

Leeds City Juniors Football Club

2020-21 Season Review



CHARTER STANDARD
COMMUNITY CLUB



Leeds City Juniors - Club Officials 2021/22

A message from the Committee.

Welcome to the Leeds City Juniors Season Review 20/21.

This has been another tough season for everyone involved due to COVID-19 disrupting the season and meaning there was a number of lockdowns that the kids have had to contend with.

Despite this the club volunteers have worked extremely hard to ensure that when we have been able to train and play games, this has gone ahead.

Lockdown did showcase the talents that the kids have as well as football with online cooking courses and dance sessions bringing teams together, as well as skill tournaments and Strava competitions.

The club have made the decision to purchase 2 x defibrillators due to the closest defibrillator being located at Adel club and this being a long distance from Bedquilts where the majority of junior football is played. The defibrillators will be located in the containers on bedquilts and all coaches will have access to them. They have been purchased at a price of £2,500 and due to this the club will be selling NHS t-shirts to raise money to cover some of the costs. For further information please contact your team coaches.

Leeds City seniors' men's reserves team won promotion this season from Division 1. The significance of this in the junior section is that a large number of this team played in the junior

section and the team was managed by former junior Managers and Committee Members Darren Needham and Dave Comery.

The club would like to thank all the players, volunteers, parents / carers and everybody who is involved with the club. Without you this club would not be here. We would also like to thank all our club sponsors.

The following players have achieved the below landmarks;

100 appearances:

U12's

Noah Walsh (*19/20season)
Oliver Lubiecki
Law Inman
Finlay Bailey
Alfie Donohue
Varoon Meherhomji

U13's

Owen Mccann
Finn Sheridan-Hawley
Daniel Haggas

U14's

Oliver Moore
Riley Slobodian

Enjoy the season reviews,
LCJ Committee.

Club Chairperson: Pete Walsh

Child Welfare Officer: Lee Orange and Emma Goodall

Club Secretary: Angeline McClelland

Club Treasurer: Phil Crowther

Registrations: Mike Inman

Managers Representative: Sinisa Savic

Girls Section Lead: Jodi Walsh

Club Website: Chet Mistry

General Enquiries
leedscityjnrs@gmail.com



Leeds City Juniors - A brief history

Leeds City FC was formed in 2006 from the merger of Adel FC, Abbey Grange Old Boys & Leeds City Vixens.

The Leeds City Juniors section was also formed at the same time with the junior teams of Abbey Grange Old Boys FC and a junior girls team from Leeds City Vixens.

The junior section of Abbey Grange had originally been formed in 2003 by Mark McFarlane (*now Head of the Senior Section*) and Dave Booth. The first ever match of the junior section was a two team mini soccer U9 fixture on 21 September 2003 at Bramley Juniors – from the two teams that day Chris Moseley, James McFarlane, Adam Potter and Chris Ridgway have progressed to play regularly in Leeds City open age teams.

From two U9 teams and 24 players on the LMU Bedquilts mini soccer pitch in the 2003/04 season the Juniors expanded rapidly with additional age groups added each season. Soon 11 a side football was being played on the LMU Bedquilts pitches as the original U9 players reached U11 age group and once the merger took place in 2006 the facilities at Adel WMA became available to the Junior section.

In 2006 Leeds City Juniors became an FA Charter Standard Community Club – an affiliation that we proudly still hold to this day.

A Kindergarten was established in 2008 on a Saturday morning for children from 4 to 7 years of age – this continues to be popular and

provides a good fun environment for children to learn and develop prior to being old enough to play in the U8 team, this also acts as a good feeder into playing club football and maintains the continuity of age groups at the club.

“this club continues to provide a fun environment for children to learn and develop”

In the 2020/21 season Leeds City Juniors continued to provide junior football in the Garforth Junior Football League, West Riding Girls Football League and Harrogate Junior Football League to over 275 boys and girls. This is in addition to the children who regularly attend the Kindergarten sessions on a Saturday morning.

