



Ardoch Juniors Football Club: Football for All!

Report for Winter Term (October to December) 2021

21 December 2021

Mission Statement

Ardoch Juniors was established to give primary school children in the Ardoch area the opportunity to train and learn football skills with an SFA Qualified Football Coach. Due to the rural location and the distances to be travelled to reach existing clubs, many children in the locality miss out.

The secondary objective is to bring more girls into the game, a double whammy is that not only are established clubs difficult to reach, but many of the closer ones also do not accommodate girls.

Club Update

The club initially targeted children aged 5-7, to gauge the popularity of the club and to establish regular cadence and contact with the local community. Running two classes through the week, one a mixed class and one an all-girls session. Both sessions were well attended throughout the Autumn 2021 Term and as such Ardoch Juniors expanded classes to cover upper primary ages also. Two more classes were kicked off, another mixed class for older primary children on a Wednesday and an additional session on a Saturday for girls only. With the expanded ages the club roll has gone up by a further 8 children.

As of the 21st December 2021, the club has 30 children registered with a core of 24 children regularly attending sessions. The 6 more transient members still attend but usually one in every two or three weeks.

Personnel

The club is run and organised by Olivia Dawson. Olivia is an SFA qualified football coach and plays for Falkirk FC, she is also a university student in her 2nd Year, studying Sports Therapy. Olivia is assisted by her father, Mark Dawson (and, on occasion her younger sister Georgiana). Both Olivia and Mark are PVG cleared and have Disclosure Scotland certificates. Olivia is booked to take her level 3 SFA coaching badge in early 2022 as well as a first aid certificate.

There are a number of offers of support for the club, with Crieff Live Active and High School pupils from Crieff and Auchterarder looking to help at the club to progress their volunteering hours for various initiatives such as Duke of Edinburgh and Sports Leadership. The club intends to take up these offers of support throughout 2022.

Expansion

With good coverage of primary school age children established across the 4 classes, the intention is to now look at offering other opportunities for the children as well as still soliciting more members.

In the initial plan thoughts were that 'camps' could be organised through school holidays if the membership was of a good size. With 30 children signed up and interest from others, Ardoch Juniors is proposing running two-day or three-day sessions through the Easter and Summer holidays in 2022.

The club has also contacted the Braco Hall Committee, with a view to having the hall available to the club for children to get changed, use the toilet facilities or to have scaled down training sessions if the weather is particularly bad.

Last term the club floated the idea of training tops for the children, to be provided by the club with a nominal contribution from the children. The club would like to provide these shirts in the coming Spring 2022 Term and is gathering quotes which it will include in the funding application for 2022.







