



Hurst Romans FC Newsletter - March 2007

A note from the Chairman

Thank you to everyone involved with the club for all your time and hard work. It is great to see the club continually growing. We are currently in the process of entering a second under 8's team into the summer league and establishing an under 13's team taking us to a total of 10 teams from under 7 to under 14's. Training will commence on Thursday 19th April 17:30-18:30 at St Nicholas school field for reception and year 1 boys and girls who will form Septembers under 7 team all are welcome. We are always looking for new players at all age groups and parents that would like to assist with coaching the players. Any questions contact Martin 07920592904.

MANAGER TEAM REPORTS

U7s

The core group seems to have settled down to Michael, Cameron, Ellie, Jack R, Nathan, Jack L, Zavier and Nat (Dash).

We have the luxury of three good goal keepers, Michael, Jack R and Ellie, all are willing and able to throw themselves into the mud for the cause!

We have the smallest team in the U7 league but playing bigger and older boys/girls doesn't seem to have fazed them as they ease themselves into just playing for fun, at the moment.

I am sure when Tim and Martin and the other coaches get them onto the training ground the step overs, nut megs and bicycle kicks (and that's just from Nathan) will all be banned. Cameron has made the key defender role his own and has had little time to let his mind to wander onto what mums cooking for tea. Jack L, Jack R and Zavier are running themselves into the ground in midfield, sometimes in the right direction.

Having seen the very first Hurst U7 team who were not half as talented as this group of players go on to play today in U9 group and look very tasty indeed, I have high hopes these players will form the nucleus of Reading FC in 2020.

Biggest win to date, they are all still smiling and seem to be enjoying themselves. Result.

Matt Harrop

U8s BLUE:

Hi everyone, since I became manager I have really enjoyed my time with the team. We have some really good players, and the team are gelling together really well. I just want to say a big thanks to Arran who helps me with the training every Monday night. We have fun games, learn tricks and skills & all the boys/girls really like him.

This season we have done really well in the league. We are using what we learned in training and taking it into the games, with lots of tricks, skill and movement, which all of the team are picking up really well. Every week we're getting better and better. It's so pleasing for me to see them doing this on the field. We're working really hard through the whole team from the goalkeeper to the strikers. So let's keep the good work going.

Lee Mills

U9 BLACK

The boys are having a mixed season and are struggling when some of the stronger players are unavailable to play. There are some good teams in this Division and so in most of the games the boys are coming up against strong players. I am really pleased with how some of the players are coming on and improving. The team is currently positioned just below half way in the Division.

Liam O'Brian

More good news for the U8s.....

We are in the lucky position of having enough children for another team in the U8s age group. Despite all best efforts we were unable to secure this new team a place in the Hicks Winter League. However the team will now be able to start playing regularly together in the Pro Sport Summer League which starts April 14th. Training is on Monday evenings at 6pm for all the U8s at Woodford Park, Woodley. For any enquiries please speak to Dave Bingham on david.bingham@wolseley.com: work 0118 929 8884 or home: 0118 932 1267

U9 BLUE

The team is having a great season so far. They were unbeaten in the first 7 games and conceded the least amount of goals in the division. This run included a 1 – 1 draw against the Division 2 leaders. They were desperately unlucky to lose 1 – 2 against Woodley Hammers in Nov 06. This was a game they should have won by 3 or 4 nil. This remains their only defeat of the season.

At the time of writing this update, the team have just won their local derby against Twyford Comets 5 – 1.

I am expecting a good run through to the finish of the season. There is no reason why this team won't finish runners up in Division 2 and earn promotion to Division 1 next year. They're good enough and are beginning to play some really great football.

Liam O'Brian

U10s BLUE:

The U10 blue team Jake, William, Mitchell, James, Andrew, Matthew and William are doing really well so far this season having been promoted to Division 1 in September. We are currently 3rd in the league and have won half of our matches. Every week, (weather permitting) the whole team work hard for each other and never give up which has resulted in some really good team performances. Recently we were 2-0 down at half time against a good side. The team recognised at half time they were not playing their best and came out in the second half with such determination they were soon dominating the game, the final score was 2-2. I am especially proud of all the players as we only have 7 in the squad so without any substitutes they give it their all each week. Fingers crossed for good weather so we can play our last 6 games.

