

Holy Trinity Juniors FC
ANNUAL PICNIC AND
AWARDS DAY

Saturday 15th July 2023



2022-23 Season Reports

2022-23 Season Review

It's been another great season for HTJFC - seventeen teams playing competitively at the club (including an unprecedented three teams at U8 level!), and cup or league success for more of our teams than any of us can remember in recent years. However, it's not all about winning silverware - it's great when we can see real team and player development over a period of time, and we hope that all our players can pick up really useful life skills in their time with us.

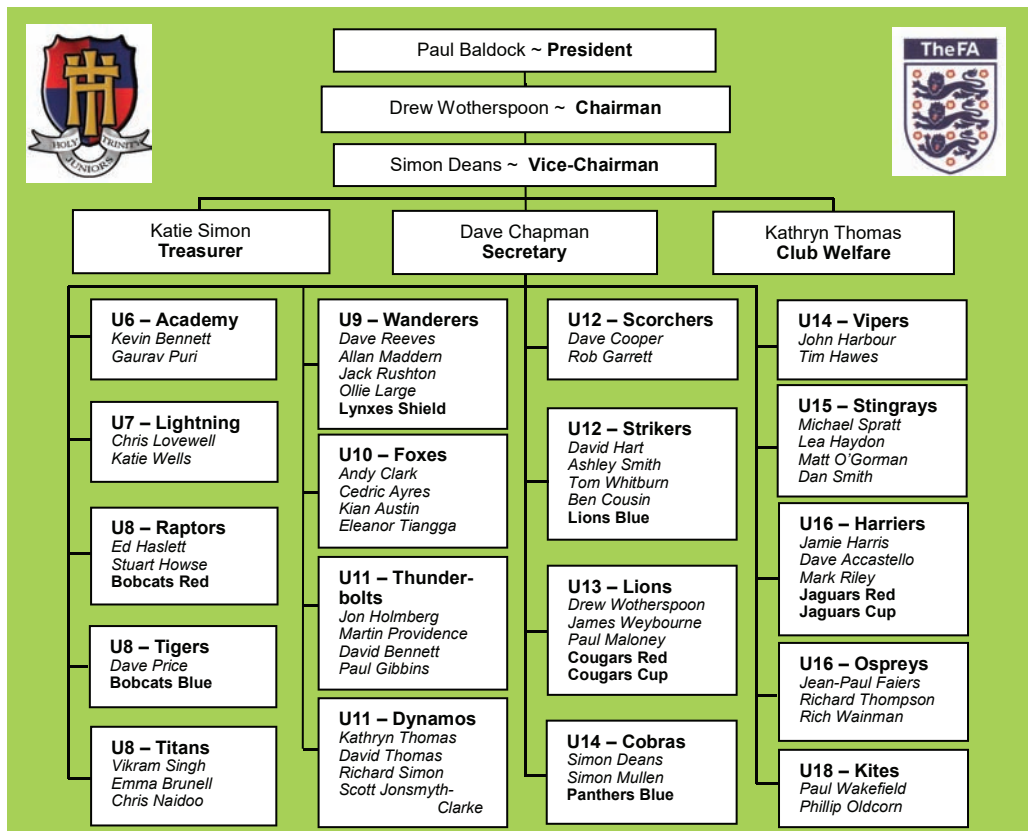


Double double-winning Harriers

That being said, it would be remiss of me not to mention those teams that picked up 'hardware' this season, so our congratulations to HT Raptors & Tigers (both U8), HT Wanderers (U9), HT Strikers (U12), HT Lions (U13 - double winners), HT Cobras (U14), and HT Harriers (U16 - double winners for the second season running).

Our 6-a-side tournament in May was another roaring success - beautiful weather, another full house at The Rec, and lots of happy young footballers, great to see. Our sincere thanks to the huge team of people that make this happen, including lots of parent helpers - it wouldn't run as smoothly as it does without the volunteer army on hand. I hope we can count on some of you again next year. The non-footballing gap in the summer seems to get shorter each year, however HT won't return until the first week in September - we wish you all a relaxing summer break in the mean time.

Dave Chapman - Club Secretary



U6 Academy



As is customary, we invited Westwood Park to Hazlemere for our season-closing Fun Day. They brought two teams to face our three (we had by far the coolest names). I saw some brilliant goal-keeping, some tenacious tackling, some cracking shots and many wonderous dribbles. We managed to put in some terrific performances, winning many of the games, which bodes well for next season.

If we cast our minds back to the start of the season, we started with the basics: kicking the ball straight (Battleships), dribbling

(Conflict 8), balance and ball-control (Ice Monster).

Martian Lander became a popular exercise teaching us movement, passing, receiving, dribbling and change of pace.

Star Circle taught us how to pass and receive the ball. Give-Go-Goal introduced a match-play scenario, where the player had to pass to the team-mate, run round the dummy, receive the pass back and score.

