

# Bannockburn News

Issue 23: June 2008



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## YOUR COMMENTS

For Bannockburn News to stay a success we need your comments and contributions. Let us know what you think. Giving us your comments couldn't be easier. You can:

Phone Derek Robertson on 01786 489 301 or Joe Smith on 07802 186 608

By letter to The Editor, Bannockburn News c/o 52 Myreton Drive, Bannockburn, FK7 8PX.

Email us at:

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Our deadline for contributions for the next issue is:

**Friday 18 July 2008**

## 'Burn Goes Global

BY DEREK ROBERTSON

**W**e reported last month

about Bannockburn On-line. Well . . . it's doing great.

The website ([www.bannockburn.co.uk](http://www.bannockburn.co.uk)) is still evolving but already it's being used by people far and wide.

Our man in the know, John Dreczkowski tells us that it gets over 2500 hits each month. People from Philippines, Argentina and Canada to name but some countries are accessing the site, asking questions and making contributions. What they value is the connection to Bannockburn, the chance to see photos from the past and to share stories and memories. I'm sure it will get used more and more.

And as for Bannockburn News, we know that some 600 people have accessed previous issues on line.

It truly is another way to get "Local News to the Local People"

## Youth Church Donation

The kids saved their tuck shop money (and did without their sweets) for 6 weeks during Lent on the run up to Easter. With their savings they bought gifts for people around the world from the World Vision gift catalogue.

Here is the kids' with the cards from World Vision. Their names are (clockwise from top left) April, Joanne, Megan, Natasha, Fraser, David & Jack. The gifts they bought were:

- 1) A Meal for 70 children in a drop in centre in Cambodia
- 2) A mosquito net to prevent somebody in Zambia contracting HIV/AIDS or malaria through mosquito bites
- 3) A tap to provide clean water for a family in Sri Lanka
- 4) 10 fruit trees for a family in Senegal so that they can earn income and feed their family a healthy diet.

We are really proud of these kids! They have learned valuable lessons - that there are so many things we take for granted and that there are many people in the world who need our help. It just shows you what difference saving a few pennies a week can make to somebody's life.

The Youth Church meet on Wednesday nights 6.30 - 7.45 in the Allan church Hall. Age 5 upwards - all welcome.

Heather McKail, Youth Leader



## The News Needs a Help

**Bannockburn News needs a volunteer to put the publication together every two months.**

The job involves meeting the Bannockburn News Team and then using Microsoft Publisher to slot the articles and photos into the usual 8-page structure.

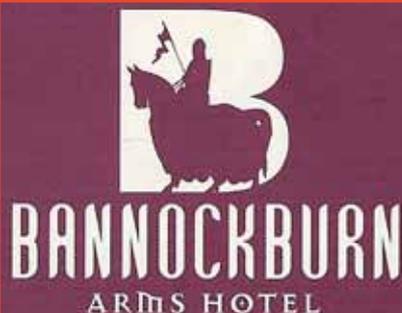
Once everything is in place it takes a few hours to lay it out.

After proof reading the final stage is emailing it to our printers.

MS Publisher usually comes with new PCs that have Microsoft Office and the only other thing you need is a programme to resize the photographs people send us. Again most PCs have this already there.

So if you want to join the team of Derek, Joe, James, John, Jane, Rhiannon and Stevie, please get in touch.

Go on. Get in touch. Volunteer your skills and ideas to keep the Bannockburn News a success.



*fresh . . .  
. . . team  
. . . menu  
. . Interior*

Telephone 01786 813 456



# Jim Reid

BY STEVIE HUGHES

**Jim Reid is June's Local Character, with a special focus on his role as Honorary Chairman of Bannockburn Amateur FC.**

Jim moved to Bannockburn over 30 years ago after marrying local girl Margaret Ann Cochrane. Together they have a daughter Ginanne, son in law Paul and two grandchildren, Chloe and Jamie Leigh. Jim works as an Assistant Warehouse Manager at WH Malcolm's in Grangemouth. In his youth, Jim played for the Boys' Brigade, Cornton Rovers and Stirling Boys Club, but gave up playing at 16 when he started shift work.



