

The Spartans Youth News - June 2019

Live Together Play Together Win Together



Chairman's Welcome

Les Atkinson

On the pitch we continue to be successful across many age groups. Of course, this is not our main measurement of success; the driver for us is continual development and improvement of all players and coaches across our age groups.

The big event this year is the Spartans Football Community Academy 10th anniversary celebrations which we would ask the Youth Section community to support.

Very soon there is the opportunity to see the best of Liverpool FC's young talent play our very own Spartans FC first team. In September we take the Spartans family to the Kilt-walk.

We wish all the very best to all our players who progress beyond U19s to adult teams or new adventures. We really appreciate the hours of training & your commitment to the club.

We are incredibly lucky to have the support and commitment of so many coaches and volunteers who makes all this possible. A massive thanks to you all.

Extra special thanks to the coaches & volunteers who leave us this year, Nick Barley, Lee Ewing, David Russell, Neil Maclean and Ben Simpson.

Enjoy the summer break.

Les

Setting a High Standard - 2009 & 2011 Festivals



The 2009s ended the season with their 2nd Annual Football Festival. This year there were teams from Hearts, Hibs, St Johnstone, Airdrie, Barrhead, Currie FC, Musselburgh Windsor, East Fife, Loanhead, Peebles, Cambusnethen, Dalkeith Thistle, Hillfield Swifts and our own Spartans squad. There were a total of 24 teams playing 7 aside games across the stadium and community pitch. The afternoon was a great success, with all the players and supporters enjoying some fantastic football in the sunshine.

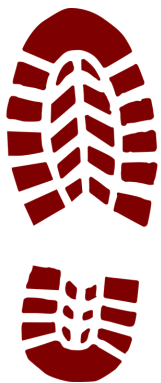


The 2011s ended their first full season by hosting a 5s Festival – and what a day! It was very cool seeing 450 kids from 66 teams from across Scotland coming to enjoy a day of football at our home ground. The standard of play was high and the feedback was good – with many clubs already looking to come back next season.

Thanks to all the hardworking coaches and parents who made both these festivals possible & such a great success.

Have You Got Your Tickets? Don't Miss Out
tickets@spartanscfa.com

PRE SEASON FRIENDLY
THE SPARTANS F.C. VS. LIVERPOOL F.C.
AINSLIE PARK | MONDAY 15 JULY | 7PM KO
WWW.SPARTANSFC.COM



Support your Spartans Family Come Together Raise Funds Celebrate

KILT WALK 2019 

5 Mile Wee Wander, Sunday 15 September

This year we are celebrating the 10 Year Anniversary of the Spartans Community Football Academy.

Our goal is to raise funds to support the Community Academy and the great work that they do in North Edinburgh and to fundraise for our team goals too.

Get together with your team mates, bring your friends and family. No matter how much or how little you can raise, every penny counts. This is our chance to create a truly magical Spartans Family day to remember. More information is available from your team Head Coach/Secretary.

Spartans Community Football Club

Nichola Sturrock

We've been overwhelmed this first half of the year with the support we've received from a number of players within the Youth Section who have volunteered at our community programmes whilst working towards their Duke of Edinburgh awards and in general wanting to help out!

All the volunteers have been fantastic, reliable and supported our delivery with enthusiasm.

A big thank you to them.

Joe Nicholson, Ruaridh McLean, Jack Millar, Finlay Boyes, Daniel Cooper, Craig Taylor, Daniel Tuck, Cammy Laing, Ben Maginnis, Fraser Moir.



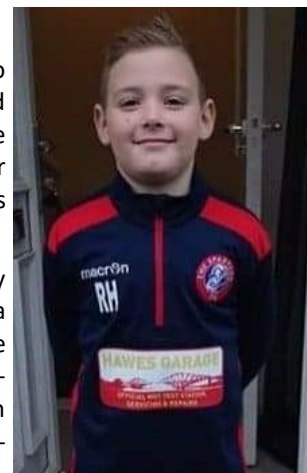
A Spartan Hero

Some of our players have to be even more determined to be able to play the game they love. Reece is a player in our 2011 squad and his mum Natalie, tells us more.

Reece has always been very sporty and loved kicking a ball about around the house. He joined the Spartans Community program in 2014 and they were absolutely fantastic with him.

Reece is an ordinary boy who faces a lot of challenges as he has cystic fibrosis. Cystic fibrosis affects his lungs function. Reece fits cystic fibrosis into his life and it doesn't stop him doing the sport he loves. Every morning before he steps onto the football pitch he does his lung physio exercise. He is really good at doing his treatments and is really motivated to do them so he can play his best football.

