



The 'Scottish News'

Official Weekly Information Sheet

Scotland Boys Club – Academy of Football

Issue Number 3

Week Ending 20th – 22nd January 2006

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Clarification behind 'squad number' changes

UPDATE on 'squad number' changes

Can I apologise for the 'confusion' that was caused by the announcement of squad number changes without clarification – hence this additional article. I appreciate how parents feel about this change and there are a number of reasons for this. Firstly, when we set-up at Hamilton, we intended running a 1998 Group and a 1999 Group and halting the progress at that....but due to the success of this Academy, the SFA and several local enterprises as well as several senior clubs are approaching me and expanding the organisation beyond any controllable recognition. People are even asking me to start the 2001 age group when I have not even seriously thought about the 2000 age group. This is fantastic for the club and the students.

Secondly, the uptake on Wales. Tournament rules say that students cannot have the same number as others for obvious reasons, and once again we did not anticipate that uptake in places from potential 1999's. Thirdly, parents are wanting 'real matches' and because of this, as I explained at the parents meeting - we have to look for a 'league' which involves again, replication of numbers. The intention was for this to happen next season...but it will now be much sooner than that.

So the easiest control mechanism was to re-issue the numbers. There are only a **SMALL** number of students affected by this and because of the complaints I have received, I have extended the turnaround period until the Summer. **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO MAKE ANY CHANGES RIGHT NOW....**The difficulty will lie if I get these students games...but I will cross that bridge when we come to it. I have only had two complaints and that is the reason why I am clarifying things. We are also having major problems with 'tracksuits' and 'bags' ...(see article later in this 'newsletter')

So again...no action please. On a better note, one of our parents went to Dee Sports in Coatbridge during the week and they have informed us that they have a spray that they use which can be used to remove the old number from the strips and they are happy to 'hand pick' the embroidery out of jackets and bags etc and redo it for you....so this will be MUCH cheaper than getting involved in any replacement equipment.

Finally, Scotland Boys Club have always had a very well publicised '**hardship**' scheme within the Academy...and if any of the parents affected by this decision is struggling financially...the club will support them through this scheme. The reason parents were not 'consulted' was the fact that this was not open for negotiation (due to the aforementioned reasons). We had no alternative – so once again I apologise for any inconvenience. Please ring my Mobile if you need any further clarification.

Attire (Uniform) for games

When playing 'official' matches or even 'bounce' games...official Scotland Strips with squad numbers must be worn. If it is 'extremely cold' then it is acceptable for students to wear a long sleeved, navy T Shirt under his Scotland jersey, but NOT tracksuit bottoms under or over their shorts. Shorts and official socks must be worn with shingaurds of cours. Gloves are also recommended (navy blue) in cold weather but NOT tammies. Tammies and tracky bottom restrict performance in most proven cases.

Tracksuits AND Bags

I am having extreme difficulties with SFA Tracksuits and our 'red' Scotland Bags. Since Carol Ann Harrower has left the SFA – they are reluctant to order the quantities and sizes we require...so the alternative is to go through an SFA franchise holder to ensure that we can still use the SFA logo. I am in talks with a supplier as we speak and I am currently designing a customised tracksuit, a customised 'training kit', and a new bag (so that they do not have to wear their official kit at training – especially if they have a game the next morning.) It is expected that these Tracksuits / Training Kits / Bags will be ready for the start of the next Season in August. This will include the new 2000 age group which should be ready to begin in March 2006. Do not purchase any 'new' equipment until such times that this equipment has been clarified.

TOMORROW - SATURDAY

'Bounce' Game – Selected students only

As part of our on going development to determine Gradings – we have decided to pursue ANOTHER 'Bounce Game' tomorrow morning at Richmond Park.

Kick Off : 10.00 am

At : Richmond Park (please check with me tonight as it may change to Bent Parks if weather keeps up)

Please be at Richmond Park at 9.15 am to help with the setting up of goals please. Any help from parents would be appreciated.

