Chairman’s Message

We are now a few weeks into the season and I have to report to you that things are looking exceedingly bright and healthy with the Club.

The membership is strong and improving all the time, as is the number of people volunteering to come forward and get involved with the teams, either helping or coaching. This is exactly the sort of spirit we wish to promote and, as such, enthusiasm tends to increase participation by all. At the end of the day it is your club, so the more participants the merrier.

We are without doubt starting to reap the benefits of the Pitchero website, so a huge to thanks to Paul Marks and Chris Heyburn for their efforts on that front, together with all the Managers and others who take time out of their valuable day to update it. It really is a bonus to the Club and has, only in the last few weeks, promoted interest from potential players, coaches and referees who wish to become involved.

Whilst it is early in the season, results have also been looking good and that is extremely encouraging. Hopefully the glitches that we have had with few fixtures are getting sorted out.

The younger age group, Acorns, is encouraging interest in a way that it has not done for a number of years, so well done to Chris and his growing band of coaches, who are doing an amazing job with these early participants in the game. They are the future of the Club.

It was great to have another day of involvement with the Senior Club, to be repeated later in the season and from my viewpoint encouraging to see the development of these links, so thanks to Gary Heyburn for his efforts on that front.

As weather has not been kind to us in recent years, we have already spent a significant amount of money since the beginning of the season on work to improve pitches and help make them more resilient to poor conditions. This has included clearing certain areas of undergrowth and, very importantly, undergoing treatment on pitches to improve drainage and hopefully increase the potential for playing if the weather turns against us.

Over the last few years, we have invested significant amounts of membership money in improving facilities, from the clubhouse to floodlights to ground improvements and storage facilities. Hopefully the membership can see the changes which have come about and which we hope to continue to make in the future.

A huge thank you to our sponsors, who will feature in this and future newsletters, and, as always, thanks to our strong and capable body of volunteers on the committee and management, most ably led by Matt Brown and Chris Lyons. We must also pay tribute to Nikki Prince and Steve Farrell, whose jobs on Membership and Child Welfare require significant work and organisation at this time of the membership year and whose efforts have been superlative.

Let us hope that the season continues in the way that it has started.

David Parish
Club Chairman
Welcome to the first Secretary’s report of the 2018/19 season. I would like to start by thanking all the members of the committee and the individual team managers for their hard work over the summer to ensure that the many aspects of administration were completed by various deadlines to allow all the boys to enjoy the new season.

We find ourselves in the fantastic position of running 13 teams across age groups ranging from Acorns to U.16 affiliated to either the Crowborough Junior Football league or the Tandridge Youth League. For the first time this season we are running an Under .8 team and our thanks go those who have volunteered their time and effort to enlist as FA qualified coaches to provide football for this particular age group.

From a playing point of view the season has started very encouragingly with the Under 12 Hawks, Under 13s, Under 14s and Under 16s all top of their respective divisions. Results across the other age groups—with the exception of the Under 11s, where the divisions are currently being revaluated to ensure more competitive matches—have also been encouraging and we wish all the boys an enjoyable season.

As the number of teams we run increases we face a number of different pressures in particular ensuring that we provide decent training and playing facilities for all of the age groups.

As winter looms we are fully aware of the potential effect on the pitches and training areas at Bushey Croft and I am pleased to confirm a recent partnership with St Mary’s School in Oxted who have agreed that certain age groups can use their recently installed Multi Use Games Area for midweek and Saturday morning training. This is a great opportunity to offer training to a number of our teams all year round. Thanks in particular go to Matt Brown and Chris Heyburn who have been instrumental in getting this initiative in place.

The Committee and individual team managers give up a huge amount of their time to deal with the running of the club from both an administrative and playing point of view, meeting once a month to ensure that the Club continues to thrive and provide the best opportunities for kids of all ages to enjoy playing football.

With this in mind we would welcome any feedback/suggestions as to how we can continue to take the Club forward – our monthly meetings are open to all and all parents and carers are welcome to attend.

Chris Lyons
Co-Secretary

New Committee

On Monday 25th June, the club held their annual general meeting. At this meeting, the club committee was elected for the 2018-19 season.

