

Screamer



WELCOME.....

.....to the third edition of the Screamer in which we will celebrate the success of Colts this season.

The younger age groups in particular have had very successful seasons and hopefully they will continue this success as they get older.

Hopefully the teams will bring along the trophies to the two upcoming presentation days on Sunday 10th June for the Juniors and Sunday 17th for the Seniors - further info in the 'Dates for your Diary' section.

Colts as a stepping stone

It is always good to read of past Colts who have gone on to greater things and perhaps the most famous to date is Dean Austin who went on to play regularly for Tottenham.

A more recent colt is now forging a career in the game for himself - James Russell.

James, who is 19, played for Colts up to U12 when he left to turn out for Arsenal every week. At 14 he switched to Chelsea and he has now secured a 2 year contract there and has played many times for the Reserves.

He has also won caps for Eire U21 team having played in goal against Slovenia where they won 1-0 and then against Portugal where they lost by a similar score.

Also Natasha Dowie can now be seen scoring her goals for Charlton Athletic in the Women's National Premier League and in the England U21 team.

So keep training and you never know!!

Goodbye

At this time of the season its time to say goodbye to the U18 squad a number of whom have been at Colts for over ten seasons.

As is now customary the annual game between the outgoing boys, or should I say men, and the coaches took place at the end of the season

The season's end came amidst some rather appalling weather conditions for the outgoing U'18 Dukes verses the Geriatrics at Harpenden Rovers ground.

Many thanks to Ian Hunt for refereeing the game, and Neil Warnock style congratulations to the Dukes in their 3-1 victory.

The game was played in an excellent spirit, as the Geriatrics thought it was going to be their year when they stormed ahead 1-0 through Stuart's (U'16 Bulldogs) excellent strike.

The Duke's response was muted as the Geriatrics tried to press home their advantage before half time, but in doing so, allowed Matt Richardson room to demonstrate his abilities before the interval. Despite a 10 minute spell of dominance by the Dukes before the welcoming half time respite, the Geriatrics maintained a stoic rearguard action in preserving their lead.

Half time invective and the restorative powers of tobacco provided a bullish Geriatric start to the 2nd half, until..... yes the inevitable equaliser.

Matt (yes it was he) managed to shake off Graham Payne's dogged marking and netted a well taken goal.

Although down, the Geriatrics were not defeated this early in the 2nd half, though as Livers eloquently observed "Bob, it's like the Alamo back here!" the Dukes started to gain the advantage and began to prise open gaps in the midfield and defence. So much so that a 2nd goal soon followed, despite

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valiant efforts to clear a bobbling ball before a clean strike again found a way past Paul in goal.

The last 20 minutes saw the Geriatrics claw themselves back into the game, but the advantage of youth and resilience to hangovers saw the Dukes go further ahead as Craig's speculative cross became a measured left foot shot from some 20/25 yards outside the Geriatrics goal.

Thanks to all who took part, and good luck to all the lads who have been a part of the Dukes over the years as they approach their A-Levels, University, Gap Year or (scary) employment!

Additionally, thanks to Peter Segal their manager, and the back room boys, Rob Payton and Richard Fuggle, as well as all the parents who have provided support for the team over the last 10 to 12 years.

Bob Trevor

Lets hear it for the Ladies

The ladies section was started 12 years ago when a handful of fathers found they had some football crazy girls in their midst but no-where for them to hone their footballing skills. In those days there was only fledgling league structure for girls and little opportunity to test their skills against other teams in competitive games.

Since those early days Harpenden Girls and Ladies teams have competed strongly in the Herts Girls League, Home Counties Girls League and Greater London Women's League.

The current Ladies squad is a combination of two string teams that enjoyed outstanding success in the 2005/06 season, finishing as champions in the Greater London Reserve League and Runners up in Division 3 of the same league. The squad has been together for many years under the stewardship of their

enthusiastic and young at heart coaches, John Davey, Neil Barker and Richard Lines. Most of the players are still at school, studying for their GCSEs, AS and A levels but despite their youth they take their football very seriously and set high technical standards in everything they do. Summer football tours to Spain, Italy and Belgium over recent years have helped the girls understanding of how the game should be approached and has added an extra dimension to their play.

This season they were playing in the Greater London Second Division North and their success has continued.

They reached the final of the County Cup before falling to very strong Watford team but gave a very good account of themselves.

They also completed a league and cup double.

