



# GUILDFORD SAINTS FC

FA Charter Standard Development Club  
Surrey FA's: Grass Roots Club of the Year 2022



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

December 2023

Dear Members,

Welcome to our **Christmas Newsletter**. A little later than usual but just in time for Christmas.

Suspect households are getting very excited now the big event is 1 day away!



Wishing all our players, parents, managers & volunteers a very **Merry Christmas** & a **Happy Healthy New Year**.

Before we get to our Team News Reports, just a reminder that the **female only Futsal** sessions will resume on 10<sup>th</sup> January @ Kings College School, Sports Hall as follows:

Wednesday 6-7pm U10 – U13 Girls

Wednesday 8-9pm U14 – U16 Girls

Cost: £35 / half term (6 sessions)

To secure a place for these sessions please contact me: [dawn.davies11@btinternet.com](mailto:dawn.davies11@btinternet.com)



Now let's find out how our teams have progressed this 1<sup>st</sup> half of the season:-



**U9 Tigers:** It has been a great year. The team is **working well together**, and we have strengthened with some great new additions: Beau, Max, and Monty. We have had some **amazing performances** with some exciting close games throughout. I am very honoured to be their coach and am very excited to see what they can do next year. I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year... Wooooooooooooooooooooo Tigers!





It's been a **phenomenal start** to the young football careers of the **U7 Tigers**. They have won all matches played, in devastating fashion.

- Played 6, won 6
- Goals scored 75
- Goals conceded 17
- Power play rules in force and therefore played 5v7.
- After 3 matches we were notified of a division change and the first match in this division resulted in a 10-0 win!



When I took on the role to coach the U7 Tigers I never expected to discover such a **fantastic** team of young, **gifted footballers**. There have been some outstanding moments that I have witnessed on that 5 a-side pitch over the last few weeks that you just can't teach....

Along with natural ability, what stands out to me is their understanding of the game at such a young age. They play as a team and look after each other. When they step onto the pitch, they are **100% focused**. They understand their shape and they stick to it. They have tremendous fitness levels, and they cover each other's positions when they need to. They are disciplined and pass the ball with confidence. They are humble in their victories and have a maturity and understanding of the game which is years ahead of them. They have received **praise and admiration** for their play from spectators and other coaches.

As their manager, I am probably slightly biased with this report, but I have no doubt that some of these players will go on to have successful footballing careers.

Less than 1% of players go on to play in the Premier league but who knows, lightning might strike....





**Gems U13 Girls:** As a new team with a mixture of experienced and new players, some new to Saints others not, the Gems gelled immediately and have been **having fun** ever since. We're in Tier 3 of 5, and after a run of losses at the start of the season have started to turn things around results-wise and are beginning a **surge** up the table! The girls' **enthusiasm, team spirit** and appetite to improve means we are well set-up to continue progression in the second half of the season.



**PAN Disability:** Well done guys! Another year has passed. I have been with this team for the last 12 years =)... It has been a **fantastic journey**, and I am thrilled to continue to coach them every week. We have had a very **positive season**, with some great tournaments over the past few months. I am very **impressed** with everyone's **work rate** and the **passion** that these players have for the beautiful game. I'm looking forward to seeing you all back in January. Have an amazing Christmas and a Happy New Year. **Goooooo Saints!**

**Walking Football:** Whoever said, that once you hit a certain age you can't play anymore could not be more wrong! These "guys" are **true legends!** I leave on a Monday night with a huge smile on my face every week! It is such a **great environment** to play football and the games are always played in such **great spirit**. I am very proud to be a part of this great group. I am looking forward to seeing you all in January! Have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!





**U18 Hawks Update 2023:** U18 is the end of the long journey for Guildford Saints players and many of our team have played with us since they were 7 years old! I'm pleased to say that the boys are all **really enthusiastic** and **loving their football** and it is a real pleasure to manage the team! We sadly lost 4 players at the end of last season (Arav, Mike, Finn and Tom) but have been fortunate to replace them with Will, Ieuan, Brez and Omar. The **team looks great** in all areas of the pitch, guided by John Forster's tactics and Harry our Captain. Our division has been merged with the division above, so

we are playing against some strong teams, who currently occupy the top slots; the matches are all very close though and next year we hope to **improve** on our 5th place, **top 3** is our objective. We are **progressing in the U18 Trophy** competition and our **highlight** was beating the 2nd placed team in the top division! **Big shout out** for dedicated parents **John, Andy and Mark** for helping run the team with me, Simon!



