



# CHRISTMAS 2012 NEWSLETTER

Wishing you a  
Merry  
Christmas  
and a

Happy and Healthy New Year



## 2012, WHAT A YEAR!

*Enjoy our final newsletter of 2012. In this newsletter we review the year in which the club went from strength to strength and our U16's wrote club history by securing a place in the last 32 of the National Cup. We look at this years highlights and the progress our teams made in the CSL and futsal leagues. Enjoy the Read.*



## Watergrasshill United goes from strength to strength in 2012

2012 has been a successful year for Watergrasshill United, from the 14<sup>th</sup> of January when we returned to training up until the first week of December when our U16's wrote club history by winning the National Area Cup final and progressing into the last 32 of the National Cup.

It was a year in which we saw our membership grow to over 300 members and were we were able to invest heavily in our Skehanagh Park premises with upgraded floodlights, dugouts, signage and ground works. All to facilitate our boys and girls academy players, our CSL and junior teams. Our upgraded Skehanagh facilities were made available to the wider Watergrasshill community to host the inter school tournaments and the very successful over 35 parish league won by Glenville.

Our U7 (2 teams), U8, U9 and U10 participated in the CSL Small Sided Games (SSG) leagues from the start of April to the end of May. This non competitive league is a great experience for our academy players and we saw great progress of our academy players during this 8 week period. All teams performed to a high standard and are a credit to their coaches and parents.



Our U11's secured 1st place in the non-competitive CSL league and our Watergrasshill United U15 team completed a remarkable season by clinching the U15 CSL division 3 Title with a hard fought 2-2 draw away to reigning 3 times CSL champions Macroom. A well deserved league triumph for a team that have been together for the last 6 years and proved a triumph of perseverance, hard work, skill and determination. The team finished with a true league record of 11 wins, two draws and a goal difference of 92 scored and 17 against.

In May we organized the Fashion show together with the Watergrasshill National School Parents Association and we would like to thank everyone who supported, sponsored and participated in one of our most successful community fundraising events. Another successful event was our annual presentation night during the start of June in the new Watergrasshill Arts center. Here we presented all academy players with their medals and player awards to our team players of the year.



Our summer camp, traditionally during the first week of July, was a great success again with over 140 boys and girls participating. 5 days of non competitive games, training, team sports and fun organized for community by the community.



Our Girl Academy continues to excel and this year, for the first time, our older girls are participating in the Cork Women & Schoolgirls Soccer League (C.W.S.S.L) and Futsal league. They wrote history for the club when they played their first competitive league since the formation of Watergrasshill United, back in 2004. As coaches, it's imperative we keep this great group of girls together and playing for Watergrasshill United and to date this has been down to the great weekly work of Jackie & Ber over the past few years.





Since October our academy teams are competing in the Futsal competition organized by the CSL in the Sports Village on Model Farm Road. This indoor competition will take place during the winter months and each team will play 1 game every 4 weeks. These non-competitive indoor matches are all about team work and passing, great skills that our players will need once they return to the outdoor CSL Small Sided Games (SSG) leagues in the next year.

Another highlight for the year was the selection of our Watergrasshill United U12 Player Sean Desmond for the Cork Development Squad. A great honor for both Sean and for the club and it is well deserved opportunity for him to further develop his footballing abilities. Sean is a tremendously skillful player and has been our man of the match on many many occasions and his passion for the game and likeable personality is a fantastic example to his team mates.

Just recently on Dec 1st Watergrasshill United U16's created club history with a tremendous win in the National Area Cup final win over Leaside. Both teams finished 2-2 after the allotted 80 minutes. Extra time went on with very little between two evenly matched sides. Finally in the very last minute with the dreaded penalty shoot out looking very likely Watergrasshill were awarded a free kick a good 35 yards out. Up stepped Dylan O'Donovan and with a great shot that deceived the keeper scored to win the game in the most dramatic of fashions. Hard luck to Leaside but Watergrasshill United are proudly into the last 32 of the National Cup and can now play any one of 31 other teams from Cork to Donegal home or away early in the new year. As Cork have only 5 National Cup representatives per age group and over 70 teams are eligible to compete for these places it can be seen it is a brilliant achievement for our U16s to get this far. It is a tribute to the players themselves, their coaches and the wider Watergrasshill United coaches and support staff all of whom give their time year in, year out on a purely voluntary basis.



