

Welcome from the Chairman

It's been a while since the last issue of GDYFC News and for some of you it will be a first. We are Great Doddington Youth Football Club, established back in 2003 with two mini soccer teams in the U8 & U9 age groups. Our aim today remains as it did back then, to make kids football fun for everyone involved.

We provide football for teams ranging from U7 (5 years and over) through to U16, playing in the Weetabix youth and mini soccer leagues. We are proud to boast that all of our coaches are enthusiastic and willing volunteers who have stepped up to the plate, as a result of being introduced from within the club.

Personally I would like to see this continue and would urge any of you who may have an interest in getting involved to make yourselves known. Being a coach can be hard work at times, but having additional help and the support of parents makes all the difference, believe me.

The U9 age group of 2003 is now in its final year of youth football, as a mature bunch of U16 year old lads, competing in the top division of their age group. I would like to give them a special mention, because I recall their first experience of 11 aside football, where, for the first few games it was very difficult, being on the wrong side of some heavy defeats. Josh and the boys, with the support of parents, stuck with it, turning it around and having a respectable season.

It is a credit to them, that over the next five seasons they have progressed through the leagues and played some excellent football whilst representing Great Doddington Youth FC. I take this opportunity to applaud Josh for his enthusiasm and commitment over this time. I also thank the boys and parents, for your loyalty and wish you well once this playing season draws to a close. I sincerely hope that you continue to play 'the beautiful game' and who knows, some of you may fancy progressing to the senior team, who play on Saturday afternoons in the Northants Combination?

I would like to take the time to say a huge "THANK YOU" to all those who have provided sponsorship, particularly: Prestige Plastics, Elsby & Co Accountants, Misco, RPM Engineering, Barton Telecom Services, The Village Stores. Your contribution is very much appreciated.

If you are interested in becoming a Club sponsor, either through donating towards kits and equipment, or offering your time to help in any way, please contact Rachael Joshi (club secretary) and she will help with any further information you may need.

At Great Doddington Youth we promote fair sport for all and encourage this by following the Football Association's Respect programme. This was launched by the FA with the aim of reducing the level of anti-social behaviour, both on and off the pitch, at all levels, grassroots included. Respect is the collective responsibility of everyone involved in football to create a fair, safe and enjoyable environment in which the game can take place and flourish.

Our code asks that all players, coaches and spectators adhere to this. We are proud of our teams and the level of good standards to which they play and conduct themselves. I would like to thank you all for your continued support in this and hope that together we continue to promote fair play for all in the spirit the game should be played.

You can find the Club Rules, Policies & Codes of Conduct in the useful links part of our website, www.greatdoddingtonyfc.co.uk

We offer Great Doddington Youth Official Merchandise (see the range on page 3), to provide a team pride, as well as keeping the kids dry and warm in the coldest of weathers! Adult sizes are also available. Please see the club website to download an order form, which contains sizes and prices. All jackets are personalised with initials.

With the amount of children we now have there may be the opportunity to recycle training equipment and second hand boots, on a sold as seen basis. If you have any old unwanted kit that may be recycled to younger children, hand it in to your respective coaches and we can look at providing this facility.

Each year we hold a Presentation Day for the children. This year's event is currently being finalised and once the details are confirmed we will let you know of the arrangements.

And finally, a massive thank you to the coaches and committee for your excellent work and good luck to the boys and girls for the remainder of the season.

Enjoy the game
Kevin Howes



Under 16's Report

We are now approaching the end of the season with only a handful of games left to play. It has been a good season, reaching the quarter-final of the League Cup and last 16 of the County Cup.

The squad has shrunk in size since the start of the season, but I cannot give enough credit to the remaining players who have shown great commitment in getting to the end of the season as a team, they have battled on, been there for themselves, as well as me, and that shows what a great strength of character they all have.

Unfortunately this is my last season with my squad. I want to thank all the parents for their commitment and enthusiasm, standing and cheering in the cold and rain, my shouting on the side-lines!! but most of all "my boys". After 9 years I have enjoyed every minute with Great Doddington football club, watching with pride as they have grown into not only footballers, but superb young adults. I wish them all the best.

Signing out with my last report

Josh - Proud to be U16 Manager

Under 10's Report

At the end of last season we had 4 players leave unexpectedly which left us with only 6 and unable to register a team.

Thankfully we managed to recruit a couple of new players in time to register for the start of this season.

Since then we have further added to our squad and now have 13 signed up which puts us in a really good position for next season when we move up to 11-a-side.

We started the season with a great result against Wellingborough Town Tigers, with us winning 5-3.

