



New Season Nearly Here

New Mini-Soccer Sponsors

Vol. 5. No. 1, August 2010



The new season kicks off shortly and the Club is happy to announce that we have new sponsors for our mini-soccer setup. The 'Growing Strong' garden centre and nursery on the Bedford Road near Holwell has given the Club £200 towards new track suits for one of the Under Ten teams. If you get the chance, why not pay them a visit—and remember to mention the Club when you do.

Visit the website at

<http://www.growingstrong-gardencentres.co.uk>

for more information.

Form I.T. Come up Trumps Again



The Club's main sponsor, Form I.T. Solutions, has come up trumps again with the purchase of a brand new kit for the Sunday Second XI.

Not only that, but proprietor Hugh Byrne has agreed to sponsor five Veterans' matches throughout the season at £100 each. That should just about cover the cost of bandages, linament and physio's bills! Seriously, many thanks as always to Form IT for their continuing support of the Club. Contact them on 01582 572727 for all your IT needs.

Final Awards of 2009-2010

The Summer has brought a flurry of Annual General Meetings with the Club represented in no less than **five** leagues for the 2010-2011 season.

At the AGM of the North Home Counties League (adult Sunday sides) a special award was made to Archie Conway in recognition for his years of service to the Club. Archie picked up the Ron Cox Memorial Award, won last season by Phil Thompson.

All of our teams scored well in the Chiltern Youth League's sporting awards. Marks are awarded by opposing teams each week and teams with the best overall marks receive an award: the Under 15s were 16th of 46 teams with an average of 8.33 (winner scored 9.41); the Under 13s were 6th of 49 scoring 9.32 (winner 9.56); the Under 16s finished 5th of 33 teams with 8.27 (winners 8.75) and the Under 12s were in runners-up spot with an average of 9.5 (the winners scored 9.59). Well done to all.

Saturday Reserves Crash on their Debut

The Saturday season got under way on August 28th in the Bedfordshire County League. The newly-formed Reserve team started their campaign with an away fixture at Clifton Reserves, but it was no dream start as they went down 5-0. The first team begin their programme with an away game at Stopsley Park on Wednesday September 1st.

Fixtures, results and league tables are all now readily accessible on the Club website at www.lpspg.co.uk.



Lea Sports PSG Take the Premier Cup

In 1989 Lea Sports were the first winners of the pre-season tournament, the Premier Cup. This competition, sponsored by Form I.T. Solutions (formerly Premier Computer Supplies, hence the name) is competed for each year by the Sunday First Team and three invited clubs.

In 1989 Lea Sports defeated Royal Oak and Park Town in lifting the trophy, with Phil Thompson scoring two of the team's seven goals. Since then, the home side has only won the tournament on two occasions: in 1995 they finished above Elm Park, Old Moat House and Farley Parrot when a 2-2 draw with Elm Park in the final fixture was enough.

One of the Lea Sports scorers against Elm Park was Iain Temple, but this season Iain turned out for Leaside in the deciding final fixture of this season's tournament.

Two years ago Lea Sports finished in pole position, but were held to a 3-3 draw by Leaside in the final fixture of the tournament.

The fixtures fell kindly for Lea Sports this year, as Toddington Rovers turned up for the first fixture with an under-strength side and were duly walloped 8-0, with goals from Ben Alderton, Danny Davis, Titch Bevan, Richard Knock and two each from Gary Raymond and Chris Littlejohn, who is staking an early claim to replace Greg Whelan as Golden Boot Winner. The following week a poor Peguform Icknield—holders of the trophy—were beaten 5-1 (scorers: Mark Brown, Richard Knock 2 and Darren Nicholls 2).

Going into the final round of fixtures any one of three teams could still have won the trophy, although goal difference weighed heavily against Toddington's chances after their first-day nightmare. Lea Sports had the chance of winning all three matches in the tournament for the first time, but faced tough opposition in Leaside. The first half was a tight affair with few chances for either side and Leaside's towering defenders in control. The second half was a different story, however, as Lea Sports began to take advantage of the greater mobility and speed of their forwards. In the end it was two fast passing moves that were to prove Leaside's undoing and Titch Bevan and Darren Nicholls scored the goals which brought a 2-0 win and the trophy back home.

The serious stuff starts next week when the First XI take on relegated 61FC at Kingsway Recreation Ground, while the Reserves renew acquaintances with Peguform Icknield in Pirton.

The First XI and Reserves have played each other twice in pre-season warm-ups and although the First Team have won both games, the second match was a pretty close affair with a scoreline of 3-2 to the senior side. The first game was the Reserves first get-together under new manager Steve Baggett and they looked a bit rusty as they went down 3-0. With new players in both squads, both teams are looking forward to a successful season.

County Cup Draws on the Website

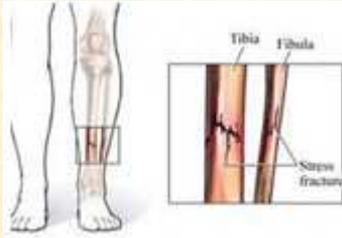
The Sunday First Team have a home draw in the Junior Cup, when they face Houghton Athletic on September 26th. On the same day the Reserves travel to Caldecote to take on Young Boys. The Saturday First Team begin their cup campaign with an away tie to Dunstable side Square Rangers, whilst the Reserves are away to Dinamo Flitwick in the same competition. The Under 17s face Westoning Rec in their First Round tie.



Ambulances at the Rec

Bad Break Mars Sat. Reserves' First Win Vol. 5. No. 2, September 2010

On Saturday September 18th the Saturday Reserves' first home win in Division Four of the Beds.County League was marred by a bad injury to striker Meshach Hendrichson. In the first half, with the score at 0-0, he attempted a shot from inside the box, while being challenged by a Dinamo Flitwick defender—apparently the subsequent break could be heard on the touchline. The paramedics were quickly on the scene and Meshach was taken to the Lister Hospital, where X-rays revealed that he had broken both tibia and fibula ('tib and fib'). He was kept in overnight and subsequently moved to another hospital in Welwyn, where he

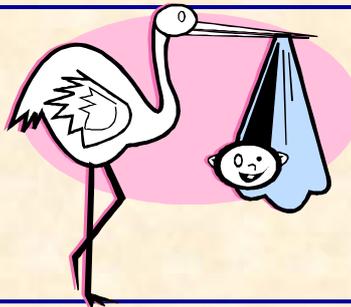


stayed for nearly a week. The injury to the 18-year-old striker was the first bad break suffered by the Club since Steve Williams broke his leg in October 2004. Everyone at the Club sends their best wishes for a speedy and full recovery.

The next morning, the ambulance was back at Pirton as we feared the worst when Danny Davis went down after a strong tackle by a Leaside defender. Danny was also taken to the Lister, but after an examination the relatively good news was that he had suffered a bad sprain, but no fracture, and should be back in around four weeks. There is no truth in the rumour that the nurse who treated him called him 'a big girl'!

New Recruits Make

Two future players made their as proud parents announced Congratulations to Chris and of Leo and to Matt and Vicky Get those football boots on



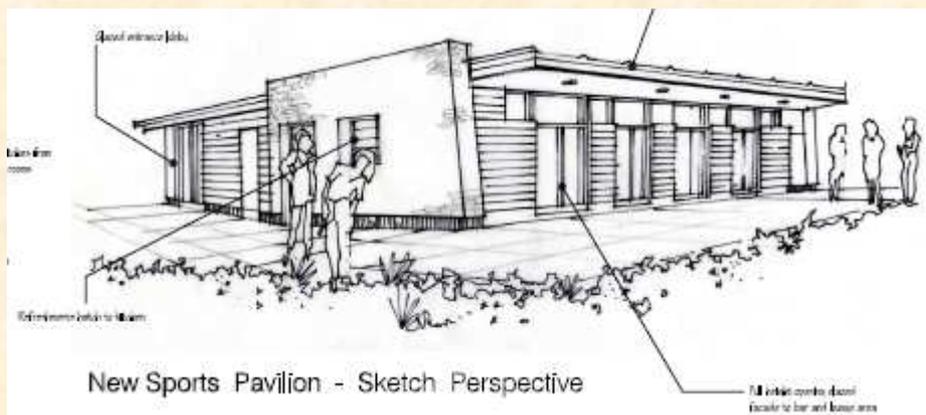
Their Début !!

first appearance in the world new arrivals.

Helen Littlejohn on the birth of Bean on the birth of Elijah. order for Christmas!

Pavilion Fund-Raising Picks Up

A group of villagers has got together in Pirton to promote fund-raising for the new Pavilion at the Recreation Ground. Despite achieving planning permission for the new building in December, cash has been hard to come by, but the new group is planning a series of events to help bring in funds for the project.





September Round-up

September started with a bang as the Saturday First team began their league campaign with a 4-2 win away to Stopsley Park.; Awofosan(2), Betts and Fletcher the scorers. The joy was short-lived, however, as 3 days later the team travelled to Queens Park Crescents and lost in the dying minutes to the odd goal in five—QPC now lead the table. Meanwhile the Reserves were conceding five in their home game with Bedford Park Rangers—shortcomings in the goalkeeping position were cruelly exposed by the Bedford side.

The Sunday first team carried their good pre-season form into their first league game: on paper a tough match away to relegated 61 FC. Littlejohn and Raymond ensured that the team maintained its 100% record in a 2-0 win. The Reserves weren't so lucky: despite taking the lead against Peguform through Mark Williams, they gave away a soft penalty and conceded a sloppy second goal to lose their opening match 2-1.

The following weekend was mostly one for draws: on the Saturday morning, the Under Sevens—playing their first ever match—recovered from a 2-0 deficit against a strong St. Neots Town to earn a great 3-3 draw. The same afternoon the Saturday 1st team earned a creditable 1-1 draw away to Westoning. The following morning saw the trend continue: the First Team looked to have the points safe when they went 3-1 up against Caddington (Littlejohn-2 and Raymond), but they conceded 2 late goals and their 100% record in a 3-3 draw. The Under 10 A team needed a first half hat-trick from Golden Boot winner Louis Lomas to earn their 3-3 draw vs. Leighton United 'B', while the 'B' team had to settle for a 2-2 scoreline away to Mid-Beds Tigers 'B' despite creating a hatful of chances. The Reserves' luck did not improve: well worth a draw away to Gardeners Call they thought they had taken the lead and even the opposition put the ball on the centre spot—only for notorious referee Horace Savage to pull play back for a throw-in (notoriously bad, that is). Senior Golden Boot holder Greg Whelan had a penalty saved as the team went down 1-0. In the afternoon, the Under 17s continued their good pre-season form with a 2-1 win away at Houghton Athletic—a fixture they lost 6-2 just five months ago—but the Under 14s went down 1-4 at Luton Dynamos in their first game, despite taking the lead through Jake Edwards.

The weekend of the 18th/19th September brought some real highs and lows: the highs were the Saturday 1st team's 4-0 win at Marabese Ceramics (Awofosan-2 and Fletcher-2) and a first win for the Reserves, with Chesney smashing home a free-kick and Raffermati grabbing a last-minute winner after Flitwick had equalised through a penalty with ten minutes to go. On Sunday, Mini-Golden Boot holder Louis Lomas scored another five as the Under 10a team overpowered Bedford Panthers A 7-1 (Hammer and Jones with the other goals). However, Sunday morning at Pirton was not a happy place to be. In addition to the injury to Danny Davis, the three home sides (First XI, Under 10b and Under 8s) all found themselves losing at half-time without a goal to show between them. The Firsts, without striker Chris Littlejohn on 'paternity leave', battled back and Paul Brown scored a stunning goal to give the team hope, but Danny's injury disrupted the fight-back and they suffered their first defeat in 10 games, going down 1-2. The two youth teams also had much better second-halves: the Under 10b's, also missing their top striker Oscar Pryle (but not on paternity leave!) finally going down 1-7 (from 0-7 at half-time!) while the Under 8's lost 1-6 (from 0-5 at half-time!) with Tom Allpress scoring for the second week running. At least the half-time team talks seem to be working properly!

