

REDPATH ALBION-PILMENY SPORTS ACADEMY

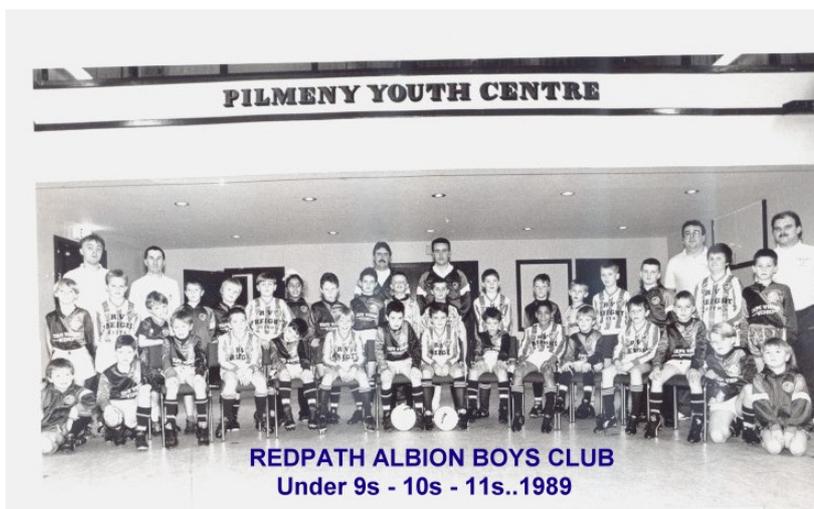


Coaching Session Update

* In the event that we may be in a position to return to coaching sessions, everything is in place to return to Pilgrim Park. All sessions will be held outdoors. We're not in a position to confirm session times at present, as this will be dependant on team managers availability to facilitate sessions. In line with Covid, 1st Aid compliance and our obligations to our Child Protection Policy, the sessions will require a minimum of 2 qualified coaches in attendance. In light of these obligations sessions may be held on either Friday afternoons, Friday evenings, (Clocks change Sunday 28 March) or Saturday/Sundays. We'll hopefully be back soon.



*Academy News - We currently have no news in regards to any COVID Lockdown restrictions being lifted. We're planning ahead however, and in keeping with previous guidance from Scot Gov and SYFA, we'll be ready to start our Youth and Academy coaching sessions, as soon as guidance permits. Hopefully this will be when schools get the "Green Light" to re-open, or if restrictions are lifted for contact sports for children and young people.



SYFA & ESSDA News

* The Academy season 2021 club registration has now been processed and accepted by both associations. 2010 team registration is still ongoing. We're encountering some issues with the team registration process, due to SYFA website issues. Nothing we cant overcome, but a few telephone calls to the SYFA might be required. Our 2009s registration has been confirmed by both associations, along with our U13 Youth registration.

*When ESSDA team registration opens, we'll be considering any shifts in playing levels. We'll be guided by decisions made by the 2010s team managers.



2021 Memberships

* The Academy will be deferring our Annual Membership payment for 2021. The payment was always used to cover the costs of personal training/leisure kit for the players & coaches, and personal injury insurance premiums. However, this season the club will supply the kits with no charge to members consisting of Track Jacket - Training Shirt, Shorts & Socks. We're in the process of ordering the kits x 64 sets, at a cost of including VAT = £63 per individual set. Footballs will also require upgrading e.g U13s will move on to using Size 5 balls, in the new season. Its only through the support of parents and the continued standing Order payments, that we're in a position to offer the kits. Players & coaches are very grateful for your continued support. We'll endeavour to ensure that we invest in our teams via the monthly payment system.

* All Academy news will be shared via our online mediums.

* We're planning a **FREE** soccer camp during the 2021 Easter School Holidays. **Monday 12 to Friday 16 April.** Sessions will be held from 1pm - 3pm for Youth & Academy teams, facilitated by Roddy & Murdo and utilising the 3 v 2 Soccer Academy Model. The plan is to prep the 09s and 2010 squads for the start of the ESSDA season. If the U13s season re-starts in late March, it's possible the youth squad will be playing midweek evening games, in order to complete their season. In the event that this may happen, we'll need to address this, with maybe the 13s doing a 2 or 3 day camp, to compensate for the midweek games.

