



WINNERSH RANGERS

Newsletter

June 2005

Chairman's message - time to reflect

So, now the season proper has officially ended, we at last have the time to reflect... For me, the challenge of managing two teams this year has meant that this is something I've had little chance to do so far.

As a club our main achievement must be sending out 26 teams to play football this year, including a record six girls teams, two more than last year. It is gratifying to look at the statistics sometimes and to reflect on how much the club has grown in its seven year history and how far we have come; sometimes the aim of the club – to provide football to as many children in the Winnersh area as possible – gets lost amongst all the other duties involved in running a club this size.

Our mornings at the football field are made much more agreeable by the regular opening of the Purple Café and I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all those who have made this possible.

Winnersh Rangers have also got to be proud of our contribution to the Tsunami Disaster Appeal. With £620 raised, as well as all the kit and equipment which was sent out to Sri Lanka, it is a tremendous achievement and I would like to thank everyone for their support.

On top of all that, our teams have had an outstanding year, having won more cups than ever before. Our reputation grows apace, scouts clamber round our periphery and our name rides high – it's going to be a hard act to follow!

Martin Belton, Chairman

NAME THE NEWSLETTER COMPETITION

Graeme Parker, manager of the Under 11s Eagles and a member of the Winnersh Rangers committee, has designed a new logo for the club's newsletter. It only seems appropriate therefore that we give our newsletter a 'title', rather than it just be referred to as the 'Winnersh Rangers Newsletter'. If you fancy yourself as a bit of a word buff or have a penchant for catchy phrases then here's your chance to win a prize...

Answers please to be forwarded to Gillian Belton, Newspaper Editor, quoting "name the newsletter" as your title and send either:

By email to: mbelton@supanet.com.

By post to: 66 Watmore Lane, Winnersh, Berks RG41 5JT



and make sure you send us details of your name, team name, age and contact details please.

RULES

1. Open to club members and their immediate family only.
2. In case of dispute, Winnersh Rangers committee decision is final.
3. Entries to be in by 30 July 2005.
4. Winners to be announced in the first issue of next season's newsletter.

Prizes will be given out to the three best entries.

TIGERS TRIUMPH

BY JIT AUJLA, MANAGER

The Under 12 Tigers followed up their clinching of the East Berks Intermediate Under 12's Div 1 title with a well deserved victory in the League cup. They gained revenge over arch rivals FC Bracknell, who two years ago pipped the Tigers to both the league title and cup, by running out 4-1 victors.

A great goal in the first two minutes from Robert Price allowed the Tigers to dominate the game from the start. The Tigers mid field duo of Ben French and Alistair Dickie were in excellent form winning lots of possession in the middle of the park and distributing the ball wisely to the forwards. Winnersh should have gone further ahead three times but good goalkeeping and some erratic finishing saved the Bracknell team.

It was only a matter of time before the Tigers would score again and with ten minutes to go before the interval Chris Occelshaw battled hard in a goalmouth melee and forced home the second.



Bracknell tried hard to get into the game but the usual solid Tigers defence of Sean Saxty, Tom Stapleton, Matt Milligan and Alex O'Brien were not having any of it. The second half showed the same pattern as the first with the Tigers dominating even more and with two more goals from Gian Aujla and Chris Occleshaw ran out comfortable winners. It was an excellent match played in a very good spirit and a credit to both sides.



'Max'imum Glory!

After spending weeks under the watchful eyes of both Chelsea (yes, The Premiership Champions, no less!) and Reading FC and being selected for both teams, it has been a tough few months for Max Hemmings from the Under 8 Rockets. What a decision

to have to make but after much debate Max has gone with his local club and signed for Reading FC. What a fantastic achievement and we are delighted to see another Winnersh Rangers player show such success.

Max joined the club as an Under 6 and his abundant talent was obvious then. Under the management of dad Julian and Matthew Brabyn, Max's natural ability developed with careful training and encouragement. His name and reputation grew quickly and it wasn't long before he was being eyed up by scouts from across the south of England.