THE FOLLOWING PLAYERS WILL BE REQUIRED FOR THIS EIGHT A SIDE GAME – SCOTLAND STRIPS ESSENTIAL

<i>John Renwick</i>	<i>Bobby Mc Donald</i>
1. David Thompson	1. John Smith
2. Ryan Kane	2. Gary Keenan
3. Callum Gibson	3. Anthony Croal
4. Aiden Gray	4. Calum Mc Donald
5. Jonathan Downs	5. Ross Henderson
6. Bradley Reid	6. Ross Lyon
7. Liam Bowie	7. Paul O Hara
8. Josh Mac Donald	8. Sean Hughes
9. Anthony Ralston	9.

Last weeks 'Bounce Game'

This game was a very useful exercise and was very much a 'game of two halves'. John's team had a very strong first half powering ahead four-nil.....but all credit to my team who gathered themselves together after a 'pep' talk ...and were unfortunate not to achieve a draw. The final result was a 4-3 victory to John's squad. Well done to all that participated.

Wales update

As I strolled round Asda Toryglen last Sunday evening, my mobile phone went and Kate Gray (Aiden's Mum) rang to 'snap up' the **LAST** available Wales slot. Four student places were available on Friday night – Jamie and Ryan Love snapped up two of them, Cameron Cardswell snapped up another on Sunday morning, and Kate got the last place for Aiden on the Sunday night. We now have **THIRTY** students travelling = **THREE TEAMS** – 10 students in each squad.

THERE ARE NO FURTHER PLACES UNLESS SOMEONE DROP OUT.

PLEASE REMEMBER NEXT WEEKEND ALL OUTSTANDING FEES MUST BE PAID.

Snippets :

- ✚ I had another successful week in Northern Ireland where we have now established some common ground to start an Academy in conjunction with Carrickfergus District Council. Hopefully I should be in a position to interview coaches on my next visit in March.
- ✚ Geraldine Glackin has agreed in principle (provided she can fit in the dates) to help co-ordinate the '40th Anniversary' Show which may have to be brought forward to the end of May in preference to early June. I am still looking for someone else to help as I feel this is a two person job...so any volunteers ? Still looking for Child Stars (Acts) for this event.
- ✚ Glad to see that half a dozen parents have approached me with the view to obtaining their own leg weights and dumbbells for their own kids. We must use this next six months to develop this strength building programme. It might also be worthwhile visiting Blantyre Sports Centre who now have a mini-gym suitable for eight year olds with weight machines etc.
- ✚ I will be visiting the Academy in Middlesbrough this week and I will report back on their progress in forthcoming 'Scottish News' publications.
- ✚ David Gray (Trainee Youth Coach) left yesterday on a College Coaching placement to sunny Lanzarote for a one week stint. We wish him well and look forward to him coming back – tanned – next weekend. Theresa O Hara has very kindly agreed to take the Subscription money this weekend in his absence. You can also pay any other monies to Theresa (ie Wales) and she will issue you with a receipt.
- ✚ This week's 'Lottery Winner' was GARY KEENAN.
- ✚ Can anyway make the Academy a wooden box (with wheels) capable of holding all of our weights. I would say the box needs to be roughly 1 metre long, 18 inches wide, by 18 inches high. Don't know if it needs a lid ...but certainly needs rope handles for pulling it and lifting it. Please come and talk to me !!!

'BENCHMARK' Games

Now every so often we have to play 'BENCHMARK' Games. A 'Benchmark' Game is where we play a team either a year or occasionally two years older than our students to see what level they are progressing at and more importantly where we have to be in order to progress them to senior status. Normally John Renwick (in consultation with myself) picks a select group of players who have shown above average ability over the last four months and he takes a team up to play a much stronger and older team. This event will be happening this Sunday at Robroyston in Glasgow. (See below for details).

The result is absolutely unimportant. A 10-0 defeat could be a good result – it depends on how the players PLAY. A full diagnosis will be done on each student after the match.

This is not a classification of the 'best players in the Academy'simply a snapshot of the players who are particularly playing well at the time of the 'snapshot' which is January 2006.