*TEAM NEWS - U13 YOUTH

The Stop-start nature of the youth season, has been particularly difficult for the 13s coaches and squad. With a settled squad of 16 players everything was falling int place with the clubs best start to a youth season in 30 years. Playing 7 games, winning 6, with only one loss to league leaders Edina Hibs, and sitting comfortably in joint 3rd, with games in hand. A semi-Final still to play v Edina, and possibly 2 other cup competitions in the pipeline, its still all to play for.

TEAM NEWS - 2009S

Will soon transition to youth level. Its 9 v 9 until June 2021, then into the youth leagues from August 2021. New additions to the squad takes numbers up to 12. When ESSDA season resumes, the 09s will move on to the youth park for games, where they can acclimatise to



the -larger playing area. Special mention to coach David who has kept the section afloat on his own. The transition to youth level, increases the coach commitment with additional team tasks and team admin being paramount to the smooth transition. We're appealing for HELP! Ideally, we'd like to recruit an SFA qualified coach with level 1 & 2 accreditation, however, if one or two individuals with a passion for the game, and happy to support David & the club, with.

Admin and match day tasks, please contact us via our usual channels - Phone - Text - FB message or Twitter, we'd be delighted to discuss details.

TEAM NEWS 2010 (REDS & WHITES)

When ESSDA games resume the 10s will continue to play 7 v 7 games until June 2021. From August they'll move to 9 v 9. Both squads are at player capacity, with no space available for new players. However, the August step-up will possibly require to recruit a few additional players to each squad, if only to ensure they have enough of a squad, to cover player unavailability, and fulfil fixtures. Both squads are now at a level, where players comfortable at ESSDA Pele/Iniesta/Maradona levels, may be welcome additions.

Recruitment, would commence May/June of this year. Its worth noting that our 10s squads are now, reaping the huge benefit from the hours spent by Roddy & Murdo, in developing the good personal, and playing habits, nurtured over previous seasons. These positive points instilled in our 10s are witnessed in the flowing football now played by our U13s. Current coaches at 10s level, and indeed 09s and U13s, have continued to nurture these positive coaching methods. Long may it continue.

COMMUNITY NEWS

- * Always at the forefront of club, and Academy development, is our commitment to the local community. A look at our player database, would show that from 49 current players registered to the club, 44 have EH5/EH6/EH7/EH8 postcodes, all within walking distance of Pilrig Park. There was never any plan in place to promote or recruit only local players, but our community "footprint" and the clubs unique place in the community going back many years, with our senior and youth teams calling Pilrig Park 'home', parents realised it was the club for them. Not forgetting the huge part played by 3v2 Soccer Academy who have promoted a number of current players via their weekly Saturday Pilrig sessions and, monthly MatchPlay.
- * Our commitment to Pilrig Park School, and supporting their "Friday Sports Options" is also ongoing. Roddy & murdo facilitate these weekly sessions on a commissioning basis via Pilmeny Youth centre. Costs are covered through the PEF (Pupil Equity fund) which the school uses to fund the sessions, with Pilmeny Youth Centre playing an admin & Management role. Sessions are attended by between 15-20 young learners all with differing learning needs, with Roddy & Murdo promoting healthy lifestyles and fun activities.
- * Our Girls section established in September 2019, has been mothballed since the first lockdown. Sessions were held after school on Wednesdays at the youth centre, and facilitated by Roddy & Murdo. By March 2020, the girls section were ready to move to the games hall at Pilrig School, but the move never materialised due to covid lockdown. We've 8 girls aged 8 -11 yrs, patiently waiting on the community school space reopening. Once we settle back into Pilrig school, the girls section will be back on track.