Freestyle had the players deciding how to dribble or trick their way past the shark, skills they have practiced in our many

matches.

I will take the Academy again in the autumn, so next season's Year 1s will stay with me. We will form two under-7 teams for the Year 2s so I wish them both well in their footballing journeys.

My thanks go to Gaurav for his tremendous help this season. Being able to give every player the attention they need has been instrumental in us retaining so many players and them developing so well. We regularly had 18-20 turn up through all that wet weather. Well done to everyone this season.

Kevin



Westwood Spurs Westwood Arsenal HT White Sharks HT Golden Lions HT Red Rockets



U7 Lightning



training and in matches and all be incredibly proud of their first season.

We had so many memorable games across the year but I think the highlights have to include our first win which came away at KCA with a significantly depleted squad, the excitement of having a penalty shoot out in our cup game against Westwood Park and the sheer chaos of a helter-skelter 7-7 draw, again with Westwood Park.

Thank you to all the parents for their support over the year, especially your efforts sorting out the goalposts every week!

Thanks to everyone at the club who has helped and advised me during my first season (Dave, Kathryn, Katie and Kevin in particular). Lastly, a huge thank you to our Assistant Manager, Katie Wells, who does all the hard work - arranging our matches/helping with subs/acting as team bus - I couldn't have done it without you.

Looking forward to another great season as U8s!

Chris Lovewell – HT Lightning Coach

This time last year, bathing in the feel good glow of the Lionesses' exploits at the European Championships, I found myself sitting in The Crown one evening being (gently) persuaded by Kevin Bennett to sign up as the new U7s team coach. The most immediate challenge was settling on a name for our squad and soon, HT Lightning were born.

Any initial apprehension about my new responsibility quickly disappeared after meeting our amazing squad and families for our first training session. It immediately returned when we arrived for our first league match, away to St Peters Iver, being greeted by what seemed like 100 'passionate' home supporters!

I needn't have

worried because right from that first mildly intimidating game, our squad have always been fearless and shown a never give up attitude, which meant our opposition could never relax. We're very lucky to have such a measured and well balanced team, with talent in every position. It is clear how much all of our players have developed through the year, individually and as a team. This has been through their hard work in



U8 Tigers

Bobcats Blue
Champions

After a fantastic summer of football in 2022 the club received several new enquiries which led to the formation of a new u8's team.....the Tigers! With 4 players coming across from the Titans and initially 3 new players we had a team and where ready for a great season of football.

The boys had a baptism of fire playing a very decent CSP after just one training session together and suffering a big defeat. It was a game that became a defining moment for us. At the end of the match, we huddled together each player encouraging their team mate to the left and this became a habit after every session and game. The season soon picked up with hard thought draw then a long succession of back-to-back leagues wins.

The boys began to gel quickly and learn how to play together. Josh H and Ismael became formidable at the back a consistently made winning tackles. Theo and Josh F ran the pitch tirelessly both creating chances and scoring. Ibrahim's dribbling skills continued to improve as he skipped past a player or two and into space. Curtis' goal kicks became legendary after winning us several corners and even scoring!

Stanley developed incredibly over the season and was our top score in our final tournament. At the back end of the season Kaedon joined and was a brilliant addition to our team he is a powerful, fearless and pacy.

We had an incredible run in Cup and made our way to finals after some very tight games a goal line clearance in quarter final in the last minute. In the final we were once again pitched against CSP, the boys where brilliant and gave it everything. After 3 solid quarters we found ourselves 3-1



down and were unable to find a way to win but the Tigers can hold the heads high as runners up a fabulous achievement in their first season together. It has been a brilliant season marked fun, goals, laughter, memories and I wish all the boys the best as they continue on as u9's.

I'd also like to thank all the parents for helping with the goals and pitches especially Tim for his brilliant refereeing skills.

Dave Price



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U8 Titans



Titans 2022-2023 Season of Lessons, Growth and Determination

The Titans 2022-2023 season was a rollercoaster ride of emotions, filled with both victories and defeats. As the team battled it out on the field, they showcased determination, growth and a collective spirit.

In their first game on September 24th, the Titans suffered a narrow 2-1 defeat. However, the team's relentless attacks and overall dominance left a lasting impression.

As the season progressed the Titans experienced varying outcomes. A hard-fought draw on Oct 15th highlighted the team's resilience, while a challenging loss on Oct 22 provided valuable lessons. The players recognised the im-

portance of maintaining intensity throughout the entire game, as their strong finish in the last quarter showed their true potential.

Arlo displayed exceptional goal scoring abilities and remarkable ball control, consistently proving to be a formidable force on the field. Azad demonstrated his commitment to sticking to his position and showed excellent passing skills. Henry emerged as a standout player, excelling as an influential presence in defence. Jenson's tenacity and strong tackling earned him recognition as a key player, consistently making an impact during matches. Dharmiek displayed great skill and agility as a team's goalkeeper, making crucial saves and providing defensive foundation. Tawana consistently executed the coach's in-

structions and showed determination in every game.

