



Autumn 2019

Purple Pitch Newsletter

Chairman's Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of the Purple Pitch for the 2019-20 season. We hope you have all had a lovely summer away from Bearwood Rec. and are already back into the swing of things.

The Club's Committee has been hard at work organising lots of things for the coming season, starting with a new kit for everyone, which we hope will look great on all the players. We all look forward to seeing a swarm of purple shirts on the pitches at Bearwood over the coming weeks! A HUGE thank you to anyone who managed to secure a sponsor for one of the teams and again we hope the companies that did sponsor can see the benefits of doing so....even if that is only to help a community club provide training, kit

and match facilities to many children and young adults for the coming two seasons.

On the note of fund raising and following the huge success of our inaugural Race Night last year, we have decided to hold this night again, hopefully you will have heard about this. The Winnersh British Legion have agreed to let us use their facilities once more, which is great news. The date has been set for this weekend 5th October 2019, TICKETS ARE STILL AVAILABLE SO PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND.....it is a good laugh and a great fund raiser for the Club.

We will also be putting on the Quiz and Curry night again, this will be on 14th March 2020 and we will send out the details for that as soon as it is all booked.

That is all from me for now, other than to say that I hope you have a wonderful season with some exciting football ahead of you. I look forward to hearing about all the highlights from the managers in due course.

Matthew Joy



Winnersh Rangers U12s - Arrows

To me, the Arrows team sums up what I believe football at this age is all about; enjoying playing with friends, in a safe environment, while learning skills which allows them to grow both as footballers and young people.

We are very much an inclusive team. We have mixed abilities, but everyone gets equal game time, and everyone gets to try each position on the pitch. This is demonstrated by the statistic (and I like a good stat!) that in each of the last two seasons, every player in the squad has scored at least one goal. We play in the bottom division in our age group, but our games are just as competitive and keenly fought as those in the higher leagues.

Probably our biggest strength is our resilience. I have lost count of the times we have been two or three goals down, only to come roaring back and snatch a last minute winner. And if we lose, which we often do, the boys shrug it off, shake hands and five minutes later they're

laughing and joking. Perfect.

As a relatively recently qualified coach I subscribe to the FA's 'DNA' approach to football coaching. This means lots of game-related practice, with all players having lots of ball touches in a session, allowing the players to make lots of decisions and focussing on the three core elements; in-possession, out-of-possession, and transition. On match days I try to keep instruction from the sideline to a minimum, but I find this very difficult! Of course, our parents play a massive part in our team. Not only are they coach drivers, groundstaff, assistant referees and crowd, but they are also incredibly supportive in all we try to do. Their sense of humour keeps us all going. In my very first game in (temporary) charge, we were losing to a much better side about 12-0 when they started singing "you don't know what you're doing!" towards me. At least, I think they were joking?



Winnersh Rangers U15s - Stingers

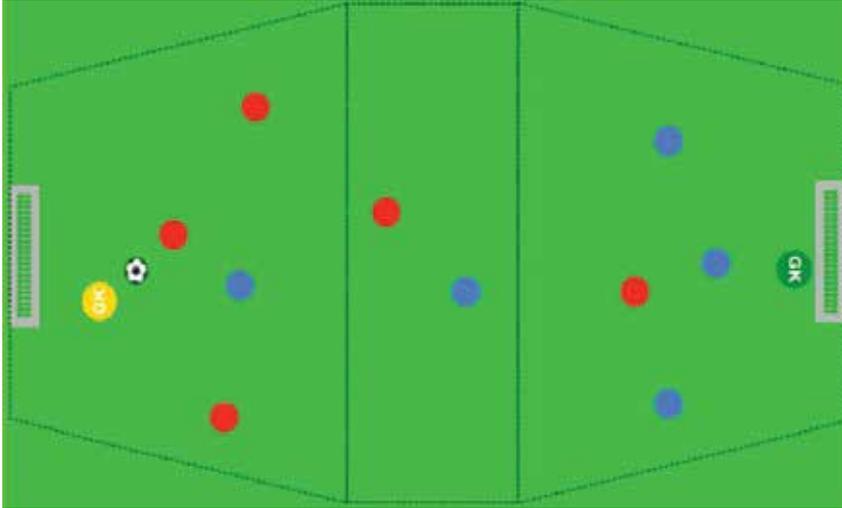
“Last year was a very strange year for the then U15 Stingers, with plenty of fixtures before Christmas the team was on a winning run and was sitting pretty in second place in the league, and through to the knockout stages of the cup. The period after Christmas was a very different story. Unfortunately lots of other team’s games had been postponed before Christmas and this meant that instead of adding another set of fixtures the league was playing catch up (except for us) so we had roughly one game a month meaning we lost all sharpness and momentum. The girls still put up a great effort getting to the cup semi-final before losing to the eventual winners. As spring became summer we had several players leave, which seems to be normal at the age group as a few teams folded, that left us wondering if we would have a team at all for the next season but with one player changing her mind and a

new player joining we had enough. Our first match for this year came around quickly after only a few training sessions and was against a team who came down from Division 1 that we haven’t beaten before. The first half was tough and we came in 1-0 down, this was followed by what can only be described as our front three turning into Salah, Mane and Firmino (spot the Liverpool fan) and turned the game around to a 3-1 victory! This was an amazing start to the season which was followed with a 1-0 victory with a superb defensive performance against a team who had won 9-2 the week before. That’s two teams that have been stung already this season by the U16 Stingers!”

Thanks
Mark
U16 Stingers



Game Related Practice - 'Diamonds'



Organisation - Divide the playing area into thirds. Players are locked within the thirds in matched-up or uneven numbers. The attacking third is funnel shaped.

Description - Player remains in areas and combine to score. Players can score from distance or close-range.

Scoring Method - Scoring from defend area (3 points), from midfield area (2 points) or from attacking area (1 point).

THINGS TO CONSIDER...

-  GK to play to defenders who can shoot early from distance or play into next area to create 2v1
-  Scoring system - rebounds count double
-  Reset the players into the areas and restart from opposite end

PROGRESSION

Players can follow their pass into a different third in order to combine to score. The offside rule is introduced in the attacking thirds.

The backbone of any training session is Game Related Practice.

One of the challenges that is faced with transforming a group of young footballers into a Football Team is the understanding of positions and the space this creates in which to play football. Early Years games are characterized by a swarm of players chasing the ball up and down the pitch. This is a great way to give the players plenty of experience with dribbling the ball at their feet, but as the pitch size increases from 5 aside to 7 aside, the

ball needs to do more of the work, being passed through the different zones from defence, to midfield to attack. Related practice such as the exercise illustrated opposite, encourages the players to play in their positional zone, whilst having to pass it to the next zone, and then to the next. This particular exercise was used to good effect with the Aztecs at 7 aside to show them the different roles, and how to move the ball in space, which transformed their match play.



Important Contacts

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