



STRIKER

Evening Herald No.1 FOR JUNIOR SOCCER

FAI

GAME ON FOR FAI AMPUTEES

Irish squad to compete in friendly series

THE IRISH Amputees Football Association will send a squad across channel in March for a weekend of friendly matches and training with teams from Germany, Poland and England.

This is the first time that an Irish amputee team will play a competitive match and marks the first step of their ambitious development plan.

The Irish Amputee Football

Association (IAFA) was set up in April 2011 by Simon Baker and Christy McElligott along with the support of Oisín Jordan (Football For All National Coordinator from the Football Association or Ireland), Amputee.ie and Mountview Community & Youth Centre Dublin.

The team is coached by Kevin Brady and consists of 15 full time players.

The aim of the IAFA is to develop a national Irish league for Amputees and promote and develop the sport of Amputee Football and the development of persons interested in the sport across Ireland.

OPPORTUNITY

The IAFA will provide any person with an amputation, congenital deficiency, or other limb



TRAINING REGIME: Paul Gale, right, from Swords, Co. Dublin, in action against Simon Baker, from Limerick, during Ireland's first amputee football club training session. Mountview Community Sports Centre, Clonsilla, Co. Dublin. *Picture credit: Brendan Moran / SPORTSFILM*

affecting disorder the opportunity to access Amputee Football at grassroots, club and national level

Amputee football is a continuously growing sport with

13 national teams already established to compete on an international level.

The rules of the game are very similar to standard football except outfield players play on

crutches on one leg and the goalkeeper has one arm.

The game consists of two periods of 20 minutes and is played on a pitch 51 metres x 31 metres with six outfield players and a goalkeeper.

The game is fast, highly skilled and competitive with players demonstrating incredible fitness and ability on a par with their 11-a-side counterparts.

GROWTH

The IAFA has seen huge growth and intend to extend their activities nationwide inviting teams to form regionally and compete in inter region competitions.

Training sessions are open to both male and female amputees of all ages. If you have a passion for football and are an amputee then the IAFA is for you regardless of your level of fitness.

For further information on Amputee Football in your area, log on to our facebook page Irish Amputee Football Association or contact us through the FAI website.

FAI and Welsh Futsal project is quick to bear fruit

THE FAI and the Welsh Football Trust set up Project Futsal in 2011 and the project has already begun to bear fruits.

Participants from the Ballymun 'hub' recently provided support to 'Localise' in organizing and running the successful "Save a Heart, Save a Life" charity football match played at Tolka Park.

The students from Project Futsal were central to the running of the charity match which featured stars from RTE, Fair City and Newstalk amongst others.

Ballymun Project Co-ordinators, Jamie Wilson and Paul Whelan are delighted that their students are now in a position to get involved in the community.

Paul Whelan said: "The guys got really involved in the game and helped out with the refereeing and ran a penalty shoot out with some of the kids that suffer from the heart condition. This is a great chance for our students to get out and involved in the community and we hope to have a similar and even bigger impact on the Late Night Leagues programme and in schools locally."

EXPERTISE

Localise (Community Service Schools Programme) along with the FAI and the American Embassy organized the football match and were delighted to have the help and expertise of the Ballymun hub of Project Futsal involved. Paul Cleary from



TOP TEAM: Football squad members of the Ballymun Project Futsal module along with John Delaney and FAI staff prior to their charity fundraiser at Tolka Park.

Localise was impressed with the students involved: "Their help and support on the day was very valuable and we look

forward to building on this new relationship and getting them involved even earlier in future projects."

PROJECT FUTSAL is a joint initiative between the FAI and the Welsh Football Trust (WFT) with the core aim of utilising

football as a social inclusion tool in order to facilitate innovative community regeneration.

CO-OPERATION

The project, which is three years in duration, has been designed through the co-operation of the FAI and the WFT and secured funding from the Ireland Wales Inter Reg IV Programme 2007-2013 under its theme for the Sustainable Regeneration of Communities.

FUTSAL is an acronym meaning Football Used Towards Social Advancement and Learning.