Following our success as an official SSE Wildcats Centre for girls football we have developed our girls section to offer teams for 4 age groups, we aim to develop this section further.



Photo: Squad for the first ever Juniors match: Abbey Grange U9 away to Bramley Juniors 21/9/03 Back L to R : Jamie Booth, Robert Hiza, Jack Storey, Chris Ridgway, James McFarlane, Sean Pullan, Jake Foggitt, Alex Murdoch Front L to R : Alex Comery, Adam Potter, Rhiannon Benton, Robert Kyles, Andrew Kyles, Chris Moseley, Robert Coverdale, Danny Ridgway.



Leeds City Juniors - 2021/22 Managers

Age Group	Managers Name	Contact details
All-stars (girls)	Nathan Hunt	instinctsportscoaching@gmail.com
U10 girls	Jodi Walsh	jodi.walsh@hotmail.com
U12 girls	Helen Burrough	family.burrough@gmail.com
U13 girls	Sasha Holdsworth	sasha.h90@outlook.com
U15 girls	Kieran Brady	kieran.brady@transunion.co.uk
Kindergarten	Nathan Hunt	instinctsportscoaching@gmail.com
U8	David Jennings	davidjennings69@hotmail.com
U9 Blues	Jonny White	Jonathanwhitephotography@hotmail.com
U9 Colts	Chris Miall	miall350@gmail.com
U9 Juniors	Leighton Stanger	leightonstanger@hotmail.com
U10 Blues	Sini Savic	sinisa_savic@hotmail.co.uk
U10 Colts	Ade Whitehouse	adeandandylcjolts@gmail.com
U10 Juniors	Rob Hughes	marie.robert@sky.com
U11 Blues	Alex Minett/Duncan Colman	a.minett1977@gmail.com
U11 Colts	Alex Brennan	alex.brennan78@gmail.com

Leeds City Juniors - 2021/22 Managers

Age Group	Managers Name	Contact details
U12	Phil Shaw	philjshaw@msn.com
U13 Juniors	Pete Walsh/Mike Inman	leedscityjnrsmail@gmail.com
U13 Blues	Paul Illingworth	paulillingworth5@gmail.com
U13 Colts	Dan Peacock	dpeacock82@yahoo.co.uk
U14 Colts	Milton McCann/James Cassidy	milton.mccann@gmail.com
U14 Blues	Milton McCann	milton.mccann@gmail.com
U15	Richard Bland/James Roden	james.roden@lendlease.com
U16	Dan Neep	danielneep@icloud.com

Please contact your present age group Manager if you have any queries regarding the 2021/22 season or have an interest in helping at the club in any capacity - be it a fundraiser, general helper, running a tuck shop, administrator, coach, referee or manager etc.

Under 9 Girls



What a stop start season this has been. We started at Battyeford which is always a tough game especially when you have 4 players isolating, but after this game we enjoyed 5 games without losing before lockdown hit us. After Christmas we managed to play a cup game against Horsforth St Margaret's in January. This game only went ahead due to the amazing hard work from both coaches and parents from both teams who forked the pitch and brushed all the surface water off.

There was no football until April which was really hard for our girls who had now had their first two seasons disrupted by COVID, but once we were back into the swing of things, we played some great football against some really good teams in the league with standout games' vs HSM, Garforth and Tingley.

We have a wonderful group of girls, who are a joy to be around. I am so proud of them all for the way they work for each other, encourage each other and have fun.

This team has grown so much in such a short time, we now are in an unbelievable position of being able to put two teams' out next season.



Thank you to all our parents who have travelled and made some long journeys across West Yorkshire and always brought the girls to training no matter what the weather has been like. Also, a big thank you to Ellis Pickles who plays for our U13 boys. Ellis has been our referee this season and has helped in training, he is a real asset to our club.

Coach: Jodi Walsh

Under 9 Blues

The new season started as planned in September 2020. All Children/Parents and coaching staff eagerly awaiting outdoor football again after a 6-month lockdown. Two months in, it seemed the 20/21 season will not follow the same pattern as the 19/20 season.

