



# Sedlescombe Rangers Junior FC NEWS

Issue 3  
February 2007

*Celebrating over 25 years of Youth Football in Sedlescombe*

Welcome to the somewhat delayed, third edition of the newsletter. Regrettably, our editor in chief, Bridget Vaughan has moved on, but we owe her a debt of thanks for getting this off the ground. It means that we are looking for a new editor as the current stand-in (yours truly) is considerably less well-organised than the previous incumbent and issue 4 could take until 2008 at the current rate of production! So this is a call to any budding journalists who fancy joining the management committee to take up the post of Communications Officer.

*Caretaker Editor, Stuart Harper*

## Dates for the Diary

### Sedlescombe Tournament 21-22 July

Planning for our annual 6-a-side tournament is well underway and as always, we will be looking for as many volunteers as possible on the day to help with parking, stalls, refereeing and setting up. This is the primary source of revenue for the club so please talk to your manager about what you can do to assist.

We also have some great sponsorship opportunities for local companies including: Trophies at £500 per day and pitch-side Hoardings at £75 each. Please contact Fred Ham on 07802 621 047 if you know anyone who would be interested.

## Notes from the Chairman *Stuart Harper*



**Well, I'm now half-way through my second season as Chairman of the management committee and it seems that I can no longer ignore calls for the obligatory 'Chairman's Profile', so here it is...**

One of the problems with penning your own profile is knowing quite what to write that's going to be of even the slightest interest to our avid Sedlescombe Newsletter readers. I did think about going for a Ken Bates-style rant about referees, players' wages, or the pervasive influence of agents in the game, but the great thing about kids football is that there really isn't too much to rant about. So I guess I'll stick to the tried and tested formula: a little about me, some thoughts on what I think the club stands for and some ideas on where I think we are going.

So what do you need to know? Well firstly, that I have a remarkably understanding wife, Fiona, who allows me to spend my weekend mornings coaching the Under 11s. I first got involved with the club about four years ago when I took my son (who has long since decided that football is not his sport) along to his first training session. I offered to help out and, before I knew it, was running the Under 7s side and completely hooked. During the week, I work at an Investment Bank in London (although not in the multi-million pound bonus end of the spectrum I hasten to add), so for me, running a kids football team at the weekend is a thoroughly enjoyable way to unwind and a complete contrast from dealing with the stress and big egos at work. Unlike our new man Duncan (profiled overleaf), my footballing career probably peaked at around age 11 and my abiding memory is Sunday mornings on sodden pitches at Westfield FC getting regularly thrashed by more or less every other team in the league. What it does prove though - if league position, player enthusiasm and demand for team places are anything to go by - is that a lack of any discernible footballing talent need not be a barrier to successfully coaching kids. I see myself more as a facilitator: someone to give encouragement and support

to enable the players to enjoy their football and develop as individuals and a team.

It will probably sound like a cliché, but I mean it when I say that I am genuinely honoured to have been voted in as Chairman of this fine local institution. I think that it is an extraordinary achievement for the club to now be in its 26th season and a huge amount of credit obviously goes to Dave and Jenny Mitchell who have built the club on such solid foundations. Those foundations are the values that in my opinion, differentiate us from many other clubs in the area. Above all, we're a friendly club and we value our reputation very highly. We place sportsmanship and enjoyment of the game above winning at all costs. We aim to provide children of all ages, backgrounds, gender, ethnicity and abilities with the opportunity to play football. We value the input from all our members: players, parents and supporters and we aim to be the club of choice in the local area.

One of the most difficult things to deal with as a manager is telling a parent that there are no more squad places available for their child but unfortunately there is always a limit to the number of players that can be accommodated both for safety and practicality reasons. That's why we desperately need to continuously recruit coaches and assistants in order to meet the growing demand for places that our good reputation generates.

Our primary goal for the immediate future is to get the long-awaited new pavilion built. In order to secure the football foundation funding for this, we need to complete a football development plan which requires us to set some 5-year objectives for the development of the club. I would like to see these build on our values already mentioned and for us to set ourselves targets like having a minimum of one team per age-group, increasing the number of girls-teams in the club, reducing the number children who cannot be accommodated due to capacity constraints. We are currently developing this plan ready for submission in February and will aim to share those plans with you all in the next issue of the newsletter.