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Experience*

History shows that Liverpool FC were born as a result of a dispute over Everton's refusal to meet a rent increase at Anfield. It was interesting to discover from Jim that Bannockburn AFC were founded as a result of Cambusbarron Rovers winning the cup in 1968. A conversation in the Tartan Arms resulted in John McQue asking the question: **"If they can win the Scottish Cup, then why can't we?"** Or was it a statement: **"If they can win it, then so can we!"**

It was decided that John should apply to Stirling Amateur League for membership of Bannockburn Amateurs FC. John Todd and Nagie Carney offered to run the team with John as Secretary. The first strip was yellow tops and black shorts, but when their first opponents, Blackadders from Falkirk, turned up with the same strips, John's mum dug out some old white old shirts which belonged to John and his brother Joey. The club won its first game and went on to win the Third Division Championship that year (1968-69). They won the Robertson Cup and Matheson Cup in 1971 and in only their 4<sup>th</sup> season (1971-72) with John Todd still as manager Bannockburn AFC reached the first of 5 Scottish Cup finals. Unfortunately Douglas AFC won 2-0.

Another defeat in 1981 to Knockentiber was followed by 3 successes. Firstly (and possibly Jim's favourite match) a 2 – 0 win in 1987 against Motherwell Miners. Next was a 3 – 1 victory against Blantyre Thistle and their 3<sup>rd</sup> success coming in a 3 – 2

victory against Galston United. Jim recalls this one as **"just a great game of football to watch"**.

The club have also won the West of Scotland Cup in 1983, 2001 and 2002. In 1983 Bannockburn joined the Caledonian League and have been champions on 6 occasions: 84/85, 96/97, 99/00, 00/01, 04/05. With 4 games to spare they clinched this season's League Championship helping to celebrate their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in style.

To mark this milestone, the club is having a 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Night on the 1 August with players from the early years, the 3 Scottish Cup and 3 West of Scotland Cup winning teams along with current players and honorary members being contacted. The evening will include special guests Brian McGinley, John Gahagan and SFA Chief Executive Gordon Smith.



Jim's own route to Honorary Chairman started as a supporter 25

years ago, then helping out with duties such as lining pitches, organising half time drinks, etc. He then became match secretary, secretary and chairman.

Jim was quick to praise the current team and management duo of Robert Beaton and Dougie Todd for winning the league quite convincingly and hopes that they can go on and set a league record of 45 points by winning their last two games.

The average age of the current squad is early 20's and although they lost out in the 6<sup>th</sup> round of the Scottish Cup this year, Jim is convinced the players will have: **"gained valuable experience for another tilt at the**



**trophy next year"**.

Jim was clear about the different roles required to make a successful club, with players and coaches allowed to get on with the playing side, whilst committed volunteers strive to put the correct structure in place to support the team. Evidence of this is that Bannockburn AFC were awarded Charter Club status from Sports Club Stirling. This award is to **"Encourage the establishment and operation of structured, safe sports clubs, with the potential to develop and expand accordingly"**.

Following on from this in March this year, Gordon McAuley was presented with the SFA Standard Quality Mark from First Minister Alex Salmond at Hampden Park on the night of the Scotland v Croatia match. This award marks Bannockburn's desire to help support and sustain grassroots football and promote the role of schools and clubs to broaden community participation and to enhance player, coach and volunteer development and best practice in all aspects of club development. Confirmation of this is that 4 years ago the club started a youth team, with the current squad playing at under 19 level and managed by Gordon and Drew Ferry.

As we go to print the under 19's are in the final of the Stenhousemuir Cup against Camelon and we wish them the best of success along with Jim Reid and everyone connected with Bannockburn Amateurs FC past and present.

So in answer to the conversation from 40 years ago: **"Yes we can ... 3 times!"**



# Bannockburn's Industrial History - Coal

BY JOHN DRECKOWSKI

**A**lthough there is little or no physical evidence around Bannockburn of any coal mining activity, coal mining for a few centuries was a major contributor to Bannockburn's well being and development of the community.

Viewing the survey maps of 1860, revised 1896, we can recognise old mine shafts around Corbiewood, Bentheads area, Western Greenyards and Auchenbowie. Although we have no way of determining the operational periods of these shafts due to the slow extraction processes we could expect them to be 50-100 years life of the shafts.

