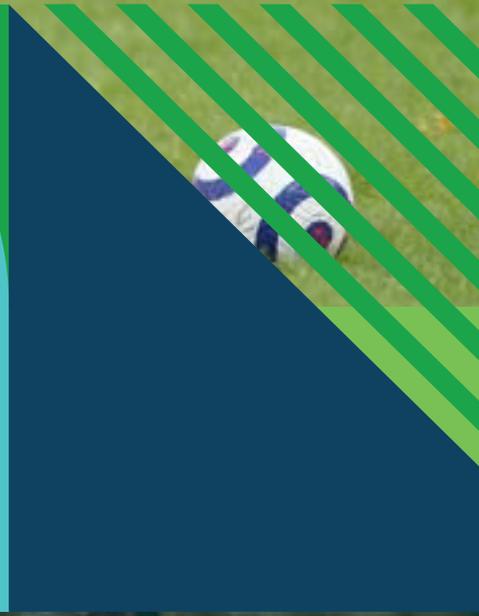




IRISH FA FOUNDATION LIMITED

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2021
Company number: NI642595



SHAPING LIVES
THROUGH FOOTBALL



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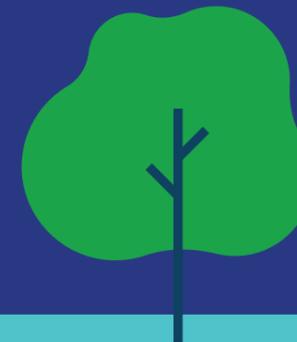
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OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES





THE CHARITY'S OBJECTIVES ARE:

1.



To advance amateur football, youth football, schools' football and futsal in accordance with the remit of the Irish Football Association, for the benefit of the general public in any part of Northern Ireland.

2.



To advance the health and wellbeing of the people of Northern Ireland by leading on the development of a Northern Ireland-wide football and positive mental health campaign for men and women.

3.



To advance education by providing work experience and support to educational establishments and extra-curricular educational groups (targeting young people including those not in education or employment [NEETs] and areas of social need).

4.



To adopt an inclusive approach so that all members of the community have access to our initiatives, regardless of background, gender, religion, politics, race or sexual orientation, in support of the wider charitable objectives of the Irish Football Association.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/ ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Irish FA Foundation has complied with its duty under the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

The trustees are fully aware of the requirements of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland and are operating entirely within the legislation.

It is the opinion of the trustees that this report demonstrates how the Foundation provides public benefit.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

During 2020 further Covid restrictions meant we, as a foundation, had to review the way in which we interacted with our clubs, volunteers and key stakeholders.

Despite various restrictions we maintained and expanded delivery on most of our programmes through online platforms and in person where appropriate.

The foundation developed a new schools' football strategy and is due to launch this in the spring of 2022.

This strategy will redefine the foundation's work in schools to give all pupils opportunities to take part in football and develop a lifelong love of physical activity while giving teachers and pupils educational opportunities.

Foundation staff continue to deliver on the 'Let Them Play' youth football strategy and work towards the Irish FA's core values and its vision to promote, foster and develop football for all in Northern Ireland.

“ GIVE ALL PUPILS OPPORTUNITIES TO TAKE PART IN FOOTBALL AND DEVELOP A LIFELONG LOVE OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY WHILE GIVING TEACHERS AND PUPILS EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES ”



THE CHARITY'S OBJECTIVES - 1

To advance amateur football, youth football, schools' football and futsal in accordance with the remit of the Irish Football Association, for the benefit of the general public in any part of Northern Ireland.

OVERVIEW

The Irish FA Foundation charity continued to serve the community during a year when the Covid pandemic continued to severely impact everyday life.

The foundation team worked directly with thousands of people across Northern Ireland, promoting football for all and helping players, clubs and volunteers across the country to develop.

In the early part of the year, when stringent Covid restrictions were in place, the team delivered programmes online rather than in person.

Staff continued to work with dozens of primary schools each week, providing specialist resources to help teachers, parents and children stay fit and active.

And the foundation also worked with hundreds of pupils in post-primary schools across Northern Ireland on a weekly basis, helping them with education and employability programmes.

Club and volunteer development saw strong engagement, with more than 300 clubs registering for webinars, while mentoring support was also offered. And there were several initiatives to help develop the amateur game.

Sporting Uniting Communities, a collaboration between the Irish FA, Ulster Gaelic Athletic Association and Ulster Rugby, engaged with 5300 participants across various programmes in 2021, its final year.

The legacy of the successful four-year project is that in the coming years, under the PEACE Plus project,

the sporting bodies are aiming to continue to work collaboratively to bring people together using the unifying power of sport.

With support from partners the foundation continued to deliver lots of football programmes, including Small-Sided Games and Fun Football sessions, although futsal was severely impacted as it can only be delivered in an indoor setting.



CLUB DEVELOPMENT – PEOPLE AND CLUBS

The People and Clubs programme received financial support from Sport NI's Governing Body Support Programme (GBSP) in 2021 to look at implementing initiatives that were set out in the People and Clubs Development Plan in 2019.

Using data from the development plan, and taking the impact of the Covid pandemic into consideration, the need for development in the following areas was identified: options to learn more around club and people development through online modules; opportunities to engage with various media resources, such as videos, webinars, and podcasts; access to a range of best practice templates for policies and procedures within clubs; enhancement of the People and Clubs accreditation – making it even more relevant for clubs across Northern Ireland.

The People and Clubs programme has been delivering on a Digital Transformation Project. The foundation, with funding provided through Sport NI in March 2021, aims to support clubs via improved and relevant online resources.

The online platform being created will include e-learning modules, an accreditation portal, videos, podcasts, club templates and webinar recordings.

Four People and Clubs webinars have already taken place. They covered positive engagement with parents, developing club culture, chairperson training and recruiting and retaining club volunteers.

Various guest speakers delivered the sessions - and more than 300 clubs registered for the webinars.

Since Sport NI's ClubMark ceased in March 2021, the People and Clubs accreditation has been refined to a one-level award, making it more achievable, attractive and relevant to clubs. It is available via the online portal. A total of 23 clubs have achieved the accreditation to date.

“**VARIOUS GUEST SPEAKERS DELIVERED THE SESSIONS - AND MORE THAN 300 CLUBS REGISTERED FOR THE WEBINARS**”



YOUNG LEADERS PROGRAMME

After a quiet spell due to the pandemic, and the departure of some of the older group members and a change to the Irish FA Foundation lead staff, the Young Leaders Programme was reinvigorated at the end of 2021.

The remainder of the group has met to discuss the short, medium and long term goals of the programme.

In the short term it was agreed that a recruitment drive to attract some new young leaders would be required.

The programme will be on the lookout for young people with various skills in volunteering, including media engagement, performance analysis, marketing, business, coaching, physiotherapy, psychology and nutrition.

A workshop has also been created by the Young Leaders to be rolled out to young people. It will focus on the benefits of volunteering and how to get involved in football clubs.

Staging the workshops will be one of the key medium term goals for the group and it is hoped that it will encourage more young volunteers to get involved in their local clubs. The Young Leaders Programme is supported and funded by UEFA.

HEADS UP LEGACY GROUP

Following the successful Heads Up campaign, which was aimed at improving mental health awareness within football circles in the UK, the foundation has continued to meet regularly with other supporters of the initiative to share good practice around the area of mental health in football.

The Heads Up Legacy Group is co-ordinated by The Royal Foundation of The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and features representatives from the FA, Irish

FA, Scottish FA, Football Association of Wales, Premier League, English Football League, Professional Footballers' Association, League Managers' Association, The National League, The Barclays FA Women's Super League, The FA Women's Championship, The FA Women's National League, Professional Game Match Officials Limited and the League Football Education charity.

It has been meeting to discuss an impact report that will highlight work that has taken place around mental health in football in each organisation.

The foundation sees its involvement in the legacy group as an extension of its Ahead of the Game programme.

Following the Heads Up campaign, which was promoted by the Heads Together charity in 2019 and 2020, the various bodies came together to sign the 'Mentally Healthy Football' declaration, committing to building a mentally healthy culture at all levels of the game.



UEFA GRASSROOTS AWARDS

A club founder from Co Armagh and a club from Co Antrim received special certificates from UEFA in May during presentations delayed due to the Covid pandemic.

Brian Sloan of Brookvale FC and Greenisland FC were both named as winners in UEFA's annual Grassroots Awards the previous November.

However, they only received their award certificates six months later via the Irish FA Foundation after the spread of Covid-19 disrupted presentations throughout Europe.

Brian was a silver prize winner in the 'Best Grassroots Leader' category, while Greenisland FC won a bronze award in the 'Best Grassroots Club' section.

More than 50 countries nominated their best volunteers and community clubs for the UEFA Grassroots Awards 2020.

Brian Sloan (72) was recognised by UEFA's Executive Committee for his remarkable work with Brookvale.

In the early 1980s he and his friend Alan Black set up the cross-community club in the Bessbrook area and it's still going strong.

Brian continues to be heavily involved. His sons also followed in his footsteps and now coach Brookvale teams, while his grandchildren play for the club.

He was presented with his award at Newry's Jennings Park, named after legendary Northern Ireland goalkeeper Pat Jennings, who is heavily involved in promoting grassroots football through his work as a football ambassador with McDonald's.

Greenisland Football Club's members mainly come from the town itself and the Carrickfergus and Newtownabbey areas. Their clubhouse and 3G pitch, which was opened in 2019 with support from Mid and East Antrim Borough Council and Sport NI, act as a community hub.

