

Proposal for The Greater Belfast Invitational Cup for Easter 2011

Newmill youth F.C have been running the Christopher Shaw cup starting this cross community tournament with 4 teams in 2003 using council facilities has grown each year with 32 teams taking part in 2010. The Christopher Shaw cup was set up after the tragic death of Christopher in a road traffic accident aged just 12 years old who loved life and his passion was football. His manager at that time was Joe Kerr one of our committee members and consulting with Christopher's parents held the tournament in Christopher's memory.

Of the back of the Christopher Shaw Cup the committee decided that there was potential for a milk cup / Foyle cup type of tournament could be held in Belfast so in 2009 Youth Soccer Tournaments N.I. was formed and from 6th - 8th April 2010 we held our first greater Belfast invitational cup at the Queens playing fields (the dub) with 32 teams from all sides of our community and from outside of Belfast and Darlington F.C. from England taking part we had 4 age groups u12 u14 u16 and u18 taking part running of 5 pitches. The first year was a great success with 100% positive feed back from teams ,coaches and spectators saying "great competition" "when is the

next one” the tournament was “well run” and “this is what Belfast needs”

In 2011 over the Easter period 22nd and 23rd April we hope to hold our competition over 4 council parks Boucher road (3 pitches) will be the hub for the tournament providing a park and ride to Strangford (3 pitches) Ormeau embankment (6 pitches) and Cherryvale (3 pitches). We would like Belfast City council to support us, and our vision is that in 3 to 5 years Belfast will be on the map as one of the best football tournaments in the country if not in Europe with teams travelling from England, Scotland and Wales and further a field as well as our local teams with the finals being held at Solitude home of Cliftonville f.c. on the 24th April 2011

Our committee is made up of 4 people John Gibson (treasurer) Joseph Kerr (chairman) and Sean Templeton (events organiser) with over 30 years football managerial experience between us and we have travelled to tournaments within the UK and even to Holland to give our teams as much football experience as we can provide, Patrick McDermott (secretary) with over 20 years experience working with Euro Sport Ring one of the biggest soccer tournament organisers in Europe who organise tournaments in the UK, Ireland and across Europe but

none in our capital city Belfast. You may be thinking Mullusk would be an ideal place to hold such a tournament with the amount of pitches Mullusk have to offer however through our experience we found that the teams like to play competitive football at different venues from what they play at week in and week out as it lifts spirits and creates excitement in the teams taking part in tournaments and the majority of the teams play at Mullusk.

We at youth soccer tournaments N.I. want to give our young and old people a chance to play exciting competitive football against teams from other towns and cities which they would not usually play in their own city without having to pay large amounts of money to travel to other tournaments outside of Belfast in today's financial climate.

Your friend in sport

John Gibson