**The U11G Pumas** have started the season where they left off last year. 3 great goalies (Thanks Connor), **solid** in defence, creative in midfield and **playing lovely passing football**. (At times it really is like watching Brazil 😊). 6 scorers have helped the team to **7 wins** and a draw from their opening 8 games. Confidence was understandably high. Sadly, the run came to an end just before Christmas when we narrowly lost at home (1-2) in the cup to Met police reds.

The whole team continues to **improve** on the field, and the bond the girls have off the field grows ever stronger. I am most **impressed** by the girls **positive attitudes** and their 'play to the whistle' **determination**. Ian and I are lucky to have such a committed team. **Thanks to all** the coaching staff for making training enjoyable and to the friends and family who support and cheer the team on from the sidelines.

Enjoy the Christmas break and look forward to more great football in 2024.





The U15 Hawks have **battled** through a hard start to the season, but we end the year playing our best football and as a team with a real **togetherness**.



We've added a number of new players to the team this season and they have all performed **brilliantly** and they should be **proud** of their progression. Elliott has been a solid addition to defence and midfield, Will has returned from injury to score 3 goals, Ronan has been an aggressive, versatile player whose confidence has soared, Ben T is also a lot more confident and has made some **glorious saves in goal**. His brother Jack T has had some great games as an over-lapping fullback, Daniel T has been a rock like presence in defence, Charlie S has started some lovely attacks and has been unlucky not to score. The new players have been warmly welcomed by the returning players and they are all now a **solid unit** that support and **encourage** each other. **Leading the goal scorer** is Charlie W, who has the amazing tally of 14 goals in his 7 games. Also on the score charts is Harry, who has been his usual **consistent presence** on the wing, while our **dependable** left back Alex scored a 'worldly'. Luke has also chipped in with a goal while being the **heartbeat** of the team in midfield. It's nice to see Dani enjoying playing out of goal, culminating in scoring a **wonderful winner** in our last match, while at the back Jack G and Daniel O have formed a **formidable centre back** partnership. Matti has been integral to the team, either as a goalkeeper or defender, James has made some pivotal sliding tackles and contributions and Toby has added a bit of aggression to his game which has made him a **tough opponent** in midfield.



The whole team are a **joy to coach**, and they never moan when asked to play out of position for the good of the team. We'd also like to **thank all the parents and family** who have supported the team so positively from the sidelines. John, Matt and Alan



**Wildcats U14G:** After a massive change in players from last season, the girls had found it **tough going** so far this season. Many of the girls had not played much football before and many finding themselves playing up a year they struggled to find their way playing 11 a side. Availability was one of the main reasons why they struggled to get any cohesion in the team. As they play more together, they are slowly but steadily **beginning to gel** as a team. They are now starting to play some really **good football** and I'm sure they will start getting some results go their way. Their **effort cannot be faulted**, and their **attitude** is spot on. Looking forward to seeing what they can achieve in the 2nd half of the season.





**U14 Cobras:** The start to this season has been pretty lukewarm by our usual high standards. The team has been hit by a **spate of injuries** and illness resulting in a much-depleted **team** for many of our matches.

When the boys do click though, they are a **pleasure to work with**, and watch. Breaking quickly from defence through to the forward line is one of our strengths, which continues to bring us rewards.

We are looking forward to 2024 and an upturn in our results to finish the season off strongly.

**Thanks for all the Saturday coaches**, your sessions have been fantastic as always.

Happy Christmas to all our parents and friends who support the boys come rain or shine!

Marc & Phil



It's the **U10G Wildcats** first season together, with several new players joining right at the start of the season. In the first part of the season, we really **focussed on team spirit** and allowing the girls time to get to know each other (and us them!). This has now paid dividends as the girls have **gelled brilliantly** as a team and love playing together - it's **fantastic** to see.

Their team spirit really helped them in the first part of the season where we were playing teams above our level so had to dig in and try to focus on our game, which was easier said than done at that stage of the season! However, we turned a corner after half term when we started playing teams of a similar level, resulting in some **brilliant** football and some **excellent** results.

The team has come such a long way in such a short space of time - they should be really **proud** of their efforts. We're excited to see how far we can get in the second half of the season. **Go Wildcats!**





**U18 Jaguars** have entered their final season in the Premier Elite division, and it is a challenging league. They have been competitive in all their league matches.

The team suffers from the usual under 18 problems of too many players one week and not enough available the next.

Lots of league games to catch up after Christmas, I expect to see them **challenging towards the top of the table** by the end of the season.



