



Issue 6 March 2002

The Goal Crusader

The newsletter of Comberton Crusaders Football Club

Chairman's Bit

It's not every Sunday you look at the sports pages and discover an article on Comberton Crusaders. Well a few weeks ago that's what happened and below is David Walsh's article following a friendly match between the Under 10s and Under 11s. David's piece is an excellent summary of what we are aiming to achieve within the Club and for all those involved – players, parents and coaches.

You may have noticed in the Evening News recently that Burwell Swallows have become the first club in the Cambridgeshire FA to receive the Football Association's charter standard. This too is our aim and shortly we will be reviewing our progress. Part of our development plan includes the funding of coaches within the Club to achieve the FA coaching certificate standard and I'm pleased to announce that Doug Bailey has just passed his FA assessment. As a result, several of the Club's teams are

now benefiting from the input of our own FA trained coaches.

We are equally keen to develop girls' football and Ross Harnwell has done a tremendous job in moulding a small squad of eight girls into a very exciting footballing team – a team who knocked Cambridge United U13s out of the cup just before Christmas. A great achievement given the resources available to the opposition. But to keep the team moving forward into next season will require more players. So if you have any daughters, sisters or friends in Years 7 and 8 who want to play football then please contact me or Ross.

Developments at the Village College have rendered the U12s and U13 boys pitch unplayable – some bright contractor deposited a mountain of top soil onto a fifth of the pitch! We still await to hear from the College whether a full size all weather pitch is to be laid with floodlights at the Village College. Such a facility will enable us to have a single

Club night for coaching all age groups.

The search for an overall Club sponsor has so far proved unsuccessful but we will continue our search. Please contact me if you know of any company who would like to develop a long-term partnership with Comberton Crusaders. The good news is that new football kit in the club's colours of orange shirts and blue shorts has been bought for the U9s, U11s and U13 boys paid for from Club funds. Next season this year's Under 12s will also make the transition to orange shirts.

And finally, well done to all our teams in the first half of the season. Whilst all teams like to win, the true test for the Club is how each team develops its footballing skills and sportsmanship during the season. Above all, it's all about enjoying the beautiful game which is why David's article below is so valuable.

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Boys' own brilliance put stars to shame

David Walsh (This article first appeared in *The Sunday Times* on January 13 2002)

CONSIDER a day in the life of a sports reporter who, occasionally, doubles up as a father. Mindful of so many missed matches, I went to see our youngest boy play for Comberton Crusaders under-11 football team. He plays goalkeeper and defender; first half between the posts, second half satisfying a thirst for man-to-man combat. I could tell you he was Cambridgeshire's finest, but it would be truer to say there are few who take it so much to heart.

The game was fraught with importance. It brought together the club's under-11s and under-10s. Age, we say, is

everything in young footballers. Not so. For 18 months, the under-10s have been unbeaten. As for the under-11s, well, they lose more than they win. And even with the help of our goalkeeper/defender, they weren't expected to win.

The match was a delight. Two groups of young, unspoiled footballers, encouraged by parents, controlled by an unnoticed referee. The boys ran, tackled with gusto and nurtured their love for the game. At half-time the under-11s trailed by the only goal, but were undaunted.

For the first 15 minutes of the second half, the older boys attacked relentlessly

but couldn't score. It made them vulnerable to their rivals' late surge. Four-nil it was in the end, a cruel reflection of the contest, but that's a parent's tainted testimony.

More interesting was the behaviour of the boys and of those who came to watch. The spectators were mostly parents and immediate family. They stood mostly in silence and when they shouted encouragement, they disguised parental partisanship.

On the field, the behaviour was exemplary. For all the earnestness of the tackling, there wasn't a trace of meanness.

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pages 2&3: Match reports
and league tables

Next year's under 8s, under 9s & under 10s

If you have a son or daughter who wants to play mini soccer next season and is currently in years 2, 3 & 4 please contact Colin Clarkson 01223 870710. Coaching sessions will begin after the Easter holidays.

