

Tangerine News

The Newsletter of St.Kevins Boys Club

April 2018

Barcelona make it Three out of Three



The Academy Cup has certainly grown in stature since our inaugural tournament 10 years ago. In that first tournament we welcomed Aberdeen, Coventry City, Hull City, West Bromwich Albion and the DDSL squad.

Since those small beginnings the tournament has grown to become one of the most prestigious tournaments in the Under 13 age group in Europe and we have welcomed to our local Club such internationally renowned clubs as Real Madrid, Ajax, RCD Espanyol, Arsenal, Celtic FC, Benfica, Olympique Lyonnais, Brondby IF, Austria Wien, Deportivo La Coruna, Olympique Marseilles along with FC Barcelona who returned this year for a third consecutive time.

In fact Barcelona not only returned to compete in the tournament they also went on to win the Academy Cup for a third time.

The games all kicked off on Good Friday morning as our Under 13 team lined up to play Bayer Leverkusen of Germany who were making their debut in the Tournament.

The Saints had the better of the play throughout the game as they looked to record an opening win. Leverkusen found the Saints a real handful and were forced to defend in numbers for much of the game.

Unfortunately despite a number of opportunities the Saints were unable to score the goal their play deserved and in a cruel twist of fate Leverkusen scored in the dying seconds of the game. A free kick floated to the back post was met with a firm header to give the Germans the three points.

The second game saw West Brom, who are the only visiting team to take part in all ten tournaments, play a scoreless draw against another German team making their Academy Cup debut, Borussia Dortmund.

The two games in the afternoon witnessed Atletico Madrid, who were also appearing for the first time, overcome Bayer Leverkusen 2-0 with Javier Alonso, who would go on to be crowned Top Goalscorer of the Tournament, netting both goals.

Then it was the turn of FC Barcelona to show what they were bringing to the party this year and they didn't disappoint! The world famous club put in a scintillating display as they overcame Borussia Dortmund 3-0.

The next morning saw the Saints take to the pitch knowing that they needed to beat Atletico Madrid by two goals to stand any chance of progressing to the semi-finals.

Now as everyone knows the Saints have never been a Club that shrinks in the face of near impossible odds and our Under 13s made sure that this simple statement would be etched in everyone's memory for years to come.

Jamie Murphy opened the scoring for the Saints to see them lead 1-0 at the break. Atletico responded to the half time score by bringing on their

top players who they thought they could "rest" against us.

In a second half that seemed to last a lifetime, James McManus scored an absolute peach of a goal that saw the whole of Whitehall and Santry shake from the roar of the crowd as the ball hit the back of the net. Atletico were shell shocked and desperately tried to grab a goal back but the Saints put in a towering performance with David Leonard in goal denying the Spanish giants on several occasions.

FC Barcelona overcame West Brom 3-0 in the second game of the morning to see three teams through to the semi-finals.

The fourth team was decided early that afternoon in dramatic fashion. As both West Brom and Borussia Dortmund had finished on the same number of points and identical goal difference they asked if they could have a penalty shoot out to decide who went through, rather than the toss of a coin which was in the rules.

So before the games that afternoon five players from both teams took to the pitch to take their penalties and both teams scored four of their five spot kicks so in the end they had to settle for the toss of a coin and West Brom went through.

So the semi-finals saw St Kevins Boys face West Brom in what can only be described as a one sided affair. Despite taking the lead West Brom failed to match the Saints who were 4-1 ahead by the break. With the game in the bag the Saints relaxed a bit in the second half but still went on to win 5-2.

The second semi-final saw a first for not only Shanowen Road but Ireland itself as FC Barcelona faced Atletico Madrid.

We are all familiar with the current political context in Spain between both these famous cities so to witness both teams contest such an important game in our Club was truly monumental. As I said to some of the stewards that if someone had told you ten years ago that two giants of Spanish football would play against each other on our pitch you would have laughed at them!

It turned out to be a terrific game of football as both teams gave it their all and in the end it was FC Barcelona who proved the more clinical as they recorded a 2-0 win to set up a final showdown with St Kevins Boys for the third year running.

Easter Sunday saw both German teams contest the 5th and 6th place playoffs with Dortmund recording a 3-1 victory over Leverkusen.

Then it was the turn of Atletico to seal third place with a 2-1 win over West Brom before the much anticipated final between St Kevins Boys and FC Barcelona.

Both teams were lead out onto the pitch by our own Under 8s and a packed Shanowen Road watched and hoped that this would be our year!