Chester's early hat trick in one match proved pivotal in securing a much-needed victory. He was again the highest scoring player in the team. William grew into his role and displayed strong midfield play, contributing to the team's overall performance. Zach and Cameron showcased their versatility, excelling in both goalkeeping and outfield play, contributing to the team's defensive strength and offering support on the attack. Collectively each player's efforts and dedication played an integral role in shaping the Titan's season, highlighting their individual strengths and contributions to the team's success.

The season also revealed areas for improvement. The team acknowledged the need for improved passing and stronger teamwork. While individual brilliance was evident, the Titans recognise the importance of effective passing and working together to capitalise on scoring opportunities.

Chris joined as a coach midway through the season, supporting and encouraging the team. We jointly run regular training sessions to foster team chemistry and build relationships. Despite the challenges posed by a large team, we urged players to attend training sessions to establish rhythm and improve overall performance.

As they prepare for the next season, the Titans remain focused on honing their skills, emphasizing passing and teamwork, and continuing their pursuit of success.

The Titans' season serves as a testament to the power of determination, perseverance, and the invaluable lessons learned through victories, draws and defeats.



U8 Raptors

**Bobcats Red
Champions**

Another season done, and again the Raptors' players have all shown immense improvement in both skills, attitude and awareness on the pitch.

After 10 wins, 1 draw and 1 loss for the season, we saw a lot of really good attacking football and enough interesting defending to keep the coach on his toes. Definitely giving us something to work on, but there were so many positives throughout the season that we all had great fun along the way.

Without a regular goalkeeper, the players were all asked to take their turn in between the sticks throughout the year. This obviously impacted every player's chance to play in their favourite position every week, however, everyone

pitched in and took their turn.

Despite these challenges, all players showed remarkable improvement in their ability on the ball, especially William and Charlie. Ethan found an extra gear and really developed some speed which was great in getting from one end of the pitch to the other.

Midway through the season, Henry discovered his shooting boots scoring a hatrick in a tough away game that really saved us. Our regular goal-scorers, Mason and Freddie, got heavily involved in front of goal in a year when we scored 62 goals across all games.

Benjamin was solid in defence all season and started developing his skills to play in midfield on occasion, as did Josh and George who put in some big tackles

throughout the season.

Despite being smaller than most teams we faced every week, players like Lucas and Davilucca evened things up with their intensity and pressing play.

This allowed us to play our football, which opposing coaches regularly commented as being some of the most organised and structured they had come up against.

The last 2 seasons have been a real juggling act; getting a squad of 11 players to fit into 5 a side games and getting enough game time for all the players was tough. Moving into next season and 7 a side will be a great challenge for our team, but one we're all looking forward to.



Lynxes Shield
Winners

U9 Wanderers



This season has felt like a real turning point for the Wanderers!

Our season kicked off in a rather strange way, as we lost our first game, at home to St Peters, 5-3, having been 3-0 ahead after the first quarter. Fortunately though, we learnt lessons from this and we certainly didn't let it set the tone for the rest of the season.

In our next match, a couple of weeks later, we had the opportunity to put the disappointment of the first one behind us and that's exactly what we did! It was our first away game of the season, against Westwood Panthers, who in the past we've always lost 2-0 to, but this time we came out 7-3 winners!! This included a hat-trick from Adam (on his debut!!), along with a brace from Jerry and one each for Adrian and Callum.

A couple of weeks later we were back at home, sadly losing a very tight game 4-3 to Kings Church from Amer-sham. There were plenty of positives to come out of this game though, including a first Player of the Match performance from Ethan, who was fast proving to be a very reliable defender!

In our next game, we were back at Westwood Park to play the Panthers again, but this time in the cup. Sadly, the result was very different from last time, as we lost it 5-0, although it was

definitely closer than the scoreline suggested.

Following this we had a cracking 2-2 draw away at the new boys in our league, Chalfont Park Swans. This included Nathan scoring his first goal of the season and Harrison winning Player of the Match.

Sadly most of December was lost to snow and frozen pitches, which meant we had lots to catch up on after Christmas.

Our first match of the new year was at home to Westwood Park's new team, the Lions, but again it was a very strange result as we lost 5-0, but all felt that it could have been a 5-5 draw! The ball would just not go in the back of the net!

This was followed by our return fixture to St Peters, where we put things right and won 4-2. This was a particularly good game for Adrian, who got both a goal and an assist!

The games were now coming thick and fast, in fact every week, so, after a frozen pitch postponement on 21st, we were on the road again on 28th and once again setting records straight from disappointing home results earlier in the season. This time we came out 2-0 victors against Kings Church, with Nathan scoring his best goal of the season, which also earned him player of

the match. This game also saw the first combination of a JJ corner with an Adam finish on the end of it – a great game to watch!!