I asked Reece what football means to him and his reply back was, "I love football and I play it every day and cystic fibrosis doesn't stop me. I can even watch Sportscene while I have my physio".



The U20s had quadruple success winning the Development League, Conference A Championship, League Cup & Knock-Out Cup. We are proud to say, 90% of the U20s squad are youth section graduates.

Could you tell the story of your football week/month/season using the 1 Second Everyday Video Diary?

We have a new Youth Section Website in the making and we'd love to add some short videos of what it's like to be a Spartans Youth Player/Coach/Parent/Supporter. Prizes will be given for those selected for the website. If you want to take part please contact: clubmanager@spartansfcyouth.com



Player Pathway & Player Development

Development Squad Update

Eddie Malone

This week brings an end to our first season of running development squads for our 2007 to 2011 age groups.

We started these sessions with a view to matching if not bettering the coaching standards of Scottish senior clubs. The feedback from parents so far has been excellent, not only have the boys and girls found the training enjoyable and fun, they have also felt challenged by the training set up by the coaches.

The coaches have absolutely loved coaching the kids and have said they have been a pleasure to work with. Their attitude and application to the sessions, even in the cold winter months has been excellent.

I will be sitting down with the coaches next week for a chat about what has went well and what we would like to improve on. We are always looking to challenge ourselves as coaches to be better every day.

All the coaches and myself would like to thank each parent, guardian and child for making these sessions possible. We know it's not easy getting your child down for a 5:30 start with various other commitments and that lovely Edinburgh traffic!

Going forward we will be introducing the same sessions for our 2012 age group after the summer as well as continuing our sessions for 2007 to 2011.



Player Development - The Spartans Wonder Sock

Our small sided teams will be trying out a new initiative when they return in August, the Spartans wonder sock.

How does it work? Simply the players put their Spartans wonder band over their normal sock in training & small matches on the foot they want to make "stronger".

How does this help? Wearing the band reminds and challenges players to use their less dominant foot, while enabling coaches to keep track of who is using both feet.

Why? The ability to play off both feet opens up options like nothing else, players can change direction quickly and can increase the speed of play. It helps a player get out of pressure situations and create more out of every opportunity possible. Two footed players are a nightmare for opposition defences as they can play on either side with equal vigour and effectiveness.



Progression to Under 20s

We are delighted that more Youth Section players have been selected to progress to the Under 20s squad.

Joe Evenden, Luke Morris and Rory Campbell sign up for next season.

New Appointment

The Spartans FC are pleased to announce that Craig Dinwoodie has returned to the club to take up the new role of Spartans FC Development Manager (U13 -U17).

In this role Craig will oversee the development of the 11 aside age groups in our Youth Section. More importantly he will support our YS coaches to develop, support and promote boys from across the under 13 and 17 age groups to enable them to realise their full potential through the clubs Player Pathway all the way to our U20s and Mens 1st Team.

This investment from the club is another example of how keen Dougie and his coaching team are to have a 1st XI squad with a heavy representation from players we have developed.



Some of our 2010s trying out their socks

Team News



Girls U11 Marshalls - Gary Willis

The girls U11s Marshalls team joined record crowds to support the SWFC in their World Cup send off match. It was an amazing and inspiring experience for all the girls to watch the SWFC win against Jamaica at Hamden.



Spartans 2008 - Laurence Nelson

A squad from the 2008s recently joined over 200 teams from more than 12 countries to take part in the Black-pool International Cup.

The boys acquitted themselves well in their matches and had an amazing weekend.



Spartans 2003 Whites - Lynn McAlonie

The Spartans FC Whites U16s have had a season to remember, winning the Division 3 League Cup with a thrilling 2-1 victory over Tranent Colts .

Spartans 2002 Youth - Lee Ewing

The season end meant the break up of a very successful team and many of the boys are moving onto under 20s football at Spartans and beyond.

While it's been a tough season the highlight for the coaches and boys has to be Keir Russell signing a 2 year deal to be a full time professional footballer with Kilmarnock.

While Keir has previously been selected in the SERFYA regional squad and in the National Squad he has never signed for a Pro Youth team before. Keir has spent his entire football career with Spartans helping the boys to many cup and League titles. We're all delighted for Keir, he carries our hopes with him into the professional game. We hope to see his continued development and progression with Kilmarnock.



Spartans 2005 Locomotives - Keith Chalmers

A fantastic season for the Spartans Locomotives who won the under 14s division 4 league, never losing a league game, and were winners of the Ian Mckay Cup.



