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NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2006

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the New Year and I hope you all had a good Christmas break.

If you are like me you will be on a diet right now but I always make an exception for a quick trip to the Purple Café on Saturday mornings. Those of you who have been going in may have noticed that we are now serving new giant sized bacon rolls and our usual large coffees to keep out the cold on match mornings. I always look forward to talking to everyone in the café on a morning and finding out how all the teams have done, who has performed well or who has not, as the case may be. I am sure you will agree that our two café managers, Annette Poulson and Bernadette Render, along with our team of volunteer helpers, are doing a fantastic job in keep the café running so smoothly.

Talking of keeping warm - can I remind you all at these particularly cold times of the year, to make sure that all the players are warmly clad and warm up properly before their games. I know it is an old cliché but it is so important right now both in terms of the quality of football that we play and of course everyone's well being.

Enjoy the rest of the season.

Martin Belton, Chairman



CASINO & CURRY NIGHT — SATURDAY 22ND APRIL

We are delighted to announce that we will be running a Casino and Curry Night on Saturday 22nd April at St Paul's Parish Rooms, Wokingham. Tickets are £12.50 per head which includes a 2-course Indian curry from the award winning Haweli Restaurant in Twyford. A bar will be

available to purchase drinks. We anticipate this will be a popular event so get your friends together (adults only please) and order your tickets through **Claire Dyer** on events@winnershrangers.com or **Tel. 9268111**. Alternatively, please see Neil Chalfont or Gillian Belton.



DINNER DANCE DAZZLED

The Winnersh Rangers Purple Pageant held at Bearwood Lakes Golf Club on 10th December was a big success and was enjoyed by all. The venue was beautifully decorated with Christmas trees and glitter and sparkle everywhere making it a truly magnificent setting for the evening's event.

A magnum of champagne was won by Christine Gibson for her 'Best in Purple' attire although she faced stiff competition from a number of ladies and gents alike. The ball was a great way of starting off the festive season and we hope to repeat the experience in the future.



Website Update

The Winnersh Rangers website, www.winnershrangers.com is now an integral part of the club and is used by home and away supporters alike. Now that the basic setup is complete, you will be able to keep abreast of items of news and events which will be regularly posted up on the home page.

If anyone has anything particular they would like mentioning then please contact Adrian Betteridge our Webmaster on webmaster@winnershrangers.com. We are happy to include the odd match report too or particular items of news or photographs about a team. So don't feel inhibited – let us share your highs and/or lows - the site is there for you!

U7s make a promising start to competitive football



Following the success of last year's soccer school, the 3 teams which have been created as a result have all made a successful start to playing competitive football.

Storm are playing in Section A of the East Berks Junior League and at the end of November have won 5 of their 6 games. Victories have been achieved against Camberley, Darby Green, Sandhurst, California and Whitegrove with the only defeat being at the hands of Pinewood who have been playing together for a year longer than Storm. The 1-0 success against Sandhurst was particularly impressive since they too have been playing together that extra year. All the boys (Stephen Hunt, Connor Blyth, William Howell, Daniel Chalfont, Oliver Vickery, Ross Bonnell, Christian Miller and Thomas Marsh) have all worked extremely hard at developing their skills and working together as a team. It has been a very encouraging start.

In Section B, Lightning too have made a promising start winning 3, drawing 2 and losing 3 games, but they are currently unbeaten in their past 4 games so the improvement is obvious. Again the skills and teamwork is improving each game and everyone has contributed to the team's success. The squad is Thomas Daw, Ashley Wyeth, Charlie Kinch, Alex Meadowcroft, Matthew Roberts, Shaun Bryant, Harry Coxhead, Scott Mulcock, Matty Turner and Sam Smith.

Having only planned to run two teams this season, the success of the soccer school has meant that we have actually established a third team called Thunder. Currently this team is only playing friendlies and is a developmental squad but we will be entering Thunder into the league in January. The team has now won their last 2 games having lost the first 4 so there has been a marked improvement in every game played culminating in a 2-0 win against Ascot and a 2-1 win over Sandhurst. The squad is Simon Light, William Stevens, Daniel Bell, Jack Perkins, Luke Jackson, William Frost, Eric Giddings, Toby Mylton-Smith and Liam Hiscox.

All in all, we have been extremely pleased with every boy's commitment to improving their individual skills and working at improving as a team. The recent results are a testimony to this effort.

Neil Chalfont and Gareth Howell
U7s Managers

Blast from the past...



We thought you might be interested to see what Winnersh Rangers used to be like in its early years. This photo was taken at our Christmas Party at the Recreation Ground (we could have one big one in those days) and everyone went outside to have this group photo taken in the snow. How many players can you recognise?

Did you know you can hire the Pavilion?

You might be interested to know that we do hire out the Pavilion facilities to members of Winnersh Rangers during Saturday or Sunday afternoons during the football season. Anyone interested in finding out more should contact Gillian Belton on **Tel: 9019395**.