Chairman—David Parish
Vice Chairman—Vacant
Co Secretary—Chris Lyons
Co Secretary—Matt Brown
Treasurer—Mark O’Connor
Child Welfare Officer—Steve Farrell
Football Development Officer—Jon Heyburn
Acorns Coordinator—Chris Heyburn
Membership Secretary—Nikki Prince
Fundraising Officer—Vacant

Should you wish to contact any of our committee you can do so via your manager, via the Pitchero messaging system, or via the contact page on the website.
Senior Club Morning

An exciting weekend for the club took place recently when our friends from Oxted FC extended an invitation to all our junior sides to train at their home ground, Master Park and make use of the clubhouse to have lunch whilst watching TV before supporting Oxted FC in the annual challenge match against local rivals Holland Sports.

Whilst most of the junior teams used the time for training, our Under 9 age group played some friendly matches against Lingfield Juniors, who after their matches also joined us in the clubhouse for refreshments, and several games of table football helping to create a great family friendly day.

Through the refreshments for players and parents, it is brilliant to hear that over £150 was raised for our hosts just from teas, coffees and hot dogs! As with the junior club, fundraising is an important part of the Senior club helping to bring in much needed funds for equipment and fees.

The day however was not particularly about fundraising, the priority for the Senior club was engagement with junior players, parents and coaches and this respect, the day has been seen as a success, fostering the ever growing relationship between the two Oxted clubs, providing an exit route for junior players into senior football and encouraging both children and parents to enjoy the facilities at Oxted FC.

The formal exit route is a requirement of both clubs to enable them to hold their FA Charter Standards, something both clubs are enormously proud of, but the day was more than this, it was about bringing together the two clubs and help to ensure players can enjoy playing local football for many years to come.

After a short break there was the small matter of the Sparky Lewis Cup, an annual match between Oxted and their most local of rivals Holland Sports. This challenge match has been taking place for over 20 years and is always a match with plenty at stake. Unfortunately the result didn’t go in Oxted’s favour this year with the trophy returning to Holland Sports after being held by Oxted FC from the previous seasons match.

A number of local residents and also representatives from the Master Park Committee (Master Park is a Trust and not a council Park) remarked how wonderful it was to see so many children using the park, and with discussions having already started, there will be more opportunities to take our club back again for a similar event and provide a great opportunity for us to showcase ourselves to the wider Oxted area.

Jon Heyburn
Juniors Football Development Officer
Acorns

A few weeks into the season, we have a new look group. With such a large number leaving us to form the Under 8s and Under 9s, we have welcomed 25 new players over the summer. This takes our current total to 38 children, so already we are close to capacity!

Part of this group now includes year Rs for the first time as we have shifted our age range to allow all children who are of school age to play football for the club.

Our new players have settled in well and we have quickly settled into our routine of a joint warm up, before the younger half and older half split to take part in more focussed training. We of course always finish with matches too!

As well as new players, we have new coaches! Joining myself, Gary & Jon, we have Alistair Fraser, Adam Ward and Fabian Sylvester, extending our coaching team to the largest it has ever been!

Recently we took our training session to Master Park, at the invitation of Gary, our link to the senior club. This was a great morning and a great chance for the players of the future to see where the seniors play.

Back at Bushey Croft, we have loved having our very own set of aluminium goals that we can use every week and the players are bursting with excitement of the new jackets on the way!

A massive thank you must go to our fantastic group of parents, who week in, week out, support their children (and their children’s coaches!!), as well as making sure the goals go away the moment our training stops. You are all an essential part of our group!

Chris Heyburn
Acorns Coordinator

Under 8s

This season is the first season that the Under 8s are playing away from the Acorns. They have now entered the Crowborough Junior Mini Football League. Mini League is a 5–a–side format with rolling subs and a much “looser” set of rules to encourage a fun element alongside the development of technical ability and team play.

The Under 8s have game days every few weeks where we play two teams in consecutive games. For the weeks that we do not have fixtures we train and hone our fast-improving skills at Bushey Croft alongside the other age groups.

At the end of last season, the decision was taken that we would expand the Under 8s from one team to two teams. We did this to make sure we could maximise game time for the boys as we had eleven this would have meant seriously diluting the amount of game time for each player.

We will be running the Under 8s Hawks and Eagles and our aim to keep both teams as evenly balanced as possible rather than playing an A and a B team scenario. Bruce Killick, Mark Burland, Karl Reynolds and myself have taken up the challenge and between us we will do all we can to have a successful and enjoyable Under 8s season.

