



# NEWSLETTER

Welcome



## Celebrating a Season of Progress, Both On and Off the Field

Back in February 2023, we announced plans to work together with Beaconsfield Town FC to create an integrated community football club, building a single, co-ordinated proposition for local residents and a pathway from U6s all the way through to Adult football. Whilst the two clubs remain separate legal and financial entities, with their own committees and management, our vision is to operate as a combined brand and collaborate to provide a seamless offering for all local footballers, with the aim of becoming South Bucks' leading community football club.

Welcome to the ninth edition of our annual club newsletter. It's purpose is to keep all of those connected to Beaconsfield Town Youth informed about the progress of our various age groups and what's to come in the future.

Thanks To Our Sponsor:



## UPDATE FROM THE CLUB CHAIRMAN



Our brand new all-red Beaconsfield Town kit, manufactured by Macron and sponsored by Hearthstone Mortgages.

For last season, key steps forward included:

- We moved to a single kit (Beaconsfield Town's smart all-red strip) with a single badge – helping to increase visibility of and support for 'The Rams' in Beaconsfield and the surrounding areas.
- Our younger age groups had the chance to be mascots at home matches with the Beaconsfield Town FC team, a great experience for them all.
- Our junior and youth teams had greater access to the Holloways Park facilities and 3G pitch for training, a summer tournament, the annual Awards day and holiday soccer camps.

We had over 530 registered players for the 2023/24 season, record numbers by a considerable margin. Highlights included:

- Fielding an expanded set of boys' teams that made us the biggest boys' club in South Bucks.
- Further developing our girls' teams, with squads in three age groups and plans to grow this significantly further next season.
- Introducing a new 'community' adult team to run alongside the existing First Team and U23 squads.

# "OVER 530 REGISTERED PLAYERS IN 2023/24"







**End of Season Coaches' Match - Holloways Park**

We have had considerable playing successes over the season and in the summer tournaments, as you will read in this newsletter. We are equally proud though of our consistently good performance in the Fair Play feedback, with two teams getting the highest scores in their divisions and all teams well in the top half. Above all, we celebrate our inclusive, community feel; the club gives local players of all abilities the chance to learn the game we love and make lifelong friends from across the community.

Meanwhile, off the field the exciting news was our successful appeal with Inland Homes to get planning permission for our exciting new home at Glory Hill – replacing our Wilton Park pitches, but fully owned by the Club, with a small clubhouse and changing facilities and onsite parking. Close to the Wooburn Green Lane council pitches that we also use, this will provide the Youth Club with a real centre of gravity and long term security.

Although Inland Homes have now gone into administration, their business interests at Wilton Park/Glory Hill have now been taken over by Brookfield Developments who have reconfirmed their commitment to the Glory Hill project. Developing the site will probably take 18 to 24 months and so we will continue to use Wilton Park in the meantime, but our own core home is now within touching distance.

Everything we do depends on the commitment and goodwill of our army of volunteer coaches and administrators, who give up their free time to run training sessions, supervise squads at matches and provide the necessary logistical support. Thank you to all of them for the great work!

**Michael Reyner - Club Chairman**



# CHILD WELFARE UPDATE

CLARE O'FARRELL

The 23/24 season has once again run smoothly thanks to the valued support of over 100 parents who volunteer their time to manage and coach teams, oversee team admin/communications and referee/run the line. We have seen an additional 30 volunteers join us this season and a further 15 are undergoing checks and training ready for a September start. It has certainly been a busy season managing all their DBS checks and training requirements, whilst ensuring our Club is operating with children's safety and enjoyment of football as its number one priority. I regularly attend virtual meetings with the Safeguarding Team at Berks & Bucks FA and the number of complaints they have to investigate weekly from Clubs, parents, and players about bad behaviour sadly continues to rise. Thank you to all those who set a good example to our players, ensuring that our Committee rarely has any complaints to investigate.

This season I organised an in-person First Aid training session following feedback that the mandatory FA online First Aid training wasn't particularly useful for day-to-day football injuries. Thank you to Andy Batchelor (U8 Parent) and his colleagues from South Central Ambulance Service who delivered a fun, informative and interactive training session at Holloways Park for a group of our coaches.

It covered how to deal with more serious incidents like cardiac arrest including how to use a defibrillator along with sprains, brakes, cuts and head injuries that we see more regularly. Another will take place early in the new season - details to follow.

