

GUILDFORD SAINTS FC

FA Charter Standard Development Club

Sport Guildford Club of the Year 2018

www.guildfordsaints.org

Can we have our ball back please.....

December 2019



Dear Members, Parents, Coaches, Volunteers and all with an interest in GSFC,

A successful first half of the season with Kings College School working out very well for us, for training sessions and matches. We trust you are enjoying the new facility. Only 1 Saturday session cancelled so far this season due to bad weather, so a great start.

We are looking forward to the 2nd half of the season which kicks off on Saturday 4th January 2020. All other training sessions commence that week, same timings, same locations.

There will be no break for February Half term, apart from teams training at George Abbot – there will be a 1 week break.

End of Season dates: TBC.

Can I just remind everyone of the boot policy for the 3G @ Kings, which I think we have pretty much under control. I would just like to remind all parents/spectators that on match day only the Manager/Coach and match day officials are allowed on the pitch. All spectators must stay behind the barrier/fencing.

New Volunteers: A warm welcome to new volunteers joining us for the remainder of the season:

U6 – Riccardo Castagna

U7 Lions – Claire O'Donnell – Admin

U7 Lions - Martin Makabady – Team Manager

U7 Lions – Andrew Wheeler – Team Manager

U10G – Simon Bigrave – Team Manager

U10G – Paul Bigrave – Team Assistant

U12G – Ben Cogbill – Team Assistant

Welcome and good luck to those of you attending L1 courses during Jan/Feb 2020.

Congratulations to all Surrey Primary League teams & PAN Disability Teams– our RESPECT scores for the 1st half of the season are very good, keep up the good work.

Coaches: Congratulations to Man To Chi – who has attained his L2 Coaching badge.

Ladies Drop In sessions: Despite star appearances from myself and our Coach Peter Stimson, on Surrey TV, numbers of attendance have been low. We will therefore be halting sessions until the end of March when we hope the change in daylight hours and weather will prove more successful and attract more ladies to join us. More info to follow.

Walking Football: These sessions will be held at Burpham Park 7-8pm from Monday 6th January 2020. Age group 45+, male and female, all players, all abilities welcome. A very social and welcoming group – a great way to keep fit, come along and try out a session.

GSFC Futsal: Guildford Saint's Futsal club runs on a Friday evening at George Abbot School from 5-6pm. We are taking an U12 and U14 team to compete at the Copa Futsal tournament on Sunday 15th December. Several of the players' have been involved in Futsal for Two years or more and have really improved on a technical and tactical level, increasing their speed of play, calmness on the ball and better decision making.

This is an additional training opportunity for the players within the club and is a fantastic development tool for technique, fast decision making and 1v1 attacking and defending skills. If you would like to sign up for a free trial, please contact : Kevin at freestylefutsal10@yahoo.co.uk

Update since this report: Champions – unbeaten in 6 games – Congratulations.



Girls Football: We are passionate about increasing the size of our Girls programme so if you have a daughter or know of any girls that would like to start playing, we have a couple of night's where our girl's teams train.

Monday evenings:
6.30-7.30pm U9-U12 at Hoe Valley School
7.30-8.30pm U18 at Hoe Valley School

7-8pm U15 at King's College

Thursday evenings: 5-6pm U7-U11 at Guildford County School (Wildcats Centre for beginners)

Now let's catch up with News from our teams, in no particular order:-

U11 Jaguars The team has made an excellent start to the season, there's always a great turn out for training and the learning has definitely been taken onto the pitch. The team has developed into a close-knit unit with strong friendships, who work hard for each other in every match. It's also great to see them being so supportive of each other when things don't go our way. At their best, the team have proved to be hard to beat, and we've managed to win all our league games so far with a goal difference of +24! Performances have been great in every position with Feras leading the scoring charts. Feras is one of five new players to the team this year along with Antonio, Charlie S, Zak and Nico. All five boys have been given a warm welcome and have gelled into the team fantastically, at the same time we were sad to see Adrian move to the Hawks and wish him well. Thank you to all the boy's family and friends for supporting them so positively, and we've all seen some nail biting action so far. Not least when going 3-0 down inside 10 minutes and the team had to show real resilience, togetherness and skill to end up winning 6-4. Well done Jaguars, you should be very proud of the way you have developed, both as a team and on an individual level, and we look forward to what the rest of the season has in store for us... John, Matt and Bill

U7 Lions: A new team and their 1st season with GSFC. A slow start to the season but a great finish to the 1st half of the season with an unbeaten run in 6 weeks. The team have made great strides, they play the diamond formation (mostly, sometimes lots of strikers!), they rotate positions and are happy to take their turn in goal. Some great talent in the team, it will be an exciting 2nd half of the season. We have had to postpone a couple of games due to lack of available coach but we now have 2 parent volunteers to run the team on match day and 1 parent taking on Admin duties. Well done everyone.



