



GUILDFORD SAINTS FC

FA Charter Standard Development Club
Surrey FA's: Grass Roots Club of the Year 2020

Can we have our ball back please...

July 2021



NEWSLETTER

Dear Members,

This EOS Newsletter is much later than usual, but then we have had a very different season to usual.

We trust all those who could attend, **enjoyed the extended training sessions**. We look forward to seeing everyone back for our pre-season 21-22 sessions in a few weeks – schedule TBC.

For now, we would like to **Thank everyone** for being part of GSFC this season and for taking on board all the safety measures we introduced against COVID19.

A massive **THANKS** to all our Pro coaches, team Managers, Coaches and Admin personnel – another tremendous job this season with added pressures.

A **special shout out** to our Managers of the girl's section. We have seen a tremendous rise in girls attending our sessions and playing matches for GSFC. All down to the hard work and **warm welcome** shown to potential new members.

We also need to **THANK our sponsors** who have provided team kit this season:

U9 Tornados – Strank Roofing
U10 Jaguars – Any Base Any Place
U11 Cobras – Dunham & Vardy Construction
U12 Hawks – Porsche Guildford
U12 Jags – Electric Bikes, Guildford
U12 Girls – JK Heat Pumps
U13 Eagles – Carbon IT
U13 Hawks – Air Social
U14 Swallows - GHS
U15 Jags – Manya Building

Your support is much appreciated.

Now for EOS team news: -



GUILDFORD SAINTS FC

FA Charter Standard Development Club
Surrey FA's: Grass Roots Club of the Year 2020



Can we have our ball back please...

July 2021

Guildford Saints U10 girls have had an amazing number of girls join the squad this season enabling us to form 2 teams. The **Emeralds** and the **Diamonds**. Since lockdown the girls have hit the ground running and both teams have had some **great results** and have scored lots of goals. The **improvement all the girls** have made over the season is **quite incredible**.



U14 Swallows: The Swallows have continued to **find life challenging** in the Premier Elite against some very, very good opposition. However, we have **definitely proved** that we can **compete with the best** clubs in the SPL - we have been drawing at half-time in every match played in 2021 but have let things slip in the second half, especially in the last 10 minutes, which suggests that our **fitness and concentration levels need to improve** next season. All the games have been **entertaining** and the players have played with **great teamwork**, showing off their **impressive brand of passing football** - we especially enjoyed our first ever match at Kings and a high scoring game away at Abbey Rangers in which we nabbed two goals in the space of a minute - my personal favourite 60 seconds of the season! This is our **eighth season as GSFC Swallows**, with the same bunch of **fantastic players** who have moved up divisions year-on-year, and this is the first time we have had a win percentage below 50%. Whilst results have been tough to take, I am in **no doubt** that the quality of opposition has made **us a better team overall** and, more importantly, has improved each player's individual prowess and skill level. This is also due, of course, to the wonderful professional coaching they have continued to benefit from each Saturday - our thanks to Tony and Jack in particular. Our **parents have continued to support us** from the sidelines in an exemplary, socially distanced manner - **special mention to Tim** for his help on Sundays too with the warm-ups and line running. Have a lovely summer everybody!
That's all for now,
Ashley and Matt



GUILDFORD SAINTS FC

FA Charter Standard Development Club
Surrey FA's: Grass Roots Club of the Year 2020



Can we have our ball back please...

July 2021

U15 Jaguars: This season has been the **most challenging** of them all so far, a good start, an inconsistent middle and 'challenging' end.

There is a sense of underachievement this season **given the talent within the squad**. Here's to a good break and regroup for u16.

Many **thanks to all the parents** for their help and enthusiasm. Thank you to coach Mike who has worked so hard with them all season. Special thanks again to **MANYA BUILDING SUPPLIES** for continued support.