The U9 Blues team was fully of energy. The team was placed into the strongest possible group within the Garforth league. This was a result and reward of all the hard work in the prior season. A short two-week preseason with two successive friendly wins set us up for the first game of the season. Two loses followed against Horsforth Hunters and Pegasus. Reality set in that the long lockdown in 2020 took a toll on all our players. Everything we had practised a season earlier seemed lost against stronger opposition. Coaching staff decided to focus on the basics with the long-term development of our players in mind rather than focus on results.

Hard and focussed work brought us back to our winning ways in the league and Cup. Eight (8) wins in a row followed although it must be noted that we continued to lose to our nemesis of the 20/21 season Horsforth Pegasus in friendly matches. Every time we played them, we edged closer to beating them though.

Lockdown 2.0 hit on 1st November. The last match was a 3-3 vs Chapeltown. Everyone started to feel anxious that it will be a repeat of the season gone. It was a sad day to see all the children go home knowing there will be no football for 5 weeks. To reminisce the occasion a team photo was taken to remind us of our achievement once football was allowed to resume.

Believing the Season will restart mid-December coaching staff arranged friendlies to prepare for upcoming games. Unfortunately, the opposite happened, and we went into lockdown 3.0 beginning of January 2021.

A long three months wait followed before we were allowed to resume the season. We lost the first game back early April vs South Milford 5-3. The loss did not stop us to continue train hard every Saturday and to focus on our game to improve our performances on the pitch. We encountered only one loss in ten vs Chapeltown away, not counting another friendly loss against Pegasus. Overall, another rollercoaster season that proved to be challenging for all children, parents, and coaches. It must be said that



we did very well given the circumstances. Gareth and I are very proud of every single player. The passion and love for the beautiful game fuelled our players to continue to improve and to train no matter what the weather. No lockdown rules could stop the love we all collectively have for football.

Personally, I have been involved with most of the kids for the last 3 seasons and I can truly say that I am in awe of the progress of every single player. It is so pleasing to see their individual development, their progression and love to play football week in week out.

Lastly, Gaz and I would like to thank every parent for their effort and commitment bringing the children to training and games every weekend. We look forward to the U10 21/22 season.

Sini Savic

Under 9 Colts

This is the second season for the U9 Colts and we played in the Garforth U9 Sole Barcelona Division.

After the turmoil of the first 2020 lockdown, it was great to see the boys get some normality back in their lives and start back training in late summer in preparation for the new season. The joy on their faces when seeing their teammates and playing team sport again was a real pleasure to see and if we can take any positives from the pandemic, it has really instilled a team spirit in the Colts.

The challenge for the boys this season was stepping up to a 7-a-side format. The boys easily took this in their stride and it was a great to see the season kick off with some comprehensive wins. The boys continued this form and we were confident going into the new cup tournament format, playing against teams from various divisions. We displayed great character and determination against teams in higher divisions, showing how we have progressed over a short time.

The timing of the subsequent two lockdowns was unfortunate for the Colts, as it took the boys a little time to get back to winning ways. As the extended season progressed, we had some really entertaining and close games against some excellent teams, finishing with some convincing winning performances.

Throughout the ups and downs of this season, all boys have shown great character, with a positive attitude and a willingness to learn. The hard work they have put into training has seen significant developments in all aspects of football across the squad, with improvements in dribbling, control, passing and movement. We still encourage player rotation in various positions to enhance their education and it is great to see the boys progressing in all aspects of the game. Notably, as a team we also continue to develop with a real team spirit, celebrating goals together, supporting each other and discussing ways to improve during team talks.

In addition, to the matchday squad we also have a number of boys who attend training only on Saturdays.

These Colts have also improved massively over the year,

showing a similar dedication and commitment to developing their skillset.

Overall a really enjoyable and successful, albeit disrupted, second season and it places the Colts in a great position for next season. The future is bright and I'm confident the squad will continue to work hard in training and develop as a group in the 2021/22 season.