We had a baptism of fire with our first game week coming only on our second week back after the summer against Rusthall. Hawks lost 6-3 (even though we scored first!) and Eagles lost in the dying seconds 3-2. All of our boys conducted themselves impeccably, enjoyed the experience and most importantly put 100% into it.

We have a lot of potential and we will work hard together to improve every week!

Simon George
Under 8s Manager
**Under 9s**

The players in Eagles and Hawks have made a really great start to the season, picking up lots of praise from not just the parents and coaches at Oxted but also the parents and coaches of the other teams. There has been lots of positive remarks about the shape they hold, their team play and their positivity.

The results are mostly positive, with a few bumps along the way, but when the teams work hard they have nearly always come out on top. There has been some fantastic goals only shadowed by some of the amazing celebrations.

The intention of the training sessions is to bread good habits through the team and although this has compromised a few results we are sure in the long run it will benefit the players. We continue to work on various technical skills as well as the importance of shape and being a team. The players are getting better and better each week and with each session we see increased confidence and things getting a little faster and the players a little stronger.

The bond in the team is really strong, and the numbers are continuing to grow. The players have formed great friendships and are starting to trust and help each other in training and on match days, which is great to see.

With a few more games to come before Christmas I am sure we will see even more improvements and then after the new year we can start thinking about moving the training on tactically, to help them manage game situations better.

Matt Edwards
Under 9s Manager

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**Under 10s**

The Under 10s started the new season with a few new players to join the Missiles and Rockets, which will no doubt give us as coaches a bit of a headache when it comes to team selection - it’s a great position to find ourselves in!

Our fixtures kicked off where last season ended with a trip to Tunbridge Wells. It was a solid performance by both teams with two wins and two draws providing us with a good base to build on.

We have followed that up with more wins and draws and only a single loss, which was a strange result for the Rockets having just won 7-0! Together the two teams have scored 38 goals in 12 matches, only conceding 12, so a solid defence.

Training has been about trying new things and developing technique and positional sense. The results have spoken for themselves and it is not uncommon for opposition coaches and parents to make complimentary comments to us about the passing football that the boys play and how it is great to see kids at this age group understanding how to play in position, support teammates, and create space and scoring opportunities whilst playing from the back.

Making our opponents a little bit green-eyed is strangely satisfying...

There’s plenty of this season to go of course, but we already have one eye on next season. We will go to 9 a-side and be in competitive leagues so a lot of what we’re trying to achieve this season, both in matches and training, is about preparing the boys for that challenge. We certainly have the makings of a strong first team, and a second team who will be making sure no one takes their first team place for granted. All the boys show great promise.

Dave Brown
Under 10s Manager

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Both the Under 8s and Under 9s are in their first season of league format football (Under 9s pictured above).

The Under 10 teams training together at Bushey Croft.
Under 11s

It’s been a rollercoaster start to the season for the Under 11s.

There have been a number of positives- we have a squad of 28 with another two boys about to become fully registered.

The coaching team now include head coach Chris Lyons, coaches Graham Ford and Dave French with specialist coaching support from Glenn Cockerill.

Training has been moved to Thursday night and will shortly be moving from Bushey Croft to the brand new floodlit outdoor training facility at St Mary’s School (The MUGA).

On the other hand, there have been a number of teething problems at the Crowborough league fixture department as new personal find their feet, resulting in a number of one side results (specifically for Rovers). Oxted aren’t alone in suffering from this, the league have acknowledged the issue and the leagues have been re-ordered over the half term break.

UNITED

United have played a number of very close fixtures since the beginning of September, losing by a single goal in pre-season to the Oxted Under 12 A team and to their Raw skills A-team counterparts. Since the season started, United have won 2 and lost 3. Scoring 27 and conceding 19. The team are improving week on week as they consistently play together and we look forward to seeing it continue.

ROVERS

Rovers have had a difficult start to the season. A number of inappropriate pairings against clearly experienced and skilled teams (rather than fellow development teams), have resulted in our fledgling side suffering from a number of one side results. This has been acknowledged by the league and is being rectified, hopefully this time next newsletter we will be reporting on a number of evenly fought matches.

On the plus side, the boys have remained largely positive throughout and continue to enjoy their training and matches, week on week. We are very lucky to have such a great set of boys.

