

## **MIDLETON FOOTBALL CLUB**

### Hon Secretary's Report 2009 - 2010

It is with pleasure that I submit for your approval my report on the activities of our Club for the past season.

As usual the administration of the club was run by the Management Committee. This year the meetings were held weekly and very, very well attended.

Our main club sponsor was once again Wallis' Bar and I would like to thank Seamus Cunningham for all his help and encouragement during the year. The Schoolboy/Girl Section again sponsored by Douglas Renault and our thanks to Moss Kennedy for his support.

Our teams had mixed success this season. Our senior team under Manager, John Ryan and Assistant Manager, Barry McMahon won the 1 st Division of the Munster Senior League and promotion to the Premier League. They were chosen as Team of the Month and Senior Team of the Year. Our Junior team under Manager, Noel Connelly had a mixed season, finishing in the bottom half of the Junior Premier Division. The Youth Team under Manager, Mick Kirby and Assistant Manager, Liam McMahon, despite a slow start and many changes of personnel, finished 3rd in the 1 st Division of the Cork Youths League. Our Schoolboy teams had a very successful season with many of them gaining promotion.

Off the field it was a very eventful year. Work started in December on new floodlights; we launched the Market Green Sports Star Award; Annual Charity event was held at Christmas - proceeds going to the Lourdes Invalid Fund; in January we erected international standard dugouts in no 1 pitch; in February we had a very big day for Midleton F.C., *i.e.*, the official switch-on of our new floodlights - this was a huge occasion watched by one of the biggest crowds seen in Knockgriffin Park. The night started with the official switch on by our Club President, Teddy Lambe, followed by Blessing by an t-Athair O Loinsigh. This was followed by a match between Midleton Stars - past and present and Cork City Legends. We had a marquee with lots of food supplied by parents and members.

Our Academy Boys and Girls took part in the St Patrick's Day Parade. We held an inter-cultural open day in Knockgriffin for all underage boys and girls.

Our Annual Awards Night was held as usual in Midleton Park Hotel. A very large attendance of over 200 people saw over 50 awards presented on the night. This was a very successful event but may be getting too big for the venue.

Our Football Academy goes from strength to strength with over 200 boys and girls registered this year. We also entered teams in the U-7 and U-9 small sided leagues. This year the coaches did the 'Kick-start I' and 'Kick-start II' courses. Congratulations to all and thanks to Martin Hurley and co-ordinator, Geoff Lambe.

The senior team had a very successful season winning the M.S.L. 1st Division reaching the semi-final of the Beamish Cup and Pop Kelleher Cup and for the first time in the club's history reaching the final of the Munster Senior Cup. The final against League of Ireland team Waterford United was played in the R.S.C. in Waterford. After a very good display Midleton went down 3-1. Congratulations to all players and management. Our junior team under Noel Connelly had a mixed season. Selecting from a small panel most weekends Noel struggled to field a settled team. They went out the cups early and finished near the bottom of the premier league. The youths under Mick Kirby struggled with numbers at times and had a lot of players coming and going during the season but they were unbeaten for most part of the season and should see a number of players progressing to the adult teams. Schoolboy teams had a successful season with our U-11 team with Robert O'Connor as manager and U-14 team with Adrian Williams as manager were league champions and won promotion. Our U-1 2A and U-1 3A teams were also promoted. Our U-16 team with Mick Morrissey and Phil Day got to the quarter final of the Barry National Cup. Our schoolgirls U-12 - manager, Denise Moore finished mid table in Division I. They also held a number of blitz' during the year.

Again this year our Lotto is the main source of income for the club. Tickets are sold weekly and by direct debit. A small committee of Pa Coakley, Eddie Allen, Ger Lehane, John Horgan, Teresa Horgan, Fergus Groarke and Mossy Horgan organise the collection of tickets and the draw on a Thursday. A lot of these tickets are sold by people with no connection to the club. We need a bigger effort by all members to sell Lotto tickets.

The Annual Barry-Wall tournament took place as usual this year and was won by Springfield. Who played St John Bosco in the final. Our thanks to sponsors McDaid's Bar.

This year our U-12 panel had a very successful trip to Boston. A great trip was had by all and thanks to all those who organised the trip and helped in any way.

This year meetings were organised to discuss the possibility of erecting an all-weather, full size pitch. Plans were drawn up and discussions were held on the various ways to fund this

project. Fundraising and planning sub-committees were set up and discussion are ongoing on this project.

At present the pitches are being 'verti-drained' and sanded at great expense and I would like to thank the small group of people who are re-sodding the goal areas. I would also like to ask all managers to consider the amount of usage the pitches are getting at present and to understand when matches have to be called off. Thanks to the FAS workers who do an excellent job in maintaining the grounds and club houses.

A very special mention to Emmett Cotter of our U-15 team who was capped for Ireland U-15s. Danny Morrissey and Raymond Savage who were on the Cork U-16 squad who won the National Inter League Cup. This team was managed by Leonard O'Driscoll. Congratulation to all who were on Cork squads.

Recently we held our club open day in Knockgriffin Park. We had many matches with all who took part receiving certificates and O'Neill's gear bags.

Our website this year was handled by Imokilly Webs and was very extensive and up to date with many hits.

Stepping down this year is schoolboy manager Adrian Williams. Our thanks for his wonderful contribution to the success of the teams over the years.

My usual appeal to people to get involved. We are a very large club with a small band of people involved in the everyday running of the club. We need people in admin, coaching and helping in any way. You do not need any football background or experience. Just come along and we will find a position for you.

Thanks to Eric Desmond, Merchandise Manager and the Ladies who look after the shop on Sundays. Thanks to Seamus of Wallis' Bar our main sponsor; Moss of Douglas Renault, schoolboy/girl sponsor; Wallis' Bar who sponsor senior and junior Player of the Month; Market Green who sponsor Sports Star of Month; match sponsors Maple Bar and An Teach Beag; Barry-Wall tournament sponsor McDaid's Bar and all the other sponsors too numerous to mention who sponsor teams and have pitch signs. A special mention to Hurleys Super Valu proprietor, John Hurley and manager, Tommy Grimes who sponsor our Football Academy. They also sponsor and support many of our activities during the year. Our all-weather pitches are again very much in demand both our own teams and by teams renting the facility. Thanks to Alison for organising things so well.

On behalf of the Management Committee, I would like to thank all managers, coaches

and committee members for their contribution to the success of Midleton Football Club.

We must record our gratitude to the members of the press and local radio for all the welcome coverage received - including coverage in the Midleton Parish Newsletter.

Finally I wish to thank my fellow Officers and Committee and all Members for their encouragement and co-operation over the year.

*Eddie*

*Allen,*

Hon.

Secretary.