*From all of us at Watergrasshill United, we would like to thank all members, parents and all other united supporters for their continued support during the year and we would like to wish everyone a merry Christmas and a very happy and healthy new year!*



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## **CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER COMPETITION**

TO MAKE IT INTO THE DRAW JUST ANSWER THE FOLLOWING 3 QUESTIONS:

1. What was the first year our annual golf classic was run?
2. Who is the current shirt sponsor for our Under 16 squad?
3. What month & year did Watergrasshill United re-launch it's monthly newsletter?

Email your answers to [quiz@watergrasshillunited.com](mailto:quiz@watergrasshillunited.com) or  
via text message to 086 447 6760 before the 1<sup>st</sup> of January.

Special thanks to MSC Mediterranean Shipping Company for sponsoring this great prize.

HINT: All answers can be obtained from our website [www.watergrasshillunited.com](http://www.watergrasshillunited.com)



## **WATERGRASSHILL UNITED U16 SEASON REVIEW 2012/13**

Having won div 3 at U15 level last season (2011/12) we got promoted an extra division to Division 1 at U16 level for season 2012/13. This was partly out of choice and pragmatism as all our games are now on 10:30am on a Sunday morning and for the most part avoiding clashing with other codes. Playing every week at a high level has been a huge learning curve for both players and managers. The reality in division 1 is that you can play well in a lot of games and still lose. It is also a league where for the most part you get punished severely for mistakes or a poor 10 minutes during a match. In addition up to very recently we have been operating with a very small squad and also dealing with players competing at high levels in other codes on Saturdays. As such the league games have been very challenging but as we speak the team is in mid table and definitely not out of its depth when at or near full strength.

The huge positive news is of course what you lose in the swings you gain in the roundabout and this has to be true for our National Cup run. As most will be aware the team recently qualified in dramatic style for the last 32 of the NC and in early February will host Malahide United at home. We are aware this is a great achievement for the team and for the whole club. Definitely competing in div 1 has helped enormously to raise the teams standard and we would feel key to our cup success. Recently Edward 'Pips' O Connell joined the management team and his enthusiasm and ideas have also been hugely influential. Challenges we face like any other Wgh Utd team include trying to give all players game time and coping with the fact that many 'experts' seem to be able to volunteer their opinion on matters both privately and publicly but no one seems able to volunteer to wash the jerseys.

The team's goals for the rest of the season is to try and continually raise our standard of play, improve our league position and to represent Wgh Utd proudly in the National Cup. We would like to thank all within the club for their good wishes and support during our cup run and for your help and work as we prepare to host the Malahide Utd game.

Noel, Pat and Pips



## NB SHIPPING TO SPONSOR U16 NATIONAL CUP SPORT TOPS



To mark a very historic moment for Watergrasshill United, NB Shipping Services Limited, will kindly sponsor Sports Tops for our entire U16 squad & coaches for their fantastic achievement to date in the National Cup.

We thank Niall Browne, MD of NB Shipping Services, for his continued generous support.

## CORK DEVELOPMENT SQUAD



Watergrasshill United U12's Player Sean Desmond, selected for Cork Development Squad, pictured here in the Cork strip.

Sean Desmond, the U12 midfielder and Captain of the team, has been selected to train and play with the Cork Development Squad.

This is a great honour for both Sean and for the club and it is well deserved opportunity for him to further develop his footballing abilities.

Sean is a tremendously skillful player who never fails to give his all on the pitch whenever he is involved at either U12 or U13 level. Sean is a midfield dynamo who always plays with style, energy and a strong resolve to win.

He has been our man of the match on many many occasions and his passion for the game and likeable personality is a fantastic example to his team mates.

*Congratulations Sean*



## **GIRLS ACADEMY YEAR IN REVIEW**

**Sponsorship:** Prior to the commencement of our season we acquired a complete set of new jerseys, sponsored by BEKO. We also had a Christmas Draw sponsored by Mediterranean Shipping Company Genève, 7 prizes in total. For our away league games we continue to supply bottles of water, health bars to all participants including oranges for home & away games that go down a treat....!