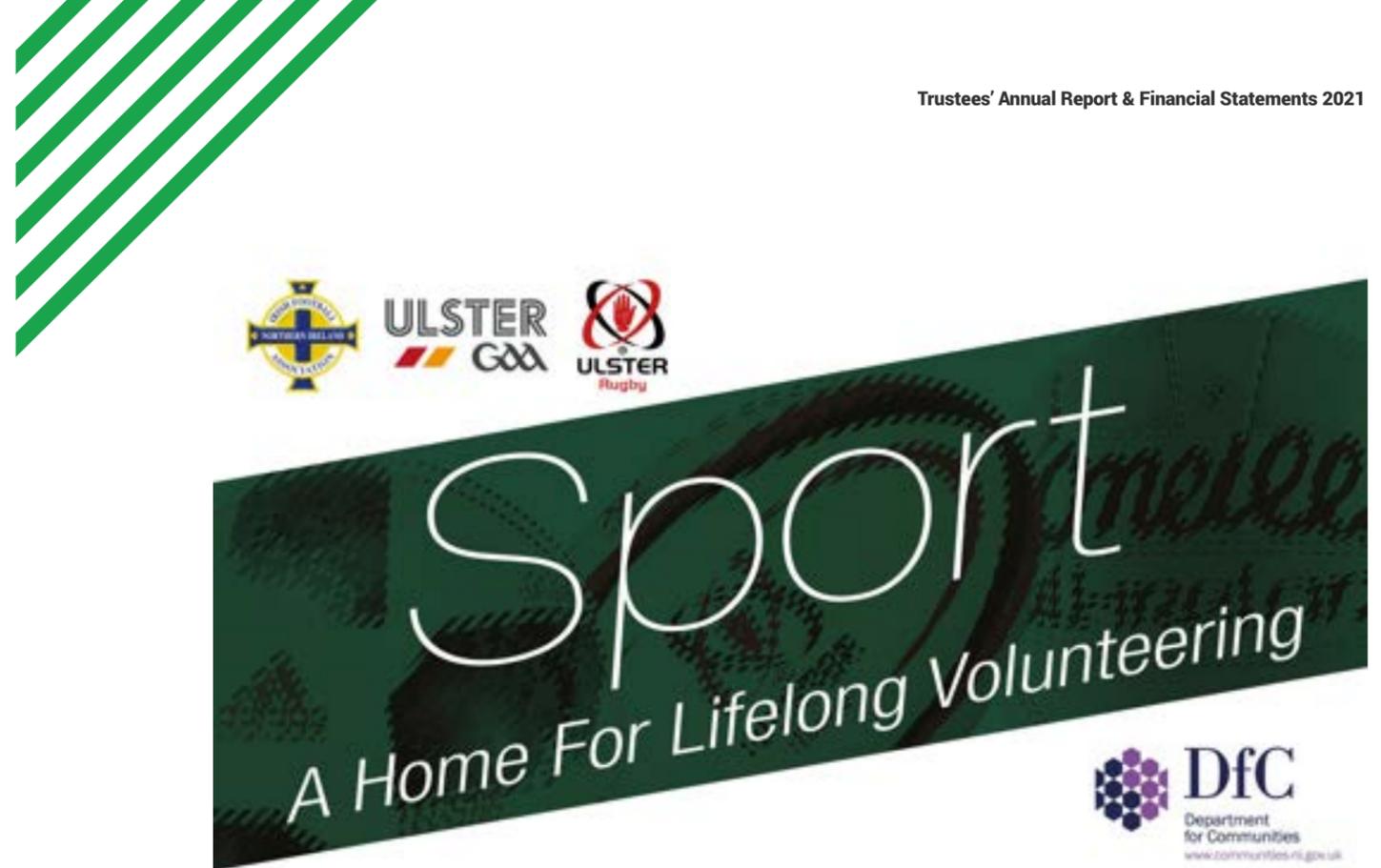
The club's alumni include current Northern Ireland internationals Jonny and Corry Evans, Craig Cathcart and Michael Smith and BT, which sponsors the Northern Ireland senior men's team, featured the former players and the club in a promo video in 2020.

Greenisland offer senior and junior football and have around 400 players and 100 volunteers, providing playing opportunities for male, female and disability groups. They run programmes for children from the age of five upwards.

Their youth teams take part in various leagues, while their seniors play in the Northern Amateur League, and in 2019 they launched Greenisland Bears FC for boys and girls aged 7 to 12 with a learning and/or physical disability.

UEFA Grassroots Awards are presented annually in recognition of exceptional work in grassroots football. A spokesperson for European football's governing body said: "Football is built on the grassroots, which are kept alive by thousands of volunteers, projects and clubs across Europe. Our awards are designed to recognise, celebrate and promote this inspirational work."

Both Brookvale and Greenisland also received 100 footballs apiece from UEFA as part of the awards – to support their grassroots activities.



SPORT – A HOME FOR LIFELONG VOLUNTEERING

The Department for Communities-funded programme Sport - A Home for Lifelong Volunteering has continued to support the Irish FA Foundation, Ulster GAA and Ulster Rugby by funding two full-time posts in each organisation.

Both of these posts have had a change in staff in the Irish FA Foundation over the past year with Kyle Robinson replacing Gavin Nelson as the Club and Community Development Officer and Brendan Lynch replacing Michael Carvill as Volunteer Development and Policy Officer.

The work programme has continued seamlessly and has included a number of joint webinars hosted by the three sports governing bodies.

Topics have included involving young volunteers in sport, maintaining pitches and funding clubs' visions for the future.

More than 30 football clubs attended the webinars alongside GAA and rugby clubs. In 2022 more workshops will be staged via the programme.

A total of seven young Irish FA Foundation volunteers from the programme have been working on completing their Open College Network (OCN) leadership course in conjunction with young volunteers from Ulster GAA and Ulster Rugby. The programme has been supported by the David Cross Foundation.

The programme will also be bringing a Schools Roadshow

experience to Limavady High School where students from the three secondary level schools in Limavady will come together for mock interviews and an insight into jobs and volunteering in sport.



SPORTS INSPIRE AWARDS

The Sports Inspire Awards were launched in October as part of the Sport - A Home for Lifelong Volunteering programme.

The awards aim to recognise outstanding volunteering in sport by young people aged between 14 and 24.

The awards scheme has replaced the GoldMark Awards, however it is along similar lines as young volunteers will receive certificates for committing 50, 100 or 200 volunteering hours to their respective sports.

It represents an excellent opportunity for clubs to recognise young people's commitment and value.

Due to the Covid pandemic the final GoldMark Awards ceremony scheduled for March 2021 had to be cancelled.

VOLUNTEERING

Without volunteers the Irish FA/ Irish FA Foundation could simply not function when it comes to staging large scale events.

During a year impacted heavily by Covid volunteers continued to be given opportunities to develop both social and life skills. They had a strong presence at international nights, helping with a range of roles, including fan zones and ticketing.

The volunteers at international games helped to ensure fans - when they were allowed to return in numbers following the easing of Covid restrictions - had a positive matchday experience.

There were more than 1400 applications for volunteer roles at UEFA Super Cup 2021.

A total of 325 people were chosen to volunteer at the event in roles ranging from looking after supporters' safety to drivers, taking

part in the pitch display and media liaison to VIP set-up and working in the bistro.

All the volunteers were commended for their warm personalities and self-motivation and more than 100 of them signed up to volunteer at other events in the future. Super Cup created a lasting legacy within the Volunteer Team.

“
THERE WERE MORE THAN 1400 APPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTEER ROLES AT UEFA SUPER CUP 2021
 ”



AMATEUR GAME DEVELOPMENT

In 2021 the Amateur Football Game Developer continued to work within all aspects of the amateur game across Northern Ireland in the UEFA Hattrick-funded role.

In May the results of extensive research were released and followed by a series of presentations to stakeholders across leagues, councils and universities along with internal stakeholders. There was regular interaction across departments in the foundation.

A series of pilot programmes have been organised and evaluated. These piloted programmes have allowed increased communication, individually and collectively, across the amateur game in Northern Ireland with leagues and stakeholders.

PILOT SUMMER FESTIVAL

This festival took place at the Jordanstown campus of Ulster University and was the first football event run post lockdown. With eight teams taking part, and over 300 spectators watching the action, it was a massive success. Research carried out from the associated stakeholders will direct and guide the rollout of the programme and gain buy-in to the concept across Northern Ireland.

PILOT ALUMNI PROGRAMME

The alumni membership and retention programme is under way with approximately 1400 taking part via two well established clubs and their communities.

Both clubs have been actively encouraged to personalise the programme and have added more than 20 localised incentives to ensure club and community buy in to the programme.



It has been viewed as a massive success by all taking part. Research and feedback from the pilot will shape standardised buy-in and rollout in all areas of Northern Ireland.

PILOT RECREATIONAL PROGRAMME

This programme rolled out in two areas. It investigated additional opportunities for play with the aim to keep players who would have been otherwise lost to the game engaged and playing recreationally.

Learnings from the programme will be gathered to define a standardised proforma and model for larger rollout and delivery.

PILOT CLUB INSURANCE

After considerable investigation into the current provision and requirement locally within the amateur leagues structure, plus dialogue with other home nations and other sports, a pilot was successfully launched in futsal and the Carnbane leagues providing £10

million public liability insurance at a fraction of the cost paid currently.

Learnings from the pilot have been shared with other leagues and a standardised rollout across Northern Ireland is under consideration.

PILOT INDIVIDUAL PLAYER INSURANCE

Leading on from the club insurance, and based on findings from the research document, investigation took place into the provision of individual fit for purpose insurance to look after and support players at all levels of the amateur game.

After considerable research into the current provision, suppliers, other sports and other home nations, the 'shinty model' has been adopted and piloted within futsal where all players pay a registration fee and receive fit for purpose high quality, compulsory individual insurance cover, including total temporary disability payment, for £10 per player per year.

Findings from this have been brought to the leagues both individually and collectively for



The Amateur Football Games Development Research and Plan Ahead was unveiled in May. The document is a blueprint for expanding and improving football at amateur level across Northern Ireland. Here Jim Shaw, who was chair of the Foundation until last summer, takes a closer look at the strategy document.

consideration with a view to a wider rollout over the next two seasons.

PARTNERSHIP WORK

Partnerships have been developed to ensure improved functionality of the Comet system to allow effective programme rollout and delivery to support players and reduce dropout.

The findings from the programmes will lead to successful wider rollouts to enhance and promote the amateur game and promote retention and player safety.

In addition, in consultation with stakeholders, a National Coaching Certificate specifically for the amateur game has been successfully devised. It includes

resources for successful delivery and the development of high quality coaches in the amateur game. With associated coach and psychological support, it is awaiting rollout.

Working with the Club and Community Development Officer and the Volunteer and Policy Development Officer, the Amateur Football Game Developer has taken the lead in the revision of the volunteer development framework and the People and Clubs criteria to include a minimum operating standard achievable by clubs across the amateur game. The aspiration is to enhance the experience for all clubs and players at all levels.

“
THE ASPIRATION IS TO ENHANCE THE EXPERIENCE FOR ALL CLUBS AND PLAYERS AT ALL LEVELS.
 ”

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge visited City of Derry Rugby Club to see Sporting Uniting Communities in action – and they also took part in a training session.



SPORT UNITING COMMUNITIES

The Sport Uniting Communities project was a collaboration between the Irish Football Association, Ulster Gaelic Athletic Association and Ulster Rugby which aimed to promote peace and reconciliation.

In 2021, its final year, Sport Uniting Communities engaged with 5300 participants across various programmes.

In September the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge visited City of Derry Rugby Club to see SUC in action.

The project had an opportunity to showcase how sport can be used to promote meaningful, purposeful and sustained contact between individuals from different backgrounds – particularly across the religious divide.

The Royal couple watched young people taking part in some of the activities on offer through Sport Uniting Communities and even had a go themselves.

2021 was the fourth and final year of the project. Over those four years it reached 20,500 people with some key outputs.

