

Roots Shoots 2010

Twelve five-a-side teams, from as far apart as Wick and Lochcarron took part in the annual **Roots Shoots** football tournament. It was held at Dingwall Academy's all weather pitch on Saturday 13 March.

There were 6 teams from Inverness: Smithton/Culloden; Free North/Greyfriars; Inshes; Hilton; Kinmylies A and B who travelled to Dingwall together by coach.

The other six teams came from Wick; Lochcarron; Invergordon; Tain and Ferintosh.

Each team was organised locally through a church, most having a connection to the monthly Roots event, which is aimed at supporting church youth groups across the Highlands.

One of the organisers, Davy MacLellan of Tain Free Church, said “we had former Rangers' player Marvin Andrews at our tournament last year and Brian Irvine was due to attend this year, but unfortunately he was called up to work for the BBC at the last minute. However, we prayed for a good football tournament where the gospel would be clearly presented to the young people. God answered our prayers.”

The teams were split into three groups of four: Hilton, Tain A, Inshes and Smithton/Culloden reached the semifinals of the 'Champions League' while Lochcarron, Free North/Greyfriars, Invergordon and Kinmylies were put in the 'Europa League'.

Tain A defeated Smithton/Culloden 1-0 in the Champions League final – *Player of the Tournament* Sam Brennan scored the winning goal. Free North/Greyfriars won the Europa League final after a penalty shoot-out with Invergordon.

Charleston Academy pupil Christopher Donnelly, who played for Kinmylies B team won the *Biggest Hearted Player* award.

Marina MacDonald, of Smithton Free Church, who has played in the USA on a football scholarship, presented the medals and the hard-fought-for **Roots Shoots** trophy.

After the finals all the teams were given a big welcome from Dingwall Free Church who put on an all-you-can-eat lunch. Rev Angus Macrae came clean from the start by admitting to his own lack of football prowess and his interest in a sport called rugby! However, having read from Ephesians Chapter 1 v 1-14 he went on to speak of our truly amazing God - using analogies from the world of football - the Father who calls us, the Son who buys us and the Holy Spirit who marks us.

Afterwards Davy MacLellan commented, “the event was a huge success, as the Gospel was preached, there was a great sense of friendship amongst the teams and good competitive football was enjoyed by all. The players were all asking when and where the next one would be.”

For more information on Roots Shoots or on Roots (a monthly S1-6 youth event) check out www.gotroots.co.uk