

Aquinas Newsletter

June 2020

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AQUINAS F.C.

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

Hello folks

I hope everyone is staying safe and well at this time. Things are slowly easing into what may become a new normal and with some luck football may be back in swing of things in not too distant future. This is first newsletter in what we hope will be monthly distribution to keep you in touch with players, teams and events but also the other stuff going on behind the scenes. We are also looking for any and all feedback, about the newsletter, the club or anything you think we might be interested.

As a recent appointment taking over from Noel McKee, I have some big shoes to fill. So I have set myself out a few things to achieve to build on the fantastic work by people before me.

1- Obtain a new home ground - a place to train, house our numerous trophies and a place players, members, coaches and volunteers are proud to call their own.

2- Increase funding streams - in order to achieve the above, we will need to find new and novel ways of funding this.

3- Increase coach education and training, in turn increasing the standards across the club.

I will look to keep people updated on the progress we have made so far on each of these items in due course.

I hope you enjoy the Newsletter, massive thanks to John McAuley for volunteering to take on role of Communication Manager and put this together ,

Best wishes,

Hugh McKillop

COACHES

Tell us about your team

Coaches, this is your chance to tell everyone at the club about your own team – the players love this bit. So just provide some information in relation to the key points listed and we'll try to get it included in an upcoming edition. It couldn't be easier!

Team name, and key sponsors
Highlights of last season
Anything interesting you did over lock-down
Ambitions for next season
Answers to be returned to

Newsletter@aquinasfc.net

TEAM PROFILE - U15 SQUAD (SPONSORED BY COASTWAYS)

The u-15 squad consists of 2 teams, coached by Connor Cummins and Lawrence Watson, who are supported by David McVeigh, Eoghan Taggart, Matt Keenan, Conal McGarry and John McAuley.

1. Highlight of the past season

The undoubted highlight of the season for the lads and coaches was a trip to Madrid, where the squad was coached at Real Madrid City, (Real's amazing training facility) by Real Madrid coaches. Inspire Sports, who looked after us, were incredible throughout the process and helped make this the trip of a lifetime. The boys were guests at the Bernabeu stadium, saw Atletico Madrid play Bilbao at the amazing Wanda Metropolitano Stadium and played games against Atletico Madrid's under 15 squads.

The first team had an honourable 1-1 draw, while the seconds pulled off a last minute 2-1 victory thanks to a bit of Adam Purcell magic.

Other highlights of the season included 2 great wins by the firsts against Newhill, with one of these games ending in a fantastic 5-0 victory at Whiterock and a superb performance by the seconds against Tullycarnet in the last game before lockdown.

2. Anything interesting you did over lockdown

We held several quizzes with the boys and their families and we also created the video below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vwhOqfU7UM&t>

3. Ambitions for next season

Last year we told the boys they could be in the running to win their respective league and, having seen the progress and performance levels achieved in 19/20, we are even more confident going into next season.



SPONSOR IN THE SPOTLIGHT – GARDEN DESIGN CENTRE

Sponsorship is critical to our club – but the arrangement should benefit both parties. Our many sponsors provide much needed financial support to us, and in return we as a club and as individual members, should support them as much as we can.

Garden Design Centre is one of the many organisations that support the Club financially, and we appreciate all that our sponsors do for us.

The company has just celebrated 30 years in business and is owned by Brendan McCann who, for the last 10 years, has been a coach at the club and until recently, was the club's 'KIT MAN'.

Garden Design Centre carries out a wide range of gardening work, for domestic and commercial customers. This includes maintenance of gardens, landscape construction and sports ground maintenance.

Brendan and his team have been responsible for the upkeep of the YMCA grass pitches for a while and they have never looked better.

If you think they can help you or your family with any gardening jobs, give them a call on 02890 629180.

OVER 35S

Aquinas FC have entered a new team in the Emerge Over 35 league. This will be for past players/coaches and people interested in representing Aquinas. Matches will be on alternating Sunday afternoons and good opportunity to keep in touch whilst playing a game of football. If you are interested you can drop us a note or contact Ciaran Devlin on 07734 297294.

SENIOR 4TH TEAM

New Senior team, we are looking new players - anyone interested in playing drop a note to our newsletter email.