These included:

UTILISED THE
**GAME OF
3 HALVES**
INITIATIVE (WHERE YOUNG PEOPLE GOT TO TRY FOOTBALL, RUGBY AND GAEIC GAMES) ACROSS THE REGION WITH
3673
YOUNG PEOPLE TAKING PART

STAGED
35
CLUB DEVELOPMENT
**SPORT FOR
PEACE**
DAYS

AN
**ENGAGEMENT &
PARTICIPATION**
PROGRAMME WITH THE ETHNICALLY DIVERSE ATTRACTED
102
PARTICIPANTS

ESTABLISHED A
VOLUNTEER
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR
337
VOLUNTEERS

ORGANISED
20
'HAVE A GO'
DAYS (WHERE YOUNG PEOPLE GOT TO TRY FOOTBALL, RUGBY AND GAEIC GAMES)

DELIVERED A
**YOUTH
LEADERSHIP**
PROGRAMME TO
216
YOUNG PEOPLE

Sport Uniting Communities is supported by the European Union's PEACE IV Programme and managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

In the coming years, under the PEACE Plus project, the Irish Football Association, Ulster Gaelic Athletic Association and Ulster Rugby are aiming to continue to work collaboratively to bring people together using the unifying power of sport.

MCDONALD'S PROGRAMMES

Despite a break in the delivery of the programme due to the pandemic, the Irish FA Foundation doubled its efforts to both engage young people to play football and to meet its contractual obligations to the partnership with McDonald's.

Fun Football provides four one-hour sessions to introduce girls and boys to football in a safe and fun environment - in the hope of signposting the young players to local clubs.

Forty centres were co-ordinated across Northern Ireland in 2021 and successfully introduced 219 girls and 593 boys to football. The activity represented 3,248 contact hours.

The McDonald's Small-Sided Games programme also delivered an increased opportunity approach as games were additionally scheduled in mid-week along with fixtures on a Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

A total of 70 venues hosted the no-recorded scores and no-league table format of games aimed at improving football abilities and coaching skills for 1240 teams across Northern Ireland. Across the year 2174 girls aged 5-12 and 10522 boys aged 5-12 enjoyed a safe, developmental and fun environment to enhance their sporting and health activities.



McDonald's recently celebrated the huge milestone of providing five million hours of free Fun Football to children in the UK a year ahead of its end-of-2022 goal, before vowing to offer 1.5 million more hours in 2022.

In Northern Ireland specifically more than 75,000 children have benefitted from 250,000 hours of coaching, games and fun.

2021 also marked the 30th anniversary of McDonald's in Northern Ireland, and to mark this significant milestone '30 Clubs for 30 Years' were recognised for the major impact that they have had on their local communities - be that on the lives of young people through Fun Football or through wider community initiatives.

75,000
CHILDREN HAVE
BENEFITTED FROM
250,000
HOURS OF COACHING

MCDONALD'S GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL AWARDS

Unusually two awards ceremonies were staged in 2021 to celebrate the winners of annual McDonald's Irish FA Grassroots Awards.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the 2020 awards gala was postponed until February last year and was streamed online instead to showcase those who have dedicated hours of their time for the good of grassroots football.

The 2021 awards ceremony was a live event, however, staged at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on the outskirts of Belfast.

Hosted by radio personality Pete Snodden, the ceremony featured a raft of interviews with well-known footballing heroes, including Northern Ireland senior men's team manager Ian Baraclough, McDonald's Fun Football Ambassadors Pat Jennings and Casey Stoney as well as former Northern Ireland captain Aaron Hughes and current Northern Ireland senior women's team centurion Julie Nelson.

The annual awards recognise the incredible work and commitment of football clubs and volunteers who give up their time and make a long-lasting impact on young people and communities across Northern Ireland.

The 2021 winners in each category were:

- McDonald's Enniskillen – Football Restaurant of the Year
- Patricia McCullough (Ards Rangers, Co Down) – Football For All Award
- Ryleigh McComb (Valley Rangers, Co Down) – Young Volunteer of the Year



Hilbert Willis, winner of the People's Award in 2021, is congratulated by Northern Ireland senior men's team manager Ian Baraclough among others.

- Jahswill Emmanuel (Multi-Ethnic Sports & Culture, Belfast) – Volunteer of the Year
- Tristar Boys' FC (Derry-Londonderry) – Club of the Year
- Mark Emerson (Ballinamallard United, Co Fermanagh) – Wes Gregg Coach of the Year
- Hilbert Willis (Loughgall, Co Armagh) – People's Award for Outstanding Contribution to Grassroots Football
- Aaron Peden (Glenavon FC) – Young Volunteer of the Year
- CJ and Emily Jones (Afrimeripean Futsal Club) – Futsal Project of the Year
- John Haveron (Albert Foundry FC) – Volunteer of the Year
- Draperstown Celtic FC – Club of the Year
- Rachael Rodgers (Mid Ulster Ladies FC) – Wes Gregg Coach of the Year
- Billy O'Flaherty (Carniny Amateur & Youth FC) – People's Award

People's Award winner Hilbert Willis, 97, is a lifelong fan of Loughgall FC who served the club as a groundsman for 30 years and as chairman for almost a decade, amongst a host of other voluntary roles.

The prestigious People's Award recognises the outstanding contribution made by an individual to grassroots football in their local community and beyond.

The 2020 winners in each category were:

- David Walker (Franchisee) and Cookstown McDonald's – McDonald's Fun Football Restaurant of the Year
- Paul McCallion and Ryan Lagan (Draperstown Celtic FC) – Inclusivity Project of the Year

People's Award winner Billy O'Flaherty MBE is a founding member of Carniny Amateur and Youth Football Club in Ballymena and is widely regarded as a football stalwart in the Mid-Antrim area having been involved in grassroots football for over four decades.

He was awarded an MBE for his work in the local community and has had many responsibilities on and off the football pitch – from secretary and committee member to coach.

Billy was also a founding member of the Allstars female football team in Ballymena and also played a key role in setting up a veterans team at Carniny in the Co Antrim town.



FOUNDATION PLAYER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Towards the end of 2021 a new Irish FA Foundation Player Development Programme was developed.

The former PDP, which was delivered by Let Them Play Officers, has been rebranded and will be delivered by the foundation's Grassroots team.

Under the new set-up four regional centres across Northern Ireland will work with players in the U13 age group.

The Talent ID process to find the best 2009 players in the country began towards the end of 2021

with foundation coaches watching numerous club matches.

From this process a select group of players will be invited to attend a 10-week coaching block at one of the four regional centres.

The sessions will be focused around the holistic development of the player with particular emphasis on creating technically better and more creative players.

The Irish FA Foundation Player Development Programme will feed into the Irish FA's JD-sponsored

National Performance Programme and close links will be created with the NPP staff.

In late 2022 the Foundation Player Development Programme is due to be expanded to include the U10 to U12 age groups.

SCHOOLS' FOOTBALL

In the absence of competitive schools' football in 2021 the foundation's Schools staff continued to support and improve football in schools through innovative programmes.

The foundation teamed up with Translink to provide masterclasses. The masterclasses gave students a welcome return to schools' football, providing coaching sessions in post primary schools for boys and girls.

Schools continued to be supported through the Schools' Quality Mark accreditation with 10 primary schools and five post primary schools achieving awards in 2021.

Through the programme there was also a school/club resource developed to provide information and opportunities to enable schools and clubs to engage and work together to fully maximise their potential within their community.

The Schools team also provided opportunities for pupils and teachers to get on to the first steps of the coaching ladder. A total of 191 participants completed the Irish FA Grassroots Introduction to Coaching Award and 30 pupils and teachers completed the National Coaching Certificate.

BACK IN THE GAME

The Back in the Game project, which is aimed at encouraging older men and women to reconnect with football and sport to promote healthier lifestyles and positive mental health, continued to grow in 2021.

Across Northern Ireland the foundation's Grassroots Development Officers worked in partnership with groups and clubs to host festivals to raise awareness of the programme and its benefits.

In addition the foundation's support for over-30s women and over-35s men has helped stimulate a proactive volunteer-led range of initiatives, most notably a Small Sided Games programme for women's teams and an 11-a-side semi-formal league in partnership with Emerge, a third sector wellbeing agency, to help men who have encountered challenging issues.

The Emerge Invitational League was set up to champion Emerge Counselling Services. The league encourages men aged over 35 to put their boots on and enjoy the beautiful game once again. Its goal is to help improve mental and physical wellbeing through football.

When the league started in 2019-20 it featured 10 teams, while in 2020-21 a total of 22 teams competed, with 396 players involved.

The following teams were involved in the league during the 2020-21 season: Lisburn Distillery, Red Lion (Portadown), St Mary's (Portadown), Armagh City, Greenisland, NI Masters (Newtownards), Belfast Celtic, Crumlin Star (Belfast), Glenavy, Crumlin United, Ashfield Boys (Belfast), Hillsborough Knights, Ballymacash Rangers

(Lisburn), Immaculata (Belfast), Rosario (Belfast), Derriaghy CC, BYM (Lisburn), FC United (Lisburn), Tullymore Swifts (Belfast), Ford FC (Stoneyford), Aquinas (Belfast) and Shorts (Belfast).

The league is set for expansion in 2022 when it will have over-35s and over-45s sections. Several former Irish League players have joined teams in the league.

“ WHEN THE LEAGUE STARTED IN 2019-20 IT FEATURED 10 TEAMS, WHILE IN 2020-21 A TOTAL OF 22 TEAMS COMPETED, WITH 396 PLAYERS INVOLVED ”

191
PARTICIPANTS COMPLETED THE IRISH FA GRASSROOTS INTRODUCTION TO COACHING AWARD

30
NATIONAL COACHING CERTIFICATE



“
THE LET THEM PLAY OFFICERS DESIGNED RESOURCES TO INCLUDE ELEMENTS OF FAMILY TIME, PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, MENTAL HEALTH AND GENERAL WELLBEING
 ”

SCHOOLS SPORTS PROGRAMME

The Department of Education-funded Schools Sports Programme – it is run by the foundation and Ulster GAA – was hampered by Covid in the early part of the year.

The foundation’s Let Them Play Officers were unable to deliver face-to-face sessions due to school closures from January to March.

However, the LTPOs communicated via email and signposted schools previously worked in, and schools scheduled to be worked in, to online classroom resources and online activities.

Nearly 100 schools engaged with foundation staff during the early part of the year. The Let Them Play Officers designed resources to include elements of family time, physical activity, mental health and

general wellbeing.

In March many primary schools reopened to Key Stage One children only. Foundation staff tailored delivery of the KS2 Sports Programme to support KS1 PE curriculum lessons, delivering 157 sessions per week to 36 schools and 3794 pupils.

With schools reopening for KS2 pupils in April, delivery increased to 263 sessions per week to 46 schools and 6095 pupils (2982 boys, 3113 girls).

The new school year saw the School Sports Programme less impacted by Covid with a 92% delivery rate from September until December. LTPOs supported teachers in four out of the five areas of the PE curriculum - athletics, dance, games and gymnastics – and delivered 220

classes per week in 50 schools to 5825 pupils (2898 boys, 2927 girls).