Match Reports

Under 13 Girls

Home Ground: Haslingfield Primary School
26 January 2002

Crusaders 0
Peterborough United 4

Although having only six fit players for this 7-a-side match the girls battled well throughout the game and played some excellent passing football. Tired legs finally contributed to the margin of defeat against a team with a squad of ten players.

Under 12 Boys

Home Ground: Comberton Rec
6 January 2002
Cottenham 2 Crusaders 2
Scorers: Marrone (2)

An excellent second half display saw Crusaders come back from two-nil down to earn a well deserved point.



13 January 2002
Crusaders 5 Bottisham 1
Scorers: Marrone (2), Moore (2) and og

This was the lads' first match at Comberton Rec following the

contractors' decision at the Village College to dump tons of top soil on a quarter of the pitch. The bigger pitch helped Crusader's wide play and the result was well deserved.



3 February 2002
Parkside 3 Crusaders 0

A difficult game for Crusaders who played against the wind in the first half and then found the Parkside goalkeeper a formidable foe in the second. If only the team had shown the same commitment in the first half as they did in the second then the result may have been reversed.

Under 11 Boys

Home Ground: Meridian Primary School
23 December 2001.
Bar Hill 2 Crusaders 2
Scorers: Rowlands and Haynes

This inspired performance by the whole team gave the visiting fans much to cheer about on this sunny bitter cold day. The Crusaders put Bar Hill under pressure from the start and were rewarded with an early goal on 4 minutes from Andrew Rowlands. Chances were missed at both ends with the

Crusaders goal coming under increased pressure; Connor Walsh played an inspired game to keep the away team in the hunt. The Crusaders deserved their 1-0 lead at half time.

Changes at half time were made, with Danny Player making many crucial saves to keep us in the game. With 10 minutes to go Mitchell Haynes scored a priceless goal to give the Crusaders a 2-0 lead that stunned the home team, But Bar Hill rallied their troops and scored two late goals to ensure the points were shared



19 January 2002
Hardwick Harriers B 0
Crusaders 11
Scorers: McNally (4) Gale (3), Veenman (2), Walsh, Hall

Spurred on after their recent defeat by the under 10s, the under 11s were relentless, putting the unsuspecting Hardwick defence under pressure from the kick off. The deadlock was broken after 5 minutes with Kieran McNally putting the Crusaders in front. The second goal came 5 minutes later after Connor Walsh cleared the ball out of defence to Dominic Gale who made a solo run, dribbling past 4 players before finding the net.

League tables at 24 February 2002. To keep up-to-date visit www.yellowjersey.co.uk for

Cambridgeshire Girls Under 13's League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	P
1 Peterborough United	9	7	1	1	49	6	43	22
2 Godmanchester Rovers	9	7	1	1	44	11	33	22
3 Newmarket	11	5	2	4	27	14	13	17
4 Cambridge City	6	4	2	0	35	5	30	14
4 Haverhill "U" S	7	3	1	3	23	16	7	10
5 Comberton Crusaders	8	3	1	4	12	20	-8	10
6 Cottenham Juniors	7	2	0	5	20	35	-15	6
7 Milton Colts	11	0	3	8	4	70	-66	3
8 Balsham Belles	6	0	1	5	2	39	-37	1

Cambridge & District Colts U12's Division D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	P
1 Cottenham Juniors	16	13	1	2	61	23	38	40
2 Ely Crusaders	17	10	2	5	35	28	7	32
3 Mildenhall Town B	15	8	4	3	42	27	15	28
4 Histon Hornets B	13	8	1	4	52	33	19	25
5 Comberton Crusaders	15	7	1	7	39	30	9	22
6 Aztecs B	12	5	5	2	34	29	5	20
7 Stretham Sporting	17	4	5	8	43	52	-9	17
8 Panthers	16	4	5	7	48	61	-13	17
9 Parkside 2000	14	5	2	7	40	55	-15	17
10 Burwell Swallows	13	4	2	7	34	33	1	14
11 Ellesmere Eagles	15	3	2	10	36	59	-23	11
12 Bottisham	15	3	0	12	32	66	-34	9

At this point the Hardwick goalkeeper performed heroics between the posts but was again beaten on 15 minutes by Kieran's delicate chip shot over the goalkeeper and into the roof of the net. Further goals by Dominic and Josh Veenman gave the visitors a well earned 5-0 lead by half time.

