



Shout out:

Congratulations to Warren Baxter on his 21st on 14th January

Well done to Dave Evans in his new role at Reading FC

Wishing the Levin family from the U11's Whites a quick recovery

Congratulations to u16 players Jason Belgrave, James East and Billy Margatts on their debuts for the Men's "A" team

Welcome to every single Woodley Town & Kestrel player

I'd like to welcome you to the first e-newsletter of the current season which for many of you will be the first copy you have seen. I hope you find it interesting and if you have any comments or articles you would like to see included please contact Gemma Edwards (gemiliawhitty@hotmail.com) or Joy Wellstead (joywellstead@sky.com).

Woodley Town can trace its routes back to 1904 and is a FA Charter Standard Development Club that runs four men's teams, with the 1st team playing in Hellenic Division One East (Step 6 of The FA National League System), fifteen youth teams from u7 – u16, two girls teams at u14 and a pre-school group. The club also provides after school football classes in local schools in partnership with Bulmershe School Sports Association.

In addition the club enjoys a successful partnership with Earley Home Guard Social Club who kindly provide the use of their facilities especially on match days for men's post match hospitality.

Without doubt this is a club to be proud of and I'd like to thank all those who give their time to make it the success it currently is.

Wishing you a happy and successful New Year.
Mark Rozzier

Review of the season to date

There is so much to write about but one of the pleasing things is the number of Kestrels players who have and are making the progression from youth to men's football.

The bulk of last season's East Berks Youth Football League u17 League Cup winning team are playing in the Men's "B" team that currently sits top in Reading Football League Division Four, while a number of the current u16 Whites have signed Men's forms and are making appearances in the Men's Reserve and "A" teams. This is a tremendous credit for the club to be able to provide a pathway for the youngsters to play football locally.

On the pitch many teams are well placed in their leagues and cups. Therefore, the second half of the season looks to be very exciting.





Happy 18th
birthday to
Hamish Mowat
on 12th January

Congratulations
to Jason
Belgrave on
scoring eight
goals for the u16
Whites in the
league cup
match against
California

Well done to Jim
Nightingale for
his first hat trick
for the club

Happy birthday
to Henry Durrant
who will be 21
on 29th January

Club Plans

As part of the on-going growth and development of the club, work has started to identify and secure a site which can be developed to include a pitch that can be floodlit and a club house. A number of options have been identified which the club's Executive Committee has prioritized and who have started discussions with third parties. This is an ambitious project that is in its infancy and one that you will be kept informed of developments.

Forthcoming Events

In addition to signing on fees and players match day subs, fundraising is important to enable the club to develop and operate at the level it does. Two forthcoming events are:

Race Night – 26th February

The club's first event of the New Year and it's bound to prove popular if past Race Nights are anything to go by. This family event will be held at Earley Home Guard, with the first race at 7.30 pm.

Tickets for entry cost £3 adults in advance through managers and it will be £4 adults on the night. As it is a family friendly event children under 16 will be free. So put the date in your diary and get as many people as possible to attend. Further details are available from team managers.



Annual Tournament – 21st & 22nd May

The annual Kestrels tournament is the club's major fund raiser and is held at Reading University (Activity Centre), Crescent Road, Reading. The success of the tournament owes much to those who organise it with each age group being responsible for specific tasks.

A tournament subcommittee is being formed with the first meeting to be held in January and volunteers together with a Tournament coordinator needed to oversee activity.

If you are interested in helping please contact Peter Barratt (07836 605071 or kestrelsf@hotmail.com).



Kestrels went to Wembley

On Wednesday 17th November the three u9 teams, managed by Stephen Moody, Barry Wallis and Jim Milkins, and the u10 team managed by Russell Rodgers, went to Wembley to watch England v France.

Including the parents, a total of sixty six club members attended the event with everyone travelling to the stadium by coach. The allocation of cheap tickets by the FA, charging £10 for u16 and £20 for adults, made this a one off affordable opportunity for many.

Although the result did not go England's way the experience of watching England play at the new Wembley made it an excellent outing for all who attended although £7 for a Hotdog and £8 for a burger did leave a hole in some people's pockets!!

Under 9's winners of Sid Hopkins tournament

Woodley Town Kestrels under 9's won the 2010 Sid Hopkins tournament on Sunday 5th September. The tournament is held annually for teams from the four Woodley football clubs: Woodley Town, Woodley Wanderers, Woodley Saints and Woodley Hammers. The under 9s section included teams representing Town, Saints and Hammers and after a round robin league the top two teams played in a final.

