

# DELIVERING THE YOUTH STRATEGY

**FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

June 2018



Foundation

*Serving the community through football*



## Futsal

### Northern Ireland Futsal Cup

Sparta Belfast turned league form on its head to become the inaugural winners of the Northern Ireland Futsal Cup.

The Belfast outfit swept aside Banbridge Town in the final at Newry Leisure Centre with a power-packed display. It was expected to be a tight affair with Banbridge, who currently lie second in the Northern Ireland Futsal League, going head to head against a team a place behind them in the standings. However, Sparta Belfast had other ideas and ran out worthy winners of the cup following a blistering and astute performance. They won the game 8-1.

Banbridge were actually first to get on the scoresheet in Newry when their captain James Gould poked the ball beyond Sparta keeper Octavian. Sparta responded within minutes when Artur Kopyt blasted a half volley from the edge of the area beyond Rosbotham in the Banbridge goal. The Belfast side then soaked up some pressure before launching a series of counter attacks, and Rosbotham made several excellent saves to keep the scores level. However, their counter attacking strategy eventually paid off for Sparta and they went into the break 4-1 ahead. Balnanosis scored his first of the game and Chambaud scored a brace as Sparta took advantage of Banbridge leaving their goal vacated and punished them for their bold attacking approach.

In the second half Banbridge continued to fly their goalkeeper in an attempt to get back into the game. They dominated possession but Sparta showed great discipline and concentration as they repelled each Banbridge attack. Sparta turned on the power again and grabbed a further four goals in the second half. Kazlauskas got one, while Balnanosis completed his hat-trick. There was also a Banbridge own goal. The final buzzer sounded with Sparta running out 8-1 winners and worthy first time Northern Ireland Futsal Cup champions.



**Northern Ireland Futsal Cup Winners, Sparta Belfast**



### Northern Ireland Futsal League

Belfast United won the Northern Ireland Futsal League for the second time in a row at the end of May as they held off the challenge from Banbridge Town and won the league on goal difference. There was very little to separate both sides all season with them both beating each other once and both drawing with Northern Ireland Futsal Cup Champions Sparta Belfast.

Speaking about the league season, Irish FA Foundation Schools & Futsal manager Jonathan Michael said; "This has been a very exciting season this year with the champions winning by goal difference. The teams have continued to raise their standards and I am excited about more clubs getting involved in the league next season. The more people that observe the game, talk about the game, share it on social media and see what happened this season can only lead to more people hopefully contacting me and wanting to get involved."

Belfast United will now participate in the UEFA Futsal Champions League at the end of August. They will discover which teams they will play against when the draw is conducted in Nyon on 5 July.

## Grassroots and Youth Development

### Summer Football Camps

The Hughes Insurance Irish FA Summer Football Camps will be held in locations across Northern Ireland. The five-day camps will take place throughout July and August. As well as 70 football camps, three of which will include girls only sections there are 12 goalkeeping camps, a football and tennis camp, two disability camps and a girls only camp.



### Club and Volunteer Development

Hillsborough Boys and TW Braga Successfully completed the current Advanced Club Accreditation programme with 22nd Old Boys the first club to upload Club Mark Criteria online. The Club and Volunteer team are ready to start a consultation process with clubs and footballing family regarding the new Club and Volunteer Development Programme that promotes positive club development through an online accreditation process and volunteer incentive programme.

### Department For Communities

Subject to final approval of the three national government bodies, football, rugby and GAA will receive funding for a Club Development Officer and a Volunteer Development Officer commencing on 1 July 2018. Each governing body will receive £47,000 for the nine month programme to run in partnership with DFC.

There will be a renewed focus on building capacity in clubs to ensure volunteer development and sustainability. The programme will involve collaboration and shared learning with the GAA and Ulster Rugby. It aims to support clubs and volunteers in Northern Ireland and benefit the three sports while building community cohesion through the power of clubs and volunteers.

## UEFA Funding

Following our submission to UEFA of a project plan addressing one of the weaknesses highlighted by the Grassroots Charter re-evaluation, UEFA have informed us they will be giving Grassroots a grant of €5,000.

UEFA studied our application carefully and are convinced that the project implementation will support the Irish FA to improve the participation level for adult players until the next Grassroots Charter evaluation in March 2019.

## Club and Community Development

Andy Waterworth has been appointed to a new role within the Irish FA Coach Education team. After an external trawl interviews and shortlisting have taken place for the position of Club and Community Development Officer. The successful applicant will be appointed by 1 August.

