

Football

U12

The U12 Football season saw a change in the format of matches played, with four 'blitz' tournaments throughout the year leading to a final 'blitz' day where the top seeded teams would play and the winners would progress to the final.

The first two games of the season were both played against Dromore with the boys winning 2-0 in each game. Captain Luke McGerrigan was instrumental in each match and seemed to set the tone for the season with a goal and assist in both matches.

Going into the second and third blitz the boys were confident after their previous wins and took the game to both Newry and Killeel. Early goals in each match by Alex Moran settled the games quickly and helped the defence of Logan Sands, Matthew Little, and James Hamilton produce very tidy performances to secure another two clean sheets.

As the Christmas holidays approached, we made our way to Cheney Park to play the final blitz. The first game against Banbridge High proved to be a tight game. It took the introduction of Alexander Booth and Charlie Tumilty to turn the game in our favour, winning 1-0. Games against Ballynahinch High and New-Bridge Integrated were dominated by fast-paced attackers in Harry Anderson and Teddy Turkington, helping the team to a 3-0 and 4-0 win respectively.

After competing brilliantly as a team in each blitz, notably with goalkeepers Joel and Luke not conceding a goal in the run to the final blitz, Banbridge Academy were seeded number 1 and considered the favourites.

The first match of the Final Blitz was against a much-improved and determined Dromore side. The boys maintained their clean sheet record, however squeezed out a nervy 0-0 draw. New-Bridge dominated the first half of our second match with brilliant pressing and movement. A change at



half-time saw the arrival of Luke and Daniel Murray onto the pitch, which provided a boost in moral and helped to earn a 2-2 draw.

The semi-final was a much-improved performance with Robbie Nicholl particularly helping the team to a comfortable 4-1 win over Banbridge High. The boys finished the tournament in style with a well fought win over Shimna, who had deservedly earned their spot in the final. A headed finish from Alexander followed by a late free kick from Daniel Murray, saw the boys win 2-1 and lift the shield!

A brilliant win to cap off a fantastic first season for the U12 boys. Hopefully a sign of what is to come in the following years!

Squad:

Luke McRobb
Joel McKnight
Matthew Little
James Hamilton
Logan Sands
Charlie Tumilty

Alexander Booth
Luke McGerrigan
Robbie Nicholl
Isaac Fitzpatrick
Alex Moran
Daniel Murray
Harry Anderson
Teddy Turkington