



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 2020



Dear Members, Managers, Coaches, Volunteers, Parents

Sending you and your families season's greetings for Christmas 2020.

A warm welcome to all new members since our last Newsletter, we hope you are enjoying your football with GSFC.

We almost completed half a season without any interruptions other than the weather! The lost training weeks due to lockdown (Saturdays) will be added to the end of the season, Kevin is planning an inter Club tournament – conditions permitting.

Training sessions will resume: Saturday 2nd January 2021 – same location, same timings. All other age groups/training sessions will resume week commencing 4th January 2021. There will be no break for half term – with the exception of U15 Hawks & The Wildcats. Training schedule for the second half of the season to follow.

Following a further announcement on the COVID 19 situation – we find ourselves in Tier 4 and all that entails. At the moment U18 football sessions can continue, BUT there are travel restrictions. We are waiting on the leagues to advise on football from January 2021 and will keep you updated.

As is tradition this time of year, let's see how our teams have fared so far this season.....

Despite inconsistent results **U15 Jaguars** are currently in second place in SPL Premier League. With increased focus and effort there is plenty more to come from them. Thanks go to all the coaching staff and the continued support from MANYA Building Supplies.

Jason

The Under16 girls

Looking forward to restarting their season - we were really getting into our stride just before Lockdown 2. The team is producing some really attractive football and working nicely with Jack our coach. We are playing in a competitive but friendly league. Unfortunately, our results are often not a true reflection of the game. But that's football. See you all in 2021 !

- Roger





U12 Jaguars

The team has shown real progression through the first half of the season. Individually each player has noticeably improved and taken the learning from the training pitch into match situations. Collectively the Jaguars are now a tight knit unit who are supportive of each other and who always give it their all to the final whistle. We've welcomed 5 new players this year, Sebbie, Will, Liam, Fred and Chhitize, who have all gelled fantastically well into the team. The Jaguars have shown real character this season in a very competitive division. The team responded particularly well after a heavy defeat in October, and have played their best football since then which shows real character. They are now a hard team to beat who encourage each other and always have a smile on their faces. Feras is currently top scorer with 12, followed by Charlie W with 9 and we've had some great goalkeeping performances from Luke, Zak and recently Sebbie. The player of the match award has been won by 8 different players with James winning it twice so far. Each team member should be very proud of the part they've played in the first half of the season and their individual progress. Thank you to all the boy's family and friends for supporting them so positively, and we look forward to the rest of the season...



- John, Matt and Alan

U14 Swallows

As a result of the Swallows being promoted to the top pot of the Surrey Primary League U14s this season, the team has worked hard to adjust to a quicker, more physical game. Having climbed up from the bottom pot over the years, with largely the same group of players, the Swallows have got used to upping their game each season. That said, the team has had a tough start to this season, playing the three top teams within the first month. However, while we have suffered some heavy defeats, the team spirit remains strong. It is good to see that the results are slowly improving as the team is starting to step up to the challenge and we are looking forward to some easier fixtures in the New Year!

- Ashley and Matt





U9 Tornadoes

We have been made to feel very welcome since our move to Guildford Saints. The team have bonded well and are adapting to a very well organised training programme. The team and Coaches are enjoying training, playing matches, and representing Guildford Saints.

- Alan and Andy



U9 Tigers

With 5 new players coming into the squad whilst being integrated at a high level of football, the team have exceeded expectations. They have adapted to 7aside football well and continue to improve whilst playing in a variety of positions. Due to their willingness to improve, they are all getting better individually and as a team. They have played some great football and scored some great goals at times this season and the goal is to consistently do this through-out the rest of the season. What I love most is that all the players have tried their best in whatever position they have been asked to play (even if it's not their favourite position), never give up and always have a smile on their faces. Each player has contributed to the team in a positive way and they have the makings of a great team if they continue in this manner. They have been a pleasure to manage and I look forward to the rest of the season, watching the team improve and hopefully some more great performances and results.

- Melvin

U7 Panthers

Our under 7's Panthers are a solid unit with a lot of heart. In the last 2 weeks they've shown real grit and determination, coming back from 1-0 down at Staines, to win 2-1 and 2-0 down against G'ford City, to draw 3-3...and we hit the post 4 times, just sayin'

For a lot of these kids it's the first time they've been in a team, and to see how much they've improved and started to gel with one another, is awesome. We're all excited for the rest of the season and can't wait to get on the pitch and bang in some more goals!

- Matt



U11 Pythons

The team has shown great courage and resilience to build momentum during this stop start season. Despite everything, they have built a good team spirit and worked out how to play together. Our defence has continued to improve and going forward we have been fierce. Transition play has improved and we are playing attractive football. We have won all but one match - several by convincing margins - and even when we've been on the backfoot we have fought to regain the lead. Great credit to the children, but also the parents who have been braving the elements every weekend getting their kids to matches and running the line.