**The U13 Tigers** are enjoying their most **successful season** to date and are currently serious runners for the **division top spot**. This year we welcomed a number of new teammates into the squad, all of which are a perfect cultural fit. Luke, Sam, Ale, Ewan & Jayden have all made a big difference plugging key positions. **Wishing the entire squad, a very Merry Christmas!**

Really **positive** start to the season for **under 9 Lions**. Some new arrivals to the team who have settled in nicely with a really great bond developing between the teammates. This is the first season moving to 7v7 with the larger pitch, but the team were certainly ready for it. It has allowed the Lions to play their football with some **fantastic team goals** and **performances** being seen on a weekly basis. The players are starting to show their strengths and learn their strongest positions but it's the **togetherness** as a team, keeping it simple and passing through the lines that are producing really positive and consistent performances. They have been getting results they deserve, with a **win rate of 75%** in the first half of the season. We are really looking forward to the second half of the season and watching the Lions continue to thrive, strengthen, develop and build individually and as a team. A **final thank you to all** the players and parents for their continued dedication and commitment to the team.



**Ladies:** What a **great group of players**. This has been a completely new rebuild of the team. With the addition of the U18's the squad has not only grown in size but also in strength. I am very **impressed** with the team and even though the results have not been as good as we would hope, I find that the team is **constantly improving**, and the results will surely be more positive in 2024. I hope you all rest well and have a spectacular Christmas and New Year! Let's kick some butt! Go, Saints!





**U15 Saints:** This season has started off very well, with plenty of strong matches and goals scored. The squad has expanded to a grand total of **17 players**, meaning there are plenty of subs and fresh legs when needed. The boys have **worked hard** to learn to pass more effectively and play an **excellent technical game**, and they are slowly adding in strength and physicality to ensure we can hold off some of the physically larger opponents. Parents have witnessed some **amazing goals** and **assists** and have been **impressed** with how well the boys have learned to work as a **cohesive team**. We are so lucky to have our **amazing** Thursday **coaches Anthony and Richard**, as well as our **manager Paul**, whose strong, silent presence on the sideline is a force to be reckoned with. **Huge thank you to our sponsor Watts & Sons**— we finally are all wearing matching kits and feel like a unified team now.



**U9 Lynx:** a mixed start for this new team. We have been unable to field a full team for several fixtures which makes it tough on match day. However, when we field a full squad, we have seen some **great football**, **good team play** and goals! The players are rotating positions, learning their roles and gelling well. **Determination**, grit, **never give up attitude**, playing to the end no matter what the score, players should be **proud** of what they have achieved this season. We are excited to see how this team develops 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the season.



**U8 Lions:** This team without someone at the helm have had sporadic matches so far this season. Coaches Kevin & Mike have overseen the team when scheduling allows. Be great to have more players attend match day going forward. There are some very **good players** within the squad. Charlie who has taken on GK duties has kept the team in games with some **amazing saves**. Great to watch these young players **having fun** on match day.

**U6 Group:** a good number in this training group, overseen by Charlie & Heath – learning ball skills whilst having fun.







The **U12G Jaguars** started the season in **fine form** and won 6 out of their 7 first games. New team members Scarlet, Annabel and Emmy settled into the side immediately and showed their respective abilities, strengthening the side in all of attack, midfield and defence.

The team **topped the table** for a while and made progress in the cups, before a very difficult run and injuries meant that while the winning run may have come to an end, **performances** overall continued to **improve**.

The team have a lot of players with high levels of individual ability on the ball, but something we've been working on both in games and during training with the coaches is an **improvement** in their passing. This has **come on leaps and bounds** in the past few weeks and the way the team pass the ball on occasion is **unrecognisable from last season**. I was particularly **proud** of the way, in their last game before the break, the girls made an 8-pass move starting on their own goal line and ending up fashioning a big chance at the other end.

We are looking forward to the second half of the season to see further **improvements** in performances and hopefully some good results too.





**U12 Tornadoes:** Well, a **great end to the Summer** reaching the **finals** in the local summer tournament but lost on penalties, ready to start our first competitive season, we managed to keep our current squad with no one leaving the start of the season has been very **up and down**, with mixed results. This has also been down to **lack of availability** of players. What I can say is **how well they are performing** in training, and this hasn't always been replicated in matches, but our last game before the break showed what we can do, **winning 9-1** against a team we have never beaten before. Hopefully we carry this onwards into the second half of the season. **Thanks again to all the support** from the parents I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas & New year, thanks again to all the staff @ Guildford Saints and all that are involved. 🙌🎅🤗



**U13G Diamonds:** The Diamonds are **enjoying** their new challenge in the top tier. The girls are growing every week and **playing great football**. They have taken the new challenge with both hands, and we are looking forward to the second half of the season.





**U14 Pythons:** With a few new team members the squad is starting to take shape. It has been great to see the **new players welcomed** in and fitting in brilliantly. Credit to them!

We certainly struggled in our first few matches, however, we are starting to find our form and playing some **good-looking football**. Our **organisation is improving**, and our ability is showing.

