

The Spartans Youth News - Dec 2018

Live Together Play Together Win Together



Best Young Volunteer, SFA Grassroots Awards

People's Choice Winner - Robbie Anderson

We are delighted to congratulate Robbie on his amazing achievement on winning this award.

Robbie first started volunteering with the Spartans Youth Section in 2012. Robbie coaches with Ronnie Willets and the 2005 Flyers team and has been volunteering with the Spartans Community Academy Sat/Sun programme since 2016. Robbie also volunteers during all the school holiday programmes run by the Academy.

Jack Beesley described Robbie as a mini Sky News reporter - during lunch times on the holiday programme Robbie is a great hit with the kids, sharing with them all his football knowledge and chat.



Robbie also coaches with Woodlands Special needs School on a Friday morning.

Not just a coach, Robbie plays football for Spartans Connections Disability team and has stepped in to be Sparry, the Spartans mascot, on a few occasions.

Robbie has learning difficulties and is autistic, he was bullied at School and the first year at College. Being at Spartans has given him the confidence to believe in himself and realise that even though he has difficulties and challenges in other aspects of his life, there is something he is good at and can take pride in.

What Robbie enjoys most about Spartans is being part of a team and being one of the guys.

Robbie is currently studying at college and hopes to get a job as a sports coach when he finishes.

We are lucky to have Robbie in the Youth Section, we thank him for his continued involvement and support.

Chairman's Welcome

December marks the 10 year anniversary of Ainslie Park and the Spartans Community Football Academy. Let me start by wishing them a Happy Birthday, they make a huge contribution to North Edinburgh and the community in which we live. Congratulations to all the staff and everyone involved.

As you will see when you look through our latest newsletter our teams have been busy on and off the pitch. We have a lot to be proud of.

Having recently met the parents of our newest intake, 2012, it really reminds us of what the Youth Section is all about. Giving kids the opportunity to play football, to learn, to be encouraged and improve, to gain life skills and most of all to have fun.

To all our many volunteers we say a big "Thank You" for all your hard work this year, without you the Youth Section simply would not be possible.

Les Atkinson



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Team Work and New Sponsors for Girls U13s

Aaron Hunter

The under 13s girls team would like to thank all those who put a great effort in to gathering funds for their training kits. A big thanks to Struan Douglas from Purdie & Co, an estate agents based at Haymarket who are our new team sponsor.

Another big thanks to Iain Milne at Heriots rugby club for helping to organise for the girls to have a collection at the club. The rugby club is working hard to build relationships with the local community and really enjoyed the girls being there at one of their biggest games.

Thanks to all parents who helped with football card fundraising and a special thanks to Joss Smith for building the relationship with our sponsor and the rugby club.

After a hard second half of the year the girls are still smiling and looking forward to continuing in the Kim Little league.



Scottish Cup Semi-Final Ball Boys - 2006 Squad

With record crowd numbers it was an amazing experience for the boys at the Hearts vs Celtic Scottish Cup Semi-Final held at BT Murrayfield.



Girls U9s

The girls had a fantastic Spartans Match Day experience, a tour of the facilities, meeting the team and leading them out as mascots.



Experience of a Lifetime for 2008 Suarez

Kenny Cameron

The Spartans Suarez squad headed to Liverpool to take on their equivalents at The Liverpool Way Academy & were cheered on by non other than Sir Kenny Dalglish.

The boys did themselves and the club proud with Kenny complimenting them on their commitment & style of play.

A huge thanks goes to PE5 Sports Tours for organising the logistics of the trip, which included taking in the Manchester City match on the Saturday.

Welcome 2012s

We are excited to welcome our new age group squad into the Spartans Youth Section family, starting in early 2019.

For the last few years we have worked in partnership with the SCFA to identify players from their Sat/Sun Coach Programme to invite into the Youth Section. Selection is based on several factors - attitude, locality, loyalty and ability.

It's the start of an amazing journey.

First Year Completed for 2011s

Carey McEvoy

The 2011s have completed their time at Fun Fours and the players are excited to be moving on to Super Five's in the New Year.

5 new players joined the squad from the Community Club and have fitted in well, while overall the players have all improved dramatically since we started in February.

We've also started to build up the social side to the squad, with a very popular and successful Halloween Party and a Christmas Party this week.

Lastly, we got the players kitted out in shiny new match kit and training tops, courtesy of our two sponsors – Connect Chiro and Hawes Garage.



2009 Reds - Futsal Fun

Colin Foggon

The Spartans 2009 Reds (Pele) squad recently attended an indoor Futsal Tournament organised by Musselburgh CFC. Lochend and Kelso also took part.

The boys were fab, winning all 3 games even though it was the first time the team had played proper indoor Futsal.

Each boy had a turn playing in every position, including goals. An excellent experience for all.

2010 Football Festival

Chris Sim

The 2010 squad were delighted to wake to a glorious if slightly cold November day for their Spartans Football Festival at Ainslie Park.