- Alex



U12 Hawks

The U12 Hawks have had a rocky start to the season. They have played some good football, but the results haven't gone in their favour.

We were very lucky to get **PORSCHE GUILDFORD** as our new sponsor. A big thank you goes out to Mrs Jackson for all her hard work negotiating this.

The boys are very much looking forward to 2021, where they can play and gel again on hopefully a weekly basis.

- Paul and Charlotte





U11 Vipers

Unfortunately, we lost a few players from last season, but then gained some more new players who have slotted right in and been a real asset. So far, the team have had a mixed set of results - lost 3, drawn 1 and won 2 and the lads have gelled very well together with attendance being very high for both training and matches – great commitment from all. Parent attendance at matches has also been very high which is a great support for the team. A good block of training with Mike in October really set them on the right path and it was brilliant to see the boys celebrate their first ever win against Sheerwater followed by a 4 all draw away to Goldsworth Park which we were leading 4-2 until the last few minutes. This was then followed by a win against Sandhurst the week after that. A shame that we then went into another lockdown after that run! The team are really starting to get to know the positions well now and having 2 keen goalies, Oscar and Can, really helps with both always doing a sterling job. Elsewhere on the pitch the team are really starting to work a lot better together, looking out for each other and supporting each which is great to see. Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year everyone and look forward to more excitement on the pitch in 2021!

- Justin, Ian and Marco

U11 Cobras

U11 Cobras have improved as the season has progressed, gelling well as a team and taking the learnings from Saturday training sessions into Sunday's games. Our last 2 games have both finished with 4-3 winning victories, having been 3-2 down with 10 mins to play in both games, which shows the boys battling 'never give up' attitude which has been great to watch. Kai and Harry Shelton are now our permanent GK, playing a half in goal each as well as CB, which has steadied the ship. Asa is growing in stature with every game, and is developing his defensive qualities. Sam and Kian are mastering the art of wing backs, getting us up and down the pitch. George, Dom, Santi, Oscar and Lucas are creating the chances for us from midfield, and working hard breaking up the play. Finn continues to pull the strings for us in the middle of midfield. Last but by no means least is Harry Smith our striker, and top goal scorer who has already bagged 17 goals for us this season, including 3 hatricks.

Thanks to all the family and friends who have supported the boys. We wish you all a merry Christmas and look forward to playing more U11 football in 2021!

Thanks

- Marc and Phil



U13 Hawks

Hawks U13 have had a tough start to the season, where we have seen them gradually improve and gel as a team, every week we see their consistent fighting spirit and determination to play well for themselves and each other. They have shown great team spirit and always remain positive with smiles on their faces. They are a remarkable team, well done to all U13 Hawks you should be proud of your positivity, we look forward to starting on a high after Christmas. We would also like to take this opportunity to say a huge Thank you to Alex of **Airsocial** for her sponsorship, a new kit does absolute wonders for team moral, we now all look and feel very smart and professional and ready to take on our opponents !!

- Andy, Helen and Julian



Saints U9 – Lions

After some initial turbulence at the beginning of the season, the team is starting to gel. All the Lions have been taking note of what the coaches have been teaching them on a Saturday and all agreed to a little light-hearted extra training during the week. We can now start to see this paying off in fitness levels, listening, holding positions, and keeping their heads up when things get tough. The opening games of the season were hard, but that provided the Lions with a good basis to build on.

Ava Yarrow has stepped up and volunteered to become our goalkeeper and has been taking advantage of extra GK training (and guidance from her dad!).

In defence, we have a solid partnership forming, with **Will Cartwright** and **Charlie King** settling into the roles and starting to work nicely as a pair, building upon what their experiences from last season.



We have 4 new players coming into the Lions this season **Dexter Hames, Albert Jones, Senna French and Jacob Leon**. All 4 have improved significantly since their first game and have integrated themselves into the team, providing energy, grit and determination.

Providing a core of stability to the team are old hands **Julian Kurczyk, Champ Wang and Ethan Mayer**, who also played last season. The goals are coming through out the team and we have not been dependant on one player scoring goals, along with some threatening runs from the defence.

Having stepped in to take on the Lions at the beginning of the season, I have to admit it has been a bit of a learning curve, going through the FA hoops (with more to go) and dealing with the shock of trying to organise 10x 8/9 year olds. Thank you to all parents of the Lions for their continued patience and support, as we find our feet. I would also like to give an especially big thank you to **Louise Yarrow** (Lions chief admin officer and technical wizz), **Steve Mayer** (Lions head of fun, team roar and coaching) and **Rafal Kurczyk** (a recent appointment to the role of Lions head of emergencies and plasters) – without you all this would all be extremely hard work. An extra thanks to Steve for arranging the additional training which is paying off and given the players confidence in their abilities. Finally, thank you to Kevin and Dawn for organising everything at club level and fielding all of our daft questions!

