

SEASON REVIEW

APRIL 2024



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FA Organisation ID: 78371



Introduction

Welcome to a review of another fantastic season for HYFC's 400 players across our twenty-two playing teams.

Our army of eighty registered coaches plus team admins and a host of other volunteers have made football possible. Thanks to every single one of them.

At this point last year, we revealed our refreshed identity which has been rolled out through the season with a new website and Club app. We have introduced brand new kits for most teams, along with launching Club merchandise and teamwear.

We have again achieved 2* Accreditation with the FA which is essential for playing league, cup and tournament football. This has resulted from our increased investment in safeguarding and coaching development.

We've improved the matchday experience with the *Match Hatch* at the Airfield along with the *Whistler* at Woodways. We're working closely with Haddenham Parish Council and the Football Foundation to improve the pitches. Next season, we will fully implement our commitment to Smoke Free Sidelines.

We're expanding our range of partnerships, including GK Icon for goalkeeper training and Fitlife for strength and conditioning. We're now formally affiliated to Haddenham United FC, providing a pathway from U6s to adult football. The U12, U13 and U14 teams all played friendlies against the Paris St Germain's London Academy team, providing a fantastic experience for the boys and forging a relationship on which we hope to build.

An exciting feature of the year was the continued development of Girls' football. We'll launch a fifth girls only team next season and we hope to see more girls graduating to Haddenham Ladies in the coming years. We are grateful to Haddenham Beer Festivals Trust for backing our plans to grow Girls' football as well as the HYFC Community Fund. We're also working with local clubs to develop a PAN-Disability team.

There are too many highlights to list every one, but they certainly include Haddenham Ladies - part of HYFC - playing their first FA Cup match. The U17s and U11 Rangers are looking forward to Cup Finals at Thame's stadium - please go along and support. The U12 Rangers and U12G could still win their respective leagues.

Perhaps the two headline achievements are the U16s being crowned league champions in the last few days and the U18s winning Division 1 last weekend, with many of that team having played for HYFC all the way from U6s!

Thanks to all the U18s players for their hard work and dedication and we wish them well in their football journeys and the big wide world ahead! A special mention for Paul Moore and David Heafield, the U18s management team: thank you and enjoy your well-deserved rest, you have certainly set the standard for the rest of us...

Four themes emerge from the twenty-two reviews which follow: genuine team spirit; friendships forming and lasting; a culture of both learning and fun; and the nurturing of an enduring love for the beautiful game. Oh - not forgetting great performances and lots of goals!

Today, we're launching a Players' Committee which will start next season with representatives from every age group. We are committed to giving players a voice in the running of their Club. We'll also be surveying parents soon – please look out for that and give us your feedback.

Good luck to every player in the remaining league fixtures as well as cups and summer tournaments. Following last year's success, the HYFC Festival of Football returns on 31 August/1 September at the Airfield – see you there!



Winning the U15G event at our Festival of Football 2023

Thank you to my fellow committee members who have worked tirelessly all season. Finally, thanks to all our team sponsors which have generously invested in the development of youth football in Haddenham.

*Alex Wagstaff
Club Chairman*



HYFC U18s: Wycombe and South Bucks Minor Football League Division 1 Champions

HYFC Committee

Alex Wagstaff (Chairman) | Kevin Johnson (Vice Chairman) | Gareth Cheeseman (Club Treasurer) | Tim Dixon (Child Welfare Officer) | Helen Thawley (Club Secretary) | Nick Cuthbert (Football Development) | Alex Giles (Festival, Fundraising, Ref Development & Match Hatch) | Nick Heath (Digital and Kit) | Ali Holmes (Commercial Development) | Sarah Robertson (Community and Events).

U6

The U5/6 season has been an amazing experience, to coach and develop our younger, future players of the game. Every player in the team has energy and enthusiasm for the game and these first steps are very important to the enjoyment and love of the game. These players have impressed and inspired me watching them learn drills, develop listening skills and perform in pressured match situations.

The children have grown over the season and are ready for next season to undertake more matches and build relationships with different teams.

