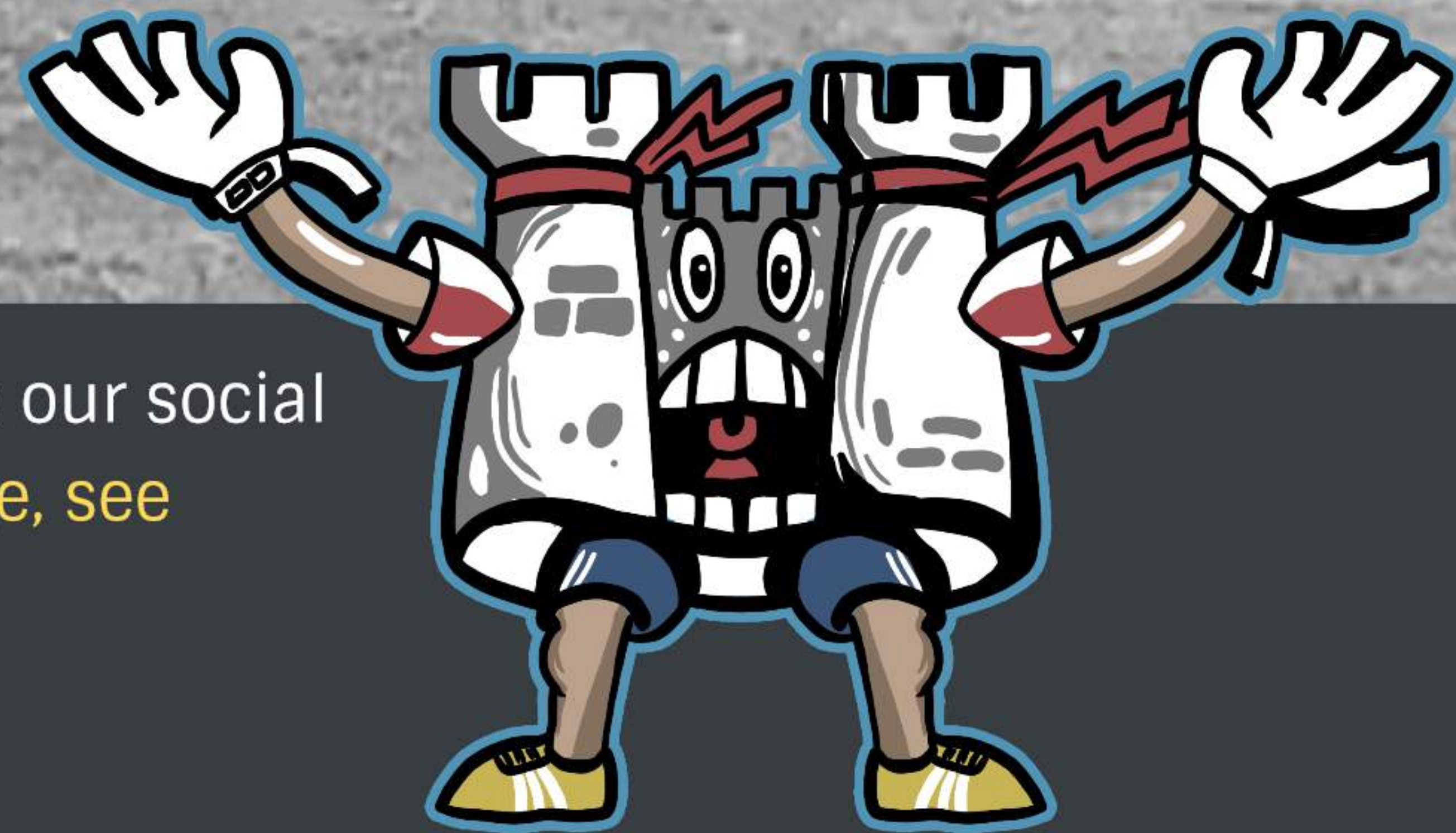


LEICESTER CELTIC FC



NEWSLETTER



Keep in touch with your local community football team by subscribing to our social media sites. Also get involved in the latest LCFC Lockdown Challenge, see www.leicesterceltic.ie for full details



Duffer back to Leicester

It was great to see Damien Duff back in Leicester Celtic, the club where as a young boy, he started his illustrious football career.

Damien paid a visit to the club in December to have a training session with our U15 Major squad and to say hello to some old friends. We in Leicester Celtic are proud of our new 5G astro and we are even more proud to name the new astro pitch 'Damien Duff Park' in honour of Damien's wonderful football career.

It was a great opportunity for Tommy McDermott and Colm Sargents U15s squad to have a training session with an Irish football legend. All the players really enjoyed the session, with Damien calling out they were a great bunch of lads to work with. He also said that he was enormously proud and honoured to have the new astro pitch named after him.