AQUINAS FC IN THE COMMUNITY

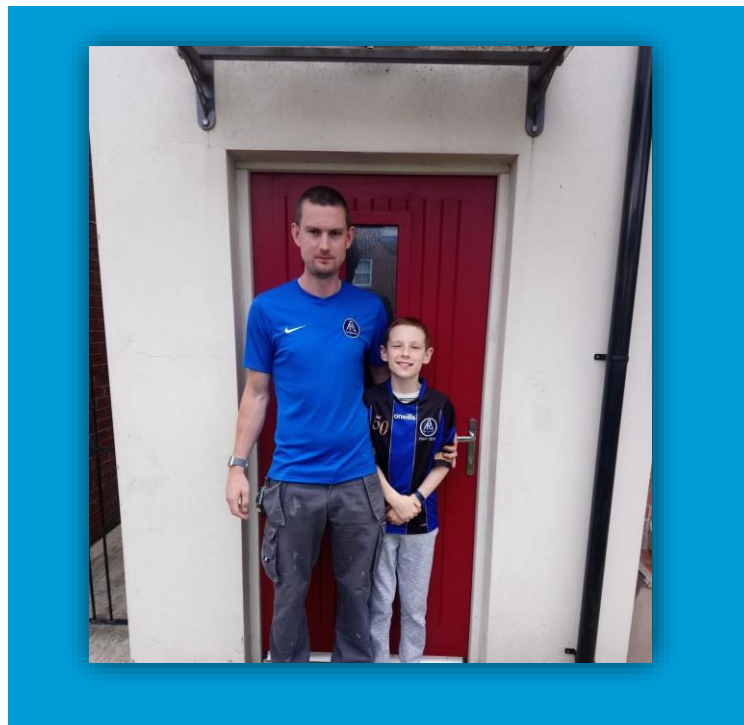
Aquinas is the largest football club and youth service provider in South Belfast with over 600 members in the club. We not only aim to facilitate football but help out with local charities and fundraising to give something back in the community. Over £10,000 has been raised by the club in last 18 months for various causes

Over the lockdown period various teams within the club have been doing their bit for some very good causes. Decky Owens and his 2010's team did a fun run and raised the fantastic sum of £1,000 for the NI Children's Hospice. (Declan and son Jack are pictured on right)

The Seniors squad completed 36 marathons in 3 weeks and raised the sum of £3,100 for the NHS.

(Pictured below is some of senior players raising money for MNDA last year)

Very well done and congratulations to everyone who took part in or contributed to these fantastic efforts.



COACHES' CORNER

The Chairman recently advised coaches that there were signs that training could be resumed shortly, probably with certain conditions.

More information will follow as it is received.

Thank you to all coaches who confirmed their intention to return to a coaching role next season. The Committee will be considering the coaching structure at all levels and hopes to be in a position to communicate its thinking in the near future.

Any coaches who have any suggestions or ideas on how we might improve the standard of our coaching and training should contact Hugh McKillop.

COACH EDUCATION

Aquinas FC have aspirations to have some of the best coaches available for youth football. To do that we need to provide the appropriate training and mentoring.

Earlier in the season the club put 20 people through IFA grassroots program.

During the summer of 2020 we hope to have a number of people take their coach education further with UEFA B Licence Part 1 and others finish Part 2. This is an intensive 7 day (9am to 9pm) course which is a big commitment for the coach, but something which should benefit everyone in long run.

FEEDBACK

We are a growing club with over 600 members, and we continue to grow. Communication in such a group is important, we believe, and this newsletter is our first attempt at keeping everyone at the club updated on topics we think will interest you. However, we rely on input from club members and particularly our many coaches. Please, please tell us what you would like us to include in future editions and, importantly, send us information, photos or videos you feel would be of interest to the Aquinas Community.

Email - Newsletter@Aquinasfc.net



AQUINAS FOOTBALL CLUB

ESTABLISHED IN 1969, AQUINAS FOOTBALL CLUB IS THE BIGGEST CROSS COMMUNITY FOOTBALL CLUB IN SOUTH BELFAST WITH OVER 600 MEMBERS. A STRONG JUNIOR SECTION FOR BOYS AND GIRLS FROM 5-18, AND 4 SENIOR TEAMS, INCLUDING INTERMEDIATE FOOTBALL IN 1B NAFL.

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