Thanks to Andy White, Mike Urwin and Richard Ralston as part of the coaching team, along with Dave Gifford and James March for help with Saturday training. Finally, thank you to all parents for their continued support throughout the season.

Ade Whitehouse



Under 10 Boys

A really enjoyable season....if not a little shorter than we all would have liked!

After a period of uncertainty we kicked off the campaign on the 13th September against Woodkirk Valley with two entertaining matches that ended with an aggregate score of 6-6. In this first set of matches we saw some glimpses of what we were going to see throughout the season – some excellent passing football, great goals and a team that wouldn't give up in games when they went behind.

We then managed another 7 matches before we went into a national lockdown at the beginning of November. There were again some brilliant performances from the boys during this period, with probably the stand out match being a cup match against Ossett Trojans. After winning the first match 2-1, we were 3-0 down at half time in the second match. The boys showed real character and came roaring back in the second half to win the match 4-3.

After coming out of lockdown in early December, we played a few friendly matches to help get the match fitness levels back up. Then for the remainder of the season we decided to look ahead to next season (and U11s) by playing all the matches 9 aside and on the bigger pitches. The boys did a brilliant job of adapting to the changes and put in some of the best performances of the season during the 9 matches we played to the end of the season. The match that really stood out was NE Leeds Lions away from home – a team that had got the better of us in the games we have played against them earlier in the season. We won the first game 5-4 and the second game 3-2 and both matches were a joy to watch with some fantastic individual and team goals along with some lovely passing moves.

It really has been a pleasure to coach the boys this season. We set them all the challenge at the beginning of the season to be a team that shows a high level of discipline and sportsmanship – both at training and in matches. It's fair to say that the boys really stepped up and delivered against

this challenge – be it how they supported and encouraged one another throughout the season or how they kept their standards high in a couple of the matches against some less than desirable opponents!

Roll on a lockdown free 2021/22 season!

Alex Minett



Under 11 Girls

This is the girls 3rd Season with Leeds City Juniors. The season got off to a flying start with only one loss and 3 wins, but then came the first lockdown! This didn't deter the girls and when we were able to, we battled on in the Cup competition. Unfortunately we got knocked out on penalties by Horsforth Amazons.

Then came Lockdown 2.... The girls came back in fighting spirit though and got through to the quarter finals of the Shield only to go out to Horsforth Dynamos.

Although it has been another disrupted season, the girls have played really well and had more wins than losses in the league. They have shown great resilience and determination in a tough year. We have continued with the LCJ's ethos that the most important thing is enjoyment and team work rather than the score.

In training we have worked hard to improve our shielding and our ball control. The girls have also had to get used to the off-side rule and no retreat, which they have coped with brilliantly.

I am so proud of them. They have great attitude and have really grown as a team. They are a pleasure to coach. Well done girls!

Helen Burrough



Under 11 Boys

All in all, a successful season either side of the COVID pandemic lockdown. We have had really good training participation this season come rain or shine with probably our best attendance ever in the pouring rain midway through May only a few weeks ago. Eddy (Donnelly) has put a lot of effort into designing and putting into practice several new training drills/sessions so thanks to him for that as well as his no frills, cards on the table, matchday half time team talks which have been inspiring in some of our second half comeback performances. Nyal Shahid came in as part of his Duke of Edinburgh scheme and brought in one of the boys favourite drills towards the end of the season. We'll hopefully welcome Nyal back next season if his school commitments allow it and he can bring in more of his own drills that will keep the boys entertained.

We've had a mid season/circumstantial promotion from "ROSE", Division 5, to "LEAF", Division 4, which was nice and well deserved given that we held our own in most games up to the end of the season after the jump up in quality opposition.

All in all, 14 competitive matches were played of which we won 8, drew 2 and lost 4. We dished out a couple of drubbings early doors and avoided receiving any ourselves throughout. There were a couple of tough matches where we came off feeling battered and bruised having been weaker than we should have been in the challenges. That said we got better as the season progressed and stood up for ourselves, and most importantly EACH OTHER, more towards the end of the season. Hopefully all the boys will say they had fun whilst also showing their frustrations at times; after all they are all still young and fun needs to be the most important aspect that comes from all



of what we do.