Martin Rayner

U10s BLACK

If there's one question being asked more than any other this season for the Hurst Romans B team it is;" Why do our matches never get called off?"

The pitch can have boats and ducks floating on top of it with submarines patrolling underneath ... the wind can be blowing so strong that the ball never touches the ground ... and the rain can be blowing so hard it's not even horizontal, it's actually turned upside down .. But still the phone never rings and our game is never cancelled.

While Martin Rayner's softies from the Blue team run for cover as soon as a cloud moves across the sun ... the Black team are out there battling the elements. And I mean battling the elements. The defence has been built around mud pies which are aimed at the incoming forward line.

And with mud, mud and lots of mud involved, who better to lead the defensive line than Henry. Like the rest of the team he has emerged from the depths of the swampy pitches with death defying tales of courage.

Henry has left the hit-man tag behind him, not a long way, but far enough to now being described as the most valuable defender in the division. Many a tricky opponent has been bamboozled by the long-legged lunges from the Lodge Road lad as he weaves a tapestry of silky skills through the ruts of the Arborfield Garrison pitch.

As usual it's been the team's inconsistent performances that gets the crowd out of their warm beds and on to a wet and windy pitchside. Wondering what will come next as the team dazzle one week and are plain awful seven days later. World champions one minute, chumps another minute. How we laugh on the touchline. Sometime hysterically, but we do laugh.

Will James chase the ball or just pretend he hasn't seen it? Can the manager persuade someone to go in goal for the second-half? ... And, even before the kick-off, will we have seven players this week?

But when we get the seven amigos on you always know there's Dead Shot Jack up front waiting to pounce. In following the traditions of all great strikers Jack will shoot from anywhere. If he thinks he can score, he shoots .. Whether this is from a corner, a goal kick or, if he could, chuck it in from a throw-in. I suppose when you're on a fiver a goal then you're not interested in passing to Josh or Kristian ... and that's why he's on 13 goals so far this season.

'The Cat' Cameron plays in so many positions during a 40 minute match he's left sunk in a dizzy heap at the final whistle. Kristian has learnt how to find space ... problem is the ball never finds the space as it's still stuck in the chasing pack, like a stick insect on a sticky bun.

Josh runs and runs ... and when he gets beat he pushes, pulls, fouls and cheat ... like any son of a Scotsman should do. And then there's George who has to put up with my mood swings on a Saturday afternoon. GEORGE! Tackle! Kick it! Do Something! Oh Bloody hell! Etc etc ... but like any good son of a Bentley he just ignores his father and does his own thing ... even picking up a couple of man-of-the-match awards, one which I didn't give him!!!

Honourable mentions should also go to man of mystery Shiva or, as he's called on a Saturday 'Is he turning up'. Also to Mitchell who learnt a few things when playing in our team - like 'where did all this mud come from'.

Also big thanks to all the parents and all the managers who've helped out as I've struggled to make most weekends ... Kenny, David, Sarah, Damien, Eddie, etc, etc but BIG thanks to all the families who turn up .. It is all good fun and a good laugh. Keep the faith and ADIOS! X

Jim Bentley

U13 Christmas Tournament News

A well organised tournament at Reading FC's indoor training dome. 16 under 13 sides in 2 leagues on a 30 by 40 metre pitch. Thank goodness it was indoors as the weather was appalling.

We took our 8 Year 8 boys who were all supported by their respective parents throughout the event.

The football was of a high standard throughout and whilst we did not win any matches we did score some memorable goals (Max, Phillip). Ironically our best performance was against the eventual overall winners Eldon Celtic who narrowly beat us late in the game.

Not unsurprisingly we had a large amount of defending to do which was well marshalled by our Captain Harrison and our "Player of the Tournament" Ashley who was the best goalkeeper in our group.

We presented Ashley with a framed photo of himself in action during the tournament making one of his many fine saves, well done.

Finally, thank you to Sam, George, Harry and Adrian for all your efforts in supporting the aforementioned players and completing our line up for our first competitive games. Not forgetting the invaluable help I received from Paul Squires in coaching and motivation.

