

Greater Shankill Sports Committee Community Sports Information



What's been happening?

Shankill Summer Scheme gets the thumbs Up!



GSSC in partnership with Belfast City Council embarked on a unique and exciting summer initiative at Shankill Leisure Centre. The 5-week project involved many children not only from the Shankill Road but other summer scheme groups from Newtownabbey, Ardoyne and the Greater Shankill area.

Members of GSSC recognised that for the young people of the Greater Shankill to receive the best possible sports coaching programme, a coordinated approach was vital within the area. After much planning, the project was supported by Eastern Physical Activity Co-ordination Group and Belfast Health and Social Services Trust and delivered by Belfast Community Sports Development Network.

As a result of this collective approach involving the various community groups and qualified coaches through sportopps.com, it can be argued

that Shankill Leisure Centre hosted possibly the best and most unique sports scheme in the city.

The scheme provided the young people with many structured activities ranging from archery to soccer and from canoeing to boxercise, rotating and changing the activities on a daily basis. Another superb element of the project was outdoor pursuits, which were facilitated by the Belfast Activity Centre. This is again another fantastic partnership that engages the young people in further activities such as high ropes, mountain biking and caving.

Andrew Hassard, Belfast City Council's Director of Sport & Leisure was extremely impressed with the scheme on a recent visit and has expressed the possibility of the scheme being replicated across Belfast. Peter Shaw (Community Sports Development Manager) expressed his thanks to all involved, but especially, Billy Boyd, Joe Smith and all the coaches in bringing this excellent community sports initiative to the Shankill. For further information on the scheme please contact: Community Sports Unit, 028 90 297661.

Multi Sport Camp at Norman Whiteside Facility



The Norman Whiteside Sports Facility ran a multi sports camp during the first weeks of July and August 2009. Local children from the Greater Shankill area took part each morning enjoying a wide variety of Sports and fun.

The initiative was designed to encourage children

to try other sports was a big success and it is hoped it can be built upon in the Future. Thanks to all who turned out to participate in the wide range of sports on offer.

For more information on future programmes and events at The Norman Whiteside Sports Facility or for bookings please call Bobby on 07513564001.

What's On Next?

Women's Physical Activity Classes

WISPA organise a number of women's physical activity classes every week. Here are just a few currently running or due to start shortly, at just a credit crunching £1. For further information contact Audrey Barr, c/o WISPA @ Spectrum Centre or ring 02890 314298

- 50+ Wellness Class for Women @ Shankill Leisure Centre every Monday morning 10.30 am to 11.30 am
- Women's Gym @ WBCAS Community Gym - every Monday evening 6.45pm - 7.45pm Limited places ring for information. £1
- Walking Group Thursday 10.00 am - 12 noon - starting back September £1

GSSC Support Cross Community Event 'RACE to EMBRACE'

Springfield Charitable Association in partnership with The Greater Shankill Community Safety Network have organized a 5K Fun Run on Sunday September 20th at 10:30am. Cost £2.50 per person or £5 for families

This unique race will start at Farset International on the Springfield Road and its route will cover the Falls and Shankill Roads finishing back at Farset. If you know anything about recent history and local geography you will appreciate the significance of this Race and what we are trying to achieve. This race encourages all people, of all abilities, colour, creed or ethnicity to participate. The route will leave Farset (Staging Area), Springfield Road, Falls Road, Northumberland Street Shankill Road, Across

Lanark Way back on to the Springfield Road and once again to Farset

Numbers are limited to 350 people so if you are interested give us a ring; pre-registration will almost surely guarantee a place, a free T Shirt will be provided.

For further information please contact Terry McNeill 02890235350, Jennie Cornell 07851720861 or email race@scaldt.net

Shankill Judo Club to Re-open Thursday 10 September 2009

As our existing members know, the club has been closed for nearly 18 months, a year longer than anticipated. The Club was ready to open in September 2008 when we received the bad news that our Club Mats and equipment were stolen from Ainsworth Community Centre, where they were being stored. The Club would like to thank all those who offered facilities during the last year, unfortunately without the equipment we were unable to take up these offers.

