

JANUARY
2009

AMBASSADORS IN SPORT

IRELAND



Ambassadors Women's FC..... Lynne Beattie

The girls continue to train each Monday night at Tartaraghan church hall from 8:30-10pm (thought I'd get that wee plug in at the start!) We now have around 14 girls coming regularly and recently a girl from Spain has joined the ranks. Marina has played at a high level in Spain and is working as an au-pair in Portadown for a year. It is lovely to have her on the team. We can all learn from her skills (I reckon the guys could too!) Over the past few months we have been training hard and have all really enjoyed coming together. The coaches have been great and a lot of effort has gone in to planning the sessions to make them fun yet challenging for all the girls. I would like to thank Danny O'Hara, Alan Cooke and Matt Newberry for all their hard work and perseverance! One of the girls, Lynne Ervine, has been working hard on putting us through our paces on the fitness side of things. It is great to have Lynne involved in all of this. I continue to be so excited when I see the group of girls God has brought together, all at different stages of life. Our continued focus is on 'impacting lives for Christ'. We aim to do this through our actions, loving our teammates, getting together to chat through things, pray and simply just have fun together as a team. In July, we will travel on an Ambassadors tour to Guinea Bissau for two weeks alongside the men's and under 19's team. So, between now and then, a lot of hard work will be put in, and I fear also a lot of running! We would really value your prayers as we finalize preparations for this trip. We are all very excited. Some have experienced Africa before but for some it will be their first time. I have no doubt that each of our lives will be positively impacted through this experience. Thinking ahead to the not too distant future, I hope and trust that we as a team can get involved with work in the women's prison and in our local communities doing some kids work. I also plan to organize a retreat for the girls. Time away would give us a chance to bring our ideas together, share experiences and ultimately learn from each other. Really looking forward to what the future will hold as we trust in God to reveal the next steps. Thanks so much for your continued support!



Ambassadors Night Owls..... Glenn Buchanan

So far the night owls season has gone really well and before the Christmas break we reached the shield final. After equalizing with a penalty with 5 minutes to go the game looked to be going into extra time but we conceded a goal in injury time which meant we lost 3-2. The pleasing thing for me was that at the end of the game when you looked at the two teams you couldn't tell which team had won or lost. Our guys just seemed to really enjoy the game. To be honest all my life I have heard that it's not the winning that counts but the taking part. I have never enjoyed losing and I never go out to lose but there is so much more to Ambassadors F.C than winning games. It's about accountability, encouragement and friendship. After a long break in December the Night Owls season finally resumed on Friday 16th January against Clonmacash Rangers. The final score was a deserved 1-1 draw. The aim for all the guys in 2009 will be to not limit Ambassadors F.C to what happens on the pitch on a Friday night but to continue to build and lift each other up in all areas of life.



bringing hope through football.....[1]

Ballyoran Reportby Daniel O'Hara

Ambassadors are still working in Ballyoran primary school three days a week with Monday-Wednesdays having three lunch time clubs and after school soccer on a Wednesday afternoon. Lunch time club has been running well although there is only 20mins allotted for this so getting a lot of playing time can be difficult. We are trying to think of ways to get the kids into teams and onto the pitches quicker so they can have more time for football.

After school club is great and it's a lot more relaxed because its 45 minutes long and this leaves a lot more time for coaching and getting to know the kids. Edenderry CE interns have been helping with coaching and are great to have along with us. Ballyoran has been a lot of fun this year and I am working with a lot of P7's which I have known for years so it will be sad to see them go. I pray that Ambassadors and I have been a good example to them as they move to new schools.

Interns Outlook.....by Phil Anderson

So 2009 is upon us, we talked a lot before Christmas about what we would do in 2009, so it's now time to turn those words into actions. It's been a really good first few weeks for the interns as we all have our specific roles and we have been able to really get settled in again. In addition we have had more school's work added which means we get more coaching and a chance to work and get to know more kids. Later in the year we will also be hosting our first week-long Soccer School which we are all eagerly anticipating. Away from the football side of things the internship has also seen us grow closer as a team. Most importantly though I have been constantly challenged in my relationship with God and this has been through not only the devotions but also from the teachings of Norman Cuthbert and Stafford Carson, which have been a real encouragement and challenge to us all. I am really looking forward to the upcoming months to see what God has in stall for us as a team.



Prayer Points

- Praise for a successful month as an independent AIS Office. God has been faithful to us and continues to provide for and bless the work. Thanks for all your prayers!
- Pray for our 5 interns who all have to make decisions about their futures in the next few months. Pray that God will guide them clearly as to what the next step will be.
- There is a lot of potential for getting alongside churches and developing football ministry. Pray for us as we look at developing our strategy for the next few years and that God would guide us and give us wisdom.
- Pray for the tours to Spain, South Africa and Guinea Bissau as well as the recruitment of those heading to the US Coaching tour. Pray for Glenn Buchanan as he heads this up.
- Praise for Annette Williamson coming on board to run the 2010 Cycle Project - pray for her as she settles in Portadown and also as she gets this project up and running. It's a huge project and is going to take a lot of hard work, but there is potential for so much to happen through this.

Up and Coming Events

AIS Quiz

20thFebruary
Edenderry Presbyterian
Church

AIS Prayer Meeting

22nd February
170 Bridge Street
Portadown

www.ambassadorsfc.co.uk / www.aisireland.co.uk / www.youtube.com/user/AISINT

Happy New Year and thanks for your support