Unfortunately despite playing some excellent football we were very unlucky over the next few games losing several by the odd goal although often we were the better team and dominated throughout.

We also notched up a couple of wins but not as many as our play deserved.

The team have continued to be positive and trained really hard even during a long period with no games due the bad weather and Christmas break.

We also had a good afternoon out 10 pin bowling which they all enjoyed for our Christmas get together at the start of January.

Since starting again in mid-January they have really played some fantastic football and after 4 games we have 2 wins, 1 draw and a 2-1 loss.

They are now settling in to their positions and all working hard for the team.

We have a great bunch of lads and lass who get on well and support and encourage each other.

Hopefully this team will stay together into next season and we can add maybe 2 or 3 more over the summer and register a strong squad.

Keve



Under 10's

Under 14's Report

Hello to you all. For some of you this will be the first time you have read a Doddington newsletter. In it we try to bring you up to speed with what is happening with your son's team, what's going on at the club, events the season so far etc.

We are now under 14 and still in Division 2 of the Weetabix League. In the last 18 months we have lost several influential players and brought in others from teams that no longer have an under 14's team.

On the whole it would seem that we are all still learning. I have a new assistant coach Steve Westley, who used to coach the under 13's and many parents help in any way they can. Much appreciation goes to Mel Carter for doing all the reports, Adrian Earl who it seems ferries most of the boys to there fixtures home and away. Steve Taylor who helps out at training and match days and supplied this seasons new kit. Most valuable contributions all round - I thank you all.

As regards matters on the pitch, the football is better with passing and moving, but shape and positional sense are a worry. We still want to keep the ball that second too long and as a result lose it in dangerous areas and get punished. On our day we do give teams a good going over. Games against Grange and Ise Lodge spring to mind, but being in front is dangerous to us as we tend to switch off and let the opposition in, our heads drop and we start blaming everyone and before we know it we are so far behind we don't stand a chance.

Hopefully we can learn from this, as they say; 'What don't kill ya, makes you stronger'. So I will end now and lets see if we can win our final two games of this season and finish on a high and get the most points we have ever achieved.

Regards

Ian and Steve

Under 13's Report

Hi everyone and welcome to the first newsletter of this season.

Firstly a bit late in the day, but I would like to welcome three new players - George Roche, Matthew McCarthy and Matthew Ward.

It has been a hard season this year. It has been a bit tough but the boys are battling hard. The best game of the season so far has to be the game against Higham, we played them at home and lost 11-0 (never been known before). We normally have a very close game with them and it was a bit of a shocker. We went to play them away and lost 1-,0 but I had my team back and they went out with heads held high and battled from start to finish. It was the best game I have seen in a long time, I was on top of the world and so were they. We are just starting the return matches now, so boys - keep up the battles, keep strong which we know you are and good luck.

In the recent League Cup semi-final against Weekley Rovers Milan, a great game finished 4-4 after extra time. Unfortunately we lost 3-4 on penalties. Well done boys, we are very proud of you.

Julie & Ryan

Under 9's Report

Hi all. Firstly I'd to say a thank you to all parents. I had a chat with you all pre-season to go through a few changes that we wanted to put into force for the present season.

I can honestly say 99% of what we asked for is being achieved within the times/dates etc that we wanted; it really does make a difference, and makes it much easier to run things as smoothly as possible. Myself, Paul and all other managers and those involved within the day-to-day running of the club have to put in a lot of time outside of what you see at the forty five minutes on matchdays and the training sessions, so thanks once again and keep up the good work.

Now to the teams. What can I say; they really do keep living up to all expectations. To have two teams in the same age group, and be as competitive as they both are is really a great achievement by them all. We play week in, week out, teams of much bigger more established clubs than ourselves of which some run only the one team, yet we're the ones who receive the comments and admiration to how we play the game. Now I'd like to say that was down to our coaching and management skills, but this isn't the case. We really consider ourselves lucky to have a group of players that play to a good level individually and also together as a team. This is highlighted even more so by the number of players over the last couple of seasons that we have had either joined, currently training with or being watched by local academy sides. I'm sure you'll agree that at times it's a joy to watch, and for us to say - "we manage that team!"

So boys and girls, although you think we moan, and Paul shouts and blows that bl***y whistle a lot, we really are proud of all your efforts on matchdays and training, so a big well done, keep up the good work, and continue to put as much in as you have been for the remainder of the season, and make it another difficult year for us and your fellow players to choose who takes the votes for managers player/players player etc. trophies at the end of season presentation night.