I am proud of all the parents who have supported and cheered on their children and I look forward to all the cheering on the sidelines next season.

Luke Hawkins

U7



It has been a fantastic first season for the U7s. It was an electric start with some great results (winning the majority of our first six fixtures - four games per fixture).

Since January the opposition have improved, making the games more competitive but in turn our players have all improved on their basic skills and positional play. Other teams complimented how well organised we have been, which is a credit to the coaches and the kids. Lots of great memories for our first full season - including scoring 250 league goals!

Our special thanks to team sponsor Lucy Electric.

Ben Buckingham

U8



Our U8s teams had extraordinary seasons marked by significant achievements and growth. We celebrated scoring over 50 goals, a testament to the team's hard work and dedication. Standout moments include goals from the halfway line, goals from corners and passes galore.

Every player showed remarkable improvement, evolving their skills and understanding of the game. This progress wasn't just about scoring; it was about becoming better teammates and developing a love for the game.

Our journey was supported by incredible parents and coaches, whose encouragement and guidance were pivotal to our success. As we reflect on our season, we're filled with pride for our team's accomplishments and excited about the future.

Our grateful thanks to Intelli-Park which sponsored our team.

Emma Herlihy

U9



U9s have enjoyed another great season. The change in the way both the Hawks and Harriers work as a team is noticeable to everyone who watches them play - the training sessions are paying off and there is some great football being played.

The Harriers half of our U9s team had an incredibly enjoyable season. They buddied with Wendover Juniors and competed in the Green Division. They enjoyed lots of great victories, averaging three goals per game, and gaining valuable experience when they weren't victorious. Goals were spread among ten different scorers, ensuring everyone got to share in the glory.

A standout moment was the away match against Gerrards Cross & Fulmer Eagles. The opposition coaches commended our boys for their cohesive team play and positive attitude, with five different goal scorers contributing to the win! Additionally, it was rewarding to witness successful corner routines translating into goals throughout the season.

The Hawks also had a fun season of matches (although didn't manage to play quite as many as we would have liked, thanks to the never-ending rain). Scores were generally tight with a good mix of wins, draws, and losses providing lots of opportunities for learning. As Hawks and Harriers both play in the same division, the ultimate local derbies were fun affairs, where football was always the winner!

As a group, we emphasise fun and teamwork for all the boys. Their development and eagerness to learn together have been truly heart-warming. Thank you to the parents for their faultless support. Looking ahead, we eagerly anticipate participating in local summer tournaments and embarking on our final season at Woodways in the Under 10s league!

Graham, Mark, John, Nick, James, and Rich (we've got 37 players registered - it's all about crowd control in training).

U10



We had a bit of a change at the start of the season with a couple of players moving away, including one who emigrated to Australia! We started with mixed results, but the boys put in the effort during our training sessions and we started to see a turnaround in the performances and more consistent results.

We also played some teams who were particularly physical, so we worked on this area in training to improve their competitiveness on match days. We noticed an immediate impact and we were competing in every game from then until the end of the season. We had some great results, including wins over Beaconsfield, Bourne End, Holmer Green & Aylesbury Dynamos. We also became the 'comeback kings' where recently we were 2-0 down to Chinnor and drew the game with an assist from our GK!

All of the boys have developed hugely over the season and we are confident going into every game. We move up to the U11s next year, 9-a-side and offsides which the boys are all looking forward to!

Michael Lister

U10G



HYFC kicked off a new U10 Girls only team in September with a smashing start! After only one training session, they hit the Bucks League with tonnes of enthusiasm and energy.

With every game focusing on fun and development it didn't take too long to get a goal under our belts despite most of the team playing up a league and against more experienced teams this year. The second half of the season has been beset with postponements due to the bad weather, but we are looking forward to the summer friendlies with the teams we've met and plenty of tournaments.

With more and more girls looking to become involved in football we are now a squad of 20, looking to run two teams (U10G and U11G) next season. We have welcomed new parental coach support from Harjeet and Jack and continue to enjoy the guidance and leadership of Ade and Stu from HYFC's U12G team. Big thanks go out to our referee Dan for his continued support on match days.

