**Year 10s Secure South Devon Futsal Title**

On the last Tuesday of half term, the Year 10 Futsal team were victorious in the South Devon Futsal finals held on home turf at the Waterleat Road Hub.

As a result of the team’s excellent commitment towards lunchtime football club, the Academy was fortunate enough to field two strong teams into the competition, where they would compete against some of the best footballing outfits in South Devon.

In game one, both teams were given a difficult a start against their A and B team counterparts from Torquay Boys Grammar School (TBGS), the same teams who eliminated them in extra time at the semi-final stage of last year’s competition.

There was no mention of the word ‘revenge’ within both camps; however the disappointment of last year’s exit did provide the teams with an added incentive as kick-off drew closer, and it was the home teams who were able to start the tournament in the most positive manner.

Despite a slow start, the ‘A’ team went on to gain a 4-1 win over the TBGS ‘B’ team, thanks to goals from Jack Winsor, Callum Nightingale and a double from Ollie Groves, while the ‘B’ team recorded an exceptional 4-2 win over the TBGS ‘A’ team, with Alfie Slough proving the hardest man to stop for the ‘boys in blue’.

This meant that both teams were at the top of their pools after the first set of fixtures!

As game 2 progressed, the ‘B’ team were to suffer their only loss of the competition, as they went down 1-0 to the hotly tipped St Cuthbert Mayne team. Not even some heroics from ‘man of the match’, Ben Heal, in goal could keep the ‘team in red’ at bay.

The ‘A’ team however picked up where they left off in game 1, as they dismantled a spirited Dawlish team 5-0, thanks to a superb hat trick from Winsor and solitary goals from Nightingale and the impressive Liam McCluskey.

The ‘B’ team knew that they had to win their third and final match of their 4 team pool to stand a chance of progressing to the next round, and they ably delivered an excellent 2-1 win over Teign School ‘A’ team to finish runners up in Group B, thanks to some sharp shooting from Slough and Charlie Rowe.

After the ‘B’ team success, the ‘A’ team set their sights on cementing their position at the top of Group A with a win against last year’s finalists, Newton Abbot College. Things seemed to be going incredibly well, as the team built up a 3-1 lead with only 4 minutes left to play, as Winsor, Groves and Nightingale continued their impressive goal scoring feats. However Newton Abbot proved to be an incredibly hard nut to crack, as they levelled the game at 3-3 with less than a minute left on the clock. Not to be denied a third straight win, the PCSA boys dug deep and were rewarded for their persistence as the prolific Nightingale nipped in to restore the PCSA lead in the dying minutes of the game, bringing the final score to 4-3.

The ‘A’ team were already guaranteed top spot in their group as they played out their final group game against the well organised Teign ‘B’ team. Nonetheless, they were still solid and professional in their approach as they delivered their fourth win from four games. The 2-1 score line didn’t tell the whole story and the team had goalkeeper, Tommy Caulfield, to thank for some excellent saves in the last few stages of the game as he single-handedly preserved not only their lead, but also their 100% record in the competition.

Both teams finished in the top two places of their respective pools, meaning that the Academy had two teams in the top four places in the competition, which was a fantastic achievement.

The focus was then for both teams to finish in the competition’s podium positions: the ‘B’ team played out the third and fourth play-off against the runners-up in Group A, Newton Abbot College, while the ‘A’ team contested the final of the competition against the winners of Group B, St Cuthbert Mayne.

Both games were of high-quality and were incredibly hard fought encounters.

The third place play-off proved to be the closest game of the day, finishing 1-1 at the end of extra time, meaning the winners of the bronze medal match would be decided via a dreaded penalty shootout.

The PCSA boys were incredibly calm from the spot, with Sam O’Mara and Jack Mogg both netting in emphatic fashion. However, there was still work to be done and it was Ben Heal as goalkeeper who proved to be the man of the moment, keeping out two Newton Abbot spot kicks, and securing a dramatic 2-1 win on penalties.

With the bronze medal already on its way home, the ‘A’ team wanted to add a gold medal to the PCSA haul as they played out the final of the competition on Court 1. They took an early lead thanks to a fantastic strike from their ‘man of the tournament’, Chris Mahon, but the team failed to break Cuthbert Mayne any further, due to some excellent work by the away team goalkeeper. A huge deflection off the PCSA goal scorer, Mahon, saw Cuthbert regain parity in extremely fortuitous circumstances. As the game headed into the final thirty seconds of play, appearing to be heading into extra time, PCSA were awarded a free kick on the edge of the Cuthbert Mayne area. Jack Winsor stood over the ball, knowing that a goal from this set piece would leave Cuthbert Mayne little to no time to create a response. He stepped up and put an incredible strike into the top corner of the net to restore the PCSA lead with less than 10 seconds on the clock, to which their opponents had no reply!

As the final whistle blew, the boys in Blue were able to celebrate being crowned South Devon Futsal Champions!

A first and third place is a fantastic achievement for all the boys involved. Their hard work and dedication to their training is clearly having the desired effect on their success!

Well done boys!

Mr Smith

PE Teacher