Following lockdown, the **U13 Eagles** were entered into a mini league with all of the 'Elite' teams and played a mini-league of 5 very tough games. The boys **performed fantastically** well throughout the mini-league and were unlucky to only draw the first three games against very established opposition. The last two games the boys were not quite as successful and came unstuck against a very strong Farncombe team. Despite the boys winless run since lockdown, the boys have performed fantastically well and proved they are a match for most, if not all the teams in the SPL Premier Elite division. The boys have **displayed adaptability** and have had to play in a number of new positions to cover for teammates' absence due to other summer sports commitments. Noticeable **performances of consistency** since returning from lockdown are Nathan Shimka, who has proven time and again to be the 'Rock' in defence. His centre back partner Matthew Gibney, who works so well in tandem with Nathan and has formed a **formidable partnership**. Sam Banks, the ever dependable goalkeeper who continues to **perform heroics in goal** and Jack Wren whose physicality and burning desire to win has even **impressed** the usually hard to please manager. As well as the four boys mentioned, **credit goes to the whole team**, for a very challenging, but on the whole, **successful season** - to have had only one (very unlucky) defeat before lockdown was a brilliant achievement. Well done boys!

Panthers under 7's have gone from **strength to strength** this season. In the last 9 games, our team has won 8 and drawn 1. The **commitment** from our squad of 6 has been incredible, turning up for each other, week in, week out. We're so lucky to have such an **awesome** bunch of kids...and parents :-).
Roll on next season!!



GUILDFORD SAINTS FC

FA Charter Standard Development Club
Surrey FA's: Grass Roots Club of the Year 2020



Can we have our ball back please...

July 2021

First season for the **U11 girls** starting with Simon as the coach for the first 3 games. A number of girls played up a year to allow the team to grow in numbers. We were very soon able to create an U10s team now coached by Simon. Lee became Manager of the U11s allowing both coaches to watch their daughters play.

The girls have been an **absolute pleasure to coach**, they are **full of energy and enthusiasm**, creating a superb atmosphere for the girls to develop their skills and friendships, and also a great place for newcomers to feel welcome. A massive credit to all the girls for being so inclusive.

The girls have lost one game in over 25 games which is **amazing for a new group of girls**, they rectified this loss with a rematch and proved how much they have **improved** from September by winning convincingly.

With ever-increasing numbers, new players joined throughout the season enabling a 2nd U11 Girls team to form. The girls have already played lots of friendlies in preparation for next season. This team will be coached by Lee Mawson who we would all like to thank for stepping up to allow more girls the chance of weekend football.



Next year is **looking really good** for all the girls' teams and I can't wait to get started. A big **thank you** to all parents and girls for making the last season such a joy to be part of. To all the parents helping with refereeing, training sessions and organising we can't thank you enough. To the professional coaches thank you for all your coaching tips etc. **Special mention** to Andy and Simon for all their time and effort throughout the girl's teams. Last thank you, certainly not least is to Dawn for all of her help with administration, organising and just for being amazing.

Oh, when the saints go marching on!!!!!!

(Girls pictured Champions of the Byfleet Village Tournament July 2021: 0 goals conceded 17 goals scored)



GUILDFORD SAINTS FC

FA Charter Standard Development Club
Surrey FA's: Grass Roots Club of the Year 2020



Can we have our ball back please...

July 2021

U12 Jaguars: It may have been a stop-start season but the whole team should be **very proud** of their performances this season. The Jaguars are a team that **always encourage** and support each other even when we've had some tough games against strong opponents. This positivity is reflected in the fact that new members of the Jaguars are welcomed and quickly gel into the team. In the second half of the season, we've welcomed Chhitize and then Nelith, Charlie Samuels and Oliver into the side. Individually every player has **improved** since the start of the season, and everyone has shown **great effort** in training and matches. Luke has turned in some great performances in goal. In defence Liam, James, Fred, Seb and Will have often made us a hard team to score against, in midfield Zak has been supported brilliantly by Charlie Sutton and Rob, and there have been some great goals scored by Charlie W and Feras. It has been a real **pleasure to coach** this team and we'd like to thank all the boys' family and friends for supporting them so positively this season.



John, Matt and Alan

U11 Pythons: after a great season Taylon was awarded Top Goal Scorer. The team has **played really well together** and shown character in each game. We've seen some real development from all individuals. The cricketers were missed at the end of the season, so we are **looking forward** to getting everyone together for preseason after a well deserved break.





GUILDFORD SAINTS FC

FA Charter Standard Development Club
Surrey FA's: Grass Roots Club of the Year 2020



Can we have our ball back please...

