

# Guildford Saints FC

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Charter Standard Development Club

## Can we have our ball back Please.....

March 2008.

### Welcome

Dear Member, Player, Team Manager, Parent and everyone else with an interest in Guildford Saints, the end of the season approaches with many teams still trying to catch up on postponed matches due to the rather wet weather we have been experiencing. Some teams I know have already completed their fixture lists, well done to all of you.

A number of teams look as though they will be league winners this season, Congratulations. Our U9 boys team will once again be competing for the League Cup, this will be held at the Varsity Centre on April 20<sup>th</sup>, time TBC, supporters would be most welcome.

**Training Dates:** Last training session at St. Peter's will be 6<sup>th</sup> April 2008. As mentioned above many teams still have matches to complete so will still train but at alternative locations, please check with your Team Manager for details.

Training will re-commence at the beginning of September 2008 – can't wait!!

**Fees 07/08:** I have been informed that a number of membership fees are outstanding for this season. Fees were due by the end of September 2007, if you have any outstanding fees please ensure they are paid without any further delay. Members joining after the end of September should have paid all fees in full on joining. Registrations for next season cannot take place if fees for the current season have not been paid. Any hardship cases should contact our Treasurer, Tim Dooner, for easy payment terms.

## **GSFC – Celebrating 25 years of youth football.....**

To mark this very special achievement a Dinner Dance, organized by Karen Oldland, was held at the Manor Hotel, Newlands Corner in February. 90 guests attended this black tie event. Upon arrival guests enjoyed a welcome drink and were then led into the function room, which was decorated beautifully in club colours. Celebrity Guest Speaker, Mr Frank Worthington who regaled us with amusing tales from his footballing career, followed a three-course meal. Our Chairman, Alex Forbes (pictured over with our Celebrity guest) took the opportunity to thank everyone involved in the Club contributing to its success over the past 25 years. Vice President, David Hollingsworth took over proceedings to host the auction, some fabulous items were on offer and our thanks go to: Russell & Bromley handbags, NJM Stationers, Alex McCarthy – Reading FC, Manchester City FC, Fulham FC – James Edser, Bournemouth AFC, Trevor Brooking – Surrey FA for their donations, plus Ellie de-Forest Brown (Pampered Chef) who donated a beautiful basket full of coffee time goodies which was auctioned in aid of Breast Cancer awareness. A grand total of £1400 was raised for Club Funds, £100 being the funds raised for charity. It was then time for our guests to take to the dance floor and boogie the night away. A superb evening enjoyed by everyone, our most special thanks to Karen Oldland, pictured on following page with Frank Worthington, for organizing this event.

Thanks also to Mark Edwards who spent the evening taking photographs, these can be viewed and downloaded from: TBC

### **Quiz of the Year.... Who will win the Quiz Champs crown this year??**

**Saturday April 26<sup>th</sup>** is the date for this annual competition, once again being held at St. Peter's School, 7.30pm start, fish & chip supper will be served during the evening with a bar available throughout. Quiz Master: Steve Gotham will be in charge of proceedings, always a highly entertaining and enjoyable evening. We look forward to seeing you there. Tickets must be purchased in advance, contact Team Manager for details or contact Jane Oliver 01483 301655.

**Raffle....**Raffle to take place during Quiz Night, 1<sup>st</sup> Prize £75 cash., other fab prizes on offer. Raffle tickets have been handed out, please ensure all monies and stubs are returned to your Team Managers prior to the event. Offers of prize donations, please speak to Jane Oliver.

### **GSFC Annual 6-a-side Tournament: May 24/ 25<sup>th</sup> 2008**

We are in the process of organizing our main fund raising event of the year, once again it will be held at St. Peter's school and we are inviting teams from U7 – U14 boys and U10 – U14 girls to attend our event. Jane Oliver will once again be contacting you for your help and support during the weekend, so if your children are taking part in the competition please make sure you volunteer your help to ensure our event is successful.