### **Training/Weekly Dues/Registration:**

We brought training indoors to the Community Hall back in October when the evenings got short & the weather became bad to ensure that we keep our entire squad together, both the older girls who play in the Under 12 CWSSL & our younger members. This certainly has worked & is quiet evident in the numbers attending indoor training on a Thursday between 5-7pm.

Although indoor facilities greatly restricts what we can/cannot achieve from a training point of view, the comradeship between all girls is incredible, many of whom go to different schools, Watergrasshill/Glenville/Fermoy, and only meet up once a week. This will certainly stand to them as we process over the next 2 years in our under 12 league.

Thanks to all families for registering and for your diligence with girls paying the euro 2.00 weekly payments which go towards hall rental/various club outgoings/reinvested back into the Club.

### **League:**

This was always going to be a tough year for our Academy Girls & indeed coaches as they entered for the first time a competitive league. We had no previous foundation with this squad & the only option was an under 12 league, which means we compete against teams who have been established many years ago & who are 11, 12 year olds versus 8,9 years old from Watergrasshill United. This is a massive age difference, especially in sport, HOWEVER it seems to be us coaches who get deflated at the hands of results & not the girls!!! This goes back to the friendship bond within the squad. We are learning our trade the hard way & no doubt this will stand to them, the vast majority who are under 12 for the next 2/3 years!

We have been going through a run of away games, but for every away game there will be a home tie, with the exception of cup events. Our numbers travelling remain consistently great so thanks again and payments for the referee at home games only, has been 100 percent. Once this season is finished the CWSSL will place us in a league that is more compatible with other teams of similar ability.

### **Player of the league games/team captains:**

For every league game we pick a team captain & player of the game, which empowers players & has improved their confidences.

### **Indoor Futsal Blitzes:**

Again to ensure we continue to grow as a squad, we commit to entering the futsal blitzes run by our league, CWSSL, out in the Sports Village on the Model Farm Road. Going forward & to ensure that players don't get too fatigued on the night, we will be limiting our teams to 6 a side, bringing on substitutions at half time. Our attendance this year at these events have been astonishing, up to 18 at one blitz





**CWSSL Training Sessions:** To date 8 girls have attended a special indoor training session run by the CWSSL (one in Nov & one in Dec). Attendees were randomly picked & our members get a chance to interact with other team players under the eye of qualified coaches, all to improve their techniques.

**Girls Under 12 Development Squad:** As we play in an under 12 league at present, despite the young ages of our squad, the majority are actually 8/9/10 born 2002/2003/2004, we have two members who participate weekly at this sessions which is run by the CWSSL. This development squad is predominately targeted towards girls born in 2001 and therefore is the reason why we have not advertised our involvement this season as they will have the next 2/3 to participate. We will be looking at this more closely next season when we've a competitive one league run under our belts.

**Website, PR Coverage, Communication:** All our events year to date can be viewed in detail on the girls section of our website and this coverage typically also appears on our face book page & The Avondhu/Glanmire News/East Cork Journal/Cork Independent/Blackwater News from time to time.

It's never too late to join our Girls Academy, if interested please contact us on 086/4476760. This contact number is solely for our Girls Academy & it's usage is controlled by Paul Sharkey.

As you know we communicate quite a bit via text message & the responses back on text to availability for games/blitzes etc has been truly brilliant, thanks everyone. We would encourage at all times parents comments/feedback etc, if there's something to be said please say it...This dedication is voluntary for all coaches who give up their personal time to assist with the development of our Girls Academy.



As one can see there is a lot of activity within our Girls Academy structure, including many hours of voluntary time travelling etc. We have belief in our Academy, which shows in this commitment.

We thank Watergrasshill United's committee members for all their support & encouragement to date.

Of course finally we'd like to thank ALL parents/families who have committed & stuck with us during 2012, for those who assist us during games & at training, and of course ALL Academy Girls for their dedication & fantastic attitude week in week out.... *"Beidh muid ag teacht go maith"*

**HAPPY CHRISTMAS...**

Jackie, Tony, Ber & Paul....