On Sunday afternoon a Sam Welbury goal was enough to beat Westoning in a tough County Cup tie for the Under 17s, whilst the Under 14s were the victims of a dubious goal-line decision as they drew 1-1 at Ampthill in a game in which no love was lost between the two sides. Aiden Sadler scored as the lads took their first point of the campaign.



Under Sevens Get Their Season Under Way

The Under Sevens' faced a tough start to the season: after home matches with St. Neots Town on September 11th things got no easier on Saturday the 18th as they faced a trip to Letchworth Garden City Eagles, probably the largest youth Club in Hertfordshire, with over 30 teams.



The boys acquitted themselves well, although losing the 'A' game 0-5, while a Ben Bayley hat-trick in the 'B' game was not enough for a share of the spoils as the lads lost 3-4. Follow the Under Sevens on their own web page. Go to the website at www.lpspg.co.uk and click on the link :

[U7 Page](#)



The final weekend of the month saw the First and Reserve Teams in County Cup action.

The Firsts played host to Houghton Athletic, top of the Leighton Sunday Division 2, while the Reserves had a trip to Caldecote to face Young Boys Reserves, with 2 wins from 3 games in Division Three of the Bedford & District League.

Before that, however, the Saturday sides were in action, with the Under 7s hosting Knebworth in 2 friendly matches. The A team game ended in a 2-7 defeat, with Bayley and Laws on the scoresheet, but the B team game brought the squad their first win of the season: Ben Bayley scoring twice and Matthew Morton four times in a 6-1 win. The adults enjoyed themselves in the afternoon sunshine, winning 9-1 at Harpur FC: scorers were Juan Camello, Dean Lewis, 2 each from Haydn Fletcher and Greg Whelan and a hat-trick from Sam Luciano. Unfortunately, a Mick Chesney own goal gave Goldington Hammers a 1-0 win over the Reserves. On Sunday in the Cup the Firsts had no trouble disposing of Houghton Athletic with goals from Mark Brown, Knock & Littlejohn, although 2 late consolation efforts made the scoreline closer than it should have been. The Reserves' miserable start to the season continued as they went down 5-1 in Caldecote, Lewis Smith scoring their only goal. Tom Allpress scored a hat-trick for the U10s as they beat Bedford Panthers C 3-2, while the U17s shared 6 goals with Westoning : Miley, Morris & Welbury the scorers. The Under Fourteens lost in the rain at Pirton: 3-0 to Luton United.

facebook

Check out Pirton Sports and Social Club on Facebook for latest events and info.

Under Tens On the Road in the League Cup

Both the Under Ten A and B team received byes in the First Round of the Bedfordshire Mini-Soccer League Cup draw made on September 20th. In the Second Round, to be played on Sunday December 5th, both sides have been drawn away to teams in Division Four. The A team face a trip to Luton to play Memorial Park, while the B team have been drawn away to Amptill Town 'B'. If both teams manage to get through the second and third rounds they will meet in the Quarter Finals in March.



Cup Joy for Most...

...but Firsts Crash at Home

Vol. 5. No. 3, October 2010

The first weekend of October brought Cup matches for most of our teams.

The Saturday First Team were away in Round 1 of the Junior Cup to Square Rangers who sit joint top of the Luton & District League Division One, having won both their opening league games. Despite being given the wrong ground address and getting caught in Dunstable roadworks the team refused to be put off and emerged with a 3-1 victory, thanks to 2 goals from Juan Camello and one from Paul 'Cheesy' Collins. The Reserves too booked their place in Round 2 with a 4-2 away win over Dinamo Flitwick, Raffermatti and Rowlatt scoring twice each.

On Sunday morning, the Reserves were able to field their strongest team for the first time this season—and it showed as they strolled past Co-Op Reserves in the Reserve Cup with a 7-1 scoreline. Pat McAneney and Lewis Smith scored one each, while Tom Newland got a brace and Jon Whitehead a hat-trick.



Only the Firsts spoiled the party by losing 4-2 at home to St.Margaret's in the first round of the Senior Trophy. Defensive slip-ups were evident again as goals were gifted to the visitors in a 4-2 defeat.

In the afternoon, the U14s were also in Cup action: a first round league cup tie at home to Crawley Green 'B'. The team's improvement continued as goals from Smith, Edwards and Hirst(2) gave them a 4-2 win. The Under 17s were looking to preserve their unbeaten start to the season in their first round league cup tie away to Houghton Athletic. With just 11 fit players at kick-off the prospects looked tough, but our lads soon raced into a 3-0 lead. Fortunes changed after the break, however, as we were reduced by injury to 10 men and Houghton fought back. But we held our nerve and hung on for a 6-4 win and a place in Round 2.

The only league match of the weekend saw the Under 10b team travel to Leighton United 'C' and record a fine 5-1 win, with Edward Clarke scoring 4 of his side's goals and Bertie Betts helping out with a fifth, to lift the team to within 2 points of league leaders Bedford Panthers 'C', whom we have already beaten this season.

Disappointing Premier League Competition Entry

This year sees the Twenty-Fifth running of the Premier League Competition, where for £2 you can guess the finishing places of the teams in this year's Premiership and win a cash prize.

Unfortunately, there were only 102 entries this year with many teams in the Club submitting no entries at all. The Sunday First Team, Under 10s, Under 8s and Under 7s could not manage an entry between them and the Under 14s, Under 17s and two Saturday teams managed just four between them.

Many thanks to sponsors Form I.T.Solutions, who sent twenty entries; to Gavin Bidgood, who got 31 entries (including England cricketer Mark Chapman); to Archie Conway with 21 entries and Gary Hyde with 10. Around 20 entries also came from the Sunday Reserves—shame the other teams didn't make the same effort.

First Prize will be **£60**; Second **£25**; Third **£12** and Fourth **£5**

.P.S. Ollie's tactic of numbering the teams alphabetically from 1-20 doesn't seem to be working !! Check the website for the latest.

Lea Sports PSG Football Club Established 1973
 A FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION CHARTER DEVELOPMENT CLUB
 PREMIER LEAGUE COMPETITION
 2010-2011
 (Twenty-fifth Season)

== RULES == Your forecast here—

The object of the Competition is to forecast the finishing position of each of the twenty teams in the Premiership for the coming season.

The teams are listed on the right in alphabetical order and you are asked to enter the position of each one alongside the name.

To calculate the score we work out the difference between the actual position of the team and your forecast position. For example, if you put 'Chelsea 0' and they finish '14' you score 14 points. The points for each team are added up and the person with the lowest total is the winner.

If two or more people have the same score, then the number of correct forecasts and forecasts one position out are used as a tiebreaker.

Regular updates are available on the Club website www.leasportspsg.co.uk

The entry fee is £2 and half of the entrance money is paid out in prizes, the other half going to Lea Sports PSG Football Club.

1. ARSENAL	
2. ASTON VILLA	
3. BIRMINGHAM CITY	
4. BLACKBURN ROVERS	
5. BLACKPOOL	
6. BOLTON WINDS.	
7. CHELSEA	
8. EVERTON	
9. FULHAM	
10. LIVERPOOL	
11. MANCHESTER CITY	
12. MANCHESTER UTD.	
13. NEWCASTLE UTD.	
14. STOKE CITY	
15. SUNDERLAND	
16. TOTTENHAM H.	
17. WEST BROMWICH	
18. WEST HAM UNITED	
19. WIGAN ATHLETIC	
20. WOLVERHAMPTON W.	



Seven Wins and a Draw on a Great Weekend October 9th / 10th

The second weekend of October brought a mixture of league and cup fixtures for the eight teams in action for Lea Sports PSG.

The Saturday first team got the weekend off to a cracking start as they continued their good start to the season with a 5-1 win away at Stevington. Chris Littlejohn scored twice and Juan Camello and Haydn Fletcher also scored. Cheesy Collins scored again too as the team went nap. The Reserves could not quite match the firsts, but rescued a point from a 2-2 draw at home to Kempston Athletic: the Darby and Jones club getting the goals.

Sunday morning brought an early kick-off for the Under Ten A team against Brickhill and they kept up the winning trend with a 3-1 victory (Jones, Lomas and Smith the scorers). The Under Ten Bs went one better, winning 4-1 at Ampthill Town 'B' in Division 4. Edward Clarke notched a hat-trick and Tom Allpress scored again as the team maintained its good start to the season. The Under Eights switched their home game to Dunstable as they took on Dunstable Town Icknield, but it proved no disadvantage as the team romped home 7-0 with goals from Brown(3), Cox(2), Simmons and Wilson. Meanwhile, the Second Team were recording their second cup win in a fortnight with a 3-1 victory over Gardeners Call: Tom Newland scored twice and Phil Thompson grabbed the third as the team went through to the second round of the Challenge Cup.

In the afternoon the Under Fourteens didn't disappoint on their trip to Brickhill to take on the Wanderers. Former Golden Boot Winner James Hirst scored four times, and Ross Embleton added another as the team ran out 5-1 winners.

Perhaps the toughest match of the weekend on paper was the Under 17s County Cup tie against Flitwick Eagles. Flitwick currently have a 100% record from their two games in Division One of the Chiltern League, so this was a stiff challenge for our Second Division squad. Nevertheless, with ten minutes to go of normal time a Ben Morris goal had given us a slender advantage. The tide appeared to have turned as Joe Shelley was sent off and Flitwick Eagles equalised to send the tie into extra time, but a second Ben Morris goal saw the scores level at 2-2 after 120 minutes. Ben then scored a penalty, as did Matt Howard and Warren Bell, while keeper Harry Wallace saved two Flitwick efforts to give the lads a famous victory and a place in Round Three of the Under 18 Cup.

Not a bad weekend then with seven wins and a draw from eight fixtures!

A hat-trick of hat-tricks...

October 16th / 17th

On October 16th the Under 7s were shot down by Stevenage Spitfires, losing the 'A' game 3-0 and the 'B' game 6-3, although **Ben Bayley** notched another hat-trick. **Martin Collins** also grabbed a hat-trick in the afternoon as the Saturday Firsts crushed league-leaders Arlesey Social 4-1; **Juan Camello** with the fourth goal. **Richard Wyatt** was man-of-the-match for the Reserves as they went down 2-1 to unbeaten Thurleigh. **Jamie Rowlett** grabbed the seconds' consolation goal. The third hat-trick of the weekend came from **Louis Lomas** as the Under 10a team overcame AFC Kempston 4-0. **Kieran Jones** scored the fourth, but all the boys played well in a convincing performance. By contrast, the first team were anything but convincing in squeezing past Toddington Rovers 4-3. The goals came from **Mark Brown, Darren Nicholls, Titch Bevan** and **Jamie Richards**. The Reserves continued their improvement as they drew 2-2 away to Round Green Rangers, with goals from **Ben Thomson** and **Simon Mayes**. The Under 10b had a home friendly against Westoning and although the visitors ran out 4-2 winners, the two-division gap was not evident as **Edward Clarke** scored a brace. In the late October sunshine the Under 14s entertained Luton Dynamos but ended up on the wrong end of a 3-1 scoreline. The boys played quite well but had a mad five minutes in the second half, conceding 2 goals while striker James Hirst was injured. In the end **George Calvert** scored our solitary goal of the game.



