




# The 'Scottish News'

## Official Weekly Information Sheet

### Scotland Boys Club – Academy of Football

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**It just gets easier, and easier, and easier .....**

### 'School of Excellence' run EK Burgh ragged

My apologies for there not being a 'Newsletter' last week.....its amazing the amount of people who 'miss' the read....my phone never stopped ringing. Both the 'School of Excellence' and the 'Academy PLUS' squads had fabulous victories against a very poor EK Burgh side a fortnight ago. The 'School of Excellence' actually won one of their matches 19-0 .....which we can all agree does no-one any good.

After this destruction, I have decided to liase with the parents from the 'School of Excellence' squad and have a chat about where this is going. It is basically a re-assurance meeting, and this meeting will take place **IMMEDIATELY** after the Wolves game this weekend at Richmond Park. The meeting should last no longer than 30 minutes and I ask ALL 'School of Excellence' parents to **WAIT BEHIND** if at all possible.

### Weather 'bites' again

The weather took control of both Training **AND** Games last weekend with only **ONE** session managing to happen at all and that was the Sunday morning group. In fact – that was a last minute decision I can assure you. The Milton Rovers game and the Rossvale game were both cancelled.

Please remember that there is only **ONE** thing to consider as to whether these games go on or not.....**STUDENT SAFETY**....nothing else matters. It is imperative that the ground is safe (in case of a fall) and that is why organisations like Hamilton Palace think 'safety first'.

### A Tremendous 'workmanlike' performance

It was just fantastic to see some of the younger students participate in their first 'real' game a fortnight ago at Hamilton Palace. Our 1999 (Regular) Squad, had a wonderful game against Glenboig Boys Club 1998 Full Squad and unfortunately lost 3-0. Glenboig were just that little bit too strong.

On the other hand, our 'Improver' Squad played against Glenboig Boys Club 1999 Group and they turned out a fabulous 5-0 victory over two halves. I asked the referees from Glenboig to pick out the two 'man of the match' awards and they chose Anthony Croal for the 'regular' squad and Scott Ballantyne for the 'improver' squad. Well done you two – keep up the good work.

## For : Scotland Boys Club – read ‘girls’ club ??

I am not suggesting for a moment that our standard of play in recent weeks has reduced me to saying the students are playing like ‘lassies’ although that comment has come out my mouth on occasions in anger !! It merely signifies a very special day in the Academy’s history since its birth in 1966. For the first time, Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February, marks the day a FEMALE played for the Academy of Football. A special warm welcome to Miss Carla Boyce, who made her debut for the ‘regular’ squad against Glenboig Boys Club at Hamilton Palace. Long may her apprenticeship continue....we wish her well.

## Irish Dancer’s sweep to victory

Well one did anyway !! I was delighted to see my two daughters pick up some awards which made a pleasant change to footballing medals. Susan, the younger of the two managed to pick up two 4<sup>th</sup> places in her age group and Kathleen Anne managed to ‘sweep the board’ with a GOLD, two silvers, a bronze and a fourth place. A fantastic achievement for their very first FEIS. But I am afraid my mind was in another place whilst they were dancing – Brancumhall to be exact !! My feet twitched, my agitated tap, tap tap of strumming fingers told it all. I was like John Renwick without a fag !!! A new vocation ? – I DON’T THINK SO – thank heaven for the fitba’ .....

## Presentation Tickets going like ‘wildfire’ ....

Tickets for the forthcoming Presentation Awards night are being ordered like hotcakes. Nearly 300 were ‘ordered’ last week. Tickets are available FROM NEXT WEEKEND, priced £5.00 each from Theresa O Hara **ONLY** at Training on Friday nights and Sunday mornings. Remember ‘students’ HAVE TO PAY...and there is NO BUFFET...so eat before you get there. Tickets will only be allocated on receipt of payment. **FIRST COME FIRST SERVED PLEASE.....**There will be none left shortly – so order now...and get your money in from NEXT WEEKEND !! Dinna come moaning if you don’t get any. I also need raffle prizes and ‘helpers’ ....names now being taken. Babies (up to 3 years) go FREE !! Anyone four years or more have to pay a fiver. I also need **RAFFLE and AUCTION** prizes handed in now please. Please don’t leave it until the last minute.