Further info: www.project-futsal.ie and www.ireland-wales.ie

FIXTURES

UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

By John Hudson

IT'S CERTAINLY boom time for football in the North West with Sligo Rovers leading the way by picking up the FAI Ford Cup two years in a row. Now the local Institute of Technology - IT Sligo - are set to host this seasons' four major Colleges FAI Cup Finals.

The deciders of the Colleges FAI Umbro Cup and Plate, the Colleges FAI 'B' Team Cup and the Robert Eustace Cup will all take place over two days - Wednesday March 7 and Thursday March 8 - at the fine IT Sligo Knocknarea Arena which has top class grass and 3G Astro Pitches available.

Colleges FAI Chairman Padraig Carney expressed his

delight at securing the Sligo venue.

"We are pleased to take our finals to IT Sligo for the first time and avail of the top class facilities that they can provide and I'm confident that the committee at the college are well capable of organising a highly successful two days of football."

Ideally IT Sligo would love to emulate their previous Umbro Cup success at Galway in 2009 on home soil next March but their ability to progress in this seasons' competition will be tested when they visit the current holders DIT in the second round later this month.

COLLINGWOOD BACK ON GRASS

GOOD NEWS for all traditionalists comes with the decision of the Irish

Universities and the hosts University of Limerick to row back on their plan to play all of this seasons' Collingwood Cup games on 3G Astro Pitches and revert back to grass pitches.

The University of Limerick are hosting the prestigious four day competition from February 20-23 for the first time since 2005 and had originally indicated that they would prefer to play the Collingwood and all of the various subsidiary cup games on their two newly installed

FIFA approved 3G soccer pitches at the Co Clare side of the campus.

But after further discussions with the Irish Universities that plan has now been amended.

UL's Senior Executive Sports Administrator Nessa Fahy O'Donnell explained "We have recently been requested by the Irish Universities to hold all of the Collingwood Cup fixtures on our grass pitches, weather permitting. At the present these pitches are in fine condition, while it is our intention to probably play most of the various Subsidiary Cup matches on the 3G surfaces."

This news will come as a relief to many of the competing teams who had expressed their concern about moving away from the traditional

grass pitches to playing the Collingwood Cup on artificial surfaces.

A blow to the competition has come with the announcement of the recent withdrawal of the University of Ulster Coleraine from this seasons' Collingwood Cup which has resulted in their first round opponents University of Ulster Jordanstown now receiving a bye into the quarter final where they will meet the winners of the Dunlin University v Royal College of Surgeons first round tie.

FIXTURES

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18 (2.0)

Colleges FAI Umbro Plate (First Round): Moate Col of FE v Senior College Dun Laoghaire, Moate.
Universities Freshers Colours Match: Dublin University v UCD, College Park.

DUBLIN REGION COACH EDUCATION

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2012

KICK START 1: €45 / contact coordinator to reserve place / participation expected / bring own lunch
Saturday 28th January, Peamount FC. 10am-6pm. Contact JJ Glynn 086 048 9870 / gerard.glynn@fai.ie
Sunday 5th February, Newbridge Town FC. 10am-6pm. Contact Pat Behan 087 995 6387 / pat.behan@fai.ie
Saturday 18th February, Wayside Celtic FC. 10am-6pm. Contact Rory O'Hare 086 380 7793 / roaryohare@fai.ie

KICK START 2 (2nd part of intro)

€75 / contact coordinator to reserve place / participation expected / bring own lunch
Friday 3rd (7pm-10pm), Saturday 4th & Sunday 5th (both 10am-6pm) February, Leisure Point Finglas. Contact Ian Hill 086 048 9920 / ian.hill@fai.ie or Jimmy Mowlds 087 665 5267 / jimmy.mowlds@fai.ie
Friday 10th (7pm-10pm), Saturday 11th & Sunday 12th (both 10am-6pm) February, Irishtown Stadium. Contact Jonathan Tormey 087 132 3252 / jonathan.tormey@fai.ie

STRIKER
PROUD SPONSORS OF
UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES