

Lakelands FC Newsletter June 2020



Dear All,

These are indeed unique and turbulent times, and we hope you and your families are staying safe and well.

As a board we have identified a need to enhance our communications with our members. This is our first Newsletter and we plan to issue future newsletters more regularly to keep you updated on developments at the Club, and in particular in relation to our preparations for returning to footballing activities. We also encourage you to subscribe to the Club's social media pages and to relevant team whatsapp groups for more immediate updates. To support our communication efforts, we are in the process of redesigning the Club website so that information can be shared more easily with our members and the public, and we will notify you when that work is completed.

In this newsletter I want to update you on the new FAI protocols for return to football activities, but also to share with you key developments at the Club that will be of interest to you as a member.

We would like to thank all of you for your continued support.

Brendan Kelly
Chairman

[Covid19 Update](#)

The past few months have been a worrying time for all of us , and we are sure everyone is itching to get back to being on the field of play with their friends . Unfortunately some of our regular annual events , including our End of season event have had to be cancelled or postponed. We are still in planning phase for our annual Mini World Cup at the end of August, but we do have to advise it is highly unlikely that this event will be held in 2020. Whilst it is disappointing not to be able to play football for the past few months, these are unprecedented times.

However with the easing of restrictions , the FAI have recently developed a number of protocols for the safe return to football. We are currently working on a phased return to training in a safe environment in accordance with these guidelines and your coach will inform you in more detail in the coming weeks in that regard. Please also follow our social media channels for further announcements.

We wish you and your family continuing good health.

Lakelands FC Board News

The Board of Lakelands FC is tasked with the proper governance and management of the club. As a Board our current priorities include Covid-19 return to playing protocols (details below) , the enhancement of our current facilities , the revamping of our communications in general (including a revamped website) and the development of a Lakelands FC DNA.

At Lakelands FC, we strive to deliver the best football experience possible for everyone in the club and this development of a formal DNA is a particular priority for us at the moment. This DNA involves the designing of a formal playing philosophy, overhauling our coaching structure and investing in coach education.

We are currently striving to launch phase 1 of this by the start of the new season in September and we will update you in detail at that time.

Lakelands FC Development Committee News

The Lakelands FC Development Committee was set up in 2016 to take a strategic view on the development of facilities for the club. Its role is to endeavour to identify partnership opportunities for the club in relation to facilities, political outreach to national and local politicians, active engagement with Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Local Authority and to identify and procure sources of grant aid.

After researching and reviewing possible potential partners for facilities, we commenced a partnership with St Tiernan's Community School in Balally, Sandyford. The school, which is also operating for the past 40 years, shares the same values as our club in terms of inclusivity, fair play, and community ethos. With the approval of their Board of Management (Chair Cllr Lettie McCarthy) and Trustees, Lakelands started using the school's facilities in autumn 2016.

For the past number of years at St Tiernan's many of our players have enjoyed the use of the playing pitches for Sunday matches. Our coaches and committees have benefitted from the use of the school building for meetings and courses. And of course, we have held several very successful and sunny Mini World Cups in this superb location.

The Development Committee have ongoing plans to continue to review and discuss facilities development opportunities within our general catchment area

We will of course continue to use the Local Authority playing pitches and the shared astro-turf facilities we currently use and will continue to serve and attract players from our wide catchment area. The Local Authority's policy is to continue to provide for shared astro-turf facilities e.g. Benildus, Stepside, Marley Park.

In Marley Park they plan for a 'sports hub' area with additional playing pitches and hopefully some additional multi-purpose all-weather pitches.

In addition, their strategy is to provide for some new astro multi-purpose pitches in conjunction with local schools e.g Coláiste Eoin/Íosagain and Oatlands College.

Colin Wilson,
Chairperson, Lakelands FC Development Committee
colin.wilson@lakelandsfc.net

Sports Capital Grant

The Sports Capital Grants programme is administered by the Department of Transport Tourism & Sport. The Sports capital Grants (SCG) programme uses National funding for the advancement of sporting activities.

The programme issues award approximately every two years. They are only awarded to clubs who satisfy very strict qualifying criteria. The Development Committee is very pleased to inform that the club was awarded €108,400 under the last round of awards last November. The award is a recognition of the hard work across the club to improve our policies and procedures.

The grant is for the provision of changing facilities and associated club space at St Tiernan's. A grant award of this size is a major vote for the future of Lakelands FC.

As Chair of the Development Committee, I wish to thank the many parent volunteers who assisted in this grant application and award especially Gilly Taylor, also Steve Reynolds, Pat Ambrose, Michael Whyte, Richard Heskin, and many others.

Colin Wilson,
Chairperson, Development Committee
colin.wilson@lakelandsfc.net

Volunteers Needed

Lakelands FC is run on an entirely voluntary basis, with all Coaches, Board & Committee members giving freely of their time. We can only deliver the best football experience for everyone with the continued support of everyone in the club and your help in that regard is vital. The only limiting factor we have as a club is the number of people who volunteer - The more volunteers we have, the more we can do for all the kids in the club. So, it is time to ask not what your club do for you, but rather what you can do your club. We have a continuing need for volunteers to help run one off events, to help with administration tasks, and indeed to coach teams. We need your help in that regard, no matter how little or how much of your time you can commit.

**If you haven't yet volunteered in the club, please do so now by emailing
brendan.kelly@lakelandsfc.net**



Lakelands Football Club
Stillorgan, Co. Dublin

