

## 2018 Dublin Cup

Thursday 23/03

Denmark were met at the airport by our committee member Paul Carroll and have arrived safely at the hotel. Checked in, fed and raring to go.

Rep of Ireland check in at 17.00 today with our visitors from N.Irl arriving lunch time tomorrow.

Well the first match is done and dusted. Celbridge Town FC 6, Denmark 1.

Denmark gifted Celbridge with an early OG coming off the back of a defender, 4 came from open play with the 6th coming from an obvious penalty from a hand ball. Denmark's consolation goal was well worked and finished.

Tomorrow see's Rep of Irl take on Denmark at 16.00 and N.Irl v Celbridge Town at 18.00.

Friday 24/04

Today's match against Denmark 1-1. A quick free kick from Alan Moore, spilled by the keeper and put away by Sam Carroll. The Irish notably tired after half time and were lucky to concede just one. They did however run themselves into the ground with effort, with the numerous subs adding to the defence. It finished 1-1.

This evening match saw N.Irl take on Celbridge Town. Celbridge were a bit taken aback with the quality of the Northern team. Celbridge being an 11 a side team found it hard to get to grips with the NO offside rule in CP football. The game finished 5-1 to N.Irl.

Tomorrow @18.00 Rep of Irl take on Celbridge Town FC followed @ 20.00 by Denmark v N.Irl.

Saturday 25/03

Preparations are well underway for tonight's game against Celbridge Town with all of our second 7 due to start. Today so far saw us undertake the usual post match analysis from last night followed by a recovery and stretch session in the pool, with a sports psychology and personal development session before lunch. Kick off tonight is 18.00 with N.Irl v Denmark at 20.00.

Tonight's game saw Celbridge Town beat Rep of Ireland 3-0. A very credible show from the Rep of Irl against a highly mobile Celbridge. Man of the match for the Irish was young Charlie Byrne who showed a football intellect far above his years and covered every blade of grass in the opposition's half. He was only kept scoreless by some timely interventions by Celbridge very speedy Aaron Treacy. Overall a good display from the Rep boys even though it was on the end of a loss but interms of development it was a very worthwhile outing.

The second match involved Denmark and N.Irl which was a very evenly matched affair with both sides showing off the technical side of their game. Denmark scored first and held out until the last minute of the match before conceding from a rocket of a free kick from 20 yard.

This set it up for a thriller of a winner takes all scenario for tomorrow morning's match between Rep of Ire and N.Irl. Kick off 10.00

Sunday 26/03

Our friends from Denmark left early after breakfast to catch their flights home. This morning's match between the Rep of Ire and N.Irl was a good football context. The Republic scows after 15 mins with a long range speculative free kick taken by captain Alan Moore. The Republic boys were on top for long spells of the match but conceded two lucky goals, one high shot coming out of the sun and the second a ping pong around the six yard box. The Rep of Irl Guys were unruffled and stuck to the task, some tactical changes confused the opposition and chances ensued until the North readjusted and saw out the game with very disciplined positional play.

The tournament finished with Northern Ireland as winners receiving the trophy at a short presentation which included one to the player of the tournament, as selected by the referees, Charlie Byrne who they said was "one to watch for the future"

Rep of Ireland Development squad:

Mark McGrath, Mark Barry, Dave Rogers, Josh Treacy, Daragh Ruane, Dillion O'Brien, Sam Carroll, Richie Carroll, Alan McCabe, Rob Wixted, Dylan Greer, Mat Foy, Captain Alan Moore and player of the tournament Charlie Byrne.

The aim of this tournament was development and that was achieved in spades.