

WATERGRASSHILL UNITED

SUMMER 2014 NEWSLETTER



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WATERGRASSHILL UNITED



Our quarterly newsletter highlights some of our activities of the last few months and look back at the 2013-2014 season. Enjoy the Read.

APRIL - Fashion Show

Watergrasshill United and the Watergrasshill National School Parents Association teamed up again to bring you another Fashion Show in 2014. This years event took place in the Corrin Event Centre in the Cork Marts in Rathcormack and over 200 people attended. There was a complimentary cheese and wine reception along with entertainment from The Cork Circus and Niamh Barrett on the night. The event was a huge success and once again we would like to thank all of our sponsors for making this event possible and everybody who came along on the night to support!



APRIL - Ringmahon Easter Tournament

Our U7-U10 Boys Academy took part in Ringmahon Rangers Easter Blitz on Good Friday. There was a fantastic turnout on the day from all age groups and a great day was had by all. Our U7's brought 17 players out and played 5 games on an astro pitch.

Our U8's and U9's had a very good tournament also and despite the difficulties of squad rotation, they put in a great display and represented the club well. Our U10's went all the way to the semi-final where they faced Mallow, who won the tournament on the last 3 occasions. The lads put in a resolute display and were very unlucky to lose out on penalties.





MAY/JUNE - Watergrasshill Family Fun Weekend

Once again the Watergrasshill Family Fun Weekend jointly organised by Watergrasshill United and the Watergrasshill National School Parents Association 'was an outstanding success.

Blessed by favorable weather, the crowds came out in force to support all the various events held over the June bank holiday weekend.

The weekend kicked off in style on the Friday evening with Dustbusters Light Orchestra setting a suitable tone in the wonderful balmy conditions. With the main street closed and a separate cordoned off section with children's amusements, there was plenty for everyone to do and see in a safe environment including a wonderful array of local food and craft stalls. As the night progressed, the inaugural Inter Pub Tug of War competition took place just off the main street, and the crowds really enjoyed the intensity of this event and were impressed by the might men representing the Fir Tree who emerged victorious in the end.



The entertainment continued with several local hip hop dance troupes strutting their stuff in front of the DJ stage and as the evening gathered pace, the live band Hot Guitars sprang into action on the main stage.

There was a fantastic sense of community spirit on the night with neighbours, friends and extended family members all thoroughly enjoying the opportunity to mingle freely in the village centre.

Saturday Morning saw the start of a very busy day commence with two new sporting events added to the festival calendar with a 50k cycle and an 8k road race both commencing and finishing in the

village. On a day of glorious sunshine there was an excellent turnout for both events and a great time was had by all involved afterwards enjoying the refreshments on offer at the First Fruits Arts Theatre.

The racing pigs made a welcome return on Saturday evening with the main street once again closed off and converted into a customised race track. The crowd were entertained between races with a large screen ensuring everyone got to see all the action and a tote betting system was in place for those feeling lucky. Huge crowds from all over cork and beyond attended and people danced and socialised on the street in a real festival like atmosphere until well after midnight.





The annual underage soccer blitz took place at the home of Watergrasshill United on Sunday from 10am right through to 4pm with welcome participation from clubs in Cork City and County and the crowd was back at Skehanagh Park again that evening to watch the local veterans in action in the Over 35's Soccer Tournament. Both the playoff for the winning team and the last placed team were decided on penalty shoot outs with Team Loftus happy to pass on the wooden spoon award to Dean Roche's Real SoSoBad.



A great night of crack and revelry was had by all afterwards in The Hut Bar, with local DJ John Regan on hand again to entertain us all.



Family Orienteering took place in Condonstown Woods on Monday Morning where families navigated through the woods to find various objects. All participants received complimentary Ice Cream afterwards and everybody enjoyed the event. Festivities came to a close on Monday Night with a Barn Dance by Michael Murphy in the First Fruits Arts Centre.

All in all, beautiful weather, brilliant crowds and a thriving community spirit, combined to produce a memorable and successful family fun weekend for 2014.

Watergrasshill United would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Organising Committee and all who assisted over the weekend for another amazing event and to all sponsors who made this event possible. Significant funds have been raised to support two worthy organisations, Watergrasshill United and the National School Parents Association.

Finally, thanks to everybody who participated in the various events and to everybody who supported this fundraiser over the weekend. Planning is already underway for next year!