U11 Girls: The season so far has been fun. It was amazing to see the popularity of girls football take off following the Women's World Cup. The number of girls in the U11 squad nearly doubled! It was especially nice to witness how well the girls joining the club have been able to quickly and easily make friends so it makes a great dynamic for the team both on and off the pitch. Results wise, the season started slowly but as the girls have got more game time their performances have steadily improved and have begun getting the results they deserve. Lee and I would like to thank the parents of all the girls for their continued support and assistance over the season, with there being so many players available every Sunday it is hard to give as much game time to all players as we would like. The maturity shown by the girls accepting they can only play a limited amount of minutes each game is a credit to them all. Social wise it has also been a good time for the girls, the highlight so far being the trip to see the Lionesses v Germany at Wembley. A vlog of the day went onto the Lionesses official Instagram which received a tweet from Lucy Bronze which really pleased the team. So with such a positive attitude of both girls and parents we are looking forward to the rest of the season. Go Saints!.... (vlog: <https://www.instagram.com/tv/B5i07lGn097/?igshid=1cuu9gwc4v5nw>)

U18s GSFC Vipers : We enter December on a three match winning run, including a cup win against league leaders Teddington following a nail biting penalty shoot out. It is no coincidence the team's success coincides with the start of our new manager Man. Despite a spate of injuries and some squad rotation, a strong team ethic and confidence through the squad is due reward from his excellent preparation and tactical insights. Our goalkeeper Charlie has been recovering from an operation these past weeks and we look forward to welcoming him back soon. To the credit of the team and a sure sign of the team's spirit we have had 6 outfield players volunteer to wear the gloves in his absence. Great to have four new players join the squad this season. Luke, Gus, Michael and Dan have all made a strong impression and compete strongly for a place in the starting eleven. The final season for this great bunch of lads to play competitive football together and very much looking forward to our continued success into Christmas and the New Year. John

PAN: What a fantastic 2019 this team has had, the Championship team won their league and have been promoted to the Premiership and so far this season have competed really well. A few new additions to the team has strengthened an already very strong team. The other teams have done fantastic as well, winning their respect awards and competing in both the Championship and League winning a number of matches in great fashion. You will not find a more united team in the club, all players are like family, they help each other out and work extremely well to make sure everyone has the same opportunities. I am truly blessed to be their coach and hope to be able to do it for many more years. I wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy new year! Mike.



The **new U8 Lions** team are showing some moments of fabulous football for young players who have only been playing for the club for 3 months. They have so far won a few more games than they have lost, love playing together and play the game with great spirit and true respect for everybody around them.



The **U9 cougars** have had a good start to the season. Practicing and playing matches on the 3G is helping all the players develop their technique and passing. The initial seeding matches were mixed: losing the first two and winning the second two. The winning streak continued into the league fixtures and now stands at 8 successive wins. More importantly, the team are learning to play the various positions better and all players in the squad have managed to get on the scoresheet. Well played team!

Wiltford Saints **U8 Tigers**: The team have started well and are currently seeded in the top development group. They have scored 43 goals in total so far and play football with a smile on their faces and great sportsmanship which is great to see. The players rotate positions and they have continued to gain confidence and understanding in the various roles. Their decision making is getting better and with the view that we will continue to work on their teamwork and passing, they have the potential to become an even more successful side.