In partnership with Safefood, the Irish FA’s safe and healthy eating partner, LTPOs delivered healthy know-how for active kids sessions to pupils who participate in the Sports Programme.

A total of 132 sessions based around the importance of a healthy lifestyle were delivered between April and December. They focused on increased sleep, hydration, child-sized portions, healthy food choice, limiting screen time and minimising intake of high fat/sugar/salt foods. Safefood content has become part of the core messages within all Sports Programme sessions.

In addition PE sessions focusing on topics such as anti-bullying, healthy lifestyle choices and resilience were



TEACHERS RATED THE PROGRAMME

87% | **12%**
 ★★★★★ | ★★★★★

provided specifically during relevant awareness weeks.

Themed sessions were held in October leading up to World Mental Health Day and in November for Anti-Bullying Week.

POSITIVE RESEARCH

An independent research project on the Department of Education-funded Schools Sports Programme concluded in April 2021.

The research programme was developed to look at both the impact of the programme and to assess the wider impacts of physical activity and the role that this plays or could play within the education setting.

The evaluation asked teachers to reflect on the programme, their own development and the response and

engagement of their pupils through a mix of video/telephone interviews and an online survey (due to Covid).

Pupils were asked to reflect on their activity levels, confidence, self-esteem, motivation to learn and problem-solving as well as wider social impacts.

A total of 23 coaches were interviewed, while 95 schools were consulted and 201 teachers completed an online consultation. Nearly 4000 surveys were completed by the wider pupil population (2792 surveys validated).

The evaluation found 87% of teachers rated the programme at 5/5 and 12% rated it at 4/5, while 82% of teachers said the programme had increased their motivation ‘a lot’ with regards to their PE role and

the same percentage said it had increased their knowledge and skills regarding PE ‘a lot’.

Other key findings were that 97% of teachers referenced a big impact in the positivity of children towards being active and 90% on average said it had helped pupils’ self-confidence and boosted their happiness as well as helping to develop self-esteem.

A key conclusion from the research was that the coaches’ expertise, their manner with the children and their ability to enthuse ‘less active’ children and the teaching staff were an integral component of the success of the programme. Without this rounded expertise the programme would not deliver the same level of impact as it currently does, according to the findings.

READING PROJECT

The National Lottery Community Fund partnered with the Irish FA Foundation to promote reading in primary schools across Northern Ireland.

The Grassroots and Football Books project - it was delivered in the spring of 2021 - offered 13 primary and special needs schools the opportunity to encourage kids to read books using football as a topic to stimulate reading activity.

Utilising the appeal and popularity of football at grassroots level, the initiative aimed to encourage children to engage in reading both in school and at home, increase opportunities to read, assist primary school teachers in the area of literacy, offer a fun reading activity and to promote an inclusive activity within schools.

Other aims were to improve connectivity to sport and football in particular, inspire sporting activity and inclusion in class activity (drawing and writing prizes), raise awareness of the work of the Irish Football Association and the Irish FA Foundation, improve and build upon the foundation's networking and development work, demonstrate the need for partnerships in education and demonstrate the need for increased literacy projects.

Through the project the foundation engaged with 174 girls and 168 boys in primary year groups three to seven.



“
ENCOURAGE KIDS TO READ BOOKS USING FOOTBALL AS A TOPIC TO STIMULATE READING ACTIVITY
 ”

THE PROJECT ENGAGED WITH
174 GIRLS | **168** BOYS
 IN PRIMARY THREE TO SEVEN



NORTHERN IRELAND BOYS' FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

The Irish FA Foundation continues to support the Northern Ireland Boys' FA.

Football made a welcome return in May 2021 with affiliated leagues running a short programme of games to engage children in sport again. The enthusiasm was evident with high rates of participation across Northern Ireland.

Subsequently NIBFA recorded its highest ever membership of more than 1700 teams for the 2021-22 season.

NIBFA National Cup Competitions also attracted a record number of 540 teams across the various age groups.

The association's focus for this season was to integrate youth leagues with the Irish FA Comet player registration and matchday system – and also to provide all member leagues with a dedicated website. Most of that work has been done, with completion on the final two leagues planned for the 2022-2023 season.

On the social side all the leagues and clubs continued to work and support their local communities via food banks and charitable contributions.

THE CHARITY'S OBJECTIVES - 2

To advance the health and wellbeing of the people of Northern Ireland by leading on the development of a Northern Ireland-wide football and positive mental health campaign for men and women.



OVERVIEW

Ahead of the Game, the foundation's mental health programme for football clubs, was not hampered by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Twenty workshops were held – mainly online – during the year and they were well received by clubs across Northern Ireland.

More than 800 participants from 128 football clubs have participated in Ahead of the Game workshops since the beginning of 2019. The workshops promote positive mental health.

Fresh Start Through Sport, which works with young males and

females aged 16-24 in Fresh Start areas across Northern Ireland who are at risk from paramilitarism and or organised crime, also had a positive year.

The initiative, which is supported by the Irish FA, Ulster Rugby, Ulster GAA and the Belfast Giants, was delivered through four 16-week programmes.

Eighty young people in east Belfast, Derry-Londonderry and Strabane, Ardoyne in north Belfast and Dungannon benefitted from Fresh Start Through Sport.

The foundation's outreach work also saw Stay Onside delivered

across all prison establishments and in the community among young people and young adults at risk of offending.

HMP Maghaberry and Hydebank Wood College hosted two programmes apiece, while community programmes were run in Antrim, Ballyclare and Dungannon.

The programme is being expanded to Irish FA Hub areas, using football as a positive pathway to impact on the lives of those at risk of offending and creating safer communities in partnership with football.



“**STAY ONSIDE PROVIDES A PATHWAY FOR POSITIVE CHANGE USING FOOTBALL FOR PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES**”

STAY ONSIDE PROGRAMME

Stay Onside continued to be delivered across all prison establishments and in the community among young people and young adults at risk of offending.

Two programmes were run in HMP Maghaberry and another two in Hydebank Wood College, while community programmes were held in Antrim, Ballyclare and Dungannon.

The project - it was introduced in 2017 - provides a pathway for positive change using football for personal development opportunities.

There is a focus on coaching, volunteering and refereeing. Stay Onside has transformed the lives of many people and has made a positive impact across all communities within Northern Ireland. It is delivered by the Irish FA Foundation in partnership with the Department of Justice, Northern Ireland Prison Service, PSNI and Ulster University.

Course content includes an opportunity to complete a UEFA National Coaching Certificate and a disability football qualification along with modules on mental health

in football, club development and volunteering, refereeing introduction award, Stay Onside ambassador programme/OCN qualification, women in football, football fan behaviour and online abuse.

FRESH START THROUGH SPORT

Fresh Start Through Sport, a collaborative initiative supported by the Irish Football Association, Ulster Rugby, Ulster GAA and the Belfast Giants, continued to deliver during the year despite some disruption due to Covid.

Four 16-week programmes were staged and attended by 80 young people in east Belfast, Derry-Londonderry and Strabane, Ardoyne in north Belfast and Dungannon.

And in October a celebration event was held with the Belfast Giants at the SSE Arena. It was attended by Irish FA President Conrad Kirkwood, PSNI Chief Constable Simon Byrne and Northern Ireland Justice Minister Naomi Long.

The project aims to work with young males and females aged 16-24 in Fresh Start areas across

Northern Ireland who are at risk from paramilitarism and or organised crime.

The project, which was launched in October 2020, provides participants with the opportunity to complete a Level 2 Open College Network qualification.

The project is an opportunity to get an insight into each sport and be involved after the programme in coaching or volunteering which can in turn be a pathway into employment.

The project is delivered in partnership with the Department of Justice, Department for Communities, PSNI and Ulster University.

In 2022/23 the project is set to be delivered in east Belfast, Newtownards, Lurgan and Derry and Strabane.

Course content covers racism awareness, mental health in sport, disability in sport, gender in football, nutrition, matchday events, volunteering and OCN Level 2.



AHEAD OF THE GAME

Ahead of the Game, the foundation's mental health programme for football clubs, is continuing to be well received by clubs.

It was established in 2017 with a toolkit of resources for clubs developed in partnership with TAMHI (Tackling Awareness of Mental Health Issues), Inspire, Train 2B Smart Soccer and Sports Chaplaincy UK.

The toolkit then formed the basis of an AOTG workshop for clubs. AOTG is funded through the UEFA Hat-Trick programme focusing on the strand of Football Social Responsibility (FSR).

Since the beginning of 2019 a total of 56 AOTG workshops have been delivered, with 128 football clubs taking part. And they have attracted 800 participants.

The overall figure includes 20 workshops that were held in 2021. Due to Covid the majority of these were delivered online.

Moving forward the programme will look at a blended approach of face to face and online sessions depending on the needs of the clubs. A further 20 workshops are due to be delivered in 2022.

Also in the pipeline is the appointment of volunteers as AOTG Mental Health Champions. These champions will serve as ambassadors for raising mental health awareness through football across every council area in Northern Ireland.

56

AOTG WORKSHOPS

128

CLUBS TAKING PART

800

PARTICIPANTS

THE CHARITY'S OBJECTIVES - 3

To advance education by providing work experience and support to educational establishments and extra-curricular educational groups (targeting young people including those not in education or employment [NEETs] and areas of social need).

OVERVIEW

Due to the Covid pandemic 2021 was another challenging year in the delivery of educational programmes.

Restrictions meant schools were closed for a period at the start of the year, but despite this the foundation was still able to deliver programmes, at times remotely and also in person.

The Education and Employability Programme continued and actually enjoyed growth, with the course

being delivered in 17 schools and colleges throughout the country.

The Irish FA placement programme was affected by Covid, however staff were able to start a structured placement programme with Ulster University Jordanstown and Irish FA part-time degree students.



Students on the Education and Employability Programme were given the opportunity to gain valuable experience working on Irish FA Foundation holiday camps.

THE CHARITY'S OBJECTIVES - 4

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYABILITY PROGRAMME

The Education and Employability Programme has continued to grow and develop.

The programme has been delivered in 17 schools, colleges, universities and other educational settings, including Ashfield Boys' High in east Belfast, Belfast Metropolitan College, Northern Regional College, Belfast Boys' Model, Larne High School and De La Salle College (Belfast).

17

EDUCATIONAL SETTINGS

368

STUDENTS (14 - 18 YRS)

30+

TEACHERS



Foundation staff with some of the students from Ashfield Boys' High who have benefitted from the programme.

Many students were provided with educational opportunities, with a total of 368 students aged between 14 and 18 and 30-plus teachers upskilled as part of the programme.

The students that attended the courses and programmes were also given the opportunity to gain valuable experience working on Irish FA Foundation holiday camps over the summer and during Halloween. They worked in the North Down and Ards, Belfast, Causeway Coast and Glens and Antrim and Newtownabbey council areas.

