

View from the Centre

Central Football
Academy



Our Club Fanzine hopes to entertain you
with information, background stories and
what is really happening throughout the
Academy

Welcome to 'View from the Centre' Fanzine.

Background: During our stint in the Scottish Women's Premier League we produced a Match Day Programme, all editions are available on-line on the CentralFootballAcademy.com website.

Today the writers have come together for this special Cup Final Edition, we hope you find the whole thing interesting and enjoy your read... and of course enjoy today's game.

It has been a torrid year and a bit, but with things pretty back to normal in football terms at least we can look back to those early games and feel that, at least we were playing, despite the rules and mitigations that all clubs had to go through. It is a massive thanks to all the grassroots coaches and committees who made it all possible and we must recognise the work of the SFA who worked hard for the clubs to provide support and finance to make the restart possible, special thanks to Gary, Alan and Kerry and the many others who went out their way to make sure we were in good shape.

'The SFA have worked hard for all the grassroots clubs, and for sure Central were well supported, we can't thank them enough'. Dibs

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Today's League Cup Final

Central Girls are no strangers to cup finals and today's squad will join a long list of players who wore the badge with pride and won a medal... Central 15's have previously won the League Cup in 2015 and 2017.

The route to the Regional Cup Final saw Central play 3 away games:

Round of 16	Airdrie	2 - 6	(Leah 2, Ellie 2, Cody and Ceit)
1/4 Final	Bo'ness	1 - 5	(Rebecca, Amelie, Leah, Emily and Ceit)
1/2 Final	Gartcairn	1-2 aet	(Emily(pen) and Amelie)
Final	v Calderbraes		



Central Girls U15's

League Cup Squad:

Izzy Winters - Ceit McQueen (captain) - Leah Kirk - Lucy Johnstone

Cody Rushford - Rebecca Byrne - Ava Arbutnot - Ava Campbell

Ellie Ferguson - Emily Quinn - Neve Fotheringham - Jameson Dunion

Sophie Wilson - Sophie Wilson II - Amelie Chomczuk - Faith Arbutnot

LEAGUE CUP GOAL SCORERS

3 Goals - Leah

2 Goals - Emily, Ceit, Amelie, Ellie

1 Goal - Rebecca, Cody

Success elsewhere at the Academy...

Although 2021 saw the restart of football many of the competitions were stopped or delayed, however the Edinburgh Cup did take place and it brought some success for Central the 2006 Boys who won the Edinburgh Cup Plate, with a 1-0 win in the final, meanwhile on a pitch close by the U13's Girls were winning silverware (well bronze) when they defeated Ross County in the bronze Cup Final, the 13's remained unbeaten throughout the day, however lost out agonisingly in the main competition at the semi-final stage in a penalty shoot-out v Hibs, after a 1-1 draw. En-route Central drew with the main competition winners, defeated Glasgow City, Spartans and Hibs.

check our website www.centralfootballacademy.com

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The u15's season so far... Central's road to today's Final has left Central with League games in hand and with the season finishing on the 11th December the race is on the complete all the fixtures in time.

The maths are straight forward, Central will have to win all their remaining games to secure the title, or a play off. It will be a tough ask, but the team are well up for the challenge for sure.

Early losses in the campaign against Gartcairn and Dunipace were more of the result of a weakened squads, at Gartcairn we were hit with Covid isolations, also Jameson's collarbone break meant that we played a hour with 10 players. The Dunipace game, most of the girls were forced to play 2 games in the same day, travelling earlier to Gartcairn.

We are definitely in a better place and subsequent results have seen the girls push up the league into 3rd place with 3 games in hand (at the time of going to print) however with Central v Gartcairn on the 13th Nov the picture will have changed.

All in all Central have dealt with the season well and despite the defeats there isn't much between the league sides, with all capable of taking points of each other, our recent 2-1 here at Westfield v Dunipace was testament to that.

Remaining Fixtures:

13th Nov v Gartcairn (h) **3-1 win (Emily, Ceit and Leah with the goals)**

20th Nov v Calderbraes (League Cup Final)

27th Nov v Lanarkshire Hibs (a)

1st Dec v Rossvale (h)

4th Dec v Falkirk (h)

8th Dec v Lanarkshire Hibs (h)

11th Dec v Rossvale (a)

		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Gartcairn	10	8	0	2	36	12	24	24
2	Dunipace	9	5	1	3	35	22	13	16
3	Central Girls	7	5	0	2	19	10	9	15
4	Falkirk Reds	9	5	0	4	24	27	-3	15
5	Lanarkshire Hibs Whites	8	4	0	4	36	20	16	12
6	Rossvale	9	3	0	6	16	22	-6	9
7	Riverside	10	0	1	9	10	63	-53	1

SFA Quality Mark - Platinum Level

Central Football Academy received their award for achieving the SFA Quality Mark Platinum Legacy Award status.