The **U9s Tigers** saw a 75% turn around in players coming into the season, which is a testimony to how much the team progressed last year. With the new children being fresh and not having played club football previously the start to this season was never going to be easy. The emphasis this term has been less on actual results and more on learning the basics, rotation and building camaraderie this side of Christmas. All of which are coming together nicely .. it's great to see the kids no longer default to a 0-0-6 formation of a month ago, but now play (and stick) to their positions, learning to adapt and their confidence build week on week. And even better to see the camaraderie which has developed and will be at the core of the team. The results will be telling in the New Year as we take a slightly more competitive approach now that the basics are there. The Tigers are blessed with a great bunch of kids, backed by a great bunch of parents. Looking forward to 2020 !!!



U15 Girls: have started the season playing some really attractive football. The issue though is one of consistency. We have lost the first half of a game by several goals only to go out in the second and play a totally different game and dominate the opponent

The girls have ability, they just need to concentrate a little more, don't let their heads drop and play for the full 80 minutes. There are through some really positive signs. In our last game we went 1-0 down got back to 1-1 only to cruelly conceded with a minute to go. The girls however went straight back up the pitch to grab an equaliser with the last kick of the game

Ladies: The ladies team has done well in 2019, the squad has grown and improved this year, a number of social events organised has helped the team to bond. They have enjoyed a run

of great results, but have unfortunately suffered some very long term injuries this year affecting our overall results. We look forward to those players returning but we are very much looking forward to 2020, it will be a great year for this ladies team. I am excited to see what we can achieve and am sure we will have a lot of success.

Under 12 Hawks have had an amazingly positive start to the season, entertaining parents on the sideline with some very exciting games and spectacular goals (!! every game a nail biter and incredibly close. All players need congratulating on their dedication, commitment and continued development which has stepped up massively, I know selecting Man of the match is never an easy decision at the end of the game! We hope to see more of this positive attitude and strong team work into the new year. Well done Hawks, we wish you and your families a wonderful Christmas and New year :)

U11 Boy's Report: I have really enjoyed watching the boy's play this Season as all the lessons we have learnt from previous seasons have enabled us to be adaptable and impose our style of play on our opponents. My observation is that we have a well-rounded squad of players who are all technically good, are confident in playing out from the back and are tactically disciplined. I see other teams who have relied on playing the ball forward quickly and relying on one or two individuals struggle. The players understand our style of play which is have our full backs create 2v1 situations against the opposition. We are also very effective at pressing to win possession and counterattack at speed. The team have won all but 2 of their matches this season which is a true reflection of the performances they have delivered on a consistent basis.

Our **U12 Girls** team have developed at an unbelievably fast rate. Many of the girls were beginners and had never played a match before last year. I am proud to say that the girls have developed a passion for playing, look really organised tactically and every girl is now comfortable with the ball. We started the year with only 10 but have managed to recruit 3 new girls to strengthen the squad. We have won the last 3 games in a row comfortably having lost games where we dominated possession and were in the opposition half much of the game. Unfortunately, our inability to score from chances created meant we lost games narrowly. I am excited for the second half of the season as I feel we have a squad of girls who now understand one another and have a clear way of playing.

U12 Eagles: As we head towards the Xmas break we would like to thank our amazing parents for their continued support both home and away, they give so much positive support on the cold Sunday mornings! On the pitch the Eagles are putting in some really solid performances, with a very impressive run in the Senior Cup and sitting 3rd in the Premier Under 12s, a league which is tough but well balanced and really open. We would like to give a special mention to the three new boys joining us at the beginning of the season (Matthew, James and Finn). All three have integrated into the team really well and have been instrumental in our positive start to the season.

Finally a special thanks to the coaches, they are a great asset to the club and their hard work really shows in the match day performances.

Wishing you a happy Xmas. [Dale and Will](#)

The **U11 Hawks** have had a good season so far, both with winning, drawing and losing matches. The boys have been trialling new positions, and have taken this in their stride. They are playing as a team with sometimes, some tough opponents.

I would like to thank all the parents for driving the boys to the away matches, and for the ever so important support from the side lines.

The **U9 Jags** have had a great season so far. We were unbeaten up until last weekend when we lost by a solitary goal to the League leaders. The manager of the opposition came over after the game to tell the boys that they were unlucky as they were the better team. A very nice complement. We have our first Senior Cup game this week and the boys are hoping for a good Cup run.

Girls U18: Having lost a few players last season we welcomed a number of new girls into the team. The first few games the team were getting to know and used to playing together, they are now playing some good football, working well as a team and having fun. We are looking forward to the rest of the season.

