



St. Mary's Football Club

Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 2

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St Mary's Toddler and Mini-Soccer Academy Goal

St Mary's are pleased to announce the toddler and mini-soccer academy.

Alistair McDiarmuid coach of the Under 15 National League Team has started a toddler and mini-soccer academy. It runs in Edmund Rice School on Tuesday evenings:

5-5.45pm Toddlers £3

6-7pm Mini-Soccer £3

Toddlers is aimed at ages 3-5, with the mini-soccer focusing on 6-9. The academy is open to boys and girls and it is hoped that the club can build upon the success of academy, with the long term goal of a development centre.

The aim of the development centre will be to provide pathways for individuals to achieve their own personal goals, in an environment of respect for all involved.

St Mary's would hope that programmes would provide specialised training to children while educating them in fair play and personal development. Football is the vehicle to achieve numerous benefits, however to achieve the benefits coaches, players and parents must work together,

This is why we feel this is the natural progression for the club, we have immense support from both parents and our coaching staff.

We realise the importance of developing the child as a whole and this is why we are going back to the start. Activities are the academy are designed to develop effective growth for each individual in terms of confidence, enthusiasm and team work.

This dedication is shown by Alistair who is currently working towards his Uefa 'B' Licence.

For further details or to register your child for Toddler or Mini-Soccer please contact Alistair directly on **07841779002**.

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Under 14 Night Game vs. Lisburn Youth

St Mary's played at Solitude on Friday 21st January 2011 under the flood lights in a key game against Lisburn Youth. The atmosphere before the game was electric with players and parents all expecting a massive game. It is the first time manager Stevie Turner had a such a big panel to select from. The first half seen the G-Man and Natho in mid-field dominating and Murdoch and Eastwood cutting down the wings with little

opposition. The back line led by Eoin O'Hare and JCB were solid on a very fast pitch. St Mary's had a lot of early chances but outstanding keeping by Lisburn kept the score 0-0 for the first half. Second half saw wing backs Adam T and Niall Magee push on, led by Seamus Girvan and Birchie up front but still no goal. Odhran Eastwood hit the cross bar from way back, but still no goal. Then the inevitable happened Lisburn scored a goal on the break away and the game finished 1-0 to them.

U14 Game vs. Coleraine FC Academy (4-1 winners NIBFA Cup)

Above—Owen Murdoch winning ball with G-Man Natho & JCB looking on

Left—Jack Deazley winning race for ball.



St Mary's tried to push on for the equalizer with Jack D and Dylan but St Mary's lost the game. Much confidence is now needed heading into the next game.

IFA Level 1 Coaching Course



St. Mary's Football Club

Executive Committee

Frankie Wilson
Eamon Morgan
Brian Byrne
Alistair McDiarmid
John Joe Walsh
Stevie Turner
Pauline McDiarmid
John Meighan
Denise Burns

Six St Mary's coaches have recently been signed up to the Irish Football Association Level 1 coaching course.

The course which is funded by the club sees each coach go through a rigorous three week course addressing issues such as:

- qualities of a good coach;
- players' development;
- referee awareness;
- first aid;
- safeguarding children.

The club takes its responsibility to both coaches and players

very seriously and sees this investment as extremely worthwhile and testament to our commitment to our club's future.

The course ran from 17th—31st October with the following St Mary's coaches participating:

- David O'Neill;
- Brendan Carlin;
- Conor McGreevy;
- James Tohill;
- Ben Price;
- Daniel Wilson

We strive to ensure that each age group has the services of

coaches with IFA qualifications and this October sees another batch of eager coaches come through committed to St Mary's.

We have already a process in place for more coaching course to be attended, and as ever the club welcomes any individual with the right attitude and commitment to helping our young players in their football development.

If you are interested in helping St Mary's through coaching and would like some further information please contact Frankie Wilson on 07802894289

Bon Voyage John

John Meighan, Under 16 Coach is off to pastures new—albeit only temporarily.

John is currently studying at St Mary's University College Belfast to be a teacher. He has been given the opportunity to undertake a teaching placement in Belgium. John says "I am heading away to Belgium in the 3rd February 2011 for four months until 27th May! I am staying in a town called Leuven which is about 15 minutes outside the capital Brussels. I am going to study 'education' in a Catholic

University with the possibility of going on a two week teaching placement. I will also be learning the dutch twice a week. The college had organized trips to go to Paris and Amsterdam, I chose Amsterdam. Leaving the boys in the Under 16 squad will be tough, in all honesty the St Mary's Under 16 team would have been the main obstacle in my way when deciding to go to Belgium or not.

The boys will be fine though and they have a very exciting and hopefully prosperous end to the season ahead! I intend to join

them for the Celtic Tournament in Glasgow at Easter, something I would not want to miss!

To be honest it's not the Under 16 playing team I worry about it's the coaching staff of Joe and Ryan—they'll need someone to organize them in my absence, with the ability to get them going!! I've been trying to coax Denise without success as yet—there's still time though lol"

The Club wish John every success with this fantastic opportunity and we look forward to hearing his stories when he gets back.



Under 16 Player of the Month

Michael Donnelly was selected by manager Joe Duffy as the Under 16 player of the month for his dedication in training and team-work throughout the season.

Interview with

How long have you been with the club and what position do you play?

I've played for four and a half years and I play right midfield.

What team do you support?

I support Real Madrid.

If you could play against any player or team in the world who would it be?

It would definitely have to be Real Madrid.

What has been your best moment with the club/your team so far?

My best moment at the club so

far would be scoring a hat-trick on my birthday.

What is your ambition for when you are older?

What do you want to do?