For coaches, please can I encourage you to continue sharing ideas/knowledge across our coach network using the dedicated WhatsApp group. Your experience, especially those who've been doing it for several years, is invaluable. For parents of players who may be interested in getting more involved or starting/adding to their existing FA training, please do get in touch. The Club will reimburse you for any training costs incurred.

Lastly please ensure you have my contact details noted should you need to report any safeguarding concerns going forward. However, if you feel a child is in immediate danger, please either contact the NSPCC on 0800 800 5000 or the Police.

Clare O'Farrell

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# RESPECT





# TOURNAMENT - 26TH & 27TH MAY

*"The Beaconsfield Tournament is the one tournament my players and coaches look forward to" - Kind words from a Flackwell Heath coach*

The Beaconsfield Town Youth tournament was a tremendous success with 138 teams participating and 2500 people in attendance over the three day weekend.

Despite a couple of heavy downpours the boys and girls enjoyed their football and the fantastic facilities. Our U10s won the strong section of the tournament and a number of teams reached the semi-finals and finals.



**U10s Winning Beaconsfield Tournament**





## ***AWARDS DAY - SUNDAY 30TH JUNE***



Our Club's Annual Awards Day this year once again took place at Beaconsfield Town FC's stadium, Holloways Park. As well as the traditional Player of the Season and Manager's Player of the Season awards, each age group was allocated a time slot to play football matches on the 3G pitch and receive a personal trophy. There was also food and drink available from the bar, as well as a Raffle, Tombola, Silent Auction and Penalty Shootout.



**U6s on Awards Day**



**U12s Collecting Their Awards**

# WEYMOUTH TOUR 2024

## U6 - U13 SQUADS



Following the success of our first Football Tour in 2022, 250 players and their families from the under 6s to under 13s travelled to Osmington Bay for the South Dorset Cup over the May Bank Holiday weekend.

The boys played against over 30 teams from across the country in a highly competitive one-day football tournament. They played some great football across all the age groups with the U9s winning their league and the U13s coming home with the runners-up trophy.

When the boys weren't playing football, they were enjoying the fun-packed PGL timetable of activities back at base-camp with their fellow players and siblings such as archery, giant swing, abseiling and zip-lining.



**U11s on the Weymouth Tour**



**U13s as Runners-Up on the Weymouth Tour**

The players and families were a real credit to the club both on and off the pitch playing competitively but showing respect to the opposition and referees. In particular, for those playing on the Sunday in the torrential rain, the players and supporters all showed tremendous drive and resilience, despite the conditions. Overall, great fun was had by all with the parents seeming to enjoy themselves as much as the kids.





## WEYMOUTH TOUR 2024

Here are some more photos from the tour. Thanks to all the age group organisers and managers for all the effort involved in coordinating such a large contingent!





## COACHES COMMENTS

### U6s - James Bayless

It has been a great start for the U6s at BTFC. The boys have all developed so much over the course of the season. We have regularly had 24 players each week to training and have a squad of around 30. They have really enjoyed training and matches and learning new skills.

AJD coaches Paul & Aiden have been superb supporting the squad, as well as the 5 parent coaches who have been there each week. A huge thanks to the coaches, Tom L, Tom M, Notty, JP & Baylo, and AGM Steph for volunteering their time and effort to take training and matches, and run the admin for the team.

There aren't many tournaments that cater for U6, but the club were excellent in opening up a mini 6 side tournament for us where we sent 2 teams. We also entered the Marlow tournament, again with 2 sides and did really well in both, winning more matches than we lost overall and having loads of fun.



U6s at Marlow United Minis Football Club 2024 Tournament



**U6s Squad Photo with Coaches**

Adam from AJD also ran a mini tournament at the club for us, inviting Penn, Seer Green and Flackwell Heath. This meant that over the course of the season every player got a chance to play in some matches, which should put us in a good position for the next season.

The season closed with the trophy presentation up at the clubhouse. The boys all loved receiving their first trophies, and a special mention to Seb B-G & Arthur W who received the Mangers Player of the Season Awards.

All of the kids who were on our waiting list will be invited to join at U7, meaning we will be close to 50 players. We will be one of a only a handful of clubs sending out 2 squads (4teams) each week in the U7 league.

I'd like to take the opportunity to thank all the coaches, players and parents in the U6s for such a wonderful start to our Beaconsfield Town Youth journey.

Thanks also to the club for letting us use the facilities on a good few occasions, as well as the season tickets and the mascot afternoons which the kids loved.

