



July 2024 to June 2025 – Achievements and Performance Review.

The start of the new financial year coincided with a number of new appointments within the club. Simon Moffatt and David Tumilty were appointed as Head of Foundation and Head of Youth phases respectively, Stuart Blair became in the new facility Caretaker and Colm McCabe took over as Club Physio. We also started our new Futsal partnership with Sparta Belfast.

On the pitch, we had the great privilege in hosting most of the team competing in the UEFA men's Under 19 European Championship Finals. Our facility was selected as a training ground for the teams which added a cosmopolitan feel to the club for a few weeks in **July**.

With the Community elements of the club on their summer recess, towards the end of the month a club walk was undertaken from Carrickfergus Castle to our Clubhouse in aid of 2010 player Oliver Burnside to support him with his ongoing medical concerns. Finally a club wide Community Tidy Up day took place, in which approximately 200 players, coaches and parents took a day to go around the local Greenisland Estate area tidy up and lift rubbish. This was welcomed by local residents.

August seen the return of the football season for most. It was pleasing that for the first time in a number of years due to increasing participation numbers, we were able to enter a number of our Girls teams into leagues, with our 2014 team entering the SBYL league and our 2018 & 2019 teams entering the small sided games programme in Belfast.

Whilst the season was starting for most, this was also the time that our Senior Women First and Second Teams were confirmed as Champions for the 2024 NIWFA Division 1 and Division 6 leagues. Preparations also began for a Black Tie event/dinner to celebrate the 30 year anniversary of the club in June 2025.

Sad news came the way of the local community in **September** of this year. The local Church of Ireland had been decimated in a fire. We met with the Church to offer our support and as a result our clubhouse facility was used for a number of months after by a number of the groups who were formed and based out of the local Church of Ireland. Club committee member Niall McGovern also arranged a 12 hour sponsored cycle, done from our own club gym in which club members would come down and cycle on the gym bike. In total £660.00 was raised from this, with the amount rounded up to £1000.00 and this was donated to the Church of Ireland rebuild fund.

A motion was passed by the club committee to invite Jim Shaw, former NAFL and IFA President onto the club's committee. With Jim's wealth of experience and contacts this was seen as a welcome edition by all.

On the pitch, the highlight of this month was our Women First Team reaching the NIWFA Super Cup final, albeit the result in the final did not go in our favour against a strong Ballymoney United side.

A busy period over **October** and **November** seen our disability team the Greenisland FC Bears take a step forward when 25 players across 3 teams entered and played in the IFA's Inclusion for all Programme. This was very warmly received by the players, coaches and parents alike.

The Futsal programme between us and Sparta Belfast started up and this involved a number of our teams and players taking part in the game of Futsal.

In an effort to try and promote the club, individuals within the club and make progression on Social Media platforms, Lewis Baxter joined our club for work experience. Lewis was tasked with promotion of the club in general, enhancing our visual graphics on post and doing promotional videos with our various Heads of Phases.

The club committee also approved proposals from our 2015 and 2016 age groups to attend football tournaments in Ayr, Scotland at Easter 2025 and also for our Over 35's Mens Titans team to attend a one day football tournament in Falkirk, Scotland in May of 2025.

We also had visitors from Italy in the form of Andrea Padilla from Macron. Macron is the clubwear supplier and it was great to welcome Andrea all the way from Bologna to show him our club and discuss possible joint ventures for the coming months and years with Macron.

The "Wee 3G" had new energy efficient LED floodlights fitted in **December**, all thanks to the Sport NI Renewable Energy fund. This resulted in a vast improvement to the quality of light on this pitch at nights. As well as new floodlights, the fund also extended to new lights in the clubhouse. All in all, making our facility more energy and cost efficient.

We also had a visit on the 4th of this month from Minister for Communities Gordon Lyons, along with local councillors, members of Mid & East Antrim Borough Council and NI Football Fund representatives. After showing around our facility and the work we do, we had the opportunity to discuss with the minister funding opportunities, the upcoming NI Football Fund and Conference League criteria.

The calendar year was rounded off as always with the annual Christmas Carol Service held in the clubhouse and the Boxing Day "Overs v Unders" Charity match.

The new year started with the good news that our Children in Need Grant had been renewed for another 3 years, bringing in £9,900.00 per year towards our Community Projects and sections.

January also seen former 2007 age group player be rewarded with a Professional contract by Cliftonville FC.

And in the same month, works started on our Car Park Extension, which in conjunction with Mid & East Antrim Borough Council would see the car park space double in capacity. It was accepted this was a major development which would cause some disruption in the coming months while works took place.

February seen us receive some bad news, in that the Cuppa Club was not successful in our renewal funding request from the National Lottery. This was of course a blow to the club, but it was decided that regardless the Cuppa Club would continue with the club absorbing costs as best we could whilst alternative funding was sought.

With thanks to Mid and East Antrim Borough Council and Haffey's, in **March** our big 3G pitch received some much needed maintenance including decompaction. The works required were simply down to the pitch showing signs of wear and tear with it now being 6 years old and in constant usage.

It was a last quarter of the year with a lot going on in **April** and **May**. With Laurence Gilloway retiring from his role as Community Officer and funding of this role via the National Lottery ending, we moved our Community section and various teams/clubs to being on a Volunteer led basis again. On the football front, a number of information evenings took place with club coaches and parents around the newly implemented IFA Framework. As well as information evenings, our clubhouse also

hosted an IFA Safeguarding course for all the new club coaches and volunteers who had joined over the last few months.

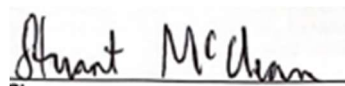
The 2015 and 2016 age groups had successful trips to Ayr and in another club trip development, permission was granted to our 2014 age group to spend a weekend in Manchester late in the summer of 2025.

With the car park extension nearing completion and being open for use, in an effort to bring back an old yearly tradition, we held our first Fun Day at the club in a number of years for our 2014 to 2020 teams. The invite to this was extended to the parents and siblings of players plus the local community.

This busy few months were rounded off with the bi-annual Clubwear Sizing week for new clubwear at the clubhouse. Over 400 orders were placed in anticipation for the return the following season.

With the month of **June** being a “month off” for most at the club, the focus turned to more off field matters. Our AGM was held with all members re-elected from the previous year. Work also commenced on the conversion of the Bowling Green into a small sided games area. At committee level the decision was made to invest in CCTV installation for the facility and another year was rounded out with two former players becoming professionals, namely Kallum Thompson at Nottingham Forest FC and Logan Graham at Larne FC.

Last but not least, we celebrated our 30th Anniversary with a black tie event at Ten Square in Belfast, with over 100 current and former club members in attendance for what was a special night for the club.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Stuart McClean", written over a horizontal line.

Stuart McClean
Chairperson