



The 'Scottish News'

Official Weekly Information Sheet

Scotland Boys Club – Academy of Football

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Happy New Year to One and All !!

Happy New Year

Can I take this opportunity of wishing all the Students, Parents and their families an outstanding New Year from myself and all the Staff coaches and Trainee Coaches here at the Academy. I hope Santa was good to you all (especially the students) and I hope you are now all prepared to 'suffer' with a very gruelling pre-season to get rid of that extra weight you have all been putting on. The Academy looks forward to a sensational second half to the season, some superb tournaments and 'away days' ...and hopefully our first League Championship with the 1998 Squad. We look forward to Wales and the possibility of winning our first National trophy with that current squad. The 1999 Group's will be systemised and structured as they go into Phase Two of their programme, and the 1998's go into Phase Four of their programme.

Happy Birthday

This **2006** Year, Scotland Boys Club celebrate their **40th Birthday** in existence. This makes them one of the longest established 'youth footballing setups' in Scotland and indeed the UK. To 'celebrate' this fantastic achievement we will be arranging some special events throughout the year – details of which will appear in this **NEW STYLE** 'Newsletter'.....We have renamed the periodical the '**Scottish News**' and will be more 'student friendly' over the coming months. One of the major events that we will be looking into is a very special 40th Anniversary Presentation Dance in June 2006. We are hoping to stage this at the National Stadium and we intend this to be a **500 ticket sellout**.

Part of this event will be a 'show' which will run for about an hour. This show will take on the theme of 'talented kids' from a variety of disciplines and will be a spectacular event. What we are short of is a choreographer. Does anyone have any experience of running a 'show' with **several** acts involved (singing and dancing). We could have dancers, singers etc....so someone with some musical talent would be expected to take on board this role. Are you that type of person ? Can you committ to such an event...or do you know anyone who would fit the bill ? **Please talk to me as soon as possible**.

Also, we need **ACTS**. Do you know of a potential 'star'. Some child who excels in perhaps playing an instrument or some other performing art. It may even be a 'group' of kids....Again, please, please come and speak to me so that we can get this up and running as soon as possible.

There will be a lot of players invited too...but again if you live next door to someone or you know any players personally...give me a shout and we will see iof we can include them. The more the merrier.

The Christmas Party

First of all thanks to everyone for attending our first little attempt at a 'party'. My apologies for the presents 'mix-up'.....there was a lot of work put into the event at such short notice, and a lot of mitigating circumstances that perhaps did not add to the smooth running of the event...but we tried our best and I think it was a grand effort for a 'first attempt'. My particular thanks to the committee who organised the event, the students for their excellent behaviour (apart from one or two who got a little boisterous)...and of course you - the parents for bearing with us and supporting us. And where did all that fantastic food come from...it was absolutely brilliant...well done to everyone who contributed. We could have fed an army with that lot. Thanks for all the brilliant raffle prizes...and of course for the 'star prize' – the Bike !! In terms of money....the **XMAS PARTY brought in £667.00**.....the **XMAS RAFFLE brought in £1368.00** and the **BIKE RAFFLE brought in £229.00** making a grand Xmas fund raising total of **£2264**.....which was absolutely brilliant. I would really appreciate it if anyone who got any decent pictures of the event...if they could email them to me on robertmcdonald2@btinternet.com.

Winter Shutdown

Every year, in **ALL** Seven-a-Side football there is a **WINTER SHUTDOWN**. This year the shutdown is throughout **JANUARY** and the startback for the League (2nd half) to commence is the **FIRST** week in **FEBRUARY**. During this shutdown we will be endeavouring to arrange 'friendly' games to keep the students in shape. However there are **NO GAMES THIS WEEK-END**.

Lottery

We will be starting up the **LOTTERY BONUS BALL** again this weekend. It is in everyone's best interest (from the Friday evening group) to ensure that all 49 numbers are taken...so please take more than one if you possibly can. This money is essentially Toronto money and produces an income of approximately £100 per month. On several occasions it has been left to the same people to buy up any unsold balls which is not good nor fair...so please – can everyone do their 'bit'. In addition to this, starting **NEXT FRIDAY AND SUNDAY** I have asked Theresa O Hara to start collecting money for '**guess the doll's birthday**' fund raising event. We have been donated by a parent, a beautiful porcelain doll which is the prize, and all you have to do is guess when its birthday is. Now she has 365 days to fill...so she will be at you every week until this is filled. **This includes the SUNDAY MORNING GROUP**. It is a pound a go.... meaning when she has sold all 365 days....we will have £365 pure profit. We will not be announcing the 'winner' until ALL 365 days are sold...even if it takes several weeks. **So PLEASE, PLEASE contribute. Remember this starts NEXT WEEK !!!**