Roll on U7 season and matches each week!





## COACHES COMMENTS

### U7s - Tim Howmann

Our U7 boys have had a great season. We have approximately 26 children who have really thrown themselves into the training sessions and all of our matches. We have seen such an improvement in them all across the season, showing some great skill, passion and commitment. There has been some amazing friendships made on and off the pitch which makes it tough to split the squad into 2 teams ahead of next season. One which will be in red division, and one in yellow.



The U7s took part in 5 tournaments this season as-well as our annual tour. At the Street-2-Pro tournament our boys made it into the semi finals despite playing against 8 academy based teams. Then, at the Berks Elite our boys lost on penalties in the semi finals making them 3rd out of 21 teams! They played in every possible weather condition known to man and the game which got us into the quarters was perhaps the heaviest rainfall I think England has seen for a while. Nonetheless, they powered through with the same dedication we have seen all season!

We have a great interest in registration for next season and our coaches, Ellie, and all the boys are eager for the new season to begin!

## ***COACHES COMMENTS***

### **U8s - Dan Abbott**

The U8 group is fantastic to be part of, and we're pretty good at football too. All aspects of player development and enjoyment, coaching and teams management, and group camaraderie continues to advance really well.

Last season, we had five 6-a-side teams – two in division 1, two in division 3/2 and one in division 4 – and we entered a number of teams into nine post season tournaments. In general, we prefer winning as it is more fun.



**U8s Squad Photo at Holloways Park**

Next season, we will be six 7-a-side teams – two in division 1, two in division 2 and two in division 4. We have more than ten new players joining.

We run our group as one, with everyone learning to play within the same match day system, and with groups rotating at training around what the coaches are best at. This also means everybody knows everybody, and everybody supports each other.



## ***COACHES COMMENTS***

### **U9s - Bob Samara**

We are thrilled with the tremendous growth and progress of the U9/Year 4 Boys team this past season. With the addition of new coaches, our team now consists of a total of eight dedicated individuals. We started the season by merging with the youth and senior Beaconsfield clubs' age group for U9, which provided a valuable learning experience for our players. As the season progressed, our green team demonstrated exceptional strength, leading us to move up to the red league from Christmas onwards. In the red league, we performed admirably, achieving a positive win rate and even securing a victory against the league leaders in our first game. Our yellow team took some time to find their footing, but they showed great improvement in the second half of the year, achieving impressive results against tough opponents."



**U9s Yellow Squad**

We also had the pleasure of participating in tournaments, which provided a fun way to conclude the season. At the Chinnor Tournament, we had a strong turnout and reached the semi-finals and finals, narrowly missing out on victory. However, at the Marlow Tournament, we proudly brought home the 'plate' trophy, celebrating our achievements with some well-deserved silverware.



## ***COACHES COMMENTS***

### **U9s - Bob Samara (Continued...)**



**U9 Boys Winning the Marlow Tournament**

As we look ahead to the future, our primary focus remains on the development of our young players. To support this goal, we have plans to establish Red, Blue, and budding Yellow teams for the upcoming year, allowing for increased opportunities and growth. Although we have had a couple of players move on, we recently held trials and anticipate the transfer of a few players from a local team, which should bring our total number of kids to around 50 next season. To ensure the sustainability of our vision for this age group, we will be launching another coach recruitment drive, engaging our parents and seeking additional coaching support over the next couple of months.

We are incredibly proud of the achievements and progress made by the U9/Year 4 Boys team, and we look forward to an exciting future filled with continued development, success, and enjoyment for all our players.

## ***COACHES COMMENTS***

### **U10 Girls - Matt Pearcey & Gareth Small**

It's been a fantastic first year as an under 10 team, with a strong and reliable group of over 10 girls playing throughout the season. As with many of the teams, we struggled with games being called off during the wet winter so were very glad for the support of the U9 Boys to offer us much needed game time when possible. When we finally did get our first game, it was a tough away loss but for many of us - coaches included, it was more about getting to know one another and figure out what we could achieve this year.

Overall, we managed 7 fixtures losing only our opening match and then a very toughly fought cup game on penalties. Our 5 wins were convincing, and the girls have developed so well over the season playing some amazing football and most importantly, bonding as a team and showing amazing camaraderie and respect to everyone. On a number of occasions, we had opposition coaches complementing the girls what a good side they are and also on their behaviour and sportsmanship.