- * New Age Groups have been under consideration as we plan for the future, and to increasing community fluidity, and its always on our development agenda. Age groups, 2013, 2012 and 2011, have all been part of the future plan. Space at Pílríg School, is paramount to the new age groups and indeed, to a certain extent, the Girls section, in that an indoor facility is a must given the good old Scottish weather being unpredictable, and an important need for toilet access. Qualified coaches to support new age groups, is a major concern, however it could be that we appoint a couple of our "Apprentice" coaches, to take on this role, with an club SFA qualified coach in attendance, to manage sessions. The Apprentice coaching team have been involved from the Academy's first ever session, and are well versed in promoting the good playing habits, while shadowing Roddy & Murdo's hours and hours of coaching sessions, it may be a starting option for the club.
- * Our CEC negotiations in respect of taking on the additional youth park at Pílríg led us into informal discussions with the Friends of Pílríg Park. The "Friends" group are informal "custodians" of ensuring the park maintains its community ethos, and plays a role in being a link with resident and park users, community concerns, or indeed, passes on proposals for park improvements. The "Friends" group identify the club as major stakeholders in the parks community ethos, and the club have been asked to attend "Friends" meeting. We've been very happy to do so, and the chairman's has attended a number of meetings.
- * CEC negotiations re Pílríg Park - Part (2). The local authority originally quoted £2,000 per annum to maintain the newly lined youth park at Pílríg. After protracted talks with three CEC departments, we concluded that in order to greatly reduce these costs, the club would line its own parks. The "deal" meant the club having to invest in a pitch marking machine, now purchased at a cost approx £500, including marker fluid. The club will now be tasked with marking the youth pitch when games return.
- * Our community commitment, and in line with talks with the "Friends" group, the club was asked if our local primary schools could access the football pitches. Interestingly, back in the days of the old Lothian Regional Council, we were given the use of the small park at Pílríg with the proviso that Lorne and Bonnington Primary schools could share the pitch for school games, which we were happy to agree to. The arrangement worked very well. We're aware that the Gaelic Primary were regularly using the 7s park since 2018 anyway, so it may be that Lorne, Leith Walk and Broughton primaries, may utilise the offer of use. We currently pay approx £400 per season for an extended let for the wee park, however CEC haven't confirmed additional cost of leasing the youth park. Given the pitch costs for edinburgh leisure pitches, it won't be a surprise if it amounts to approx £40 per game. In light of these costs for both parks, and the arrangement that the club will be covering these costs, we'd expect that if schools wish to use the parks at any time, we'd be wary of the surfaces being overplayed. Being a community resource we can't



"Police" who can and can't use the pitches, we can only hope that groups consider the clubs needs.

- * Goalkeeping coaching - We fully realise that goalkeeping is a specialised position requiring a unique approach. We've approached a number specialist coaches asking them to attend sessions with the clubs four keepers, but were unsuccessful. Costs weren't the issue, but coaches were insisting that our lads attend their specific coaching venues. We thought this was impractical for a number of reasons, although two of our lads did attend, after parents made their own arrangements. We haven't given up, and we'll keep trying, but if anyone can sign-post us to any keeper coaches who may be interested, in running sessions at Pilrig Park, please feel free to give us details.
- * We'd picked up on some informal comments from our U13 players hinting that it would be great if they could have individual surnames on the back of their team jersey - just like the players on telly. Its not such a crazy idea, as our youth teams had names on jerseys some years ago. It was explained to them, that the club could only consider the idea, if the players bought their own jerseys. Reason being - If a player left then the jersey couldn't be used by any new signings e.g Smith couldn't wear a jersey displaying the name Jones. In affect buying the jersey became the players personal property and if he left he took the jersey with him. New signings, bought their own playing jersey, displaying their own surname. A team playing jersey, including club badge - players surname & number, would cost approx £30 per jersey. The club would pay costs of customisation e.g sponsors logo/brand etc. We've come up against a few youth sides this season who've adopted the named jersey. The process would obviously mean every player buying into the idea, as we'd look a bit daft with 8 named jerseys and the rest not displaying a name. We had to ask SYFA permission to do this in the past, due to child protection guidelines, but the SYFA had no objections. Once were back playing, we can gather the U13 players and parents, and make a decision. Of course, the suggestion, would include all Academy teams.



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