We were expecting around 54 teams from 20+ clubs, in the end we had 47 teams from all over Scotland - Glasgow, Ayr and the Borders, as well as teams from across Edinburgh. We kicked off on time and once that air horn went everyone could relax. As ever, the pace of these games was frantic but some excellent football shone through and the smiles on the kids faces was very evident.



I'd like to say a thanks in particular to Scott Drever, Stewart Ross and Carey McEvoy for being a massive support in getting a website set up, organising the fixtures and organising the hire of goals. Without these 3 there is no chance the day would have gone as smoothly as it did. During the festival our coaching staff were brilliant, we had to blow up 32 sets of goals and set up 16 pitches. We all mucked in and actually had a great time while setting up - thanks to all involved.

I'd also like to say thank you to a few parents who manned the raffle stall, the boot bank and the cake stall. It was quite a cold day so it wasn't an easy gig. Andrea Ross, Emma Quinn, Sheelagh Jones, Sharon Watt and Mhairi Halcrow were all absolutely brilliant and we managed to raise around £370 from those stalls.



My final thanks go to the Academy staff Micky, Christina and Hamish for being absolute stars on the day. Honestly, they were all brilliant for me, whenever I needed something Hamish was always there and the girls dealt with the never ending queue for coffee and hot food.

All in all it was a fantastic day, we raised a good total which will go toward a trip we're considering planning in 2020. Most importantly the kids went away with their medal and happy that they've had a ball at their feet and scoring goals for near enough 4 hours.

Our Amazing Volunteers



Helping Hands - Free Summer Football Ronnie Willets & Chris Sim

This summer there was a fantastic new initiative offering free sports coaching sessions, Boxing and Football, to children across Edinburgh. The Spartans Community Football

Academy were involved in delivering the football coaching sessions in North Edinburgh and two coaches from the Youth Section volunteered to help out too.

Of the experience Chris Sim said "It was a great partnership to be involved in. Myself, Ronnie and a few of the full time staff from Spartans went along to Muirhouse Millennium park and put on sessions for around 30 kids at a time. We would split those kids into age groups and run a session lasting about an hour. Fun street games, 1v1's and 2v1 sessions. Great fun interacting with the kids. From a personal point of view, it gave me the opportunity to meet and talk to other staff and volunteers from older age groups which was great. "

Ronnie Willets said "It was great to be a part of supporting the Helping Hands charity along with the Spartans coaches. It is good to give something back to these kids where some have a tough life. Football opens up many great opportunities for these kids to express their feelings on the pitch. One thing I noticed before start time, there would be a low number of children, then from nowhere, children would come out of houses and gather in the field ready for fun and to learn important skills from us coaches."

Looking to Volunteer?

If you think you would like to volunteer the Youth Section always need more helping hands :

Football coaching – from beginner to UEFA licenced

Fitness experts

Fundraising

Events Organising

Social Media / Website support

Feature writing – match reports / news items

Contact Carolyn for a chat, clubmanager@spartansfcyouth.com

Youth Section Players - Volunteering

Nichola Sturrock

The Spartans Community Academy were delighted to have two volunteers from the Spartans Youth Section helping out with their Summer Hattricks football coaching.

Jack Millar (2002 Youth) and Tom Nightingale (2002 Colts) gave up their time to support the SCFA.

If you are 14 years or older you can volunteer, to find out more get in touch with nicholasturrock@spartanscfa.com. Not just fun but a great opportunity to add volunteer work to a future CV.

The popular SCFA Holiday Hattricks will be back in 2019, keep an eye on the website for booking details.



Youth Section Volunteers

Long Service Awards

In December we held a family social evening for our volunteers. The aim of the evening was for everyone to have a chance to chat and catch up away from the football pitch. At the same time we gave thanks to some of our longer serving volunteers.

Awards were given to Les Atkinson, Steve Thurlow, Jeane-te Veitch, Kevin Wilson and Jimmy Brydon from the boys teams. All have been involved with the club since its early days as Flora's Soccer School/Inverleith Star when training took place in Inverleith Park.

From the girls section we thanked Clare Tracey who has been volunteering and coaching since the academy opened.

The award winners all shared their favourite Spartans experiences and the reasons that keep them involved with the club. A common theme came across and that was the pleasure involved in seeing players progress, improve and enjoy their football.

As a grassroots football club we are nothing without our volunteers. In particular we salute these individuals who have given up so many hours and years of their life to make such a positive impact on the lives of so many players and to help our Youth Section thrive. Thank you!

The Spartan's Player Pathway - In Action

One of the key Aims & Objectives of the Spartans Youth section is to see players progress through the ranks to the adults first team (and beyond).

You'll find an "A" next to the name of our Spartans Academy graduates in the first team match day program.



Blair Atkinson
Spartans Men's First Team Player

I have been with Spartans since I was four years old. I started off at Inverleith Park when it was called Floras Soccer school and then changed its name to Inverleith Star before we moved to the Academy ten years ago to become Spartans Youth. I have been lucky to be with some successful teams in the Youth Section with some of my best memories being with the U17's (class of 94) when we won four trophies including the league first Division, South East Region Cup and the Scottish Cup, being the first Spartans team to win it. I made my first senior debut against Raith Rovers in 2014.

