



WINNERSH RANGERS FC

AUTUMN 2011 EDITION



Chairman's Message

A lot has happened since the last WRFC newsletter. We had one of our most successful seasons as a club with several teams either winning their division or gaining promotion during 2010-11. Success on the pitch for these teams will hopefully spread to others!

Another success was our tournament in June which again was well attended and reconfirmed it as one of the best in the local area. Thank you to everyone who helped out on the day because it also is a major fundraising event for the club.

In our last newsletter, I appealed for new committee members and I am really pleased to say 3 new people have subsequently stepped forward. Alan Rodhouse, Gareth Rutherford & Anne-Marie Peries have now taken up important roles and the "new blood" is already making a great difference. The club only exists due to volunteers so we are always looking for help!!

Apart from the tournament, the only other time we ask everyone for their support is our Christmas Hamper Raffle. This has always been a tradition of WRFC and in recent years has proved hugely beneficial. Please support us by providing a hamper item based on your team's theme and sell as many tickets as possible.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE 2011



We have been running the Christmas Raffle every year since the club's inception and every year it contributes greatly to the club's finances. Last year it contributed nearly £1500 to the club's funds.

This year we will be following the same theme as the previous two years where we ask every team to donate a hamper with a different theme. Last year we had over twenty great prizes as a result with themes ranging from a £5 voucher hamper (worth over £100 in total), Chocolate, A "Girl's Night In" Hamper as well as the more traditional Food & Wine ones.

Having had twins this year, Fiona Stevens whose idea it was is taking a well deserved back seat and Karen Hunt and Debbie Chalfont will be taking the lead.
Please support the club in providing prizes and selling tickets

IAN DAVEY - A GREAT WRFC SERVANT & FRIEND



Ian Davey decided to step down as Club Secretary at the end of last season having dedicated over 10 years of service to the club. Here is a personal message from Ian.

In recognition of his contribution to the club, the committee decided to invite Ian to become an Honorary Vice President joining Martin & Gill Belton, the original founders of the club, in this capacity. The club also gave Ian wine vouchers as a small thank you for all his efforts.

Just a quick note to say goodbye to you all as I step down as the club Secretary and CWO after over 10 years of being connected with the club as parent, manager and committee member.

My time at the club started in the very first year of the Winnersh Rangers being established and I have seen it grow and develop beyond all recognition since those U8s first took to the field in what has become the iconic purple strip.

I am genuinely proud of the reputation that the club has achieved, it always has been steeped in the traditions of a sense of fair play and of broad participation and I am delighted to see these principles continuing to be paramount. This is in no small part to the roles you all play in both the football and the admin sides of the club and so you should be rightly proud of that too.

I have found my time at Winnersh Rangers very rewarding but I have decided to stand down as I no longer have any children associated with the club and recognise the need to keep the energy levels high within the committee. They do an outstanding job of providing the infrastructure for over 250 players to play football and your support for them is vital as is the need to ensure that new members are found on an ongoing basis. I am sure with that support the club will go from strength to strength. I would particularly like to thank Neil for his leadership and his drive which has enabled the club to achieve the highest level of FA Chartermark status and for co-ordinating one of the very best tournaments in the region.

I will no doubt see you in and around Winnersh and at next season's tournament.

SOCCKER SCHOOL

Soccer School is the foundation of WRFC in that each year it provides an introduction to football for all Year 1 boys and girls. The emphasis is on teaching the basics of the game in a fun, enjoyable and safe environment.

So far this year we have 16 boys have participated and already progress is being seen as they learn how to kick, dribble and pass.

There is still room for some additional players so if anyone is interested in joining each Wednesday evening (6.30-7.30pm at Forest School Sports Hall), please contact Neil Chalfont on 07818 441950.

U13 Cyclones - creating a storm

...

After a difficult first season playing 11-a-side football, the U13s Cyclones are now storming up the league.

Having played 6 games this season, they have a 100% record in the league and are currently 2nd in Division 2 only on goal difference and with a game in hand.

It is not just the results which are pleasing but, more importantly, it is the manner of the play. The team is now playing extremely attractive passing football based on an ethic of teamwork.

The team is based on the original 7-a-side squads of Storm, Lightning and Thunder but has recently been enhanced with new squad members.