## Race Night tickets came to a ‘standstill’.

Tickets for the forthcoming ‘Race Night’ seem to be going quite slowly now. We really need another 50 or so tickets to be sold to make it a viable venture. **THESE TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM THERESA AND DAVID THIS WEEKEND .....PLEASE BUY THEM UP... or indeed YOU CAN GET THEM DIRECT** by contacting John & Josephine who are organising the night. John & Josephine can be contacted on **01236-873000**. We are also short of **SEVERAL** auction prizes and of course raffle prizes. Please donate these prizes **NOW** ...this **HAS** to be a big success. You can hand in donations/prizes anytime. We need your help.

In addition to that...there are still **FIVE RACES** to be sponsored.  
**PLEASE, PLEASE GET IN TOUCH .....**

## Hamilton Academicals Festival of Football

Hamilton Academicals Football Club have, for the first time, INVITED the ‘School of Excellence’ and the ‘Academy PLUS’ Squads to play in their prestigious FESTIVAL of FOOTBALL at New Douglas Park, Hamilton. Now there is a surprise....I wonder why !! As if we didn’t know >>> Now you know my feelings on this club... (School of Excellence Parents !!) ...but I have decided to swallow my pride and let the students compete. **THE TOURNAMENT IS ON EASTER SUNDAY – 16<sup>TH</sup> APRIL – IF YOU ARE NOT AROUND ON EASTER SUNDAY – I NEED TO KNOW NOW !!!** The tournament is on Hamilton Accies actual pitch at New Douglas Park (Astrograss), and will include quality 1998 teams from all over the country. Westpark Boys Club (the team we are playing on Sunday – see this Newsletter) are one of the fine teams competing. The Under 8’s tournament will have 20 teams divided into sections – and **STARTS AT 10.00 AM.**

Games are a straight 20 minutes each. Goalkeepers **CANNOT** kick the ball out, they must throw it out underarm. There will be a retreat line to allow them to do this. Every free kick awarded will be indirect. Parents and supporters must pay into New Douglas Park and watch the festival from the stand. Only coaches will be allowed trackside. Each team will start with 7 players on the pitch with rolling substitutions allowed at any time during the game. Each team will play a minimum of **FOUR** games and games will be started by a claxon by the official timekeeper. On the same day – in the afternoon – the 1997’s festival will take place. Please make a day of it. Tell all the Aunt’s, Uncles, Grannies, and Grandad’s to come along. There will be around 1000 spectators for this festival and it will be a tremendous achievement if we can win it...but **YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED.**

## SUMMER LEAGUE

There has been a very significant announcement last week in respect of the above League which we are getting involved in, relating to the use of 'over-age players' who are of the same standard of the players they are playing alongside. Unfortunately this rule of being allowed to play **TWO** overage players is being **abolished (in this league only)** and the use of any form of overage player is now strictly forbidden. This now involves significant changes needing to be made to our 'lower' half of the new Academy structure. We have already taken the decision to involve the 'Sunday' Groups – **IMPROVER** and **REGULAR** – squads in a Summer League which runs from April 2006 till August 2006 so we must continue with this venture. We have 're-badged' the Groups as you can see below. The change will involve both groups of students who train on a Sunday. The change is very straightforward – players will now be categorised into their own age banding for this particular League. **This change will take place IMMEDIATELY.**

<b>Managerial Team : Robert Gormley / Ian Downs</b>			
1	Vacancy (GK)	Academy 1998 Improvers	
2	Alex Keenan	Academy 1998 Improvers	
3	Jack Semple	Academy 1998 Improvers	
4	Paul O Hara	Academy 1998 Improvers	
5	Ryan Gormley	Academy 1998 Improvers	
6	Scott Ballantyne	Academy 1998 Improvers	
7	Josh Mac Donald	Academy 1998 Improvers	
8	Jonathan Downs	Academy 1998 Improvers	
9	Christopher Sands	Academy 1998 Improvers	
10	Ryan Mc Hutchkins	Academy 1998 Improvers	
11	Carla Boyce	Academy 1998 Improvers	
12	Vacancy	Academy 1998 Improvers	
<b>Managerial Team : Alastair Whyte / David Gray</b>			
1	Angus Carswell (GK)	Academy 1999 Squad	
2	Anthony Croal	Academy 1999 Squad	
3	Calum Glasgow	Academy 1999 Squad	
4	Calum Whyte	Academy 1999 Squad	
5	Connor Stewart	Academy 1999 Squad	
6	Jack Stewart	Academy 1999 Squad	
7	Robbie Martin	Academy 1999 Squad	
8	Matthew Innes	Academy 1999 Squad	
9	Ross Henderson	Academy 1999 Squad	
10	Andrew Mc Lean	Academy 1999 Squad	
11	Sonny Stewart	Academy 1999 Squad	
12	Kieran Mc Millan	Academy 1999 Squad	
<b>Beginners</b>			
	Christopher Mc Cann	Academy BEGINNERS	
	Darren Gough	Academy BEGINNERS	
	Lee Ritchie	Academy BEGINNERS	
	Jonathan Bergen	Academy BEGINNERS	
	Christopher Queigley	2000 Age Group	
	Adam Bergen	2000 Age Group	
	Kyle Mac Donald (GK)	2000 Age Group	