BOOT ROOM

Don't forget Winnersh Rangers run a boot room where you can buy second hand boots for £3.00 per pair. We have quite a good stock at the moment so please contact Liz Cooley on Tel. 9784546 or email bootroom@winnershrangers.com to find out more. Similarly, if you have a pair of boots that are too small why not donate them to the club?



Executives

As manager of the club's oldest team (that is, old in terms of being around, not oldest as in age of players: I believe that honour belongs to the U18 girls) you'd expect that I would have seen a few changes over the years. And of course, you'd be right. During the past eight years, we've played in five different leagues, trained at five venues, used seven 'home' pitches and used three different sizes of balls for matches. Then of course there are the players. From being a bunch of sweet faced, well spoken, middle class, seven year olds, they've turned into (forgive me parents) snarling trained football assassins who's only discernible method of communication seems to be, 'grunt'. I'm told this is normal. This must be a new definition of the world normal.

But at the same time, our side has remained remarkably consistent. Six players who played in our first seven-a-side season (Adam Davey, Adam King, Sam Belton, Tom Whitfield, James Evans and Charles Alexander) still play in our side today. As far as I am aware, at least one has never missed a game (though as I write, he's whining about his leg; honestly, you'd think nobody had torn a quad muscle in their lives)! Given that we must have played close to 200 games, that's quite an achievement. Then we have the players who joined us as an 11-a-side team at under 12's (such as Christian Miller, Matthew Jennings, Ryan Birse and team captain Simon Lacey) – all of whom are today as an integral part of the team as those that joined from day one.

This, I'm sure, is a significant contributor to the fact that we have been, and remain, a remarkably consistent side. Sure we've had our high's (first team ever to win a major tournament, three league runner's up spots etc) and lows (including the great Osgood Schlatter's Disease epidemic of 2003 which decimated us for a while) but by and large we're a steady old ship.

That said, today we're probably stronger than we've ever been. We've added some great new players to strengthen the team in the shape of Tom Ditchburn, Sean Ennis, Ross Gardner and keeper Tom Bennett all of whom seem to have settled in well. This is jolly lucky as we're in a devil of a league this year (South Chiltern League, Division One in case you're interested). For only the second time in our history, we find ourselves battling relegation despite the fact that we seem to be playing well and moving forward all the time.

So what have we learnt over the past six years? Here are three things that I wish I knew when I started out. Firstly; you can't run a great team without help; I am astonishingly lucky to have an army of qualified coaches and referees to hand to keep the Execs on track including (but not limited to) Steve Lacey, Andrew Miller and Barry Gardner - all of whose support means we never miss a training session and offer excellent officials to run matches. Second thing I learnt was: there's always another match next week (a bit defeatist I know, but it helps me enjoy Sunday night telly). Finally; always shout handball really loudly at the ref' if you think there's a chance of a decision. You'll be surprised how many times this works.

GOALS, GOALS, GOALS!

At the beginning of the season a group of volunteers set about putting the goal bags straight. The bags were sorted and torn ones replaced, the goals were checked over for parts and any broken pieces replaced and each bag was labelled. It was therefore desperately disheartening to find the bags in a terrible state by mid-October and things have sadly not improved.

We fully appreciate all the help parents give in setting up and taking down the goals each week. We also know that during these horrible wintry days of freezing temperatures and driving rain that goal erecting/dissembling is not the easiest or pleasantest of jobs – in fact, we'd go so far as to say it is downright grim. Nonetheless, it has to be done and we sincerely thank all those volunteers.

In trying to find a solution to the problem of the broken/missing/extra parts scenario however, we would ask that if you do happen to encounter a problem, please do not take parts from another goal bag – this just exacerbates the problem. There are a number of old goal bags standing on end as you enter the store room where spare parts can be found and taken - feel free to help yourself from these but please be sure to leave them safe and tidy. Any real concerns about a particular goal bag should be addressed to [Dave Simmill](mailto:Dave.Simmill@winnershrangers.com), Kit and Equipment Secretary on equipment@winnershrangers.com. Thank you for your support.

VIDUNI PRE-SCHOOL, SRI LANKA

Many of you will have seen the item on the front page of the Wokingham Times during New Year which featured the Viduni Pre-School. Thanks to support from many people in the local community the school has now been rebuilt and is a huge hit with the pupils, so much so that they do not want to go home! Winnersh Rangers are delighted to have been involved in the fund raising efforts for this project through CJ Wetthamuni and we are thrilled that a year on, the children are once again able to use their school.

Purple Café & Alnat Pavilion – What's in it for you?

The Purple Café is a godsend on cold, damp Saturday mornings and what better way to brighten up the day than by a hot bacon roll and cup of steaming coffee?

The café is administered by Annette Poulson and Bernadette Render who dedicate a huge amount of their time to ensure the café runs smoothly and opens as much as possible. The profits from the café are used to pay for the

Alnatt Pavilion, which includes the café, the storage room, changing facilities and toilets.