Barcelona remembered the previous two finals against us, and the fact that they went to penalties, so were very much on their guard.

They started just like their senior team plays knocking the ball about crisply and the Saints were left chasing shadows and within fifteen minutes the Catalans were 3-0 up as their superiority shone through.

The Saints gamely battled to try and get a goal back but Barcelona were just too strong on the day and they ran out deserved winners.

While the final was taking place a number of our volunteers were busy preparing the hall for the presentation. As soon as the teams went out onto the pitch our busy bees got stuck in as they brought

Tournament Round Up

in the demountable stage, PA system, bunting and barriers to make sure that when the teams came in for the presentation everything looked spot on.

SKB Chairman, Michael O'Callaghan and Director of Football, Ken Donohoe both made the presentation of trophies for Leading Goalscorer (Javier Alonso, Atletico Madrid), Goalkeeper of the Tournament (Alex Honrubia Stefan, FC Barcelona) and Player of the Tournament which we were delighted to see was awarded to our own Sam Curtis. Derin Adewale was deservedly awarded the SKB Player of the Tournament award before Barcelona stepped up to lift the Academy Cup for the third time.

It was then time for the teams to depart as some had afternoon flights to get, others were later in the evening and Atletico liked Dublin so much they decided to stay longer than expected!



Feeding time for the hungry volunteers

The amount of work and number of volunteers involved in the preparation and execution of an international tournament such as this is enormous.

We in St Kevins Boys are exceptionally lucky to have people who willingly give up their time to ensure that everything goes off without a hitch.

There are team liaison officers who make sure that the demands of the teams are met as far as is reasonably possible, Yvonne, Cathal, Dermot and Tony manning the top gate along with Gerry "you can't park there", stewards around the pitch and Clubhouse, people working in the shop, Mick Dolan on the mic and his sometimes strange taste in music, Joe and Dave the bus drivers and their trusty conductor, Donie (I can't read this small print!), Sharon and Foxy doing the social media updates, the Daly & Doody catering team who never see the light of day for three solid days, Mick O'Callaghan and crew emptying bins, all the CE staff working all weekend (including Dickie who was allowed off to watch his son playing), Dave Furey entertaining the teams and their parents (some of them will never be the same again!), the entire Dequina family (I'm not sure it's legal forcing Adam and Kevin to work at their age, Jeff!!) Carole Daly orchestrating proceedings, our own Under 13s who managed to turn what looked like a disappointing weekend after the first game into a spectacular SKB success and not forgetting their parents who cheered and sang the whole weekend and left a lasting happy impression on our visiting teams' parents with their good humour and hospitality.



Dave Furey (and Lauren) learn to dance the Spanish Way

Suffice to say that a big crew headed over to the Comet on Sunday evening for some quiet refreshments and I understand a bit of a dance late into the night!!!!

Saints Look to Repeat SFAI History with 4 Finalists



Our Under 14s in Mallow for their SFAI Semi Final

Last year St Kevins Boys created a piece of history by winning four of the five SFAI All Ireland cups available to them.

This year we are looking to repeat that wonderful achievement as we have four of our teams in the finals.

Our Under 12 DDSL Premier were at home to Evergreen of Kilkenny in the semi-final of the SFAI Sketchers Norton cup and it was looking like extra time and penalties might be needed to separate the teams until Ryan Markey was put through and placed a wonderful chipped shot over the advancing keeper into the net – check the goal out on Facebook!

They will face Cork team, Douglas Hall in the final who overcame our Under 11s in the other semi-final ruining our chances of an all SKB final.

The Under 13 DDSL Premier put the disappointment of finishing runners up to Barcelona in the Academy Cup as they faced St Josephs Boys in the semi-final of the SFAI Sketchers Troy Cup. This, as was anticipated, a classic cup tie with plenty of incident and plenty of goals with the Saints overcoming Joeys 3-2 to advance to the final where they will face Galway side Mervue United.

Our Under 14 DDSL Premier team travelled to Cork to face Mallow United in the semi-final of the SFAI Sketchers Goodson Cup. Mallow were looking to get to their second All Ireland final in three years so naturally enough there was a huge crowd out to cheer them on.

The Saints had to work hard to match the commitment and work rate of their opponents and went a goal up following good pressure with a Craig Moore header. The second half saw Moore add a second goal but Mallow never gave up and managed to get a goal back to make it 2-1 and the crowd really upped the volume.

