



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...

December 2021

NEWSFLASH

Dear Members,

It's time to see how our teams have progressed through the first half of the season: -



U7 Tigers- Our Tigers have done a **fantastic job** during the first half of the season, they have **learned** lots of new skills and are beginning to work as a team. They are creating one of their first team experiences and it is such a **pleasure** to be a part of this development. I am very **proud of all of you!** Great Job!!

I hope all of you have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!



PAN Disability Team: - We have lost several players this season and gained new members. The team has managed to keep a **great spirit** and have done very well in their end of month Tournaments. This team is a **joy to coach** and they continue to grow into wonderful players and individuals. I hope to recruit new players from January to continue to improve the team. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Many thanks to the new Sponsor of this team: Guildford Estate Agents.





U11 Girls Diamonds: What a start to season 2020-21 the Diamonds have had. We have moved up 2 groups from the end of last season and with new challenges came a new level of success. The girls have grown as players, **bonded well**, and have kicked on to become a really **good hard-working team**. Moving up a couple of groups have brought new challenges, better organised teams, more physical teams, and better individual girls, but we have responded to these challenges by becoming **very well organised** ourselves, hardworking and strong on the ball, with this we have **played some great football** and scored some great team goals. Just as important as scoring goals the girls have worked hard to keep the ball out of the other end and to the end of 2021 no more than 2 goals were conceded in any one game and we managed several clean sheets.

Every single girl in the Diamonds has played their part in helping push this team forward and as we come to the end of 2021 **each girl can feel very proud** of the record we have achieved, played 13 won 12 and lost 1. 2021 has been a great year for the Diamonds but 2022 promises to be even better if we continue to push ourselves and each other.

U8 Panthers have started this season in similar fashion to the last. I've coached plenty of teams over the years, but I've never seen anything like our Panthers, they are **such fighters**, we're **so proud of them**. Last week they came back from 2-0 down against a team who was unbeaten this season, to win 7-5.

Last year we lost 1 or 2 games in the entire season, and as a result we've been put up into a higher league. This season's stats: played 9 and won 6, which is an **epic performance**, especially seeing as we have several new players in the team.

A big shout out to all our players, especially the players who have recently joined. It's tough to get up to speed as quickly as they have, especially given they only get game practice on match days, and several have not played matches before. This is something hopefully they'll do more of on Saturday training.

I'm sure I can speak for all the parents, we are incredibly proud of our kids and love seeing them go from **strength to strength**...and having **FUN!** 🎉





It has been a great season so far for the **U11 Girls Emeralds**. The squad was bolstered with strong new additions, with Libby, Rhia, Jess, Daisy, and Isla all making their Emeralds debuts. The pre-season friendlies set the tone for the league games to come with a series of good - although sometimes close victories. It was really **pleasing to see** how the team's passing, positional sense and commitment was now also being matched by **converting** more of the chances we were creating to goals - easily our biggest problem last year. The winning run continued throughout the first 'league' campaign, and the overall high point of the season to date must be in the achievement of a **100% winning record** through the first few games of the season, leading to **promotion** up the league(s) in October.

After a great 4-3 win in the first game in the new league (as with many newly promoted sides) we **suffered our first taste of defeat** with back to back losses, before coming back to into form with the **highlight performance** of the season to date, a majestic 4-0 win in our most recent game, against one of the best teams we have played all year.



Great results aside the biggest **positive of this season** has been the increasing **team spirit, camaraderie and joy** the girls have shown every week playing the game. With Rhia, Jess, Alice, India, and Libby forming a formidable defensive understanding to build from, Isla, Pheobe, Daisy, Charlotte, Katie and Margot are passing moving and creating space to set up and score great goals. We have definitely had **a lot of highlights**. 7 of the 11 in the squad have scored this season. **Brilliant goalkeeping** performances from Rhia and Libby, Charlotte and Margot getting hat tricks, the fierce determination of India's defending and Isla's goal on her debut. The girls may look back at the Airhop team building session (arranged after an opposition COVID cancellation) as their highlight, but more than anything has been the progression of the team as a unit.

