



Allianz CNB Doire Indoor Football Finals 2023

Our Allianz CNB Doire Indoor Football Finals took place today at Meadowbank Sports Arena in Magherafelt. Boys and girls from all over our county came to take part in this year's tournament. Our City schools were joined by primary schools from North & South Derry in what proved to be a festival of football.

Allianz CNB Doire Indoor Boys Football Tournament



We had two groups in the Boys Football Tournament today.

In Group A we had the boys from Sacred Heart PS, St Patrick's & St Joseph's PS Glenullin, St Brigid's PS Tirkane, St John's PS, Termoncanice PS and Knocknagin PS.

With four wins and one draw from their five group games it was the City boys from Sacred Heart PS who topped the group with the boys from St Brigid's PS Tirkane finishing as runners up. The group

game between these two teams was a titanic battle with Sacred Heart winning on a scoreline of 3-0 to 2-2 with the winning goal coming with literally the last kick of the game!

In Group B we had the boys from Hollybush PS, St Canice PS Dungiven, St Mary's PS Greenlough, Glendermott PS, Broadbridge PS & New Row PS..

With four wins and a draw from their five group games it was the boys from Castledawson - New Row PS who finished top of the group with the boys from St Mary's PS Greenlough finishing as runners up. Indeed these two teams couldn't be separated in the Group game with the game ending in a draw - Greenlough 3-0 to New Row's 2-3 - maybe this was a sign of things to come!

Allianz CNB Doire Indoor Boys Football Semi-finals

And so we were down to the last four.

In the first semifinal Mr Mc Guigan's Sacred Heart boys took on Mr Meehan's boys from Greenlough. It was a titanic battle between two very evenly matched teams. The game finished level at normal time and so an extra 3 minutes was called for! Such tension! In the end the boys from Greenlough turned on the after-burners and scored 2 great goals to run out winners. Joy for St Mary's PS Greenlough but heartbreak for the Sacred Heart lads! What a match!!

In the second semifinal Mr Hasson's New Row boys took on Mrs Downey's boys from Tirkane - a South Derry Derby! Tirkane played well and fought to the bitter end but there was just no stopping New Row and they won out to reach the County Final. Hard luck to Tirkane!

Allianz CND Doire Indoor Boys Football Final 2023



The scene was set for our **Allianz CND Doire Indoor Boys Football Final 2023** between St Mary's PS, Greenlough and New Row PS, Castledawson. Mr Meehan said before the game that he was 'so p;roud of his players for having got this far and anything more was going to be a real bonus'. Mrs Graffin arrived to give her young men a Good-luck team talk and had all her fingers crossed for them to bring home the coveted title of County Champions.

Both teams gave their all in a great battle. The standard of football displayed was simply superb. In the end it was the boys from New Row PS Castledawson who simply oozed class and played fantastic football to defeat the boys from Greenlough. St Mary's had battled right to the end but they just couldn't do anything to stop the New Row juggernaut! They should be very proud of their efforts

and a county silver medal was just reward for their endeavours on the day. Mr Meehan was very proud of his players and I don't think he had a voice left after all his vocal encouragement of his team throughout the day!

New Row PS and Mr Hasson can bask in the glory of becoming the **2023 Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Doire Indoor Boys Football Champions** - a fantastic achievement. They will now go on to represent Derry in the Ulster Football Finals in Meadowbank Sports Arena on Tuesday 28th March. Everyone associated with Allianz CNB Doire wishes them all the very best in their quest for glory.

Allianz CNB Doire Indoor Girls Football Tournament

We had two groups in the Girls Football Tournament today.

In Group A we had the girls from St John's PS, St Mary's PS Gortnaghey, Derrychrin PS, Steelstown PS, Faughanvale PS and St Eoghan's PS, Moneyneena.

This was a very tight group with three teams ending up with four wins each. The standard of football was excellent and in the end it came down to scoring difference and head to head results. In the end the girls from St Mary's PS Gortnaghey topped the group with St Eoghan's PS Moneyneena squeezing through as runners up. A huge hard luck to the girls from St John's PS who were so unlucky to miss out.

In Group B we had the girls from Sacred Heart PS, St Canice PS Dungiven, St Brigid's PS Tirkane, Hollybush PS, St John's PS Dernaflaw & St Columba's PS Kilrea.

With five wins from their five group games it was the impressive girls from Dungiven - St Canice PS who finished top of the group with the girls from St Brigid's PS Tirkane finishing as runners up.

Allianz CNB Doire Indoor Girls Football Semi-finals

Excitement grew amongst the girls as we moved on to our semi-finals. In the first of these Tirkane and Gortnaghey produced a very exciting game with play ebbing and flowing from end to end. There was some brilliant football on show and no shortage of effort by both teams. In the end the Tirkane girls squeezed through, much to Mrs Downey's delight, to reach the County Final. Gortnaghey can count themselves very unlucky and will be rightly disappointed to have missed out in the end.

In the second semi-final there was a great battle between the girls from Moneyneena and Dungiven. Both teams gave their all in a pulsating game but ultimately the girls from Moneyneena had just too much for the galant Dungiven girls and gthey marched into the County Final. Hard luck to the Dungiven girls who had promised so much in the group games but just couldn't make it count in the semi-final.

Allianz CND Doire Indoor Girls Football Final 2023



The stage was set for our **Allianz CND Doire Indoor Girls Football Final 2023** between St Eoghan's PS Moneyneena and St Brigid's PS Tirkane. Mrs Molloy was hoping to go one better this time than the Boys Hurling Final last week. Mrs Downey's girls were hoping to do the Double and win the Football Crown after capturing the Camogie title last week.

The game flowed from end to end with both defences on top and very few scores being conceded. The standard of football was excellent and there was no shortage of effort from any player. Both teams had chances to score goals in a frantic last few minutes. A penalty for Tirkane with the last kick won the game for them in the end. It was a cruel blow to the Moneyneena girls who had come so close to victory themselves.

St Brigid's PS Tirkane and Mrs Downey be very proud of becoming the **2023 Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Doire Indoor Girls Football Champions** - a fantastic achievement alongside their Camogie Crown already secured. They will now go on to represent Derry in the Ulster Football Finals in Meadowbank Sports Arena on Tuesday 28th March. Everyone associated with Allianz CND Doire wishes them all the very best in their quest for glory.

Thank you

A huge thanks to all of the boys and girls who took part in today's competitions. Thank you to our teachers and assistants for bringing the pupils to the tournament and looking after them so well. The behaviour of each and every pupil was exemplary and great sportsmanship and manners were shown at all times.

Thank you to our three referees today - Ferghal Hurley, Maurice Corrigan & Peter Walls. These men did a great job and we are very grateful for their presence with us today.

Thank you to Meadowbank Sports Arena staff particularly Clare Mc Garrity for their warm welcome and hospitality throughout the day.

Good luck to New Row and Tirkane in the Ulster Finals!!



