The Muir of Bannockburn indicates 2 old shafts, but more interestingly shows signs of an early mining community with rows of housing and an old disused school. This would be understandable as mine and mill owners provided housing for their workers, normally close to the works as public transport did not exist. It was normal for more than one member of the family to work in the mines including children and women. The men would work the coal and the children and women would transport it to the surface. Working conditions were very dangerous and hard. All works were carried out by hand and transported by human manpower.

Women and children working

underground stopped in 1888, but they continued to work on the surface for some time.

Greenyards Colliery produced from 1830 to 1889. Around 1893 the Alloa Coal Company made a significant investment in coal mining by saw a major step forward in mining methods in Bannockburn. They began sinking shafts at Bannockburn Colliery, to reach the Bannockburn main seam. A second shaft was sunk at Sink Farm in 1903 to harvest the Hartley coals. Both delivered excellent coking coals for foundries. In 1933, Pirnhall mine opened for household coal.

Due to the nature of the seams, all works at the face were by hand. In 1936 Carron Company took owner ship from Alloa Coal Company to secure coking coal resources for their foundries.

The growing use of steam power and advances in electrical equipment changed how coals were mined forever. Where possible, at deeper shafts, mechanical rope and cage systems were needed to carry the coals to the surface from the pit bottom. Coal getting and underground transport systems were also developing, but in the early days of these new types of collieries, pit ponies were to become an important transport tool. This was because the coal faces were

increasingly distant from the pit bottom. The trend to full mechanisation mining would be quickly developed during the following years.

New collieries required a quick and large increase in labour. Bannockburn was now seeing a big migration of miners from other areas, notably from Ireland.

During 1909 a law was passed that allowed local authorities to provide social housing. Previously housing the mine owner supplied it, often to a very poor standard. Colliery villages such as Cowie, Plean and Fallin were built close to the mines and were later upgraded by the NCB and the local authority.

As time moved on and new communities settled to live and integrate together, the coal industry nationalised. Cowie Drift Mine operated Pirnhall to their closure in 1950-60. As larger mines in the Carse coal fields took over, coal production many miners transferred to Carse or Fife collieries. There is no longer any coal production in the Bannockburn nor the Carse fields. Not the most glamorous occupation working in coal, but comradeship and friendship in their hardship was a bye word. I have not gone in to detail as I am sure that there will be folk in the community who will have a better recount of life in the coal industry.

## King Robert Hotel



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## Photo Help - Do you recognise anyone?



Bannockburn Mill workers.

**We had an enquiry through the Bannockburn website for information on who any of these women might be.**

Yes they are Bannockburn Mill workers, maybe from the 1950s perhaps you might know who one or more of them are and correct we have no idea.

If you do know then either email [johnkws@aol.com](mailto:johnkws@aol.com) or call the editor (phone number on Page 1) and leave a message.

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## Dear Daphne . . .

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Daphne is here to provide advice on a range of subjects.

**Q** With summer and the barbeque season coming I need your advice.. The usual pattern is our neighbours invite us over, we say yes, they get drunk and fall out. We go home feeling we've wasted our time. What do you suggest?

**A** Why not invite them over to yours instead? Maybe if they aren't at their own place they might be less inclined to cause a scene. In saying that, if you just want to be left alone, why not join in next time they have a barney, make it even worse and then you'll never be

asked back. Wait until things start getting heated, then accuse the wife of trying to play footsie with you and say she's been flirting with you all night. Announce that she's a tramp and has been putting it about all over town. It will no doubt cause a massive bust up, and will either result in them getting divorced or at the very least no more invites for you. Either way you win !

**Q** My friend will always flirt when we are out and about. It's good because she breaks the ice with strangers and gets us talking with guys. My parents disapprove and have asked me not to go around with her. What can I do?

**A** It just sounds like harmless fun to me. I'm sure your parents are just over-reacting. Of course in my day it was expected that the man made the first move. In fact, they had names for girls that would go chasing men like that, and not exactly nice names either. If you're happy to risk being: gossiped about, cut off from your family and branded a loose woman it's up to you. But remember, floozies never have to buy their own drinks in the pub!

**Got an issue for Daphne?  
Get in touch**



Bannockburn business woman, Heather Dunnell has offered readers special prize of a free house clean to a Bannockburn resident.

**Heathers Domestic Services (07980 176704)**, use eco friendly products and do domestic and commercial cleaning. Their rates are competitive and Heather prides herself on her reliable and professional service.