Can't wait to see the **continued progression** with more good wins next year!





U11 Jaguars: A **warm welcome** to our new goalie Max F who has made a **big impact** with some great saves! We won most of our seeding games and got into the **top division** (again). Since half term we've won 3 games by a good margin (opponents had to bring on an extra player). **Special mention** to Harry W who's scored some great free kicks! It's very close between him and Henry for golden boot so far this year. Unfortunately, **we also lost** a couple of games when we were not at full strength, but it means there's things we can improve. We're **looking forward** to watching the team progress over the rest of the season. Thanks to Dawn, the coaches, and parents for your support. Also, thanks to our sponsor "Any Base Any Place" for the new kit and winter jackets which will keep the boys warm over the next few months!

Paul & Andy

U10 Lions: Having **won and dominated** our seeding games at the start of the season, we were bumped up to the next division, which was a **great boost for the team**. However, this inevitably meant that we would be up against stronger opposition going forward. Although the team competed and created lots of chances, but have **struggled to finish**, unfortunately, the opposition at this level are more clinical and have been converting their chances. The Lions have lost some of their confidence and have gone back to some of their old habits, but we have been focusing on them and we are starting to see **encouraging signs** that they are listening, learning from their experiences, and working harder.

We have lost 5 or 6 matches but finished stronger last week with a **well-earned draw** against Worplesdon. Hopefully, we will continue to tighten up on the mistakes we have been making and seek to **improve our performances** after the Christmas break. A big thank you to Steve Louise and Rafal for their help and thank you to Steve and Senna for inviting the team to their amazing Halloween party. Have a happy and healthy Christmas everyone. Paul C (U10s Manager).

Ladies- This has been a **tough season** for the ladies, they have had a couple of serious injuries and lots of players have been unable to play all the games. I am hoping 2022 is a completely different year and that we can improve on 2021. I also hope to recruit more players to balance the squad. I am very **proud of the commitment** and **hard work** from everyone and for the positive results we have had this year. I hope we have many more next year. I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year.





Guildford Saints Tigers U11 A roller coaster season so far for the U-11 Tigers. Having gone **undefeated** through the early seeding games, we've been **bumped up a few leagues** and in addition to a few covid postponements, are finding the going in the new tier a bit trickier. This team always gives it a go and have managed to have a **spell of excellence** in each match so far. The team has certainly got to grips with more fixed positions in the 9-a-side setting and we're finally starting to bed in a couple of regular keepers. Match **highlight of the season** so far was a nail-biting last kick 1-0 victory against a tough Twickenham Tigers team back in October.



Squad: Thomas M, Oliver D, Lauren, Fin, Dexter, Ollie P, Edward, Thomas B, Oribim, Adam, Yasser, Josh. Played 10 Won 4, Drawn 1, Lost 5.

U13 Saints team has had **a great start** to the season. There have been many changes -- new players, new positions, new match-day coaches (Thanks Ben!) and the move to 11-a-side. The boys have **shown great spirit** and have risen to the new challenges with great enthusiasm. There have been some **stellar wins** as well as some **difficult losses**, but each match reveals a better, **more cohesive** team that allows for creative play as well as individual development. With some **unbelievable goals**, incredible assists, **amazing saves**, and an unpassable defensive line, we **can't wait to see** where the boys take it from here. Thanks to La Casita, we are looking forward to new kit in the new year. Well done boys!

U12 Vipers have had a **slow start** to the season. Sadly, Justin stepped down as manager at the start of the season and one of the team members moved up into the Pythons team. Both are missed dearly. The squad has **had to adjust** and welcomed a new player into the group. Thankfully, Nick and Greg have stepped up to assist myself and Ian in managing the team. The boys are **gelling together** again as a team and **improving week on week**. The extra 30 minute training session with Kevin has also helped a lot. Results have started improving and the **boys confidence propelled**.