The following week we were back at home and extending our winning run to three, with a solid 4-1 victory against Stanmore Jaffreys. This included Player of the Match performances from Malachi, Arthur and Jamie, while Jerry bagged another brace! This game was followed by a cracking 3-3 draw against Chalfont St Peter Dragons, who we then went on to beat 6-0 a fortnight later at their place. The first of these games included a goal and an assist for JJ,

while the second game saw braces for Arthur, Nathan and Jamie!

March was just as busy as February and kicked off with our biggest win of the season! Arthur was once again on fire, this time scoring his first hat trick and an 8-1 victory against SJ in the Semi-Final of the Plate, meant that we could now look forward to our first ever cup/plate final! We continued our unbeaten run the following Saturday, with a hard fought 3-2 win away at Chalfont Park Swans.

Then came the Plate final the following week, which we won 6-3, thanks to a brace from Nathan and another hat trick from Jerry! It was a great performance and a much deserved first piece of silverware for the team!

Our final four matches of the season were a bit of a mixed bag, with tight defeats against Stanmore Jaffreys and Westwood Panthers and two matches in between against Chalfont Park Kites, with one draw and one defeat.

As I mentioned at the start, this was definitely a pivotal season for us and a lot of the boys are really now growing in to their positions. We're so excited to crack on again in September and see what we can do as a team next season!

Well done boys!!

Dave, Jack, Allan and Ollie



U8 Foxes



The season started with a flurry of games and some encouraging results. The summer break had seen the boys all grow and gain some strength and speed.

A victory at home to St James got us off to a great start, this was followed with a draw at home to Kings Church Amersham, a game we somehow did not win.

The football being played was very good and use of the wings was reaping rewards and goals were flowing from all parts.

The return fixture to Kings Church was a rude awakening and large defeat dragged the mood down. The opposition had one of those games where everything they tried went in and we were out of ideas.

A 3-all draw with Risborough Raiders was just the tonic to lift the spirits, the boys played well and could have had more from the game. They had to dig in after being 3-2 up with 5 mins to play with the Raiders playing down the hill and threw everything at them, they held firm to make sure they got something from the game.

Our away game at Legacy FC proved one of the games of the season, the boys were all in sync

from the kick off and played some very good football.

We won 10-2 and could have scored more, this was their highest score for a game since they were together, a good result to celebrate and take into the cup game.

Our cup campaigns did not manage to get past the first round this year, but we had some great games! Firstly, we had Westwood in the main cup competition, the score ebbed and flowed and we went into the last quarter losing 3-2. With chances a premium, we had a last minute chance come our way which we grasped with a good right foot and equalised! This took the game into extra

time.

For the whole of extra time neither team could find a goal to settle the tie and it went to Penalties. We started well but the game's efforts took their toll and it ended up 4-2 to Westwood.

We went through to the plate competition and ended up going out 4-3 in extra time after again drawing 3-3 in normal time.

The rest of the league season never reached those heights, we competed in game but did not manage to win any more matches.

We played a lot of friendlies against the other HT teams and this really helped the team grow playing against different age groups.

The season had many positives not least we started to win some league games and really took the ideas from training sessions into the games.

How many coaches does it take to get through a season? More than Arsenal but less than Chelsea! We did have a high turnover of coaches mainly due to Saturday work or collage challenges. I would like to thank all the young men who have helped out this season, without which the Foxes Team might not have been able to run.

Onward and upward to next season.



U11 Thunderbolts



Thank you to everyone connected to our football club especially all the parents and players. Also a massive thank you to our man JP (Jonathan/Manager) for all your hard work throughout the year.

The 'bolts had a stand out player last season and I think everyone will agree that was Olie J. Very good attributes. I am really excited about my players and look forward to the coming season.

L-R: Harry V-B, Barney, Amin, Christian, Coach Martin, Danil, Tarran, Mason, Oliver (Olie), Madhav, Liam, Lucas & Cal-lum
(2 players missing from photo: Harry & Joel)

All the boys have had a good season and are all individually improving. We reached new levels last season by making it to two semi-finals at tournaments and winning a good amount of games, improving towards the end of the season.

You guys (the players!) "keep working hard to achieve your goals not just with football, also in life." Love you all, coach Martin



U11 Dynamos

The 22/23 season was rewarding year for HT Dynamos, with some great results and performances.

With no significant changes to the squad this season, this meant we were able to build upon the progress made last season and further develop players into their positions. The squad adapted very well to the transition of rules and game play moving from U10's to U11's (offside, 9 aside, bigger goals, etc) this season.

Again, like last season our defence was the main area where we improved. Towards the end of the season, we were retaining possession well during matches and progressed into a very good counter-attacking team.

It has been great to see the 'core' players in the team continue to take leadership roles and support the less confident players in the squad to grow.