Here's to a Covid free 2021... good luck everyone.

- Paul Cartwright



U11 Girls

The U11 Girls have had a good season so far despite everything going on. We've had a couple of new players join in the last few months, great to see so many girls wanting to play football. The performances have been really positive and each week that goes by you can see their improvements. With only two very narrow defeats and the rest of the games going their way the team is looking very impressive. From individual performances using skills learned at training to collectively as a team with quick passing, one twos, pressuring the opposition, attacking and defending in the correct areas it really has been a joy to watch.

My best wishes to all and have a lovely Christmas break.

- Lee

U7 Tigers

Season started off slowly with a team of 12, we were then split into 2 teams and I manage the u7 tigers. As we are a new team, I did not know what to expect as this is my first season as a coach. We had 2 early big losses but the effort the players put in was tremendous. After more training, the next few games were very close, again losing, but as before the effort from the players was fantastic always running and listening. Then came our first win. I was so pleased for the players who were so happy, their hard work certainly paid off. While there is a long way to go in the season, I know we are heading in the right direction. I am looking forward to the rest of the season, watching the progression of the team and making sure the kids are happy.

- Riccardo





U13 Eagles

The Eagles U13s have started the season very well and are currently in second place in a very strong, but competitive Premier division with all opposition of a similar standard. To date the boys have only had 1 defeat all season and remain confident they can push for a league title if their current form continues. Since moving to the full sized 11 a side pitch at the start of the season, the boys' athleticism and pace have really stood out in games. The boys now have more space to display their skills and spatial awareness and they continue to develop as a team. All the boys have played exceptionally well this season, but a special mention needs to be made for Drew Reeves, Matt Gibney, Nathan Shimka and Freddie Alexander (in his new role as striker), all 4 boys have played to a consistent level in every game and have rescued games or regularly contributed to us winning - well played boys! The team and management would like to thank Scott Palmer for his kind donation as our new sponsor, **Carbon IT** is now displayed on the lovely new kits, thank you Scott!

- Dale and Will



U10 Girls

The under 10 Girls have gone from strength to strength, winning the last 2 games and scoring 9 goals. Previous to lock down we had lost 3 and drew 1 only scoring 3 goals. We now have 18 girls signed on and in the process of setting up a second team. Personally I believe the girls have shown great commitment and attitude and this has been evident in performances. I couldn't single out any individuals as they are progressing at an incredible rate. It's been a joy to work with all of them.

- Simon





U10 Tigers

Denied a covid impacted cup final at the end of last season, the Under-10 Tigers team have gone from strength to strength this year, winning their last three matches on the bounce. The team had a few changes at the start of the season with a new manager and welcoming Oribim into the squad. We've got strength in all areas now - shot stopping keepers (Thomas M, Olivier P, Adam) disciplined defenders (Lauren, Olivier D, Thomas B), with box to box midfielders (Dexter, Olivier P, Thomas B, Edward, Yasser, Shay) and sharp forwards (Adam, Oribim, Thomas M). Introducing the new "Moment of the Match" award has led to some tasty skills over the last few weeks. Becoming more competitive than the Player of the Match award.

The squad - Lauren, Thomas Morgan, Thomas Byrne, Olivier Palka, Oliver Dahl, Edward, Adam, Oribim, Yasser, Shay and Dexter.

- Carl



U13 Girls

Our U13 girls were promoted to division 2 at the end of last season and have made a fantastic start to the season out playing the majority of our opponents. The girls fully understand our style of play and their roles within the team and are able to dominate possession and territory in most matches. Converting our chances on goal has been the issue and if we could be more clinical in front of goal in close matches would make a big difference. We have had a couple of heavy defeats against strong opponent's which the girls have learned from and we currently sit 3rd in the league. It is great to see we have so many girl's team's training and playing and I hope the girls programme continues to grow.

- Kevin

U12 Boys

The U12 boys had a tough start to the campaign losing a couple of key players in the first few weeks leaving us with 10 players for a 9 aside format. We experienced a couple of tough defeats which were hard for the boys to take. We decided to train even harder to remedy this poor start by training twice a week for 4 weeks. The work ethic and determination of the team was excellent, we are now reaping the benefits with 2 wins in the last 3 games including beating South park whom were previously undefeated. The one game we lost was our best performance and from a 2.0 lead we ended up losing 3.2 in an exciting end to end match. Even the opposition manager said we were a pleasure to watch and played some excellent attacking football. We hope to continue our progress for the remainder of the season.