## Back In The Game

Back In The Game festivals took place at The Hammer 3G in Belfast, Bangor's Sportsplex and Ballymena Showgrounds. The Ballymena event was organised by local Grassroots hero Billy O'Flaherty and saw the Carniny Codgers side sport their new Back In The Game kit, presented to the team by Jackie Fullerton.



## Education & Employability Programme

### Education Officers

The first year of our Goals programme is finishing on 20 June. The participants involved completed a number of courses during the 16 week programme including the Grassroots Intro award, Referee Certificate, Show Racism the Red Card, Coaching Disabled Footballers, OCN Level 2 in Football Business, Futsal Intro award.

We are currently putting plans in place for next year. NRC are now running over three campuses with two year groups at each campus. Larne High have increased their participation to two year groups. Other schools that have confirmed their involvement next year are Boys' Model Belfast, Dungannon Integrated, Bangor Academy and we are currently in talks with a number of other schools from the different parts of the country.

We are starting our 2nd Kickback programme with the ABC Council which will run over the summer and aim to provide education opportunities and employability skills to the participants involved. This is due to start at the end of June and finish at the start of September.

## Peace Programme

### PEACE IV Sport Uniting Communities Update

Our work on the PEACE IV 'Sport Uniting Communities' project continues as we have had various different events over the past number of months across the region including Club Development Sport for Peace Days; Game of 3 Halves; Have a Go Days; Inclusive Clubs Workshops; Club Educational Visits and School Visits to the National Football Stadium at Windsor Park. These events and programmes give participants the opportunity to socialise and engage with people from different backgrounds using the vehicle of sport to break down barriers.

### Club Educational Visit



Recently, a group of 18 volunteers from clubs across 3 sports, Gaelic Football, Football and Rugby came together for a Club Educational Visit of the National Football Stadium at Windsor Park.

The aim of the visit was to:

- Address perceptions of people and clubs from other sports
- Help build relationships between clubs and volunteers across sports
- Provide informal opportunities for people from different religious backgrounds to socialise

The visit began with a brief history of the Irish Football Association and history of football in Ireland. Following this the tour group had the opportunity to browse the Cultural and Heritage Centre from where they were able to have a go at the many interactive stations.

The visit continued to the upper deck of the South Stand from where participants had a bird's eye view of the stadium and with the help of the tour guide learned a little more about the stadium history and its subsequent redevelopment.

The changing rooms of the Northern Ireland football team proved to be a real treat for touring volunteers as people posed for selfies in their favourite players changing area!

### Have a Go days

A number of Have a Go days have also taken place across the country. The purpose of these events are to work with local community organisations to deliver a programme of value-based sports coaching in areas where there is no opportunity to take part in these sporting activities. On 7 June 116 young people from schools across Belfast from different religious backgrounds took part in Have a Go day at Olympia Leisure Centre. Three special schools also attended the event. The young people had an opportunity to take part in coaching sessions in football, rugby and wheelchair hurling. The day was a resounding success and feedback from the participants was very positive.



## Girls' and Women's Football

### Club Football

The 2018/19 season with the NIFL Danske Bank Women's Premiership see's Crusaders currently on top and Linfield a close a second with a game in hand.

In the NIWFA Championship Comber Rec sitting top being closely followed by Lisburn Ladies.

### Club Development

The New Strategy Consultations are currently underway for the new Women's Plan. Consultations have taken place in Derry, Mid Ulster, and 3 in the Belfast area. A wide range of ideas have been retrieved and will be implemented in the first draft of the strategy which is currently being written.

The Mentoring programme along with the Youth Coordinators are going from strength to strength and it is having a huge impact in the Women's game. All women's teams have youth programmes and are working towards Club Mark status. Mid Ulster Ladies, Comber Rec, Bangor Ladies and Sion Swifts all achieved Club Mark in 2017. The hope is that we will double this number by 2018

A new Partnership began in April with Ascentiv Consultancy and Generation Women, Coach Facilitators who are working with the U19 Development teams. The focus of the Development workshops is to encourage and develop emotional resilience and leadership qualities within our young athletes. The programme is currently moving into faze two with the clubs in July.

The annual Mallusk Games Development centre is currently underway and has 60 teams registered with 600 girls involved. The games centre caters to U9, U11, and U13

### New Programmes

A number of the young female referees are now officiating within the small sided games programme in the South Belfast Youth League. They are being mentored and given opportunity to act as referee, assistant referee and fourth official. This resulted in the first ever all female team officiating a South Belfast League final and has ensured a record percentage of female referees enrolling to the summer based women's football leagues.

