



# Sittlington Cup Final



**7<sup>th</sup> May 2018, Bangor Fuels Arena, 6.30pm**

# DAWFL Chairman's Message

IAN FRAZER

As always I would like to take this opportunity to thank all clubs for taking part in this year's Sittlington Cup and congratulate both Newtownards Royal British Legion and Vision Athletic in reaching this year's Final, which is a great achievement in itself. Like all of us in attendance tonight I am looking forward to a fair, but competitive final, which I'm sure both teams will not disappoint in providing.

It would be remiss of me not to also highlight my gratitude to the highly competent group of match officials that have officiated in the competition along the way, with our legendary Referee Convenor Jimmy Fegan deserving a special mention for his mentoring and work behind the scenes that often goes unnoticed.

I would like to thank Sportzone NI for the use of their ground and facilities for this season's final.



## Route to the Final

### Round 1

#### Date

<i>Saturday, 4 November</i>	<i>Vision Athletic</i>	<i>6-2</i>	<i>North Down</i>
<i>Saturday, 18 November</i>	<i>Comber Rec III</i>	<i>1-10</i>	<i>Newtownards RBL</i>

### Round 2

#### Date

<i>Saturday, 16 December</i>	<i>3rd Bangor</i>	<i>1-6</i>	<i>Newtownards RBL</i>
<i>Saturday, 3 February</i>	<i>Belvoir</i>	<i>2-3</i>	<i>Vision Athletic</i>

### Quarter Finals

#### Date

<i>Saturday, 07 April</i>	<i>Ballygowan</i>	<i>0-2</i>	<i>Vision Athletic</i>
<i>Saturday, 07 April</i>	<i>Newtownards RBL</i>	<i>5-2</i>	<i>8th OB</i>

### Semi Finals

#### Date

<i>Tuesday, 17 April</i>	<i>Newtownards RBL</i>	<i>2-1</i>	<i>Ards Rangers III</i>
<i>Tuesday, 17 April</i>	<i>Clonduff</i>	<i>1-3</i> <i>AET</i>	<i>Vision Athletic</i>

### Final

#### Date

<i>Monday, 07 May</i>	<i>Vision Athletic</i>	<i>v</i>	<i>Newtownards RBL</i>
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## A brief look at Newtownards Royal British Legion.....

Newtownards Royal British Legion Football Club (RBLFC) is a recently established club, formed in 2012.

Club Chairman Gary Anderson, spoke to the youthful members of the British Legion, about the possibility of forming a football team, with the aim of promoting the philosophy and ethos of the organisation within the local community through sport. David Shields was appointed team manager with the initial remit of gathering a squad of players together. After a short period of time a squad was formed and friendly matches were sought against local teams in their inaugural year.

A committee with knowledge in local football was formed to help guide the management and team in the right direction. In the 2013/14 season Newtownards RBL competed in the B.B.O.B League and after two seasons of competitive football applied for admission into the DAWFL for the 2015/16 season.

After a successful application and interview process the 1st team was placed into Division 1 and as the club grew in stature players with more quality were attracted to the club. Increasing numbers also provided the basis for a reserve team to be formed.

As the club continues to develop and progress they have been attracting interest from many people in the local football community.

Unfortunately in our inaugural season in the DAWFL the club were unable to gain promotion, but did win the Frank Moore Memorial Cup under the guidance of current Manager, Gary Barclay who had taken over from David Shields mid-season. Season 2016/17 not only seen the club gain promotion to the Premier League of the DAWFL, but also lift the Sittlington Cup. 2017/18 has seen further success come to the Club, with the Billy Allen Memorial Shield being won on Easter Monday.

**Chairman:** Gary Anderson

**Treasurer:** Peter Irvine

**Secretary:** Toni McCullough

**Committee Members:** David Shields, Neville Dugan, Jonathan Cameron, Mark McAlister



## Newtownards Royal British Legion

### **Andrew Murdoch**, Goalkeeper

(Rosemount)

An excellent keeper, a great talker and organiser of his defence. His heroic last minute saves in the semi-final took us through to tonight's game

### **John McIlveen**, Goalkeeper

(Ards Rangers, Comber Rec, Portavogie Rangers)

Goalkeeper with a wealth of amateur league experience, commands his box superbly and possesses great kicking ability.

### **Colin Nixon**, Defence

(Portavogie, Ards Rangers, Killyleagh)

"Onion" is our most experienced player- a classy footballer who always keeps it simple and reads the game extremely well, has excelled in goals this years with a string of excellent performances.

### **Peter McCallum**, Defence / Midfield

(Lagan Swifts)

Peter is the clubs latest signing. A strong defender who has fitted in well both on and off the pitch.

### **Kris Gardiner**, Defence / Midfield

(Bangor YM)

Hard to decide his best position as he is equally as good in defence or midfield. A real box to box player who never stops working for the team.

### **David Keenan**, Defence

(Abbey Villa, Portavogie, Ards Rangers, Ballywalter, Rosemount, Brentwood)

A solid and very dependable defender, David is one of the fittest players at our club and solid as a rock at the back. Puts some of the younger players to shame.