I then played for U20's and The East Scotland team before being further promoted to the first team a year later. To gain some Lowland league experience I was loaned to the Vale of Lethen for a season before returning to the first team two seasons ago.

Good coaching has helped my development over the years at Spartans and I just love being part of the club. Having reached the first team along with Dish, Blair and Adam it's clear to see there is a successful player pathway to our senior side. Dougie and the first team players immediately made me feel welcome and part of the squad as soon as I stepped into their dressing room. It's a great club to be part of where everyone looks after each other. I can still say I am proud to be a Spartan after nearly 19 years at the club.

 THE SPARTANS FC Manager: Douglas Samuel	 NEWTONGRANGE STAR Managers: Stevie McLeish
BLAIR CARSWELL (A) <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> KIERON RENTON
SCOTT COSTELLO <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> JORDAN DUNSMORE
ADAM CORBETT (A) <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> SCOTT SWANEY
MICHAEL HERD <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> SEAN MELVIN
JACK NIXON <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> NEIL LOWSON
BLAIR TOLMIE <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> DALE O'HARA
GARY CENNERAZZO <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> WES MITCHELL
JAMIE DISHINGTON (A) <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> RYAN SCLATER
SCOTT MAXWELL <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> JIM YOUNG
IAN MCFARLAND <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> ROSS CURRIE
STEPHEN MACDONALD <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> JACK WILSON
ALAN BROWN <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> KEVIN BRACKS
WILLIE BREMNER <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> KYLE SCOTT
DAVID GREENHILL <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> RYAN PORTEOUS
BLAIR ATKINSON (A) <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> STEVEN THOMSON

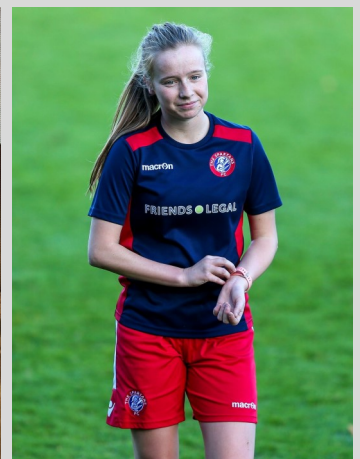
Ronaigh Douglas
Spartans Women's First Team Player

I have played for Spartans since I was 5 years old. I started off playing for the boys section as there was no girls team at the time, then I moved over to the girls section at under 11s.

When I first started the training and games were at Inverleith playing fields. I followed the player pathway from under 11s and got my first opportunity to play for the ladies team in 2014 when I was only 15. I then moved up permanently to the women's squad in 2015 when I won players player of the season and have been playing there ever since and was lucky enough to win players player of the season again this year. Playing for Spartans has been an amazing experience with lots of highs such as being in the Scottish Cup semi final and some lows such as injuries meaning I couldn't train or play.

When I first started there was only one girls team, it has been great to watch the girls section grow in numbers with teams at every age group now. Spartans have given me many opportunities such as coaching the Little Miss Kickers and the under 11s. Being a part of Spartans family has also helped me develop both as a player and a person and I have made lots of friends from playing.

Our motto is One Family Spartans Family and that is exactly what it feels like to me.



Youth Section News



We were delighted to collect our SFA Quality Mark Legacy Award reaccreditation at the recent Awards Night. Stuart Gray, Carolyn Embleton and Jimmy Brydon received the award.

It was truly humbling to hear about the work of our fellow award winners and how football teams contribute far beyond fielding a team.

The Quality Mark Award scheme is designed to support and recognise the work of clubs and teams who have a desire to be the very best they can be.

To gain an award - Entry, Standard, Development, Community or Legacy - there is a related list of criteria that a club must achieve aimed at improving/supporting management, development structures, admin, planning and welfare.

We thank all our volunteers who attend SFA Coaching Courses to be the best coaches for our players and for working with us to be the best we can be and to retain this prestigious award.



Inspiring the Future - the 2010 and 2011 squads enjoyed a visit from the First Team at their last training session of 2018



Development Squad Update

Iain Thomson

As the year comes to a close the Development Squad Programme has had some exciting developments over the past few months.

First of all there has been an expansion to the programme with both the 2007's and also the 2011's joining the new programme. This will be expanded even further with the 2012 age group joining in the new year.

On top of this we are delighted to introduce Eddie Malone as the New Development Manager for the 2007-2011 Age Group. Eddie is a well known face around the academy both as a player and coach and the club are delighted to welcome Eddie on board in this capacity.

Keep your eyes peeled for some more exciting developments in 2019!

He's Behind You!

74 Spartans Players, Friends and Family enjoyed the annual Kings Theatre Panto trip.

Thanks to Jeanette Veitch who organised the outing once again, and to all the other volunteers who helped to make the trip possible.