Active, Fit and Sporty funding has also supported the launch of the first ever U9 Girls only Belfast Games Development Centre. There were 13 teams and 96 girls registered and the aim is to role out a Girls only Games Development Centre in each council area from September 2018.

## Female Football Leaders Programme

Since its launch in 2013 the Female Football Leaders Programme has been a great success with 42 graduates to date.

Aims of project are develop and extend the skills, knowledge and network of women in leadership and decision-making roles within football with the intention of increasing the confidence, competence & capacity of women in a range of effective leadership behaviours.

It is also the aim of the programme to proactively support women to apply and progress in leadership roles within football clubs or governing body committees and boards.

This year there are 22 women registered on the Programme, the biggest number to date. The group is an exciting blend of personalities that are potential Game Changers!

## More News

Alison Nicholl has become the first women from Northern Ireland to have completed the UEFA Pro Licence. She currently coaches the U17 National Team.

Sara Booth, previous Women's Domestic Manager at the Irish FA is to be honoured the year at the Queens Birthday celebrations with an MBE for her services to Women's football. Sara represented Northern Ireland for 15 years before becoming the IFA's women's domestic football manager and was capped a total of 32 times. She is currently leading the way for women in football in Northern Ireland in her new role at FIFA as Project Manager for all female World Competitions.

## Schools' Football

### Electric Ireland Roadshows

In May Electric Ireland roadshows took place across the country with over 1,000 girls taking part in six different venues. The final roadshow was held at Drumgor Primary School and with eight different stations the girls got a chance to practise their dribbling, shooting, passing and close control. Nadine Murphy, Women's Domestic Manager, is thrilled with the response. She said: "All the kids have enjoyed it and everything has been well attended and we couldn't ask for anything better. "Our main aim has been to boost that link between the schools and clubs. We would like to see the 1000 girls that have attended filter into clubs."

## Disability Football

### Goals Galore at 2018 George Best Community Cup

Over 500 players from 51 Disability Football Clubs throughout the UK and Ireland descended on the Billy Neill complex in Dundonald this week to compete in the 2018 George Best Community Cup.

With over 300 games on 12 pitches in four ability bands the action was fast and furious throughout. The George Best Community Cup is an annual five-a-side cup competition for clubs catering for players with a disability. It is run by the Irish Football Association and supported by the George Best Foundation and Cash for Kids through the Mary Peters Trust.

Wrexham Football club won Ability Level 4 beating Jersey on the way to Cup success. Ability 3 was won by English Club Oadby and Wigston defeating local side Glentoran B in a close final. Skem-Men Aces of Liverpool won Ability Band 2, beating Sutton UTD, also from England, in the final. Ability 1 was won by newly formed Grove Athletic of North Belfast, defeating Glentoran's A team in a final of real quality.

The 2018 George Best Community Cup was a real goal fest with over 500 goals on the finals day alone. tournament organiser and Irish FA Disability Football Development Manager Alan Crooks was delighted with the Event. "The support we get from the George Best Foundation through the Mary Peters Trust has enabled us to develop the competition to the size it is today. It was great to see so many visiting clubs from the mainland including the disability sections of several Football League Clubs like Newcastle UTD and Charlton Athletic.



**Ability 4 winners, Wrexham**



**Ability 3 winners Oadby, and Wigston**



**Ability 2 winners,  
Skem-Men Aces**

The football was exciting in all 4 bands and it was good to see so many players of all ability levels getting the opportunity to play competitive football. Congratulations to all the players, coaches and volunteers who made the 2018 George Best Community Cup a memorable one."

**Ability 1 winners,  
Grove Athletic**



## Football and Social Responsibility

### Stay Onside

In June the Stay Onside team completed two 6 week course in Magilligan and Maghaberry. A total of 37 prisoners have completed the full 6 week course this year across the two venues with a course due to commence in Hydebank in the summer.

The Stay Onside programmes aims to use football as a hook to develop ex-offenders in a custodial and community setting. The course consists of introduction modules to coaching, refereeing and Futsal as well as workshops on Pathways to Employment and Mental Health in Sport.



The successful participants receive certificates for all courses and can be referred to the 12 week community course where they attain their level 1. Two community based courses start in August. The main objective of the course is to provide pathways for the participants to engage in volunteering, participating and working in football. One participant fed back post course: “It is a brilliant programme and I appreciate the time they give to people to deliver the programme. I learnt a lot during the programme and it gave me insight into lots of different programmes.”