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Guildford Saints FC



After a challenging set of seeding matches the **U12 Pythons** have settled into the league really well. Our confidence took a knock to start with, but we have risen to the challenge. Each match we are **seeing a progression** in play, positioning, and possession. The **quality of the games is improving**, and we are playing some **attractive football**. The passion for the game is shining through.

Will has settled well into the team in goal playing with confidence and passing well. Jack has been a great addition to the side and has scored some thunderbolts as well as rattled the woodwork on several occasions.



Having won half our matches, if we can maintain our form and the intensity which we have shown in our recent games, we stand a chance of **getting to the top of the table!**

Walking football- What can I say. This is just a **fantastic group of people**. They are just a **joy** to work with and a very cohesive group. Mondays are just great, the **football is fun** and entertaining, and the spirit is fantastic. These players always look forward to a Monday evening and no matter the weather they are there. I hope this continues!
Thank you all! I hope you have an amazing Christmas and a great New Year!



U14 Girl's: Before the Season started we were **struggling to enter a team** with only 12 girl's registered but somehow managed to **recruit five** new girls who have improved the strength of the squad. The team has a clear way of playing established over the past 3 years and we have a good mix of **technically good player's**, aggressive defenders and have now added a couple of goal scorers. In the past we created lots of chances to score but often did not convert, the difference now is we finish the chances that the team create. This has resulted in us averaging **5 goals a game**, although we also concede a few as well reminiscent of Newcastle in the 90's. We currently sit **top of the division** by 6 points and have only dropped 4 points thus far and are looking forward to finishing the job in 2022.



U7 Lion's: It has been a **lot of fun** and at times fairly comical watching the U7's begin their footballing journey in learning how to play matches this Season. Fortunately, at the start we were able to organise with the opposition splitting the children into 2 groups and play Two 3v3 matches alongside each other as opposed to playing 5v5. This was well received by parents and opposition managers. The result was every child received **maximum game time**, increased touches on the ball, was more engaged and involved and seemed to **enjoy** the experience more. We had several close matches where either team could have won.



During October we started playing 5v5 against good teams where **we suffered several** defeats. However, the children **remained positive** and actually became a really tight knit group, displaying a real togetherness, always supporting one another. You cannot fault their **desire to work hard** for the team and their unselfish nature. Over the last few weeks we have seen an **improvement in performances** and results and a **really positive** end to this part of the Season. The joy and happiness when the Lion's roared and won their first game was a sight to behold.

U13 Jaguars: First win of the season





U13 Girls: It has without doubt been a **really tough season** so far, results have been tough on the girls at times, but it has been very clear throughout that the girls are **trying to achieve** results in a league that's just a **little bit too strong** for them. The other teams in the league are probably a season or 2 ahead in terms of development but that has not deterred the girls from showing **unbelievable fight and determination**. At the start of the season the girls weren't really fighting for each other and at times we were struggling to get them to listen to us and take instructions onboard. But as the season has progressed and the girls have got used to me and Jamie the change in the **attitude has been amazing**. They listen and they fight for each other and **never ever give up**.

I think it's very clear that even though the results don't show it, that the girls have come a long way in such a short space of time and will **continue to improve going forward**. We have had brilliant feedback from parents other coaches and even the opposition managers and parents. 1 such game away to Alexandra united ended and the oppositions parents come over to **tell the girls how brilliant** they were and how we should be so proud of them. We are **extremely proud** of them and it's a pleasure to be part of the u13 girls.

We strongly believe that these girls are moving in the right direction and we are both really **excited to see** what the future holds for them.





U10 Tornadoes have started the season well, our movement, passes and positions have seen **much improvement**. We have had some tough matches and managed to battle through to get the win. Everyone in the team **works well together** and shows **support** for their team players. The last few matches our passing up the pitch has been really noticeable and commented on. Saturday training, I have seen **100% commitment** from all children, we also have an extra training session on a Tuesday which shows the commitment we have to improve, this now includes fitness which the kids seem to really enjoy, and it is showing in our matches. I am **looking forward** to the rest of the season and can only see us moving upwards.