- Kevin



U10 Cougars

The season resumed where 2019/20 left off with a 6-2 victory against Worplesdon Rangers. The Cougars would go on to win their first seven games of the season, unperturbed by the loss of Max and Poppy to the Jaguars early on in the season (well done both!). It was like lockdown 1 never happened, as the team resumed its slick passing, clinical finishing and mean defence. All players contributed with goals, assists and robust tackles. By the time the second lockdown struck in early November, it had been 14 months since their last defeat. This successful run had led to promotion to a higher group that would test the team's resolve when the season resumed post the autumnal lockdown seeing back to back defeats. This is a welcome challenge and the players can see there is still plenty of scope for improvement. Well played team.

- Mark

PAN Team

PAN- I am very proud of this team, they are truly a fantastic team to work with, who every week surprise me with their dedication and hard work.

Unfortunately this year tournaments have been cancelled due to the current pandemic, and yet every week, they keep coming to training and working as hard as if they were preparing for games. Once again in 2020 they won another award and it is well deserved.

I want to thank every single one of them for all the hard work they do, as it is one of the highlights of my week. I wish all a merry Christmas and a happy new year. And I hope they and everyone at GSFC have a wonderful 2021.

- Mike

Walking Football

We would like to thank all the walking footballers for having such a great spirit and friendship toward each other. Every Monday has been FUN, with a splash of competition, which is exactly how football should be. Everyone, week in and week out, leaves with a great big smile on their face and for me that is the greatest thing about football. As no matter how "Young" you are, you can still go out and enjoy yourself playing the beautiful game. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! STAY SAFE...

- Mike and Dawn





U10 Jaguars

The u10 Jaguars have really enjoyed being back playing again and its been amazing to be able to train and play on the excellent facilities at Kings College, especially now, as we have moved into the muddy part of the season. The Jaguars played a very good Dorking Wanderers team in a pre-season friendly at their Stadium,' which was great and set the team up well for the season (thank you to Kevin for arranging this).

Defensively the team have been really strong and this is evident in the scorelines against good opposition, with as many clean sheets since September as they have had previously in the last 3 seasons combined. This helped with a difficult game last week with difficult pitch conditions against Feltham only narrowly losing 1-0 which was their lowest scoring game ever in all of their four seasons, which is a credit to how they defend together as a team and unlucky not to get a goal which again is the first game ever, they have been unable to score in all of their four seasons.

Overall, we are grateful to have had a fantastic 11 games since September given the current circumstances, only narrowly losing 3 of them and winning 6, scoring 62 goals in total, we look forward to continuing this performance with more competitive fixtures in the new year. Thank you to all the coaches for the training which continues to make a big difference to the team on match days. Wishing everyone merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

- Paul and Tim





U12 Girl's Sapphires

This year has been a challenge in many ways for all of us, but focusing on the positives to come out of 2020 its good to realise how important sport is for the physical and mental health of children. The collective joy of players, coaches and parents alone once grass roots football was allowed to restart was great to witness. On the pitch the Sapphires were really starting to gel as a team. After a few mixed results came an impressive string of wins, the girls playing some really good football. After a long break and without realising the U11 team had suddenly become an U12 team we had to adjust to playing with an extra 2 players in the side, published league tables and the 'offside' rule. The girls soon adapted and as ever played with a smile on their faces and enjoying themselves win, lose or draw (W6, L3, D2).

This is all possible with the help from Kevin and his team of coaches, John & Jenny for sponsoring the team kit which looks fantastic & all the parents for their continued support.

Looing forward to 2021 being a great year for GSFC Sapphires. Merry Christmas everyone – stay safe – Go Saints.

- Andy

Ladies Team

2020 has had it ups and downs, but the football that these ladies have provided has been fantastic. We have had some great results and we are currently still fighting in all competitions and sitting 4th in the league.

We are very much looking forward to 2021 when it comes to this team as we have

a feeling it will be a great year. We want to thank the U18 girls who have joined us. They have been a great success in the team and have provided us with some great performances.



We wish you all a Happy Christmas and will see you all in the new year ready to achieve great things

- Mike and Dawn

Great team news – keep up the good work everyone. That just leave me to say:



A massive THANK YOU to our team sponsors this year, we have had an incredible response from Companies supporting our teams:-

U9 Tornados: STRANK ROOFING
U10 Jaguars: ANY BASE ANY PLACE
U11 Cobras: DUNHAM & VARDY CONSTRUCTION
U12 Hawks: PORSCHE GUILDFORD
U12 Jaguars: ELECTRIC BIKES
U12 Girls: JK HEAT PUMP SERVICES
U13 Eagles: CARBON IT
U13 Hawks: AIRSOCIAL
U15 Jaguars: MANYA BUILDING SERVICES

Thank you to all our Coaches, all of whom have done a great job so far this season.

That's all for now folks, have a great Christmas, wishing you all a happy healthy New Year.

We look forward to seeing you in January 2021 for more exciting times on the football pitch.

Dawn.