All of the matches were well attended with all of the boys getting game time each match. To remain competitive in our matches, we balanced fair play time with fielding a strong team, an ap-

proach fully supported by the club. We are lucky to have the majority of parents/grandparents that are supportive of the players, coaches and the club. We are all excited

about the new season, wanting to continue the excellent progress made to date.

David Thomas



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U12 Scorchers



It had finally stopped raining, the pitches were firmer, the sun was shining, and the Scorchers were playing a great passing style of football. The team we were playing had beaten us twice during the season but today we had the measure of them, and it was likely to go with whoever scored the first goal. As it happened, the Scorchers had a few great chances to win the game but ended up losing by a narrow margin. This was the story of our first season in the top division.

The season started with lots of promise; the boys came from a superb previous season winning the league. Early season promise hit a bit of a bump with an early cup exit and the challenge of more competitive matches stretching the team.

As the season progressed, it was clear that there were some very talented teams in the league and some that we would have good competitive matches against. It was also clear that the weather presented an additional challenge and a number of matches were postponed, leaving a very congested last two months.

The fixture pile up delivered mixed results with our biggest loss and some narrow victo-

ries heading into the final match of the season, where this report started. The closeness of that game gives great confidence heading into 11 a side games on bigger pitches. Our progress as a team throughout the season has been really encouraging as well.

The tournaments we entered resulted in us reaching the knockout stages, with close losses before the finals.

A big thank you to each of the boys for their efforts and determination throughout the year and also to all of the parents who spent time encouraging in sun, snow, ice, wind and rain. Overall, a season to be proud of as our first in the top division, particularly finishing in mid table, and one to build on for next year.

Dave Cooper & Rob Garrett



U12 Strikers

Lions Blue
Champions

This season has been a fantastic one for Strikers. With a couple of changes to the squad but the majority staying there is a great consistency and team spirit among the boys.

Each season brings its challenges and the 'No Heading' rule was no exception with having to remind the boys before each game if they could or couldn't head the ball. To be honest I think the boys got used to it quicker than some of the adults about!

The season started with the County Cup and a trip to win in Wingrave, before the next round in Milton Keynes where we were knocked out 4-3 to a very strong MK team who scored a last minute goal.

After that setback the boys went on an incredible run in the league. Scoring 55 goals and only conceding 8 the team worked together at both ends of the pitch

and a clean sheet was as important as scoring at the other end. We finished the season with a total of 34 points from 12 games and only one drawn game in which points were dropped gave the boys a very well-deserved league winners title.

In the Cup we won two games without conceding to reach the semi-final where we faced a Westwood team who hadn't lost in 3 years from the division above. Taking the game to extra time after 2-2 at the final whistle the boys showed incredible energy to win 3-2 and inflict a long overdue defeat for the opposition. Although we lost the final 2-1 to miss out on a league and cup double the season has been brilliant and I cannot emphasise how great it is to see the team maturing, working for each other and building such a great team spirit.

We have been incredibly fortunate

with all the help we get from parents and grandparents putting up goals, taking them down, running the line and always happy to help and as a team we would like to say a very big thank you! I am sure there will be a few happy that we don't need to put up goals going forward!

A big thank you also to Tom Whitburn and Ben Cousin who have helped out with coaching. Their enthusiasm is infectious and the boys really feed off it and enjoy the sessions.

We are now looking forward to the next season with more changes. Moving up a division and going to 11 a-side we have a couple more players joining who I am sure will settle in quickly and as always gives us something to think about. The competition will be a lot harder and the challenge greater but Strikers will be ready to do their best.



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Cougars Cup
Winners

U13 Lions

Cougars Red
Champions

It's been a fantastic season for the Lions, claiming not just the league title, but also the Cup. Who doesn't love a double. Of course, it's great to claim some silverware, but our season has been about much more than that.

We began the season strongly. We started with a league that consisted of all teams in our age group, with a plan to divide the up the league into two groups midway through the season. We've traditionally been slow starters, but we came out of the blocks flying, winning all eight of our games in the first half of the season, scoring 31 goals along the way and conceding just five.

The second half of the season began with a cup quarter final at home to St James, where we recorded our highest ever win, beating them 18-0 with a staggering nine of our players managing to get themselves on the scoresheet.

In early March we suffered our first defeat of the season, losing 3-0 away at Harefield, which saw us fall from the top spot in the league. Surprisingly, given some of the results we achieved throughout the season, arguably our best performance came in a 2-2 draw with our perennial arch-rivals, Westwood. Missing a number of key players, we conceded two relatively early goals and it looked for all the world like the league was slipping from our

hands. However, the boys didn't let the two goals knock them and they rallied to score two of their own, including an audacious goal that went straight in from a corner. The last few minutes saw us hang on to the draw, and the result helped cement us at the top of the league, claiming the title by one single point.

Speaking of hanging on, we move to a sunny afternoon in May in Chalfont, for our first ever cup final, against St Peters, Iver. It

goalkeeping kept them at bay, and we managed to claim the double. The coaches were barely able to watch those last ten minutes...

As for tournaments this year, we didn't manage to claim a win, suffering a number of semi-final losses and losing to our forever nemesis, the penalty shootout.

There were many stand-out performances from across the team throughout the season, with eight separate winners of the Man

of the Match Award that we use as coaches to help us decided on our awards. We also had nine separate goal scorers.

We were pleased to welcome some new faces to the team midway through the season and are pleased to say they have fitted in really, really well. We have a strong unit who are all friends and enjoy playing together immensely. As coaches, we take great pride in the team spirit we



was a fantastic experience for all the boys, particularly when they discovered they all had their own berths in the changing rooms! We began the match well and scored early on to take a 1-0 lead. We dominated the first half, but try as we might, couldn't get the ball in the back of the net for our second. Most of the second half went the same way, but the last ten minutes or so saw us retreat further and further back as we tried to cling on to our lead. Some heroic defending and world-class

have, something that is much more important than winning our titles. Although, of course, they are nice.

A final word, as always, on our parents. They continue to be hugely supportive of everything we do and are always available to help with anything we need. We simply couldn't ask for more and are incredibly grateful for everything they do.

We're very much looking forward to next season.

Drew, Paul and James.



U14 Cobras

Panthers Blue
Champions

After last season's challenge for the title fell agonisingly short as runners-up, the Cobras put things right in 22/23 by winning the U14 Blue division.

The season got off to the perfect start with back-to-back big wins over KCA and Chalfont in September and those were followed by two more wins over the same opposition in November.

Our brief foray in the U14 cup saw us drawn away at the eventual Red division champions, Westwood Park, and with a depleted squad we were two goals down in the first two minutes, but battled back strongly to go in 5-3 behind at half-time. We kept the game close until the last 15 minutes when the team ran out of steam, leaving us (in cliché-honoured style) to concentrate on the league.

Weather forced a number of postponements and that was it until after Christmas, when the Cobras quickly bounced back with big wins over Chesham, KCA and Chalfont. The only league defeat in that period was to St James' where we finished the game with 9 players due to injuries and no subs! St James' were our nemesis this season and we only took 1 point from a possible 9 against them. Indeed, they finished their league programme early,

leading the table, and it was a question of whether we could fit in enough of our postponed games and hunt them down.

March, April and early May were very busy. The best game of the season was away at Chorleywood, where our opposition battled back from 4-2 down to equalize with only minutes remaining. It could have gone either way until Ryan slammed home our winner with the last kick of the match. Then, we had to play a double-header at Chesham with 5 of the team away doing their Duke of Edinburgh expedition (beware future U14s coaches..... while a great experience, DofE poses many challenges!), but the team dug in brilliantly to come away with two wins to put us on the cusp of the title.

With players missing again the following weekend, we played another double-header, this time against Chorleywood, winning the first match 2-1 to secure the title. Understandably our focus went in the second match that day and we also lost our final game of the season to Fullerians who had dropped down a division mid-season.

We've enjoyed fantastic support as always, positive and encouraging and happy to put up goal nets and run the

line come rain or shine. It's hugely appreciated!

The Cobras can reflect on a fabulous season which included 11 league wins, 75 league goals scored in 16 matches, a plus 47 goal difference (sorry KCA and Chalfont!), at times exhilarating attacking football and playing the game in keeping with the club's core values.

And finally, they had to do it without last year's top scorer, Henry D, who suffered a ruptured ACL last July. He helped us to coach his teammates from the touchline and successfully came through surgery and rehab and is finally back with a ball at his feet after a gruelling 12 months no 14 year-old should have to endure. A great example of resilience if ever it was needed. We're very proud of all the boys and looking forward to a tough challenge next season with promotion secured.

Cobras squad this season:

GK: Alex

Defs: Kyle, Panos, Daniel, James, Reggie, Luke H and Jordan

Mids: Ascanio, Luke C, Jaden, Dylan and Tyler

Forwards: Henry M, Ryan and Liam
Well played Cobras!

Simon and Simon (and Henry D!)



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U14 Vipers



After a really strong season the previous year, this season has been more challenging.

We started with some strong performances against Westwood Park, who ended up being run-away winners of our league. In the cup match against them, we took it to extra time and were a goal up with 10 minutes of the extra time to go... unfortunately we let in 3 quick goals to lose the tie – tiredness led to a loss of concentration. It was a similar story in our league match against them. However, we made up for it with some

excellent victories against St James' and against Fullarians.

Unfortunately, we lost a couple of our strongest players mid-season – this not only affected the overall strength of the team, but it also made an already tight squad even thinner, resulting in not being able to field a team on some fixtures when other players were unavailable. As a consequence, our results took a bit of a hit.

In spite of all the challenges, the attitude the boys showed in all the matches was brilliant – never giving up and playing with incredi-

ble determination, tackling hard, winning the ball back, attacking with pace and skill. When we play our passing game, we can beat anyone in our league. Every one of our opponents know they've been in a proper match when they've played us!

Once again, it's been great to see how individual players have improved, and just seeing the boys interact together as a great group of friends. It's been a challenging and, at times, frustrating season – but I'm massively proud of our boys.



U15 Stingrays

Stingrays finished the season 4th in the league, one position higher than the season prior. It was a year of progression for the boys, who've consolidated themselves as one of the top teams in the league. We may have failed to replicate the cup run from last year and grace the hallowed

failed to replicate this form throughout the season. To be blunt, consistency became an issue, and I don't believe our final league finish was a fair reflection of how good we can be. Great performances would be followed by frustration, confidence replaced with nerves, which wasn't helped

hard, and it was a privilege to coach these young lads, even with the occasional teenage tantrum. We have all been there.

Overall, I, Dan and Michael end another season proud. We enjoy our weekly training sessions and are excited about each game. Enjoyment, and excitement I hope



Harefield turf again, but take nothing away from the lad's effort this season. No longer residing at the bottom of the ocean, the Stingrays are competing with those at the top of the food chain.

We started the season strong, winning our first 3 games with relative ease. Unfortunately, we

by tactical tinkering game to game by the management team (All Michael), especially against tough opposition.

In some ways, it was a season of missed opportunities, which shows how much confidence and belief we have in this team. For the most part, each player worked

the players share. However, I'm not sure how excited they'll be for the summer training prepared as we look to grow as a team again and potentially bring silverware to the club in their last year as High School students.

Hopefully, the teenage rebellion will be kept to a minimum.

U16 Ospreys



September often brings change in football and this year was no different. This season, we welcomed two new players to the squad. Arsh joined our forward line-up alongside Aidan and James strengthened our defensive line. Arsh's speed worked well as he partnered with the clinical skills of Aidan.

In our U16s age group the league is a competitive one and with only 8 teams playing. Next season I expect this to be reduced further possibly, so my hope is that we get to play and enjoy lots of football matches. We may have several new players joining the team in September and this should strengthen our squad and the numbers will really help us to field a full and more competitive team through the season.

This year has been a challenging one with a few players leaving last summer and a few others committed

to other clubs and sports meant that we often started with only 10 men. Despite this I have been blown away by team spirit of the young men. They have always enjoyed their matches for the most part even when the scoreline was not in our favour by a long shot! I am very proud of this team and what they have personally achieved on the field and how they pull together and keep pushing no matter what happens.

Kane is a force of nature! A player who has a strength and persistence you don't see very often, an excellent centre defensive mid-fielder and a core member of the team. He has captained the team on more than one occasion. Away from the football field, he has experienced success and joined a Rugby academy this season alongside his local rugby club fixtures. But he has remained a reliable member of the Ospreys team

and is a natural leader. We really do hope that you able to return to support the team on match days next season!

I would also like to say a farewell and thank you to Will Turner who is taking a break from playing club football to focus on his love of golf. Will joined us last season and made a strong impression! What he lacked in experience he more than made up for in his work ethic. Good luck for the future Will!

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the coaches and players for their hard work, teamwork and support for each other this year. You are what make the Ospreys! A special thanks to the all the parents who come and support the team at the touchline! I'm already looking forward to the start of our new U17s season in September!



Jaguars Cup
Winners

U16 Harriers

Jaguars
Champions

With the season concluded, to sit once more basking in the summer sun, should you take a meditative, and under the circumstances slightly mournful glance through the myriad WhatsApp messages that form the chronicle and closing chapter of this astonishing journey, one cannot but conclude, despite the aforementioned sadness, that the final HT Harriers 2022/2023 season, indeed their time together as a whole, has been an unmitigated success.

With many of the team now departing for pastures new having completed their tenth season together, looking back, it is hugely encouraging to see that each passing year continued to be a foundation on which to build the next. With hard work and application evident at each training session, the team grew from strength to strength. Each individual sought not to bask in past accomplishments but continued to strive to improve. Allied with each other for so long, a strong team bond will always be evident. Forged in the crucible of competitive sport, this togetherness has been further strengthened throughout this most recent, enjoyable, hugely successful and final season. They certainly have bowed out on top.

The team got off to a solid start in the early season, marked with tough back-to-back wins against Westwood. Missing a number of players, including a recognised goalie, they were tough games, and proved to be the foundation for a successful season. During this period, the team was quite literally saved by Jack, Noah and Leo, who stepped into goal on different occasions until the arrival of Matt the mid-season goalkeeping signing, a true combatant well capable of out jumping opponents several height classes above him.

The turn of the year saw a convincing win against St Peters, last season's nemesis, and like the heroes in many stories, the team refused to succumb to many

off moments, and the mid-season was notable for a rich vein of form.

Highlights include a well-deserved win away to KC Amersham, the nearest league challengers, in conditions reminiscent of the Somme battlefields. Once more demonstrating the firm desire to retain their league trophy. A superb performance, and as winter turned to spring, there were many other results that to be on the receiving end of, must have been rather like catching an express train in the small of the back, as progress in league and cup was achieved in the following 6 matches with an average of over 5 goals per game.

All deserve mention, but comment should be passed on the midfield, containing Josh, Joel, Charlie et al. Others smite the brow and clutch the hair, they act, exercising authority over matches and bending the outcome to their will. Tough and determined, should they ever take up crocodile wrestling, my anxiety would be entirely for the crocodile.

Praise also must go to the formidable defence, containing Ethan, Jack, Luca, Mike, Shimmy, Jake, Tom and Olly. An encounter with which is much like stepping on the teeth of a rake and having the handle jump up and hit you in the face. They delight in being allowed to put in a certain amount of footballing assault and battery upon their opponent which, if done elsewhere, would result in your collar being felt by the local rozzer.

Also the strike force, of whom it must be said, the fascination gained from their shooting depends almost wholly on whether you are at the right or wrong end of it. Rendering the spines

of opposition goalies utterly soluble, Liam has a left foot like a siege cannon and Leo, Ellis and Harry bustle around like a winged heeled Hermes late for a pressing appointment. Collectively they seem determined to give the football a violent injury.

Armed with the aforementioned, the team drew their fixture programme to a close in impressive style. A sublime 6-1 win in the Cup, played in monsoon conditions, the opposition must have felt battered by both the Harriers and the elements. The truncated league programme squeezed by the excessive wet weather, culminated in a double header vs Hughenden. Early indications were that the league was already won, but with brains fogged by looming GCSE's, they started slowly, both teams were well matched, with honours ending just about even. The Harriers winning one, and drawing the other, ending their final season undefeated.

In truth, over the years, the many spectacular goals, incidents of superlative defending and quality play are really far too numerous to mention within the limits of these pages.

In summary, whether winning, losing, drawing or training; every player demonstrated a clear desire to apply the philosophy of football drilled into them under the skilled guidance and watchful eyes of Jamie, Dave and Mark who have always sought to be smart enough to understand the game, and daft enough to think it's important. In short, they all try to play the game properly and with a massive grin on their face.

Harrier (*Har-ee-er*) Noun

- Person integral to a team, possessing enthusiasm, good humour and with a commitment to play Association Football as best they are able.

- Regards footballing results, good, bad or indifferent as stepping-stones to future success.

- Double League & Cup Double Winners. We will be watching their future football careers with interest.



U18 Kites

Season 10 for the Kites and their coaching team.....

We set out to do the league and cup double. The league campaign was derailed by the Crown, Trilogy, various Chalfont pubs and their coach, but we were able to sort things out in the Cup.

Today I have to pick a Most Improved & Manager's Player of the season. Too many options, only one award for each. I think speaks for itself. Kites are a super group of lads.

Wayne Burrows & I started Kites 10 years ago in order to give a dozen lads a game each week. That wasn't going to happen within the all-conquering U8



HT Kestrels, as they were far too good!

Kites' ethos was for everyone to play a part in every match and we have stuck to that. We have always maintained an excellent squad spirit and over the last 10 years, we have had regular squad parties with mums and dads. We now have end of season tours.

Nine of this season's Kites started with us at Under 9 level!

A few special thank yous, there isn't enough room here to say a proper thanks to everyone.

Our U17s. We welcomed 4 new Kites from last season's U16s, our season's Keeper Joe Bis, Matty Pendleton, Ajay Prashad and Matthew Peckham. You might

think that joining an established squad of lads who had been together for 9 years, playing a year above themselves, might be daunting. Our 4 Under 17s weren't phased at all and they played blinders. Special praise for Joe

who had to balance his apprenticeship at Williams F1 team with weekly training and matches.

Golden boot(s) Joe Wallis-Haarland, Taylor Massey and Ajay. Our regular defence of Charlie, Leon, Sonny, the James', Danny and Matthew saved more grey hair on countless occasions.

We tried playing 442, then with Wing Backs and moved on to a CDM. The lads were open to new ideas and suggesting new ones. Our wings and midfield were always happy to suggest then try out new structures.

We'll played our Captains, Dan Edwards, Max & Sonny Dalston. Good luck Sonny at New York State's football academy next season.

Our coaches – Wayne, Paul Wakefield who took over for a couple of seasons & this season Chalky, Craig and DC who have all been a tremendous help along the way.

And of course the parents. Kites have been blessed to have a very special group of parents. Always so supportive, helping with the nets, lifts, parties and end of season tours. Always totally supportive of the coaches and the lads.

So as they say; "That's All Folks" It's been stressful, but if we had our time again, I wouldn't change a thing 🙌