UNDER SEVENs End of Season Report

Our Under 7 Tigers and Panthers had a great season that ended at the end of June with a world cup tournament and free icecream (Thanks to Tim Madden). We had a big group with over 35 U7s registered, 13 tigers (U6) and 22 panthers (U7). We organized matches against Leeds, Middleton, Ringmahon, Fermoy, Riverstown and played the ringmahon tournament, the funweekend tournament and ended the season with the world cup parish leagues. We got some great help from the parents during the season and 3 parents are signed up for the FAI KickStart 1 coaching course to prepare them for the seasons ahead.



Thanks to coaches Rob, Frank, Derry, Noel, Gary, Ken, Emmett, Tim, Marcus for their help during the year and special thanks to all WGH UTD managers that helped us at the start of the season with the coaching rota. New Coaches going forward– U8 Ken Beechinor, U7 Emmett Brennan, U6 Tim Madden & Gary Prendergast.

UNDER EIGHTs

U8 had a very fine season playing over 14 games and have a nice balanced squad of 16 players, who just love to play ball. This season was all about fun through football, next season will be a bit more about technique and team play (as always at the same time enjoying the game). Hopefully now with the added help of a few new Coaches next season we will progress this team even further. They finished off their season on Say 14th June with a big party in Kart World and a match against Mayfield.





UNDER NINE's

This year has been a very successful year for our U9 squad. We have played over 20 games this season and trained regularly throughout the season, with the commitment and support of the parents and players greatly appreciated. We've added one or two new players to the squad since the start of the season and this has added to our great numbers to date.

The lads are on a well-deserved break for the summer but we'll be back in training for the new season in a few weeks' time.

Pat, Trevor, Tim



UNDER TEN's

2013 / 2014 season started off with a squad of 13 players and subsequently we now have a squad of 18 in total. Over the past season we have met on 46 occasions, consisting 24 training & 22 matches. We more than held our own with the majority of teams we have played and look forward to next season. Our policy of rotating & ensuring all players play a minimum of ½ game, at times difficult, will bear fruit in the long run. A vital ingredient in any team, is the commitment from parents for which we are really appreciative of. The support for the team, and not only their own son is fantastic. Training for the new season start on the fifth of August @ 7pm





UNDER ELEVEN'S

First and foremost I would like to thank Paul and Marcus for their 100% commitment to everything we achieved on the field, to win a league and cup double in your first season is a fantastic return, but to have also reached the final of the Local Cup really tells the true story of our season. Paul and Marcus brought this team to a standard where, while we hoped, we never dreamed such things could be achieved.



History was made by a squad of players who never let us down, who trained in some terrible weather, who bought in to the idea of what we wanted from a football team and never once on the field or in the dressing room gave us any bother and were a joy to work with.

So thanks to all who were there for us this season, Parents, for giving of your time and getting the lads to all those training sessions and matches including friendlies, for your support and also for sticking with us when your son did not get his game, that is a great thing to see when a parent gets their child to remain part of a squad when they could easily take a different view, we especially like to thank those parents.

Pre-season starts next week.... Paddy O'Keeffe

UNDER TWELVE'S

Both Denis and I are delighted to report that the U12 team have gained promotion from Division 4 finishing runners up to Park Utd. An absolute fantastic achievement by all members of the squad. Well Done everyone. Our final figures for the league where Played 18 - W14 D1 L3 amassing 43 points. We remained unbeaten at home and at one point in the league had gone 11 games unbeaten. We ran it close but did a Liverpool on it J . I can say that now as Arsenal have finally won a cup.

Over the year the player pool has continued to grow, which is great. Training sessions and match days have been well supported & well attended. The key is the team. The overall team philosophy is that everyone contributes and everyone shares the responsibility and works for each other ultimately everyone sharing in the success the team has. We rotate the captaincy. It brings with it responsibility and ownership and of course the washing of the jerseys. Thanks to all mums and dads for supporting us on the "jersey washing".



Throughout the season we've tried to strike a balance between giving game time while maintaining a level of performance on the pitch. It's been very difficult at times trying to manage both player and parent expectations. Can we say we got it right – who knows ?? A return of 43 points and runners- up spot would suggest "Yes", player development would suggest "Yes" – messages of support and thanks received post season end from parents would suggest "Yes" but we have not pleased everyone.