Merry Christmas to our team & the club.

U15 Swallows: It has been **fantastic to welcome** new players Alexander, Ben E, Charlie, and Rai this season and it did not take any time at all for them to adapt to the Swallows slick, passing style as we **won our first match 9-0!** Our other seeding matches proved more competitive but a 4-1 victory away to Milford was another **real highlight**, especially as we fought back from 1-0 down. Placed in the SPL Premier League, we have found it **difficult to replicate** these early successes but there have been real moments of **sublime football** and, thanks to Coach Thierry, we are starting to develop greater tactical awareness and our counter attacking play in particular has been a **joy to behold**. With training continuing in our exciting new Wednesday evening slot at Surrey Sports Park, a social event watching Woking FC which kept our spirits up and a brand new sponsored kit too - results should start to pick up after Xmas. **Special thanks** to Barney as well for running the line and even stepping in as an emergency referee for us on one occasion and to Thierry for **his dedication and determination** to make us play the best we possibly can. Merry Xmas, one and all!
Ashley and Matt





The **U18Girls** have reached new **heights of skill** and craft in their play as a team so far this season. Our games have been played with **great spirit**, skill and determinism. Sometimes our results do not always reflect the competitive nature of each game but that is just football.

We welcome Alyssa and Ruby to the team, and welcome back Lalita who is a returning player! Thanks to Thomas (Sophie Father) and to **"JG Speedfit"** who sponsored our new kit this season!!



Looking forward to the 2022 games!

U12 Cobras have had a **mixed start** to the season, impacted by Covid meaning we have struggled to field a full-strength squad in the majority of our matches. After a strong start to the season in our seeding games, **scoring at will** and playing lots of free-flowing football, the boys **lost their way** a little, with some heavy defeats affecting their confidence. An under-strength team had a taste of the County Cup for the first time, which on another day might have gone our way. **Looking forward** to the 2nd half of the season, where we will be looking to get back to basics, and back on track with some **improved performances**. **Big thanks** to Dawn and all of the coaching staff for their **terrific work** and support. Happy Xmas and a prosperous New Year from U12 Cobras!

Marc & Phil





Demonstrating the increasing interest of girls in football this season has seen the **U12 girls** field 2 teams in the SCWGL - the **Panthers and Leopards** - featuring in the Premier and 4th divisions of the league. Both teams **play with smiles** on their faces and are a **delight to coach** and work with, whatever the results at the weekend might be.

The Panthers are **performing well** in their league and are currently **unbeaten** this season, so if they can maintain their form there is a chance of silverware which hopefully will inspire the girls to go that extra yard. **Fortunes for the Leopards have been mixed**, blighted with injuries and illness, but with a full matchday squad they can compete with anyone in their league. They've played less games than some teams in their league so with a **strong finish** to the season they will climb the table for sure.

This season has also seen Chilworth become the hub for girls football at Guildford Saints and has a really nice community feel about it with players and parents from all age groups enjoying the quality of the pitches and making the most of the honesty cafe. Opposition parents and coaches have often commented on how **welcoming the club** is and what a great set-up we have - so **thanks to all the coaches, parents and players** for creating such a pleasant atmosphere around the place.

2021 finished with 2 inter-club tournaments at Albury one tournament for all the younger girls in the u10 and below and the second with girls from the u11, u12 & u13 teams and was a **great success** with everyone enjoying themselves despite the temperatures. It was so good even Santa showed up in a Fire Engine to hand out chocolates to the girls! This shows **how much the girls** and the parents are **enjoying their football** to give up a rare free Sunday to come along and take part. So, **thank you again to the parents** making the effort to get girls to matches and training week-in week-out. without your dedication none of this would be possible. 2021 has been a good year (despite its obvious challenges) for girls football and we all hope 2022 continues in the same vein.

Oh when the Saints go marching on...