Peter Maynard
Under 11s Manager

Under 12s - Hawks

The Under 12s Hawks season is well and truly underway, in the summer we decided we were a few players short, so held trials and brought in five extra players to get us through the season as competitively as possible after being placed in the top Crowborough League. A big welcome to those five - Bailey, Harry, Sammy, Jack & George.

In the League the season has started well with 4 straight victories, the pick of the wins for me being a 1-0 win over Sporting Club Pass & Move a very talented set up from the Hastings area.

We entered the Surrey Cup for the first time and were very unlucky to lose on penalties after a well balanced 2-2 draw in normal time away in Claygate.

We have kept the boys busy with additional friendlies on spare Sundays - a 2-1 win over our U11 Uted side at the start of the season, a 4-0 win over Sevenoaks Jaguars and a 4-0 defeat against Tunbridge Wells Youth, all good experiences for the boys which will stand them in good stead for the remaining 17 league matches and the Crowborough league cup.

It’s been a good effort from everyone for the start of the season and after half term we really want to kick on especially with the league results, although only 8 teams in our league, we are scheduled to play all teams 3 times, the standard is high and there is a good mixture of opposition.

I hope the boys have enjoyed the challenge so far and are raring to go for the rest of the season, you can follow our progress on the FA Full Time website.

Gary Prince
Under 12 ‘Hawks’ Manager
Under 12s - Eagles

The Eagles decided to start in the Crowborough D league which should give us a good chance of promotion. However, looking at results so far, it appears that the League have not quite got the allocations across divisions right. The boys can expect quite a swing in the quality of opponents but should still compete well in this division.

We have had some new additions, with new goalkeepers Charlie Percival and Danny Taylor taking turns in goal. We also have Ed Jupp joining after training with us towards the end of last season. This takes us up to 15 boys which is a healthy number thinking about moving to 11 a side next season.

We kicked off the season with a 1-0 win away at Hawkhurst. Michael Copland-Wynen managed to get a goal in the first half and then it was a superb backs to the wall defensive strategy for the 2nd half and we held out thanks to a MOTM performance from Charlie.

Our first home game was slightly disappointing as we had most of the possession but lost 2-1 to Jarvis Brook. In the Cup, Hawkhurst got their revenge by beating us 9-2. Thankfully the boys picked themselves up to beat Pembury 5-3 in quite an exciting game the following week. So we are currently placed 6 out of 10 with games in hand.

We have been keeping with our 3-4-1 formation this season with three players at the back. We also have the option to play 4 at the back against better teams. Noah Palmer has been our main threat going forward on the right wing but Harry Thomas and Mattias McGill have also started well on the left wing. In central midfield we have Michael, Joe Farrell, Harry Hutchings and Jack Barry linking up well and Theo Jones has been our default striker.

Our next two games are against teams that we should compete well against so we hope to move up the table in the coming weeks.

Steve Farrell
Under 12 ‘Eagles’ Manager

Under 13s

The Under 13s have had a reasonable start to the season, winning four and losing one in Tandridge B division. We currently sit top of the table, but other teams have a game in hand - we will need to overturn Bromley Rooks and some other decent, as yet un-played sides, to be sure of a high finish this season.

We took the step up from last season and it has had the desired result of tighter results but, just like all the other teams, we are still adapting to a full sized pitch. Our slim goal difference of 3 (scored 18, conceded 15) shows that we have work to do improving our defending and management of the penalty area under pressure, but we have started work on this and it will be the main focus area in the coming months in training.

No such trouble up front – the usual suspects are scoring and creating chances, whilst the return of Callum Hills has added the potency we missed right at the top of the formation. Everyone, though, is still flexible in terms of position, which is good for them to continue to learn different aspects of play.

The team was also told at the start of the season that there will be more rotation of keepers as Joe has more than done his fair share over the last few seasons. Without a dedicated keeper, four or five players will need to step in to share duties - Oliver Adams for example has already proven himself a team player and capable keeper and, we will look to others in the coming weeks.

We have quite a big squad overall with a bit of player rotation, with 2 new players registered this season. Cameron Wragg and Leo Kilfiger are adaptable players and what has been really pleasing, is that all the newer entrants over the last two seasons are showing a very high work-rate in games – keeping the old hands on their toes and making selection more difficult. Good luck for the next few months everyone!