Re-structuring of Hamilton Campus

Over the next month, there will be a massive re-structuring of the Hamilton Campus. We are introducing a **grading** system which allows players to play at their own level rather than play at variable levels. The age differences are irrelevant even though they may be slight. The Groups will either be colour coded or set in 'houses' and will be coached at the level at which each student will feel comfortable and confident. This system will allow students who are exceptional to be 'pushed ahead' with much more advanced skills, and allow lesser skilled students to be coached the 'basics'. The current system does not allow this to happen and some students feel 'embarrassed' when they cannot match the better players. The major advantage of this re-structuring is that we will be able to offer more students 'real games' of football earlier than we would normally be able to. It also eliminates any 'kicking out' of students because of their lack of proficiency. There is no such thing as 'bad players' at these age groups...some are just more talented than others. We have to provide a 'fairer' system...and this system we are using is translated from some of the English Professional Academies set-ups that I have been working with over the last ten years. Within the system there is a 'promotion' system and a 'relegation' system which means once again that players who are progressing within one 'house' or 'group' can move up or down depending on how they are performing. Age will not now be a factor. If you are good enough...then you are old enough. Normally these 'promotions' and 'relegations' will be for a month...which will allow the student to improve or progress depending on their determination, their workrate, and their commitment. **WATCH THIS SPACE for full details over the coming weeks.**

Weights

As you are very aware, Scotland Boys Club for over twenty years now have adopted the English FA methodology when structuring our coaching school. One of the major differences between the English and Scottish programmes is the emphasis on strength and being able to compete. In order to counteract this aspect of our game we are introducing a programme of strength and stamina training. This will involve us using leg and arm weights. Each group (this currently only relates to the Friday evening squads) will participate in 30 minutes of intensive weight training every Friday to build them up. In Scotland it is commonly known as 'torture' ...but perfectly legal !!! At first they will struggle...but as they get used to it...it becomes easier. You will not see any difference until they have been doing this for six to nine months...but when it does kick in...watch the difference.

The Friday night group will also be moving into Phase Four of their eight phase coaching programme, which is much more tactical than before and will involve a lot of discussions and set plays. In other words it is going to be even more boring for you parents waiting around on those freezing Fridays. Because of this change around, they will be split into two groups, and each group will have an experienced qualified coach with them...and several 'trainee coaches' to assist. We will be starting the weight programme and Phase Four next Friday.

Want to advertise or tell us stories ?

We want to ultimately make the 'Scottish News' ...your Newsletter. Why not use it for a little bit of free advertising. If you have a story to tell about your son's achievements (or another member of your family), or if you have a picture you want to share, a car to sell, a roof needing fixed (like me), or indeed a Playstation game you want swapped...if you can pop me an email early in the week...I will do my best to get my secretary to include it in the next issue. Anything you want publicised...let me know. Remember I am now printing 100 of these Newsletters a week...and they go round grannies, grandads, schools, teachers, Auntie Mary's, Uncle Joe's, playgroups...in fact - everywhere....So come on down...if you want to tell us something...don't be shy. E Mails to robertmcdonald2@btinternet.com. This is my **NEW** Email address.

Manchester

The planned trip to Manchester due to be running on the last Sunday in January may have to be put on hold temporarily. The reason for this is a hold up in getting enough tickets for one of the Manchester City games which I have been invited down to see (with the Academy) ...and trying to tie in the fixture with the friendly is proving quite difficult. I should have some more positive news on this (hopefully) ...in next week's 'Scottish News'. Watch this space !! If it does not happen in January we may have to run it into February.

Wales

The remaining money for the proposed visit to Wales **MUST** be paid by the end of January at the latest. The cost as you are all aware is £350 per family and **ALL OF YOU HAVE PAID £50 DEPOSIT**. Some have of course paid more...so will have less to pay. I need to pay this full money up front by the end of the month or they cannot reserve chalets for us....so please ensure that your money is paid.



You can of course pay every week in instalments...but ensure you get a **RECEIPT** for every amount you pay !!!