*Our U10 Squad at their last training of the year*

## **UNDER 10'S 2012/2013 SEASON REVIEW**

Our Under 10 team started back training in September after a summer break and a very successful under 9 season. After 6 weeks of training the coaches decided that games were needed since the league does not start until March 2013. Games against Cobh, Riverstown, Avondale, Glounthaune and the futsal in the tennis village were arranged. Some people might notice the lads are playing these games in a 11-a-side formation, this is to get them ready for u11s when they play a proper league

It took a little time for them to adjust at first, but after one or two games they settled into it. They have come a long way in 6 months from playing 7 a side under 9 soccer to 11 a side soccer and each player has grown in stature and skill level. This team are a pleasure to coach, the dedication both parents and players show to be there for training and games shows the love they have for soccer. They are by far a team with great skill, fitness, enthusiasm and most of all team work they are all best friends when in training and playing matches, there is never a cross word between any of them. All the training, cold wet days on the pitch is worth while when you see them play and pass the ball and then score a goal, then there's 15 or 16 smiling faces celebrating that goal worth every minute

The highlight of the year was going to be the blitz in Wilton fc. The coaches were very excited about this because the lads were going to be up against the best under age teams in cork and Pat, Paul and Marcus had no doubt that this team can play against and beat the best of the cork teams. Every team the lads play, the opposition coach always praises the lads but coming from Wilton and Avondale it was great to hear. Unfortunately the blitz did not happen due to a car taker going home with the keys to the pitches, but with a few phone calls and 1 hours notice the lads were on the pitch in Watergrasshill for training. Both myself, Pat and Paul were amazed with the dedication shown and do apologize to parents as we appreciate people went of there way the accommodate us. Hopefully in January the blitz will go ahead and we will bring home a cup

On behalf of the coaches Pat, Paul and Marcus, we would like to thank all parents for there dedication to turning up to training and matches and a merry Christmas and a happy new year to all parents, coaches and players. See you soon



2012 started off with a squad of 10 players who were not only teammates but also classmates and friends. We were very fortunate in that we had the same squad for the past two years. We played a few friendlies before the Small Sided Games commenced in March. We more than held our own in this league with 7 wins and 1 loss. I suppose the highlight of this was the excitement from the lads of travelling to another county to play, Ardmore in Waterford.

In September the lads welcomed another new member to our squad and subsequently 2 more have since joined the squad to now give us 13 in total. Our emphasis is one of creating a squad and all the lads are given the same playing time during matches. We rotate positions with everyone playing their part from goalkeeper to forward.

As we embrace 2013 our focus is on nurturing individual talent of each player into that of a team with an emphasis on positioning and thinking in a non competitive environment. The kids by nature will be a little bit competitive but the goal is to create a squad over time that will be ready for CSL when their time comes.

Myself & Rob are very fortunate to have, not only a great bunch of lads but also a great bunch of parents who have supported us every step of the way. The continuous support at matches they give the lads with encouragement not only for their own child but all team players is very heart warming. The way they leave the kids play their own game is to be admired and I am convinced that's what is helping the lads improve their own game.

The game can be one of different opinions but the most pleasing aspect for Rob and myself is seeing the lads not only grow as players but also as children. They are a pleasure to work with and of course we have our moments but who doesn't. Special thanks to our shirt sponsor EMC for providing us with a new team match kit.

**Teams Played** – Castlelyons, Douglas, Carrigaline (4 Different Teams), Youghal, Ardmore, Glounthaune, Temple, Macroom, Ballinhassig, Kinsale

**Squad** – Andrew, Brendan, Daniel, Darragh, David, Dylan F, Dylan R, Eoghan, Eoin, Joseph, Rory, Ryan, Sam



On behalf of Dave Doyle and Denis Barry we would like to wish all players and their parents a Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for 2013. Thanks for your ongoing support during the year.

Overall the season to date has been positive but fragmented at times. Player pool is relatively small. A number of games have had to be cancelled or re-scheduled. Striking the balance between giving everyone equal game time and maintaining a level of performance on the pitch has been difficult. Not every team we meet is rotating their squads to the same level. Training sessions have been continuously well attended. Some excellent performances in general with 1 or 2 indifferent displays thrown into the mix, but that is to be expected and this is part of the ongoing development process. The lads give 100% and that is all you can ask for.

On Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December WGH The U11's were at home for Sunday's SSL League clash with Ballincollig on the back of a poor team performance against Leaside two weeks earlier. In a hard fought and evenly matched game WGH were unlucky not to gain a victory and had to settle for a 1-1 draw. At half time we found ourselves 1-0 down as a direct result of a great free kick from Ballincollig. While we didn't create many open goal chances during the first half Sean Graham, Keelan O Sullivan, James Barry and Jack Casey showed enough up front to suggest that we could get back into the game while the hard working Sean O'Driscoll and James O'Leary continued to provide stability in the centre.