The Academy were notified by the SFA Central Regional Manager Gary Doctor that they had achieved the standards required and met all the criteria to reach the top level of the SFA Quality Mark ladder.

Reaching Legacy level is an amazing achievement for the Academy, we have become the 14th club in Central Region to achieve the award and less than 100 nationally, we stand proud with professional clubs such as Aberdeen and Hibs as well as our local neighbours Falkirk and Stenhousemuir.

This is very proud moment for everyone connected with the club, it takes a lot of commitment to not only achieve but maintain standards set. All our coaches and staff have invested in the Quality Mark ethos and we continue to grow, prosper and support the stakeholders and local community.



The main criteria in achieving the award was our work in the local community, where we joined local groups to support various programmes within the Falkirk area. Ultimately each level requires additional policies and procedures which ensures that we provide football for all, be a inclusive club and provide a structured training and playing facility.

To the USA... with former players on Scholarships here's the latest

In the US the scholarship girls have just completed their respective seasons... here's a round up how they've all done to date before moving to the Nationals.

Kim McAlpine: scored 20 goals in the regular season on College Butler's way to the Kansas State Regional Championship.

Shaney McCabe: at Rocky Mountain College Montana, won their State championship, Shaney was also selected for the All State 1st Team.

Morgan Cross: another winning season for Morgan retaining the Sunbelt Trophy, Southern States Championship. Morgan was selected for the All States side.

Kate Nicholson, in her 1st year plays with Morgan at University of South Alabama had a great season in defence.

Ellie McDonald: is with Kim at Butler, kept her cool in the Cup Final to score in the penalty shoot out.


It's great report on how well the girls are doing and we are pleased to be part of their story. We have more former players out in the States and they're all very positive about their 'living the dream'.

We will update our social media after Nationals where all the teams come together for the biggest prizes of all D1, D2 and College Championships. Central have strong links with the US Scholarship programmes and will help guide you through the challenges, standards and fitness levels to give you the chance to 'live the dream' Central are player focused and your future is our mission to make dreams reality.





WSOC Roster Schedule More +



Rocky Women's Soccer Finish Conference Play with Win Over Carroll



GRIZZLIES ADVANCE TO REGION VI CHAMPIONSHIP

5 FINAL 1

Amaya MacDonald #RoarGrizz



3 2

Tweet your reply



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Central are working with Pro Performance to provide individual training to our young players. The Friday sessions at Graeme High School teach the young players core skills, tactical skills as well as game play.

We provide a large concentration of coaches to players are show the players how to perfect the skills that we have identified as being the most important in the game itself.

The Legends Centre is also available on-line and through our App, where players can revisit and practise their skills when they have some time.

We encourage all players of any teams to come along and receive elite individual training, which will develop their game to the next level.

Players from beginners to A Division teams are welcome to come along.

The P1 - P5 boys and girls session start at 6pm with the older players starting at 6pm.



Working in collaboration with Pro Performance we believe that you can only improve as a player, we will show you perfect practise to make your development on point as you develop into football expert.

CLUB LEGENDS PHOTO SHOOT - NEXT STAGE THE 'STICKER BOOK'

With our recent photo shoot with Club Legends we are currently developing a sticker book featuring every team and player at the club... we ran a sticker book in 2017 with great success and we are all excited about the new version which is scheduled for early 2022.

Basically the pictures from the photo shoot will be converted into stickers and placed in a box for parents and players to buy, exactly the same as Panini. Each player will receive their own book and we will arrange for swap meets to get rid of the doublers... it's a great keepsake and the kids will love the whole idea of collecting their team and complete the book. Sponsors have an opportunity to have a sticker created for them which features a strip with the company logo across the chest. Current sponsors are of course invited to apply, however we are encouraging new names to feature on our unique Sponsors Page.

The packs will retail at £1.20 with 20p going to the club.



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Central Under 13's The Legends is the name linked to our 13's as they work directly within the Legends Training Programme and over the years it has served them well. Success has come through the age group with the 13's our most successful, in terms of silverware, section at the club. Some of the former players include internationals Sam Kerr, Kim McAlpine, Leah Eddie who all won Scottish Cup 2012 and 2013. In other competitions, we have done well, with the 13's always competing well.

SWF League Cup 13s – 2014, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019

SWF League Championship 13s – 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019



L-R: Sophie, Isla, Amelie, Hannah, Haiden, Mollie, Livvy, Jameson, Sophia, Lucy, Amy

Sophie, Amelie, Jameson and Lucy will feature in today's League Cup Final.

