

Newhill Football Club
Annual General Meeting

2024/2025

4th September 2025 at Innovation Factory at 5pm

CHAIRPERSON REPORT AND OPENING REMARKS

Due to ill-health our chairperson Patrick McStravick stood down from his role in January 2025 and at the EGM on 31st January, Sean Irvine accepted the offer to replace Paddy.

Sean started his report by stating that six decades after establishing the club, Newhill FC are now one of the biggest grassroots clubs in Belfast and he said all of that is largely down the drive, dedication and passion shown by Paddy since he set the club up in 1973. The club has been through many hard times, but one constant was Paddy in his drive to ensure young people in our community had the best possible opportunities.

Sean run through some of the key landmark events from the 2024/2025 year including the following –

- Foyle Cup for our U13s in July 2024.
- Establishing a working relationship with Oldham Athletic.
- A trip to the Brabant Cup in Holland which saw the club U17s finish 9th overall and compete against teams from France, Denmark, the Netherlands and a match against Werder Bremen.
- The rise of the female ladies' team who are now competing in a league.
- The incredible growth of our mini soccer centre and all of the 'tots' now starting their football journey with Newhill FC.

Sean paid tribute to all of the volunteers at the club and said that their hard work is never unnoticed and without them we don't exist. He said it is also incredible to see the number of young people who have gone through the club and took part in our various programmes, who now so keenly want to give back to the club and coach/mentor and volunteer with our younger teams.

Sean further thanked the officials at the SBYL, IFA and NIYFA for their support and guidance throughout the year.

SECRETARY REPORT

As a result of Sean taking on the secretary role, assistant secretary Carl Toner accepted the role of secretary on 1st February.

Carl gave a brief overview on some of the main successes across the various leagues and competitions, boys and girls and he said it was fantastic to see such healthy numbers in our girls' section and the adult ladies' team now has over 40

members registered and they will soon be part of the NIWFA official league structure.

He said the club's progress on and off the field of play is paramount to the volunteers at the club and their hard work and dedication and that without them we simply would not exist.

Ongoing work off the field of play around the club's future has born some fruit with agreements made with BCC and local councillors around the upgrade of the top pitch at the Falls Park.

We were delighted to be on site yesterday to hear plans of a £150,000 investment on the pitch including fencing, ball stop nets and dug outs for home and away.

TREASURER REPORT

Sean McChesney issued copies of our independently examined accounts and asked the room if any financial issues needed explained further.

Our primary sources of income were through membership fees (which have now been streamlined and easier to understand through the app) and grants from the likes of DFA and Belfast City Council

The income was confirmed as £105,052.48 with the main income source club membership fees.

Expenditure was confirmed at £109,495 and our main areas of spending were pitch costs, league fees and equipment. There was a loss, but the club have been financially frugal over the years and set aside money to help with the growth of the club and ensure we can continue to be financially sustainable.

ELECTION – All office bearers were proposed, seconded and re-elected for the forthcoming season.

Sean Irvine (Chair), Carl Toner (secretary), Sean McChesney (treasurer),

Signed and adopted – 10/09/2025

Chairperson

