

CHRIST THE KING BNS

U-13 FOOTBALL

DOUBLE CHAMPIONS 2023



FAI Division 4 League Winners



FAI Junior Cup Winners

CTK BNS U-13s Football: Story of a Season

I: How It All Began

For the first time in our school's history (we think), we've been to a football final. Not just one, but *four* - what a season it's been!

Boys Junior Cup Preliminary Round: CTKBNS 16-4 St. Finian's NS (Finglas)

A drizzly day in Begsboro United was the setting for the school's 1st football match in four years (post Covid). The boys were up for this local derby cup tie and were quick out of the traps, scorching into a 4-0 lead after 11 minutes. A further barrage of unrelenting goals from Jake Mc Guinness (5), Adam Fitzpatrick, Cruz Parkes (3, Ipeno), Logan Hyland, Cole Parkes (3), Mason Maguire (2) & Chris Dempsey saw us run out winners. Finian's pulled back a couple of good goals but our skill combined with power shooting was too much for them.

City League Division 4D: CTKBNS 9-0 Springdale NS (Raheny)

Another match, another hatful of goals (plus a few disallowed). Our lads really showed how they could play in this match. Goals from Mason Maguire (3), Jake Mc Guinness, Cole Parkes (2), Logan Hyland & Cruz Parkes (2) cemented our first league victory as our fellows turned on the style as well as substance. We were complimented by the opposition staff for the talent in our team combined with work-rate.

City League Division 4D: CTKBNS 16-1 Gracepark ETNS (Drumcondra)

Amid another epic display of power plays and an unmerciful trouncing for the opposition team, CTK were quite simply unstoppable in every department. A barrage of long range goals from Adam Fitzpatrick, Chris Dempsey, Luck Douglas, Cole Parkes and the pick of the bunch from Harry Mander finished this one early as a contest. A wide spread of scorers saw Shaun Keating, Logan Byrne (peno), Logan Hyland, Cole Parkes (3) also get on the scoresheet as our goal difference soared.

CTK BNS U-13s Football: Story of a Season

II: March 28th - One Day in Irishtown

SPAR Primary 5s

The 5-a-side tournaments are one day events staged North, South and West Dublin as well as Dublin city. It's a fantastic day out, and very well run by the FAI development officers. Over 300 schools take part. So we'd entered two teams, a 5th class team & 6th class team (as such).

5th class were phenomenal, winning all of their group games and racing clear into the semis. Special thanks to Christopher Dempsey senior (who coaches some of the boys at club level). He was on hand to make some positional switches and tactical tweaks to set them on the road to victory. Unfortunately they were beaten in their semi-final by a squad consisting of all 6th class players and subs. Our whole school brimmed with pride after their heroic display.

6th class were in a group of death with **St. Matthews (Irishtown)**, **St. Clare's (Harolds Cross)**, **St. Laurence O' Tooles (Sherriff Street)**, **Scoil Esker (Lucan)** and **Gaelscoil Naomh Pádraig**.

A 1-1 draw with St. Matthews left us a mountain to climb after Brody Reddy rattled the crossbar from all of 40 yards. Next up was a 6-0 victory agin Gaelscoil Pádraig. We had a 5-2 victory over Esker before beating St. Clare's 2-0. This meant a do-or-die, winner-takes-it-all clash with Larriers. A draw would knock both teams out & send St. Matthew's through. After an early opener from Cruz Parkes, we looked all set. Then an unfathomable penalty decision left us a 1-1, facing elimination. A tour-de-force of never-say-die spirit performance was capped by skipper Jake Mc Guinness smashing an on-the-run half volley into the top corner. The celebration was like a cross between Marco Tardelli & the Incredible Hulk. We won 3-1 in the end.

The **semi final** saw us up against **Shelleybanks ETNS (Mount Merrion)**. Some napping on a throw and a schoolboy error saw us 2-0 down after 3minutes. Again, our fellas refused to be beaten. Inspired by the heroics of Leon Cooling, they stormed back and turned on the style, with Harrison Mander rifling the winner into the bottom corner in an epic 3-2 comeback win.