Four out of Four For the Adults

October 23rd / 24th

The weekend of October 23rd and 24th brought four wins out of four for the Club's adult teams, although they all feared the worst beforehand. The Saturday First XI had lost 4 players from the squad to the Bedfordshire Under Eighteen team who were playing against Warwickshire. At least 2 other players were injured, including the goalkeeper, for their trip to fifth-placed Bromham. Nevertheless, with Manager 'Cheesy' playing in goal the team secured all 3 points with a 3-1 win to move into 3rd place in the table, 3 points behind the leaders with a game in hand. The Reserves were also playing the Club in fifth place, Potton Town, and came away with all the points after goals from Durrent and Mitchell. On Sunday, the Firsts won 4-3 for the second week in a row despite the team being at Greg Whelan's 30th birthday party the night before — this time away to Luton Old Boys. The game was locked at 2-2 at half-time and the home side went ahead early in the second period, but a hat trick from Darren Nicholls and a fourth from Paul Brown secured the points. Meanwhile, at Pirton, the Reserves continued their return to form with a well-deserved 3-1 win over Macom Eagles. Despite a few wobbles at the back, goals from Steve Williams, Phil Thompson and Greg Whelan made the game safe. Unfortunately, the Under 10a team could not emulate the feat and fell to their first defeat of the season, 2-1 away in their top-of-the-table clash with Westoning Rec Club.

Great Form Continues at Hallowe'en

October 30th / 31st

The great form shown by teams right through the Club continued into the last weekend of the month. The Under Sevens got the weekend off to a great start with a win and a draw against Stevenage Borough Hurricanes. Ben Bayley and Matthew Morton scored in a 2-1 win, while the 'B' game remained goalless. In the afternoon, the Saturday 1st team won their seventh game in a row, away to Caddington Reserves, to progress to the third round of the County Cup. In the same competition, the Reserves looked to be up against it as they faced Marabese Ceramics from two divisions above them, but goals from Durrent, Rajah and Banasiak gave them a 3-2 win after extra time, although they had to survive a late penalty appeal from the visitors. On Sunday, with most of the youth teams out of action because of half-term, it was the First Team who took centre stage as they faced table-toppers Caddington Social in Pirton. The team was punished for a slow start when Caddington took the lead midway through the first half, but a spirited fight-back saw Darren Nicholls score twice in as many minutes to see the team through to the Third Round of the County Cup. The Reserves continued their good recent form and Phil Thompson scored four times as the team demolished Luton Phoenix 8-1 at Barnfield College. Greg Whelan(2), Ben Thomson and Mark Williams with the other goals. In the afternoon the Under 17s entertained league leaders Shefford Saints. In a fiery encounter in the pouring rain Shefford had 3 players sent off and several others booked as their discipline collapsed—in the end the referee had to abandon the game after 80 minutes. By then we were 3-0 up through goals from Welbury and Williams(2), so the unbeaten record continues. Overall it has been a great month for the Club: of 36 matches we have won 26, drawn 3 and lost 7, scoring 120 goals and conceding just 54.

November 19th at the Rec - the Return of 'All Simon'

ALL SIMON

"The acclaimed Simon & Garfunkel tribute band."

www.allsimon.com

Entry by ticket only. £10 per ticket, available from Pirton Village Shop, Steve Smith, 6 Great Green, Pirton (01462 712279) or Suzy Narroway, 9 Cromwell Way, Pirton (07803 607884).

Doors Open 7.30. Band on stage 8.30.





**SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 6th**

Gates Open 6.30
Display at 7.30
Live Music 8.00

FIREWORK DISPLAY

Recreation Ground, Walnut Tree Road, Pirtou

ENTRY: ADULTS £5 UNDER 16s £2 FAMILY* £12
Pay at the gate, or buy tickets in advance from the Village Shop, David Saunders (01462712263) or Steve Smith (01462 712279)

Parking for disabled drivers ONLY

Please do not bring personal fireworks (sparklers etc) or any items for the bonfire.

*From 10.00 adults and up to 3 children

Down Memory Lane — Thirty Years Ago — Season 1980-81

I'd like to say that the First Team had a magnificent season, mainly due to their great right-back Steve Smith, who appeared in all but 3 games of their campaign in Division 4 - but it wouldn't be true! Early exits from the Luton News Cup and County Cup in September were followed by a disastrous campaign which saw the team relegated for the first time to Division 5. Despite improved form after Christmas, with 4 wins in 6 games, defeat against Royal Oak in the 2 final matches confirmed the team's fate! Unfortunately, the Firsts' record was only slightly worse than the Reserves, who ended up in 12th place in Division 7. The Third Team also had a miserable campaign in their second official season of friendlies - in all they won just 2 of their 21 games and the season included a 12-2 defeat with only 9 men against Ashcroft School and a 13-0 hammering by the unlikely-named Cherry Blossom United! Better days were to come.....



Under Seventeens March On

Quarter-Final Place Secured

Vol. 5. No. 4, November 2010



The Under Seventeens secured their place in the Quarter-Finals of the Bedfordshire Under Eighteen Cup on November 7th with a resounding win over Bedford Park Rangers Under 18s. The boys continued their unbeaten run and could have won by a more convincing scoreline, but in the end goals from Divesh Kumar and Ben Morris gave them a 2-1 win and a home quarter-final tie with Woodside on December 5th. Man-of-the-match was defender Tom Priest with a great performance at full back.

Defending an unbeaten run now stretching to 11 games in all competitions, the boys sporting new kit kindly sponsored by [SPC Technical Services](#), have kept up the momentum brilliantly.

The cup win was followed by two league games where we scored 12 goals without conceding. Firstly it was a 10-0 trouncing of Houghton Athletic where the goals were shared by 8 different scorers! The best from Matt Howard a cracking left foot drive which cemented his man of the match performance.

This was followed by a much tougher game at home in the league against Westoning, but again the lads kept a well-earned clean sheet for which Mickey Bygraves lifted the man of the match trophy with arguably his best performance for us as a commanding centre half. Two more well taken strikes for "D" & Ben secured an authoritative win.

So to the final game of November, a League Cup tie against Westoning—our opponents for the fourth time this season in just 10 games, but this time it was the weather which was the winner as a frozen pitch in Pirton ruled out any action.

If you're around on the afternoon of Sunday December 5th, why not come along and cheer the lads on in their cup quarter-final vs. Woodside? Kick-off is at 1.30 pm at the Recreation Ground in Pirton.



Down Memory Lane — Ten Years Ago — Season 2000-01

After crashing out of the Premier Division, when the team folded in October 1999, the First Team began life again back in Division Three, under the leadership of Steve Baggett. The league season was memorable only for the weather, which was so wet that the league was abandoned in April 2001 with no hope of the fixture backlog being cleared. The team had won only 13 points from 14 games, but they had a good run in the Herts County Cup, reaching Round 4 before losing 5-4 on penalties to Bengoe Working Mens' Club. Phil Thompson top scored with 25 goals and Steve Williams was the Manager's Player. Archie Conway's Reserves found themselves back in Division 5, after the Firsts' demotion and they managed just 15 games in all before the campaign was abandoned. Paul Gathern's 5 goals made him top scorer. The season also saw the final appearance of the Fourth Team, who withdrew from the Luton Sunday league after just 2 games.



Jim Betts had taken over the Saturday side, who managed to complete 20 league matches, but only won 5. Mujib Miah was top scorer with a quarter of the team's 56 goals. Bob Smith's Under Twelves managed to complete most of their games, with Matt Kenneford scoring 24 goals in an otherwise unremarkable season. The two Under 15 teams also had below average seasons: the A team won 6 of their 20 games and the B team just 2 of their 18 matches.

All in all, a season to forget!!

Unlucky 13th for the Under Sevens

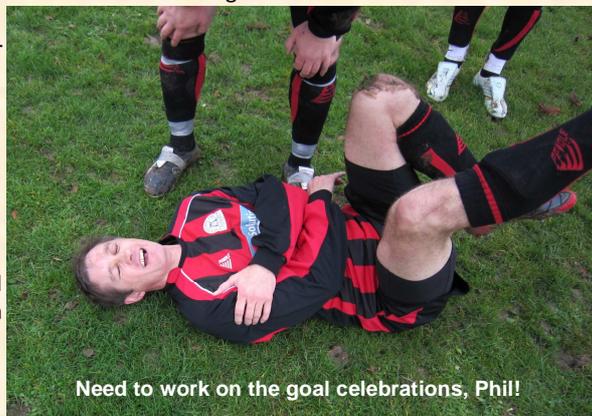
Nov 13th/14th

The Under Sevens found themselves 2 goals down in as many minutes in their clash with Stotfold Juniors at the Rec. Although they did stage something of a fightback, with a hat-trick from Ben Bayley, they ended up losing 6-3. The 'B' game was a better story with Teddy Rowe-Trelford scoring in a 1-1 draw. In the afternoon Martin Collins scored for the First Team for the fifth game in a row, but it didn't look as it was going to be enough as Lidlington fought back to level the scores at 2-2. It looked as though the points were going to be shared until dad Paul Collins popped up to squeeze the ball home for a 3-2 win. Meanwhile the Reserves travelled to Eastcotts, who had knocked ten goals past Wootton Village seven days earlier. However, goals from Callum Jones and Ryan Durrant earned the lads a point in a 2-2 draw.

On Sunday the Firsts came unstuck against Bury Park Saracens losing 4-2, despite 2 goals from Mark Brown, but the Reserves had no such problems. They raced into a 2-1 half-time lead against Gardeners Call with a brave diving header from Phil Thompson and a low shot from Lewis Smith. Phil suffered an injured shoulder in scoring, but was able to continue. In the second half the lads ran riot with further goals from Phil and Lewis and goals from Jack Baggett and Scott Ayres in a 6-1 win. The Under Seventeens got the worst of the weekend weather again, but it made no difference to their performance as they swept Houghton Athletic away with a 10-0 scoreline.

On the mini-soccer scene the Under 10 A team had a chance to put 2 consecutive defeats behind them with a home game against table-toppers Luton Old Boys and they didn't disappoint in a 3-1 win. Louis Lomas scored twice before a splendidly worked third goal, finished by Josh Evans, put the game beyond doubt.

The Under 10B's had the majority of the game against AFC Shillington, but a Tom Allpress goal wasn't enough as they went down to a disappointing 2-1 defeat.



Need to work on the goal celebrations, Phil!

Saturday Firsts Back on Track

Nov 20th/21st

The Saturday 1st team bounced back to winning ways with a 5-1 defeat of AFC Kings—the result moves them to within 2 points of leaders Arleseey with a game in hand. Bizarrely in the same division Harpur lost 6-5 after having won 6-5 the week before! The Reserves' manager Paul Jones vowed never to referee again after another troublesome encounter, at home to Goldington. From winning 1-0 with 10 minutes to go, the lads lost 4-1.

On Sunday morning the Firsts failed to win for the third time in a row, going down 2-3 to St. Margaret's in a poor game in Pirtion. Despite having enough chances to win, goals from **Paul Brown** and **Titch Bevan** were not enough as defensive frailties gifted St. Margarets the points. By contrast the Reserves go from strength to strength. Facing a tough away trip to unbeaten USL, they came from 2-1 down to win 5-2 with goals from **Mayes, Thompson, Ben Thomson, Whelan** and **Whitehead** to move into the top four with 40 goals in the last 9 games. The younger teams also did well: the Under 10a beat Sandy 6-1 with 4 from **Louis Lomas** and goals from **Josh Evans** and **Daniel Hammer** to go top; the Under 8s beat Dunstable Town 4-1 in a friendly; the Under 14s beat Crawley Green 'B' 2-0 with goals from **Callum Smith** and **George Calvert** and the Under 17s moved to the top of the table in defeating Westoning by the same score with goals from **Divesh Kumar** and **Ben Morris**.