We've had 9 different players take at least one half in between the sticks which has been difficult to manage but then Sam Caulfield stuck his head above the parapit to become a trusted semi permanent goalkeeper as the season progressed. Sam has kept us in matches on many an occasion when we could have conceded. Some other notable goalkeeping performances were had by Finlay Donnelly, Xavier and Oliver Taylor, so thanks to all 4 of you.

Amazingly, out of our 18 man squad, we have had 13 different goal scorers over the season which is great to see and shows the rotation of players does pay off in the long run. Matchday and Player Stats attached for all to see. This is not quite what the FA Matchday App says, but I assure you I am right (a geek) and they are not!!

Top goal scorer was Xavier with 12 goals from 11 appearances. Closely followed by both Ben and Eddie who got 10 a piece from 9 and 11 appearances respectively. Ben actually got 5 in one match against Farsley Celtic which was the biggest haul from one player in any match all season. Well done to all 3 who, week in week out, show their love of attacking the opposition and dribbling past them towards goal.

The general skill and ability improvement throughout the squad this past season has been one of the most pleasing things to see with the award for most improved player being the hardest one for Danny, Eddy and I to come to agree on before the End of Season Awards Presentation on 17th July.

Phil Shaw

Under 12 Juniors

Pre-pre-season started in June when the first lockdown of 2020 was eased and was run in bubbles with social distance training where the players all worked hard on their individual skills and fitness. As restrictions lifted, we began to play a few competitive friendly games against the other teams in our age group which included one of *the*(our) other Leeds City u12 team which had the intensity of an Old Firm Derby.

The season started in the baking Wakefield September Sun at Crofton with a true humdinger of a game which we won by the odd goal in 5 to give us our first win in competitive football. We took this result forward and went right through to the next lockdown in November unbeaten in the league and winning both our cup games.

During this lockdown the players kept themselves fit by working hard on individual fitness, but were hit with the news that no league games would be played until January and the cup was to be cancelled. We came back in December playing a number of friendly games against teams from the Harrogate League and drew 3-3 with Farsley Celtic.

We returned in January to another full lockdown with no football, again they all worked hard to keep fit ready to go again. During this lockdown the invention of Inter Team Competition was created with Dream Team, Ultimate Team, All-Stars and Invincibles having a weekly team challenge that included keepy ups, step overs and re-enacting famous goals with some brilliant efforts of Gazza in 96 vs Scotland and many others.

We got started in April with back-to-back fixtures vs the eventual league winners Airedale losing both games, one very unluckily and the other game being a true wake-up call about how we need to keep standards high if we are to compete in this league.

The wake-up call worked with us winning 7 of our last 9 games and drawing the other 2 games with us finishing 3rd,



7 points off top and 10 points clear of 4th in Division 2 of 8 in the Garforth Junior League. We pride ourselves on the way we play football, which is open exciting football and all the players have grown in confidence so much from last season when we struggled at times to fulfil our potential as well as dominate games. Proof of evolving was in our final 5 games where we only conceded 1 goal and kept 3 clean sheets in a row. The last 11 games were played in a 5-week period which was very testing but really enjoyable after so many lockdowns.

There are a number of games that stand out for us this season which included two 2-2 draws with our old foes Hunslet which were real toe to toe, blow for blow games and probably our best performances of the season where we beat Leeds Juniors 4-3 and Wakefield 3-0 in scores lines that flattered our opposition, but showed us the true levels this team can reach.

The attitude of every single one of the players who have trained and played for us has been on another level with them all developing in a manner that is so impressive. They attend wanting to learn at training and take what we have

worked on into games, this season has really shown us how important training is as a team.

Due to the philosophy we have taken from U8's through to now of rotating positions, which without doubt cost us games over the previous non-competitive seasons, we have a squad of players who are moving into 11v11 football next season that can seamlessly play in 3-4 different positions. This will hopefully allow us to utilise a number different formations next season with our players flexibility. We are looking forward to moving into 11 aside football next season and are currently recruiting, please pass on our details if you know anyone wanting to join us.