On to the **final** against **Scoil Treasa (Dolphin's Barn)**. Cole Parkes (4th class, aged 10!) slotted in the early goal that saw us home to victory. The ice cool presence of Lucky Douglas in goal was the difference here in a match with some quite baffling refereeing decisions. **Champions of Dublin city!**

CTK BNS U-13s Football: Story of a Season

III: Pipped at the Post

SPAR Primary 5s - All-Dublin County Finals 4/5/23 FAI Headquarters, Abbotstown

Our school went to the all Dublin county finals. Only 8 teams made it this far. A 6-0 victory over **Lucan East ETNS** set our stall out early. Some napping at set pieces saw us go down 3-1 against **Scoil Taney** for our first defeat of any description this year. Order was restored with a 7-0 thrashing of **St. Colmcille's** which saw us through to the **semi-final** against **Gaelscoil Cnoc Liamhna (Knocklyon)**.

A cagey affair with tired legs, we ran out 2-1 winners after goals from Cole Parkes & Jake Mc Guinness put us ahead before the lads closed it out to go to the **final**.

We were up against **Scoil Taney (Dundrum)** again and stormed into a 2-0 lead through Harrison Mander & Jake Mc Guinness. A very strong Taney with a squad full of 6th class players pulled one back before a harsh penalty decision made it 2-2. Straight to penalty kicks, where the lottery went against us 3-1. A bitter pill to swallow but the boys did us all hugely proud- two kicks of the ball away from the All-Irelands! Taney were exceptional gentlemen I must say, consoling our fellas who were heartbroken and complimenting them as a team. True sportsmanship.



CTK BNS U-13s Football: Story of a Season

IV: A League of Their Own

City League Division 4D: CTKBNS 9-0 Springdale NS (Raheny)

Another match, another hatful of goals (plus a few disallowed). Our lads really showed how they could play in this match. Goals from Mason Maguire (3), Jake Mc Guinness, Cole Parkes (2), Logan Hyland & Cruz Parkes (2) cemented our first league victory as our fellows turned on the style as well as substance. We were complimented by the opposition staff for the talent in our team combined with work-rate.

City League Division 4D: CTKBNS 16-1 Gracepark ETNS (Drumcondra)

Amid another epic display of power plays and an unmerciful trouncing for the opposition team, CTK were quite simply unstoppable in every department. A barrage of long range goals from Adam Fitzpatrick, Chris Dempsey, Luck Douglas, Cole Parkes and the pick of the bunch from Harry Mander finished this one early as a contest. A wide spread of scorers saw Shaun Keating, Logan Byrne (peno), Logan Hyland, Cole Parkes (3) also get on the scoresheet as our goal difference soared.

City League Division 4D: John Scottus NS (Donnybrook) 1-4 Christ The King BNS

Kicked off in Begginstown in the middle of a pouring rain. The manager was sent to run the line without a dugout for the first time ever. Amid this downpour and without star man Mason Maguire, this game was more hotly contested than the scoreline would suggest. Scottus played some nice ball and matched us in the 1st half. 2-0 at half time, thanks to Cole Parkes and a glancing header from a corner by Jake Mc Guinness sealed the victory before John Scottus brought it back to 3-1. Added another to win us our group division.

League semi-final: Scoil Chiaráin (Donnycarney) 1-7 CTKBNS

Another match, another away day, another romper of a performance from our lads. On a hot day in May Park, we started well and piled on the pressure. Again the goal took a while but Mason Maguire brought home the bacon yet again. Another stunning strike from a free kick brought Scoil Chiaráin level before we upped the tempo even more. The pressure told when Logan Hyland rifled into the roof of the net from a Shaun Keating corner. 2-1 lead at half time. Chiaráin's came out trying to equalise but we picked them off expertly with Cole Parkes slaloming past defenders before driving home into the bottom corner. He then followed up with a rebounded toe-poke. The similarities with Haaland don't end with the hairstyle! Assured displays from Chris Dempsey, Harry Mander and Jake Mc Guinness controlled the middle of the park for us and Lucky Douglas was a brave as lion coming out for the ball in a challenge more often seen on a rugby pitch. Adam Fitzpatrick was a mixture of composure and pace on the left wing and stretched their defence. Leon Cooling and Brody Reddy bombed forward with slick interchanges from the wingers. Mason Maguire added another two to claim his hat-trick before a classy lob from supersub Calvin Kearns sealed our place in the league final...