Congratulations Max, you'll be a sad loss to the Rockets but we're all rooting for you and look forward to hearing all about your progress in the months and years to come!

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN...

The loss of Max also has another serious downfall for Winnersh Rangers. Julian Hemmings has been joint manager of the Rockets team with Matthew Brabyn since its formation in 2002. With Max leaving, Julian has decided to hang up his managerial boots for a while and naturally we are very sad to lose him. Julian has his own inimitable style and is a powerful voice on the football field. He is greatly respected, particularly by his players and their parents, but also by the club and all those who have had dealings with him.

We are also very sorry to be losing Andy Hadjiphanis from the Under 12 Lions team. Andy has been a manager with the club since the team's formation as Under 7s and has worked tirelessly for both since that time. Often seen as the "quiet man of football", Andy has successfully molded the Lions over the years and guided them into the competitive 11-a-side game. Work commitments along with an unfortunate series of injuries requiring prolonged treatment have combined to push Andy out of the football managerial role for the moment. The club would like to thank him for all his achievements and wish him well in the future – he will be missed.

BRACKNELL BEES TICKETS UP FOR GRABS!

As a result of David Taylor Estate Agents involvement with the Bracknell Bees Ice Hockey team, Winnersh Rangers members have been offered free tickets to watch the Bees home games. Winnersh Rangers will receive three lots of 100 free seats to attend three separate home games during the season (details of which will be available shortly). Anyone interested in obtaining tickets should contact Gillian Belton on mbelton@supanet.com

FIRST TOE IN THE WATER – A SEASON'S REPORT

BY SIMON VICKERY, MANAGER



TORNADOES

This year has been a story of 'development and investment for the future', both for the management team and the boys.

The managers steadily got to grips with formations and tactics and the New Year brought a significant improvement from both teams with great performances from all of the boys, an increasing number of good wins, a number of hard fought draws and a significant decline in losses.

In the Tornados, there were massive performances during the season from John Perry, Harry Ower and Harry Moore with the likes of Jordan Dragon, Thomas Wilmoth, Oliver Wyeth, Damon Gambrell, Theo Benjamin and Jack Griffiths providing great support throughout the season.

In the Hurricanes there were strong and consistent performances from Charlie Sawyer, Oliver Vickery, Patrick Hand with great support from the rest of the team. Chris Binney turned in what can only be described as some truly amazing goalkeeping performances throughout his first season. Special mention should be given to Kieran James whose performances since joining the club late in the season inspired and uplifted his team mates.

Timed to perfection, the Hurricanes reached their peak at the East Berks End of Season tournament. Everyone, including Callum



HURRICANES

Hicks, Brad Harmer and Jake Cox delivered strong performances. Andrew Robertson made a superb penalty save allowing the Hurricanes an eventual win of 1 – 0 against Ascot United in the final. A terrific finish to the season.

A big thank you to all of the parents for their help through the year with a special mention to Paul Moore, Paul Robertson and Mark Sawyer as well as Tony Hicks for his continued and inspired 'motivational' tactics!

Based on our flourish towards the end of this last season, we all look forward to the 2005/6 season with great expectations.

U8 TURBOS DO IT AGAIN!

BY DREW POULSON, MANAGER

After winning the final at the East Berks Junior League End of Season tournament last year, we knew it was going to be a very hard act to follow, but with some hard work and fantastic play from the whole team, the U8 Turbos did it again!

During the opening matches there was some great midfield play by Joshua Sharp, Mark Wright, Christopher Fifield, Kieran Binyon, Jonathan Betteridge and Ben White as well as excellent defense from Andy Preston and Jack Turner.

After two hard fought 0-0 draws and two 3-0 wins our progression hinged on the last game of the group between Pinewood and Ashridge. Ashridge lost 2-1 so the Turbos went through to the semi finals against Crusader Kings. The boys worked tirelessly throughout the game but with a couple of good chances missed, we ended up in the dreaded penalty shootout. With one penalty missed by each team, the competition then went to a nail-biting sudden death conclusion. There were some great saves by goalkeeper Liam Poulson



and excellent penalties from George Howell, Andy, Jonathan, Joshua and Liam. The Turbos eventually got the better of the Crusaders and were in the final against South Reading.