My biggest ambition for when I'm older is to try and continue my career as a footballer, but if that's not possible then I will probably go into accountancy.



Michael Donnelly—Under 16

News in Brief

Conor Birch (U14) tore his calf muscle in the game against Lisburn on 21st January 2011 and we wish him a speedy recovery.

Welcome back Conor McDiarmid after being out with a long term injury. The U17 are delighted!

Final call for **Celtic Easter trip** deposits £35 deposit (£219 in total). 22nd—25th April Under 15, 16 & 17 teams.

Facebook Update

As you may (or may not) be aware St Mary's now has its own Facebook page. This is a social networking page which allows the club to post any important updates whether its about training schedules or match cancellations.

It is an extremely useful method of communication and the club would encourage all players and their parents to become friends on Facebook, if they currently use the site.

The club's page is managed by Denise Burns and she ensures that all content on the page is appropriate.

It also allows us to share team photos throughout the year. If you have any photos you wish posted on the clubs page you can email them to Denise at denise.burns@ageni.org.

We currently have 204 friends so please keep spreading the St Mary's word !!!!



St Mary's Coaches vs Parents Match

St Mary's manager/coach vs. parents fundraiser match - **SUNDAY 6TH MARCH 2PM - 4PM at Cliftonville FC new 3G pitch.**

We need a manager for the St Mary's Team, two linesmen or women.

We need **parents** to get together and sort a squad ASAP! Sponsor forms available minimum sponsorship £10 each. £1 entry to match for spectators.

Fundraising Committee

U9—Cathy O'Neill

U10—Margaret Kingsmore

U11—TBC

U12—Una Walsh

U13—TBC

U14—TBC

U15—Pauline McDiarmid

U16—Denise Burns

U17—TBC

Anyone wishing to join the Committee to represent those teams yet to be confirmed should contact Una Walsh on 07917598439

Fundraising Activities

The club has a newly established and dedicated fundraising committee consisting of parents and committee members. Our key focus is to increase awareness of the club at a local level and the activities offered through mini-soccer and football, and by doing so increase the

funding coming into the club to sustain the activities for each age group throughout the season.

Each team will have a dedicated member of the Committee behind them to encourage proactive fundraising from them as teams to support their end of season events and trips.

After the success of the re-

cent car boot sale in St Bernard's we are excited about making this a regular event. Also the hugely successful Night at the Races brought in a staggering £1740 which was fantastic.

Other events will be coming up so please keep checking Facebook and with your fundraising representative (see far right).

St Mary's Senior Team

St Mary's are exploring the possibility of a senior football team.

An expression has made to the St Mary's Committee that some former players wish to form a senior team. This would be team for all those

players who cannot play for the Under 17 squad, and who are past players for the club.

The club are keen to explore this idea more and as such are seeking interest from any player who would be keen to

get involved in a St Mary's senior team.

If you would like to know more or are keen to get involved please contact a Committee Member or via email/Facebook.

There will be ongoing small fundraisers throughout the season at training sessions—please liaise with managers and coaches for further details.



St. Mary's Football Club

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'playing better football'



Some Photos



Top/ Bottom—Under 11 Squad

Below—Under 13



History

St Mary's Football Club was formed in 1996 by a group of parents in the greater Glengormley area who wished to provide football activity and participation for the younger boys and girls of the Parish of St Mary's on the Hill. We are a recognised charity with HMRC Charity Reference Number XR98532

Mission

To achieve greater participation by youth in sport and healthy recreation in Glengormley and North Belfast by promoting the development of sporting events, competitions and activities and encouraging participation in sports and recreation by youth from all communities.

We will also assist the mental, moral and physical development of its members through age related practice, coaching and participation in playing football. To encourage proper attitudes to the game of football and promoting high standards of discipline and sportsmanship.

In the Spotlight - Donna McNulty

What is your role in the club and how did you become involved in the first place?

I am the Under 11's manager and

day! But I think we still have another couple of stand out moments still to come this season so watch this space.

What do you do when you're not dedicating so much time to St Mary's FC?

I work as a classroom assistant in a special needs school. My hobbies are running and annoying referees!

Do you find it difficult being a female manager in what is mainly a male dominated sport?

No not at all, I just like to be looked upon as one of the gang within the squad. I have a lot of self control on the touchline (haha) and just prefer the boys to get on with their football. Once we step out onto the pitch I'm trying to get the team focused on the job ahead but I can deal with the other coaches, referees, parents as needs be and don't find it being a hindrance as a female football coach in a mainly male dominated sport.

What are your goals for the rest of the season?

I feel we have a really talented bunch of players in the squad this year and it has been fantastic to see them blossom as players and they have started to get to know each other game a little more, they have really come together as a TEAM. Despite a slowish start to our league campaign, my goal for the rest of the season is for the boys to finish as high up the table as we possibly can. The league intends to split into sections once the first set of fixtures have been completed and having played most of the teams in and around our league position, we know we would have nothing to fear and I would be expecting us to be competing around the top end of our section after the split. Would I be being greedy in asking for a wee cup run as well???

Tell us a lesser know fact about yourself, something the boys don't already know!

I can smile!!! Lol

at for my involvement! He's very convincing!

How is the season going so far for the Under 11 squad, any stand out moments?

I have really enjoyed the season so far. We got off to a sluggish start and maybe took a wee while to find our feet in the league but we've played most of the teams now in and around the top of the league and we've more than held our own against them all. At the minute the stand out moment has been our first victory against Crusaders at Ashfield. It was a tight game but we started to get on top of our opponents and win all our battles all over the pitch, emerging deserved winners on the day. I promised the team that I would cartwheel and somersault following our first victory and they got to see it that