You will note that the tournament date is slightly later than it has been in the past, this is

due to a number of factors, the main one being that the summer term is dedicated to athletics in all our schools, this means that our pitch marking for the tournament is highly disruptive to the school since we mark over the running track and various other markings they have on the field. Last year we had to pay an additional £500 to St. Peter's for the re-lining of their athletics track etc. so that we could hold our tournament on the same weekend that we have always booked. We have therefore agreed with the School to hold our event slightly later this year, this means we will not have to pay any additional charges for re-lining as the PE Dept. do not require the field the week following our tournament. Having investigated alternative venues, St. Peter's remains the best venue for us in terms of space available, security and parking.

In the meantime we are looking for **sponsors** for the event: Programme Printing, BBQ, Age Group Sponsors (also entitled to advertising space in programme), match ball sponsors, advertising space in programme ¼ page, half page or full page– if you can pledge your support for any of these items then I look forward to hearing from you.

**BBQ - We need your HELP** – can you set up the BBQ on either Saturday or Sunday morning? Lighting the BBQ and getting the food ready for cooking? If you can offer your help please contact Jane Oliver.

**Refs:** We will require a large number of Referees for the tournament, good rates of pay and perks, anyone interested please contact me (Dawn 01483 827339)

**GSFC Annual Presentation** – as agreed at our recent Committee Meeting, there will not be a Club Presentation day this year, each age group/team will be organising their own event, please speak to your Team Manager for details.

**GSFC AGM – 20th May 2008 8pm St. John's Church Hall.**

Want to find out what has happened this season, need to raise any issues, want to know how your club will develop in the future? Then this meeting is for you, open to all members not just Managers, we look forward to seeing you. Election of officers for next season will take place, 07/08 Club Accounts will be presented.

**We Need You.....**the following positions on our Committee will be vacant for next season: **Minutes Secretary** – once every 6 weeks to attend committee meeting, take notes, type up and distribute to all Managers via e-mail.

**Senior youth pitch booking –Admin:** to liaise with GBC and book pitches used at Stoke Rec, Stoke Park, Shalford Park. All done via e-mail. Collate bookings with reference numbers to check off invoices for payment.

If anyone can take on one of these jobs please let me know ASAP.

**Fulham FC – Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2008** –Good luck and have a great afternoon to our U13 boys who will be providing the half time entertainment at Craven Cottage this weekend.

**England U18 – Wembley 26<sup>th</sup> April 2008** – tickets for this event have been ordered and acknowledged. I am still awaiting payment for a number of the tickets, please note, if payment has not arrived 1 week before the event I will offer them to people on the waiting list. A coach has been booked and will depart from Burpham Park (oppo Sainsbury's) at 12.30pm.

**FA Junior Football Organiser Course:** Aged 14-19 years? Would you like to gain an FA Leadership qualification? South Park FC in Reigate are hosting this course Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April 9-4.30pm. Booking form can be downloaded [www.activesurrey.com](http://www.activesurrey.com) or call 01483 518944.

**Newtons Coaches Easter Holiday Away Days.....**Newtons are organising a number of day trips to various places during the Easter holidays, please see following e-mail with details of dates, venues and pick up points.

**Allen Physiotherapy.....**Emergency Sunday Clinic now open, discount for GSFC members, please mention when calling for an appointment 01483 571783 .....see following e-mail for further details.

**Surrey Youth Games:** Taking place this summer, a chance to get involved with sports you do not usually play with teams taking part in various competitions log onto GBC web site for further info.

**Parents Questionnaire – Surrey FA ....**Thanks to all who have returned these forms to Surrey FA.....a number of questions are asked on this form but do you understand the questions and know why we are proud of being a Charter Status Club???

What is Charter Status? This is awarded to Clubs who satisfy a certain criteria laid down by Surrey FA.

What Criteria must a Club follow? The following must be in place before Surrey FA will award Charter status:

Club Constitution

Child Protection Policy / Child Protection Officer

Club Officials – Chairman/Treasurer/Secretary

Codes of Conduct – players/supporters/Team Manager/Officials

Team Managers/coaches – attain Surrey FA Level 1 coaching badge (this includes 1<sup>st</sup> aid and child protection training, renewable every 3 years)

All volunteers – CRB checked (renewable every 3 years)

We have all the above in place, constantly being reviewed and updated. Surrey FA review all Clubs Charter Status every 3 years, should they find cause they will revoke the award.