Although we came into our home tournament feeling very confident, we sadly did not make it through to the knock-out phase. However, our season finished in spectacular fashion at Flackwell Heath. On a very hot day, and playing up and down all day, we thought we were going to be eliminated. However, the bottom placed team (cheered on like a full crowd at Wembley) managed to hold on for a draw with the top placed team.



**U10 Girls Winning the Flackwell Tournament**

This meant we crept into the semi finals via the back door, and for all of you that know this group of girls by now.... They were never going to let that opportunity slip them by. Needless to say, we won the semi 2-0 and the final 3-2 meaning we came away with our first piece of silverware for the team!

An amazing achievement by the girls this year. Both Gareth and I would like to thank the girls for a great season, working so hard and improving each week; the parents for their support at each game; the club as always for their support; and lastly Adam and the coaches for all they do for the girls each week at training.



## COACHES COMMENTS

### U10 Boys - Paul Boyle

It's been another great season for our U10 group with around 40 boys playing across the JPL, Red and Green leagues, supported by a great set of committed coaches and a fantastic group of parents.

Our JPL squad set out with the objective to test themselves in a tougher league than they had previously played and have stepped up admirably, twice qualifying for the top competitive group stage against much more selective teams. Our Red squad has been outstanding, playing some great football throughout and gaining a reputation as both a team to beat and admire for playing the right way. For our Green squad, the first half of the season was tougher than expected, but the hard work that our coaches have put in has really paid off and by the end of the season the boys were a match for anyone, finding the right levels of aggression to couple with their developing technique.

We have competed in a number of tournaments since the season ended and the boys have tasted real success – our Reds winning in very strong competitions at Beaconsfield and Berks Elite and our Greens finishing second in the Colts competition at Beaconsfield as well. Undoubtedly, this year's highlight for the boys, coaches and parents was, as ever, the annual Tour – this time back in sunny-then-rainy Weymouth. We fielded three mixed teams in the competition and took all three podium positions for U10s! Thanks to everyone for making this happen, but especially to Iain, Carly and Clare.



U10 Girls Winning the Flackwell Tournament

As we look forward to making the step up to U11, unfortunately we are losing both a player and a coach who have been with us since U6s – Miles and Brent Tilford – tempted away for the big money in Canadian Soccer! We're really sad to see them go and would like to thank Brent (and Shannon) for their support and Miles for all his goals... we wish the Tilfords the best of luck with their new adventure!



## ***COACHES COMMENTS***

### **U11 Pumas - Sarah Richardson**

The U11 Pumas were a new team for the 2023/24 season, playing in the SBMSC Blue Division. The team had to adjust from 7 to 9-a-side, playing on bigger pitches and, of course, the offside rule. Our squad of 18 boys was soon a squad of only 10 as illness, injury and other commitments led to the withdrawal of a number of players! However, we still managed to put in some great performances over the season, and the help we received from other squads allowed us to field a team for every fixture, despite the nail-biting Friday evening roll call which determined whether we'd have enough players for the Sunday game.

Results were mixed, with more losses than wins, but all the boys worked hard for the team, developed as footballers and enjoyed their Saturdays and Sundays. We entered two summer tournaments and reached the knockout stage in both, topping our group. Next season, having built a really strong platform for the future, we will merge with the U11 Falcons and Colts to form the U12 Eagles, Kites and Colts.



**U11 Pumas Squad**

## ***COACHES COMMENTS***

### **U11 Hawks - Sarah Richardson**

This season for the boys was a big change as we shifted from 7 aside to 9 aside and it took a few weeks for them to get used to larger pitches and playing a game including offsides.

From mid-November to the end of the season, we had a great run, only losing one game which showed how much the boys had improved.

In the 6 aside tournaments, we continued our great history of success by retaining the Penn Tournament, winning the Marlow Tournament and finishing as finalists in the Beaconsfield and Berkhamsted respectively.

A great effort once again from the Beaconsfield Hawks and on behalf of the coaches and I, it's been a pleasure to continue to run the boys and see them develop.



**U11 Hawks Squad at the Berkhamsted Tournament**



## ***COACHES COMMENTS***

### **U11 Falcons & Colts - Jonathan Church**

The 2023-24 season was a sometimes-challenging season for the U11s. A good core of players showed great commitment through a winter which was often too wet or cold to play – or very wet and cold when we did play!