Look out for more goals and action next year from these amazing, talented and enthusiastic HYFC Girls' teams!

Tara Medlicott

U11 Rangers



First a huge thank you to all the parents, carers and helpers who not only bring their child along, but chip in putting goals away, generally helping out and especially running the line. There would be no team without their support and I know all the children love having so many people on the sidelines cheering them on.

Thanks to our sponsor McCormick, owner of the Schwartz spice brand. Their support has enabled us to kit all boys in our smart new strip, greatly appreciated by everyone.

With this our first season stepping up to 9-a-side, bigger goals and the introduction of offside every single player has stepped on. We've been immensely impressed. What we love is how strong the team spirit is, with players from different schools and teams last season but you'd never know watching them play.

The season didn't start as planned, losing our first game but we then went on a ten-game unbeaten run, winning nine! An incredible sequence that only came to an end when we narrowly lost to Penn and Tylers in what can only be described as a "seven goal thriller" ... taking a three-goal lead only to lose 4-3.

You either win or you learn and clearly the team learned a lot. In our last game of the season, we risked a repeat against Gerrards Cross, going 3-1 up, only to be pegged back to 3-3 with minutes to go. The players never gave up, kept their heads and kept going until the final whistle. It paid off, scoring a last-minute winner to take the game 4-3!

This victory meant we qualified for the League Cup Final on 5th May, where we will be seeking revenge as we take on Penn and Tylers.

An immense season where everyone has progressed and gelled as a team - an awesome team spirit and some fabulous players makes football fun.

Ali Holmes

U11 Collts



My thanks to Scott for all his hard work; all the parents and lads for their patience in wind, rain and snow.

Moving up into 9-a-side with offsides has been a learning curve for all! But we have really enjoyed it. This season probably hasn't gone to plan results wise. But the team togetherness, understanding of positions and acceptance of roles has been excellent and bodes well for the lads' development.

My highlight of the season was an away fixture against Downley. We hadn't started the season very well; morale was low. So, we set up to work super hard for each other, enjoy our football and try our best to get a result.

I think Benji went in goal and had the game of the season, pulling off great saves and keeping us in the fixture. Meanwhile Quinn scored two goals; we won 5-3 and put our arms around each other and danced like we had won the World Cup! Great day!

I hope everyone enjoys the summer break and I look forward to seeing everyone next season.

Ben Johnson

U12 Collts



U12 Colts have enjoyed an excellent season during which they have continued to develop and have played some fantastic football. Existing and new players have gelled well to create a friendly and competitive team.

All members of the squad have contributed to the team's success in competitive fixtures (winning three, drawing two and losing three) and we end the season stronger than we started.

The team has shown character, often holding on to narrow leads in the face of continued pressure. Nathan has made fantastic saves and Ollie has been the linchpin of defence ably supported by Joe, Rory, Fraser, Benji, Jarred and Thomas; they've improved significantly, now playing as a defensive unit.

Sam and Ben have led the way scoring numerous goals, but it has been far from a two player show – Ollie, Rowan, Rayaan, Benji and Daniel have also been on the scoresheet. However, the goals wouldn't come without a hard-working midfield, Patrick and Rowan often fighting tenaciously to regain possession. Whilst playing fewer games, Gabriel, Daman and Grayson have contributed too.

The Colts are looking forward to starting next season and the transition to 11-a-side.

Mark Williams

U12 Rangers



Our team moved across to the Oxfordshire Youth Football League to give the boys a fresh set of challenges and different pitches to enjoy. It proved a successful switch to a well-organised league. With one match remaining, Rangers are second in the league and pushing for the title and promotion to the A Division.

A tight squad has been supplemented by Colts players when required. Without a wider squad operating two teams, allowing players to develop at their own pace, Rangers would not have made the same progress.

Key features have been flexibility and team spirit. Players can operate in multiple positions in a system which they have come to know inside and out. In the moments when the goals or the going have been against them was typically when this team worked even harder together to find the win. The quality of our play has improved significantly, with some fantastic performances by a strong group of players and we look forward to the transition to 11-a-side football.