Littlejohn Leads the Golden Boot Race

The analysis of goalscorers up to the end of October showed that the race for the Golden Boot—awarded to the top scorer in all the eleven-a-side teams—was being won by Chris Littlejohn. His six goals on Saturdays and six on Sundays give him a total of 12: two ahead of First Team leading scorer Darren Nicholls on 10. Phil Thompson for the Sunday Reserves and James Awofosan from the Saturday First Team both have 7. Last year’s winner Louis Lomas again leads the way in the battle for the Mini Golden Boot for the 7-a-side teams.



The Reserves and Under 10A observe a minute’s silence before the matches on Remembrance Sunday at the Recreation Ground.

November Performance

November 2010	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	%
Sunday 1 st XI	3	0	1	2	5	8	16.7
Sunday 2 nd XI	3	3	0	0	16	4	100
Saturday 1 st XI	3	2	0	1	9	6	66.7
Saturday 2 nd XI	3	1	1	1	5	7	50
Under 17	3	3	0	0	14	1	100
Under 14	2	1	0	1	3	4	50
Under 10 a	3	2	0	1	12	6	66.7
Under 10 b	2	1	0	1	3	3	50
Under 8	2	2	0	0	8	3	100
Under 7 a	2	0	0	2	5	10	0
Under 7 b	2	0	1	1	4	7	25
	28	15	3	10	84	59	58.9

**Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year to all
Players, Supporters and
Officials**

**From

Lea
Sports
PSG**





Out for Revenge...

Saturday 1st XI Reach Cup 1/4 Final

Vol. 5. No. 5, December 2010

The County Cup fixtures played in December brought mixed results for our teams.

Kempston Hammers Sports:	0	Saturday 1st XI :	7
Four Model FC:	10	Saturday 2nd XI:	1
Sunday 1st XI:	3	Broadwalk United:	5
Under Seventeens:	0	Woodside:	6

The **Sunday First XI** were up against Division One Leaders Broadwalk United on a half-frozen pitch in Pirton on December 12th. With the match in the balance until the last minute because of the conditions, it was the away side who started the brighter and their midfield dominated proceedings, with former Luton Town star Ricky Hill's son pulling the strings.

It was no surprise when Broadwalk took the lead, although the penalty award looked a bit harsh given the conditions. The visitors doubled their lead shortly afterwards when a cross from the right was powerfully headed home. At 2-0 it looked as though Broadwalk might run away with the match, but a defensive blunder let Mark Brown in to lob the keeper and within a few minutes, Darren Nicholls broke through and netted the equaliser, despite being fouled in the process by the goalkeeper.

The home side were unable to hold on to the lead until half time however, as once again a forward was given too much time and space outside the box to pick his spot. After the break, Lea Sports rallied again and when Chris Littlejohn was brought down outside the box Gary Raymond curled a great free-kick into the far corner to level the match at 3-3. Extra time looked a possibility, but once again a failure to close Broadwalk down following a corner, allowed the ball to be crossed back into the box and headed home for 4-3 to the visitors. As the home side pushed forward for an equaliser, more gaps appeared in their defence and a Broadwalk forward ran on to another good cross to slot the ball into the corner of the net and restore the visitors' two-goal advantage. Even then Lea Sports didn't give up, but they knew it wasn't their day when Gary Raymond's twice-taken penalty refused to go in the net. His first effort was saved and the retake hit the bar and flew over. Lea Sports will rue missed chances, but the reality is that you can't expect to concede five goals and win games.

On Saturday 11th the Reserves were hammered 10-1 by Polish side Four Model. The First team, who easily beat a poor Kempston Hammers side 7-0, now have a chance for revenge as they have been drawn at home to Four Model in the Quarter Final. The First Team certainly have nothing to fear as Four Model play in the same division of the Luton & District League as Square Rangers and Caddington Reserves who we beat in earlier rounds. The Saturday team will be coming up against a couple of Lea Sports old boys who now turn out for Four Model. Monzoor Mostafa played 9 times for the Sunday Third team between 2003 and 2005, while Shibli Miah is a dangerous forward who scored 52 goals for Lea Sports in 65 games for the Third Team and Saturday XI between 2001 and 2005.

The Under 17s wished their game had fallen to the weather—with just the bare 11 through sickness and suspension they were outplayed by Woodside who romped into a 4-0 half-time lead. Despite ending the game with just 9 men after more injuries, the lads kept the scoreline down to 6-0 at the final whistle. The team can now recoup its forces over Christmas and push on towards the league title.



Down Memory Lane — Five Years Ago — Season 2005-06

Two of our teams won honours 5 years ago. The Under 14s (right) won Division 3 of the Chiltern League, while the Under 11s (below) just missed out on the Division 1 title, but won the League Cup defeating St. Josephs 5-1 in the Final and reached the Quarter Final of the Hertfordshire County Cup. Strangely enough, I watched five of the Under 14s' fixtures and they lost all 5, conceding 33 goals!



The season started with disappointment, however, when the Sunday Third team, which had operated since the 1977-78 season, folded before a ball was kicked. Our first foray into mini-soccer was also less than successful, with an under 11 team managing just 3 draws and no wins in 16 games. The Under 12s, promoted as Division 3 Champions the previous year, finished in mid-table in Division 2 and the Under 15s did likewise in their age-group.



The Reserves produced some good performances after promotion the previous season – in particular a win over Red Red Red which deprived them of the runners-up spot, but a messy fixture list and too many poor results saw them finish seventh in Division 4. The cups brought no joy, with exits in the first match in each competition.

The Firsts, with the best defence in the previous season's Division Two, did not fare so well this year, when many enforced goalkeeping changes caused uncertainty in the back division. Richard Randall and Greg Whelan took charge of the team and also needed a few games to find their feet. An unbeaten run of seven games after Christmas was evidence of increased stability in the team, but the current team was no better than mid-table.

Goalscorers to the End of the Year

The top 2 scorers for each team to the end of December were:

Sunday 1st:	Darren Nicholls	11	
	Mark Brown	7	
Sunday 2nd	Phil Thompson	12	
	Jonathan Whitehead	7	
Saturday 1st	Chris Littlejohn	10	(+ 6 for Sunday 1st XI)
	Martin Collins	9	
Saturday 2nd	Ryan Durrant	4	
	Haseem Raja	3	(+ 2 for Sat.1st XI)
	Alex Raffermati, Jamie Rowlatt	3	
Under 17	Ben Morris	12	
	Divesh Kumar	8	
Under 14	James Hirst	7	
	Jake Edwards	3	
Under 10a	Louis Lomas	21	
	Daniel Hammer, Kieran Jones	3	
Under 10b	Edward Clarke	11	
	Tom Allpress	7	
Under 8	Tyger Cox	9	
	Henry Brown	8	
Under 7	Benjamin Bayley	12	
	Matthew Morton	7	



In With a Shout.?..

Under 17s Beat Westoning—Again!!!

Vol. 5. No. 6, January 2011

The Under Seventeens began the second half of their league campaign with a home game against Westoning Recreation Club.

Nothing unusual about that you might think, until you look at the league table: the lads have now played six league games, but two of those were against Houghton Athletic who have just withdrawn from the league, so only four games count—and three of those have been against Westoning, who are top of the table! (By the way, we also beat Westoning in the County Cup and guess who we still have to play in the League Cup...??)

League table after matches on January 10th:

Under 17 - Division Two : League Table							
7 Teams	Teams play each other three times				Goals For	Goals Against	Points
	Games Played	Games Won	Games Drawn	Games Lost			
Westoning Recreation U17	9	3	2	4	22	27	11
Lea Sports PSG U17	4	3	1	0	11	4	10
Bushmead Rovers A U17	8	3	1	4	22	22	10
Hexton Youth U17	6	3	1	2	14	15	10
Mid Beds Tigers U17	7	3	0	4	28	24	9
Wilstead Harriers U17	6	3	0	3	22	29	9
Shefford Saints U17	6	2	1	3	18	16	7

The Christmas break did the Sunday Reserves no favours as they returned to action with a home game on January 10th vs. table-toppers St.John's. Despite taking the lead through a Phil Thompson strike, the Reserves conceded twice before the break and the second half brought no further goals. This disappointing result, in a match which came at just the wrong time, brought to an end the Reserves' unbeaten run of 8 games.

The Under 10a's were frustrated as their league cup tie against Memorial Park was postponed again, but the Under 10b's returned to action in great style in their cup match away to Amptill Town 'B', The lads played some fine football and could have scored a dozen: in the end they settled for 5 (two from Tom Allpress and a hat-trick from Edward Clarke) to take them through to a third-round tie away to Leighton Town.

The Under Sevens' matches against Stevenage Borough Spitfires also went ahead and despite two good performances, both games were lost: the A side going down 2-0 and the B side 4-0. The Under 14s earned a creditable 3-3 draw with Luton Old Boys.

Scallies Rock the Rec...

On January 8th, local band The Scallywags appeared at the clubhouse in Pirton before a crowd in excess of 80 people, ably supported by local singer Irina Sexton.

Their set of three sessions included covers of many favourites and went down a storm. The Scallywags have agreed to come back and do a St.Patrick's Day Special on Friday March 18th—one not to miss!

Tickets will be available in advance at a reduced price—contact Steve Smith or Alan Scott if interested.





Down Memory Lane — 20 Years Ago — Season 1990-91

The final match of the 1989-90 season had brought heartbreak for the First Team: they needed a point from their final home game against Harvest Home to avoid relegation from their first season in Division 2, whereas their opponents needed to win to clinch the title. With just minutes to go the score was locked at 1-1, but with the team dead on its feet a ball into the box was not cleared and Harvest Home scrambled the ball into the net for an undeserved winner. and the decade had ended as it began—with relegation.

Manager Steve Smith, who had taken charge in 1984-85 with the team in Division 5, decided it was time to stand down and Keith Lee took over for the 1990-91 season. The season began with 3 draws and it was not until November that the first league defeat was suffered: a 4-1 reverse in a poor game at Wells Stars. After Christmas the team's good form continued, with just one defeat (1-2 to FC Houghton) and the team's eighth draw of the season, coming back from 2-0 down to draw with AFC Heron Reserves, was enough to give the side the Division 3 title with 28 points from 20 games. In the end they finished just 7 points ahead of the eighth-placed team, who won as many games! Phil Thompson was top scorer with 27 goals in 25 appearances—none more important than the late equaliser against Heron.



First Team—NHC Division 3 Champions

My own record with the Firsts in the 90-91 season was not great—I watched them 12 times and only saw them win twice: once against Wells Stars (when they lost the first half 3-1) and once against Parkside (when they lost the second half 3-0!). Needless to say, I stayed away from the last game against Heron....

Perhaps the most memorable day of the season was February 24th. Not only did the First Team beat Old Moat House 8-1 at Stockwood Park, but Keith Lee made his 350th appearance, Kevin Connolly made his 50th appearance, Trevor Taylor made his 175th appearance, Al Palmer made his 75th First team appearance and Al Mayman became the only player this season to score for all three teams.

Phil Clarke was top scorer for Dave Blake's Reserves as they finished in mid-table in Division 5. Meanwhile, the Thirds, with Rick Vipers and Ali Hearn in charge, tried their luck for the first time in the Luton Sunday League, but their third season of league football saw them finish second-to-bottom. The Netball team enjoyed another good season, finishing third in Division 1, despite the loss of both goal shooters during the season. The veterans also made their first ever appearance, winning a game against Stopsley Community College (better-known as 'Graham Davies' lot') 7-4, with 4 goals for Phil Clarke and one each for Keith Lee Paul Gather, and Al Mayman. Archie Conway starred at the heart of the midfield!