Girls U15s - Clare Tracey

The girls under 15s squad dedicated one of their matches in support of the Football v Homophobia campaign. The squad were delighted to be a part of such a great cause!



Team News

Spartans 2007 - Gordon Whittaker

Its been a great season for all in the 2007 age group.

Once again, in January and February we competed in the Futsal winter programme in Fife. This was our 3rd year and our very own Joan Perello picked up player of the league which was fantastic. Joan also made it into a promotional video along with Ben Kelly and Gordon, plus some match footage of a few other boys. You can see more in the video at <https://www.futsalescocia.co.uk/>



The transitional 9 aside programme started again from March and there have been some excellent games, all helping players prepare for the next transition to a bigger 11 aside pitch. There is lots of excitement in the squad as we started planning and preparing for 11 aside competitive league and cup football after the summer.

Well done to all the players and coaches for all of their efforts over the season!

We will start that journey without one of goalkeepers as Lewis leaves us to join Heart of Midlothian u13s for next season. We will miss him, but what a fantastic opportunity for him. All down to hard work and desire he has put in to improve and develop. Well done Lewis! Everyone wishes you all the very best.



Spartans U19s Reds - Jim Brydon

This season we will finish third in the league, just 2 points from winning it. We are cup double winners, winning the Bob Bankier Cup and the League Cup. We have been beaten in 2 semi-finals and 1 quarter final. Two of those on penalties. We had a good run in the Scottish Cup ending with a defeat away from home to East Kilbride. We also reached the Semi-finals of the South East Region losing out on penalties against Longniddry Villa.

This is the final year at Spartans for a number of the players, some will be moving up to the under 20s and as there is no under 21 teams in the east region then there is no further pathway within Spartans, this means that others will be moving on to pastures new and hopefully continuing to play the game they have grown up with in the Spartans family. There are 9 players in the squad who have



been at the club with me for 12 years, coming through from 7 asides to the full 11 aside teams. This squad has been a joy to work with and have made some great memories to last a life time of their days with Spartans. Coaches Jimmy Brydon Spartans for 16 years (Started at Inverleith Park before moving to our present home at the academy). James Brydon (Junior) Spartans Girls 3 years U11/U13/U15 then 3 years with Spartans Reds and Daddy. Barry Foster Spartans for 4 years with Spartans Reds.

Spartans 2012

The 2012 squad kicked its first football at the start of February. The squad has got off to a great start with all the players and coaches enjoying training & Fun 4s and are looking forward to the second half of the season.



Team News



Spartans Reds 2004 - Grant Laing

After a very tight race Spartans Reds clinched second place in U15s Division 3. Congratulations to Edinburgh City Colts, who are deserved winners.

It was a tight-run race until the last few games of a long season.

A special thanks must go to the whole Spartans' Reds squad, who have worked very hard during the whole season and all credit to them, that we have done this with the same squad as we started with at the beginning of the season.

The boys did really well to make it to the Division 3 League Cup Final where Edinburgh City came out on top. The coaching team and players now have earned a well deserved rest.



Spartans Youth 2006s

The 2006 Youth team have just completed their first season playing in the SERIFA U13s first division 11aside league.

It has been a tough first season and a big learning curve, but as they say you learn more from defeat than you do from a victory. The squad have done themselves and their coaches proud coming back stronger in the second half of the season & showing real signs of development and progress.

The squad ended the season by attending the Caledonian Cup Tournament in Prestwick. The boys won all their matches to reach the final but lost out on penalties to the Scotland Boys Club. A break & then the challenge of U14s.

Spartans U9 Girls - Fiona Bruce

The under 9 girls have had a great first half of the season. We have welcomed a number of new players and the squad has quickly come together, showing a great team spirit in both training and matches.

The girls have really enjoyed their matches, especially the experience of playing on the stadium pitch at Livingston and at the Oriam. They have improved week on week, particularly in their confidence to get on the ball and have a go. After the summer, we will continue with the step up from 4 a side to 5 a side games and work on our ability to make use of all the space on the pitch.

A massive thank you to all the girls for the determination, commitment and fun they have brought to their football, to the parents for all their support and encouragement and to Erin for her excellent contribution to our training sessions!



Spartans 2010s

The 2010s have enjoyed their first half season of 7aside football and have attended some football festivals which have been a great experience.

Off the pitch there has been lots going on too, the players have been fundraising by bag packing and our parents held an amazing Race Night. The squad followed their last training session with a fun afternoon of tubing.