Paul Marks
Under 13s Manager
Under 14s

Oxted and District U14's have once again entered the Crowborough League – Division A.

The U14's started pre-season training way back in August; with fitness training playing a big part of sessions. Well done to all the boys for their commitment in attending so many of the sessions.

Our first league match was a home game against Tunbridge Foresters. Oxted dominated the majority of play, going into the half time break 2-0 up. Our renewed fitness levels paid off, as in the second half we were able to score a further six goals and win the match 8-0. Special mention to Kieran Barrett for scoring a hat-trick during this match.

Our next game was away against Wadhurst. The match was played on a very small pitch and Oxted boys initially struggled to cope with the lack of space. They ultimately showed great patience and managed to win the game 1-0.

If the boys thought they were going to romp the division this year, they were quickly brought down to earth with a rare and unusual 5-0 defeat against Hailsham. Certainly a match to forget in terms of our performance, however it managed to highlight several areas for us to address in training sessions.

With a few pre match nerves, our next test was an away match against Tonbridge Generals. Oxted boys battled hard throughout the game and worked well as a team. Whilst dominating the majority of play at 2-0 up, we did allow our opposition back in the game when the score went 2-1. Oxted stayed firm and when George Lowe put his body on the line with a 50/50 against the keeper, George managed to score Oxted’s winner and the game ended 3-1.

Three wins and one loss – a promising start and time to get our heads down now and work hard throughout the winter months.

Welcome to Simon Wood and William Byrne, who have joined me on the coaching team.

Matt Brown
Under 14s Manager

Under 16s

With the recruitment of six new players over the Summer break, the Under 16s now have a healthy looking squad of 17 players:

Jaimin Patel, Zac Crosswell, Oscar Voller, Luca Richards, Jack Hughes (c), Franky Hamilton-Black, Lucas Humphries, Matthew Timson, Ben Copping, Alex Spellward, Michael Bossick, William Bagridge, Thomas Wildman, Crispin Kellaway, Leo Scott, Daniel Blythe and Nathan Glass.

A positive preseason - with victories over Bromleains Youth 5-3 and The Warren Pumas 4-1 - has helped to integrate the new players into the squad and also give an encouraging outlook for the new season.

The hope is that as a team we can challenge for trophies and the start to the season convinces me that this will be the case. We have found a resilience and will to win we haven’t had for a few campaigns. Although it is early days we currently sit top of our division having played four games winning three and narrowly losing our opening fixture.

We still have room in our squad for players willing to train and play with intensity and fit into our team work ethic. We train Thursday evenings at Bushey Croft from 6.30pm to 8pm. Any Year 11s are welcome to come along and join in.

Graham Timson
Under 16s Manager
Focus on a Sponsor

Having managed to get more than two seasons out of our current kit, the Under 13s will soon take delivery of our new Mitre kit.

Hasbridge Construction Ltd has been supporting the club now for several seasons and we are delighted that Stuart Donovan continues to support the current Under 13 and Under 11 age groups.

Hasbridge Construction is a partnership-led construction business providing main/sub-contracting, construction management (CM) and quantity surveying services. They provide this service across all the main sectors - retail, commercial, education, industrial and care/residential buildings. For more information, please visit www.hasbridge.co.uk.

Stuart is an avid Chelsea fan, he played a bit of youth football himself and has passed his enthusiasm on to Leo and Lui, who play in the 13s and 11s respectively. Stuart was a central defender for Edenbridge United back in the olden days (1990s). Take a look at the news report above for a bit of nostalgia.

Paul Marks
Under 13s Manager
Oxted & District Junior Football Club

Oxted & District JFC provides junior football for the local community from age 5. Our highly successful Acorns section caters for our youngest players, with five to seven year olds experiencing friendly football in a safe and fun environment.

An FA Charter Standard Development Club, our home ground is Bushey Croft Recreation Ground in Old Oxted, which provides a hub for all of our teams from Acorns to Under 16s, with most teams training and playing there.

On our website you will find fixtures, results and news for all our teams, along with club contact information. Each team has its own team page, which are listed under the ‘Teams’ tab on the menu bar.

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FROM LITTLE ACORNS...

Spot the Ball!

Can you tell which ball these Acorns players were chasing after in one of their recent sessions?

Check below for the answer!

ANSWER: Ball one!