It just leaves us to say we hope you all enjoy what's left of the under 9 season, good luck to yourselves and all other managers and teams, and keep enjoying the beautiful game.

Cheers,

Woody, Paul & Jamie

WEAR YOUR CLUB COLOURS WITH PRIDE

Great Doddington Youth Football Club
Official Merchandise
2010/11

Shower Jacket

Key design features

- Showerproof rain jacket in textured high strength polyester fabric
- Full mesh lining for comfort
- Jacket incorporates an integral hood

Personalised with your initials



Tracksuit Top

Key design features

- Soft touch Poly/Tactel outer shell
- Poly/Cotton lined
- Two zipped pockets for added security
- Elasticated waistband and adjustable velcro cuffs
- Concealed inner pocket



Shower Trousers

Key design features

- Showerproof trouser in textured high strength polyester fabric
- Full mesh lining for comfort
- Long 38cm leg zips

Drill Top

Key design features

- Hardwearing performance training top
- Classic Poly/Cotton drill fabric
- Elasticated waist and cuff

Download the Order Form from www.greatdoddingtonyfc.co.uk



Polo Shirt

Key design features

- High density soft touch fabric
- 65% Poly 35% Cotton
- 3 button placket
- Double stitched contrast piping

Tracksuit Trousers

Key design features

- Soft touch Poly/Tactel outer shell
- Poly/Cotton lined
- One zipped pocket for added security
- Zip cuff ankles
- Trouser with Extra long 38cm leg zips



Sports Bag (Small or Large)

Key design features

- Small: 52 x 26 x 26cm Large: 62 x 31 x 31cm
- 600D polyester and piped in White
- Detachable shoulder strap
- Velcro detachable inner wallet
- Bottle holder in end pocket
- Wet zipped pocket to base



Under 11's Report

Our first 11-a-side season is almost over.

As soon as we finished the mini-soccer fixtures last Spring, we turned our attention to the coming season.

Firstly there were all the different aspects of 11-a-side to be dealt with. The team seemed to pick up the offside law fairly quickly and adapted to well to playing on full-size pitches.

Pre-season was a mixture of wins and defeats, but was promising. Brooke was welcomed into the team and has been a great asset to us this season.

We were put into the Weetabix Under 11 Red Division (Division 2 of 3). After a heavy defeat on the opening day, the team soon put a great run of results together, which pushed them up towards the top of the league.

The highlights were the two wins away against Weekley Rovers, 4-3 in the League Cup and 5-2 in the League. Also the performances at home to Thrapston (5-3 win) and Earls Barton away (3-0 win) were very pleasing.

At this moment in time, we are on a poor run of results. After playing all the top teams recently, we have slipped to 7th place. One more win will clinch 6th place, and 5th place is still an outside possibility.

Thanks to all the players for their efforts and thanks also to all the parents and guardians who have given their support this season.

All the best

Chris, Rob & Mark

Under 12's Report

The Under 12s have had a good start to the season. As we reach the half way point we are still unbeaten in the league. Disappointingly we have been knocked out of both cup tournaments after some excellent results during the early rounds.

Being unable to train or play due to adverse weather over the Christmas period left us a bit "ring rusty" in January, but the lads have started to hit some great form again and, at the time of writing, are sitting in a healthy league position near the top of the table. We have welcome some new players this season who have fitted in well with the rest of the lads.

Thursday night training on the astro-turf at Wellingborough School has gone well, but as that arrangement comes to a close we will re-evaluate the best location and training time and an announcement on the time and location for training will be made shortly.

We would like to thank the boys for their hard work and commitment and all the parents who have supported us and helped with transport.

Dave, Mark, Paul and Steve



Under 11's

Under 6/7/8's Report

We've been delighted with the progress made by all our players in the combined under 6, 7 and 8 training group.

The under 8s have really started to gel as a team and have produced some excellent results. The under 7s are also doing well and we are confident they are making some real progress.

However, as the summer approaches the main challenge will be to create a worthwhile training environment for all the lads. It's already clear that the age gap means it will be hard for all three age groups to train together going forward.

Our intention is to recruit some more volunteer coaches to enable us to train the under 7s and under 6s separately from the under 8s although, hopefully all at the same location.

We would greatly welcome two or three more volunteers - the club will pay the cost of the short course to complete a level one coaching badge for those who wish to take it.

If we can get more coaches that would allow us to go ahead and recruit a few more players, particularly in the under 6 age group and carry on with the three age groups all competing in the Weetabix mini-league.

Anyone interested in helping can contact Mark or club chairman Kevin Howes.

Mark & Dan



Under 12's