CTK BNS U-13s Football: Story of a Season

IV: A League of Their Own (cont'd)



City Leagues Division 4 final AUL Complex, Clonshaugh

Glenageary/Killiney NS 0-1 CTKBNS (After extra time, 0-0 @ full time)

Final Day and a huge occasion for our team and our whole school. The kick-off was brought forward and then put back a couple of time, which didn't help our fellas. Neither did warming up for so long in the blistering heat. This led to a nervy start in an even match where both teams were finding it difficult to create on a massive pitch on a very warm day. GKNS had a few chances 1st half but all were ably dealt with by Lucky Douglas. A Harry Mander free kick whistled by the post on the 20 minute mark. Mason Maguire and Cruz Parkes were giving the opposition defence a torrid time of it, but a clear chance just wouldn't break for us. Jake Mc Guinness was different class in the middle of the park on what was a huge pitch for U13s level. We were the better team in possession and our defence was on top also. Nonetheless it needed extra time to separate the teams as it ended 0-0 on the hour.

Two minutes into extra time and well inside his own half, Jake Mc Guinness picked up a square pass. He quickly beat two midfielders before haring off like a gazelle with world class dribbling. He went past another three defenders on a mesmeric run before smashing the ball into the far corner. Shades of Maradona 86 but with a better finish! Cue wild celebrations. Christ The King kept on playing and weren't settling for closing it out. We came close to a second a couple of times before the ref blew it up. League champions. Phenomenal!



CTK BNS U-13s Football: Story of a Season



CTK BNS U-13s Football: Story of a Season

V: Road to the Cup

Boys Junior Cup Preliminary Round: CTKBNS 16-4 St. Finian's NS (Finglas)

A drizzly day in Beggisboro United was the setting for the school's 1st football match in four years (post Covid). The boys were up for this local derby cup tie and were quick out of the traps, scorching into a 4-0 lead after 11 minutes. A further barrage of unrelenting goals from Jake Mc Guinness (5), Adam Fitzpatrick, Cruz Parkes (3, Ipeno), Logan Hyland, Cole Parkes (3), Mason Maguire (2) & Chris Dempsey saw us run out winners. Finian's pulled back a couple of good goals but our skill combined with power shooting was too much for them.

Boys Junior Cup 2nd round: St. David's BNS 2-4CTKBNS

An epic encounter, an epic battle, an epic struggle of a good old fashioned cup tie. Conditions were very tough- a horribly windswept day and playing on full size adult astro turf gaelic football pitch, with Gaelic goals. We were also without Leon Cooling through injury and Harrison Mander on the bench with a knock. A fast start from David's and a freak own goal saw us 2-0 down after 15 minutes. We never stopped playing though, and Mason Maguire deservedly pulled a goal back for us before the break. Harrison Mander was sprung from the bench and our pressure in midfield was beginning to tell. We were dominating possession but still behind on the scoreboard. Cue a Beckhamesque brace from Harrison Mander as he swerved a free kick into the top corner. Once we were level, the lads turned the screw. Another belter of a free kick was curled into the top corner before Cruz Parkes scored a classic half volley to seal the victory. We had heroes all over the pitch that day: Jake Mc Guinness was untouchable. Harrison Mander came on and changed the game. Adam Fitzpatrick stepped into central midfield at 20 seconds notice and gave a good battling account of himself. Mason Maguire must have run two marathons that day! Calvin Kearns stepped in at left back and gave a heroic performance. Shaun Keating stepped back to right full when Brody Reddy got injured and led by example on the ball and in the challenge. Cruz Parkes was ice cool for the finish. Logan Byrne came on and charged down the defence, disrupting their rhythm and hit some telling passes. Noah Murphy steamed into challenges and set up a volley with an outrageous flick. Mikey Malone came on and gave it everything he had. Cole Parkes was stretching them down the left. Logan Hyland and Chris Dempsey won us the match with their tackling and defending. Lucky Douglas kept us in the match at 2-0 with a point blank save. Like all winners, they quite simply refused to be beaten. Phenomenal...

