

Christmas Newsletter 2015



Well 2015 is nearly over and 2016 is upon us but it has been an incredibly busy year for the club and with our 20th anniversary coming up next year we have lots to do to commemorate this great occasion and also continue to drive the club forward with our fundraising efforts to continue to improve the facilities and lay the foundations for an even better future for the club, its members and future players.

NEW CLUBHOUSE

Thanks to the sterling efforts of several committee members we recently completed the installation of permanent facilities in Kilcornan which are a significant upgrade on the shipping containers we have been using for the past several years. The new building features 2 large dressing rooms with showers as well as a kitchen and meeting room area and a separate referees room and storage area. This will provide excellent facilities not only for our own teams but more importantly for visiting sides.

To mark the opening of our new clubhouse/dressing rooms, Colga will be hosting our annual Singles vs Married charity match on St. Stephen's morning. The match is a little earlier this year and kick off will be at **11.30AM** sharp. Anyone interested in playing is invited to come along and try to run off some of those Christmas dinners. The honour of Managers for this year's match go to: Mike Bindon (Married) and Dermot Finn (on behalf of the singles). **The club will make a collection on the day and all proceeds will go directly to the Galway Hospice.**

The opening of the clubhouse will take place at 12.45pm on St. Stephen's Day and everyone is invited to come up, take a look around and share a cup of tea/coffee. It would be fantastic to see as many people as possible to attend on the day and celebrate a historical achievement for the club. Please bring all of your friends and families and share in this occasion.



Mike Bindon & PJ Kinnane putting the crest on the clubhouse



The platform where the current storage units will be moved to



Perimeter Fencing and Ad Hoarding



The meeting area in the new clubhouse

Advertising hoardings are now on sale around the ground. Full details are available on www.colgafc.ie

BROTHERS IN ARMS

Boys who grow up playing football will sometimes make lasting friends among their opponents. These comrades in sport are the Colga Boys U12B (The Merlins) and local rivals from Kinvara FC, at a five-a-side blitz in Ballinderreen in November.



Winter Warmer

As the premiership rumbles on through the winter so do our U12 boys team with a special "won't mum and dad appreciate this!" tournament on the **30th of December** at the **Maree indoor astro** between **2-4PM**. Makes sure to wear the awful jumper your aunty bought you for Christmas!



Martin Whyte and Daniel Galeas with the U12 Girls GFA 1st Division Squad

Kiddies Christmas Party

The traditional kiddies christmas party was held on Sunday the 20th of December, thanks to Ger Browne for organising and everyone who attended. Hope Santa is good you all!

Thanks

Many thanks to all our sponsors this year and for their generous contributions which are essential to the running of the club and for the teams involved. Special thanks to Paddy Burkes for their ongoing support.

U12 Girls Update

The U12 Girls train once a week on Thursday nights. Our super committed coaching team includes Paul Mee, Sarah-Ann Kealy, Daniel Galeas, Dominic Snowdon and Martin Whyte. From November to February training moves to Maree indoor astro so the weather hasn't affected the girls programme. Our under 12 premier squad play in the GFA Premier League. Our under 12 development squad play in the GFA First Division. Great to see such enthusiasm from coaches and players on a weekly basis



Our Girls U12 GFA Premier Division Squad

Junior Mens Sponsorship

The junior mens team are having a great season so far and would like to thank their team sponsors; **Rafterys Rest Kilcolgan** and their kit sponsors **Terryland Fruit & Veg** and **Ardeal**. The investment is paying off so far!

FUNDRAISING AND DEVELOPMENT

As you may already know we received a capital grant of €95,000 in the funding round in the Autumn. Thanks to everyone involved from inside and outside the club in securing this much needed funding. As with a lot of things in life there are some terms and conditions attached to these funds. The primary one is that **this money must be used to develop the proposed astroturf facility** which is to be sited at the bottom of the Kilcornan grounds on the area currently covered in gravel. If we do not use this money for that purpose then it cannot be used for anything else. This has obvious implications for the club in terms of fundraising over the coming years and there has been serious discussion on this matter at committee level over the past months.

Ultimately we believe that **the development of the astroturf facility is something that will help create a legacy for the club and provide a facility that will serve players for many years to come and we need to take this opportunity to deliver that facility, and it's a fitting way to crown the 20th anniversary of the club.**

We will communicate the plans for the grounds and the necessary fundraising over the coming year. One event that has already been planned is a Golf Outing on the 13th of May 2016 at the Galway Bay Golf Club. Full details are below and we would encourage you to share the event with any of your golf buddies or potential corporate sponsors, feel free to contact any of the guys listed below.

A promotional poster for Colga F.C. Golf Day. The background is a green golf course with silhouettes of golfers. At the top, 'COLGA' is written in large red letters, with a soccer ball containing 'F.C.' in the center of the 'O'. Below it, 'GOLF DAY' is in bold black letters, followed by 'Friday 13th MAY 2016'. On the left, a logo for 'GALWAY BAY GOLF RESORT' is shown. In the center, a circular logo for 'COLGA F.C.' features a soccer ball and the text '1996' and '2016'. To the right, '20th Anniversary 1996 - 2016' is written. At the bottom, contact information is listed in two columns.

**€400 PER TEAM OF 4
TEAM & TEE SPONSORS SOUGHT
FOLLOWED BY EVENING DINNER
AND DRINKS**

CONTACTS

Derek Murphy	087 120 7877	Mike Bindon	087 770 6521
Trevor Horan	087 222 1698	John Walsh	087 203 2766
		Declan Murray	087 254 4576

We have also confirmed plans for several other events for next year including

- *Cookery Demonstration Evening with Chef Clodagh McKenna in Galway Bay Hotel on February 28th*
- *Easter Soccer Camp at our grounds in Kilcornan for all age groups run by ex-Chelsea Youth Coach and FAI attributed Colga coaches*

Further details will be available in the New Year but the cookery event promises to be a great night and the soccer camp will be of special interest next year with the extra long easter break.