### **Gareth Donnan**, Defence

(Ards Rangers)

Gareth started the season very well at full back with a number of assured performances, unfortunately Gareth picked up an injury which has not healed in time to be in contention for a place in tonight's match squad.

### **Gary Lavery**, Defence

(Moat Park Rangers, Civil Service)

"GI" is a very dependable & consistent defender who hasn't had the opportunity to play as many games as we all would like this season. Plays with his heart on his sleeve.

### **Mark Liddell**, Defence / Midfield

(Ards Rangers, Ards Reserves, 1st Bangor, Hollywood, Groomspport, Shorts, North Down)

A no nonsense defender who is always composed and confident on the ball and has been one of our most consistent performers this season.

### **Josh Lowry**, Midfield

(Brentwood)

Josh on his day has the ability and raw talent to change games. An extremely fit, pacey forward thinking player with an eye for goal.

### **Reece Thompson**,

(North Down, Rosemount)

Welcome late addition to RBL ranks. Brings youth, fitness, determination and talent.

### **Ian Henderson**, Defence / Midfield

(Bangor Rangers, Portavogie Rangers)

"Hendy" forced his way into the 1st team squad this season with a number of impressive performances, has a great attitude. Loves getting forward.

### **Ryan Brown**, Midfield

(Bangor, H&W Welders, Brentwood)

Ryan is the Club Captain and leads by example. Ryan has energy to burn and causes defences problems with his pace, works extremely hard for the team and has scored a number of vital goals including a brace in the semi-final.

### **Andrew Pitman**, Midfield

(Abbey Villa, Rosemount)

Andrew has a superb range of passing when playing out from defence, excellent reader of the game and very versatile player who has played in a number of positions this season.

### **Jonathan Grainger**, Midfield

(Ravenhill YM, Agape, Brentwood)

The "Caretaker" is a No-nonsense tough tackler, a constant worker and one of the most solid players in the squad.

### **Jordan Kelly**, Midfield

(Abbey Villa)

Jordan is a really pacey winger who excels down the left flank, takes people on at every opportunity, delivers an excellent cross and has scored important goals.

### **Craig McCullough**, Midfield

(Brentwood, Greenwell Star)

Craig has energy to burn and causes defences all sorts of problems with his pace, works very hard for the team, and gets into dangerous positions. Suffered a fracture 6 weeks ago and is working hard to be fit for tonight's game.

### **Stuart Cameron**, Midfield

(Ards, Groomspport, Ards Rangers, Brentwood)

Stu is seen by many to be the best players in the DAWFL, a class act in the middle of the park with tremendous energy. Very unfortunate to suffer a leg break just before Christmas which ended his season.

### **Gavin Macartney**, Striker

(Shorts, Groomspport, North Down, Brentwood)

Gavin is a very dependable & consistent player who has played a lot this season on the wing as well as pitching in with a number of important goals. Gavin has won everything there is to win in the DAWFL.

### **Jonathan Cash**, Striker

(Abbey Villa, Comber Rec., Ards, 1st Bangor, Portavogie, Groomspport, Ards Rangers, Brentwood)

One of the best 'strikers in the local game for a number of years, a player who finds it easy to create space for himself and others all over the pitch, defenders struggle to cope with him.

### **Tristan McCormick**, Striker

(Ards Youth, Brentwood)

One of the most naturally gifted players at the Club, another player who has missed a long part of the season due to injury, has been working hard on his fitness to be in contention for tonight's game.

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## ***A brief look at Vision Athletic.....***

*Vision Athletic was formed by Hugh McKillop in 1998 and has had a firm presence in the local football scene ever since. Competing in the Down Area Winter Football League, the club has been playing in the Premier Division for the last ten years since their promotion in 2008. The cross-community club is very cosmopolitan in its nature and, as well as providing football for the Belfast-based players, has become a home-from-home for those who have come to Belfast to work from all over the UK, Ireland and indeed throughout the world.*

*Treasurer: James Quinn*

*Secretary: Emmet Colton*

*Committee Members:*

*Ciaran Gorman, Liam Tunney, Paul Connolly, Cormac Craig, Eamonn Devlin, Brian Carr, Kyle Owens, Gerard McAllister*

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## Vision Athletic

### **Stevie Hewitt**, Goalkeeper

A Vision Athletic veteran, Stevie's goalkeeping, communication and distribution have been integral to the team's run to the final, pulling off a number of important saves in the semi's against Clonduff.

### **Thomas McGuckin**, Centre-Back

Thomas has been an ever-present fixture of the Vision defence all season. A great header of the ball, he has proved just as important in the opposition's penalty area as his own.

### **Paddy Bradley**, Centre-Back

Paddy's pace, tackling and reading of the game, give the Vision team confidence to take risks further up the field, and with his ball carrying abilities he can quickly get the team moving and turn defence into attack.

### **Mark Lynch**, Full-Back

The 1st team player/manager, Mark's communication is a calming influence on the defence. Confident receiving the ball under-pressure, his link up play is the basis of much of Vision's attack.