July 2021

U11 Vipers: Naturally a difficult year for all but amid the backdrop of multiple lockdowns and restarts, the boys had a **great season** with a **positive set of results** with some **excellent play**, some great wins and nail-biting, close calls on most games they lost.

The most memorable highlight from the year was the team's **first ever win** (against Sheerwater), with all the subs running onto the pitch after the final whistle to celebrate with the rest of the team. **Fantastic to see** after a really hard season in 2019/2020.



We've also welcomed new player Tim to the team who has proved to be a **great asset in goal** as well as on the pitch, and it's been great to see the team develop further with all the team members playing well together with some **excellent camaraderie** seen from the sidelines. The effort they put in is noted and, in particular, it was pleasing to see Ryan being voted for the players' player award on his first year with the Vipers. **Well done Ryan**, very well deserved!

Lastly, it is always **great to see the support** by the parents, with a good number ever present to cheer on the team. Particular thanks go to Gilbert and Greg for being **superb linesmen** and of course to our coaches Marco and Justin for creating **such a positive atmosphere** for the boys to thrive within.

PAN Team: After a very different season the PAN team have been **Heroes**.

They have once again **won the Respect Cup**. This group of players have done a **fantastic job** getting through lockdowns and overcoming their concerns. With consistent high numbers of players attending training week in and week out even though they knew that there were low chances of competition. They just **trained for the love for the club** and the sport.

I am proud of all of you. I am looking forward to seeing some players retuning next year, that for health reasons were unable to attend this season. We all missed you.





GUILDFORD SAINTS FC

FA Charter Standard Development Club
Surrey FA's: Grass Roots Club of the Year 2020



Can we have our ball back please...

July 2021

U9 Lions: Well, it certainly was a season of 2 halves for the U9 Lions! New recruits (Senna, Dexter and Albert - aka the cavalry) joined at the start of the season and after some trial and error, the reformed Lions (2.0) team headed out for their first match.

The Lions **initially struggled** against some tough opposition during the (pre lockdown) first half of the season. Confidence was low and the team was still finding their feet (let alone boot laces!)...after some pondering, the 'backroom staff' suggested an extra midweek training session, which **proved to be revolutionary!**

In the second half of the season (post lockdown), the team were **starting to gel**, with the players starting to feel comfortable with holding their positions, passing and moving into space. As they put what they had been learning that week into practice during each game, the players could see the difference it was making and each week it was **amazing to see**

their skills and confidence grow. Having lost almost all of their matches in the first half of the season, there was a **transformation** in the second half of the season and to their credit, the Lions turned the season around and ended it by **winning more matches** than they had lost in the first half of the season.

Ava's goalkeeping went from strength to strength each week. Defensively Will, Charlie and Albert were strong and forged a great partnership. The midfield (Senna, Dexter, Ethan) worked hard, improving energy, passing, and tackling as the season progressed. Champ and Julian were equally good at getting forward, weaving their way between the opposition. It was also great to see that everyone

outfield shared in the goal tally too. I am **proud of what the Lions have achieved** this year and, along with integrating our 2 new recruits, Alex and AJ, we look forward to building on this next season,



Thank you to the parents for your support (through wind, rain, snow and occasionally sun!) and keeping the team motivated during the hard times. Thanks also to Steve, Louise and Rafal for all of their help and keeping things organised. Also, thanks to Dawn and Kevin for everything that they do for the club.

Paul



GUILDFORD SAINTS FC

FA Charter Standard Development Club
Surrey FA's: Grass Roots Club of the Year 2020



Can we have our ball back please...

July 2021

U10 Tigers: A **fantastic season** for the team despite the weather and covid accounting for a lot of lost fixtures the team ended with a very impressive set of results. Of the 14 games played, this **eager bunch** won 10, drew 1 and lost just 3. They managed to bag a massive **50 goals** over the season and week on week got better and better at passing and finding space.