The question: Guess how many photos have appeared in Bannockburn News articles since it started (23 issues ago)? Answers by email to the

## Beautiful Bannockburn

BY JOE SMITH

**T**wo recent incident in the village have sickened even the most hardened NIMBY's

Firstly a young woman was assaulted in broad daylight as a result of road rage. She was set upon after peeping her car horn when a car pulled out dangerously in front of her at speed. The car stopped and then the youths inside set about her – this all happened across from our Police station.

The second incident resulted in a family man receiving a Police caution for having the temerity of confronting youths who were interfering with his car. Whatever happened to protecting your property. PC Alex Hatrick and his team have been doing a great job recently but surely they could be aided by the young people having more respect for people and property. I ask all parents to start this process at home –

PLEASE!!

**On another note**, several people have asked me to write about the amount of litter that is strewn across the streets of our village, especially after a "normal" Saturday night.

Recently I witnessed two sides of the coin, on Sunday 27 April I was waling along Main Street early in the morning and had to eventually walk on the road. This was because the pavement was a pizza in the making with onions, chilli sauce and rice (along with associated packaging) covering the entire pavement. This was made worse when a bin at the Chinese take away was overturned and the crows were having a bun fight with the contents. I know the solution is to educate people not to behave in such a manner and that the shop keepers should take more re-

sponsibility for outside their own premises. But how welcoming a sight was that Sunday morning landscape for the good citizens of the village on their way to Church or out for a walk in the glorious sunshine when they had to wade through acres of food debris. Can I please ask that all the shopkeepers take the responsibility for the areas outside their premises and also that **we reinstate the Sunday morning road sweeper to clean up after the Saturday night bun fights.**

However my faith in the community was restored a few minutes later when I witnessed the cleaner (Robert) from Ladbrokes not only sweeping the pavement outside the shop but then using a vacuum on the area - a shining example to all. Robert you are my nomination for employee of the YEAR.

# Community Officer Report

BY PC ALEX HATRICK

Email: [alex.hatrick@centralscotland.police.uk](mailto:alex.hatrick@centralscotland.police.uk)

Tel: (01786) 456000

## Crime Prevention Advice

With the better weather arriving soon, can I please ask you to consider the security of your garden tools, lawnmowers and other garden equipment.

I recommend that you store away all your garden tools and equipment securely when not using them. Use either a locked shed or garage to prevent opportunistic thieves from striking.

May I also take this opportunity to remind parents and young people to ensure when they leave their bike for any period of time to make sure it is safe and secure to prevent anyone from stealing it.

If you are also interested in having your bike security marked please pop along to Bannockburn Police Office and I will security mark it for you.

It only takes a few minutes and makes it easier to identify your bike should the Police recover it.

Theft of garden tools and bikes from Bannockburn are low, so let's work together and keep it this way.

## Youth Disorder

Since the start of the year I have been reporting that youths were causing annoyance in the area of the lane to the rear of Telford Court and at Firs Crescent Bannockburn.

In response to this I drew up action plans for both areas, in order to identify how we were going to resolve the issues of anti-social behaviour and vandalism at these locations. I am pleased to report since carrying out increased patrols in these areas and liaising with local residents, there have been no calls in relation to youth disorder.

## Operation IMPACT

Throughout April the IM-



PACT Team has focused in Bannockburn in an effort to prevent and respond to youth disorder on Friday and Saturday evenings.

This has involved the team carrying out extensive foot patrols with officers in uniform and plain clothes.

Police seized 54 litres of alcohol. It is apparent that when the alcohol is seized from the youths there are fewer disorder calls and reports of vandalism.

If any member of the community has any issue they would like to discuss with me please contact at Bannockburn Police Office.

Thank you  
Alex Hatrick 230  
Community Officer



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# Bannockburn Day 2008

BY JOE SMITH

**24 June is the day that we all celebrate the battle of Bannockburn and the victory by Bruce and his men against the might of the English forces led by King Edward II, son of Longshanks.**

To be a nation, Scotland needs a national day, celebrated by a national holiday. Some have called for making St. Andrew's Day such a day. However, St. Andrew was not a Scot and never even visited Scotland. Also, many modern Scots are agnostics and atheists, so a national day dedicated to a Christian Saint would have limited appeal for them. What we need is a day that means something to all Scots, both in Scotland and around the World.