We want to take this opportunity to thank our parents who have supported us throughout and encouraged the team to continue playing the way we do. We can imagine its hard to watch when we are leaving 1v1's at the back in certain games or playing in a different way, but you understand this is may be something we have been working on in training for the games and simply encourage the team. The support you have shown getting them all to games especially in that period mentioned earlier when there were up to 3 games a week is unbelievable and we feel very lucky to have you all. Thank you also goes to our sponsor Iconsult Yorkshire for your fantastic support.

Finally thank you to our coach George Harrison who has brought so much to our coaching team throughout the season and built up such a great rapport with the team, thanks also to coach Josh Falkingham who is 15 years old but shows maturity above these years when helping with coaching in training.

Pete Walsh & Mike Inman

Under 12 Colts

Another disrupted season due to covid but overall a very good year for the U12 Colts. It was very much a season of two halves either side of lockdown. It would appear the boys found a few extra gears after returning for the second half of the season.

The hard work in training is really starting to pay off and that is all down to the boys attitude and willingness to learn.

My highlight of the season was beating Farsley 3-2. This result was the only time Farsley they dropped points all season!
It was definitely more rewarding and made more difficult due to the ref adding on 'Fergie Time'

Season stats : P12 W8 D2 L2 GD41

I hope everyone loved this season as much as I did, and are looking forward to moving up to 11v11 next season whilst continuing to develop/improve into better footballers.

Keep up the hard work everyone.

Dan Peacock



Under 13 Colts & Blues



To follow are the individual team reviews, but before that the coaches wanted to say what a pleasure it has been to coach the players again this season. We have had new players join, some leave and even ones that have left and rejoin us! It's great to see the smiles on all their faces and most of all the real improvement they all make year on year!

Blues

The Blues have had a challenging season. So many times they've been ahead of or level with the opposition but haven't quite got all the wins they deserved. Yet that doesn't describe their season. They've laughed, supported each other, they've grown in confidence and in skill. They've entertained us and played some great football. Their attitudes and sportsmanship has defined them and they're a credit to themselves, their parents and to the club. A parent of an opposing team summed it up well in an email to club saying "the sportsmanship was the best they'd come across....they should be extremely proud of themselves".

So well done to each of the lads, we as coaches and parents have enjoyed your season as much as you have.

Colts

The Colts have had a mixed season. A slow start to the season saw them lose early matches by single goals and scoring goals seemed difficult. But after a few games the team really started to click and were winning and they were mid-table pushing up the league before the season came to an end. It is a shame the season came to an end and we had to play friendlies!

Well done all the players for keeping up the hard work, dedication and most of all playing with a smile!

We are looking forward to next season and hopefully get the first full season player in two years!

Milton McCann

Under 14 Girls

Following a very interesting 2019-20 season which culminated in the U13' finishing top of division 3 it was obvious the U14 team would have to go up a division. The division format changed from 3 divisions to 4 divisions to help with Covid which meant division 3 became division 4 and so forth.

Initially LCJ were put in Division 2 until it was pointed out that most of our players were actually under 13 and we were moved to division 4 instead. After playing our first game and winning 10-2 we agreed Division 3 might be a better fit. After a few games in Division 3 a few things became apparent.

- We were going to have to improve tactically
- We were in the right division but were struggling to win games
- We needed more goals

Coupled with this we lost Niamh to Wigton Moor and although we were not to know it at the time we also lost Emily for the season due to injury. These two items, were, a big setback as both players had helped us win division 3 the previous year.

Fortunately, we recruited three new players in the form of Evie Rose, Isla Mathie and Eleanor Parkinson. They all played their first game together and it was obvious that although they would take time to bed in, they were going to be great additions to the squad.