We wish Damien all the best for the future and look forward to seeing him soon again in Leicester Celtic.

Gerry Whelan - Chairman Leicester Celtic Football Club



OUR LCFC 'SWANS' ACADEMY

Our hugely popular Academy started back with a bang in September. A big change this year was the switch to our new Saturday evening Kick-Off of 4pm, and this has proven to be an extremely popular choice with both children and parents.

Every Saturday we now have over 100+ girls and boys regularly in attendance, all looking brilliant in their Leicester Celtic Swans Academy jersey's. Its a great place to be on a Saturday watching so many kids running around with big smiles on their faces, having fun with their friends, while learning and developing new skills.

We are incredibly lucky to have an enthusiastic group of volunteers who give up their valuable time every Saturday evening to make this happen. The Academy is the lifeblood of the club introducing young boys and girls to football in a safe and friendly environment and then graduating to our Schoolgirl and Schoolboy teams in the following years.

LEICESTER CELTIC GIRLS TEAMS

We have seen a huge increase in new girls joining the club this year, with over 30 players registered in the girl's section and growing each week. Both our age groups have shown great dedication, attitude and work-ethic throughout the year. The participation levels have been excellent, with full attendance at all training sessions. We have seen great player development over the last couple of months, including some very exciting talented players for the future.

It is an exciting time in the world of girl's football, with the 20x20 campaign promoting the participation of girls in sport and creating a cultural shift in our perception of women's sport. The club are very much looking forward to actively driving and being part of this movement, as the girls are doing a great job of showcasing their talent and representing the 20x20 campaign. Watch this space!!



IF SHE CAN'T SEE IT, SHE CAN'T BE IT

LEICESTER CELTIC SENIOR TEAMS

This season 3 x LCFC Teams entered into the Leinster Senior League @ Sunday Major, Saturday Major 1A, and our U19 Team, that have graduated through the schoolboy ranks. Both our Senior Teams play their home matches on Friday night under lights so when spectators are allowed back, please come along to Damien Duff Park and enjoy live football on a Friday night.



2021 MINI WORLD CUP

We are confident that this year's event will take place in June 2021. Having missed out on 2020 due to the pandemic, we are planning a bigger and better event to celebrate the return of football back in our community. More to follow....



LCFC LOCKDOWN EVENTS

There is plenty happening for all the players and families during the current lockdown, so keep an eye on LCFC's social media channels.

So far in 2021 we have had the January '**Marathon with a ball**', which saw over 100+ of our players taking on and completing the worthwhile challenge. It was great fun for all involved, lots of physical and mental exercise, and very importantly we were able to promote awareness in our Mental Health Charities, 'Aware' and 'Jigsaw.' When we calculated the overall distance ran, LCFC players made it all the way to New York City from Damien Duff Park while dribbling their balls, So an absolutely fantastic achievement. Well done to everyone here for getting involved..

Jan 30th also was the evening for our community **LCFC Family Quiz**, with great numbers taking part raising an amazing amount of ****€2000 euro**** for 'Aware'. This is a fantastic figure and credit to all the players, parents, members, friends and family who got involved and donated to the charity. Congratulations to the winners the 'Nugent know it alls' who topped the scoreboard.

There is a '**Wheelie Bin 2.0**' challenge already launched for your February challenge (lots of players videos up on facebook already!) and another Family Quiz in aid of 'Jigsaw' planned for the 27th Feb @8pm, so stick the date in your diaries. Full details will be available on www.Leicesterceltic.ie.



LCFC DEVELOPMENT PLANS 2021

Sport Ireland have announced that €45m will be made available under the Sports Capital Grants for 2021. We as a club have plans to add to improve our existing top class facilities further this year, More details of our specific projects will be published over the coming months.

As with all large projects it will require the Club to provide a significant amount of capital to complete, so our Fund-Raising Committee will launch a number of events later in 2021 and we ask all players and parents to support these as best they can.. A bright future ahead for the next generation of players coming through the gates of the Leicester Celtic.



Leicester Celtic is a community based club, that fully relies on the goodwill and generosity of all community volunteers, consisting of former players and parents of current/former players as the core of both our coaching, administrative and operational management of the club.

We greatly and actively welcome the support, life-skills and professional experience which any further volunteers from our wider club community could bring to assist in the development of the club and the brilliant facilities, and also to help aid the development of all the kids in our community. As your club has continuously grown in numbers, and with the recent hugely successfully addition of a girls football section, we are inviting further assistance to assist in broadning the diversity of your club administration, coaching and volunteer committee membership.