Several schools are running with two cohorts of students, and the foundation has added new schools it hopes to continue working with moving forward.

2021 was a good planning year for the future of educational programmes within the Irish FA/ Foundation. Plans are in place to work with several new schools in September 2022, allowing the foundation to provide more opportunities to young people throughout Northern Ireland.

The foundation continues to work with and deliver Open College Network courses. It delivered an OCN in Football Administration to 50 participants working in local clubs and staff are looking forward to further developing their ability to deliver more OCN courses.

PLACEMENT PROGRAMME

Due to the ongoing Covid restrictions, and with people

working from home, the placement programme was disrupted in 2021.

Opportunities for young people were limited throughout the year, although staff were still able to offer students some opportunities.

The foundation was able to formalise its placement programme as part of its partnership with Ulster University Jordanstown and the part-time degree course in Football Coaching and Business Management.

It was agreed that third year students from the degree course will come in to the association and work across a number of different departments over a period of six to eight months. In 2021 a total of 11 students were given this opportunity

To adopt an inclusive approach so that all members of the community have access to our initiatives, regardless of background, gender, religion, politics, race or sexual orientation, in support of the wider charitable objectives of the Irish Football Association.

OVERVIEW

The promotion of girls' and women's football was boosted by the success of the Northern Ireland senior women's team in reaching UEFA Women's Euro 2022.

There was a sizeable uplift in numbers attending various girls-only programmes after the team secured their first appearance at a major tournament by defeating Ukraine Women in a two-legged play-off in April 2021.

More than 1600 young girls were introduced to football during the year through the Playmakers programme from UEFA and Disney.

And 20 school festivals were delivered to nearly 3000 young girls getting their first taste of Shooting Stars.

Girls-only Small-Sided Games (SSG) centres are thriving, with a big increase in the number of registered teams.

Coaching courses for female coaches also proved popular, while women's domestic leagues received strong support on and off the pitch.

Disability football was badly affected by Covid, with the vast bulk of activities taking place between August and December.

Highlights included the launch of an Irish FA Foundation Disability League for 15 teams with players between the ages of seven and 14. The teams were split into two age bands (7-10 and 11-14).

And six more clubs/groups are now providing regular participation opportunities for those with a disability across Northern Ireland.

The foundation's community relations work continued despite the restrictions emanating from the pandemic. There was plenty of online activity, and when Covid restrictions began to ease later in the year in-person events and activities returned.

The foundation's racism awareness and equality module was delivered in 91 workshops which attracted 2276 participants. And 934 participants benefitted from the foundation's anti-sectarianism module.

Other highlights included the Connect good relations programme, the UEFA Super Cup Trophy Tour, the inaugural Hope Cup (part of BT's Hope United campaign, which aims to combat online hate), ongoing work with refugees and Sport Together where the foundation is now working with various groups across Europe to develop learning and opportunities for under-represented groups in post conflict regions.





Northern Ireland senior international Louise McDaniel had big fun with her young audience at a Shooting Stars session.

Girls-Only Small Sided Games

The foundation currently operates five girls-only Small-Sided Games (SSG) centres.

The centres are thriving and have seen a huge increase in the number of registered teams over the past few years. There has been a 68% increase in the number of teams over the past three years.

Almost 120 girls' teams are now playing in the Belfast City, Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough, Lisburn and Castlereagh City, Derry City and Strabane District and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon District council areas. And that figure does not include clubs and teams playing in mixed programmes in Northern Ireland's 11 council areas.

The plan each year is to strengthen the existing centres and expand to introduce girls-only centres in more areas, making football easily accessible for clubs.

The foundation also piloted single age bands in the Antrim and Newtownabbey programme. It has been a huge success with 36 teams playing weekly as part of the SSG centre based in Newtownabbey.

116 TEAMS

COMPETED IN GIRLS-ONLY SSG CENTRES

↑ 38% increase on previous year

222

GIRLS' TEAMS OVERALL IN MIXED AND GIRLS-ONLY PROGRAMMES

2174

PLAYERS

(Sep-Dec 2021)

Northern Ireland senior international Lauren Wade coaching girls last summer.

GIRLS' AND WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

UEFA Disney Playmakers

More than 1600 young girls across Northern Ireland were introduced to football during the year through the Playmakers programme from UEFA and Disney.

Using Disney's world famous storytelling and inspired by research showing the positive role of storytelling in helping children take up sport, Playmakers aims to increase the number of girls taking part in physical activity and to kickstart a lifelong love of football.

The Irish FA Foundation has been rolling out the programme to kids aged five to eight – primary one to primary four (Year 1 to Year 4) - across Northern Ireland since April 2021.

The foundation commenced year two of the programme with the

recruitment and training of an additional 14 Playmaker deliverers, from club coaches to teachers and casual coaches working within the Irish FA Foundation.

Electric Ireland Shooting Stars

The Electric Ireland Shooting Stars programme has continued to grow. With an additional age group, the foundation now provides opportunities for girls aged 4-11 to fall in love with football.

20 school festivals were delivered to nearly 3000 young girls getting their first taste of Shooting Stars.

Around 350 participants took part in the 24-week programme at 16 centres across Northern Ireland.

The Shooting Stars experience was also enhanced for participants

by having senior international players coaching and visiting the centres, which in turn generated great support for the players at international matches from the young fan base.

20
SCHOOL
FESTIVALS

3,000
SCHOOL
GIRLS

16
CENTRES

350
PARTICIPANTS





FEMALE COACH EDUCATION

Female National Coaching Certificates

2021 saw the biggest uptake to date for coaching courses where only women and girls take part. Five female-only National Coaching Certificate (NCC) courses were staged – a new record – with more than 90 coaches participating.

5 NCC COURSES | **90** PARTICIPANTS

In the early part of 2021 three courses were run under strict Covid protocols, which meant there had to be a blended approach to their delivery. There were virtual settings for the theory elements of the courses, with practical sessions taking place a few months later, followed by further practical sessions held at the National Football Stadium at Windsor Park.

NCC courses for women and girls were delivered at Crewe United's ground in Glenavy (24 participants) and the Bawnacre Centre in Irvinestown (18 participants).

Female C Licence

As well as the NCC course a female-only UEFA C Licence course started in December 2021.

The course is being delivered through a blend of online workshops and practical sessions. It has attracted 17 candidates who will complete the course with 9v9 practice days at their clubs followed by final assessments.

The UEFA C Licence course has been well received by the candidates. They in particular like the blended delivery, which has provided greater accessibility to the course and enables the candidates to fit the learning into their work and life environment.

Funding Support For Coaching

During the year the Irish FA Inclusive Clubs Fund, which was established in July 2019 in partnership with the Community Foundation of Northern Ireland, completed round six of funding to support women's clubs and leagues.

In May NIWFA received £2,500 for coach education places and as a

£2,500 FOR COACH EDUCATION PLACES | **21** CLUBS

result 21 clubs received funding towards Irish FA Coach Education courses to support the development of their women's football coaches. Among the clubs supported were Antrim Rovers, Armagh City Ladies, Ballymena United Allstars, Banbridge Town Girls' FC, Barn United Youth, Carnmoney Ladies, Comber Rec Ladies, Draperstown Celtic, Dungiven Celtic, Mid Ulster Ladies, Realta na Cromoige, Rosario Football Club, St Mary's FC, Santos FC and Sion Swifts Ladies.

DOMESTIC LEAGUES THRIVE

Glentoran Women secured consecutive titles in the NIFL Danske Bank Women's Premiership, however they were pushed all the way by Cliftonville Ladies. The east Belfast side edged out their cross-city rivals by a narrow three-point margin.

It was a treble-winning season for the Glens, who also tasted success in both the Co Antrim Cup and the Electric Ireland Women's Challenge Cup.

The 2021 Women's Premiership also enjoyed the highest recorded league attendance of 425 fans at Cliftonville Ladies v Glentoran Women on 4 August; this was a 44% improvement on the previous record of 295 (Linfield Ladies v Sion Swifts Ladies, August 2019).

BBC Sport NI supported the Women's Premiership with highlights of all matches and player interviews shared on the BBC Sport NI website and social media channels throughout the season.

NIWFA leagues were competitive, too. The NIWFA 2021 Electric Ireland league winners were:

Championship	Lisburn Ladies
Division 1	Larne Ladies
Division 2	Lisburn Rangers Ladies
Division 3	Camrrough Rovers Ladies
Division 4	Ballymoney United Ladies
Division 5 –	Strabane Athletic Ladies
2021 PwC Super Cup winners	Lisburn Rangers Ladies

425 ATTENDANCE

↑ 44% IMPROVEMENT ON PREVIOUS RECORD

Glentoran Women celebrate their league title success in 2021.





The Northern Ireland CP team in action against Scotland.

DISABILITY FOOTBALL

Due to the Covid pandemic the foundation's disability football programmes only restarted in August.

However, despite the condensed year of activity, there were still lots of highlights during 2021.

These included the launch of an Irish FA Foundation Disability League for teams with players between the ages of seven and 14. The teams were split into two age bands (7-10 and 11-14) and 15 teams are participating in the first season.

Six more clubs/groups are now providing regular participation opportunities for those with a disability across Northern Ireland. They are St Malachy's OB, Armagh City, Lisburn Distillery, Wellington Rec, Hanwood Centre and Antrim/Newtownabbey Disability FC.

In November a blitz organised as part of the Irish FA Powerchair Football Development League proved to be a big hit with the participants.

Eighteen players from the Trailblazers (Belfast), Lightning

(Lisburn) and Devenish Warriors (Fermanagh) PFCs took part in the event. The players were split into four teams and a round-robin tournament saw six games taking place.

The Northern Ireland Powerchair Football Squad featured on Channel 4 show Para Football Adventures in July. They also featured across BT channels and have been on UTV Sport Update's Hughes Insurance ad since December.

At the start of 2022 it was announced that the Powerchair Football team will have to wait a further year to compete at the Federation Internationale de Powerchair Football Association (FIPFA) World Cup finals.

The 10-team tournament will be held in Australia in October 2023 rather than in the autumn of 2022. It was the second postponement of the latest Powerchair World Cup finals. They were originally due to be held in Sydney in 2021 but had to be pushed back due to the Covid pandemic.

Meanwhile, another highlight in 2021 was Irish FA Foundation Let Them Play Officers, casual coaches and foundation staff offering free coaching sessions and distributing free equipment packs in 19 schools. This programme is supported through UEFA and has made a promising start despite some difficulties caused by Covid.