That day can only be June the 24th, the victorious culmination of the Battle of Bannockburn, when Scots, from high lords to lowly camp followers, all contributed - many with their sacred blood - to the astounding victory that made Scotland a nation.

Visit <http://www.petitiononline.com/BBDay/petition.html> to log your vote.

You can also celebrate Bannockburn day with the annual Ceilidh held in the Tartan Arms on Saturday 21 June. The action starts at 5pm when the patriots return from their march from Stirling to the Bruce statue. This year the entertainment is provided by Albannach, Ted Christopher & Gaberlunzie. Tickets are £10.00 each available by calling 07710 096553 or 01786 814523. Slainte'

# Bannockburn Youth Club

The Bannockburn Youth Club continues to develop and it's enjoyable being involved with them.

A minibus load of the Monday night Senior Group enjoyed a trip to Riley's Pool Hall with Kyle, Bob and Jordan winning a tournament each.

The Friday night Junior Club continues with high numbers with around 25 young people. The May trip to Laser Quest had 23 there.

Here are some of the comments from the 11 - 14 year olds who attended: **"Amazing ... Quality, Quality, Quality!!! ... Class, because all your pal's were there ... it was good fun"** and about the club in general: **"Our youth club is really good ... it's the Bomb!"**

Stevie Hughes

# Since Our Last Issue

BY VARIOUS

## Bannockburn RDA

They need your help again. They are looking for a donation of a set of step ladders and a roof ladder. If anyone out there has either and could help they would be very grateful.

Also RDA need some people who could help with some painting and some joiners to help rebuild the dividers between the stables and some one who could sort out some guttering

Contact Alex McArthur on 07878914380.

## Countryside What's On

### Balquhiderock Wood Countryside Action Day

Sunday 8 June 2pm – 4pm

**Volunteers Wanted!** Join the countryside service to remove the very invasive Himalayan balsam before it gets a chance to spread in the ancient woodland. Wear suitable nettle proof clothing.

*Meet at the bottom of central path through the woodland.*

*Booking: Please phone Paula Bell 01786 442541.*

### Orienteering for Beginners – Plean Country Park

Sunday 13th July 1pm – 3pm

Come and try orienteering! A gentle introduction to the sport with a variety of courses to choose from to suit all ages and abilities and plenty of help from the rangers and Forth Valley Orienteers to keep you going in the right direction!

*Meet: Plean Country Park car park.*

### Dog Checks & Dog walks at Plean Country Park

Saturday 26th July 10am – 5.30pm

A great chance to get a Pet Check from the PDSA. Learn how to check the general fitness of your dog, as well as the key health concerns - pet obesity and dental disease. The ranger service will also be there with information on paths for you to explore on your dog walks and information about the Scottish Outdoor Access Code for dog walkers.

*Meet: Plean Country Park car park*

### Youth Football

A number of the boys in the Senior Youth Club have indicated a desire to start a football team. Some of them are undertaking their SFA Level 1 Youth

football Coaching Certificate so that they can help out with the training / coaching side of the team. What they need are some adults to come forward to support them in starting their own club. If you are interested in helping out or able to offer support then please contact Stevie on 07786 911 838.

### Awh Come on Eh

We hear that beautiful areas around the Bannockburn Falls and the Lady Lynn has lots of rubbish building around it including carryouts.

If you are there, for what ever reason, take your rubbish away with you.

If your passing and you notice a piece of rubbish why not take it, safely, to the nearest bin. Just a thought.

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## Young People

On Friday the 2nd of May Bannockburn Primary School's Eco Group took part in a community litter pick.

This litter pick began at Greenacre Court Residential home with streetscape officers Mr Jim Fisher and Mr Bill Davitt.

The home kindly supplied refreshments to help the Eco Group on their long walk to the Old Brae. The trip was a great success as the Eco Group managed to pick up such things as t-shirts, bottles, cans and many more.

Mrs Brown, one of the Eco leaders, had this to say, "It was a lovely sunny day and we were joined by parents and friends who really helped. We collected loads of litter to help keep Bannockburn a litter free community."



### Choices for Life

On the 22nd May 2008, the primary seven pupils of Bannockburn Primary School took part in an event called Choices for Life. This took place at Ingilston. The event was filled with fun, enthusiasm and excitement.