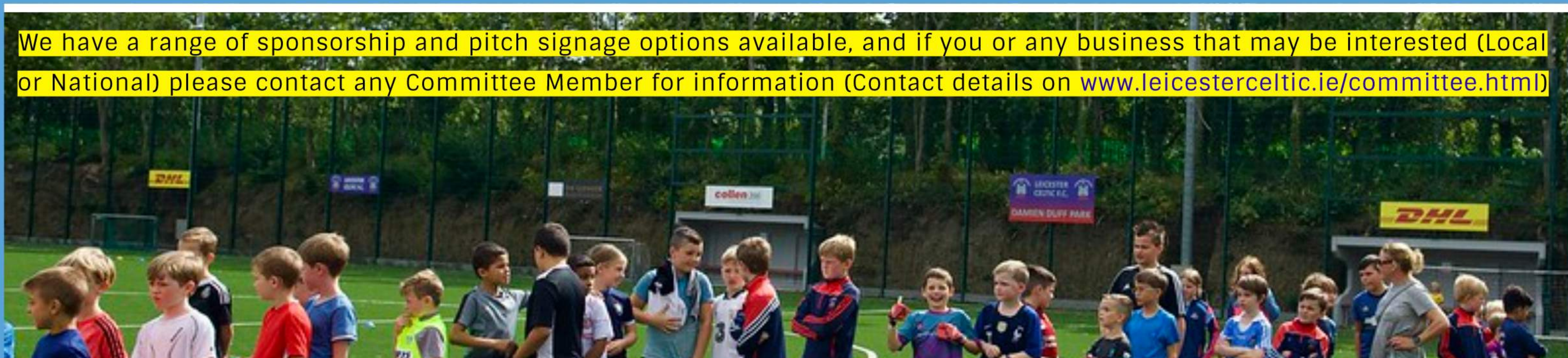
If you are interested in getting involved in your community club, please reach out, we would be delighted to hear from you by contacting [Gerry Whelan \(087 290116\)](tel:087290116) or by emailing office.leicester@gmail.com

CLUB SPONSORS

We are indebted to Heritage Credit Union for their continued support as our main Club Sponsor. They have been with us for many years (formerly known as Rathfarnham Credit Union) and have sponsored our Annual Summer Mini World Cup every year since 2007.

Our new 5G Astro Pitch 'Damien Duff Park' opened in 2019 and this created opportunities for pitch signage and advertising. We have several sponsors with signs strategically placed around the pitch, so a massive thank you to Heritage Credit Union, Nutgrove Shopping Centre, Collen Construction, DHL, Glenside Public House, Applegreen, Norton Electrical. Murphy Mullen, Stuart Insurance, BCP and Sherry Fitzgerald,

We have a range of sponsorship and pitch signage options available, and if you or any business that may be interested (Local or National) please contact any Committee Member for information (Contact details on www.leicesterceltic.ie/committee.html)



COACHING OUR COACHES / COACH EDUCATION

The LCFC coaches have been upping their skills with some very valuable coaching sessions put on by the coaching committee over the last few months. We have had some very experienced UEFA and FAI accredited coaches drop in and share their experience and knowledge, covering small side games at u8 all the way up to the 11-a-side game at u13 to Senior level. There has been great in house attendance at these sessions, as coaches realise how important it is to develop their own coaching skills.



Next up, we will be welcoming our coaching friends from Shamrock Rovers to Damien Duff Park, and also our own UEFA Pro licensed and U9 coach Collie O'Neill will be bringing his LOI and Europa League experiences to us all.

Its never too early or too late to start on your coaching development pathway and there are very valuable lessons to be learnt on the intro level courses the FAI Offer (PDP1 and PDP2), which the majority of volunteer LCFC coaches have already attended. These courses offer skills, insight and structure to mums and dads who are completely new to coaching or new to football.

Reach out to anyone on the LCFC Coaching Committee to discuss, as you are guaranteed to enjoy these. The club also cover costs for the entry level courses, so get in touch!

LCFC PLAYER PROFILE - CALLUM O'NEILL - CAPTAIN UI6AI

Position: Center Back

Favourite Team: Liverpool.

Favourite Player: Virgil Van Dijk

Food Likes / Dislikes: Will try anything once but has a strong resistance to most Vegetables

School: St Benildus College Stillorgan **Favourite Subjects:** Maths, Tech Drawing & PE **Dislikes:** Irish & History.