“ THE NORTHERN IRELAND POWERCHAIR FOOTBALL SQUAD FEATURED ON CHANNEL 4 SHOW PARA FOOTBALL ADVENTURES IN JULY ”

IFA DISABILITY FOOTBALL

2021 August to December Participation

Program	Frequency	Details	Participation Numbers
School Coaching (special education)	Weekly 1 hr sessions per school (minimum 6 sessions)	19 Schools	230
Clubs	Weekly	57 Clubs in Northern Ireland catering for various disabilities	2297
Irish FA / USEL Disability League – Seniors, ages 15+	Monthly	National Leagues 26 Teams	108
Irish FA Disability League – Juniors Ages 7-10 & 11-14	Monthly	National Leagues 15 Teams	120
Special Olympics 7-a-side League	Monthly	8 Teams	120
International Cerebral Palsy	Fortnightly	National Squads Junior & Senior	40
Visual Impairment	Weekly	2 Clubs Lisburn & Londonderry Junior & Senior Sections	32
Powerchair Football Clubs (4)	Weekly	3 Clubs Belfast, Lisburn & Enniskillen	24
Powerchair Football International	Fortnightly	Belfast	12
Frame Football	Weekly	2 Clubs – Belfast & Coleraine	20
Amputee Football	Fortnightly	Belfast	10
Coach Education		2 x IFA Level 1 Coaching Disabled Footballers Award	42
		4 x Disability Module	56
Walking Football	Weekly	14 Groups across NI	250
Walking Football ABI	Monthly	4 Groups in NI	40
Total			3401

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Despite the pandemic, the foundation's community relations work reached all corners of Northern Ireland during the year. There was plenty of online activity, and when Covid restrictions began to ease later in the year in-person events and activities returned.

EVERYBODY'S GAME

The foundation's racism awareness and equality module was more popular than ever, reaching clubs, communities, schools, academies and in prisons as a module within the Stay Onside programme. A total of 91 workshops were held, attracting 2276 participants.

91 WORKSHOPS | **2276** PARTICIPANTS

COMMON GROUND

This important module is the foundation's anti-sectarianism delivery, supporting good relations within sport and highlighting both the challenges and improvements within football and communities. During the year 41 workshops were staged, with 934 participants.

41 WORKSHOPS | **934** PARTICIPANTS

CONNECT

The Connect programme, through a return to in-person activities, expanded to many different geographical areas and was well received.

The good relations football education programme reached schools, community groups, academies, clubs, homeless hostels, refugees and migrants. And there was a pilot delivery of Connect in partnership with Probation Board Northern Ireland (PBNI).



Connect offers good relations and educational modules to increase diversity and mutual understanding through football, and it also offers positive pathways into the game via volunteering, refereeing and coaching qualifications, ensuring there are tangible long term outcomes from the programme. During the year 12 programmes were staged, attracting 389 participants.

UEFA SUPER CUP TROPHY

12 PROGRAMMES | **389** PARTICIPANTS

TOUR

A central part of the build-up to UEFA Super Cup 2021 - it was staged at the National Football Stadium at Windsor Park in August - was the UEFA Super Cup Trophy Tour.

The foundation's Community Relations Officer led a team of volunteers who toured the country with the official UEFA Super Cup trophy to promote the game between the winners of the previous season's UEFA Champions League (Chelsea) and UEFA Europa League (Villarreal).

Staged at Irish FA Foundation summer camps across Northern Ireland, the trophy tour was not only a matter of displaying the trophy but was a full experience featuring UEFA Super Cup branded inflatables and giveaways - to ensure kids in attendance had an unforgettable day each time.

The foundation was also able to secure volunteer activation with ethnically diverse groups via partners NI Hyatt and Multi-Ethnic Sports and Cultures NI.



HOPE UNITED CAMPAIGN AIMS TO COMBAT ONLINE HATE

HOPE CUP

On the day prior to the UEFA Super Cup clash in Belfast between Chelsea and Villarreal, the foundation partnered with UEFA Foundation, Rio Ferdinand Foundation and BT Sport to stage the first ever Hope Cup.

Players aged between 14 and 16 from across Northern Ireland were selected through their participation in Irish FA Foundation and Rio Ferdinand Foundation programmes to play in the Hope Cup match at Belfast's Seaview Stadium.

Run as part of BT's ongoing Hope United campaign, which aims to combat online hate, it was so much more than just a game of football.

The teams featured players of many different nationalities, religions and cultures, and the game itself focused on unity and inclusivity.

It was recorded by BT Sport for broadcast. Rio Ferdinand, Eni Aluko and Jake Humphries were the presenters, while Glenn Hoddle and Joe Cole managed the teams and Darren Fletcher and Steve McManaman commentated on the

game. It was shown on BT Sport in a 75-minute show prior to the UEFA Super Cup live coverage.

All of the Hope Cup participants were guests at the UEFA Super Cup itself, with 12 lucky players selected to represent Hope United in the pre game experience, entering the pitch with Rio Ferdinand to highlight both the event and the campaign. Partnerships and friendships were formed and the Hope Cup will now be an annual event with much more activation with partners to come.

UEFA FOOTBALL AND REFUGEES

Through UEFA funding the foundation reached out to the refugee and migrant community within Northern Ireland to offer upskilling opportunities and education.

The programme has empowered communities within Belfast, Craigavon and Omagh, bringing together refugees to participate in regular football training.

In addition participants can learn new skills through coaching courses and refereeing courses - and even sessions covering DIY and healthy eating.

Visits to the National Stadium were also offered along with field trips, while a tournament for teams made up of refugees was also staged.

AMBASSADORS PROGRAMME

Pathways to employment are being offered through the Community Relations Ambassadors Programme.

Participants who have excelled within programmes such as Connect have been subsequently trained to deliver educational modules and upskilled to coach squads of players.

These ambassadors are now delivering modules and sessions weekly.

SPORT TOGETHER

As part of a 30-month project called Sport Together the foundation is now working with various groups across Europe to develop learning and opportunities for under-represented groups in post conflict regions.

Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union, with seven partner countries, the project is aiming to tackle threats to social cohesion through training, education, awareness-raising, capacity-building of sport stakeholders and cross-community youth sport.

Apart from the Irish FA Foundation, the project is being supported by the Football Association of Ireland, Vienna Institute for International Dialogue and Cooperation (VIDC) - fairplay initiative (Austria) and Serbia-based NGO Atina, a citizens' association for combating human trafficking and all forms of gender-based violence.

The other partners are Youth Initiative for Human Rights, based in Bosnia and Herzegovina, University of Thessaly in Greece, Donegal Sports Partnership in the Republic of Ireland and Nogometni klub Zagreb 041 (Croatia).

Initially the project is looking at ongoing ethno-political divisions in the western Balkan states and on the island of Ireland and then the focus will switch to the continued challenges following the so-called EU refugee crisis.

The project launched in March 2021. The continuing challenge of the pandemic meant monthly meetings were virtual until the organisers were finally able to meet in Belgrade, Serbia, in October. The gathering enabled attendees to foster shared learning, while experiences were also shared.



As well as staging a girls' tournament in Vienna, Austria, members of the group are also aiming to visit Belfast in 2022 when the foundation's good relations work will be showcased.

VETERANS SUPPORT

In partnership with Andy Allen Veterans Support NI, the foundation has offered a programme to veterans supporting pathways into playing, coaching, refereeing and educational modules, supporting veterans from Derry-Londonderry, Belfast, Lisburn and Craigavon.

STADIUM COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The foundation continued to support residents who live close to the National Football Stadium.

During the year an art project was delivered in partnership with the Amalgamation of Official Northern Ireland Supporters' Clubs, Linfield FC and Greater Village Regeneration Trust.

The project has led to local children's artwork being emblazoned on walls beside

the stadium alongside new history boards highlighting Linfield's heritage and classic international games that were staged at the stadium.

The foundation is also continuing to reach out to those most isolated within the community. It put on a Christmas dinner for 60 pensioners and it funded a youth ball for teenagers.

“THE FOUNDATION IS NOW WORKING WITH VARIOUS GROUPS ACROSS EUROPE TO DEVELOP LEARNING AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNDER-REPRESENTED GROUPS IN POST CONFLICT REGIONS”

SAFEGUARDING

Throughout 2021 the association strived to ensure adequate training and safeguarding provision was in place to support the delivery of youth football across all Foundation programmes.

The association continued with a blended approach to training, offering face to face, Zoom sessions and online modules to raise awareness of good practice, signs and indicators of abuse and appropriate reporting channels.

Approximately 750 volunteers participated in training as club welfare officers or youth football coaches. As Covid restrictions continue to ease it is anticipated numbers will naturally increase.

Working in partnership is hugely important to making sure practice, policy and procedures remain up to date with current guidance around safeguarding.

The association continues to participate in the Safeguarding Children in Sport Strategic Group which launched the Safeguarding Children in Sport Strategic Plan 2021-2024 at the start of 2021.

Anti-Bullying Week 2021 was themed One Kind Word. The Irish FA Foundation supported the campaign with Let Them Play Officers wearing odd socks to deliver educational sessions through the Schools Sports programme.

Small-Sided Games centres also provided the perfect platform to

engage with clubs and highlight the positive impact One Kind Word can have on our children.

Northern Ireland senior men's international player Niall McGinn was kind enough to share his story of how the positive support and encouragement he received from his parents helped him on his football journey.

He explained how this provided him with a strong platform to go on and achieve everything he has throughout his football career.

His video interview - it was shown on Irish FA social media channels - was well received by clubs, parents and young players as part of the annual NSPCC Parents in Sport Week campaign.

The Irish FA Safeguarding Adults Policy was launched in 2021 as the association continues its efforts to ensure football is a safe and enjoyable experience for all participants.

Foundation staff attended training around the policy from Volunteer Now, raising awareness of signs and indicators of abuse, good practice and how to report concerns promptly and to the appropriate agencies.

Given the growth of the foundation's Back in the Game, disability and mental health programmes, the importance of the implementation of this policy cannot be underestimated.



750

VOLUNTEERS TRAINED AS CLUB WELFARE OFFICERS OR YOUTH FOOTBALL COACHES

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

We will continue to develop the Irish FA Foundation as a trusted delivery partner for government departments and agencies to promote physical activity, mental health, crime prevention, social cohesion and employability.

We will continue to develop the Irish FA Foundation as a trusted delivery partner for government departments and agencies to promote physical activity, mental health, crime prevention, social cohesion and employability.

In 2022 we will continue to serve the community across Northern Ireland promoting football for all and ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to participate in football at whatever level suits their level of ability.

Priority themes in 2022 will be girls' participation, crime prevention, education, and people and clubs development.

We will launch a new partnership with the United Nations working to Prevent Violent Extremism. We will in particular be partnering with the UN's Human Rights Commission.

Even with two years of Covid regulations we are still on course for our participation target for 2025, which is to have 100,000 young people playing football across Northern Ireland on a regular basis.

To achieve this ambitious target we need to strategically continue to grow the girls' game as a top priority, delivering the Irish FA's Girls' and Women's Plan across Northern Ireland.

The women's senior international team's qualification for UEFA Women's Euro 2022 in July represents a fantastic opportunity to grow the girls' game here.

The players taking part in the Euros will be Irish FA Foundation ambassadors for the girls' game, encouraging girls across the country to take up the sport for the first time.