We are lucky to have a number of players eager to play goalie. Thomas Morgan in particular was our goalkeeper of the year and Edward Combeer winner of our Save of the Season. Elsewhere Oliver Dahl and Adam Bouyahi **excelled in defence**, alongside our Players Player of the Year, Lauren Gleitch. In



midfield Olivier Palka (our Modric), Oribim MacPepple (right wing king), and 14 goal Thomas Byrne (Most Improved) kept the maroon machine running. Our Golden Boot, Yasser Gamar with 16 goals was explosive and had a few "top bins" screamers. This year's Player of the Year went to Dexter Pretty for his consistent athleticism, tackling and explosive counter attacking

The Tigers are looking forward to pitting their best at U-11's and delighted with Josh and Finn joining the team next year".

U9 Tornadoes: Looking over our 1st season at GSFC, I feel we have **made great progress**. The team have started **working well together** and everyone is starting to play to their strengths. Each player is now passing the ball well and we have learnt to use space. A **big positive** has been how we stay in our positions and don't drift – too often! The players have all **grown in confidence**, happy to run with the ball and take on the oppo. Some close matches, results getting better as the season progressed. I am looking forward to building on what we have started, 21-22 should be an exciting season for this group of players.

Thank you to: Andy Bowler for all your help this season as Assistant Coach, and to Mike for being our Ref this season.

Not forgetting all our great parents for their **continued support**.





GUILDFORD SAINTS FC

FA Charter Standard Development Club
Surrey FA's: Grass Roots Club of the Year 2020



Can we have our ball back please...

July 2021

U10 Jaguars: It's been great to be back playing football this season and getting a good 19 games in across the season winning more than half of these and drawing 3. The only games we lost were by 1 goal other than 2 games which were by a higher margin. The team have **developed well** throughout the season and have played some **good football as a team**. It's been **fantastic** to see some new additions to the team too with Max Ground and also Henry Jackson who joined at the end of the season. I know the team missed the tournaments last year due to the lockdown but have been excited to have been entered into three tournaments this year (a special thank you to Chris Bone for organising these and for Tim Parker to run the team on those days).

We were also **lucky** enough to have Dan Wotton (**Any Base any Place**) sponsor the team and provide new kit and some quality jackets for all the players, thank you. In addition, thank you Dawn and the coaches too for everything you have done over the past difficult year and thank you for putting on as much football as possible for the kids.

A **massive thank you** for my number 2 Tim Parker whose support and helpfulness on match days will be sorely missed for (most of!) next season..and amongst other things being our chief copywriter!





GUILDFORD SAINTS FC

FA Charter Standard Development Club
Surrey FA's: Grass Roots Club of the Year 2020



Can we have our ball back please...

July 2021

U11 Cobras had another enjoyable season and continue to **work well as a team**. With huge support from the Saturday coaching team they developed their play throughout the season. We've also

established the boys best playing positions which has made Phil and I life on a Sunday matchday that much easier. Results wise, we had an **equal split of wins** and defeats this season, with only the odd draw, but performance wise the **boys have improved**.

EOS trophies were voted by the players and coaches and awarded to Asa for most improved player, Oscar for players player, Harry Shelton for managers player, Harry Smith for Top Goal scorer (17 goals, 2 hatricks) and finally Finn for player of distinction. Sadly we say goodbye to Finn this season as he embarks on a new adventure and new football team down in Cornwall. Finally, **thanks for all** the parents and friends who have **supported the team** throughout the season, and made it such a success. Already looking forward to next season!



Ladies: Another good season. The team is **growing stronger** and stronger every year.

I am very thankful for all the **hard work** put in by all the ladies. We would like to thank the **U'18 for their contributions** this year after having to forfeit their season, they were welcomed into the team, and have put in some **great performances**. Next year I am hoping to be even stronger with the return of some familiar faces who we missed dearly.

The ladies **finished 5th** in the league and had an amazing run in the County Cup, bowing out at the SF stage. **Becky Hall**, our Top Scorer was pipped at the post for **Golden Boot** scoring an amazing 24 league goals (winner scored 25). I am confident the team will build on this next season. Looking forward to 2021/22 I'm sure it **will be a year to remember**.



GUILDFORD SAINTS FC

FA Charter Standard Development Club
Surrey FA's: Grass Roots Club of the Year 2020



Can we have our ball back please...