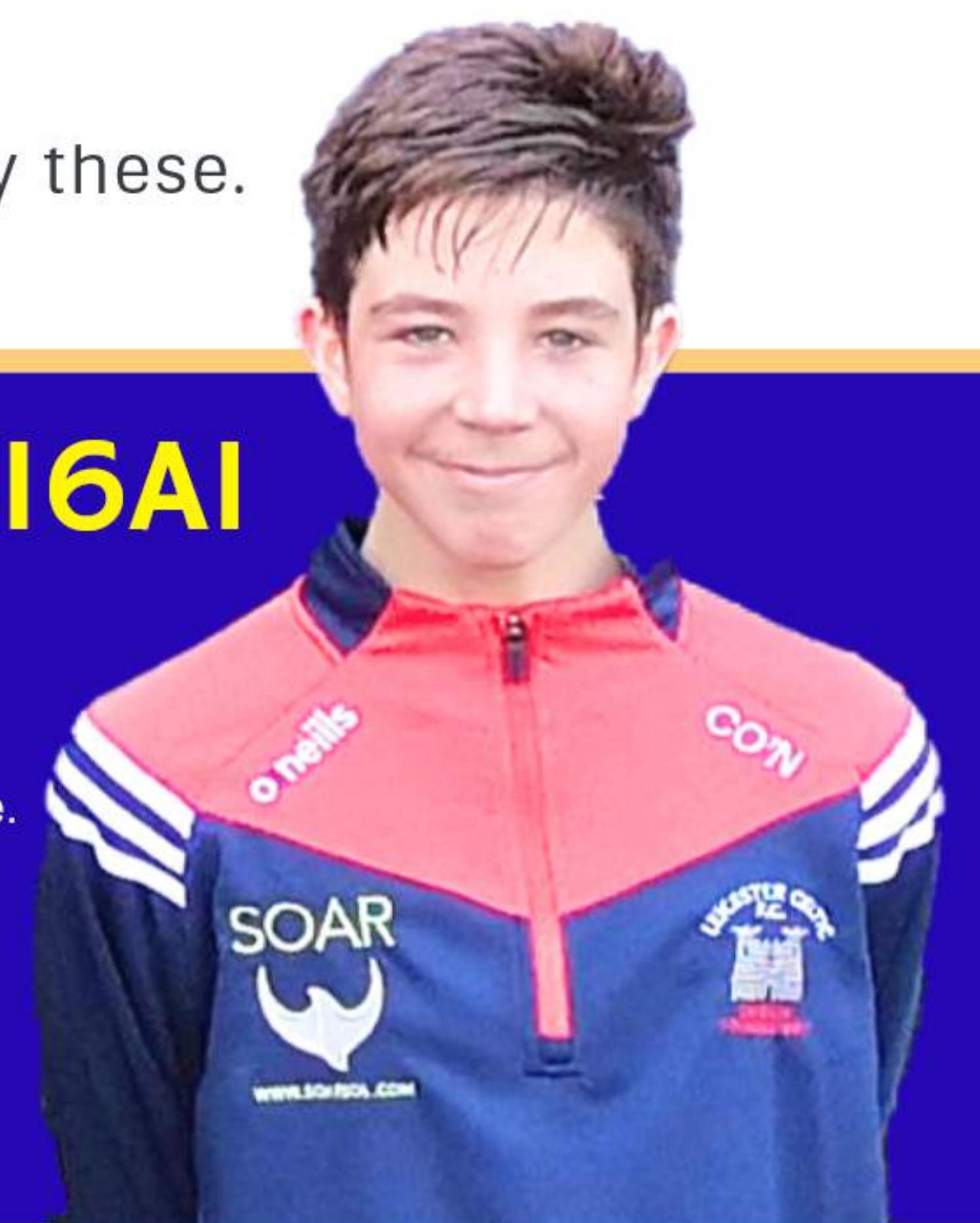
Ambitions: If you're not going to play for " Liverpool or Man United " What would you like to be? Am considering Architecture for 3rd level College.

When did you start playing for Leicester Celtic? 2011

Other Sports that you like or Play? I'm very keen on Triathlon, Swim Bike & Run, and train a couple of times a week at this as well.

Favourite TV or Movie: Stranger Things & Shrek!

Favourite Band? Not big into music. **Anything else that you want to say:** Although I enjoy The triathlon as an individual sport, I look forward weekly to the group & social aspect of football.



MESSAGE FROM GERRY WHELAN, LEICESTER CELTIC CHAIRMAN

I hope that our Newsletter finds you all healthy and safe in these very unprecedented times. 2020 has been an extremely hard and difficult year for us all. It now looks like we will be in lockdown for a longer period in 2021 than we all had hoped for. So, although the club is closed at the moment, our newsletter will keep you updated on the various different initiatives and activities we are planning, and will also capture some of the 2020 highlights.

Firstly, thank you everyone for your support and patience during 2020, to the Covid Committee who worked so hard to make sure all our players, coaches and volunteers are kept safe, to all the parents who were such a great help with Covid management at training each evening, to the coaching committee and all our coaches who provided much needed football activity and guidance for all our players, to the coaches who are doing great work and developing our growing girls section, to everyone involved in our successful and growing Academy, to everyone who helped with the tidy up and painting of the club house in the first lockdown and especially to all on the Executive committee for their amazing work in 2020 and their hard work, commitment and support not just in 2020, but over many years.

Here's hoping that 2021 will be a much better year for us all.

Please everyone, stay safe and healthy,

Gerry Whelan,
Chairman LCFC