We started the season quite strongly, though after the league's reorganisation we found ourselves in amongst relatively strong teams. The boys trained well all year and team spirit remained high. We focused throughout on playing technical football, passing and moving, and good communication. Over the course of the season the boys also learned their craft in different positions.

We competed well in all our games and the boys often showed real character to keep working for each other even when results weren't going in their favour. We always carried a threat and our occasional well-earned wins and draws were all the more rewarding when they came. Most importantly, we kept working to improve and ensure the boys had fun. The Falcons finished the season on a high, winning the Chinnor 6-a-side tournament: a just reward for their perseverance and team spirit this year.



**U11 Falcons Winning the Chinnor Tournament**

## ***COACHES COMMENTS***

### **U12 Hawks - Ryan Spencer**

The Hawks U12 team have only played together for two seasons now and having initially starting in Division 5, we have since leapfrogged our way to Division 1 in a year after winning the 2022/23 Division 3 final.

Last season in Division 1 was a mixed bag as we stepped up two levels. The team learnt the hard way in several games by conceding goals late in games resulting in a run of losses. However, we found our expected form towards the end of the season peaking in our end of season tournament in Bournemouth winning 5 and drawing 1 game. Onwards and upwards next season as we move to 11a side!



**U12 Hawks Squad Photo**



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## ***COACHES COMMENTS***

### **U12 Eagles - Steve Rimmer**

The beginning of the 2023/24 season started with a major challenge when we lost a goalkeeper within a month of the season. As all coaches will appreciate, this key position becomes a nightmare when you have a period of time without one!!

That said, we went into a season of JPL and Div 1 on a Sunday and faced into it the best we could. Sharing the keeping duties around is a test for everyone, and it was tough at times for the lads to deal with.

JPL did start well though. We came top of the local group and then went into the top league, which was tough, and had plenty of travel. Sundays blew hot and cold with keeper rotation which inevitably resulted in a mixed bag of results in the run up to xmas.

Given the challenges, the boys continued to play their brand of possession football. The standard of football is always commented on positively, although if we were hyper critical, we just needed that cutting edge in front of goal to really hurt teams.

Xmas was a turning point....

We signed a keeper (Davyd) and once he settled in, we started to tick. The cutting edge came in the shape of Finlay Brown up front. At his best, his pace created the space, and the midfield started picking him out, and he started to regularly convert.. The reassurance for everyone this year, was the consistency at the back from Laurie Davis. His command of the back line was the start of many well constructed attacks, as well as sniffing out danger.

JPL continued to be tough for us, but the lads matched other teams player for player. Often size played a role in being the differentiating factor to the result. Finishing 4th in Div 1 wasn't where the lads wanted to finish, but post xmas it was champions form all the way. This is great to build from for next year..

Next year moves us to 11 a side which will be great for the boys. Bigger squads and different challenges. We look forward to both!!!

Many thanks to all the coaches (Mark, Sam, and Manesh) for their efforts. Special mention to Hannah who keeps us all functioning, and Nicola for providing consistently good goal highlights!!!



## COACHES COMMENTS



U12 Squad with Beaconsfield First Team

### U12 Falcons & Colts - Rooban Muruguppillai

We have had another enjoyable season at U12. We were very grateful for the opportunity to train at Holloways Park this season, the boys ( and coaches) loved it! A wonderful surface and facilities without cancelled sessions due to the weather.

Once again we had two teams to cover the varied abilities within the squad , one in the Green league and the other in the Black. Both did well throughout the season. The season concluded with the football tour and several local tournaments.

We are very excited for next season and moving to 11 a side matches. We have already looked to strengthen the squad and have welcomed several new players in the off season.

Sadly we will be saying goodbye to one of our coaches Brent Tilford and his son Zac, they will be relocating to Canada. We thank them for their contribution throughout the years and wish the family well for the future.

Once again many thanks to all the parent volunteers and Bal our irreplaceable administrator. Thank you also to all our dedicated coaches Stewart, Duncan (x2), Stephen, Mos, Ben , Brent and Iain.





## COACHES COMMENTS

### U12 Girls - Brian Lewis

The Girls' second season started well with some great victories which led to them being put into the Premier league with four very strong teams.

Despite the tricky results, the team has greatly improved which will bode well for their third season in the Berkshire Girls league.



U12 Girls Squad Photo

### U13 Girls - Sarah Pengelly

The season started off with some injuries and a relatively small squad, the girls found games rather tough. As the months went by the team added a couple of new players to the squad and we started to play more competitively.