Charter Status what it means for players/parents: knowing that your children are playing

their sport in a safe caring environment where all team officials are Surrey FA qualified and CRB checked.

Charter Status clubs can be found on the Surrey FA website.

### **Now a round up of our team news:**

**U9 Boys – Nik Smith** - Guildford Saints Blue are having a very up and down season. With 17 boys in the squad it meant that we had a changed team for every game and many of the boys had never played competitive football before. Heavy losses at the start of the season were frustrating, but by December the rot was stopped and we put together some strong results. We got through to the semi-final of the cup and look like finishing in 5th place in the league

**U9 Boys – Graham Brown-** Playing the semi final of the senior cup tomorrow and obviously hope to make the final!! Currently top of div 1 with 3 games to go. We need to beat Feltham and then get 1 more point from the remaining 2 games to win the league for the 2nd year in a row. Going for the double this year. UPDATE: Under 9s A team in Senior cup final (2 time in 3 years).

**U10 Boys Eagles – Richard Napier** –Saints Eagles have had a good season with plenty of goals, 3 draws and 5 wins set us in a good league position. Top scorers this season so far, George & Ross with 15 goals a piece.

#### **U10 Boys - John Oliver-** Guildford Saints United

The United boys were promoted as Champions last season from SPL division 3 to 2 and have performed well all season in a very competitive division. With one game to go we still have a chance of finishing second which would be a major achievement following promotion.

The stats in the league are played 17, won 11, drawn 2 and lost 4. Goals scored 43 and a very mean defence of only 18 goals conceded, including 7 clean sheets!!

Our cup run was narrowly brought to an end 3-2 away to 1<sup>st</sup> Division Bisley, which also highlights how well the boys have performed against other clubs 1<sup>st</sup> teams!!

The all round team effort has been excellent from defence to attack, with 9 of the 10 players in the squad having scored, and the only one not to find the net is GK Jack, but we will try and put that right in last game. Well done boys!

#### **U11 Strikers – Suj Khera/Paul Whitnall-**

At the start of the 07/08 season the Strikers found themselves placed into the Premier league in their transition season to 11-a-side football. Having played a few games it was evident that the team were not ready for the premier league and ended upon the wrong end of some high scorelines! A tough decision followed, which saw the team pull out of the premier division.

The request for the team to be accepted into Division 1 was rejected by the U11 AGM, so for the rest of the season we would have to play friendly games on a Sunday. Although not an ideal

situation it did have its advantages. The players were able to compete on an even playing field, and from the coaches perspective, they were able to find positions where the players were at their best and therefore work on the teams and individuals progress. With the players working hard at training and the continued support of the parents, after a few weeks the results turned around and they looked like a side that next season could be at the right end of the table.

Since playing friendlies each week (from memory) the side have won 3, drawn 2 and lost 2 (One of the losses being a 5-4 loss against the team at the top of Div 1 - which we should have won - One of the draws was a game that we probably should have won also)

If the team can continue playing the way they are at present, and take this into pre-season for 08/09 then they will start the season running, and I have great confidence that they will have a successful season.

**U13 Boys – Simon Craig/Kev Oldland-** Both Under 13 Boys teams have had very successful seasons following the double title triumphs of last year.

**The B team (Guildford Saints Blues) have secured 3rd spot in Division Four** with some fine performances this season including three nine goal hauls. They are currently in the semi finals of this seasons Junior Cup too and have been able to welcome some new players to the club this season which has continued to add strength in depth to the squad. The players in the running for Player of the Year this season include Harry Edwards, Mike Bell, Josh Betts and Tom Oldland. Whilst the Most Improved Players include Rob Butter, Jacob Rudman, Josh Henderson & Ed Davis.

**The A team (Guildford Saints) currently lead the league!** They sit just ahead of rivals Ascot & Walton and still have these teams to play... so they are all set for a very exciting run in to the end of the season. The Saints are also in the semi finals of the Cup. The Saints players in the running for Player of the Year are Julien Amoruso, Ben Turner, Alex Mattock & Harry Dodd. The Most Improved Players include Christian Shaw, Nathan Barnes, Tom Richards & Ben Turner. The Saints have achieved some excellent results this season at a much higher standard and have still been able to maintain their excellent passing game throughout.