So thanks to all parents who were there for us this season, for giving of your time and getting the lads to training sessions and matches. The attendance records for players has been brilliant. Thanks for your tremendous support on the line and also for taking the time to work with your children on developing skills at home. Enjoy the summer break. Dave & Denis

UNDER THIRTEEN'S

The U13's squad had a very challenging season in Division 2 and battled hard to be competitive against their opposition throughout the year.

The squad did start off the season very well with 7 points from their first three games but struggled thereafter primarily due to lower than expected numbers available for the matches as they came up. One of their best performances came in October in the first round of the national cup against premier division side Riverstown . The team played brilliantly all through this match and they were very unlucky to go down to a goal late on in extra time to lose 4:5 on the day.

A number of new players, added to the squad during the year are settling in well and more new players are confirmed to join up for next season. We can therefore look forward in confidence to a new season when the team can be more competitive playing at a suitable level in the league. Sincere thanks to all the players for their dedication and resilience in difficult times and to their parents for their continued support. David Hogan & Mick McCourt



All of us at Watergrasshill United would like to congratulate the following U13 players with their awards:



U13 Team Player Award 13/14
Cathal Feehan



U13 Player of the Season 13/14
Shane O'Reilly



U13 Top Scorer Award 13/14
Sean Desmond



UNDER FOURTEEN'S



UNDER SIXTEEN'S

U16s had a very successful season finishing mid table. These lads were well over-due a season of football from the club. It has to be said a team not for the light hearted in the way they played, every game was an exciting game as they lads learnt their trade.

A big thanks to all the parents and players for what I must say was the most enjoyable season of football I have seen in many a year .

A special word of thanks to Noel ,for all his positivity which really rubbed off on the team, It would be fair to state without Noel's support and experience it could have been a long hard season. Well Done lads - Players Of the Year were Cathal Maloney and Sean O' Driscoll

It has been decided due to squad numbers to merge with the U18 next season which is the way to go with a year of football behind them they will easily hit the ground running next season.

A team to watch next year is the u18s Remember you heard this here first! Derry Desmond





UNDER 18's

The Under 18 season got off to a poor start with losses to Douglas Hall, Fermoy and Macroom. After a "clear the air" meeting things started to improve and with Dave Cooke on board training got more structure. We started playing much better and we were getting some great results like beating lakewood at home and away. The Under 18's finished the season in sixth place but with some more luck we could have finished in the top three.

Player of the year was Kyle Cronin and most improved player was Dylan Ring. A big thanks goes out to Dave Cooke, John Ring and Des Hammond for their help and commitment during the season. Declan

GIRLS

Our girls academy continued to grow this season and is currently the fastest growing academy in the club. A special thank you to all coaches, Ber, Gwen, Deirdre, Linda, Brid and Paul for their time and commitment during the season. Next season we are upping the ante and we will see U14 competitive and U10 non-competitive teams.



5 of our U-12 Girls squad participated in a Cork Womens and Schoolgirls Soccer League (CWSSL) Development League Centre training Programme earlier in the season on Monday nights at Colaiste Stiofain Naofa on the Tramore Road, Cork. This was a 12 week programme, for U-11 girls at the time and involved Elannah, Naoise, Mollie, Amy & Kate.

Congratulations to most improved player of the Year Kay Sheehan and player of the year Lisa O'Keeffe from all of us at Watergrasshill United.





All of us at Watergrasshill United would like to congratulate the following Girls with their seasonal awards



Most improved Player of the Year Kay Sheehan with Trish Fennelly Cork Women's FC and Denise O Sullivan from Glasgow Celtic and Republic Of Ireland

Player of the Year Lisa O'Keefe with Trish Fennelly Cork Women's FC and Denise O'Sullivan from Glasgow Celtic and Republic Of Ireland



Well done girls, and congratulations from all of us at Watergrasshill United!



JULY 2014 - SUMMERCAMP

With over 172 kids signed up, this year's Summer Camp was our biggest camp ever. The action packed fun week, helped by the sunny weather, was a great success again this year.



During the week the kids met and received fitness tips from surprise visitors Pro middleweight boxer Gary "Spike" O'Sullivan, John Kavanagh from Cork City, Denise O'Sullivan from Glasgow Celtic and the Republic Of Ireland and Trish Fennelly from Cork City Women's FC.