After a few games we set about working on the defence and coming up with a plan to concede less goals. This culminated in Roisin and Chloe forming a central defence partnership with a sweeper role deployed for balls in behind. Annabel or Ava were cleaning up the balls near the goals. We also deployed Evie Rose and Tariro as uncompromising full backs that could also attack at pace. Ava, Annabel and Lorna played at full back in rotation and they tactically learned to play everything in front of them. Surprisingly, it was our worst defeat that brought the defence together when we played Wortley away and lost 7-0. This game highlighted all the things we wanted

to do and it was no surprise when we played West End the following week we won 1-0. In fact, we went 3 games in a row conceding only 1 goal from play.

In the meantime, Ava B, Isla, Ruby B and Izzy were coming along nicely as wing players and improving all the time and learning how to go by players. Lorna, and Evie R had a number of games at central midfield and both played very well there and gave us other options going forward. Sasha was moving from Holding midfielder to attacking midfielder.

Our attention was now beginning to turn to our attack. Although we were now defending well and tactically much more aware we were not scoring enough at the other end. We were dominating possession in most games due to the possession-oriented training James was delivering and the girls ability to keep ball. It was very good to watch and even when we were not winning, the football was very entertaining.

Ruby P had joined at this point and it was obvious from the first training session she was a striker in the making. That said midfield was always going to be the starting point as she had not played before but had clearly done some park/street football. We are looking forward to her progress next year.

The item we wanted the girls to learn was not to pass the ball to feet when passing to the strikers but to pass it to where they would be. This involved the midfielders as much as the strikers. The season was coming to a close, but we have started to do to other teams what they were doing to us at the beginning of the season. In fact in the last 2 games we have scored 5 goals with 3 goals coming from through balls and two coming from the wings. Something we had not done much of all season. Over the course of the season Lily and Kati have converted to being strikers and have scored 20 goals between them and a number of other players can now also play as striker.

Emily returned for the last few games of the season and it is great to see her back and playing well.

We missed her. Eleanor and Izzy Ward have come back to the squad after missing part of the season and it is great to see them back as well. Chloe Smith joined and has played 3 games in goals for us and has had a brilliant start. Ava S unfortunately left and that was disappointing. Macie has started to train with the team as a potential new player and the squad is approximately 19 players in total.

Katie, Ruby P, Evie Rose and Izzy M all scored their first goal this season in a competitive match. After a 0-2 win against Scotton on a glorious sunny day in Knaresborough

Thank you to all the Coaches and parents that helped out during the season. Thanks to the girls for always turning up, always being polite, respectful and playing football with a smile.

Kieran Brady



Under 14 Boys

We welcomed 3 new players for 2020/2021 season as Thomas Cahill and Sam Macauley joined the returning Jack Diffey in the summer. Our first outing saw us take on the U15's in a friendly who proved to be too strong in the sunshine. The league campaign started with a heartening 3-3 draw at Rothwell with Fintan and Riley notching to start a fruitful season for both. It could have been much better with LCJFC missing a penalty and a keeper howler, a bright start nonetheless with Matthew starring in midfield. The next game saw us demolish Garforth Villa 4-1 with debutant Sam scoring a hat-trick and Oscar making amends with an unbelievable double penalty save.

On to Alwoodley on a massive pitch where we witnessed another thriller in a 4-4 draw, the highlight being a long-range free kick from Jack. Our first league reverse came against a very well organised Wrenthorpe team with 2 giants at the back. Charlie kept knocking at the door, but they didn't let him in.

Beeston were our next visitors, but we started with a huge Wrenthorpe hangover going 3 behind before an Elliot inspired comeback saw us draw 3-3. Sam put Horsforth to the sword scoring all 4 goals with notable assists from Sash in a 4-2 victory. Our regular stalwart defence of Oliver, Lloris, Jaeden & Elliot were on it again, proving to be almost impenetrable.

Our final league game before the campaign was cruelly shortened by Covid came at table topping Drighlington. It all came together beautifully on the day in a 5-3 win with Mateja covering every blade of grass and Thomas repelling everything.

After lockdown we resurrected our season with a few friendlies. The first at Morley Glen where Archie scored a brace in a sensational personal performance and Omar strolled majestically in midfield. The second saw us lose to Hunslet after going a goal ahead.