We've improved immensely in the latter part of the season and the girls should be really proud.

We have played in 3 out of the 4 tournaments we are booked into and have reached the semi finals and finals in all tournaments. The girls have not lost a game in competitive play ( only on penalties which seem to be our nemesis)

We are still looking forward to growing as a squad and playing as Beaconsfield U14s girls.



U13 Girls Runners-Up at Flackwell Heath Tournament

## ***COACHES COMMENTS***

### **U13 Falcons - Darren Emery**

The U13 Falcons had a season with more drama than the recent Game of Thrones series; from last minute penalty winners, to 30 yard screamers, from hattrick heroes to over-sensitive opposing fans, from courageous battles with 9 men to an interesting encounter with "probably the best referee in the world".

The season ended in promotion; a second placed finish in a league we'd led from the start was somewhat disappointing but a 5-0 cup final win more than made up for it and we go again in Division 4 next season!

Onwards!



**U13 Falcons Winning the Cup!**



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## ***COACHES COMMENTS***

### **U13 Hawks - Matt Coppock**

A rollercoaster season for the Hawks, full of highs and lows. Ultimately summed up by one of the most spectacular cup final comebacks in history – followed by a crushing penalty shootout defeat.

It was a season that promised much and deserved more. One that we'll all learn from and be all the better for it.

Their South Bucks Minor League Division Two campaign began with an entertaining 5-5 draw against eventual champions Marlow United Pumas followed by three wins on the spin (including a 9-1 obliteration of Burnham Juniors). But then the wheels fell off. Three defeats. Enter Coach Rich with a radical rough diamond formation that got things back on track. But perhaps the biggest game-changer was Michael O'Farrell converting from defensive rock to talisman striker. A move that all of the coaching team claimed credit for but it was in fact his idea. He banged in 15 goals in the next six matches as the Hawks went on a title-chasing run. Overall the Hawks plundered 81 goals in 23 league and cup games, telling a tale of free-flowing attacking football. There was just one league defeat in 2024 but the challenge fell apart for a rather unflattering fifth-place finish.

With hopes of silverware disintegrating, the Hawks went on a glorious cup run to reach the final of the Dick Hopkins Trophy. 1-0 up and coasting. 4-1 down and facing defeat with just 17 minutes to play. Incredibly they pegged it back to 4-4 with Ethan P hammering a dramatic late leveller before penalty lottery heartbreak.

A tour of Weymouth and one or two tournaments further cemented the Hawks as the 'nearly boys', with more penalty shootouts and narrow defeats than we care to mention. But it was all good fun and wouldn't have been possible without the unwavering support of the backroom team. Clare O'Farrell, Jay Wakefield, Richard Jones, Mike Riley and all the parents who stepped up to steward a car park, run a line or just ferry a boy or two to training and matches. You all played your part and we thank you for it.

Plus kudos to the boys themselves: Birring, Bradford, Coppock, Corker, Davies, Gill, Jones, Lewis, O'Connor, O'Farrell, Pottinger, Riley, Slade, Smith and Wakefield. It's been an honour and a pleasure. Bring on 24/25.

## U13 TEAMS' PHOTO GALLERY

Here are more photos from all the U13 teams: Hawks at Holmer Green; Hawks squad photo; Girls at Flackwell Heath; Falcons with their cup medals; Falcons lifting the cup.





## ***COACHES COMMENTS***

### **U14 Athletic - Gary Partridge**

We had a squad of 19 boys this year, successfully integrating several new players. We moved our training to a Monday evening and attendance was very good. We continued going in to match days with a squad of 16 and that had its challenges, towards the end of the season we opted to rotate the squad a bit more and have fewer substitutes.

A lot like the previous season we started the season ok with some hard-fought victories, we had to contend with a sticky patch mid-season before closing out the season winning 3 of our last 5 fixtures. The boys stuck together as a squad and worked hard in training and in matches to finish the season well. The camaraderie and togetherness of the squad has really shone through this season with the boys sticking together during a tough run of matches.



**U14 Athletic Squad Photo**

We entered 2 teams into the Wendover tournament this summer, 1 team just missing out on a semi-final spot and the other team losing only one group stage match.

This year, as has been the case for many years now, the U14s have benefited from a large number of volunteers giving up their time to coach and assist so a big thank you to Andrew, Roope, Tristan and Ben.