Two 5-1 Wins at Pirton

Saturday January 15th

Both the Under Seven A side and the Saturday First Team ran out winners by five goals to one in the mild weather in Pirton. The two games were very different, however, with the under sevens' game goalless at half-time before a hat-trick from Ben Bayley and goals from Liam Brooks and Edward Laws secured the points. In the afternoon, the Saturday First XI were at home to league leaders Queens Park Crescents and raced into a 5-0 half-time lead, with two goals apiece for James Awofisan and Martin Collins and a fifth from Haji Conteh. The result leaves the team two points behind new leaders Arlesey Social with two games in hand.

Both second strings fared less well: the Under Sevens B team lost 6-0, conceding no less than 4 penalties, while the Saturday Reserves lost 3-0 away to Bedford Park Rangers in a game where they deserved much more. **Bedfordshire County League Division 2 (top) after matches on January 15th:**

POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Arlesey Social Galacticos	13	8	3	2	42	28	14	27
2	Clifton	14	7	5	2	37	28	9	26
3	Bromham United	14	8	2	4	34	28	6	26
4	Queens Park Crescents	15	8	2	5	36	36	0	26
5	Lea Sports PSG	11	8	1	2	37	16	21	25



Cup Joy for Sunday Reserves and Under 10A Sunday Jan 16th

The Under Ten A's finally got to play their much-postponed League Cup second round tie away to Memorial Park of Luton. Goals from Kieran Jones, Louis Lomas, Daniel Hammer and Alex Smith gave them a 4-2 win and a home tie in Round 3 vs. AFC Dunstable.

The Sunday Reserves were playing a Challenge Cup Quarter Final in Luton on the same day, away to Flint United and found themselves 2-0 down, before goals from Jack Baggett, Tom Newland and Phil Thompson produced a 3-2 win and a place in the Semi Final.

In League Division 4, the Under 10B team strengthened their bid for honours with a comprehensive 4-0 win over Leighton United 'C'. Tom Allpress and Edward Clarke both scored a brace.

Meanwhile, the Sunday First Team suffered the curse of 'first game back after Christmas' as they went down 4-1 at home to 61FC. In a lacklustre performance, a goal from Chris Littlejohn was all they had to show for their efforts.

Having drawn with Flitwick Eagles 'B' last week, this week the Under Eights entertained Flitwick's 'A' team in an early kick-off in Pirton. The result was another stalemate as both sides cancelled each other out in a 0-0 draw. A missed penalty proved costly as the Under 14s continued their poor home league form, going down 2-1 to Crawley Green 'B'.

Sunday Reserves Do It Again

Saturday/Sunday 22/23 Jan

For the second week running the Sunday Reserves found themselves 2-0 down—this time in a home league game to Luton Wanderers, but, as in the previous week, they stormed back to win 3-2 with goals from Jon Whitehead, Phil Thompson and a winner from Tom Newland. A rare Chris Hill goal, plus a strike from Gary Raymond, gave the First Team a share of the spoils away to St.Margarets. In the afternoon, the Under 14s picked up a precious point in a 3-3 draw away at Harlington.

The Under 10 teams both had tough third round cup ties and the results did not go our way. The B team travelled to Leighton Town and despite a brave performance went down 7-0. The A team entertained first division leaders AFC Dunstable and battled hard, but ended up losing 5-0 as Louis Lomas failed to score for the first time this season. Leighton Town now play AFC Dunstable in the quarter finals.

There was cup success for the 2 Saturday adult teams however, although both had to work hard to achieve 2-1 wins. The first team beat Bromham Utd at home with goals from James Awofisan and Haydn Fletcher, while the Reserves achieved the same scoreline away to AFC Caldecote 'A' - the scorers were Haseem Raja and Ryan Durrant. In the morning, the Under 7s had two close games against Stevenage Borough Hurricanes, but both brought defeat, 2-3 and 1-2. Ben Bayley scored twice for the A team, while Teddy Rowe-Trelford scored the B team's consolation goal.

The Under 8s enjoyed themselves at Luton Old Boys, winning 5-0 with goals from Tyger Cox(2), Tom Scott, George Simmons and Ethan Wilson. The Under 14s fought out a 3-3 draw at Harlington, while the Under 17s' 4-2 win at Hexton took them to the top of the table with 4 games in hand of the second-placed team.

Awofisan Hits Five

Saturday/Sunday 29/30 Jan

The Under Sevens rounded off the month with 2 great performances against Hitchin Town. Having lost both away games the lads expected a tough morning in the return fixtures, but a Ben Bayley goal brought a 1-0 win in the 'A' game and Ben bagged 2 more as the 'B' team drew 3-3. Edward Laws scored the third.

In the afternoon James Awofisan hit five goals as the Saturday First Team blew Westoning Recreation Club away 6-0 in Pirton—Haji Conteh with the other goal. Meanwhile the Reserves recorded a 2-0 win away at Sandy Reserves—Haseem Raja with both goals.

On Sunday the Firsts' game in Luton was frozen off, but the Reserves stormed into a 2-0 lead against high-flying Bushmead Rovers with a great strike from Jack Baggett and a low drive from Greg Whelan. Things looked bad when Bushmead scored before half-time and then Bobby McGrath headed into his own net for an equaliser, but Pat McAnaney made sure of all 3 points with a late winner. Louis Lomas grabbed a hat-trick as the Under 10a won 5-1 away at Brickhill. Kieran Jones and Alex Smith got the other goals., while the Under 10b saw off Ampthill B with 3 second-half goals without reply: 2 from Edward Clarke and 1 from Oscar Pryle. Both youth teams were in action in the League Cup and whereas the Under 14s put up a great fight in going down 4-2 to AFC Kempston, the Under 17s surrendered 5-0 in their fifth encounter with Westoning this season.

LATEST PREMIER LEAGUE COMPETITION PLACINGS AT:

<http://www.lpspg.co.uk/Datafiles/PremLgeComp/Results.pdf>



Sad Passing of an Old Stalwart

Club Pays Tribute to Steve Moreton

Vol. 5. No. 7, February 2011

It was with great sadness that the Club learned this month of the death of one of its former players and administrators.

Steve Moreton officially played his first game for Lea Sports on September 4th 1977 in a Reserve team match in Division 7 of the North Home Counties League, although it is very likely that he played in many games for the Club which went unrecorded before that date. The Reserves lost that day 3-0 under the leadership of Glen Pullen, who played as well as managing the side. Other well-known names who were also in the team that day include Phil Hudspeth in goal, Maurice Dawson and Bruce Bonfield, Bob Kett and Geoff Richardson.

Steve went on to make 241 appearances for the Club, 177 of which were for the Sunday Third Team, mostly in the mid-eighties when the team enjoyed a successful few seasons of playing friendly matches against local Round Tables, colleges and the like, under the management of Maurice Dawson and John Scales. Steve was also a holder of the Club's Long-Service Award, given to a handful of players who appeared in many games in the early years of the club for which the records have been lost. Steve was also Club Treasurer from 1985-1987.

Although not blessed with a natural footballing talent, Steve always gave 100% in the games he played and he was a great servant to the Club over many years, making his last appearance as a substitute for the Veterans in their 5-1 friendly win over Dutch visitors OSM Maarssen in April 1999. Despite his many appearances over 22 years with the Club, Steve never scored for Lea Sports, often filling in in goal when a 'regular' keeper was unavailable.

The Club would like to pass on its condolences to family, friends and work colleagues.





County Cup Semi-Final Beckons...

Saturday XI win a Tight Quarter-Final

The Saturday First Team overcame not only very windy conditions in Pirton on February 5th, but very stiff opposition in the form of Four Model FC, who are challenging for the Championship of the Luton & District Division One. Although the blustery wind made good football very difficult to achieve, the lads fully deserved their win, which eventually came via a single goal, scored by Martin Collins. The semi-final of the Junior Challenge Cup takes place on March 12th. The Reserves also scored a single goal (through Marco Fialla), but they also conceded one to share the points away to Dinamo Flitwick.

On Sunday morning, the First Team were away to league leaders Broadwalk United and went down 1-2 with Chris Littlejohn scoring our consolation effort.

Goals were hard to come by in the high wind and the Reserves battled out a 0-0 draw with Round Green in Division 3. The Under 10a were also at home and they too struggled to break down a determined Markyate defence. Midway through the second half the score was still 0-0, but a long-range Daniel Hammer effort broke the deadlock. Minutes later Kieran Jones got on the end of a ball into the box to make it 2-0 and the points looked safe. Markyate had other ideas, however, and from the restart a speculative punt into the wind bounced once over Reece Frankland's head and into the net to make it 2-1. The game stayed tight until the last minute when Louis Lomas scored to make sure of the points.

The Under 10b team faced a tough trip to Memorial Park, but played really well to take all 3 points in a 2-1 win. Edward Clarke and Danny Turner scored the goals. The Under 8s did not enjoy their trip to Flitwick Eagles. An 'unhelpful' referee was congratulated by the home team's manager after the match for having a 'great game' as the home side pulled away from having a 4-3 lead at one point to finish up 8-3 winners. In the afternoon, the Under 14s were missing their top striker as they went down 0-2 to Flamstead, while the Under 17s were locked at 2-2 with second-placed Mid-Beds Tigers deep into the second half until 3 late goals brought all 3 points. The scorers were Bell, Haynes, Morris (2) and Welbury and the win leaves the Under Seventeens top of Division 2, having achieved 16 points from 6 league games. Bushmead Rovers take over second spot after winning 2-1 at Westoning, but they have played 5 games more.

Scallywags Back for St.Patrick's

If you fancy a good night out, get yourself down to the Rec for the return of the Scallywags on March 18th for a St.Patrick's Day Extravaganza! The band played in Pirton on January 8th and went down so well that we have arranged an early return.

Tickets are available for £5 in advance (£6 on the door) and can be bought from Steve Smith or Alan Scott (or the Village Shop).





Pavilion Plans Hit The Buffers

A meeting was held in Pirton towards the end of January between members of the New Pavilion Committee and representatives from the Bedfordshire FA, the Hertfordshire FA and the Regional Manager of the Football Association. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss progress on our bid to build a new pavilion in Pirton to replace the existing Club-house.

To date we have managed to achieve Planning Permission for the new build, at some considerable cost to the Parish Council, as well as securing a pledge of £23,000 from North Herts District Council. This, of course, still left a massive shortfall in the estimated cost of the project at around £520,000. We had always hoped that the Football Foundation would provide between 40-60% of the project cost, but these hopes were dashed at the meeting, when we were informed that the funding available for projects such as ours had been cut drastically over the past year.

The proposal from the FA was that we should consider building a small changing room block with limited social area at a cost of around £300,000—if we were to do so there might have been around £100,000 available from the Foundation (although even this amount was not guaranteed).

Our feelings after the meeting were that this news effectively quashes any plans for a new pavilion at this time. However, all of the fund-raising efforts to-date will not go to waste. We will have meetings with our architects in the near future to see what improvements can be made to the existing structure, with the early emphasis being placed on a new shower/toilet block to replace the existing facilities. After that, we will improve other areas of the building as funding allows.

The fund-raising drive within the Sports & Social Club will remain as strong as ever (all proceeds from the Scallywags gigs, for example, will go into the fund-raising pot) and all players and parents are urged to support the social events at the Recreation Ground. We are lucky to have the facilities which we already enjoy and the Committees of the football club and Sports & Social Club will continue to work hard to improve conditions at the Rec.

An Unbeaten Saturday

Saturday February 12th

With the First Team not in action the spotlight fell on the Saturday Reserves as they kicked off in a hailstorm in Pirton and they did not disappoint as they hammered Goldington Hammers 6-3. Things did not look too good at half-time, however, as we trailed 2-1 after an inept first-half. In the end four goals from man-of-the-match Glen Collins brought home all three points. Callum Jones also got on the scoresheet and Marco Fialla scored for the second week in a row.