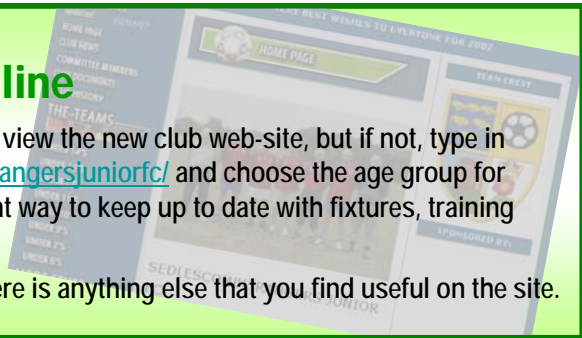
Finally, I would just like to wish you and your families a very happy and prosperous new year and thank you for your continued support.



## Sedlescombe Rangers On-line

Hopefully by now you've all had a chance to view the new club web-site, but if not, type in <http://www.clubwebsite.co.uk/sedlescomberangersjuniorfc/> and choose the age group for your team. If used properly, the site is a great way to keep up to date with fixtures, training times and other relevant news.

Why not drop us a line and let us know if there is anything else that you find useful on the site.



## News in Brief

### New Pavilion - Update

Work continues in the background on the new Pavilion. Plans have been drawn up and a portfolio of funding arranged from the council, parish and FA. In order to secure the FA funding, we must complete a Football Development Plan which is currently in development and will be submitted in February. From there it is expected to take 6 months before we learn whether the funding has been agreed.

New Under 13 Girls team established. Training is on Friday Evenings at Claremont. Contact Mark Smith on 07894 065009 for more info.

### Managers Wanted!

Ever thought about doing a spot of coaching? We're always looking for volunteers to become coaches, coaching assistants, administrators and team managers so that we can meet the increasing demand from local children who want to play football. We are committed to providing opportunities for kids of all abilities but we desperately need a pipeline of volunteers, especially for the younger age groups – i.e. Under 6s. We're sure that you will find it incredibly rewarding to see the teams and individuals learn and develop as a result of your involvement. You don't need to be an experienced coach. You don't even need to have played the game at any particular level. All that's required is enthusiasm and whatever time commitment you can manage. We will help with funding for FA Coaching badges should you wish to take them and can offer a strong support network from our existing managers to help you get started. Contact us at [sedlescomberangers@hotmail.com](mailto:sedlescomberangers@hotmail.com) if you think you can help.

### Lost Property

We continue to have an ever increasing stock of lost property across all age groups. Please contact your manager if your child has lost an item (and of course, try to encourage them to remember to take their kit home!) We will keep all items until the end of the season and then arrange for any unclaimed property to be given to charity.

## FA Charter Standard Badges

Now that the club has achieved the FA Charter Standard we are entitled to display the official logo on our shirts. You will shortly receive a badge which we are asking parents to sew onto the team shirt (not training tops). The placement needs to be on the **sleeve of the left arm, about a hands-width down from the shoulder**. We think the players will be pleased to have the new logo on their sleeve as it's similar to the kind of badge worn on the sleeves of the Premiership stars. Thanks in advance for your support.



## Welcome to Duncan Boon

We're delighted that Duncan Boon joined our coaching staff at the end of last season. He is a local man who lived for football when he was young (a long time ago now!) He represented the county at many school and youth levels, being a member of the 24 man England schools squad at under 19s. After several trials with professional clubs, he played semi professional football for Hastings United, Eastbourne United, Eastbourne Town and Folkestone Town amongst others! Whilst at these clubs he was a member of London Football Coaches Association, attending practical demonstrations that were held by some esteemed coaches of the day, including Terry Venables, Bob Wilson, Ron Greenwood and Dario Grady.

He retired from semi-professional football at 30 and about 12 years ago took the FA coaching badge, then taking two years of under 16s and under 9s coaching at Battle Rangers, which he thoroughly enjoyed. As it is has been some years since his last coaching he has decided to update his qualification to the new FIFA certificate in order to keep up with this ever changing sport.

## Club Contacts

<b>Manager U6s &amp; U9s White</b> Pete Morley 07914 837071	<b>Coach U6s</b> Duncan Boon 01424 774973	<b>Manager U7s &amp; U9s Blue</b> Fred Ham 07802 621047	<b>Manager U10s</b> Trevor Foster 07821 159495
<b>Chairman and Manager U11s</b> Stuart Harper 07909 537175	<b>Secretary and Manager U12s</b> David Mitchell 01424 870707	<b>Manager U13s</b> Glen Carrick 01424 772763	<b>Manager U13 Girls</b> Mark Smith 07894 065009
<b>Manager U14s</b> John Noonan 07778 065135	<b>Manager U14s Rangers</b> Will Ramsden 01424 756322	<b>Treasurer</b> Jenny Mitchell 01424 870707	<b>Welfare Officer</b> Lynda Burton 01424 772947

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