Famous singers attended Choices for Life, one of whom was Keith Jack (Joseph from Joseph's Technicolor Dream Coat). He wowed the audience of 8000 with 'Any Dream Will Do' and 'You Raise Me Up'. There was also a Choices Family Fortune which was full of questions from a survey about drugs and why you shouldn't take them. Another portion of the show was from PACE Theatre Group. This was about how drugs can destroy people's lives. It sent out a strong message that was hopefully received by all.

Mrs Mellor ( P7 Principal teacher) has this to say: 'Choices for Life was a fantastic day out. The outstanding behaviour from Bannockburn pupils made the day all the better'

## RAG BAG COLLECTION REPORT

On the 29 April 2008 Bannockburn Primary got a very special visit from Gary Ivady, a recycling officer, who came and collected the rag bags we had collected.

He said, "It was very good for your first time; it was very good and above average."

We received 243 bags towards our total which weighed 1068 kilos. Altogether we raised over £300 for the school. Well done Bannockburn Primary!!!

Alex, Brooklyn and Emily. Tartan PIG



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# Prize Competition

Sponsored by: **SPEED PROPERTY**



Well done to Mrs C McMeekin for winning the April issue quiz. Ian Carmichael Bannockburn Post Office picked the winner from the smaller than usual correct entries.

This time the Bannockburn Bamboozler has looked at types of jewellery.

To enter for the £25 prize, send your answers, by 18 July 2008, to The Editor, (address on page 1). The Bannockburn News Committee will draw the winner from all the successful entries. Good luck.

- 1 Marriage Circle (7,4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Material follows part of the body (8) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Game played by one person (9) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Made die (anag) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 A small ornament (7) \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 A brotherly circle (10, 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 View follows arm/hand joint (10) \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 Let crab (anag) \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 Worn on a chain round neck (9) \_\_\_\_\_
- 10 Kind of charm (6) \_\_\_\_\_
- 11 Appointment round (10) \_\_\_\_\_
- 12 One of the Forces & a breeding place (5, 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 13 A small crown (7) \_\_\_\_\_
- 14 Blow beside the golf course (9) \_\_\_\_\_
- 15 Small film role and a clasp (5, 6) \_\_\_\_\_
- 16 Cravat peg (3,3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 17 Le tank (anag) \_\_\_\_\_
- 18 Kind of skin eruption (9) \_\_\_\_\_
- 19 Everlasting bell (8, 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 20 Lag ben (anag) \_\_\_\_\_

**Entry**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

## What's On

It's a while since we updated this section.

If you want to promote your community group please get in touch and confirm the details.

Let us know your:

- Group name
- Meeting days
- Meeting times
- Any costs.

## Bannockburn Beavers

Bannockburn Beavers R.F.C season finished on Sunday the 13 May with their annual Prize giving. The club, almost three years old, goes from strength to strength.

The kids have just finished their first season in the Forth Valley Festivals. This skills development approach sees our kids holding their own against established clubs like Stirling County. Well done to them all.

All of our prize winners did well with many of the honours being close run things.

Any kids out there want to give rugby a TRY; training starts in late August.

Contact either Paul Mil- lar on 01786815212 or John Mclay

### Last Time's Solution

- |               |               |                   |                 |
|---------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Hovercraft | 6. Aeroplane  | 11. Gondola       | 16. Bicycle     |
| 2. Trawler    | 7. Coach      | 12. Cable Car     | 17. Rickshaw    |
| 3. Water Ski  | 8. Helicopter | 13. Freight Train | 18. Trolley Bus |
| 4. Horse      | 9. jumbo Jet  | 14. Spaceship     | 19. Hydrofoil   |
| 5. Camel      | 10. Omnibus   | 15. Perambulator  | 20. Scooter     |



### LEFT TO RIGHT

P6/7 MIP: Darren Gorham

Player Medal: Robert McKenzie,

POY: Sean Huntley

P4/5 MIP: Andrew Shaw

POY & Player Medal:

Cameron Cowan P4/5

### Editorial Policy Statement

Bannockburn News is a free community newspaper, produced by volunteers for the people of Bannockburn. The views in it do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editorial Group. The Editorial Group reserve the right to edit, shorten or not publish any article or letter. We will attribute contributions to the author and any vested interest will be declared where applicable. The newspaper is funded by our local businesses.