Guildford Saints Blues reached the final of the SPL Junior Cup with a 4-3 penalty shoot out victory following a hard fought 1-1 draw with Lower Green in the semi final. The final will take place on Sunday 27th April at Bisley FC. The Surrey Primary League have also confirmed that their third place finish in Division Four will almost certainly secure promotion to Division Three for the team next season. Well done boys!!

**U11 Girls -Girls Under 11.** A great season in the premier division which will see the girls playing their socks off to win and secure 4<sup>th</sup> position, in their last match of the season. All the squad have improved hugely over the year (a team which beat us 9-0 last year we've just

beaten 5-1 in a near flawless performance: very satisfying!)Goals scored have been shared among Rebecca, Caitlin, Katie, Lucie and Addie. Millie, Florie, Rachel, Lauren, Daisy, Alice and Freya have proved increasingly solid in defence & midfield. Great team spirit should see us well in to next season.

**U12 Girls** - This has been a good season for both girls Under 12 teams. More matches have been won than lost with both teams sitting third in their league. We have steadily increased numbers throughout the season and now have 21 girls playing and training on a regular basis coming from as far as Ashted and Witley. We are in a strong position for the changeover to 11 a side next season and now look to improve our collective knowledge of the offside rule!

**U14 Girls – Peter Rowles/Steve Kelly-** U14 girls' hard work and perseverance has really paid off this season. Despite a series of disappointing results earlier on, when our numbers were down and we were always playing against the odds, the girls' enthusiasm and mutual support has been outstanding and they thoroughly deserve the successes they have achieved recently. The spirit over the whole season has been fantastic and now there is a strong belief within the team that every game is winnable. Everyone's play has improved, and now that we have some new players to boost our numbers we are in a great position to go from strength to strength next season. Well done!

**U16 Girls:** This season has been very challenging, unable to field a full squad for a number of games at the beginning of the season. 3 new players signed giving the team a great boost and new impetus, from having 10 available players to having 14/15 for the same match has been a great bonus. On the whole the girls have performed well with some outstanding performances from some, the last few matches have seen the team play better positionally. Results not great and do not reflect performance. Team need more confidence in their abilities to achieve and not accept defeat too easily.

**U17 Boys – Keith Chandler/Mark Franks: Congratulations** to the U17 boys for their fantastic performance last weekend, fielding a team of 8 against the opposition's 11 found themselves 5 down after 20 minutes. What a half time team talk, the squad of 8 went onto win 7 – 6, fantastic well done boys.

**Mens Adults – John Thornton-** having been Div 1 champions for last two seasons we finished a disappointing joint third this season though we have made it to the League cup semi-final. Most of our problems this season have stemmed from a shortage of players.

Mens team require new players for next season, anyone interested should contact John Thornton 01252 653302

**Ladies:** What a first season the Ladies team are having. Started out with a squad of 18, some of whom had never played football before. Our first couple of matches were a very steep learning curve. However with the influx of new players, increased match fitness and awareness we have won 5 of our league games and reached the semi final of the league cup, just losing out to Reading. Hoping to finish top half of the league. The team have

suffered a long list of injuries, which has meant a bare 11 for some games. Great team moral, I have admired their commitment and determination and look forward to seeing them develop further. Top scorer this season: Ulrika Boken.

We hope everyone has enjoyed the 07/08 Season. This will be the last Newsletter of the season, although you will receive items of news regarding the 6-a-side and Registrations for next season. That leaves me to say on behalf of all our members a BIG thank you to all Managers, Coaches and Admin staff for their time, effort and dedication to all our teams.

Thanks also to our main Committee members for all their input this season: Jane Oliver-Kit & Equipment, Gerry Black – Junior Fixture Sec, Graham Hinks – Senior Fixtures Sec, Alex Forbes – Chairman/Club Development, Simon Craig – Chief Coach (& Bottle washer!) Louise Dunne – Minutes Secretary.

Enjoy the summer tournaments - see you all again in September. COME ON YOU SAINTS!

Dawn.