We are short of players and if anyone knows any girls in year 11, 12 or 13 who would like to play, please get in touch particularly a goal keeper.

The **U10 Vipers** have had a great start to the season. As a new team, the boys have spent the first half of this season getting to know each other and their Saturday/Sunday coaches. They have shown great commitment to the team and as some have not played in a team before they are building experience at each training session and match. The Vipers are a great team and hope to continue building on their great start for the rest of the season.

U10 Cobras have had a mixed start to the season, winning, losing and drawing in equal measures, which may be a sign that we've been seeded pretty fairly. The boys have worked hard in developing their technical play, and taking the learnings from Saturday's training sessions with Graham and Mike into Sunday's game. We have scored some terrific goals, from both individual brilliance and great link up play across the team. Some of our best performances have come from our goalkeepers, that we continue to rotate. The games we've struggled in the most have been against the more physical sides, something we have been working on, to encourage the boys to be more competitive and give as good as they get. Once again we've had great support from the parents, with special mention to Adam Kelly for ongoing support in referring our home games. We wish everyone a Happy Xmas and New Year, and look forward to more of the same in 2020. (Marc & Phil - U10 matchday coaches).

The **Under 10 Pythons** have had a storming run this season having lost only 1 game to date (against Woking Town Wolves at 2:1), but won all other league games with high scoring games at 6:1, 6:2, 7:4. The team are listening to the instructions from coaches on Saturday, taking this into games on Sunday and finding ways to win. The passing is improving and the movement up and down the pitch is looking strong as we build from the back, create in midfield and finish clinically up top. We hope that the boys continue to have fun and enjoy themselves for the rest of the season. We have eyes on the top spot!

U14 Jaguars started the season as they ended the last with a 5 game winning streak, giving them an 11 month unbeaten league record. This run was ended with 4 consecutive league and cup defeats. Despite the recent losses there is plenty to be positive about with the group for the season. We would like to thank **MANYA BUILDING SUPPLIES** for continued sponsorship of our team, a new kit received this season.

The **U14 Hawks** have moved to the South Surrey Primary league and remain unbeaten. We are currently second due to fewer fixtures play and teams seeming to avoid playing us. In the season to date we have scored an average of 7 goals per game and conceded an average of under 1 per game. We have incorporated a number of new players into our squad and have developed several formations the team are able to play confidently allowing us respond to opposition tactics effectively. Hoping the rest of the season continues as we have started.

Guildford Saints U16s: Promoted to the top division in Surrey (SYL Premier Elite) we had a very tough start to the season, losing our first three league games. This league is really, really tough. You have to have a fantastic squad and be on it every week. Since then we have adjusted really well just completing six wins on the bounce. We are still in the SYL Cup Quarter Finals and in the 4th round of the Surrey County Cup. Currently sitting mid table, we are looking to push on now and try and get into the top 4 by the end of the season which would be an incredible achievement. Steve Maher - Manager

The **U13 Swallows** got off to a flying start to the season, adapting to the new 11 a side format really well. With a larger team, we needed a larger squad and we have been really pleased to welcome 4 new players since the summer: Johnny, Finn M, Marcus and Freddy - all of whom have been a real asset to both training sessions and matches. Four wins from our first five league matches saw us sitting at the top of the Premier League for a short while before a run of away defeats saw us slip down to a still respectable 4th. We were disappointed to have been knocked out of the SPL Senior Trophy, (especially as we were the reigning champions!), but there have still been plenty of highlights, including a 7-1 win over local rivals Burpham Juniors and a 9-1 victory against Milford Pumas at St. Peters. Thanks to Tony and Mike for their excellent Saturday morning training - Merry Xmas everyone!
Ashley and Matt



Well, that is all for now, except for me to wish everyone a very Happy, Healthy 2020 and we look forward to seeing you all again in January for exciting 2nd half of the season.

Thanks to all our Sponsors, especially our Club Sponsor: Winkworth : If you are buying, selling or renting a property you can help GSFC by engaging the services of our Sponsor: Winkworth Estate Agents, Guildford (01483 339977), who will donate funds to the Club on all successful transactions – just mention GSFC when visiting their offices or via telephone. Guaranteed to price match on fees. A big bonus for GSFC, should Winkworth sell a property on your behalf they would donate £1000 to GSFC.

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