A competitive game saw a 2-1 victory to Town with the Town goal scorers being Dan Bennett and Oliver Curtis. The first goal came from a good interception by Dan of a throw-in from one of the Hammers' players before advancing with the ball and then calmly slotting this in the bottom left corner of the goal. The second came from a good passing move that saw Oliver put through one-on-one with the goalkeeper and he provided an emphatic finish. Hammers got a consolation goal in the final minute of the game.





Wokingham Borough Council Sports Council Personality of the Year Awards 2010

At the annual Wokingham Borough Council Sports Council Sports Personality of the Year Awards 2010, held on 27 November 2010 at the FBC Centre, Finchampstead, Woodley Town was presented with the Team Award in recognition of its u15 age group's achievements last season with the citation reading:

- Winners of Berks & Bucks FA Minor u15 cup that is contested by teams throughout the two counties.
- This is the second time this group has been County champions, previously winning it at u13 level and is a testimony to the ability of the players and coaches that they remained leaders at this age.
- The feat of winning two county cups has never before been achieved by any Wokingham Borough Council based team.
- The age group also won the North East Hants League Division One title and Berkshire Youth Development Football League Division One cup while being runners up in the NEHL League Cup, Slough & Windsor Open Trophy and BYFL Division One title.
- A number of the players have now turned sixteen and such is their ability that they have made debuts for the Men's section of the club showing that the club encourages youth development to adult football.

The award was presented to u15 Colts Manager Michael Harrison and Club Chairman Mark Rozzier, by Wokingham based Bonita Norris who on 17 May 2010 became the youngest British Woman to climb to the summit of Mount Everest.

The club was also nominated for the "Service to Sport in the Community (Club)" award for the work it does though its Community Schools Football Programme that brings football to years 1 – 6 children in eight local schools.



Picture: Michael Harrison with Bonita Norris



The new season welcomes the Kestrel Falcons

Before the start of 2009/10 season a lot of interest was shown by girls from Rivermead school who were interested in playing football for a club such as Woodley Kestrels.

Already with two successful Kestrel girls teams in the same age group under 12 , the Kestrel Bows (League Champs 08/10) managed by Chris Buckley, and the Kestrel Belles managed by Rob Lambden and Charlotte Roberts, a new third team seemed possible.

With a nod from our very own youth development officer Craig Sumner who was training the girls at an after school club, Rob Lambden stepped aside from the Belles team to manage the new scratch side. Rob needed help to run the team and appointed Neil Forrester as co manager. So the new under 13 Kestrels girls 3rd team started the season in a very tough and well established league, with 7 of their team never having played a league match ever before, and nine of their team playing a year up. They won their first two games and confidence was high. They were very quickly grounded by a long line of defeats. As the season progressed a good team spirit was built and the Girls managed to finish 8th in the League with 4 wins and a couple of draws.

Rob and Neil would like to thank all the players for their efforts this season and can't wait for next seasons new challenge. The Girls will start the new season with a new name (Kestrel Falcons) Come on the Falcons. Special thanks also to James Allen for his help this season.



Top row left to right: Abbie (vice capt Midfield), Ellen (capt and striker), Karina (Midfield), Harriet (Defence and reserve keeper)

Bottom row left to right: Hollie (midfield), Kelsey (defence), Samantha (Keeper), Alex (Defence), Abigail (Defense /mid field). Lucy Briggs (midfield) missing from photo.



Girls Football in Woodley

Notwithstanding the potential that exists, the provision of Girls' football is poor in the town of Woodley. Therefore, an exciting initiative involving the four Woodley clubs of Town, Hammers, Saints and Wanderers working together with Berks & Bucks FA is underway with the objective being the formation of one central girls club to release this potential, provide coaching and have a clear pathway for girls to progress.

As part of raising girls football profile the following free sessions are being held at Goals, Woodlands Avenue, Woodley:

- Women's Football for Beginners – Wednesdays 12th January – 16th February, 7.00 – 8.00 pm. See link <http://www.berks-bucksfa.com/NR/rdonlyres/8D93B09E-2742-453C-B9B8-83C677B9E51E/0/girlswmnsfoota4.pdf>

Please encourage as many girls as possible to attend.

Important dates for the diary

Executive Officers meetings

- 11th January
- 8th February
- 8th March
- 12th April
- 10th May

Managers' meetings

- 27th January
- 24th February
- 24th March
- 28th April

Annual General meeting

- 26th June

Support needed for u16 Whites on 23 January at home (Woodford Park) to Ascot Utd in the quarter final of Berks & Bucks u16 Minor Cup – 2.00 pm kick off



Keep up-to-date with the latest news

Keep checking the web site for the latest news and fixtures: www.woodleytownfc.co.uk

Join the Woodley Town FC Facebook group where you can post comments and see the latest photos from the matches.