## ***COACHES COMMENTS***

### **U14s JPL - Tom Williams**

A fantastic season for a team in their first season together that just grew stronger and stronger every week . After a couple of unlucky results in the first couple of weeks - the team went unbeaten for the rest of the season including being JPL National Trophy winners capping off a fine season with the final at Macclesfield Town stadium beating Solihull Academy 3-1 in the final .



**U14 JPL Champions**



## COACHES COMMENTS

### U15 Hawks - Martin White

Analysis of the data corroborates that it was another successful season for the squad:

- A 4th place finish in the competitive Wycombe & South Bucks League Division 1
- Division 1 Fair Play winners for the second successive season
- Quarter Finalists in the Berks & Bucks County Cup, losing to Bracknell Town FC
- Quarter Finalists in the League Cup for the third season running
- An overall season playing record of P26 W16 D3 L7 F103 A49

Our 2023-24 squad welcomed a handful of excellent players to complement a core group who have been with the squad since they were Under 6s. The squad of 18 is littered with footballing talent. In possession, their brand of neat, pass and move football is a handful for opponents. Out-of-possession, players are compact, hard to beat and show composure in playing out from the back.



U15 Hawks squad Photo at Awards Day

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## ***COACHES COMMENTS***

### **U15s - Martin White (Continued...)**

Players are encouraged to reflect upon their individual performance and development, to take more responsibility on matchdays and to contribute to our matchday set-up, tactics and gameplan for different opponents.

There were memorable performances this season. Personal favourites include the 12-1 League Cup win away at Maidenhead United; remaining undefeated at the Aylesbury United tournament, finishing runners-up after 'sudden death' penalties; and winning a penalty shoot-out 4-3 at Holloways Park in January to defeat Division 1 Champions Aylesbury Vale Dynamos in Round 4 of the League Cup.

Congratulations to this season's award winners: Tommy Murphy (Player of the Season), Miles White (Players' Player of the Season), Riley Atkinson (Parents' Player of the Season) and Reuben Caithness (Leading Goal Scorer).

Huge thanks to fellow coach David Perry, to Clare Simmonds for her stellar administrative support and to our group of supportive parents. The boys are a pleasure to coach, and it is immensely fulfilling seeing so many of them enjoy their football and achieve success on the pitch.





## ***COACHES COMMENTS***

### **Community (Adult) - Eric Smith**

For the first time in BTYFC's history we entered an adult team into the High Wycombe Sunday Football Combination. This team featured players from our previous U18 Division 1 team, members of the Beaconsfield Town FC academy and many other local players aged 18 – 23.

Pre-season was expectantly very hectic. Living up to our name, we welcomed over 50+ players from the local community and finding the right balance within the squad was no easy task. That said, we looked strong in our three friendly matches, winning 2-0 against an established Division 2 team at Wilton Park.

Despite it being our first full season at adult level, we were placed in the top division of three after a re-shuffle from the league committee. This 14-team league saw us play 26 competitive league matches over the course of the 2023/24 campaign and we were thankfully able to play all of our home matches on the 3G pitch at Holloways Park which allowed us to keep on track with the busy schedule; unlike many of our rivals. A 3-1 defeat in the opening game felt like a huge disappointment but we quickly realised the task that lay ahead as almost the entirety of the squad adapted to their debut season in 'men's' football.



**Community Team vs. Denham United (Final League Match)**

## COACHES COMMENTS



We once again ran a fines system which, although did little to promote discipline, it sure helped to fuel the beer fund! Our disciplinary record for the season included 6 red cards, 31 yellow cards, and numerous sin-bins. You'd think from this that we were a horrible bunch from these statistics but I can only assure you that there are few kind words to share when discussing the opponents we faced.

The league table may suggest otherwise but we remained competitive in all of our 26 league fixtures. Ultimately, we finished second from bottom and will be relegated to Division 2 for the forthcoming campaign but that does little to tell the full story. On the final day, for example, we were drawing 1-1 with the eventual league champions, Denham United, until the 80th minute when a lack of substitutes saw tired legs fall to a late 4-1 defeat. There were many more positive highlights too, including a quarterfinal appearance in the cup, a 5-3 win over Lane End FC, and a 1-0 away win against Wycombe Athletic.

Sadly, a number of our players will be returning or starting University next season but we're actively recruiting for fresh faces and look forward to a more fruitful 2024/25 season in Division 2. Finally, I'd like to thank Jack Spicer for his efforts as assistant coach, as well as everyone who has shown their continued support for the team!