Bearing these changes in mind, we are going to be putting in a series of advertisements to boost up the 1999 Squad (as we need TWO teams for August 2006) and the 2000 squad (we need TWO teams for August 2006). **IF ANY STUDENTS HAVE ANY FRIENDS WHO ARE GOOD PLAYERS BORN IN 1999 or 2000.... AND WANT TO COME ALONG – BRING THEM NOW AS THE ADVERT GOES TO PRESS IN A FORTNIGHT.**

**The Summer League** starts in the first week in April and games will be on a **THURSDAY NIGHT**. It is not set in a tablet of stone, and there is flexibility – but essentially we will try to keep games to **THURSDAYS**. Now there is a new initiative around which is trying to force **1999's to play FOUR A SIDE** instead of **SEVEN A SIDE** and this League is taking up this initiative. Because of this I am **NOT** going to enter our 1999's in this age category – I have decided to play them in the 1998 Age Group – because it is still **SEVENS**.

So the above two 're-badged' squads will be playing in this 1998 League. It will not do them an ounce of harm. It will toughen them up. One team will be down in the fixtures as 'Scotland Boys Club – Navy – 1998 Improvers' **AND** one team as 'Scotland Boys Club – White – 1999 Squad'.

In addition to this – **BOTH THESE SQUADS** will be playing in the **Lanarkshire Under Age Soccer Sevens Festival at Lanark Racecourse** on either Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March OR Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March – **DATE TO BE DECIDED.....watch this space .....!!!!**

## TOMORROW - SATURDAY

### The Academy v Wolves Boys Club

At : Richmond Park

Kick Off : 10.00 am

Please be at Richmond Park at **9.15 am** sharp  
on Saturday morning to help set up the goals.

**IF GAME IS IN ANY DOUBT ...RING ME AND CHECK...MY PHONE IS ON DAY AND  
NIGHT ...ITS NEVER TOO EARLY OR LATE TO PHONE OR TEXT ME.**

<i>Coaches</i>	<i>Coaches</i>
<i>Bobby Mc Donald</i>	<i>John Renwick</i>
<b>'School of Excellence'</b>	<b>Academy 'PLUS'</b>
Aiden Gray	Anthony Ralston
Aiden Mc Elhinney	Bradley Reid
David Thompson	Callum Gibson
Gary Keenan	Calum Mc Donald
Jamie Love	James Semple
Leon Jones	John Smith
Ross Lyon (Capt)	Liam Bowie
Ryan Coulter	Liam Burt
Samuel Bullough	Ryan Kane
Sean Hughes	Ryan Love (Capt)

## THIS SUNDAY - 'BENCHMARK' GAME - 8-A-SIDE

### School of Excellence AND selected Academy PLUS students (Mixed)

*The 'A' Select are being given TWO x 20 minutes slots and the 'B' Select will be given ONE x 20 minute slot. Some other students will get 'two' slots.*

**Select 'A' v Westpark Boys Club 1.00 pm - 1.20 pm**  
**Select 'B' v Westpark Boys Club 1.25 pm - 1.45 pm**  
**Select 'A' v Westpark Boys Club 1.50 pm - 2.10 pm**

**At : Oxgang Primary School, Lammermoor Road, Kirkintilloch G66 2AB (Grass)**

**Kick Off : 1.00 pm**

**Please be at Kirkintilloch at **12.15 pm** sharp**

*Westpark Boys Club are probably one of the best 1998 Squads in Glasgow. They play in the Dumbartonshire League and are undefeated to date since they began playing. This will be one of our toughest challenges yet at our OWN age group.*