### **Stewart Finn**, Full-Back

Vision's club captain and longest serving player, Stewart's willingness to get forward helps the team keep the pressure on high up the pitch. If the team are pushing for goal, Stewart is a constant outlet who can deliver the killer ball.

### **Liam Tunney**, Centre-Back/Full-Back

St John's (Manchester)  
Part of the Vision 2nd's team that won the club's most recent silverware, ('11-'12 Mervyn Bassett Cup) Liam is a tough tackler that has given the team a much needed lift throughout the season with his energy and enthusiasm.

### **Olivier Toulezet**, Full-Back

Olivier is one of the club's most experienced players, and, after a few seasons away, he returned last year and quickly showed why he is considered such an important player for the club. A smart defender that reads the game well, and refuses to give his man time on the ball.

### **Sean Corr**, Full-Back/Winger

This is Sean's first year with Vision and he has quickly established himself as an important member of the first team. With a great performance in the semi-final Sean showed he is just as effective in defence as he is in attack.

### **James McCrory**, Full-Back/Winger

An important member of Vision 2nd's unbeaten team this season, James is a consistent and effective wing player. Confident dribbling with the ball, he recently earned a number of call-ups to the first team for his ability to change a game with his pace and direct running.

### **James Quinn**, Forward/Midfielder

James has been scoring and assisting goals all season in Vision 2nd's unbeaten league campaign. A tidy and intelligent footballer, his performances recently earned him a call-up to the 1st team.

### **Ciaran Doherty**, Midfielder

Ciaran made the move from the Vision 2nd team earlier in the season and his defensive discipline has been vital to the team's improvement over the past few months. A tough and confident competitor, his goal in the semi-final shows how important he is to the team.

### **Daragh Doherty**, Midfielder

Along with his brother Ciaran, Daragh has become an integral part of the Vision 1st's this season. His set-pieces and delivery in the final third have seen him rack-up a huge number of assists to go along with some important goals throughout the campaign.

### **Pierce Hunt**, Midfielder

Pierce is a smart and disciplined midfielder that reads the game incredibly well. Always communicating and making small adjustments to the midfield, he has a knack for seeking out danger and shutting it down.

### **Emmet Colton**, Midfielder

Another member of the last Vision team to win silverware, Emmet is one of the longest tenured players at the club. Emmet's energy and positional play provide an important link between defence and attack.

### **Mark Napier**, Winger

The most recent addition to the club, Mark has slotted straight into the Vision 1st's starting 11. His pace and close control mean he is a constant threat going forward and he has already provided a number of important goals and assists in his young Vision career.

### **Tom Kennedy**, Winger/Forward

Starting his debut season with the club as a striker, Tom has played most of the recent months as a wide attacker. His pace and ability to stretch the opposing teams defence offers an immediate outlet and, with a goal in the semi-final, he showed that still has the ability to get on the scoresheet from a wide position.

### **Gerard Quinn**, Forward

Gerard started the season in defence but made the switch to centre-forward after the team's slow start to the campaign. Quickly becoming the top goalscorer, it is no coincidence that Gerard's move up the pitch coincided with the team's climb up the table. The team captain and most vocal player, he has been central to many of the team's best performances this season.

### **Mark Graham**, Forward

Mark has been scoring important goals for Vision since his debut season in 2011-2012, most recently in the semi-final versus Clonduff. Another member of the Mervyn Bassett winning team - Vision's last final appearance - his experience and smart forward-play make him a handful for defenders.

### **Aaron Ayre**, Forward

Starting the year as a permanent fixture in Vision's starting 11, Aaron's season has been interrupted by a series of niggling injuries. Back fit in time for the run-in, he offers a different option in attack with his link-up play and intelligent running.

## Manager Focus – Gary Barclay (Newtownards RBL)



**Name:** Gary Barclay

**Who did you play for?** Ards Rangers, Killyleagh, Comber Rec., North Down, Brentwood, RBL

**Other Teams Managed?** Brentwood

**What do you look for in a player?** Ability and attitude, you have to have both

**Proudest football moment?** Although winning the treble with Brentwood was a great achievement, I would rank higher winning last season's Sittlington Cup with the RBL as we were a Division One team then.

**Why do you enjoy being a manager?** Enjoy working with players on the training pitch and match day tactical planning

**Favourite Manager?** Pep Guardiola

**Anything that people would be surprised to know about you?** I own a wedding band called Impact

## Manager Focus – Mark Lynch (Vision Athletic)



**Name:** Mark Lynch

**Age:** 34

**Who did you play for?** Park FC

**Other Teams Managed?** N/A

**What do you look for in a player?** I think a good work rate is very important in the game. I like to see players prepared to work with/without the ball. Also, players with good decision making skills, playing the right ball at the right time.

**Proudest football moment?** Playing Intermediate football with my home club, enjoyed those days immensely.

**Favourite Manager?** Carlo Ancellotti

**Why do you enjoy being a manager?** I enjoy the comradery. The knowledge that you are all part of a team working together to win, all willing to help each other out.