There will be another 'Benchmark' Game against Hearts FC 1997's Professional Youth Academy early next month.

'Benchmark' Match this weekend 22nd JANUARY

As part of our on going development progress we have decided to have a 'Benchmark' Game this Sunday.

Kick Off : 12.30 pm

At : Robroyston

Robroyston Rovers 1996's v Scotland Boys Club 1998/1999's

Please be at the Broomfield Tavern Public House which is in Broomfield Road, Robroyston (just off the M80) and close to the Red Road Flats for **12.00 noon**.

If you are not sure where this is you can meet at Hamilton Palace at 11.00 am and 'follow the gang'.

<i>John Renwick</i>		
1.	Daniel Mc Lean	
2.	Ryan Love	
3.	Samuel Bullough	
4.	Jamie Love (Capt)	
5.	Liam Burt	
6.	Aiden Gray	
7.	James Semple	
8.	Leon Jones	
9.	Ross Lyon	
10.	Sean Hughes	
11.	Ryan Coulter	
12.	Aiden Mc Elhinney	

1999 Match NEXT SUNDAY 29TH JANUARY

BECAUSE OF THIS – TRAINING NEXT WEEKEND IS ON SATURDAY MORNING – SEE CHART BELOW !!! THIS INCLUDES FRIDAY NIGHT FRINGE PLAYERS. Players BELOW ONLY please.

Kick Off : 10.00 am

At : Huntershill Playing Fields, Bishopbriggs

Rossvale Boys Club 1999's v Scotland Boys Club 1999's

Please be at the Huntershill for 9.30 am on 29th January. If you are not sure how to get there, MEET AT HAMILTON PALACE AT 8.30 AM SHARP.

Ian Downs & Alistair Whyte		John Renwick & Bobby Mc Donald	
1	Angus Cardswell (GK)	1	Scott Ballantyne (GK)
2	Josh Mac Donald	2	Ryan Love (Capt)
3	Matthew Innes	3	Anthony Croal
4	Christopher Sands	4	Liam Burt
5	Jonathan Downs (Capt)	5	Ross Henderson
6	Calum Whyte	6	Calum Glasgow
7	Anthony Ralston	7	Connor Stewart
8	Jack Stewart	8	Robbie Martin
9	Sonny Stewart	9	Andrew Mc Lean
10	Alex Keenan	10	Ryan Gormley

EVENTS - EVENTS - EVENTS

PLEASE CHECK WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH YOUR SON AS THERE ARE A FEW CHANGES TO 'NORMAL' PROCEEDINGS

FRIDAY	20 th January	Usual Friday Training 7pm – 9pm	Full Friday Academy Squad
SATURDAY	21 st January	'Bounce Game' for selected Friday night full Academy students PLUS selected Sunday morning students. (see above)	<u>Richmond Park</u> 10.00 am kick off Please be there at 9.15 am sharp
SUNDAY	22 nd January	Usual Sunday Morning Training	9.00 am - 11.00 am
SUNDAY	22 nd January	BENCHMARK GAME (Selected Friday Academy Students only – see Above)	Robroyston Rovers 1996's V Scotland Boys Club 1998/99's
FRIDAY	27 th January	Usual Friday Training 7pm – 9pm	Full Friday Academy Squad
SATURDAY	28 th January	Training for FULL SUNDAY MORNING GROUP + Friday night 'fringe' players that normally train on a Sunday morning.....at RICHMOND PARK – 10.00 – 12.00 noon	The reason why this training has been changed to the Saturday for one week is because there is a GAME tomorrow morning for selected members of the 1999 Squad (see below) – SO THE Sunday morning session has been cancelled.
SUNDAY	29 th January	ROSSVALE BC 99's V Scotland Boys Club 99's (See above for squads) We are only bringing selected players for this match. The players who are not selected will be getting their opportunity in a 'real' match over the next couple of weeks.	At : Huntershill Playing Fields, Bishopbriggs, Glasgow. Kick Off : 10.00 am Please be at Huntershill for 9.30 am (Official Scotland Strips please)

Bobby Mc Donald