

## U12 Football

A new season over and some very impressive football played by our new recruits in the Under 12s football. We began the year with some technical drills in training to improve passing accuracy, team tactics, and to establish positions best suited to the boys.

After several training sessions our first match was against St Patrick's Academy, Dungannon in the Northern Ireland Cup. The boys played a tough opponent with determination and good pace, with a notably commanding performance from Charlie Geoghagen in midfield. Despite the team's efforts, we unfortunately lost out and continued to the Northern Ireland Shield later in the year.

Through the months of November and February we played several friendly matches to establish 'seeding' for the end of year Under 12 Blitz finals. The boys displayed a great team spirit and drive to win in the lead up to the Blitz finals, with wins of 2-0, 1-0, and 2-1 against Dromore High A and B teams and Banbridge High. Three goals from Daniel Byrne earned two well-deserved Man of the Match awards, with Patrick Porter taking the third award for his efforts in helping to keep the clean sheets.

The Northern Ireland Shield was contested against St Colmans' College and despite a relentless effort up and down the wings by Oscar Niblock and Oliver Wakeling, the boys couldn't convert the final pass to a goal and were narrowly defeated in the closing minutes of the match.

The final of the season was played at Cheney Park in Banbridge, with



Banbridge Academy seeded second in their group. A convincing 4-1 win against Shimna started the tournament off well, with goals from Ethan Harris and Daniel Byrne. This was followed by a closely fought game against Killeel High School which ended in the favour of our opponents.

The boys progressed to the Quarter Final and defeated St Mark's High School 2-1 with Charlie Geoghagen again taking the reins and guiding his team to victory. Banbridge Academy met St Patrick's College, Banbridge in the Semi Final and played the game out to a 1-1 draw before extra time and penalties. Extra time couldn't separate the two teams and the boys went to a penalty shoot-out with the crowds watching. It was a fantastic shoot-out with some top quality shots and a superb save from Harvey McBride, but ultimately ended in defeat.

The Under 12s had a very good season and enjoyed the competitive matches against our local schools throughout

the year. Particular mention should go to Charlie Geoghagen who took home the player of the season award and who will continue to lead on the pitch with the Under 13s. Both Mr McAuley and Mr Thompson enjoyed coaching and watching from the side lines and look forward to seeing how the boys continue to progress as they compete in the Under 13s league.



# Football

## Under 13 Football

### Group Match 1

Banbridge Academy 1 – 4 Newbridge  
Callum Todd

### Group Match 2

Rathfriland 2 – 6 Banbridge Academy  
Morgan McMullan (2)  
Callum Todd (2)  
James Henning  
Corey Hylands

### Group Match 3

Banbridge Academy 10 – 0 Newry High  
Harry Gough (3)  
Callum Todd  
Conor Comiskey  
Corey Hylands (2)  
Patrick McElroy  
Morgan McMullan (2)

### Semi – Final

Banbridge Academy 9 – 2 St. Joseph's  
Harry Gough (4)  
Morgan McMullan (2)  
Corey Hylands (2)  
Callum Todd

### Final

Newbridge 3 - 3 Banbridge Academy  
Harry Gough (3)

Banbridge Academy won 4-3 on penalties

Penalties scored by Harry Gough, Morgan McMullan, Callum Todd and Reuben Walsh

The Under 13 Football team had a very successful and enjoyable season. 35 – 40 boys turned up at Havelock every Tuesday for football practice with Mr Irwin and Mr Hanlon. The boys were a credit to the school with their behaviour, attitude and ability throughout training and matches. Despite a difficult start, losing 4-1 to



Newbridge in their first game, the boys recovered well to finish 2nd in their group, comfortably winning against both Rathfriland and Newry.

The boys were absolutely superb in the semi-final, beating the other group winners, St Joseph's, 9-2. The final proved to be a more tense affair against the favourites, Newbridge. We were 3-1 down at half-time but fought back to draw 3-3 in dramatic fashion and won the subsequent shoot-out 4-3. Special mention goes to goalkeeper Aaron Stafford for saving a decisive penalty and for the team captain, Harry Gough, for scoring 3 hat-tricks in the last 3 games!

### U13 Football Squad 2021/22

1. Aaron Stafford
2. Jason Sands
3. Ben Millington
4. Harry Johnston
5. Reuben Walsh
6. Morgan McMullan
7. James Henning
8. Harry Gough (c)

9. Callum Todd
10. Corey Hylands
11. Ben McKeown
12. Isaac McIlwaine
13. Jacob Frizzell
14. Patrick McElroy
15. Conor Comiskey
16. Sam Leslie
17. Max Murphy
18. Matthew Patterson
19. James Nesbitt
20. Harry Davidson



## U18 Football

Looking back at the season for the U18 football team will feel very bittersweet, combining some great moments with some heart-breaking ones too. After several training sessions to work on tactics and develop skills, a strong team was put together.

Our first game of the season was against local rivals Dromore in a keenly contested derby. The game started like any first game of the season, with a lack of match sharpness and some nerves. However, as the game progressed Banbridge Academy took control of the game and dominated possession. Despite being in the ascendancy a fortunate own goal gave us which helped settle nerves and increase the flow of the game. An eventual 4-1 victory ensued with goals from Mikey Wood, Josh Magill, and

Jamie Gibson, setting us up well in the group.

Next up was a tricky away tie to Shimna in Newcastle. The weather was not kind to us that day and turned the game into a scrappy affair. A heated encounter with strong tackles and determination ended goalless at half time, despite Banbridge Academy edging the encounter. After a helpful team talk at half time we saw a more composed second half performance, with Jamie Gibson and Sam Baillie paving the way for victory for the Academy men.

These two results placed us top of the group and guaranteed our qualification to the final for a rematch against rivals Dromore. Despite previously beating Dromore in the competition, Banbridge

Academy found it a tough challenge. A tight game was broken by a fantastic Sam Baillie goal. Unfortunately, a well-earned half-time lead was short-lived as Dromore equalised early in the second half. The game remained 1-1 until the end, which forced a dreaded penalty shootout. Despite some fantastic saves from Aaron Knox, Banbridge Academy ended on the losing side.

A superb season that ended in bitter disappointment but enjoyable for all. Special thanks and acknowledgement must go to captain Ethan Rodgers and vice-captain Mikey Wood. Also, thanks to Dawson Patterson for his contribution to the coaching team of Mr Thompson and Mr McAuley.



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