The Under Sevens chose to name their two sides Panthers and Pumas as they travelled to Stotfold. They too were undefeated as the Panthers drew 2-2, thanks to a brace from Ben Bayley, while the Pumas romped to a 5-3 win, with five different scorers: Liam Brooks, Sam Germann, Edward Laws, Matthew Morton and Teddy Rowe-Trelford.

Another Cup Final for Baggy

Sunday February 13th

Steve Baggett reached his fifth Cup Final with the Club and the Club's 20th overall when the Reserves swept away Magnum Reserves in the Jack Coyle Trophy (formerly called the Reserve Cup). The scoreline was an emphatic 8-2, with Tom Newland notching a hat-trick, Greg Whelan two and Steve Williams, Phil Thompson and Nathan Croke scoring one apiece. Meanwhile, in Pirton the First XI achieved a much-needed victory with a 2-0 win over Lewsey Reserves. An early goal from Gary Raymond and a late one from Chris Littlejohn secured all 3 points. The Under 10b also won 2-0 in their local derby with AFC Shillington. They dominated the game and won with goals from Oscar Pryle and Tom Allpress. The Under 10a were not so lucky and had only a Josh Evans strike to show for their trip to table-toppers Luton Old Boys, finally going down 4-1.

Both youth sides achieved wins in the afternoon: a James Hirst goal was enough for the Under Fourteens to beat Harlington, while the Under Seventeens consolidated their place at the top of Division 2 with their sixth win in seven league games. They saw off Wilstead Harriers 5-1 with goals from Matt Howard, James Miley, Sam Welbury and two from Ben Morris to take his tally to 17 in all competitions this season.



Presentation Dates Set

The dates have now been finalised for the Annual Presentation Evenings:

Youth Teams: Saturday May 21st

Adult Teams: Saturday June 4th

The exact format of the evenings has yet to be agreed, but please put the dates in your diary. More about this in next month's Newsletter.



Dud in the Mud

Saturday/Sunday February 19th/20th

The Sunday First Team failed to win for the fifth away game in a row as they went down 2-1 at Hexton to AC Sportsman & Ravensborough Reserves. A goal from Gary Raymond was not enough to salvage a point.

Meanwhile the Reserves' Challenge Cup semi-final was postponed until March 6th after a day of constant rain on Saturday. The rain didn't prevent the Saturday First Team maintaining their 100% home league record with a 2-0 win over Stevington, although conditions did make good football difficult. In the end a Liam Trainor penalty and a Rory Smith strike from distance were enough to take all three points.

The Under 10a agreed to play a 6-a-side game against visitors Leighton Town, who had players missing through illness. The game was a one-sided affair with only the visiting goalkeeper (and some occasional wayward finishing!) keeping the score under 20! In the end our lads ran out winners by 11 goals to 1; Daniel Hammer and Louis Lomas scored four times each and there were also goals for Damon Hall, Alex Smith and a Leighton own goal.

Another Super Saturday!

Saturday/Sunday February 26th/27th

The Saturday First XI met their rivals Arlesey Social Galacticos on a rainy Saturday and swept them away, winning 8-0 with hat-tricks from Martin Collins and Tommy Feeney and another two from Liam Trainor. The result takes the lads two points clear at the top of the table, with 4 games in hand on second-placed Clifton and Queens Park Crescents.

The Under Sevens also survived the rain and put in 2 great performances at Letchworth Garden City Eagles. The Panthers won 3-2 with goals from Ben Bayley, Matthew Morton and Teddy Rowe-Trelford, while the Pumas drew 2-2 with goals from Ben Bayley and Matthew Morton. A full match report can be found at <https://sites.google.com/site/lspsgu7/team-announcements/matchreport26thfeb-leitchworthceaglesaway>.

Sunday morning brought a welcome 3 points for the First Team as they cruised past Stopsley Common. Five goals—and two disallowed—by half-time made the game safe and the final score was 6-0 thanks to a hat-trick from Gary Raymond and goals from Chris Littlejohn and each of the Brown Brothers. The Reserves were away to St.Martin's and 'won ugly' thanks to goals from Pat McAneney and Tom Newland in a 2-1 scoreline.

The Under 10a's push for silverware suffered a setback as they lost at home to table-toppers Westoning Rec Club. Despite having most of the play they could not put the ball in the net and found themselves a goal down to a breakaway at half-time. It looked as though Louis Lomas had salvaged a point with just a few minutes to go, but another counter-attack goal gave Westoning all 3 points in the last minute.

With their goalkeeper enjoying a trip to the Carling Cup Final the Under Fourteens found themselves 5-0 down at half-time at Flamstead. The second half saw an improvement, but they still went down 7-2.

The rain returned to Pirton in the afternoon, but it couldn't dampen the Under 17s' spirits as they saw off Hexton 2-1 with goals from Matt Howard and Sam Welbury.

Check Your Appearances...

www.lspsg.co.uk

Did you know that you can see on the website how many appearances each player has made and how many goals he has scored for each team over the seasons (up to the end of last season)? Go to the Club website, click on 'History' and 'Detailed Appearances by Individual'. E.g.....

NAME (First match)	A P P E A R A N C E S										TOTAL	G O A L S								TOTAL
	1st XI	2nd XI	3rd XI	4th XI	Sat.XI	Sat.Res.	Youth	Vets.	1st XI	2nd XI		3rd XI	4th XI	Sat.XI	Sat.Res.	Youth	Vets.			
Simon Jackson	00-01	0	0	0	0	10.03	0	0	0	0	10.03	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
09.08.00 (S)	01-02	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
	02-03	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
	05-06	21.02	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22.02	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	06-07	24.02	0.01	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24.03	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	07-08	24.01	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24.01	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	08-09	25.01	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25.01	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	09-10	23.01	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23.01	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	117.07	1.01	0	0	24.03	0	0	0	0	142.11	2	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	10



Cup Finals Galore...But Not For Everyone

Sunday Reserves Through 4-0

Vol. 5. No. 8, March 2011

The Sunday Reserves reached their second Cup Final of the season when they cruised past St. Martin's on March 6th in the semi-final of the North Home Counties Challenge Cup. Goals from Jack Baggett, Ollie Palmer and two from Jon Whitehead took the lads through to a Final vs. St. John's, who squeezed past Round Green Tavern 3-2 after extra time in the other semi-final, played in Pirton on the same day.

The Saturday First XI were left to rue a missed penalty from Tommy Feeney as they went down 1-0 to Elstow Abbey in their Bedfordshire Junior Cup Semi-Final on March 12th. Despite being on top in the first-half we were unable to convert any of our chances and in a game where goalmouth action was at a premium a second-half goal from the visitors was enough to separate the teams. The lads made amends when they played in the league's Jubilee Cup semi-final at Potton United's ground on Monday March 28th, although it was not all plain sailing against Westoning Rec. We dominated the first half but went in at half-time only 1-0 up. Westoning stormed back after the break and took a 2-1 lead, which lasted until 5 minutes from time when we forced an equaliser. In extra time we were the stronger side and 2 goals from Martin Collins and 2 from Andrzej Juraszek took the lads through 4-2 to a final at Biggleswade United on April 29th.

Not a Great Start to March

Sat/Sun March 05/06

Apart from the Reserves' semi-final victory, results were not too special on the first weekend of March. On Saturday only one player managed to score, although Ben Bayley did grab a hat-trick as the Under 7 Pumas drew 3-3 in their friendly at Baldock. The Pumas failed to find the net and went down 1-0. The Saturday adult sides also failed to score: the First XI, with one eye on their County Cup Semi-Final on March 12th, drew 0-0 at home to a determined Bromham United, while the Reserves lost 3 players 20 minutes before kick-off in their game away to Potton United—then lost the game 5-0.

Sunday wasn't much better: the First Team were missing defenders and the keeper and went down 4-1 away to Club Lewsey Reserves (Gary Raymond grabbing the consolation goal). The Under 10b went down by the same scoreline at home to Flitwick Eagles, but were perhaps hard done by. Flitwick were 2-0 up before we realised they were playing with an extra man and a goal from Edward Clarke, plus some fine goalkeeping from Tom Wyatt, meant that the match was much closer than the scoreline suggests. Even the Under 17s failed to lift the gloom—playing with just 10 men they saw their 100% home league record go as they drew 2-2 with Bushmead Rovers 'A'. Kumar and Miley scored.

Premier League Competition Update

With Blackpool and Aston Villa dropping down the table and Bolton and Everton both in the top eight, you would have expected changes in the standings at the top of the Premier League Competition, but Rose Hutchins continues to occupy top spot, just 2 points ahead of Gary Saunders from our sponsors Form IT Solutions. Things could still change, however, with just 10 points separating the first 15 places. Latest table at

<http://www.lpspg.co.uk/Datafiles/PremLgeComp/Results.pdf>

Andy Shiers is in 7th position, showing he hasn't forgotten everything about football since his move to New Zealand!

With most clubs in the Premiership having about eight games still to play there is still time for the positions to change.



March 13th—Sweet Revenge for the Sunday Sides

Both Sunday adult sides faced tough fixtures on March 13th: both were playing teams who had lost only one league game all season and both had lost the reverse fixture by two goals to one. The Firsts took on Broadwalk United and the Reserves were up against St.John's—both teams who are Champions elect of their divisions—and yet both of our teams came up with 2-1 wins. The Firsts went a goal behind to Broadwalk, but a great far-post diving header from Titch Bevan and a scrambled winner from Paul Brown gave us all 3 points. The Reserves needed St.John's to score an own goal, but Greg Whelan grabbed a second as the second team also took all 3 points. Not to be outdone, the Under Fourteens also found themselves up against the league leaders when they faced Ampthill in their last home fixture—and they too managed a 2-1 win! The goals came from Lewis Sadler and George Calvert. The Under Seventeens had no problems maintaining their position at the top of the table with a 4-1 trouncing of Hexton. Warren Bell, Tom Payne, Tom Priest and Sam Welbury all scored.

Meanwhile, on the junior pitch in Pirton, the Under Eights looked understandably rusty as they conceded 3 goals in the first half against Leighton United 'B'. The second half saw an improvement, however, and Ethan Wilson scored a consolation goal to make the final score 3-1 to the visitors. The Under 10a found themselves up against a determined Sandy

After The Lord Mayor's Show

Sunday March 20th

All three teams who had performed so well against the top sides the week before LOST. The Firsts were up against Stopsley Common, whom they had beaten 6-0 at the end of February. Three more goals—from Titch Bevan, Mark Brown and Darren Nicholls—weren't enough as the team lost 3-4. The Reserves, without top striker Phil Thompson who broke his arm skiing, looked toothless against Luton Phoenix, whom they had beaten 8-1 earlier in the season. Despite a lot of possession, chances were few and far between and the team went down to a surprising 2-0 defeat. The Under Fourteens were 2-0 down against Luton Old Boys before they really got going. James Hirst pulled one back and the lads could have got a point against the table-toppers, but it wasn't to be and the game finished 2-1. The Under Seventeens were off-colour too in their home game with second-placed Mid-Beds Tigers, but a Warren Bell goal meant that they managed to hang onto a point in a 1-1 draw.

Under Sevens Continue to Improve

Alan Scott's Under Sevens sides continue to make progress. On March 5th they travelled to Baldock for 2 friendly fixtures. The Panthers narrowly lost by one goal to nil, but the Pumas achieved a notable 3-3 draw, with start striker Ben Bayley notching another hat-trick. A week later they entertained Bassingbourn in Pirton and recorded two fine wins. For the Panthers, Ben Bayley scored his fifth hat-trick of the season as the team won 5-1: Teddy Rowe-Trelford scoring the other two. The Pumas won 4-1 thanks to goals from James Horn, Matthew Morton and two from Oliver Scott.