Wins are starting to come built on a **strong foundation** from defence, a set of terriers in midfield, and flowing play upfront. Goals are coming from a wide variety of players, and **everyone is contributing** to performances.



Sadly, we have a long-term injury to one of our new starters, and a serious injury to one of our stalwarts in defence. Sending Luca and Harvey **all the best from the team and parents**.

**Huge thanks** for all the parents for their ongoing support and help with the team. Thanks to the coaches and Kevin and Dawn for making everything possible.

Wishing everyone at Saints a very Merry Christmas and a brilliant New Year.



It's been a **sparkling season** so far for the **U13G Emeralds**, which have left us **joint second** in the league going into Christmas.

A **strong start** to the season has seen only a single loss from eight league matches. This great run included particularly **satisfying wins** against a very vocal Milford Pumas side, and an against the odds (and terrible conditions) for a heavily injury and absence hit nine away at Colne Valley.

It is testament to all the girls that we have continued our **strong momentum** from the end of last season with the **team spirit** and **togetherness** amongst the girls being critical to our success. It has translated into dominating a majority of our games and consistently creating many more chances than our opposition. If we can just convert a few more of those chances to goals and maintain our **rock-solid** defensive performances, 2024 could transform from an outstanding year to a **title winning year!**





With an injury list that puts Newcastle United's in the shade, (in some instances we have only had 8 fit players), the **under 16s girls** have had a very **tough first half** of the season. In spite of these setbacks, the girls have shown **great tenacity** and willingness to keep turning up and put in **committed performances** still playing **good football**. When we played the team top of the league with reduced numbers, the opposition coaches, parents and even the ref, passed comments on how well the girls had played. So, to reiterate what I said to our group because it is true of all our teams: "A **huge thank you** to everyone who has, played out of position, played in goal, played when under the weather, given someone a lift (in a car), given someone a lift (on the pitch), and generally supported the girls through the storm.



The **U13 Jaguars** are bedding in a great set of internal new recruits this year. Ayann, Theo, Lucas, Raffi and recently Hiram have all brought **passion, commitment and plenty of talent**. In a very **tough league**, we are holding our own, but it seems it's the Cup where these Jags come to life with a few **great results** so far pushing us into the **quarter finals**. Our last round win saw the **greatest underage goal** ever scored produced by Yasser. Back to goal, chip up and overhead bicycle into the top corner. **BOOM!!!!**. As well as the new recruits, **thanks to** Harry, Thomas, Erlin, Max G, Dexter, Casper, Yasser, Max F, Ben, Jack and Henry for all their efforts.



The **U14G Leopards** have changed quite a lot since last season. A number of the Leopards moved to the Panthers, but the team retains a **strong core** of players from previously that has been supplemented by some of the Wildcats who have continued their **impressive development** and some new players who have slotted straight in. They have formed a really strong, **supportive and committed** group that is a pleasure to manage. Come rain or shine they can rely on **vocal and positive support** from the sidelines that visibly helps them. The manager is also new, having moved from the Wildcats to fill the shoes of the mighty Lee Mawson. The team raced to the **top of the table** with some early wins, although they did ride their luck at times. They were halted by a couple of losses, despite playing **good football**, but have regrouped and now look like a **really cohesive and classy team** that I think will do really well in the second half of the season. They are more settled in their roles and are developing their overall football awareness. All to play for!





The **U12G Tigers** have had a **great first season** together so far, and end the year sitting mid table in a very competitive league. Playing out from the back, passing forwards, and playing together when attacking have been the main messages. However, the most **pleasing development** in the girls game has to be their **willingness** to take on the **physical challenge**. Coupled with some undoubted talent means we have been treated to some **excellent** football matches. The return of players from Injury towards the end of the year (and hopefully in the new year) means the team can look forward to a **strong finish to the season**, where every Tiger plays their part.



## Santa spotted @ Albury Heath!



Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December was the date of the girl's annual **Christmas fun tournament**. Girls aged U9 – U14 from GSFC & Albury FC took part in this fun event displaying **great teamwork** and nice football throughout the morning. A total of **110 girls** took part in the event, raising funds for the **Firefighters Charity**.

To make the event even more special a **special guest** arrived distributing gifts – let's hope it does not make him late on his deliveries this evening!

**Congratulations** to Lee Maidens and his team for organising this successful event.





We hope you have enjoyed reading our team news. This just leave me to say a massive **THANK YOU** to all our team [Managers & volunteers](#) for all their hard work so far this season and to our [Director of Coaching, Kev Wilson and his team of Professional Coaches](#) for their hours of input making GSFC a great place to learn & play football.

Stay safe everyone – we look forward to seeing you all in January 2024 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of our exciting 2023/24 season.