Special thanks to Chris Garraway - who has co-ordinated fixtures and referees and leads training week in, week out - and to the generous sponsor of both U12 teams, TW Jones Property.

Kevin Johnson & Alex Wagstaff

U12G



We are so proud of what the team has achieved this season after changes to the team officials and league restructure.

The group takes great pride in the fun and friendly environment they have created. Their positivity and team spirit has resulted in being current league leaders and through to the quarter final of the cup.

We hope to carry this through to next season and keep building on the progress made this year.

It's fantastic to see the whole group laughing and smiling at every training session and match regardless of results. We are very lucky to have such a good group of players and look forward to building on this season's achievements in a team that is all inclusive and where everybody is welcome.

Finally, thanks to McCormick, owner of the Schwartz spice brand, for supporting the team.

Ade Small

U13



It's been a tale of mixed fortunes for the U13s. After promotion last season, we found ourselves facing tough opposition in Division 3 of the WSBM league playing competitive 11-a-side football for the first time.

We were off to a great start with a draw and two wins, and eleven goals from six different players. But success in the league has been hampered by long-term injury, transfers and frequent squad rotation, leaving us in the bottom half of the table with six wins, two draws and eight losses.

We were drawn against Wendover Juniors, another Div 3 team, in the first rounds of both the County and League cups. Wendover hasn't lost all season and proved too much of a challenge, despite a courageous effort from the Haddenham boys. We fared slightly better in the Dick Hopkins Memorial Cup, with wins against Marlow Youth and then Widmer End before Marlow Pumas (Div 2) brought our run to an end.

Every player should be proud of their contribution this season, but Lincoln Learner deserves special mention for scoring nineteen goals across all competitions.

Thanks to our sponsors, BWK Solicitors, for ensuring that we looked the part and to Chris Williams and the U14 Blues for offering valuable game time to several of our players. We're looking forward to the upcoming tournaments after the fantastic experience of playing PSG Academy U13s last weekend!

Paul Rendell

U14 Rangers

At the start of the season our squad grew from 18 to 29 players, enabling the creation of a second team for the first time in several years!

Our Rangers team competed in Division 3 having been promoted last season and our Blues team were in Division 7. Having two teams meant the entire squad were able to play matches each week with every player able to develop their skills and gain experience in a competitive environment.

Both teams have trained together in every session, strengthening friendships and enabling both teams to improve. We have seen several movements between teams during the season so that all players were given the opportunity to capitalise on the confidence and skills they developed.

Our coaching team also grew from three at the outset to six in the second half of the season. We have been able to run much more structured training sessions, with multiple drills and exercises at once which has undoubtedly enhanced our progress. I'm very grateful to all coaches for their dedication and continued support.

The Rangers team are set to finish in the top half of Div 3 which is a great achievement. There have been many significant results along the way, beating Thame Utd, Holmer Green and Bourne End to name but a few.

Two highlights are the 4-1 victory over Paris Saint Germain in a friendly game and holding Bisham Abbey to a 3-3 draw after ET in the League Cup. Whilst we lost on penalties, the team was commended for pushing Bisham - a team which won Div 1 by January and which had not lost a game in over two years - right to the wire.



This was the Blues' team inaugural season and the coaches have been very impressed with how they learnt to play with each other, develop a team spirit and be highly competitive in such a short period of time.

It has been a pleasure watching both the Rangers and Blues develop their skills, friendships and team spirit. We have a fantastic squad of which the entire coaching team is very proud. We look forward to another successful season.

Thanks also to A2Z Roofing Limited which remains committed to sponsoring both teams.

Andy Duffin

U14 Blues

Steve Witty and Iain McFayden joined the new Blues coaching team and we set about building a new side from scratch! Blues had a mixture of those who had played regularly in previous seasons and some who had never played in a team before - so a huge difference in experience levels.

This season has been an absolute pleasure for all the coaches. The players have shown a fantastic attitude throughout, a willingness to learn and to grow as a collective. As things stand, we have three games remaining with a chance to finish third in the league - a fantastic achievement for a brand-new side.

