

Wychwood F.C. Under 11s

We have had a good season and it is not just about football! We started our pre-season at Kingham Hill School with a 'boot camp' weekend, which was fantastic -



running, fitness, football, swimming. On the last night we had a campfire and toasted marsh-mallows.

With funds raised by the 'bacon butty girls' we took a coach-load of players to the England training camp at St. George's Park for a tour. We sat in the England dressing room and had a session with some of the St. George's coaches in the indoor arena, where all the England players train when it is a bit chilly.

Beating the 'Boo Boys'

We had a few pre-season friendlies and started the league well with some good wins; then we hit the winter wobble and unforeseen changes when one of our players was signed by Cheltenham. We had to steady the ship and guide it through some rough seas but with a gentle wind and no fog we were sailing again and managed to do the double over Carterton FC 'boo boys', which warmed my cockles no end.

This is the hardest age group in youth football to keep together. We have to move to Sunday play as youth football runs out of pitch space on Saturdays. Having spent a couple of years at Shipton with the long grass and moles, it is a joy to come back to Milton where the grass is cut every week and we can try and

promote some good football. We finished 5th in the 'A' league, which was great and we will be running with the wolves again next season. To keep the wheel turning we have already been

to a few tournaments and managed to get through to two semi-finals, and a final against Florence Park at Charlbury FC, sadly losing 1-0. They were a good side, and finished second in the Oxford 'A' league so we were not too depressed.

A Taste of Wychwood Lashes

We entered Oxfordshire's biggest tournament at Summerhill Stars, with 24 teams entered for the day, full of parent-power overload as normal. We started brightly, winning our group and into the quarters we went against Summertown Stars 'A' team, which was a 3-2 thriller; with a cheeky chip in the last minute we managed to win into the semis. Holding on to the reins, with their tails up and all looking bushy, we played Hinkley Park, went 2-0 up in 3 minutes, but then they scored; it was the slowest four minutes ever, but we held fast and fair play to the boys we went into the final a bit puffed, but ready.

We had to play Kennington FC again, who are the team to beat in Oxford. They were undefeated 'A' league champions this season, but after having them in our group and giving them a taste of some Wychwood lashes, coming out of the blocks like we were on fire, winning 2-0 in the group stages, so going into the final

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we went confidently, with both teams very nervous and me grabbing the water bottles like it was the last bread-roll in the Co-op.

At half time it was still 0-0. Could the parents take the pressure? Not really, but the kids were alright, and the second half concluded still 0-0, straight to penalties just to take me to the edge of IBS, but we were off.

Three players from each team had to do the nasty. We went first and completed our three, with just the last Kennington player to score to take it into sudden death, but wait, pause, there was

silence all round the whole pitch; words of wisdom from the coaches; not even the birdies could sing and Yes! A save came from the heavens and Wychwood FC won the jackpot. And yes, we had ice creams all round with flake, just to put the cherry on the cake and we went home with a fantastic memory to help on the bad days,

All that Jazz

We will be starting an extra day of football, on Saturday mornings at Milton. To keep it buzzing we are looking for extra support / help with sponsoring of any kind. We need temporary dugouts, more training equipment - if you can help in any way or could donate an item that I can auction or sell, please let me know.

At the moment we have the ideal present for you lucky devils - a full technical tour

round the Lotus head quarters at Enstone and the chance to sit in an F1 car and all that jazz, (money cannot usually buy this) but we have it. We are hoping to raise £250 per person for this unique experience, sold as a whole. Reasonable offers considered, please contact **Lee Woodward** on: 01993 831347.

Money raised will help the kids get some new footballs and other essential equipment.

Help Coach



I am also looking for help to run my Saturday football skills academy, girls or boys around 16 to 18 years of age, to help

coach and everything that goes with youth football; we have bursaries available for coaching badges and youth refereeing training through the OFA.

If you wish to earn extra money at weekends refereeing matches, between 10.30am and 1.30pm, if you have played league football or are doing a sports badge, please contact me for more details: woody020871@gmail.com.

One of our football managers, Matthew Maudsley, who is head of physical education at the Cotswold School, is running a course for the ages of U6 to U12 age groups in the week of **August 4th to 8th**, 10am to 2pm, at £20 per day. Please contact him for more information on mattmaudsley@hotmail.com, or: 07776 204525.

Lee Woodward