We hire the Pavilion for the whole weekend because as well as the 18 teams that use the Recreation Ground on Saturdays, we also have five girl's teams and two boys teams using the facilities on Sundays. The Pavilion is also used for training purposes, team meetings and all committee meetings.



Christmas Raffle Raises £750

We are delighted that our Christmas Raffle was once again a huge success, raising £750 for club funds. Thank you to all those who donated a prize and/or bought raffle tickets – your support is very much appreciated. There were 28 prizes in all and the winning ticket numbers can be found below:

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| 1. £50 M&S Vouchers | Ticket no 04112 Juliet John c/o Turner U7 Lightning |
| 2. Don Beni's Voucher Dinner for Two | Ticket no 04607 Fleming U14 Warriors |
| 3. Two Junior Tickets Coral Reef | Ticket no 01002 Ellington U11 Pumas |
| 4. Miltons Lunchtime Voucher for £25.00 | Ticket no 01109 Hugh Walker U11 Jaguars |
| 5. Beale Park Voucher 1 Adult + 1 Child | Ticket no 04225 Brestyn c/o Blythe U8 Crusaders |
| 6. Carnival Pool Junior 4 in 1 Membership | Ticket no 03825 C Naish c/o Bell U7 Thunder |
| 7. John Nike 5 Ice Skating Vouchers | Ticket no 03726 Thomas Daw U7 Storm |
| 8. Didcot Railway Centre One Family Ticket | Ticket no 03273 Sharp U9 Turbos |
| 9. Newbury Races Invitation to the Races (Includes Two Premier Badges + Car Label) | Ticket no 02107 D Grant U12 Falcons |
| 10. Cotswold Wildlife Park 1 Adult + 1 Child | Ticket no 01777 Betteridge U12 Kestrels |
| 11. French Brothers Boat Trip 2 Adults + 2 Children | Ticket no 02739 Geal U10 Hotshots |
| 12. Luxury Wicker Food Hamper | Ticket no 00728 Coupe U10 Sapphires |
| 13. Christmas Wicker Food Hamper | Ticket no 00422 K Bailey U9 Jets |
| 14. Luxury Bath Spa | Ticket no 00346 Rorrison U9 Jets |
| 15. Ladies Wicker Hamper | Ticket no 03653 Sheila Hudell c/o Chalfont U7 Storm |
| 16. Nicky Clarke Electric Hairdryer & Zappas Goodie Bag | Ticket no 04026 H Wyeth U7 Lightning |
| 17. Office Set | Ticket no 04111 Karen Jones c/o Turner U7 Lightning |
| 18. Christmas Snowman Boxes | Ticket no 00437 A Martin c/o Bailey U9 Jets |
| 19. Boys Wicker Hamper | Ticket no 04917 Hicks U8 Hurricanes |
| 20. Selection of Dutch Beers | Ticket no 02485 Freemantle U12 Hawks |
| 21. Kinetic Pro 5G Tennis Racquet & Tennis Balls | Ticket no 04295 G Watts U8 Crusaders |
| 22. Titleist Golf Towel & Titleist Golf Balls | Ticket no 03735 Thomas Daw U7 Storm |
| 23. 24 Bottles of Becks Beer | Ticket no 05806 Gary Stapleton U13 Tigers |
| 24. Modern Make Up Box | Ticket no 04323 Bull U18 Girls |
| 25. Chloe Perfume | Ticket no 01098 Sue Viney U11 Jaguars |
| 26. Spirit Surprise | Ticket no 02640 Stuart Parsons U12 Hawks |
| 27. Bacardi Breezers + Bottle Port | Ticket no 02811 Andy Dean U10 Hotshots |
| 28. Bottle of Bacardi | Ticket no 05535 Rutter U15 Tycoons |

FANCY EARNING SOME POCKET MONEY?

The café also relies on teams of volunteer helpers. Help is always needed and we are now looking for a number of mature and reliable youngsters (Year 5 and above) to help us run the shop part of the café (selling sweets) and collect the money. We are prepared to make a donation of £5.00 to each youngster (but no more than two at any one session) and anyone interested should ask their parents to contact Annette Poulson on Tel. 9794789 or email cafemanager2@winnershrangers.com to find out more. The café managers will have ultimate responsibility for the scheduling of young helpers. Only Winnersh Ranger family members should apply please.

Sorry to lose...

We are very sorry to be losing Paul Moore from the U8 Tornados at the end of January. His work commitments send him back 'up North' to Leeds with his wife Fiona and family. Son Harry intends to find a new club to play for once they get settled and Paul hopes to get involved as much as he can. We would like to wish them all the very best in their new venture and thank Paul for all his help in setting the Tornados up and for his sterling service over the last couple of years. Paul Wyeth will be taking over the role of manager.



Winnersh Rangers Sponsor