At the end of the day everyone involved with the club, from players to coaches, committee members to parents are all equal stakeholders in its future and whatever decisions we make should be focussed on the long term benefit of the club and the players who join when the current batch might be thinking of getting hip replacements. We have made great strides as we head towards our 20th year and when you see the potential of our home in Kilcornan being made a reality over the coming years the efforts in fundraising and personal commitment to the cause will be more than worth it. To achieve it will require the input and efforts of everyone in the club, outside the club and in the wider community. We know we can do it if we do it as a community club which is what the last 20 years have been about and will continue to be into the future.

Team Updates

U7 Boys

The U7 Boys have received a full set of jerseys thanks to Declan Greaney of Laval Furniture. With the inclement weather we didn't get a chance to get the boys together for a squad shot in their new gear but will do it in the New Year.

U14 Boys

The U14 Boys have received generous support from M&S Auto in Clarinbridge. Colga FC would like to thank M&S Auto for their generosity and continuing support. The U14's play their game against Knocknacarra away in Cappagh Road on Saturday 9th January at 12pm. All support is most welcome!



Front row left to right: Kevin Molloy, Christopher Brennan, Robert Timmins, Eli Sheedy, Michael Donoghue, Luke Prendergast (Captain), Matthew Daniels (M&S Auto), Liam McDonagh, Callum Browne, Eoin Lyons, Patrick Martin & Michael Corless
Back Row left to right; Gerry Martin (Manager), Sean McDonagh, Liam Corcoran, Conal Harkin &, David Morrissey (Coach)
Missing from this picture - David Lee & Thomas Cullhane

U10 Boys

The U10 Boys have doubled down on training this year with an indoor session in Maree/Oranmore on Tuesday nights for an hour providing an opportunity to work on specific skills. The boys have also been participating in both GFA challenge games and the Maree/Oranmore tournament on alternate weekends with 4 teams being entered from the squad of 30+ players. The coaching team headed up by Alan Jennings and Sean Conacur have been with this group now for 4 seasons and its great to see the strides they have made. The Dave Kelly Memorial tournament this year will feature the U10's with further details to come in the New Year.

U6 Cadets

The newest members of Colga FC are our U6 cadets and its been great fun so far with this group. Seeing kids get their first proper kick of a ball is always great and the support and, more importantly, participation of their parents has been brilliant so far this year. It's a pity that the weather put paid to the last few weeks of training but the coaching team of Sarah, Trevor and Julian look forward to seeing everyone back on the 9th of January and to hear all about the great presents Santa brought everyone!

Team Updates

U15 Boys

Colga FC entered a team into the GFA U15 league for the 2015-2016 season. 11 players and 3 coaches attended the 1st session in mid August and the current squad (managed by Brian O'Neill, assisted by Declan murray and Eoin Greaney) consists of 16 players born in 2001 and 3 players born in 2002 and have had 28 training sessions on grass and astroturf to date with the squad also gratefully accepting Ollly Mullins expertise for additional coaching. The team plays an attack oriented 4-3-3 formation which has lead to consistent creation of chances and scoring in every game but has also put huge demands on midfield to b create and defend against 4 opposition midfielders for 70 minutes.

It has been a roller coaster first half of the 10 round league so far with 7 points total (2 wins, 2 losses and 1 draw) is not a fair reflection of our play and dominance of some matches.

Round 1: (h) 3 – 3 craughwell utd (Jack O'Neill, Ultan Sheeran 2)

Round 2: (a) 2 – 3 hibernian (Oisin Shannon, Ultan Sheeran, Oisin Salmon)

Round 3: (a) 4 – 2 knocknacarra (Shane Cotter, Ultan Sheeran,)

Round 4: (h) 2 – 3 tuam celtic (Shane Cotter, Conor Slevin,)

Round 5: (a) 1 – 2 mervue utd b (Shane Cotter, Jack O'Neill)



The U15 Squad in their Kelly Murray sponsored jerseys

Positives & highlights

1. Being in the GFA U15 league
2. Scoring 2 goals in every league match (quality of mervue goals ...)
3. Our 3 man forward line have scored 12 of our 16 goals
4. Players enjoying playing soccer with no serious injuries incurred
5. Our new training tops and jersies!

Negatives & lowlight

1. Losing to knocknacarra – should have wrapped it up in 1st half
2. Conceding 13 goals in the league to date
3. Absence of communication between players on pitch costing us goals
4. Cancellation of 3 friendly fixtures to date
5. Henry Heskins return to competitive action against mervue utd!

Objectives to end of season

Develop communications between playersso we can concede less goalsso we can

Secure top 2 position.... So we can continue to enjoy **yes we can !**

For more news and images visit www.colgafc.ie

Merchandise

We now have a range of Colga merchandise for purchase from our Kit Manager, Geraldine Browne.

- Colga Jerseys: Age 7-8 €22; 9-10 €24; 11-12 €24
- Colga Training Tops: Age 7-8, 9-10, 11-12 €26. Small/Medium/Large sizes
- Colga Socks: All Sizes €10
- Colga Shorts: All Sizes €12

Just call Geraldine directly on: 087 410 5751



Training Top



Jersey



Socks



Shorts

Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year from everyone at Colga



For more news and images visit www.colgafc.ie