The foundation will continue to promote football for all, adopting an inclusive approach so that all members of the community have access to our initiatives, regardless of background, gender, religion, politics, race or sexual orientation.



“
PRIORITY THEMES IN 2022 WILL BE GIRLS' PARTICIPATION, CRIME PREVENTION, EDUCATION, AND PEOPLE AND CLUBS DEVELOPMENT.
”



GOVERNANCE

FINANCIAL REVIEW

For the year ended 31 December 2021 the Foundation had total income of £2,546k (2020: £2,205k) and total reserves at the end of the year of £1,536k (2020: £1,462k).

RESERVES POLICY

A financial target of the Foundation is to hold reserves of between £1.0m - £1.5m being the anticipated operating expenditure for a normal six-month period.

PRINCIPAL FUNDING SOURCES

For the year ended 31 December 2021 the principal sources of funding for the Foundation were as follows:

- Sponsorship from partner organisations in the private sector, such as McDonald's
- Income from education and coaching activities
- Grant funding from partner organisations in the sporting sector including UEFA and FIFA
- Grant funding from partners in the public sector, including the European Union, Department for Communities, Department for Education and Belfast City Council
- Grant funding from partners in the philanthropic and charitable sectors

INVESTMENT POLICY AND OBJECTIVES

The Foundation takes a risk averse view on investment of cash reserves and as such maintains a regular current account with a major high street bank in which all funds are held.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the Foundation is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

The trustees are aware of potential internal and external risks faced by the Foundation and assess those risks on a regular basis. Additionally, they undertake a formal risk management exercise annually.

The key risks at the present time relate to the health and safety of participants in the Foundation's activities and the safeguarding of children and young people that are involved in the Foundation's activities. The Foundation has appropriate policies in place to manage these identified risks and all staff receive training to embed these policies in the day to day activities.

Other risks and emerging risks are monitored by the Foundation and relevant controls implemented to manage these risks in line with the Foundation's risk appetite set by the Board.

Management's going concern assessment has taken into consideration the existing and potential effects of Covid-19 on the activities of the organisation and consider that there is no material uncertainty relating to going concern.

The key judgments and estimates used to arrive at this conclusion include:

- The Foundation has sufficient liquidity and cash flow availability on an ongoing basis
- Future revenue from football funding bodies such as UEFA and FIFA remain unchanged

- Support from various levels of government, including financial assistance
- Mitigating actions and processes implemented to ensure an effective control environment and availability of relevant management information on a continuing basis.

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

The Foundation's vision is to create an environment in which everyone - staff, participants and the wider community has equal, dignified ease of access to our organisation, services and facilities. The Foundation's aim is to be inclusive, supportive, fair and free from discrimination. The Foundation aims to actively promote equality and diversity and ensure that the legislation and policy requirements within the nine protected characteristics of equality and diversity are implemented into all working practices.

EMPLOYEES WITH DISABILITIES

It is our policy that people with disabilities should have full and fair consideration for all vacancies and to retain employees in the workplace if they become disabled during their employment. We will actively retrain and make adjustments where possible to allow them to maximise their potential.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Irish FA Foundation was formed under a Memorandum of Association which established the objectives and powers of the company and is governed by its Articles of Association.

The Irish FA Foundation is managed by the same integrated Senior Leadership Team as the Irish Football Association and is subject to many of the key structures within the governance framework of the Irish FA. Detailed descriptions and explanations of the Irish FA corporate governance environment are available in its Annual Report and Financial Statements.

RECRUITMENT AND APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees comprises six members, three of which are appointed by the sole member the Irish Football Association and the remaining three are independent and recruited following public advertisement. In accordance with the IFA Articles of Association the three members appointed by the Association are prohibited from being members of the IFA Board. None of the trustees has a beneficial interest in the company.

INDUCTION AND TRAINING OF TRUSTEES

The trustees receive an induction upon appointment to the Board and undertake regular training and development. The Board convenes sessions to review governance practice and enhance professional competence required for the role of trustee.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

All service by Board trustees is on a voluntary basis, with time and expertise freely donated to the work of the Irish FA Foundation. The Board continued to strengthen performance through recruitment, evaluation, and training. We thank them for their continuing input and support.

Current Trustees	Jan	Mar	Apr	Jul	Sep	Nov
David Martin					●	●
Patrick Nelson	●	●	●	●	●	●
Allen McKinstry	●	●	●	●	●	●
Ryan Adams	●	●	●	●	○	●
Clare McAuley	●	○	●	●	●	○
Alan Willis	●	●	●	●	●	●
Former Trustees						
James Shaw	●	●	●	●		

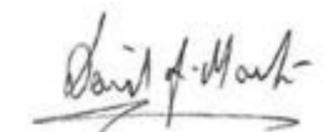
● Attended
○ Absent

BOARD MEETINGS

Board meetings are planned six times per year to discuss and agree on various strategic matters. The Chairman, in conjunction with the CEO and the Company Secretary, plans an annual programme of business prior to the start of each financial year. This ensures that essential topics are covered at appropriate times, and that space is built in to give the Board the opportunity to have in-depth discussions on key issues.

The programme of business is prepared in conjunction with the annual programme for the Senior Leadership Team meetings, to ensure consistency and fluid reporting to the Board as and when required. All Directors are expected to attend all Board meetings and details of attendance by Directors at meetings during the year are set out in this section. Directors who were unable to attend specific meetings reviewed the relevant papers and provided their comments to the Chairman of the Board. Any

Director who misses a meeting will, as a matter of course, receive the minutes of that meeting for reference.

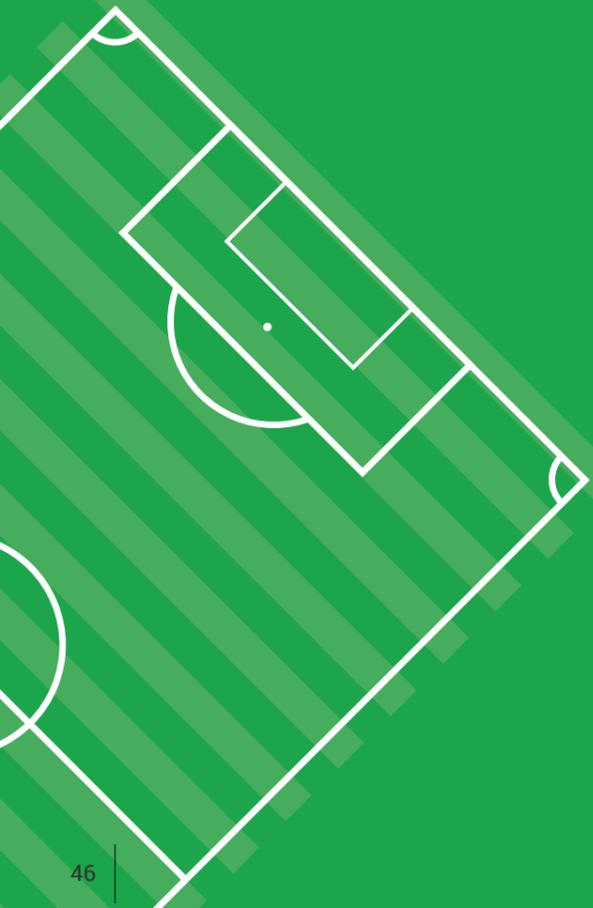


David Martin
Trustee and Chairman
Date: 21 April 2022





FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Foundation and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the Foundation for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- Make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards, comprising FRS 102, have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Foundation will continue in business

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Foundation and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Foundation and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

STATEMENT OF DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO AUDITORS

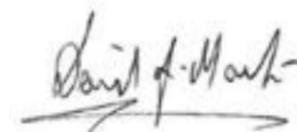
In so far as the trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the Foundation's auditor is unaware
- The Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

The auditors, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, have indicated their willingness to remain in office and a resolution for their re-election will be proposed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on their behalf.



David Martin
Trustee and Chairman

Date: 21 April 2022

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF IRISH FA FOUNDATION LIMITED

Report on the audit of the financial statements

OPINION

In our opinion, Irish FA Foundation financial statements (the 'financial statements'):

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, and cash flows, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", and applicable law); and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

We have audited the financial statements, included within the Trustees' Annual Report (the "Annual Report"), which comprise: the charity balance sheet as at 31 December 2021; the statement of financial activities (including income and expenditure), and statement of cash flow for the year then ended; the accounting policies; and the notes to the financial statements.

BASIS FOR OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) ("ISAs (UK)") and applicable law.

Our responsibilities under ISAs (UK) are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Independence

We remained independent of the in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, which includes the FRC's Ethical Standard and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from the date on which the financial statements are authorised for issue.

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

However, because not all future events or conditions can be predicted, this conclusion is not a guarantee as to the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

REPORTING ON OTHER INFORMATION

The other information comprises all of the information in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our auditors' report thereon. The trustees

are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in this report, any form of assurance thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify an apparent material inconsistency or material misstatement, we are required to perform procedures to conclude whether there is a material misstatement of the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report based on these responsibilities.

Based on the responsibilities described above and our work undertaken in the course of the audit, ISAs (UK) require us also to report certain opinions and matters as described below.

Trustees' Annual Report

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and the Trustees' Annual Report has

been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

In addition, in light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we are required to report if we have identified any material misstatements in the Trustees' Annual Report. We have nothing to report in this respect.

RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND THE AUDIT

Responsibilities of the trustees for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable framework and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. The trustees are also responsible for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

Based on our understanding of the charitable company, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to adherence to health and safety requirements and the charitable company's compliance with the safeguarding of young and vulnerable people, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and Regulation 8 of The

Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015. We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to were related to posting inappropriate journal entries to manipulate financial results, including the recognition of incoming resources, and management bias in accounting estimates or significant judgements. Audit procedures performed included:

- Identifying and testing journal entries, in particular any journal entries posted with unusual account combinations or posted by unexpected users;
- Assessed management's compliance with the commitments under their restricted funds;
- Discussions with management, including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud;
- Reviewing the charitable company's litigation register as far as it related to non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud;
- Reviewing relevant meeting minutes, including those of the Trustees

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above. We are less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations that are not closely related to events and transactions reflected in financial statements. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery

or intentional misrepresentations or through collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditors' report.

Use of this report

This report, including the opinions, has been prepared for and only for the charity's members as a body in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and for no other purpose. We do not, in giving these opinions, accept or assume responsibility for any other purpose or to any other person to whom this report is shown or into whose hands it may come save where expressly agreed by our prior consent in writing.

OTHER REQUIRED REPORTING

Companies Act 2006 exception reporting

Under the Companies Act 2006 we are required to report to you if, in our opinion:

- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns.

We have no exceptions to report arising from this responsibility.