U11 Cougars: The season started with **satisfying 3-2 win** in a "friendly" against local rivals, Guildford City. The introduction of the **offside rule** quickly injecting a source of **controversy** from the get-go! Fortunately, as the season progressed the team quickly learnt to "watch the last man" and "hold the line"; unfortunately, some volunteer linesman from a few opposition teams need to control their emotions... a big thanks to my team of helpers, always **displaying the utmost professionalism!** Back to the matches... we are **notoriously fast** starters to the season and the 2021/22 seeding matches proved no different with **5 consecutive wins** and an aggregate goal difference of 28-9. However, success brought with it the concern that we'd be grouped too high, and this **fear was confirmed** with a heavy 8-1 away loss to Abbey Rangers in the first of the group matches. The message to the boys was clear: playing against quality opposition was the **best way to improve**, specifically working on sharpness with and without the ball. Pleasingly, the team picked themselves up and dusted themselves off and despite losing the second group match, followed that up with **4 straight wins to finish** the half season in fine form. **Well done team** and Merry Christmas. (Mark Richards)

Well, it's been an absolutely **outstanding start** for our **U8 Girls Lionesses** team that was only formed earlier this year. We have 10 girls in the match day squad and several others coming to training. In fact, we now have enough girls to be able to start **2 teams from January**.

It's been **amazing to watch** how much the girls have progressed technically since we started, with every single player **working really hard**, they have become a strong group of friends.

Our performance on the pitch has been **really impressive** and whilst it's mainly about development at this age, it's been nice for the girls that they have won almost all their games against some tough and experienced opposition.

Congratulations to all the girls and I can't wait to see what 2022 brings





U9 Girls Puma's only had their first game together as a new team at the beginning of November 2021. They've **played 6 games and won 5** and they really are an **absolutely fantastic group of girls**. The whole team all attend training every Monday and give everything for the team on match days. **Every player has contributed** with at least one goal across their six games, but Emo and Martina are neck and neck at the top, both with 10 goals each. Georgie has also chipped in with a few goals, while Lilwen, Sienna, Caitlyn and Gracie have been **solid in defence** and midfield as well as playing in goal when they've been asked to.

In fact, everyone has been attending the specialist goalkeeper coaching on Saturday mornings to build their confidence and skill sets.

We wish the Puma's all the best for the remainder of the season and hope they continue to be as successful in 2022.

"Thank you, girls, for **being so awesome**. I hope you all have an amazing Christmas and New Year. I look forward to seeing you and your lovely families, fit and healthy in 2022. Don't eat too much chocolate, save it for me instead 😊👍" Fraser.





When Lee asked me to look after the **U10 Girls Jaguars** on Sundays a few weeks ago, I must admit I was strangely nervous. It's hard enough getting my own two kids to listen to me at home, let alone a squad full of 9 and 10 year old girls. I needn't have worried; it's been an **absolute joy** to look after them. The girls are a **fantastic, lovely, polite**, and energetic bunch and a **real credit** to their parents.

It's actually been a really **uplifting experience** seeing the girls grow and progress each and every week. From a quiet start, to now playing for each other with a **real team spirit**. The techniques they are taught on a Monday training session are now clearly visible on the pitch.

Whilst it's obviously not all about results at this stage of their development, those too have improved vastly - from being dominated in games early on to now dominating games themselves.

I'm really **looking forward** to seeing the team **progress further** during the rest of the season.



Fantastic news items from all the teams above, I am sure you will all agree it's great to read how our teams are progressing this season.

This just leaves me to say a huge THANK YOU to all our Committee Members who do a great job behind the scenes ensuring everything runs smoothly, to all the wonderful volunteers who dedicate their time to our teams and of course to Kevin Wilson our Head Coach and his marvellous team: Tony, Thierry, Jack, Mike, Brad, Chris, Ewan & Jake.

Merry Christmas everyone – have fun and enjoy the festive break. We look forward to seeing everyone in January for an exciting finish to the 21-22 season.