CTK BNS U-13s Football: Story of a Season

V: Road to the Cup (cont'd)

Boys Junior Cup semi-final: St. David's NS (Artane) 4-6 CTKBNS (After extra time, 4-4 @ full time)

Another away day to David's, another gruelling encounter, another heroic performance to draw & then win. Missing star man Lucky Douglas in goal (holidays) and Cole Parkes (ankle injury), we were up against it before we even kicked a ball! On a blistering hot day in Kilmore, David's were quickest out of the blocks once again and raced into an early 2-0 lead. Our hard running and good football was creating chances and Cruz Parkes and Mason Maguire had some very near misses. Jake Mc Guinness and Harry Mander came close with long range efforts and there was some great goalkeeping by the opposition. Once again our pressure told, with Mason Maguire slotting into the far corner from inside the box. A clever dribble and lob from Cruz Parkes brought us level. 2-2 at half time and no more than we deserved.

Again we were playing all the football come 2nd half. Shaun Keating & Adam Fitzpatrick were incredible on either wing, running, dribbling, crossing and tracking back relentlessly. Jake and Harry owned the midfield but David's were still dangerous on the counter. A ball down our right side and a great finish saw us fall 3-2 behind yet again. The heat was searing and it seemed our time might run out. Cue a corner from Harry Mander and pinball pandemonium in the box, somehow after miracle saves from the keeper and stout defending by David's, Jake Mc Guinness was able to head one in on the line. The drama didn't end there. A Long ball and a high lob left Calvin with no chance and we were 4-3 down again with the clock ticking against us. Up popped Mason Maguire again with an unbelievable touch, swerve and lobbed finish. But it was ruled offside. The manager dropped to his knees with his head in his hands at this point. But the boys knew what to do and again the pressure told. David's keeper kept them in front with a couple of world class, point blank saves. When a corner dropped back out to Harry Mander at the edge of the box, he whipped it over everybody including the keeper and into the far top corner of the net to bring us to 4-4 & extra time.

Extra time and a couple of bolts from the blue. After slick passing build up, Shaun Keating got on the ball, beat two defenders with his dribbling before smashing a swerving screamer on the run onto the top right hand corner from outside the box. 5-4 and we're leading for the first time. More pressure saw more chances and Adam Fitzpatrick hammered home a half volley into the far top corner just inside the box to put us 6-4 up and break St. David's hearts. 2nd half of extra time was once again heroic. Logan Hyland & Chris Dempsey were like a brick wall at the back. Leon Cooing was like King Kong. Brody Reddy was like Cafu- nothing got by him and he bombed forward into the space. Noah Murphy and Mikey Malone gave the opposition full backs a torrid time. Calvin Kearns cleared his lines with confidence and the final whistle brought joy and merciful relief. A rip-roaring, end-to-end, helter-skelter rollercoaster of a cup tie to send us to another final in what was our greatest victory.

CTK BNS U-13s Football: Story of a Season

VI: Cup Final and the Double



Venue: AUL Complex, Clonshaugh CTK BNS 3 - 1 Dalkey Project School

Another final, another sweltering June day. This time we had an army of supporters decked out in the black and red. A long clearance from one of our attacks let the pacy Dalkey striker in behind. He showed great composure to round Lucky and put Dalkey 1-0 up.

The lads were disappointed but our footballing philosophy in Christ the King is to never panic, never rush and have faith in our skills. The boys upped the tempo and a long range effort from Brody Reddy went in off the keeper to give us our just rewards. 1-1. More passing, more pace and power before Leon Cooling lashed a free kick into the top corner to put us 2-1 up on half time-deservedly so. A Harry Mander cross set up Cruz Parkes for a bullet header to send us 3-1 up and seal an immortal victory. The boys were not only double winners but hold a 100% record for the whole season. We celebrated heartily and were presented with the cup by Damian Duff! The Invincibles!

