



Sports Development Updates

Sports Awards 2023 - launching December 1st

Promotional Space available in Ards Blair Mayne Wellbeing and Leisure Centre, Suitable for activities including Open Days, new Schemes, one off Club Events and 'Try' days.

Sports Education spaces available on Designated Officer and Safeguarding courses

www.leisureardsandnorthdown.com/sports-development



Ards and North
Down Borough
Council

SPORT EDUCATION PROGRAMME

SAFEGUARDING

27th September
7.00pm - 9.00pm

FIRST AID 1

10th & 11th October
6.30pm - 9.00pm

DESIGNATED OFFICER 1

14th & 15th November
7.00pm - 8.30pm

SAFEGUARDING 2

6th December
7.00pm - 9.30pm

GO COACHING

15th January
6.00pm - 9.00pm

DESIGNATED OFFICER 2

5th & 6th February
7.00pm - 8.30pm

FIRST AID 2

27th & 28th February
6.30pm - 9.30pm

SAFEGUARDING 3

6th March
7.00pm - 9.30pm

Scan QR code to find out more

SPORTSDEVELOPMENT@ARDSANDNORTHDOWN.GOV.UK



Spaces still available on upcoming Sports Education courses, please get in touch regarding bookings as soon as possible.

www.leisureardsandnorthdown.com/sports-development

Football Development Update



1/ We are currently running afterschool activities in 4 schools , St Marys Kircubbin, Alexander Dickson Ballygowan, Greyabbey Primary, St Marys Comber. With at least 6 schools coming on board this month for the Peninsula girls coaching and Tournament.

2/ Halloween – Photo attached, some of the children and coaches at the Halloween Camp this week at Ards Blair Maine L.C. with coaches, Iain Hannah, Stevie Henderson and Craig Brotherston.

3/ Kids Disability – Since covid we had struggled to improve the numbers for this programme with only 3 or 4 kids turning up, we have since promoted it again through the schools and are running a pilot programme from Monday 6th November 5pm to 6pm for 7 weeks at Ards Blair Maine L.C. this is now full and we will be looking to continue this progression after Christmas.

4/ Primary Schools League – The league kicked -off on the 21st of September with 17 teams taking part, there has been 6 sets of results so far with the league running well into next year. (current league table attached), this league runs every Thursday at Londonderry park with a K.O. time of 2.30pm

Results Large / Medium Schools' Section

Thursday 26th October 2023

2:30pm

Donaghadee	2 v 0	Model
Londonderry	1 v 0	Carrickmannon
Abbey	0 v 2	Millisle

3:00pm

Donaghadee	1 v 0	Carrickmannon
Model	0 v 0	Abbey
Killinchy	0 v 1	Victoria

3:30pm

Donaghadee	3 v 0	Killinchy
Model	1 v 0	Victoria
Londonderry	0 v 0	Millisle

Table

1=.	Brooklands	19 pts
	Londonderry	19 pts
3.	Millisle	16 pts
4.	Ballywalter	12 pts
5.	Abbey	11 pts
6=.	Dundonald	10 pts
	Victoria	10 pts
	Model	10 pts
	Donaghadee	10 pts
10.	Andrews	9 pts
11.	Comber	7 pts
12=.	Killinchy	4 pts
	St. Finians	4 pts
	Alexander Dickson	4 pts
15=.	West Winds	3 pts
	Castle Gardens	3 pts
17.	Carrickmannon	2 pts

Schools Sports Series

130 young people from 10 Primary Schools across the Borough took part in the first event in the Sports Series, enjoying a morning of Tag Rugby at Londonderry Park.

The event is the first of many, providing local pupils with friendly games and taster sessions in;

- Hockey (November)
- Indoor Athletics (December)
- Netball (January)
- Cross Country (February)
- Football (March)

School sports series starts again with tag rugby event



The team from Victoria Primary School, Newtownards at the tag rugby blitz competition at Londonderry Park organised by Ards and North Down Borough Council's Sports Development unit. N3-19-10-23

LAST year saw the Ards and North Down Council Sports Development department operate a well supported and highly successful sports series for local primary schools.

That initiative is being repeated in 2023 with the first event staged last week featuring tag rugby. Robbie Geary, Sports Development Officer at Ards and North Down Council, is the main figure behind this activity and 10 schools took part in the opening venture. Tag rugby certainly proved to be a very popular starter with over 131 primary school boys and girls taking part in the exercise. Ulster Rugby, Donaghadee Rugby Club, Bangor Rugby Club and Ards Rugby Club provided coaches and referees on the day. The schools involved were Kilmaine PS, Ballymagee PS, Carrickmannon PS, Glencraig PS, Greyabbey PS, Donaghadee PS, St. Malachy's PS, Rockport PS, Victoria PS and Grange PS. The next planned event will feature hockey and will take place at Comber Leisure Centre on Thursday, November 16.