		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Central Girls	9	8	1	0	63	21	42	25
2	Wishaw Wycombe Wanderers	9	5	1	3	42	22	20	16
3	Cumbernauld Colts Blues	8	4	2	2	28	23	5	14
4	Rossvale Reds	9	3	2	4	29	28	1	11
5	Gartcairn	9	2	2	5	15	46	-31	8
6	Stenhousemuir Maroons	7	1	2	4	15	23	-8	5
7	Riverside Maroons	7	0	2	5	10	39	-29	2

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Today's 2021 Legends side have kept up the standards and are at the cusp of winning the League Championship in 2021, maintaining an annual return of silverware since Central were formed. The current crop need a 2pts from the remaining 3 matches to win the title. There wasn't a trophy in 2020 however we did win what was known to be called the 'Friendly League' the girls received medals for the efforts to go unbeaten in the shortened league. Jameson, Lucy, Amelie and Sophie Wilson who feature in today's League Cup Final are age eligible to play at 13's. Haiden and Livvy are our wide players who's outstanding pace and control are a problem for any side. Hannah and Mollie are regular players in the Legends, Amy as striker has great close control, with Amelie and Isla the midfielders who control any game. Young Aimee plays up from the 11's is a star in the making, also Amelia and Caileigh-Ann have made the step up and featured regularly. AvaJane has scored some important goals and Sophia has made an important contribution, collectively the team have continued the Legends name by playing skilful, possession football who love to attack, and a few goals to add...63 to date. Interesting the league is named after Scottish Internationalist Fiona Brown, Fiona established herself in the Scotland set up while playing with Dibs at former team Stenhousemuir, Fiona recently send her best wishes to our 13's a hoped the win 'her' league, although not quite there, it's hard to believe that the girl's won't maintain their unbeaten run and will the title at the next game.



The Future is Bright in Cyan...



As with any successful grassroots programme, we require a flow of players coming through the ranks, and we have some fantastic players coming through, have a look at some of our young teams above.

Thanks to the coaches: James, Sean, Mark, Rachel, Cammy, Matt, Emma & Rab

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SPONSORS - Central Academy are, along with all grassroots clubs, pleased that companies see clubs they want to associate with, we are proud that the following companies feature on our kits, listed below are our current sponsors.

Each are associated with at least one of our teams and we thank you for your contribution and continued support of the players and teams of Central Football Academy.



Remember you have the chance to feature in our upcoming Sticker Book, not sure it'll impress clients but certainly will the kids (and the child within) more information from Dibs.





Editorial

In a year that most will want to forget, I would like to think that football gave us all some sort of normal, even from the empty stadiums I'm sure we all appreciated the game to fuel our desires... it certainly did for me.

However my first love is grassroots football and from our Zoom online training we eventually got back to the pitches, despite the limits we dealt with it and for all too brief moments we started to hear laughter again.

And so we arrive at today! the car journeys seem to take hours again and motorways are crammed. The 'big' clubs are again building up their version of their Scotland Team, Hey guys this is the National Team Coaches job,.. what seems to be missing is that we need a competitive youth system to help develop the players through competitive play, the coaching ability throughout every region is excellent and not just the domain of the 'big' clubs, however the parents buy into the 'badge' and belief that playing with the top crop of talent develops the player.. wrong it wins trophies and boasts the club and coaches ego's, but will it develop the adult player?.

With the slight improvements of the national teams in Tournaments and Qualifications, it simply isn't enough especially when we look at Nations smaller than ourselves being more successful. It's clear, take away the elite from the 2-3 clubs and allow All teams to flourish... the process may sound impossible, however remove the elite tags and you'll see a nation flourish. Can it happen? don't ask me! ask the parents.

But hey we have football back... we should all be thankful Ed

Moving the Goalposts

The SWFL have created a new set up for the girls football.

From next year 2022 the girls game will see the introduction of new age groups, we will see the 2 year age group continue but increase to 12/14/16, from the current 11/13/15/17 years old. The 12's will continue at 7 a side however the 14's will commence next season at 11 a side, the new 16's will also play 11's. Saturday will remain the traditional day for 12 & 14's while the 16's move to a Sunday. The matchdays have still to be sanctioned by the league.

These age groups are more in line with the boys who play 11 a side at 13's at the moment. However with the female game continuing to prosper this seems like a positive move for the game to adopt.

So gone will be the silverware cups and trophies engraved with the 13's 15's and 17's and a new batch will make their way to the presentation tables. Central will have teams represented at all age groups and hope that they maintain their trophy haul in the future, one thing for sure the last decade saw Central scoop every level of trophy at 13's and 15's and although missed out in the cups at 17's, we managed to win the League Championship, history will reflect a fantastic period for the club. It's now onto a new format and we will ready the girls to make the transition as best we can and meet the challenge head on.

imagine... believe... achieve...

www.centralfootballacademy.com

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www.legends-soccer.com