



ALEXANDRA UNITED FC

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2015

Exciting things have been happening behind the scenes at AUFC and we would like to take this opportunity in our first newsletter to tell you all about it!

Changes to the team...

After almost a decade in charge, at the end of last season Chris Rose stepped down as Club Secretary. We'd like to put on record our thanks to him and his partner, Sarah Helyer, for their commitment to the club over the years. Without doubt, if not for their dedication, the Club would not be here today. Chris and Sarah will retain a role in the Club as Chairman and Deputy Chairman allowing us to call upon their experience when needed. Last season also saw the departure of Sarah Hobbs from her position as Treasurer and we also like to thank her for all of her efforts.

After three years managing U16s to U18s at AUFC, Charlie Cairns agreed to take over the roles of Club Secretary and Treasurer. AUFC have also appointed Tom Peare as Marketing Officer to help run our social media and assist with other marketing opportunities. We also welcome Matthew Hammond and his under-10 team to AUFC who have by all accounts had a great start to life at AUFC. The team has proved so popular that we are hoping to get a few more players so that we can run a second under-10 team starting from January 2016.

Our new members continue to be supported by our existing officers, including Simon Trent (Fixtures Secretary) and Tony Bolt (Welfare Officer). All AUFC members and officers are volunteers and, without their commitment, the Club would be unable to function.

Charity begins at home...

We are pleased to announce that over the summer AUFC successfully applied for and obtained charitable status. We are now registered with the Charity Commission with charity number 1162035.

The Club can now claim gift aid on junior membership fees and on the proceeds raised from fundraising events. The status also gives us access to fundraising and sponsorship which may otherwise not have been available and the obligations on our charity trustees (who are responsible for the activities of the charity, for example the obligation to submit annual accounts) gives our members assurances about how the Club is run.

This is just one of the many foundation blocks that are being put in place to ensure that we have a sustainable future ahead of us. Massive credit must go to our Club Secretary, Charlie, for all his efforts in gaining AUFC charitable status.

Online presence...

For those of you that have not visited our website, which is new for the 2015/16 season, you can check it out at www.aufc.info.

Our social media pages are also increasing in popularity and to help us increase our visibility in the local community please like our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/aufc1972 and follow us on Twitter (@aufc1972). Weekly match reports for our youth teams are posted on Facebook so if you miss a match, it's a great way to catch up!

Is Saturday morning the perfect time for football?

The Club is planning to run a FREE Football Academy for 5-7 year olds on a Saturday morning with an anticipated start date in February 2016. While the finer details are still being discussed, watch this space and start spreading the word!

Team News:

This season we have three youth teams and three adult teams. While our officers continue to develop initiatives to attract more youth teams to join the Club, our current teams are getting on really well:

Under 9's:

The Club has welcomed Jamie O'Sullivan as the new manager of our under-9 team. Jamie has agreed to replace Simon Trent (who was unsurprisingly finding running both the U9 and U13 team too much!) despite his extensive work commitments. To help Jamie, we'd love a parent to volunteer to send the club match reports (score and goal scorers) after every match so these can be posted on Facebook and summarised in each newsletter. If you would like to volunteer for this very small role – please contact us!

Under 10's:

Played 7, Won 5, Drawn 1 and Lost 1

A few words from Matthew Hammond, our under 10 manager:

Results only tell the smallest amount of what's really going on in the U10's this season. Following four years of purely skills-based and small-sided games and training, the boys announced themselves ready for league action for the 2015-16 season. Admiring glances and multiple requests from across the hedge proved simply too difficult to resist, and so it was decreed - we signed up with The Alex.

A multi-million pound shirt sponsorship deal with <http://www.epsombuilders.co.uk/> allowed for further "development" and the kit was christened with a friendly 9-2 "demolition job" in August 2015.

The U10 boys have settled well into their 7-a-side League programme and are now seriously knocking on the door of an interim promotion. With a bit more composure and attention to detail in front of the onion bag, this team's honest (and mostly fit) approach bodes well for the remainder of the season.

Training has now also switched across town to Court Rec on Tuesdays evenings at 6.30, and regularly attracts over 15 players! Likewise, young(er) "proper" coaches continue to freshen things up with their focus continuing to work on improving basic skills, but also working on game management plans too. Must admit though, I'm yet to be convinced about the need for walky talkys! On a more serious note, keep up the great early work Connall and Oscar, you're an invaluable addition to our Club and its future direction.

Player recruitment will continue to be very much an ongoing process for the remainder of this season, as the Team and Club continue to grow together. The underlying reason here is two-fold: we only need two more players to start a second U10 team and hopefully we can get there by January 2016 and equally both teams will play 9-a-side in the League next season so extra players will be needed! Help spread the words and ask your friends!

Finally, a big thank you to all the parents for their ongoing support - particularly in managing to coordinate putting up the very complicated nets (WS) by week 7 ;) COTA!

Under 13's:

Played 4, Won 2, Drawn 0, Lost 2

After a very difficult last season the Under 13s moved to Division 3 of the Surrey Primary League. Simon, the manager, set the team a target of finishing mid table this season. After four spirited performances, they currently sit 4th in the division with a game in hand over a lot of the opposition. They are well on their way to achieving their season's target!

Alexandra United 1st Team:

Played 4, Won 2, Drawn 2, Lost 0

After back to back promotions and cup finals in both of the last two seasons our first team are now playing in the Premier Division of the Leatherhead and District Sunday Football League (LDSFL). They are currently sitting mid-table.

Alexandra United 2nd Team:

Played 4, Won 2, Drawn 2, Lost 0

Also fresh off the back of promotion from Division 4 of the LDSFL, our second team are now playing in Division 3. With a remarkably similar set of results as our first team, they are also currently sitting mid-table.

Alexandra United 3rd Team:

Played 5, Won 3, Drawn 0, Lost 2

New to the Club this year, our third team have slotted into the lowest tier of the LDSFL.

Our plans for the future...

We have exciting plans for the immediate future and we are all working really hard to take the club to the next level. Over the season, our volunteers will be working on:

- Launching our FREE Football Academy.

Alexandra United Football Club (also known as AUFC), an incorporated charitable organisation, is a registered charity (number 1162035).

- Attracting new teams to the Club.
- Continuing to issue a quarterly AUFC Newsletter to keep you in touch with the goings on at the Club.

Feedback...

We'd love to hear from you about any feedback you have about the Club or about anything you would like to see in this newsletter. Please send your comments to contact@aufc.info