Entitlement to exemptions

Under the Companies Act 2006 we are required to report to you if, in our opinion, the trustees were not entitled to: prepare financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime; take advantage of the small companies exemption from preparing a Strategic Report. We have no exceptions to report arising from this responsibility.



Martin Cowie
Senior Statutory Auditor

for and on behalf of
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Chartered Accountants and
Statutory Auditors
Belfast
24 May 2022

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

for the year ended 31 December 2021

	Note	2021			2020		
		Restricted Funds	Un-restricted Funds	Total Funds 2021	Restricted Funds	Un-restricted Funds	Total Funds 2020
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Incoming resources							
Incoming resources from generated funds							
Contributions from governing bodies	4	939	-	939	726	-	726
Coaching, education and training		-	515	515	-	210	210
Sponsorship income		218	-	218	209	-	209
Grant funding		850	-	850	1,056	-	1,056
Income from other trading activities							
Income from other trading activities	5	-	24	24	-	3	3
Total incoming resources/income		2,007	539	2,546	1,991	213	2,204
Resources expended/expenditure							
Charitable activities							
Charitable activities	6	(2,173)	-	(2,173)	(1,976)	-	(1,976)
Support costs							
Support costs	7	(299)	-	(299)	(240)	-	(240)
Total resources expended/expenditure		(2,472)	539	(2,472)	(2,216)	213	(2,216)
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers		(465)	74	74	(225)	213	(12)
Transfer between funds		465	(465)	-	225	(225)	-
Net movement in funds		-	74	74	-	(12)	(12)
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward		-	1,462	1,462	-	1,474	1,474
Total funds carried forward		-	1,536	1,536	-	1,462	1,462

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

CHARITY BALANCE SHEET

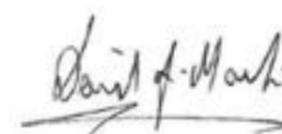
Registered No. NI642595

at 31 December 2021

	Note	2021 £000	2020 £000
Current assets			
Debtors	10	2,591	1,996
Cash and cash equivalents		641	311
		3,232	2,307
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year			
	11	(1,696)	(845)
Net current assets		1,536	1,462
Net assets		1,536	1,462
The funds of the charity			
Unrestricted funds	15	1,536	1,462
Restricted funds	15	-	-
Total funds		1,536	1,462

The notes on pages 55 to 61 are an integral part of these financial statements.

The financial statements on pages 52 to 61 were approved by the trustees on 21 April 2022 and were signed on its behalf by:



David Martin
Trustee and Chairperson
Date: 21 April 2022

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW

for the year ended 31 December 2021

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Cash generated from operating activities		
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers	74	(12)
Movement in debtors	(595)	(1,056)
Movement in creditors	851	459
Cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	330	(609)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	311	920
Total cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	641	311
	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Cash and cash equivalents consists of:		
Cash and cash equivalents	641	311
Total cash and cash equivalents at end of the year	641	311

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 December 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Irish FA Foundation Limited is a private company limited by guarantee, incorporated in Northern Ireland. The registered office is the National Football Stadium, Donegall Avenue, County Antrim, United Kingdom, BT12 6LU.

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a) Basis of Preparation

The Foundation's financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) effective 1 January 2015 (Charities SORP (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Irish FA Foundation Limited meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost and transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s). The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis. Taking account of the risk review undertaken by the Trustees they do not consider there to be a risk to the going concern status of the Foundation.

b) Going concern

At the time of approving the accounts, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Foundation has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and it is not anticipated that significant losses will be incurred over the period of 12 months from signing

the financial statements. Thus, the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

c) Incoming resources

Income is recognised when the Foundation is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the Foundation has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under gift aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

On receipt, donated facilities or gifts in kind are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the Foundation which is the amount the Foundation would be willing to pay to obtain services and facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market, a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the Foundation has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grant have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

d) Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Support costs are those functions

that assist the work of the Foundation but do not directly undertake charitable activities.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the Foundation in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to supply them. Support costs are allocated to their relevant activity based on the income received.

Pension Costs

The Foundation operates a defined contribution scheme for its employees. Contributions are charged to the statement of financial activities in the period to which they relate.

e) Fund accounting

The Foundation has various types of funds for which it is responsible and which require specific disclosure. A definition of the different types is as follows:

Unrestricted Funds

Funds which are expendable at the discretion of the Foundation in furtherance of the purpose of the charity. In addition to expenditure on activities, such funds may be held in order to finance capital investment and working capital.

Restricted Funds

Restricted funds are to be used for specified purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of overheads and support costs.

f) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

g) Foreign currency

Foreign exchange gains and losses resulting from the settlement of transactions and from the translation at period-end exchange rates of monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities. Foreign exchange gains and losses that relate to borrowings and cash and cash equivalents are presented in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Foreign currency transactions are translated into the functional currency using the spot exchange rates at the dates of the transactions. At each period end foreign currency monetary items are translated using the closing rate.

h) Grants payable

Grants are recognised in the accounts as liabilities after they have been approved by the trustees even if there are conditions attached to them. This is because there is a valid expectation by the recipients that they will receive the grant.

Where a grant is awarded for a period of greater than one year, future instalments of which are subject to satisfactory reports to the Foundation, the future grant instalments are included in commitments but are not recognised in the accounts until satisfactory reports are received. This is because the terms on which these grants are awarded do not create a valid expectation of receipt until the Foundation's trustees are satisfied with the reports received on the use made of the previous year's instalments.

i) Financial instruments

The Foundation has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the Foundation's balance sheet when the Foundation becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS AND ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

Estimates and judgments are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical judgements in applying the entity's accounting policies.

There are no critical judgements in applying the Foundation's accounting policies.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions.

There are no critical estimates and assumptions.

3. LEGAL STATUS OF THE FOUNDATION

The Foundation is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The liability of each member in the event of winding-up is limited to £1.

4. INCOMING RESOURCES FROM GENERATED FUNDS

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Contributions from football governing bodies	939	726
Coaching, education & training	515	210
Sponsorship income	218	209
Grant funding	850	1,056
Total	2,522	2,201

5. INCOME FROM OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Other income	24	3

6. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Wages and salaries	1,518	1,606
Events & competitions	288	135
Equipment & facilities	205	76
Grants provided	162	159
Total	2,173	1,976

7. SUPPORT COSTS

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Wages and salaries	101	135
Administration & professional fees	198	105
Total	299	240

8. NET (OUTGOING)/INCOMING RESOURCES

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
This is stated after charging:		
Salaries	1,410	1,516
Social security costs	125	138
Other pension costs	84	87
Total staff costs	1,619	1,741

9. EMPLOYEES AND DIRECTORS**Employees**

The average monthly number of employees employed by the Foundation during the year was:

	2021	2020
	Number	Number
Average	59	59

Trustees

During the year no trustee received any emoluments (2020: £Nil).

Key management compensation

The compensation paid or payable to key management for employee services is shown below

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Key management compensation	175	174

10. DEBTORS

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Trade debtors	2,403	1,829
Prepayments and accrued income	188	167
Total	2,591	1,996

11. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Trade Creditors	166	28
Accruals and deferred income	1,498	643
Other taxation and social security	32	174
Total	1,696	845

Deferred income relates to fundraising income and contributions from governing bodies recognised over more than one financial year in accordance with the accounting policy stated in note 1.

12. DEFERRED INCOME

	At 1 January 2021	Amounts released in the year	Additional provisions made	At 31 December 2021
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Contributions from football governing bodies	397	(123)	315	589
Coaching, education & training	36	(36)	8	8
Sponsorship income	56	(56)	82	82
Grant funding	38	(38)	669	669
Total	527	(253)	1,074	1,348

13. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Foundation has the following financial instruments:

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Financial assets held at amortised cost		
Trade debtors	2,403	1,829
Accrued income	118	142
Total	2,521	1,971
Financial liabilities held at amortised cost		
Trade creditors	166	28
Accruals	150	116
Total	316	144

14. TAXATION

The Foundation is a registered charity and, as such, is entitled to certain tax exemptions on income and profits from investments and surpluses on any trading activities carried on in furtherance of the Foundation's primary objectives, if these profits and surpluses are applied solely for charitable purposes.

15. ANALYSIS OF CHARITABLE FUNDS

Unrestricted Funds

	£000
At 1 January 2021	1,462
Coaching, education and training	515
Other trading activities	24
Net outgoing resources before transfers	-
Transfer to restricted funds	(465)
At 31 December 2021	1,536

15. ANALYSIS OF CHARITABLE FUNDS (continued)

Restricted Funds

	£000
At 1 January 2021	-
Contributions from governing bodies	939
Sponsorship income	218
Grant funding	850
Net outgoing resources before transfers	(2,472)
Transfer from unrestricted funds	465
At 31 December 2021	-

A transfer between funds is performed to relocate sufficient unrestricted funds to ensure that there is no overspend on the restricted fund for the year.

16. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds
	£000	£000	£000
Net current assets	-	1,536	1,536
Total	-	1,536	1,536

17. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS AND ULTIMATE CONTROLLING PARTY

Transactions with related parties included:

- Transactions with the Irish Football Association Limited of £1,265k (2020: £1,228k)
- Grant received of £600k from Irish Football Association in deferred income at year end (2020: NIL)
- Amounts receivable at the year end of £1,971k (2020: £1,774k) due from the Irish Football Association Limited
- Amounts payable at the year end of £NIL (2020: £72) due to the IFA Stadium Development Company Limited
- Purchases at normal market prices totalling £455 (2020: £NIL) were made from Trisport Trophies Limited, of which David Martin is a common director. The balance outstanding at 31 December 2021 was £NIL (2020: £NIL).

18. LIABILITY OF MEMBERS

Irish Football Association Ltd is a company limited by guarantee. The liability of the members is limited to an amount not exceeding £1.

19. FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

There were no financial commitments as at 31 December 2021 (31 December 2020: none).

*Registered number: NI642595
Charity Commission number: NIC 106229
Inland Revenue Charity number: NI00616*

Trustees

David Martin (Chairman)	Appointed 2 September 2021
Patrick Nelson	
Allen McKinstry	
Ryan Adams	
Clare McAuley	
Alan Willis	
James Shaw	Resigned 2 September 2021

Company Secretary

Rebekah Shearer	Appointed 19 November 2021
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Registered Office

The National Football Stadium at Windsor Park
Donegall Avenue
Belfast
BT12 6LU

Bankers

Ulster Bank
91-93 University Road Belfast
BT7 1NG

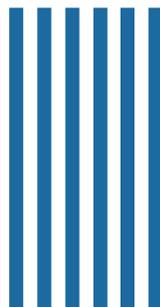
Solicitors

A&L Goodbody
42-46 Fountain Street
Belfast
BT1 5EF

King & Gowdy
298 Upper Newtownards Road
Belfast
BT4 3EJ

Independent Auditors

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
Merchant Square
20-22 Wellington Place
Belfast
BT1 6GE





IRISH FA FOUNDATION LIMITED

