

SOCCER SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Issue 3

September 2009

Dear Parent

We are aware that it is some time since our last newsletter and thought some updates and information would be useful.

Team Age Clarification

Which team your child should be playing for can be confusing. The start of the football season coincides with the start of the school year which is probably a more logical way to explain it.

Essentially, if your child is currently in year 3 at school they will play for an Under 8's team (U8) i.e. they are 8 at some point between 1st September and 31st August.

Likewise, if your child is currently in year 2 at school they will play for an Under 7's team (U7).

Under NO circumstances are players allowed to take part in either a friendly match or tournament game where they are older than the age group concerned. You should also be aware that GFA rules state that no players under the age of 6 can take part in matches with other teams - clubs found to be doing this can be stripped of their Charter Standard.

The age restrictions are to look after your child's welfare and are not meant to penalise them in any way.

Friendly matches

We have been advised that most clubs in our area expect to play 2 teams in a friendly rather than 1. As we only have enough players for 2 teams in the soccer school as a whole, the idea is that we will play friendly's against U8's but will play 1 team of U8's and 1 team of U7's.

This will mean that we can play 12 matches - the dates for these matches are attached. All matches will be played at the Walkers ground (opposite Blackhorse Primary in Downend) and will kick off at 2pm.

Walkers Ground

At the last management meeting it was noted that the redecoration of the above has been started but requires a team of people to help finish it off.

If any parents would be willing to spend a couple of hours one Saturday afternoon to do some painting then please let one of us know.

Players

As per the problem above, we would still like to encourage more players into the soccer school. We ideally need to have 16 players in each age group by the time they reach league level which is U9 (school year 4).

If any parents or players are aware of anyone who would like to get into football or would like to move teams, please encourage them to come along one Saturday morning.

Winter Training

Winter training will take place on the Astro-turf pitch at The Grange School this year. Coronation Park very quickly becomes waterlogged if we have a very wet winter which would mean we would have to cancel training.

Training will move to The Grange School from Saturday 31st October to Saturday 27th March inclusive with 2 weeks off for Christmas (26/12/09 & 2/1/10). Training will run from 10-11am so please try to ensure you arrive promptly to make the most of the time available.

Players will need to have trainers with a reasonable grip on them to train on this surface, football boots should not be worn as it will spoil the surface.

Tournament Committee

At the last club management meeting, it was requested that all teams ask parents if they would be willing to help with the organisation of next summers tournament. This is likely to involve a meeting for an hour or so every six weeks.

To give you an idea, the kind of things that need organising are programme printing, concession stands (such as bouncy castle, mini golf, ice cream van, sweet stall, BBQ, bar), team to clear/clean Walkers ground the week before, pitch marking, rota for volunteers on the day to run stalls, organising referees.

Our tournament last year ran very smoothly and we had a lot of positive feedback. The problem we have is that the club officials and managers cannot do everything - a little bit of help all round would lighten the load significantly.

With regards to the tournament, we have requested that both U7 and U8 age groups are advertised to make it fairer for our own teams.

Christmas Party

Following the success of the end of season bowling party, we would like to book something up for Christmas.

The idea at the moment is perhaps to go bowling again but on an evening and make it a family event i.e. parents, players and extended family as you wish.

Any thoughts or other ideas will be gratefully accepted!

If any parents are willing to take on the organisation of this, please can you let us know!

Management news

As many of you are aware, John Nicholls stepped down as the Soccer School manager at the club AGM in June.

The management structure is now as follows:-

U8 manager - Claud (Trey's dad)

U7 manager - Jason (Katie's dad)

U7 Assistant manager - Ally (Kyle's dad)

Treasurer - Jayne (Katie's mum)

Jason and Ally will be completing their FA level 1 coaching course this weekend which will mean that all 3 of them are trained appropriately. If anyone else would like to go on courses, there are a number available, including FA coaching level 1&2 and refereeing. These courses will be fully funded, so if any of you would like to attend please let us know.

Claud is particularly looking for an assistant manager/coach for the U8's, to be ready for when his team join the league next September.

Treasurer news

For those of you who are new to the club, subs are paid on a monthly basis. The cost is £10 per month and is payable on the first Saturday of the month.

Match subs are £2.50 per match which is payable on match day.

Anyone wishing to purchase a training tracksuit for winter, please see Jayne with completed forms by **3rd October**.

We have had some excellent news for the U7's - Ally has managed to get some sponsorship for the team from Barratt Homes which will pay for most of the kit for the team.

If any parents have any sponsorship opportunities for either team then please see the relevant manager.

Finally, if you have any thoughts, queries, ideas or concerns, please feel free to speak to any of us.

Best wishes

Jayne, Jason, Claud and Ally