The Blues have become better and better as the season has progressed - it's a shame it has to end! A massive thank you to Steve and Iain for coming on board and to all the players for their efforts this season. Here's to winning the league in 24/25!

Chris Williams

U14G



After being close to folding last season, this year has been one of increasing growth and confidence - even a couple of victories. We had a successful recruiting campaign, bringing another six girls into the team giving us a squad of fifteen to go into the very competitive Girls' Oxford Youth Football League.

The season started with the superbly managed (!) HYFC Festival of Football where the girls had to play in a more senior age category, not progressing but giving a solid account of themselves.

The start of the League season was an eye opener with a 9-1 defeat to Brackley in +30C, where we learned just how physical and demanding this league was going to be. The girls quickly found their feet and within a few games had registered their first wins in three years: 5-1 and 7-1 victories against Kingsdown and Easington. Although we didn't win for the rest of the season, we did secure a draw and the vast majority of the games had just one or two goals in it. The girls only conceded two goals against the top team across the season.

This is effectively a new team of girls and they have come together incredibly well. The spirit they have displayed, led by their passionate captain, has been genuinely humbling. Our parents have stood by the girls on some difficult days (and some long distance away games) and continue to help the coaches.

The support from the Club has also been superb, and the girls now proudly wear their new kit – sponsored by Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity – so we can finally shout: come on the blues!

Stephen Courtnadge

U15



Following last season (where we ended the year light on numbers through injury and illness), we opted for a deeper squad and welcomed six new faces into the team. Our new members settled into the squad really well during their first season with HYFC, embodying our culture and adapting to our playing style seamlessly.

An unexpected turn of events led to the loss of our goalkeeper early into the season, yet several players stepped up commendably to fill the role, exemplifying the team's strong ethos and putting the team before themselves.

Finishing in the lower half of Division 1 doesn't reflect the quality of football displayed this year. Narrow margins in several games could have significantly improved our position, highlighting that success in this division is often decided by small details.

We had an excellent and enjoyable cup run reaching the semi-finals of the League Cup where we narrowly lost to Flackwell Heath (who we'd beaten twice in the league already). Despite a 3-0 half-time deficit, the team showed amazing spirit and fought hard in the second half and gave a great account of themselves and did their parents (and us coaches) proud!

Along with the at-times breathtaking football, the changing room dynamic and general camaraderie between the team has been an absolute pleasure to watch, with high attendance every single week at training and matches. This sense of unity and enjoyment made coaching rewarding. Looking ahead, we're optimistic about the potential of our 'new look' team to achieve great things next season.

Finally, a big thanks to our sponsor Simon Payne Rural Services for their kind generosity to the team allowing us to look exceptional before we even kick a ball!

Nick Cuthbert

U15G



This season has been one of growth and learning for the U15 Girls – I think that is what you say when you don't win any matches!

We joined the Oxfordshire League as the Bucks League had folded and the difference in standard was tangible. After being a big fish in a small pool previously, we came up against big, well organised teams. We lost games we should have drawn; we drew games we should have won.

We had no luck in the cups either, being drawn against teams that were sitting near the summit of the league above us. However, Lucy and I could not be prouder of the girls. They were a credit to themselves and the club every time they took to the pitch – and despite what the results suggest, we have got better and more cohesive as the season developed.

Led by our great co-captains and senior players, what was a challenging season has seen a lot of fun and laughter along the way. Onwards to 2024/25!

Donald Lunan

U16

After a challenging season last year, the U16 team were all determined to put that behind them and push on this season. This group of players never ceases to amaze us coaches with their commitment, team spirit and passion for the game. They have trained and played harder than ever whilst trying to navigate the challenges of their GCSE revision.

In the last few days, the team has been confirmed as Division 4 champions! It is well deserved and a fantastic achievement for the players!

Michael Spiers

U17



The first part of the season proved difficult with most games ending in defeat, but the scorelines weren't telling the full tale of how the matches were actually played.