<i>Bobby Mc Donald &amp; John Renwick</i>		
<i>1.00 pm - 1.20 pm</i> <b>Select 'A'</b>	<i>1.25 pm - 1.45 pm</i> <b>Select 'B'</b>	<i>1.50 pm - 2.10 pm</i> <b>Select 'A'</b>
David Thompson	James Semple	David Thompson
Ross Lyon	Ryan Love	Ross Lyon
Leon Jones	Liam Burt	Leon Jones
Aiden Gray	Aiden Mc Elhinney	Aiden Gray
Jamie Love	Callum Gibson	Jamie Love
Ryan Coulter	Samuel Bullough	Ryan Coulter
Ryan Love	Gary Keenan	Gary Keenan
Sean Hughes	Ryan Kane	Sean Hughes

## Snippets

- **Dundee United** have offered Reece Glackin, 'Advanced' Academy student a one year contract with their Professional Youth Academy....we wish him well. Drew Findlayson, another Academy 'Advanced' student, who has been training with Aberdeen FC, is also impressing Dundee United and Rangers. Drew has been having some trials lately and seems to be progressing very well.
- Regan Glackin has been invited to train with Celtic FC 1997 Academy for the season (even though he is a 1998 student) which is a unique and fantastic achievement.
- All these students are now hopefully following in the footsteps of our Goalkeeper – Daniel Mc Lean – who recently signed a one year contract with Hearts FC. Well done everyone.
- I have **ONE** name handed to me from a parent wishing to give up his time to assist with the Awards Ceremony at Hampden Park ....Jim Stewart from the Sunday Group. I need 30 volunteers to make this a success. Can you please dedicate some of your time to this event to make it a success?
- I interviewed seven coaches in Belfast this week....none of which were suitable...back to the drawing board.
- My apologies for the photographer not managing a fortnight ago....we aim to get this sorted out for the next series of home games to get those 'all important' action photos.
- We need a 'Sunday Parents Committee' to help raise well needed funds for these Groups – any volunteers – please give me your name as soon as possible.
- The **BONUS** Ball was won this week by **GEORGE RALSTON** (Anthony's Grandad).
- During 'match days' can everyone please buy a warm, long sleeved, **NAVY BLUE** crew neck jumper to go under the boys' Scotland strips to keep them **WARM**. Also, make sure they wear **GLOVES** at **ALL** times in this weather. At training they should have tammies, jackets, gloves and of course a tracksuit on. It is imperative these students keep **WARM** at all times....
- I am doing a survey to find out how many parents would prefer the Newsletter **E MAILED** to them instead of getting a printed copy. Can you give me your email address if you would prefer this to happen. I am printing **60** of these Newsletters a week – a lot of paper and ink...and it would really be a **BIG HELP** and cost saving if you could pick it up by email. It would also guarantee you a copy if you 'missed' training for whatever reason. Please let me know now.....Thanks !!!



**Rangers FC ....INVITED** the 'School of Excellence' along to Murray Park this week to be inducted into a new experience. Ian Currie invited the students along. I took along 20 Academy Students all born between 1996 – 1998 to play an exhibition match against Rangers FC (1996 Squad).

An overmatch to say the least. The scores against us went into double figures in the first games and when the Rangers squads were asked to 'ease' off in the second games – the scores were more respectable.

The objective of the 'session' was to show students and parents how far the kids will have to go in the next two years...and also to give them an insight into how a professional Academy is run.

Don't forget – these Rangers kids were not a select from Glasgow ....this is the full 20 signed players who come from all over Scotland. Some of these kids' parents had to come down the night before, stay in a hotel, and get permission to get off school and parents had to take a day off work...just for this game. They train three nights a week, either at Murray Park or locally with regional groupings.

And if you thought those kids were good, remember what Ian Currie said 'if we get one kid from the entire current Academy (from U.10's up to U.16's) ...they will be 'over the moon'. Hence the reason why we say ....think carefully if deciding whether or not you want your child at Rangers or Celtic !!!

But all in all it was a fantastic night for our students who got a tour round the complex – I hope they enjoyed it.....my thanks to Ian Currie and Rangers Football Club for the invite. **WE WILL BE BACK !!! SOON...**