On March 19th we entertained Offley Rangers for what was supposed to be an Under Sevens match and two Under Six friendlies, although it looked as though Offley fielded the same side for all three games! The Under Sixes in their first-ever competitive encounters just lost both games: 0-1 and 1-2, although there was much celebration from the supporters when Samuel Bayley scored. The Under 7s also lost: 0-3.



March 26th brought two tough games away to Stevenage Spitfires—and we were shot down in both games, the Panthers losing 4-0 and the Pumas 3-0. Nevertheless, there is now a good squad in place and the Club has decided to continue in the Royston Crow League at Under 8 next season.

See the Under Sevens' web page at <https://sites.google.com/site/lpspgu7/>



March 26th Saturday Firsts Close in on the Title

The Saturday First Team faced two more difficult games to round off a tough month. It began with a 0-0 home draw with a determined Bromham United—the first points dropped in the league at home—and was followed by a heart-breaking 1-0 defeat to Elstow Abbey in the Bedfordshire Challenge Cup Semi-Final. The team showed its spirit, however, by bouncing back from these disappointments to dispatch Clifton 5-2 in the league cup quarter finals. March 26th brought Elstow Abbey back to Pirton for a crucial league game. Having lost twice to them already this season the omens weren't good, but the lads rose to the challenge and 2 goals from Dion Brown and a third from Martin Collins brought a well-deserved 3-0 win and took their goal tally for the season in all competitions to 100.

Division Two - Top Five at 26th March

POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Bromham United	20	11	3	6	44	34	10	36
2	Westoning Recreation Club	20	10	4	6	51	38	13	34
3	Kings AFC	17	11	0	6	51	34	17	33
4	Elstow Abbey 06	16	10	2	4	52	21	31	32
5	Lea Sports PSG	14	10	2	2	44	15	29	32

Saturday Reserves Up and Down

The Saturday Reserves haven't had the best of months. After staring off with a 5-0 defeat at Potton when short of players, they fell to a narrow 2-1 defeat at Kempston. The third Saturday brought a welcome 4-1 win away at Wootton Village, but their fourth away game on the trot was at runaway league leaders AFC Turvey and the lads fell to a 4-0 defeat as Turvey continued their 100% league record with 19 wins out of 19. They now face a possible run of seven home games (depending on cup results) before their final away fixture at second-placed Goldington at the end of April.

Under Tens Do the Business!

Sunday March 27th

The Under 10b inflicted a first home defeat on Mid-Beds Tigers A by winning 2-1 with goals from Clarke and Pryle. Meanwhile the A team won 5-2 at rivals Leighton Utd.B with goals from Evans, Hammer(2) and Lomas(2). The Reserves also won away: 3-1 at Luton Wanderers (Newland, Thompson & Mark Williams) but the First XI crashed 2-3 at home to Bury Park Saracens. The Under 8s lost to Flitwick Eagles by the same score.

How'd They Get On?

How did the teams we lost to in the County Cups fare in subsequent rounds?

Sunday 1st XI: lost in round 3 to Broadwalk Utd. 3-5: Broadwalk have reached the Final.

Sunday 2nd XI: lost in the first round to Caldecote Yound Boys Res. 1-5: Caldecote lost to St.Johns on penalties in the semi-final.

Saturday 1st XI: lost in Semi-Final to Elstow Abbey 0-1;

Saturday Reserves: lost in Round 3 to Four Model, who lost in the quarter-final to our own First Team

Under 17's: lost to Woodside in the Quarter-Final: Woodside reached the Final.

Under 14's: lost in Round 3 to Wootton Rangers 1-4: Wootton lost 3-1 to Crawley Green C in the next round. (Crawley Green C reached the final after beating Crawley Green A in the semis on penalties.)





Friday April 29th
Bedfordshire County League Jubilee Cup Final Tie

Lea Sports PSG (Saturday)

VS.

Elstow Abbey '06

At Biggleswade United FC. Kick-off 19.45 p.m.

Sunday May 1st
North Home Counties Jack Coyle (Reserve Cup)
Final Tie

Lea Sports PSG (Sunday) Reserves

VS.

AC Sportsman & Ravensborough Reserves

At Barton Rovers FC. Kick-off 11.00 a.m.

Friday May 6th
North Home Counties Challenge Cup Final Tie

Lea Sports PSG (Sunday) Reserves

VS.

St. John's

At Barton Rovers FC. Kick-off 19.45 p.m.



CHAMPIONS

Under Seventeens Seal It In Style

Vol. 5. No. 9, April 2011

Top scorer Ben Morris hit four goals past Bushmead Rovers A in the gloom in Pirton on Thursday evening (April 14th) to confirm the Under Seventeens as Champions of the Chiltern Youth League Division Two with five games to go.

Still unbeaten in the league the lads never looked in any danger as they romped to a 5-0 win (helped by an own goal from Bushmead).

In a division where all the other teams seem to be beating each other the win puts the lads 7 points clear of Shefford Saints in second place (Shefford have just 2 games remaining).

The aim now is to remain unbeaten through a tough run-in. All of the final five games are away from home, including 2 visits to Shefford. Most people will remember the home game against Shefford which had to be abandoned after three Shefford players were sent off and a number booked. The upshot was that Shefford were handed fines totalling £190 and it makes for an interesting re-match on Sunday.

The table before last night's match is shown below.

Under 17 - Division Two : League Table							
Teams play each other three times							
Goal Difference column has been hidden at the League's request							
7 Teams	Games Played	Games Won	Games Drawn	Games Lost	Goals For	Goals Against	Points
Lea Sports PSG U17	12	9	3	0	39	16	30
Shefford Saints U17	16	8	2	5	49	30	26
Mid Beds Tigers U17	16	6	3	7	49	48	21
Wilstead Harriers U17	15	7	0	8	42	60	21
Bushmead Rovers A U17	16	6	2	7	36	40	20
Westoning Recreation U17	15	5	4	6	37	40	19
Hexton Youth U17	16	3	2	11	26	44	11





The Agony and the Ecstasy...

Heartbreak for Saturday Firsts . . . Or is it??

Having played well to defeat Westoning Recreation Club by four goals to two in the Jubilee Cup Semi-Final on March 28th, the Saturday First Team were devastated to find that Andrszej Juraszek, who had been signed for the team since October, was ineligible to play in the match. As well as only having appeared 3 times for the team in advance of the semi-final, he had also played for Brache Sparta in a County Cup match last October before signing for Lea Sports. So, a game for a team not in this league in a Competition not related to the Division 2 Cup had rendered him ineligible. Rules are just plain daft sometimes.

Meanwhile the team's league form stayed strong into April. They overcame a difficult trip to Lidlington United, winning 3-2 and mirroring the scoreline in the home fixture. Paul Collins got on the scoresheet, as he had in the home game, but this time he was joined by Glen Collins and Liam Trainor. This was followed up by another 3 points away to Great Barford with a 2-1 win.

The possibility of being ejected from the Jubilee Cup was splashed all over the League's website in advance of our home game vs. Shefford & Campton Reserves on April 6th. The negative impact of the announcement, plus the fact that this was the third game in 5 days, resulted in the lads dropping points at home for just the second time this season in a dour 1-1 draw (Tom Feeney with the goal). It was back to business on Saturday 9th, however, as goals from Paul Collins and Dion Brown brought a 2-0 win. This was followed up on Wednesday 13th with a 2-1 home win over Clifton, with Manager Cheesy Collins bagging both goals.

Breaking News... Revelations have come to light that our nearest rivals Elstow Abbey have been playing a 15-year-old in their team, contrary to FA Regulations. If the allegations are proven, we would expect Elstow to be docked points AND to be expelled from the County Cup, meaning our reinstatement in the Final. More news as we get it...

The Saturday Reserves' cup dreams came to an exit with a 2-1 home defeat to Thurleigh on April 3rd. A Ryan Durrent goal was not enough to take the lads through to round 3 of the Watson Shield. Goals from Marc Fialla and Callum Jones were enough to give the team a 2-0 win over Wootton Village on April 9th. This was followed up 48 hours later with a home game vs. Eastcotts, when 2 goals from Chris Littlejohn and another from Callum Jones brought a 3-3 draw.

Under Ten 'A' Just Fall Short

The Under Ten A's knew they had to take maximum points from their last three games to have a chance of Runners-up spot in the Beds Mini-Soccer League Division 2. They started off brilliantly with a 5-2 win at Leighton United 'B'. Louis Lomas scored his 34th and 35th goals of the season in his bid to retain the Mini Golden Boot, while Daniel Hammer also scored twice and Josh Evans scored once. This left the team with just one more game away from home, but it was a trip to second-placed AFC Kempston 'A' on April 3rd. Despite a brave effort, the lads couldn't pierce the Kempston defence and in the end an own goal gave Kempston a 1-0 victory and guaranteed them the Runners-up position, with Lea Sports finishing in third place.

The lads finished off their season in fine style on April 10th with a 7-1 hammering of Bedford Panthers 'A', repeating the scoreline in the away fixture in the second game of the season in September. Louis Lomas scored 5 in the September game, but could 'only' manage a hat-trick in the home game, with the other scorers being Josh Evans, Kieran Jones and Alex Smith (plus cartwheel celebration) and a Panthers' own goal.



Under Seventeens

The Under Seventeens started April with a bang, sweeping Wilstead Harriers away 5-2 in Pirton. On target were Warren Bell with 2, Ben Morris with 2 and Sam Welbury. With Westoning beating Mid-Beds Tigers 7-3 on the same day, the win left the team seven points clear of Shefford Saints in second place with three games in hand and meant that one win from their last six games would be enough to take the title.

As it was, the win came in the first of the six with a 5-0 home triumph over Bushmead Rovers A, with Ben Morris hitting 4 of the 5 goals. Well done to Stuart, Phil and all the players.

Under Fourteens

The Under Fourteens completed their campaign in Division 2 with a 5-2 defeat away to title-chasers Luton United on April 10th. The game was played on a rough pitch with goal-posts and nets in poor condition. From going a goal down we fought back with goals from George Calvert and James Hirst to lead 2-1 at half-time, but the hot weather and a 3-week break took their toll and the home side eventually went on to win 5-2.

Sunday Firsts Fight for Survival

After their slump in form from the early season promise, the First Team knew they had to put in some good performances to retain their Division 1 status. Facing fellow-strugglers Leaside on April 3rd, they recovered from going a goal down to go 2-1 up with goals from Simon Jackson and Richard Randall, but a last-gasp equaliser from Leaside left the lads frustrated with just a point. The Jekyll and Hyde nature of the team was evident again in Pirton on April 10th, as they took on table toppers AC Sportsman & Ravensborough Reserves. A Paul Brown strike gave us a half-time lead which we held until well into the second-half, when Sportsman scrambled an equaliser to take a share of the points.

Mini-Soccer

The Club hosted the Beds Mini-Soccer League Cup semi-finals on April 3rd and although it was hard work for all the volunteers from the Club, it was worth it as the kitchen made a profit of over £220. The league also presented us with a new set of footballs and cones for next season. Thanks from the Club to the helpers on the day: Phil Toyer, Julie Ensbury, Catherine Scott, Matt 'Masterchef' Bean and especially Keith & Suzy Narrowway (and Luke).

On the pitch the Under 8's season fizzled out as clubs struggled to put out teams. The Under 10b deserved their 2-1 win over Bedford Panthers C on Friday April 8th. This left the team with just 1 game left: a home tie vs. Mid-Beds Tigers 'B;', but frustratingly Tigers would not offer any dates for the match, so the matter has had to be referred back to the League for a decision. It looks now as though the game will take place on Sunday May 1st in Pirton.