We played some good football; put a lot of effort in, but the boys weren't getting what they deserved out of the matches. As the majority of teams we played came from the division above in the previous season, and losing our goalie over the summer, proved the difference.

Fortunately, the cup games (County and League) proved a great way of keeping the spirit of the boys up and we progressed well in both; we went out of the County Cup after a few rounds to an U18s team. We are now through to the Final of the League Cup, thanks to a magnificent display beating a very good Flackwell Heath team in the semis.

During the second part of the league season, we have finally started to achieve some deserved results and slowly gained points on the board, hopefully meaning we will creep up the league.

Chris Duncan

U18



After moving up from Division 2 last season, our expectations were to be competitive, win more than we lost, and give all squad players ample match time.

Despite a rocky start with two league losses, the team continued to play well and the results followed, going unbeaten in the league until early January and winning the early rounds of the cup. Unfortunately, our cup run was ended at the quarter final stage to Gerrards Cross who were the eventual runners up to AFC Lightning in March.

In the league, our third loss in January seemed to galvanise the team and resulted in the performance of the season beating the previously undefeated AFC Lightning team 8-1.

We remained undefeated for the remainder of the season, inflicting another defeat on AFC Lightning in our final game in April. Following last weekend's results elsewhere, we became Division 1 champions!

The U18s performance has been nothing short of fantastic; many of the players have been part of the squad since they were five or six years old and it is a truly remarkable finish to their youth football with HYFC.

Paul Moore

Haddenham Ladies



As football cliches go, 2023/24 was a 'season of transition' for the Ladies as we struggled to rise to the competitive standard of the new TVCWFL Division 1. We finished ninth of eleven teams winning four and drawing two of our twenty matches. Sadly, we had to concede two matches as we were unable to raise a team.

We relied on a core of eleven or twelve enthusiastic and fully committed players most weeks with other players adding to the numbers as and when work shifts, injuries and other commitments allowed. During the Summer we were lucky to add a few new players to the squad including our young goalie Millie who has proved to be a great asset to us.

The season started with our first ever match in the Women's FA Cup. Whilst we didn't progress, it was great to be involved and the prize money was a welcome addition to the Club's funds.

We also reached the quarter finals of the League Cup, narrowly missing out on a semi-final place with a 4-3 defeat to Goring. The highlight of the season was probably completing 'the double' over Banbury with 3-1 and 2-0 victories – one of these matches included us scoring and absolute 'worldy' from fully forty yards. The low point was an 8-1 defeat at home to Larkspur Rovers.

We are looking forward to the tournament season and will be actively recruiting during the Summer to ensure we are as prepared as we can be going into the 2024/25 season.

David Elliott

Haddenham Walking Football



A couple of great achievements this year for Haddenham Walking Football. A few of our over 60s members joined the AUWFC last season to help bolster their squad and this season they were picked for the Walking Football Nationals - WF FA Cup.

After five knock out rounds from Cirencester to Hackney, the team reached the Finals in Nottingham where they topped their group stage by winning two and drawing with Norwich City Over 60s.

In the Quarter Final they met West Bromwich Over 60s and beat them with the last kick of the game before the dreaded penalties, only to meet Norwich City again in a high tempo Semi Final where they unfortunately lost out to them.

We have also merged with AUWFC Over 55s & Over 65s who play in the Thames Valley WF League at Bisham Abbey.

The progress of Walking Football has widened in the area too, where we have helped to start up WF sessions in Chinnor on Wednesday mornings and Thame on Wednesday evenings.

We hope to showcase WF at the HYFC Festival of Football in August/September, where we can bring all the teams together for a mini, fun tournament and hopefully entice some new players.

Andy Roff

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Festival of Football 2024

Save the Date!

31 August - 1 September 2024

Airfield Pitches, Haddenham
6-a-side events
U7-U15s inc. Rangers, Colts & Girls
£45 team entry | £5 car parking | £2 walk in
FA affiliated teams | No Academy or JPL
Refreshments at the Match Hatch

Join us for the 2024/25
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More information or to reserve a place
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