The second half started with our defensive unit of Euan Gallagher, Cathal Fitzgerald and Gary Doyle taking command of the game ably assisted by Chris OMahony providing direction in goal while in midfield Kieran McCarthy started to show some glimpses of his best. A succession of very close goal attempts from Gary, James, & Stephen was finally rewarded when a magical strike from James O'Leary nestled in the top left hand corner of the Ballincollig net. Game was now on!!!

A series of substitutions followed that saw the introduction of Stephen O'Toole, Cormac Linehan & Ryan Conroy who all worked hard to maintain the dominance that we had achieved with Stephen & Ryan very unlucky not to get on the end of a couple of well worked moves. Late on Stevie G Suarez was presented with an opportunity to seal the win but unfortunately his effort was saved by the Ballincollig keeper much to Steve's bitter disappointment at the final whistle. Overall a well deserved result and great effort by the full squad. Well done!!!



The current WGHTD U12's squad started out the year being moved into a higher grouping in the U11's SSL non-competitive league. This was on the back of winning all of their competitive matches in the latter stages of the 2011 season.

The reward for their excellent performances was to be matched up against bigger and better teams in the first half of 2012. The boys coped brilliantly with the step up in class and won all of their games bar one, a home loss to Strand United. There were some memorable results during this phase, notably, recovering from being 3:1 down away to Mallow and coming back to winning 4:3 on a wet and windy evening. Other great results, were a last minute goal to beat Avondale away (Superb header by Tim Hegarty) and in the best performance I have seen from this side, a 4:3 win away to a very good Leeds team. These results mean we won that non-competitive league on points and were then placed in Division 2 for the start of our journey in competitive league games with full sized pitches, goals and official CSL appointed referees.

The squad is now adjusting to playing at this level and the standard is quite high. We have gained 6 points from 6 games and we were genuinely unfortunate not to win a few more games. Overall the team is maturing very nicely with a settled and speedy back four combination led by Ceadan Hogan at centre half. Our defence has some great strength with Seamus Ahern and Ethan Nixon doing very well in the full back roles and all these lads will only improve more over time. In midfield we have plenty of options for both defensive and attacked minded players. Shane O Reilly is consistently producing very brave performances in central midfield and James O Leary, an U11s player, gives us great service on the left wing and has produced some magical goals for us in tight matches. Without doubt our stand out player in match after match is our Captain Sean Desmond. He is versatile enough to play anywhere on the pitch but he is most comfortable banging the ball into the back of the net. He has shown great leadership for the team and he is one to watch for the future as he has recently been selected to train with the U12 Cork Development Squad. We are all very proud of Sean's achievements and we know that Sean will make the most of this opportunity.

The most rewarding thing for me is to see new players join our squad and to see everyone helping each other to get better on the pitch. Colin O Toole, Jack O Grady and Cathal Feehan joined us this season and all of them are doing really well. Some of our established players are also developing very nicely namely Harry Buscivich at midfield and both Colm Curtin and Rob McKenna who share goalkeeping duties. It is important also to mention Gary Doyle and Cathal Fitzgerald who are well able to step up from the U11's squad to help us out.

The challenge for this squad for 2013 is to up their performances in their remaining matches of the 2012/2013 season and to therefore consolidate their standing in Division 2. We can continue to build from there and if we all stick together there is going to be lots to enjoy for the future.

Sincere thanks to Pat Griffin and Marcus O Reilly for their coaching expertise and all round encouragement and a special thanks to the parents of the players who travel in support week after week. It is much needed and appreciated. *Happy Christmas to everyone, David Hogan, Manager WGHTD U12s*



## UNDER 14'S

Our Under 14s, in their third season in the CSL, are now playing in Division 2, after being promoted in the last 2 seasons. The squad is doing very well at present in the CSL where we are mid table. Our aim this season is at least to maintain this position.

With a few new players introduced this season, it is taking us a while to gel as a unit but over all we are playing some nice football. Team spirit this season has been very positive with great numbers turning up at training. It must be said these lads are a pleasure to coach and they work hard at trying to improve there game all the time.