Sunday Reserves March On

The Sunday Reserves continued their impressive recent form into April. After their 2-1 win away to fellow contenders Peguform Icknield they have now lost just once in the last 11 games (the bizarre home defeat to Luton Phoenix). Phil Thompson and Mark Williams scored to take the team to within 3 points of Peguform with a game in hand. Lilley brought the team down to earth on April 10th, however, winning 4-2 to virtually end any hopes of runners-up spot.



Sunday May 1st
North Home Counties Jack Coyle (Reserve Cup)
Final Tie

Lea Sports PSG (Sunday) Reserves
VS.
AC Sportsman & Ravensborough Reserves

At Barton Rovers FC. Kick-off 11.00 a.m.

Friday May 6th
North Home Counties Challenge Cup Final Tie

Lea Sports PSG (Sunday) Reserves
VS.
St. John's

At Barton Rovers FC. Kick-off 19.45 p.m.

Monday May 16th

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At Pirton Clubhouse 20.00 p.m.

If you want to have a say in how the Club is run, please attend.

Proposals for the Meeting must be with the Secretary by May 2nd. A copy of the Club Constitution is on the website at www.lspsg.co.uk.



County Cup Final Beckons...

Saturday XI Reinstated in the Final

Vol. 5. No. 10, April 2011

When the Saturday First Team were thrown out of the Jubilee Cup, after it was found that they had accidentally played an ineligible player in the Semi-final, they thought that their chances of an appearance in a Final had gone. After all, only a few weeks ago they had lost at home for the first time this season in the Bedfordshire County Cup Semi-final vs. Elstow Abbey.

Now we find that it is Elstow who have been fielding an ineligible player—a 15-year-old boy who lied about his age to be able to play for the team. Not only that, but he scored the winner in the semi-final. This revelation—which came about because the boy played against Kings AFC and one of their players turned out to be one of his teachers—means that not only have Elstow Abbey been kicked out of the County Cup Final and Lea Sports reinstated, but also that their place in the Jubilee Cup final must be in question, along with about 9 league matches in which the boy played, scoring 7 goals.

The situation at the top of Division 2 shows how crucial the mistake could be for Elstow—if they are docked points it could hand us the title:

POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Elstow Abbey 06	21	15	2	4	67	22	45	47
2	Lea Sports PSG	19	14	3	2	54	19	35	45
3	Westoning Recreation Club	23	12	4	7	56	42	14	40
4	Lidlington United Sports	22	11	5	6	45	35	10	38
5	Kings AFC	21	12	0	9	58	46	12	36

Watch this space.....

Under Sevens Finish Strongly

Unfortunately, the Under Sevens' report was omitted from the last Newsletter—apologies for the oversight. The lads have certainly earned a mention with the way their football has improved throughout this season. They are in a tough league with teams from big clubs such as Letchworth Garden City, St. Neots Town, Stevenage Borough and Hitchin Town, yet they have held their own and never been humbled in any game.

Ben Bayley and Oliver Scott scored the goals on April 2nd to give the Panthers a 2-1 win over local rivals Shefford Saints and the same pair were on target a week later against Stevenage Borough Hurricanes—unfortunately, this time the opposition scored 5. Edward Laws scored for the Pumas as they lost to Shefford 4-1, but the team put in a strong performance against Stevenage to earn a creditable 0-0 draw. On September 16th the teams entertained Hitchin Town and overall the honours were even: the Panthers won 1-0 thanks to a Ben Bayley penalty, but the Pumas went down 1-0 in their game.

Premature End to the Season for Star Striker

Despite scoring the 4 goals vs. Bushmead which brought the title home for the Under Seventeens, the night did not end well for top scorer Ben Morris. A horrible tackle towards the end of the game left him with a fractured fibula, so his season is over. We wish Ben a speedy recovery.



Sunday May 1st
North Home Counties Jack Coyle (Reserve Cup)
Final Tie

Lea Sports PSG (Sunday) Reserves
vs.
AC Sportsman & Ravensborough Reserves

At Barton Rovers FC. Kick-off 11.00 a.m.

Friday May 6th
North Home Counties Challenge Cup Final Tie

Lea Sports PSG (Sunday) Reserves
vs.
St. John's

At Barton Rovers FC. Kick-off 19.45 p.m.

Date to be announced
Bedfordshire Junior Challenge Cup Final Tie

Lea Sports PSG (Saturday)
vs.
Pavenham

Venue to be announced...

Monday May 16th

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At Pirton Clubhouse 20.00 p.m.



DOUBLE WINNERS

Saturday XI Streets Ahead

Vol. 5. No. 11, May 2011

The Saturday first team finished the season with nine league wins in a row and 20 league games unbeaten as they finished the season fourteen points ahead of the second-placed team:

League Table		TOP FOUR							
POS		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Lea Sports PSG	26	21	3	2	91	23	68	66
2	Westoning Recreation Club	26	16	4	6	65	42	23	52
3	Kings AFC	26	17	0	9	70	50	20	51
4	Lidlington United Sports	26	15	4	7	60	41	19	49

With just 2 league defeats all season the team were worthy Champions.

The goals continued to pour in as well, with striker James Awofisan finding his shooting boots through April and May to take the Club's Golden Boot award for top scorer. The contest was fierce going in to April, with Chris Littlejohn, who had scored 22 goals for the Sunday First team, Saturday First team and Saturday Reserves, and Ben Morris, who had scored 23 goals for the Under Seventeens, both in the hunt for the trophy. But within days of each other, Ben broke his leg and Chris suffered ligament damage, which left the way clear for James to take the lead.

In the County Cup Final, played at Arlesey Town's ground on May 13th, the Saturday side completed the Double by beating Pavenham 2-1. Martin Collins opened the scoring but Pavenham pulled a goal back against the run of play before half-time. After the break Lea Sports continued to dominate and James Awofisan finished off a fine season by scoring the winner.

The result meant that after 38 seasons of football and 4,481 11-a-side matches, Lea Sports have won 1,958 games and lost 1,957! Goals for are 11,884 and goals against 11,843.





Cup Final Disappointment for Sunday Reserves

Tough Opposition in Both Finals

The Sunday Reserves enjoyed their two days out at local Cup Finals at Barton Rovers, although results did not go their way in either game.

The first match, on May 1st, was against the team with the longest name in the league: AC Sportsman and Ravensborough Reserves, who had finished as runners-up in Division One of the North Home Counties. The match was played on a hard, barren pitch in hot dry condi-



tions and good football was at a premium from either side. Sportsman nicked a goal after around 25 minutes when a long free-kick into the box was not cleared and the ball was scrambled into the net. At half-time the game was still in the balance, but as the second half wore on, Sportsman's superior fitness told and in the end they ran out 3-0 winners. One consolation was that all three candidates for Man of the Match were from Lea Sports: Jon Whitehead and Ben Thomson came close, but in the end it was Bobby McGrath who took the honours.

Five days later it was back to Barton Rovers to take on St.John's in the Challenge Cup Final. Although St.John's were Division 3 Champions and County Cup winners, the two matches between the sides in the league had both been close affairs with each team winning the away fixture 2-1.

The final, however, turned out not to be that close as St.John's managed to play some fine football on the bone-dry pitch. Their first goal after 20 minutes was a candidate for goal-of-the-season as the ball flew into the top corner with keeper Alex Bishop given no chance.

St.John's were spurred on by the goal and at half-time were 3-0 up and we feared a rout.

In the second half, however, Baggy's men battled well and

Tom Newland grabbed a consolation goal in a final scoreline of 4-1.



In the league, the Reserves' season tailed away as the Cup Finals loomed, but even with 3 defeats in the last 4 matches the team equalled their highest-ever league placing—sixth in Division 3. Phil Thompson finished as the highest scorer in Division 3 of the North Home Counties, with 21 goals in all competitions.



Kingsley Black is Guest of Honour at the Youth Awards

On a fine, sunny evening in Pirton on May 21st ex-Luton Town and England star Kingsley Black presented the awards to the younger Lea Sports PSG teams. After trophies and campaign medals were presented to the mini-soccer teams and Under Fourteens, the Under Seventeens took over the Clubhouse for a presentation to celebrate their Championship.

The closest prize was for the Mini Golden Boot, awarded to the top scorer in all the Club's seven-a-side teams. Although Ben Bayley scored in each of his last four games for the Under Sevens, Louis Lomas hit a hat-trick in the Under 10a's final league match to level things up at 38 goals each, so the award was shared.



Close Finish to the Premier League Competition

The final day of the Premier League not only decided the fate of Blackpool and Birmingham City, but also sorted out the winners and losers in our Premier League Competition. In the end the top two positions were a family affair as Stephen Prestidge took the £60 first prize with an excellent score of 28 points. David Prestidge took second place, and a cheque for £25, by virtue of having 12 teams just one-place out, whereas Robert Williamson in third had just 11 teams in that position. All three top prizes were colleagues of Archie Conway, so I guess Archie is getting the beers in at the Adults Awards Night on June 4th.



All the results—plus an Entry Form for the 2011-2012 Competition—are available on the website at www.lpspg.co.uk.

Personnel Changes at the AGM

The Club's 39th Annual General meeting took place in Pirton on May 16th. There were a few changes on the Committee as certain members stood down.

Paul Boggon who has given the Club sterling service since the merger in 2008 between Lea Sports Pirton and S&G United, decided it was time to move on as both of his boys are now about to play elsewhere. Latterly Vice-Chairman and Head of Youth Development, Paul's advice and assistance will be sorely missed at the Club. **Alan Scott** takes over as Vice-Chairman for the coming season.

Steve Baggett was true to his word and stood down as Manager of the Sunday Reserves after one season in which the team reached 2 Cup Finals and equalled its best-ever league placing. Paul MacLennan takes over from Baggy and we all wish him well.

Two new Under 14 teams will join the Club from Hitchin Town next season (one in the Royston Crow and one in the Chiltern Youth League). We wish **Jez Webb** and his colleagues a successful and enjoyable time with the Club.



Saturday July 9th 12.30 onwards

PIRTON SUMMER FAIR

Featuring a fantastic Flying Display, falconry, the Enfield Hounds, Speed Football, plus the usual bouncy castle, ice cream, etc. Live music from 5 pm until late into the night.

Tickets: £5 on the gate or £4 in advance from Steve Smith or Pirton Village Shop.

Season 2010-11 Youth Award Winners

Under Seventeens

S.P.C. Technical Services Ltd.

- Top Scorer: Ben Morris (23 goals)
- Players' Player: Matt Howard
- Manager's Player: Mickey Bygraves
- Supporters' Player: Matt Howard
- Clubman: Harry Wallace
- Goal of the Season: Warren Bell



Matt Howard

Under Fourteens

- Top Scorer: James Hirst (14 goals)
- Players' Player: Callum Smith
- Manager's Player: Ross Embleton
- Most Improved Player: Aiden Sadler

Under Ten A:

- Top Scorer: Louis Lomas (38 goals)
- Players' Player: Damon Hall
- Manager's Player: Liam Stevens
- Supporters' Player: Louis Lomas

Under Ten B

- Top Scorer: Edward Clarke (23 goals)
- Players' Player: Tom Allpress
- Manager's Player: Tom Allpress / Oscar Pryle
- Clubman: Luke Narroway
- Supporters' Player: Oscar Pryle
- Most Improved Player: Thomas Wyatt



Under Eights

- Top Scorer: Tyger Cox / Ethan Wilson (11 goals)
- Players' Player: Ethan Wilson
- Manager's Player: George Simmons

Under Sevens

- Top Scorer: Benjamin Bayley (38 goals)
- Players' Player: Matthew Morton
- Most Improved Player: Edward Laws / Teddy Rowe-Trelford

Mini Golden Boot: Benjamin Bayley / Louis Lomas (38 goals)