At half time the score was 0-0 and everybody thought it was going to be another penalty shootout but with two minutes to go George picked up the ball just outside the box, beat the defender and slipped the ball underneath the keeper into the net to win.

Well done Turbos for a great end to the season and also for winning the Fair Play Award for the Under 8s Section B!

NEW PLAYERS NEEDED!

A familiar cry at this time of the season but yes, Winnersh Rangers are looking to recruit new players for next season. We would particularly like to hear from:

- Under 12s (boys entering Year 8 in September)
- Under 13s (boys entering Year 9 in September)
- Under 6s Soccer School (boys and girls entering Year 1 in September).
- Under 9 Girls (those entering Year 4 in September) to join our newest exclusive girls team.

If you would like more information on any of the above teams or if you know of anyone who would like to join Winnersh Rangers, please contact Martin Belton on Tel 9019395 or email mbelton@supanet.com. We'd love to hear from you.

DAVID TAYLOR ESTATE AGENTS SPONSORSHIP UPDATE



We are delighted to announce that David Taylor Estate Agents have once again agreed to sponsor Winnersh Rangers during the next football season 2005-06. As more new teams join the club and our older members get bigger, we always need new sets of kit. Having the backing of David Taylor Estate Agents means a great deal to the club and we are very grateful for their generous support. Commented David, "We are proud to be associated with Winnersh

Rangers and I hope the money donated helps the club to grow and continue to provide such an enjoyable sport to so many youngsters".

Just a reminder that David Taylor Estate Agents will donate £500 to Winnersh Rangers for any successful house sale completed through them. With branches in Wokingham, Winnersh and Binfield, their sales staff cover a broad area and will cater for all your needs.

WINNERSH RANGERS CHRISTMAS DINNER DANCE "A PURPLE PAGEANT"

10th DECEMBER 2005

It has long been in the offing but we've finally organized what we hope will become an annual event in the Winnersh Rangers calendar – a Christmas Dinner Dance. The theme is "A Purple Pageant" which is obviously open to interpretation but essentially means anything purple goes - but don't panic – it's not essential!

Here is our official invitation:

WINNERSH RANGERS F.C.
DINNER DANCE
THE PURPLE PAGEANT
Saturday 10th December 2005
at 7.30 pm for 8.00 pm
at
Bearwood Lakes Golf Club, Bearwood Road, Sindlesham, nr Wokingham RG41 4ST
Lounge suits or black tie (purple attire optional)
Tickets: £45.00 per person
(available individually or for tables of up to 10)
Put the date in your diary
Get your friends to come along
Send a £10.00 deposit per person including any special dietary requirements to:
Claire Dyer, Ladymead, 23 Hilltop Road, Earley, Reading, RG5 1BY
(claire.dyer@btconnect.com)
Cheques made payable to Winnersh Rangers Football Club
More details coming soon!
DANCING Reception Drink & 4 Course Meal CARRIAGES at MIDNIGHT

SHIRTS FOR SRI LANKA



We are delighted that the Winnersh Rangers kit taken out to Sri Lanka with CJ Wettamuni in early May has been rapturously received. As soon as the kit bags were opened up, the boys from the school in Beruwela were donning the shirts, picking up the footballs and were itching to get playing! Judging by the photo, the kit seems a good fit and will make a big difference to the school which lost much of its equipment in the tsunami. We hope to be able to report on news from the school as well as the progress of the school's football team in further issues of this newsletter.

At the Viduni Pre-School in Walitara, the money raised by Winnersh Rangers during our Tsunami Appeal Weekend on 19th/20th March has been received. The club have been presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from the principal, Anoma Senarathna showing the total sum raised of £620 (this figure includes subsequent donations to our appeal from outside sources). The money raised will be used in the rebuilding and re-equipping of the pre-school.