Watergrasshill United Under 14's will travel to Blackpool to play for the Blackpool cup, a Cup that has been a true highlight in England since 1994. Year in year out at Easter time, teams from England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Northern Ireland and the continent take part in this prestigious tournament.

On Good Friday we aim to get the early ferry from Dublin at 8am so we will be leaving Watergrasshill quietly at 5am. Our aim is to take in the Preston v Portsmouth match that evening 5pm kick off, but this all depends if Euro-Sportring allow us to register later that night as registration is at 6.30pm. Match tickets have been provisionally booked but all will be confirmed in the next few days.

Our Saturday morning starts of with Breakfast, after which we will be playing our first games followed by a Trip to Blackpool Pleasure Water World. We will then retire back to the Hotel for evening meal and the night

Our Sunday Morning kicks of with a sporty breakfast, and more competitive games followed by an exiting trip to the Blackpool Theme Park. Depending how well the team is progressing in the tournament we either have more games on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April or otherwise we will take in the sights of Blackpool and maybe a bit of shopping. The team is getting the 5pm ferry back to Dublin. All going well we should be back in Watergrasshill by 11pm.

***The Under 14's are doing a Sponsored Soccer Marathon on December 30th to help fund our planned trip to Blackpool over Easter. Please support our lads in making this trip possible. A trip to remember and cherish for life***

We would also like to Thank All the Parents for their continued Help and Support and we all wish them a Happy and Peaceful Christmas

From Derry / Frank /Chris / Gavin



December 11<sup>th</sup> was another historic day for Watergrasshill United when **5** of our Under 13 players made the CSL Team of The Week. The 5 Players to make the CSL Team of The Week were: **Cillian Roche, Sean Desmond, Padraig O'Leary, Owen Desmond & Padraig O Brien**. On behalf of all of us at Watergrasshill United, Congratulations Lads. A well deserved selection.



*Watergrasshill United U13's*

On Saturday December 8th, on a cold crisp winters morning the Under 13's welcomed Crosshaven to Skehanagh Park for a league fixture. After a recent win over Lakewood we were looking to go into the winter break with another victory.

For the first 10 minutes Crosshaven came at us very strong. However our defence stood firm and we started to settle down and string some passes together. With 12 minutes gone our left winger Padraig O Brien put a great ball into the box for our centre forward Padraig O Leary to score our first of the day. **WGH 1-0 Crosshaven**. Within 5 minutes of our first goal Padraig O Brien who was running riot on the wing, put a cross in towards Crosshaven's goal. The flight of the ball deceived the Crosshaven keeper and ended up in the back of their net. **WGH 2-0 Crosshaven**. Within minutes of our second goal we conceded a very soft goal to crosshaven. The first half finished **WGH 2-1 Crosshaven**.

At the start of the second half, as expected Crosshaven came out fighting and we had to work hard to hold our lead. On the 40th minute from a corner kick Sean Desmond scored our third of the day. **WGH 3-1 Crosshaven**. From here on we started to take control of the game and with Colin Cronin dominating midfield and supplying some lovely balls to the forwards it was only a matter of time before we scored. With 46 minutes gone from a near impossible angle Owen Desmond scored our fourth of the day. **WGH 4 -1 Crosshaven**. With us pressuring the Crosshaven defence so hard, they were conceding free kicks. On the 50th minute we won a free kick 25 yards from the crosshaven goal on the right wing. Owen Desmond took the free kick and scored a sublime goal for our fifth of the day. **WGH 5-1 Crosshaven**. From here on it was all one way traffic and from another corner kick Seamus Ahern scored our sixth of the day. The game finished **WGH 6-1 Crosshaven**.

Fantastic result which puts us in a great position in the league going into the winter break. Well done to all the lads on a great team performance. A very big thanks to all the parents who came out to support us.

**Team:** Niall, Jake, Tom, Sean, Kileen, Padraig, Colin, Owen, Seamus, Padraig, Peter, Christy, Caden and Jack.



FROM ALL OF US  
AT  
WATERGRASSHILL UNITED

MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND A  
HAPPY AND HEALTHY  
NEW YEAR



AND MAY ALL  
OUR WISHES COME TRUE

(INCLUDING THE NATIONAL CUP)