



Purple Pitch

Winnersh Rangers Football Club
Autumn Newsletter

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE:

Welcome to the latest edition of the Purple Pitch which, as you are reading, you will be able to feel the spring in the air and see the first signs of Daffodils and green leaves on the trees. I had better dig out my shorts in preparation for the warmer weather (having just packed away my sledge!).

We have recently enjoyed (along with almost 100 people) this years Quiz and Curry night. Although the quiz didn't go exactly to plan, I think we all had a lot of fun and was a vital fund-raising event for the club.

As I have said before, fund raising, along with team sponsorship, is an important part of keeping the annual subs, for all the club's players, as low as possible. If there are any of our parents, grandparents, Aunts, Uncles or any other readers of this newsletter who would like to get involved in fund raising, then ideas would be very gratefully received. You don't need to become a full-time member of the committee (although new members are ALWAYS welcome) you could simply make your suggestion and leave it at that.

The next event on the horizon is the Club Presentation Day, which we have pencilled in for 9th June. Please do put this in your diaries and hopefully I will confirm this as the actual date very shortly. With the help of some new committee members this year, we are planning on making this a full day of events and activities, ranging from Face Painting and a Bouncy Castle for the younger players and their siblings, Car Washing (to help raise funds for the club) to a 5-side tournament that will go on throughout the day, with loads of stuff in between (not forgetting a bar for the grown ups!).

The idea behind the Presentation Day re-vamp is it will attract as many of the club's players, parents/guardians, family members and managers, to come together throughout the day to socialise and have fun.

That's enough from me, I hope you are having fun with your football each week and I look forward to seeing you soon



Matthew Joy

WRFC U9s AZTECS

This season the team had a new set of rules to contend with jumping up to 7 aside football. We made the decision to play a couple of 7 aside tournaments and a friendly to introduce the boys to the new pitch size and rules. They took to it like a duck to water, the larger pitch suited our game. The rules on the other hand took a little longer to sink in. Over head throws instead of underarm throws, goal kicks instead of rolling the ball out & not having to retreat to the half way when the keeper picks up the ball. Plenty to confuse the boys, we had just mastered 5 aside rules.

Along with the new season we welcomed a new player into the team, we welcome Rory Burke who has stepped up a year after playing for the U8 Aces. Rory came to a couple of training sessions at the end of the season to see how he would fair. Well, keen is an understatement, he got stuck in and wasn't fazed at all. After a few sessions it was clear that he wasn't going to have a problem settling in, so we offered him a place in readiness for the new season. He was excited and over the moon to have been given the opportunity to play in the team. He has stepped up to the task well and continues to make good progress. Keep up the good work Rory.

The start of the season was challenging. We were plagued with sickness, injuries and other setbacks, resulting in only being able to field 7 players and no subs. The boys stood up to the challenge each week and performed exceptionally well dominating most games. We suffered with one problem (and I am sure a lot of you can relate to this) we could not hit the back of the net. The amount of times we hit the post, crossbar, each other, the keeper, & the trees behind the goal, we just could not get the ball in the back of the net. The boys were not discouraged and kept on battling each week. In the past they may have got upset and their heads drop but NO every game they came off buzzing, happy knowing they had played well and should have won. We were soon to have more setbacks though, with the weather taking a turn for the worse we ended the first half of the season having several games cancelled. 2 of them being cup games & the parents & players becoming very frustrated indeed, knowing we would be starting the second half of the season having not played a game in 6 weeks



We welcomed Hashem Alkateb (training only) into the team half way through the 1st half of the season. Great timing as we were able to call on Hashem to make up the numbers when we were short of players. Hashem has settled well into the team and is slowly building in confidence with every game. Keep up the good work Hashem. The second half of the season couldn't have started any better. The boys came out fighting, everyone fit, healthy & injury free, they were determined to change their luck around. We were pleased to welcome Andrew back from injury and what a return back, scoring 2 goals in his first game. The team turned things round very quickly finding their scoring legs once again. 5 wins out of 5 what a fabulous start back, beating 2 teams several sections above us in the cup. We are now waiting with bated breath to see if we progress through to the next round of cup games..... Well done guys you have come a long way and may this form continue, you should all be proud of yourselves. COME ON AZTECS!!! I would like to say a big thank you to Hannah Tomkinson who joined the team in November and will be with us for a couple of months. Hannah is currently doing Her Duke of Edinburgh Award and was required to do some volunteering work as part of the course. Hannah has been helping out at training, setting out cones, watching and helping the boys with skills, getting involved taking part in the skills when we have had odd numbers. We also persuaded her to referee in the game at the end of the session. She even helps to carrying the kit back to the car. Hannah has taken it all in her stride, no surprise really as Hannah plays football for Winnersh Rangers Stingers U14 girls team so is used to all the glamour that winter training brings. I hope she continues to enjoy her stay with us and we wish Hannah all the best in her quest of obtaining her Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Neil Campbell
U9 Aztecs Manager / WRFC Club Treasurer

U10s Arrows

Following a tough 2016/2017 season this season has been amazing for the developing U10s Arrows. The team was used to being the whipping boys of their section. No more. 2017/2018 has seen a transformation in fortunes. We earned promotion at Christmas, following an autumn which saw the team win more than half their matches, many in an exciting fashion.

The change is undoubtedly down to the boys all improving, but also to the addition of Sean Mundiripo and Aaron Atkinson, a summer transfer from Wokingham & Emmbrook. Both added energy and strength and commitment, along with their obvious skill and talent, to lift the overall quality of the squad. It is a shame that Sean's family moved to Scotland at Christmas. He still heads many of our player stats and we wish him well in his future footballing career.