It was not all football during the week, the kids headed off to Team Thomas Fitness Centre for fitness, boxing and an obstacle course and had plenty of fun at tug of war, rounders and plenty of water fights. We finished the camp with the world cup finals and a tug of war. Ken Ross from Ross Centra Watergrasshill provided all camp participants with a complementary healthy goody bag and a refreshing ice cream. At the end of the day, all kids were presented with their Camp Certificate.





Another successful Summer Camp that wouldn't be possible without the help of an army full of volunteers. Thanks to all the camp coaches, Groundmen, Jennifer from Team Thomas, Jason Brown and all the club lads & Ladies who did work behind the scenes. Special thanks to our Summer Camp Sponsor Ken Ross from Ross Centra Watergrasshill for his continued support and sponsorship. Without your help and time this Summer Camp would not be possible. Well done and thanks to All.

SUMMERCAMP GEAR NOW AVAILABLE IN CLUB SHOP.



Our 2014 Summer Camp Gear can now be ordered in our online shop:

Watergrasshillunited.com/shop

The gear is available in sizes 5-6, 7-8, 9-11, 12-13, and adult sizes S, M, L, XL

Colors: Red or Black

Prizes:

Jersey only: Kids €10, Adults €12.50

Full kit (Jersey, shorts & socks):

Kids €20, Adults €25

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

The 2014 / 2015 will kick off at the end of the holidays and due to the huge success of our underage boys and girls academies last year we are always looking for enthusiastic people who would like to help manage, coaching or training on of our underage academy teams.

Please email info@watergrasshillunited.com or contact Rob (robert.knaap@gmail.com) if you are interested in getting involved with the academy, the future of our club.

Watergrasshill United are currently looking for volunteers to help manage two new Watergrasshill United CSL teams for next season. Help will be available from within the club especially at the start if needed.

Contact mickmcco@hotmail.com if interested.





ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Watergrasshill United AGM was held on July 3rd 2014 in the First Fruits Art Centre. During the AGM the following members were nominated & elected to the following positions:

- Chairperson – Nicholas O Sullivan, Vice-Chairperson – Robert Knaap
- League Secretary – TBC
- Treasurer – Kevin O' Callaghan
- Club Administrator – Paul Sharkey
- PRO – Robert Knaap
- Groundsman – Dean Roche (Aided by Martin Mc Hugh, Paul Sharkey, Derry Desmond)
- CSL Liaison Officer – Mick Mc Court, Underage Academy Liaison Officer – Robert Knaap
- CWSSL Liaison Officer – Paul Sharkey
- Club Welfare Officer – Declan Brady

The League Secretary role is still open at the moment and any interested parties to express their interest to the club Chairman: The League Secretary's role is solely to be the Club contact for all leagues: CSL/CYL/AUL/CWSSL.

Following teams and Managements Teams Confirmed for 2014/2015 Season:

- U6 & U7 – Tim Madden, Emmet Brennan, Gary Prendergast
- U8 – Rob Knaap, Frank Cronin, Ken Beechinor
- U9 – Billy Loftus, Denis O'Callaghan,
- U10 – Pat Healy, Trevor Hennessy.
- U11 (2 Teams) Frank Cronin, Robert Knaap, Volunteers wanted
- U12 – Pat O Keeffe, Paul Walsh, Marcus O Reilly
- U13 – Dave Doyle, Denis Barry. Second U13 team and management TBC
- U14 – Mick Mc Court, Dave Hogan
- U16 – Mark Dennehy, Frank Cronin, Chris Sheehan
- U18 – Neilus O Mahony
- Junior – Eddie McCarthy, Nicholas O' Sullivan
- U14 Girls – Brid O Regan, Paul Sharkey
- U10 Girls – Ber Desmond, Gwen Conroy
- U8 Girls – Deirdre Doyle, Linda Leahy

2014-2015 Registration Fee's

A vote was passed during the AGM to raise some of our Registration Fees. Registration Fees for the 2014-2015 Season are set as follows:

- ALL Academy U7-U11 - €40.
- Cork Schoolboys League (CSL) U12-U16 - €50,
- Cork Womans and Schoolgirls Soccer League (CWSSL) - U12-U14 - €50
- Cork Youth League (CYL) U18 - €50
- Junior (AUL)- €100,