Crusaders were full of confidence at the start of the second and soon increased their lead on 35 minutes with Dominic getting his hat-trick. This was followed on 41 minutes with Josh firing the Crusaders into a 7-goal lead.

Hardwick's goalkeeper was changed at this point, and again heroics were performed between the posts, the Hardwick defence finally cracked on 56 minutes with Kieran getting his hat-trick.

Further goals were added in the last three minutes, Connor rewarded on 58 minutes with an 18 yard shot leaving the keeper stranded, Andrew Hall who worked tirelessly on the right wing/ defence and was finally rewarded after numerous attempts on 59 minutes. The final whistle could not come soon enough for the home side. However Comberton Crusaders worked hard right up to the final whistle as if still chasing the game, again Kieran was rewarded with his fourth goal with seconds remaining.

Under 10s

Home Ground: Meridian Primary School

12 January 2002

Comberton 8 Cottenham 0

Scorers: Berryman(3), Berry(2), Reed(2) and Bowling

Squad: Sexton, Berryman, Taylor, Berry, Reed, Hothersall, Watson, Bowling, Mills, French, Carden and Kendall

A fine first half performance saw the boys score six goals with Luke opening the scoring after 30 seconds. A fine second goal a few minutes later put the boys firmly in control. Jack, Charlie and Dan, scored their first league goals of the season, Dan sealing his first hat trick with a fine third goal.



19 January

Crusaders 1 Chatteris 0

Scorer: Carden

Squad: Sexton, Berryman, Barratt, Tranham, Reed, Hothersall, Kendall, Bowling, Mills, French, Carden

This was an excellent game with both teams playing good football on a heavy pitch. The boys took the lead midway through the first half with a fine finish by Simon following good work from Jack. The second half saw

several attempts well saved by the Chatteris goalkeeper including a block from Charlie after he had beaten three defenders on a run that started in his own half. Probably crusaders toughest encounter of the season so far



26 January

Bluntisham B 0 Crusaders 4

Scorers: Reed (2), Berry (2)

A magnificent first-half in which the boys played their best football of the season and took a 3-0 lead with two goals from Jack, the second a wonderful strike from a free-kick 25 metres out, and one from Luke. The boys battled well against a strong wind and heavy rain in the second with Luke adding a fourth near the end.



Colts football and www.intheteam.com for girls football

Cambridge & District Colts U13's Division A

		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Brampton Spartans	13	13	0	0	84	9	75	39
2	Histon Hornets	12	9	1	2	60	19	41	28
3	Chatteris Town	12	8	2	2	68	23	45	26
4	Haverhill United	15	7	1	7	49	58	-9	22
5	Sawston Enterprises	12	7	0	5	39	20	19	21
6	Huntington Rowdies A	9	6	0	3	31	12	19	18
7	Little Paxton	9	5	2	2	31	14	17	17
8	Cottenham Juniors B	15	5	1	9	37	55	-18	16
9	Fulbourn Falcons	12	4	0	8	33	62	-29	12
10	Ramsey	14	1	0	13	4	89	-85	3
11	Comberton Crusaders	15	0	1	14	12	87	-75	1

Cambridge & District Colts U17's Division B

		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	P
1	Hemingford	11	9	1	1	43	14	29	28
2	Comberton Crusaders	8	7	0	1	35	16	19	21
3	Bar Hill	11	5	2	4	33	31	2	17
4	Alconbury	11	4	2	5	26	25	1	14
5	Earith United	10	4	0	6	18	28	-10	12
6	Barton Bullets	11	2	1	8	18	45	-27	7
7	Cherry Hinton Lions	10	1	2	7	17	31	-14	5

(From front page: *Boys own brilliance puts stars to shame*)

Though desperate to win the ball, they were ready enough to pass it. The boys did not argue, nor did they berate the poor kid who missed the open goal.

