

MY CLUB



THE EARLY YEARS

Irvinestown Wanderers was first formed in 1907 by William Duncan. The pitch was located on the Lack Road. They won many trophies which were displayed on Mr Duncan's window in the town. They played into the mid-twenties. The club restarted in 1967 by the grandson of William Duncan, Jackie White. It took a while for the men to get started again and with the help of Roy Tarbottom they finished runners up in 72/73 season to Enniskillen Rangers and in 1974 they lifted the Mulhern cup and the Coffey cup. What a successful year for the men.

In 2001 the Wanderers finally achieved what every junior team dreamed of and lifted the junior cup again. The men lifted this cup again in 2003/04. What an achievement!!!

Another great year for the Wanderers was 1986/87 where they won the Double, Mercer League and Mulhern Cup.

A big year celebrated by all involved with the club was 2007 at their Centenary at the Delaney. They had the privilege of

having Jack Charlton(deceased) former World Cup winner with England and Republic of Ireland, as their guest speaker.

NOWADAYS

The Wanderers Youth is growing from strength to strength with over 16 teams playing between Brendan Keogh Youth League and SSG. They currently train and play at the Bawnacre Centre in Irvinestown.

This is a credit to their committee members and Chairman Rory Cassidy. I interviewed Rory and asked the following

Whats it like being the Chairman of IWFC?

"I enjoy it as it provides an opportunity to help keep the club heading in the right direction along with another small group of volunteers in our committee. It has its challenges with a lot of used spare time given up but its seeing all the young Wanderers in their red jerseys around the town that gives me a great sense of pride."

Rory signed for the club as a player in 2012 and has been a member of the committee for 10 years. He has been chairman for 6 years and is currently first team manager for the 2nd time quoting " It has its challenges , like player availability due to clash with Gaelic at times but overall I'm

enjoying being back amongst the group and I try to meet the challenge head on!"

I spoke with the girls Head Coach which happens to be my mum. I asked Lianne

What made you want to be a coach?

"I have five girls that love playing football and I helped out one Saturday morning and that was me hooked after that. To see the smiles on their faces and watch as they develop on the pitch does my heart good."

Next I spoke with the secretary of the club Paul Cassidy. Paul has been a vital part of the club and won many trophies throughout the years. He has been secretary for the vast majority since 1980. He has a busy role looking after all the bookings, teamsheets and all the administration involved with the club.

I also spoke with two youth players I asked them

What do you think of IWFC?

Mia Corbett who plays for u11 girls,

"I love going to training and matches as all my coaches and teammates are very friendly."

James Maguire plays for u12 boys

“Irvinestown Wanderers is a great club with great facilities and coaches from young to old whatever age you are there will always be a place for you to come and join us.”

Last year the wanderers donated any old shirts to the children in Africa who are less well off and were learning to play football. They have donated to many charities raising money for Katies Shine Project last St Patricks Day.

I am very proud of my club, Irvinestown Wanderers and hope to be part of the first womens team in Irvinestown Wanderers with my teammates and sisters. I just love going out onto the pitch every week with my red jersey on to represent Irvinestown Wanderers.

Have you ever Wondered about being a Wanderer?? Just Wander on down to the Bawnacre on a Saturday morning and you'd be very welcome.

BY CARA MCLOUGHLIN