It was, unfortunately a curtailed season but with many bright moments. We competed in every game and bossed many. We were upper mid-table when we stopped and would have been right up there had we converted the many draws into wins. Training continues to be enjoyable with the games keenly contested (particularly by Terry!). The boys have developed over the season and we look forward to the inevitable rollercoaster of 2021/22.



Thank you for your continued support.

Richard Bland, James Roden & Terry Moore

Under 15 Boys

The season kicked off with a pre-season friendly against our under 14s which resulted in a comfortable 7-1 win to give the team a confidence boost for our first season in Harrogate Division One. Next up was a potentially difficult tie v Pannal first team, I think we stopped counting when we were 13 down, so much for the confidence boost! The first league game was against Ilkley town which we lost 9-0 and ended up with only 10 fit players on the pitch and Sam Taylor in hospital, so things were going splendidly at this point, not! Our new signings Olly and Sam must have wondered what they had done.

We were unfortunate with the fixtures as our next two games were against Knaresborough and Nidd who along with Pannal and Ilkley were probably the strongest teams in the league. We lost both games narrowly and by now the lads realised that the Harrogate division was a step up and we needed to show more character, fight and desire to compete at this level. We had a couple of good performances in friendlies drawing v Maccabi and beating Wigton but suffered another long-term injury when Ben Crowther broke his collarbone after being squashed by a big lad. We beat Lawnswood 2-0 in the league and their UFC bound goalkeeper who kept falling over wasn't very happy with some of the banter from the crowd and left the car park shouting abuse from his car which was entertaining.

Once the season started again after lockdown we travelled to Knaresborough and found ourselves two nil up thanks to an absolute rocket from Harry H and a tidy finish from Nyal. We couldn't quite hold on for the win and drew 2-2 for a very creditable result. The lads had worked really hard in training for the weeks leading up to restart and for me this was our best performance of the season.

The rematch v Lawnswood was a hum dinger, I think we were two nil down at half time and then showed great character and quality to lead 6-2, to then have a mad five minutes and end up hanging on for a 6-5 win. Some cracking goals in the game from Harry H and Louie, with Nyal getting his hat trick to seal the double against our local rivals. We were all disappointed to lose away versus Pannal Ash as we must have had 20 attempts on goal and couldn't put the game to bed in the first half, especially after we had beaten them the week before 5-1. We performed well versus Pannal Panthers at home and on another day could have got a draw, the less said about the away tie against them the better! Very much Jekyll and Hyde performances versus the Pannal teams across the season.

The final game of the season was away at Nidd where we came away with a creditable 4-4 draw in a cracking game. Another thunderbolt for Harry who easily wins goal of the season with at least 4 beltors from outside the box this season. Mason performed heroics in goal in the best goalkeeping display of the season, the game could have finished 6-6 and a draw was a fair result and a great game to end the season.

Other highlights were Archie's free kick v Wigton from fully twenty-five yards, no bookings all season, Sam B's penalties, Ben Crowther's unconventional volley save versus Burley, Harry Hunter's net busters, Olly's headers, and Reuben's versatility.



Top scorers were Nyal and Harry with 9 each. We had 10 different goal scorers this season so nicely spread out. Obviously, we let in too many goals this season and we only had one clean sheet so something we need to work on and improve for next season. Defending set pieces has long been our Achilles heel, I think we did improve this season but still conceded too many goals direct from corners. We did look more of a threat from our own set pieces though with great delivery on corners from Harry and players making committed runs. And a 100% conversion rate in penalties from Sam B to boot. Attendance and application at training was excellent, Sam T and Phil smashing into each other was evidence of that, not sure who came off worse though.

Thanks to the parents who come and support and help with the nets and thanks to Phil, Lee and Tom. Hopefully the boys have enjoyed the season, I know I have, as we continued to play some great football at times. Next season will most likely be the last season in junior football so let's give it our best shot and I hope to see everyone at preseason and let's pray for no more Covid interruptions.

Dan Neep



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