After starting with 2 friendly games resulting in a 9-0 win over Whitegrove and a 4-4 draw with



Ascot Utd of Division 1, the team is now on a roll in the league. The first league game was a 3-1 away victory over Mytchett with goals from Kieran Jordan (2) and Jack Thompson. This was followed by 1-0 victories over Bracknell Cavaliers and Heart of Teddlothian. These were hard fought wins having taken the lead in the first 10 minutes in each game and then holding that lead throughout the game. The

most recent victory was a 2-0 away win at Junior Shots with Dan Chalfont scoring both goals after great passing interplay throughout the team.

The only downside so far has been a broken arm sustained by Oly Whitfield and we wish him a speedy recovery as the team is missing his solid presence in defence.

WINNERSH RANGERS CLUB SHOP

Winnersh Rangers now has a Club Shop where you can order some branded items for both players and supporters. There is a small range of clothes and accessories which are all competitively priced and in WRFC colours. All are designed to be attractive to the customer and to be worn in other circumstances as well as the 'footballing' world!

The range can be seen at:

www.winnerstrangers.com/html/club_merchandise.html

Please order through your team manager initially who will in turn contact Dave Elwood.



U12 COBRAS - POISED TO STRIKE

After a busy summer and reshuffle the Cobras eagerly anticipated the new season. With 4 new recruits from the successful Lions to add to the few newcomers we had the squad were geared up for the transition to the challenge of the 11 A side game.

Two friendlies took place in the summer break against California and Whitegrove as well as a tournament to allow the boys an opportunity to experience the new format and expectations associated with playing with more team mates and on the larger pitch. The boys faced the challenge head on and enjoyed all the pre season games despite getting absolutely soaked through at the tournament. Several encouraging performances and good results left us all looking forward to our first competitive game in September.

With all our fixtures so far being at our Bearwood home pitch we have yet to set out on our travels. Results wise, as expected have been mixed yet encouraging. Despite a few league and cup defeats to excellent local opposition we have more then held our own and sit comfortably in seventh place in Division two with a game in hand on most of the teams above us. The highlights so far have been two great wins against established Ascot and Woodley teams when the boys have shown the quality that should see them achieve well this season.

Lastly its well worth a mention that we are all very happy to see the return of Adam from his long lay off due to a motorbike accident. Adam made his comeback on Saturday last in the 3-1 victory over local rivals Woodley Hammers.

www.winnershrangers.com

Hopefully you will have all seen the revamped Club website in the past 12 months.

You can find all club information here including details of the teams, the committee and all the club documentation.

Any feedback or ideas on content is welcome and can be sent to:
webmaster@winnershrangers.com

TEAM SPONSORSHIP

The club relies on sponsorship whether this be on a team or club level.

Sponsoring a team can be a great way to get your company name displayed on a football shirt and demonstrate your commitment to the local community.

Team sponsorship starts at about £300 (dependent on whether 7 or 11-side team) and is for a period of 3 years so is actually good value for money. Any individual or company interested in helping the club should contact Neil Chalfont or Dave Elwood.

U7 SHARKS



As a new and inexperienced team to league football the Sharks have progressed very well over the course of the season so far. The teams we have played have all been more experienced and generally bigger and stronger so the results have not gone our way. The team is still very much in a state of

development, no one player is playing in the same position each week while we search for our best position.....they don't even mind going in goal every now and again..!"

The great thing to see is that the boys do not worry about the results and are remembering the most important thing about football at this level.....having fun. The boys always play with a smile on their face and give 100% of their ability during training & matches.

If they continue to practice and learn as well as they are doing I am sure the wins are not far away.

I must say that as a new coach, I couldn't wish for a friendlier or keener set of players to help me learn as well, I'm very proud of them.

Mike Gunter

U7 PYTHONS



After a pre season where much effort from the boys went unrewarded in the friendly's we could have been forgiven for expecting a long tough season. When we arrived at our first game we were not entirely sure what to expect, we had a manager at his first real game as well as the boys playing there first proper match together. What followed will forever go down in Pythons history as the boys put on a fantastic attacking display which with a bit more luck would have produced more than the 8 goals they so richly deserved.

The following week the Pythons were brought back to earth being on the wrong end of 8 goals, but this defeat really showed the character of the boys as when we had our after match meeting and they were asked how they enjoyed the match the boys all said they had fun (even though there were a few long faces, especially from the parents). What followed in the next four games was a rollercoaster of ups and downs resulting in 3 wins from the opening 6 games. One constant throughout all of this was a fantastic effort from all of the boys and smiles all round, we even produced some team play where the boys dinged the ball about like a mini Barcelona!

Up the Pythons!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Mark Tomkinson