It is testament to the mind-set of the Saints that they didn't let the crowd affect their concentration and they scored a third goal near the end as Chris Lotefa finished off a great run by Jamie Mullins to ensure their place in the final and a game against Cherry Orchard.

The Under 15 DDSL Premier overcame Letterkenny Rovers 3-1 in the semi-final of the SFAI Sketchers Evans Cup to set up a date with Cork side College Corinthians.

In 2016 the SFAI agreed that if a team from outside the Dublin region reached the final of the SFAI cup the game would be played in their home county so our own teams are going to take to the road yet again for the finals with our Under 12s and Under 15s playing in Turners Cross in Cork on Sunday 27th May and our Under 13s travelling to Galway on Sunday 13th May for their final.

We're not sure which county the Under 14s are playing in or the date but we're hoping it won't be too far away!!!

Meanwhile our Under 18s are looking to become the first Saints team to win the FAI Youths Cup in what has been a much travelled campaign for them to date. They are set to face Tramore AFC in the final which for some odd reason is being played in Waterford – a stone's throw from the opposition's home!!

Come out and support the Saints

Now we are well aware that all our All Ireland Cup finals are going to be played outside Dublin (except the Under 14s) but we would appeal to everyone to try and get along and support the teams as we look to create more history.

SKB/BOHS Dominate Leagues



We are delighted with the way the games and results have panned out for both our Under 15s and Under 17s SKB/Bohs teams.

The Under 15s have won their opening four games scoring a total of 18 goals without conceding one! Recently they put 9 goals past Derry City as top scorer Sammy Ayolla bagged another hat trick.

Meanwhile the Under 17s are unbeaten after five games having drawn their opening game at home to Monaghan/Cavan. Since then they have gone on to record victories over Athlone, Shelbourne, Sligo Rovers and Drogheda United.

The SKB bug seemed to have infected all parts of Boh's at this stage as they recently shocked Shamrock Rovers with a terrific 2-1 win in Tallaght with the winner being scored by ex-Saint Darragh Leahy. We knew that this would be the start of something bigger!

In Safe Hands



Chris Conway and some of our SSG netminders

Being the last line of defence for the team requires a certain steely nature where despite all the great saves you have made throughout the game that keep your team in it the one slip of concentration can prove costly and leave you questioning yourself.

This is the life of the goalkeeper, the man between the sticks!

His position on the team requires special coaching and at St Kevins Boys we have always tried to provide the top class coaching that our goalkeepers require.

On Thursday nights the keepers get together for their own specialist coaching session. The Premier team keepers are coached by the very experienced Mick Fox while the small sided games keepers and the other 11-a side teams keepers are under the watchful eye of new recruit, Chris Conway.

For many years the Lacchia family of Claudio and Stephen looked after this group but due to other commitments this year were unable to dedicate the time required. We wish to extend our sincerest thanks to both of them for their support over the years.

We also welcome Chris Conway to the fold.

Chris started coaching seven years ago when his playing career was cut short through injury. He has completed his coaching badges and last year was managing and coaching an Under 15s team in Finglas where he played all his football.

As his own son came through our Little Saints and progressed onto our teams he became aware of the goalkeeper coaching and following discussions with Denis Cassidy he volunteered to take over the reins for the SSG and non-premier teams.

The Small Sided Games keepers' sessions are at 5.45pm and 11-a-side keepers' session at 6.45pm every Thursday in the Clubhouse and I would urge every team's goalkeeper to make sure they get involved and notice the improvements over time.

In Profile



Name: John Barry

Age: 17

Team: Under 18 DDSL Sunday Youths

How long have you played for St Kevins? I've played with the Saints since I was 12. I was playing for my local team for a number of years and was invited to attend the trials.

What's your favourite position? Left full back or left midfield

Is there any position that you hate/dislike playing? That would be the striker role. When I joined the Saints first they played me as the centre forward in the first few games but it wasn't for me.

Who is the joker in your dressing room and what do you like about the team? That has to be Jay Noone. This team has been together for a number of years with few changes so I think there is an understanding between the players on the pitch. The buzz is great with all the lads which makes it really enjoyable to be part of the team.

Do you enjoy the long journeys? This season and last season we had to travel a lot for various cup games which has been great laugh. The early starts are a bit of a pain but overall there is great bonding between us all on the trips both there and back which helps the team, and as someone said no journey is too long once you win!

