast City Council** – one Level 1 course
- **ABC Council** – one Level 1 course

Four tournaments in partnership with Kick Off@3 (an organisation engaging minority and BME communities using football) and the PSNI Centre

Girls' and Women's Football

Shooting Stars

The Electric Ireland Shooting Stars Programme has had 73 girls aged 4-7 across four new centres take part in the first six week block. With block two starting in January we hope to grow the number of girls at each centre as well as setting up three new areas. To help promote the programme we delivered four weeks of afterschools to 206 girls from P1 to P4 as well as 555 girls attending our festival days in schools.



The seven centres will start on the week beginning 21 January 2019.

Antrim: Antrim Forum

Bangor: Aurora Aquatic & Leisure Complex

Belfast: Olympia Leisure Centre

Dunganon: Dunganon Leisure Centre

Downpatrick: Downpatrick Leisure Centre

Dungiven: Dungiven Sports Complex

L/Derry: Foyle Arena

www.irishfa.com/shootingstars

Female Football Leadership Programme

The Female Football leadership programme is in its sixth year. We have 12 participants pending graduation this January with special Key Note speaker Sara Booth MBE

Level one Coaching Course for Female Clubs

In partnership with CSBI and Everybody Active 2020 we had 16 coaches (10 male, six female) from female clubs in Belfast complete the course at Blythe Field.

Girls' Regional Excellence

The Girls' Regional Excellence programme in December came at the end of a very busy and encouraging year. In November the final inter-regional day of the year took place at MUSA with an excellent turnout of players enthusiastically supported by parents and family. Again the standard of play continued to improve with some outstanding performances by all of the regions at the various age groups. To help local club coaches a masterclass for strength & conditioning was put on in the Northwest with a number of the exercises demonstrated and explained to the coaches.

A staff CPD day was held in December with an outstanding session on scanning/awareness/vision presented by Phil Melville demonstrating new ideas of games using various types of bibs with and without numbers and letters. This was very interesting and gave the coaches a number of new ideas on how sessions can be presented. The afternoon was then used to outline strategy, future planning and team building, brilliantly led by Michael Cooke and Les Dewart.

The year ended with the highest number of girls in the programme since we launched it in 2006, the most sessions ever and for the first time a full set of age specific development squads.

Women's International

After a busy October with all of the UEFA qualifying games, the International programme eased down with the players all being given a few weeks off to rest after a very busy year. However the break was ended with fitness testing for all of the squads with individual programmes issued to all of the girls, highlighting they need to work on over the next few months.

Elite Performance Academy

The students continued to attend the early morning sessions in good numbers and all of the players were screened by Irish FA physios to ensure the sessions they got were suitable. The year ended with 11 girls getting presentations at the UU Performance Scholarships Awards Ceremony.

Green Arrows

The identified players continued to not only attend the regular squad sessions but get individual attention. Players along with their parents and club coaches were given individual feedback from the football and S+C coaches on how they had attended and performed to date, then along with the coaches they identified 3-4 areas they believed they wanted to improve.

Schools Programme

The Schools Programme is *An opportunity for players who are in our Excellence Programme, Development squads and International squads to get extra coaching lead by Senior International players, Regional Excellence coaches and S+C coaches. The programme aims to complement their personal development and work towards becoming a Senior International player for Northern Ireland.*

As we continue to expand and give all the girls as many opportunities as possible to train and practice not only with the squads but now within their schools by attending sessions either before, during or after school hours. At present we have six schools taking part with a number more to commence in the new year.

Disability Football

November

- We took five Northern Ireland based Walking Football groups down to play five groups based in the Republic of Ireland. We then attended the ROI v Northern Ireland friendly international at the Aviva Stadium. It was a great day and well hosted by The FAI.
- We had a Walking Football event in Wellington Sports Hall, Ballymena. Over 40 players participated and they also received health checks and mental health awareness.
- We hosted a physical disability funday at Fleming Fulton School, Belfast. We over 20 players enjoy over three hours of footbal-related games and activities.
- Irish FA Level 1 Coaching Disabled Footballers Award delivered in Creggan, Londonderry to coaches from Maiden City Soccer, Top of the Hill Celtic, Trojans and Derry City.
- Launch of Northern Ireland Walking Football Federation (NIWFF) at the National Stadium. This new body will launch a walking football league in 2019 with the support of the Irish Football Association.

December

- First meeting held of Northern Ireland Spectator Forum at the National Stadium. The Forum is in partnership with Disability Sport NI. It's aim is to advise and support the Stadium and Irish FA on constantly improving the accessible facilities and information available to our Fans with a Disability.
- Irish FA Level 1 Coaching Disabled Footballers Award delivered to Belfast Met Sports Students at Shankhill Leisure Centre.