

Football:

Development and communication will be top of the agenda when Argyll and Bute holds its first ever football conference on Sunday February 11, at Oban High School.

The conference will be attended by like-minded football coaches, administrators, players and officials with a number of guest speakers to help inform the debate. Delegates will hear from the Scottish Football Association's Director of Football Development Jim Fleeting about the action plan for Scottish Youth Football and the SFA Quality awards. Paul McNeill, SFA Regional Manager for West of Scotland, will talk about the Regional Partnership and player development as well as helping to shape the Argyll and Bute Work Plan for 2007-2010.

Willie Young, Principal Leisure Officer for the council, said: 'The conference demonstrates how far we in Argyll and Bute have come over the past year and a half since the appointment of a dedicated football development officer in partnership with the SFA. 'We have trained over 150 new coaches since 2005 and

have assisted a great number of coaches to increase their level of skills by advancing through the Coach Education Scheme. We want to continue this development in a planned and organised way to maximise the support we can give to players and to raise the quality of coaching across the area.'

Women's and girls' football will also be represented with a talk by Sheila Begbie, the Head of this department for the SFA. A speech will also be made by Sandy MacTaggart, Head of Facility Services at Argyll and Bute Council, about the development of all-weather playing fields in the area.

'The quality of playing facilities and access to them is very significant,' added Mr Young.