What trophies have you collected over the years? Under 13 and Under 17 DDSL Premier League titles and Under 17 DDSL PFAI Cup

What was your most treasured playing moment? It has to be playing for the Rep of Ireland Under 18s this year. It was my first call up so it was a very proud moment for me and my family to pull on the green jersey and I was playing at left full which I feel comfortable in.

How did you find the other ROI players? They were really great, they made it so easy to fit in with them and to enjoy the occasion. It definitely left me with a taste for more international call ups!

What has been the biggest disappointment? Losing the SFAI final in 2015 on penalties

Do you set yourself goals at the start of each season? Yes, mainly to improve my technique and effectiveness on the pitch. My goal last season was to get into the Leinster Youths squad which I did as I felt it would improve my chances of getting into the international set up. So thankfully both came my way so I feel I'm doing something right.

What are your plans for the future? Well in the last few years I have received a number of offers to go and play League of Ireland football at Under 17 and Under 19 so next year I hope to go Under 19 and hopefully push on to first team football in a few years' time.

What's the best advice you have received so far? Always work hard and give 100%

Are you involved in any other sports? No I always just stuck with football

What is your favourite method of relaxation? Chilling out and listening to music, especially Rap music

Favourite team, and if you were the manager what changes would you make? I'm a Man United fan and the main change I would make is to play a more attacking style of play – bring back Fergie football!

What is your favourite League of Ireland team? Since I was a young fellow I always went to Shamrock Rovers games in Tallaght with my Dad and uncle.

Finally we'd like to point out that John is not 8 feet tall as the photo suggests but all that have played with or against him or indeed watched him will testify that he is a huge character on the pitch

International Saints



Five players from our Under 15s SKB/Bohs team were selected for the Rep of Ireland Under 15s games against the Czech Republic recently.

Gavin O'Brien, Len O'Sullivan, Ronan Kilkenny, Bosun Lawal and Colin Conroy all took part in the games, one of which was played in Shanowen Road, and all acquitted themselves with distinction.

The Magnificent +/-7



Pictured are Ben Curtis, Evan Ferguson, Sean Grehan, Callum Warren, Jamie Mullins and Cian Kelly who were all part of the DDSL Under 14s team that won the Costa Duarada Cup in Salou, Spain over Easter with Sean Grehan captaining the team.



Meanwhile we had eight of our Under 13 players' line out for the DDSL Representative squad who defeated their NDSL counterparts in the Leinster region of the SFAI Subway Championship. The game finished 3-1 and all reports suggest that Derin Adewale put in an eye catching performance. Pictured are Jamie Murphy, Derin Adewale, Sam Curtis, Davy Leonard, Kevin Zeffi, James McManus, Emre Topcu and Billy Gilmore

Snippets



Ryan pictured with two future stars, Byron and Logan Preston

We were delighted to see that Watford FC have given Ryan Cassidy a two year professional contract. Ryan has been with them for about 12 months and in that time has really impressed the hornets with his eye for goal at both Under 18 and Under 23 level.

None other than Troy Deeney has been waxing lyrical regarding his progress and we are sure that Ryan will go on to star at the club in the years to come as he makes steady progress in their ranks.

Last year we invited Colaiste Ide to speak to our Under 17s and 18s players regarding the Sport & Leisure Management/Soccer Courses that were available with the college.

This year four of our players, who were accepted onto the course, travelled to the United States to play a few games against colleges in Florida who are always on the lookout for players.

Sean Cummins, Levi Boardman, Morgan Biggs and Andrew Brennan all travelled and as there were a number of scouts watching the games we expect that their natural talent was spotted and will hopefully lead to better things.

9s and 10s Hit Manchester



Our players in the Manchester City dressing room looking at home

Our Under 9s and 10s enjoyed a fantastic, packed trip to England recently with DB Sports.

A 6.30am pickup from Whitehall Church on the Friday saw them whisked off on the Holyhead ferry and travel to Manchester where they enjoyed an excellent tour of the Etihad Stadium before checking in to their hotel.

The next day saw them up bright and early to head to the Hawthorns for a pre match stadium tour before settling in to see West Brom take on Liverpool.

They left with 10 minutes to go (and we all know what happened next!!) as they had to travel to play a number of games against the Birmingham City Academy where they gave a good account of themselves before heading back to the hotel for dinner.

On the Sunday they had a lie in (only getting up at 7.30am) before heading to Holyhead for the ferry home.

To say all the players thoroughly enjoyed the trip would be an understatement and like all SKB teams who travel they did their Club and country proud. Apparently they were particularly popular with a number of young girls in the Manchester region!!

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