Greyabbey Primary School's tag rugby blitz team. N2-19-10-23



Ballymagee Primary School, Bangor. N1-19-10-23

Dunne honours Special Olympics athletes

SPECIAL Olympics Ulster Athletes were recently honoured at a recognition reception held by North Down MLA, Stephen Dunne.

Congratulating the athletes on their success at the Berlin Summer Games, Mr Dunne, who is also the DUP's Assembly spokesman for sport, hosted a special recognition reception at Parliament Buildings.

He said he was delighted to welcome local athletes from Special Olympics Ulster who secured a tremendous haul of 31 medals - 12 gold, eight silver, and 11 bronze - as part of Team Ireland.

"The outstanding success of our athletes demonstrates once again our country's ability to punch above its weight when it comes to

sporting achievements," said Mr Dunne.

"Furthermore, the variety of sports in which our talented athletes were successful demonstrates just how vibrant and diverse the sporting scene in Northern Ireland is with big wins in sports that included gymnastics, kayaking, football, golf, bocce and basketball."

Mr Dunne added: "I was especially delighted to have local athlete Haleigh Miskimmin present at the reception. Haleigh, who attends Bangor Academy, was the youngest member of Team Ireland," he said.

"She also was the first female to represent Team Ireland for level four women's artistic gymnastics. She experienced great success at the games winning gold on vault, silver on uneven bars as well as silver on floor and balance beam."



Special Olympics Ulster Athletes with Department for Communities Permanent Secretary Colum Boyle, Denise Watson and Stephen Dunne MLA



North Down MLA Stephen Dunne and Bangor girl Haleigh Miskimmin, a Special Olympics Ulster gymnast.



Portaferry's record breaking athlete Ciara Mageean received a hero's welcome when she returned home on Sunday after a season of stunning performances on the athletic track. Full story inside. Photo by Bob Torrens.



North Down Softball Club celebrates 10th anniversary

SOFTBALL has very much entered the local sporting world, and it is amazing to consider that, when the new season restarts, it will be time to celebrate the 10th anniversary of North Down Softball Club.

I am also told that the new season is highly likely to see the launch of a fourth team at the local club.

Last season was one which saw continued growth for the club and the launch of the Scrabo Sluggers.

They, along with the Bangor Buccaneers and Bangor Barracudas, held their annual awards dinner very recently, with the prize winners as follows:

Members of North Down Softball Club who attended the recent awards function.

Bangor Barracudas

Male MVP – Adam Norman
Female MVP – Charlotte Turpitt
Golden Glove – Adam Grant
Rookie MVP – Matthew Turpitt
Most Improved – Matty Connor
Spirit Award – Danny McCartney

Scrabo Sluggers

Male MVP – Harry Beard and Bryan Gilpin
Female MVP – Suzi McBride
Golden Glove – Harry Beard
Rookie MVP – Colin Wallace
Spirit Award – Pete Maxwell

Bangor Buccaneers

Male MVP – Dave Kelly
Female MVP – Lisa Wallace, Caz Walker and Steph Dunlop
Golden Glove – Dave Kelly
Most Improved – Darwin Sanchez
Spirit Award – Will Gilpin and Dave Kelly

He is now a six-time Northern Ireland champion, a five-time Irish and a British champion in his age bracket. As recently as two weeks ago, Norman became the Abbott M65 World Marathon champion with a truly remarkable time of 02:52:16 at the Chicago Marathon.



Norman Mawhinney.



Tide and Turf Festival 2023

Photos of Portavogie coastal rowing team (blue) and Donaghadee Rowing Team (green) at the 'Have a Go' sessions in Portavogie in September.



...a final word

Sports Forum Grants

All application forms and guidance notes available online

<https://www.leisureardsandnorthdown.com/sports-development/funding>

For further information contact the team
sportsdevelopment@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk

- Anniversary (Open)
- Club Travel and Accommodation (Open)
- Coaching (Open)
- Equipment (Closed until April 24)
- Events (Open)
- Goldcard (Open)
- Individual Travel and Accommodation (Open)
- Schools Clubs Pathway (Closed until April 24)
- Seeding (Closed until April 24)

Quarterly Meeting

19.00 Tuesday 6th February, Londonderry Park Newtownards

Date for your diary, invitations to follow in New Year

December Newsletter

Enquiries about submitting content (upcoming Events, Good News stories etc) for future newsletters please contact Victoria Cowan
victoria.cowan@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk