

**Spencers Wood Youth FC**  
**Season 2006/2007**  
**Under 7s**

The Under 7s is a new team that was formed this year. It had a fairly traumatic birth. Unfortunately, we missed the deadline to enter the team into the Hicks Development League and, when we applied, there were no places available. That, to some extent, was the least of our worries. The main problem was that we did not have enough players of the right age and, despite our best efforts, we were finding it very difficult to recruit.

As the Hicks was full, we applied to the East Berks Youth League and our application was successful. Something had gone right at last. The date of our first league match was fast approaching and we still only had 6 players and we had not registered any of them. Then we had a huge stroke of luck. We were due to play away in our first match and our opponents informed us that their pitch was not available and could they switch the fixture to our ground or postpone the match. Unsurprisingly we opted for the postponement which gave us another week to find some more players.

Incredibly we managed to recruit 4 new players during this week and so we had our squad of 10. We now had to get them all registered. We managed to complete the registration process at 9:00pm on the Friday before we played our first league match. We had a very accommodating divisional secretary who came to our house to do the registrations.

So the Under 7s were formed and the worst was over. The following day we played our very first match, our opening league fixture. We had no idea what to expect. We had never played a match and we had a lot of new players of varying ability. We just hoped that we would not be completely thumped. We lost 3-0 but the team did well and played with lots of spirit although we never seriously looked like scoring.

At this point, we were just hoping that we could win at least one game during the season. That win came in our 4<sup>th</sup> match.

The team had now found its level. With the exception of a couple of teams that were too good for the division, we were able to hold our own against the rest of the teams and there were some good close matches and more victories. As we reached Christmas, our record was Played 13. Won 5, Drawn 1 and Lost 7. We had seen a massive improvement in the team which was not altogether surprising as we got used to playing matches.

The league was reorganised over Christmas. There had been 2 divisions at Under 7s and we were in Division B. A new Division C was formed and we were disappointed that the league decided to move us down. 5 teams were moved down and we had beaten the other 4.

We were one of the strongest teams in Division C. The main problem has been complacency. We have lost 3 times but each time to teams that we should have beaten quite easily but, for some reason, we were not at the races.

We played the 2 strongest teams in the division and we beat one of them and drew with the other in a very good game that we were unlucky not to win. The team has shown that, when they apply themselves, they can beat anyone at our level. Our record in Division C was Played 12, Won 8, Drawn 1 and Lost 3.

We also had a very successful penalty shootout which raised over £600. We managed to pick the worst day of the year to hold it on as it absolutely poured with rain.

We are very pleased with the progress of our team and we are very proud of all of our players. They have really bonded well. We are also very grateful to our parents who have been very supportive. Our team and our parents have conducted themselves impeccably during matches and we have all enjoyed our first season.