July 2021

U10 Cougars: Another stop-start season provided **several good learning experiences** for the team, most of all **determination** and **perseverance**. Early season fixtures were won comfortably with some **good football played** and participation from all the players in the squad. **Promotion** to a higher group proved harder, losing the last two games before the winter break. Winter turned to Spring and the 4 month gap between games **did impact** the teams development: the post April restart started with back to back 5-1 and 6-1 away defeats. But the squad **recovered their poise** and **regained their confidence** to take on the opposition and pass through the lines, winning the following two matches. The season culminated in a 3-3 draw (the first since March 2019), with the team coming back from 3-1 down at half time.

Total season stats reveal 9 wins, 8 defeats and one draw, 52 goals scored and 44 conceded. **Well played team!** Bring on 9 aside and off side!!



U12 Girls: So another season has come to a close - being able to look forward to football matches and training with the girls has been one of the **highlights of the last year** -their **energy and enthusiasm** has been great throughout. The results over the season were a mixed bag with equal numbers of wins and losses but every game... was played with **commitment and a sense of fun** - enjoying each game whatever the result. Particular highlights of the season was coming back from 2-0 down to win 3-2 against Rushmoor plus the satisfying and hard fought win over Epsom & Ewell in a post-season friendly. The end of season function was a **great event enjoyed** by girls and parents alike - already looking forward to next year's event and thanks to everyone who helped make it happen.



GUILDFORD SAINTS FC

FA Charter Standard Development Club
Surrey FA's: Grass Roots Club of the Year 2020



Can we have our ball back please...

July 2021

Thanks must go to the girls for making the **coaching an enjoyable experience** and of course to the parents - without your dedication to taking the kids to/from training and matches all over the place the girls wouldn't be able to play.

This season will be my last coaching this group of girls as I move across to coach the current group of U12's so will be passing the baton to Paul and Jamie to take over. I'm sure the girls will go from strength to strength under their stewardship :)

Best of Luck for the 21/22 season - Go Sapphires!!

Thanks Andy

U9 Tigers - The team did well in what was a long and broken up season. The grouping at the start of the season and the second COVID break were **challenges** for a team with a lot of new players, but the team **never gave up** and continued to do their **best at all times**. We played some good football, and you could see evidence of the great coaching that Kevin and his team are providing on a Saturday. Despite some of the results, the individual **improvement of everyone** over the course of the season was **good to see** and we hope to build upon that with some better results next season. It is exciting to see some of the new players settle in so well and we are very much **looking forward** to next season when hopefully things will be a bit more settled. We would like to thank Kevin and the team for putting on so many sessions in difficult circumstances.

U16G team Despite the very unusual season, the team have enjoyed their season and have played with great **passion** and **enthusiasm**. We will miss Charlotte and Tilly who have left the team after many years of dedicated play, but welcome Alyssa and Lalita to the team. We look forward to the next season!





GUILDFORD SAINTS FC

FA Charter Standard Development Club
Surrey FA's: Grass Roots Club of the Year 2020

Can we have our ball back please...

July 2021



U12 boys: Upon returning to play following the lockdown the boys really clicked and played very **attractive football** with everyone playing on the same wavelength. The team created lots of goal scoring opportunities through a quick passing game. However, our attacking style always opens us up to the counter attack. We were able to **win all our group games** and draw one. We managed to progress to the unofficial final where we unfortunately played our worst half of football and despite a really good second half lost 2.1. I certainly feel the Easter Camp enabled the team to be fitter and play at an intensity level the opposition found difficult to cope with.

Given the disruption I was **extremely proud of the boy's** level of play and it was a pleasure to watch. I would also like to say a huge **thank you** to all the **parents** for all their support of the team. Now we look forward to moving from 9 to 11 aside and playing some friendlies in preparation for this change.

U13 Girls: The girls were **excellent** up to the last lockdown outplaying many teams they faced especially using the wings where we have some excellent players who are tricky dribblers and superb crossers of the ball.

On our return to playing we had a **mixed bag** of performances some where we passed the opposition off the pitch. Followed by games which were scrappy and too many turn overs of possession which does not suit us. This was reflected in our results where we won and lost a few games to finish the season. Now **we look forward** to moving from 9 to 11 aside and playing some friendlies in preparation for this change.

That's all for now... enjoy the break, we look forward to seeing you all again soon for what we hope will be a 'normal' exciting season.

Dawn.