Occasionally the referee erred, but always the wrong was silently accepted. The youngsters seemed to understand that to err is human. As for diving in the penalty area, that wretched deception did not even flick across their radar screens. Their innocence was their strength.

That same day I had to be at Carrow Road for Norwich's FA Cup tie against Chelsea. Leaving the boys' game with five minutes to go was hard, because it had something that professional football seems intent on surrendering. Call it what you will — decency, honesty, the certainty that every man is playing his heart out. Whatever it is, we recognise it when it is not there.

On that journey to Norwich, I thought of something Chelsea's chief executive, Colin Hutchinson, had said in the wake of an unsavoury incident at a hotel near Heathrow on September 12. Then, four Chelsea players, Eidur Gudjohnsen, Jody Morris, Frank Lampard and John Terry, and the Leicester City player Frank Sinclair, had drunk more than they should and behaved boorishly.

Chelsea fined their players £130,000, and Hutchinson explained that, as role models, their behaviour was out of order. Role models? We treat footballers unjustly if we expect them to provide a proper example for children. Why should they have to take on a responsibility that

is the obligation of parents? Furthermore, we insult the intelligence of children if we believe they will copy the worst excesses of big earners in the Premiership. The kids know when a man is feigning injury and they, too, lip-read the expletives used on referees. They know they wouldn't get away with it and have no wish to behave so badly.

On that journey to Carrow Road, it was hard to escape the feeling that the beautiful game had been left behind. Confirmation came with the Chelsea team list, for there, among the substitutes, was John Terry. Just 36 hours before the game, he was in a police cell in London. Along with Morris and the Wimbledon player Dessie Byrne, he had been involved in a nightclub incident.

The investigation may prove Terry's innocence. What cannot be explained is the lack of professionalism he showed in being on licensed premises so close to a match. He broke his club's rules and showed scant respect for teammates. It is hard to fathom Terry. A few weeks ago he spoke at length to a small number of us at Chelsea's training ground. A more down-to-earth, courteous 21-year-old you would find hard to meet. What is unfathomable is how he did not learn from the September 12 incident.

Chelsea should not have played him at Carrow Road, for by doing so, the club put the winning of one football game before moral authority. A fine of two weeks' wages is the gentlest reprimand, not punishment. Those who break the rules expect and often need to be seriously punished. An ambivalent response confuses the transgressor. Football clubs mostly do what suits them when it comes to discipline and Chelsea are no different from their peers.

At least the old confusion about role models has been banished. Footballers are not role models. In an ideal world it would be possible to take Terry and Morris, Byrne, Bowyer and Woodgate, Foxe of West Ham and countless others to a village pitch and show them the kids.

"Now, lads," we would say, "look at how these boys play, note the enthusiasm, the honesty and, above all, the decency. Let these young fellows be your role models."

The problem, of course, is that the kids have it easy. Nobody is paying them £15,000 or £20,000 a week. They can just go out and enjoy it.

Many thanks to David for permission to reproduce his article

Note to Parents – Football Scouts

Following a recent incident we have been asked by Cambridge United to set out their very strict "Scouting Procedure" which all football scouts should follow:

1. Each scout is issued with an Official Cambridge United Pass including a photograph and security number;
2. If a scout wishes to find out any information about a player he would always identify himself to the Team Manager and speak to him regarding any information regarding a player;
3. This information is then passed to the Youth Development Department at Cambridge United. The player would then be either invited for a trial or if he is in the U9 to U12 Age group his information would be passed to Premier Soccer to invite him to train at our Advanced Centre.

If players are ever approached in any other manner they should immediately speak to their parents, manager or club official. Under no circumstances should players give anyone their personal details.

We understand that all other professional football clubs operate similar procedures.

If you have any problems or further questions please contact Louise Tranham - the club's Child Protection Officer on 01223 263 753

The Goal Crusader

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Coaching Tips: number 1