Another reason for the improvement is the addition of Phil Burke to the coaching team. His creative training sessions and intelligent handling of the squad has resulted in building the boys confidence, so important for their development.

The promotion has challenged the squad to make the next step in their development. Against bigger, better, stronger and faster players the team's technique is tested to its limits. It is a great learning curve and already the improvement is there to see in recent results. The policy of rotating players around several different positions has resulted in everyone, bar one player, scoring this season. So, the challenge is on to try to put that player into scoring positions in the few games that remain of this season.

The squad consists of: Aaron Atkinson, Jay Bagga, George Barton, Dylan Burke, Deenan Gill, Nathan Hirta, Mikolaj Klotz, Josh Meredith, Harry Murphy, Dylan Nanda.

Head Coach: Phil Reakes

Coach : Phil Burke

Coaching Corner



Organisation, Direction and Progression

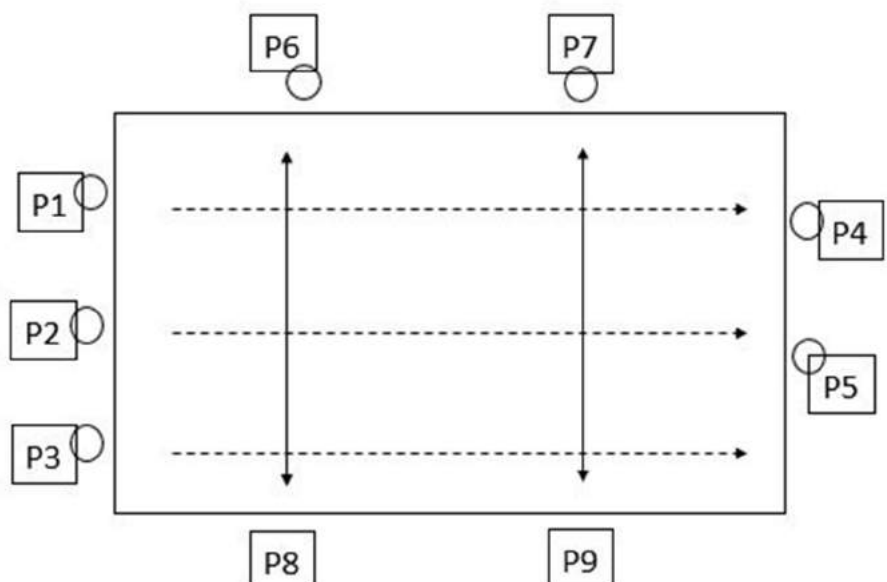
- Make an appropriate sized rectangle for the age and number of players keeping the size reasonably tight.
- Players stand around the outside of the rectangle as per diagram.
- Players P1 to P5 all have a football. Players P6 and P7 have a football.
- Players P1 to P5 dribble the length of the rectangle, keeping the ball as close as possible at all times. When they reach the top of the rectangle they turn and dribble back.
- Players P6 and P7 dribble and pass to P8 and P9 who run back across the rectangle changing places with P6 and P7.

Progression:

- P6 & P7 pass the ball across the rectangle to P8 & P9
- Place one player from P1 to P5 in the middle of the rectangle. Use this player as a passing player.

Coaching Points:

- Dribble using laces looking at the ball.
- Look up between touches.
- Head over the ball.
- Running with the ball touch the ball no more than 3 feet.
- Physical: anaerobic, coordination, conditioning, challenging, balance
- Psychological: understanding, decision making, confidence, player ownership
- Social: communication, teamwork, self esteem



Why England will never win the World Cup again

Recently I took the U10s to an away game that was played on a 3G pitch. What a luxury, in the middle of winter as well. We lost as the opposition had two excellent boys who were too strong for us. But, we passed them to death. The boys played with freedom and no little skill, matching the opposition every step of the way. This team has steamrolled everyone else in the section and other coaches can't understand how we did so well against them. We played them on a decent pitch that gave our boys the confidence to play football.

So why won't England win the World Cup ever again? What is it that all the top players have in bucket loads? Skill, pace, strength? The ability to see things no one else can, excellent technique? Indeed, all these. But the one attribute they must have is confidence. Confidence comes from the ability to express oneself without the fear of failure. Confidence comes from the joy of playing the game in a positive and creative way. It is the foundation that gives a player the ability to learn skills.

So why do we applaud players who are hard and strong, who can cope with the rigors of playing on a heavy pitch with the wind and the rain blasting in their faces in the depths of the English winter. Why in these games is there hardly a decent pass or skill executed. It is no coincidence that the winners of the twelve World Cups since England last won it are teams that come from mild, temperate climates who play on decent surfaces all year around, with the exception of Germany who have a break over the winter months.

This applies equally to our children at our end of the scale. How can we expect them to enjoy their football if they can't dribble, turn and pass? So, how are they going to learn to acquire these skills? On a cow field? All they will do is learn to be wary and play it 'safe', probably by kicking the ball as far away as possible, or more likely missing the ball completely because of the uneven bounce. So, we should avoid playing on poor surfaces if we want our children to enjoy their football. Remember on those days when you turn up and the pitch is wet, snowy and heavy, it is best to postpone and wait for the decent weather. We don't do it though. It is also a reason why England will remain a long way behind the top footballing nations of the world for the foreseeable future.

Phil Reakes Editor Purple Pitch

Breaking News - U18's knocked out at the quarter final stage of the cup

U9s Aztecs through to the quarter finals of the U9s Plate Trophy