Happy New Year

Tim Drake

U12s

Its already halfway through the season for the under 12s. Our first season playing 11 a side on full size pitches. For those of you who don't know we play in the East Berks youth football league, considered by many as one of the best leagues in the south. So to go straight into division two was always going to be difficult. After an understandably slow start to the season things have really begun to pick up in the recent weeks. Two wins out of three over the Christmas and New Year period shows that we are heading in the right direction. I would like to use this opportunity to thank all the boys for their efforts during 2006 and to thank all the parents for their continued support. 2007 looks like it will be an exciting time for the under 12 boys!

Martin Butler

STOP PRESS!.... DEVELOPMENT OF U13s.....STOP PRESS!

The under 13s (school year 8) have enough players to enter Summer tournaments. We need to recruit five more to make a squad of 13 for the league next year.

With this in mind we have advertised during Feb in the Evening Post and there are posters going on notice boards at The Forest, Piggott, Blue Coat and Bearwood Schools. The existing boys have been asked to remind their friends of the opportunity so we are addressing the issue now.

If there are any comments please direct the people to me and I will discuss any matters arising.

I can't make any guarantees but I can be proactive and would ask others to do the same by "word and mouth". Thanks for your help.

Tim Drake 0118 9345676 or email me TimETDrake@aol.com

U14s

A season of progress.

With all the new signings at the start of the new season we had much hope of improvement on the last one. So it would seem we have been proved correct.

The fixture list was very unkind to us, pitching us against Peppard and Meadway, both just relegated from Division 1. However, during these and the subsequent matches, we saw early signs that things were changing. By the time of our "derby" match against Reeves in early November, there were high hopes of a win. We came pretty close, managing a 2-2 draw even though we had far more corners and chances.

Then just before Christmas, we lost 5-3 against Burghfield after leading 2-0 at the interval. We saw things in this game that would hold us in good stead during the coming weeks.

With around 5 minutes left we were 3-1 down against Prospect, having led 1-0 before half time. From nowhere, we scored 2 lovely goals and earned a well deserved draw. Never before had this fighting spirit shown in this team but it was wonderful to see. Next up, the return against Reeves.....not a pretty game but a hard "scrapped for" 1-0 victory was well deserved. Though I must say, from a coaching point of view, I do not like being 1-0 up for long periods. We now must kill off teams and score more. It will come soon.

Well done to all the boys for their excellent commitment this year. We hope you all stay and look forward to the summer tournaments and another more successful 2007-08 season.

Shane Wyatt

CHECK OUT THIS INFORMATION THAT WILL APPEAR IN THE EVENING POST

Hurst Romans F.C. are a friendly village club with ten teams at different levels from under 7 to under 14.

We are entering a team of school year 8 boys (under 13) in several summer tournaments from May onwards and then in the local league next season. We require several players to improve our new squad at this level. People who have moved to the local area or fancy a new challenge and have played at a reasonable standard should contact me for information.

Please contact me for a chat **Tim Drake 0118 9345676** or email me
TimETDrake@aol.com or check the website www.hurstfc.org.uk

Other HURST ROMANS News

PARTY IN THE PARK

For a night of great music, great company and to support our club's development, book this date in your diary now.....

30th June 2007

- ☺ Due to popular demand the bands are already booked!
- ☺ Well priced alcohol available.....
- ☺ Bring your own bbqs or take-aways!
- ☺ Tickets available from May.

- ☑ Our U13/14s teams have been training with the help of a **Reading FC trainer** for 6 weeks. This has so far been greatly motivating for the boys and may well be something the other teams will investigate.....
- ☑ We are privileged to have a number of our boys playing for **Reading FC Academy**. Well done to all of those boys - it is a fantastic achievement to see you take your game on to this level.
- ☑ **BOOTS!** If you are totally fed up with your son or daughter needing yet another new pair of boots, then contact Ruth Graesser (07931 445 559/01189 341462). We have a lot of boots that have been passed on and the majority of them are in excellent condition (might need a little clean!) Similarly if you have some pairs lying around the smelly shoe cupboard, please pass to your team manager so that we can offer them to other players.
- ☑ Many of the teams are about to be entered in **Summer Leagues and Tournaments**. Your manager will have all the details so make sure you get to hear of them.
- ☑ If you didn't already know, then we have a **Club website** that Duncan Kendall kindly manages for us. Do take a moment to have a look at it. We try to update it with any relevant information for your teams, including if matches are cancelled or postponed. The address is:
www.hurstfc.org.uk