Car Boot Sale

Currently we have quite a lot of 'bits and bobs' for the NEXT Car Boot Sale. But please do not stop bringing it along. Give it to ME or Jean Thompson....What we now need is a couple of families or parents to collect the 'junk'from Jean's house in Wishaw...and take it up to the indoor Car Boot Sale at Polmadie in Glasgow one Saturday or Sunday...AND SELL IT. The Thompson's and the Love's did the first one...NOW IT IS SOMEONE ELSE's turn. It is not fair to expect the same people to do it all the time. This is CANADA money...so come on all you 'Canada' parents...DO YOUR BIT...We need the cash !!!

2000 Age Group

As mentioned, it looks like February or March now, we intend starting a 2000 Age Group on a Sunday Morning to train separately. This NEW age Group will be introduced to the NEW SKY BLUE SCOTLAND TRACKSUIT which is now available to ACADEMY STUDENTS ONLY. The SFA have advised us that these NEW Tracksuits are only available through the HOTLINE NUMBER and you MUST tell them your son is a member of Scotland Boys Club – Academy of Football or you will NOT be allocated a Tracksuit. They are ONLY available in Junior Small Sizes. Also of course, they must obtain the rest of the standard kit is usual. (Home Strip, Rain Jacket, etc etc.) Once you get the Tracksuit...make sure you take it over to DEE SPORTS in Coatbridge and get them to get your son's initials and squad number on it ...and Scotland Boys Club on the back. On a sourer note, we are sad to announce the departure of Carol Ann Harrower from the SFA who fought tooth and nail over the years to get us standardised Scotland Kits...she will be a great loss. Carol Ann moves to a new job next week. So if you are ordering any Scotland merchandise...make sure you use the **HOTLINE NUMBER** and **TELL THEM** you are from Scotland Boys Club – Academy of Football. The 'factory warehouse' which is the 'hotline number' keeps our stock separate.

I have given David **enrolment and consent forms** tonight and this morning, as there are **FIVE** NEW STUDENTS THAT HAVE JOINED IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS WHO HAVE NOT COMPLETED AND FILLED THEM OUT. THERE ARE ALSO TWO EXISTING STUDENTS WHO HAVE NOT FILLED THEM OUT...SO PLEASE DO SO NOW. There are also some 'new' students awaiting on equipment order forms...David now has a full stock of these forms so please get them from him also. Anyone waiting on **SQUAD** numbers...these will be re-allocated **NEXT WEEKEND** as there are a few changes and some people have left the Academy. Next weekend's 'Scottish News' will give a full list of Names and Squad Numbers for 2006.

NO GAMES THIS WEEKEND – STILL ON RECOVERY MODE

There are a couple of 'mini-promotions' for the month of **JANUARY** only.

These will take effect from next Friday.

Anthony Ralston will move into John Renwick's squad, and **Anthony Croall** will join Bobby Mc Donald's squad.

Current Squads starting next Friday

Home Team		Away Team	
<i>John Renwick</i>		<i>Bobby Mc Donald</i>	
1. David Thompson	(Fri+Sun)	1. James Semple	
2. Ryan Kane		2. Leon Jones	
3. Aiden Gray		3. Anthony Croall 1999	(Fri+Sun)
4. Jamie Love (Capt)		4. Ross Lyon (Capt)	
5. Liam Bowie		5. Sean Hughes	
6. Liam Burt 1999		6. Ross Henderson	(Fri+Sun)
7. Ryan Love 1999		7. Aiden Mc Elhinney	
8. Anthony Ralston	(Fri+Sun)	8. Gary Keenan	
9. Callum Gibson		9. Calum Mc Donald	
10. Bradley Reid	(Fri+Sun)	10. Ryan Coulter	
11. Samuel Bullough			

The following players will also train on a Friday evening (as well as a Sunday morning) and are currently known as '**FRINGE**' players until the re-structuring takes place.

- Jonathan Downs
- Josh Mac Donald
- John Smith
- Paul O Hara

Once again it is absolutely essential to note that any student who is allocated to train on **BOTH FRIDAYS** and **SUNDAYS** on a permanent basis (see above) must **ALWAYS** attend **BOTH** sessions. Failure to do so without an absolutely genuine excuse will result in the player being omitted from the Friday structure altogether and will train on **SUNDAYS** only. This will of course eliminate him from inclusion in the squads for match days.