The GOOD NEWS is that Shankill Judo Club will be OPEN on 10th September 2009. The new mats arrived this month and the Club will operate out of the Hammer Youth Centre on Thursday nights. Kids 5+ from 7pm til 8pm and Adults sessions 8pm til 9pm. All welcome, from beginners to masters. Any enquiries should be directed to Club Secretary: Sarah Beattie. Contact details can be found on the website: www.shankilljudoclub.co.uk. or by calling Sarah on 07738922575

Want to get involved?

GSSC AGM - Wednesday 9 September 2009

GSSC are always on the lookout for new members. If you would like to help support sport in the Greater Shankill please leave your details with the Sports Development Unit, Spectrum Centre. We welcome coaches, parents and participants in all sports. Groups are also welcome to contact us for support in areas of coach education, advice on funding or events.

Mid-Shankill in Europe

BY DAVID BROWNE

On Tuesday 30th June Mid Shankill Linfield Supporters Club set out on their annual pilgrimage to mainland Europe to see Linfield play in the new Europa League against Randers of Denmark, a team known to few.

Eight members set off on the trip, flying from the George Best City Airport to Stansted on the first leg of the journey where, unfortunately, the first problem was encountered when two of the party hadn't booked online and were refused access onto the flight! (They did catch a later flight).

The remaining six headed for Stansted, although not before one person (who shall remain unidentified except to say that he works for a local taxi company)

had a "discussion" with Sinn Fein's Conor Murphy outside the airport terminal. We weren't sure exactly what Mr Murphy thought when he seen the small crowd of Bluemen heading towards him!

After a short stopover in Stansted, it was on to Aarhus where we were met by a guy called Colin Graham who lives in Randers but is originally from the Shankill, and actually went to Somerdale School with one of the members on the trip. Colin was there with his English friend Darren, and he kindly agreed to put us all up for the night, and having left our luggage off we headed out for a few (honest!) drinks.

The next morning (Wednesday) was a free day as the game was not until

Thursday night, so the lads took us to the local Irish Bar, The Wild Rover, whose owner had also contacted the Linfield website to invite any travelling Bluemen along for a few beers.

This was our first time meeting with the owner, Barry, and his son Robin, and we were to get to know both of them well over the next few days. Their hospitality had to be seen to be believed.

On the Wednesday night, a Mid Shankill team took part in a pub quiz and amazingly won some money, although it must be said that this was down to two things. Firstly, Wendy Browne, the only sober member of the team, and secondly to Big Ian's knowledge of music (including knowing in what year Freddie Mercury died).

The only bad point about the night though was when a couple of the Mid Shankill members (who shall most definitely remain nameless!) decided to take on the town's rugby team. Despite a huge weight advantage (in Mid Shankill's favour), they let the side down and ended up face down in the street.

Next day was match day, and there were a few headaches, but we made our way back to see Barry in his pub. Another one or two drinks were consumed

before we set off for the game.

Unfortunately the game didn't go to plan with Linfield getting beat 4-0 but afterwards we went back to the pub (just to be sociable of course!) to drown our sorrows.

Our Mid Shankill polo shirts were very popular with the locals, and there are now five or six of them somewhere in Denmark.

The following day (Friday)

meant it was home time, but as the flight was not until later that night it was back to the pub, where Barry informed us that his takings the previous day were double that which he had taken on any single day previously! Talk about doing our bit for the world economy!

Again, Mid Shankill left a foreign country with many new friends. We were interviewed by Danish TV,

and the local paper ran a feature, with their female reporter shadowing us for the day and going to the game with us. There was a double page spread in the paper the following day. The bar owner even saw fit to write a poem which he emailed to us when we got home.

So yet again it was a case of unsuccessful on the pitch, but a roaring success off it.



Woodvale Team Gets Breath Of Fresh Air

The Newly formed (Woodvale Football Club) formerly known as the (99th Old Boys) and in the past as (Disraeli Street Young Men), have been awarded the honour and challenge after nearly 20 years of local football and club history, of playing in the amateur leagues.

The team that plays in orange and black and who's home ground is situated at Clarendon off the Crumlin Road will take their place amongst some of the best and

most established amateur teams. The first team will compete in league 2C while the second team in 3F. Both teams will take turns at playing at home while the other travels to away games.

There is no doubt that this is a great achievement for this Woodvale team to have gained amateur league status after outgrowing the local leagues and they hope they can rise to the challenge and give a good account of themselves.