They won the Greater London Women's Football League Division 2 North. It was a close run thing between Colts, Tring & Hemel.

This is their second League Champions title in two seasons and they now get promoted to Division 1.

They also won the League Cup Final today played at Bedfont, near Heathrow v's a team from Catford, London called Flamingoes.

A 2-1 victory was achieved, which was the same score at half time, in a tense encounter.

There are also 2 squads at U12 and we are keen that the girls/ladies continues to flourish

Successes

Under 8s

Got through to their first cup final against Chorleywood in the West Herts Challenge Cup but just missed out on penalties.

Under 9s

The Lightnings won the West Herts Youth League Challenge Cup by beating St Albans North 2-1 after coming back from behind. They also came second in the top division.

Under 10s

The Rovers were runners up in the West Herts Division 1 - a really competitive division that saw the County Cup finalists, Hemel Town, beaten into 3rd place.

The Athletic were also runners up in Division 2 - just missing out on the title by 1 point, after having led the division for most of the season.

Under 11s

The Hawks won the West Herts Division 1 title after ending equal on points with Acorn Raiders (the teams agreed to share the title after finding a pay-off date proved impossible). They were also runners-up in the Challenge Cup, losing narrowly by 1-0 to Leverstock Green in the final.

Under 12s

The Panthers won the West Herts Division 2 title, scoring an impressive 73 goals in the process. Panthers also made it to the final of division 2 Challenge Cup, just losing to Hemel Tornados 2-1 in extra time

The Leopards continued the success in this age group by winning the Division 3 title and then followed this up with a win in the League Cup. It was a very tense and exciting game with the Leopards scoring in the last two minutes to equalize at 3-3 to take the game into extra time. They then equalized again in extra time as the game finished 4-4. It went to penalties where the Leopards ran out winners 6-4.



Under 13s

A season that started with promise for the Chiefs turned into one of GREAT success on & off the pitch. They won the WHYL Under13 Division 3 title, were runners up in the League Cup & just as importantly kept the Silver Cup busy on more than one Sunday lunchtime!!

The League Cup run ended in disappointment in the final losing a close encounter with their close rivals throughout the season - Sun Postal - 2-0. Both goals coming in the last 10mins. The lads experienced the trappings of a non-league stadium @ Hemel Town's stadium but perhaps the occasion got the better of them. On route to the final they topped their mini-group having beaten the eventual winners in the last group match & followed this up with a titanic semi-final victory against a strong Comets team. The match being settled on sudden death penalties - not good for the heart rate of middle aged men but the lads took it all in their stride!

But the league was their GREAT success losing just one match (1-0) in the entire season. Defensively they were strong - just 10 goals conceded in an 18 match season speaks volumes for their rear guard & upfront/midfield they rattled in 72 goals. Impressive stats by any stretch of the imagination. They secured the Championship on the last day of the season with a point against their close rivals from Sun Postal.

But just as importantly the Chiefs squad benefited from an unrivalled team attitude - no superstars but a togetherness to succeed & that they did in style.

Parents & supporters have been terrific again this season coming out in greater numbers each week as the season progressed & this was really appreciated by the lads.

Under 16s

The Bulldogs won the West Herts League Shield at Cheshunt 7-6 on penalties, beating Broxbourne Borough after the game finished in a 1-1 draw

Ladies

Won Division 2 North of the Greater London Ladies League.

Won the League Cup 2-1

Reached the final of the County Cup

Well done to all the teams above and to those who didn't win anything this season - there's always next!!!

Dates for your diary

Sunday June 10th Under 7s to Under 10s presentation day at Rothamstead Research Centre

Sunday June 17th Under11s to Under 16s presentation day at Rothamstead Research Centre

Tuesday September 18th AGM - Venue to be advised

Saturday November 17th Annual Dinner dance at the British Legion

Kit Aid

At the two presentation events there will again be the opportunity to donate surplus kit - shirts, shorts, socks, boots and trainers - for use in Africa. Iain Sinnott (U13 Admirals) is coordinating the collections and last season Harpenden Colts donated the following: -

- 135 pairs of boots/trainers
- 76 pairs of socks
- 88 pairs of shorts
- 114 shirts
- 50 T-shirts
- 6 footballs
- 2 pairs of gloves
- 3 pairs of shin pads
- 2 complete HCFC kits

Well done and lets see if we can better that this season.

